

A GUIDE  
TO THE  
BABYLONIAN AND ASSYRIAN ANTIQUITIES.

**BRITISH MUSEUM.**

A GUIDE

TO THE

BABYLONIAN

AND

ASSYRIAN ANTIQUITIES.

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THIRD EDITION—REVISED AND ENLARGED.

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*WITH FORTY-NINE PLATES AND FORTY-FIVE ILLUSTRATIONS  
IN THE TEXT.*

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## P R E F A C E.

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IN this Guide are described the great collections of Babylonian and Assyrian antiquities which have been acquired as the result of excavations made by the Trustees of the British Museum, and by purchase, since the year 1846. These collections cover a period of about four thousand years—that is to say, from about B.C. 3500 to A.D. 500. The chronological evidence which has become available during the last twenty years has made it necessary to modify the scheme of chronology which was based upon the date given for the reign of Narâm Sin on the cylinder of Nabonidus. But though the period of the rule of this king must be reduced from about B.C. 3700 to B.C. 2700, our knowledge of the general history of the Early Period, which reaches back to B.C. 4000, has been greatly increased.

The collections consist of sculptures and bas-reliefs, and inscribed monuments, boundary-stones, gate-sockets, and bricks bearing the names and titles of the kings who made them; baked clay cylinders and prisms and tablets inscribed with records of the history and of the religious, commercial, and domestic life of the Babylonians and Assyrians; objects which illustrate the art of Babylonia and Assyria, Elam, and the surrounding nations, in bronze, ivory, terra-cotta, and precious stones; and numerous miscellaneous objects belonging to the later periods of the Persian, Greek, Parthian, Roman, and Sassanian periods of occupation in Mesopotamia.

The number of objects in these collections is nearly 120,000, and in them is comprised by far the largest portion of cuneiform material available for reconstructing the history of Western Asia. The large sculptures and bas-reliefs are exhibited in the Assyrian Galleries on the ground floor and

basement, and some 8,300 of the smaller objects are exhibited in the Babylonian and Assyrian Rooms in the Second Northern Gallery upstairs.

The descriptions of the sculptures and many other objects have been revised and enlarged, and in the Introduction, which has been re-written, the latest results of historical and archaeological research have been incorporated. In this an attempt has been made to sketch the history of Sumer and Akkad from the earliest times, and to give parallel accounts of the civilizations of Babylonia and Assyria. A full list of the governors and kings of these countries who reigned from about B.C. 3000 to B.C. 331 will be found on pp. 240-255. This is the first complete Assyrian King-List published in England. In dealing with the History, Religion, Literature, and Art of the Babylonians and Assyrians, the aim throughout has been to supply the information most necessary for understanding the Collections, but the needs of the student and the beginner have not been forgotten.

In dealing with the early monuments of Elam, Sumer and Babylon I have been greatly helped by Mr. C. J. Gadd, B.A., Assistant in the Department, and in matters touching the Northern Empires of Assyria, Mitanni (Mesopotamia proper), Urartu (Wân), and the peoples of Asia Minor, by Mr. Sidney Smith, M.A., Assistant in the Department. And a description of the antiquities from the excavations of the Trustees of the British Museum at "Ur of the Chaldees" (Mukayyar) and Tall al-'Ubêd has been supplied by Dr. Hall, Deputy-Keeper of the Department.

E. A. WALLIS BUDGE.

DEPARTMENT OF EGYPTIAN AND ASSYRIAN  
ANTIQUITIES, BRITISH MUSEUM.

20th December, 1922.

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### ERRATUM.

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Page 62, line 1. *For* Ashur-bel-sharrani, *read* Ashur-nadin-akhê, B.C. 1450.

# A GUIDE

TO THE

## BABYLONIAN AND ASSYRIAN ANTIQUITIES.

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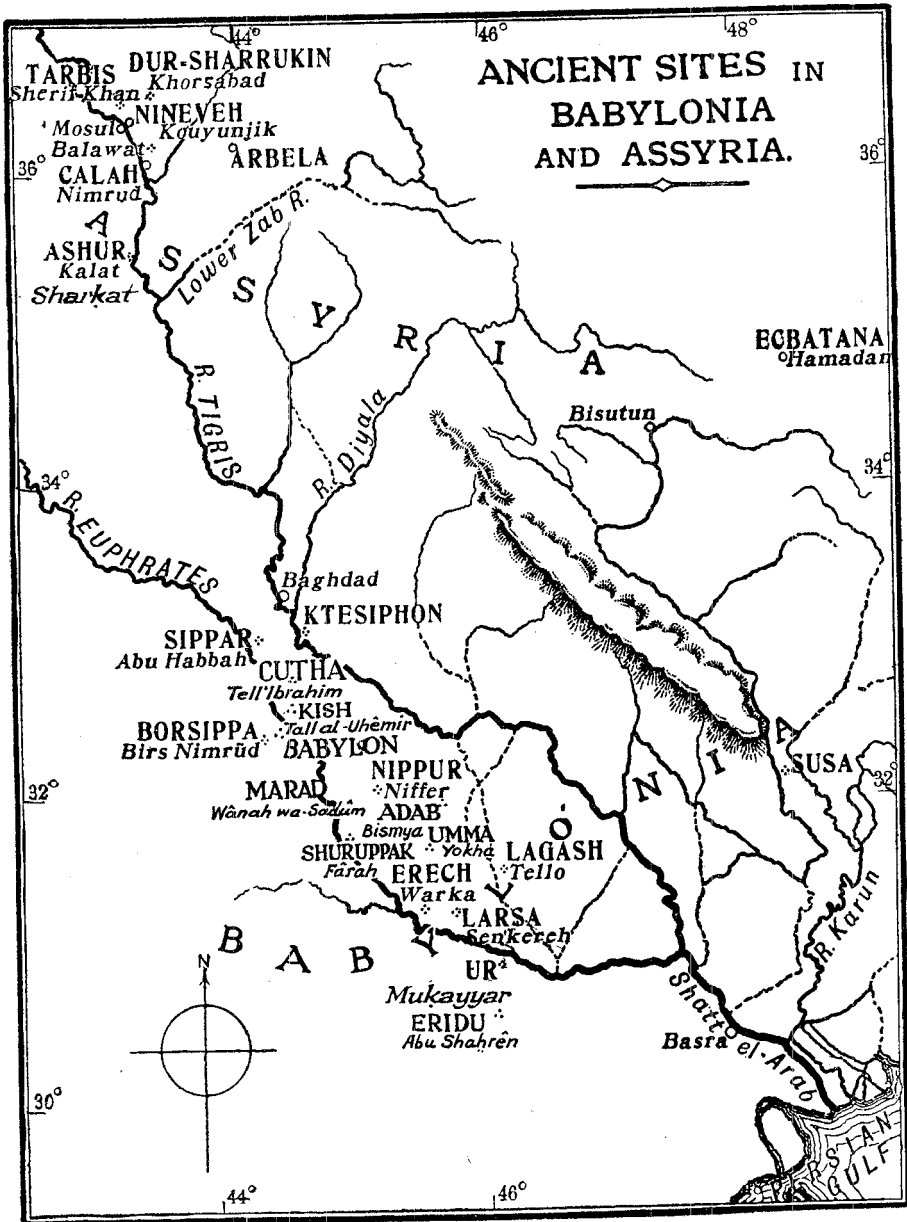
### INTRODUCTION.

THE antiquities exhibited in the Babylonian and Assyrian Rooms in the Second Northern Gallery, and in the Nimrûd and Nineveh Galleries, etc., are the result of a series of excavations which have been prosecuted in Assyria and Babylonia, for the most part by the Trustees of the British Museum, during the last seventy-five years. The scene of these operations is represented on page 2. A perusal of the following introductory paragraphs on the **History of Babylonia and Assyria**, and the **writing, language and literature, religion, etc.**, of the ancient inhabitants of these countries will help to a better understanding of the antiquities to be described.

### BABYLONIA.

That portion of Mesopotamia to which the name of **Babylonia\*** has been given by classical and later writers is called in the cuneiform inscriptions the **country of Ķar-Duniash**, 𐎲 𐎠𐎹𐎶 𐎠𐎶 𐎠𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶 𐎠𐎶𐎶 𐎠𐎶, and the **countries of Sumer and Akkad**, 𐎠𐎶 𐎠𐎶𐎶𐎶 𐎠𐎶 𐎠𐎶𐎶𐎶 𐎠𐎶𐎶𐎶𐎶 𐎠𐎶𐎶𐎶 𐎠𐎶𐎶𐎶. Babylonia proper, at certain periods, was bounded on the north by a line drawn due west from Baghdâd to the Euphrates, on the south by the head of the Persian Gulf, on the east by the Persian Mountains, and on the west by the Syrian Desert. The most striking features of this territory are the two great rivers, the **Tigris** and the **Euphrates**, which run into each other at Ķurnah, and under the name of the Shaṭṭ al-'Arab flow in a single stream into the Persian Gulf. Civilization has existed here from time immemorial, and it is one of the oldest inhabited regions in the world. The excavations of ancient sites carried out by Loftus

\* The Greek name *Βαβυλωνία* is derived from "Babylon," the Greek form of the name of the capital city, **BAB-ILĪ, i.e., "The Gate of God,"** 𐎠𐎶𐎶𐎶 𐎠𐎶 𐎠𐎶𐎶𐎶, the **BABEL**, 𐤁𐤁𐤅𐤋 of the Hebrews.



in 1854-5, and the more recent explorations of British, French, and German archaeologists have proved the existence of a distant **stone age** in Babylonia. But **metal** was known to the Babylonians and used by them from a very remote antiquity. It seems to have been introduced by the earliest race known to have settled in Babylonia, viz., the **non-Semitic people** now called **Sumerians**. These were not, probably, the aboriginal inhabitants, but only the earliest of many successive invaders from neighbouring countries. Their home may have been Central Asia, and they seem to have passed along the coast of the Caspian Sea. Their settlement in southern Mesopotamia must have taken place at a very remote period, for it is certain that when they first appear in history they had been in possession of the country for a very long time, and their mythology is of such a character that it could only have been evolved there.

The **system of writing** which developed into the cuneiform script is thought to have been invented by the Sumerians, but in any case we owe to their early use of it whatever knowledge of their history we possess. This invention was made long after the beginning of the traditional history which preserves, in documents written at a later period, records of dynasties and demigod kings of fabulous power and longevity. With the coming of writing these records lose their mythical character. The texts show that the **political condition** of Sumer was the same both in the traditional and historical periods, and that the territory was divided among a number of **City-states**. Each of these was ruled by a **Patesi** 𒀭 𒊩 𒊩 or "Governor," who seized the first opportunity to assume the title of **Lugal** 𒀭 𒊩 𒊩 *i.e.*, "Great Man" or "King." Among these City-states there was always one which, for a time at least, was recognized generally as the "city of royalty," or capital. The scribes of the later period enumerate "eleven cities of royalty," viz., Kish, Erech, Ur, Awan, Khamazi, Adab, Mari, Akshak, Agade, Gutium, and Isin.\* Now the city of Awan was in the Elamite country, not far from Susa, and Gutium lay to the east

\* 1. 𒀭 𒊩 𒊩 Kish-(KI). 2. 𒀭 𒊩 𒊩 Uruk-(KI). 3. 𒀭 𒊩 𒊩  
 𒀭 𒊩 𒊩 Uri-(KI). 4. 𒀭 𒊩 𒊩 A-wa-an-(KI). 5. 𒀭 𒊩 𒊩  
 𒀭 𒊩 𒊩 Kha-ma-zi-(KI). 6. 𒀭 𒊩 𒊩 Adab-(KI). 7. 𒀭 𒊩 𒊩  
 Ma-ri-(KI). 8. 𒀭 𒊩 𒊩 Akshak-(KI). 9. 𒀭 𒊩 𒊩  
 A-ga-de-(KI). 10. 𒀭 𒊩 𒊩 Gu-ti-um-(KI). 11. 𒀭 𒊩 𒊩  
 𒀭 𒊩 𒊩 I-si-in-(KI).

# END OF SAMPLE TEXT



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