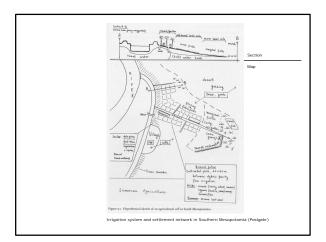






Southern alluvium : the marshes (lately drained by Saddam's engineers).



Standard Gilgame š epic, Tablets I and XI

Standard Gligarites epic, Tablets I and XI

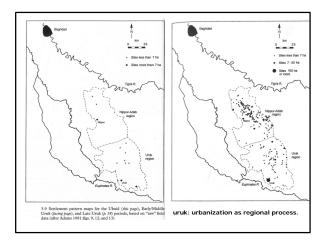
He had the wall of Uruk built, the sheepfold [Uruk-the-Sheepfold]

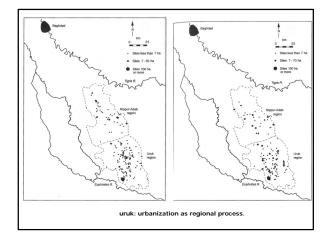
Of holiest Eanna, the pure treasury [sacred storehouse].

See if its wall is not (as straight) as the (craftsmans) string [like a strand of wool], Inspect its [...] wall (battlements?), the likes of which noone can equal, Touch the threshold stone [Take the stairway]-It dates from ancient times. Approach the Eanna Temple, the dwelling of Istar, such as no later king or man will ever equal.

Go up on the wall [of Uruk] and walk around, Examine its foundation inspect its brickwork thoroughly Is not its masonry of baked brick, did not the Seven Sages themselves lay out its plans?

One square mile city, one square mile palm groves, one square mile is brick-pits, [and] the [open ground?] of Istar's temple Three square miles and the [open ground] of Uruk it encloses.

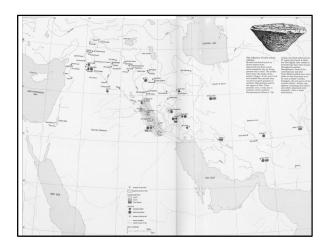




archaeological time		
5000-4000 BC Halaf period in the Northern Mesopotamia Ubaid period in the South Eridu temple sequence (<i>E-abzu</i>)		
	Early Uruk period Late Uruk period Uruk Level IV (Eanna Precinct) urbanization, writing, mass-produced pottery potters new bureaucratic tools such as cylinder seals, long- Jemdet Nasr period Uruk Level III (Eanna Precinct)	Protoliterate Period
2950-2750 2750-2600 2600-2350	Early Dynastic I Early Dynastic II Early Dynastic III	Pre-Sargonic Period

Uruk Period in Southern Mesopotamia and beyond (4000-3100 BC)

- Massive changes in the archaeological landscape: Hierarchization of settlements, at least a settlement systems of cities, mid-sized towns and villages and hamlets.
- At Nippur and Uruk early cities as ceremonial centers. The emergence of the temple as an economic institution.
- $\bullet \ \ \text{New economic, social, political organization, approaching the idea of a "state"?}$
- New bureaucratic tools: cylinder seals, hollow clay balls, invention of cuneiform writing.
- Monumental architecture at Uruk, innovative building technologies. The idea of the city wall at the end of the Uruk Period.
- Development of a pictorial repertoire of representation, visual narration.
- Division of labour, craft specialization, evidence long distance trade.
- Interregional koine of material culture. The spread of signature aspects of "Uruk" material
 culture: cylinder seals, Uruk wheel made or mold made, mass produced, undecorated pottery,
 especially large quantities of bevoled rim bowls, particular architectural forms that involve
 niching, Scholars tried to explain this "Uruk expansion" phenomenon by means of "world
 systems theory" of Immanuel Wallerstein, or through the idea of "colonization" of marginal
 landscapes, or as Uruk "enclaves". Are we dealing with a Mesopotamo-centric worldview here?



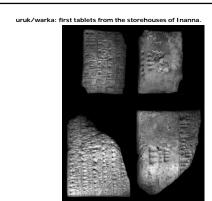




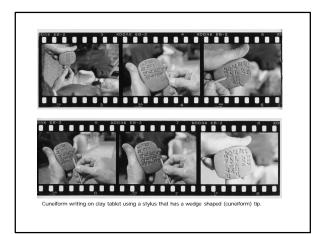


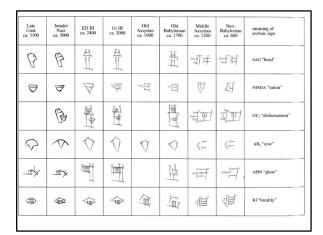


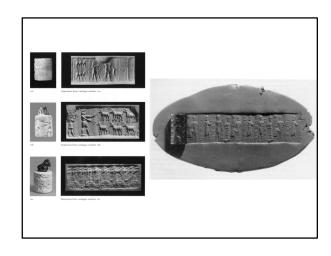
towards the invention of the script as an urban administrative tool: hollow clay balls impressed with seals, filled with tokens.

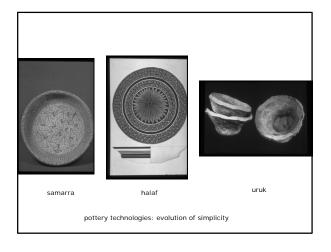


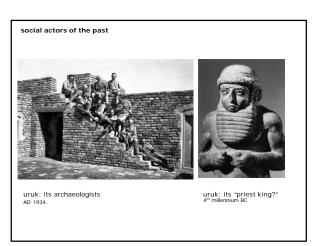
Examples of Uruk IV (above, excavation no. W 7227,a) and Uruk III (below, no. W 14804,a) tablets

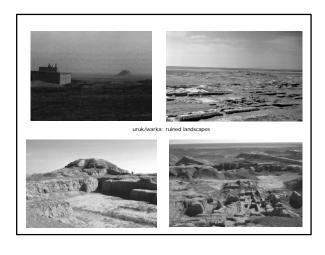


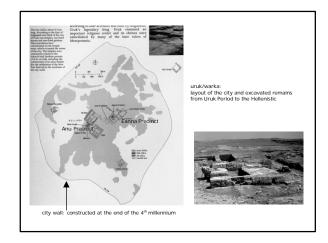


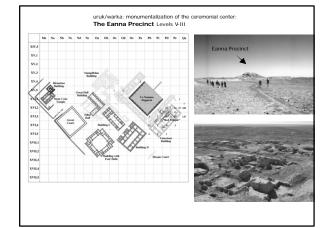






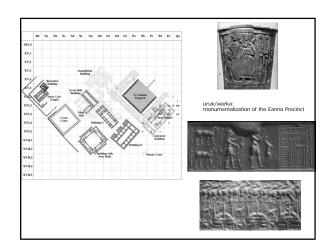


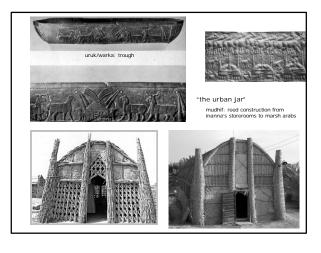


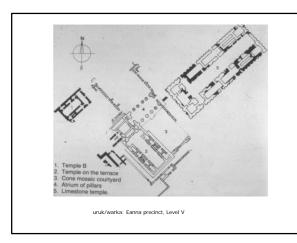


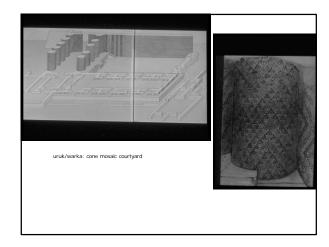
Late Uruk period (3600-3100 BC) is chronologically divided in the Eanna district as:

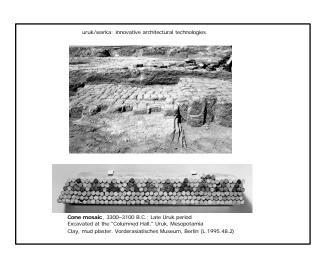
Late Uruk V, ca 3600-3500 BC Late Uruk IVc Late Uruk IV b Late Uruk IVa. ca 3200-3100 BC

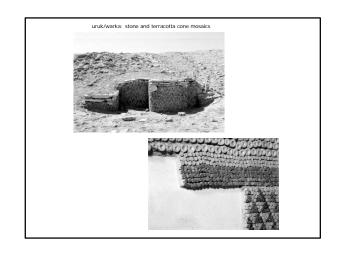


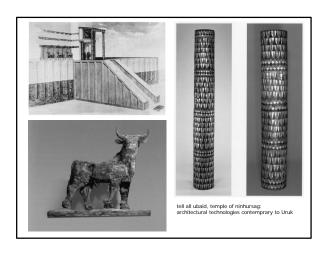


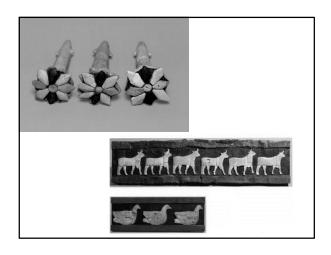


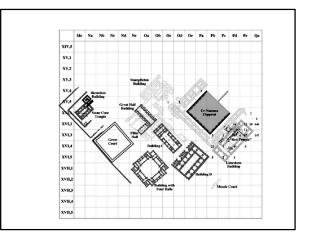


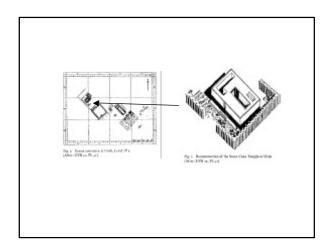




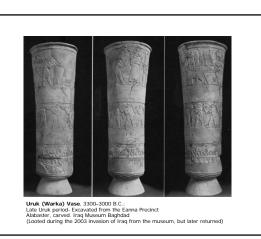


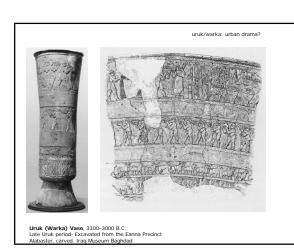


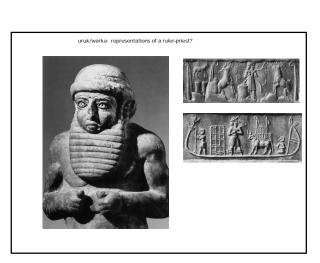


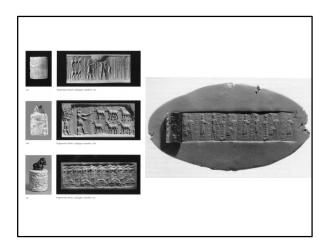


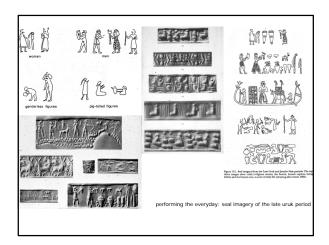


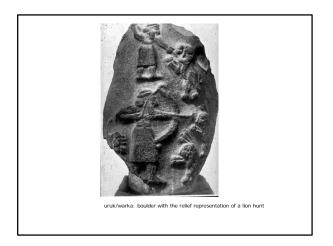


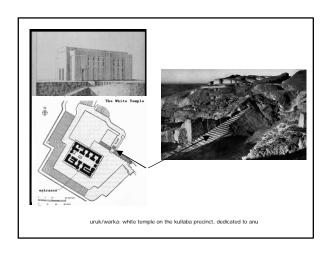


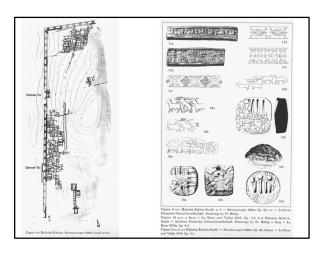


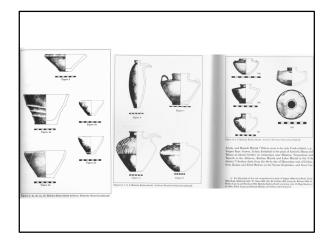


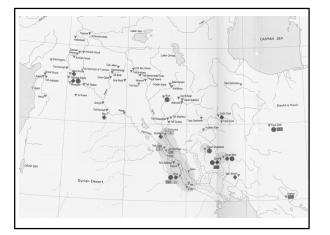












Nippur: cities and imagination



65 den-líl á-dam-kù ki-a HAR-ra-za 66 nibruki uru ní-za ši-im-mi-dù-dù-àm

Enlil when you mapped out the holy settlement on the earth You built the city Nippur by yourself

Sumerian Composition "Hymn to Enlil" Lines 65-66 (D. Reisman 1969)

noted by i or + $\sqrt{3}$ rimagi-na-tion \\\^1-\max_i-

- the act or power of forming a mental image of something not pre-sent to the senses or never-before wholly perceived in reality.
- stories that fired the imagination
- an idealized or poetic creation



Nippur: archaeologists need imagination

Nippur: literary texts: collective imagination

Sumerian Literary Composition "Hymn to Enlil" Lines 65-73

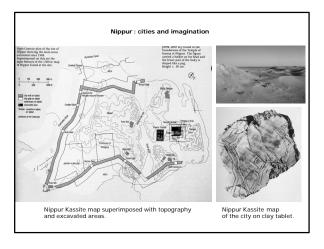
- 65 den-lil á-dam-kú ki-a HAR-ra-za Enlil when you mapped out the holy settlement on the earth
- 66 nibru^{ki} uru ní-za ši-im-mi-dù-dù-àm You built the cityNippur by yourself
- 67 ki-ùr ki-sikil-zu a-bi-du₁₀-ga The *kiur*, your pure place
- 68 ub-da-limmú-ba murub₄-ba dur-an-ki-ka ki ba-e-ni-tag-ge In the *dur-an-ki*, in the middle of the four quarters of the earth, you founded it
- 69 sahar-bi zi-kalam-ma zi-kur-kur-ra-ka Its soil is the life of the land (Sumer), the life of all the foreign lands.
- 70 sig4-bi kü-huš-a uru4-na4 za-gìn-na-ka Its brickwork is gleaming gold, its foundation is lapis-lazuli.
- 71 am-gim ke-en-ge-ra si mul ba-ni-ib-bé Like a steer, it raises up its horns in Sumer,
- 72 kur-kur-re sag im-ma-da-sig-ge All the lands bow their heads,
- 73 ezen-gal-gal-bi uku-e nam-hé-a u4-bi mu-un-di-ni-ib-zal-e At its great feasts, the people spend the day in abundance.

(Translation D. Reisman 1969)

Nippur dur.an.ki="Bond of Heaven and Earth"

- pan-Mesopotamian ceremonial/cult center: residence of Enlil
 (DINGIR EN.LILKI = URUNIB.RUKI = Nippur)
- city of decisions: place of divine and human assemblies (puhrum at Nippur's Ubsu-ukkinak).
- center of the Kengir league: supra-political center
- · city of scribes and scholars: a giant library, a center of learning







1 **tùr me nun-e ba-dù-a-bi** after the cattle-pen had been built for the foremost rituals —

Nippur Lament (S. Tinney 1996)

- 2 **líl-e a-gin**₇ **íb-sìg ki-bi me-na gi**₄-**gi**₄ how did it become haunted? when will it be restored
- 3 **še-eb na-ám-tar-ra ba-mar-ra-ri** (where) once the brick of fate had been laid—
- 4 **me-bi a-ba-a in-bir-re a-še-er ba-da-ta**b who scattered its rituals (*me*)? the lamentation is reprised:
- 5 **ŠID nibru**^{ki} **èš dur-an-ki-a** The storeroom of Nippur, shrine Duranki
- 6 **líl-e a-gin**₇ **íb-sìg ki-bi me-na gi**₄-**gi**₄ how did it become haunted? when will it be restored?

Nippur Lament (S. Tinney 1996)

- 12 **úru zi šà-sù-ga a-gin**₇ **ba-an-[dù]** how did the true city become empty
- 13 **giš-hur kal-la-bi šu-pe-el-la ba-a[b-dug₄]** its precious designs have been defiled!

Nippur Lament (S. Tinney 1996)

1 **tùr me nun-e ba-dù-a-bi** after the cattle-pen had been built for the foremost rituals —

Nippur Lament (S. Tinney 1996)