

**THE BABYLONIAN EXPEDITION
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
PENNSYLVANIA. SERIES D:
RESEARCHES AND TREATISES.
VOL. V. FASCICULUS 2**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649433223

The Babylonian Expedition of the University of Pennsylvania. Series D: Researches and Treatises. Vol. V. Fasciculus 2 by Hugo Radau

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HUGO RADAU

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SERIES D: RESEARCHES AND TREATISES

EDITED BY
H. V. HILPRECHT

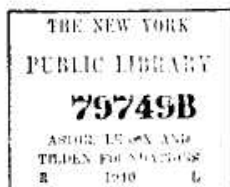
VOL. V, FASCICULUS 2

BY
HUGO RADAU

ECKLEY BRINTON COXE, JUNIOR, FUND

PHILADELPHIA
Published by the University of Pennsylvania

1910



The Editor determines the material to constitute a volume and reports to the Committee of Publication on the general merits of the manuscript and autograph plates submitted for publication ; but the Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by the writer.

NIN-IB
THE DETERMINER OF FATES

ACCORDING TO THE GREAT SUMERIAN EPIC

LUGAL-E ÜG ME-LÁM-BI NER-GÁL

FROM

The Temple Library of Nippur

BY
HUGO RÁDAU

With Five Halftone Illustrations.

PHILADELPHIA
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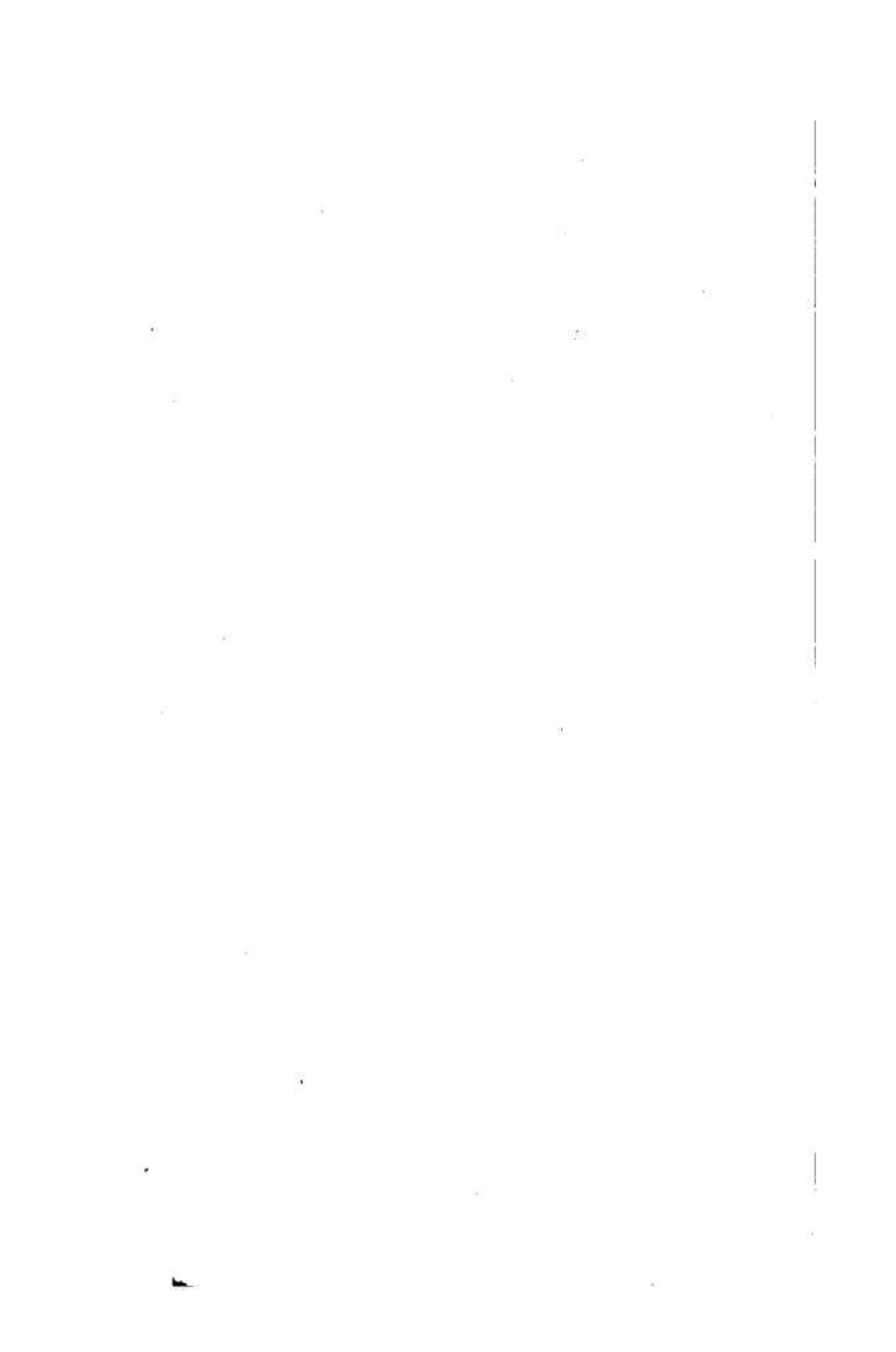
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Daniel S. Tuttle, D.D., LL.D.,

BISHOP OF MISSOURI AND PRESIDING BISHOP OF THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

In Gratefulness, Reverence and Affection

Copy Rec Press 4 Oct 1939



PREFACE.

THE discoverer of the Temple Library of Nippur, Professor H. V. Hilprecht, kindly intrusted me with the publication of the several texts relating to the god "*NIN-IB*, the son of *Enlil*," shortly to be issued in the *Babylonian Expedition*, Series A, Volume XXIX, to which I gave the preliminary title "*Hymns and Prayers to NIN-IB*."

After a detailed examination of these texts, I found, however, that several of them were neither hymns nor prayers properly speaking, but parts of *epics*. These epics, relating to *NIN-IB*—the autograph plates of which are to appear in *B. E.*, XXIX—were made the theme of the following pages.

It is, of course, extremely gratifying that the famous Temple Library of Nippur should yield, at the very beginning of its publication, such interesting and important texts as epics, more particularly such epics as were known to us, for the last two decades, from the celebrated Library of Ashshurbânâpal. Truly, our most sanguine expectations have been surpassed.

While up to the present time the *terminus a quo* of the Babylonian epical literature was considered to be, at the very earliest, the time of the first dynasty of Babylon, the Temple Library of Nippur pushes this starting point about 500 years ahead, nay, furnishes abundant indirect proofs that the beginning of the Sumerian epical literature antedates even the time of the second dynasty of Ur, or about 2700 B.C.

Not only, however, do the contents of the Temple Library of Nippur push the beginning of the Sumerian epical literature to