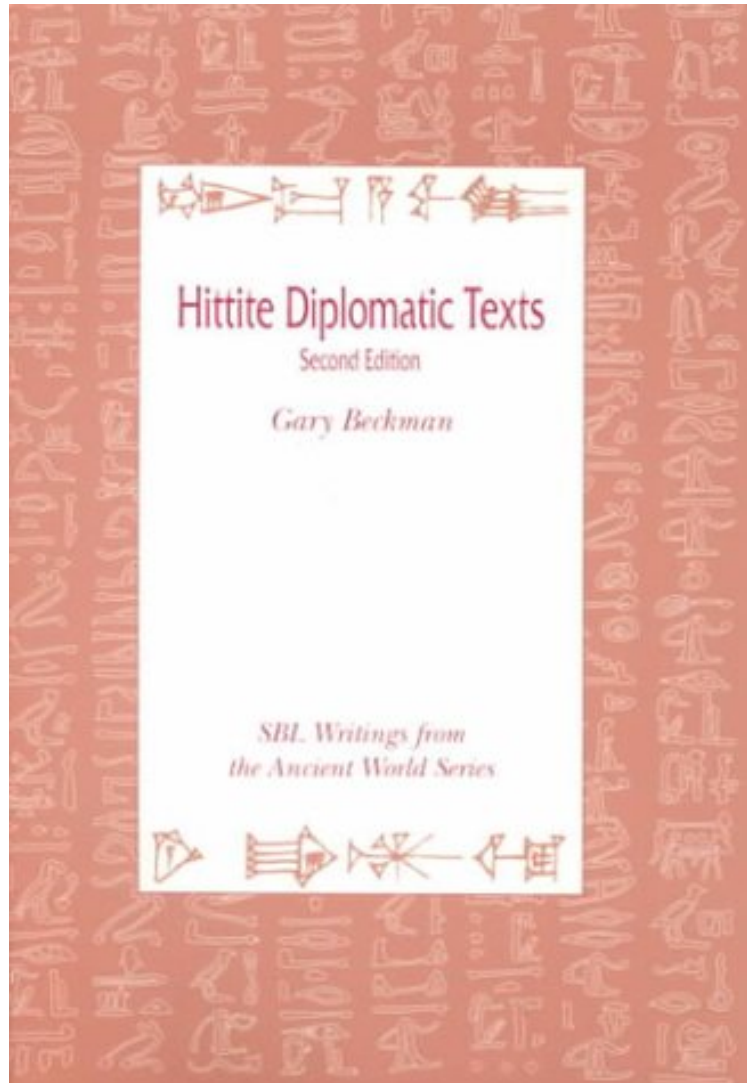


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Hittite Diplomatic Texts, Second edition

Gary Beckman, BECKMAN

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Gary Beckman, BECKMAN : Hittite Diplomatic Texts, Second edition before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hittite Diplomatic Texts, Second edition:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A great edition of Hittite Diplomatic TextsBy Scott J. StrickerBeckmans Hittite Diplomatic Texts (2nd Edition, 1999) is one of several books in the Writings from the Ancient World series that publishes translations of documents from the Hittite Kingdom (see list below). In Diplomatic Texts, Beckman translates treaties, letters, edicts, and a few other miscellaneous texts to provide a collection of documents related to Hittite diplomacy in New Kingdom period. The treaties of Suppiluliuma I document his efforts to reestablish and expand the empire after it was nearly destroyed during the reign of his father Tudhaliya.

The treaties of Suppiluliumas son Mursili II show the results of his campaigns in the Arzawa lands (western coast of Anatolia), in which he overthrew king Uhhaziti and established several balkanized client kingdoms in the region. Perhaps the most fascinating document is the famous treaty between Muwattalli II and Alaksandu of Wilusa (=Alexander of Ilios?), which is relevant to the Ahhiyawa Question and the historicity of the Iliad. Finally, the treaties and letters between Hattusili III and Rameses II document the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between the courts of Hatti and Egypt after the battle of Kadesh. All of the documents are well preserved and/or exist in multiple versions, so there are not a lot of lacunas in the texts. Beckman provides only English translations and not transliterations of the cuneiform texts. The introductory and background material are good, although perhaps not as thorough as some of the more recent books in the series. It would be great if there were a third edition that brought this book up to the same standards as Hoffner's Letters or Miller's Instructions" (see below). Other Hittite books in Writings from the Ancient World: Hittite Myths (Hoffner, 1991) Hittite Prayers (Singer, 2002) Letters from the Hittite Kingdom (Hoffner, 2009) The Ahhiyawa Texts (Beckman, Bryce Cline, 2011) Royal Hittite Instructions and Related Administrative Texts (Miller, 2013)

63 of 64 people found the following review helpful. More than 50 documents from 1500 BC to 1200 BC By Stephen Rives From the back: "This collection of documents will be a major source book for historians of the Ancient Near East and for the students of cuneiform and Biblical law. It will also prove useful for those investigating the relationship between Biblical covenant theology and its possible antecedents in older Near Eastern Treaty patterns" Some of these texts appear for the first time in English in this volume. The author provides a bit of background information for the whole volume, and then introductory material for each treaty or letter.

Unfortunately for the advanced student, there are no transliterations of the Hittite or Akkadian (an interlinear would have been much preferred). Given the provocative title, one immediately wants to know: Which diplomatic texts are in this volume? For that reason I am providing below the complete table of contents.-----

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.
Beckman did a fantastic job explaining about the treaties and how they affected ...
By Suz This is an incredible source for those wanting to know more about how society lived 3000 years ago. Beckman did a fantastic job explaining about the treaties and how they affected Hittite foreign relations.

This work presents full translations of more than 50 documents from the files of the "foreign office" of the Hittite Empire: 21 treaties, 18 diplomatic letters, and 18 royal edicts and miscellaneous records concerning the relations of the Hittites with their Anatolian and Syrian vassals, as well as with other great powers such as Egypt, Assyria, and Babylonia. Originally composed in Hittite or in the Akkadian lingua franca of the day, many of these texts have never before appeared in English. A short introduction places each document in its historical and cultural context, and a general essay acquaints the reader with the diplomatic practice of the Late Bronze Age. This collection of documents is a major source book for historians of the Ancient Near East and for students of cuneiform and Biblical law. It will also prove useful for those investigating the relationship between Biblical covenant theology and its possible antecedents in older Near Eastern treaty patterns.