



The Hittite Dictionary Project

Harry A. Hoffner, Jr.

1984–85 was the final year of a grant period for the Hittite Dictionary. As such, it was also the final year of service for two of our staff members, Drs. Howard Berman and Silvin Košak. Berman has been a member of the project from the beginning (1976). As the staff member in charge of keeping the main lexical file up to date, he proved his worth many times over. The GIGO rule (“garbage in, garbage out”) cited for computer data is equally true for the non-electronic systems of data retrieval such as the xeroxed file card. The value of the CHD’s file cards is directly proportional to the ac-

curacy of the person who prepared the original master card from which the individual xeroxed file card was prepared. Other staff members and visiting scholars alike can testify to the high standard of reliability set by Berman's cards. Over the years of his tenure he personally prepared master cards which constitute the bulk of the system. His work was not only transcribing texts, but also using our files of transliterated texts to identify new duplicates and join pieces to known texts. With his departure on June 30, 1985 the project enters a new phase. Berman succeeded in putting on master cards all of the Hittite texts published in hand copies as of 1985 and most of the unpublished fragments in the possession of Prof. Güterbock which our project is authorized to use. There is almost no backlog at all, as Dr. Berman leaves us. This is quite a tribute to his work.

Dr. Kořak was with the project from 1980 to 1985. His primary responsibility has been the writing of first drafts of dictionary articles. His particular strength has been the interpretation of words of extremely low frequency of occurrence and words for realia, of the sort likely to occur in inventory texts. In fact, Dr. Kořak managed to publish during his tenure with the CHD a standard edition of Hittite inventory texts (*Hittite Inventory Texts*, Heidelberg, 1982). The progress in preparing the final copy of the dictionary seems agonizingly slow. But Dr. Kořak's production of first drafts has always been one of the most encouraging sides of our work. By the time he left us on June 30th he had written first drafts of almost all words beginning with the letters N and P. It will probably be two more years before the CHD can bring all of these first drafts to a final published form. He has given us a two year lead. This is a monumental achievement. We are extremely sorry to lose him on the staff. One consolation is that he will join the staff of the Academy of Sciences and Literature at Mainz. In this prestigious center for research in Hittite language and literature his duties will be wider but similar in nature to his work in Chicago. We wish him well in his new position.

Finding replacements for scholars such as Berman and Kořak is never easy. But we were fortunate to find two excellent young men. Dr. Ahmet Ünal is a tenured Associate Professor of Hittitology at the University of Ankara, Turkey. He received his professional training in Ankara and subsequently in Munich. In Munich he studied under Prof. Annelies Kammenhuber, one of the foremost Hittitologists. After obtaining his doctorate in Munich and teaching in Turkey, Ünal was taken onto the research staff of Kammenhuber's *Hethitisches Wörterbuch* (Hittite Dictionary) in Munich. He also did some

teaching in Munich to fill in for professors on leave. He comes to us, therefore, as a mature scholar of considerable experience both in teaching and writing and especially well qualified in the area of Hittite lexicography.

For the second position we sought a younger scholar, having only recently completed the doctorate. We were fortunate to have an application from Richard Beal, who was trained in our own program with a dissertation on the Hittite army. Beal has had experience with the inner workings of our project, having been employed as a graduate student. In addition to his dissertation, which he has submitted, Beal has written several good articles on aspects of Hittite history. Both new staff members will commence their work in July, 1985.

During the year 1984–85 work was completed on the final copy of articles for the third fascicle of the CHD (CHD III/3). Galleys for the first third of the fascicle were received in late 1984, those for the remaining two thirds have been received from Eisenbraun's in early July, 1985, and work on the corrections is under way (summer 1985). CHD III/3 will contain the articles miyahuwant- through nah-. Final drafts of articles nahhasi- through the end of N (for CHD III/4) are being edited to send to the compositor in the fall of 1985. First drafts up through puwatti- (with some lacunae) have been prepared by Košak.

During the winter quarter of 1985 the Oriental Institute was able to bring Prof. Philo Houwink ten Cate of Amsterdam University here as a visiting collaborator. During this three month period he wrote first drafts of the large articles on *namma* "furthermore" and *nasma* "either, or."

In June 1985 we were notified by the National Endowment for the Humanities of the awarding of a new grant to the CHD which will run through June 30, 1987. The level of funding possible this time was lower than hoped, with more needing to be raised from friends of the Oriental Institute. The new NEH grant is only for two years, while our earlier grants ran three years. This short term is inconvenient, since it requires more time spent by the senior staff in preparing applications and leaves less time for doing the work we are being funded to do. Nevertheless, the CHD is grateful not only to the National Endowment for the Humanities but also to faithful donors from the Institute's membership, whose gifts to the Hittite Dictionary qualify for matching gifts from the NEH.