

## CHICAGO ASSYRIAN DICTIONARY

**Martha T. Roth**

The highlight of the year for the Assyrian Dictionary team was the Oriental Institute Annual Dinner, held on Sunday evening, 3 June 2001, which this year honored our long-running project and raised matching funds for our current grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The entire staff worked with the Oriental Institute development and membership team to showcase our project. We mounted an exhibit illustrating how a single ancient text finds its way into the volumes of the Dictionary, and another with photographs of Dictionary workers over the last eighty years. After a reception in the galleries, Roth presented a talk to the assembled guests about dictionary-making and the making of the Assyrian Dictionary in particular, which was followed by a sumptuous outdoor feast. We are deeply gratified by the support shown to our project by friends and colleagues in and out of Chicago.

Meanwhile, during 2000/2001 we made significant progress on the P, T, and U/W volumes of the Dictionary. The entire 3,735-page printed manuscript for the P Volume has been set as 1,108 first galleys. These pages have been distributed here in Chicago to the members of the CAD Editorial Board (Professors Robert D. Biggs, John A. Brinkman, Miguel Civil, Walter Farber, Erica Reiner, Martha T. Roth, and Matthew W. Stolper) and mailed to our consultants, Professors Simo Parpola of the University of Helsinki and Klaas R. Veenhof of the University of Leiden, for their final comments and corrections. The members of the Editorial Board and the consultants return the pages to editor-in-charge Martha T. Roth, who, with research associate Tim Collins, incorporates their suggestions into a corrected copy which is then returned to Eisenbrauns. Since the first galleys were set directly from our zip disk copy and did not need to be reset, we are skipping the second galley stage and going immediately into page proofs. The first section of the volume has already been returned to Eisenbrauns and has been set as page proofs.



*Martha Roth lectures in Breasted Hall on the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary*

Martha Roth and Tim Collins have devoted much time to editing the T Volume. During this process, they examine the manuscript of each word, add new references, and make necessary revisions. After a word is edited by them, it goes to Linda McLarnan for manuscript editing and then to Edythe Seltzer for inputting. The edited words are also sent to Professor W. G. Lambert of Birmingham, England, for his comments and additions. The next stage, final reference checking, will begin only when all the lemmata for the volume have been similarly treated.

Eisenbrauns has now begun setting the T Volume. This volume had been in press with our former printer since 1991, but had not progressed beyond first and second galleys. Fortunately, the entire set of galleys had been read and commented on by the members of the Editorial Board and by our outside consultants. In order to speed the publication of the volume and to avoid diverting our time and attention away from the remaining volumes, we decided to “close” the T Volume, that is, not to add new texts published after the volume originally went to press

and to resist the temptation to rewrite or re-edit portions of the volume in light of later scholarship. With this volume we also anticipate going directly from first galleys to page proofs and hope to see the T Volume published in 2002.

During this year we have been assisted by visiting scholar Joan Westenholz, Ph.D., and by research associates Tim Collins, Ph.D., Gertrud Farber, Ph.D., and David Testen, Ph.D. Joan, on leave from her job as chief curator at the Bible Lands Museum Jerusalem, was with us for the springs and summers of 2000 and 2001 writing articles for the final volume of the Dictionary, U/W. Tim has worked on writing articles for the U/W Volume and helping Prof. Roth with the editing of T. Gertrud has assisted with queries involving lexical sections. David worked for the Dictionary until October 2000 when he left to undertake a research project on Semitic historical linguistics supported by an American Council of Learned Societies fellowship.

Mr. Tucker Bennett and Mr. Edward Schoolman, our immensely talented and helpful undergraduate assistants who work for the Dictionary through the College Research Opportunities Program, devoted their time to entering the Sachs offprint collection into a bibliographic database and to other computer-related tasks.

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