

*Neo-Assyrian Specialists: Crafts, Offices, and Other Professional Designations.* By HEATHER D. BAKER. The Prosopography of the Neo-Assyrian Empire, vol. 4, pt. 1, Professions Index. Helsinki: THE NEO-ASSYRIAN TEXT CORPUS PROJECT, 2017. Pp. xvii + 397. \$94 (paper). [Distributed by Penn State Univ. Press, University Park, PA]

A brief introduction is provided by the author outlining the aim of this volume as a supplement to the *Prosopography of the Neo-Assyrian Empire* series, with a focus on named individuals and their offices or professions. After a detailed presentation of her method of organization, H. Baker discusses different aspects in three concise subsections. In the first, “Specialization in Assyria,” several spheres are distinguished, each represented by an exemplary text that offers a contemporary perspective: 1) *urban* (edict appointing an official from Assurnāṣirpal II’s era), 2) *scholarly* (lexical professions lists from Nineveh and Ḥuzirina), and 3) *provincial* (Vassal Treaties of Esarhaddon).

The section “Terminology” is limited to the examination of rank order. There are three different terms that qualify the position of an individual within the hierarchy: *dannu* ‘strong’, *rabiu* ‘great’, and *šaniu* ‘second, deputy, assistant’, whereby the first two are often interchangeable.

In the following section, “A Note on Slaves,” the term *urdu* is discussed. It is clear from the sources that this word had a wide range of meanings in Neo-Assyrian times. *Urdu* could designate a ‘slave’, but also a ‘servant’ or a ‘subordinate’, who was not object of sale, inheritance, etc. This means that the term *urdu* does not necessarily determine a priori the social status of the title holder.

The main chapter is clearly structured. In the introductory section, offices and professions are treated in alphabetical order of the Akkadian terms. Each paragraph contains the various attested writings of a lemma, including variants and ideographic writings in reference to the *Chicago Assyrian Dictionary* (CAD). This is followed by the names of title holders, each complemented by a concise description of his/her professional environment. Cross-references to other offices or professions of the individual concerned are given in bold type.

It is worth noting that the collection of titles and vocational specializations also contains certain designations of persons that are not professions in the narrow sense. Examples are, among others, the *bēl dāmē* (“owner of blood-money”), explained as a “close relative of a murder victim,” or the *bēl dēni* (“legal adversary”). The next section containing “Places of Origin” is structured similarly to the preceding (lemma, writings of lemma, list of individual officers and professionals connected to a town or land).

The main chapter is followed by three appendices. Appendix 1 refers to the abovementioned “Neo-Assyrian lexical professions lists.” Professional designations from these texts are marked in bold typeface if they are attested in connection with a named individual. This category comprises more than fifty percent of all entries in the lists. There are, however, attestations of offices and professions in the Neo-Assyrian text corpus without any named bearer. These are collected in Appendix 2. It seems worth noting that these also include professions/offices like *ararru* ‘miller’, *rab urāsi* ‘chief mason’, or *zarrīqu* ‘sprinkler’. Appendix 3 provides the reader with a “Concordance of Published Post-Canonical Eponym Sequences.”

The final part of the book is reserved for some useful indices (logograms, personal names in alphabetical order, Akkadian words and phrases, place names, deities and temples, and texts cited). To summarize, the present volume is a very useful addition to *Prosopography of the Neo-Assyrian Empire*, a really excellent result of meticulous work.

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*Ausgrabungen und Forschungen in der westlichen Oberstadt von Ḥattuša II.* Edited by ANDREAS SCHACHNER. Boğazköy-Ḥattuša, Ergebnisse der Ausgrabungen, vol. 25. Berlin: W. DE GRUYTER, 2017. Pp. xi + 401, illus., 2 plans. €129.95.

Continuing their exploration of the Upper City area of the broad expanse of the Hittite capital Boğazköy-Ḥattuša, from 2006–2009 German archaeologists uncovered an impressive house on a plateau to the southwest of the Sarikale rock outcropping. The volume under review, edited by the expedition’s director but the work of many hands, contains the thorough final report on the excavation and an extensive evaluation of the significance of the structure and its meager contents for our understanding of Hittite culture and history.

The building, which contains twenty rooms, was built on a virgin rock surface (p. 22) in the late sixteenth or early fifteenth century BCE, slightly remodeled in the first half of the fourteenth, and abandoned by the close of that century (p. 289). It was emptied of most of its contents (pp. 15, 29, 65, 300) and its entrances blocked up (p. 67) a short time before it was totally destroyed by fire. That is, it was not looted but intentionally taken out of use. Nonetheless, two of its rooms did yield substantial finds: Raum 1/2 (pp. 72–73, 118–22) contained a collection of pottery including two special ceremonial vessels, while at least twenty sets of banqueting dishes were stored in Raum 6 (pp. 74, 122–24, 311). Both