

II. Ancient Mesopotamia  
The Cradle of Civilization  
Part I

DU1701 Periods of Art History I

 River Valley Civilizations

Lake  
Baikal

Lake  
Balkhasb

1200 MILES

1200 KILOMETERS

Danube  
R.

Black Sea

Caspian Sea

Tigris R.

TIGRIS-EUPHRATES  
(ANCIENT  
MESOPOTAMIA  
AND BABYLONIA)

Mediterranean Sea

Persian Gulf

Indus R.

Sutlej R.

Brabmaputra R.

Yellow R.

Yangtze R.

YELLOW  
RIVER  
(SHANG)

East  
China  
Sea

NILE  
(ANCIENT  
EGYPT)

Nile R.

INDUS-GANGES  
(HARAPPAN AND  
VEDIC CIVILIZATIONS)

Ganges R.

West R.

Arabian  
Sea

Bay  
of  
Bengal

South  
China  
Sea

PACIFIC  
OCEAN

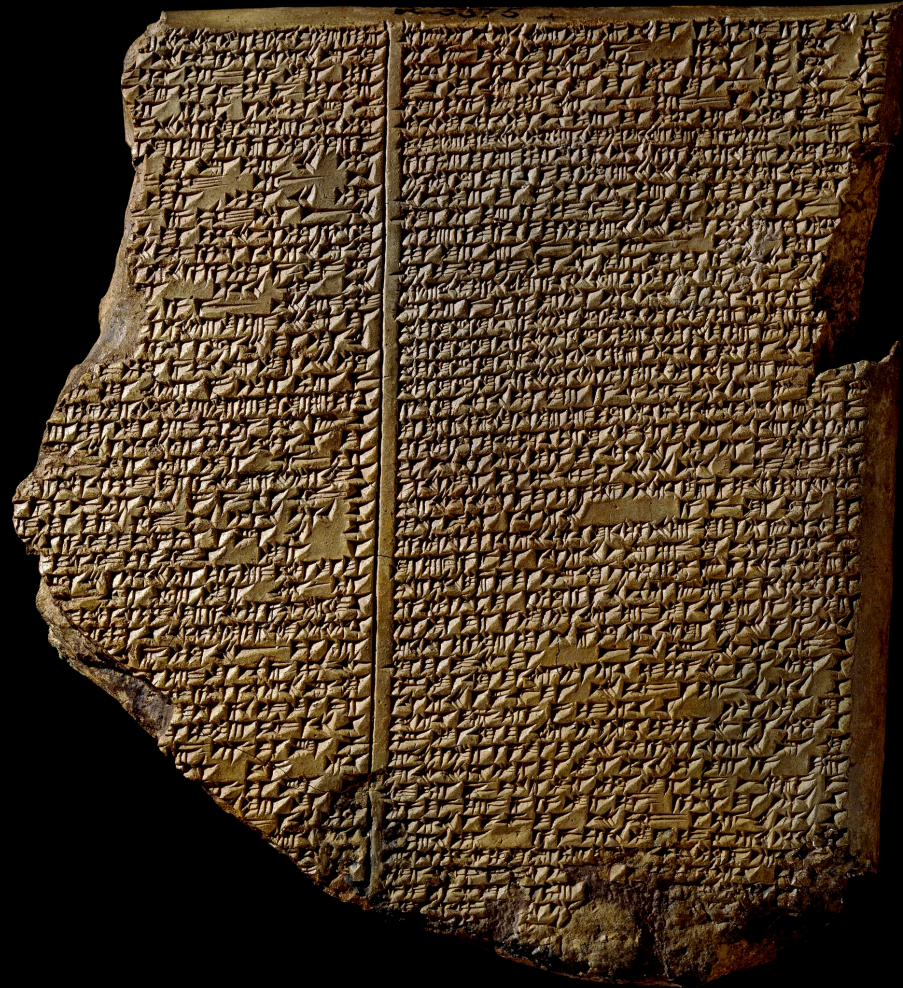


7500 BC



Deed of sale of a slave and a house at Shuruppak, c. 2,500 BCE /  
Musée du Louvre, Paris

	3200 BCE	3000 BCE	2400 BCE	1000 BCE
sag 'head'				
gin 'to walk'				
šu 'hand'				
še 'barley'				
ninda 'bread'				
a 'water'				
ud 'day'				
mušen 'bird'				



Part of a clay tablet, neo-Assyrian, ca. 600 BCE, Epic of Gilgamesh, tablet 11, story of the Flood  
British Museum, London



Tablet V, Epic of Gilgamesh, old Babylonian period, 2,003–1,595 BCE  
Sulaymaniyah Museum, Iraq



Hero mastering a lion, relief from the facade of the palace of Sargon II (Assyrian empire) at Khorsabad (Dur-Sharrukin), 713–706 BCE  
Musée du Louvre, Paris



Hero (Gilgamesh?) master of animals, from the Shara temple, Tell Agrab, Iraq, early Dynastic period, ca. 2,600–2,370 BCE  
National Museum of Iraq, Baghdad



Gebel el-Arak knife, hippopotamus ivory, silex, Egypt, Naqada II d period, ca. 3,300–3,200 BCE  
Musée du Louvre, Paris





Transport of cedar timber, north facade of the main courtyard of the Dur-Sharrukin Palace (Iraq), stone, 38 x 49 x 32 cm, ca. 700 BCE  
Musée du Louvre, Paris





Eye idols, gypsum alabaster, Syria, 6,5 x 4,2 x  
0,6 cm, ca. 3,700-3,500 BCE  
Metropolitan Museum, New York



Ashmolean



Standing male worshiper, Mesopotamia, Eshnunna (Tell Asmar), gypsum alabaster, shell, black limestone, bitumen, 29.5 x 12.9 x 10 cm, ca. 2,900–2,600 BCE  
Metropolitan Museum, New York

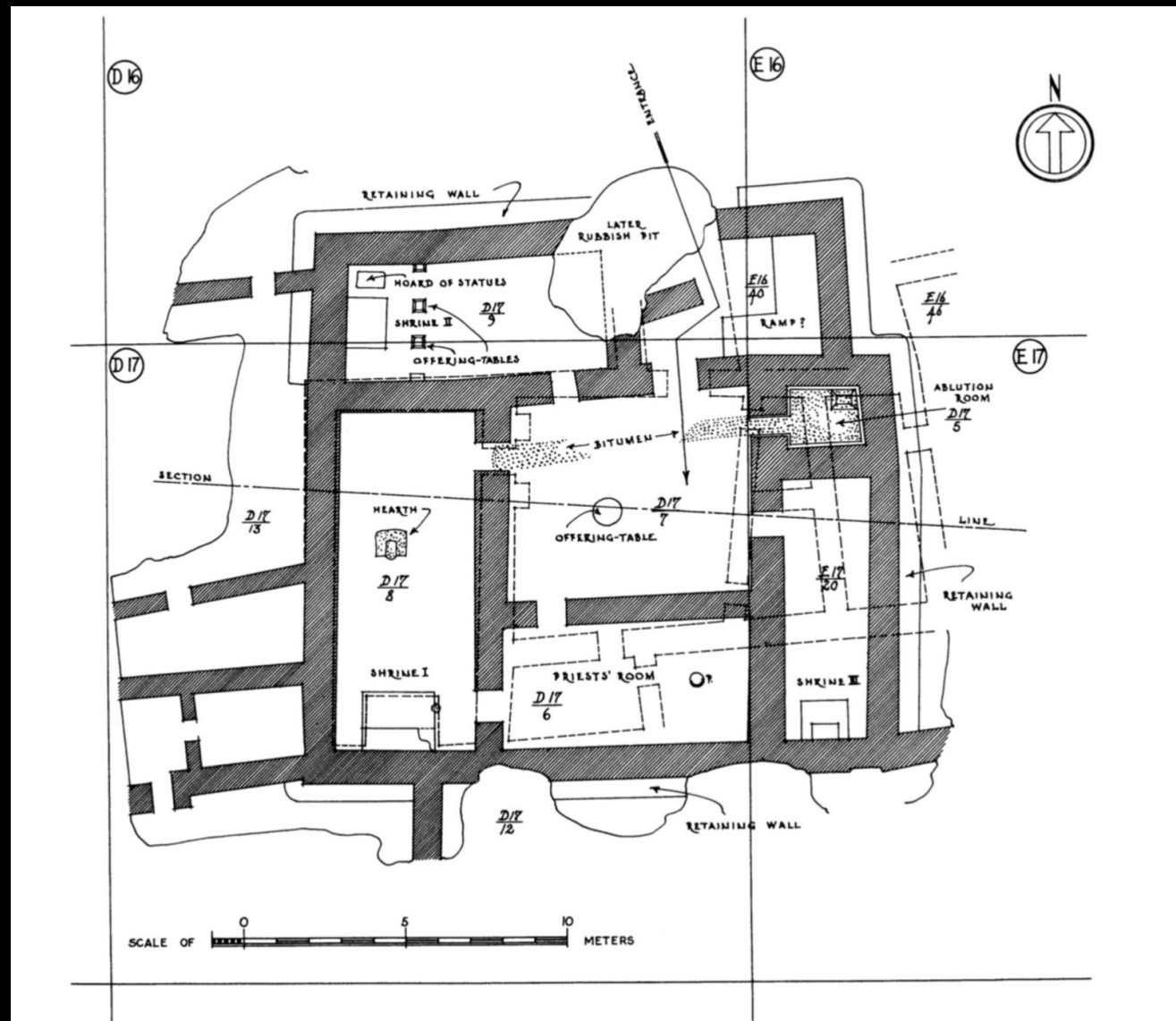


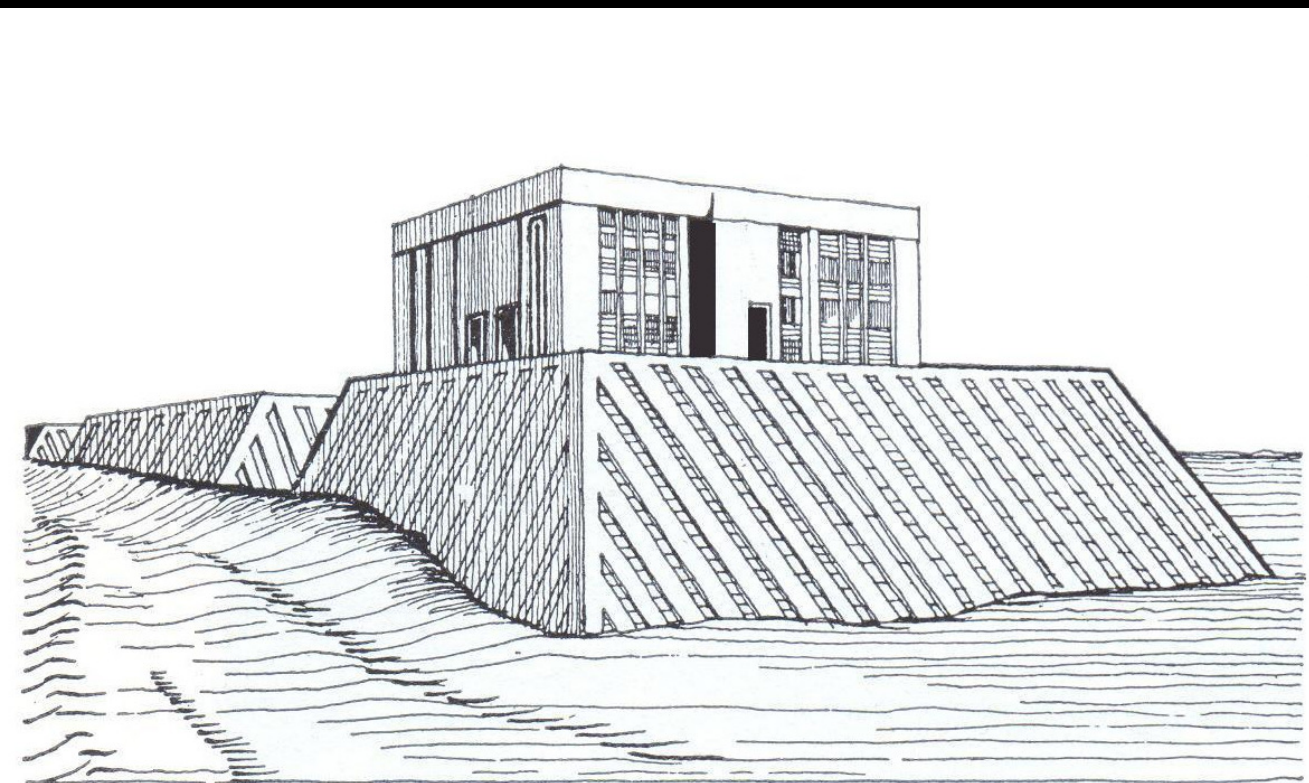
Fig. 5. Plan of the Square Temple at Tell Asmar, with the predecessor to the Square Temple indicated in broken lines (Delou-gaz and Lloyd 1942, pl. 22; courtesy the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago).



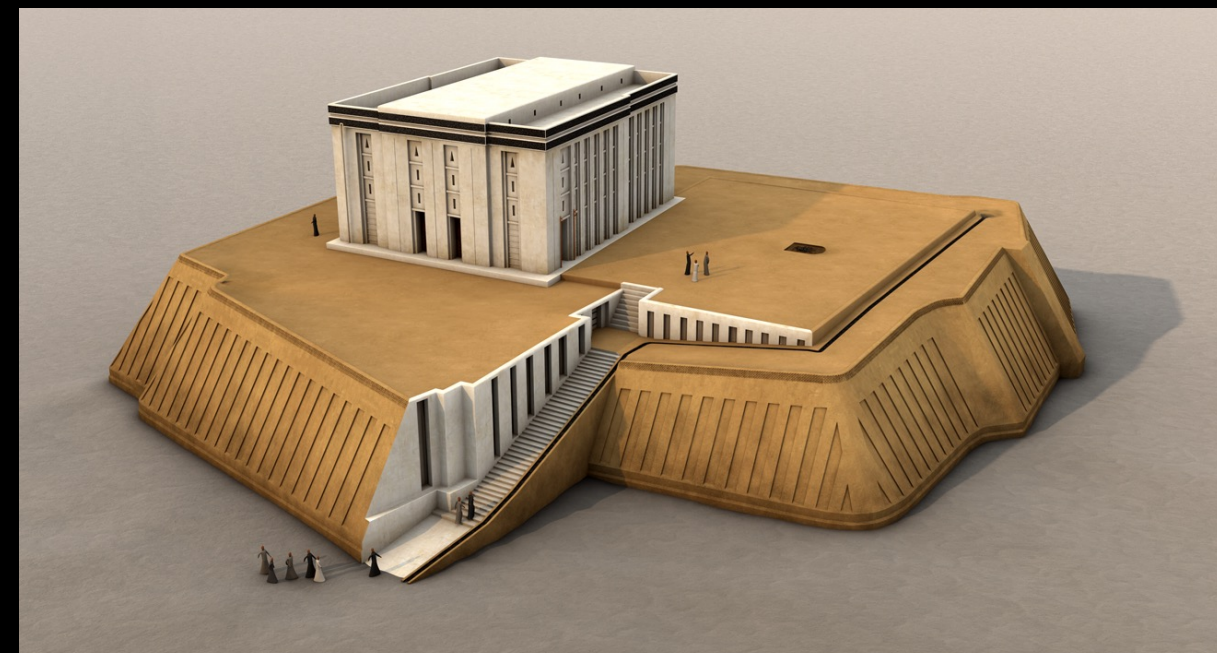


Standing worshipers, Mesopotamia, Eshnunna (Tell Asmar),  
gypsum alabaster, shell, black limestone, bitumen, 29.5 x 12.9 x  
10 cm, ca. 2,900–2,600 BCE  
National Iraq Museum, Baghdad





THE WHITE TEMPLE & ZIGGURAT,  
AT WARKA      ARCHAIC PERIOD      B.C. 3500 · 3000



White temple in Ancient  
Uruk



Standing worshiper, Mesopotamia, Nippur, limestone,  
inlaid with shell and lapis lazuli  
25.2 x 8.5 x 5.2 cm, ca. 2,600–2,500 BCE  
Metropolitan Museum, New York

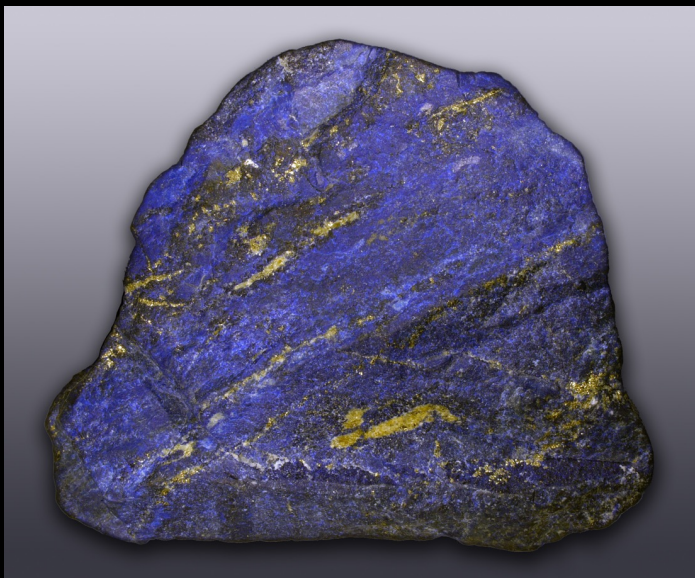


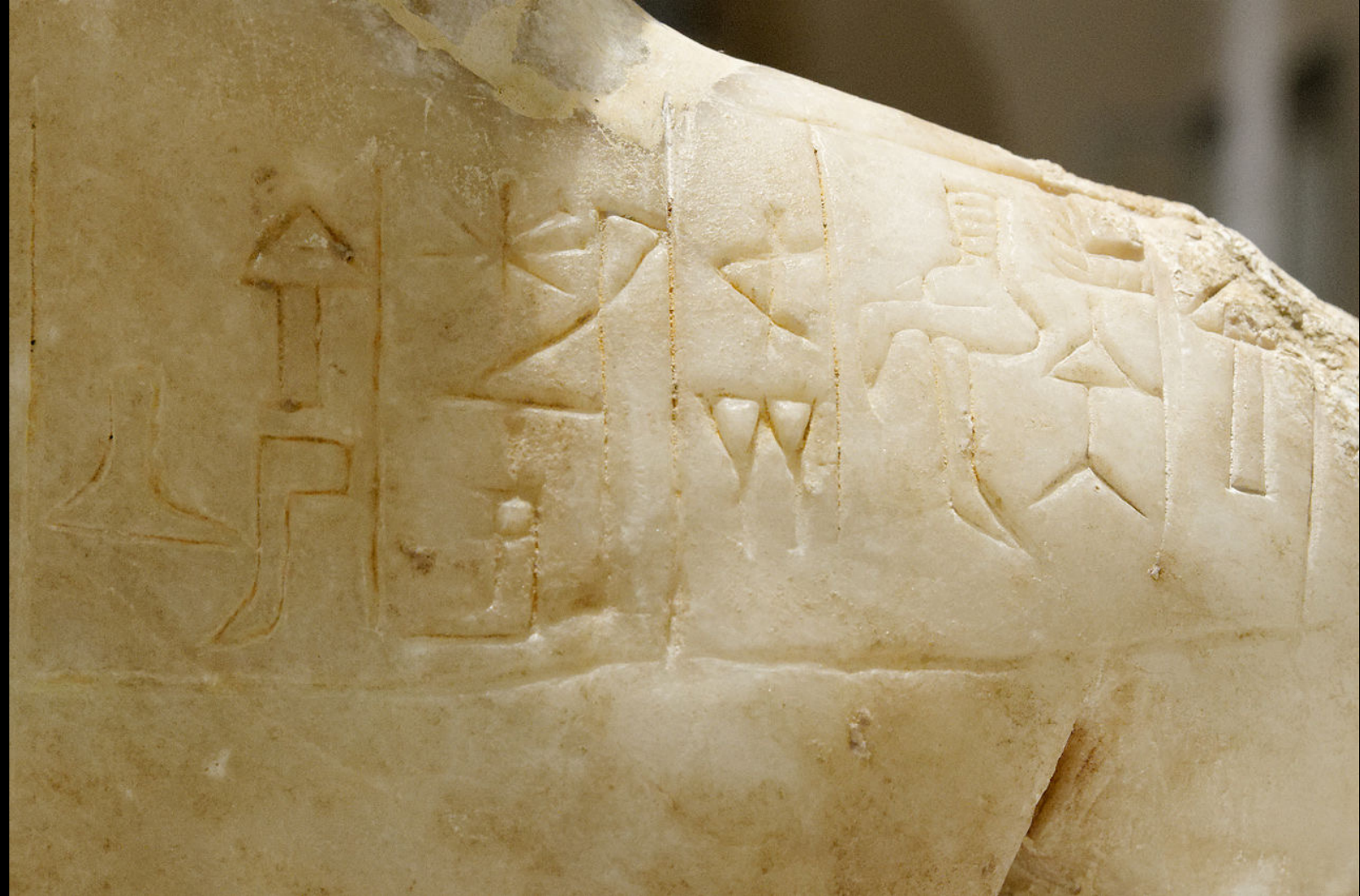




Ebih-II, from Mari, temple of Ishtar (Syria), alabaster, lapis lazuli, shells, bitumen, proto cuneiform inscriptions, 52,5 x 20,6 x 30 cm ca. 2,450 BCE  
Musée du Louvre, Paris

# Lapis lazuli





“dul, Ebih-il, nu-banda, Ištar Nita, sarig”

“This statue, Ebih-il, the overseer, to Ishtar (?), he dedicated”







Statue of a Ram in a Thicket, from Ur (Iraq), gold, silver, lapis lazuli, shells, 42,5 x 18 x 27 cm Penn Museum, Philadelphia



Standard of Ur, Royal Cemetery, Ur, ca. 2,600 BCE, shell, limestone,  
lapis lazuli, bitumen, 21,7 x 50,4 x 11,6 (base) – 5,6 (top) cm  
British Museum, London















Inlay, box fitting (?), shells, black bitumen paste, from the Royal Cemetery, Ur (Iraq), 4,4 x 4,4 cm, c. 2,600 BCE / British Museum, London





Lyre fragments with bull head and shell inlay plaques, Ur (Iraq), Royal Cemetery, gold, shell, lapis lazuli, bitumen ca. 2,450 BCE Penn Museum, Philadelphia









Scorpion-man relief, from the temple of the storm god in the citadel of Aleppo (Syria), c. 2,500 BCE  
National Museum, Aleppo



Boundary stone (called Kudurru), limestone, detail of scorpion-man next to the goddess Guda, from Sippur (Abu Habba, Iraq), 64 x 21 x 18 cm, 1,125–1,104 BCE  
British Museum, London

