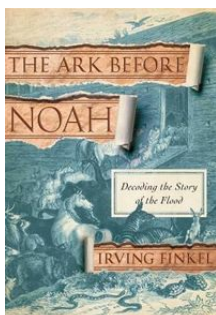


THE ARK BEFORE NOAH: DECODING THE STORY OF THE FLOOD

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Fingers of bitumen Here we have to understand the measure as the Sumerian ideogram U.I (usually written U.SI), standing for the Babylonian ubnu, finger, one of which comes out at about 1.66 centimetres. Bitumen is thus applied to all ark surfaces to a depth of one finger. Irving Finkel, The Ark Before Noah: Decoding the Story of the Flood //

This field of activity generated a vast literature of carefully assembled one-line omens on this pattern: If A happened, B will happen. Here the sought-for outcome B, known as the apodosis, is deemed to be the consequence of an observed phenomenon, the protasis A. One Irving Finkel, The Ark Before Noah: Decoding the Story of the Flood //

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This book provides more information about the history of ancient Mesopotamian writing and the art of reading cuneiform texts than the average reader probably cares to learn. The author at one point claims