

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE CUNEIFORM INSCRIPTIONS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649061372

The Archaeology of the Cuneiform Inscriptions by A. H. Sayce

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

A. H. SAYCE

**THE ARCHAEOLOGY
OF THE CUNEIFORM
INSCRIPTIONS**



REVERSE OF A TABLET IN THE HITTITE LANGUAGE FROM
BOGHAZ KEUL.

Frontispiece.]

[*See Preface, p. vi.*

The Archæology of the Cuneiform Inscriptions

BY THE
REV. A. H. SAYCE
PROFESSOR OF ASSYRIOLOGY, OXFORD

PUBLISHED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE GENERAL
LITERATURE COMMITTEE

SECOND EDITION—REVISED



LONDON
SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE
NORTUMBERLAND AVENUE, W.C. 1 4; QUEEN VICTORIA STREET, E.C.
BRIGHTON: 109, NORTH STREET
NEW YORK: E. S. GORHAM

1908

RICHARD CLAY & SONS, LIMITED,
BREAD STREET HILL, E.C., AND
BUNGAY, SUFFOLK.

CONTENTS

CHAP.		PAGE
	PREFACE	v
I.	THE DECIPHERMENT OF THE CUNEIFORM INSCRIPTIONS	7
II.	THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL MATERIALS; THE EXCAVATIONS AT SUSA AND THE ORIGIN OF BRONZE	36
III.	THE SUMERIANS	67
IV.	THE RELATION OF BABYLONIAN TO EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION	101
V.	BABYLONIA AND PALESTINE	135
VI.	ASIA MINOR	160
VII.	CANAAN IN THE CENTURY BEFORE THE EXODUS	187
	INDEX	215

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

	Facing page
REVERSE OF A TABLET IN THE HITTITE LANGUAGE FROM BOGHAZ KEUI (<i>Frontispiece</i>)	
MAP—THE EASTERN WORLD IN THE SEVENTH CENTURY B.C.	7
THE TOMB OF DARIUS	16
BLACK OBELISK OF SHALMANESER II	21
CHALDEAN HOUSEHOLD UTENSILS IN TERRA-COTTA	21
THE TELL OF JERABIS (PROBABLY THE ANCIENT CARCHEMISH)	40
THE TUMULUS OF SUSA, AS IT APPEARED TOWARDS THE MIDDLE OF LAST CENTURY	46
HEAD OF ONE OF THE STATUES FROM TELLO	58
VASE OF SILVER, DEDICATED TO NINGIRSU BY ENTENA PATESI OF LAGAS	58
THE TELL OF BORSIPPA, THE PRESENT BIRS-NIMRUD	78
THE SEAL OF SHARGANI-SHAR-ALI (SARGON OF AKKAD) : GILGAMES WATERS THE CELESTIAL OX	88
EAS-RELIEF OF NARAM-SIN	88
SITTING STATUE OF GUDEA	122
MAP—THE FIRST ASSYRIAN EMPIRE	135
VIEW OF THE TEMPLE OF UR IN ITS PRESENT STATE, ACCORDING TO LOFTUS	141
THE GARDENS AND HILL OF DHUSPAS OR VAN	163
THE RUINS OF A PALACE OF URARTU AT TOPRAK- KALEH	166
THE RUINS AT BOGHAZ KEUI	174
ONE OF THE PROCESSIONS IN THE RAVINE OF BOGHAZ	176

PREFACE

THE first six chapters which follow, embody the Rhind Lectures in Archaeology which I delivered at Edinburgh in October 1906. The seventh chapter appeared as an article in the *Contemporary Review* for August 1905, and is here reprinted by the courtesy of the Editor to whom I render my thanks. The book is the first attempt to deal with what I would call the archaeology of cuneiform decipherment, and like all pioneering work consequently claims the indulgence of the reader. For the sake of clearness I have been forced to repeat myself in a few instances, more especially in the sixth chapter, but what has thereby been lost in literary finish will, I hope, be compensated by an increase of clearness in the argument.

If what I have written serves no other purpose, I shall be content if it draws attention to the miserably defective state of our archaeological knowledge of Babylonia and Assyria, and to the necessity of scientific excavations being carried on there similar to those inaugurated by Mr. Rhind in Egypt. We have abundance of epigraphic material; it is the more purely archaeological material that is still wanting.

The need of it is every year becoming more urgent with the ever-growing revelation of the important and far-reaching part played by Babylonian culture in the ancient East. Excavation is just commencing in Asia Minor, and there are many indications that it has startling discoveries and surprises in store for us. Even while my manuscript was in the printer's hands, Professor Winckler has been

examining the cuneiform tablets found by him last spring at Boghaz Keui, on the site of the old Hittite capital in Cappadocia, and reading in them the records of the Hittite kings, Khattu-sil, Sapaluliuma, Mur-sila and Muttallu. Most of the tablets, though written in cuneiform characters, are in the native language of the country, but among them is a version in the Babylonian language of the treaty between the "great king of the Hittites" and Riya-masesa Mai or Ramses II., the Egyptian copy of which has long been known to us. The two Arzawan letters in the Tel el-Amarna collection no longer stand alone; the Boghaz Keui tablets show that an active correspondence was carried on between Egypt and Cappadocia. We must revise our old ideas about an absence of intercourse between different parts of the ancient Oriental world; there was quite as much intercommunication as there is to-day. Elam and Babylonia, Assyria and Asia Minor, Palestine and Egypt, all were linked together by the ties of a common culture; there were no exclusive religions to raise barriers between nation and nation, and the pottery of the Hittites was not only carried to the south of Canaan, but the civilization of Babylonia made its way through Hittite lands to the shores and islands of Greece. On the south, the *Ægean* became a highway from Asia Minor to Europe, while northward the Troad formed a bridge which carried the culture of Cappadocia to the Balkans and the Danube.

A. H. SAYCE.

November 1906.