Alternatives to Traditional Textbooks
--
The Case of Ancient Near Eastern Art

Marian H. Feldman
mfeldm20@jhu.edu
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 introduction...

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
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.

- If you use this textbook as a bibliographic reference, then you should cite it as follows:

- 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."
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Edited</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sargon the Great and the Charismatic Rulers of Ancient Akkad of Mesopotamia</td>
<td>Megan Lewis, Marlian Feldman</td>
<td>6/16/2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Ancient City of Babylon</td>
<td>Megan Lewis, Marlian Feldman</td>
<td>11/8/2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amorite Rulers in Mesopotamia: The Palace of Zimri-Lim at Mari, and Hammuraba, King of Babylon</td>
<td>Megan Lewis, Marlian Feldman</td>
<td>5/31/2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Royal Cemetery of Ur and Sumerian “Kingship” in Ancient Mesopotamia</td>
<td>Marlian Feldman, Avary Taylor</td>
<td>9/1/2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
Mariam Feldman

This work is produced by OpenStax-CNX 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, dwarving later cities such as Athens and Jerusalem, and the two main areas of excavation were centered on the Eanna Precinct and the Ana 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.

Figure 1
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).
The rise and fall of the Assyrian Empire - Marian H. Feldman

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.