

Preface

With an unfortunate delay, I herewith offer an edition of the astronomical texts called „Almanacs“ and „Normal Star Almanacs“ by A. J. Sachs. He had begun transliterations of a few of these texts, and published Almanacs for the year 305 of the Seleucid era together with C. B. F. Walker in Iraq 46 (1984). He also edited a group of very late Almanacs in the Kramer Anniversary Volume (AOAT 25). For many of the texts I could begin to work with the copies published by Sachs in LBAT; for others, only numbers or photos were initially available to me. From a catalogue of astronomical tablets in the British Museum by C. B. F. Walker I could add a number of tablets not known to Sachs. J. M. Steele identified tablets in the collection of the University Museum in Philadelphia and drew my attention to a tablet in the Museu de Montserrat of which a photo can be seen on the website of the Cuneiform Digital Library Initiative.

For permission to publish the tablets I am indebted in the first place to the Trustees of the British Museum where the majority of the material is kept. I thank M. van Ess of the German Archaeological Institute in Berlin for providing photos of tablets excavated by the Deutsche Orient-Gesellschaft in 1912 in Uruk, and for permission to publish them. U. Kasten of Yale University sent me new photos of three tablets in the Morgan Library Collection; I thank her also for the publication permission. B. André-Salvini kindly sent me photos of the tablet AO 8530 in the Louvre and granted permission for publication. St. Tinney gave permission to publish tablets in Philadelphia, by courtesy of the Penn Museum. For permission to publish the tablet A 1731 in the collection of the Oriental Institute in Chicago I thank W. Farber.

Several people helped me in preparing this edition. I am particularly grateful to Jeanette Fincke who very kindly made many photographs of British Museum tablets for me. I. Finkel collated difficult passages and checked the possibility of joins. T. de Jong, J. M. Steele and S. de Meis helped me with tablet dating in some difficult cases. During my visits to the Students' Room of the British Museum, the staff were always helpful, especially C. B. F. Walker and J. Taylor. To all of them I extend my thanks.

Hermann Hunger