
Individual Research Projects

During the past year, Klaus Baer has lectured at the University of Toronto and at the Field Museum on the reigns of Akhenaten and Tutankhamun. His other researches have been concerned with a late religious papyrus in the Metropolitan Museum and with Coptic phonology.

Robert Biggs spent the fall of 1976 in Iraq participating in excavations at Abū Ṣalābīkh, an important third-millennium site where the Oriental Institute made major epigraphical discoveries in the 1960's and where excavations are being continued by the British School of Archaeology in Iraq. He also spent several weeks at Nippur baking and cataloguing the tablets found in the Institute's excavations there, and devoted some time in the Iraq Museum to restudying some of the Abū Ṣalābīkh tablets which parallel recently-discovered texts from the Syrian city of Ebla. Aside from his work on the *Assyrian Dictionary* and the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, he has worked mainly on texts from Nippur.

Over the past year, John A. Brinkman has written several articles on topics in Babylonian history: four biographies of kings and of a provincial governor (1450-1050 B.C.) for the *Reallexikon*

der Assyriologie, a chapter on "Babylonia, 1000-748 B.C." for the new edition of the *Cambridge Ancient History* (vol. III), a short discussion of the Shamash cult at Sippar in the eleventh century B.C., and a study of Arameans and Chaldeans in southern Babylonia in the early seventh century.

Miguel Civil published several textual and lexicographic studies in the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* and *Revue d'Assyriologie*, and his edition of the folktale "Enlil and Nazitarra" will appear in this year's volume of *Archiv für Orientforschung*. He is presently preparing the plates for a Catalogue of Sumerian Literary Texts which will be published as the fourth volume of the *Handbuch der Keilschriftliteratur*, a bibliographic collection directed by Rykle Borger. Editions of several new literary texts (including "The Marriage of Sud") and a study of Sumerian phonology are among his projects expected to be completed within the coming year.

I. J. Gelb saw his long-awaited Computer Analysis of Amorite nearly through the press this year, and inaugurated the new journal *Syro-Mesopotamian Studies* with "Thoughts about Ibla," a discussion of what material has been made available in published form and in seminars and lectures at the Oriental Institute by the excavators of ancient Ebla, Paolo Matthiae and Giovanni Pettinato.

Besides his work on Nippur, McGuire Gibson has been involved in a number of other research projects during the past year. March 1977 was spent in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, working on material collected in the survey during 1976. A visit to Sana'a, Yemen, convinced him of the archeological possibilities of that country and encouraged him to urge Chicago scholars to undertake investigations there. In early June he delivered a paper to a United Nations conference on Alternative Strategies of Desert Development and Management, in Sacramento, California.

Hans G. Güterbock completed and sent to the editor manuscript and handcopies of cuneiform texts for a volume of the *Keilschrifttexte aus Boghazköi* series. It contains fragments of Sumerian-Akkadian-Hittite vocabularies, copied in Ankara during the summer of 1976, for the identification of which he enjoyed the help of Miguel Civil; Hittite mythological fragments copied in previous years; and fragments of Hittite cult inventories, copied in Ankara (under a grant from the American Research Institute in Turkey) by his former student Charles W. Carter, now professor at the University of North Dakota. Besides, he wrote articles on Hittite hieroglyphs for two Festschriften and worked on the Hittite Dictionary project. In April-May, 1977, he delivered a series of four lectures on "Hittite Literature and Art" at the Collège de France, Paris.

During 1976/77 most of Harry Hoffner's time was spent on the Hittite Dictionary Project. Growing out of the dictionary work came some publications: reviews of recently appearing volumes of Hittite texts and editions of texts in the *Journal of Cuneiform Studies*, *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research*, and *Bibliotheca Orientalis*. Lexical studies of several problematic Hittite words were offered to the *Memorial Volume for J. J. Finkelstein*. An important new join to the well-known Mita Text was likewise published in *JCS*. He also collaborated with Professors Civil and Güterbock, offering suggestions for the interpretation of Hittite, Akkadian, and Sumerian entries in the lexical texts to be published in *MSL XIV*. Mr. Hoffner also offered comments and suggestions to Prof. Güterbock on the manuscript of his *Keilschrifttexte aus Boghazköi* 26.

Hermann Hunger published an article on Babylonian meteorological omens and wrote an article on "Calendar" for the *Reallexikon der Assyriologie*. He began a manuscript for an edition of an important Babylonian astronomical work (to be published in collaboration with David Pingree). His book *Spätbabylonische Texte aus Uruk*, an edition of 186 tablets found in Uruk in 1969, was published this year.

During 1976/77 Janet H. Johnson continued her work with Demotic magical texts—an article on the dialect of one such text appeared in the *Festschrift* for George R. Hughes which she helped edit, and she recently finished an article containing another of these texts together with an analysis of the general format of such texts. She also gave a paper on the life of scribes in New Kingdom Egypt, the ideal and the actual, at the annual meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt. This spring she made a short trip to Egypt, with Donald S. Whitcomb, to investigate the possibilities of surveying and excavating the small port of Quseir on the Red Sea at the end of the Wadi Hammamat, a focus of trade in the Roman and early Islamic periods and perhaps much earlier. This trip was funded by the Smithsonian Institution.

Simo Parpola has been working on three projects aimed at furthering our knowledge of the language, culture, and history of the Late Assyrian Empire. In fall 1976, he completed a volume containing almost a thousand previously unpublished letters and letter fragments from the archives of the Assyrian kings, and by summer 1977 finished an extensive commentary to some 350 other letters of the same archives, written by diverse scholars (astrologers, physicians, exorcists, etc.) whose services were needed at the court. The 600-page manuscript presents for the first time a detailed chronological and structural analysis of this important cor-

respondence and correlates each letter with the background evidence offered by contemporary historical records and the vast Mesopotamian scholarly and scientific literature. Mr. Parpola also continued a third, computer-oriented project, initiated by him several years ago, whose aim is to index and analyze grammatically the extant corpus of texts written in the Neo-Assyrian dialect. He is currently working (in collaboration with John A. Brinkman) on an edition of the cuneiform tablets excavated by the Oriental Institute at Khorsabad in the early thirties.

Erica Reiner continues work on *Enuma Anu Enlil*, the series of Babylonian celestial omens. Fascicles 2 and 3 (Tablets 50-51 and 59-62) are currently in preparation. In that connection, two workshops were held on Babylonian mathematics and astronomy this year: the first with Professor Asger Aaboe (of Yale University) in February, and the second with Professor David Pingree (of Brown) in May. Miss Reiner presented a paper entitled "'For unto Everyone That Hath Shall Be Given': Mesopotamian Gleanings Related to the New Testament" at the meeting of the Middle West Branch of the American Oriental Society in January. She also attended the AOS meeting at Cornell in April, chairing a session of the North American Conference on Afroasiatic Linguistics, and spoke on "Living with the Ancient Babylonians" at the May 28th Saturday Seminar for prospective students at the University of Chicago.

Lawrence E. Stager is currently directing excavations in Carthage and co-directing them at Idalion, Cyprus. He has completed his manuscript for the "Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization," *Outposts in the Judaeian Desert*, his Harvard Ph.D dissertation. It is a study of frontier settlements and their attempts at floodwater farming during the 7th century B.C. He is also writing a joint monograph (with Anita Walker) on the last four seasons of excavations at Idalion. This work focuses on the early 5th century B.C. (Cypro-Classical period), when Idalion was the largest independent kingdom in central Cyprus under the rule of King Stasikypros and successfully withstood a major siege by the Persians. In addition to the annual interim reports on the excavations at Carthage, Stager and the director of British excavations there, Henry Hurst, have produced a synthesis entitled "Problems of a Metropolitan Landscape: the Punic Ports of Carthage" to be published in the winter issue of *World Archaeology*.

Perhaps the most spectacular by-product of Edward F. Wente's research into the genealogies of the royal families of the New Kingdom was the identification of the mummy of Queen Tiye, the wife of Amenhotep III and mother of Akhenaton, by means of a lock of hair from Tutankhamun's tomb anciently labeled as hers. He sug-

gested that Professor James E. Harris and his colleagues at the University of Michigan perform physical tests on it and on the hair of an unnamed lady who had been buried in a pose in which Queen Tiye was frequently portrayed. The scientific tests conclusively support the proposed identification. Mr. Wenté also wrote the background essay "Tutankhamun and his World" for the exhibition catalog, *Treasures of Tutankhamun*. Mr. Wenté's interest in Egyptian religion has led to his consideration of certain passages in the Book of Amduat and the Book of Gates, both found on the walls of tombs in the Valley of the Kings, that have a bearing on the problem of mysticism in ancient Egypt. He believes that the known use of certain mortuary texts during one's lifetime cannot simply be classified as magical, a term all too conveniently applied to phenomena that we frequently do not fully comprehend.