

P U B L I C A T I O N S

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Publications

Twenty years ago I. J. Gelb started the computer-aided project that led to the publication of *Computer-Aided Analysis of Amorite* (by Ignace J. Gelb, with the assistance of Joyce Bartels, Stuart-Morgan Vance, and Robert M. Whiting, *Assyriological Studies*, no. 21) in March 1980. This volume, the first of two, contains a large body of material ordered under headings useful in the study of the Amorite language and includes a small preliminary glossary. There is also an index of the 6,662 Amorite names from which the language's grammar is almost entirely reconstructed.

These data will be used in the writing of the second, much smaller volume, which will deal mainly with ascertainable findings. It will contain a full grammar, a full glossary, a brief history of the Amorites, an evaluation of the comparative aspects of the Amorite language, and other general discussion. Since much of the second volume has already been written, it is hoped that the entire project will soon be brought to a successful completion.

Knowledge of the Amorite language is based almost exclusively on the analysis of proper names. The majority are personal names, but there is also a scattering of geographical names and of names of divinities. The names are found in cuneiform texts written in the Akkadian (Assyro-Babylonian) language. In content, the texts are mainly letters or administrative and legal documents.

The oldest sources pertaining to the Amorites come from Babylonia, which corresponds to the southern part of present-day Iraq. The Amorites lived there peacefully side by side with the native Akkadians and Sumerians, all the way from the Pre-Sargonic, through the Sargonic, to the Ur III periods (twenty-fourth to the twenty-first century B.C.). Nothing is known about the time when the Amorites moved into Babylonia. Since in Sumerian they are called MAR.TU, "Amorites," in the sources, it may be safely assumed that they came ultimately from a country called MAR.TU = Amurru, which contemporary sources place in the West (MAR.TU means "west"), that is, the area west of Babylonia.

From the end of the Ur III and beginning of the Old Babylonian

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periods, new waves of Amorites entered Babylonia and the rest of the area between the Tigris and the Euphrates rivers. The first wave entering Babylonia was instrumental in overthrowing the Ur III dynasty and establishing itself as the dominant political force. Two hundred years after the beginning of the Amorite penetration of Babylonia, important ethnic changes took place to the west and north of Babylonia; and the thrones of Mari and Assyria were occupied by dynasties of Amorite background.

Some of the best sources for the analysis of the Amorite language come from Mari, which had become an area of native speakers of this language. These sources cite Amorite names in a form closer to the original and represent them more consistently than do the Babylonian sources, in which the names are often garbled due to ignorance of the Amorite language on the part of the scribes living in a non-Amorite milieu.

The first three chapters of *Computer-Aided Analysis of Amorite* list all the names in the same form, but group them under different topical headings. Chapter 1, "Stems," is basic; the stem is the fundamental free morpheme of a word. Chapter 2, "Roots," is derived from chapter 1 by the elimination of stem vowels. Chapter 3, "Prefixes and Suffixes," lists all the bound morphemes shown in the analysis column of chapters 1 and 2. Chapters 4 and 5, "Stem Count" and "Phoneme Count," synthesize the results extrapolated from chapters 1 and 2. Chapter 6, "Index of Names," gives a complete list of the transliterated names in the order of the roman alphabet. Attached to it is a small chapter 7, "Unanalyzed Names," excerpted from the previous chapter.

Amorite personal names consist of single words, phrases, or sentences. Some translate as expressions of piety—e.g., *'Abd-'El*, "slave of 'El"; *Yantin-Dagān*, "Dagān has given"; *Yašma'-Haddu*, "Haddu has heard"; *Yaḥun-pi-'El*, "the mouth/word of 'El is gracious/merciful." ('El, Dagān, and Haddu are names of divinities.) Some names are descriptive, perhaps nicknames—e.g., *Qaqqadānum*, "man with a big head"; *'Ašqudum*, "hamster"; *Dubābum*, "little fly"; *Ḥuzirānum*, "little pig"; *Dunābum*, "tail."

Other publications:

An Epigraphic Survey publication, *The Tomb of Khereuf: Theban Tomb No. 192* (Oriental Institute Publications, vol. 102) will be published in October.

Author Maurits N. van Loon is finishing work on the manuscript of *The Holmes Expedition to Luristan* (special publication).

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Prehistoric Archeology Along the Zagros Flanks (Oriental Institute Publications, vol. 105) is moving along in our production office and with the typesetter.

The printer is about to start platework for *Excavations Between Abu Simbel and the Sudan Frontier*, part 3: *C-Group, Pan Grave, and Kerma Remains from Cemeteries T, K, and U* (Oriental Institute Nubian Expedition, vol. 5).

Platework is well under way for *The Temple of Khonsu 2: Scenes and Inscriptions in the Court and the First Hypostyle Hall* (Oriental Institute Publications, vol. 103).

American Expedition to Idalion, Cyprus: Second Preliminary Report (Oriental Institute Communications, no. 24) is now in the first stage of the editorial process.