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A mathematical class at 'Chantier K' in Mari

Abstract - In 1998, J.-C. Margueron discovered at 'Chantier K', outside the palace of Zimri-Lim, a large amount of school tablets. Among the word lists, proverbs and literary texts, there were also around 190 mathematical texts: metrological lists and tables, multiplication tables, even tables of squares and square roots, as well as around 50 examples of 'mathematical rough work' on buns. As the 61st RAI wants to promote bridges between archeologists and assyriologists, it will be shown how a careful recording of the tablets during the excavation allows us to follow the learning of mathematics thanks to dated mathematical tablets discovered together. Moreover, the metrological tradition highlights a discrepancy between the teaching that took place at Chantier K and the administrative practices of the palace. Finally, the important role played by the learning of mathematics at 'Chantier K' confirms the advanced numeracy of the scribes of Mari.