

Christopher Woods

Christopher Woods devoted this past year to several projects involving Sumerian literature, language, and writing. Finally, Chris's article "At the Edge of the World: Cosmological Conceptions of the Eastern Horizon in Mesopotamia" appeared in print in the *Journal of Near Eastern Religions* (2009). Another article, "Grammar and Context: Enki and Ninhursag II. 1–3 and a Curious Sumerian Construction," completed this year and slated for a festschrift offers a new grammatical understanding and interpretation of the problematic first lines of the famous Sumerian creation myth, Enki and Ninhursag. Also completed this year are an article for the Cambridge History of Linguistics that concerns indigenous traditions of grammatical thought in Mesopotamia, an article ("New Light on the Sumerian Language") for the Canadian Society for Mesopotamian Studies, which is based on a lecture Chris gave before that society last year, and a note on subordinate clauses to appear in Cornell University Studies in Assyriology and Sumerology 6.

In April Chris organized, with Andréas Stauder, a conference, "Linguistic Method and Theory and the Languages of the Ancient Near East," where Chris gave the paper "The Morphographic Basis of Sumerian Writing." Chris and Andréas plan to publish the proceedings of the conference, which focused on the research currently conducted in this area by Oriental Institute faculty and graduate students. A great deal of time was devoted to curating our special exhibit, Visible Language: Inventions of Writing in the Ancient Middle East and Beyond, set to open in late September. The catalog Chris edited includes two of his articles "Visible Language: The Earliest Writing Systems" and "The Earliest Mesopotamian Writing."