

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-08307-2 - A History of Babylonia and Assyria: Volume 1

Robert William Rogers

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

Books of enduring scholarly value

Archaeology

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.

A History of Babylonia and Assyria

Robert W. Rogers (1864–1930), American professor of biblical exegesis, became fascinated by the Hebrew language as a boy, when trying to understand the Book of Job, and subsequently studied ancient languages and history in Leipzig and Oxford, where he became a friend of A.H. Sayce. In this two-volume 1901 work, he provides a history of the Mesopotamian civilisations, but begins with an extensive review of the archaeological and literary sources of information, beginning with the earliest accounts of Western travellers. Volume 1 then continues with a discussion of the environment and resources, the peoples and the chronology of the area, before beginning a narrative of Babylonian history, which closes with end of the dynasty of Isin. The work, with its detailed review of and reliance on original sources, is still valuable as an introduction to a long period of ancient Middle Eastern history.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-08307-2 - A History of Babylonia and Assyria: Volume 1

Robert William Rogers

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library and other partner libraries, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection brings back to life books of enduring scholarly value (including out-of-copyright works originally issued by other publishers) across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-08307-2 - A History of Babylonia and Assyria: Volume 1

Robert William Rogers

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

A History of Babylonia and Assyria

VOLUME 1

ROBERT WILLIAM ROGERS



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-08307-2 - A History of Babylonia and Assyria: Volume 1

Robert William Rogers

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge, CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.
It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108083072

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2015

This edition first published 1901

This digitally printed version 2015

ISBN 978-1-108-08307-2 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect
the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

Cambridge University Press wishes to make clear that the book, unless originally published
by Cambridge, is not being republished by, in association or collaboration with,
or with the endorsement or approval of, the original publisher or its successors in title.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-08307-2 - A History of Babylonia and Assyria: Volume 1

Robert William Rogers

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

A HISTORY OF BABYLONIA AND ASSYRIA

BY

ROBERT WILLIAM ROGERS

PH.D. (LEIPZIG), D.D., LL.D., F.R.G.S., PROFESSOR IN DREW
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, MADISON, NEW JERSEY

SECOND EDITION

IN TWO VOLUMES
VOLUME I



LONDON : LUZAC & CO.

1901

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-08307-2 - A History of Babylonia and Assyria: Volume 1

Robert William Rogers

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Printed by

EATON & MAINS

NEW YORK

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-08307-2 - A History of Babylonia and Assyria: Volume 1

Robert William Rogers

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

To My Wife

“I give this faulty book to you,
For tho’ the faults be thick as dust
In vacant chambers, I can trust
Your woman’s nature kind and true.”

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-08307-2 - A History of Babylonia and Assyria: Volume 1
Robert William Rogers
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-08307-2 - A History of Babylonia and Assyria: Volume 1

Robert William Rogers

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

PREFACE.

DURING the past ten years, when not absorbed in the duties of a busy professorship, I have given my time to the preparation of this work. In its interest I have made repeated journeys to Europe, and also to the East, and the greater part of the text has been written in the University Library at Leipzig, the British Museum in London, and the Bodleian Library in Oxford. In the last named I have had especial opportunity to investigate the early history of cuneiform research in the almost unrivaled collections of early travelers and decipherers. Large parts of the book have been rewritten twice or thrice as changes in opinion and the discovery of fresh monumental material have modified the views previously entertained. Whatever may be the judgment of my fellow-investigators in this difficult field, it will not truthfully be said that I have not taken pains.

Every part of the two volumes rests upon original sources, yet I have tried to consider all that modern Assyriologists have brought forward in elucidation of them, and have sought to give due credit for every explanation which I have accepted, and to treat with courtesy and respect any that I have ventured to reject. The progress of

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-08307-2 - A History of Babylonia and Assyria: Volume 1

Robert William Rogers

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Assyriology in the past twenty years has been so rapid that every book on the history of Babylonia and Assyria published prior to 1880 is hopelessly antiquated, and many issued much later would need extensive revision. The work of investigation has fallen necessarily into the hands of specialists, and so vast has the field grown that there are now specialists in even small parts of the subject. The results of all this detailed research are scattered in scientific journals and monographs in almost all the languages of Europe. To sift, weigh, and decide upon their merits is no easy task, and I am sadly conscious that it might have been better done; yet am I persuaded that scholars who know the field intimately will recognize the difficulties and be most ready to pardon the shortcomings which each may discover in his own province.

I have sought to tell the whole story as scholars now generally understand it, rather being disposed to yield to the *consensus* of opinion, when any exists, than eager to set forth novel personal opinions. Yet in parts of the field at least I may claim to be an independent investigator, and to have made contributions to the knowledge of the subject.

In travel and in research in the libraries and museums of Paris, Berlin, Cairo, Constantinople, and elsewhere I have received many courtesies which I should gladly acknowledge here did it not seem disproportionate to carve great names on

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-08307-2 - A History of Babylonia and Assyria: Volume 1

Robert William Rogers

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

PREFACE.

vii

so small a structure. The obligations to my friend Professor Sayce are, however, so unusual that they must be expressed. He has read the entire book in manuscript, and made many suggestions, some of which led me to change my view, while others showed me wherein I had written obscurely or had failed to defend my position adequately. I am grateful to him for this new illustration of his unfailing kindness and generosity to younger men.

I take leave of the book with mingled pleasure and regret, hoping only that it may prove sufficiently useful to demand and deserve a revision at no distant day.

ROBERT W. ROGERS.

MADISON, NEW JERSEY,

September 18, 1900.

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-08307-2 - A History of Babylonia and Assyria: Volume 1
Robert William Rogers
Frontmatter
[More information](#)

CONTENTS.

BOOK I: PROLEGOMENA.

CHAPTER I.

EARLY TRAVELERS AND EARLY DECIPHERERS.

	PAGE
Ignorance concerning Babylonia before 1820	1
Two lines of research	2
The ruins of Persepolis, Mount Rachmet	3
Odoric's account of Comum (Comerum)	4
Importance of Odoric's account	5
Josophat Barbaro at Camara	6
Barbaro and Antonio de Gouvea	7
Gouvea's account of Chelminira	8
The great stones, staircases, and columns	9
The inscriptions as Gouvea saw them	10
The embassy of Don Garcia de Sylva y Figueroa	11
His description of the ruins of Persepolis	12
Sculpture at Persepolis	13
Inscriptions	14
End of Figueroa's account	15
Letters of Pietro della Valle. Copy of inscription	16
His speculations concerning the characters	17
Thomas Herbert, 1634	18
His account of the inscriptions	19
Mandelslo's account. Herbert, 1677	20
Further descriptions by Herbert	21
Herbert's later account of the inscriptions	22
His copy of the characters	23
Sir John Chardin born 1643	24

x	CONTENTS.	
		PAGE
Chardin's account; Jean Baptiste Tavernier		25
Carreri on the inscriptions		26
Continuation of his account		27
Carreri's copy of the characters		28
Estimate of Carreri's work		29
Kaempfer's narrative		30
Cornelis de Bruin, 1704		31
Small influence of the travelers		32
Publication of vase, 1762		33
Carsten Niebuhr, 1765		34
Niebuhr's work at Persepolis		35
Niebuhr's publications, 1774-1837		36
His copies and analyses		37
Tychsen and Münter		38
Tychsen's erroneous translation		39
Münter's better success		40
Anquetil-Duperron, 1731		41
His publication of Zend-Avesta		42
De Sacy and Sassanian		43
Summary of materials for decipherment		44
The problem of decipherment		45

CHAPTER II.

GROTEFEND AND RAWLINSON.

Grotefend born 1775	46
Begins decipherment	47
Inscriptions " b " and " g " of Niebuhr	48
Persian equivalents for king	49
Equivalents for " king of kings "	50
The names Hystaspes, Darius, and Xerxes	51
Darheush and Chshharsha	52
Goshtasp	53
Grotefend's partial translations	54
Heeren assists Grotefend	55
Abbé Saint-Martin	56
Grotefend's later work	57
Rask and Eugène Burnouf	58

CONTENTS.		xi
	PAGE	
The lists of names at Naksh-i-Rustam	59	
Lassen’s work	60	
Rich copies Persepolis texts	61	
Westergaard’s copies	62	
Sir Henry Rawlinson, 1810, birth and education	63	
Rawlinson’s attempts to decipher	64	
His own account	65	
He copies inscriptions at Behistun	66	
Rawlinson sent to Afghanistan	67	
Rawlinson’s memoir on Persian inscriptions	68	
His obligations to others	69	
The Rev. Edward Hincks	70	
His education and early labors	71	
The close of the Persian decipherment	72	
Other problems	73	
Flower’s letters	74	
His copies of cuneiform characters	75	
Aston’s publication of them	76	
A retrograde movement begins	77	
Thomas Hyde quotes Flower	78	
Witsen reproduces Flower’s signs	79	
Cantémir visits Tarku	80	
Guldenstädt and Schulz	81	
St. Martin and Burnouf	82	
Holtzmann’s translation of Flower’s copy	83	

CHAPTER III.	
EARLY EXPLORERS IN BABYLONIA.	
The Middle Age ignorant of Babylon	84
Rabbi Benjamin of Tudela	85
His accounts of Nineveh and Babylon	86
His account of Babylon continued	87
The influence of his narrative	88
John Eldred, 1583	89
His account of Babylon	90
He confuses Baghdad and Babylon	91
Anthony Shirley, 1599	92

xii	CONTENTS.	
		PAGE
His influence on later explorers		93
John Cartwright visits Nineveh		94
His account of the city		95
And of Babylon		96
Gasparo Balbi visits Babylon		97
Athanasius Kircher receives a brick from Babylon		98
End of the age of travelers		99

CHAPTER IV.

EXPLORATIONS IN ASSYRIA AND BABYLONIA, 1734–1820.

Jean Otter begins the new age of exploration	100
Saint Albert visits the East	101
His description of Hillah	102
D’Anville on Babylon	103
Niebuhr visits Babylon 1765	104
And also Nineveh	105
Beauchamp describes Babel	106
And Makloubé	107
He recognizes relationship of Babylonian script	108
Olivier succeeds him	109
Joseph Hager publishes a remarkable book	110
He shows that Babylon was earlier than Persepolis	111
Great influence of his book	112
Claudius James Rich born 1787	113
His first impressions of Babylon	114
Further description, and first excavations, 1811	115
Rennell’s criticism of Rich	116
Rich visits Neby Yunus and Kuyunjik	117
Suspicious of the natives	118
Rich visits Persepolis	119
His influence upon cuneiform research	120
Sir Robert Ker Porter visits Rich at Baghdad	121
His unique equipment for exploration	122
Porter’s book on Babylon	123
Close of another period of exploration	124
Rich and Porter as leaders in it	125

CONTENTS. xiii

CHAPTER V.

EXCAVATIONS IN ASSYRIA AND BABYLONIA, 1843-1854.

	PAGE
Julius Mohl begins residence in Paris 1823 . . .	126
Botta sent to Mosul as vice consul 1842 . . .	127
The town of Mosul at that time . . .	128
General view of mounds opposite the city . . .	129
Botta searches Mosul for antiquities . . .	130
Kuyunjik selected for first excavations . . .	131
Small success of his efforts . . .	132
Begins excavations at Khorsabad . . .	133
Encouraged by Mohl . . .	134
Difficulties with Turkish officials . . .	135
Work resumed May 4, 1844 . . .	136
End of Botta's excavations, October, 1844 . . .	137
Austen Henry Layard born 1817 . . .	138
His extensive journey with Mitford . . .	139
First description of Nimroud . . .	140, 141
Layard visits Botta at Mosul . . .	142
Layard begins collecting funds to excavate in Assyria	143
First night at Nimroud . . .	144
Discovers winged bull in the mound . . .	145
Description of the scene . . .	146, 147
Excitement caused by discovery . . .	148
Second pair of human-headed lions found . . .	149
Layard's musings over the discoveries . . .	150
And reflections upon their interest . . .	151
Layard's gifts in description . . .	152
Permission from Constantinople to continue the work	153
Hormuzd Rassam acts as assistant . . .	154
Obelisk of Shalmaneser II found . . .	155
Excavations at Kalah Shergat . . .	156
Layard's expedition of 1849 . . .	157
Returns to England 1852 . . .	158
Fruitfulness of his work . . .	159
William Kennett Loftus in the Orient . . .	160

xiv

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Excavates at Warka	161
Assyrian Excavation Fund organized	162
Taylor excavates at Mugheir	163, 164
The French expedition to Babylonia	165
Rassam begins work at Kuyunjik	166, 167, 168
Discoveries made by him there	169, 170
Jones surveys Nineveh	171
Rawlinson makes discovery at Ur	172, 173
Close of excavations	174

CHAPTER VI.

THE DECIPHERMENT OF ASSYRIAN.

The problem	175
Westergaard begins the work	176
De Saulcy uses the name <i>Assyrian</i>	177
Norris publishes second column of Behistun texts	178
The second form of writing deciphered	179
Loewenstein begins Assyrian decipherment	180, 181
Hincks continues his work	182
Longperier translates one of Botta's inscriptions	183, 184
Botta makes some contributions toward the solution	185
De Saulcy makes futile attempts	186
Hincks is much more successful	187, 188
Rawlinson does not equal him	189
Publication of Rawlinson's <i>Memoir</i>	190, 191
Hincks makes still further contributions	192, 193
Workers increase in number	194
Fox Talbot proposes a test of the decipherment	195, 196
Effect of the demonstration	197
Organization of the Society of Biblical Archæology	198, 199

CHAPTER VII.

THE DECIPHERMENT OF SUMERIAN AND OF VANNIC.

Disputes concerning the origin of cuneiform signs	200
Rawlinson announces discovery of non-Semitic inscriptions	201

CONTENTS.	XV
	PAGE
His studies of “Scythian” inscriptions	202
Hincks names the language Old Chaldean	203
Sayce publishes important paper on Accadian	204
Lenormant writes grammar of Sumerian	205
Solution of the problem in 1873	206
Halévy denies the existence of Sumerian	207, 208
But does not convince Assyriologists	209, 210
Halévy’s theory gains recruits	211
Defends his thesis at Leiden, 1883	212
Delitzsch joins Halévy and later deserts him	213, 214
The end of Sumerian decipherment	215
Schulz finds inscriptions at Van	216, 217
Edward Hincks begins their decipherment	218, 219
Which is continued by Lenormant and Mordtmann	220
Guyard finds a valuable clue to the language	221
Sayce independently finds the same clue	222
And deciphers the Vannic inscriptions	223
Belck and Lehmann on Chaldian language	224

CHAPTER VIII.

EXPLORATIONS IN ASSYRIA AND BABYLONIA, 1872–1900.	
Julius Mohl, Secretary of the Société Asiatique	225
George Smith begins his work	226, 227
He attempts Cypriote decipherment	228
Finds fragments of deluge tablet	229
Important meeting of the Society of Biblical Archæology	230
<i>Daily Telegraph</i> expedition to Assyria	231
Smith’s second and third expeditions	232
Smith’s death at Aleppo, 1876	233
Rassam undertakes a new expedition	234, 235
De Sarzec’s excavations at Tello	236, 237, 238
The Wolfe expedition to Babylonia	239, 240
The Philadelphia expedition begins work	241
The second and third campaigns	242, 243
The remarkable work of Haynes at Nippur	244, 245
Hilprecht in charge of excavations	246

xvi

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
The German expedition at Babylon	247
Discoveries at Tell-el-Amarna	248, 249
Turkish expedition at Sippar	250, 251
Conclusion of period of excavation	252, 253

CHAPTER IX.
THE SOURCES.

The monuments of Babylonia and Assyria	254
Their character	255, 256
Egyptian texts and the Old Testament as sources	257
Greek and Latin writers	258
Berossos	259, 260
Ktesias	261, 262
Herodotus	263, 264
Lesser authorities	265

CHAPTER X.
THE LANDS OF BABYLONIA AND ASSYRIA.

The boundaries of the two countries	266, 267
Chaldea and Assyria	268
Mesopotamia	269
Sources of the Tigris and Euphrates	270, 271
Their tributaries	272, 273
Flood periods in the rivers	274
Canal system	275
Other water supplies	276
Climate of the great valley	277
Incursions of sand	278
Temperate winters	279
Fertility of the soil	280, 281
Its cereals, vegetables, and trees	282
The fauna of the country	283, 284
The elephant and the wild ass	285
No mineral wealth in Babylonia	286
Clay as a building material	287
Stone found plentifully in Assyria	288

CONTENTS.		xvii
		PAGE
Cities of Babylonia : Eridu		289
Ur and Larsa		290
Girsu, Uruk		291, 292
Isin and Nippur		293
Babylon		294, 295
Kutha, Dur-Kurigalzu, and Opis		296
Cities of Assyria : Asshur		297
Calah and Nineveh		298
Dur-Sharrukin and Arbāilu		299
Naqibina and Harran		300, 301

CHAPTER XI.

THE PEOPLES OF BABYLONIA AND ASSYRIA.

The early Babylonians	302
The Sumerian language	303
The Sumerian people	304
Invasion of Semites	305
Original home of Semites	306, 307
Origin and character of Assyrians	308, 309
The Chaldeans	310, 311

CHAPTER XII.

THE CHRONOLOGY.

Babylonian chronological materials	312
The King Lists	313
Babylonian Chronicles	314, 315
Boundary stone of Bel-nadin-apli	316
The Nabonidus Chronological materials	317, 318
Date of Sargon I and Naram-Sin	319
Date of Marduk-nadin-akhe	320, 321
External indications of age	322
Assyrian chronological material	323
Expedition Lists and Synchronistic History	324
Statements of Sennacherib inscriptions	325
Chronology in Tiglathpileser's texts	326
Greek writers : Berossos	327, 328

xviii

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
The beginning of Babylonian history	329
Statements of Simplicius	330, 331
Schwartz on chronology of Berossos	332
The Canon of Ptolemy	333, 334
Egyptian inscriptions and Old Testament	335
Tables of chronology : Early Babylonia	336, 337
First dynasty	338
Second dynasty	339
Third dynasty	340, 341
Fourth dynasty	342, 343
Fifth, sixth, and seventh dynasties	344
Eighth and ninth dynasties	345
Chronology of Assyria, Ishakkus of Asshur	346
Kings of Assyria	347, 348

BOOK II: THE HISTORY OF BABYLONIA.

CHAPTER I.

THE HISTORY OF BABYLONIA TO THE FALL OF LARSA.

The difficult study of origins	349
Earliest cities of Babylonia	350
The land of Kengi	351
En-shag-kush-ana, <i>patesi</i>	352, 353
Lugalzaggisi	354, 355
Urukagina	356
Eannatum	357
His successors	358, 359
Lasirab and Manishtusu	360
Sargon I and his origin	361, 362
His great career	363, 364, 365
Naram-Sin	366, 367
Ur Bau-and Gudea	368, 369, 370
The civilization of Shirpurla	371
The favorable location of Ur	372
Ur-Gur and Dungi	373, 374, 375

CONTENTS.		xix
		PAGE
The kings of Isin		376
The third dynasty of Ur		377
Kingdom of Amnanu		378
Nur-Adad and Sin-iddin		379
Kudur-Nankhundi		380
Chedorlaomer and Eri-Aku		381
End of the kingdom of Larsa		382
Sumerian civilization in early Babylonia		383
The political development		384, 385

CHAPTER II.

THE FIRST AND SECOND DYNASTIES OF BABYLON.

The origin of the city of Babylon	386
Sumu-abi to Apil-Sin	387
Sin-muballit and Hammurabi	388
Hammurabi rules all Babylonia	389
Chedorlaomer	390
Arioch ; Hammurabi, the statesman	391
The glory of his reign	392, 393
Samsu-iluna	394
End of the first dynasty	395
The second dynasty	396, 397

CHAPTER III.

THE KASSITE DYNASTY.

Conquest of Babylonia by the Kassites	398
Their racial affiliations	399
Unsatisfactory knowledge concerning them	400
The first kings of the dynasty	401
Agum-kakrime	402, 403
The titles of Kassite kings	404
Extent of Agum-kakrime's kingdom	405
He restores Babylonian gods	406
Lacunæ in King Lists	407, 408
Beginnings of Assyria	409
Mitanni	410, 411

xx	CONTENTS.	
		PAGE
Karaindash	412, 413,	314
Kadashman-Bel		415
Burnaburiash I		416
Kurigalzu I		417
Burnaburiash II		418
Karakhardash, Kadashman-Kharbe I		419
Kurigalzu II		420
Kadashman-Turgu to Shagarakti-Shuriash		421
Invasion by Tukulti-Ninib		422
Meli-Shipak		423
Marduk-apal-iddin		424

CHAPTER IV		
THE DYNASTY OF ISIN.		
Origin of the dynasty		425
Its first kings		426
Nebuchadrezzar I		427
Marduk-nadin-akhe		428
End of the dynasty		429