

The Chicago Assyrian Dictionary

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- ◆ The Chicago Assyrian Dictionary (CAD) again benefited from the return of tried and true friends, former University of Chicago faculty member Johannes M. Renger, now at the Free University, Berlin, and Dietz Otto Edzard, of the University of Munich. Another old friend, but first-time collaborator on the CAD, Wilfred van Soldt of the University of Leiden, spent the first six months of 1989 with us. Funding for visiting scholars was made possible, as in the past twelve years, by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and matching funds raised from friends of the Oriental Institute, as sustained progress cannot be maintained by the skeletal home staff alone.

Dr. van Soldt contributed not only to the dictionary manuscript by writing and checking articles, but also initiated even the more recalcitrant among us into the mysteries of our new Macintosh II and LaserWriter. He was also extremely helpful in adapting several new software programs, among them one that we use for keeping our List of Bibliographical Abbreviations up to date, and improved the fonts we use to write the special diacritics needed for Sumerian and Akkadian. (We were also pleased that he and his fiancée Dina Katz, an Assyriologist from Israel, perhaps prompted by the romantic atmosphere of the CAD, chose to get married during their stay in Chicago.)

During the year 1988-89, reading of proofs for Š Part 1 was finished, and the first part of the three-part volume is expected to appear in 1989. The remaining two parts are in advanced stages; Part 2 is in page proofs and second galleys, and Part 3 is in first galleys.

The writing of the manuscript of T was finished in 1989, and more than half of T has been edited and typed in final typescript. Work has also begun on the volume next in sequence, T̄.

We are applying to the NEH for a grant to support the CAD after the current grant expires in June 1990.

šukkulu v.; to wipe, rub, polish; from OB on; II, II/2, II/3; cf. *šukkultu*.

zabar KÜ.GI.ga.gin_x(GIM) u.me.ni.dadag zabar (var. GAL)kù.babbar.ra.gin_x šu u.me.ni.su.ub.su.ub: *kīma qē ḥurāši nummiršuma kīma qē kaspi šu-kil-šu-ma* burnish him like a gold vessel, polish him like a silver vessel 81-2-4, 196 r. 7'-10' (*bīt rimki*, courtesy R. Borger), var. from W.23273 iv 19f., cited ZA 70 210 n. 7; dug.bur ì.nun.na.gin_x u.me.ni.su.ub.su.ub: *kīma pūri ḥimēti liš-ta-kil* let him be scrubbed like a vessel for ghee CT 16 11 vi 36f., but (erroneously) *ú-šak-lil* CT 17 25:41; dug.bir ì.nun.na.gin_x ù.me.ni.su.ub.su.ub: *kīma pūr ḥimēti liš-tak*(var. -*ta*)-*kil* Surpu VII 83.

a) to wipe out a vessel: *bētānu ša diqāri ina šuḥatte tul-ta-na-kal* you repeatedly wipe the inside of the pot with a *šuḥattu*-cloth Ebeling Parfümrez. p. 38 ii 16, also p. 20f. ii 3 and 20, *ibid.* p. 19 KAR 140:16 (all MA), cf. (in broken context) *šak-ku-lu* *ibid.* pl. 36 i 11 (NA); see also lex. section.

b) to wipe away tears: *ina si-gi ša tabripi ú-šá-kal dīmāteša* he wipes away her tears with the hem of (his) red wool garment TIM 9 54 r. 13 (NA lit.), cf. *dīrātija šá-ak-ki-il* ABL 1149 r. 10 (NA), *dīmātija šu-uk-ki-il* ARM 10 92:8; *dimātija šu-ki-il* Whiting Tell Asmar 12:45.

c) to wipe someone's feet as a gesture of humility: *šarrāni . . . ina libbi ziqnišunu* KUS.DA.E.SIR-*ka lu-šak-ki-lu* may (all) kings wipe your shoes with their beards Iraq 20 182 (pl. 37) No. 39:30 (Nimrud let. of Sar.), see Postgate, Iraq 35 22, cf. (the people) *ina ziqnišunu šēpēšu ú-šak-ka-lu* will wipe his (the king's) feet with their beards YOS 10 33 iv 8 (OB ext.).

d) other occs.: *šumma kalbu ana muḥḥi amēli qinnassu ú-šá-kil* if a dog wipes its rear against a man CT 38 50:60 (SB Alu); *šumma amēlu qātīšu ina igāri ú-šak-¹kil* . . . *šumma amēlu qātīšu ina TÚG-šú* MIN if a man wipes his hands on a wall, if a man wipes his hands on his garment AfO 18 77 K.1562:8f., see Deller, ZA 70 226; *ša* (var. *ana*) *šaptiki šu-uk-ki-il* wipe your lips KUB 39 71 ii 6 and dupls., cf. (uncert.) UZU *la-bá-ak-ki ú-šá-ak-ki-il* *ibid.* 82:11, see Goetze, JCS 18 95.

Deller and Watanabe, ZA 70 198ff.

For those readers not familiar with the CAD, the entry on the previous page is in the soon-to-be published Part 3 of the volume currently in press, Volume 17 (Š), of the Assyrian Dictionary. This entry is an illuminating example of the progress that is possible in Assyriology, even since as recently as 1976, the date of the publication of the corresponding entries in the *Akkadisches Handwörterbuch* of Wolfram von Soden.

The reason for the plural in “entries” above is that attestations of the word *šukku* were divided among several entries, homonyms and near-homonyms, of verbs containing an initial sibilant (s or š), a velar (k or g), and a liquid (l). These verbs were variously glossed as ‘to weigh’, ‘to reduce to nothing’, ‘to waggle, switch’, ‘to dry’, and the like, giving rise to such interesting translations as “Weigh my tears!” and “(the dog) switches its behind.”

♦ Interesting, but, alas! wrong. It is only when citations in which the verb is used with reference to cleaning a pot were considered alongside the just cited passages that the true meaning, simple and at once obvious, namely ‘to wipe’, emerged, and the appropriate translations, illustrated in the word *šukkulu* in the entry, could be constructed. (Parenthetically, the meaning ‘to scrub, to scour’ was first proposed, albeit for the cleaning of pots references only, by the present editor-in-charge in 1955 in her dissertation, subsequently published in 1959.)

Not all entries of course demonstrate such a radical departure from previous interpretations; in most cases, when the meaning of a word is well established, our main task is to present the evidence in a meaningful context, and to illustrate the word’s use in the various periods and dialects of the Akkadian language, including evidence not only from Mesopotamia proper but also from the surrounding regions — Anatolia, Syria, Elam. Moreover, as it is often the Sumerian evidence that illuminates the meaning of a word and offers a different variety of contexts, our dictionary is being used by many scholars for interpreting Sumerian texts also, since only the letter B of the Philadelphia Sumerian Dictionary has been published so far.