

**STUDIES IN EASTERN HISTORY; VOL. I;
CHRONICLES CONCERNING EARLY
BABYLONIAN KINGS,
INCLUDING RECORDS OF THE EARLY
HISTORY OF THE KASSITES AND THE
COUNTRY OF THE SEA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649108404

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Cover @ 2017

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Studies in Eastern History.

II.

CHRONICLES CONCERNING EARLY BABYLONIAN
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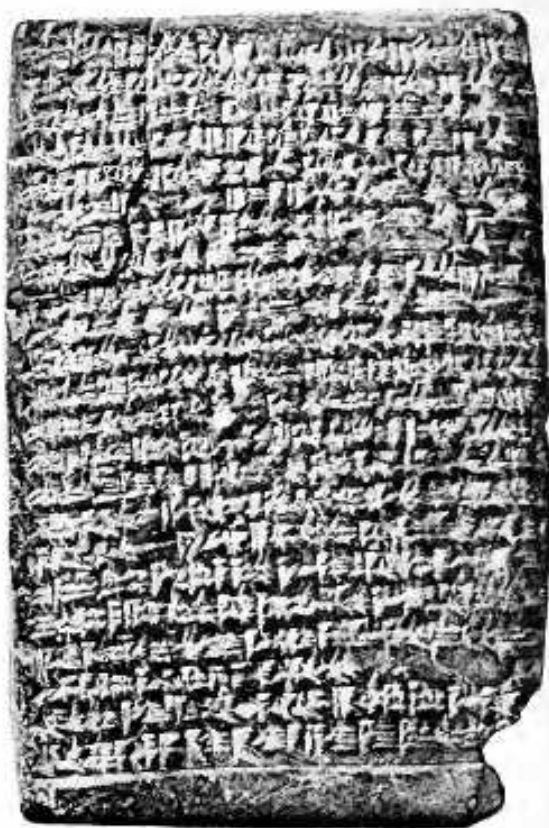
VOL. I. INTRODUCTORY CHAPTERS.

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- Vol. III.—CHRONICLES CONCERNING EARLY BABYLONIAN KINGS, including records of the early history of the Kassites and the Country of the Sea. Vol. ii, Texts and Translations.

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Studies in Eastern History.

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RECORDS OF THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE KASSITES
AND THE COUNTRY OF THE SEA,

EDITED BY

L. W. KING, M.A., F.S.A.,

ASSISTANT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EGYPTIAN AND ASSYRIAN ANTIQUITIES
IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

VOL. I.

INTRODUCTORY CHAPTERS.

LONDON:
LUZAC AND Co.

1907.

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PREFACE.

THE present volume is concerned with the discussion of the new historical information supplied by the chronicles which are published and translated in the second volume of this work. The texts here published and discussed for the first time include two Chronicles concerning early Babylonian kings; a new Babylonian Chronicle of events ranging from the eleventh to the seventh century B.C.; a Religious Chronicle referring to the eleventh century B.C.; a new Date-List of the kings of the First Dynasty of Babylon; and part of a Neo-Babylonian version of the "Omens of Sargon and Narâm-Sin." With one exception, the tablets from which the texts are taken date from the late Babylonian period, but they incorporate traditions referring to some of the earliest kings of Babylonia and Assyria. Much of the new information afforded by the Chronicles concerning early kings is given in the form of synchronisms, in which well-known names are found in unfamiliar combinations, and these will oblige us to revise some of our conceptions of early Babylonian and Assyrian chronology.

In the present work an attempt has been made to indicate the lines on which a reconstruction of the history of these early periods can be made, and we may here briefly refer to some of the more important

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conclusions deduced from a study of the texts. One general result of our new information is a considerable reduction in the dates usually assigned to the earlier periods of Babylonian history. We now know that the kings of the Second Dynasty of the Kings' List never occupied the throne of Babylon, but established themselves only in the "Country of the Sea," on the shores of the Persian Gulf. Here they ruled over an independent kingdom, and carried on a series of wars against the kings of Babylon. The total elimination of this dynasty from the scheme of Babylonian chronology at once has the effect of reducing the date usually assigned to the First Dynasty of Babylon by three hundred and sixty-eight years. We thus obtain for Su-abu, the founder of the First Dynasty, a date not earlier than the twenty-first century B.C., and for Hammurabi, the most powerful and famous king of the dynasty, a date not earlier than the twentieth century B.C.

Confirmation of the correctness of this view is afforded by a new synchronism in early Babylonian and Assyrian history, which occurs on one of the Chronicles here published. We learn that Su-abu, the founder of the First Dynasty, was the contemporary of Ilu-shûma, an early Assyrian ruler whose name has recently been recovered at Sherghât. This early point of contact between the history of the two countries not only supports our conclusions with regard to reducing

early Babylonian dates, but it enables us to trace back the history of Assyria beyond the rise of the First Dynasty of Babylon. The revised scheme of Babylonian and Assyrian chronology may be seen at a glance by referring to the table of contemporaneous rulers printed on p. 136 f. of this volume.

So considerable a reduction in the date usually assigned to the First Dynasty of Babylon is far-reaching in its effects, and in the first chapter of this volume a sketch is given of the manner in which it bears upon certain problems connected with the age of Babylonian civilization, and with the early chronology of Egypt and of the Bible. It is there pointed out that we must reduce considerably the dates usually assigned to the beginnings of Sumerian and Babylonian history; and that such a reduction harmonizes with that suggested by Prof. Eduard Meyer for the earlier periods of Egyptian chronology. On the other hand, we may now accept without reserve the identification of Amraphel of the fourteenth chapter of Genesis with Hammurabi, king of Babylon; and the chronology of the Pentateuch, with regard to the period separating Abraham and the Exodus, is seen to agree more closely with the results of archaeological research than has hitherto appeared to be the case.

The problem of reconciling the Babylonian dynasties with the chronological system of Berossus is discussed at some length in the fourth chapter. It is there shown