

PREFACE BY THE EDITOR

The overall goal of SCIEM 2000 is to establish an absolute chronology of the Eastern Mediterranean and the adjacent regions for the second millennium BC. Mesopotamia is of special importance here because it has a tradition of king lists and similar historiographic texts which would provide such a reliable chronology – were they only completely preserved. Moreover, frequent synchronisms link Mesopotamia to the Levant and Egypt.

It was therefore natural to include a study on Mesopotamian chronology within SCIEM 2000, and Regine Pruzsinszky was entrusted with it. From her investigations it became clear that a solution for Mesopotamian chronology could not yet be achieved, but in the end she had studied all the pertinent texts, and had excerpted and condensed all the secondary

literature in order to make it easily accessible to the other collaborators of the project. When she had finished all the digests, discussions, tables and overviews, it was obvious that it would be a pity to let so much work remain known only to a few, and we decided to publish a handbook of Mesopotamian chronology in the second millennium BC.

I am happy to see the product of Regine Pruzsinszky's efforts published, and I hope that it will establish itself as a reliable introduction to this fascinating topic.

Hermann Hunger

