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Astronomical Activity in the ‘House of the āšipus’ in Uruk

Abstract – Excavations of a private house in the southeastern quarter of Uruk during the 1960–70s yielded a large number of scholarly cuneiform tablets that can be associated with two families of *āšipus* who lived in the house respectively during the fifth and the fourth and early third centuries BC. Several studies, eg by Clancier, Robson and Ossendrijver, have provided us with a detailed understanding of the occupants of the house and the contents of the tablet archives. A considerable number of astronomical and astrological tablets are preserved among the scholarly material found in this house. In this paper I will examine these sources in order to present a picture of the range of astronomical activity undertaken by the occupants of this house and the interconnections between the different astronomical texts, and then compare this with evidence from other sites in Babylonia in order to investigate whether this astronomical activity is typical or atypical of Late Babylonian astronomical practice.