Une brève histoire des collections de tablettes cunéiformes

F. Joannès (Paris 1)

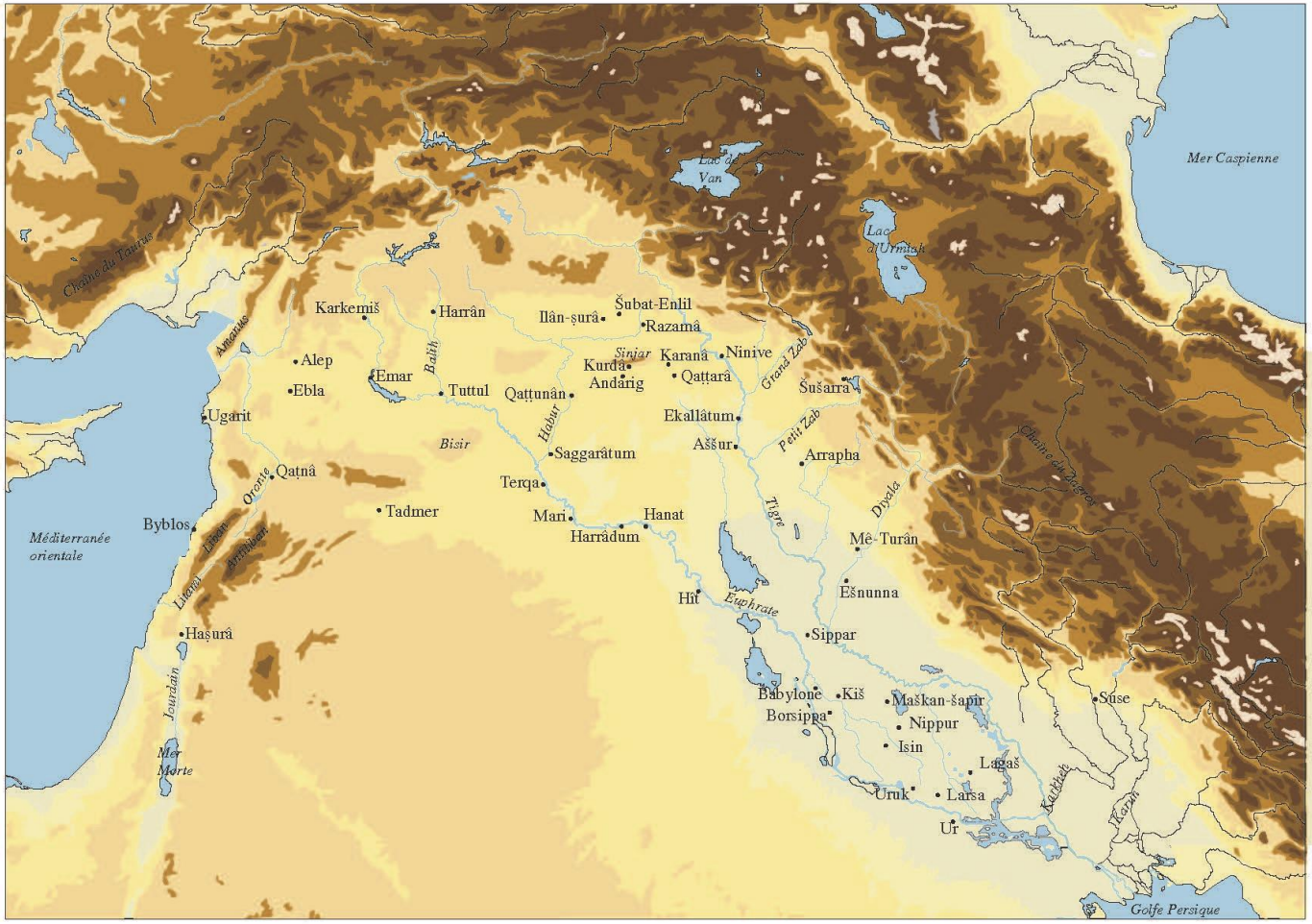
3 mars 2014

Tablette cunéiforme (IIIème millénaire av. J.-C.)

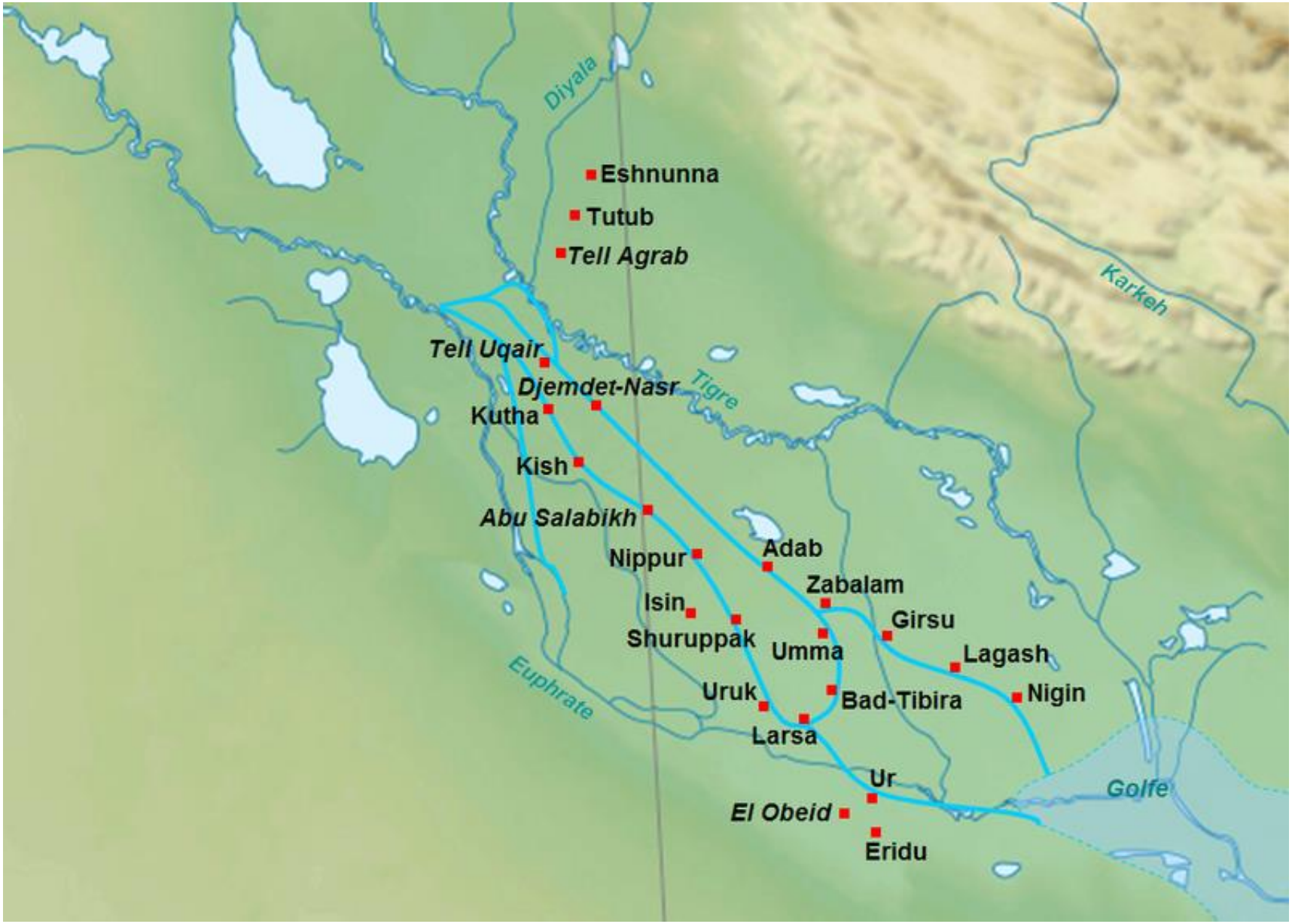
1. Le cunéiforme avant le déchiffrement

lieux et objets

Le Proche-Orient antique



Le pays de Sumer



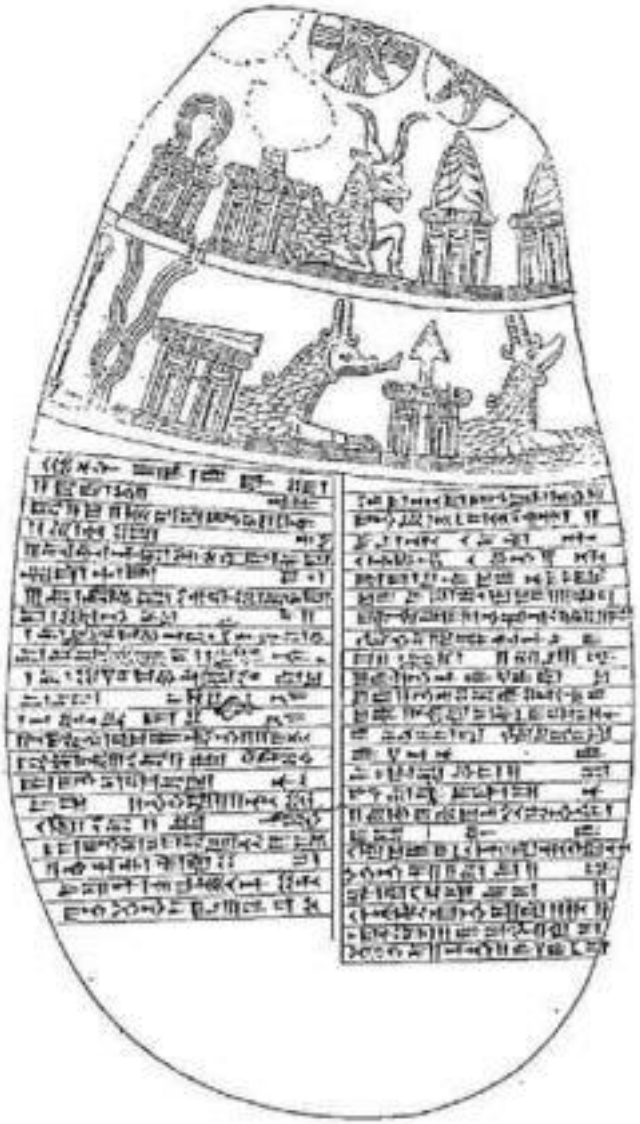


Fig 109.

Le «caillou Michaux»

Traductions du Caillou Michaux

« L’armée du ciel ne nous abreuve de vinaigre que pour nous prodiguer les remèdes propres à procurer notre guérison »

«30 hectares de terre arable (…) dans le terroir de la ville de Kar-Nabu, au bord du canal Me-Kalkal [...] c’est ce que Nirah-naṣir, descendant de Habban, a donné en dot à Dûr-Sharrukîn-ayyitu, sa fille, ... etc. »

Persépolis

Pietro Della Valle
(1586-1652)

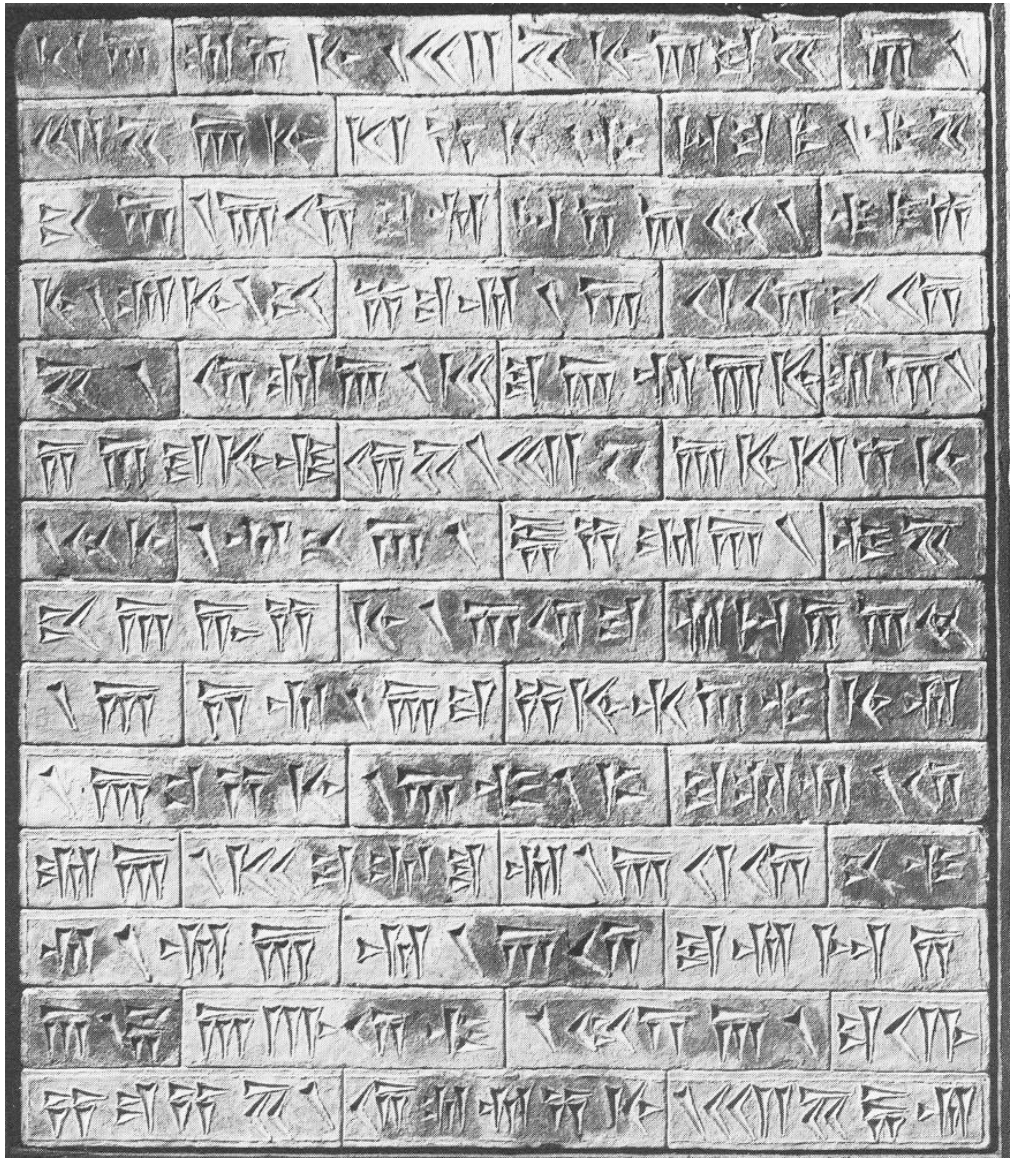
Carsten Niebuhr
(1733-1815)

Le cunéiforme d’Iran

Inscription trilingue de Persépolis

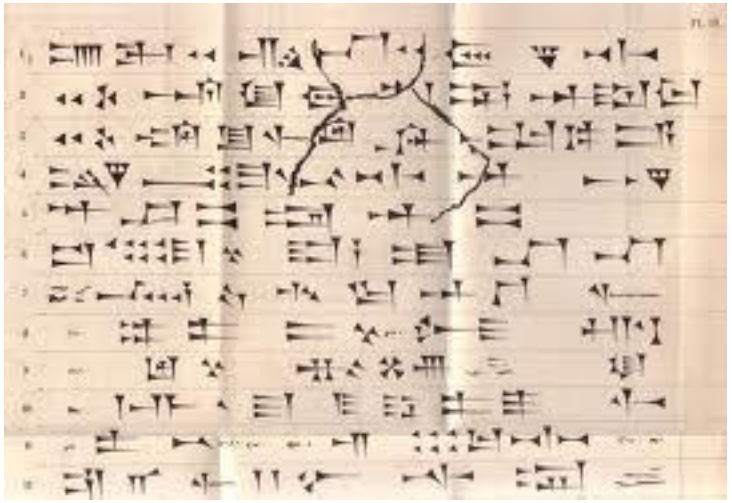
Cunéiforme vieux-perse

Cunéiforme akkadien

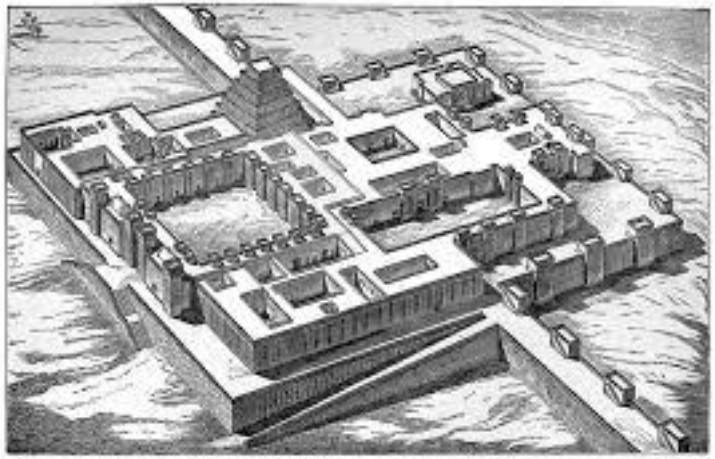


Mur est de l’Apadana
Inscription sur briques cuites
Vieux-perse, règne de Xerxès

Inscription bilingue de Xerxès
en cunéiforme vieux-perse et en cunéiforme akkadien



Première copie d’ inscription de Khorsabad,
transmise par É. Botta à J. Mohl
et publiée dans le *Journal asiatique* de 1843 (détail) - © Société Asiatique

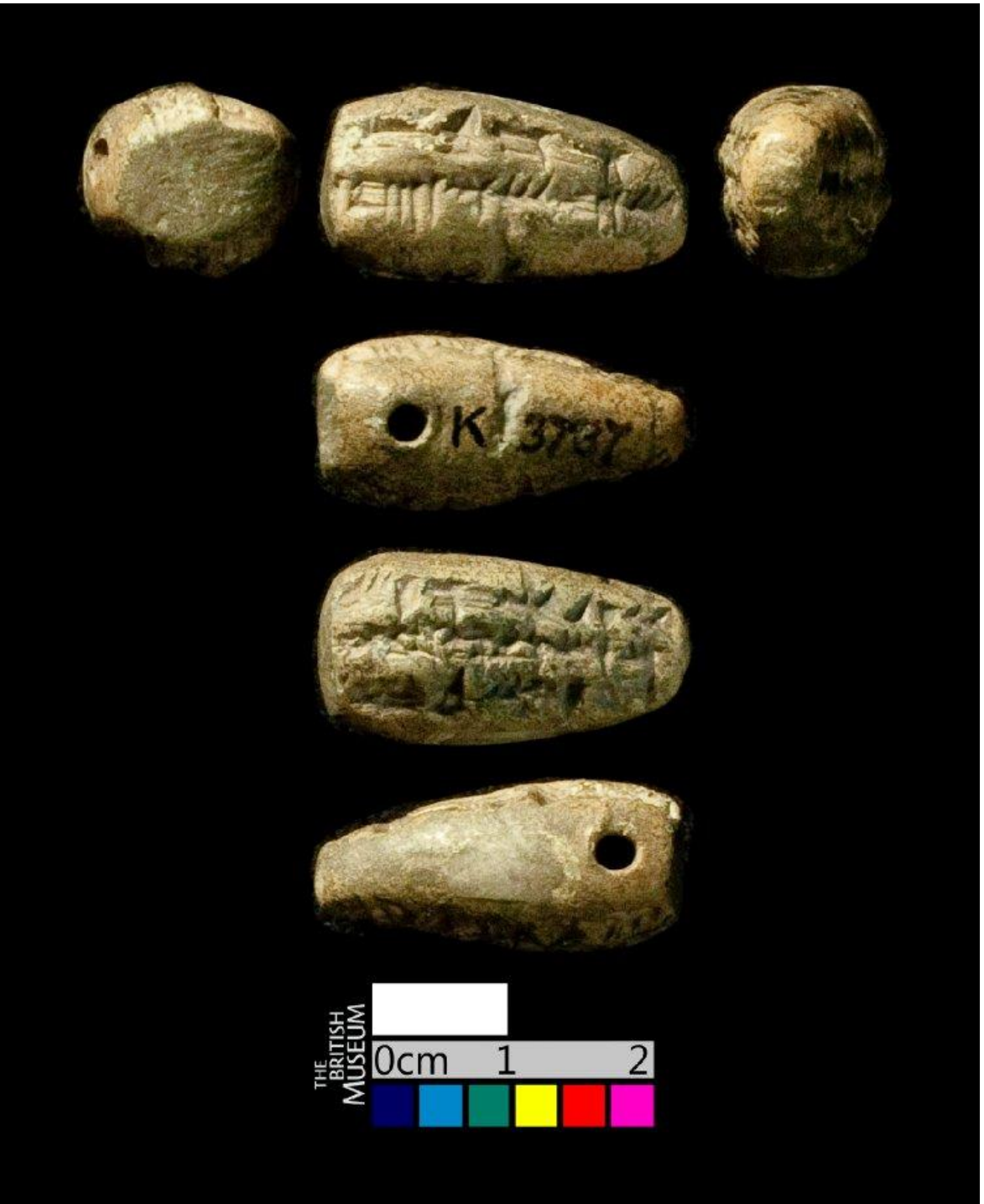


La redécouverte des Assyriens

P.-E. Botta
(1802-1870)

Les premières fouilles de Khorsabad (Assyrie)

Fouille de Khorsabad



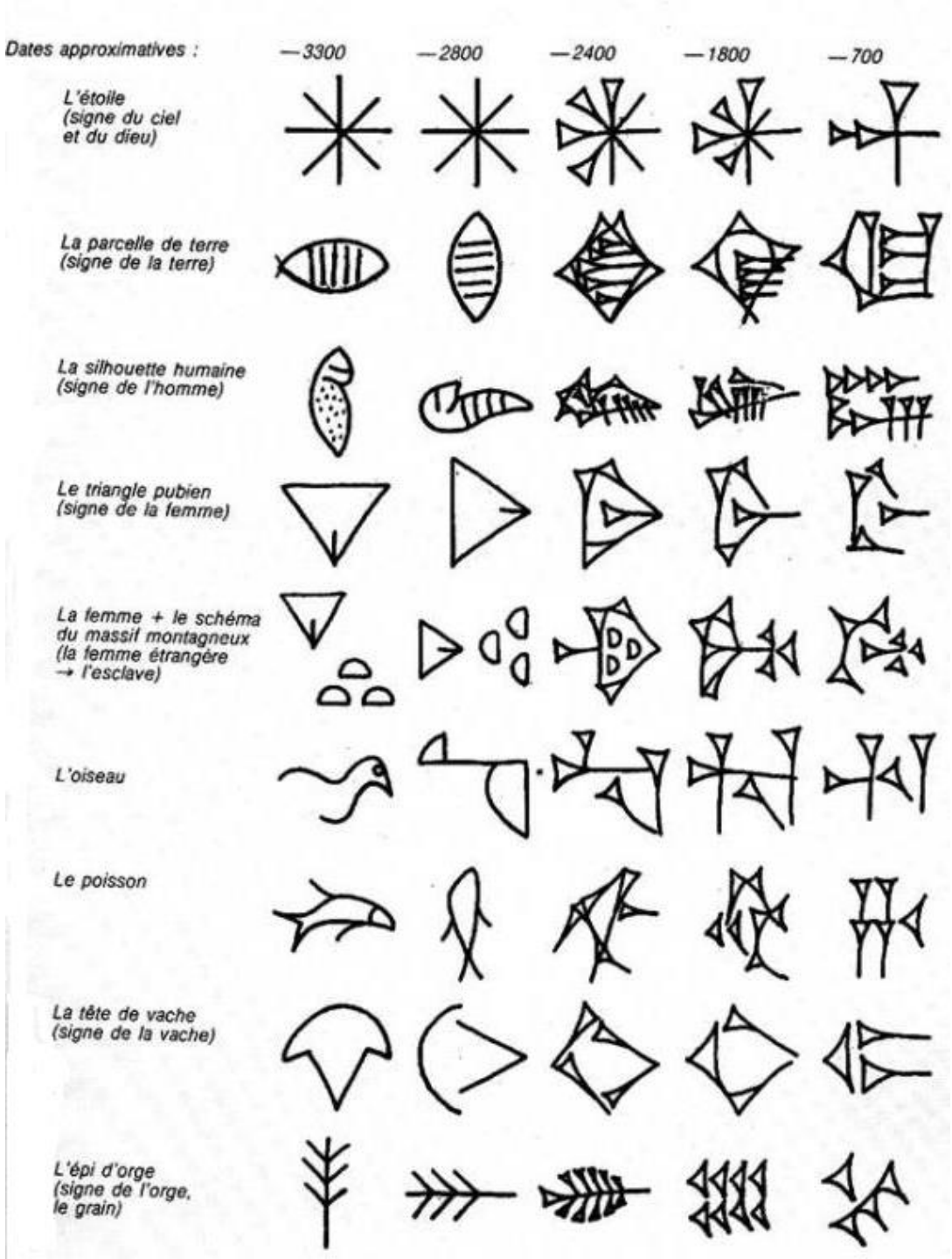
Un «slave-document» du règne de Merodach-baladan
(8ème siècle av. J.-C.)

Editer le cunéiforme

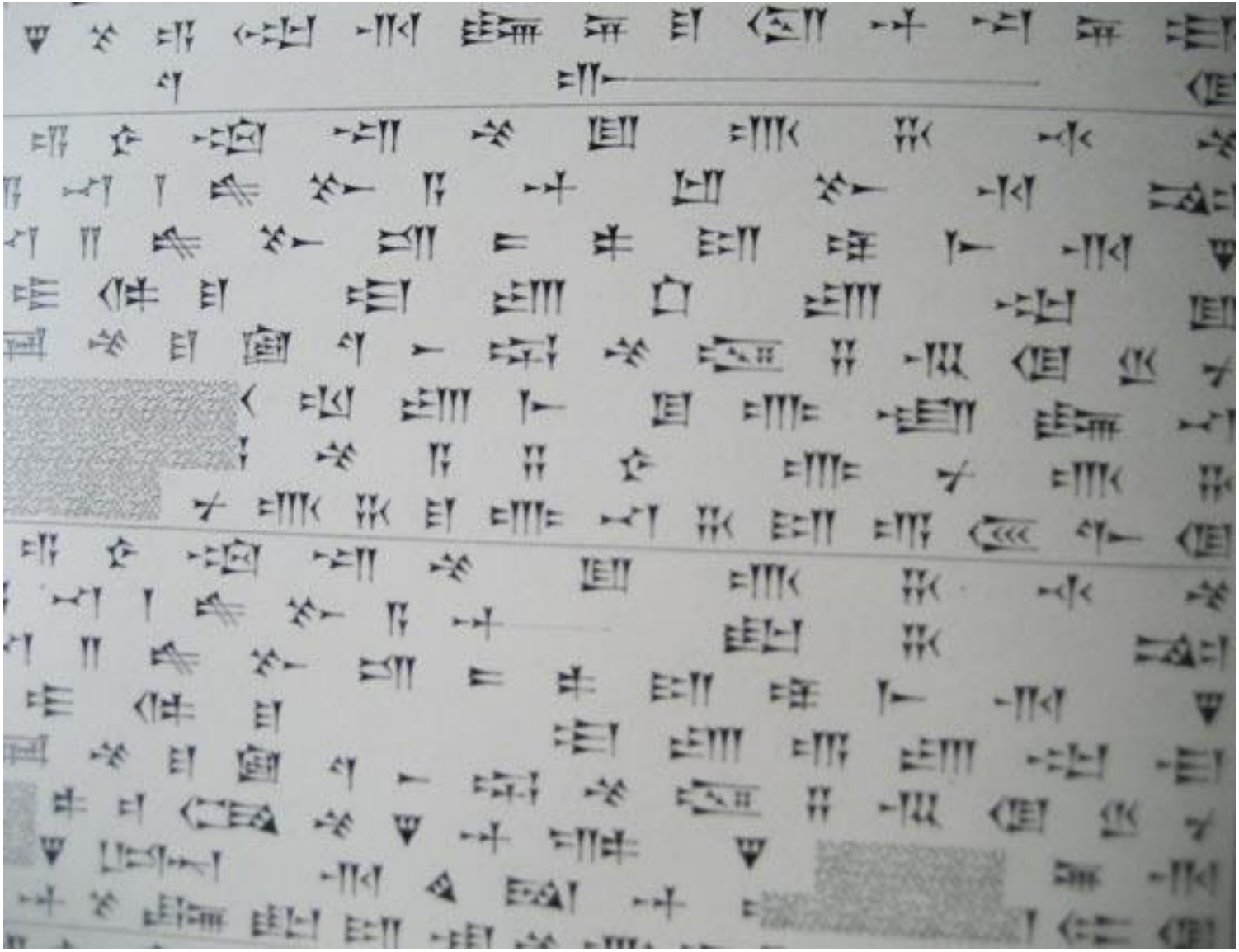
- reconstitution de la valeur et de la forme des signes
- Reproduction sous forme de caractères imprimés
- Copies à la main (autographie)
- Reproduction photographique en 2D et en 3 D

du pictogramme à l'idéogramme,

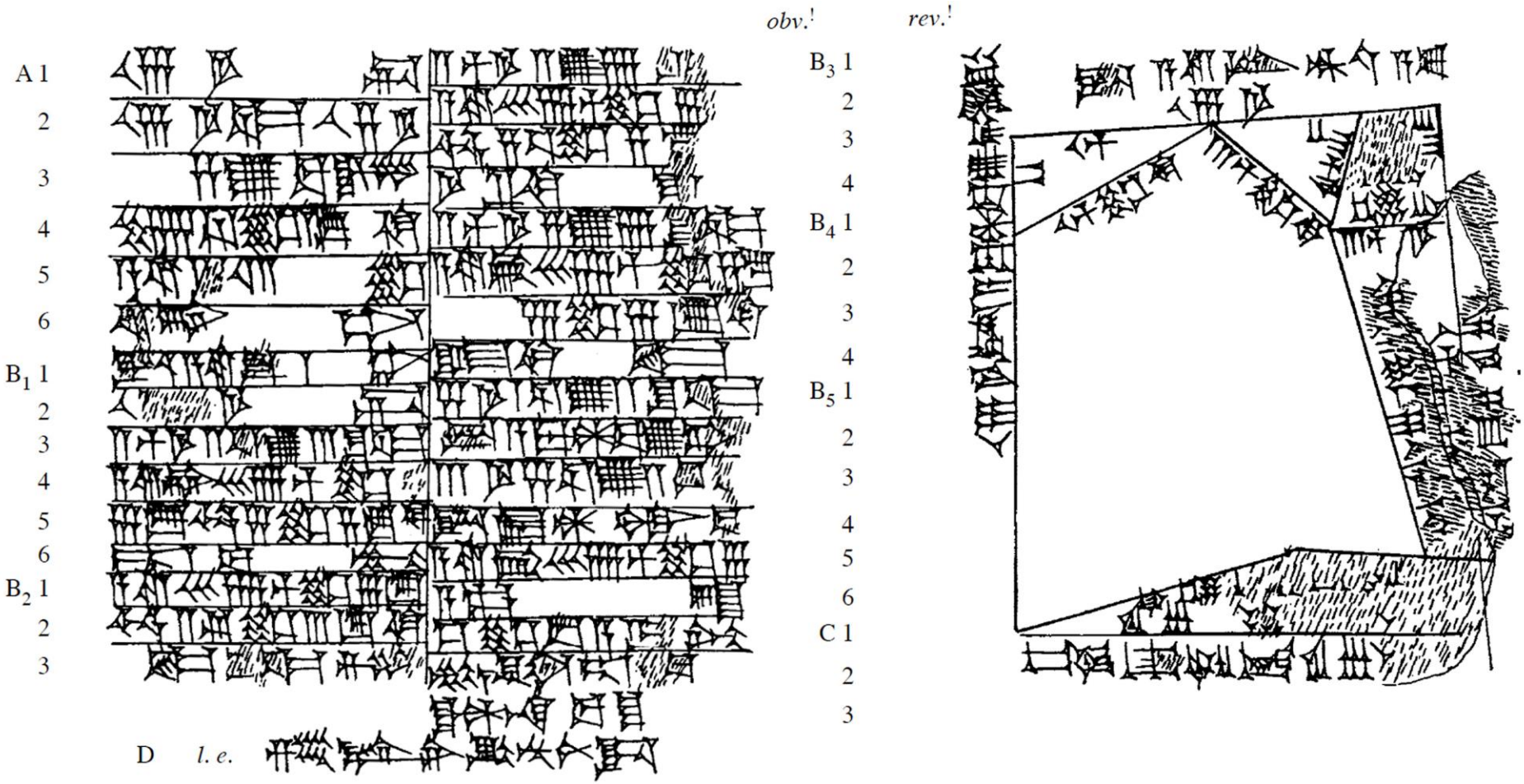
du dessin au signe cunéiforme



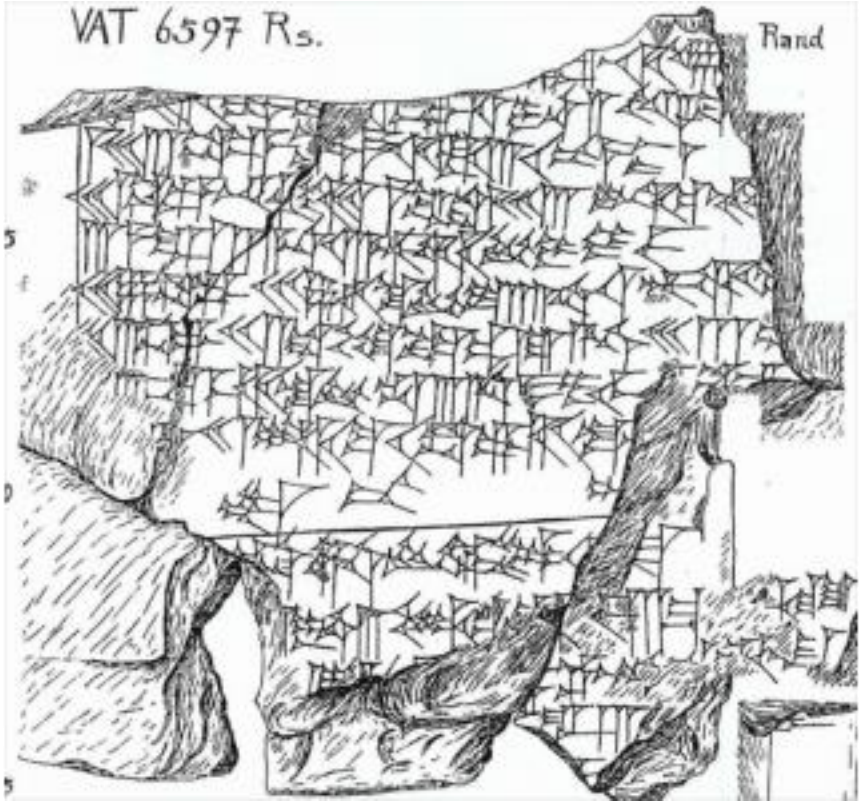
Les premières éditions

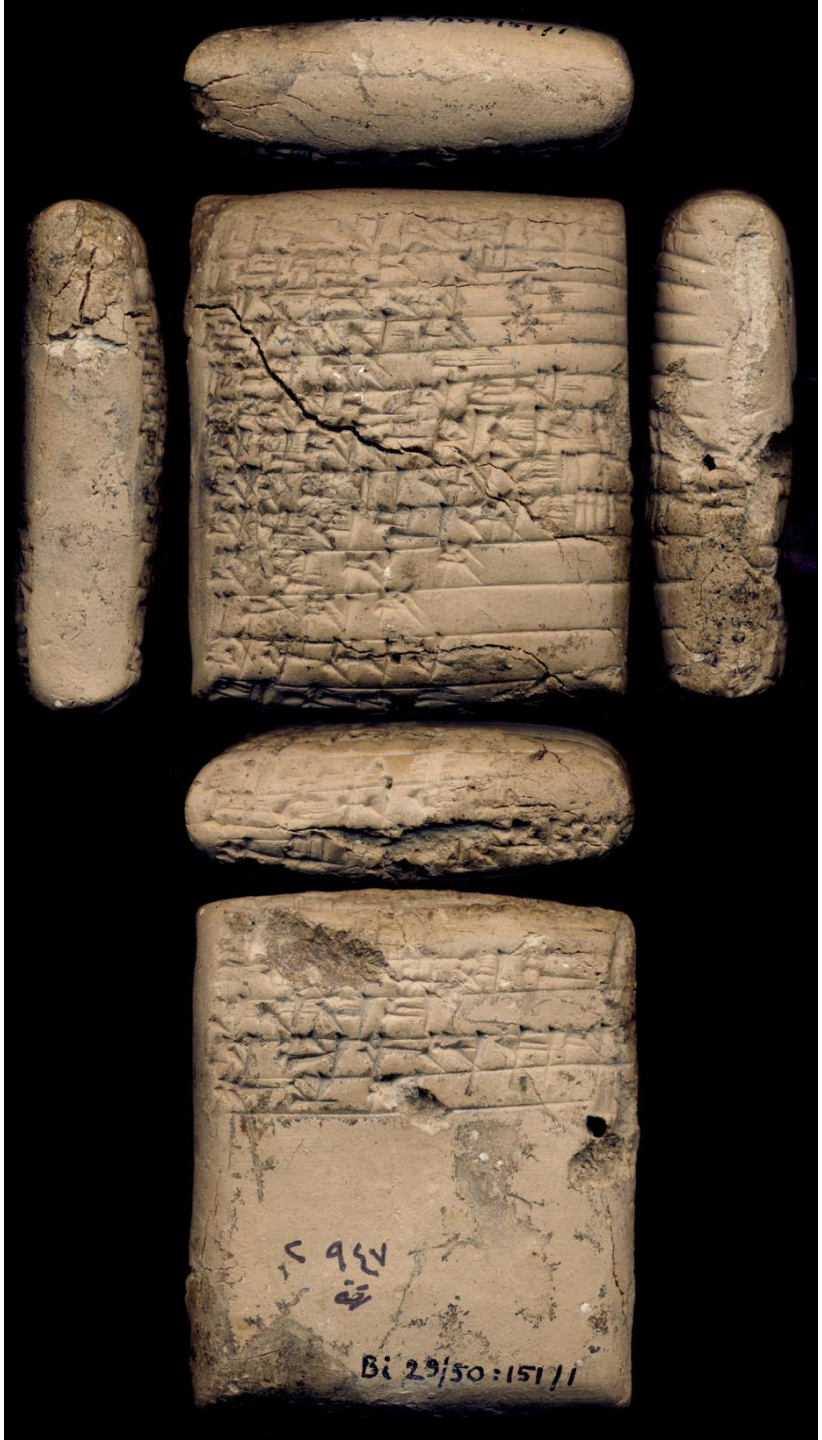


Copie d'une tablette cunéiforme mathématique



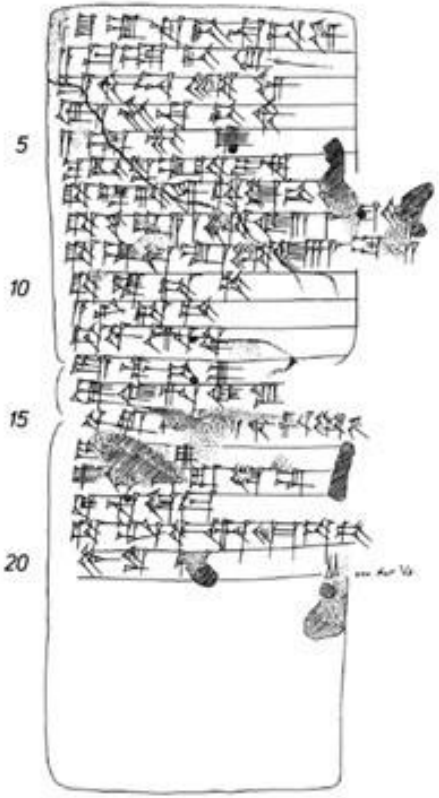
Copie de tablette cunéiforme





Association

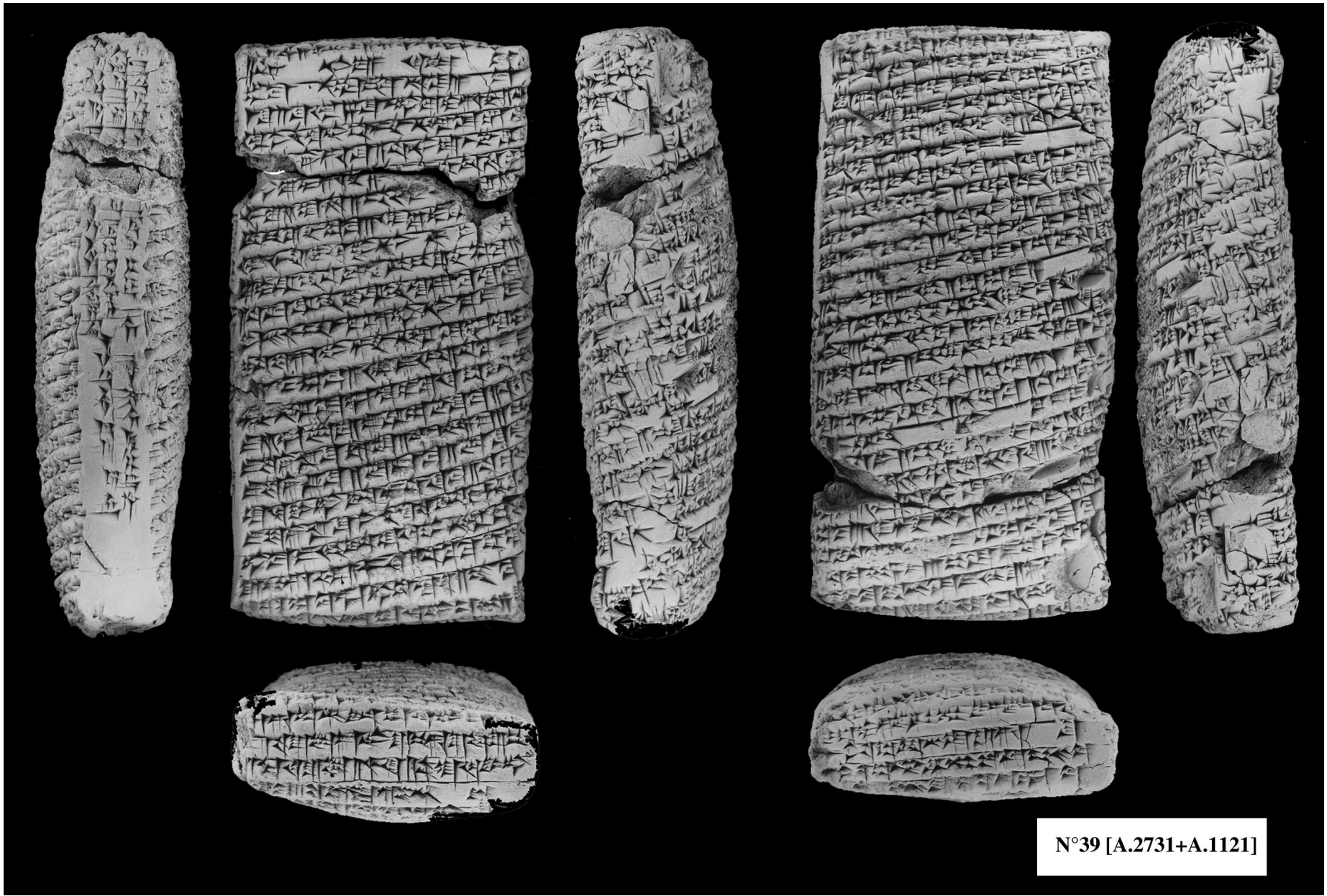
Photo
+
Autographie



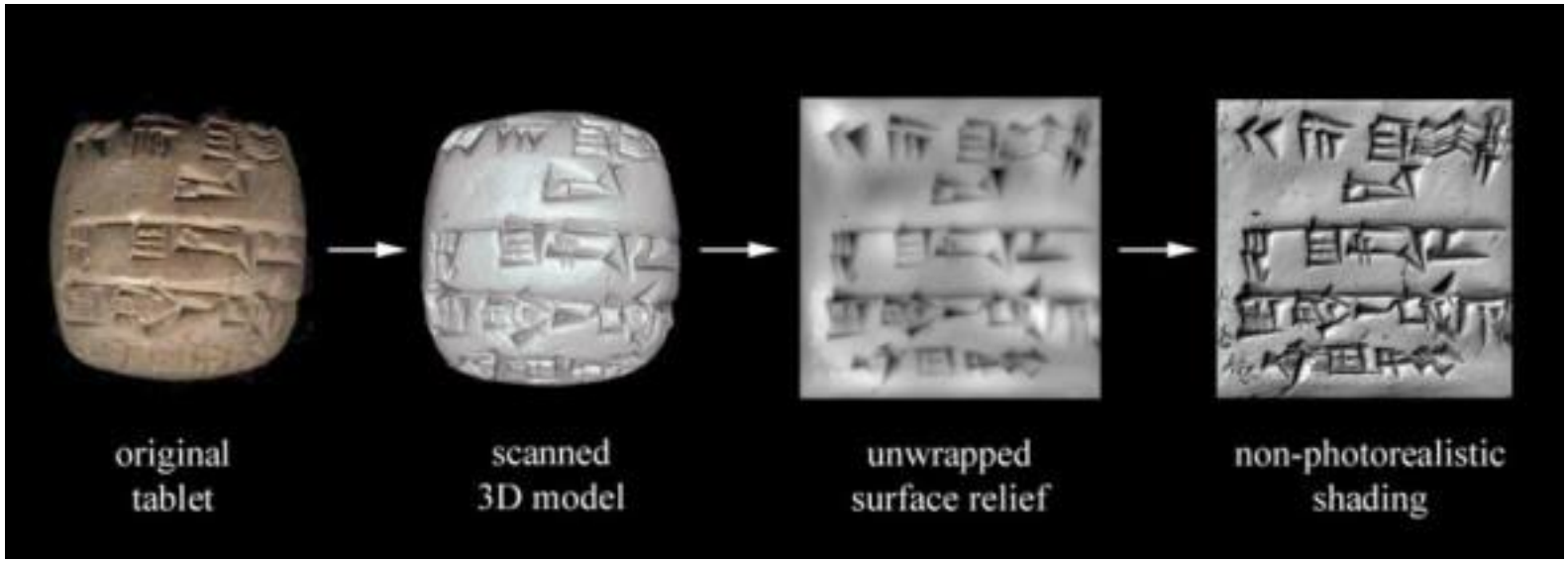
55a 29/50:151,1a

55b 29/50:151,1b
SL-03

Photo de tablette cunéiforme recouverte de chlorure d'ammonium



Modélisation à partir d’une photo «classique» de tablette

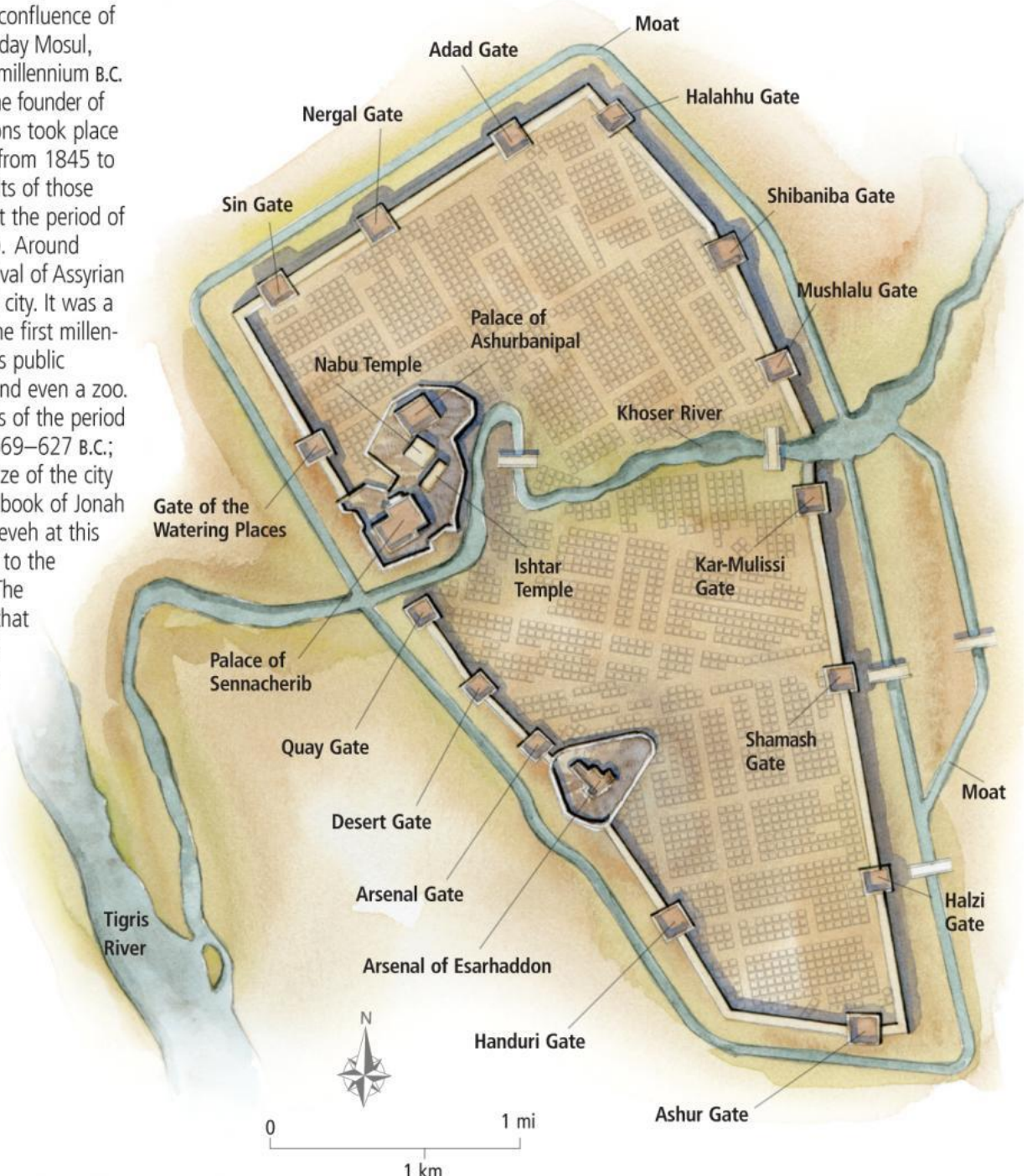


2. La première collection:
les tablettes de la «bibliothèque d’Aššurbanipal»

K… comme «Kuyundjik

The City of Nineveh

Nineveh, which was situated at the confluence of the Tigris and Khoser rivers (modern-day Mosul, Iraq), was first settled in the seventh millennium B.C. According to the Bible, Nimrod was the founder of the city (Gen. 10:11). Major excavations took place under the direction of Henry Layard from 1845 to 1854. The diagram pictures the results of those excavations, especially as they reflect the period of the Assyrian Empire (1420–609 B.C.). Around 1000 B.C. there occurred a great revival of Assyrian power, and Nineveh became a royal city. It was a thriving city during the first half of the first millennium, and contained such luxuries as public squares, parks, botanical gardens, and even a zoo. One of the great archaeological finds of the period is the library of King Ashurbanipal (669–627 B.C.; called Osnappar in Ezra 4:10). The size of the city was approximately 1,850 acres. The book of Jonah reflects the flourishing nature of Nineveh at this time (3:1–5). Nineveh eventually fell to the Medes and Babylonians in 612 B.C. The invading armies dammed the rivers that supplied water to the city, causing a flood that broke through one of the perimeter walls, giving the foreign armies access to the city.

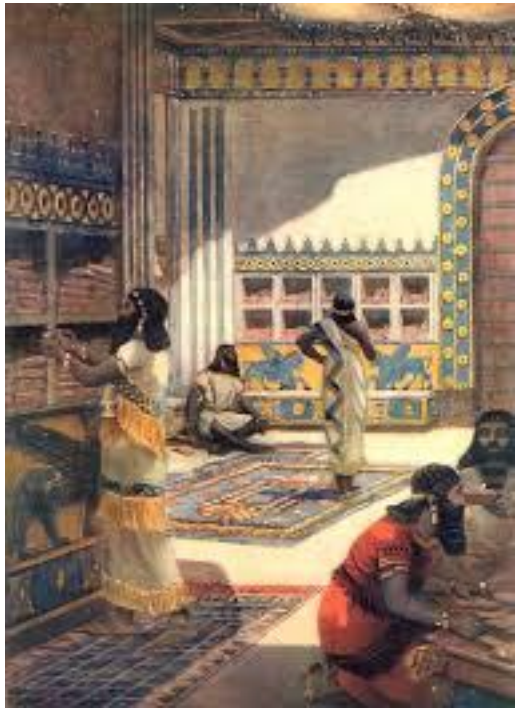


Le rêve de l’archéologue…et de l’épigraphiste

(Ebla, 23ème siècle av. J.-C.)

Les anciennes bibliothèques de tablettes

L’imaginaire…



Le réel…

La collection de Kuyundjik

K 828 (lettre royale)

tablette intégralement conservée

La collection de Kuyundjik

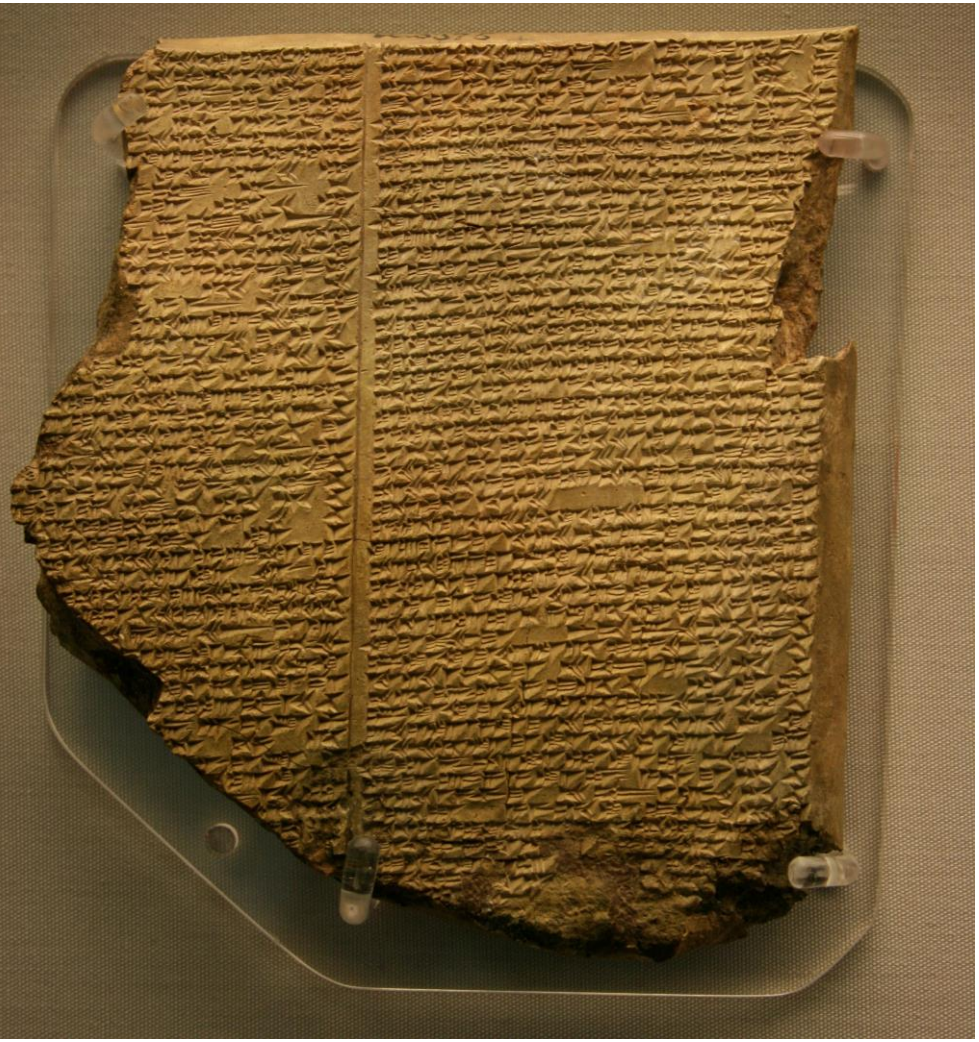
K 8517 (Épopée de Gilgameš)
tablette reconstituée à partir des fragments rejoints

La collection de Kuyundjik

La version paléo-babylonienne du Déluge (Atra-ḫasis, 18ème siècle av. J.-C.)

tablette reconstituée
à partir de fragments rejoints

La tablette du Déluge et son «inventeur», G. Smith



3. Les ressources officielles:
la constitution des grandes collections muséales

Conservation des tablettes

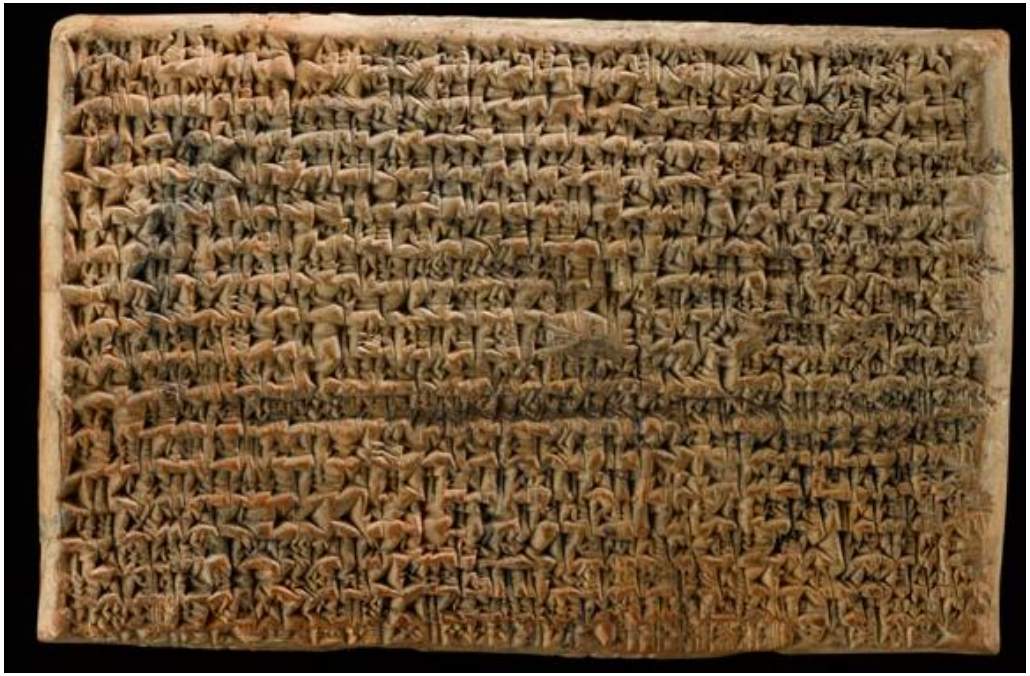
Musée du Louvre

Musée du Louvre

Le Code de Hammu-rabi

Musée du Louvre

Tablettes du Ier millénaire av. J.-C.

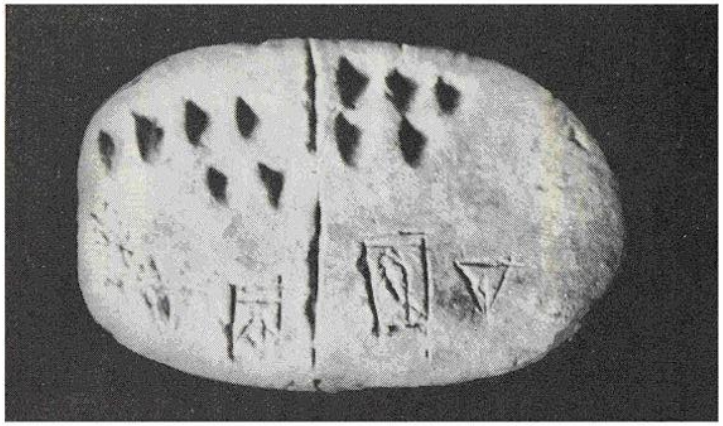


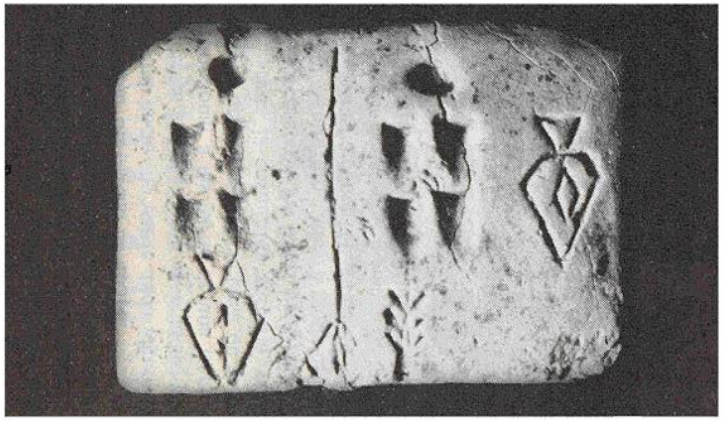
British Museum

British Museum, « Arched Room »

Pergamon Museum

Pergamon Museum, Berlin





Tablette d’Uruk

Porte d’Ištar, Babylone

Yale

A. T. Clay

A. Goetze

E. Payne

The dedication of the Haynes monument in Hill Side Cemetery, December 5, 1913.

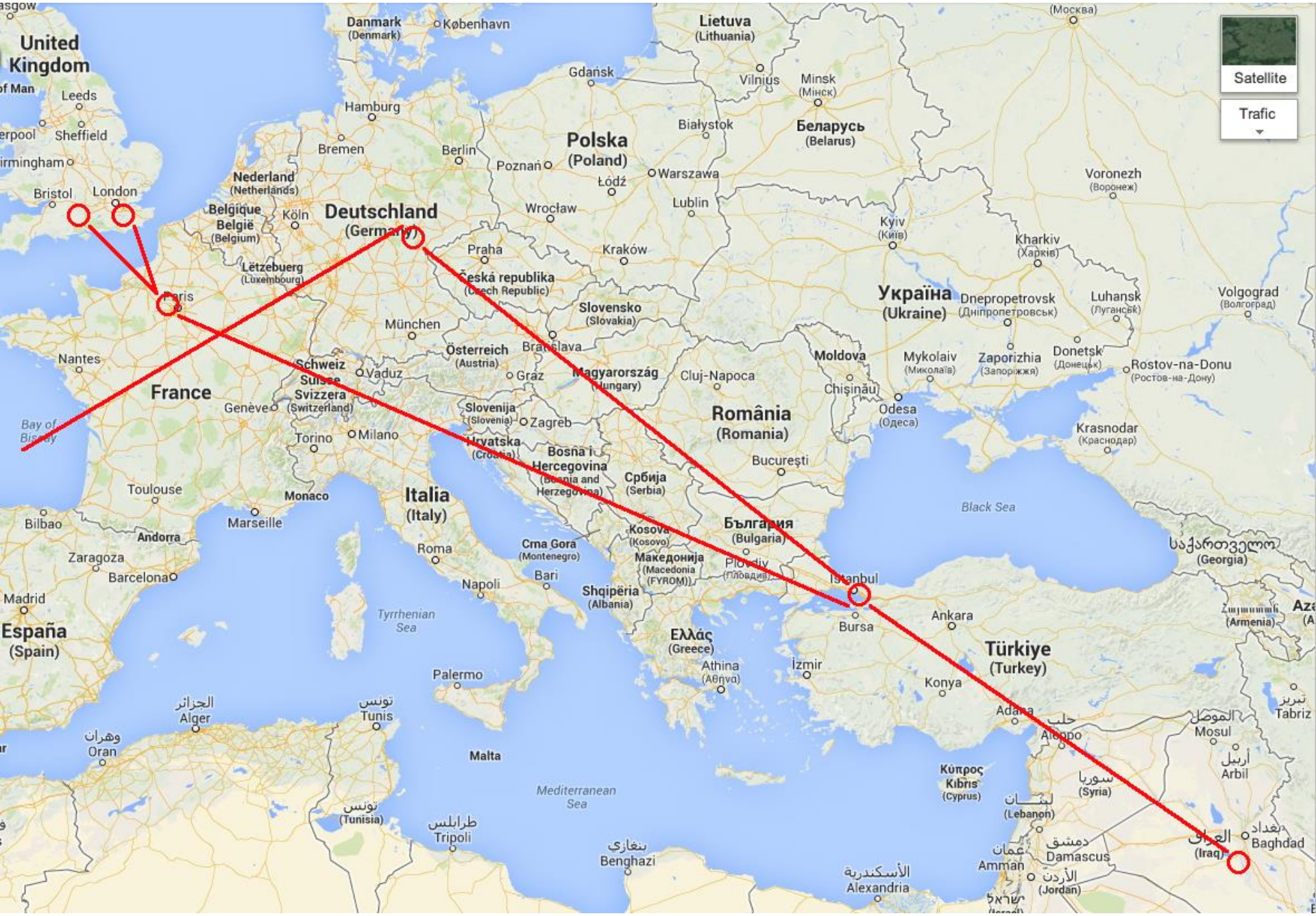
From left, **Rev. Dr. James B. Nies** of NYU, **Prof. David G. Lyon** of Harvard, **Dr. Albert T. Clay** of Yale, and **Dr. James A. Montgomery** of the University, of Pennsylvania

4. Les points névralgiques

lots d’archives éclatés

fouilles clandestines et collections privées

le poids des événements contemporains


Satellite
Trafic
United Kingdom
Leeds
Sheffield
Bristol
London
Paris
France
Nantes
Bay of Biscay
Toulouse
Bilbao
Andorra
Zaragoza
Barcelona
Madrid
España
(Spain)
Marseille
Monaco
Genève
Schweiz
Suisse
Svizzera
(Switzerland)
Vaduz
Nederland
(Netherlands)
Belgique
België
(Belgium)
Lëtzebuerg
(Luxembourg)
Köln
Bremen
Hamburg
Deutschland
(Germany)
München
Torino
Milano
Roma
Napoli
Bari
Palermo
Italia
(Italy)
Danmark
(Denmark)
København
Berlin
Poznań
Gdańsk
Polska
(Poland)
Warszawa
Łódź
Wrocław
Lublin
Białystok
Lietuva
(Lithuania)
Vilnius
Minsk
(Мінск)
Беларусь
(Belarus)
(Москва)
Voronezh
(Воронеж)
Praha
Česká republika
(Czech Republic)
Kraków
Slovensko
(Slovakia)
Bratislava
Österreich
(Austria)
Graz
Magyarország
(Hungary)
Slovenija
(Slovenia)
Zagreb
Hrvatska
(Croatia)
Bosna i Hercegovina
(Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Србија
(Serbia)
Crna Gora
(Montenegro)
Kosovo
(Kosovo)
Македонија
(Macedonia (FYROM))
Shqipëria
(Albania)
Ελλάς
(Greece)
Athina
(Αθηνα)
Cluj-Napoca
Moldova
Chişinău
Odesa
(Одеса)
România
(Romania)
București
Україна
(Ukraine)
Kyiv
(Київ)
Kharkiv
(Харків)
Dnepropetrovsk
(Дніпропетровськ)
Luhansk
(Луганськ)
Volgograd
(Волгоград)
Mykolaiv
(Миколаїв)
Zaporizhia
(Запоріжжя)
Donetsk
(Донецьк)
Rostov-na-Donu
(Ростов-на-Дону)
Krasnodar
(Краснодар)
Black Sea
България
(Bulgaria)
Plovdiv
(Пловдив)
Istanbul
Bursa
İzmir
Ankara
Konya
Adana
Türkiye
(Turkey)
Tyrrhenian Sea
Mediterranean Sea
Malta
Κύπρος
Kıbrıs
(Cyprus)
Alger
Oran
Tunis
(Tunisia)
Tripoli
Benghazi
Alexandria
Amman
Damascus
Aleppo
Mosul
Arbil
Baghdad
Tabriz
Georgia)
(Armenia)

2. History

2.2 Babylonian History

MS 1686

THE UR-ISIN KING LIST

1. **LIST OF THE 5 KINGS OF THE UR III DYNASTY WITH REGNAL YEARS FROM KING UR-NAMMU 2112 BC TO KING IBBI-SIN 2004 BC**
2. **LIST OF THE 15 KINGS OF THE ISIN I DYNASTY WITH REGNAL YEARS FROM KING ISHBI-ERRA 2017 BC TO THE 4TH YEAR OF KING DAMIQ-ILISHU 1813 BC**

MS in Old Babylonian with a few names in Sumerian on clay, Isin, Babylonia, 1813 or 1812 BC, 1 tablet, 5,6x3,9x2,0 cm, 21 lines in Old Babylonian cuneiform script.

Binding: Barking, Essex, 1993, red quarter morocco gilt folding case by Aquarius.

Context: A near duplicate was Erlenmeyer Collection no. 115, now in Italy and was published by Mario Fales (Fales 1989:144-45). The texts were originally extracted from date lists, now lost.

Commentary: 17 different Babylonian and Assyrian King Lists have survived, mostly in fragmentary or worn condition. The present King List is the only one perfectly preserved and is the oldest as well. All others are in public collections. In addition there are 23 surviving Sumerian King Lists, all in public collections except **MS 2855**. The importance of the King Lists for the chronology of the Babylonian and Assyrian Kingdoms can hardly be over-estimated. They are crucial tools and primary historical evidence for the historians.

Published: E. Sollberger: "New Lists of the Kings of Ur and Isin", in: Journal of Cuneiform Studies 8(1954) pp. 135-6; and A.H. Grayson, King List 2 in the article "Königlisten und Chroniken" in Reallexicon der Assyriologie und vorderasiatische Archaeologie, Berlin 1980, p. 90.

The Story of Time, ed.: Kristen Lippincott, with Umberto Eco, E.H. Gombrich. London, Merrell Holberton in association with National Maritime Museum, 1999, p. 255.

Jöran Friberg: A remarkable Collection of Babylonian Mathematical Texts. Springer 2007. Sources and Studies in the History of Mathematics and Physical Sciences. Manuscripts in the Schøyen

2: HISTORY

2.1 SUMERIAN HISTORY
2.2 BABYLONIAN HISTORY
MS 1686 Babylonia, 1813-1812 BC
MS 1876/1 Babylonia, 1792-1750 BC
MS 1955/1 Syria, 1250-1240 BC
MS 2063 Babylon, 604-562 BC
2.3 ASSYRIAN HISTORY
2.4 PERSIAN, GREEK & BYZANTINE HISTORY
2.5 ROMAN HISTORY
2.6 MEDIEVAL HISTORY
2.7 MODERN HISTORY

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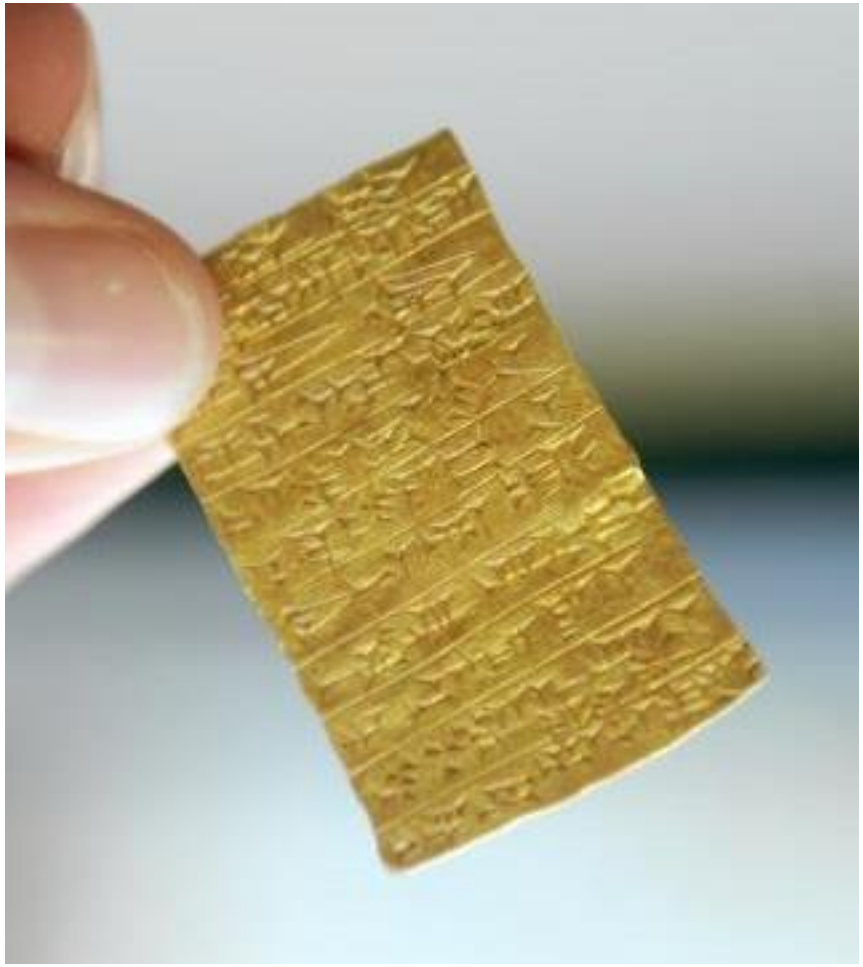
Tablette de Berlin « prise de guerre »



Flamenbaum, an Auschwitz survivor who lived in Great Neck, L.I., and ran a Manhattan liquor store for decades, brought the Assyrian relic to the U.S. after World War II.

The tablet, which details instructions for building a temple in the era of King Tukulti-Ninurta I, is slightly smaller than a modern credit card. It was unearthed during a 1913 dig by a team of German archeologists at the Ishtar Temple in modern-day Iraq.

Le musée de Bagdad

Retour en 2010 d’objets volés

Le casque de Meskalamdug (25ème siècle av. J.-C.) «retrouvé» à Bagdad

État actuel du site d’Umma dans le sud de l’Iraq

Antiquités irakiennes, saisies le 2 octobre 2012
par les enquêteurs de l'OCBC
(Office central de lutte contre le trafic des biens culturels
de la Direction centrale de la police judiciaire française)

«L'exploitation des photographies de ces objets par un chercheur du Département des antiquités sumériennes du CNRS a permis de confirmer leur authenticité et leur provenance d'une zone de la basse plaine irakienne dont les sites archéologiques ont subi de nombreux pillages ces dix dernières années.»

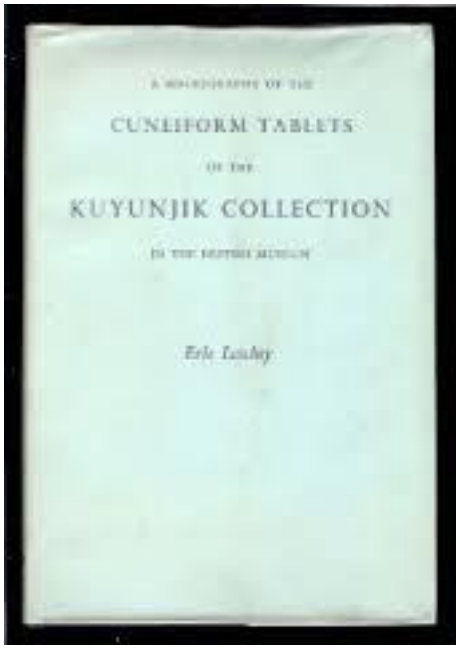
5. Les ressources:

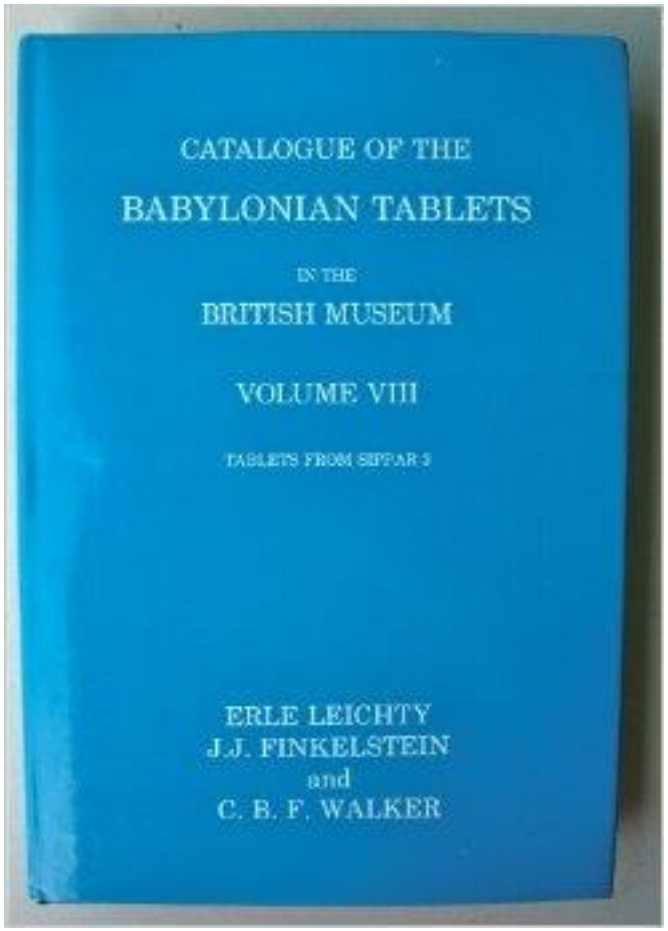
éditions de catalogues

catalogues sur internet

nouvelles ressources, nouvelles bases

Les catalogues de tablettes





Les catalogues de tablettes

Upper portion, left half, $2\frac{3}{16}$in. by $1\frac{9}{16}$in.; 14 + ... lines. Forecasts concerning [illegible] and [illegible], *etc.* The sections begin with

[illegible] (?) [illegible],
[illegible],
[illegible], and
[illegible] respectively.
[K. 10435]

Fragment out of the middle, $1\frac{3}{4}$in. by $1\frac{3}{8}$in.; 4 + 15 + ... + ... lines. Forecasts. [K. 10436]

Fragment of the left half, $1\frac{9}{16}$in. by $1\frac{3}{16}$in.; . . . . . + 11 lines. Part of an omen-text. Two sections begin with [illegible] and [illegible] respectively. [K. 10437]

Fragment out of the middle, $2\frac{1}{8}$in. by $1\frac{5}{16}$in.; 16 + ... lines. Astrological forecasts, partly relating to public affairs. [K. 10438]

Fragment of the right half, 2in. by $1\frac{1}{2}$in.; . . . . . + 9 lines. Part of a Sumero-Akkadian religious text. [K. 10439]

Fragment of the lower portion of reverse, $1\frac{3}{8}$in. by $1\frac{1}{8}$in.; . . . . . ± 6 lines; Babylonian. Fragment of a text containing forecasts. [K. 10440]

Fragment of the left half, $1\frac{11}{16}$in. by $1\frac{3}{8}$in.; . . . . . + (. . . . . + ... +) 10 lines. Part of a text containing incantations, (prayers) and directions for ceremonies. [K. 10441]

Fragment out of the middle, 2in. by $1\frac{1}{2}$in.; 10 + ... lines. Copy of a text containing astrological forecasts. [K. 10442]

Fragment out of the middle, 2in. by $1\frac{3}{8}$in.; . . . . . + 15 + ... lines. Part of an incantation-text. [K. 10443]

Fragment of the right half, $2\frac{3}{16}$in. by $1\frac{7}{8}$in.; (. . . . . +) 14 ± . . . . . (+ . . . . .) lines. Prescriptions and directions for ceremonies to be used for the benefit of sick people. [K. 10444]

Fragment out of the middle, $1\frac{7}{8}$in. by $1\frac{7}{16}$in.; 12 + ... lines (in four columns). Part of an explanatory list of the class "Sc." [K. 10445]

Portion out of the middle, $1\frac{7}{8}$in. by $1\frac{3}{4}$in.; . . . . . + ... ± 12 + 17 lines. Forecasts concerning the [illegible], *etc.* [K. 10446]

Fragment of the left half, $1\frac{7}{8}$in. by $\frac{13}{16}$in.; 11 ± 8 lines. Part of a list of objects. Sums total are added by the scribe. [K. 10447]

Registration No.	Fragments Rejoined	Registration No.	Fragments Rejoined
K. 3267	KK. 8089, 8956, 9072, 9438	**K. 3317**	K. 3319
3268	KK. 6033, 8176	3319	**K. 3317**
3269	K. 7080	3320	**K. 2533**
3272	KK. 6255, 7644, 8001	3321	**K. 2252**
3275	K. 9001	**3323**	Rm. 941
3276	**K. 2529**	**3330**	Sm. 394; 81–2–4, 244
3280	K. 4824	3331	**K. 2385**
3282	**K. 2812**	3332	**K. 2823**
3284	KK. 6679, 8087	3334	**K. 235**
3287	**K. 2549**	**3341**	K. 4854
3289	**K. 2379**	**3343**	K. 5002
3294	KK. 3383, 3421, 5880, 10078	3346	**K. 3151b**
3297	K. 5858	3352	**K. 140**
3298	**K. 120b**	**3353**	KK. 8708, 13678
3300	K. 10223	**3355**	KK. 5873, 6639, 8953, 8987, 11549, 13815; Sm. 324
3302	K. 4237b; Sm. 2130	**3358**	K. 9047
3303	**K. 2419**	3359	K. 9596
3304	K. 9217	**3360**	KK. 8019, 14202; Sm. 1143
3305	KK. 7994, 9658	3362	**K. 2423**
3307	KK. 3759, 6626, 7035, 8640, 9148, 11350, 11767	3363	**K. 191**
3312	**K. 3182**	3369	**K. 254**
3315	K. 9154	**3370**	KK. 10388, 13462
		3371	**K. 232**
		3372	K. 5241

Le portail Achemenet

Le portail Achemenet (7)

Jursa, Bel-remanni BM 42442

numéro(s): BM 42442

type de support: tablette
langue: babylonien
écriture: cunéiforme

date babylonienne: [-]/[-]/[-] [-]

lieu de rédaction: Sippar

archive: Bel-remanni

Reconnaissance de dette simple, à la charge de [...], fils d'Iddin-[…], descendant de Šangu-[...], à rendre au mois d'Arahsamnu.

© Michael Jursa

TRANSLITTERATION

1' (etwa zwei bis drei Zeilen verloren)
[x] ⌈x x a-*šú šá*! ⌜mu-^{d}⌝ ?[x (x x)]
a ^{lú}sanga-<GN> *ina* iti apin [x x (x)]
i-nam-din
⌜^{lú}⌝*mu-kin-nu* (Rest der Zeile unbeschrieben)
Rs. (Rasur; ⌜^{lú}<*mu*>-*kin-nu*⌝ ist erkennbar)
6' a-*šú šá* ^{Id}en-*it-tan-nu* a-*šú šá* ^{I}*šu-la-a*
a ^{Id}maš-gi ^{lú}umbisag
^{Id}ag-šeš^{meš}-mu a-*šú šá* ^{I}du[b-numun]
a ^{lú}sanga-*sip-p]ar*^{ki} *sip-par*[^{ki} iti.x]
10' [ ] ⌈x⌉ [ ]
(Rest der Rückseite verloren)

TRADUCTION

«[(Schuldgegenstand), (Guthaben) von PN, zu Lasten von PN] Sohn des Iddin-[…] aus der Familie Šangû-<GN>: Im Arahsamnu wird er (den Schuldgegenstand) zahlen.
Zeugen {Zeugen}: (Rasur) Sohn des Bêl-ittannu Sohn des Šulâja aus der Familie Ninurta-ušallim; der Schreiber: Nabû-ahhê-iddin, Sohn des Šâ[pik-zêri aus der Familie Šangû-Sipp]ar.
Sippar, [x. MN, Jahr …]»

REMARQUES

BIBLIOGRAPHIE