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*Sacra*. 2022, vol. 20, iss. 1, pp. 53-57

ISSN 1214-5351 (print); ISSN 2336-4483 (online)

Stable URL (handle): <https://hdl.handle.net/11222.digilib/digilib.76826>

Access Date: 16. 02. 2024

Version: 20221102

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# Výběr z nově vydaných titulů z oblasti studia náboženství starověkého východního Středomoří<sup>1</sup>

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**Anthonioz, S., Mouton, A. & Petit, D. (Eds.) (2019). *When Gods Speak to Men: Divine Speech according to Textual Sources in the Ancient Mediterranean Basin*. Leuven – Paris – Bristol: Peeters.  
ISBN: 978-90-429-4132-8**

The nature of divine speech in Antiquity in the Mediterranean Basin has often been the object of scholarly analysis, especially regarding its divinatory context and questions of genre and rhetoric. The present volume not only provokes a dialogue with this past research, but seeks to respond to a problem that has received little consideration until now: the articulation of divine speech with the various forms of its representation (linguistic, literary, and material). The aim is to analyze the nature of divine speech through its materiality and the impact of the latter on the former's definition and evolution.

**Galoppin, T. & Bonnet, C. (Eds.) (2021). *Divine Names on the Spot: Towards a Dynamic Approach of Divine Denominations in Greek and Semitic Contexts*. Leuven – Paris – Bristol: Peeters.  
ISBN: 978-90-429-4726-9**

Ancient Greek and Semitic languages resorted to a large range of words to name the divine. Gods and goddesses were called by a variety of names and combinations of onomastic attributes. This broad lexicon of names is characterised by plurality and a tendency to build on different sequences of names; therefore, the Mapping Ancient Polytheisms project focuses on the process of naming the divine in order to better understand the ancient divine in terms of a plurality in the making. A fundamental rule for reading ancient divine names is to grasp them in their context – time and place, a ritual, the form of the discourse, a cultural milieu...: a deity is usually named according to a specific situation. From Artemis Eulochia to al-Lat, al-'Uzza and Manat, from Melqart to "my rock" in the biblical book of Psalms, this volume journeys between the sanctuary on Mount Gerizim and late antique magical practices, revisiting rituals, hymnic poetry, oaths of orators and philosophical prayers. While targeting different names in different contexts, the contributors draft theoretical propositions towards a dynamic approach of naming the divine in antiquity.

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<sup>1</sup> Texty anotací jsou převzaty od nakladatelů a oficiálních distributorů knih. Redakčně upraveno.

**Delnero, P. (2020). *How to Do Things with Tears: Ritual Lamenting in Ancient Mesopotamia*. Berlin – Boston: De Gruyter.**

**ISBN: 978-1-5015-1946-8**

In contrast to other traditions, cultic laments in Mesopotamia were not performed in response to a tragic event, such as a death or a disaster, but instead as a preemptive ritual to avert possible catastrophes. Mesopotamian laments provide a unique insight into the relationship between humankind and the gods, and their study sheds light on the nature of collective rituals within a crosscultural context. Cultic laments were performed in Mesopotamia for nearly 3000 years. This book provides a comprehensive overview of this important ritual practice in the early 2nd millennium BCE, the period during which Sumerian laments were first put in writing. It also includes a new translation and critical edition of Uruamairabi ("That city, which has been plundered"), one of the most widely performed compositions of its genre.

**Cohen, Y. (2020). *The Babylonian šumma immeru Omens: Transmission, Reception and Text Production*. Münster: Zaphon.**

**ISBN: 978-3-96327-042-0**

The Babylonian *šumma immeru* ("If the Sheep") omens are concerned with ominous signs drawn from the behaviour of the sacrificial sheep at the time of its sacrifice. They are part of the diviner's craft of divination and are related to the technique of extispicy (i.e., the examination of the entrails). The literary history and the transmission of the *šumma immeru* omens is long and convoluted. The omens are attested from the Old Babylonian period to almost the very end of cuneiform civilization at Seleucid Uruk. Manuscripts of the omens and of their commentaries arrive from Babylonia, Assyria, Anatolia and Northern Syria. This book is the first comprehensive study of this omen genre. It offers complete text editions and commentaries of the omens, some previously unpublished. It places the *šumma immeru* omens within the context of Babylonian divination, and investigates how texts reached a "canonical" status that had become immune from changes during millennia of textual production, transmission and reception.

**Maiwald, K. (2021). *Mesopotamische Schöpfungstexte in Ritualen: Methodik und Fallstudien zur situativen Verortung*. Berlin – Boston:**

**De Gruyter**

**ISBN: 978-3-11-071820-1**

Schöpfung ist ein zentrales Thema in mesopotamischen Texten, das in verschiedenen Textgattungen aus drei Jahrtausenden behandelt wird. Dabei zeigt sich, dass mündliche Darbietung und schriftliche Konkretion solcher Mythen in Mesopotamien gleichermaßen als performativ wirkmächtig angesehen wurden. Der Band entwickelt erstmals eine Methodik für die Rekonstruktion der situativen Verortung von Schöpfungstexten und wendet sie auf konkrete Quellen an. Dabei zeigen sich detaillierte Bezüge zwischen Schöpfungstext und zugehörigem Ritualkontext mit Blick auf Ritualziel, Ritualteilnehmer und Ritualrahmen. Indizien aus Schrift, Sprache, Struktur und Inhalt, eingeschobene

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Ritualanweisungen im Schöpfungstext und die Rolle von Preisliedern werden untersucht. Zehn berühmte Schöpfungstexte werden so in ihrer Performanz und Bedeutung innerhalb der mesopotamischen religiösen Praxis erschlossen und eröffnen Einblicke in die Verwendung von Schöpfungsmythen innerhalb von Ritualen, insbesondere im Tempelkult. Der theoretisch-methodische Zugang ist für die Erforschung weiterer mythischer Texte relevant und öffnet neue Horizonte für die Tempel-, Ritual- und Mythosforschung.

**Wasserman, N. & Zomer, E. (2022).** *Akkadian Magic Literature: Old Babylonian and Old Assyrian Incantations: Corpus – Context – Praxis*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz.  
ISBN: 978-3-447-11765-4

In *Akkadian Magic Literature* the authors present, for the first time, the complete corpus of Akkadian incantations of the Old Babylonian and Old Assyrian periods (ca. 1900–1500 BCE). Each of the 188 different texts in this volume is edited, translated and accompanied by a philological commentary. The entire corpus is catalogued and thematically sorted (incantations that concern specific diseases and medical problems; incantations against dangerous animals; incantations that relate to humans; incantations that relate to supernatural entities; and incantations that relate to inanimate objects). In the Overview, the reader will find extensive discussions regarding the geographical and archaeological setting of the texts, their format and physical properties, and various aspects of ancient magical praxis (the practitioners and the clients, the time and place of the magic act, and the *materia magica* involved). The manipulative strategies revealed in the incantations and the literary and rhetorical devices used in them are thoroughly studied.

**Thames, J. T. (2020).** *The Politics of Ritual Change: The zukru Festival in the Political History of Late Bronze Age Emar*. Leiden – Boston: Brill.  
ISBN 978-90-04-42910-9

In *The Politics of Ritual Change: The zukru Festival in the Political History of Late Bronze Age Emar*, John Thames explores the intersection of ritual and politics in ancient Syria. The cuneiform texts describing an elaborate festival called *zukru* invite the reader to consider the development of the ritual as a result of political influence. This book suggests a new understanding of the relationship between the Hittite Empire and the city of Emar that is best observed through religious texts.

**Susnow, M. (2021).** *The Practice of Canaanite Cult: The Middle and Late Bronze Ages*. Münster: Zaphon.  
ISBN: 978-3-96327-142-7

This richly illustrated book explores Canaanite religion and ritual from an archaeological perspective. It sheds new light on the use of space within southern Levantine temples as well as the religious ideologies motivating the behavioral patterns identified in those cultic contexts. Religion and ritual are

both universalistic and particularistic. The aim of this study is to arrive at a more holistic understanding of MB and LB religion in the southern Levant. To achieve this goal, this book is organized into three main parts: (1) where Canaanite cultic activities were conducted; (2) what activities and rituals were performed within Canaanite cultic spaces; and (3) why and how those activities were conducted in those spaces. The central thesis of this book is that Canaanite religion was remarkably responsive and adaptive and was reflective of the diversity of the various micro-regions in the southern Levant.

**Arbøll, T. P. (2020). *Medicine in Ancient Assur: A Microhistorical Study of the Neo-Assyrian Healer Kišir-Aššur*. Leiden – Boston: Brill.  
ISBN: 978-90-04-43607-7**

In *Medicine in Ancient Assur* Troels Pank Arbøll offers a microhistorical study of a single exorcist named Kišir-Aššur who practiced medical and magical healing in the ancient city of Assur (modern northern Iraq) in the 7th century BCE. The book provides the first detailed analysis of a healer's education and practice in ancient Mesopotamia based on at least 73 texts assigned to specific stages of his career. By drawing on a microhistorical framework, the study aims at significantly improving our understanding of the functional aspects of texts in their specialist environment. Furthermore, the work situates Kišir-Aššur as one of the earliest healers in world history for whom we have such details pertaining to his career originating from his own time.

**Sibbing-Plantholt, I. (2022). *The Image of Mesopotamian Divine Healers: Healing Goddesses and the Legitimization of Professional asûs in the Mesopotamian Medical Marketplace*. Leiden – Boston: Brill.  
ISBN: 978-90-04-51240-5**

This volume exposes one of the world's oldest medical marketplaces and the emergence of medical professionalization within it. Through an unprecedented analysis of the Mesopotamian healing goddesses as well as *asûs*, a diverse group of "healers", Irene Sibbing-Plantholt demonstrates that from the Middle Babylonian period onwards, the goddess Gula was employed as a divine legitimization model for scholarly, professional *asûs*. With this work, Sibbing-Plantholt provides a unique insight in processes of medical competition and legitimization in ancient Mesopotamia, which speak to similar processes in other societies.

**Tugendhaft, A. (2020). *The Idols of ISIS: From Assyria to the Internet*. Chicago: Chicago University Press.  
ISBN: 978-0-226-73756-0**

In 2015, the Islamic State released a video of men smashing sculptures in Iraq's Mosul Museum as part of a mission to cleanse the world of idolatry. This book unpacks three key facets of that event: the status and power of images, the political importance of museums, and the efficacy of videos in furthering an ideological agenda through the internet. Beginning with the Islamic State's claim

that the smashed objects were idols of the “age of ignorance,” Aaron Tugendhaft questions whether there can be any political life without idolatry. He then explores the various roles Mesopotamian sculpture has played in European imperial competition, the development of artistic modernism, and the formation of Iraqi national identity, showing how this history reverberates in the choice of the Mosul Museum as performance stage. Finally, he compares the Islamic State’s production of images to the ways in which images circulated in ancient Assyria and asks how digitization has transformed politics in the age of social media. An elegant and accessibly written introduction to the complexities of such events, *The Idols of ISIS* is ideal for students and readers seeking a richer cultural perspective than the media usually provides.