

HARVARD HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY OF ANCIENT NEAR EASTERN SOCIETIES WORKSHOP

presents a lecture by:

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# A LOT OF BARLEY AND A BIT OF GOLD

## ASPECTS OF THE BABYLONIAN ECONOMY IN THE LATE BRONZE AGE

Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:15 pm  
Semitic Museum, Room 201  
6 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, MA

The Babylonian Economy was in the Late Bronze Age (1500-1150 BCE) as in other periods of the Mesopotamian History dominated by agriculture. While barley was the most important staples, economic historian sees it mostly as a cheap commodity not valid for larger purchases. Using the wide array of sources from Kassite Babylonia, this talk will show that barley played an important role in the economy beyond the traditional redistribution system, especially for loans and purchases. This information will be contrasted with the evidence we have for gold as a means of payment.