

Bibliography of Emar Studies

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Edicions

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Foreword

The ancient Near Eastern city of Emar (also called Imar) – modern Old Meskene (Meskene Qadima) or Tell Meskene – was discovered in the course of rescue excavations conducted during the construction of a dam near Tabqa, in northern Syria. Between 1972 and 1976, excavations were carried out by a French team under the direction of Jean-Claude Margueron. In the following years, the urban area of Emar – three quarters of which are now flooded by the artificial lake created by the dam – was systematically looted. This practice did not change until 1991, when excavation activities were resumed, first by the Department of Antiquities in Aleppo, under the direction of Shawki Shaath, and then from 1996 to 2002 by a joint Syrian-German mission, under the direction of Uwe Finkbeiner. On Finkbeiner's initiative, the "Emar-Balis Archaeological Park" was opened in 2009. In addition to Emar, it includes the remains of the younger Islamic city Bālis, as well as an Umayyad palace, an 11th century Shiite sanctuary and numerous ancient rock tombs. A visitors' centre, also to be used as the excavation house in future archaeological research, was built at the entrance to the park. Unfortunately, its fate is unknown following the outbreak of civil war in 2011.

During the French excavations, more than 1100 clay tablets – or fragments of tablets – were discovered, most of them written in Akkadian and Sumerian, around 140 in Hurrian plus two Hittite letters, which were handed over to the National Museum in Aleppo. Illegal digs – that took place after the French team left the site – also produced about 350 tablets, which are now in various private collections worldwide, and another four tablets from the Syrian-German excavations. The exact chronological setting of the material is still a matter of dispute, but it can be dated approximately to the second half of the 2nd millennium BC, i.e. the Late Bronze Age. It corresponds to the last period of the city's history, which, according to external written sources and the archaeological evidence, dates back to the middle of the 3rd millennium BC.

Most of the texts were discovered in private houses and cover a wide range of genres: everyday texts such as legal documents (real estate purchases, wills, adoptions, promissory notes, etc.) and letters, school and scholarly texts such as lexical lists, omen collections, incantations and wisdom literature, as well as a number of texts from the cultic sphere, including descriptions of festivals and rituals, lists of gods and sacrifices, and temple inventories. Particularly noteworthy are the descriptions of festivals and rituals, which – in contrast to the school and scholarly texts – are distinguished by their clear local

character, both in terms of content and language. In 1989, the Sumerologist Miguel Civil described the epigraphic discovery as “no doubt one of the more significant of the century” (*AuOr* 7, p. 5).

The extraordinary importance of the Emar texts and the speedy publication of the French lot by Daniel Arnaud, which cannot be overestimated, led to the development of an international and very productive field of research that goes beyond disciplinary boundaries (see point 11 in the bibliography). Against this background, in the early 2000s, the idea of a thematically organised bibliography of studies on Emar was born and published in eight issues in the journal *Ugarit-Forschungen*. Until 2018, seven updates have followed in a biannual rhythm in that journal. Initially, the task was performed by three philologists, Betina Faist (now in Heidelberg), Josué J. Justel (now in Alcalá de Henares) and Juan-Pablo Vita (now in Madrid). In order to take into account the increasing amount of archaeological publications, Ferhan Sakal (currently in Doha) joined the team in 2012.

The “Bibliografía de los estudios de Emar”, now the “Emar Bibliography”, was welcomed by our colleagues, who kindly supported us by indicating unnoticed references. We think that the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the excavations is a good opportunity to make the entire Emar bibliography – up to March 2022 – available in book form and with English headings (nevertheless, we would like to point out the later appearance of the important work by MARGUERON, J.-C., MULLER, B. (eds.), *Recherches au pays d’Aštata. Emar III. Le matériel de Tell Meskéné et de Tell Faq’ous*, Beyrouth 2022). To the usual thematic outline, a list of book reviews has been added, both by authors (17.5.1) and by reviewers (17.5.2), as well as a complete bibliographical list, arranged by author. We are grateful to the editors of *Barcino. Monographica Orientalia* (Barcelona), Adelina Millet Albà and Ignasi-Xavier Adiego Lajara (both University of Barcelona), for kindly accepting this work in the series.

B. Faist (Heidelberg University, SSKVO/Assyriologie), J. J. Justel (Alcalá de Henares, UAH), F. Sakal (Doha), J.-P. Vita (Madrid, ILC, CSIC), in March 2022

ABBREVIATIONS

AAASyr.	Annales Archéologiques Arabes Syriennes
AASOR	Annual of the American Schools of Oriental Research
AEPHE	Annuaire de l'École Pratique des Hautes Etudes. Section des sciences historiques et philologiques
AfO	Archiv für Orientforschung
AIUON	Annali dell'Istituto (Universitario) Orientale di Napoli
ÄL	Ägypten und Levante. Internationale Zeitschrift für ägyptische Archäologie und deren Nachbargebiete
ANES	Ancient Near Eastern Studies
AnSt.	Anatolian Studies
AoF	Altorientalische Forschungen
ASJ	Acta Sumerologica
AuOr	Aula Orientalis
BagM	Baghdader Mitteilungen
BASOR	Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research
BCSMS	Bulletin of the Canadian Society for Mesopotamian Studies
BiAr.	The Biblical Archaeologist
BiOr.	Bibliotheca Orientalis
BSOAS	Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies
CDLN	Cuneiform Digital Library Notes
CQB	The Catholic Biblical Quarterly
CRAIBL	Comptes rendus des séances de l'année ... de l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres
Emar VI	ARNAUD, D., <i>Recherches au pays d'Aštata. Emar VI/1–4</i> , Paris (1985–1987)
ISIMU	Revista sobre Oriente Próximo y Egipto en la Antigüedad
JA	Journal asiatique
JANER	Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions
JAOS	Journal of the American Oriental Society
JCS	Journal of Cuneiform Studies
JEA	Journal of Egyptian Archaeology
JESHO	Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient
JMC	Journal des Médecines Cunéiformes
JNES	Journal of Near Eastern Studies
JNSL	Journal of Northwest Semitic Languages
JSOT	Journal for the Study of the Old Testament
JSS	Journal of Semitic Studies
MARI	Annales de recherches interdisciplinaires
MSL	Materialien zum sumerischen Lexikon
NABU	Nouvelles assyriologiques brèves et utilitaires
OLP	Orientalia Lovaniensia Periodica
OLZ	Orientalistische Literaturzeitung

Or. NS	Orientalia. Nova Series
RA	Revue d'Assyriologie et d'Archéologie orientale
RB	Revue Biblique
RBL	Review of Biblical Literature
RHD	Revue historique de droit français et étranger
RIDA	Revue internationale des droits de l'Antiquité
RIA	Reallexikon der Assyriologie und Vorderasiatischen Archäologie
RSF	Rivista di Studi Fenici
RSO	Rivista degli Studi Orientali
SAAB	State Archives of Assyria Bulletin
SEL	Studi Epigrafici e Linguistici sul Vicino Oriente Antico
SMEA	Studi Micenei ed Egeo-Anatolici
TBR	ARNAUD, D., <i>Textes syriens de l'âge du Bronze Récent</i> , Sabadell (1991)
UF	Ugarit-Forschungen
VDI	Vestnik drevnej istorii
Vic.Or.	Vicino Oriente
VT	Vetus Testamentum
WO	Welt des Orients
WZKM	Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes
ZA	Zeitschrift für Assyriologie und Vorderasiatische Archäologie
ZABR	Zeitschrift für Altorientalische und Biblische Rechtsgeschichte
ZDMG	Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft
ZAW	Zeitschrift für die Alttestamentliche Wissenschaft

Emar Bibliography by Subjects

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