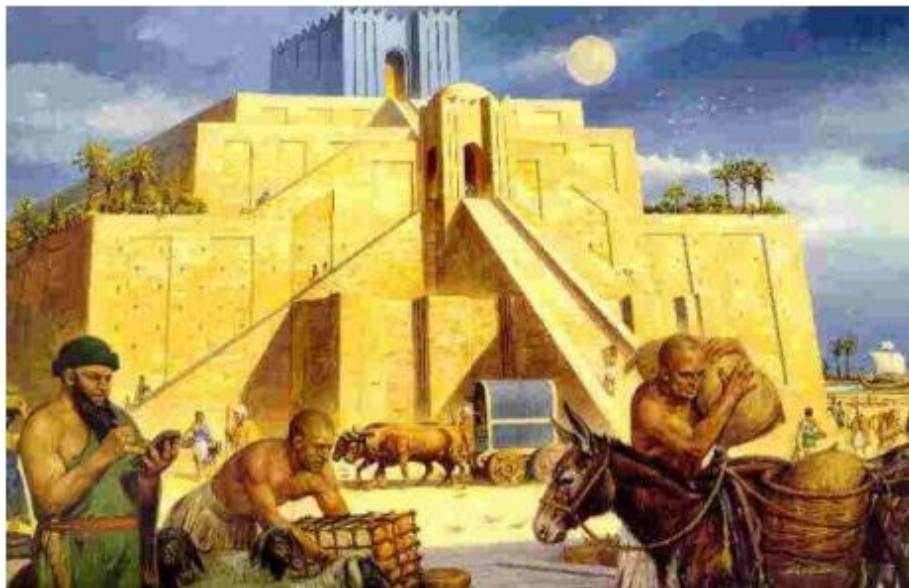


Save Ancient Studies Alliance

Summer 2022 Texts-in-Translation Reading Group

Trade in Sumerian Mythology





What kind of trade? and where? Trade in goods seen through Sumerian mythology and cuneiform texts.

Sumerian trade, flourishing especially from the 3rd millennium BCE onward, offers the earliest evidence of a dense network of communication and exchange that took place in the Near East. Through analyses of cuneiform sources, it is interesting to see the different facets between reality, myth and symbolism.

My field of study is based entirely on the copper trade between Mesopotamia and Oman. Mesopotamia, with no mineral resources, adopted an intensive system of exchange with many nearby and distant peripheries, especially for the supply of stones and metal. Metal, like other luxury goods, was not only a way to demonstrate wealth, but was also a symbol of how the ruling elite could control trade and primordial nature.

In a world constantly bombarded with ads for selling and buying, it is interesting to get to analyze how this phenomenon arose, and what historical, symbolic and mythological drives there are behind the constant need to buy goods.

The reading group will get a 360-degree view of how trade was conducted in the Sumerian world. Both from a divine/sacred and a factual/realistic point of view. Participants will gain

insight into how ancient trade worked; they will also get an overview of the mythology related to the topic, as well as receive information on the practice of trade and how certain materials were first processed to be traded.

Your SASA Educational Ambassador:

Sara Quaggio

Phd student at Pisa University, s.quaggio@phd.unipi.it, my project concerns the INTERCONNECTIONS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC COMPLEXITIES BETWEEN SOUTH-CENTRAL MESOPOTAMIA AND MAGAN, THE COPPER TRADE DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THE THIRD MILLENNIUM BC.

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-Time & Day:

Saturday's @ 4 pm EST

Dates (3 weeks): START DATE CHANGED

-Session 1: **July 30th** 4:00PM EST

-Session 2: August 6thh 4:00PM EST

-Session 3: August 13th 4:00PM EST

Location:(Provided by SASA)

Zoom Meeting Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81503711776?pwd=M000ZWt6cVISYk9yZEVia2hKNjNydz09>

Zoom Meeting ID

815 0371 1776

Zoom Meeting Password

418801

Reading Group Google Folder: (PDF Readings and Session Recordings)

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/12nWqCWhKkzWC1QoAQ9g0Z22Ey3zxX7Yh?usp=sharing>

Links for the weeks: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13bwC-wh3oyb0XuPlz4UkbinrPHLKOBBY?usp=sharing>

Week 1

Trade in Sumerian mythology.

Texts: Commerce and Trade Gleanings from Sumerian Literature. Additional text to research the cited myths: sumerians -Kramer and in [The Electronic Text Corpus of Sumerian Literature](#) (open source)

Week 2

We will analyse the texts that mention the copper trade with the divine context of Dilmun and the texts that talk about its manufacture.

Texts: Sumerian Arsenic Copper and Tin Bronze Metallurgy (5300-1500 BC): The Archaeological and Cuneiform Textual Evidence, Metal Tools in Unpublished Cuneiform Texts from Early Dynastic Period

Week 3

We will see how copper was traded and the letters of complaint.

Texts: Complaint tablet to Ea-nasir (you will find it on page 91 of the pdf: Letters from Mesopotamia), [A_Sumerian_Merchants_Account_of_the_Dilmun](#). You will find also a word with a link to a very interesting article on the-topic posted on LinkedIn