A Tribute to Hans G. Güterbock
A Pioneer of Hittitology

15:30

Opening Speeches

Halil İnalcık
Hans Gustav Güterbock'a Dair Hatıralar
Remembering Hans Gustav Güterbock

Hatice Gonnet
Hans Gustav Güterbock ve Hititoloji
Hans Gustav Güterbock and Hittitology

Oğuz Soysal
Hans Gustav Güterbock ve Cevat Dursunoğlu'nu Anarken
Remembering Hans Gustav Güterbock and Cevat Dursunoğlu

Thomas W. Güterbock
“What does your Daddy do?” - “He’s a Hittitologist
“Baban ne yapıyor? - O bir Hittitolog’dür”

17:00

Opening of Photo Exhibition and Cocktail

Organized by the Departments of Arkaeology and History
Hans Gustav Güterbock (1908-2000)

Hans Gustav Güterbock was born May 27, 1908, in Berlin. From 1933 to 1935, he served on the staff of the Berlin Museum and participated in archaeological expeditions to Boghazköy, Turkey. He received his Ph.D. from Leipzig University in 1934 but soon left Germany because, under Nazi racial laws, he could not find employment in his field.

Güterbock was a faculty member at Ankara University in Turkey from 1936 until 1948, where he trained the first generation of Turkish Hittitologists and archaeologists. One of the few non-Turkish Hittitologists who spoke the Turkish language like a native, he was inducted into a select group of the Turkish Historical Society and granted an honorary doctorate by the University of Ankara. He spent the academic year between 1948 and 1949 as a guest lecturer at Sweden’s Uppsala University before joining the faculty of the University’s Oriental Institute in 1949 at the invitation of Thorkild Jacobsen. Güterbock was named the Tiffany and Margaret Blake Distinguished Service Professor in 1969.

While at Chicago, Güterbock participated in several more expeditions to Boghazköy and in the publication of inscriptions found there. In 1963, he collaborated with University computer programmers to put a sample corpus of Old Hittite texts on mainframe computers, facilitating the study of the earliest known phase of the Hittite language. In 1996, he became the second person to receive the American Oriental Society Medal of Merit in recognition of his lifetime contributions to the field of Hittitology. Established in 1985, the award was designed to be given infrequently and only for work of particularly outstanding quality.

During his long career, Güterbock published extensively on the Hittites, a people of the ancient Near East who inhabited the central plateau of Anatolia, now part of Turkey. He also was co-editor of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary. The earliest Hittite texts, written in cuneiform, date to circa 1600 B.C. and are the oldest written records of any Indo-European language.