

In Memoriam

Hans Gustav Güterbock (May 27, 1908-March 29, 2000), Tiffany and Margaret Blake Distinguished Service Professor of Hittitology at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, passed away earlier this year. Thus ended a long and exceptionally distinguished scholarly career, which, in addition to major contributions to the study of the Hittite language and civilization, included significant involvement in the development of contemporary Turkish scholarship and academics.

Güterbock was born in Berlin. His father was the Secretary of the Deutsche Orientgesellschaft. He studied Hittitology and Anatolian languages at the universities of Berlin, Leipzig, and Marburg, and received the PhD at Leipzig in 1934. From 1933 to 1935, he was Research Assistant at the Berlin Museum, as well as epigrapher with the German expedition at Boğazköy, the ancient Hittite capital, during the summers of 1933, 1934, and 1935. He continued to work at this site after moving to Turkey in 1936, and even after arriving in Chicago after World War II. The move to Turkey was timely both for him and for Turkey, inasmuch as Nazi dogma considered him a Jew and made him unemployable in Germany, while Turkey was able to benefit from his many talents. He was appointed the first Professor of Hittitology at the Dil, Tarih ve Coğrafya Fakültesi, which later became part of Ankara University. He left Turkey in 1948, serving as Guest Lecturer at Uppsala University in Sweden before joining the Oriental Institute at Chicago as Associate Professor of Hittitology in 1949. He became Emeritus Professor in 1976.

Professor Güterbock's scholarship included the editing of Hittite texts both in cuneiform copy and in philological editions, with translations and commentaries. He participated in the decipherment of 'Hittite' hieroglyphs, especially in seal inscriptions, as well as monumental iconography and inscriptions. In Ankara, he planned and directed the exhibit of Hittite reliefs in what is now the Museum of Anatolian Civilizations, housed in a historic Ottoman bazaar which he helped select and rebuild.

Güterbock enjoyed a great deal of affection, respect, and recognition from his colleagues. He was elected President of the American Oriental Society in 1962. He served as President of the American Research Institute in Turkey (ARIT) from 1968 to 1977. In the latter capacity, he led the successful effort to put this leading American academic institution in Turkish studies on a solid footing. He received three honorary degrees, and was elected to several learned societies, including the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the British Academy, the American Philosophical Society, and the Turkish Academy of Sciences.

Throughout his career, he adhered strictly to the highest standards of scholarship. He was forthright and undaunted in his criticism of scholarly error or pretense. In short, he was thoroughly dedicated to his profession, to the point of continuing scholarly publication after his eyesight failed him during the last few years. A prodigious memory was a critical asset in these activities, as well as throughout his life. Above all, he was a friend and a mentor to those who responded positively to his values. He loved life, and always had his feet firmly planted on the ground. He will be sorely missed.

He is survived by his wife, Frances, to whom he was married in 1940, two sons, five grandchildren, and a great granddaughter.

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George M. Haddad was born in Syria and was educated at The American University of Beirut (B.A.); he later studied at the Sorbonne (Licence des Lettres), the School of Oriental Languages in Paris (Diploma), and the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago (Ph.D., 1949). He was a member of the faculty and chairman of the Department