

BIBLICAL AND ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN
STUDIES IN HONOR OF
P. KYLE MCCARTER JR.

ANCIENT NEAR EAST MONOGRAPHS

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Edited by

Christopher Rollston, Susanna Garfein, and Neal H. Walls



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ABBREVIATIONS

AB	Anchor Bible
ABD	Freedman, David Noel, ed. <i>Anchor Bible Dictionary</i> . 6 vols. New York: Doubleday, 1992.
ABL	Harper, Robert F., ed. <i>Assyrian and Babylonian Letters Belonging to the Kouyunjik Collections of the British Museum</i> . 14 vols. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1892–1914.
ABS	Archaeology and Biblical Studies
ABSA	Annual of the British School at Athens
ACOR	American Center of Oriental Research
ADAJ	<i>Annual of the Department of Antiquities Jordan</i>
ADPV	Abhandlungen des Deutschen Palästina-Vereins
AfO	<i>Archiv für Orientforschung</i>
AHw	von Soden, W., B. Meissner, and M. P. Streck. <i>Akkadisches Handwörterbuch: unter Benutzung des lexikalischen Nachlasses von Bruno Meissner (1868–1947)</i> . Wiesbaden: Harrasowitz, 1965–1981.
AION	<i>Annali dell'Istituto Universitario Orientale di Napoli</i>
AJA	<i>American Journal of Archaeology</i>
ALASP	Abhandlungen zur Literatur Alt-Syrien-Palästinas und Mesopotamiens
ANEP	<i>The Ancient Near East in Pictures Relating to the Old Testament</i> . 2nd ed. Edited by James B. Pritchard. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994
ANESSup	Ancient Near Eastern Studies Supplement
ANET	Pritchard, James B., ed. <i>Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament</i> . 3rd ed. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1969.
AO	<i>Aula Orientalis</i>
AOAT	Alter Orient und Altes Testament
AUSS	<i>Andrews University Seminary Studies</i>
AzTh	Arbeiten zur Theologie
BaM	<i>Baghdader Mitteilungen</i>
BAR	<i>Biblical Archaeology Review</i>
BARI	BAR International Series

BATSH	Berichte der Ausbragung Tall Šēḥ Ḥamad/Dūr-Katlimmu
BBB	Bonner biblische Beiträge
<i>BBRSupp</i>	<i>Bulletin for Biblical Research, Supplements</i>
BCOTWP	Baker Commentary on the Old Testament Wisdom and Psalms
<i>BDAG</i>	Danker, Frederick W., Walter Bauer, William F. Arndt, and F. Wilbur Gingrich. <i>Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</i> . 3rd ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000 (Danker-Bauer-Arndt-Gingrich).
BDB	Brown, Francis, S. R. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs. <i>A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> . Oxford: Clarendon, 1907.
BEATAJ	Beiträge zur Erforschung des Alten Testaments und des Antiken Judentums
<i>BHS</i>	<i>Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia</i>
<i>BHQ</i>	<i>Biblia Hebraica Quinta</i>
<i>BibInt</i>	<i>Biblical Interpretation</i>
<i>BO</i>	<i>Bibbia e Oriente</i>
BM	British Museum
<i>BMMA</i>	<i>Bulletin of the Metropolitan Museum of Art</i>
BTAVO	Beihefte zum Tübinger Atlas des Vorderen Orients
<i>BTZ</i>	<i>Berliner Theologische Zeitschrift</i>
BZAW	Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft
<i>CAD</i>	<i>Chicago Assyrian Dictionary</i>
<i>CBQ</i>	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
CBQMS	Catholic Biblical Quarterly Monograph Series
CC	Covenant Code
CDLI	Cuneiform Digital Library Initiative
CHANE	Culture and History of the Ancient Near East
<i>COS</i>	Hallo, William W., and K. Lawson Younger Jr., eds. <i>The Context of Scripture</i> . 4 vols. Leiden: Brill, 1997–2017.
CRAI	Comptes rendus de l'Académie des inscriptions et belles-lettres
CT	Cuneiform Texts from Babylonian Tablets in the British Museum
CTN	Cuneiform Texts from Nimrud
D	Deuteronomistic Source (of the Pentateuch)
D stem	<i>Dubbelstamm</i> or Hebrew Pi‘‘ēl stem
<i>DDD</i>	van der Toorn, Karel, Bob Becking, and Pieter W. van der Horst, eds. <i>Dictionary of Deities and Demons in the Bible</i> . Leiden: Brill, 1995. 2nd rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999.
DJD	Discoveries in the Judaean Desert
DN	Deity Name
<i>DNWSI</i>	Hoftijzer, Jacob, and Karen Jongeling. <i>Dictionary of the North-West Semitic Inscriptions</i> . 2 vols. Leiden: Brill, 1995.
Dp	Dp or Pu‘‘al Stem
<i>DSD</i>	<i>Dead Sea Discoveries</i>
DSS	Dead Sea Scrolls

Dt	Dt or Hitpa‘‘el Stem
DtrG	Deuteronomistische Geschichtswerk
DULAT ³	del Olmo Lete, Gregorio, and Joaquín Sanmartín. <i>A Dictionary of the Ugaritic Language in the Alphabetic Tradition</i> . 3rd ed. 2 vols. Translated by Wilfred G. E. Watson. HdO 1.112. Leiden: Brill, 2015.
E	Elohism Source (of the Pentateuch)
EA	El Amarna
EBib	<i>Études bibliques</i>
EJL	Early Judaism and Its Literature
ErIsr	<i>Eretz-Israel</i>
ETCSL	<i>Electronic Text Corpus of Sumerian Literature</i>
FAT	Forschungen zum Altentestament
FRLANT	Forschungen zur Religion und Literatur des Alten und Neuen Testaments
G	<i>Grundstamm</i> or Qal
GAG	<i>Grundriss der akkadischen Grammatik</i> . Wolfram von Soden. 2nd ed. Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1969.
GKC	Kautzsch, Emil, ed. <i>Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar</i> . Translated by Arther E. Cowley. 2nd ed. Oxford: Clarendon, 1910.
GMD	Meyer, Rudolf, and Herbert Donner. <i>Wilhelm Gesenius' hebräisches und aramäisches Handwörterbuch über das Alte Testament</i> . 18th ed. Berlin: Springer, 2013.
GN	Geographic Name
Gt	<i>Grundstamm</i> with Infixes t
HALOT	Koehler, Ludwig, Walter Baumgartner, and Johann J. Stamm. <i>The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> . Translated and edited under the supervision of Mervyn E. J. Richardson. 4 vols. Leiden: Brill, 1994–1999.
HBCE	The Hebrew Bible: A Critical Edition
HBM	Hebrew Bible Monographs
HdO	Handbuch der Orientalistik
HThKAT	Herders Theologischer Kommentar zum Alten Testament
HUCA	<i>Hebrew Union College Annual</i>
HSM	Harvard Semitic Monographs
HSS	Harvard Semitic Studies
IBHS	Waltke, Bruce K., and Michael O'Connor. <i>An Introduction to Biblical Hebrew Syntax</i> . Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 1990.
ICC	International Critical Commentary
IEJ	<i>Israel Exploration Journal</i>
IJNA	<i>The International Journal of Nautical Archaeology</i>
ILN	<i>Illustrated London News</i>
IO	Indirect Object
J	Jahwist Source (of the Pentateuch)

- JAEI* *Journal of Ancient Egyptian Interconnections*
JAOS *Journal of the American Oriental Society*
 Jastrow Jastrow, Morris, comp. *A Dictionary of the Targumim, the Talmud Babli and Yerushalmi, and the Midrashic Literature with an Index of Scriptural Quotations*. London: Luzac; New York: Putnam's Sons, 1903.
- JBL* *Journal of Biblical Literature*
JBQ *Jewish Bible Quarterly*
JCS *Journal of Cuneiform Studies*
JESHO *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*
 JM Jouon-Muraoka
JMFA *Journal of the Museum of Fine Arts*
JNES *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*
 Joüon Joüon, P., and T. Muraoka. *A Grammar of Biblical Hebrew*. 2nd ed. Rome: Gregorian Biblical Press, 2013.
- JQR* *Jewish Quarterly Review*
JRH *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*
JSOT *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament*
 JSOTSup Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplement Series
 Jub. Jubilees
 KA Kuntillet 'Ajrud Plaster Inscription
KAHAL Dietrich, Walter, and Samuel Arnet. *Konzise und aktualisierte Ausgabe des Hebräischen und Aramäischen Lexikon zum Alten Testament*. Leiden: Brill, 2013.
- KAI* Donner, H., and W. Röllig. *Kanaanäische und aramäische Inschriften*. 3 vols. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 1962–1964.
- Koya tablets in the Museum of the Directorate of Antiquities in Koya
 KTU Dietrich, Manfred, Oswald Loretz, and Joaquín Sanmartín, eds. *Die keilalphabetischen Texte aus Ugarit*. Münster: Ugarit-Verlag, 2013. 3rd enl. ed. of Dietrich, Manfred, Oswald Loretz, and Joaquín Sanmartín, eds. *KTU: The Cuneiform Alphabetic Texts from Ugarit, Ras Ibn Hani, and Other Places*. Münster: Ugarit-Verlag, 1995 (= CTU)
- LAI Library of Ancient Israel
 Lane Lane, Edward W. *An Arabic-English Lexicon*. 8 vols. London: Williams & Norgate, 1863. Repr., Beirut: Libr. du Liban, 1980.
- LHBOTS The Library of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies
 LXX Septuagint
MARI *Mari: Annales de recherches interdisciplinaires*
 MARV 1 Freydank, H. *Mittelassyrische Rechtsurkunden und Verwaltungstexte*. VAS 19. Berlin: Akademie Verlag, 1976.
 MARV 2 Freydank, H. *Mittelassyrische Rechtsurkunden und Verwaltungstexte II*. VAS 21. Berlin: Akademie, 1982.

- MARV 4 Freydank, H., and C. Fischer. *Tafeln aus Kār-Tukultī-Ninurta*. Vol. 4 of *Mittelassyrische Rechtsurkunden und Verwaltungstexte*. Ausgrabungen der Deutschen Orient-Gesellschaft in Assur. E, Inschriften 7. Keilschrifttexte aus mittelassyrischer Zeit 2. WVDOG 99. Berlin: Saarbrücker, 2001.
- MARV 5 Freydank, H., and B. Feller. *Mittelassyrische Rechtsurkunden und Verwaltungstexte V*. Ausgrabungen der Deutschen Orient-Gesellschaft in Assur. E, Inschriften 7. Keilschrifttexte aus mittelassyrischer Zeit 3. WVDOG 106. Saarbrücken: Saarbrücker, 2004.
- MARV 6 Freydank, H., and B. Feller. *Mittelassyrische Rechtsurkunden und Verwaltungstexte VI*. WVDOG 109. Saarbrücken: Saarbrücker, 2005.
- MARV 7 Freydank, H., and B. Feller. *Mittelassyrische Rechtsurkunden und Verwaltungstexte VII*. Ausgrabungen der Deutschen Orient-Gesellschaft in Assur, E. Inschriften 7. Keilschrifttexte aus mittelassyrischer Zeit 5. WVDOG 111. Saarwellingen: Saarländische, 2006.
- MARV 10 Prechel, D., H. Freydank, and B. Feller. *Mittelassyrische Rechtsurkunden und Verwaltungstexte X*. Ausgrabungen der Deutschen Orient-Gesellschaft in Assur. E, Inschriften 7. Keilschrifttexte aus mittelassyrischer Zeit 9. WVDOG 134. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2011.
- MC Mesopotamian Civilizations
- MEE Materiali epigrafici de Ebla
- MET Metropolitan Museum of Art
- MMJ *Metropolitan Museum Journal*
- MSL *Materialien zum sumerischen Lexikon/Materials for the Sumerian Lexikon*. 17 vols. Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1937–2004.
- MT Masoretic Text
- N Nip‘al Stem
- NABU *Nouvelles assyriologiques brèves et utilitaires*
- NASB New American Standard Bible
- NEA *Near Eastern Archaeology*
- NEAEHL *The New Encyclopedia of Archaeological Excavations in the Holy Land*. 5 vols. Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society, 1993–2008.
- NET New English Translation
- NICOT New International Commentary on the Old Testament
- NIDOTTE VanGemeren, Willem A., ed. *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis*. 5 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.
- NIV New International Version
- NKJV New King James Version

NLT	New Living Translation
NRSV	New Revised Standard Version
OBO	Orbis Biblicus et Orientalis
<i>OED</i>	Oxford English Dictionary
OG	Old Greek
OIP	Oriental Institute Publications
<i>OJA</i>	<i>Oxford Journal of Archaeology</i>
OLA	Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta
<i>Or</i>	<i>Orientalia (NS)</i>
<i>OrAn</i>	<i>Oriens Antiquus</i>
OTL	Old Testament Library
P	Priestly Source (of the Pentateuch)
P.Beatty	Chester Beatty Biblical Papyri
P.Harr.	The Rendel Harris Papyri of Woodbrooke College, Birmingham
<i>PEQ</i>	<i>Palestine Exploration Quarterly</i>
PIHANS	Publications de l'Institut historique-archéologique néerlandais de Stamboul
<i>PMLA</i>	<i>Publication of the Modern Language Association of America</i>
PN	Personal Name
<i>PNA</i>	Parpola, Simo, ed. <i>The Prosopography of the Neo-Assyrian Empire</i> . 3 vols. in 6. Helsinki: Neo-Assyrian Text Corpus Project, 1998–2011.
PPG ³	Friedrich, J., W. Röllig, and M. G. Amadasi Guzzo. <i>Phönizisch-Punische Grammatik</i> . 3rd ed. AO 55. Roma: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1999.
<i>RA</i>	<i>Revue d'assyriologie et d'archéologie orientale</i>
<i>RES</i>	<i>Répertoire d'épigraphie sémitique publié par la Commission du Corpus inscriptionum semiticarum. Paris, 1900–.</i>
<i>RevQ</i>	<i>Revue de Qumran</i>
RGRW	Religions in the Graeco-Roman World
RGTC	Répertoire géographique des textes cuneiforms
<i>RHPR</i>	<i>Revue d'histoire et de philosophie religieuses</i>
<i>RHR</i>	<i>Revue de l'histoire des religions</i>
RIMA	The Royal Inscriptions of Mesopotamia, Assyrian Periods
RIMA 2	Grayson, A. K. <i>Assyrian Rulers of the Early First Millennium BC (1114–859 BC)</i> . Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1991.
RIMA 3	Grayson, A. K. <i>Assyrian Rulers of the Early First Millennium BC II (858–745 BC)</i> . Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1996.
RINAP	Royal Inscriptions of the Neo-Assyrian Period
RINAP 1	Tadmor, H., and S. Yamada, <i>The Royal Inscriptions of Tiglathpileser III (744–727 BC), and Shalmaneser V (726–722 BC), Kings of Assyria</i> . RINAP 1. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2011.

- RINAP 3.1 Grayson, A. K., and J. Novotny. *The Royal Inscriptions of Sennacherib, King of Assyria (704–681 BC), Part 1*. RINAP 3.1. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2012
- RIA* Ebeling, Erich, et al. *Reallexikon der Assyriologie*. Berlin: de Gruyter, 1928–.
- RSV Revised Standard Version
- SAA 1 Parpola, Simo. *The Correspondence of Sargon II, Part I: Letters from Assyria and the West*. SAA 1. Helsinki: Helsinki University Press, 1987.
- SAA 2 Parpola, Simo, and Kazuko Watanabe, eds. *Neo-Assyrian Treaties and Loyalty Oaths*, State Archives of Assyria 2. Helsinki: Helsinki University Press, 1988.
- SAA 5 Lanfranchi, G. B., and S. Parpola. *The Correspondence of Sargon II, Part II. Letters from the Northeastern Provinces*. SAA 5. Helsinki: Helsinki University Press, 1990.
- SAA 10 Parpola, S. *Letters from Assyrian and Babylonian Scholars*. SAA 10. Helsinki: Helsinki University Press, 1993.
- SAA 11 Fales, F. M., and J. N. Postgate. *Imperial Administrative Records, Part II. Provincial and Military Administration*. SAA 11. Helsinki: Helsinki University Press, 1995.
- SAA 19 Luukko, M. *The Correspondence of Tiglath-pileser III and Sargon II from Calah/Nimrud*. SAA 19. Helsinki: The Neo-Assyrian Text Corpus Project, 2012.
- SAOC Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilizations
- SBLDS Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series
- SBLSPS Society of Biblical Literature Sources for Biblical Study
- SEL* *Studi Epigrafici e Linguistici*
- SHAJ Studies in the History and Archaeology of Jordan
- SHCANE Studies in the History and Culture of the Ancient Near East
- SM tablets in the Suleimaniya Museum
- Sokoloff Sokoloff, Michael. *A Dictionary of Jewish Palestinian Aramaic of the Byzantine Period*. Ramat-Gan: Bar Ilan University Press, 1990.
- SP Samaritan Pentateuch
- SPCK Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge
- SQ Tell Satu Qala
- Sub. Subject
- SSI 2* Gibson, J. C. L. *Textbook of Syrian Semitic Inscriptions. Volume 2: Aramaic Inscriptions including inscriptions in the dialect of Zinjirli*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1975.
- StAT Studien zu den Assur Texten
- SWBA Social World of Biblical Antiquity
- Sym. Symmachus
- Syr. Syriac
- TA* *Tel Aviv*

<i>TAD</i>	Porten, Bezalel, and Ada Yardeni. <i>Textbook of Aramaic Documents from Ancient Egypt</i> . 4 vols. (= A–D). Jerusalem: Hebrew University Press, 1986–1999.
TAPS	Transactions of the American Philosophical Society
<i>TDOT</i>	Botterweck, G. Johannes, and Helmer Ringgren, eds. <i>Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament</i> . Translated by John T. Willis et al. 17 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974–2021.
T. Levi	Testament of Levi
Tg.	Targum
TN	Topographic Name
TSAJ	Texte und Studien zum antiken Judentum
<i>TWAT</i>	<i>Theologische Wörterbuch</i>
<i>TynB</i>	<i>Tyndale Bulletin</i>
<i>UF</i>	<i>Ugarit-Forschungen</i>
UPMM	University of Pennsylvania Museum Monographs
Vg.	Vulgate
<i>VT</i>	<i>Vetus Testamentum</i>
VTSup	Supplements to Vetus Testamentum
WAW	Writing from the Ancient World
WAWSup	Writings from the Ancient World Supplement Series
WVDOG	Wissenschaftliche Veröffentlichungen der Deutschen Orient-Gesellschaft
<i>ZA</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für Assyriologie</i>
<i>ZÄS</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für ägyptische Sprache und Altertumskunde</i>
<i>ZAW</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
Zorell	Zorell, Franz. <i>Lexicon Hebraicum et Aramaicum Veteris Testamenti</i> . Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1968.

P. Kyle McCarter Jr. as Teacher: Musings from Grateful Students

Christopher A. Rollston, Susanna Garfein, and Neal Walls

The breadth of P. Kyle McCarter Jr.'s teaching is particularly impressive. For example, as part of the three-year history cycle (a year of Mesopotamian history, a year of Egyptian history, and a year of Syro-Palestinian history) at Johns Hopkins University, Kyle consistently taught the Syro-Palestinian history course. This course was a foundational course for all graduate students in the program. Kyle would cover not only the history of the Levant, but he would also integrate much of Mesopotamian and Egyptian history because of the many ways in which the history of the entire region intersected at so many levels. He also often taught the Dead Sea Scrolls, historical Hebrew grammar, Ugaritic, textual criticism of the Hebrew Bible (with emphasis not just on variant readings in the Masoretic Text, but also the textual evidence from the Dead Sea Scrolls, LXX, and the Vulgate), Northwest Semitic Epigraphy (with a full repertoire, for example, of Phoenician, Hebrew, Aramaic, Moabite, Ammonite texts), the Canaanite of the Amarna Letters, and, of course, various biblical text courses in the original languages. On occasion, upon first arriving at Hopkins from the University of Virginia, he even taught Akkadian. This was not all, of course—he also taught a course in the history of medicine, a course which was especially in demand among pre-meds. For many years, he even taught a master's course in the Arthurian legends. Although he never taught a course in the writings of Mark Twain, he certainly could have, since he would often regale us with apt quotes from Twain. Indeed, the breadth of Kyle's knowledge knows no bounds.

Kyle is a truly gifted lecturer and absolutely sterling in graduate seminars as well. This is perhaps the case because in addition to having full control of the field, he is a raconteur. And since much of ancient history is narrative in nature, Kyle's deft retellings are often just plain scintillating. Of course, some of Kyle's courses were for graduate students only, but a number of his courses were open to graduate students and undergraduate students (e.g., History of Syria-Palestine, Dead Sea Scrolls, Introduction to the Hebrew Bible). The classes with graduate

and undergraduate populations were frequently quite large, with sixty, eighty, or even one hundred students. Kyle's courses were always very heavy laden with content. We learned so much from him about the field. But there is something else that he modeled in the courses with undergraduate populations: good pedagogy. For example, the syllabus for a McCarter course with undergraduate populations was masterful and detailed, and yet accessible. In addition, Kyle always gave a study-guide prior to the mid-term and final exams. On top of that, he held a review session an evening or two before the exams. Naturally, graduate students benefited from these measures, but we also learned something else (something that was "caught, not taught"): namely, various measures that could be taken to ensure that complicated aspects of ancient Near Eastern history could be made palatable and comprehensible for undergraduates.

The methodology of his graduate courses also deserves particular emphasis. As has been noted, Kyle is a marvelous teacher across the board. In graduate courses, the details of the text were foregrounded: the readings, the variant readings, proper vocalizations of epigraphic texts (for which the vowels needed to be reconstructed), nuances of philology and syntax, and the socio-historical implications of the text. Sometimes we would cover twenty or thirty lines in a complicated text, but when necessity demanded, we might just do four or five lines of an especially difficult text. In short, his teaching was a reflection of his own particularly careful scholarship. We are the beneficiaries of a master teacher.

The culminating piece of a graduate program is the dissertation, and in this too Kyle was superb. His approach was much like that of his own teacher, Frank Moore Cross. That is, Kyle would work with a student in the selection of a topic, but he normally wished for the student to take the lead in this. Normally a few topics would be bandied about during the course of a meeting or two or three with Kyle, and then a topic would be settled on. The prospectus was then written and approved. And then at that point the hard work really began. Kyle would guide gently. He would make astute observations in conversations, as we progressed. He would make suggestions for us to probe, to consider. He would suggest corrections in the angle or approach, and he would wait patiently as we produced a compelling, well-documented, piece of original research.

Finally, a few words should be said about Kyle as fulfilling the *Vater* part of the term *Doktorvater*. Life and career for a newly minted PhD is rarely a simple, straight line. There can be tumult, ups and downs. And sometimes these sorts of things can continue for many years. Kyle as *Doktorvater* is always there, willing to talk, willing to provide wise counsel, the sort of person who can provide encouragement, exhortation, and perspective. For all of these aspects of our beloved teacher, we are most grateful. We shall always be in your debt. You have our respect, our appreciation, and our admiration. Thank you, Kyle!

Brilliance Fulfilled: P. Kyle McCarter Jr. and His Contribution to Near Eastern Scholarship and Scholars

Jonathan Rosenbaum

A *Festschrift* stands as the quintessential tribute to professorial achievement. Reserved for those rare scholars who represent the epitome of the academy's ideals, it brings together the research of colleagues, students, and those whom the honoree has deeply influenced. By those standards, P. Kyle McCarter Jr. is most deserving of the present, august volume. His accomplishments span the full range of academic attainment and have set a standard worthy of both honor and emulation.

From the beginning, Kyle's profound erudition, control of difficult, disparate sources, and striking originality of thought were evident. I first met him in 1972 when we were both part of a cohort of graduate students who had been drawn to Harvard's program in Biblical and Near Eastern studies by a renowned faculty at the center of which were Frank Moore Cross Jr. and G. Ernest Wright. Many of those students would go on to shape the fields of Biblical studies and ancient Near Eastern history, language, and archaeology. The group included such later luminaries as Richard E. Friedman, Leonard J. Greenspoon, Baruch Halpern, Larry Herr, Jon D. Levenson, Robert A. Oden, Eugene Ulrich, and James VanderKam, to name a few.

The pinnacle course in our program possessed the inappropriately innocent name of Hebrew 200. It was a graduate seminar devoted to research in which students presented papers that were disseminated in advance and formally critiqued by a student and a faculty critic. All students in the program were normally required to enroll or attend until they had completed their coursework. Faculty members were typically present *en masse*.

Kyle's paper dealt with a word that had long vexed Biblical scholars, especially because it stands in plain sight, first appearing in the opening of the Garden of Eden story (Gen 2:6). The word is מַיִם or with the *yod mater* מַיִם , variously translated $\text{\pi\eta\gamma\gamma\eta}$, "source" (LXX), "mist" (KJV), "moisture" (RSV), or "flow" (JPS). An additional prominent appearance is in 2 Sam 22:19 (= Ps 18:19),

traditionally translated as “calamity” or “grief” (Septuagint: θλίψεως). In other words, the real meaning of the word was unknown.

Starting with a 1907 scholarly proposal that the word 𐤊𐤍 is related to the Sumerian *id*, the cosmic river, Kyle showed that the word relates to the river ordeal in Mesopotamia and developed an Israelite interpretation of its own. He then applied it to virtually every Biblical occurrence, and it fit.

His systematic, convincing solution to a problem that had baffled scholars and translators for centuries created a memorable reaction at the seminar. The term “brilliant” was rarely used by the faculty. It was reserved as the ultimate accolade and normally accorded to the work of senior scholars, but that day it was applied to Kyle’s presentation. At a time when graduate student papers were rarely published in major refereed journals, Kyle’s quickly appeared.¹

That accomplishment was a harbinger of scholarly renown. By the time Kyle completed his dissertation in 1974, he had published two coauthored articles that demonstrated his prowess as an epigrapher and paleographer.² The publication of his dissertation³ amplified that status as he entered the scholarly debate on when the Greeks borrowed the Phoenician alphabet⁴ and convincingly addressed the competing proposals of Hellenists and Semitists. Reviews of the dissertation buttressed the importance of his contribution.⁵

Kyle’s initial academic appointment was at the University of Virginia where in eight years (1974–1982) he rose to full professor. During that period, he published a two-volume work that constituted the first of his *magna opera*. His Anchor Bible commentary on I and II Samuel (1980 and 1984, respectively)⁶ established a format that included a lucid, extensive introduction, an original translation, and discrete scholarly and popular notes. It enhanced the knowledge of both the specialist and the lay reader. Academic reviewers acknowledged Kyle’s achievement of this central, dual goal of the Anchor Bible series.⁷ Yet, the Samuel volumes went further. The original translation was eclectic, based on the

¹ P. Kyle McCarter Jr., “The River Ordeal in Israelite Literature,” *HTR* 60:4 (1973): 403–12.

² P. Kyle McCarter Jr. and Frank Moore Cross, “Two Archaic Inscriptions on Clay Objects from Byblus,” *Rivista di Studi Fenici* 1 (1973): 3–8; P. Kyle McCarter Jr. and Robert B. Coote, “The Spatula Inscription from Byblus,” *BASOR* 212 (1973): 16–21.

³ P. Kyle McCarter Jr., *The Antiquity of the Greek Alphabet and the Early Phoenician Scripts*, HSM 9 (Missoula, MT: Scholars; Harvard Semitic Museum, 1975).

⁴ P. K. McCarter Jr., *The Antiquity of the Greek Alphabet and the Early Phoenician Scripts in CBQ* 41 (1979): 138–39.

⁵ E.g., William C. West III, Review of *The Antiquity of the Greek Alphabet and the Early Phoenician Scripts*, by P. Kyle McCarter Jr., *JAOS* 98 (1978): 346–47.

⁶ P. Kyle McCarter Jr., *I Samuel: A New Translation with Introduction, Notes, and Commentary*, AB 8 (Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1980); McCarter, *II Samuel: A New Translation with Introduction, Notes, and Commentary*, AB 9 (Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1984).

⁷ E.g., Dennis Pardee, Review of *I Samuel: A New Translation with Introduction, Notes and Commentary*, by P. Kyle McCarter Jr., *JNES* 42 (1983): 238–40.

MT and its variants, a reconstructed OG utilizing the various Septuagint families, and the Samuel texts of the Dead Sea Scrolls. The work also proposed a three-stage development of the literary history of Samuel, which identified earlier narrative sources and supplied key data for further discussions of the historicity of the text.

In 1984, philanthropists Harvey and Lyn Meyerhoff established the W. F. Albright Chair in Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Studies at Johns Hopkins University. Kyle became its inaugural occupant, a particularly fitting and serendipitous combination of scholarly meritocracy and symbolism.⁸ Albright, of course, had studied and taught at Hopkins and had trained a coterie of biblical scholars including perhaps his most distinguished student, Kyle's *Doktorvater*, Frank M. Cross. Albright's methodological approach to biblical studies applied critical reasoning and scientific method to archaeology without a commitment for or against the historicity of the biblical text. Albright and his students developed ceramic and palaeographical typologies and helped refine stratigraphy. They contributed abundantly to understanding the history, literature, and religion of ancient Israel, doing so by assessing the Bible based on the history, literature, and archaeology of the ancient Near East. Kyle, Albright's "grandstudent," exemplified this ideal.

As Albright Professor, Kyle's publications earned him recognition as one of the world's leading epigraphers and paleographers as well as a celebrated biblical scholar. Directors of major excavations such as Beth-Shemesh and Ashkelon turned to him as the primary interpreter of their epigraphic discoveries. When the *editio princeps* of the Tel Zayit abecedarium—one of the earliest examples of the complete Paleo-Hebrew or early Phoenician alphabet appeared⁹—Kyle's analysis and subsequent paleographical notes in the fuller publication¹⁰ confirmed its significance. His conclusion that the inscription (and the earlier 'Izbet Şarṭah abecedarium) "already exhibits characteristics that anticipate the distinctive features of the Hebrew national script"¹¹ informed the scholarly debate. Kyle published influential paleographic studies on the Deir 'Alla Plaster¹² texts along with other

⁸ The chair is now occupied by Kyle's successor, Alice H. Mandell, a formidable scholar and an asset to the field.

⁹ Ron E. Tappy, P. Kyle McCarter Jr., Marilyn J. Lundberg, and Bruce Zuckerman, "An Abecedarium of the Mid-Tenth Century B.C.E. from the Judaean Shephelah," *BASOR* 334 (2006): 5–46.

¹⁰ McCarter, Peter Kyle, "Paleographic Notes on the Tel Zayit Abecedarium," in *Literate Culture and Tenth-Century Canaan: The Tel Zayit Abecedarium in Context*, ed. Ron E. Tappy and Peter Kyle McCarter (Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2008), 45–60.

¹¹ Tappy and McCarter, *Literate Culture*, 56.

¹² P. Kyle McCarter Jr., "The Balaam Texts from Deir Alla: The First Combination," *BASOR* 239 (1980): 49–60. See also "The Dialect of the Deir 'Alla Texts," in *The Balaam Text from Deir 'Alla Re-evaluated: Proceedings of the International Symposium Held at Leiden August 21–24, 1989*, ed. J. Hoftijzer (Leiden: Brill, 1991), 87–99.

epigraphic discoveries, including those from Kuntillet 'Ajrud and Khirbet el-Qom.¹³

He also advanced our understanding of the religion of ancient Israel.¹⁴ Withal, his analysis of the el-Hol inscriptions is particularly noteworthy. It documented the earliest date for the alphabet to the nineteenth century BCE and placed such writing, at least partially, in Egypt during the late Middle Kingdom.¹⁵

Teaching is of course a regular duty of most faculty members in higher education, but, for Kyle, teaching did not end in the classroom. His book on textual criticism was an early example of his commitment to translating the fruits of academic scholarship into language and concepts accessible to students and learned lay people. In it he shared his mastery of text criticism in an elegant methodological handbook that made a complex and technical subject broadly comprehensible.¹⁶ He thus built on his rigorous scholarship to contribute pedagogically. While producing pivotal, scholarly studies in epigraphy, paleography, and biblical literature and history, he authored engaging books and articles that enlightened the public while remaining faithful to scholarship. His chapter on the patriarchal period in *Ancient Israel: From Abraham to the Roman Destruction of the Temple*, his book on ancient inscriptions, the published symposium on the rise of ancient Israel, and a dozen articles in the *Biblical Archaeology Review*—all aimed at the nonspecialist—illustrate Kyle's commitment to sharing the methods and products of scholarly research with a wider audience.¹⁷

Beyond his scholarly and public contributions, Kyle became an academic builder. When he arrived at Hopkins, he joined a small but respected faculty in ancient Near Eastern studies consisting of four full-time faculty and an associated scholar from a sister Institution. Kyle took on the chairmanship of the department and, with the support of the university administration, systematically expanded its

¹³ See numerous articles in *Monumental Inscriptions from the Biblical World*, vol. 2 of *The Context of Scripture*, ed. William W. Hallo and K. Lawson Younger (Leiden: Brill, 2000).

¹⁴ P. Kyle McCarter Jr., "Aspects of the Religion of the Israelite Monarchy: Biblical and Epigraphic Data," in *Ancient Israelite Religion: Essays in Honor of Frank Moore Cross*, ed. P. D. Hanson, S. D. McBride, and P. D. Miller Jr. (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1987), 137–55. See also McCarter, "The Origins of Israelite Religion," in *The Rise of Ancient Israel: Symposium at the Smithsonian Institution October 26, 1991*, ed. Hershel Shanks, William G. Dever, Baruch Halpern, and P. Kyle McCarter (Washington, DC: Biblical Archaeological Society, 1992), 118–41.

¹⁵ J. C. Darnell et al., *Two Early Alphabetic Inscriptions from the Wadi el-Hol*, ASOR Annual 59.2 (2006): 64–124, esp. 90.

¹⁶ P. Kyle McCarter Jr., *Textual Criticism: Recovering the Text of the Hebrew Bible*, Guides to Biblical Scholarship, Old Testament Guides (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1986).

¹⁷ See P. Kyle McCarter Jr., revised by Ron S. Hendel, "The Patriarchal Age: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob," in *Ancient Israel: From Abraham to the Roman Destruction of the Temple*, ed. Hershel Shanks, 3rd ed. (Washington, DC: Biblical Archaeology Society, 2011), 1–31; P. Kyle McCarter Jr., *Ancient Inscriptions: Voices from the Biblical World* (Washington, DC: Biblical Archaeology Society, 1996); Shanks, Dever, Halpern, and McCarter, *Rise of Ancient Israel*.

offerings and recruited faculty. He also raised funds for a new endowed chair. As of this writing, there are nine full-time faculty (three archaeologists, two Egyptologists, two Assyriologists, and two biblical scholars), in addition to five others: two emeriti (one of whom is Kyle himself) and three other associated scholars. This feat is particularly remarkable in light of the many leading academic departments in Near Eastern studies that have witnessed marked decreases in faculty over the same period. At a time when the humanities as a whole have been reduced by attrition, exigency, or administrative decisions, Kyle's success in developing an august faculty is especially profound.

Great research faculties attract gifted students whom they immerse in the field's methodologies and literature with the goal of creating the next generation of pathbreaking researchers. Amid his many other successes, Kyle personifies such mentors, directing some twenty-five dissertations. His students have erected new scholarly structures on the solid foundation that Kyle has laid. Many have risen to senior academic positions. Their participation in this *Festschrift* demonstrates their appreciation of Kyle. The lead editor, Christopher A. Rollston, and his two associate editors received their doctorates from Kyle. In addition, his students have authored a quarter of the articles.

The other articles come from colleagues who are among the foremost scholars of the Bible and the ancient Near East. In a tribute to Frank Cross, Kyle observed that "many who never studied formally with him also consider themselves his students."¹⁸ It is clear that this observation applies now to Kyle as well.

As previously noted, the full publication of the Tel Zayit abecedary included a paleographical debate between Kyle's conclusion that the script reflected early elements of the later Hebrew national script and a competing proposal that it was "written in a good Phoenician script of the late 10th or very early 9th century BCE." The proponent of the opposing position was the lead editor of this *Festschrift*, Christopher Rollston.¹⁹ His respectful but forceful disagreement exemplifies precisely the pedagogic principle that both Cross and Kyle espoused and proffered: independence of thought among their students is paramount, even when—no, especially when—such thinking challenges their own positions.

For almost half a century, I have had the privilege of knowing Kyle as a colleague and a friend. He served on my dissertation committee (it was to him that Frank Cross turned to certify that my work contained all the pertinent inscriptions). Later, I wrote a review of his published dissertation²⁰ and turned to him to present at a colloquium and the annual meeting of a learned society. Beyond his

¹⁸ P. Kyle McCarter Jr., "Frank Moore Cross, Scholar and Teacher," *EI* 26 (1999): x–xi.

¹⁹ Christopher A. Rollston, "The Phoenician Script of the Tel Zayit Abecedary and Putative Evidence for Israelite Literacy," in *Literate Culture and Tenth-Century Canaan: The Tel Zayit Abecedary in Context*, ed. Ron E. Tappy and P. Kyle McCarter (Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2008), 61–96, esp. 90–96.

²⁰ McCarter, "Antiquity of the Greek Alphabet," 138–39.

greatness as a scholar, teacher, administrator, academic fundraiser, and builder, Kyle radiates kindness, graciousness, humility, elegance, and eloquence. His continuing impact on his discipline, on those who studied with him directly, and those who have done so through his meticulous publications bodes well for a future benefited by him and his academic heirs. His commitment to sharing scholarly discoveries with the broader community serves as a vibrant inspiration to current and future scholars of the Bible and the ancient Near East and of the humanities generally. P. Kyle McCarter Jr. has earned the admiration of his colleagues and the appreciation of society and thus richly deserves this *Festschrift*, the ultimate academic honor.

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Introduction

Christopher A. Rollston

The breadth of P. Kyle McCarter Jr.'s knowledge and scholarly emphases are truly vast; it has often seemed to me that his ken knows no bounds. Indeed, I have long considered Kyle to be a veritable polymath, with knowledge and interests spanning the humanities, social sciences, hard sciences, and even mathematics. As for his control of the fields of biblical and ancient Near Eastern studies, it seems to me to be boundless, with his peerless knowledge of the primary sources and his profound knowledge of the secondary literature as well. Thus, in keeping with this, it is predictable that this *Festschrift* honoring him would range broadly across the field.

A core component of Kyle's focus has been the Hebrew Bible, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the Septuagint. Therefore, the first section of Kyle's volume focuses on these very subjects, with articles from all three of the major components of the Hebrew Bible: the law, the former and latter prophets, and the writings. Moreover, in keeping with Kyle's own scholarly interests, a number of the articles focus on comparative analyses of readings in the Masoretic Text, the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Septuagint, and beyond.

Of course, someone might suggest that Kyle's first love is Northwest Semitic epigraphy, from early alphabetic inscriptions, the rise of the Phoenician script, the early history of the Greek script, and the origins and development of the Hebrew script and the Aramaic series during the first millennium BCE. There would be some truth in that statement, although my own sense is that his interests and emphases are so broad that ranking them might be difficult indeed. Furthermore, as for epigraphy, it is also important to emphasize that Kyle's interests are certainly not only in aspects of the morphology, stance, and ductus of the scripts themselves, but also in the language, syntax, phonology, and content of these inscriptions (including aspects of history and religion built into the fabric of such inscriptions). In short, epigraphy, defined broadly, has certainly been a strong emphasis of Kyle's throughout his long and illustrious career. Therefore, it will not be surprising that the second major component of the *Festschrift* is epigraphy.

The final section of this volume honoring Kyle is on archaeology. This too is most natural, since he is often in the Middle East—especially Israel—has often spent time on site at excavations, and knows the field of archaeology particularly well. The articles in this section of Kyle's volume focus on aspects of archaeology that intersect a number of his varied interests, from major sites to art-historical aspects of the field. In short, this section is a reflection of Kyle's enduring interest in the field of archaeology and the innumerable contributions archaeology has made to the field of biblical and ancient Near Eastern studies.

It is also important to mention something about the broad range of contributors to this volume. Some are friends and colleagues from his graduate school days, some are institutional colleagues with whom he has taught at various points in his career, some are his former students, and some are friends and colleagues whom Kyle has come to know because of an intersection of his work and theirs. To be sure, there are certainly various sorts of measures of a scholar's impact on the field, but one such measure, and a particularly enduring one at that, is the esteem in which colleagues, former students, and friends hold that scholar. This volume itself is evidence of Kyle's gravitas in the field and a reflection of the great appreciation his colleagues, former students, and friends feel for him, for his scholarly contributions in years past and for his continuing contributions to the field in the years to come. Thank you so very much, Kyle, for all you do.

Finally, I would like to conclude with a word of thanks. First and foremost, I would like to thank all of the contributors to this volume. It is a marvelous tribute to Kyle, and I am so grateful for your significant contributions to the volume. Kyle will be so pleased. Moreover, I am also so very grateful to Alan Lenzi and Jeffrey Stackert, the former and current editors of the series in which this volume is published, for the diligence and professionalism they have consistently brought to the table. It has been tremendous to work with them on this labor of love. Similarly, I am grateful to Nicole L. Tilford of SBL Press for all of her consistent and sterling work on this volume. And perhaps most importantly of all, I would like to thank Nathaniel Greene, a former student of mine and a distinguished young scholar in his own right, for all of his peerless labors on this volume, from corresponding with authors, to editing, typesetting, and layout. My thanks to each and every one of you!