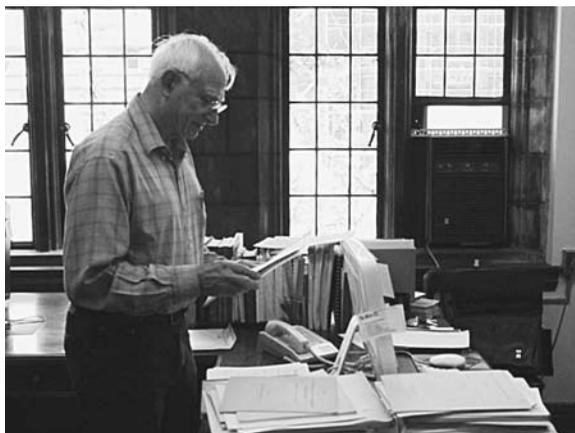# CHICAGO HITTITE DICTIONARY (CHD)

Theo van den Hout

The high point of the past year was the move late in May to the former space of the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary (CAD). This means that all CHD offices are now on the third floor which makes for more efficient work in many ways. The move was a collaborative effort in all respects, but especially the cooperation of Martha Roth, Editor-in-Chief of the CAD, and the Oriental Institute's Executive Director Steve Camp made it all run very smoothly. With everybody's consent the room was painted a bright light blue, and with its newly waxed floor it has a fresh new look that is a pleasure to work in.

The work on the third and final installment of the letter Š has now reached its last part with words starting in *šu-*. In the past year co-editor Harry Hoffner and executive editor Theo van den Hout worked on words in *ši-* with among them such large entries as *šipand-* "to offer, bring an offering to" (which the Hittites apparently took very seriously) and *šiu-* "deity, god(dess)." Being the proverbial "thousand gods" of the Hittites, they get mentioned a lot and so make for another very long

Harry Hoffner in the Chicago Hittite Dictionary Office

and interesting dictionary article. Our new Assistant Professor, Petra Goedegebuure, who came to Chicago in October, helped us in transforming first drafts into pre-final drafts, wrote some herself, and started work on the difficult local adverb *šer* "on top, over, above," which turned out not to have been finished.

Our Research Associates Richard Beal and Oğuz Soysal continued their work ahead of us on words in *t-*; while Beal is dealing with long everyday words such as *dai-* "to put, place" and *da-* "to take," Soysal has made the transition into the words starting with *te-/ti-*.

Staff member Kathleen Mineck and undergraduate student Anna Maccourt were responsible for the upkeep of the files. Anna completely got rid of our backlog and both Kathleen and Anna undertook the task of reorganizing our file cabinets now that we finally could order some new ones because of our enlarged working space.

Programmer Sandy Schloen and graduate students Dennis Campbell and Seunghee Yie made significant progress in several key areas of the electronic version of the CHD (*e*CHD) over the past year thanks in part to the wonderful grant from the Provost's Program for Academic Technology Innovation and another generous gift from Mr. Howard Hallengren of New York. Dennis, by the way, successfully defended his dissertation in January and is now officially Dr. Campbell. Fortunately for us, Dennis will continue to work for us until he will have found a job.

With the permission of colleagues in Mainz, Germany (see last year's *Annual Report*), who produce the *Konkordanz der hethitischen Keilschrifttafeln,* we were able to extract and compile a master list of Hittite texts, from which the dictionary content is derived, and import this information in a way that integrates it with our existing dictionary data. Information describing over 25,000 source texts was entered, including the text date, script used, genre categorization, and even, if known, the findspot of every clay tablet fragment. This provides an enormous increase in information to the *e*CHD users regarding the source of the textual material. Citations within a dictionary article can now be linked to the source text and be traced back to the archaeological context in which a tablet was found. This is also the first step in establishing links between our electronic version and other relevant electronic data sources like the *Konkordanz*.

Over the past year the process of proofreading and polishing the newly available electronic material, letters L, M, and N, was completed. This means that with the P words that had already been done, the electronic version has, in effect, caught up with the printed version in terms of availability. In addition, improvements have been made in the following areas:

• Bibliographic information has been expanded and linked into the core dictionary material.

• A look up-and-link feature has been added which allows an online writer of a dictionary article to look up existing information about a text as part of a citation, and automatically drop that information into the article.

• The development of a hierarchical "taxonomy" to explicitly describe the grammatical characteristics of various forms of the dictionary words is well underway. This is a comprehensive tagging scheme that will allow scholars and students to do in-depth morphological analysis.

Finally, as the depth and scope of the material integrated within the *e*CHD increases, it has become a significant challenge to provide the means by which a researcher can enter a wide variety of complex query criteria and be presented with meaningful results. Our current focus is on developing a new model for querying the *e*CHD that will guide the user through several intuitive stages to compose the questions that he or she wishes to ask of the data. Much work remains to be done here, but we are optimistic that significant improvements can be made to the query facility

to allow easier access to the electronic content. As we enhance the query facility we will also be making a concerted effort to document its effective use more clearly for users of all kinds.

Exciting was the visit of Dr. Andreas Schachner, the director of the German excavations in Boğazköy, the former capital of the Hittite empire Hattuša, who gave two lectures. We also talked about possible ways of future cooperation, especially in light of the *e*CHD. It has always been our aim to present where relevant in the dictionary as much archaeological evidence as possible. For instance, in treating the word *šeppikkušta-* "needle, pin" we, of course, refer to the existing excavation reports that publish all known pins and needles found, but the *e*CHD would give us the possibility of actually showing them and linking to the publications. This is something that we will have to explore in the coming years.

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