

SAW Conference Scholars and Scholarship in Late Babylonian Uruk

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Mathematical texts from the "House of āšipus" in Uruk

Abstract – Most of the mathematical texts from Late Babylonian Uruk were found in the so-called "House of the *āšipus*" (kind of ritual experts), altogether with other scholarly texts, including astronomical, astrological medical, lexical texts. My presentation will be based on a close examination of the content of the set of eleven mathematical texts discovered in this house in order to detect the specificities of mathematical practices developed by the families who wrote, copied, or acquired scholarly tablets during several generations. A particular attention will be paid to the way in which numbers and measuring units are handled out in calculation and quantification. Were the metrological and numerical systems used in mathematical texts the same as in contemporary astronomical texts found in the same house? Did these systems change during the history of the occupation of the house? Which contrasts and similarities can be detected between mathematical and metrological practices attested in the "House of *āšipus*", and the ones evidenced in other Urukian or Babylonian libraries? These are the main issues to be addressed.