

Erlend Gehlken, *Weather Omens of "Enūma Anu Enlil": Thunderstorms, Wind and Rain (Tablets 44-49)* (Cuneiform Monographs 43; Leiden: Brill, 2012). Pp. x, 286. Pl. 47. € 105. ISBN 978-90-04-22588-6

### HENRYK DRAWNEL SDB

Institute of Biblical Studies, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin  
address: Aleje Racławickie 14, 20-950 Lublin, Poland; e-mail: hdrawnel@kul.pl

Since the pioneering editorial work of C. Virolleaud (*Astrologie chaldéenne*, 1903-1909) the publication and study of the astrological series *Enūma Anu Enlil* has made considerable progress. E. F. Weidner established the fundamental elements of the order of tablets in the series, E. Reiner and D. Pingree (1975, 1981, 1998, 2005) published many tablets in the series' section dedicated to the star and planetary omens, and F. Rochberg-Halton (1988) produced a masterful edition of the lunar eclipse tablets (tablets 15-22). L. Verderame (2002) contributed to the knowledge of the series by presenting an edition of its first six tablets dedicated to the periods of lunar visibility. E. Gehlken in his research dedicated much time and attention to the third part of the series dedicated to weather phenomena. His article in *Baghdader Mitteilungen* published in 2005 discusses the order of tablets in that section together with a cursory introduction to its problematics. In 2008, in *Zeitschrift für Orient-Archäologie*, he published tablets 42 and 43 of the meteorological section that treat different divinatory phenomena related to thunder. The present monograph is the result of his patient study of the *EAE* weather section. It contains the first edition of tablets 44 to 49 of the weather section, and the series *Rikis gerri*, a selection of omens from the astrological series. The first part of the weather section (tablets 36-41) that deals with mist, clouds, dawn and the glow of the sunset still awaits publication.

The edition is mostly based on the texts of the series that come from Niniveh (mostly Kouyunjik material); the tablets from the city of Assur have not been taken into consideration. The publication of these ancient cuneiform texts is exemplary, with forty-seven plates that contain photographs of the tablets. A short introduction that deals with the *EAE* and technical remarks opens the text of the publication, while its second section contains the, in most cases, fragmentary text of the weather omens in score transcription with some introductory remarks, an English translation and comments. The

third part of the book contains a discussion of the sequence of the tablets in the series *Rikis gerri*, a catalogue of its known texts and a transcription of two selected tablets of the series. The final part of the book contains a short bibliography, the Akkadian meaning of the logograms, and an index of Akkadian words, names and subjects. A catalogue of the texts discussed and quoted, followed by the concordances of the tablets and plates with the photographs, complete the whole work.

Tablet 45 is followed by an excerpt from a *šātu* type commentary that treats several *EAE* tablets, but only the lines obv. ii 6-19 deal with tablet 45. A fragment of the *mukallimtu* commentary that deals with tablet 46 is to be found after the text of the tablet itself. Fragments of two commentaries (one *šātu* and one *mukallimtu*) are added after the main text of tablet 47; one finds the same two types of commentary regarding tablet 48, this time on one tablet, published after the transcription of the tablet text. Finally, tablet 49 is followed by one *šātu* and *mukallimtu* commentary on that tablet, together with a *šātu* text that comments on several *EAE* tablets. The commentaries remain very fragmentary and do not preserve much of their original text. Gehlken also lists other sources for the weather tablets related by topic and, wherever feasible, he also cites the corresponding references to the reports and letters of Assyrian and Babylonian scholars to the king.

Thus the knowledge of the content of the *EAE* series has been greatly enhanced, and the quality of the presentation of the available textual material is much to be praised. Comments and explanations have been reduced to a minimum, and the attention of the editor is concentrated on the presentation of the fragmentary weather section. Of particular usefulness is the section dedicated to the structure of each tablet. For example, the protases of tablet 44 that deals with thunder omens can be divided into two groups. The first one can be subdivided into the protases that compare Adad's "roar" to the sound emitted by an animal, and those that give the number of times Adad "utters" or "shouts" his roar. The second one probably begins with *sankullu* lightning which flashes in all four geographical directions. Tablet 45 is thematically closely related to tablet 44, for it also deals with the roll of thunder compared to different animal voices, and the claps of thunder are counted individually. Tablet 46 is also dedicated to the roll of thunder, but located in the middle (i.e. proximity) of such and such a celestial body or constellation. Tablet 47 contains omens that, in their protases, discuss lightning, rainbows, earthquakes and related phenomena, while tablet 48 bases its predictions on rain, fog and mud introduced in the protases of the omens. As pointed out already by Weidner, no text can be assigned to tablet 49 of *EAE* with any certainty, because the text (Sm 511), usually qualified as making part of tablet

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49, might belong to the *Iqqur īpuš* (§ 99) series. Hence, the presentation of the content of tablet 49 that deals in its protases with wind is restricted to the eight lines of Sm 511.

The publication of six fragmentary tablets of the *EAE* series by Gehlken is an important contribution to our knowledge of the most important document concerning Babylonian astrology. Since the evidence remains fragmentary and additional tablets still await publication, one may hope that the important project realized by Gehlken will find its continuation in his further work on the weather omens of the *Enūma Anu Enlil* series.

