

**F**rom Elephantine to Babylon.  
Selected Studies of Péter Vargyas on  
Ancient Near Eastern Economy

| ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN  
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## Preface by the Series Editors

The first volume of the *Ancient Near Eastern and Mediterranean Studies*, issued by the Department of Ancient History, the University of Pécs, is dedicated to the memory of Péter Vargyas (1950–2009), the internationally renowned Assyriologist and economic historian. The scope of his research ranged from Ancient Egypt through Ugarit, Babylon and Persia to the Greek world. Throughout his scientific career Péter Vargyas was deeply concerned with the economic history of the Ancient Near East, primarily of the Neo-Babylonian and Late-Babylonian periods. He intended to author a four-volume series of Babylonian prices, out of which only one has been published: *A History of Babylonian Prices in the First Millenium B.C. Vol. 1. Prices of the Basic Commodities* (Heidelberger Studien zum Alten Orient 10, Heidelberger Orientverlag, Heidelberg, 2001). Both his published and unfinished papers focused on the prices and on the use of precious metals as currency in Egypt, the Levant, Persia, Asia Minor and above all in Babylonia. Finally, in the new millennium, after many years of groundbreaking research he began to return to matters concerning economic philosophy. Our volume is a selection of Péter Vargyas's papers predominantly published in the last two decades. Besides his book of 2001 these papers represent the scientific output of a very important Hungarian scholar who left us tragically in 2009.

Our series is devoted to the topic of social, economic, cultural etc. exchanges between the Ancient Near East and the Mediterranean, from the beginnigs of mankind down to the Islamic expansion. The *Ancient Near Eastern and Mediterranean Studies* will attempt to approach this theme from the widest possible range of angles, embracing all historical, linguistic and archaeological disciplines, covering all areas and historical periods of the Ancient Near East (including Ancient Egypt) and the Mediterranean. We are calling for

studies which synthesise the current state of research and select their topics from the overall context of connections between the Ancient Near East and the Mediterranean. Our goal is to publish monographs of scholars of any nationality on the highest academic standards. Conference papers are welcomed as well. The official languages of the series will be English, German, French, and Italian. Language-editing of the manuscripts before submission is a responsibility of the authors.

Pécs, August 2010

Zoltán Csabai  
Tibor Grüll  
series editors