

**KORNEIL STUDIES IN HISTORY AND  
POLITICAL SCIENCE, VOL. III:  
WESTERN ASIA IN THE DAYS OF  
SARGON OF ASSYRIA, 722-705 B.  
C.: A STUDY IN ORIENTAL HISTORY**

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**A. T. OLMSTEAD**

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VOLUME II



WESTERN ASIA  
IN THE  
DAYS OF SARGON OF ASSYRIA  
722-705 B. C.

A STUDY IN ORIENTAL HISTORY

BY

A. T. OLMSTEAD, Ph.D.

LATE THAYER FELLOW, AMERICAN SCHOOL FOR ORIENTAL STUDIES AT JERUSALEM

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## INTRODUCTION

The present work is a thesis presented to the President White School of History and Political Science at Cornell University, and is published as one of its studies. It is an attempt to investigate methodically a brief period of Oriental history, interesting alike to the Assyriologist, the Biblical scholar, and the student of classical antiquity.

I began the study of the Sargon inscriptions with Professor Schmidt in 1901. A year later this subject was chosen for my thesis for the degree of Master of Arts from Cornell University. The year 1903-1904 was spent in preparation for a trip to Syria lasting from May, 1904, to August, 1905, while I was Fellow of the American School for Oriental Studies at Jerusalem. In preparation for this trip a collection of the published Assyrian data relating to Syria had been made, and these were again studied in Syria. The towns of Hamath, Çimirra, Damascus, Tyre, Samaria, Ashdod, Gaza, and Raphia, actually mentioned by the scribes of Sargon, were visited. The Muçri question, so important for our whole conception of Sargon's Syrian policy, was studied in the Negeb itself. Possibly most valuable of all was the constant and very close contact with the natives of all conditions, nations, and religions.

Among points to which special attention may perhaps be invited in this work are the chronological clue to the eponym canon fragment, the utilization and placing together of the fragments of Prism B, the use of which has materially modified the chronology of the reign, the discussion of the Negeb and Muçri question from a personal knowledge of the

field, the relegation of the Dur Sharrukin group to its proper place, and the reconstruction of the history on the basis of the topography, resulting in a number of new identifications, especially in Asia Minor.

Credit should be given to those who have generously afforded me help. I desire to express my thanks to my friends, Mr. B. B. Charles, assistant in Semitics at Cornell, and Mr. J. E. Wrench, fellow in history at Wisconsin, both of whom were with me in Syria, for many suggestions. Professor J. R. S. Sterrett, who has an intimate personal knowledge of Asia Minor, has often rendered important assistance. From Professor G. L. Burr I have received valuable aid in applying a strict historical method, and Professor H. A. Sill has helped on the side of classical history. Above all, I owe a heavy debt of gratitude to Professor N. Schmidt. For eight years it has been my good fortune to be closely associated with him, first as student, and then as assistant, both at Cornell University and later in Syria. To him I owe my knowledge of Semitic languages and Oriental history. In a very real sense this work owes to his inspiration both its origin and its completion.

A. T. OLMSTEAD.

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