

II. Ancient Mesopotamia
The Cradle of Civilization
Part II

DU1701 Periods of Art History I: from Prehistory to Trajan
Adrien Palladino, M.A., Ph.D.

THE
EPIC OF GILGAMISH

*A new translation from a collation of the
cuneiform tablets in the British Museum
rendered literally into English hexameters*

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THEODORE ZIOLKOWSKI

GILGAMESH AMONG US
MODERN ENCOUNTERS WITH THE ANCIENT EPIC



Terracotta relief with Gilgamesh and Enkidu fighting against Humbaba (?)
/Vorderasiatisches Museum, Berlin



Votive relief, terracotta, Irak, 13,5 x 11 cm,
Akkadian period, c. 2,255-2,219 BCE /
Musées royaux d'art et d'histoire, Brussels



Kudurru (stele) of King Melishipak I (1186–1172 BCE),
Iraq / Musée du Louvre, Paris



Wall plaque, from Ur,
Iraq, c. 2500 BCE /
British Museum, London



Libatio

Incised shell
inlay, from Ur, c.
2600-2500 BCE /
British Museum,
London

Libation to a goddess, limestone, Early
Dynastic III, c. 2500 BCE, found in Telloh
(ancient Girsu) / Musée du Louvre, Paris





The Adda cylinder seal, greenstone, : 1,5 x 3,9 cm,
diameter: 2,55 cm, from Iraq, Sippar, c. 2,300 BCE /
British Museum, London





Cylinder Seal, from Ur, Iraq, lapis lazuli, 4,2 cm long, diameter 2,6 cm, c. 2,600–2,450 BCE / Penn Museum, Philadelphia



“Queen of the night”, Ereshkigal , Ianna/Ishtar,
Lilitu?, clay, 49,5 x 37 cm, Old Babylonian,
1,800–1750 BCE / British Museum, London





Head of a ruler, Iran (?),
copper alloy, Early Bronze
Age, c. 2300–2000 BCE /
Metropolitan Museum,
New York





Statue of King Gudea, diorite, 44 x 21,5 x 29,5 cm, neo-Sumerian, c. 2,090 BCE, from Girsu (Tello) / Metropolitan Museum, New York

[...] He (also) built the individual houses of (other) great gods of Lagaš. For Ningišzida, his (personal) god, he built his House of Girsu. Someone (in the future) whom Ningirsu, his god - as my god (addressed me) has (directly) addressed within the crowd, let him not, thereafter, be envious(?) with regard to the house of my (personal) god. Let him invoke its (the house's) name; let such a person be my friend, and let him (also) invoke my (own) name. (Gudea) fashioned a statue of himself. "Let the life of Gudea, who built the house, be long." - (this is how) he named (the statue) for his sake, and he brought it to him into (his) house.

From Edzard, Dietz-Otto. 1997. *Gudea and his Dynasty. The Royal Inscriptions of Mesopotamia, Early Periods* vol. 3/1, Toronto: University of Toronto Press, pp. 57-58.



Statue of King Gudea, diorite, 44 x 21,5 x 29,5 cm, neo-Sumerian, c. 2,090 BCE, from Girsu (Tello) / Metropolitan Museum, New York

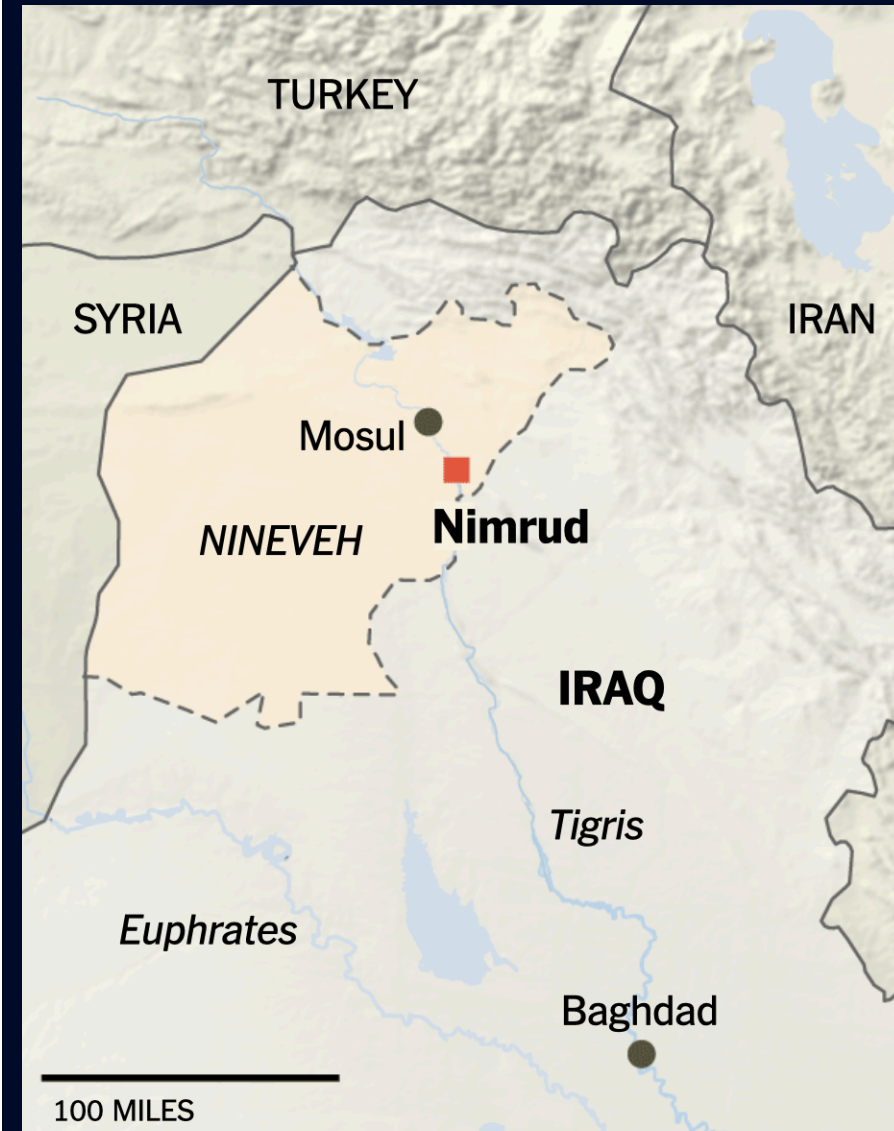


Victory stele of Naram-Sin, king of Akkad, Akkadian period, circa 2250 BCE / Musée du Louvre, Paris

ISIS Attacks Nimrud, a Major Archaeological Site in Iraq



Iraqi workers cleaning a statue of a winged bull at Nimrud in 2001. The country's Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities said Thursday that Islamic State militants had damaged the archaeological site with heavy vehicles. Karim Sahib/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images



New York Times, March 5, 2015







Lamassu, neo-Assyrian, c. 883–859 BCE, gypsum alabaster, Mesopotamia, Nimrud (ancient Kalhu) excavated in the 1840s by Sir Austen Henry Layard / Metropolitan Museum, New York





Lamassu, neo-Assyrian,
reign of Sargon II, c. 721-
705 BCE, from
Khorsabad, ancient Dur
Sharrukin, Iraq,
excavated in 1843-44 /
Musée du Louvre, Paris



Gate of All nations, (also Gate of Xerxes),
c. 490-480 BCE, ruins of Persepolis, Iran





Ashurbanipal,
hunting lions,
gypsum relief,
North Palace of
Nineveh (Iraq),
c. 645-635 BCE /
British Museum,
London





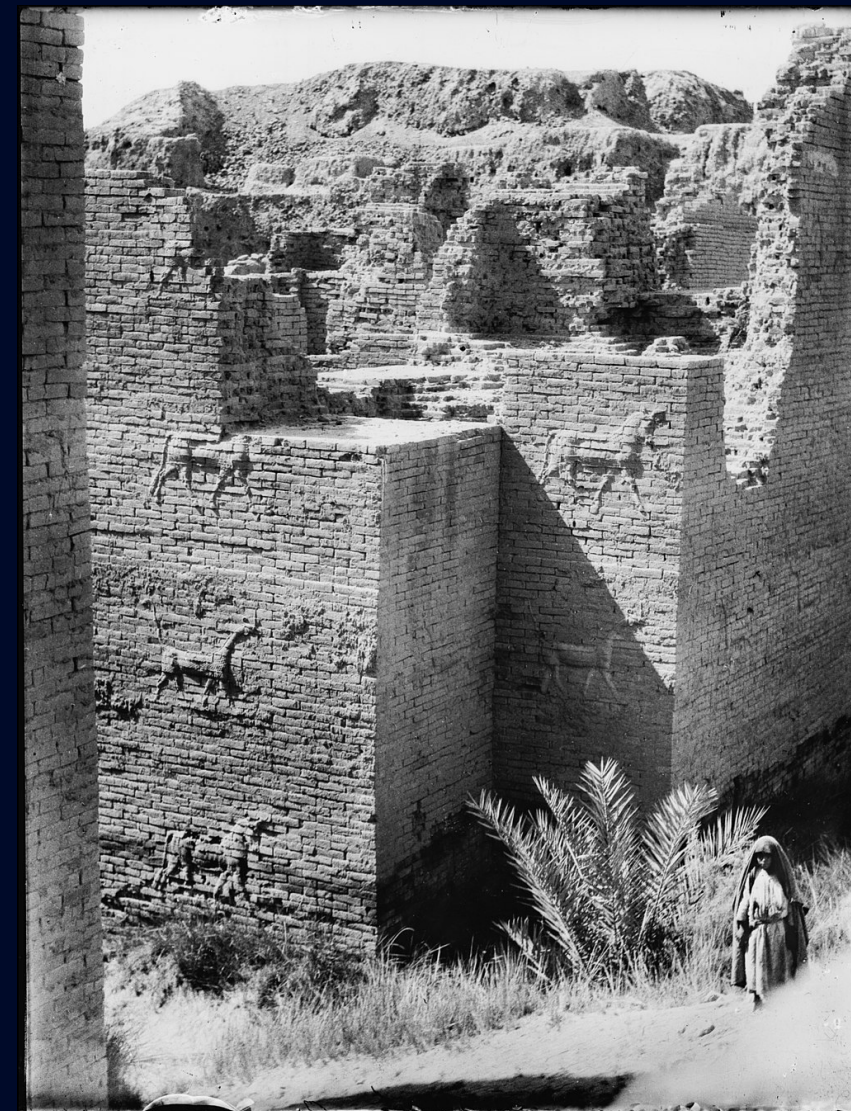


Ivory panel, with traces of polychromy, c. 900–700 BCE, excavated at Nimrud, Iraq / British Museum, London



Ishtar Gate,
reconstruction,
glazed bricks, under
King of Babylon
Nabuchodonosor II,
c. 575 BCE, Iraq /
Pergamon Museum,
Berlin



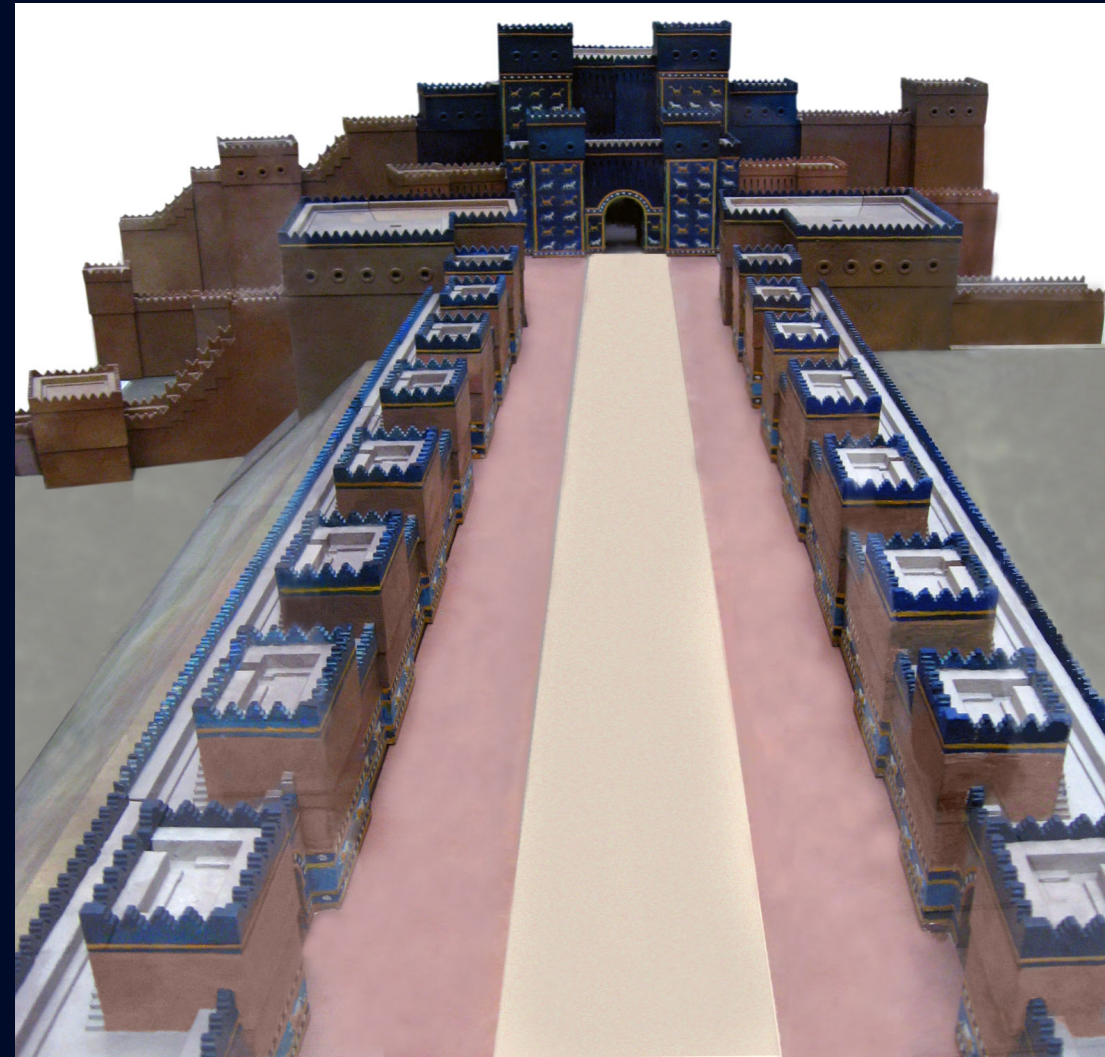


The remains of the Ishtar Gate at the beginning of the excavations, Babylon, 1902 / © Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Vorderasiatisches Museum, Deutsche Orient-Gesellschaft



Wooden boxes waiting for their transport to Berlin, Babylon 1927 /
© Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Vorderasiatisches Museum



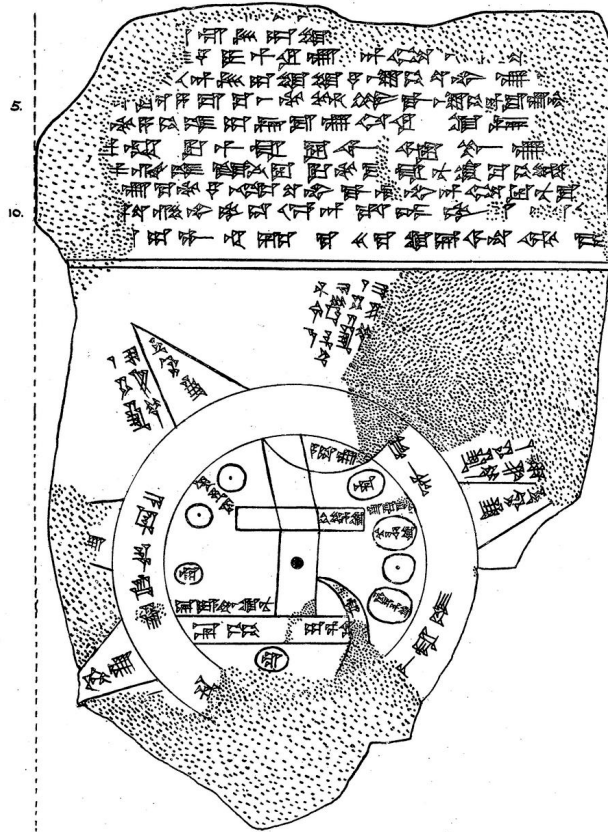






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OBVERSE.



REVERSE.

