

News & Notes

MEMBERS' DAY
ORIENTAL INSTITUTE
1155 EAST 58TH STREET
CHICAGO, ILL. 60637

The Oriental Institute

Issued confidentially to members and friends

Not for publication

No. 26: April, 1976

THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

*cordially invites you
and your guests to attend*

MEMBERS' DAY

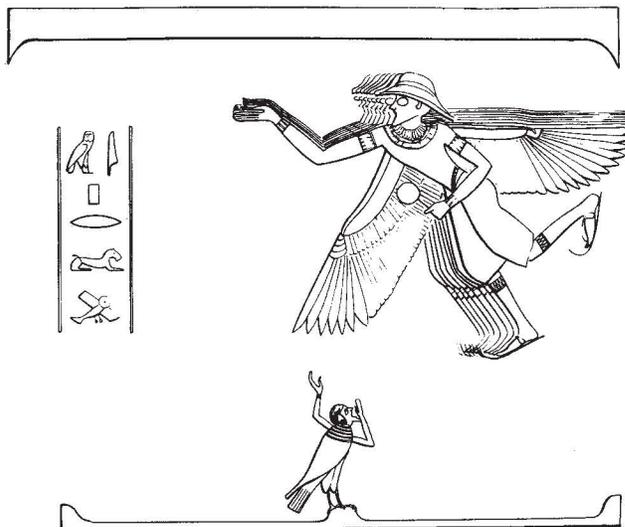
an open house of tours, films, and exhibits

Sunday, April 25, 1976

1:00-4:00 P.M.

The Oriental Institute
1155 East 58th Street

R.S.V.P. 753-2389 by Friday, April 23rd



Docents' Course: The ten-week course for training new Museum Docents and Suq Volunteers will begin Monday, April 12, 1976. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer guide in the Oriental Institute Museum, please call Mrs. Jill Maher, 753-2573 or 753-2471, to arrange an interview.

Members' Course: The eight-week Members' Course in Iranian Archeology, taught by Mr. Donald S. Whitcomb will begin Tuesday, April 13, 1976. Each lecture will be given twice each Tuesday, from 10:00 to 11:30 A.M. and from 5:30 to 7:00 P.M. Class members may attend either or both sessions. The fee for the course is \$30.00 for Institute members, or \$45.00 for non-members (including Institute membership); to register, please call Mr. Bernard Lalor, 753-2389, or just send him a check (payable to the Oriental Institute) for the appropriate amount.

Ozymandias, King of Kings, presented by Charles C. Van Siclen III will be the next lecture for the Western Suburbs Affiliate Group of the Oriental Institute. The lecture will be delivered on Sunday, April 11, 7:00 P.M. at 341 South Elm Street, Hinsdale. For additional information, please call Linn Buss at 354-4285.

THE HITTITE DICTIONARY PROJECT

by Harry A. Hoffner and Hans G. Güterbock

The sign on the door of Room 218 of the Oriental Institute catches one's eye. Painted in five colors, bright red, yellow, blue, purple and white, it depicts the famous Hittite symbol of the double-headed eagle holding a captured hare in the talons of each of its two feet. The words under the symbol read "Hittite Dictionary Project." This office, which for years was occupied by Professor John A. Wilson, the eminent Egyptologist, now serves as the center for a new dictionary project under the auspices of the Oriental Institute.

Another dictionary project at the Institute? Members and friends of the Institute are familiar with the famous Assyrian Dictionary Project, which in 1971 celebrated its fiftieth anniversary and which now has over 2,000,000 file cards and twelve published volumes to its credit. The fledgling Hittite Dictionary project, barely under way, does not intend to match the scope of the Assyrian Dictionary. But before we pursue the details of the Hittite Project, we should briefly review the history of work on the Hittite language and previous dictionary-like publications.

The Hittite language, written in the cuneiform script on clay tablets, was deciphered as recently as 1915, long after the Egyptian hieroglyphs and the Assyro-Babylonian cuneiform script had been successfully interpreted. Since in 1915 cuneiform signs could be read, it was not the script of the Hittite tablets which needed to be deciphered, but the language itself. The credit for that achievement belongs to the Czech Assyriologist Benrich Hronzý, who demonstrated that the grammatical structure of the Hittite language was fundamentally the same as that of the older languages in the Indo-European family, such as Greek, Latin, and Sanskrit.

Soon after Hronzý's pioneer publication, a number of German Assyriologists and Indo-Europeanists advanced the understanding of the language by applying a strict methodology: no Hittite word would be interpreted solely on the basis of alleged cognates in other Indo-European languages. The meanings of words would first be established from a study of their uses in various contexts. For this purpose, each scholar prepared his own card file of Hittite words. Soon the more important texts were published in editions which consisted of transliteration of the Hittite text in the Roman alphabet, connected translation of the text, line-by-line grammatical and philological commentary, and a complete glossary of Hittite words appearing in the text under study. The glossaries in these editions served scholars and students alike. It was felt then that the task of writing a Hittite dictionary would have to wait until more texts were published and analyzed.

In the United States, Edgar H. Sturtevant, Professor of Linguistics at Yale University, was the first to study and contribute to the understanding of Hittite. In 1931 he published the first *Hittite Glossary*, a modest booklet which listed all the words which until then had been discussed in scholarly literature and whose meanings had been determined more or less precisely. Since Sturtevant cited after the translation the book or article in which the word was studied, his Glossary served also as an index to lexicographical studies.

Five years later a new edition had already become necessary, and this *Hittite Glossary* of 1936 (together with a supplement of 1939) was an indispensable tool for a generation of students. It was even translated into Turkish! Although Sturtevant continued to collect new references despite the intervening World War, he did not publish a new edition after 1939.

After the end of the war, Johannes Friedrich, one of the first group of German Hittitologists, of the 1920's and '30's, began compiling a glossary in German, which appeared in installments between 1952 and 1954. Despite its title, *Hethitisches Wörterbuch* ("Hittite Dictionary"), chosen because the book was to form part of a series of "dictionaries" published by the Carol Winter Universitätsverlag in Heidelberg, Friedrich's subtitle (in English: "a concise critical collection of meanings of Hittite words") clearly indicated that it was not intended as a dictionary in the full sense of the word, but served as a successor to Sturtevant's glossary, using a slightly expanded format. Friedrich too added supplements to his *Wörterbuch* in 1957, 1961, and 1966, but his book is now out of print.

A completely new edition of Friedrich's work is being prepared by Professor Annelies Kammenhuber of Munich, the first installment of which appeared in 1975. In contrast to the earlier version, this work includes words of unknown meaning and gives fuller references to original sources. Hence, it is a real dictionary.

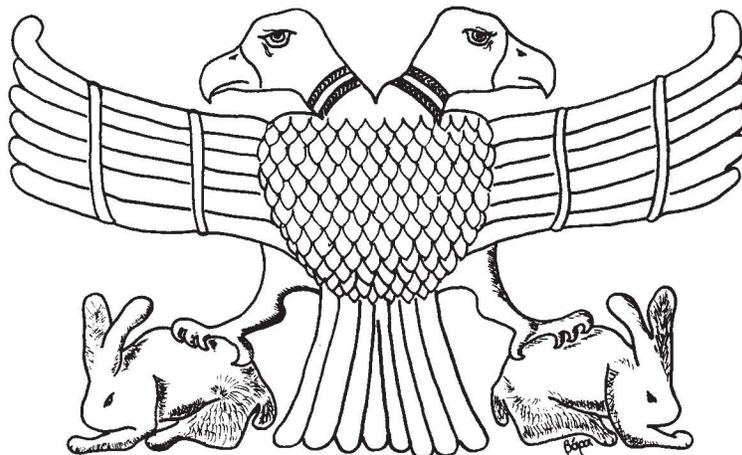
Why, then, have a Hittite Dictionary Project at the Oriental Institute? The best answer is: we need a real Hittite dictionary in English. Sturtevant's *Glossary* is by now completely antiquated. Experience has shown that the "language barrier" is very real. Misunderstandings of German renderings of Hittite words in the literature even crept into the first edition of Sturtevant's *Glossary*. The difficulty of comprehending what exactly was meant by Friedrich has constantly frustrated students. The first installment of Ms. Kammenhuber's work is written in a style which is very hard to understand. And then in a discipline as young and dynamic as Hittitology, there are always differing views on the translation of important words. English-speaking scholars are not the only ones who can profit from our distinctive "Chicago approach."

The dictionary which we plan will include all known Hittite words as well as those Sumerian and Babylonian words which in Hittite texts serve as "Logograms," i.e., written symbols intended to evoke native Hittite equivalents. Even words for which we are presently unable to propose a translation will be included and their locations in texts indicated. The dictionary will be based upon a file collection which will cover the entire corpus of published texts. The dictionary articles will not list all occurrences of every word, but rather offer characteristic examples for various usages or nuances of meaning.

A grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities has now put the project on a safe financial basis. The authors of this article are serving as co-directors (or Principal Investigators). The project employs a Research Associate (currently Dr. Howard Berman) and three Student Assistants (currently Richard Beal, Barbara Knowles, and George Moore). The first stage calls for the completion of the card file. It is estimated that this process, largely by Mr. Hoffner's work over the past ten years, is already about 65% finished. The main files of the project now contain approximately 500,000 cards. In our application to the National Endowment for the Humanities, we estimated it will take ten years to write and publish the dictionary. The present grant covers the first three of these years (excluding publication costs). It is hoped that the dictionary will appear in annual fascicles, the first to appear at the end of 1977.

The Chicago Hittite Dictionary will be much more modest in size than the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary and hence, we hope, will take much less time to complete. The corpus of Hittite texts is only a fraction of the size of the corpus of Akkadian texts, just as it covers only one-sixth of the latter's time span. And, while the CAD offers extensive examples of each meaning of an Akkadian word with contexts quoted in transliterated Akkadian and English translation, the CHD will offer a more restricted sampling of examples that will not be cited in both transliteration and English translation. For those familiar with both the CAD and Professor Wolfram von Soden's German counterpart, the CHD aims at a format intermediate between the two: slightly fuller than von Soden, somewhat more concise than the CAD. We expect, of course, that once we begin the actual drafting of articles for the dictionary certain principles of procedure will need adjustment. But the preceding remarks will convey the heart of our plan.

Dr. Hoffner is Associate Professor of Hittitology in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and the Oriental Institute, and Dr. Güterbock is Tiffany and Margaret Blake Distinguished Service Professor of Hittitology in the Departments of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and Linguistics and the Oriental Institute.



THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE

*cordially invites you to attend
an illustrated lecture*

"X-RAYING THE PHARAOHS"

by

James E. Harris
University of Michigan

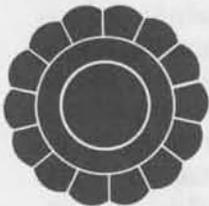
Wednesday, May 12, 1976

8:30 P.M.

The James Henry Breasted Lecture Hall
1155 East 58th Street

Admission is free. Museum Halls and The Suq will be open one hour before the lecture.

(The Quadrangle Club, 1155 East 57th Street, will be open to Oriental Institute members who wish to make dinner reservations. Please call Mrs. Schlender, 493-8601. Please remember that the privilege of the use of the dining room at the Quadrangle Club is a courtesy extended to members of the Oriental Institute only on nights when there is an Oriental Institute lecture.)



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The University of Chicago
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