Theo van den Hout

The past year started very well with the privilege of leading an Oriental Institute tour to Turkey where “in the footsteps of the Indo-Europeans” Theo van den Hout led the tour through all major sites of the Hittite empire (with a wonderful tour of Hattuša by its director, Dr. Andreas Schachner!), Phrygia, Lydia, Caria, and Lycia. With the firm hand of our excellent tour guide Tansu, it was an unforgettable trip.

Besides the work on the Chicago Hittite Dictionary (see Project Reports), classes, and committee work, there was still some time left for his own research on record management in the Hittite world. For a conference in Florence, Italy, he submitted a paper on the history of Hittite record keeping and the related question of early Hittite literacy. A request to write the entry Schreiber (scribe) for the Realexikon der Assyriologie allowed him to research that topic and he also handed in the text for an article on general record organization for the proceedings of a conference he attended last year in Würzburg, Germany, as well an article on sealing practices for the Journal of the American Oriental Society. He also provided some other small entries for the Realexikon as well as two book reviews.


Two reviews appeared in the Zeitschrift für Assyriologie 96 (2006): 280–85, as well as the entry “Hittites” in the children’s World Book Encyclopedia (pp. 269–70; Chicago, 2007).

At the 16th Conference of the Dictionary Society of North America, held at the Oriental Institute in June, he gave a presentation together with Sandy Schloen about the electronic Chicago Hittite Dictionary.