

Curriculum Vitae: Peter Machinist

PERSONAL: Born September 3, 1944; married with two children.

EDUCATION:

A.B. (1966) from Harvard University, with focus on Hebrew Bible, Hebrew, ancient Near Eastern history, and Greek. Bachelor's Honors Thesis: "The First Coins of Judah" (Advisor: Prof. Frank Moore Cross).

M.Phil. (1971) and Ph.D. (1978) from Yale University, focusing on Assyriology, with Near Eastern archaeology, Hebrew Bible, and classical Judaism. Doctoral thesis: "The Epic of Tukulti-Ninurta I. A Study in Middle Assyrian Literature" (Advisor: Prof. William W. Hallo).

Certificate in German language, with prize, Goethe Institut, Passau, Germany (1969).

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS:

Photographer with archaeological excavations of Sardis, Turkey (1964) and Gezer, Israel (1966).

Taught Hebrew Bible, Hebrew, Assyriology, and ancient Near Eastern history, rising through ranks from instructor to full professor (the latter achieved at Harvard), at Connecticut College (1969), Yale University Divinity School (1970-71), Case Western Reserve University (1971-77), University of Arizona, Tucson (1977-86), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (1986-90), and Harvard University (1991--), where I have been since 1992 Hancock Professor of Hebrew and Other Oriental Languages in the Dept. of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and a member of the faculty of the Harvard Divinity School.

I also was visiting Lecturer in Assyriology, in the Dept. of Assyriology, at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1981, and Lady Davis Visiting Professor of Biblical History at the same institution, in the Dept. of Jewish History, and also Bible, in 2003.

MAJOR FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION:

Biblical Studies (especially Hebrew Bible) and ancient Syro-Palestinian history; Hebrew, Akkadian, and other ancient Semitic languages; ancient Mesopotamian studies; interconnections in ancient Near Eastern history.

PRINCIPAL HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS:

Received A.B. from Harvard University summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa (Senior Sixteen).

Woodrow Wilson Fellowship (1966-67) and Danforth Graduate Fellowship (1966-71) for graduate study.

Lady Davis Post-Doctoral Fellow, Hebrew University of Jerusalem (1981).

Fellow, Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin (Germany) (1984-85).

Co-winner of first Biblical Archaeology Society Award for Most Significant Article on the Bible and Archaeology (1984) (for “Assyria and Its Image in the First Isaiah”).

Haskell Lectures, Oberlin College (April, 1995) on “Politics as Literature: The Impact of Ideology in Ancient Israel and Mesopotamia.”

PUBLICATIONS:

Monographs:

Provincial Governance in Middle Assyria and Some New Texts from Yale (fascicle of Assur 3/2 [Nov., 1982]).

Steven W. Cole and Peter Machinist, Letters from Priests to the Kings Esarhaddon and Assurbanipal (with Simo Parpola, Robert Whiting, and Karen Radner). (State Archives of Assyria vol. XIII; Helsinki, 1998)

Articles:

“Leviathan,” Encyclopedia Judaica², vol. 11 (1973), p. 89.

“Literature as Politics: The Tukulti-Ninurta Epic and the Bible,” Catholic Biblical Quarterly 38 (1976), pp. 455-482.

with Norman Yoffee, “Bibliography of Jacob J. Finkelstein,” in Maria J. Ellis, et al.(eds.), Essays on the Ancient Near East in Memory of Jacob J. Finkelstein (Memoirs of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences XIX, Dec., 1977), pp. 227-229.

“Assyrians and Hittites in the Late Bronze Age,” in J. Renger and H.-J. Nissen (eds.), Mesopotamien und seine Nachbarn (XXVe Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale). (Berlin: Dietrich Reimer Verlag, 1982), Band I, pp. 265-267.

“Rest and Violence in the Poem of Erra,” Journal of the American Oriental Society 103 (1983), pp. 221-226.

“Assyria and Its Image in the First Isaiah,” Journal of the American Oriental Society 103 [1983], pp. 719-737.

“Assur; Assyria, Empire of; Azariah; Ebla; Sargon II; Ur,” in P.J. Achtemeier

- (ed.), Harper's Bible Dictionary (San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1985), pp. 77-78, 81, 234-236, 907-908, 1105-1107.
- “On Self-Consciousness in Mesopotamia” (in S.N. Eisenstadt, ed., The Origins and Diversity of Axial Age Civilizations [Albany, 1986], pp. 183-202, 511-518).
- “The Assyrians and Their Babylonian Problem: Some Reflections,” Jahrbuch des Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin 1984-85, pp. 353-364.
- “Über die Selbstbewusstheit in Mesopotamien,” in S.N. Eisenstadt (ed.), Kulturen der Achsenzeit. Ihre Ursprünge und ihre Vielfalt (Frankfurt a.M.: Suhrkamp Verlag, 1987), Teil I, pp. 258-291 (translation by Ruth Achlama and Gavriella Schalit of “On Self-Consciousness...” above).
- “Comments in General Discussion,” in M. Heltzer and E. Lipinski (eds.), Society and Economy in the Eastern Mediterranean (c. 1500-1000 B.C.). (Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta 23). (Leuven: Peeters, 1988), pp. 371-372, 375-376, 380, 381.
- “The Question of Distinctiveness in Ancient Israel: An Essay,” in M. Cogan and I. Eph'al (eds.), Ah, Assyria... Studies in Assyrian History and Ancient Near Eastern Historiography Presented to Hayim Tadmor (Scripta Hierosolymitana 33). (Jerusalem: Magnes Press, 1991), pp. 196-212. Reprinted in Frederick E. Greenspahn (ed.), Essential Papers on Israel and the Ancient Near East (New York: New York University Press, 1991), pp. 420-442.
- Consultant to The Anchor Bible Dictionary, ed. D.N. Freedman (New York: Doubleday, 1992), and author therein of:
- “Nimrod,” vol. 4, pp. 1116-1118.
- “Palestine, Administration of (Assyro-Babylonian),” vol. 5, pp. 69-81.
- with Hayim Tadmor, “Heavenly Wisdom,” in M. Cohen, D. Snell, and D.B. Weisberg (eds.), The Tablet and the Scroll. Near Eastern Studies in Honor of William W. Hallo (Bethesda: CDL Press, 1993), pp. 146-151.
- “Hayim Tadmor,” Newsletter of the American Oriental Society 15 (April, 1993), pp. 4-5.
- “Assyrians on Assyria in the First Millennium B.C.,” in K. Raaflaub (ed.), Anfänge politischen Denkens in der Antike (Schriften des Historischen Kollegs, Kolloquien 24). (Munich: Oldenbourg, 1993], pp. 77-104.
- “Outsiders or Insiders: The Biblical View of Emergent Israel and Its Contexts,” in L.J. Silberstein & R.L. Cohn (eds.), The Other in Jewish Thought and History. Constructions of Jewish History and Identity (New York: New York University Press, 1994), pp. 35-60).
- “The First Coins of Judah and Samaria: Numismatics and History in the Achaemenid and Early Hellenistic Periods,” in Heleen Sancisi-Weerdenburg, Amelie Kuhrt, and Margaret Cool Root (eds.), Achaemenid History VIII: Continuity and Change. Proceedings of the Last Achaemenid History Workshop. April 6-8, 1990 – Ann Arbor, Michigan (Leiden: Nederlands Instituut voor Het Nabije Oosten, 1994), pp. 365-380.
- “Fate, Miqreh, and Reason: Reflections on Qohelet and Biblical Thought,” in Ziony Zevit, Seymour Gitin, and Michael Sokoloff (eds.), Solving Riddles and Tying Knots. Biblical, Epigraphic, and Semitic Studies in Honor of Jonas

- C. Greenfield (Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 1995), pp. 159-175.
- “The Transfer of Kingship: A Divine Turning,” in A. B. Beck, A.H. Bartelt, C.A. Franke, and P.R. Raabe (eds.), Fortunate the Eyes That See. Essays in Honor of David Noel Freedman in Celebration of His Seventieth Birthday (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1995) , pp. 105-120.
- “Hosea and the Ambiguity of Kingship in Ancient Israel,” in Chaim Stern and S. David Sperling (eds.), Signs of Democracy in the Bible (The Resnick Lectures of Temple Beth El of Northern Westchester, Chappaqua, N.Y., 1995), pp. 25-63.
- Revision of “Assur; Assyria, Empire of; Ebla; Sargon II; and Ur,” in P.J. Achtemeier (ed.), The HarperCollins Bible Dictionary (revised ed.) (San Francisco: HarperSan Francisco, 1996), pp. 85, 85-86, 256-258, 973-974, 1185-1187.
- “William Foxwell Albright: The Man and His Work,” in J.S. Cooper and G.M. Schwartz (eds.), The Study of the Ancient Near East in the 21st Century. The William Foxwell Albright Centennial Conference (Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 1996), pp. 385-403.
- “The Fall of Assyria in Comparative Ancient Perspective,” in S. Parpola and R.M. Whiting (eds.), Assyria 1995. Proceedings of the 10th Anniversary Symposium of the Neo-Assyrian Text Corpus Project, Helsinki, September 7-11, 1995 (Helsinki: Neo-Assyrian Text Corpus Project, 1997), pp. 179-195).
- “Job’s Daughters and Their Inheritance in the Testament of Job and Its Biblical Congeners,” in W.G. Dever and J.E. Wright (eds.), The Echoes of Many Texts...Essays in Honor of Lou H.Silberman (Brown Judaica Series). (Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1997), pp. 67-80).
- “Biblical Traditions: The Philistines and Israelite History,” in E.D. Oren (ed.), The Sea Peoples and Their World: A Reassessment (Philadelphia: University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania, 2000), pp. 53-83).
- “Nahum,” in James L. Mays (ed.), Harpers Bible Commentary (revised ed.) (San Francisco: HarperSan Francisco, 2000), pp. 665-667.
- “A Man Called Moses,” Bible Review (April, 2000), pp. 18-19, 53 (revision of earlier publication in Harvard Divinity Bulletin).
- “The Rab Shaqeh at the Wall of Jerusalem: Israelite Identity in the Face of the Assyrian ‘Other’,” Hebrew Studies 41 (2000), pp. 151-168.
- “Mesopotamien in Eric Voegelins Ordnung und Geschichte,” in Eric Voegelin, Ordnung und Geschichte. Band I: Die kosmologischen Reiche des Alten Orients-Mesopotamien und Agypten, ed. Jan Assmann (Munich: Wilhelm Fink Verlag, 2002), pp. 177-212 (translated from English by Michaela Rehm).
- Mesopotamia in Eric Voegelin’s Order and History. Occasional Papers XXVI of the Eric-Voegelin-Archiv, Universitat Munchen, 2001. (This is a slightly revised version of “Mesopotamien....”)
- “Judische Uberlegungen zu Jesaja 52, 13-53,12,” in Klarungen 3 (Verein zur Forderung des Christlich-Judischen Gesprachs in der Evang.-Luth. Kirche in Bayern, Germany, 2002), pp. 16-26 (translated from English by Helmut Utzschneider).
- “Ecclesiastes,” in Adele Berlin and Marc Brettler, eds., The Jewish Study Bible (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003), pp. 1603-1622.

- “Mesopotamian Imperialism and Israelite Religion: A Case Study from the Second Isaiah,” in Symbiosis, Symbolism and the Power of the Past: Canaan, Ancient Israel and Their Neighbors. Centennial Symposium of the W.F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research and the American Schools of Oriental Research, eds., W.G. Dever and S. Gitin. (Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2003), pp. 237-264.
- “The Voice of the Historian in the Ancient Near Eastern and Mediterranean World,” Interpretation 57/2 (April, 2003), pp. 117-137.
- “A Tribute to Hayim Tadmor,” in Amnon Ben-Tor, Israel Eph’al, and Peter Machinist, with Joseph Aviram, eds., Miriam and Hayim Tadmor Volume: Eretz Israel 27 (Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society, 2003), pp. ix-x (English)/ yod/gimel-yod/dalet (Hebrew).
- “Order and Disorder: Some Mesopotamian Reflections,” in Shaul Shaked, ed., Genesis and Regeneration (Jerusalem: Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, 2005), pp. 31-61.
- “Hosea and the Ambiguity of Kingship in Ancient Israel,” in John T. Strong and Steven S. Tuell, eds., Constituting the Community: Studies on the Polity of Ancient Israel in Honor of S. Dean McBride, Jr. (Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2005), pp. 153-181. (This is a revised and enlarged version of 1995 above.)
- “Once More: Monotheism in Biblical Israel,” Journal of the Interdisciplinary Study of Monotheistic Religions 1 Special Issue (Kyoto, Japan: Doshisha University, 2005), pp. 155-183.
- “Kingship and Divinity in Imperial Assyria,” in Gary Beckman and Theodore J. Lewis, eds., Text, Artifact, and Image. Revealing Ancient Israelite Religion (Providence: Brown Judaic Studies vol. 346, 2006), pp. 152-188.
- “Kingship and Divinity in Imperial Assyria,” in Johannes Renger, ed., Assur-Gott, Stadt und Land (5. Internationales Colloquiums der Deutschen Orient-Gesellschaft; Berlin, in press). This is a revised and abbreviated form of the preceding.
- “Final Response: On the Study of the Ancients, Language, Writing, and the State,” in Seth Sanders, ed., Margins of Writing, Origins of Cultures (Oriental Institute Seminars, No. 2; Chicago: The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, 2006), pp. 291-300.
- “Foreword,” Hermann Gunkel, Creation and Chaos in the Primeval Era and the Eschaton. A Religio-Historical Study of Genesis 1 and Revelation 12, translated and with a preface by K. William Whitney, Jr. (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2006), pp. xv-xx.
- “Mendenhall, George Emery (1916-).,” in Donald McKim, ed., Dictionary of Major Biblical Interpreters (revised edition) (Westmont, IL: IVP Academic InterVarsity Press, in press).
- “‘Let a Hundred Flowers Bloom.’ Some Reflections on Reading and Studying the Hebrew Bible,” in Frederick J. Greenspahn, ed., New Insights in the Hebrew Bible (New York: New York University Press, in press).

Reviews:

- “Benno Jacob, Genesis: His Commentary Abridged, Edited, and Translated by Ernest I. Jacob and Walter Jacob,” Central Conference of American Rabbis Journal 23/3 (Summer, 1976), pp. 112-116.
- “Thorkild Jacobsen, The Treasures of Darkness,” Catholic Biblical Quarterly 41 (1979), pp. 307-309.
- “Luigi Cagni, The Poem of Erra,” Journal of the American Oriental Society 101 (1981), pp. 401-403.
- “B. Alster (ed.), Death in Mesopotamia,” Journal of the American Oriental Society 101 (1984), pp. 568-570.
- “J. Maxwell Miller and John H. Hayes, A History of Ancient Israel and Judah,” Biblical Archaeology Review XII/6 (Nov.-Dec., 1986), pp. 4, 6, 8, 10.
- “Thomas W. Overholt, Prophecy in Cross-Cultural Perspective,” Journal of Religion (April, 1988).
- “Karel van der Toorn, Sin and Sanction in Israel and Mesopotamia,” Hebrew Studies 31 (1990), pp. 240-246.
- “Jonathan Goldstein, Peoples of an Almighty God,” Interpretation 57/1 (Jan., 2003), 84, 86.

Popular:

- “Women and Religion: A View Toward the Conference,” Women and Religion Newsletter (Jan., 1979) (Tucson, Arizona Ecumenical Council), p. 2.
- “Writing as Immortality,” Human Concerns. A Newsletter of the New Hampshire Humanities Council (Spring, 1991), pp. 2-4.
- “God Is a Given,” Interview with Peter Machinist, by Missy Daniel, Harvard Divinity Bulletin, Supplement: Religion and Values in Public Life 1/3 (Spring, 1993), pp. 5-8.
- “Strangers and Sojourners. Address at Morning Prayer in Appleton Chapel, Memorial Church, Harvard University,” Harvard Divinity Bulletin 24/4 (1995), pp. 10-11.
- “The Meaning of Moses,” Harvard Divinity Bulletin 27/2-3 (1998), pp. 14-15 (see revised article listed above under Publications).
- Making Humans in the Image of God: Reflections on Genesis 1-3. Videotape of lecture, published and distributed by the Biblical Archaeology Society, Washington, D.C., 1999.

Editorial:

- Hector Avalos, Illness and Health Care in the Ancient Near East. The Role of the Temple in Greece, Mesopotamia, and Israel. Harvard Semitic Monographs 54. Edited by Peter Machinist. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1995.
- Peter Enns, Exodus Retold. Ancient Exegesis of the Departure from Egypt in Wis 15-21 and 19:1-9. Harvard Semitic Monographs 57. Edited by Peter Machinist. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1997.
- Aaron Jed Brody, “Each Man Cried Out to His God.” The Specialized Religion of Canaanite and Phoenician Seafarers. Harvard Semitic Monographs 58. Edited by Peter Machinist. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1998.

- David S. Vanderhooff, The Neo-Babylonian Empire and Babylon in the Latter Prophets. Harvard Semitic Monographs 59. Edited by Peter Machinist. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1999.
- Carey Ellen Walsh, The Fruit of the Vine. Viticulture in Ancient Israel. Harvard Semitic Monographs 60. Edited by Peter Machinist. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2000.
- Klaus Baltzer, Deutero-Isaiah. A Commentary on Isaiah 40-55. Hermeneia Commentary. Edited by Peter Machinist and K.C. Hanson. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2001.
- Historiography in the Cuneiform World. Part I of the Proceedings of the XLVe Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale at Harvard University. Edited by Tzvi Abusch, Paul-Alain Beaulieu, John Huehnergard, Peter Machinist, and Piotr Steinkeller, with Carol Noyes. Bethesda: CDL Press, 2001.
- Elizabeth C. LaRocca-Pitts, "Of Wood and Stone": Concerning bamot, massebot, aserim, and mizbehot. Harvard Semitic Monographs 61. Edited by Michael Coogan and Peter Machinist. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2001.
- Martti Nissinen, with C. Leong Seow and Robert Ritner, Prophecy in the Ancient Near East. Writings from the Ancient World. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2003.
- Miriam and Hayim Tadmor Volume. Eretz-Israel 27. Edited by Amnon Ben-Tor, Israel Eph'al, and Peter Machinist, with Joseph Aviram. Jerusalem: Israel Exploration Society, 2003.
- Cynthia R. Chapman, The Gendered Language of Warfare in the Assyrian/Israelite Encounter. Harvard Semitic Museum Monographs 62. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2004.

In Preparation:

- Nahum (volume of Biblical commentary for the Hermeneia series).
- The Epic of Tukulti-Ninurta I: A Study in Middle Assyrian Literature (volume).
- The Hebrew Bible in Its Near Eastern Environment (volume for the Library of Ancient Israel series; Westminster-John Knox Press).
- "The Road Not Taken: Wellhausen and Assyriology."
- "Tukulti-Ninurta and the Rise of Middle Assyrian Epic."
- "'Ah, Assyria.' Isaiah's Assyrian Polemic Revisited."
- "Another Look at the Babylonian Dialogue on Pessimism."

TEACHING AND STUDENTS:

Courses Taught at Harvard University:

- Seminar on major thinkers in the study of religion (co-taught with Prof. Francis Fiorenza; graduate)
- History of the Religion of Ancient Israel (undergraduate and graduate).
- Prophecy in Ancient Israel (undergraduate and graduate).
- History of the Study of the Hebrew Bible. From the Renaissance to the Present (graduate).

Seminars on the Literature of Israel, with varying topics: Exodus; Kings and Chronicles; Nahum and the Assyrian Tradition in Israelite Prophecy; Qohelet (graduate).

History and Historiography in the Ancient Near East (graduate).

Myth and Myth-Making in the Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern World (undergraduate and graduate).

Akkadian text courses, with varying topics: Myths and Epics; Historiographic Texts; Texts and History of Imperial Assyria (graduate).

Seminars on the history and archaeology of the ancient Near East, with varying topics: Ethnicity in the Ancient Record; Ammon, Edom, and Moab; the Aramaeans; the Phoenicians (co-taught with Prof. Lawrence E. Stager; graduate).

Seminar on the Iconography of Deity in Ancient Mesopotamia (co-taught with Prof. Irene J. Winter).

The Book of Job and the Joban Tradition (undergraduate Core course).

Prometheus and Job: Tragedy in the Ancient Greek and Biblical Contexts (Freshman seminar)

“Athens and Jerusalem”: Self and Other in Classical Greek and Hebrew Biblical Literature (undergraduate Core course co-taught with Prof. Bennett Simon).

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Member of editorial boards of: Biblical Archaeologist (1982-90); Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research (1983-90); Catholic Biblical Quarterly (1998-2006); Harvard Dissertations in Religion (2000--); Harvard Semitic Museum Publications (1993--); Hebrew Studies (1986-88); Hermeneia Commentary Series (1990--; editor-in-chief, Old Testament: 2002--); Jewish History (1986--); Journal of Biblical Literature (1989-91); Writings from the Ancient World/Society of Biblical Literature (1994-2001).

Member of executive committees of: American Oriental Society (1989-92); American Schools of Oriental Research/Baghdad Committee (1984-90); Biblical Colloquium (President, 2005--); Colloquium for Biblical Research (President, 1993-94; Secretary-Treasurer, 2002--); Society for Biblical Literature (Hebrew Scriptures and Cognate Literature Section, 1984-92; Assyriology and the Bible Section, 2002 --; Myth and Theory Section, 2006 --; President, New England Regional Chapter, 1995-96), W.F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research (2003--).

Membership in: American Oriental Society; American Schools of Oriental Research; Aram Society; Association for Jewish Studies; Biblical Colloquium; British School of Archaeology in Iraq; Canadian Society for Mesopotamian Studies; Catholic Biblical Association; Colloquium for Biblical Research; International Organization for Septuagint and Cognate Studies; Israel Exploration Society; National Association of Professors of Hebrew;

Fondation Assyriologique Georges Dossin; Society of Biblical Literature.