

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 *Reallexikon 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 *Reallexikon* as well as two book reviews.

The following articles came out in the past year: “On the Nature of the Tablet Collections of Hattuša,” *Studi micenei ed egeo-anatolici* 47 (2005 [2006]) 277–89; “Muršili II’s ‘First’ Plague Prayer” and “Muršili II’s ‘Second’ Plague Prayer” (translations and explanatory notes), in *The Ancient Near East: Historical Sources in Translation*, edited by Mark W. Chavalas, pp. 259–66 (Blackwell Publishing, 2006); “The Prayers in the Haus am Hang,” in *Tabularia Hethaeorum. Hethitologische Beiträge Silvin Košak zum 65. Geburtstag*, edited by D. Groddek and M. Zorman, pp. 401–09 (Dresdner Beiträge zur Hethitologie 25; Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2007).

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.
