Theo van den Hout

Besides his position as chair of the department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (NELC) and his work for the Chicago Hittite Dictionary (CHD, see separate report), Theo van den Hout submitted an article for a memorial volume entitled “Zu einer Stratigraphie der hethitischen Totenrituale.” There he argues to distinguish several chronological layers in the numerous pieces that constitute the composition known as the Funerary Ritual for a Hittite King. Such an approach solves, he thinks, a number of problems in the traditional view that considers all fragments as reducible to a single unitary composition. Theo also contributed several longer entries to the Reallexikon der Assyriologie on “Tod” (Death), “Tutḫalija IV” (a king), “Vergöttlichung” (apotheosis), “Versammlung” (assembly), “Wagen, -modell” (wheeled vehicles and models thereof), and “Waskuwatassí” (a deity).

In October Theo gave a lecture (“Writing for the Illiterate: Writing and Literacy in Hittite Anatolia”) at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World (New York University) in New York, where he is a Senior Fellow. He was invited to give a presentation in Istanbul (“The Art of Writing: Remarks on the When and How of Hittite Cuneiform and Hieroglyphic Writing Technologies”) in May at the Workshop marking the retirement of Jürgen Seeher, previously director of the German excavations at Boğazköy. At the Oriental Institute he participated with a talk (“Coping with the Death of an Idea: Putting the Hittite King to Rest”) in the public symposium In Remembrance of Me on May 4 in connection with the opening of the accompanying exhibit.