## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

I am grateful to the many people who helped and counseled me in various ways during the different stages of writing this book.

First and foremost, I want to thank my beloved family, and especially my dear parents, Mrs. Silvia and Mr. Alexander Feingold. Their unconditional moral and material support made my research possible. I am pleased to dedicate this book to them with all my gratitude.

I am indebted to Professor Mayer I. Gruber of Ben-Gurion University for urging and encouraging me to publish my book, for his moral support and all his help and encouragement during the process: answering numerous questions with patience, correcting my English and directing me to Gorgias Press. I am especially grateful to the helpful staff of Gorgias Press for answering my questions and providing answers and solutions to whatever I needed: Special thanks are due Dr. George A. Kiraz, Founder and Director of Gorgias Publishing and Digitization, Dr. Melonie Schmierer-Lee, Acquisitions Editor, and Dr. Steve A. Wiggins, former Acquisitions Editor, for their patience and unstinting help throughout the painstaking process of publishing this book.

I record my sincere thanks to Dr. Oded Tammuz of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, for his counsel and critical acumen, and for his constant help throughout all stages of my research and writing. I also thank Dr. Tammuz for copying and preparing four tablets from the Old Babylonian collection of Yale University, and Prof. W. W. Hallo, the former curator of the Babylonian collection of Yale University, for the permission to publish them.

Thanks to Dr. Tallay Ornan, the former Curator of Western Asiatic Antiquities at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, who enabled me to use approximately 70 previously unpublished cylinder seals from the Museum, which helped me to build the database for the

research presented in this book. Dr. Ornan opened the basements of the museum for me so that I could use the catalogues, and he arranged for me to obtain photographs of the seals. In addition, he answered my questions, and referred me to various bibliographical sources. Thanks also to the Hecht Museum, University of Haifa, Israel. I thank Mrs. Ofra Rimon, the director and curator of the Reuben and Edith Hecht Museum at the University of Haifa, and her staff, including Mrs. Perry Harel, Registrar, for the permission to use a cylinder seal from the exhibit display for the purpose of research, for providing its photo, and for the permission to use it in the book, and the photographer, Mr. Shay Levi.

I thank Prof. Marten Stol, Emeritus Professor of Assyriology at the Vrije Universiteit, the Netherlands, for his readiness to share his phenomenal knowledge, his rare sense of humour, and his constant willingness to help and advise. Prof. Stol offered me bibliographical information and read texts with me during my stay in Holland between 2002 and 2003. I thank Dr. Theo. J.H. Krispijn of the Netherlands Institute for the Near East in Leiden for his kind help with translation from Sumerian, for his useful comments and for referring me to relevant parallels. I thank Mr. Kozad Mohamed Ahmed of Leiden University, the Netherlands, for his kind assistance in locating, photographing and sending to me material I could not find in libraries in Israel from the great library of the Netherlands Institute for the Near East, Leiden (NINO).

I express my sincere gratitude to the personnel of the NINO, for their wonderful library, and for providing me with the help I needed and the good treatment I received. I met there great scholars, an effective professional staff, and good friends.

Thanks to all the people, institutes, museums and libraries who gave me permission to publish the images on the plates: the credit lines, when indicated, are generally given under each item in the plates, and refer to the item above the respective credit line.

Special thanks are due to Gary Beckman, Professor of Hittite and Mesopotamian Studies, Department of Near Eastern Studies at the University of Michigan and Associate Editor and to Dr. Ulla Kasten, Associate Curator of the Babylonian Collection at the Library of Yale University.

I thank also the following people: Prof. Erika Bleibtreu for all her kind help and for some of the photographs; Mrs. Nadine Méouchy, Responsable des Presses de l'Ifpo (Beyrouth—Damas) and Mme. Raymonde Khayata, Assistante du directeur, Département de l'archéologie et histoire de l'antiquité at the Institut français du Proche-Orienta in Beirut for the permission to publish the images from *Syria* 56 (the jar from Larsa); Mrs. Marta Fodor, Art Resource, Permissions Department, New York, Mr. Neal Stimler, Associate Coordinator of Images, The Image Library, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, for the permission to publish two drawings from Pittman 1995 (fig. 5 on page 1594 and fig. 4 on page 1593); Mr. Thomas Mogensen, Editor, Museum Tusculanum Press and Mrs. Kirsten Dolberg-Møller, Museum Tusculanums Press, University of Copenhagen, Denmark; Mrs. Carolyn Budow Ben-David, Curatorial Department, The Bible Lands Museum Jerusalem, Israel, and the photographers: BLMJ 2555 Cylinder seal, photo credit D. Loggie, BLMJ 2555 Cylinder seal impression, photo credit H. Hinz.

I thank the staff of the Oriental Institute Museum at the University of Chicago, for permission to publish SAOC 47, plate 7, a re-cut cylinder seal from the collection of Mrs. Warman Williver (Biggs 1989, 56) and Mrs. Jennifer Rowley and the staff of Random House, INC. for the permission to publish images from *Corpus of Ancient Near Eastern Seals in the North American Collections*, vol. 1, by Prada and Buchanan.

I thank also Mr. Sidney Babcock, Associate Curator, Dept. of Seals and Tablets, the Morgan Library and Museum, New York, for permission to publish the cylinder seal from Noveck, 1976.

Dr. Dominic Collon of the Department of the Ancient Near East at the British Museum helped me a great deal through electronic correspondence, and he explained to me many relevant terms. I thank Mr. Bruce McNall, the former owner of Summa Galleries, for granting me full permission to use the photographs and any other material I needed in any of Summa Galleries' publications.

I enjoyed learning from the answers and comments of Prof. Jacob Klein from Bar-Ilan University concerning various terms in Sumerian, Akkadian and other ancient languages. He answered my questions patiently and pleasantly. Prof. Klein also referred me to a variety of bibliographical sources.

I acknowledge my special indebtedness to the late Prof. Victor Avigdor Hurowitz of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. He opened for me a wide world of concepts and notions in Akkadian and parallels in the Bible, and he answered various questions which arose in the course of time, and referred me to many bibliographical sources.

Prof. Wayne Horowitz of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem helped me with a number of Sumerian terms and with information concerning raw materials from which the cylinder seals were made. His answers helped me and directed me throughout the research. Prof. Zipora Talshir of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev helped with the Greek terms. Dr. Daniel Vainstub of Ben-Gurion University referred me to online sources, and answered my questions with kindness and invaluable knowledge.

Prof. Akiva Flexer of Tel Aviv University and Mr. Dov Ginzburg of the Geological Survey of Israel in Jerusalem, answered my geological questions. I also thank Mrs. Ora Shapira of the Geological Survey of Israel for her help.

I express my sincere gratitude to the following technical support people: Mrs. Helena Sokolowski, the Graphics artist of the department of Bible, Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies, for her assistance in the arrangement of the plates, to Mr. Patrice Kaminski, head of the Graphics Laboratory of that same department, for his counsel in the use of Photoshop software, and to Dr. Dan'el Kahn, senior lecturer, Head of the Department of Biblical Studies at the University of Haifa, for his permanent optimism, and for his unstinting help. I thank Dr. Etana Glushko for her assistance in more ways than one can imagine and for supplying the key for the Samuel Noah Kramer Institute of Assyriology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies at the Bar Ilan Assyriological library.

Last but by no means least: a special word of thanks is due to the seal owners in the Old Babylonian period and to the seal cutters. Without them this book would not have been written.