

# **The Reception of Sumerian Literature in the Western Periphery**

Maurizio Viano

## **Acknowledgments**

This book is a substantially revised and expanded edition of my Ph.D. dissertation defended at the Università degli Studi di Trieste, April 2010. This work was made possible through the sponsorship of the following grants: DAAD Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the Institute für Assyriologie und Hethitologie of the Ludwig Maximilians Universität, Munich (03/2012 – 08/2012); Government of Canada Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship at York University, Toronto (09/2012 – 09/2013); Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archaeology Post-Doctoral Fellowship at Tel Aviv University (10/2013 – 09/2014). My deepest gratitude goes to the editor of *Antichistica* Professor Lucio Milano who strongly supported and sponsored the publication of my book in this series. As co-supervisor of my Ph.D. his advice and support were of prime importance for my research. Likewise I am deeply thankful to Professor Stefano de Martino for his assistance and guidance as supervisor of my doctoral dissertation. Moreover he always encouraged me to continue along the road of academic research especially when my confidence in the future was at the lowest level.

I am grateful to Professor Walther Sallaberger for hosting me at the LMU in 2008 during my doctorate and in 2012 as DAAD fellow as well as for his helpful suggestions on critical passages of several Sumerian texts. Professor Maynard P. Maidman is to be thanked for supporting my application for the Government of Canada PDRF and for his kind hospitality at York University.

Special and warm thanks are offered to Yori Cohen. I am indebted to him for many reasons. He proposed me to apply for the post-doctoral fellowship at the Sonia and Marco Nadler Institute of Archaeology and he gave me the opportunity to teach Akkadian at The Department of Archaeology and Ancient Near Eastern Cultures at Tel Aviv University. Moreover he read the entire manuscript and dedicated hours to discussing with me some crucial points of this work. His remarks have been essential to this book. Last but not least I thank him for the wonderful time spent in Tel Aviv and for making me feel at home. I would like to thank Graciela Gestoso Singer for her warm hospitality on my arrival in Tel Aviv.

I wish to express my gratitude to Stefano Seminara for introducing me to the world of Assyriology. He was my first teacher of Sumerian and without his inspiration my academic career would not have started. Professor Daniel Schwemer is to be thanked for his helpful comments and suggestions on my Ph.D. thesis. I am also grateful to Uri Gabbay for reading the manuscript and for his relevant remarks. It is my pleasure to thank Vanna Biga for her kind support and encouragement. I wish also to remember the support received by the late Mrs. Terzi. I must mention the critical comments of the anonymous peer-reviewers that led to several corrections and improvements.

Sincere thanks are due to my dear friend and colleague Francesca Nebiolo (EPHE) for her constant moral and practical support even in the most difficult moments over the past four years. I cannot help mentioning the many times I asked her to provide me with bibliographical material that was unavailable to me. Finally, studying Assyriology could have never been possible without the help and support of my family.