

Dr. MacRae interviewed by Jim Neher

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The questions you asked. First you ask about Gelb and Purvis as co-authors. Briefly to summarize what happened. I worked with Dr. Speiser for my doctorla disseration. I did a great deal of work on Nuzi texts with him. A group of us were workingon them. Different ones wrote theses on different aspects. One wrote on the Moveable Property at Nuzi. Another on Real Estate at Nuzi. We translated all the Nuzi texts that had yet been published. We workenon them. Then Speiser suggested that Purvis and I each write on the Personal Names. And that Purvis take the non-Semitic personal names, and that I take the Semetic Personal Names and deal with them. So we wrote our actual dissertations on those two subjects.

An important part of our work was listing all the names, arranging them in order, tabulating them, and trying to interpret them. Often you can't tell because names get twisted so you can't be sure. You can see a possibility of its being a Semetic name or the possibility of it being non-Semetic. Like when I was in Michigan we had a great many/Finish people. I remember one family's name was Wannanon. That sounds strange in America. They changed it to Warren. You see the name Warren and say right away they are Englishmen background. Names get twisted and changed in the course of time.

It's a very interesting but a fax to some extent a baffeling study. Purvis particularly dealing with the non-Semetic names was dealing with names from a variety of ancient groups of which we don't know a great deal. He got some good stuff on it. Although we worked together on the whole business it was quite a different -- in my area the Semetic names, you had a grest many that were quite easy to interpret, and thenyou could relate others to them. And try to explain them. When we finished writing our theses, Dr. Speiser insisted that