

The Hittite Dictionary Project

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The Hittite Dictionary continues to follow the schedule mapped out three years ago in its application for support to the National Endowment for the Humanities. 1978/79 was the third year of NEH support. As we promised the Endowment, we have completed manuscript for the first fascicle of what will eventually be volume three of the complete dictionary. This first fascicle will contain prefatory material (introduction, abbreviations) and articles on Hittite words beginning with the letter L.

Progress on the first fascicle was slower than what we anticipate for the future. In part this was caused by uncertainty regarding the amount of citations and discussion to be included. The CHD is not to be a thesaurus,

but not just a glossary, either. Its intermediate size naturally occasions questions in the minds of the editors about shortening the longer articles. Once we have produced more articles, and after we have had the initial reactions to the first published fascicle, it is hoped that we can avoid the delays brought upon us by such unresolved questions of procedure.

We are quite pleased with the results of our work on the L-words. There proved to be about a hundred sixty entries. Potential buyers of the dictionary may wish to know that this group of Hittite words contained nouns with the following English translations: (military) campaign, cap, corvée, dance, dawn, disgrace, duck (a bird), eyelash, foliage, incense, moment, name, oath, pond, prosperity, receipt, tongue, transhumance, tribe, trip, and window. Selected examples of verbs are: be agitated/worried, bend, conciliate, get well, go to war, fell (trees), fly, keep vigil, lick, loose, name, pour, set fire to, and swear. The longest articles will be those on the verbs "to loose" (*la-*) and "to be good, get well" (*lazziya-*), and the nouns "name" (*laman*) and "tongue" (*lala-*). Relevant passages of Hittite containing the words under study are cited in full and accompanied by idiomatic English translations.

Although the primary achievement of 1978/79 was the completion in final draft of all the articles on L-words, other goals were reached. The main lexical file has been brought even further toward its goal of full coverage of published texts. Almost five thousand new master file cards of transliterated Hittite text were produced in 1978/79. Most of these have been reproduced photographically, and we are in the process of filing them under the Hittite words contained on them. It is estimated that 1979/80 will see this aspect of our work brought to completion, after which time we will only need to keep pace with newly appearing volumes of Hittite texts.

To aid us in our evaluation of the paleography of individual Hittite tablets, which is a major factor in the dating of the copies, the editors made trips to Berlin, London, Paris, New Haven, Istanbul, Ankara, and Israel in order to seek out and photograph Hittite tablets. Our collection of photos is small, but growing.

News of our project continues to arouse the interest of our colleagues. Requests continue to come into the office for information from our files to aid colleagues in their research. In addition to individual research projects, at least two major dictionary projects, our own Institute's Assyrian Dictionary and the University of Pennsylvania's Sumerian Dictionary, have consulted and made use of material from our files. One new volume of Hittite texts from Istanbul will make extensive use of CHD information in the identification of the small fragments published therein.

We were visited in 1978/79 by Joseph Duffey, George Farr, and other officials of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The interest and support of the NEH continues to be strong. Some of you may even have watched William Buckley's interview of Chairman Duffey on his television show *Firing Line*, in which Duffey pointed to the Chicago Hittite Dictionary as a project in which the NEH takes particular pride.

For 1979/80 we tentatively set the following goals: (1) completion of final draft for most, if not all, M-words, (2) completion of first draft for the N- and some P-words, (3) completion of the lexical file coverage of the previously published cuneiform texts, (4) setting, printing, and distributing the first fascicle, containing the L-words.