This book argues for a new approach to the intellectual history of the Hellenistic world. Despite the intense cross-cultural interactions which characterised the period after Alexander, studies of ‘Hellenistic’ intellectual life have tended to focus on Greek scholars and institutions. Where cross-cultural connections have been drawn, it is through borrowing: the Greek adoption of Babylonian astrology; the Egyptian scholar Manetho deploying Greek historiographical models. In this book, however, Kathryn Stevens advances a ‘Hellenistic intellectual history’ which is cross-cultural in scope and goes beyond borrowing and influence. Drawing on a wide range of Greek and Akkadian sources, she argues that intellectual life in the Greek world and Babylonia can be linked not just through occasional contact and influence, but also by deeper parallels in intellectual culture that reflect their integration into the same overarching imperial system. Tracing such parallels yields intellectual history which is diverse, multipolar and, therefore, truly ‘Hellenistic’.

KATHRYN STEVENS is Associate Professor in Classics and Ancient History at Durham University. Her main research interests are in Greek and Mesopotamian cultural and intellectual history, with a particular focus on the Hellenistic period. She has published articles on Greek geography, Seleucid kingship, ancient libraries and localism in the Hellenistic world, and is currently co-editing the first collected volume on the Astronomical Diaries from Babylon, entitled Keeping Watch in Babylon: The Astronomical Diaries in Context (with J. Haubold and J. Steele).
BETWEEN GREECE AND BABYLONIA

Hellenistic Intellectual History in Cross-Cultural Perspective

KATHRYN STEVENS

University of Durham
For Anne and Gillian Stevens

For Tosca
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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A NOTE ON TRANSLITERATION, TRANSCRIPTION AND TRANSLATION

Absolute consistency in the English rendering of Greek, Latin and Akkadian names can lead to forms which depart considerably from common usage and even impede recognition of known individuals and localities. My practices have been governed by a combination of factors, which leads overall to inconsistency but, I hope, greater clarity. I have used Anglicised forms where these are commonly known (Ptolemy, Aristotle, Aššurbanipal, Pliny; Athens, Babylon, Sippar). Some Greek names have been Latinised where this form is more common in English – for instance Athenaeus, Miletus – while Greek authors and places never or rarely attested in a Latinised form are transliterated strictly – thus Semos of Delos, Harmodios of Lepreon, and the river Akesines. Akkadian place names are given in transliteration or transcription where this is conceptually appropriate or useful to the reader (e.g. Miṣir rather than Egypt in discussions of Babylonian geography); Akkadian proper names with no common Anglicised form are transcribed with diacritics in accordance with Assyriological conventions (Anu-bêšunu, Nabû). In references to cuneiform tablet line numbers, the presence of the symbol ‘ indicates that the initial lines of the tablet are lost, so that the number is based on the preserved lines, e.g. obv. 10′ indicates line 10 of the preserved text on the obverse of a tablet where an unknown number of lines are lost at the start.

Translations are my own unless otherwise indicated.
## Abbreviations

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<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<td>A</td>
<td>Cuneiform tablet collections of the Oriental Institute, University of Chicago</td>
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<td>AAntHung</td>
<td>Acta antiqua Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AClass</td>
<td>Acta Classica: verhandelingen van die Klassieke Vereniging van Suid-Afrika</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AfO</td>
<td>Archiv für Orientforschung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHB</td>
<td>Ancient History Bulletin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHES</td>
<td>Archive for History of Exact Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHR</td>
<td>The American Historical Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIHS</td>
<td>Archives internationales d’histoire des sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AJA</td>
<td>American Journal of Archaeology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AJPh</td>
<td>American Journal of Philology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann. Sci.</td>
<td>Annals of Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASAA</td>
<td>Annuario della Scuola Archeologica di Atene e delle Missioni Italiane in Oriente</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASNP</td>
<td>Annali della Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa, Classe di Lettere e Filosofia</td>
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<tr>
<td>BAAS</td>
<td>Bulletin of the American Astronomical Society</td>
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<td>BaBesch</td>
<td>Bulletin antieke Beschavung</td>
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BagM  Baghdader Mitteilungen
BCH  Bulletin de Correspondance Hellénique
BCHP  I. Finkel and R. J. van der Spek, Babylonian Chronicles of the Hellenistic Period (preliminary online editions at www.livius.org/cg-cm/chronicles/chron00.html)

Bib. Or.  Bibliotheca Orientalis
BICS  Bulletin of the Institute of Classical Studies
BM  British Museum collections
BMCR  Bryn Mawr Classical Review


CAH  The Cambridge Ancient History. Cambridge
CCGG  Cahiers du Centre Gustave Glotz
CID  Corpus des Inscriptions de Delphes. Paris, 1978–.

CMG  Corpus Medicorum Graecorum. Berlin, 1908–.
CQ  Classical Quarterly
CR  Classical Review
CRAI  Comptes rendus des séances de l’Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres

CT  Cuneiform Texts from Babylonian Tablets in the British Museum. London, 1896–.
EAD  Exploration archéologique de Délos. Paris, 1909–.
EI  Epigraphia Indica
FD  Fouilles de Delphes. Paris, 1908–.
List of Abbreviations


IL  Inscriptiones Graecae

IM  Cuneiform tablet collections of the Iraq Museum, Baghdad

List of Abbreviations

JA  Journal Asiaticque
JAOS  Journal of the American Oriental Society
JCS  Journal of Cuneiform Studies
JESH  Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient
JHA  Journal for the History of Astronomy
JHI  Journal of the History of Ideas
JHS  The Journal of Hellenic Studies
JNER  Journal of Near Eastern Religions
JMC  Le Journal des Médecines Cunéiformes
JNES  Journal of Near Eastern Studies
JPH  Journal of the Philosophy of History
JRS  The Journal of Roman Studies
JSSEA  Journal of the Society for the Study of Egyptian Antiquities
JTS  The Journal of Theological Studies
K  Kuyunjik Collection, British Museum, London
MAA  Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology and Archaeometry
MIO  Mitteilungen des Instituts für Orientforschung
MLC  Yale Babylonian Collection, Morgan Library Collection
MUSJ  Mélanges de l’Université Saint-Joseph
NABU  Nouvelles Assyriologiques Brèves et Utilitaires
OLP  Orientalia Lovaniensia Periodica
OLZ  Orientalistische Literaturzeitung
PAPhS  Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society

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List of Abbreviations

PSBA  Proceedings of the Society for Biblical Archaeology
P.Oxy.  The Oxyrhynchus Papyri. London, 1898–.
PP  La Parola del Passato
P&P  Past and Present
RA  Revue d’assyriologie et d’archéologie orientale
REG  Revue des études grecques
RIMA  The Royal Inscriptions of Mesopotamia: Assyrian Periods. Toronto, 1987–.
RlA  Reallexikon der Assyriologie und vorderasiatischen Archäologie. Berlin and Leipzig, 1932–.
SAA  State Archives of Assyria. Helsinki, 1987–.
SAAB  State Archives of Assyria Bulletin
SAAS  State Archives of Assyria Studies
SAS  South Asian Studies
SCI  Scripta Classica Israelica
SCIAMVS  SCIAMVS: Sources and Commentaries in the Exact Sciences
SEG  Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum. 1923–.
StOr  Studia Orientalia
TAPA  Transactions of the American Philological Association
TCL  Textes Cunéiformes, Musée du Louvre. Paris, 1910–.

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List of Abbreviations

UCP University of California Publications in Semitic Philology. Berkeley, 1907–.
UET Ur Excavations: Texts. London, 1928–.
UVB Vorläufiger Bericht über die . . . Ausgrabungen in Uruk-Warka.
VAB Vorderasiatische Bibliothek. Leipzig, 1907–16.
VAT Berlin Museum collections (Vorderasiatische Abteilung. Tontafeln)
YOS Yale Oriental Series
ZA Zeitschrift für Assyriologie und vorderasiatische Archäologie
ZPE Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik
ZOA Zeitschrift für Orient-Archäologie
ZVS Zeitschrift für vergleichende Sprachforschung

Abbreviations for Classical authors and works follow the Oxford Classical Dictionary (4th edition), with the addition of:

Ar. Aristeae ad Philocratem epistula (ed. Hadas 1951)
Epiph. De mens. Epiphanius, De mensuris et ponderibus
Gal. HNH Galen, In Hippocratis De Natura Hominis commentaria (CMG V.9.1)
Philo Mos. Philo, De Vita Mosis
PN [Pseudo-Scymnus], Periodos to Nicomedes (ed. Marcotte 2000)

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