

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH

Richard H. Beal

Richard H. Beal spent much of his time proofreading, copyediting, and in other ways preparing the third fascicle of the Hittite Dictionary's P volume for publication. This fascicle, which has now appeared, is considerably larger than previous fascicles. It begins with the word *pattar* and runs through the end of the letter P. Among words covered in this fascicle were the long and complicated preverb *peran* "in front," not to mention the equally long noun *per/parn-* "house, palace, temple." In addition to this, Beal has been reading entries from the next volume, Š, to Professor Güterbock, for his invaluable comments, gleaned from some 70 years of experience reading Hittite. His comments are then noted. Minor items are entered directly into the computer manuscript, while Beal takes substantial matters to Professor Harry Hoffner to be hammered out. Meanwhile, he has also been doing a certain amount of copyediting on the texts that he reads to Güterbock; this will make the job quicker when these dictionary articles return to his desk. Although some long and difficult Š-words remain to be written and so have not been discussed, most of the words for this volume have now been written and approved by Professor Güterbock. In and around doing this Beal has been writing a first draft of the long and interesting word *šiu-* "god/goddess."

Beal's translation of a series of oracle questions concerning military campaign strategy has been submitted for a memorial volume for the French scholar L. Christmann-Franke. This text requests divine help in planning which places north of the Hittite border should be attacked and in which order, which should be bypassed, whether expeditions under particular commanders will succeed, etc. His review of J. Puhvel's *Hittite Etymological Dictionary*, vol. H, has finally appeared in the *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 118/1 (1998). He spent his vacation reading Assyrian and Babylonian tablets in the British Museum to assist his wife, JoAnn Scurlock, with her works on "Magico-Medical Means of Dealing with Ghosts in Ancient Mesopotamia" and on the "Lost Medicine of Ancient Mesopotamia." He and his wife have also given specially tailored slide presentations on various aspects of the Islamic world to a number of college classes and high schools in the Chicago area.