

**COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
ORIENTAL STUDIES, VOL.
III. OLD BABYLONIAN
TEMPLE RECORDS**

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ROBERT JULIUS LAU

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VOL. III.

OLD BABYLONIAN TEMPLE
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BY

ROBERT JULIUS LAU, PH.D.



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H. M. W.

TO
RICHARD J. H. GOTTHEIL, Ph.D
AND
J. DYNELEY PRINCE, Ph.D.
MY TEACHERS AND FRIENDS
THIS VOLUME IS RESPECTFULLY
DEDICATED

*Richard J. H. Gottheil
J. Dyneley Prince
1912*



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NOTE

The remarkable interest shown of late in the civilization that grew up in the Valley of the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers extends into every corner of its varied life. Happily, the documents which have been unearthed are numerous and varied. History is not written solely from the acts of kings or from the grandiloquent eulogies of court historians—however worthy such acts may have been. The social and the private life of a people are in many instances a much truer index of the culture and the spirit that induced or retarded its advance. The ancient Babylonian temples were great centres not only of religious activity, but of much else that one does not to-day associate with a religious edifice. In the present volume, Dr. Robert Lau has made a study of a series of documents coming from one of the oldest of these temples, dealing chiefly with the manner in which its priests handled the revenues in kind and money which represented the offerings of the faithful. With commendable skill and with happy insight he has furnished a reasonable interpretation of the many difficulties involved in the decipherment of the texts with which he here deals.

R. GOTTHEIL



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PREFACE

In the fifty years during which the science of Assyriology has existed it has attained such proportions that the investigator is forced to become a specialist. The inscriptions that are now at our disposal are so numerous that it is impossible for one man to study all with the needed care and diligence. He is thus forced to select some one period and some one special subject, to which he must devote his whole time.

Few periods in all Babylonian history have become so well known as the one covered by the finds made by De Sarzec (1893-1895) on the site which at present is called Tell-loh. The many thousands of inscriptions which this archaeologist dug up have been to a large part edited by such scholars as F. Thureau-Dangin in the *Revue d'Assyriologie*, Vols. III-V, and in the *Comptes Rendus* for 1896, pages 355-361; by G. Reissner in his *Tempel Urkunden*, Berlin, 1901; by H. Radau in his *Early Babylonian History*, New York and London, 1900; by L. W. King in *Cuneiform Texts from Babylonian Tablets* in the British Museum, Parts I, III, V, VII, IX, X, and by G. Barton in the *Haverford Library Collections of Cuneiform Tablets*.¹ The present volume is intended to supplement the above publications. The material has been furnished by the collection of tablets presented to the Library of Columbia University by some friends of the University. The first part gives the contents of 258 tablets

¹ An attempt has been made by William R. Arnold, *Ancient Babylonian Temple Records*, New York, 1896.

PREFACE

dating from the later dynasty of Ur (2700-2580), in a systematic arrangement and with the necessary comments. Part II contains a full catalogue of all the inscriptions in the collection. The third part was originally intended to be only a 'Sign List'; but it has developed into a 'Sign List and Glossary.' It is hoped that this will considerably facilitate the reading and the translation of the inscriptions, as some of the signs are here translated for the first time. The fourth part consists of thirty-five plates, containing a selection of sixty-one tablets in the series. If possible, the remaining 197 belonging to this period will be published in a second volume.

R. J. L.

NEW YORK CITY, N. Y., December 1, 1906.

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