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# The Hittite Dictionary Project

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In last year's Annual Report we explained the need for a dictionary of the Hittite language for English-speaking scholars and described the scope and format of the dictionary which we plan to produce. We announced that we had received a generous grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, which enabled us to assemble a staff.

During the academic year 1976/77 we have added to our main dictionary files and have begun the writing of dictionary articles. At

the beginning of the grant period (January, 1976) we had ca. 250,000 cards in the files, giving approximately 65% text coverage. As of May, 1977, we have ca. 350,000 cards in the files, giving 85% to 90% text coverage. 61,000 additional cards containing parsed examples of common Hittite words of relatively little immediate value to the Project's work have been set aside for subsequent alphabetization and filing. The remaining 10% to 15% of texts not on context cards are fragments of rituals or festival descriptions.

It was decided to begin the published fascicles of the dictionary with Hittite words beginning with the letter L, and proceed alphabetically to the end of the volume with the Z words. We will leave the first half of the alphabet for last. We decided on this procedure in order to avoid duplicating the work of our German colleague, Annelies Kammenhuber, who began her *Hethitisches Wörterbuch* (a dictionary of Hittite for German-speakers) at the beginning of the alphabet. Our work will thus begin to overlap hers only when we begin the volume containing Hittite words beginning with the letter A.

Our manuscript writing began in January, 1977. To date about 60 articles have been written on the L words, about one third of the anticipated total. Our first published fascicle will contain all the L words and most of the M words, comprising about 200 entries. We are now about one quarter to one third of the way finished with the manuscript for Fascicle One.

The summer always affords more time for dictionary work, as both student assistants and faculty staff members have more free hours to devote to the work. It is our hope to finish the 200 entries by mid-1978 and to turn it over for publication. Our grant period lasts through 1978, at which time we plan to have the first fruits of the research in a form ready for printing.

Our student assistants for 1977 were George Moore, Woodford Beach, Richard Beal, Susan Griffin, John Mooney, and Jo Ann Scurlock; and Margaret (Mrs. Ronald) Rogers also served as an assistant, from the docent staff.