

Preface

The alphabetic center of the Hittite lexicon has proven elusive. Volume 4 (K) referred to itself as “a waystation at the approximate half-way point”. Volume 5 (L) opined instead that “the initial reaches of M are the true midway of the roster”. Either way this volume would seem to have moved deep into the second half. And yet Tischler’s new *HHW* (2001) covers A–M on 98 pages, vs. 101 for N–Z, which may indicate that the median is only now at length upon us.

Rather than “lighten up”, this volume continues in the mode of textual philology, attempting to reach each etymological core through a sifting of a word’s total history. Such emphasis alone yields nuances which affect assessments of proto-forms and original meanings. The occasional experimental referencing of *CHD* subsections in volume 5 has been discontinued. Repetitive, superannuated, or unilluminating matter codified in antecedent lexica or glossaries is eschewed, telescoped, or syncopated. Even more emphasis is placed on first-hand sources, with attention to accretions such as the Bronze Tablet, the Manumission Epic, Meskene, Maşat, Ortaköy, and Kuşaklı.

There are further corrections and additions to previous volumes. These should of course never cease, but tracking them at the backs of multiple volumes can become onerous. Perhaps future indices should also entail a concordance of addenda (e. g. Vol. 1–2:284 see 3:453, 4:319, 5:134 ...). At the end of this volume is “An Eye on the Second Half”, a listing of N–Z words which have already been discussed in *HED* A–M (1984–2004), *Analecta Indoeuropaea* (*IBS* 35, 1981), and *Epilecta Indoeuropaea* (*IBS* 104, 2002). In the last-mentioned, an interested reader can find in “The Fate of Hittite Dictionaries” (pages 235–243) further musings on this and related enterprises.

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