that relate to simple functions of domestic tasks, there were a number of stone objects of religious paraphernalia, which included a fragment of a bull’s head altar stone and a carved incense burner. In contrast to the rather sparse range of artifacts found within the building, the exterior was blessed with a huge midden crammed with pottery. In the words of the excavator: “This extraordinary midden provides an unparalleled opportunity for documenting a coherent assemblage of early Himyarite ceramics.” This is magnificent because it means that we have a good range of diagnostic pottery types to compare with materials collected from the surface of other sites in the region. Such studies are crucial to archaeological surveys because they make our diagnosis of the age of archaeological sites from surface remains much more accurate than before. This is particularly important because the 2002 survey in the area of al-Adhla showed that there were six Himyarite sites recorded, but none of the Iron Age.

Does this mean, therefore, that the huge Himyarite hilltop city of Masna’at Maryah located a short distance to the west resulted in the development of a large number of subsidiary sites in the area? If this proves to be the case it could lead us to a much deeper understanding of the political landscape of the region.

Also contributing to our knowledge of the political development of the highlands is a study of Himyaritic texts incised formally on buildings and more casually as graffiti into natural rock faces. This study, which is being undertaken by graduate student Joseph Daniels (University of Chicago), should provide fundamental insights into the early development of written language in the highlands.

Richard Beal

Richard Beal spent most of the past year copy editing, re-reading for style, re-re-reading for sense, and in general shepherding the first fascicle of the Š volume of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary through to publication. He also found a bit of time to begin writing the word da- “to take.”

The last year saw the appearance of his article “Dividing a God,” in Magic and Ritual in the Ancient World, in which he discusses the ritual the Hittites used to divide the divinity of a goddess so that this goddess could be worshipped in two different places. The article also shows that rituals need not proceed from one step to the next in a straightforward way, but rather can accomplish their aims by repeating various steps. The new understanding of this text derives from work done for the Hittite Dictionary’s second fascicle of the Š volume.

In addition he published an article in the journal Nouvelles assyriologiques brèves et utiles giving evidence that the future Hittite King Muršili II, and later author of the Hittites’ most notable historical documents, held the position of “Chief of the Royal Body Guards,” which is the highest ranking army commander after the king himself, during the reign of his elder brother Arnuwanda II.

For a memorial volume for Fiorella Imparati he wrote an article arguing that the kings of the Hittite New Kingdom did not form a new Hurrian dynasty but were actually direct descen-
dants of the kings of the Old Kingdom. Thus the long noticed phenomenon of kings having both a “Hittite” and a Hurrian name cannot be accounted for as a Hurrian personal name and a Hittite throne name. Rather as kings of Hittites and Hurrians, Hatti and Kizzuwatna/Syria, the kings had, perhaps from time of birth, perhaps from time of accession, both an Anatolian and a Hurrian name.

He also wrote “The Hittite Military on Campaign” and “Hittite weaponry” for a catalog for the exhibition La Battaglia di Qadesh to be held at the National Archaeological Museum in Florence during the second half of 2002, and “Historiography among the Hittites,” “Anatolia: Divination & Prophecy,” and “Ethics and Law: Anatolia,” for Religions of the Ancient World. Finally, he wrote “Gleanings from Hittite Oracle Questions on Religion, Society, Psychology and Decision Making” for Silva Anatolica: Anatolian Studies Presented to Maciej Popko.

He spent his vacation in the Vorderasiatisches Museum in Berlin, the Cinquantenaire Museum in Brussels, and the British Museum in London helping his wife, JoAnn Scurlock, collate Neo-Assyrian and Neo-Babylonian medical texts for her books on Mesopotamian medicine.