

The Structure of Ancient Mesopotamian Society

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Professor Gelb's interest in the structure of ancient Mesopotamian society began modestly with a paper entitled "Social Stratification in the Old Akkadian Period," which he delivered at the International Congress of Orientalists in Moscow in 1960. Ever since, he has devoted his major efforts to the collection and interpretation of materials relating to the structure of society in Mesopotamia and other areas of the ancient Near East. Professor Gelb has published several articles on various aspects of the topic, such as the ration system, land tenure, and animal husbandry. A major article on slavery and related classes is to appear at the end of 1968. A programmatic paper entitled "Approaches to the Study of Ancient Society" was delivered as the Presidential address at the meeting of the American Oriental Society in Philadelphia in 1966 and later published in the eighty-seventh volume of its journal. All these papers and articles, plus others now in preparation, will be collected in one large volume planned for the near future.