



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# The Re-edition of Mesopotamian Celestial Divination: from Tablets to Internet

RENZI-SEPE M. <sup>1</sup>\*

<sup>1</sup> Freie Universit Berlin, Berlin, Germany

\*Corresponding author

## Abstract

The edition of *En?ma Anu Enlil*, the celestial divinatory series of omens from Mesopotamia, began in the nineteenth century. Most texts belonging to this series, housed in the British Museum of London, the Louvre Museum of Paris, and the Vorderasiatisches Museum of Berlin, were edited by the pioneers of Assyriology: James Craig, Charles Virolleaud, and Ernst Weidner. Despite the foundational work these scholars laid down, their editions are now outdated. When the hand copies of the cuneiform tablets were published, they lacked information regarding their extrinsic features, dimensions, provenance, ductus, and the shape of the signs. The scripts were idealized, and texts were often combined from multiple fragments that only ideally matched the original texts.

My contribution to this workshop aims to illustrate how scholars are currently undertaking a “re-edition” of the first-millennium-BC Mesopotamian divinatory texts. By re-examining the original fragments, producing digital hand copies, and developing online editions and technical glossaries, Assyriologists are today working towards enhancing the accessibility of the cuneiform textual tradition. This effort points to assist future generations of scholars in further reconstructing these series of tablets, tracing more accurately the transmission of the knowledge they contained, and rewriting the history of scientific thought.

## Keywords

Assyriology, Cuneiform tablets, Digital editions, Mesopotamian divination, Philology

## Session

3. Heritage and archaeology

## Workshop

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## Type of paper

Oral presentation

