

Preface

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the curators of the British Museum, Musée du Louvre, and Istanbul Archaeology Museums for allowing us to collate and publish the texts edited in the present volume. We would like to warmly thank also B. Foster and A. Westenholz, who read a preliminary draft of this book, and provided us with many improvements and interpretative insights. We are also grateful to L. Milano for his support in publishing this book, and to F. Pomponio, for his kind help on many practical issues we had to face during the preparation of the final manuscript. In addition, we would like to thank also J. Politi, who helped us re-collating some British Museum tablets. Thanks are also due to B. Jagersma, who very generously put his transliterations of many unpublished British Museum tablets available to the public via the CDLI project (cdli.ucla.edu). This book owes much also to M. Molina, who kindly shared with us an updated version of his BDTNS database (bdtns.filol.csic.es), which greatly facilitated our research. Some years ago, he started a collaboration with both M. Maiocchi and G. Visicato, who were working on two different projects: the former was focusing on the edition of the Louvre tablets published in this book, as well as on some texts in the British Museum; the latter was studying all known administrative texts from the Lagaš II period, as part of his decade long interest on the transition period in between the fall of the Akkadian empire and the rise of the second dynasty of Lagaš (Visicato 2010). The initial idea of a shared publication, however, turned out to be impractical. Thus, the collaboration had to stop. M. Molina kept however providing us with many suggestions while working on the

edition of the British Museum material pre-dating the Ur III period, part of which was recently published by Maiocchi and Molina 2018 (the texts are also edited here for the sake of completeness). G. Visicato, together with M. Molina and M. Maiocchi, collated the tablets in the British Museum for the edition in the present book. G. Visicato also collated the tablets in the Istanbul Museum. M. Maiocchi provided his expertise on those in the Louvre Museum. In a spirit of close cooperation and friendship, M. Maiocchi and G. Visicato continued working on the final book. M. Maiocchi is responsible for the edition of the previously unpublished Louvre texts, for the already published ones within the range of nos. 1-297, as well as for the copies of the cuneiform tablets published here; G. Visicato is responsible for the previously unpublished British Museum texts, as well as for the published ones within the range nos. 298-593. The authors plan to have the photos of all unpublished tablets freely available on-line, hosted on major open-access projects.

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