

day and night on the thesis. Speiser said to us when we were getting the first draft ready, He said, Now don't bother with any acknowledgment of my help. That can come in the final print, but don't bother with anything like that now." I did not spend any attention to that. I spent nearly one whole night working over three or four lines to express in a real way the gratitude for the help he'd given, but not any falsehood, just exactly what I felt. A real statement of it. I spent a whole night wording it. Purvis took him at his word. When he gave mine back he wrote on it, you are very kind. Thank you. Purvis got back, After all the work I've done with you on this don't you have any more recognition!

You realize in what they call pure scholarship how much hard feeling there is. How much vain silly ambition. And among Christian writers too! Unfortunately there is quite a bit.

Speiser was a fine scholar and I always had the best of relations with him. I never had any such set to as Purvis did. I don't think he had as much of that as lots of people do. Albright was so good that he I don't think he had to worry much. Most of them do.

Francis Steel who is now -- he wrote a thesis the next year on the Unmoveable Property at Nuzi. He told me, This paper ought to have quotation marks "E.A. Speiser" because he turned in his draft to Speiser and Speiser changed this and that and gave it back something that was his ideas and his work and all but the whole format was tremendously improved. He wrote a tremendous lot of on Purvis' paper. On mine he wrote hardly anything. He wrote his thanks for that, and I had a nice relationship with him. I could not get excited about that of wanting credit for your ideas.

Neher: What exactly did you have in mind as you were doing that work? for Christian work, etc.?

That's a good question. I sort of slid into it you might say.