

THE HITTITE COMPUTER ANALYSIS PROJECT

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The writer has been working on a project of computer analysis of the Hittite language. The purpose of the program is twofold: on the one hand, to prepare a concordance of words as a basis for further lexicographical investigations; on the other, to collect and list certain peculiarities of spelling from which something may be learned about Hittite phonology. In order to keep the project to a manageable size, it has for the time being been limited to texts of the Old Hittite period (*ca.* 1650–1500 B.C.), among them the oldest Hittite texts in existence.

While funds for computer time and programming were provided by the Division of Humanities from the Linguistic Research budget, the Oriental Institute secured the help of Dr. Philo H. J. Houwink ten Cate, a Dutch Hittitologist, who spent the twelve months of 1965 here as Research Associate, during which time he assisted Mr. Güterbock in preparing the Hittite texts for the computer and in working out technical details with the programmer, Mr. Robert Ekstrom. At the end of 1965 Dr. Houwink ten Cate returned to the Netherlands, where he was appointed Professor of Ancient Near Eastern History in the University of Amsterdam. Thanks to a grant from the American Council of Learned Societies, however, it was possible to bring Professor Houwink ten Cate back to Chicago for a period of three months beginning June, 1966.

By the end of June, 1966, the corpus of Old Hittite texts had been transcribed and almost completely put on punch cards; the orthographic-phonological search program was ready to run; and the concordance program was in a fairly advanced stage of preparation.