

Seth Richardson

Seth Richardson spent the year completing manuscripts for three articles, including “The World of the Babylonian Countryside,” for a forthcoming Routledge edition of collected essays entitled *The Babylonian World* (Gwendolyn Leick ed.); “Death and Dismemberment in Mesopotamia: Discorporation between the Body and Body Politic,” for the upcoming Oriental Institute Seminars volume following the two-day seminar “Performing Death” (ed. Nicola Laneri); and the article “gir3-gen-na and Shulgi’s ‘Library’: Liver Omen Texts in the Third Millennium B.C. (I),” on the online *Cuneiform Digital Library Journal* 2006: 3 (http://cdli.ucla.edu/pubs/cdlj/2006/cdlj2006_003.html). During this time, three book reviews also appeared in print. In a busy spring, Richardson delivered three papers, including the “Death and Dismemberment” talk in February. In March, he delivered a paper at the Seattle meeting of the American Oriental Society on rebellion in ancient Mesopotamia as part of a panel of eight speakers he organized to examine the subject of revolts and political peripheries in the ancient cuneiform-writing world. (A volume publishing these papers is in the planning stages.) In May, he traveled to Bellingham, Washington, to participate in a three-day invited conference on The Organization of Knowledge in Antiquity, speaking on archives at Old Babylonian Sippar.

Among the committee work, advising, and teaching, Richardson is especially pleased this year to acknowledge the members of the College seminar he taught on “Babylonian Knowledge,” which introduced readers to major forms of knowledge represented in the Mesopotamian canon — liver omens, astronomical texts, and magical practice. Great material and wonderful students! Although he looks forward to co-teaching (with Oriental Institute Museum Director Geoff Emberling) part of a new College Core sequence on the Neo-Assyrian Empire in the fall, he also anticipates a quiet and productive year of research in his residential fellowship at the University’s Franke Institute for the Humanities. He will continue the preparation of editions of Late Old Babylonian legal and administrative tablets in connection with a series of articles on subjects related to the political history of seventeenth-century B.C. Babylonia, and the collapse of the state most famous for the achievements of its King Hammurabi the century before.
