

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910457460803321
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Titolo	The Correspondence of the Kings of Ur : An Epistolary History of an Ancient Mesopotamian Kingdom // Piotr Michalowski
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Winona Lake, Ind : , : Eisenbrauns, , 2011 ©2011
ISBN	1-57506-650-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (558 p.)
Collana	Mesosopotamian civilizations ; ; 15 Mesopotamian civilizations ; ; 15
Altri autori (Persone)	MichalowskiPiotr
Disciplina	899/.956008
Soggetti	Sumerian letters Kings and rulers Sumerian letters - Translations into English Translations. Sources. History Electronic books. Iraq Ur (Extinct city) Ur (Extinct city) Kings and rulers Ur (Extinct city) History Sources
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Foreword -- Abbreviations -- Part 1. The Royal Correspondence of the Ur III Kings in Literary and Historical Perspective -- Chapter 1. Introduction -- Chapter 2. Sumerian Literary Letters -- Chapter 3. The Royal Letters in Their Literary Setting -- Chapter 4. The Royal Letters in Their Historical Setting 1: The Affairs of King Šulgi (Letters 1–12, 15–18) -- Chapter 5. The Amorites in Ur III Times -- Chapter 6. The Royal Letters in Their Historical Setting 2: Great Walls, Amorites, and Military History: The Puzur-Šulgi and Šarrum-bani Correspondence (Letters 13–14 and 19–20) -- Chapter 7. The Royal Letters in Their Historical Setting 3: Ur, Isin, Kazallu, and the Final Decades of the Ur III State (Letters 21–24) -- Chapter 8. Afterword

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Sommario/riassunto

The Correspondence of the Kings of Ur is a collection of literary letters between the Ur III monarchs and their high officials at the end of the third millennium B.C. The letters cover topics of royal authority and proper governance, defense of frontier regions, and the ultimate disintegration of the empire and represent the largest corpus of Sumerian prose literature we possess. This long-awaited edition, based on extensive collation of almost all extant manuscripts, numbering more than a hundred, includes detailed historical and literary analyses, and copious philological commentary. It entirely supersedes the Michalowski's oft-cited unpublished Yale dissertation of 1976. The edition is accompanied by an extensive analysis of the place of the letters in early second-millennium schooling, treating the letters as literature, followed by chapters that contextualize the epistolary material within historical and historiographic contexts, utilizing many Sumerian archival, literary, and historical sources. The main objective here is to try to navigate the complex issues of authenticity, authority, and fiction that arise from the study of these literary artifacts. In addition, Michalowski offers new hypotheses about many aspects of late third-millennium history, including essays on military history and strategy, on frontiers, on the nature and putative character of nomadism at the time, as well as a long chapter on the role of a people designated as Amorites. The included DVD includes various photographs at high resolution of most of the tablets included in the study.