

WALTER FARBER continued his research on Akkadian magical texts, their literary traditions, and on the libraries of Hellenistic Uruk. The past year finally saw the publication of his new edition of the "Baby Texts," in Eisenbraun's series "Mesopotamian Civilizations." Articles finished since last year's report include a diachronic study of a well-know motif in magical texts from the second and first millennia, a re-evaluation of the evidence for opium poppies in Mesopotamia, and a contribution to the reconstruction of two major private libraries in late Uruk.

He also continued his lecturing activities with a series of talks that once again took him to Europe; Marburg, Leiden, Amsterdam, Leuven, Ghent, and Oxford, interspersed with a few days of work in the British Museum, London, marked the stations on this trip. The topic of lectures varied from place to place, but the emphasis in most cases was on the textual history of Babylonian incantations, tracing examples from early oral folk poetry to later canonical versions. He also attended the 35th Recontre Assyriologique in Philadelphia, as well as the annual meeting of the American Oriental Society in New Orleans, where he communicated some of his thoughts about orality in early Akkadian magical literature.