

Series Editor's Preface

Jacob L. Dahl's publication of the Ur III texts of the Schøyen Collection concludes the study of the remaining unpublished Ur III economic texts from the late third millennium in the collection. As is often the case with Ur III collections, the texts are representative of archives from both well-known and undetermined sites. While the bulk of the collection stems from Umma, a significant addition to the lesser known corpus of texts from Adab is also represented. Dahl's publication of the texts goes beyond the more traditional presentations of economic tablets and provides extensive commentary and accurate translations that make the volume an important contribution to the study of the Ur III period, in particular for Assyriology but also for scholars and students in general. Extensive new data on prosopography, economy, accounting procedures,

letters, contracts, technical terminology, agriculture, etc., add significantly to our knowledge of society and the economy during the Third Dynasty of Ur. As such, the volume serves as an up-to-date and broad survey of the range of detailed documentation for this period that these frequently laconic sources often do not provide. Coupled with extensive commentary and exhaustive indexes, the volume will serve also as a useful handbook for scholars and students alike. We are most grateful to Jacob L. Dahl for undertaking the comprehensive study of these texts, to Andrew George for his editorial supervision, and to Martin Schøyen for his enthusiastic and generous support of the many volumes of texts from his unique collection that are appearing in the CUSAS series.

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