The Ancient Near East
Mountains of Northern Mesopotamia
Contour Map: Southern Mesopotamia
The Delta of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in Southern Mesopotamia
The Delta of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers
(as seen from space)
The Shatt al-Arab at the junction of the Euphrates and Tigris rivers. In local tradition this was the site of the Garden of Eden.
Flooded Field in Southern Mesopotamia
Figure 1:8 Ancient mounds in the jazirah between the Tigris and Sinjar: view south from the modern citadel at Tell Afar. (Photo: courtesy David Connolly)
Figure 1.7 Mesopotamia and Syria: relief and soils, showing best areas for irrigation and rainfall agriculture. (Based partly on Buringh 1960 and Wirth 1971)
Drawing of a storm on the Euphrates River
Irrigated Fields in the Tigris Valley
Irrigated Fields
Relief: Worker Using a Shaduf
Diagram: Ancient Methods of Irrigation

ANCIENT ASSYRIANS USING EGYPTIAN METHOD OF IRRIGATION
Remains of an Ancient Canal

Figure 9.3 Disused canal in southern Iraq to show height of banks of spoil each side.
Remains of Parallel Canals
The Impact of Salinization

Figure 9.4 Saline soil in southern Iraq today.
Plow, with Seed Funnel
The Desert to the West of Babylon
Archaeologists at work
Mesopotamian Pot

(ca. 3000 BCE)
Cylinder Seal

4.3 cm.
c. Modern impression of the Early Dynastic III lapis lazuli seal of Pu-abi found in her grave in the Royal Cemetery at Ur (c. 2600 BC). It depicts a banquet scene in two registers reminiscent of the banquet on the Royal Standard (see Fig. 50b) except that one of the principal banqueters is a lady, perhaps Pu-abi herself as her name and title appear in the cuneiform inscription behind her. She is attended by two women whereas the man facing her and the two men on the lower register have male attendants. There is a leg of meat on a stand beside the lower banqueters. Ht 4.9 cm.