



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Hidden in plain sight. On the finding of a long-lost Lamashtu amulet and on its execrable cuneiform inscription

GODDEERIS A. ¹*

¹ Ghent University, Gent, Belgium

*Corresponding author

Abstract

In 1966, Nougayrol published the inscription on a lamaštu amulet, accompanied by the photo of the inscribed side of the amulet. The amulet itself, and with it any trace of the iconography on the obverse were untraceable. Because the inscription is of very bad quality, Nougayrol assumes he was publishing a fake. Today, we know that the atrocious aspect of these lamaštu inscriptions is part of the magic power of the amulets.

Much to my surprise, I discovered that the amulet in question is on display in the permanent collection of the Royal Museums of Arts and History in Brussels. In my paper, I want to present both sides of the amulet, and I want to readdress the magic power of the abhorrent writing for chasing away demons. In order to do this, I will contextualize the iconography and the wording of the Brussels amulet with respect to the other known amulets and the lamaštu incantations. The Brussels example is very elaborate in both respects.

Keywords

amulet, lamashtu, magic, cuneiform, materiality

Session

4. The materiality of inscribed and figurative objects

Workshop

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Type of paper

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