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ORIENTAL
INSTITUTE

The University of Chicago
1155 East 58th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637

October 4, 2018

The Academic Council of the Institute of Oriental Manuscripts
Russian Academy of Sciences
St. Petersburg, Russia

It has been called to my attention that someone has suggested that Marina Redina-Thomas in her dissertation "Provincial Administration in Kassite Babylonia in the 14th-13th cent. BC (on the Material of Nippur Documents)" made unauthorized and unacknowledged borrowing from an unpublished dissertation or unpublished research by Daniel A. Nevez, a former student of mine in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago.

Mr. Nevez was a student at the University of Chicago from 1991 to 2004. I served as his academic advisor and dissertation supervisor. He was accepted as a candidate for the Ph.D. degree in December 1995 with a proposed research topic on province administration at Nippur in the Kassite period. At that time, following standard departmental practice, he submitted a one-page abstract and a ten-page outline proposal for his projected dissertation research. He worked on this research topic intermittently until his Ph.D. candidacy expired in early 2004. He did not write a dissertation or leave any other unpublished manuscripts of his work. There is nothing available from which a student could plagiarize or borrow.

Last month I had an inquiry from Prof. Dr. Vladimir Emelianov of the St-Petersburg State University about the Nevez dissertation. I informed him that Mr. Nevez "did not complete his dissertation and withdrew as a student from the university some years ago."

Three years ago, Professor Muhammad Dandamayev asked if I would accept questions from Mrs. Redina-Thomas about her research topic. Since then, she and I have corresponded by e-mail on several occasions. I have seen a copy of her dissertation and an English summary of the contents. There is nothing borrowed from Mr. Nevez's materials in them. She and Mr. Nevez use some of the same ancient Babylonian sources, as would be expected from persons writing about the same historical period and general topic; but Mrs. Redina-Thomas's approach is quite different from that of Mr. Nevez. Her dissertation is based on her own original work and on her very good research. It should be a significant contribution to the field.

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