

CHICAGO HITTITE DICTIONARY AND ELECTRONIC HITTITE DICTIONARY (CHD AND eCHD)

Theo van den Hout

On March 10, 2015, our colleague Harry Hoffner passed away, completely unexpectedly, in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. Retired in 2000, he and his wife Wini used to spend in recent years the harshest months of the Chicago winter there. His death is an enormous blow to our project: together with Hans Güterbock, Harry Hoffner was the founder of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary and was still active as Senior Editor. Just the week before his death he had still exchanged emails with Theo van den Hout on Dictionary matters.

Hoffner did his BA at Princeton, received an MA in theology from the Dallas Theological Seminary, and finally got his PhD at Brandeis with a dissertation on “The Laws of the Hittites,” a topic he would return to later on in his career. He taught at Wheaton College in Illinois, Brandeis, and Yale before coming to Chicago as full professor in 1975 where Güterbock was to retire not long after. Several years earlier, Güterbock had been asked by the German publisher of the thus far only Hittite dictionary, Johannes Friedrich’s *Hethitisches Wörterbuch*, if he could do a fully revised edition. He had collected all kinds of words and word usages but felt he had to decline since he didn’t have a really systematic card file of the then published Hittite corpus. This all changed when Hoffner joined the faculty of the Oriental Institute. Since his earliest days studying Hittite Hoffner had compiled systematic and comprehensive files, and the combination of the two scholars was ideal. The German publisher had meanwhile already contracted Annelies Kammenhuber and she started publishing in installments a completely renewed Hittite-German lexicon in 1975. However, Güterbock and Hoffner were not to be deterred: they obtained their first of many grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities in 1976, hired two research associates and students, and started the Hittite-English CHD. The first fascicle, as they called it, appeared in 1979. The only concession they made was to start in the middle of the alphabet, with the letter L, so as not to duplicate immediately the work of the Munich project that had begun with A.

Hoffner was an extremely accomplished and wide-ranging scholar. Through his MA he had a strong biblical basis and besides Hittite he had studied Akkadian and Egyptian at Brandeis. As his many publications show, he had a wide interest in history, archaeology, lexicography, grammar, and realia. To the latter category belongs his book *Alimenta Hethaeorum* (1974) (partly founded by the Coca-Cola Company!) on foodstuffs in Hittite Anatolia, collecting everything there was to know on nutrition and food production with wonderful illustrations from the entire ancient Near Eastern world. Later monographs concerned the now standard edition of the *Hittite Laws* (1997) and two volumes in the SBL series Writings from the Ancient World on *Hittite Myths* (1990, 1998²) and *Letters from the Hittite Kingdom* (2009). Together with H. Craig Melchert he wrote the *Grammar of the Hittite Language* (2008), which is likely to be the standard for many decades to come.

Hoffner had an enormously sharp mind that benefited the CHD greatly. His experience in Hittite lexicography and grammar was immense and comes through in every entry of the Dictionary. We will miss him but carry on his spirit!



Harry Hoffner at Hilton Head, SC, shortly before his death on March 10, 2015

So, over the past year we continued our work on the final fascicle of the Š-volume, containing words starting in šu-. A substantial portion of that part has now been sent to our outside consultants. When their comments come back they will be incorporated in the draft and the final editing can begin. In the coming year the remaining part of the šu- volume that van den Hout and Petra Goedegebuure are currently working on will be prepared for the outside consultants and publication of this last installment will be near.

Besides their assistance on editing work for words in šu-, research associates Richard Beal and Oğuz Soysal have continued their work to update the letter L of the printed Dictionary for the benefit of our electronic CHD (see last year's report). Soysal also started working on the publication of his share of the several thousands of still unpublished Hittite fragments from the first four seasons of excavations (1906–1912) that were repatriated from Germany to Turkey in 1987. The CHD benefits from this initiative because we can use the contents of these fragments before publication if relevant to the material we are working on.

As part of this work Soysal has traveled to the museum in Ankara to collate the texts and to confirm possible joins on the original fragments. The edition of these fragments just came out as the second volume of our CHD Supplements series, *Unpublished Bo-Fragments in Transliteration I (Bo 9536–Bo 9736)*. More of these are planned.

Under the ever trusty guidance of graduate student Oya Topçuoğlu the cuneiform editions published as KBo 42, 43, and 46 have finally been entered into our files and we can start working on further volumes in the 50s range. Oya was assisted this year by graduate student Robert Marineau and undergraduate Jane Gordon. Both have done great work, for which we are deeply grateful. Jane graduated this year and will spend the coming academic year in Austria teaching English before heading to Britain for graduate studies the year after. This was also the last year for graduate student Seunghee Yie, who has done a lot of painstaking work for the eCHD: we're indebted to her for all the years that she put in hours for the Dictionary project!

As usual, we had several visitors. In the winter Valerio Pisaniello from the Sapienza University in Rome came for two months to consult our files for his dissertation research. Matteo Vigo, in recent years postdoc in Copenhagen, returned to Chicago to check our files for terms of textiles as the final stage for his upcoming publication on Hittite textile terminology.

Finally, last summer we had our big international conference of Hittitology, which is held every three years. It alternates between the city of Çorum, capital of the province that is home to the former ancient Hittite capital Hattuša, and some other destination. Former hosts outside of Turkey have been Pavia and Rome in Italy, Würzburg in Germany, and Warsaw in Poland. It was decided that the 2017 conference will be held in Chicago!