A Repertorium of Treated Passages from Hittite Texts

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Some twenty-five years ago Prof. Houwink ten Cate suggested to me that during my journal reading it might be useful to record on index cards all the passages from Hittite texts quoted in the various articles. Obviously, this would be equally useful in the case of books, but it soon became clear that this was far too time-consuming, and that a more structural approach was needed. It was within the framework of the research programme of the department of Western-Asian Languages and Cultures of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Amsterdam that the project was set up, under the title by which it is now known.

As is often the case, it proved difficult to obtain the necessary funds to initiate what was at first glance a bibliographical project. I say "at first glance", because the underlying idea was that once we had the names of all the authors who had had something to say about a particular passage, we could then analyze their treatment with a view to drawing up as good a translation as possible, together with a commentary. In this sense, the card index was intended simply as a basis for planned research. At that time not everyone had a computer, although in the sixties Houwink ten Cate's "Records"[1] was one of the first publications to make use of a computer project, set up by the Oriental Institute in Chicago.

Today I will focus on three areas:

I   Work on the project
II   Problems encountered along the way
III   Publication of the collected material.

I. Work on the Project

Because in general the older publications are less likely to come to the attention of younger researchers, we initially directed our attention towards important older publications such as *HAB* and *AU*. At one point we decided to make 1961 the cut-off point, since around that time the number of publications began to increase rapidly. Our major source consisted of existing bibliographies in Festschriften and the like, which ensures that major authors would be covered as completely as possible. At first each work was examined page by page, despite the existence of an index listing the va-

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[1] Ph.H.J. Houwink ten Cate, *The Records of the Early Hittite Empire (c. 1450-1380 BC)* (PIHANS 26), İstanbul / Leiden 1970.

rious passages dealt with. Due to lack of time, however, data were occasionally drawn from indices as well, which also meant that the work did not necessarily have to be done by colleagues in the field. The inherent disadvantage is, of course, that some indices list the treated passages in more detail than others. In addition, the indices may differ in their definition of a particular text passage, while over the years the researchers who have made their − often only brief − contribution to the project all did so in their own way and at their own level, and brought their personal interpretation to the enormous quantity of pages and text numbers. Initially, we took as our point of departure at least two nouns, adjectives or verbs from a line which were only transliterated, or transliterated and also translated or commented on. This was indicated on the card by the letters 'T' or 'V' (*vertaling*, Dutch for translation, was used, as the English would have meant another 'T'), where applicable, accompanied by a 'T' and/or a 'C' (commentary). In the beginning the 'C' appeared more frequently than in later years, and in some cases the view of the author was also recorded. The name of the author was given at the bottom, together with the name of the publication and the text page. In some cases, the commentary accompanying a text number was not included, as in the case of reviews of text editions. When it appeared that the number of passages would probably end up in the tens of thousands, it was decided that two transliterated words would no longer be included if they were not accompanied by an interesting addition, translation or commentary.

An added advantage of the project was that it involved the collection of bibliographical data on the many authors working in the field.[2] Due to the large quantity of data already collected, it was decided not to include Hurrian, Akkadian, Luwian if not in a KUB or KBo number, or Hieroglyphic Luwian; the same decision was made in the case of seals and bullae. The chronological bibliographies with publications arranged by author are indispensable for anyone searching for the references accompanying a text passage, as shown in the handout. One practical problem which presents itself has to do with the older journal articles, which are not generally available; copies have to be requested elsewhere, which in many cases do not actually contain a passage relevant to the project. In any case, however, the project has greatly enriched the library of works devoted to Hittite in Amsterdam.

Although from the start the striving was to produce a repertorium which was "as complete as possible", a decision was taken quite early on not to

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[2] This gap has recently been largely filled by the highly valuable − and costly - *Systematische Bibliographie der Hethitologie* by Vl. Souček and J. Siegelová.

process the less accessible languages such as Russian, Slovene, and Japanese, for the simple reason that there was not sufficient time. In any case, it was felt that in a later stage the use of a computer would make it possible to insert additional data under the appropriate text number.

II. Problems

The rapid developments in both hardware and software over the last ten years make it difficult to imagine how limited the possibilities then were for a reasonably extensive database program, due to the limited memory capacity and speed of the computers available at that time. There were also considerable restrictions on the material to be entered in the various columns; for example, the column "particulars" could accommodate a maximum of only 10 positions. There were 11 basic items of information: Edition, Volume number, Text number, Obv./Rev., Column, Line, Type ('T', 'V', or 'C'), Author, Work, Page, and Particulars. The largest entry would have been the author's name, if it had been written in full; it was decided to use the first four letters of the last name to identify the author.

Since the computer had to be able to search by text number, it was necessary to devise a uniform method for entering data, taking into account the above mentioned restrictions per line. Thus there were numerous cases which were simple to record on the card, but which presented problems when the same information had to be entered in the computer.

A number of these technical problems will be discussed in random order under the heading **A** below. The heading **B** is reserved for other problems, some of which were due to the rapid developments in computer technology, others to various difficulties which necessitated a decision concerning the manner of entering data.

A

1) An author has dealt with a text on Obv. i 30 - Rev. ii 15. This reference can only be sorted and recorded under the text number and Obv. i 30 ff. A user looking for Rev. ii 10 will not be able to find a direct reference to the line, and will have to go back a bit to see whether it is part of a larger text segment.

It might be better to divide the mention in two and start a new line with Rev. ii 1-15. The drawback there is the fact that a reader has no way of knowing that Obv. i runs from line 30 all the way to the end of the column.

2) The complicated sorting problem which presents itself in the case of duplicates and composed texts holds true a fortiori for texts which were originally seen as independent entities, but which later proved to be dupli-

cates or were attached to a composed text, the line numbers of which no longer corresponded to the original numbering in the text edition. The user will have to refer back to the original text in order to find the correct line of text. As a rule texts which have been joined are mentioned as often as is necessary for clarity. To take an imaginary example: KBo 1.1 + KUB 1.1 i 1 is entered as KBo 1.1 i 1 and as KUB 1.1 i 1. In the case of composed texts, we refer the reader to an explanatory article by H.G. Güterbock.[3]

3) Authors occasionally make mistakes. How should authors' errors be handled? In any case, there is not enough space to provide the erroneous text or line number followed by the correct number (if, indeed, it has been ascertained!). It was decided that the authors themselves are responsible for the text and line numbers which appear in the article.

4) Similarly, where the indication Obv./Rev. is missing, this is not corrected. A problem for the user arises when later researchers change Rev. to Obv. or vice versa.

5) When an author has important things to say on KUB 29.1-3, for example, this will have to be divided into KUB 29.1, 29.2 and 29.3, so that it can be found after automatic sorting has taken place.

6) We have also omitted unclear mentions in older publications. Thus no further search will be carried out on, say, a 1932 mention of KBo ii p. 35 or KUB p. 2.1.

B

1) Over the years certain changes have taken place in the manner in which texts are quoted. When we see such abbreviations as *AM*, *Madd.*, *Ges.*/ *Laws* § …, *Hatt.*, *Kup.* § 16 c 11, we know that they are preceded by KBo, KUB or some other text editions. In most cases the original indication has been retained, since the texts are always quite well-known, and for the editors the process of identifying the right text numbers is extremely time-consuming.

2) What do we do when the author quotes another author? If the original work is also dealt with, the passage is not as a rule repeated, even when it is in another language, unless the author provides additional commentary for example or proposes changes to the translation.

3) Where a text number quoted as Bo or some similar designation later acquired a definitive text number, the new number is often given together

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[3] H.G. Güterbock, "Neue Texte zur Geschichte Šuppululiumas", *IF* 60 (1949 [ersch. 1950]) 199-211.

with the old Bo number, in order to make it easier to find the place in the original text.

A list of published Bo numbers is included.

4) The indication "Unveröffentlicht" is given as in the original quote, even if the text has been published in the meantime.

5) Where an author uses the designation 'sqq.' or 'ff.', we do not indicate the last line which is included.

6) In the same way, we do not indicate which segment of text has been translated if the author himself gives only the text number, without column or lines. It is too time-consuming to go back to the original text, and while studying the text, the user can easily place the translated passage.

7) If there is more than one edition of a book, only the most recent edition is dealt with.

8) In older publications the x + or accent next to a text line is omitted. We have adopted the same practice here.

9) As we have already noted, no entire text editions are included here. When a review appears on KBo 9, for example, KBo 9 is not indicated. There are other ways to find such publications.

III. The Publication of the Collected Material

Having heard the details of the greater and lesser problems which presented themselves in the course of the project, I hope you are still interested in the publication of the data.

A positive point is the fact that the card index has already proved its worth, offering more and more passages which Hittite scholars in Amsterdam and Leiden can make use of in preparing their publications. It will never be complete, and there are always disappointments, as when someone expects to find a full commentary on a long passage and discovers only an outdated version with little relevance for his own research.

It is interesting to see how certain texts which have always been at the forefront of attention have generated a great many quoted passages, as each author comments on the views of his colleagues, while other texts have received almost no attention.

One of the most time-consuming aspects involved in publication is the verification of the 20,000 lines entered up to now. It is impossible to check all the data against the original articles and books, but wherever possible each entry is compared with the card index.

At the end of this short introduction I would like to thank Joost Hazenbos for his contributions during several years and especially Jin Jie who has been a great help in computer-editing all the material.