

# Leggo!

Studies Presented to Frederick Mario Fales  
on the Occasion of His 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday

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## Inhalt

Giovanni B. Lanfranchi, Daniele Morandi Bonacossi, Cinzia Pappi, Simonetta Ponchia	
Foreword .....	11
Frederick Mario Fales: A Bibliography.....	13
Ezio Attardo	
Mistake and Misunderstanding in the Development of Linear Scripts.....	25
Alessandra Avanzini	
The Sabaean Presence in Jawf in the Eighth–Seventh Centuries BC. Notes on the Oldest Phase of Ancient South Arabian Culture and Its Relationship with Mesopotamia .....	37
Luc Bachelot	
À propos du poème d’Agušaya : note sur la fonction du double.....	53
Nicoletta Bellotto	
Osservazioni sui testimoni e sul loro ruolo nei documenti medioassiri della pratica .....	65
Maria Giovanna Biga – Alessandro Roccati	
Textiles for Torches in Syria and in Egypt.....	77
Pierre Bordreuil	
Encore HADADYISA ‘Y !.....	87
Giorgio Buccellati	
Aten in Amurru?.....	95
Silvia Maria Chiodi – Giovanni Pettinato	
Temi e problematiche di attuale discussione sui beni artistici ed epigrafici provenienti da zone in conflitto .....	99
Riccardo Contini – Simonetta Graziani	
Fâle .....	131
Paola Corò Capitanio	
By the Written Order of the <i>rab ša rēš āli ša Uruk</i> : towards an Understanding of the <i>bīt ritti</i> System in Hellenistic Uruk .....	149
Eleonora Cussini	
What Women Say and Do (in Aramaic Documents).....	161

Lorenzo D'Alfonso Tabal: An Out-group Definition in the First Millennium BC .....	173
Stefano de Martino La lettera IBoT 1.34 e il problema dei sincronismi tra Hatti e Assiria nel XIII secolo a.C.....	195
Roswitha Del Fabbro The Roads from and to Aleppo: Some Historical-geographical Considerations in Light of New Archaeological Data.....	201
Giuseppe Del Monte Finanza creativa in Nippur medio-babilonese .....	223
Elena Di Filippo Balestrazzi <i>Liituus</i> . Una parola, un segno, un simbolo del potere nell'Italia arcaica: un'ipotesi .....	229
Jean-Marie Durand avec une contribution épigraphique de Michaël Guichard La guerre ou la paix ? Réflexions sur les implications politiques d'une prophétie.....	251
Massimo Forlanini <i>Geographica Diachronica</i> 2: dall'alto Eufrate all'alto Tigri.....	273
Gershon Galil Polemics and Propaganda in the Deuteronomistic Composition .....	299
Salvatore Gaspa The Accountant's Job: Professional Numeracy and Record-keeping in the Assyrian Administrative Practice .....	307
Markham J. Geller Late Medical Prescriptions for the Nose.....	325
Christoph Gerber When Did the First Assyrian Arrive in Anatolia? .....	329
Giulia Francesca Grassi L'onomastica degli immigrati siriani ad Aquileia e le caratteristiche dell'antroponimia del Vicino Oriente di età romana .....	333
Marco Iamoni Toggle Pins of the Bronze Age: A Matter of Style, Function and Fashion?.....	349
Felice Israel La radice <i>hapak</i> tra lettura politica dell'iscrizione di Ahirom e testi economici assiro-aramaici .....	365

Michael Jursa	
Ein Beamter flucht auf Aramäisch: Alphabetschreiber in der spätbabylonischen Epistolographie und die Rolle des Aramäischen in der babylonischen Verwaltung des sechsten Jahrhunderts v. Chr. ....	379
Giovanni B. Lanfranchi	
An Empire Names Its Periphery: the Neo-Assyrian Toponym for Damascus.....	399
André Lemaire	
La réforme du roi Josias et les cultes araméens à Jérusalem (VII <sup>e</sup> s. av. n. è.).....	433
Mario Liverani	
From Melid through Bastam to Megiddo: Stables and Horses in Iron Age II.....	443
Maria Grazia Masetti-Rouault – Olivier Rouault	
“Tutte le strade portano a Roma (ed a Assur)” : dernières nouvelles de l’empire néo-assyrien dans le Bas Moyen-Euphrate syrien .....	459
Paolo Matthiae	
Subject Innovations in the Khorsabad Reliefs and Their Political Meaning .....	477
Piotr Michalowski	
On Early Mesopotamian Epistolary Pragmatics .....	499
Lucio Milano	
Reflections about City Administration, Record-keeping and the Management of Primary Resources at Tell Beydar / Nabada.....	507
Clelia Mora – Silvia Balatti	
Stelae from Tuwana.....	527
Daniele Morandi Bonacossi	
Ritual Offering and Termination Rituals in A Middle Bronze Age Sacred Area in Qatna’s Upper Town.....	539
Davide Nadali	
Interpretations and Translations, Performativity and Embodied Simulation. Reflections on Assyrian Images .....	583
Cinzia Pappi	
Assyrians at the Lower Zab .....	597
Simo Parpola	
The Neo-Assyrian Royal Harem .....	613
Fabrizio A. Pennacchietti	
Scirocco, un relitto del lessico marinaresco cartaginese? .....	627

Francesco Pomponio Un motivo per cui le tavolette amministrative neo-sumeriche sono così numerose.....	637
Simonetta Ponchia On Violence, Error and Royal Succession in Neo-Assyrian Times.....	653
Barbara Nevling Porter Audiences for the Cyprus Stela of Sargon II .....	669
J. Nicholas Postgate Assyrian Percentages? Calculating the Birth-rate at Dur-katlimmu .....	677
Karen Radner The Seal of Tašmetum-šarrat, Sennacherib's Queen, and Its Impressions .....	687
Julian Reade Visual Evidence for the Status and Activities of Assyrian Scribes .....	699
Monica Rigo L'abbigliamento degli Assiri: una nota sull'abito del re.....	719
Robert Rollinger From Sargon of Agade and the Assyrian Kings to Khusrau I and Beyond: on the Persistence of Ancient Near Eastern Traditions.....	725
Elena Rova “Themes” of Seal Images and Their Variants: Two New Examples from Tell Beydar .....	745
Marina Rubinich Immagini di religiosità italiota: le sirene dei <i>pinakes</i> di Locri Epizefiri.....	763
Michael P. Streck The Pig and the Fox in Two Popular Sayings from Aššur.....	789
Karl Strobel „Kimmeriersturm“ und „Skythenmacht“: eine historische Fiktion?.....	793
Luigi Turri Bit-Tenne and Tunanat .....	843
Greta Van Buylaere The Secret Lore of Scholars .....	853
Carlo Zaccagnini Maps of the World.....	865
Ran Zadok Kannu' .....	875

## Vorwort des Reihenherausgebers

Michael Streck

Der zweite Band der Leipziger Altorientalistischen Studien ehrt einen großen Wissenschaftler, der dem Altorientalischen Institut seit einigen Jahren eng verbunden ist. Mit rund einem Dutzend Vorträgen hat Mario Fales unsere Kenntnisse von Assyrien, den Aramäern oder Sigmund Freuds Beziehung zur Altorientalistik bereichert. Im Rahmen des Erasmus-Programmes studieren Studenten aus Udine in Leipzig und umgekehrt. Möge uns Mario Fales auch in Zukunft oft besuchen und uns durch seine außerordentlichen Kenntnisse bereichern!

Leipzig, im August 2011.

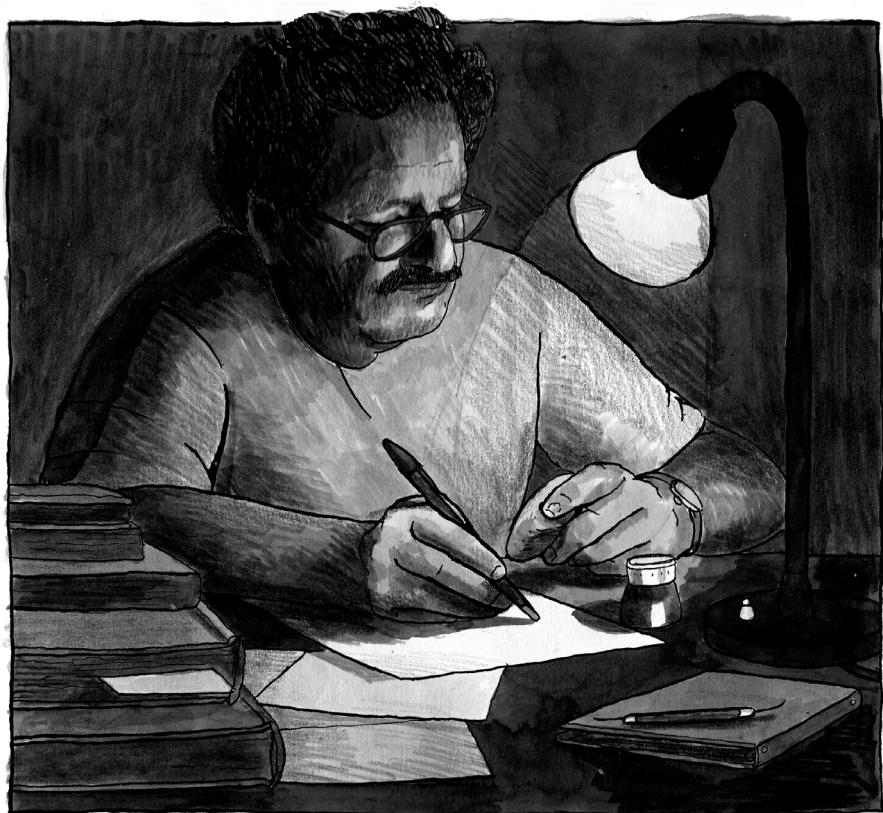
## Foreword

Giovanni B. Lanfranchi, Daniele Morandi Bonacossi,  
Cinzia Pappi, Simonetta Ponchia

*Leggo!*, reminiscent of the Latin meaning “to observe, collect, choose, select”, and almost synonymous with “to evaluate”, is part of Mario’s famous idiolect, by which he has always entertained his students and friends, shifting from the highest scientific rigour to the ironic interpretation of questions and situations. Students have often heard and still often hear the word with a certain apprehension, fearing the immediate and severe judgment of their works it might announce. Sometimes, however, the expectant tone in which the word is pronounced promises an appreciative attitude in the evaluation of their efforts, and is perceived as an encouragement on the difficult path of historical and Assyriological studies. The expression is not less reassuring when the object of evaluation is a glass of wine raised in celebration of academic or social events, or the beginning of a new research project.

The levity of tone does not diminish but adds to the lucid and penetrating analytical capacity which characterizes Mario’s fundamental attitude. He has in fact extended the philological method, derived from his multilingual and multicultural education, to many fields of experience, in which analysis and criticism might be linked with tasting and appreciating, from music to literature, art, cuisine, etc. The method must of course have its roots in a Mesopotamian fondness for interpreting signs, for “reading” the multifarious messages of the universe, and condensing them into a text.

This time we have decided to anticipate Mario’s comment in receiving this homage to his scientific career, the reading of which we hope will please him and kindle his interest. In place of the long description of Mario Fales’ many merits and academic accomplishments and rewards, we leave to the reader a reconstruction of the honouree’s scientific and human stature, according to an own method of reading and interpreting. This text condenses, in the words of students, colleagues, and friends, many references to Mario’s themes of research, results of projects that have been originated in his school and in cooperation with colleagues all over the world, discussions, ideas and hints for future developments, as well as preoccupations and engagements that the historian of antiquity and of the Ancient Near East in particular must feel and undertake. Most of all, this book should be read as a token of our gratitude for Mario’s indefatigable enthusiasm in promoting Near Eastern studies as fundamental reading of human experience.



*Drawing by Andrea Ventura.*