Erica Reiner

After the end of the academic year, June 26–28, 2002, Erica Reiner attended the three day “Workshop on Babylonian Astronomy” held at Brown University in honor of Asger Aaboe. Aaboe is emeritus historian of science at Yale University and was the teacher and mentor of most American historians of Babylonian science, though, alas, not hers, even though she often profited from his learning and advice. At that workshop, Reiner presented a paper on “Stars and Planets: Reflections on Stellar Omens in Enuma Anu Enlil,” based on the group of celestial omens she had been working on. From Providence, Reiner continued on to the Netherlands where she attended the Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale in Leiden, at which, together with Miguel Civil and Fumi Karahashi, she represented the Oriental Institute.

At Christmas 2002, she finally received the first copies of her book, An Adventure of Great Dimension: The Launching of the Chicago Assyrian Dictionary, on which she had been working for several years. After finishing that project, she returned to the task of publishing a further volume of Babylonian planetary omens, now ready to be submitted to Brill.

Off and on, Reiner performed various tasks for the CAD (reference checking, proofreading, and writing a few words for the final volume). At the April annual meeting of the American Oriental Society in Nashville, she read a paper on “The Four Winds” illustrated with slides. At the annual dinner, she was honored to receive the Society’s “Medal of Merit.”

Reiner is pleased to report the publication of La antigua Mesopotamia, the Spanish translation of A. L. Oppenheim’s Ancient Mesopotamia, by the publishing house Gredos in Madrid, Spain, for which she wrote a new preface. The translation, by Ignacio Marquez Rowe, is based on the revised edition that she completed in 1977.