

**CUNEIFORM INSCRIPTIONS:  
CHALDEAN, BABYLONIAN AND  
ASSYRIAN COLLECTIONS  
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Cuneiform Inscriptions: Chaldean, Babylonian and Assyrian Collections contained in the library of J. Pierpont Morgan by C. H. W. Johns

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**C. H. W. JOHNS**

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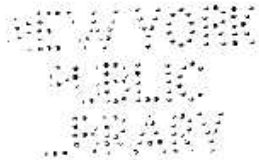




FRAGMENT OF THE DELUGE LEGEND.

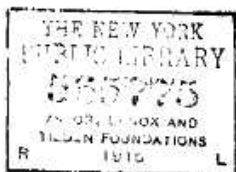
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## FOREWORD

*I*T is quite true that American enterprise has been notable in the fields of material progress, and our distinction, and often our primacy, has been acknowledged in other lands. But it has been often asserted that in the fields of scholarship we have fallen far behind; that we have not only been compelled to go to the Universities of Europe for the higher education of our youth, but that our older scholars have failed to reach the distinction of those of other lands. This is too largely true, yet not wholly so. Certainly it has been true in those lines of study which require material for research not to be had in this country. The editing of classical manuscripts must be done in lands where they are to be found in libraries or monasteries. Until very lately the study of the rich treasures excavated in the valleys of the Euphrates and Tigris, which have given an entirely new view of primitive history and mythology, has required residence near the museums where these treasures are gathered, and it has been only brief and tantalizing vacations which American scholars could give to their inspection. The same is true of the study of the monuments of Egypt.

But we now have a body of younger scholars who are eager to pursue the study of Assyriology, and have made their first essay at original research in the British Museum or the Louvre. Only within a few years have they found any material whatever for study in this country. I think the first small collection of tablets and seal cylinders was brought by me from Babylonia when in charge of the Wolfe Expedition in 1885; and not long after they became the nucleus for a desired collection in the Metropolitan Museum. That expedition, which was solely for exploration, and not at all for excavation, was followed some years later by the expedition of the

University of Pennsylvania, conducted by Dr. J. P. Peters and afterward by Dr. J. H. Haynes and Dr. H. V. Hilprecht, at the site of the ancient city of Nippur, one of the three sites recommended by me, on my return from the charge of the Wolfe Expedition, for excavation by American scholars. The fine enterprise of the friends of the University of Pennsylvania provided the means for the very successful expedition at Nippur; and the Sultan very graciously allowed a large part of the tablets and other things collected there to be brought to this country. From this material it has been possible for Professor Hilprecht and his pupils, among whom Mr. A. T. Clay deserves special mention, to do scholarly work which has added much to our knowledge of Babylonian history and the language and literature of that ancient people, and to the honor of the University of Pennsylvania and of American enterprise and scholarship in a new and difficult field. Of the fruits of the later expedition of the University of Chicago, at the ancient city of Adab, the third site recommended by me in 1885, it is as yet too early to speak. At the third of the three huge mounds recommended by the Wolfe Expedition for excavation, the capital of the famous Elder Sargon, Anbar, long lost to maps, and a famous center of the Jewish dispersion, not a spade has yet been struck by European or American explorers.

It is the chief object, as I understand it, of Mr. Morgan in bringing to this country the written and figured monuments of the early East, such as tablets, seal cylinders, bas-reliefs or statues, to put within the reach of American scholars the material necessary for adding to the knowledge of the world. Whatever is the fruit of excavation by accredited expeditions, whether European or American, must go to the Ottoman Museum at Constantinople, except as the Turkish Government graciously presents it to those who have done the work.

But a very large portion of such objects is dug up by the natives of the country, who pursue this business assiduously and manage

somehow to send them to the European capitals. It is desirable that such objects be not scattered and lost to scholarship, but that they be gathered into responsible and accessible collections.

A portion of the large collection made by Mr. Morgan is included in the descriptions and translations given in this volume by Mr. Johns. He has translated many texts, published in his "Assyrian Doomsday Book" "Babylonian and Assyrian Laws, Contracts and Letters" and the three volumes of his "Assyrian Deeds and Documents Recording the Transfer of Property." The present volume adds to the debt which the enlarging circle of Oriental scholars owe to one of their most competent members. It is particularly happy that so valuable a collection has come under his study, one in which the distinguished French scholar Scheil has already found very choice material. Now that this fine collection is brought to this country, to be followed doubtless by other similar treasures, we may expect that our eager American scholars will find much more to reward their search in Mr. Morgan's library.

WILLIAM HAYES WARD.