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 Aslıhan 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.”


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.