When G. van Driel presented his survey of the taxation system in the Neo-Babylonian and Achaemenid periods, he cautiously entertained the possibility that “the registration of property transactions by the government in the Achaemenid period may have had a precursor in the activities of a group of scribes as notaries”. Later commentators on pre-Achaemenid registration and taxation practices generally endorsed this view, and it is now widely agreed that registry offices had already existed in Neo-Babylonian times.

This masterclass aims to explore the sources upon which these assertions are based, and offers an introduction to the documents pertaining to the development of such institutions in the Late Achaemenid and Hellenistic periods, including their Ptolemaic counterparts.

7–10 October 2019

7 October, 13.15 – 15.00, Johan Huizinga, Room 008B
8 October, 13.15 – 15.00, Lipsius, Room 308
9 October, 9.15 – 11.00, van Wijkplaats 2, Room 003
10 October, 11.15 – 13.00, Lipsius, Room 130

Please register for this class via persiababylonia@hum.leidenuniv.nl.