

which calls for a reconceptualization of the boundary between persons and non-persons: 'living nature' comprises not only humans, animals and plants, but also mountains, forests, rivers, deserts and even planets. After an introductory piece setting the scope and methodology, the first chapter ('Animism and Mesopotamian Religion') presents a history of the term 'animism' in anthropology and its implications for Mesopotamian religion. The following chapters ('Sacred Mountains and Mountain Deities'; 'River Deities, Cosmic Rivers and Sacred Springs'; and 'Sacred Trees and Plant Persons') develop the theme further by looking at myths, incantations, prayers and a variety of rituals. The last chapter ('Nature, Divinity and Personhood in Ancient Mesopotamian Religion') reflects further on the implications of the 'new animism' on the notion of 'personhood' and on the 'other-than-human'. This is an important book which successfully showcases an emic approach to ancient Mesopotamian literature. The implications of the 'new animism' for our understanding of the role of nature in the religio-magical continuum, and for ecological perspectives, warrant more work on all religious literature from the ANE, including the HB.

ANN JEFFERS

RUSSELL, STEPHEN C., and ESTHER J. HAMORI (eds.), *Mighty Baal: Essays in Honor of Mark S. Smith* (Harvard Semitic Studies, 66; Leiden: Brill, 2020), pp. xvi + 213. €210.00/\$252.00 (hardback or e-book). ISBN 978-90-04-43766-1 (hardback), 978-90-04-43767-8 (e-book).

The publisher has declined to make a review copy of this volume available to the *B.L.*, and so no assessment of the work can be made here, but it is understood that the volume contains the following contributions: R.S. Kawashima, 'The Baal Cycle as a Myth of Cosmic Unification'; C. Carvalho, 'Fight Like a Girl: The Performance of Gender and Violence in the Baal Cycle'; M. Nissinen, 'Male Agency and Masculine Performance in the Baal Cycle'; D. Grant, 'Active and Reactive Bodies in the Baal Cycle'; S.E. Fassberg, 'The Grammar of Baal's Epithets'; S.W. Crawford, 'Where Are All the Colophons? Colophons in the Ancient Near East and the Dead Sea Scrolls'; R. Hendel, 'Gods in Translation and Location'; T.J. Lewis, 'Ugaritic Athtartu Šadi, Food Production, and Textiles: More Data for Reassessing the Biblical Portrayal of Astart in Context'; D.E. Fleming, 'Yahweh among the Baals: Israel and the Storm Gods'; S. Ackerman, 'Who Is the Baal of Peor?'; and K. van der Toorn, 'Baal's Legacy: Echoes of Ugarit in Papyrus Amherst 63'.

(BOOK LIST EDITOR)

VIDAL, JORDI (ed.), *Historiae*, vols. 16 and 17 (Barcelona: Grup d'Estudis Historiogràfics, 2019 and 2020), pp. 130 and 103. €20 per vol. ISSN 1697-5456.

In vol. 16, there are articles by M. Civil on Mesopotamian religion and by F. de Backer on the Pelasgians in the *Histories* by Herodotus. Also of interest to *B.L.* readers are the book reviews of N. Pumphrey, *Superman and the Bible: How the Idea of Superheroes Affects the Reading of Scripture* (Jefferson, 2019) and of K. Schmid, *Historia literaria del Antiguo Testamento. Una introducción* (Madrid, 2019) by J. Vidal; of the graphic novel F. Miller and A. Sinclair, *Xerxes: The Fall of the House of Darius and the Rise of Alexander* (Milwaukee, 2019) by M. Mendoza, and of A. Garcia-Ventura

et al. (eds.), *The Study of Musical Performance in Antiquity: Archaeology and Written Sources* (Newcastle upon Tyne, 2018) by G. Zisa. The articles in vol. 17 are: M. Civil on crime and punishment in Mesopotamia; F. de Backer on the management of casualties after a victory for the Neo-Assyrians; P.F. Jaruf on the function of the Chalcolithic mural paintings in Tuleilat Ghassul, Jordan; D.A. Olivera on empire and politics in Thucydides; W.G.E. Watson on words for ‘shield’ in Akkadian, including a discussion of Heb. *šinnā*, ‘(large) shield’, and by A. Gayubas on defensive patterns in ancient Egypt between the Predynastic Period and the Third Dynasty. This modestly priced periodical, in Catalan, English and Spanish, is also available online (<https://www.raco.cat/index.php/historiae>).

WILFRED G.E. WATSON

WEST, MARTIN L., *The Hymns of Zoroaster: A New Translation of the Most Ancient Sacred Texts of Iran, with Introduction and Commentary* (London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2019 [reprint of I.B. Tauris edn, 2010]), pp. xi + 182. 1 map. £14.99. ISBN 978-1-35012-746-3 (paperback); also available in I.B. Tauris edn: 978-1-84885-347-8 (hardback), 978-1-84885-505-2 (paperback).

After the Preface (on the need for a better translation, and on Zoroaster as a revolutionary figure whose texts are still recited by Zoroastrian priests) and a ‘Note on the pronunciation of Avestan words and names’, W. provides an ample Introduction. Then follow ‘The Hymns of Zoroaster’ (The First Gatha [Yasna 28-34] to The Fifth Gatha [Yasna 53]) and also ‘The Liturgy in Seven Chapters’—the only other source for early Zoroastrianism. In addition to light commentary in the main chapters, there are brief philological ‘Notes on the Text’ and a concise Bibliography that itemizes translations and commentaries and general works. W. argues that later portrayals of Zoroaster (from the Greeks to Friedrich Nietzsche) do not match what is historically valuable here: a fraction of sacred poetry (the ‘Avesta’) in an Iranian language important for reconstructing Indo-Iranian and Indo-European, by a historical figure (Zarathustra) whose ‘noble religion’ (p. 1)—one of the world’s oldest—lasted for more than 1000 years as the official religion of empire. W. discovered the texts when researching his *Indo-European Poetry and Myth* (2007) about precursors to Greek and later literature. Awarded the Order of Merit in 2014, W. (1937–2015) was a world-class Classicist who ventured into ANE scholarship, including learning new languages (in this case Old Avestan). There are some links to the HB/OT: the early Persian-era chronology of Zoroaster’s life, analogues for apocalyptic (e.g. cosmic struggle), and the exaltation and imagery of Ahura Mazda (W. nowhere mentions ‘monotheism’).

HYWEL CLIFFORD

ZOMER, ELYZE, *Middle Babylonian Literary Texts from the Frau Professor Hilprecht Collection, Jena* (Texte und Materialien der Hilprecht Collection, 12; Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2019), pp. xii + 78. 13 plates. €68.00 (hardback or e-book). ISBN 978-3-447-11256-7 (hardback), 978-3-447-19881-3 (e-book).

The second largest collection of cuneiform tablets in Germany belongs to the Frau Hilprecht Collection, a treasure trove of tablets excavated in Nippur the late 19th century by Hermann Hilprecht and brought to Jena when Hilprecht retired from the University of Pennsylvania. This volume publishes with impressive competence and industry four