**Theo van den Hout**

Theo van den Hout divided his time between research, teaching, and committee work. Besides his activities on the search committee for a new director of the Oriental Institute and other smaller committees, much time this year went to teaching. There were the regular Elementary Hittite course, the Second Year Seminar, and the Anatolian part of the Ancient Near Eastern History sequence. An advanced class dealt with the so-called shelf lists, that is, texts that must have played a role in the information management within the Hittite Kingdom. The latter is a subject that he will definitely give more attention to in years to come. As far as other languages were concerned van den Hout taught Lycian and, with Gene Gragg, Hurrian. In
both cases they surveyed the grammar and read the most important texts. The Hurrian class was especially exciting because in 2000 two new Hurrian grammars, in German and Italian, were published. Hurrian was an important language in the second millennium in the Upper Euphrates area. For Hittite Anatolia it has a special significance in that Hurrian civilization served as a major intermediary for many Mesopotamian cultural influences. Recent text finds have greatly contributed to a better understanding of this language that is neither Semitic nor Indo-European, nor is it related to Sumerian.

Van den Hout’s research concentrated on his work for the Chicago Hittite Dictionary (see separate report). Remaining time was spent on class preparations and on the writing of several entries for the Realllexikon der Assyriologie, for which he wrote the entries on Omens, Oracle, Ordeal, and “Pacht.”


Finally, among the papers of the late Hans Güterbock, van den Hout found an architectural design from probably the late 1930s for what is now the famous Museum of Ancient Anatolian Civilizations in Ankara. Güterbock was one of the leading figures in getting this museum established. The drawing had suffered some damage over the decades but was beautifully restored by Vicki Parry in the Conservation department and the result can now be admired in office 317!