

alphabetical order) on pp. v–xiv. No attempt was made to extract words from compositions which have not yet been edited.

Halloran's *Lexicon* also makes no attempt to identify the actual sources of the meanings of individual Sumerian words: some meanings derive from Akkadian–Sumerian bilingual contexts, others from Sumerian administrative or business documents, others from literary texts from the Edubba with highly specialized or learned vocabularies, others from incantations, etc. The sources of these meanings is clearly relevant to how we understand an individual word and whether a meaning provided is suitable to any particular context; one would hardly expect a meaning drawn from an incantation to apply to a loan of sheep.

Having said all this, one might expect the reviewer to reject the value of Halloran's work completely. Surprisingly, this is not the case. The present reviewer has been using the *Lexicon* in class for the past year, and one usually finds the word one is seeking; the same cannot always be said for the EPSD. Halloran has managed to collect an impressive range of Sumerian words, and the brief definitions make sense for most of the texts one reads with students. This *Lexicon* turns out to be a good starting point when searching for a basic meaning that might work.

The other unusual and helpful feature of this work is the attempt to etymologize a Sumerian word within Sumerian language. Examples of etymologies are entries such as *ib-ba* "anger", and as an adverb, the form is etymologized as "to be angry + adverbial -bi + locative [a]" (p. 119), which makes good sense. Neither PSD nor EPSD attempts to etymologize Sumerian in this way, since the process of writing an etymological dictionary of Sumerian is a specialized task, ideally based upon an existing lexicon. Halloran's *Lexicon* also notes Akkadian loanwords (although not noting whether the loan is from or into Akkadian!), e.g. for Sumerian *as₄-lum*, a type of sheep, the entry notes Akk. *aslu*, "ram, sheep" (p. 23).

The verdict on this work is therefore equivocal: it is not exactly what we want or what we need, but on the other hand it is far more useful than one at first expects and it has some valuable contributions to make to our knowledge of Sumerian.