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This volume represents the publication of papers presented at the 2006 Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale in Munich. The title translated to 'War and Peace in the Ancient Middle East' and the papers included reflect this. There are fifty-eight papers in the volume, written in English, French and German. They are as varied as they are numerous, chronologically ranging from the Ur III period to the Neo-Babylonian. The issues discussed range from the ritual of war to the administration of armies, from the spoils of war to the act of claiming victory and from the role of traders to the language associated with war and peace. The volume is not organized by chronology or theme and instead the papers are simply presented alphabetically by the author's last name. This approach leads to a somewhat confusing and disordered volume and the reviewer feels that it would have benefitted from being subdivided chronologically. This review will deal with a small selection of the papers aiming to provide insight into the diversity and variety of this volume and indeed of the subject matter.

'Primeval Statesmen. Winnie the Pooh at Archaic Ur' by Petr Charvát is a paper that immediately grabs attention due to its fascinating and bewildering title. Not about the children's story character however this paper is instead focused upon a character in Ur administration whose personal name appears to have been AZ, 'Bear', and whose seal iconography somewhat predictably also featured a bear. Charvát thus presents an assessment of the evidence linked to this individual, aiming to shed light on what he

refers to as the "wheelings and dealings of one of the very first elite personages known to human history" [pg. 216]. This paper is brief but examines seal imprints and a contemporary text leading to some key points about 'Bear', namely that he had the right to shares of the harvest and that he supplied Ur with taxes and revenues. Unlike the majority of papers in this volume, Charvát's is not primarily concerned with the issue of war and peace, instead he approaches the theme indirectly, arguing that all elites were conscious of finding peaceful solutions to social problems due to what they knew of the nature of war [pg.215]. A brief but intriguing paper, this allows insight into an individual rather than an entire class but the picture provided is of a man of influence and humour.

'Neo-Assyrian Military Intelligence' by Tamás Dezső uses the correspondence of Sargon II to reconstruct the structure of military intelligence as well as to analyse and discuss the types of information collected. As this paper represents only part of Dezső's wider work on military intelligence it is relatively limited. For example Dezső states that there are two types of information collected by the Assyrian intelligence organisations; political information and information of military importance. It is only the second category that is discussed in this paper. The choice to do this keeps the paper focused on the theme of war and peace but does lead the read to ask questions and potentially want to know more about the aspects Dezső chooses not to include. The paper is also a methodical treatment of the intelligence network, illustrating six levels of intelligence collection. These levels are identified as follows; the king, the crown prince, the high officials, the deputy of the palace herald, the members of the local government and administration and finally a level of spies. Dezső indicates the role and significance of each level. To aid understanding the Akkadian terminology associated with each level is also examined and the paper is further aided by the inclusion of maps, tables and diagrams. Overall, this paper is a fascinating introduction to a topic, it is brief at times but nevertheless provides a clear and thorough summary of the structure of Neo-Assyrian military intelligence.

A particularly fascinating characteristic of ancient warfare is where both sides claim victory. It is a well-documented and discussed phenomena and one that is examined by Sarah Melville in her paper 'Win, Lose, of Draw? Claiming Victory in Battle'. The paper is divided into four sections. The first is an extended introduction. When faced with a case where both sides claim victory there has always been an assumption that one side must be truer than the other, and that the job of an historian is to investigate and ascertain the real winner. Melville begins her introduction, by arguing that this approach is inadequate and that through careful examination of contested battles, it is clear that in certain cases both sides could truthfully claim victory. Sections two and three of the paper present two such battles as case studies. The first is the battle of Der in 720 BC and the other the battle of Halule in 691 BC. The final section presents Melville's conclusions which centres around the fact that official records were an exercise in careful and deliberate manipulation and that both sides could be technically correct but at the same time could avoid including anything that did not meet with their purpose. A tie, whilst a situation that means both sides could legitimately claim victory, did not fit in with the prevalent ideology. Melville through clear discussion and two interesting case studies presents an important alternative to the traditional way in which this phenomenon is treated.

'*Kallāpu*: A New Proposal for a Neo-Assyrian Military Term' by JoAnn Scurlock is one of several papers in the volume whose focus is linguistic. Scurlock examines the term *kallāpu* which is a problematic term featured in a number of texts including the Nimrud wine lists. Scurlock presents the various suggested translations for this term which include 'dispatch messenger' and 'infantry'. Scurlock proposes a new reading however, suggesting that *kallāpu* should be read as a term for bow cavalry and their inactive partners who later developed into a lancer cavalry [pg. 731]. Scurlock presents a range of evidence from the reigns of Aššurnaṣirpal II, Tiglath-Pileser III, Sargon II and Esarhaddon to support this reading. This suggestion is interesting and plausible and is made more convincing by Scurlock's treatment of previous suggested translations, which are methodically dismissed or explained in a manner that enables them to fit the

new suggested reading. This paper is very specific in its focus, concentrating on just a single word, but by doing so it enables greater insight into the aspect of the military to which it refers and also adds to the academic discourse regarding this term.

Overall this is an excellent volume, with a vast array of papers that are so varied in their scope that no aspect of war and peace is left untouched. That said, this is without doubt an academic volume with papers, for the most part, focusing on very specific issues or queries. These are specialized papers and as such a certain amount of knowledge and understanding of the topic and period concerned is assumed on behalf of the reader. This in no way, however, detracts from the volume's worth or utility. Each paper is well-researched with clear references and most papers also include a useful bibliography so that it is possible to read further.