

Theo van den Hout

In between two terms as chair of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (NELC), **Theo van den Hout** enjoyed a leave from teaching and service. Half of his time he spent on the Chicago Hittite Dictionary (CHD; see separate report) and half on writing a book. The working title of the latter project is *Writing and Literacy in Hittite Society*. Although he has written many articles over the past ten years on all kinds of aspects of this topic, he intends to write a comprehensive monograph without it being a mere collection of said articles. The book is therefore written from scratch, and the luxury of finally being able to devote some undivided attention to the subject has changed his views at some points and deepened his understanding of many other issues involved in this wide-ranging topic. At the time of writing this report (July), drafts of five chapters were ready with two more chapters and an introduction planned.

Besides the dictionary work and the book project, Theo wrote some entries for the *Reallexikon der Assyriologie*, compiled “A Short History of the Hittite Kingdom and Empire” for a bilingual English-Turkish publication, and submitted (together with Rukiye Akdoğan) a short article to the *Zeitschrift für Assyriologie*. He also wrote two book reviews for the same journal.

Theo gave a presentation (“What Did Herodotus Speak at Home?”) in October 2011 at the Humanities Open House and read a paper in April 2012 at a conference at Yale University entitled “Double Stories, Double Lives: Reflecting on Textual Objects in the Pre-print World.”

Finally, he spent the month of June as special visiting professor in Japan at the invitation of Doshisha University in Kyoto with additional lectures at Kyoto University and Chuo University in Tokyo. Theo was also invited to join the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World at New York University as Senior Fellow.

Since the previous *Annual Report* the following publications appeared in print: a textbook, *The Elements of Hittite* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011, pp. xv + 204), and three articles, “The Hittite Empire from Textual Evidence” in *The Oxford Handbook of Ancient Anatolia* (S. Steadman and G. McMahon, eds.; Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011, pp. 900–13), “The Ductus of the Alalah VII Texts and the Origin of the Hittite Cuneiform” in *Palaeography and Scribal Practices in Syro-Palestine and Anatolia in the Late Bronze Age* (E. Devecchi, ed.; Leiden: Nederlands Instituut voor het Nabije Oosten, 2012, pp. 147–70), and “Die Rolle der Schrift in einer Geschichte der frühen hethitischen Staatsverwaltung” in *Organization, Representation, and Symbol of Power in the Ancient Near East: Proceedings of the 54th Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale* (G. Wilhelm, ed.; Winona Lake: Eisenbraun, 2012, pp. 73–84).