Oğuz Soysal

In 2002/2003 Oğuz Soysal continued his work on the Chicago Hittite Dictionary Project. He has spent most of his time writing articles on words beginning with ta-.


As one of the philological results of Soysal’s Hattian research, the Hattian origin of a common Ancient Anatolian word parninkalı- (borrowed also into Hittite and Luwian), designating a certain trouble for the human body, has been determined. Having spent the whole summer of 2002 in Chicago, Soysal also had time to study two Hittite seals with hieroglyphic Luwian inscriptions. One of them originated in the Sivas region and is deposited in the Sivas Museum; another one is in the Konya Museum. He dedicated a long article to Sivas and related seals, which appeared in Bibliotheca Orientalis 60. Also, a brief notice on the Konya seal is published in Nouvelles Assyriologiques Brèves et Utilitaires Nr. 3 2002. The latter object is a uniquely shaped silver Hittite seal and belonged to a person named Şarkuili, the charioteer (a very common profession noted on Hittite seals). The owner of the Sivas-Seal, however, is a very special personality. His name is Kantuzzili and he bears the title “the great lance man,” the highest ranking official in the Hittite court. Furthermore, in April 2003, Soysal published, with his Turkish colleague R. Akdoğan, six unpublished Boğazköy tablets from Ankara Museum that appeared in the Annual of the Ankara Museum 2002 (pp. 172–95). The article deals with some Hittite, Akkadian, and Hattian fragments. R. Akdoğan made the text copies, and Soysal provided philological comments.

After eight years of intensive work, the Hattischer Wortschatz in hethitischen Textüberlieferung is now in the final stage before its publication. In mid-April, Soysal received from Europe a very positively written recommendation letter for publication of his work, and since then he has focused on the final formatting of the book. Tom Urban, very kindly, took over this complicated job and is now preparing a PDF-generated camera-ready version of the book. It is expected that the book will come out in early 2004.