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ON THE COVER:

Jar-like clay object (T.3860),
Sulaymaniyah Museum. See pp. 21–39.

Photo: Sulaymaniyah Museum

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Budapest



HUNGARIAN ASSYRIOLOGICAL REVIEW

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CONTENTS

Hungarian Assyriological Review

volume 1, issue 1, 2020

Editorial	7
<i>Zsombor J. Földi, Gábor Kalla, Zsolt Simon</i>	
Paratactic relative clauses in Sumerian	9
<i>Gábor Zólyomi</i>	
An abbreviated version of En-metena 1 from the Sulaymaniyah Museum	21
<i>Ardalan Khwshnaw – Gábor Zólyomi</i>	
Cuneiform Luwian =ku(wa): form and meaning	39
<i>Zsolt Simon</i>	
The property of the city, the property of the king? A new fragment of YOS 12, 321	43
<i>Zsombor J. Földi</i>	
Intercalary Months and Interest-bearing Loans in Babylonia. A Promissory Note from the Egibi Archive	61
<i>Zoltán Csabai</i>	
Hungarian Assyriological Review Author Guidelines	75



Editorial

Hungarian Assyriological Review – a new journal

Zsombor J. Földi, Gábor Kalla, Zsolt Simon



Tradition and modernity. This is the motto with which the Editorial Board welcomes the readers of the newly-founded *Hungarian Assyriological Review* (HAR). Although there is no shortage of well-established journals with high academic standards for Ancient Near Eastern studies (usually hidden behind pay-walls), the number of journals that make use of the potentials of the online world remains modest and these publications tend to focus on short contributions. Thus, HAR aims to combine the benefits of both worlds by simultaneously providing high quality in scholarly content and exploiting the advantages of online publishing. This combination should result in quick publication, a modern layout, and unlimited and free access to all interested readers – alongside a printed version for those who prefer a more traditional way of reading and archiving. The motto “tradition and modernity” applies to the content as well: “Assyriology” is meant in its broadest sense and the scope of the journal includes not only Mesopotamia and the cuneiform culture(s), but the entire Ancient Near East. Accordingly, the journal welcomes both philologically and archaeologically oriented contributions. Despite the recent trend of scholarly monolingualism in publishing, HAR accepts papers written both in English and German.

Tradition and modernity underlie not only the “Assyriological”, but also the “Hungarian” side of this journal. Research on the Ancient Near East in Hungary started at the beginning of the 20th century, and covered not only Mesopotamia, but also other regions such as Anatolia from the very beginning. However, the creation of the institutional framework took a disappointingly long time. Following an early, short-lived attempt (1910–1928), it was as late as 1980 when a departmental research group of Assyriology was established at the Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest. This led to the foundation of the Department of Assyriology and Hebrew Studies in 1989 and, over a decade later, to the introduction of a curriculum of Ancient Near Eastern archaeology in the Institute of Archaeological Sciences of the same university. Finally, the first Hungarian excavation to investigate an Ancient Near Eastern site was begun in 2016 at Grd-i Tle in Iraqi Kurdistan, whose excavation reports will be featured in HAR. The publication of a journal devoted solely to Assyriology fulfils yet another old ambition of Hungarian scholars.

These, then, are the traditions from which this journal draws and the editors sincerely hope that it will contribute to research on the Ancient Near East as well as to its development in Hungary.

The Editors:

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