

Publications

JEAN ECKENFELS, *Editorial Secretary*

In the early fall of 1968, Louis V. Žabkar's *Study of the Ba Concept in Ancient Egyptian Texts* was added to the Oriental Institute series "Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization" as No. 34. The first thorough investigation of the concept of the *ba*, which Egyptologists have been accustomed to translate "soul," thereby introducing a dualistic opposition into the Egyptian concept of man, Dr. Žabkar's work traces the concept through the main categories of ancient Egyptian texts. The author's conclusion is that the Egyptian did not consider the *ba* as the "spiritual element" in man but rather as the man himself, or the totality of his physical and psychic capacities.

Two new volumes were added to the series "Assyriological Studies" early in 1969. The first of these, Robert D. Biggs's and Giorgio

Buccellati's *Cuneiform Texts from Nippur* (No. 17), is a catalogue of epigraphic material uncovered during the eighth and ninth seasons of excavation, 1962/63 and 1964/65. This small group of miscellaneous texts extending from Early Dynastic into Neo-Babylonian times includes administrative documents, royal inscriptions, votive inscriptions, and examples of the traditional scribal repertory, such as lexical lists and astrological and medical texts. The catalogue represents an effort on their part to make these finds available to scholars with a minimum of delay.

The latest addition in this series is I. J. Gelb's *Sequential Reconstruction of Proto-Akkadian* (No. 18), the first attempt to apply the procedures of sequential reconstruction to the oldest attainable stages of Proto-Akkadian, and with it, of Proto-Semitic. Akkadian, like all other Semitic languages, has speech units composed of stems and affixes occurring in a certain ordered sequence which is obligatory and immutable. In the analysis of a speech unit, each segment must be accounted for and its form and function determined. This method holds great promise for understanding the structure of other Semitic languages and of other families of languages.

In the summer of 1969, Richard T. Hallock's *Persepolis Fortification Tablets* ("Oriental Institute Publications," Vol. XCII) was published. This long-awaited, extensive volume of Elamite tablets from the wall of the Persepolis terrace presents transliterations and translations of more than 2,000 clay tablets dealing with the administrative transfer of food commodities during the reign of Darius I. Dr. Hallock's investigation of so large a body of material has enabled him to make use of comparisons between texts and between groups of texts and to arrive at conclusions which individual fortification texts do not as a rule convey. Included in this volume is a complete glossary of Achaemenid Elamite covering not only the fortification texts but the Treasury texts and the royal inscriptions as well.