

## Theo van den Hout

Besides the regular classes, work on the Chicago Hittite Dictionary project (see *Project Reports*) and committee service, there were many exciting moments this year for **Theo van den Hout**, beginning with the Chicago premiere screening of *The Hittites* movie in November (see more on this event elsewhere in the *Project Reports*). It was the perfect complement to a members' class on Hittite history he taught in the fall. This was followed by the opening of the permanent exhibition *Empires in the Fertile Crescent: Ancient Assyria, Anatolia, and Israel* in the Oriental Institute Museum. Together with Aslihan Yener, van den Hout acted as faculty curator for the Henrietta Herbolsheimer, M.D. Syro-Anatolian Gallery and was immensely gratified to see it open after so many years of preparations by so many people. The opening was accompanied by a symposium for the general public on March 5, where as one of the speakers he spoke on "Writing in Anatolia." Unrelated to all this but no less exciting was the seminar *Margins of Writing, Origins of Cultures* organized on February 25–26 by the Oriental Institute's postdoctoral fellow Seth L. Sanders. It gave him the occasion to look in more detail at a question of long-held interest: the socio-linguistic relation of Hittite, the language of the Hittite empire, and Luwian, its sister language that was also used by the Hittite elite in well-defined circumstances. His contribution will appear in the proceedings of the conference. Finally, in October van den Hout also spoke at the yearly University of Chicago Humanities Open House about the Hittite Dictionary under the title, "A Dictionary from L to Z and A to K."

The following publications appeared in print: "Death, the Afterlife, and Other Last Things: Anatolia," "Religion and Politics: Anatolia," and "Controlling Religion: Anatolia" all in *Religions of the Ancient World. A Guide*, edited by Sarah I. Johnston (Cambridge, 2004), pp. 483–85, 553–54, 568–69; "Some Thoughts on the Composition Known as Muršili's Aphasia (CTH 486)" in *Antiquus Oriens: Mélanges offerts au professeur René Lebrun*, Volume 1, edited by M. Mazoyer and O. Casabonne (Paris, 2004), pp. 359–80; and "Geweten in nood: rampen en onheil bij de Hettieten," *Phoenix* 50 (2004): 83–92 (a more popular account in Dutch of Hittite attitudes in times of distress and disaster). Also published was a new issue of the *Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions* of which van den Hout is the managing editor. Several entries appeared in the *Reallexikon der Assyriologie*, Volume 10, as well as reviews of *Greater Anatolia and the Indo-Hittite Language Family: Papers Presented at a Colloquium Hosted by the University of Richmond, March 18–19, 2000*, edited by R. Drews (Journal of Indo-European Studies, Monograph Series, Number 38; Washington, D.C., 2001) in the *Journal Near Eastern Studies* 63 (2004): 228–30, and of S. Zeilfelder's "Archaismus und Ausgliederung: Studien zur sprachlichen Stellung des Hethitischen," *Kratylos* 49 (2004): 115–20.

Apart from his contribution to the *Margins of Writing* conference, he submitted to publishers his "The Written Legacy of the Hittite Empire" for *Ancient West & East*; "The Scholarly Career of Hans Gustav Güterbock" for Turkish Academy of Arts and Sciences; and two more entries for the *Reallexikon der Assyriologie* as well as two book reviews.