

## CHICAGO HITTITE DICTIONARY (CHD)

### Theo van den Hout

The past year saw the transition from the final editing of manuscripts on words starting in *ši-* to words in *šu-*, the final phase of what will be the last installment of the letter Š. The first group included the Hittite word *šiwat-* “day,” which goes back to a reconstructed Proto-Indo-European root *\*dieu-*, also known from Greek (*Zeus*, the god of daylight) and Latin (*dies* “day,” but also *Zeus’* Roman counterpart *Iu-ppiter* from *\*Diu-ppiter*) and ultimately also the source for our English “day.” Among the words beginning with *šu-* there are such simple-looking but difficult and important ones as *šu* “and.” In the coming year we have to tackle entries like *šup-* and *šuppariya-* “to sleep” related to Latin *sopor* “deep sleep” (compare English “sopor-ific”) and Greek *hypnos* “sleep.” All this editing work is done by Theo van den Hout and Harry Hoffner, assisted by Petra Goedegebuure.

Meanwhile, Research Associates Richard Beal and Oğuz Soysal have continued their advance into words in T. Having left behind most entries starting in *ta-*, both are already working on first drafts of words beginning with *ti-*.

Kathleen Mineck and undergraduate student Anna Maccourt continued their work on the upkeep of the CHD photo and lexical files. With the efficient help of Anna, the transliterations and cards for KBo 40–41 have been finished and are in the filing stage. Further transliterations currently in progress are KBo 42, KBo 47, and KBo 53.

As far as the digital part of our dictionary project, the *eCHD*, is concerned, the material from Volumes L through P has undergone extensive clean-up (required because of the original conversion to electronic format) and standardization over the past two years. This past year has primarily been devoted to making the existing data more robust and meaningful.

The material that we received from the *Hethitologie Portal Mainz* identifying the tablets on which the textual material was found, and detailing the publication information of those texts, was converted into proper OCHRE (Online Cultural Heritage Research Environment) format and integrated into the dictionary articles. The goal of this was to ensure that every reference to a particular text in the dictionary articles was linked to a description of the text, and to its corresponding tablet. This information is available to the readers of the online electronic version via



*Chicago Consul General of Turkey, Kenan Ipek, Gil Stein, Ali Babacan, Theo van den Hout, and David Schloen*

hyperlinks. Utilities were developed to allow this linking process to be highly automated, although careful manual supervision and intervention was required. All attestations of a text can now be found via a query, regardless of how the text citation appears in a particular article. As we pursue this process to its logical conclusion, we have begun to enter the full transliterations of specific texts. This enables us to explore the ways in which an electronic version will assist in the ongoing development of the Hittite dictionary.

Last year, work was also begun on the creation of a detailed grammatical or morphological taxonomy in OCHRE. This exercise has been completed and the results have been implemented into the *e*CHD, again with the help of electronic parsing utilities that allowed for a high degree of automation.

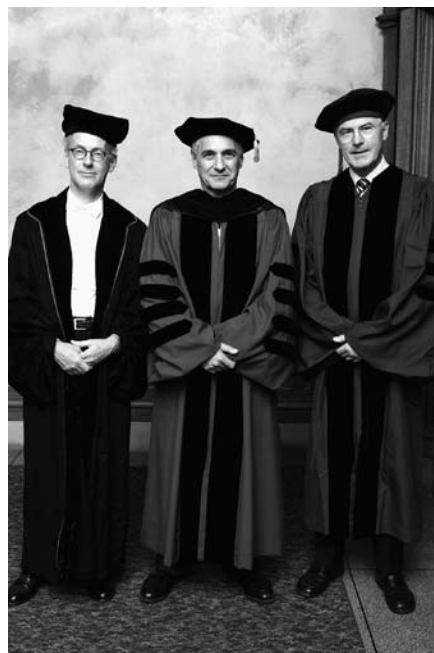
Sparse grammatical information that had meaning merely due to its context within the morphological analysis of the attested word forms is now fully realized and exposed to the user more explicitly. This allows for highly complex searches of grammatical forms that simply had not previously been possible. Work continues on refining the query mechanism within OCHRE to access this rich grammatical detail in meaningful ways.

We anticipate that in the coming year and a half, Volume Š will be added to the electronic version. Our accumulated experience working with Volumes L through P, and further use of the electronic utilities that we have developed, should enable this process to move forward smoothly.

We had a long and exciting list of guests this year. Both Dr. Susanne Görke from Mainz, Germany, and Willemijn Waal from Leiden, the Netherlands, came for several weeks to consult our files and to enjoy the tremendous wealth of our Research Archives. Gary Beckman, Professor of Hittite and Mesopotamian Studies at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and outside consultant for the dictionary, stayed on for several days after the conference of the American Oriental Society here in Chicago to search our files for further fragments of the so-called *babili-ritual*, of which he is preparing an edition. And Craig Melchert, another one of our outside consultants and Professor of Indo-European Linguistics at the University of California, Los Angeles, gave a lecture (“The Rise of Hittite Literacy: A Third Way”) when he was here for the dissertation defense of one of our students, Ilya Yakubovich.

Our most distinguished guest came on September 21: Turkey’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Ali Babacan, to whom I handed a copy of the CHD. He showed himself very interested in our work and promptly mentioned it in the opening remarks of his lecture in Breasted Hall.

Another prominent guest was Gernot Wilhelm, Professor of Ancient Near Eastern Studies at the Julius-Maximilians-Universität in Würzburg, Germany, and another outside consultant of the CHD. The University conferred on him an honorary degree at its 494th Convocation on June 13 for his outstanding and groundbreaking work on Hurrian studies and for his work on Hittite.



*Honorary degree recipient Professor Gernot Wilhelm (right) with President Robert Zimmer (center) and Theo van den Hout. Photo by Dan Dry/UC*