

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01678-0 - Discoveries in the Ruins of Nineveh and Babylon, Volume 2

Austen Henry Layard

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The discovery of material remains from the recent or the ancient past has always been a source of fascination, but the development of archaeology as an academic discipline which interpreted such finds is relatively recent. It was the work of Winckelmann at Pompeii in the 1760s which first revealed the potential of systematic excavation to scholars and the wider public. Pioneering figures of the nineteenth century such as Schliemann, Layard and Petrie transformed archaeology from a search for ancient artifacts, by means as crude as using gunpowder to break into a tomb, to a science which drew from a wide range of disciplines - ancient languages and literature, geology, chemistry, social history - to increase our understanding of human life and society in the remote past.

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 2 describes the discoveries made in the ruins of Kouyunjik, and follows Layard as he travels to the south of Iraq in search of the ruins of the mysterious Babylon.

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

VOLUME 2

AUSTEN HENRY LAYARD



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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. 2.

WITH MAPS, PLANS, AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

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