

## Walter and Gertrud Farber

This academic year started with an unusual highlight: **Walter** and **Gertrud Farber** traveled to South Africa to attend the Fiftieth Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale in Skukuza (Kruger National Park). The theme of this meeting being “Flora and Fauna in the Ancient Near East,” Walter gave a paper on “Lamashtu and the Dogs.” Not unexpectedly, however, the flora and fauna of South Africa were altogether much more exciting than any scholarly meeting could be, and the Farbers explored as much of the dramatic natural features of that country as possible in the limited time available for their vacation.

Back home, more lecturing (for Chicago’s German Language Society, and in San Antonio, Texas, by invitation of the Society for Biblical Literature) followed. More festschrift articles for distinguished colleagues had to be written, and as usual, teaching took up much of Walter’s time and effort. In addition, the preparations for this year’s Fifty-first Rencontre, which was held in Chicago, started to take their toll. Walter’s most important professional task this past year, however, was to chair the search committee for a new faculty member in Comparative Semitics, and to organize a short but high-caliber “Semitics Fest” for the short-listed candidates. The committee’s first choice, Rebecca Hasselbach, will be joining the Oriental Institute faculty this coming academic year.

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