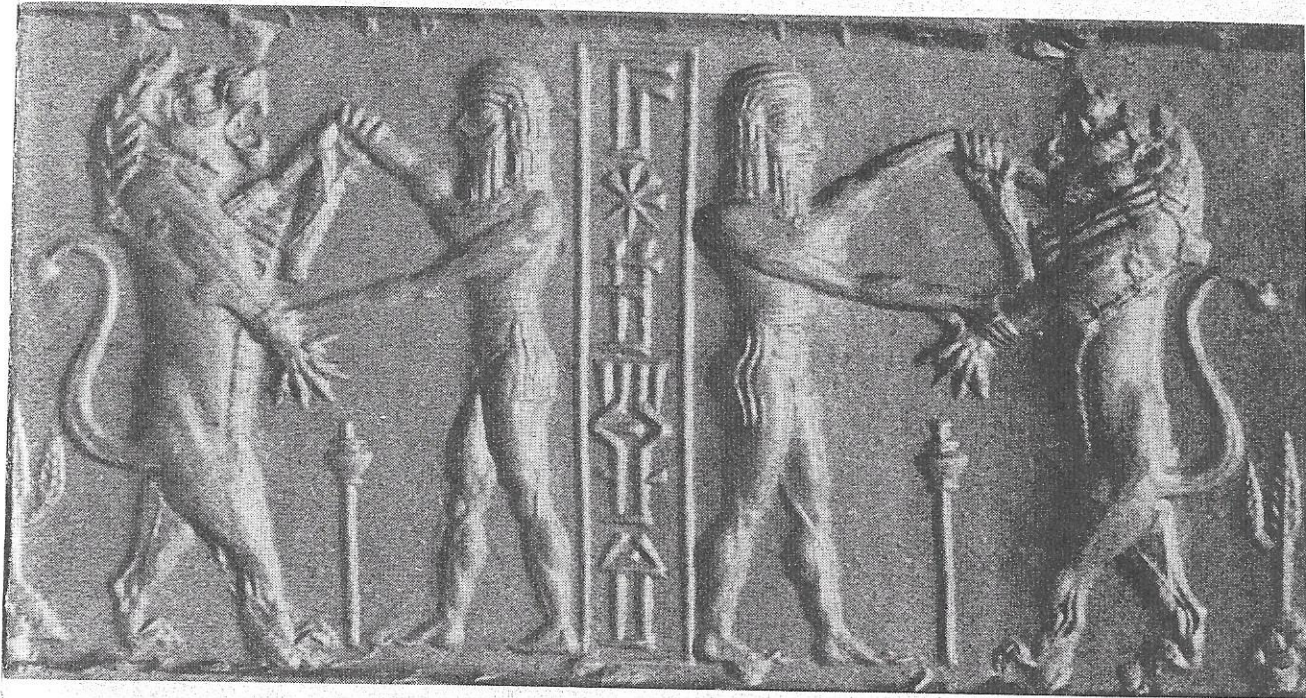


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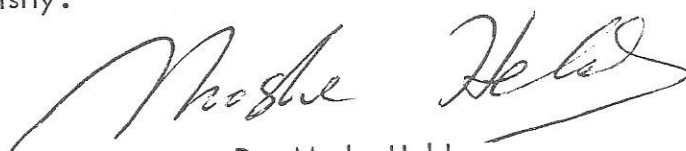
JOURNAL OF
THE ANCIENT
NEAR EASTERN
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Introduction

It is with a great sense of personal pleasure that I welcome the first edition of the Journal of the Ancient Near Eastern Society. It is indeed a source of deep satisfaction for me to know that those responsible for this publication and all the contributors to it are currently students of mine taking courses, both at the graduate and undergraduate level, in the Department of Middle East Languages and Cultures.

This Journal attests to the deep interest and involvement of students of the Ancient Near East in their field which has led them into wider spheres of reading and study than those demanded by their set courses and classes.

I hope that this edition will be the first of many and will signal the way for the further growth and development of Ancient Near Eastern studies at Columbia University.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Moshe Held', with a stylized, flowing script.

Dr. Moshe Held

Associate Professor of Semitic Languages & Cultures

Contents

Howard Wohl	Towards a Definition of <u>muškênum</u>	5
John Piet	Now in Archaeology: The Underground Revealed	11
Chayim Cohen	The Idiom קרא בשם in Second Isaiah	19
Murray Lichtenstein	The Banquet Motif in Keret and in Proverbs 9	32
David Sperling	The Akkadian Legal Term <u>dīnu u dabābu</u>	35
Ichiro Nakata	Problems of the Babylonian <u>akītu</u> Festival	41
David Marcus	The Three Alephs in Ugaritic	50
	Book Reviews	
Dalia Matison	E. Reiner, A Linguistic Analysis of Akkadian	61
Samuel Paley	A.L. Oppenheim, Letters from Mesopotamia	67

In the holy tongue of Canaan
I placed my chiefest pleasure:
Till I pricked my foot
With a Hebrew root,
That I bled beyond all measure.

-Bishop Corbet, The Distracted Puritan,
Mad Song the Second.
from Percy's Reliques of Ancient English Poetry

(suggested by Prof. Theodore H. Gaster)