

Richard Beal

Richard Beal spent most of the past year copy editing, re-reading for style, re-re-reading for sense, and in general shepherding the first fascicle of the Š volume of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary through to publication. He also found a bit of time to begin writing the word *da-* “to take.”

The last year saw the appearance of his article “Dividing a God,” in *Magic and Ritual in the Ancient World*, in which he discusses the ritual the Hittites used to divide the divinity of a goddess so that this goddess could be worshipped in two different places. The article also shows that rituals need not proceed from one step to the next in a straightforward way, but rather can accomplish their aims by repeating various steps. The new understanding of this text derives from work done for the Hittite Dictionary’s second fascicle of the Š volume.

In addition he published an article in the journal *Nouvelles assyriologiques brèves et utilitaires* giving evidence that the future Hittite King Muršili II, and later author of the Hittites’ most notable historical documents, held the position of “Chief of the Royal Body Guards,” which is the highest ranking army commander after the king himself, during the reign of his elder brother Arnuwanda II.

For a memorial volume for Fiorella Imparati he wrote an article arguing that the kings of the Hittite New Kingdom did not form a new Hurrian dynasty but were actually direct descen-

dants of the kings of the Old Kingdom. Thus the long noticed phenomenon of kings having both a “Hittite” and a Hurrian name cannot be accounted for as a Hurrian personal name and a Hittite throne name. Rather as kings of Hittites and Hurrians, Hatti and Kizzuwatna/Syria, the kings had, perhaps from time of birth, perhaps from time of accession, both an Anatolian and a Hurrian name.

He also wrote “The Hittite Military on Campaign” and “Hittite weaponry” for a catalog for the exhibition *La Battaglia di Qadesh* to be held at the National Archaeological Museum in Florence during the second half of 2002, and “Historiography among the Hittites,” “Anatolia: Divination & Prophecy,” and “Ethics and Law: Anatolia,” for *Religions of the Ancient World*. Finally, he wrote “Gleanings from Hittite Oracle Questions on Religion, Society, Psychology and Decision Making” for *Silva Anatolica: Anatolian Studies Presented to Maciej Popko*.

He spent his vacation in the Vorderasiatisches Museum in Berlin, the Cinquantenaire Museum in Brussels, and the British Museum in London helping his wife, JoAnn Scurlock, collate Neo-Assyrian and Neo-Babylonian medical texts for her books on Mesopotamian medicine.

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