

King lists of ancient Mesopotamia are a well-defined and described part of the „scientific“ literature of the era, known as the *Listenwissenschaft*. This work aims to put on the same level the king lists of the neighbouring area of Syro-Palestine – the lists discovered in Ebla, Mari, and Ugarit and published over the last twenty-five years. Its value as a historiographic source is questioned and the lists are understood primarily as an expression of the royal ideology. The study is based on the analyses of individual anthroponyms, examining the lists especially on the basis of intuitively selected criteria and studying their function and relation to the narrative fabric. The main difference is between the lists from Mari, which constitute a part of the Babylonian administrative tradition, and the lists from the west of the region. These are a synthesis of the legendary past, the cult of the dead and the political situation of the time, which is most apparent in the parts dedicated to the oldest rulers. The lists are therefore related to each other in space rather than in time.