

Why the Sciences of the Ancient World Matter

Volume 2

Series editors

Karine Chemla, Laboratoire SPHERE UMR 7219, Université Paris 7—CNRS,
Paris, France

Agathe Keller, Laboratoire SPHERE UMR 7219, Université Paris 7—CNRS, Paris,
France

Christine Proust, Laboratoire SPHERE UMR 7219, Université Paris 7—CNRS,
Paris, France

The book series provides a platform for the publication of studies on sciences in the ancient worlds that bring innovative methods into play and address new theoretical issues. It is predicated on the conviction that the history of ancient sciences raises theoretical questions and requires new methodologies in a way that can inspire many other fields. For instance, with the help of innovative methods, ancient mathematical documents allow us to shed a unique light on the manuscript cultures, in the context of which they were composed. Such research is essential to offer new ways of interpreting our sources. Ancient mathematical documents also offer new types of evidence allowing historians of ancient economies to develop new forms of analysis and tread new ground. Ancient mathematical sources from all parts of the world compel us to rethink notions such as quantities, numbers, and measurement units, in ways that reopen these questions for the History and Philosophy of Science at large. More generally, the book series aims to show how ancient science can be a vector pollinating research in anthropology, linguistics, science education, and other fields in the humanities.

This book series thus intends to publish books that contribute to building bridges between the history of sciences in the ancient worlds and other fields, and highlight how ancient sciences offer resources to raise new questions, and develop new methods in other domains. Such new methods invite critical reflection not only on past historical research, which the book series also intends to promote, but also vis-à-vis present-day uses of ancient science in various forums.

More information about this series at <http://www.springer.com/series/15657>

Christine Proust · John Steele
Editors

Scholars and Scholarship in Late Babylonian Uruk

 Springer

Editors

Christine Proust
Laboratoire SPHERE UMR 7219
Université Paris Diderot—CNRS
Paris, France

John Steele
Department of Egyptology
and Assyriology
Brown University
Providence, RI, USA

Why the Sciences of the Ancient World Matter

ISBN 978-3-030-04175-5

ISBN 978-3-030-04176-2 (eBook)

<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-04176-2>

Library of Congress Control Number: 2018961707

© Springer Nature Switzerland AG 2019

This work is subject to copyright. All rights are reserved by the Publisher, whether the whole or part of the material is concerned, specifically the rights of translation, reprinting, reuse of illustrations, recitation, broadcasting, reproduction on microfilms or in any other physical way, and transmission or information storage and retrieval, electronic adaptation, computer software, or by similar or dissimilar methodology now known or hereafter developed.

The use of general descriptive names, registered names, trademarks, service marks, etc. in this publication does not imply, even in the absence of a specific statement, that such names are exempt from the relevant protective laws and regulations and therefore free for general use.

The publisher, the authors and the editors are safe to assume that the advice and information in this book are believed to be true and accurate at the date of publication. Neither the publisher nor the authors or the editors give a warranty, express or implied, with respect to the material contained herein or for any errors or omissions that may have been made. The publisher remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

This Springer imprint is published by the registered company Springer Nature Switzerland AG
The registered company address is: Gewerbestrasse 11, 6330 Cham, Switzerland

Acknowledgements

This volume has its origins in a workshop organized under the auspices of the Mathematical Sciences in the Ancient World (SAW) project funded by the European Research Council under the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007–2013)/ERC Grant Agreement No. 269804. Additional support for the workshop was provided by the Department of Egyptology and Assyriology at Brown University. We wish to express our thanks to Zachary Rubin (Department of Egyptology and Assyriology, Brown University) for his assistance in the preparation of the edited manuscript of this volume and to Martin Sauvage (CNRS), for having kindly drawn the map of Mesopotamia for the volume.

Contents

1 Introduction: Scholars, Scholarly Archives and the Practice of Scholarship in Late Babylonian Uruk	1
Christine Proust and John Steele	
2 Cultural Imports and Local Products in the Commentaries from Uruk. The Case of the Gimil-Sîn Family	53
Uri Gabbay and Enrique Jiménez	
3 A Mathematical Collection Found in the ‘House of the <i>āšīpus</i>’. The Art of Metrology in Achaemenid Uruk	89
Christine Proust	
4 Astronomical Activity in the ‘House of the <i>āšīpus</i>’ in Uruk	147
John Steele	
5 Astrological Texts from Late Babylonian Uruk	171
Hermann Hunger	
6 Scholarly Mathematics in the Rēš Temple	187
Mathieu Ossendrijver	
7 ‘Star Anu, Lord of Heaven’: The Influence of the Celestial Sciences on Temple Rituals in Hellenistic Uruk and Babylon	219
Julia Krul	
8 Interactions Between Greek and Babylonian Thought in Seleucid Uruk	235
Paul-Alain Beaulieu	
9 Uruk and the Greco-Roman World	255
Alexander Jones	
Index	271

Abbreviations

A	Museum siglum, Oriental Institute, Chicago
ACT	Neugebauer, Otto, 1955, <i>Astronomical Cuneiform Texts</i> . London: Lund Humphries
AO	Museum siglum, Louvre
BagM 21	Friberg, Jöran, Hermann Hunger, and Farouk N. H. Al-Rawi. 1990. “Seed and Reeds”, a metro-mathematical topic text from Late Babylonian Uruk. <i>Baghdader Mitteilungen</i> 21: 483–557, pl. 46–48
BagM 28	Friberg, Jöran. 1997. Seed and Reeds Continued. Another metro-mathematical topic text from Late Babylonian Uruk. <i>Baghdader Mitteilungen</i> 28: 251–365, pl. 45–46
BagM Beih 2	Van Dijk, J. and Mayer, W. R. 1980. <i>Texte aus dem Rēš-Heiligtum in Uruk-Warka</i> . <i>Baghdader Mitteilungen Beiheft</i> 2. Berlin: Gebr. Mann Verlag
BE 20	Hilprecht, Herman Vollrat. 1906. <i>Mathematical, Metrological and Chronological Tablets from the Temple Library of Nippur</i> . Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania
CAD	<i>The Assyrian Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago</i>
CDLI	Cuneiform Digital Library Initiative. Robert Englund, University of California, Los Angeles, University of Oxford, and Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin. http://cdli.ucla.edu/
DCCLT	Digital Corpus of Cuneiform Lexical Texts. 2003. Niek Veldhuis, University of California Berkeley, National Endowment for the Humanities. http://oracc.museum.upenn.edu/dcclt
GKAB	Geography of Knowledge Corpus. Eleanor Robson, Department of History and Philosophy of Science (HPS), University of Cambridge. http://oracc.museum.upenn.edu/cams/gkab/
LB	Late Babylonian

LBAT	Sachs, A., 1955, <i>Late Babylonian Astronomical and Related Texts</i> . Providence: Brown University Press
MCT	Neugebauer, O., and Sachs, A., 1945, <i>Mathematical Cuneiform Tablets</i> . New Haven: American Oriental Society
MLC	Museum siglum, Yale Babylonian Collection
OB	Old Babylonian
SpTU 1	Hunger, H., 1976, <i>Spätbabylonische Texte aus Uruk. Teil I</i> . Berlin: Gebr. Mann
SpTU 2	Von Weiher, E., 1982, <i>Spätbabylonische Texte aus Uruk. Teil II</i> . Berlin: Gebr. Mann
SpTU 3	Von Weiher, E., 1988, <i>Spätbabylonische Texte aus Uruk. Teil III</i> . Berlin: Gebr. Mann
SpTU 4	Von Weiher, E., 1993, <i>Uruk: Spätbabylonische Texte aus dem Planquadrat U 18. Teil IV</i> . Berlin: von Zabern
SpTU 5	Von Weiher, E., 1998, <i>Uruk: Spätbabylonische Texte aus dem Planquadrat U 18. Teil V</i> . Berlin: von Zabern
SPVN	Sexagesimal Place Value Notation
TU	Thureau-Dangin, F., 1922, <i>Tablettes d'Uruk à l'usage des prêtres du Temple d'Anu au temps des Séleucides</i> , Textes Cunéiformes du Louvre 6. Paris: Geuthner
U	Museum siglum, The Ancient Orient Museum, Istanbul
UBV 26–27	J. Schmidt (ed). 1972. <i>XXVI. und XXVII. Vorläufiger Bericht über die von dem Deutschen Archäologischen Institut aus Mitteln der Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft unternommenen Ausgrabungen in Uruk-Warka. 1968 und 1969</i> . Berlin: Gebr. Mann Verlag
UBV 29–30	J. Schmidt (ed). 1979. <i>XXIX. und XXX. Vorläufiger Bericht über die von dem Deutschen Archäologischen Institut aus Mitteln der Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft unternommenen Ausgrabungen in Uruk-Warka. 1970/71 und 1971/72</i> . Berlin: Gebr. Mann Verlag
VAT	Museum siglum, Vorderasiatisches Museum, Berlin
W	Excavation siglum, Warka