

FOREWORD

The current issue of SEL presents a series of essays dealing with «magic» in the ancient Near Eastern civilizations. Hence this issue continues the monographic nature of SEL 8, 1991, which was devoted to onomastics, and SEL 12, 1995, which was devoted to the lexicography of the ancient Near Eastern languages.

Since our aim was not to cover systematically the different areas and documentations, the essays of this issue offer an up-to-date outline of some selected cultures and their related linguistic and iconographic *corpora* dealing with the topics «magic». Also from a chronological point of view, the authors had the freedom to choose the general lines of their contributions and their articles represent several approaches to the main theme.

We wish to express our gratitude to colleagues and friends who have collaborated in this volume. As far as the future of SEL is concerned, we would like to pursue in that direction and to plan other special issues dealing with interdisciplinary topics of large interest.

THE EDITORIAL BOARD