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Austen Henry Layard

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### Discoveries in the Ruins of Nineveh and Babylon

Sir Austen Henry Layard (1817–1894) was one of the leading British archaeologists of the nineteenth century. His excavations provided important evidence about ancient Mesopotamia, particularly about the Assyrian civilisation, and his books – part travel writing, part specialised archaeological studies – are beautifully evocative. First published in 1853, this two-volume study follows the earlier *Nineveh and its Remains* (1849). It describes Layard's second expedition to the Near East, in 1845, which led to the identification of Kouyunjik as the great Assyrian capital Nineveh. In this richly illustrated book, Layard focuses on the description and interpretation of ruins, as he tells of the discovery of the lost palace of the Assyrian king Sennacherib (eighth century BCE) in northern Iraq. Volume 1 is an account the excavations at Kouyunjik, and also describes a journey along the Khabur river in Syria, where Layard assesses the influence of Assyrian art on the region.

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# Discoveries in the Ruins of Nineveh and Babylon

*With Travels in Armenia, Kurdistan  
and the Desert: Being the Result of  
a Second Expedition Undertaken for  
the Trustees of the British Museum*

VOLUME 1

AUSTEN HENRY LAYARD



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Restored from a Sketch

John Murray, Alton

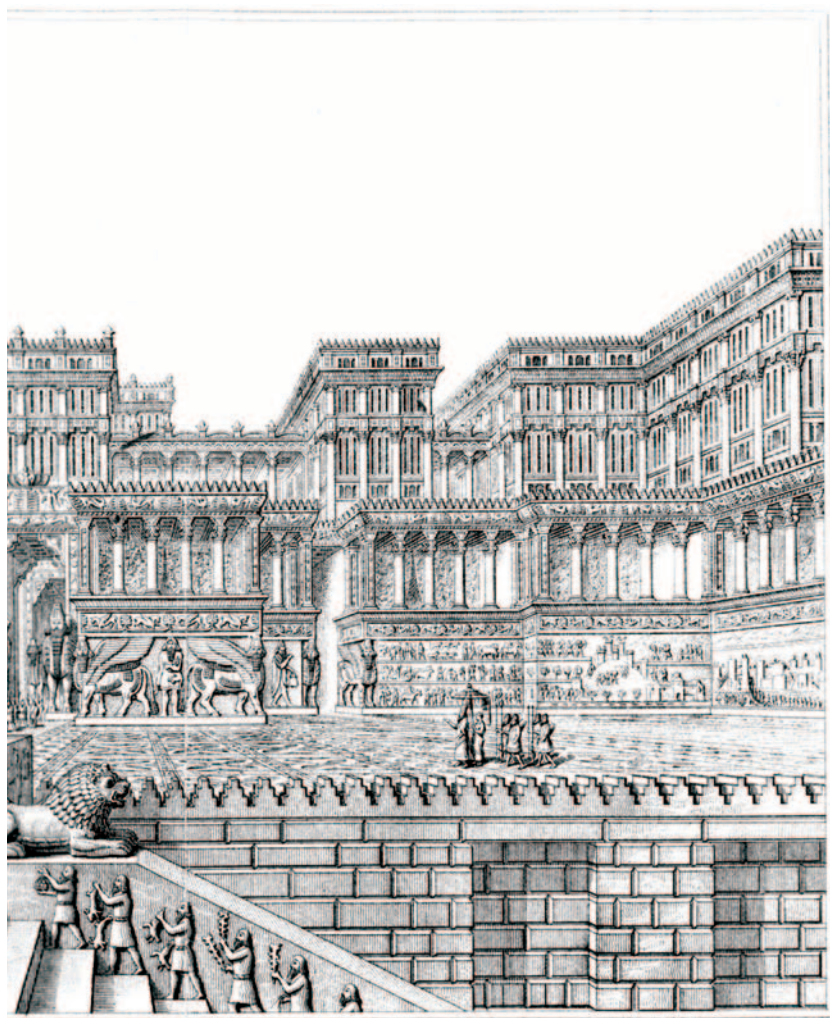
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RANCE OF SENNACHERIB'S PALACE. (KOUYUNJIK)

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DISCOVERIES  
IN THE RUINS OF  
NINEVEH AND BABYLON;

WITH TRAVELS IN ARMENIA, KURDISTAN AND THE DESERT:

BEING THE RESULT OF A SECOND EXPEDITION

UNDERTAKEN FOR

THE TRUSTEES OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

BY AUSTEN H. LAYARD, M.P.

AUTHOR OF "NINEVEH AND ITS REMAINS"



"For thou hast made of a city an  
heap; of a defenced city a ruin: a

palace of strangers to be no city; it  
shall never be built."—ISAIAH, XXV. 12

WITH MAPS, PLANS, AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

IN TWO PARTS.—PART I.

LONDON:  
JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.  
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**When this Work is arranged for Two Volumes, the Second will  
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TO  
THE RIGHT HONORABLE  
THE EARL GRANVILLE

*This Volume is dedicated,*

IN ADMIRATION OF HIS PUBLIC CHARACTER,  
AND AS A GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF MANY ACTS OF  
PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP.

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## P R E F A C E.

MANY unavoidable delays have prevented the earlier publication of this volume. I can no longer appeal, as in the preface of my former work, to the indulgence of my readers on the score of complete literary inexperience; but I can express heartfelt gratitude for the kind and generous reception given, both by the press and the public, to my first labors. I will merely add, that the following pages were written at different periods, and amidst numerous interruptions but little favorable to literary occupations. This must be my apology, to a certain extent, for the many defects they contain.

Since the publication of my first work on the discoveries at Nineveh much progress has been made in deciphering the cuneiform character, and the contents of many highly interesting and important inscriptions have been given to the public. For these additions to our knowledge we are mainly indebted to the sagacity and learning of two English scholars, Col. Rawlinson and the Rev. Dr. Hincks. In making use of the results of their researches, I have not omitted to own the sources from which my information has been derived. I trust, also, that I have in no in-

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## PREFACE.

stance availed myself of the labors of other writers, or of the help of friends, without due acknowledgments. I have endeavored to assign to every one his proper share in the discoveries recorded in these pages.

I am aware that several distinguished French scholars, amongst whom I may mention my friends, M. Botta and M. de Saulcy, have contributed to the successful deciphering of the Assyrian inscriptions. Unfortunately I have been unable to consult the published results of their investigations. If, therefore, I should have overlooked in any instance their claims to prior discovery, I have to express my regret for an error arising from ignorance, and not from any unworthy national prejudice.

Doubts appear to be still entertained by many eminent critics as to the progress actually made in deciphering the cuneiform writing. These doubts may have been confirmed by too hasty theories and conclusions, which, on subsequent investigation, their authors have been the first to withdraw. But the unbiassed inquirer can scarcely now reject the evidence which can be brought forward to confirm the general accuracy of the interpretations of the inscriptions. Had they rested upon a single word, or an isolated paragraph, their soundness might reasonably have been questioned; when, however, several independent investigators have arrived at the same results, and have not only detected numerous names of persons, nations, and cities in historical and geographical series, but have found them mentioned in proper connection with events recorded by sacred and profane writers, scarcely any stronger

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evidence could be desired. The reader, I would fain hope, will come to this conclusion when I treat of the contents of the various records discovered in the Assyrian palaces.

I have endeavored to introduce into these pages as many illustrations from the sculptures as my limits would admit. I have been obliged to include the larger and more elaborate drawings of the bas-reliefs in a folio volume, which will form a second series of the Monuments of Nineveh, and will be published at the same time as the present work.

I trust it may not be inferred from any remark I have been induced to make in the following pages, that I have any grounds of personal complaint against the Trustees of the British Museum. From them I have experienced uniform courtesy and kindness, which I take this opportunity of acknowledging with gratitude; but I cannot, at the same time, forbear expressing a wish, felt in common with myself by many who have the advancement of national education, knowledge, and taste sincerely at heart, that that great establishment, so eminently calculated to promote this important end, should be speedily placed upon a new and more efficient basis.

To Mr. Thomas Ellis, who has enabled me to add to my work translations of inscriptions on Babylonian bowls, now for the first time, through his sagacity, deciphered; to those who have assisted me in my labors, and especially to my friend and companion, Mr. Hormuzd Rassam, to the Rev. Dr. Hincks, to the Rev.

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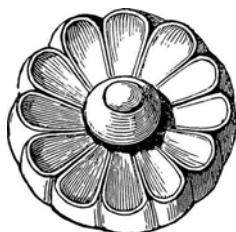
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PREFACE.

S. C. Malan, who has kindly allowed me the use of his masterly sketches, to Mr. Fergusson, Mr. Scharf, and to Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Birch, Mr. Vaux, and the other officers of the British Museum, I beg to express my grateful thanks and acknowledgments.

London, January, 1853.



Ivory Ornament, from Nimroud.

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Austen Henry Layard

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