



MATTHEW W. STOLPER'S *Entrepreneurs and Empire*, published in 1986, discusses historical implications of the Murašû archive, the largest

group of texts from the last 150 years of Achaemenid Persian rule in Babylonia. Since he turned in the manuscript, Stolper has been working on other projects concerned with the same epoch of Babylonian history, when the civilization began to be transformed as it was incorporated into the vast non-Mesopotamian empires of late antiquity. One is a survey of Babylonian history between Xerxes and Alexander for the *Cambridge Ancient History*. The others aim to fill some of the gaps in current knowledge of the period by editing and interpreting further archival texts.

Stolper has been assembling pieces of the Kasr archive, a group of business records originally housed among the palaces at Babylon, but scattered far and wide in modern times. Supported by a Summer Stipend from the National Endowment for the Humanities, he spent the summer of 1985 recording Kasr texts in Berlin, London, Oxford, Paris, New Haven, and Philadelphia. With the help of a Grant in Aid from the American Council of Learned Societies, he collected related material in other North American collections during the spring and summer of 1986. At the same time, he has recorded other texts that flesh out the historical context of the Kasr and Murašû archives, including supplementary items from still other contemporary archives, texts from poorly documented sites, texts that include extraordinary features of language or legal form, and texts that mention extraordinary features of the historical landscape.

Stolper treated one of these features in a paper at the 1986 meeting

of the American Oriental Society, "Registration and Taxation of Slave Sales in Achaemenid Babylonia," on evidence in Achaemenid Babylonian texts for practices that are otherwise known by Greek names and from the Hellenistic states. He took part in two conferences that offered chances to discuss preliminary appraisals of the Kasr archive in diachronic and synchronic perspectives: the Joint NSF-CNRS Seminar on the Development of Complex Societies in Southwestern Iran, held at Cirey-les-Belleveaux, France, in June, 1985; and the Sixth International Workshop on Achaemenid History, held at Gröningen University, Holland, in May, 1986. While hunting for related texts, he gave a general talk on the Kasr Archive and Achaemenid Babylonia to audiences at Berkeley, UCLA, Claremont College, the University of Arizona, and Columbia University.

Results of work on Elamite topics include "Proto-Elamite Texts from Tall-i Malyan" a short overview published in *Kadmos* 24 (1985); "Two Late Elamite Tablets at Yale," written with Charles E. Jones and due to appear in a *festschrift* for M.-J. Steve; and "A Neo-Babylonian Text from the Reign of Hal-lušu," prepared for the same volume. An edition of another stray Achaemenid Elamite text in the British Museum is in preparation.

