

Ann Guinan is currently a Consulting Scholar at the Babylonian Section of the Penn Museum (University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology). She is series Editor for *Magic and Divination in the Ancient World* published by Brill Academic Press (Leiden, Netherlands, and Boston, USA). She was a Visiting Scholar at the Asia Institute in Shiraz, Iran in the mid-1970s and since 1988, she has done outreach presentations for the Penn Museum and participated in the project for conservation of Mesopotamian cuneiform tablets. Her research focus is the Mesopotamian omen texts from the royal library of Ashurbanibal, the last great king of the Neo-Assyrian Empire. These clay tablets were excavated in the 19th century at Nineveh in modern-day northern Iraq, near the city of Mosul and sent to the British Museum. Her reconstruction of the text of an unusual genre of omens—derived from human behavior and sexuality—led to the study of divination, magic, gender and sexuality in a variety of world cultures. The work was only possible because the cuneiform tablets were carefully buried beneath the streets of London by the conservators to protect them during the blitz.