

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910782000803321
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Titolo	Royal Statuary of Early Dynastic Mesopotamia / Gianni Marchesi and Nicolo Marchetti ; transl. by Penelope-Jane Watson
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Winona Lake, Ind., : Eisenbrauns, 2011 ©2011
ISBN	1-57506-651-3
Edizione	[Rev. and exp. version of the transl. of the Italian ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (386 p.)
Collana	Mesopotamian civilizations ; 14
Disciplina	732/.5
Soggetti	Sculpture, Ancient Kings and rulers in art Antiquities Sculpture, Ancient - Iraq Iraq Iraq Antiquities
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Orig. publ.: Rome: Bari, 2006
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Nota di contenuto	""Contents""; ""Preface""; ""Introduction""; ""Archaeological Contexts and Chronology of Early Dynastic Statuary""; ""Historical Framework""; ""Early Dynastic Royal Statuary""; ""The Inscriptions on Royal Statues""; ""Kingship and Visual Communication in the Early Dynastic Period""; ""Conclusions""; ""Remarks on Early Dynastic Temples""; ""Royal Statues in Administrative Texts""; ""Notes on the Transliteration of Texts and the Transcription of Proper Names""; ""Abbreviations""; ""Bibliography""; ""Sources of Illustrations""; ""Plates""
Sommario/riassunto	The corpus of Early Dynastic figurative monuments from ancient Mesopotamia is substantial. For many years, establishing the chronological sequence and development of these artifacts has been a complicated and problematic task. In this volume—first published in Italian in 2006 and here translated, revised, and updated—Gianni Marchesi and Nicolò Marchetti provide a complete relative chronology for these remarkable objects. Having established the chronological sequence through an examination of the archaeological contexts of the excavated pieces and the analysis of their inscriptions, the authors then

consider the significance of the changes, over time, in the subject matter of figurative arts, noting a gradual shift from a stage in which the entire officialdom of early polities was celebrated to a stage in which the figure of the king alone becomes the main and then almost the only object of celebration. Near the end of the Early Dynastic period, which was a time of continual political upheaval, new iconographic details were introduced in order to characterize the royal figure, and a distinctive royal iconography began to be developed. Starting from these observations, the authors proceed to investigate the ideology of early polities in Mesopotamia and the role and functions of the king. Along with a new chronology of Early Dynastic rulers and an outline of Early Dynastic history, discussions of significant monuments and inscriptions are offered. In addition, all known inscriptions on royal statues are edited and provided with detailed commentaries. First published in 2006 as *La statuaria regale nella Mesopotamica Protodinastica* (Rome: Bardi Editore).
