

The Assyrian Dictionary Project

Erica Reiner

Annual Reports of the Oriental Institute appear with a yearly punctuality that cannot be claimed by the *Assyrian Dictionary*. In fact, for the volume which is presently in press, proofreading alone will take more than a year. Therefore, this is but another interim report on the progress of the project.

Volume M was sent to the printer in the summer of 1974, and when it appears, probably in 1976, it will comprise two thick books: Maybe most marks made on mudbrick and marble in Mesopotamia manifested momentous meanings of much magnitude.

Meanwhile, editorial work is progressing on the next two letters of the alphabet, *N* and *P*. Half of Volume N has been edited so far; it will be another very large volume, and the editing, checking, and final reading of the manuscript will take another full year. Concurrently, however, Volume P is being edited by Robert D. Biggs. We were again fortunate to have Richard I. Caplice, professor at the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley and at the University of California in Berkeley, return for the course of the summer of 1974, to continue and almost finish the manuscript of this volume that he had begun in the academic year 1971/72.

Looking ahead, we have also begun work on the manuscript of the letter *R*. For this volume, the visiting scholar is Dr. Kaspar K. Riemschneider, a James Henry Breasted Fellow who joined the staff of the *CAD* in November, 1974. He is the author of an Akkadian grammar written in German, which has just been translated into English and which is used in our classes in Elementary Babylonian. Among his specialties, apart from Akkadian, is Hittite. His collaboration on the *CAD* manuscripts has already proved very valuable.

Assyriologists from all over the world continue to participate in the project, some by reading manuscript and proof, others by sending us advance copies of their forthcoming publications, so that new words and important new references may be incorporated into the *CAD* volumes. The Dictionary is also host to scholars who come to consult

its files; in March, 1975, Professor Rykle Borger of the University of Göttingen spent two weeks here consulting the files for the revised edition of his *Akkadische Zeichenliste*. During his visit, he made valuable suggestions concerning our work. The international significance of the CAD for the scholarly world has again been acknowledged through a financial contribution from the Union International des Académies, which has for many years been assisting the CAD with sums significant not so much for their monetary value as for their evidence of moral encouragement.