

The Assyrian Dictionary Project

A. LEO OPPENHEIM, *Editor-in-Charge*

The staff of the Assyrian Dictionary has passed through another year of intense though routine activity. Volume K (the eighth) was published in late 1971. This volume of 617 pages is the largest in the series so far. Volume L, which will be one of the smaller books, is being proofread and will appear sometime in the coming academic year. The manuscript of Volume M is being prepared for the printer; this book will be somewhere near the size of Volume K. Preliminary drafts of Volumes N and P are being written.

For the past year we have had the help of two visiting scholars: Dr. Hermann Hunger of Vienna and Father Richard I. Caplice of Rome.

It seems appropriate and indeed necessary to mention the contribution of the clerical staff to the Dictionary Project. Under the supervision of Miss Marjorie Elswick, Assistant to the Editors, several secretaries and typists are occupied with such tasks as reading, proofreading, and correcting drafts and final manuscripts, assembling the final manuscript and preparing it for the printer, and later reading galley proofs and page proofs. Apart from this routine drudgery are numerous other activities: the correspondence with outside scholars and with the printer, not to speak of record keeping and the sales of the published volumes, which is now likewise in the hands of Miss Elswick. A good share of the smooth functioning of the Project organization is due to her quiet efficiency.

Robert D. Biggs became editor of the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, succeeding the late Keith C. Seele, editor from 1948 to 1971. Dr. Biggs's volume on the tablets from Tell Abū Šalābīkh, with a chapter on the architecture contributed by Donald P. Hansen, is scheduled to appear as an Oriental Institute Publication. He is spending the summer of 1972 in Turkey, on a fellowship from the American Research Institute in Turkey to work on his edition of Babylonian literary texts found at Boghazköy, the ancient Hittite capital.

Erica Reiner, during a five-week visit to the British Museum, finished collecting the some 3,000 fragments that survive from the Babylonian divination series on celestial omens. At the invitation of the Free University of Berlin, she gave a paper on

the cuneiform writing systems, a full version of which is scheduled to appear during the coming academic year. She contributed the chapter on Akkadian in Volume VI of *Current Trends in Linguistics*. Apart from preparing the celestial omens for publication, as well as smaller philological articles, she is contributing the section on Babylonian Literature in the *Handbuch der Literaturwissenschaft* at the invitation of the Akademische Verlagsgesellschaft Athenaion.

A. Leo Oppenheim, Editor-in-Charge of the Dictionary, has been invited by Charles Scribner's Sons, Publisher, to write a monograph on the development of natural history in ancient Mesopotamia, to be titled *Man and Nature in Mesopotamian Civilization*. This monograph is to be one of several volumes supplementing the overall presentation of the history of science in the *Dictionary of Scientific Biography*, edited under the auspices of the American Council of Learned Societies.

A number of scholarly articles by Dr. Oppenheim are in press, and others are being prepared for publication.

Johannes Renger is finishing the manuscript of his edition of the inscriptions of Sargon II, king of Assyria (721-705 B.C.), which will be published in the series "Texts from Cuneiform Sources." Dr. Renger is also preparing the manuscript of a publication of seal inscriptions on Old Babylonian tablets in the collections of the British Museum in London, which he copied in previous years. He has agreed to write the section on Old Babylonian times in *The Economic History of the Ancient Near East*, edited by C. Cahen and W. F. Leemans, and has been asked by Professor Leemans to participate in the planning and editorial supervision of the anticipated volumes.

He has been elected Associate Editor of the *Journal of the American Oriental Society*.

Hermann Hunger will finish, during 1972, an edition of the tablets from Neo-Babylonian and Seleucid times found by the German excavations at Uruk in 1969. He will continue to work on economic texts from the same period, found in an earlier excavation at Uruk, and will also begin a study of cuneiform commentaries as a source for the scholarly activities and methods of the ancient scribes.

Volume XIII of "Materials for the Sumerian Lexicon," another series for which the editorial board of the CAD is responsible, appeared in December. It was compiled by Miguel Civil, assisted by H. G. Güterbock for the Boghazköy material.

Erica Reiner is preparing Volume XII, which will include Tablets XX–XXIV of the series 𒄩AR-ra = *hubullu* and which will be published before the end of 1972. During the past year Dr. Civil visited the University Museum in Philadelphia and the Istanbul Archeological Museum for the purpose of collecting and collating the materials for Volume XIV, which is scheduled for publication in 1973 and which will include a re-edition of Proto-Ea and the text of Ea = *nâqu* and related series.

In addition to several lexical notes and an article on “The Locative-terminative Verbal Infix,” Dr. Civil is finishing his work on *Sumerian Debates and Dialogues*. The manuscript of the “Index for a Sumerian Literary Corpus” has been completed; it contains a list of all Sumerian literary texts and their sources.

At the Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale in Paris in the summer of 1971, Gene Gragg gave a report of his study of grammatical variants in the Sumerian literary texts. Two other grammatical studies will be completed in the summer of 1972. All these studies are preludes to a larger-scale project: a complete compilation of grammatical information from a representative corpus of Sumerian literary texts.