

# Alternatives to Traditional Textbooks

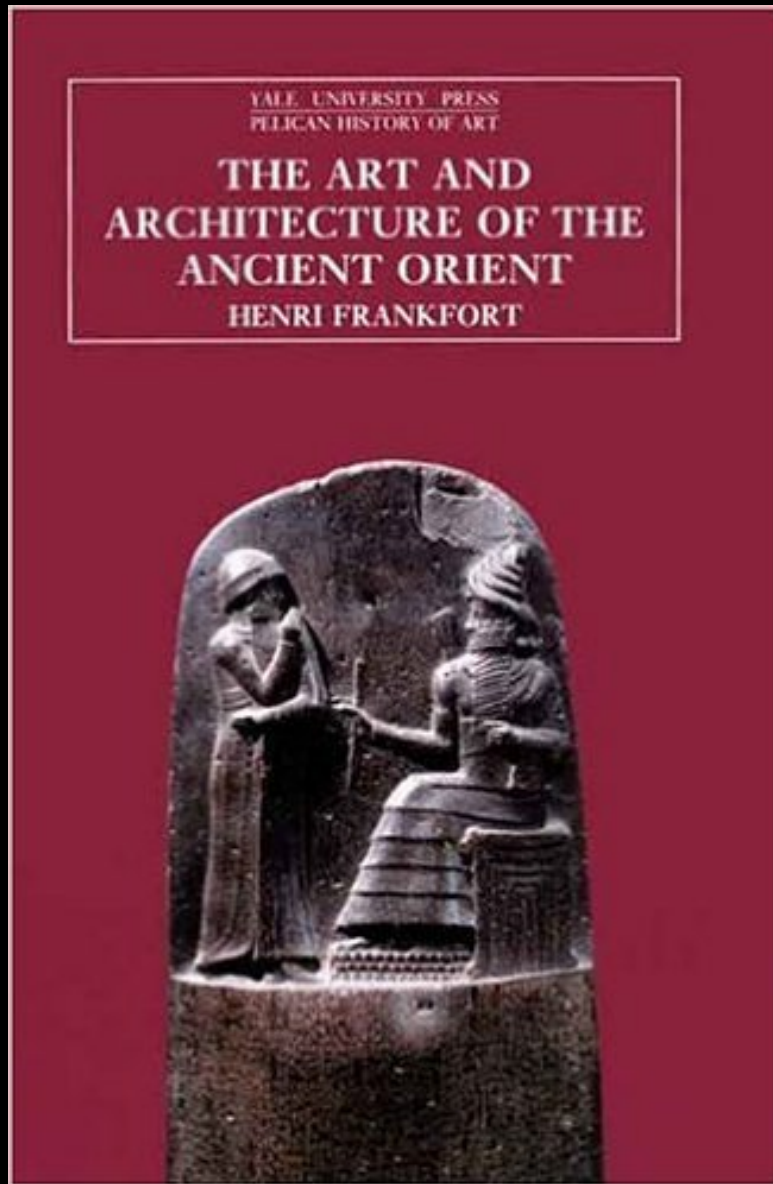
--

## The Case of Ancient Near Eastern Art

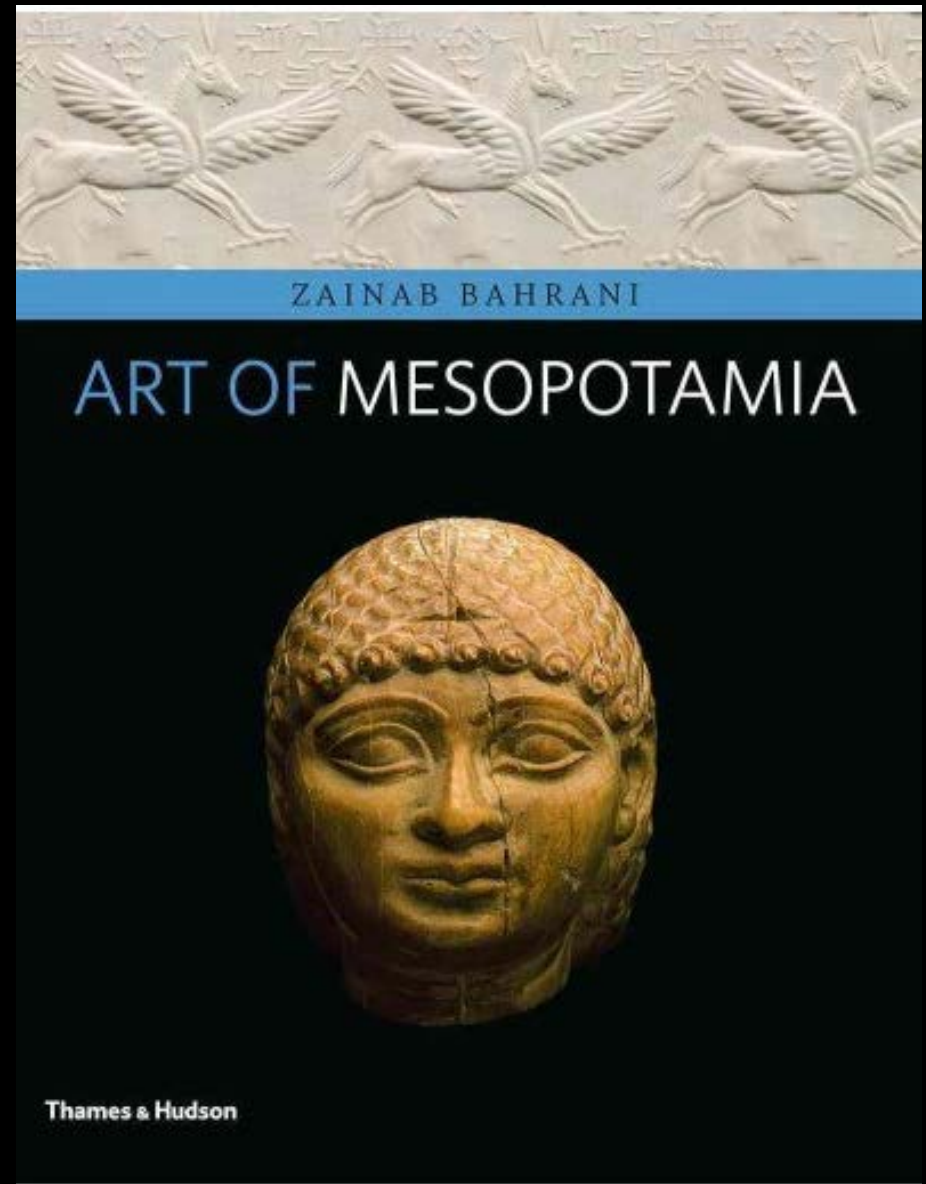
Marian H. Feldman

[mfeldm20@jhu.edu](mailto:mfeldm20@jhu.edu)

First published 1954; 5<sup>th</sup>  
edition published 1996



Just published 2017



# OpenStax CNX, Rice University: cnx.org



Search

About Us

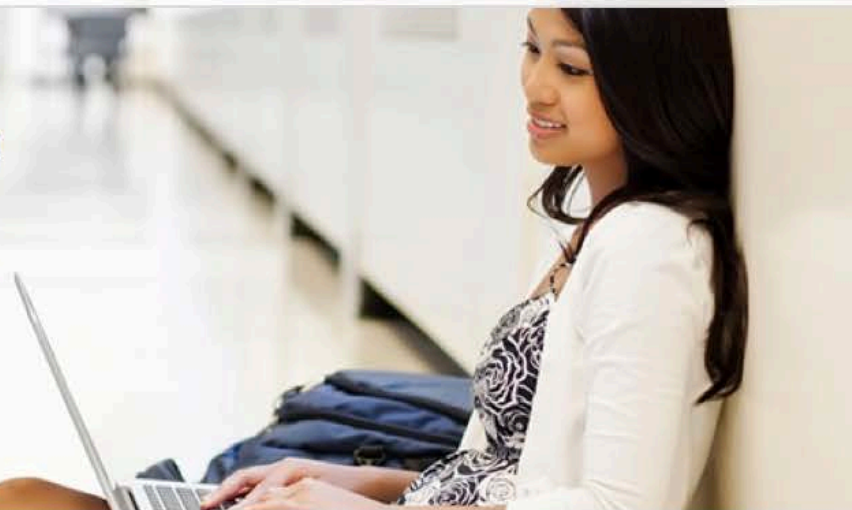
Give

CNX Author | Legacy Site



## Discover learning materials in an Open Space.

View and share free educational material in small modules that can be organized as courses, books, reports or other academic assignments.



## OpenStax College



### Introduction to Sociology 2e

Introduction to Sociology 2e adheres to the scope and sequence of a typical, one-semester introductory...

[Read More ▶](#)



### College Physics

This introductory, algebra-based, two-semester college physics book is grounded with real-world exam...

[Read More ▶](#)



### Algebra and Trigonometry

Algebra and Trigonometry provides a comprehensive and multi-layered exploration of algebraic princi...

[Read More ▶](#)



### Anatomy & Physiology

Human Anatomy and Physiology is designed for the two-semester anatomy and physiology course taken by...

[Read More ▶](#)

ASK US

## How to Reuse & Attribute This Content

© Aug 31, 2015 Megan Lewis, Marian Feldman. Textbook content produced by Megan Lewis, Marian Feldman is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution License 4.0](#) license.

Under this license, any user of this textbook or the textbook contents herein must provide proper attribution as follows:

**The OpenStax College name, OpenStax College logo, OpenStax College book covers, OpenStax CNX name, and OpenStax CNX logo are not subject to the creative commons license and may not be reproduced without the prior and express written consent of Rice University.** For questions regarding this license, please contact [partners@openstaxcollege.org](mailto:partners@openstaxcollege.org).

- If you use this textbook as a bibliographic reference, then you should cite it as follows:  
Megan LewisMarian Feldman, Cylinder Seals and the Development of Writing in Early Mesopotamia. OpenStax CNX. Aug 31, 2015 <http://cnx.org/contents/863d1f28-bad9-42ab-a74c-c602256f9908@1>.
- If you redistribute this textbook in a print format, then you must include on every physical page the following attribution:  
"Download for free at <http://cnx.org/contents/863d1f28-bad9-42ab-a74c-c602256f9908@1>."
- If you redistribute part of this textbook, then you must retain in every digital format page view (including but not limited to EPUB, PDF, and HTML) and on every physical printed page the following attribution:  
"Download for free at <http://cnx.org/contents/863d1f28-bad9-42ab-a74c-c602256f9908@1>."

# Search Results

15 results found

[Advanced Search](#)

## Filter

### Publication Date

2017	6
2016	8
2015	1

### Author

Marian Feldman	15
Megan Lewis	11
Avary Taylor	4

### Type

Book	0
Page	15

### Keyword

92687	1
Agade	1
akitu	1
Akkad	2
akkad	2
Amorite	1

► More






### Subject

Arts	12
Humanities	15

Author

Marian Feldman

## Pages

Type	Title	Author(s)	Edited
	<b>Sargon the Great and the Charismatic Rulers of Ancient Akkad of Mesopotamia</b> This module provides an introduction to the art of the Akkadian Empire (c. 2300-2150 BCE), focusing specifically on the use of past artistic traditions by the Akkadian kings to promote a new ideology of kingship. Written by Dr. M. Feldman, professor in the Department of Near Eastern Studies, Johns	Megan Lewis Marian Feldman	6/16/2016
	<b>The Ancient City of Babylon</b> This module discusses the ancient city of Babylon, specifically the archaeological remains from the period of the Neo-Babylonian Empire. The city is placed in its cultural context and some historical background is given. The importance of the city as a religious and cult center is discussed in detail. Written	Megan Lewis Marian Feldman	11/8/2015
	<b>The Babylonian Map of the World: A Portrayal of Mytho-Historic Reality</b> This module provides an introduction to ancient Babylonian concepts of myth, history, and reality through the analysis of the Babylonian Map of the World. The Map of the World provides an opportunity to study an ancient Babylonian's perception of reality, which was shaped by myth as much as	Marian Feldman Avary Taylor	6/11/2017
	<b>Amorite Rulers in Mesopotamia: The Palace of Zimri-Lim at Mari, and Hammurabi, King of Babylon</b> Of the Amorite kings that ruled Mesopotamia during the "Old Babylonian" period, or early 2nd millennium BCE, Zimri-Lim of Mari and Hammurabi of Babylon are the most well-known. This module explores the artistic and architectural products of their respective reigns, investigating how these kings used physical objects to	Megan Lewis Marian Feldman	5/31/2017
	<b>The Royal Cemetery of Ur and Sumerian "Kingship" in Ancient Mesopotamia</b> This module serves as an introduction to the Royal Cemetery of Ur, one of the greatest archaeological finds in Near Eastern Studies. The archaeological and art historical evidence found within the Royal Cemetery is this module's primary focus, with emphasis placed on the Cemetery's social significance	Marian Feldman Avary Taylor	9/1/2017



# Cylinder Seals and the Development of Writing in Early Mesopotamia

Page by: Megan Lewis, Marian  
Feldman



## Cylinder Seals and the Development of Writing in Early Mesopotamia

Get This Page!

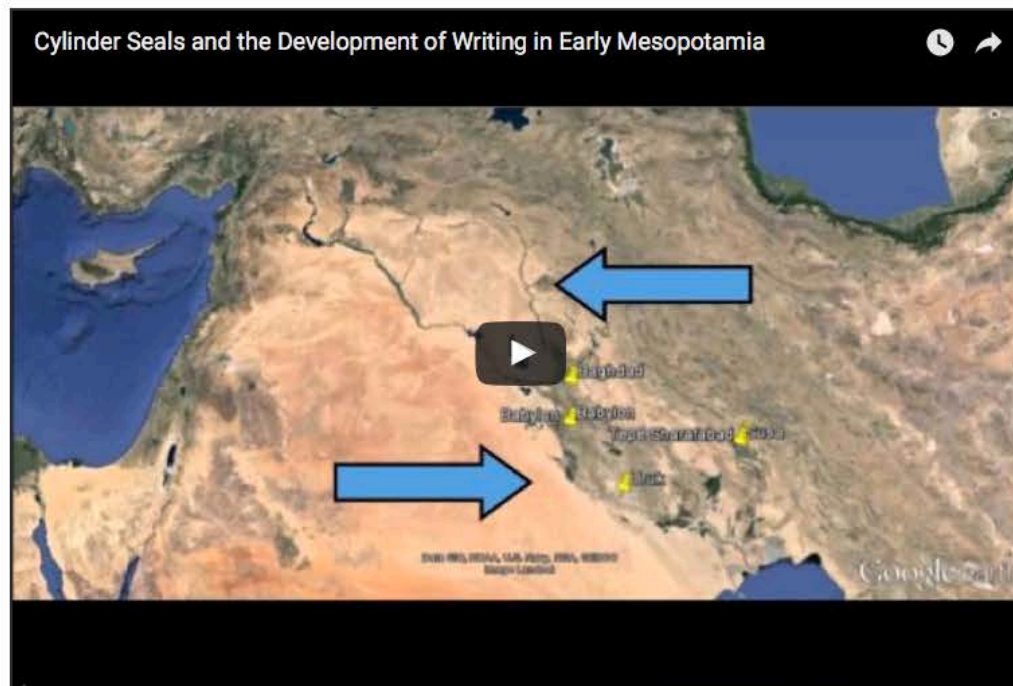
Page by: Megan Lewis, Marian  
Feldman

► Summary

Ask Us

## The City of Uruk and the Late Uruk Period

The city of Uruk is located in southern Mesopotamia (present-day southern Iraq) and was excavated by German archaeologists from 1912 until 1978, though not continuously (fig. 1). The archaeological site of Uruk is incredibly large, dwarfing later cities such as Athens and Jerusalem, and the two main areas of excavation were centered on the Eanna Precinct and the Anu Ziggurat, monumental religious buildings (fig. 2). These temples played a prominent role in the economic and political activities of the ruling elite. For more information on the archaeological site, please explore the [Deutsches Archäologisches Institut](#) website. [This video](#), made by [Artefacts](#), shows a reconstruction of parts of Uruk.



# CYLINDER SEALS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF WRITING IN EARLY MESOPOTAMIA\*

Megan Lewis  
Marian Feldman

This work is produced by OpenStax-CNIX and licensed under the  
Creative Commons Attribution License 4.0†

## Abstract

An introduction to the use of cylinder seals and the development of writing in Mesopotamia during the 4th millennium BCE. Written by Dr. M. Feldman, professor in the Department of Near Eastern Studies, Johns Hopkins University, and M. Lewis, Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Near Eastern Studies, Johns Hopkins University.

## 1 The City of Uruk and the Late Uruk Period

The city of Uruk is located in southern Mesopotamia (present-day southern Iraq) and was excavated by German archaeologists from 1912 until 1978, though not continuously (fig. 1). The archaeological site of Uruk is incredibly large, dwarfing later cities such as Athens and Jerusalem, and the two main areas of excavation were centered on the Eanna Precinct and the Anu Ziggurat, monumental religious buildings (fig. 2). These temples played a prominent role in the economic and political activities of the ruling elite. For more information on the archaeological site, please explore the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut<sup>1</sup> website. This video<sup>2</sup>, made by Artefacts<sup>3</sup>, shows a reconstruction of parts of Uruk.

---

Figure 1

---

---

\*Version 1.1: Aug 31, 2015 4:38 pm -0500

†<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

<sup>1</sup><http://www.dainst.org/das-dai>

<sup>2</sup><https://vimeo.com/62546550>

<sup>3</sup><http://www.artefacts-berlin.de/en/>

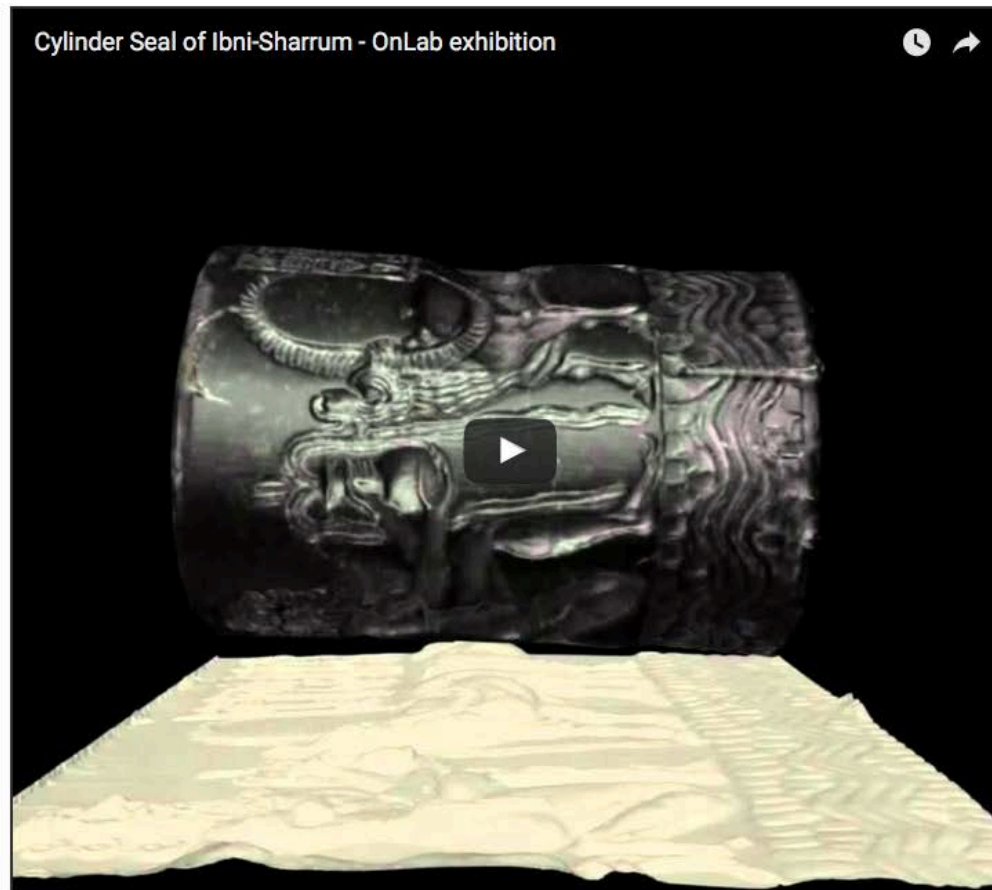


Figure 11. The cylinder seal of Ibni-Sharrum.

#### *Seals and Writing*

As cylinder seals developed in conjunction with tokens and writing they are often found in the same archaeological contexts, and their uses are likely to be closely connected. The shape of the cylinder seal may have developed out of the need to seal the earliest rounded bullae. Their precursor, stamp seals, were perfectly appropriate for sealing flat clay tablets and were much less complex to produce, but were less suitable for covering bullae (fig. 15). The increasing complexity of the bureaucracy may also have played a role in the expanding use of cylinder seals as they offered a larger surface area on which to carve designs. This may have allowed individual seals to be more personalized, meaning that the growing number of officials could have distinct seals (Ross 2014: 305). Another link to the development of writing is the possibility that the pictographic signs first used in early writing were derived from the motifs used in seal iconography (Ross 2014: 296).



# Build a lesson around any TED-Ed Animation, TED Talk or YouTube video

[Create a Lesson](#)

## The rise and fall of the Assyrian Empire - Marian H. Feldman

994,485 Views

1,987 Questions Answered

TED Ed Animation

Let's Begin...

Before the sun never set on the British Empire; before Genghis Khan swept the steppe; before Rome extended its influence to encircle the Mediterranean Sea; there was ancient Assyria. Considered by historians to be the first true empire, Assyria's innovations laid the groundwork for every superpower that has followed. Marian H Feldman details the rise and fall of the Assyrian Empire.

[Watch](#)[Think](#)[Dig Deeper](#)[Discuss](#)[Customize This Lesson](#)

78

Create and share a new lesson based on this one.