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MISCELLANEOUS INSCRIPTIONS
IN THE YALE BABYLONIAN
COLLECTION**

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ALBERT T. CLAY

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BABYLONIAN TEXTS

VOLUME I

**PUBLISHED FROM THE FUND
GIVEN TO THE UNIVERSITY
IN MEMORY OF
MARY STEVENS HAMMOND**

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IN THE
YALE BABYLONIAN COLLECTION

BY
ALBERT T. CLAY



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PREFACE.

During the last few years there has been assembled at Yale University a Babylonian Collection, numbering at the present time about eight thousand Sumerian and Akkadian inscriptions and other antiquities, belonging to all periods in Babylonian history. It includes epics, hymns, liturgies, historical, mathematical, and divination texts, exercises from temple schools, legal and business transactions, official and personal letters, administrative documents from the archives of temples, etc.

It is the purpose of the University to present this material to the Assyriological world in a series of texts, and as far as practicable and possible the interpretation of the same. The present volume is the first of the series, in which is presented some of the texts of a miscellaneous character, covering a period between four and five thousand years. There are historical texts, votive and building inscriptions, a dynastic list, date lists, a tablet containing the most ancient laws known, a fragment of the Hammurabi Code, and also of a boundary stone, a mortuary inscription, a syllabary, etc.

The transliteration of the Sumerian texts is given in spaced Roman type; the Akkadian or Semitic Babylonian and Assyrian in italics. In order to distinguish at a glance whether the inscriptions are written on clay or inscribed upon stone, the wedges of the cuneiform characters of the clay tablets are reproduced in outline, i. e., with open heads; while those of stone are closed. The only exception to this is the brick of Entemena, No. 5.

A few years ago in opposition to the prevailing theory that the religion and culture of the Hebrews and other Western Semites had their origin in Babylonia, the writer advanced the hypothesis in *Amurru, the Home of the Northern Semites*, as regards the Semitic elements that entered into the composition of the culture known to us as the Babylonian or Akkadian, that they were largely an importation from the region lying west of that country; that the ultimate origin of the Semites may have been in Arabia, Kurdistan or Abyssinia, as has been asserted, but that the indications are they had a long development in Amurru and Aram before they migrated into Babylonia.

It was naturally to be expected that such a far-reaching hypothesis, even though based upon a multitude of facts, would meet with opposition on the part of some scholars. This proved correct. Some have accepted the theory, while those who have not done so, have advanced little more than categorical assertions that it is baseless.

Although not a single site in Syria or Mesopotamia has been excavated which could yield the data necessary to determine the validity of the theory from an archaeological point of view, many additional facts have come to light through Babylonian researches which prompt the writer to reaffirm even more emphatically his belief in the theory. Such new data as are based upon the present texts, are referred to in the introduction.

The writer wishes here to acknowledge his indebtedness to several scholars for collating passages on tablets in the British Museum, and in the Museum of the University of Pennsylvania, for help rendered in connection with the interpretation of certain difficult passages, and other assistance, namely: Professor L. W. King, of London; Professor Arthur Ungnad, of Jena; Professor George A. Barton, of Bryn Mawr; Professor J. D. Prince, of Columbia; Professor Morris Jastrow, Jr., and Doctor Edward Chiera, of the University of Pennsylvania; Professor W. J. Hinke, of Auburn Seminary, and Professor Henry Wade Rogers, Dean of the Yale Law School. To all these scholars the writer is profoundly thankful. He also wishes to express here his debt of gratitude to Mr. Ogden H. Hammond, '93 S., for his generosity in creating the Fund which makes the publication of this volume possible, and to Mr. George Parmly Day, Treasurer of the University and President of the Yale University Press, who has so effectively cooperated in efforts made to establish the Collection.

ALBERT T. CLAY

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