

**THE BABYLONIAN EXPEDITION
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
PENNSYLVANIA. SERIES A:
CUNEIFORM TEXTS. VOL. XXIX,
PART I**

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HUGO RADAU

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VOL. XXIX, PART I**

THE BABYLONIAN EXPEDITION

OF

THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SERIES A: CUNEIFORM TEXTS

EDITED BY

H. V. HILPRECHT

VOLUME XXIX, PART 1

BY

HUGO RADAU

"ECKLEY BRINTON COXE, JUNIOR, FUND"

PHILADELPHIA

Published by the Department of Archaeology, University of Pennsylvania

1911

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.

SUMERIAN HYMNS AND PRAYERS

TO

GOD NIN-IB

FROM THE

Temple Library of Nippur

BY

HUGO RADAU

*Fifteen Plates of Autograph Texts and Six Plates
of Half-tone Illustrations*

PHILADELPHIA

*Published by the Department of Archaeology, University of Pennsylvania
1911*

TO

Eckley Brinton Coxe, Junior

PRESIDENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND FOUNDER OF THE
"ECKLEY BRINTON COXE, JUNIOR, FUND"

Who

By his liberal support of archaeological investigations
and his profound interest in numismatical
and Assyriological studies
made the publication of this volume possible

Gratefully inscribed

PREFACE.

DURING the winter of 1908-9 Professor Hilprecht assigned to me for publication some 200 and more tablets and fragments from the Temple Library of Nippur. After a preliminary examination of these tablets I informed the Editor that these tablets furnished sufficient material to warrant the issuance of at least four volumes, one with *Enlil*, one with *NIN-IB*, one with *Dumu-zi* and one with "religious historical" inscriptions. Part of the remaining tablets which I could not classify under these four heads I have published in the *Hilprecht Anniversary Volume* under the title "*Miscellaneous Sumerian Texts from the Temple Library of Nippur*," adding to an introduction and a translation of some of the tablets (pp. 374-457) thirty plates of autograph texts and fifteen plates of halftone reproductions.

It was my original intention to publish in this volume about 28 plates in autograph. But as will happen occasionally in connection with difficult cuneiform inscriptions, after a detailed examination and analysis, a scholar will change his mind with regard to this or that particular inscription in question. Several of the tablets which first seemed to me to contain *NIN-IB* texts proved themselves to be *Neryal* compositions, historical texts, etc., while others remained doubtful as to the god addressed in them. Anxious to offer only indisputable *NIN-IB* texts, I excluded all inscriptions in which the name of this deity could not be ascertained with absolute certainty.

The excavations of Nippur, of course, have yielded a good many more *NIN-IB* texts than here published. But it was the intention of the Editor and the writer to issue at once those texts which had been catalogued and, moreover, were excavated during the earlier expeditions, in order to put before scholars some of the material which furnished the key to the contention of the existence of the now rightly famous Temple Library. The fact, therefore, that only 15 plates of autograph texts are published in this volume does not by any means indicate that the Temple Library of Nippur is exhausted as regards *NIN-IB* texts.

Variety of texts is what seems to be desired above everything else at present. Shorter volumes following each other in quick succession are demanded. As soon as the variety of the contents of the library has been demonstrated, the Editor and the Publication Committee expect to return to the old method hitherto employed by them.

The inscriptions nos. 1-5 have been translated in the following pages, while

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the epical fragments (nos. 6-9) were rendered in Series D, vol. V, fasc. 2, where it was shown that the contents of the Nippur Temple Library are, to a great extent, the same as, or similar to, those of the Ashshurbánapal library, furnishing in many cases the same texts, the *originals*, from which the later copies of the Assyrian king's library were made, either directly or indirectly.

All the texts here published are written in *classical* Sumerian interspersed with so-called *dialectical* forms. The script is that of the Old Babylonian period with a good many forms generally regarded as characteristic of the Neo-Babylonian period, cf. *sum*, *sí(g)*, no. 1, II : 30; IV : 21, with I : 37; II : 7, 32; *dingir*, no. 2 : 3, with *ibid.*, ll. 14, 32, 33, 35, etc. Only once a gloss occurs: no. 1, III : 18, where the dialectical *mu(š)* is glossed by *giš*. The inscriptions belong to the earlier Temple Library of Nippur, which antedates that of Ashshurbánapal by about 2000 years. No. 1 mentions kings *'Gimil-Šin*, *'Bur-Šin* and *Dun-gi* of the II. dynasty of Ur.

Through some unforeseen unfortunate circumstances, beyond my power of control, the issuance of this volume was delayed for more than half a year. I have devoted the involuntary leisure thus obtained to a thorough investigation of the calendar and astronomy of the ancient Sumerians; for it is absolutely necessary to have a clear and adequate conception of them, if we desire to understand their religion correctly. It is my intention to publish the results of my researches in a special volume of Series D, entitled "*The Sumerian Calendar*," which I hope will appear about contemporaneously with the *Dumu-zi* and *Enlil* volumes already in the course of publication.

To my friend and guide, Professor H. V. Hilprecht, whose freely given encouragement, assistance and profound knowledge of the contents of the Temple Library have furnished the inspiration for this volume; to Mrs. Sallie Crozer Hilprecht, my most gracious benefactress, who not only during the last five years has made my sojourn in Philadelphia possible, but who also in many other ways has shown her generosity, kindness and interest in my work, I am as ever deeply grateful. Also to that unknown and unnamed friend of mine, who through Mr. Samuel F. Houston, the late chairman of the Babylonian and General Semitic Section, so effectively helped me during the course of the last summer, I cannot but express my deepest and most heartfelt gratitude. I am especially pleased to be permitted to dedicate this volume to Mr. Eckley Brinton Cox, Junior, who by his remarkable interest in all things archaeological has greatly promoted scientific research in America and by his liberal support of the Babylonian Publications has erected unto himself a lasting monument at the same time making all scholars his grateful debtors.

HUGO RADAU.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., December 15th, 1910.

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