Richard H. Beal spent much of the past year reference checking, copy editing, and entering corrections for the third fascicle of the Å volume of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary. He also worked on a number of first drafts of dictionary articles. These included three commonly occurring and complicated words with partially overlapping forms: da- “to take,” dai- “to put, place,” and tiya- “to step, take a position.”

His article “Making, Preserving, and Breaking the Peace with the Hittite State” came out in the volume War and Peace in the Ancient World, edited by Kurt Raaflaub. In the summer he attended the 52nd Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale in Münster, whose topic, “Krieg und Frieden im Alten Vorderasien,” was in memory of the peace of Westphalia, signed in Münster in 1648, which ended the Thirty Years War. At the meeting he gave a lecture “Hittite Reluctance to Go to War,” which laid out the many examples of the Hittites trying to solve an international problem through diplomacy and only resorting to war when that failed.

After the meetings, he and his wife, alumna JoAnn Scurlock, went to London for several weeks to read mostly unpublished Akkadian cuneiform tablets related to her project to study ancient Mesopotamian medical treatments.

Robert D. Biggs

Robert D. Biggs devoted part of the summer of 2006 to continue reference checking for the final volume of the Assyrian Dictionary. He also continued work, with co-editors Jennie Myers and Martha Roth, on the papers from the 2005 Rencontre Assyriologique in Chicago. He continued the editorship of Journal of Near Eastern Studies until April 2007 when Wadad Kadi took over full responsibility. Having been appointed in 1971, he thus ended his editorship of more than thirty-six years. He expects shortly to resume his work on the Early Dynastic and Akkadian Period cuneiform inscriptions from the Inanna Temple at Nippur, updating his research principally in the Iraq Museum carried out over a number of years, starting in 1972. His publications include “The Human Body and Sexuality in the Babylonian Medical Texts,” in Médecine et médecins au Proche-Orient ancien, edited by L. Battini-Villard and P. Villard (Oxford, 2006), and an article on sexual potency enhancement in the Reallexikon der Assyriologie.