Extended by three months, the generous financial support granted for six years by the National Endowment for the Humanities and for two years by the National Science Foundation to the project on ancient society and economy will come to an end on June 30, 1981. The project has suffered an additional loss in Dr. Piotr Stein­
keller, the last of the remaining assistants, who has accepted an academic appointment at Harvard.

As stated in my previous report, the priority number one of the project for the next year or two is the preparation of the final manuscripts of two rather gigantic publications, each containing a volume of texts and interpretations (philological, legal, social-economic) and a volume of plates. The first of these projects, Earliest Systems of Land Tenure in the Near East, will appear as volume 104 of the Oriental Institute Publications; the second, “Source Book for the Social and Economic History of the Ancient Near East,” has been accepted for publication by Undena Publications in Malibu, California.

I have described the two publications as rather gigantic since I have never been faced in my past experience with anything comparable to them in size. In addition, we are faced at every step with the complexity of presentation, as each statement involves detailed cross-references not only to the documentation and/or previous philological discussions, but also to the primary and secondary treatments of legal and social-economic matters in other parts of the publication and in other volumes and numerous articles.

As a by-product of the work on the projects, a number of articles in the field of social-economic and legal history of ancient times have been produced. The listing of at least the important titles may be of some interest to persons concerned with these matters:


Until such time as we are able to secure financial support from foundations or other benefactors, the project will continue on a much reduced scale with the help of a part-time assistant.