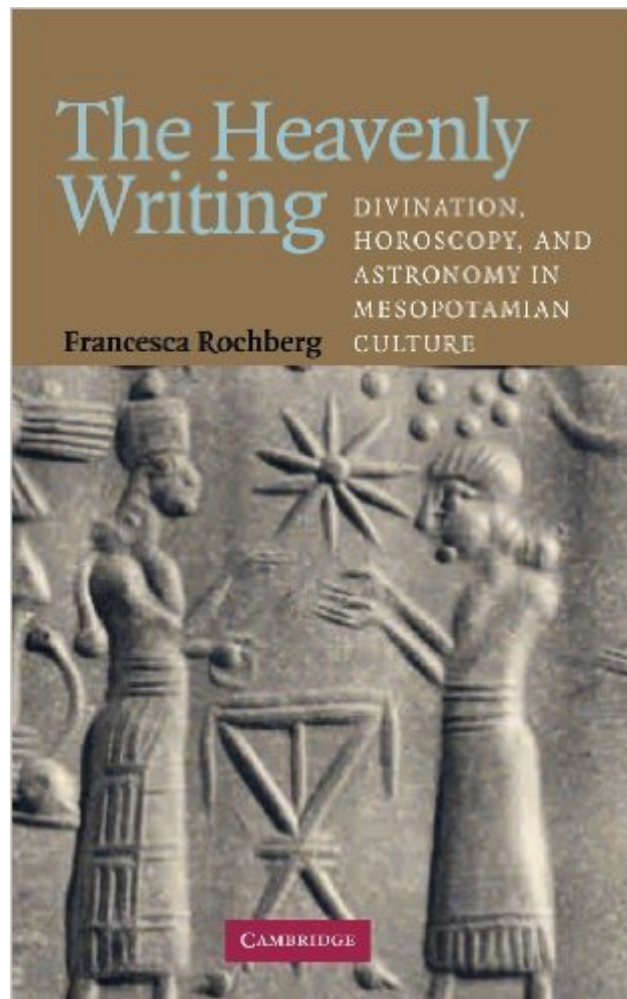


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The Heavenly Writing: Divination, Horoscopy, And Astronomy In Mesopotamian Culture



Synopsis

In antiquity, the expertise of the Babylonians in matters of the heavens was legendary and the roots of both western astronomy and astrology are traceable in cuneiform tablets going back to the second and first millennia BC. *The Heavenly Writing*, first published in 2004, discusses the place of Babylonian celestial divination, horoscopy, and astronomy in Mesopotamian intellectual culture. Focusing chiefly on celestial divination and horoscopes, it traces the emergence of personal astrology from the tradition of celestial divination and the use of astronomical methods in horoscopes. It further takes up the historiographical and philosophical issue of the nature of these Mesopotamian 'celestial sciences' by examining elements traditionally of concern to the philosophy of science, without sacrificing the ancient methods, goals, and interests to a modern image of science. This book will be of particular interest to those concerned with the early history of science.

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Customer Reviews

Francesca is an amazing instructor at her college, and her years of expertise in the field are truly insightful. The book thoroughly educates and provokes further thought.

In ancient Mesopotamia there was no distinction between astronomy and astrology, but this does not mean that the astronomical studies were not scientific. The author uses about 1/2 of the book to convince the reader of this dazzling-clear truth, and the rest of the material is not organized in a systematic way. There are 0 figures and 0 tables. A quite unuseful book.

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