

Robert Biggs

Robert Biggs has continued to emphasize ancient medicine, mainly Babylonian, in his research. He has completed a paper, "Conception, Contraception, and Abortion in Ancient Mesopotamia," in which he adduces evidence that suggests that there may have been a belief in ancient Mesopotamia (as there was among some Greek thinkers) that children were solely the offspring of their fathers, that is, that the mother's role was to provide a receptacle for the implantation of the man's seed and to bring the resulting child into the world. The paper includes discussion of possible contraceptive strategies (including breast-feeding) and use of plant products that inhibit contraception or induce abortion. He will also be contributing translations of Babylonian medical texts to a volume, *The Context of Scripture*, being edited by W. W. Hallo. Still in the realm of medicine, he has continued as Contributing Editor (for ancient Western Asia) for *Society of Ancient Medicine Review*. Other activities include preparation of Pre-Sargonic and Old Akkadian texts for Augusta McMahon's volume tentatively entitled *The Early Dynastic-Akkadian Transition: The Evidence from Nippur* (these are texts from the seventeenth and eighteenth seasons of excavations at Nippur).
