McGuire Gibson

McGuire Gibson had a productive year. Besides the publications related to Nippur, he sent to press an article entitled “The Dead Hand of Deimel,” addressing crucial issues on the beginning of civilization, as well as a biographic essay for the *Reallexikon für Assyriologie*, on Erich F. Schmidt, the brilliant excavator of Persepolis, and two review articles. One of the review articles addresses the subject of archaeology as used in nation-building in Iraq (Magnus Bernhardsson) and the other is on a book that resulted from a conference on “Archaeology, Cultural Heritage, and the Antiquities Trade.” He has also submitted two articles co-authored with Dr. Donny George on preparations made in the Iraq Museum prior to the war of 2003 and on steps that museums should make to protect themselves in the future. He also participated in international conferences in London (“Archaeology in Conflict”), in front of the Pergamum Altar in the Museum in Berlin (“Archaeology and Politics”), Salem, Oregon (Willamette College), and lectures on Mesopotamia for the Council on Foreign Affairs in Santa Fe, at Lynchburg College, and in Baltimore for the University of Chicago, Alumni Center. He took part in a small symposium on the Sumerian city of Umma, organized by Bob Adams, Peter Steinkeller, and Elizabeth Stone at the Oriental Institute. He is writing a chapter for that volume. He also spent two weeks in Amman, Jordan, working
with Iraqi colleagues to reconstruct publications that they had authored but had lost in the looting of the Iraq National Museum. This work, done with Dr. Mark Altaweel, is funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. He is also involved in an administrative and participant role in an Iraqi Oral History Project that is being conducted in Amman, London, and other cities by The American Academic Research Institute in Iraq (TAARII). The Oral History Project has recently been given an NEH grant. With the departure of Tony Wilkinson to Durham in Britain, he has taken on a larger role in the project to Model Ancient Settlement Systems (MASS), which is in its last year of a five-year grant from the National Science Foundation. He still serves as the President of TAARII and remains on the board of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers and the American Institute for Yemeni Studies.

Petra M. Goedegebuure

At the end of October 2006, Petra M. Goedegebuure joined the Oriental Institute and the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations from Leiden University, as Assistant Professor of Hittitology. Besides her appointment in these institutions, Goedegebuure participates half-time in the Chicago Hittite Dictionary Project as academic contributor (see Project Reports). Her research interests lie in the linguistic analysis of Hittite and related Anatolian languages, such as Hieroglyphic and Cuneiform Luwian, covering three different fields of linguistics: discourse cohesion, deixis, and information structure.

One of Goedegebuure's interests is language change in contact situations. By applying empirically tested socio-linguistic models of language change through contact to ancient Anatolia, Goedegebuure has shown that the long-held view that Hittite was heavily influenced by Hattian has to be abandoned: there is no proof for substantial Hattian substratal influence on Hittite. On the contrary, a strong case can be built for Luwian substratal influence on Hattian around the beginning of the second millennium B.C. The socio-political correlate is surprising. Instead of Indo-European nomadic warrior tribes conquering the peaceful indigenous population, we must now assume that a proto-Luwian language community quietly merged with the Hattian-speaking population in a rather subordinate socio-political position. These ideas were tested in the Historical Linguistics Discussion Group led by Sarah Thomason (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, March 23, 2007) and submitted for publication ("Central Anatolian Languages and Language Communities in the Colony Period: A Luwian-Hattian Symbiosis and the Independent Hittites," in Acts of the Third Leiden Symposium "Anatolia and the Jazira during the Old Assyrian Period, December 15, 2005," edited by J. G. Dercksen). The study of cultures and languages in contact also resulted in an appendix accompanying a publication of O¿uz Soysal (Senior Research Associate of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary Project), submitted to the Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions ("Hattian Origins of Hittite Religious Concepts: The Syntax of 'to drink (to) a deity' and other phrases").

Another strand of research explores deixis and information structure in the Anatolian languages. Goedegebuure discovered the ablative forms of the Hieroglyphic Luwian demonstrative pronouns ("The Hieroglyphic Luwian Demonstrative Ablative-instrumentals zin and apin," in Acts of the VIth International Congress of Hittitology, September 6, 2005, Roma [in press], edited by Alfonso Archi and Rita Francia) and uncovered the placement rules for question words in Hittite. It turned out that the placement of Hittite question words is governed by the presence or absence of counter-expectation and — if present — type of counter-expectation entertained by the individual researcher.