

INTRODUCTION

The text edition by J.A. Knudtzon was completed in 1907. The second volume was finished in 1915. It included an extensive commentary by Otto Weber with a glossary by Erich Ebeling. Knudtzon himself had been prevented from writing this companion volume due to illness. The present volume will have certain similar goals as its predecessor: general comments on each text, collations by this present editor and justification thereof, and a brief bibliographical note on each text. For the past several years it has been possible to consult photographs of nearly all the extant tablets. The best of these were taken by the West Semitic Research project headed by Bruce Zuckerman and Marilyn Lundberg. Their pictures include all of the London tablets and as of this date, fifty tablets from Berlin. Almost all of the Berlin texts were photographed by Juan-Pablo Vita and Joachim Marzahn. Photographs of *EA* 369 were provided by Eric Gubel. The Cairo tablets were photographed by Jana Mynářová. All of the photographs presently available have been edited in Photoshop and comprise a reference library of some 4,600 individual pictures. They have been consulted in every case where a renewed look at the tablet was in order. Now that the hybrid language written by Canaanite scribes is better known, the glossary will be a special project and comprise an additional, independent volume.

Regarding the new collations, the Cairo tablets were collated in January 1980 and February 1981 with the full cooperation of Dr. Mohammad Saleh, then curator of the New Kingdom Department of the Cairo Museum. By that time, Rainey had access to the notes by Edmund Gordon, who had worked extensively on the Cairo texts in 1966. The London tablets were collated during the years 1999 to 2001. Thanks are due to Christopher Walker, then curator of the tablet collection. The Paris texts were made available by Beatrice Andre-Salvini, then in charge of the cuneiform section. The New York tablets were placed at Rainey's disposal by James P. Allen, curator at the Metropolitan Museum. The fragment in Chicago was collated with the permission of John Brinkman, curator of the Chicago collection. Finally, the three texts in the Pushkin Museum were read by permission from Svetlana Hodjash, head of the Oriental Department.

It is certain that W.L. Moran would delight in the results of all that effort. Concerning other proposed corrections that Anson F. Rainey had included in reviews of his French and English translations, Moran had written to

him that if they could sit down together, Rainey would probably be able to convince him of their correctness. Throughout this work, Moran's spirit has always been with him, standing at his side as it were. He had allowed Rainey to copy his own collations back in 1977. Rainey's personal copy of Moran's English translation of the texts is full of marginal notes made during the past eighteen years. The dedication of this volume to Rainey's memory is, in fact, a dedication to all the years that he spent in the various museums recollating the tablets.

Note: Collation dates are given in the European manner—that is, by day, month, year.