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Once more on the origin of Semitic and Greek star names: an astronomic-etymological approach updated

Gennadij Kurtik and Alexander Militarev

Abstract

The contribution is a new version of the paper "From Mesopotamia to Greece: to the Origin of Semitic and Greek Star Names" once written by a Sumerologist (L. Bobrova) and etymologist (A. Militarev), and recently revised, updated and corrected in most part by a historian of the Mesopotamian astronomy (G. Kurtik). The present paper analyzes Sumerian and Akkadian (Babylonian) names of 34 celestial bodies, and their equivalents in other Semitic languages (Arabic, Hebrew, Syrian Aramaic, and Ge'ez, or ancient Ethiopian) and in Greek and Latin. Its main goal is to demonstrate the importance of Sumerian and Babylonian celestial body names as a source of corresponding terms in other cultures, up to the conventional inventory of modern astronomy, and to reveal four strategies by which other cultures drew ideas for name-giving from the treasury of Mesopotamia's lexicon of celestial bodies. Whereas one of these strategies -- echoing, or full translation, of a Sumero-Akkadian term -- is axiomatic, the other three -- shift of meaning or interpretation of a Sumero-Akkadian term; lexical, or "material" borrowing; and, especially, folk etymology, or misinterpretation -- are understudied and practically unnoticed. The authors do not focus on such complicated matters as a historical background of Mesopotamian influence, direct or indirect, on Greek culture; a direction and routes of inter-borrowing between different speaking areas other than Akkadian and their contacts with the Greek world; a chronology of all kinds of cultural contacts and influences; probable connections between the early pre-Islamic Arabic and Babylonian traditions; or the problem of identification of Mesopotamian constellation and stars. However, the data presented may give a certain impulse to further investigation of these matters, while feasible etymologies and relations established between names can even throw some light upon debatable identification cases.

Our present contribution was stimulated by the previous paper on the same subject in which A. Militarev was one of the authors (while G. Kurtik, the other of the present authors, participated as a consultant on the

Kurtik, Gennadij and Alexander Militarev, 'Once more on the origin of Semitic and Greek star names: an astronomic-etymological approach updated', *Culture and Cosmos*, Vol. 9 no 1, Spring 2005, pp. 3-43

history of astronomy), namely: *Bobrova L., Militarev A.* From Mesopotamia to Greece: to the Origin of Semitic and Greek Star Names / Die Rolle der Astronomie in der Kulturen Mesopotamiens. Hrsg. H.D.Galter. Graz 1993. S. 307-329. The goal of this contribution was, while preserving the main ideas and structure of the previous paper, at the same time to update and correct the data on the Mesopotamian, Greek and Arabic astronomy and, partly, on their linguistic component.

The fundamental and pioneering role of ancient Mesopotamian cultures in the history of astronomy is widely and duly recognised. However, the importance of Sumerian and Babylonian celestial body names as a source of corresponding terms in other cultures, up to the conventional inventory of modern astronomy, is, in our view, underestimated.

In the present study, a series of more or less known cases of full coincidence of meaning, by no means haphazard, between Sumero-Babylonian star, planet and constellation names, on the one hand, and Greek, Latin and Semitic (besides Akkadian) names, on the other hand, is analyzed and updated. It is also enlarged with instances where the Mesopotamian origin of later or modern terms either has not, though easily recognizable, drawn due attention of the students, or is not evident or even completely disguised and can be revealed only by a special etymological analysis.

There are at least four strategies, that are probably universal, by which other cultures drew ideas for name-giving from the treasury of Mesopotamia's lexicon of celestial bodies:

- (1) echoing, or full translation, of a Sumero-Akkadian term,
 - (2) shift of meaning or interpretation of the latter,
- (3) lexical, or "material" borrowing,
 - (4) folk etymology, or misinterpretation.

One should also take into consideration such additional factors in the name-giving as: (1) the constellation figure and its location on the heaven sphere; (2) a constellation deity and the corresponding mythological

notions; 3) certain astronomic laws of celestial bodies' motions. These factors do not render the above-mentioned strategies irrelevant but add complexity to the whole process.

In the present study, we are not engaged into such complicated matters as a historical background of Mesopotamian influence, direct or indirect, on Greek culture; a direction and routes of inter-borrowing between different speaking areas other than Akkadian and their contacts with the Greek world: a chronology of all kinds of cultural contacts and influences. Some of these questions, like Arabic lexical loans in Ge9ez or a Greek influence upon the late (scientific, after P. Kunitzsch) Arabic tradition, are well studied and present few difficulties. Others, like very probable connections between the early pre-Islamic (indigenous, after Kunitzsch) Arabic and Babylonian traditions remain obscure. The data presented here may give a certain impulse to further investigation.

The problem of identification is not the main purpose of this paper. In most cases, we rely upon the recent studies in the history of Mesopotamian constellations and stars. A mere partial coincidence in shape and location of Mesopotamian and Greek constellations is no obstacle to relating corresponding names. As it will be demonstrated, the ancient ways of borrowing astronomical notions and terms, with all kinds of metamorphoses they could undergo, were also far from being precise and direct.

On the other hand, we hope that feasible etymologies and relations established between names can by themselves throw some light upon debatable identification cases.

Several Hausa (Chadic), Ahaggar (Berber) and Coptic examples are quoted to demonstrate how the same strategies go on working through time and space, at least in the Afro-Asiatic/Afrasian/Semito-Hamitic speaking world.

1. Sum. mulab.sin 'The Furrow' [G. 4], [BPO 2 10]; the eastern part of Virgo including a Vir and others stars [ibid], [Koch, 1989, 80-85]; the same word was sometimes used only for aVir, the main star of this constellation [PW 320 K2], [Koch 1992 58].

Akk. (1) mulabsinnu(m) 'furrow' [CAD a1 65], [AHw 7]; a loan from Sumerian; not attested in astronomic texts.

There is a following identification in MUL.APIN I ii 10: mul ab.sin dŠa-la šu-bu-ul-tum The Furrow, Šala, the ear of corn' [HP 33]. The ear of corn is a part of the constellation ab.sin image; we see on it the figure of a standing woman who has a large spike of corn in her hands [Weidner 1967, Taf. 2], [Weidner 1927, Taf. V, 3], [AUWE 19 27, No 107].

Note that the goddess Šala has no attributes of a maiden: she has a husband(s) and a son(s) [Tallqvist 453]. One wonders if šer?u misinterpreted as šerru 'child' could have imparted the notion of virginity to the feminine image. Cf. Sem *ŝa?Vr- > Aram. 'barley' which may have given rise to the 'ear of corn' element.

- (2) $^{\text{mul}}\check{ser}$?u 'The Furrow' [CAD \S_2 327], [SpTU III 228: 109], an Akkadian translation of a Sumerian name.
- Gr. (1) Parthénos, lit. 'maiden, girl, young woman' [LS 1414], [Hei II 102]; the name is probably derived from Mesopotamian depiction of this constellation interpreted mythologically.
- (2) Stakhys 'the ear of corn', name of the main star of this constellation α Vir [LS 1635], [Hei II 102, 16].
- Ar. (1) al-sadrā? 'virgin', [Kun. 1986 100, 262-263], the sci-A translation of Greek name;
- (2) as-sunbula 'the ear of corn' [Kun. 1961 22, 108, Nr. 275], [Kun. 1986 101-102, 261-263]; this ind-A star name used for the whole constellation, rather follows the ancient Mesopotamian tradition (see MUL.APIN I ii 10) than the Greek one, where Stakhys 'the ear of corn' always designated only one star. In the Arabic tradition, as-sunbula is related to Virgo, and Spike as a star name is attested only in the translated versions of Almagest (see in this connection also [Kun. 1993 83b]).

Hbr. *šibbōlät* 'ear (of corn), spike' [HAL 1394], (modern) 'Spica' [Alcalay 2528].

Syr. šəbbəlā 'spica, Virgo' [Brock. 752].

Ge'ez sanbulā, əsanbəlāh, etc. 'Virgo' (< Arabic as-sunbula) [Leslau 505].

Hausa Zangaraniya 'Head of Corn' [Hiskett 175].

Lat. (1) Virgo, lit. 'maiden', a name of constellation and zodiacal sign.

- (2) Spica 'the ear (of corn)', the brightest star in Virgo (α Vir).
- 2. Sum. (1) ^{mul}al.lul (^{mul}al.lub) 'The Crab' [G. 14]; [BPO 2 10]; located in the area of modern Cancer. Interpereted as al.lub (al.lu₅) 'crayfish' or 'crab' [SD A III 153].
- (2) mulNAGAR [G. 294]; [BPO 2 13]; widely used in New Babylonian and later astronomic texts (but also attested in the OB lexical text [MSL XI 143, col. x 27]) as a name of constellation and zodiacal sign 'Cancer' [MSL VIII/2 93], and likely read as 'alla'. It is well known that one of the readings of NAGAR in a non-astronomic context was alla [CAD A1 354, *allanu*], [Lambert 1968 595]. In an astronomic context it may have been a reduction of *alluttu* 'crab'.
- (3) mulkušu is an alternative reading of mulNAGAR, accepted in some publications (see, for example, [Schaumb.; ACT; SpTU]) but considered outdated by most modern authors. According to Landsberger, kušu could denote two different animals, a crab and a shark (cf. [MSL VIII/2 89-93]). According to [AHw 517], kušu = kušu 'Taschenkrebs' translated as 'aquatic animal' in [CAD k 602]. In [Cohen 1973] kušu is identified as a kind of turtle, while previous identifications are rejected. However, [LBAT 1502:19] quotes a syllabic version ku-šu instead of the expected mulalla, i.e. Crab (see [Dombaz-Koch 76]. Cf. also [SpTU III, Nr. 104, 105], which suggests that kušu might itself also mean some variety of crabs.

The main meaning of NAGAR is 'Schreiner, Tischler' [AHw 710]. Its alternative reading 'alla' phonetically close to *alluttu* ('crab') accounts for NAGAR used to denote the Zodiacal sign Crab (Cancer). The alternative explanation of the fact that NAGAR was used instead of al.lul is similarity between the cuneiform signs kušu and nagar differing by one vertical wedge only (cf. Landsberger in [MSL VIII/2 93]). Both associations may have supported each other. {} Folk etymology.

- Akk. (1) mul alluttu(m) 'crab, the Constellation Cancer' [CAD a1 360], [AHw 38] (e.g. [SpTU III 227]). {} A loan word from Sum.
 - (2) mul kušu 'crab' (?) {} An echoing of a Sumerian term.
 - Gr. karkinos 'crab; lobster' [LS 878], [Hei II 94]. {} A loan

translation.

Arb. *Pal-saraṭān* 'the Crab' (sci-A) [KS 21], [Kun. 1986 270-271], [Kun. 1993 83a]. {} A loan translation. Considered a loan from Aram. [Brock 499].

Hbr. pB. *sarṭān* 'crab; Cancer' [Ja. 1025]. {} A loan translation. Syr. *sarṭānā* 'cancer; n. sidus' [Brock. 499]. {} A loan translation. Lat. Cancer.

3. Akk. mul/d Anunītum, the name of a goddess, probably of Amorite origin, associated with Inanna; always written syllabically [G. 27], [BPO 2 10], [Selz 2000 34-35]; located in the eastern (or north-eastern) part of modern Pisces; its connection with water is seen from its identifications in the star lists: mul.id₂.idigna = da-nu-ni-tum [MSL XI 40: 22] (id₂.idigna, Tigris]).

Note that in a later text [SpTU III 228, line 110], ^{mul}nu.nu is strangely placed into the Sumerian column (as the Sumerian prototype for Anunitu) as if the compiler took this word for a Sumerian one, which is very unlikely since *nūn*- is the main term for 'fish' in both Akkadian and Aramaic. Anyway, this identification seems to point to the water elements in Anunitu's image. The symbol of this goddess was evidently fish in the late period; see images on the Seleucid seals [AUWE 19, p. 156], [Wallenfels, Fig. 12, 19, 21, 22].

4. Sum. mul giš apin 'The Plow' [G. 39]; the northern part of the modern constellation Triangulum + α Andromedae, according to D. Pingree [BPO 2 10], 'Dreieck aus 41 χ β γ Andromedae', according to J.Koch [Koch 1989 105-110]. This identification implies that in the Mesopotamian heaven, mul giš apin was located either within the area of the constellation Triangulumin or in its neighborhood.

Akk. mul epinnu(m) 'The Plow' [SpTU III 228: 107]; a loan from Sumerian.

Gr. trigonon 'The Triangle' [LS 1818], [Hei II 82].

In the Mesopotamian plow, the plow-beam, the share and the fasting peg form a triangle, cf. [Salonen 1968, Taf. VI-VII], which would account for of this constellation's shape and name in Greece.

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Ar. *al-mutallat-* 'The Triangle' [KS 55]; [Kun 1986 78-79, 282-283]; sci-A translation of Greek name.

Lat. Triangulum 'The Triangle'. {} A loan-translation from Greek.

5. Sum. mul AŠ.GAN₂, mul AŠ.IKU, mul iku, literally 'a unit of measurement (of field)' [CAD I 69], usually translated simply as 'field' [G. 110], [BPO 2 11]. Commonly considered (v., e.g. [BPO 2 11]) to be located in the area of the modern Pegasus and Andromeda; cf., however, [Koch 1989 86-103] locating it within Andromeda only.

Akk. mul ikû(m) 'Field' [AHw 370] (e.g. [MSL XI 30:27], [SpTU III

227: 80]). {} A loan translation.

Gr. [hippos] 'Horse' [LS 835], [Hei II 76-81]. {} A loan translation.

- Arb. (1) ?al-faras-"Pferd" [Kun. 1986 289]; sci.-A name for Pegasus.
- (2) *?al-faras ?al-kāmil (at-tāmm)* "Vollständige Pferd" = "The Complete Horse" [Kun. 1961, Nr. 89]; ind.-A name for Pegasus. The epithete 'complete' refers to the constellation shape opposing to two Ptolemeus' constellations representing the front part of the horse body only. Likely a loan from Greek.
 - (3) ?al-farasu-l-?a?zam- "The Great Horse" [BK 2 568].
- (4) *?al-farasu-mmuǯannaḥ* "The Winged Horse" [Бируни II, 285, 581].

Hbr. ha-ssūs ha-mə?ōpēp "Pegasus, winged Horse (also in astronomy)" [Alcalay 741].

Lat. Pegasus 'Pegasus' {} A loan translation.

The misinterpretation of Babylonian - or Sumero-Akkadian, if the reading (aš).iku is correct - *ikû* by Greeks, probably as early as in the Mycenaean-period, as 'horse', cf. linear B *i-qo* 'horse' < Indo-European *ek'wo, the form that should have rendered something like *iku/eku/iko/eko* in any other *centum* Indo-European language, which also might have happened to be a mediator for this folk etymology.

There are of course certain reservations about this striking hypothetic case of folk etymology, with its purely linguistic background; normally

similar cases of shift in constellation names can be explained either from the picture of a corresponding constellation or a related deity. Besides, the Mesopotamian Heaven knows its own constellation named Horse (mul ANŠE.KUR.RA) whose identification is highly problematic. Pingree [ASM 273] and other authors locate(s) it within Cassiopeia. At the same time, Koch locates it within Pegasus [Koch 1995 61, Anm. 20], which would imply a natural explanation of the Greek name from the Mesopotamian one. Note, however, that no reliable data for identifying mul ANŠE.KUR.RA are available so far.

- 6. Sum. (1) mul giš erin 'The Scales' [G. 368], [PW]. Attested in late astronomical texts as a name of constellation and zodiacal sign Libra.
- (2) mulzi.ba.an.na 'The Scales' [G. 176], [HP 33], [BPO 2 16], {} A loanword from Akk *zibana [CAD z 100].
- Akk. (1) mul zibānītu(m) The Scale'; it was 'a type of balance differing from the simple gišrinnu by being provided with an otherwise unknown part or mechanism called *zibana' [Wallenfels 285]; 'the constellation Libra; a type of scale or balance' MB on [CAD z 99-100] (representations of the Seleucid period, v. [Wallenfels 285], [AUWE 19, p. 155]). The damaged picture of this constellation on the so called 'planisphere' (K8538) see [Koch 1989 56, 77-79]. A variant form mul zibānu 'The Scales' derived from mul zi.ba.an.na according to [CAD z 100] is attested in only one Seleucid text BRM 4 20:5, 20 [Ungnad 258-9].

There is also Akk. gišrinnu 'balance (for weighing)' SB [CAD g 107] borrowed from Sum; to our knowledge, not used in astronomical texts.

Important for the later history of this constellation name is the following identification in MUL.APIN I ii 11: mulZI.BA.AN.NA SI mulGIR.TAB = zibānītu karan zukākīpi 'The Scales, the horn of the Scorpion' [HP 33]. Cf. No. 7,

- Gr. (1) khēlai 'The Claws (of the Scorpion)'; was used in early Greek astronomy as a name for the constellation Libra (by Eudoxus, Aratus, Pseudo-Eratosthenus and the others) [LS 1990].
- (2) zygos 'The Balance', lit. 'balance, beam of balance, yoke, lever' [LS 757]; first mentioned as the name of a constellation in Greek

texts going back to the 3rd century B.C. [Hei II 267], [GB 473].

In Ptolemy's *Almagest* both names occur, the former as a constellation name, the second as a zodiacal name (mainly in tables).

- Arb. (1) az-zibānā 'Claws (of the Scorpius)', ?al-zubānayān 'The Both Claws (of the Scorpius)', ind-A name of 16-th lunar mansion (α, β Librae) and zodiacal constellation Libra [Kun. 1961, Nr. 322 a, b, c], [Kun 1986 103-105, 257], [Kun. 1993 83b]; {} a loanword from Akkadian.
- (2) *?al-mīzān* 'The Scales' [Kun. 1986 103-5, 257]; sci-A translation from Greek.

Hbr. pB. mō(')znayim 'balances; Libra' [Ja. 722].

Syr. matqālā 'libra, trutina; sidus librae' [Brock. 831].

Hausa Ma'auni 'Balance' [Hiskett 174].

Lat. Libra 'The Scales'.

The two names of the same constellation, "the Scales" and "the Horn (or Claws) of the Scorpion" pose a grave problem in view of an evident formal coincidence between the Akk. and Arb. terms which cannot be qualified other than homonyms. According to CAD z 100, "zibānītu ... (probably a Kulturwort) is preserved as a Sumerogram in Hitt. ZI.BA.NA, phonetically written as ZÉ.PA.NA...The relationship of the word *zibana to Ugar. mznm, Heb. mōznayim and Arabic mizānun, as well as to Syr zeban "to buy", etc., remains problematical". According to Kaufman, "there must be some connection between this word and the common word for "to buy" in Aramaic, zbn [Kaufman 112]. Cf. further Jud. zəban 'to bargain, buy', Pa. 'to sell' [Ja. 379], Mnd. zabanita "scales, balances" [DM 156], which may be an Akkadism, and Arb. zabana 'vendre les fruits sur l'arbre', zābana 'vendre en bloc' (cf. also zibn-'quantite necessaire, autant qu'on en a besoin') [BK 1 972], (dial.) zabūn 'client, chaland' [Belot 285]. The common Sem. verb *zbn seems to convey the idea of making a special sort of bargain, with a derived noun zibānītu (and *zibana?) in Akk (and zabanita in Mnd. unless an Akkadism) denoting a specific type of scale or balance used for this sort of bargain; its further connections with Eg dbn 'weight, part of a scale'

7. (?) Sum. ^{mul}ka.keš 'circumference' [CAD k, 397b], [G. 210]; the name occurs in a single Sumerian star list dated to the first half of the second millennium B.C. [MSL XI 108: 390]; the exact identification is unknown.

Akk. mulkippatu (mulGAM-ti) 'loop, hoop, tendril; circle, circumference' from OB on [CAD k 397], [G. 65], [PW 321: P1], [Koch 1992 59], [Schaumb. 228: III]. A star cluster in Corona Borealis; in the lists of ziqpu-stars of the middle of the 1st millennium B.C. it is usually a name of the star α Coronae Borealis (Gemma).

Gr. Stephanos boreios 'The Northern Crown' (lit. 'wreath, crown, circle') [LS 1642], [Hei II 52]; admittedly, the translation from Akk. with a partial shift of meaning.

Ar. (1) ?al-iklīl al-šamalī 'The Northern Crown' [Kun. 1986 45,

3251: the sci-A translation from Greek.

- (2) al-fakka, ind-A name for the constellation Corona Borealis [ibid.]; derived from the root f-k-k, 'to separate, break up' and possibly refered to this asterism shape: an incomplete circle [Kun. 1961, Nr. 85], [KS 30];
- (3) saḥfatu-l-masākīn 'Dish of the Poor', another ind-A name of this constellation possibly derived from its round shape in Greek or Mesopotamian tradition [Shumovsky 8r]. The same name is used by al-Bīrūnī in Qānūn al-Mas vūdī, IX [Бируни II, 274].

Syr. kəlītā 'corona, diadema; nomen sideris' [Brock. 327]. Acc. to Brockelmann, from Akk. kilīlu(m) ('circlet, headband' [CAD k, 358]); acc. to [Kaufman 63-64], the two terms would appear to be only cognates.

Lat. Corona Borealis. {} A loan from Greek.

8. Sum. mulgir.tab 'The Scorpion' [G. 94], [BPO 2 12]; located in the area of the modern constellation Scorpio.

Akk. mul zukakīpu 'The Scorpion' [CAD z 163], [AHw 1538-9] (syllabic attestation less frequent than a logographic one, cf. [zu]-ka-ki-pi [Cavigneaux 1981, 105: 8]). {}A loan translation.

Gr. skorpios 'the Scorpion' [LS 1615], [Hei II 108]. {} A loan translation.

Arb. Pal-Sakrab 'the Scorpion', ind.-A and sci.-A. [Kun. 1961 S. 22], [Kun. 1986 252-253], [Kun. 1993 83b].{} A loan translation.

Hbr. pB. Sakrāb 'scorpion; the constellation Scorpio' [Ja. 1109]. {} A loan translation.

Syr. Sekarbā 'scorpio; nomen sideris zodiaci' [Brock. 544]. {} A loan translation.

Ge'ez. sakrab, sakrāb 'scorpion; Scorpio' (in the meaning 'Scorpio' borrowed from Arb.) [Leslau 68]. {} A loan translation.

Lat. Scorpio. {} A loan translation.

9. Sum. mulgaba gir.tab 'the Chest of the Scorpion', α Sco. [PW 315]. Akk. mul irat zukaķīpi [HP 38] "The Chest of the Scorpion"; syllabic writing is not attested, to our knowledge, in astronomical texts.

Gr.: Ptolemy distinguishes three stars on the Scorpion's body, of which the middle one is known as Antares (α Sco) [LS 150], [Hei II 111, 6-8]; the notion of the middle star in the body seems to have given rise to the Arabic name of the same star.

Arb. *kalb ?al-?akrab* 'Heart of the Scorpion', the ind-A (and sci-A) star name of α Sco [Kun. 1961, Nr. 216b], [KS 53]. {} Likely named in correspondence with the Greek description of this star's position in the Scorpion's body. Note, however, a conspicuous parallelism between the Sumero-Akkadian and Arabic descriptions of the star's position.

The Arabic 'heart' in this case is likely to mean 'middle'; no meaning 'chest of the scorpion' could be preserved in Arabic as in both Arabic and Greek traditions the Skorpion was always depicted from the back. (It is not known exactly how Scorpius was depicted in Mesopotamian astronomy; the meaning 'chest' in Sum. gaba implies that the "scorpion's chest" was visible).

10. Sum. SI mul \widetilde{g} ir.tab 'the Horn of the Scorpion' [HP 33]; γ Scorpii = σ Librae according [PW 321], σ Scorpii according [Koch 1992, 58].

Akk. mul karan zukākīpi [HP 33], lit. 'the horn of the Scorpion'; accoding to B.Landsberger it is the standard Aκκadian term for scorpion's claws [Fauna 137]. {} Syllabic writing, as far as we know, is not attested in astronomical texts.

Gr. khēlai 'The Claws (of the Scorpion)' [LS 1990]; {} A loan translation. In early Greek astronomy and in Ptolemy's *Almagest* this term was used as a name for the constellation Libra [GB 473], [Hei II 106].

Arb. az-zubānā, al-zubānayān 'Both Claws (of the Scorpion)', ind-A lunar mansion identified with α, β Librae [Kun. 1961, Nr. 322 a, b, c], [Kun 1986 105, 257], [KS 43]; {} A loan translation with a partial meaning shift.

11. Sum. ^{mul}gu.la 'The Great One', 'The Giant' [G. 81], [BPO 2 12]; located in the area of the modern Aquarius.

Akk. rabu 'The Great One'; a syllabic writing is probably attested in a

single text [MSL XI 49:64]. The aquatic character of the Giant follows from the Astrolabe text: $^{\text{mul}}$ GU.LA = $^{\text{d}}$ EN BE $^{\text{d}}$ É- $^{\text{d}}$ The Great One = The Lord of the Springs, Ea' [WH 30, line 28]. The constellation was often symbolized as a man in a long dress with two streams flowing from his shoulders or from a jug pressed to his breast; in some of the pictures the two streams flow into two jugs. The earliest known images of the Giant go back to the third millennium B.C., cf. [Porada]; the images on seals of the Seleucid period see in [AUWE 19 31-33, 155, Nos. 126-141]; [Wallenfels 286-287].

Gr. hydrokhoos, lit. 'water pourer' [LS 1845], [Hei II 118-124]; the name is derived from the symbolized figure of the Mesopotamian constellation: the Greek Aquarius was depicted, as a rule, with a stream of water flowing from a jug into the mouth of the Piscis Austrinus, cf. [Hyginus. Astron. III 28], [Eratosthenus. Catast. 26].

- Ar. (1) ?al-dalw 'The Well Bucket', lit. 'the (leather) bucket (which was lowered into a well with a cord)'; a name of ind-A constellation identified with the so-called 'Square of Pegasus' (α , β , γ Peg + α And) located to the north in the immediate vicinity from the modern Aquarius; the same name was also used as ind-A name of the zodiacal constellation Aquarius [Kun. 1961, Nr. 72], [Kun. 1986 114-115, 118-119, 240-241], [KS 17], [Kun. 1993 84a]. The name was apparently derived from the Mesopotamian constellation symbol.
- (2) <u>hāmil ?al-dalw</u> 'The Carrier of the Bucket', name of this constellation [Kun. 1986 118], [Kun. 1993 84a], adding to the ind.-A name (above) an anthropomorphic element likely accounted for by the Greek influence.
- (3) sākib ?al-mā? 'The Water Pourer' [Kun. 1986 115, 241], [KS 17]; sci-A translation of Greek name.
- (4) al-farg al-mukaddam (var. al-awwal) 'The Foremost (var.: The First) Sink' (or 'Outlet'); the name of the 26-th lunar mansion (α , β Peg); [Kun. 1961 57, Nr. 92b].
- (5) al-farg al-mu?aḥḥar (var.: al-tānī) 'The Rearmost (var.: The Second) Sink'; the name of the 27-th lunar mansion (γ Peg, α And) [Kun. 1961 57, Nr. 93b], [Kun. 1993 84a]; both names were possibly connected

with 'bucket' (?al-dalw) or with the symbol of the Mesopotamian constellation.

It should be noted that the Mesopotamian Aquarius (GU.LA, Enki-Ea) is always depicted with *two* streams of water (see above), which implies the origin of the Arabic tradition in (4) and (5) in the Mesopotamian rather than in Greek images (the latter ones depicting only one stream).

Hbr. pB. *dəlī*, *dālī* 'Bucket; Aquarius' [Ja. 310]. Either a reflection of the Mesopotamian constellation symbol or a loan translation from Arabic or Greek.

- Syr. (1) *dawlā* 'situla; sidus aquarii' [Brock. 145]. Either a reflection of the Mesopotamian constellation symbol or a (loanword?) translation from Arabic.
- (2) ?ašed may? 'aquarii sidus'; ?ešad 'effudit, profudit' [ibid. 52] ('pouring water'). Either a reflection of the Mesopotamian constellation symbol or a loan translation from Arabic or Greek.

Gesez dəlw, dalāwi, dalu 'Aquarius' [Leslau 133]; acc. to Leslau, from Arb.

Hausa *Guga* 'Bucket' [Hiskett 174] (a loan-translation from Arb.) Lat. Aquarius 'The Water-carrier'.

- 12. Sum. (1) mulgu₄.an.na 'The Bull of Heaven' [G. 77], [BPO 2 12]; located in the area of the modern Taurus, usually identified with Hyades.
- (2) mul GIŠ.DA 'The Jaw of the Bull' [G. 96], [AHw 389]; a part of the constellation Taurus including α Tauri with the Hyades; rarely attested in the texts of the second half of the first millennium B.C.; pseudo-sumerogram, a loan from Akkadian. The standard meaning of giš da in Akk. is giš $l\bar{e}$?u 'tablet' [AHw, 546-47]; the usage of giš da for $l\bar{e}$ is accounted for by a double coincidence, namely: (1) is and giš are graphically the same sign, (2) $l\bar{e}$ (from $l\bar{u}$, $l\bar{l}$?u 'bull') [AHw, 560] is phonetically close to $l\bar{e}$?u 'tablet' [3 Erg., 336; G. 77, 96].
- Akk. (1) alu 'The Bull (of Heaven)', rarely attested in astronomical texts [AHw 39], [CAD 377], [Horowitz 1993, 154].
- (2) is le 'The Jaw of the Bull' [G. 200], [CAD i 188], [AHw 389]; the most frequently used Akkadian equivalent for mulgu4.an.na.
 - (3) la-he-e al-pi 'The Jaw of the Bull' [CAD 1 44], [AHw 389].

There are a few images of lying or jumping bull-zebu (with a hump) on the tables and seals, which are likely to represent the figure of this constellation, cf. [Weidner 1927, Taf. V, 1]; [TU, 47 rev.]; [AUWE 19 110-114, Nos. 841ff., 154; Wallenfels, Fig. 2, 3, 18, 23]; [Sarkisian, Fig. 9]. Since all known terms referring to this constellation figure in astronomical and astrological texts refer to a forepart of the bull's figure only (is lê, la-he-e al-pi, zappu), it could be surmised that Mesopotamian astronomers distinguished only a forepart of the bull's figure, which is corroborated by the same perception in the Ancient Greek tradition [Куртик 2002 94-95].

Gr. taūros 'The Bull' [LS 1761], [Hei II 86]; the Greek astronomers used only a forepart of the bull, the so called protome, as a figure of the constellation, the tradition going back to Mesopotamia (?).

Ar. ?al-tawr'The Bull' [Kun. 1986 278-279], [Kun. 1993 83a]; sci-A translation from Greek.

Hbr. pB. (late) *šōr* 'bull' [HAL 1451-3], (modern) 'Taurus' [Alcalay 2574], *mazal šōr* 'Stiergestirn' [Stein 1119].

Syr. *Seglā* 'vitulus; cognomen tauri zodiaci' [Brock. 509] ('calf').

Ge'ez sawr [Leslau 521], tawr [ibid. 582] 'Taurus (name of a zodiacal sign)' < Arabic tawr.

Hausa Sa'bull' [Hiskett 174].

Lat. Taurus 'The Bull'.

13a. Sum. mul luhun.ga 'The Hired Man' [G. 244], [BPO 2 13]; a constellation located in the area of Aries; from the middle of the first millennium B.C. was abbreviated as hun.ga, hun, lu and lu, where lu is a homophonic substitution for the rarely used abbreviation lu, cf. [SpTU II, 43: 20]. The abbreviation (mul) lu was widely used in astronomical and astrological texts of the Seleucid period as a name of the corresponding zodiacal sign [ACT 475], [Ungnad 256, Anm. 37]; the earliest example is attested to our knowledge in the astronomical diary of -384 [SH I 72: 10].

Akk. (1) mul agru(m) 'The Hired Man'; a syllabic writing attested only in star-lists, cf., for example, [Cavigneaux 1974 134: Rs. 23'], [SpTU III

228: 121]. A loan translation from Sum.

13b. Sum. lu (a homophonic substitution for lu, see above) = udu 'The Ram'; the lu-sign can be read as udu 'ram, sheep' to account for the origin of this name, which may be due to a folk etymology or to the fact that, in the period when the above abbreviations were introduced, it was already a ram that symbolised mul lu hun. ga.

Akk. *immeru* 'The Ram'. We know of only one instance of this term used in describing the constellation lúhun.ga (MLC 1866 col. I 14, unpublished). See also a few calendar and ritual texts containing Sum. udu.nita 'ram' as a name of the constellation mul lúhun.ga symbol (?) ([SpTU II, 43:1], [SpTU III, 104: 1, 14, 27; 105: 11, 24], [Foxvog 107]); the depictions of a ram as a symbol of the Aries (a ram with the head turned back) are found on the Seleucid seals [AUWE 19 116-117, Nos. 887-894; Wallenfels 282-283].

Gr. krios 'The Ram' [LS 996], [Hei II 84-86]; the Greek name has certainly the Mesopotamian origin as it corresponds to the symbol of the Mesopotamian constellation lu - udu = immeru.

- Ar. (1) al-ḥamal 'The Lamb, The Ram' [Kun. 1986 78-89, 282-283], [KS 18], [Kun. 1993 83a]; ind-A and sci-A name of the constellation Aries.
- (2) ?al-kabš 'The Ram' [KS 18]; another ind-A and sci-A name of Aries; both names may be traced to the Mesopotamian tradition.

The ind.-A constellation known as *al-ḥamal* or *?al-kabš* was much larger than the Greek Aries and included part of Taurus (Pleiades) [Kun. 1993 83a].

Hbr. (mod.) tālā 'lamb, Aries' [Alcalay 870].

Syr. ?emərā 'agnus; aries (zodiaci)' [Brock. 26] ('lamb').

Gesez *ḥamal*, *ḥaml* 'ram, a sign of the Zodiac' < Arabic [Leslau 232].

Lat. Aries 'The Ram'; a loanword from Greek.

14. Akk. kakkabu(m) 'the star' as an epithet of Ishtar [CAD k 47], [AHw 421]; the planet Venus. According to [Kun. 1995 97b],

'reduplication of a basic root *KB* "to burn, to shine", which is a wrong etymology as the Akk. *kakkabu(m)* continues the common Semitic **kabkab-* 'star' (Ugaritic *kbkb*, Hbr. *kōkāb*, Ar. *kawkab-* etc. [HAL 463]).

Hbr. pB. kōkäbät 'the planet Venus' [Ja. 619]; 'star', feminine, or 'she-star'.

Syr. kawkabtā 'stella veneris' [Brock. 321] (fem.).

The use of 'the star' as an epithet of Venus in postbiblical Hebrew and Syrian may be influenced by Akkadian, but may have an independent origin in view of Venus' outstanding position in the sky (note also a feminine gender both in Hbr. and Syr. versus a masculine gender in Akk.). On the masculine and feminine Ishtar as the morning and evening star in the Mesopotamian tradition see [BPO 2, Text IV 6-7a + Parallels], [Heimpel 1982 14-15], [Selz 2000 29-33].

Copt. cogpot 'Venus'; cog-, ciog 'étoile, astre' < Egyp. (Pyr.) sb; 'étoile' [Vycichl, 200]; pot is unidentifiable.

15. Sum. mul ku₆ 'The Fish' [G. 218], [BPO 2 13]; located in the area of the modern Piscis Austrinus.

Akk. mul nūnu 'The Fish' [BPO 2 13]; for syllabic attestations, see [Emar VI/4 151:178; SpTU III, S. 331, 114A v 59, autography].

Gr. ikhthys notios 'The Southern Fish' [Hei II 166]. {} A partial loan translation.

- Arb. (1) ?as-samakat ?ağ-ganūbīyyat 'The Southern Fish' (sci.-A name) [Kun. 1986 164-167,184-5].
- (2) ?al-ḥūt- ? ağ-ganūbīyyat 'The Southern Fish' (sci.-A name) [ibid.; KS 50].

Hbr. pB. dāg 'Fish' [Ja. 279].

Lat. Piscis Austrinus.

16. Sum. mul lugal 'The King' [G. 240], [BPO 2 13]; the star Regulus (α Leo).

Akk. (1) šarru 'The King' [CAD š1 105]; however, all the examples quoted [ibid.] are Sumerograms and no cases of this term used in an

astronomic context in a syllabic form are attested.

(2) There is a following identification in MUL.APIN I i 9: MUL ša ina GABA mulUR.GU.LA GUB-zu mulLUGAL 'The star which stands in the breast of the Lion: the King' [HP 20]. This description gave rise to a series of star names in various traditions.

Gr. (1) Basiliskos 'A Little King', lit 'princelet, chieftain' [LS 310].

- (2) o epi tēs kardias kaloymenos Basiliskos [Hei II 98, 6] '(The star) on the heart, called 'Regulus''. This description in Ptolemy's Almagest fully corresponds to MUL.APIN's formulation save for replacing 'breast' for 'heart'.
- Arb. (1) ?al-kawkabu-llādī fī-l-kalbi wa-ismī ?al-mulayku "Der Stern auf dem Herz, er wird genannt 'der kleine König'" [Kun. 1986 94, 266].
- (2) kalb al-asad 'The Heart of the Lion' [Kun. 1986 97, Anm. 1], [KS 41].

Lat. Stella regia 'the Royal Star'; Regulus 'little king'.

17. Sum. mul (giš)mar.gid.da 'The Wagon' [G. 258], [BPO 2 13]; this constellation was located in the area of the modern Ursa Major.

Akk. mul eriķķu 'The Wagon' [AHw 238], [CAD e 296-297], [SpTU

III 227: 106].

Gr. (1) hamaksa 'The Wagon' [LS 76]; this name was already mentioned by Homer (Il. XVIII 487). The loan from the Sum.-Akk.

meaning of the term.

(2) harktos megalē 'The Great Bear' [LS 242], [Hei II 38-42]; this name seems to have a Greek origin, since 'bear' is not attested in the Mesopotamian astronomical nomenclature. Hypothetically, it might be a partial phonetic similarity between Akk. *eriķķu* and Gr. harktos that accounts for the misinterpretation by the Greeks of Akk. *eriķķu* as 'bear'. This hypothesis, however, runs counter to the notion shared by some modern scholars that "the bright stars in Ursa Major are identified widely throughout Eurasia and North America as a bear, and this connection can be made only by groups carrying the myth during their migration across the Bering Strait at the time of the last Ice Age" (cf. [Schaefer 334]). These considerations are thought to be a guarantee against borrowing of the connection between a bear and the stars of Ursa Major from modern

European languages (like Russian or English); they imply that the Greeks must have known the name of Great Bear long before their acquaintance with the Mesopotamian tradition.

Arb. *al-dubb al-akbar* lit. 'the great (constellation) of a bear' [Kun. 1986 34-35, 338-339]; the sci-A loan from Greek.

Hbr. pB. *Sāgālā* 'wagon, the constellation called Charle's Wain' [Ja. 1041]; the loan from Sum.-Akkadian.

Syr. *?āgalətā* 'currus, plaustrum; nomen sideris ursi minoris' [Brock. 510], 'wagon'; it is hard to say why Brockelmann translated this term rendering in Peshitta the Hebrew *māzārōt* (Job 38:32) as 'nomen sideris ursi minoris', cf. [HAL, 566].

- Lat. (1) Currus, Plaustrum 'The Chariot'.
- (2) Ursa Majoris 'The Great Bear'; both names are loans from Greek.

17a. Probably related to the present issue is the following interesting case:

Syr. $\S{egl\bar{a}}$ 'stellarum duarum in corpore ursi minoris' [Brock. 510] is named after the main meaning of the same word, 'vitulus' [ibid.]; this star name was undoubtedly calqued by the Arabs as $\S{elfarkad-\bar{a}n-}$ 'the Two Calves' ("die beide Kälber... [= $\S{efglapha}$ Ursae Minoris]" [Kun. 1961 No. 96]. The Syrian star name seems to have no motivation. However, the fact that it has the same triconsonantal root as $\S{efglapha}$ 'the Wagon' is suspicious. One wonders whether it may be another case of folk etymology.

18. Sum. (1) mulmaš.tab.ba 'The Twins'; there are three constellations on the Mesopotamian heaven named 'Twins': (i) mulmaš.tab.ba.gal.gal 'The Great Twins', (ii) mulmaš.tab.ba.tur.tur 'The Little Twins', (iii) mulmaš.tab.ba ša ina igi-it mulsipa.zi.an.na 'The Twins which stand opposite the True Shepherd of Anu', cf. [G. 267-269], [HP 19, 31], [BPO 2 13], [Koch 1993]; all three were located either in the area of modern Gemini or in the immediate vicinity of it; for the exact identification see [Koch 1993], [ASM 276].

(3) mulsipa, abbreviation of mulsipa.zi.an.na 'The True Shepherd of Anu' (the modern Orion); rarely used in the late texts as a name of the constellation and zodiacal sign Gemini, cf. [SpTU III, Nr. 104, 105].

Akk. (1) tū(?)amū 'Twins' [SpTU III 227; BPO 2 44; Hor. 1997-8 178]. {} A loan translation.

(2) $m\bar{a}\bar{s}\bar{u}$ 'Twins' [SpTU III 227] {} A loanword from Sum. [AHw 631].

Gr. didymoi 'The Twins' [LS 422], [Hei II 92]. {} A loan translation. Arb. (1) ?al-taw?amān 'the Twins' [Kun. 1986 90-91, 273], [KS 46].

{} Sci-A loan translation;

(2) al-ğawzā?, ind-A name of anthropomorphic figure located in the area of Greek Orion and also used as a name of Gemini [Kun. 1961 S. 23-24], [Kun. 1986 126-131, 226-227]; the latter arises apparently to Mesopotamian tradition. Part of this constellation figure, namely, the "head" (the 5th lunar mansion) was located in the zodiacal belt; see in this connection [Kun. 1993 83a].

Hbr. pB. təʔomīm (pl.) 'twins; Gemini' [Ja. 1642]. {} A loan translation.

Lat. Gemini. {} A loan translation.

19. Sum. MUL.MUL 'The Star(s)' [G 279], [BPO 2 13]; Pleiades. Usually interpreted as 'The Stars' in plural, which is very likely in view of its correspondence to seven Sumerian deities (dINIM.BI, lit. 'The Seven Gods'; the name also occurs in Hittite texts, see [Puhvel 1245f]); there is also fragment in MUL.APIN II iii 32 referring to four stars in MUL.MUL [HP 112]. There are arguments, however, in favor of the interpretation as 'The Star', in singular: the first sign in MUL.MUL may be understood as a determinative, which is natural for lexical texts (such as [MSL XI 107-8], where *every* first sign in the list is a determinative); besides, the lexical series H\(\theta\) XXII contains the equations: mul.mul = mul, *kakkabu*, cm. [MSL XI 30: 23'-24'], [SpTU III, 114A v 11-12]; in the normal star list, MÚL.MÚL is used for a single star, η Tauri [SH I 17]. In this connection, see also [Horowitz 1998 160].

- Akk. (1) mul zappu 'The Bristle' [BPO 2 13]; "the star cluster Pleiades (conceived as the "mane" of the constellation Taurus)" [CAD z 50]; the name is accounted for by the place of this asterism on the figure of the Mesopotamian 'The Bull of the Heaven'. @ For the etymology of zappu v. SED I No. 297.
 - (2) ilū sibitti (= dimin.bi) 'The Seven Gods' [CAD s 230-31].
- Gr. pleiades 'The Pleiades' [LS 1414]; an asterism of seven stars in Taurus (mentioned already by Homer; Il. XVIII 486; Od. V 273). Corresponds to seven mythological characters. This correspondence, and the coincidence in the star number with the Mesopotamian tradition may point to the latter's influence. Less probably, this coincidence may be explained by observations. In this connection, see also [Puhvel].
- Arb. (1) ?at-turayyā, ind-A name of the Pleiades (the 3rd lunar mansion) [Kun. 1961, Nr. 306] (dimin. of tarway 'grand nombre, abondance' [BK 1 223]). May be a translation of Hebrew-Aramaic *kīm-(below).
- (2) ?an-nagm 'The Star', ind-A ancient name of the Pleiades [Kun. 1961 Nr. 186], [BK 2 1208]; the absence of the version in singular of the Pleiades name in Greek and its attestation in Hh XXII make one think of a connection with the Mesopotamian tradition.

Hbr. kīmā 'Pleiades' [HAL 472: in Am 5:8, Job 9:9].

Syr. kīmā 'Plejades' [Brock. 325: in Peshitta Am 5:8, Job 9:9].

Jud. kīmtā 'Pleiades' [HAL 472].

Mnd. kima 'Pleiades (?)' [DM 213].

Gesez kemā 'Pleiades' [LGz 285: from Syr.].

Tigre kema 'Pleiades' [ibid.; from Gesez].

Lat. Pleiades {} The loanword from Greek.

The same name of 'Pleiades' in several Semitic languages is rather accounted for by a chain of borrowings (Hbr. > Jud., Syr. and Mnd.; Syr. > Gesez > Tigre). However, a common Hebrew-Aramaic constellation name *kīm- going back to the first half of the 2nd millennium cannot be ruled out; its meaning is derived from the common Semitic root 'multitude, large number, heap, community' etc., cf. Akk. *kimtu* 'family,

kin' [CAD K 375], Ar. kūm 'troupeau de chameaux', kūm-at- 'monticule, colline, tertre; tas de décombres, de grains, etc.' [BK 2 945], kīm-'compagnon' [ibid. 950], Tigre kom 'heap, herd' [LH 394], Tigrinya kom 'community', kwama 'hill, hillock' [Kane 1580]. This root of a great chronological depth is of common Afrasian (Afro-Asiatic, Semito-Hamitic) origin, cf. East Cushitic *kum- 'thousand' [PEC 25], South Cushitic: Iraqw kuma id. [HRSC 246]. Omotic: Gamu Yemsa Shinasha kuma id., Wolayta Gamu Zaysse kum- 'to be full', Yemsa akama 'many' [Lamb.-Sot. 412].

20. Sum. mul (d) muš 'the Snake' [G. 284], [BPO 2 13]. This Mesopotamian constellation was located approximately in the area of modern Hydra; for the exact identification, see [PW 219-220], [ASM 276], [Koch 1989 80-85].

Akk. (1) Niraḥ, a Sumerian snake deity identified with mul mus in lexical texts (cf., e.g., [SpTU III 228], cf. also [McEwan]). As a faunistic term, nirāļu means 'little snake' [CAD n 259] (considered a Sumerism [ibid.]).

(2) serru 'Sternbild (Hydra?)' [AHw 1093], [G. 284] (poorly

attested).

Another Akk. constellation name sometimes identified with Sum. mul (d) muš is (mul) mušhuššum (cf. [G. 284], [Weidner 1957-59, 73]). However, these are rather different constellations; this identification is not attested in astronomical texts; it is known that the Akk. mušhuššum is borrowed from Sum. muš.huš [AHw 683], [Fauna 55-57], [Labat 374].

Note the absence of the water aspect in both Sumerian and Akkadian names of Mesopotamian "snake" constellation located in the area of Hydra.

Gr. hydros 'a small water-animal, water-snake', so in masculine in Ptolemy's Almagest [Hei II 152], but it is feminine (hydra) in Aratus' Phaenomena 444, cf. also [LS 1844-45], [PA 391, note 114].

Arb. aš-šužā? 'Hydra' [Kun. 1986 146-8]; ind-A (and sci-A) name of this constellation. {} The loan translation. Note that as a non-astronomic term, šužās- (and the variant forms šažās- and šižās-) means '(a kind of) a snake' ('serpent', cf. ?ašǯas- 'espece de serpent venimeux' [BK 1

1194]), but not 'water-snake'.

Lat. Hydra, Anguis 'a water-snake'.

- 21. Sum. (1) mul dnin.si₄.an.na 'The Bright Queen (or Lady) of Heavens', or 'The Red Lady of Heavens' [G. 320], [BPO 1], [Heimpel 1982]; an epithet of goddess Inana/Ištar identified with the planet Venus.
- (2) ^dnin.an.na 'The Queen (or Lady) of Heavens' [Gelb 1960], [Selz 2000], [Tallqvist 399]; may be an abridged version of the first name or have an idependent origine.
 - Akk. (1) šarrat šame 'The Queen of the Heavens' [Tallqvist 239];
- (2) *bēlet šamê* 'The Lady of the Heavens' [ibid. 64]; both names have the same meaning as the Sumerian (2).

Hbr. *məläkät ha-ššāmayim* 'the queen of heaven' Can. Ashera, Ashtarte, 'Anat; Babylonian Ishtar [HAL 593], pB. an epithet of Venus [see Ja. 619]; a calque from the Mesopotamian term.

Arb. *zuhar-at-* 'Venus, planete' [BK 1 1020] derived from *zhr* 'briller, être brillant' [ibid. 1019]. The name may of course be accounted for by its natural brightness; cf., however, Sum. (1).

22. mul/dpa.bil(bil).sag [G. 358]; identified with modern Sagittarius. The deity from the environment of Ninurta; in [BPO 2, p. 14] the name is not translated. The translation for pa.bil.sag proposed in [Falkenstein I, 8] is 'Grossvater' (see also "Presbyter" in [SAA VIII, p. 350b]), but this meaning is hardly related to this constellation symbol. Ungnad reads the name pa.bil.sag as sig₃.gi₉.sag = mahis ussi, lit. 'shooting with an arrow, archer' [Ungnad 257, note 48] referring to the deity representation on kudurru-stones and seals as a shooting centaur with a scorpion's tail. The Akkadian mahis ussi, however, is not attested in any texts in connection with this deity.

Gr. toksotēs 'The Bowman, The Archer' [LS 1805], [Hei II 112-116]; a description of symbol used in Mesopotamia.

Ar. (1) *?al-qaws* 'The Bow' [Kun. 1961, Nr. 224], [Kun. 1986, 108-111, 250-251], [KS 51]; ind-A name which may have reflected the Mesopotamian deity depictions directly [Kun. 1993 83-84] or through the

Greek, Syrian or Hebrew tradition.

(2) ?al-rāmī'The Archer' [ibid.]; sci-A translation of Greek name.

Hbr. pB kaššāt 'archer; Sagittarius' [Ja. 1433].

Syr. kašāṭā 'sagittarius (sidus)' [Brock. 349-50].

Gesez gaws 'arc, n. of the Zodiac' Arabic [LGz 456].

Hausa (1) Baka 'Bow' [Hiskett 174].

(2) Jin dadi 'Feeling good' [ibid. 173]. An obvious folk etymology, or misinterpretation, of the Arabic *Pal-naṣāʔim* 'the Ostriches', the name of several stars beloning to Sagittarius (the 20th mansion), cf. [Kun. 1961, Nr. 179], mistaken for a term derived from *naṣ̄ama* 'to be well-off' or *naṣ̄ima* 'to rejoice at'.

Lat. Sagittarius 'The Archer'.

- 23. Sum. mulsim.mah 'The Big Swallow' [G. 389], [BPO 2 14]; located in the western (or south-western) part of modern Pisces including the western part of Pegasus [BPO 2 14], [ASM 276].
- Akk. (1) *šinūnūtu(m)* 'The Swallow" (MUL.APIN I iii 7) [HP 45]; according to [AHw 1243], lit. 'ein grosse Schwalbe'; cf. also [CAD š₂ 55-6], [Salonen 1973 248-249].
- (2) sinuntu(m) 'The Swallow', syllabic attestation see [SpTU III 228], [Cavigneaux 1974 134 Rs.24']; this term means not only 'swallow' but also 'swallow-fish', i.e. 'flying-fish' [CAD s 295-6], [Salonen 1970 223-224], [AHw 1048] (cf. also [ibid. 1243-4]). The association of sinuntu(m) with water is sustained by the identification in the star lists: mul.id₂.buranum = si-nun-tum [MSL XI 40, line 23] (id₂.buranum, Euphrates).

Hitt. MUL ša-am-ma-ah 'The Swallow' [BPO 2 2].

Gr. khelidonias ikhthus 'The Swallow-Fish' [LS 1987]; a name of the more northerly fish of the constellation Pisces according to Chaldeans in scholium to Aratus' *Phenomena* {}it is apparently describing the Mesopotamian constellation's symbol in which the southern and the northern fishes are mixed up.

24. The constellation Pisces was formed on the basis of two Sumerian constellations considered in Nos. 3, 23.

Culture and Cosmos

- Sum. (1) mulkUNmes 'The Tails' [G 221]; first mentioned in MUL.APIN I iv 36 [HP 68] and in Assyrian letter [SAA X 160:14].
- (2) mulZIBme 'The Tails' [G 175]; pseudo-sumerogram, a loan from Akk. This meant not tails of the fishes, but tails of a fish (the symbol of Anunitu) and a bird (swallow) or a flying-fish; see images of this constellation on the Seleucid seals [AUWE 19 156, Nos. 984-87], [Wallenfels, Fig. 12, 19, 21, 22].

A band connecting the tails was part of this constellation's figure; hence the names:

DUR šá SIM.MAH 'Band of the Swallow' [SH I 50-51],

DUR ša A-nu-ni-tu4 'Band of Anunitu' [ibid.],

MUL KUR ša DUR nu-nu 'The Bright Star of the Ribbon of the Fishes' (n Piscium) [ibid. 17].

Akk. mul zibbātu 'The Tails'; though unattested in syllabic writing as a constellation name, obviously a source for Sum. mulZIBme.

Gr. ikhthyes 'Fishes' [LS 846], [Hei I 124-6]; in Greek sources the constellation was depicted as two fishes with bands connecting their tails. Ptolemeus and other Greek authors mention 'Bands of Pisces' as part of Pisces, v. [Hei II 124: 18, 126: 11], [Pseudo-Eratosthenes, Catast. 21], [Aratus 240-245], [Hyginus, Astron. III 29].

- Arb. (1) ?al-hūt 'The Fish' [Kun. 1961, Nr. 126a], [KS 50]; indigenous Arb. constellation located in the area of Andromeda and Pisces. The 28th lunar mansion, batn al-hūt 'belly of the Fish', was associated with that constellation [Kun. 1993 84a]. Though possibly formed under the Greek influence, it is likely directly connected with the Mesopotamian tradition, because the latter depicted only one fish, the figure of Anunītu, in this area, while the Greek tradition always distinguishes two fishes.
- (2) ?al-rišā? 'The Cord' is the name of the central star (βAnd) of this constellation [Kun. 1961, Nr. 252]. Originates from the 'bands' connecting the tails either in the Mesopotamian or Greek tradition.
- (3) ?as-samakatāni 'The Two Fishes'; sci-A name of the constellation Pisces [Kun. 1986 235], [Kun. 1993 84a].

Hbr. pB dāgīm 'fishes; Pisces' [Ja. 279].

Hausa Kifi 'Fish' [Hiskett 174].

Lat.: Pisces.

25. Sum. mulsuhur.maš^{ku6} 'The Goat-Fish' [G. 344], [BPO 2 14]; identified with the modern Capricornus.

In Sumerian, suḫur.ku₆ = means a kind of carpfish, 'ein Grosskarpfen' [AHW 880] (cf. also [Salonen 1970 216, 225]); suḫur.maš.ku₆ = bitrû is 'ein prächtiger (Karpfen-) Fisch' [Salonen 1970 170, 225], [CAD b 279]; suḫur.maš.ku₆ = purādu [AHw 1055a], [CAD s 351a]. In mythology, the latter name denotes a character of the environment of Enki/Ea [CAD s 351a] depicted on kudurru-stones and seals as a goat-fish [Seidl 1968 178f.]. The same image was also used as a constellation symbol. We assume that the notion of a goat-fish originated not only in the ancients' fanciful vision but in their etymological imagination. Really it was another meaning of maš/maš = uriṣu, 'Bock, Böcklein' [AHw 1430b], [Heimpel 239], that gave rise to the 'goat' component, the whole name having developed eventually into 'the goat-fish' causing a corresponding image to exist (note that in most Mesopotamian goat-fish images, the rearmost part of it, in fact, resembles that of a carp-fish, the so called Barbus esocinus), cf., for example, [Salonen 1970, Tafel XIX].

Akk. *suḫurmāšu* 'The Goat-Fish'; see the syllabic attestation in [BPO 2 42, III 28b]; a loanword from Sumerian.

Gr. aigókerōs, lit. 'goat-horned' [LS 35], [Hei II 116-118] (aigeos - 'goat' and kéras - 'horn'); apparently, an incomplete corrrespondence of the Mesopotamian symbol, with the 'fish' component lost.

Ar. <u>dū ķarnay-l-ʔanzi</u> 'der mit den beiden Ziegenhörnern' [Kun. 1986 112-115, 244-245]; the sci-A calque translation of the Greek term.

Pal-žady 'The Kid' [Kun. 1986 112-115, 244-245], [Kun. 1993 84]; the sci-A very approximate parallel of the Greek name. The shift of meaning coinciding with that in the Aramaic and Middle Hebrew terms is hard to explain in any of these languages.

Hbr. pB gədī' kid, young animal; the Capricorn' [Ja. 211].

Syr. gadyā 'hoedus, nomen siderus' [Brock. 104] ('kid').

Jud. gədī 'kid; the Capricorn' [Ja. 211].

Mnd. gadia 'kid, young goat, Capricorn' [DM 73].

The fact that the meaning 'kid', having no visible motivation, is

common to Ar., Middle Hebrew and Aramaic can be theoretically accounted for either by a common origin (from proto-Central @ Semitic dated to the middle 3rd millennium B.C. which is quite unlikely) or by the appearance of this term in one of these languages (Syrian? Or common Aramaic dated to the early 1st millennium B.C.?) with a subsequent spread into other languages in question (from Jud. to Middle Hebrew, and from Syr. to Ar.).

Hausa Dan akuya 'Kid' [Hiskett 174] (akūya = akwīya 'she-goat' [Abr Hs 16], cf. dan akwiya 'billy goat' [ibid. 183].

Lat. Capricornus 'The Goat-horn'.

26. Sum. mulšu.pa [G. 385]; according to D.Pingree, it is a name of the constellation located in the area of the modern Boötes [BPO 2 15], [ASM 276]; an Akkadism? (see below Akk. šūpu).

Akk. (1) šūpu, this Akkadian word (not attested in astronomical contexts) meaning 'manifest, brilliant, shining, etc.' [CAD § 328] (<wapum, 'deutlich gemacht, herrlich' [AHw 1281] with a sound Semitic etymology, cf. Hebrew yāpä 'beautiful' [HAL 423], Syrian p?y 'to be beautiful' [ibid.; Brock. 554]) is likely what the Sumerian name was derived from (cf. [G. 385] and [HP 125] referring to Oppenheim, with a reservation), which is an argument against Lambert's idea that 'The name written šu.pa is almost certainly to be read supa (Sullat)' [Lambert 94].

(2) mul namru 'The Shining' [HBA 52: 52].

Ar. ?al-simāk ?al-rāmih 'The Lance-bearing simāk' (the meaning of simāk is unknown) [Kunitzsch 1986, 42, note 5; 326], [KS 20]; the ind-A name for Arcturus. The interpretation as 'The Lance-bearing simāk' appears to be a case of folk etymology; rather to be translated 'elevated (and) brilliant': simāk- is formed after the Past Participle Passive pattern of the verb samaka 's'elever, monter, elever dans les airs' [BK 1, 1141], while rāmih- is the Present Participle Active of ramaha 'briller (se dit des eclairs)' [ibid., 921], probably echoing the Akk. šūpu and namru.

27. Sum. mulšudun 'The Yoke' [G. 379], [BPO 2 15]; another name

for the same constellation related sometimes to its most bright star - α Boo (Arcturus) [Schaumb.]; [PW 321], [Koch 1992, 59], [Horowitz 1994 961.

Akk. mul/dnīru 'The Yoke' [Horowitz 1993 156], [AHw 794].

Gr. Bootes 'Ox-driver' or 'Ox-ploughman' (<bus + otheo?) [LS 327], [Hei II 48-51]; attested already in Homer (Od. V 273). Obviously reflects the Mesopotamian name mulšudun = mul nīru = 'the Yoke', which may account for the motifs of ploughing or driving the oxen attested in Greek myths related to the Boötes (Hygin. Astron. II, 4).

- Ar. (1) al-baggār 'The Ox-driver' [Kun. 1986 41, 327]; the sci-A translation of Greek bootes;
- (2) al-sawwā? 'The Howler' ('der Schreier') [Kun. 1986 42, 326]; according to Kunitzsch [ibid. 42, note 3], the translation of Greek name in which boetes is written instead of bootes [ibid. Anm. 3].

Lat. Boötes 'Ox-driver'; a loanword from Greek.

28. Sum. multi/te₈ "The Eagle' [G. 2], [BPO 2 10]; located in the area of the modern Aquila.

Akk. mul erû(m), arû (m) 'Sternbild Aquila' [AHw 247] (e.g. [SpTU III 228:115] [Cavigneaux 1974 134:21']). {} A loan translation.

Gr. aetos 'the Eagle' [LS 29], [Hei II 72]. {} A loan translation.

- Arb. (1) ?al-nasr ?al-ṭā?ir lit. 'the Flying Eagle' [Kun. 1961 Nr. 194a], [Kun. 1986 68-69, 294-295], [KS 17-18]; ind.-A name for the asterism α, β and γ Aql; the attributive 'Flying' probable has the Mesopotamian origins relating to the constellation figure.
- (2) Pal-nasr 'the Eagle', sci-A [Kun. 1986 68-69, 294-295]; {} A loan translation.

Syr. nešrā 'aquila; nomen sideris' [Brock. 451]. {} A loan translation. Lat. Aquila. {} A loan translation.

29. Sum. mulu4.zal.le 'The Morning Star' [Bruschweiler 105-106]; the planet Venus as a morning star.

Akk. kakkab namari 'The Morning Star' [SpTU III 228: 130]; [MSL XI 31]; has the same meaning as the Sumerian term.

Gr. Eosphoros 'The Morning Star', lit. 'bringer of morning' [LS 752];

the term, though semantically coinciding with the Mesopotamian one, is more likely of independent origin in view of the fact that Venus is, indeed, the morning star; however, an influence of the Sum.-Akk. term cannot be completely ruled out.

Egyp. (P3)-ntr-dw3(y) 'the morning star' [EAT III 181], lit. 'the deity of the morning (star)', the name of Venus in the late Egyptian astronomical texts from Edfu. Cf. dw;y 'der morgenliche Stern = Morgenstern' (Pyr.) [EG V, 423]. The term is evidently of independent origin.

30. Sum. mul/dus.ri.in, attested in the "Great Star List" only [Koch-West. App. B: 223]; von Soden identifies it with urinnu 'eagle' [AHw 1430], an Akk. term borrowed from Sum. (no Sem. cognates available; absent from a complete list of Sem. faunal terms in SED II); cf. also [Salonen 1973 185-187]. Traditionally, though with no convincing argumentation, considered an occasional synonym of mulsipa.zi.an.na 'The True Shepherd of the Heavens' identified with Orion [G. 164; 3. Erg. 307 Anm. 1]. The identification of u₅.ri.in with Gr. ōriōn is indirectly confirmed by a phonetic similarity between the two terms.

Gr. ōriōn 'Orion' [LS 2037], [Hei II 132]. Present as early as in Homer. One wonders whether Sumerian us.ri.in (or [o].ri.in?) can be eventually the source of the unmotivated Greek orion.

31. Sum. udu.idim.sag.uš 'The Constant Planet' [G. 333], [BPO 2 14]; planet Saturnus. The description of Saturnus (sag.uš) as 'longlasting, constant' [AHw 420] may refer to its longest revolution period (for the most recent discussion v. [Brown 56, 68-70]) and is echoed by the Akkadian, Syrian and both Ar. terms.

Akk. mul kay(y)amānu(m) 'normal, regular, usual, steady (also a name of Saturn)' [CAD k 36-38], [G. 333], [AHw 420]; echoing the Sumerian

- Ar. (1) kaywān-'Saturne (planete)' [BK 2 946]; likely < Syr.
- (2) zuhal- 'Saturne, planete', also 'qui cesse de travailler, qui quitte l'ouvrage' [BK 1 979]. Probably conveying the same notion of Saturnus

as 'falling behind, lagging' and 'lasting', cf. zhl 'être fatigué, las et rester en arrière' [ibid. 978] and zahūl- 'qui se prolonge' [ibid. 979].

Hbr. *kiyyūn* 'Saturn' [HAL 472: Am 5:26] referred to by Gössmann [G. 333]. Meaning debatable.

Mnd. kiuan 'Saturn' [DM 212].

This case most likely represents a chain of calque translations (from Sum. into Akk. into Syr. into Ar. *zuḥal-*) and direct borrowings (from Syr. into Ar. *kaywān*).

32. Sum. muluga musen 'The Raven' [G. 132], [BPO 2 15]; this constellation is identified with modern Corvus.

Akk. mul āribu 'The Raven', for a syllabic fixation in astronomical contexts, see, e.g., [MSL XI 31 f], [HP 32, I ii 9] {} A loan translation.

Gr. koraks 'The Raven' [LS 980], [Hei II 156]. {} A loan translation.

Arb. ?al-yurāb 'The Raven', sci-A [Kun. 1986 198-199]. {} A loan translation.

Lat. Corvus. {} A loan translation.

- 33. Sum. (1) mulur.gu.la 'The Lion' (lit. 'big dog') [G. 162], [BPO 2 16]. This constellation was located in the area of modern Leo.
- (2) mulur.mah 'The Lion' (lit. 'big dog') [G. 168], [BPO 2 16]. This name has a much more limited attestation than the first one.

These two constellations are sometimes regarded as identical [BPO 2 16]; however, to our knowledge, it is not quite so. There are texts containing both names denoting two different constellations, see

[Weidner 1927]; (cf.also [Heimpel 1987 85]).

Akk. (1) nēšu(m) 'The Lion', syllabic attestation see, e.g. [MSL XI 31 b].

- (2) (d) Latarak, an anthropomorphic deity with a lion head identified with constellation mulur.gu.la or mulur.mah in lexical and astronomical texts, cf. MUL.APIN I i 8 [HP 20], [Cavigneaux 1981 105: 101. [SpTU III 227: 95].
- (3) mul Urgulu 'The Lion' (?) [AHw 1429]; unattested in astronomical texts (cf., however, [HP 20], where Urgulu is given as akkadian equivalent for mulur.gu.la). This term denotes a lion and, specifically in Neo-Assyrian magic, a protective figurine of a lion. {} A loanword from Sum.

Gr. Leon, Leontos 'the Lion' [LS 1043], [Hei II 96].

Ar. ?al-?asad'the Lion' (ind-A and sci-A name of this constellation) [Kun. 1961, S. 22-24], [Kun. 1986 286-287], [Kun. 1993 83]. The Arabic Lion occupied on the ecliptic much more space than its Mesopotamian and Greek prototypes extending from Gemini to Virgo.

Hbr. pB ?arī, ?aryē'the Lion, Leo' [Ja. 118].

Syr. Paryā'leo, nomen sideris' [Brock. 48].

Mnd. aria 'lion; the zodiacal sign Leo' [DM 37].

Gesez: (1) ?asad'a sign of the zodiac (Leo) < Arabic [LGz 41];

(2) ?erəhu 'name of a star', perhaps < Syr. ?aryā 'Leo' [LGz 38]; cf. Gesez ?arwe 'wild animal'.

Hausa: Zaki 'Lion' [Haskett 174].

Lat. Leo.

34. Sum. mulur.idim 'The Mad Dog' [G 168], [BPO 2 16]; located in the area of Lupus, and partly, Scorpio [PW 321], [Koch 1992 59].

Akk. mul uridimmu 'ein mythischer Wildhund' [AHw 1429]; there is a syllabic version of this Akk. name in the star list: ur.idim = [u]r-dim-mu [Cavigneaux 1981 105].

Gr. therion 'The Beast' [LS 800], [Hei II 162]. {} A loanword with partly shift of meaning.

Arb. ?as-sabu?- 'The Wild Beast' [Kun. 1986 156-9, 190-91]. {} A

sci-A translation from Greek. Lat. Lupus 'The Wolf'.

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