1046-01-639   **Duncan J. Melville*** (`dmelville@stlawu.edu`), Dept of Mathematics, St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY 13617. *The Problem of Word Problems.* Preliminary report.

Old Babylonian mathematics is widely known for its abundant word problems. The deciphering of these texts and the uncovering of the range and depth of the word problems led to a significant re-evaluation of the early history of mathematics during the twentieth century. Their use in an educational context was taken for granted. More recently, detailed work on reconstructing the course of study in Old Babylonian scribal education has raised questions about when and how these texts were used. Here, I will discuss attempts to locate mathematical problem texts and their functions within the wider scribal corpus. (Received September 09, 2008)