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JOHN ALBERT WILSON
AND
THOMAS GEORGE ALLEN
Editors

KHORSABAD

PART I

EXCAVATIONS IN THE PALACE AND AT A CITY GATE

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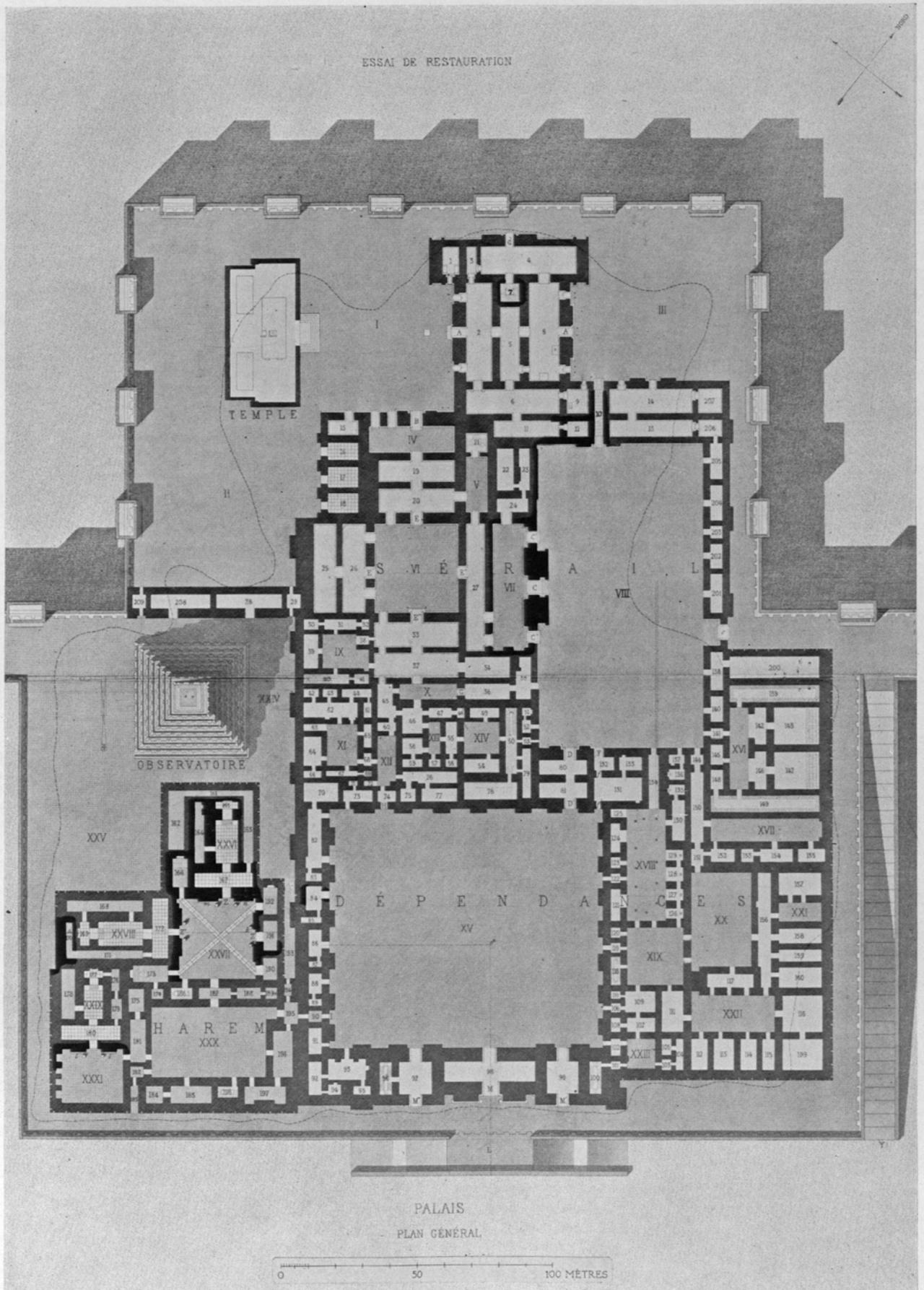
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RESTORED PLAN OF SARGON'S PALACE, AFTER PLACE. BLACKENED PORTIONS INDICATE EXCAVATIONS OF THE IRAQ EXPEDITION

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
ORIENTAL INSTITUTE PUBLICATIONS
VOLUME XXXVIII

KHORSABAD

PART I

EXCAVATIONS IN THE PALACE AND AT A CITY GATE

By

GORDON LOUD

WITH CHAPTERS BY

HENRI FRANKFORT AND THORKILD JACOBSEN



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TO THE MEMORY OF
VICTOR PLACE AND FÉLIX THOMAS
WHO
NOTWITHSTANDING GREAT DIFFICULTIES
AND DISCOURAGEMENT SYSTEMATICALLY
INVESTIGATED SARGON'S PALACE AND CITY
THIS VOLUME IS DEDICATED

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS	xi
I. GATE 7. <i>Henri Frankfort</i>	1
II. THE BATHROOM, COURT VIII, CORRIDOR, AND WINGED BULL	12
Circumstances and Methods of Work	12
The Bathroom (Room 12)	20
Court VIII	28
The Corridor (Room 10)	40
The Winged Bull	42
III. THE THRONE ROOM AND ROOM 7	56
The Throneroom	56
Room 7	71
IV. THE PALACE TEMPLES	80
Court XXVII	87
Court XXXI	109
The Sin Temple	114
The Adad Temple	122
The Shamash Temple	125
The Temples of Ningal, Ninurta, and Ea	128
V. INSCRIPTIONS. <i>Thorkild Jacobsen</i>	129
INDEX OF PALACE SCULPTURES	135
GENERAL INDEX	137

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Frontispiece. RESTORED PLAN OF SARGON'S PALACE, AFTER PLACE. BLACKENED PORTIONS INDICATE EXCAVATIONS OF THE IRAQ EXPEDITION

PLATES IN COLORS

	PAGE
I. FRAGMENTS OF THE PAINTED PLASTER THAT ONCE ADORNED THE ROYAL BATHROOM. SCALE, 1:10 <i>facing</i>	22
II. PAINTED PLASTER FROM THE THRONE ROOM. SCALE, 1:2 <i>facing</i>	68
III. PAINTED PLASTER FROM THE THRONE ROOM. SCALE, 1:2 <i>facing</i>	68

TEXT FIGURES

1. PLAN OF THE CITY AND PALACE OF KHORSABAD (DUR SHARRUKIN), AFTER PLACE	2
2. THE MOUND COVERING GATE 7, WITH THE PALACE MOUND IN CENTER BACKGROUND AND THE MODERN VILLAGE OF KHORSABAD AT LEFT	3
3. THE OUTER PORTAL OF GATE 7, SHOWING DADO SLABS AND BLOCKING. NOTE SPRINGING OF BRICK ARCH	3
4. PLAN AND CROSS-SECTIONS OF GATE 7. SCALE, 1:400	4
5. GATE 7, FROM WITHIN THE CITY	5
6. CENTRAL GATE CHAMBER, WITH INNER PORTAL AT LEFT, OUTER PORTAL AT RIGHT, AND SIDE CHAMBER IN BACKGROUND	6
7. REMAINS OF A BEAM USED IN ROOFING. SCALE, 7:10	6
8. REMAINS OF MATTING USED IN ROOFING. SCALE, 7:10	7
9. PIVOT STONE IN DÉBRIS WITHIN CENTRAL GATE CHAMBER	8
10. REMAINS OF FALLEN ROOFING	9
11. OUTER PORTAL OF CENTRAL GATE CHAMBER, FROM WITHIN. CUT-OUT PAVING STONES STAND READY TO BE DROPPED INTO PLACE AROUND THE DOOR PIVOTS	10
12. CUT-OUT PAVING STONE READY TO DROP INTO PLACE OVER PIVOT STONE	11
13. MODERN GRINDSTONE MADE FROM AN ANCIENT SCULPTURE, IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE OF THE LOCAL AGHA	12
14. HEAD USED AS A CHOPPING-BLOCK UNTIL PURCHASED BY DR. CHIERA. ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM No. A 7370. SCALE, 1:5	14
15. CARRYING FRAGMENTS OF RELIEFS TO THE EXPEDITION HOUSE	16
16. RELIEF FRAGMENTS ASSEMBLED IN COURTYARD OF THE EXPEDITION HOUSE	16
17. LOWERING A SLAB ONTO SKIDS PREPARATORY TO HAULING IT TO GROUND SURFACE	17
18. DRAGGING A SLAB TO SURFACE WITH WINCH AND SKIDS	18
19. LIFTING A SLAB ONTO THE CART	18
20. HAULING THE CART TO THE SURFACE	19
21. CASES OF RELIEFS PACKED AND READY FOR SHIPPING	19
22. PLAN OF WEST CORNER OF COURT VIII AND ADJACENT ROOMS: THE CORRIDOR (ROOM 10), THE BATHROOM (ROOM 12), AND THE THRONE ROOM (COURT VII). SCALE, 1:200 <i>facing</i>	20

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

	PAGE
23. WALL RELIEFS OF SARGON'S BATHROOM, FROM SOUTHWEST. THE SECOND FIGURE FROM THE RIGHT IS PROBABLY THAT OF THE KING, WHILE HIS ATTENDANT STANDS BEHIND HIM	20
24. RELIEF SLABS ON THE NORTHWEST WALL OF THE BATHROOM. AT LEFT IS THE DOORWAY INTO ROOM 11. IN THE FOREGROUND IS THE SOUTHWEST WALL OF THE CORRIDOR	21
25. FIGURES WITH CLASPED HANDS IN PROCESSION ADORNING THE WALLS OF SARGON'S BATHROOM. DETAIL FROM NORTHWEST WALL	22
26. FLOOR OF THE BATHROOM, SHOWING THE DEPRESSION INTO WHICH A TUB MAY HAVE BEEN SET. IN CENTER BACKGROUND APPEARS AN OPENING INTO A DRAIN	22
27. REMAINS OF PAINTED PLASTER FALLEN FROM THE WALLS OR CEILING OF SARGON'S BATHROOM	23
28. KING SARGON AND ATTENDANT. ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM No. A 7359. SCALE, 1:15	24
29. PROCESSION OF ATTENDANTS AND FOREIGN SUBJECTS BEARING TRIBUTE TO THE KING. NORTHWEST WALL OF COURT VIII	25
30. HORSES AND GROOMS FOLLOWING TRIBUTE-BEARERS IN PROCESSION ON THE NORTHWEST WALL OF COURT VIII	25
31. FIRST GROOM AND HORSES, AS RESTORED. ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM No. A 7358. SCALE, 1:15	26
32. SECOND GROOM AND HORSES, AS RESTORED. IRAQ MUSEUM No. 18627. SCALE, 1:15	27
33. FRAGMENTARY FIGURES FROM THE PROCESSION ON THE NORTHWEST WALL OF COURT VIII. ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM No. A 7360. SCALE, 1:15	28
34. RELIEFS AS FOUND IN COURT VIII. NORTHWEST WALL ABOVE; SOUTHWEST WALL BELOW. SCALE, 1:50 <i>facing</i> 28	28
35. BOTTA'S RESTORATION OF A PORTION OF THE NORTHWEST WALL OF COURT VIII	29
36. STANDING FIGURE CARRYING A BOWL. THE RELIEF WAS PROPPED UP TO PREVENT ITS FALLING, UNTIL ITS REMOVAL COULD BE UNDERTAKEN	30
37. REMAINS OF THE PROCESSION ON THE SOUTHWEST WALL OF COURT VIII	30
38. THE PRIME MINISTER AND AN ATTENDANT, AS RESTORED. ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM No. A 7368. SCALE, 1:15	31
39. TWO EUNUCHS, AS RESTORED. ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM No. A 7367. SCALE, 1:15	32
40. TWO EUNUCHS, AS RESTORED. ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM No. A 7366. SCALE, 1:15	33
41. TWO COURTIERS BEARING A LION-FOOTED TABLE. IRAQ MUSEUM No. 18629. SCALE, 1:15	34
42. TWO COURTIERS CARRYING A TABLE. IRAQ MUSEUM No. 18630. SCALE, 1:15	35
43. TWO COURTIERS CARRYING A STOOL AND A CITY MODEL. IRAQ MUSEUM No. 18631. SCALE, 1:15	36
44. TWO COURTIERS CARRYING A CHAIR. IRAQ MUSEUM No. 11961. SCALE, 1:15	37
45. RELIEFS ON THE SOUTHWEST WALL OF COURT VIII, AS FOUND (BELOW) AND AS RESTORED (ABOVE) BY BOTTA <i>facing</i>	38
46. REMAINS OF THE WINGED BULLS OF PORTAL C', ONE OF THE TWO MINOR ENTRANCES FROM COURT VIII TO THE THRONE ROOM	38
47. WINGED BULLS OF PORTAL C', SHOWING MUTILATION FOR UTILITARIAN PURPOSES. SCALE, 1:100	39
48. PLAN AND WALL ELEVATIONS OF THE CORRIDOR (ROOM 10). SCALE, 1:100	41
49. THE NORTHEAST WALL OF THE CORRIDOR (ROOM 10)	42
50. RELIEFS FROM THE SOUTHWEST WALL OF THE CORRIDOR (ROOM 10). ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM No. A 7363. SCALE, 1:15	43
51. RELIEFS FROM THE NORTHEAST WALL OF THE CORRIDOR (ROOM 10). SCALE, 1:15	44

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

xiii

	PAGE
52. CAPTIVES AND HORSES FROM THE NORTHEAST WALL OF THE CORRIDOR (ROOM 10). ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM NOS. A 7361 AND A 7364. SCALE, 1:15	45
53. PORTION OF THE PROCESSION OF HORSES AND CAPTIVES FROM THE SOUTHWEST WALL OF THE CORRIDOR (ROOM 10). ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM NO. A 7365. SCALE, 1:15	46
54. PORTION OF THE PROCESSION OF HORSES AND CAPTIVES FROM THE SOUTHWEST WALL OF THE CORRIDOR (ROOM 10). ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM NO. A 7363. SCALE, 1:15	47
55. TRIBUTE-BEARERS AND CAMELS IN UPPER REGISTER FROM THE SOUTHWEST WALL OF THE CORRIDOR (ROOM 10). ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM NO. A 7362. SCALE, 1:15	48
56. A WINGED HUMAN-HEADED BULL (RESTORED) THAT ONCE FLANKED THE PRINCIPAL ENTRANCE TO THE THRONE-ROOM. ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM NO. A 7369	49
57. FRAGMENTS OF THE COLOSSAL BULL AS THEY WERE DISCLOSED BY THE EXCAVATIONS. DR. CHERA STANDS BESIDE THE FALLEN HEAD	50
58. ENCASING THE LARGEST FRAGMENT OF THE BULL	51
59. LOADING THE LARGEST FRAGMENT OF THE BULL UPON THE TRAILER	52
60. REPAIRING THE TRUCK ON THE ROAD	52
61. A BREAKDOWN FARTHER ALONG THE ROAD	53
62. HAULING THE DISABLED TRUCK TO THE RIVER BY MEANS OF CABLES AND POWER FROM THE BOAT	54
63. RAISING THE LARGEST FRAGMENT OF THE BULL BY MEANS OF BLOCKS AND JACKS PREPARATORY TO LOADING IT UPON THE BOAT	54
64. LOADING THE LARGEST FRAGMENT OF THE BULL UPON THE BOAT	55
65. CLEARANCE OF DOORWAY C' LEADING FROM COURT VIII TO THE THRONE-ROOM	57
66. THE RACE TO CLEAR THE THRONE-ROOM	58
67. REMAINS OF BADLY WEATHERED BULLS LINING A DOORWAY IN THE SOUTHWEST WALL OF THE THRONE-ROOM	59
68. NICHE ONCE BACKING THE THRONE, AS IT WAS FOUND FALLEN OVER THE THRONE BASE	59
69. FRAGMENT OF FALLEN PLASTER PAINTED WITH A BAND OF CONCENTRIC CIRCLES	60
70. FRAGMENT OF FALLEN PLASTER PAINTED WITH WHAT WAS PROBABLY A GARMENT DESIGN	60
71. PLAN AND ELEVATIONS OF THE THRONE-ROOM. THE EXISTING REMAINS ARE INDICATED IN SOLID BLACK LINES, WHILE BROKEN BLACK LINES SUGGEST THE ORIGINAL PLAN. LATER PAVEMENTS ARE SHOWN IN BLUE AND RED. SCALE, 1:200 <i>facing</i>	60
72. ASSYRIAN SOLDIERS TOWING A BOAT DURING A CAMPAIGN AGAINST MERODACHBALADAN. ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM NO. A 11258. SCALE, 1:10	60
73. THE THRONE-ROOM FROM THE NORTHWEST. THE STONE PAVEMENT SLABS CENTRALLY LOCATED FORM AN APPROACH TO THE THRONE JUST BEYOND. THE BRICK PAVEMENT ON THE LEFT IS OF SECONDARY CONSTRUCTION	61
74. FOUNDATION DEPOSIT BOX OF BAKED BRICKS BEFORE THE THRONE BASE	62
75. THE TWO PAVEMENTS OF LATER OCCUPATION IN THE THRONE-ROOM. THEY ARE SEPARATED BY A LAYER OF DÉBRIS	62
76. PAVEMENT OF THE SECOND PERIOD OF LATER OCCUPATION, IN WHICH SMALL STONE FRAGMENTS WERE INCORPORATED (AT LEFT)	63
77. STONE SLAB, POSSIBLY A THRESHOLD, USED ON THE PAVEMENT OF THE SECOND PERIOD OF LATER OCCUPATION. PAVEMENT OF THE SECOND PERIOD IN FOREGROUND	63
78. REMAINS OF THE BULL LINING THE NORTHWEST SIDE OF THE PRINCIPAL ENTRANCE TO THE THRONE-ROOM	64

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

	PAGE
79. RELIEF FROM NORTHEAST SIDE OF THE THRONE BASE. 'IRAQ MUSEUM. SCALE, 1:10	66
80. RELIEF FROM SOUTHWEST SIDE OF THE THRONE BASE. ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM No. A 11257. SCALE, 1:10	66
81. PAINTED PLASTER OF A CEILING BEAM OF THE THRONEROOM	68
82. PLAN OF THE THRONEROOM, SHOWING LOCATIONS IN WHICH FRAGMENTS OF PAINTED PLASTER WERE FOUND. SCALE, 1:200	69
83. RELIEF FROM ROOM 7 SHOWING AN "IONIC TEMPLE" STANDING NEAR A WOODED MOUNTAIN AND A STREAM. ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM No. A 11255. SCALE, 1:15. Cf. FIG. 89	72
84. ROOM 7, WITH HUNTING SCENES PICTURED IN ITS FRAGMENTARY RELIEFS. IN THE FOREGROUND CAN BE SEEN THE REMAINS OF A ROOFING BEAM AND CHARRED MATTING. VIEW FROM NORTH	73
85. DÉBRIS IN THE MIDDLE OF ROOM 7, SHOWING A ROOFING BEAM AND TRACES OF DECAYED MATTING (BELOW AT LEFT)	74
86. REMOVAL OF THE RELIEFS OF ROOM 7	74
87. A SECTION OF THE RELIEFS FROM ROOM 7. ABOVE THE INSCRIPTION A BANQUETING SCENE IS SHOWN, WHILE BELOW IT A ROYAL HUNT IS PICTURED. ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM No. A 11254. SCALE, 1:15	75
88. RELIEF FROM ROOM 7. THE UPPER REGISTER SHOWS A BANQUETING SCENE, WHILE BELOW THE INSCRIPTION IS PICTURED THE KING RIDING TO A HUNT IN HIS CHARIOT. ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM No. A 11256. SCALE, 1:15	76
89. RELIEF FROM ROOM 7. THE NATURE OF THE COUNTRY WHEREIN THE HUNT TAKES PLACE IS INDICATED BY A WOODED MOUNTAIN AND A STREAM BESIDE WHICH STANDS A BUILDING WITH ITS ROOF SUPPORTED BY COLUMNS WITH VOLUTE CAPITALS. ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM No. A 11255. Cf. FIG. 83	77
90. UNFINISHED HEAD, THREE-FOURTHS LIFE-SIZE, FOUND IN FILLING BEHIND RELIEF SLABS OF ROOM 7. 'IRAQ MUSEUM	78
91. TUNNEL BY WHICH PLACE AND HIS ASSOCIATES TRACED THE SOUTHWEST WALL OF COURT XXVII	81
92. REMAINS OF THE GLAZED BRICK TABLEAU AT LEFT OF THE ENTRANCE TO THE SHAMASH TEMPLE	82
93. CLEARING THE FAÇADE OF THE NINGAL TEMPLE	83
94. TRENCH ALONG SOUTHWEST WALL OF COURT XXVII	84
95. SECONDARY CONSTRUCTION IN COURT XV	85
96. THRESHOLD OF DOORWAY FROM COURT XV TO ROOM 84	86
97. STORAGE JARS CONTAINING FRAGMENTS OF SMALLER POTS IN ROOM 84	87
98. PLAN AND SECTIONS OF COURT XXVII AND THOSE ADJOINING ROOMS WHICH WERE EXCAVATED BY THE 'IRAQ EXPEDITION. SCALE, 1:200 <i>facing</i>	88
99. PLACE'S RESTORATION OF THE FAÇADE OF WHAT HAS PROVED TO BE THE SIN TEMPLE. SCALE, 1:100	90
100. A PORTION OF THE NORTHWEST WALL OF COURT XXVII. IN THE FOREGROUND IS THE THRESHOLD OF THE DOORWAY INTO THE SIN TEMPLE. THE DOORWAY IS FLANKED BY GLAZED BRICK TABLEAUS, SHOWN ONLY PARTIALLY CLEARED. AT THE FAR END OF THE TRENCH WORKMEN CARRYING BASKETS OF EARTH ARE EMERGING FROM THE ADAD TEMPLE DOORWAY	91
101. ROOM 167 FROM NORTHEAST. IN THE LEFT FOREGROUND CAN BE SEEN A PIVOT STONE OF THE DOORWAY FROM COURT XXVII, WHILE THE LARGE SLABS CUT OUT TO SURROUND THE PIVOTS LIE UPON THE PAVEMENT, UNBROKEN AND OUT OF PLACE	92
102. CORNER FORMED BY WALL AND BUTTRESS TO THE RIGHT OF THE ENTRANCE TO THE SIN TEMPLE. NOTE FASTENING-RING IN CENTER AND LOWEST COURSE OF CORNER OF TABLEAU AT RIGHT. BEHIND TABLEAU IS THE IMPRINT OF THE WOODEN SHAFT SET INTO THE FILLING OF THE SHELF	93

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

	XV
	PAGE
103. TOP OF SHELF AT LEFT OF ENTRANCE TO THE SIN TEMPLE	94
104. TABLEAU AT RIGHT OF ENTRANCE TO THE SIN TEMPLE, AS FOUND BY PLACE. SCALE, 1:30	95
105. PORTION, SHOWING EAGLE, OF TABLEAU AT LEFT OF ENTRANCE TO THE SIN TEMPLE, AS FOUND BY THE IRAQ EXPEDITION	96
106. PORTAL END, SHOWING KING, OF TABLEAU AT RIGHT OF ENTRANCE TO THE SIN TEMPLE, AS FOUND BY THE IRAQ EXPEDITION	97
107. STATUE FROM RIGHT OF ENTRANCE TO THE SHAMASH TEMPLE. SCALE, 1:15	99
108. UPPER PART OF STATUE, SHOWING BOTTLE HELD IN BOTH HANDS	100
109. TRENCH ALONG SOUTHWEST WALL OF COURT XXVII, WITH ENTRANCE TO ADAD TEMPLE IN THE DISTANCE	101
110. REMAINS OF TABLEAU AT LEFT OF ENTRANCE TO THE SHAMASH TEMPLE	103
111. SECTION OF PAVEMENT BEFORE ENTRANCE TO THE SHAMASH TEMPLE. IN THE LEFT FOREGROUND IS SHOWN A CORNER OF THE THRESHOLD AS FOUND NOT IN POSITION. IN THE CENTER MAY BE SEEN THE STATUE, LYING FACE DOWNWARD, AND THE TWO BRONZE BANDS SURROUNDING THE WOODEN STAFF. IN THE RIGHT BACKGROUND ARE THE REMAINS OF THE TABLEAU FLANKING THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE ENTRANCE	104
112. STATUE AND BRONZE BANDS OF THE "TREE" AS FOUND BEFORE ENTRANCE TO THE SHAMASH TEMPLE	105
113. THRESHOLD IN ENTRANCE TO THE NINURTA TEMPLE. ITS INSCRIPTION (NEAR FAR END OF BLOCK) IS BADLY WEATHERED	106
114. TRACES OF WOOD, POSSIBLY SKIDS, UPON THE PAVEMENT OF COURT XXVII	107
115. FAÇADE OF THE NINGAL TEMPLE (PARTIALLY RESTORED). SCALE, 1:100	110
116. PLAN AND SECTION OF EXCAVATED PORTION OF COURT XXXI. SCALE, 1:200	111
117. ENTRANCE TO THE NINGAL TEMPLE. THE TWO SQUARE HOLES IN THE PAVEMENT ARE FOUNDATION DEPOSIT BOXES, ONE AT EACH SIDE	112
118. PAVEMENT BEFORE ENTRANCE TO THE NINGAL TEMPLE, SHOWING AT CORNERS OF THE TABLEAUS HOLES (A AND B) IN WHICH STATUES ORIGINALLY STOOD	113
119. THE SIN TEMPLE. ENTRANCE FROM COURT XXVII IN FOREGROUND, SANCTUARY IN THE DISTANCE	115
120. ROOM 167 FROM SOUTHWEST	116
121. CENTRAL HALL AND SANCTUARY OF THE SIN TEMPLE AS VIEWED FROM THE ANTEROOM (ROOM 167)	117
122. CENTRAL HALL OF THE SIN TEMPLE, WITH STONE JAR IMBEDDED IN THE FLOOR. IN THE LEFT FOREGROUND IS THE ENTRANCE TO ROOM 164	118
123. STAIRWAY LEADING FROM CENTRAL HALL TO SANCTUARY OF THE SIN TEMPLE	120
124. ROOM 164 FROM NORTHWEST	121
125. THE ADAD TEMPLE	123
126. ENTRANCE TO THE ADAD TEMPLE, FROM WITHIN. NOTE STONE JAR IMBEDDED IN BRICK-PAVED FLOOR	124
127. NICHE NEAR SOUTH CORNER OF ROOM 170	126
128. SOUTH CORNER OF ROOM 170. ABOVE IS THE TRENCH WHEREBY IT WAS HOPED TO TRACE THE NICHE	127
129. THE TUNNEL WHEREBY PLACE TRACED ROOM 171	128

I

GATE 7

The work of the first season of the 'Iraq Expedition, which continued the work of Dr. Chiera, was largely of an experimental nature. Only one of the members of our staff, Mr. Delougaz, had had previous experience of work in 'Iraq. We appreciated the fact that Khorsabad offers exceptional opportunities for adapting excavation technique developed elsewhere to the special problems of the country. Here the walls of sun-dried brick are relieved occasionally by stonework or are covered with white lime plaster which enables one to check the interpretations put on the more elusive material; moreover, the absence of stratification greatly simplifies the guise in which the familiar problems of Mesopotamian excavations present themselves. With a view to utilizing these circumstances to the utmost, I chose as our first objective the town gate nearest the palace mound. There we could benefit by Place's previous work;¹ and, since he had wholly or partially excavated all the other gates, we should at the same time have an opportunity of testing the soundness of his publication. Incidentally we obtained some new and useful information, firstly that Place's plan is either not quite correct or at least does not apply to Gate 7, and secondly that the gate was blocked up, the doors never having been brought into position. Though the main purpose of the work was definitely technical, these results were welcome and took their place in the evidence; but technical discussions and experiments occupied most of our time.

In these circumstances there was no division of labor among ourselves, except that I took care of the photography myself for the most part. My collaborators were Messrs. Pinhas Delougaz, Seton Lloyd, Gordon Loud, and Dr. Thorkild Jacobsen. When the season was under way and surveying and drawing had to be undertaken, Mr. Loud became responsible for this work in the throneroom and Mr. Lloyd at the gate. With the extension of our work in subsequent seasons each of my collaborators on the original staff became responsible for a part of our wider task. Khorsabad was put into the charge of Mr. Loud, who reports in the following chapters on the excavation of the throneroom and on the work carried out subsequently. In the excavation of the palace temples Mr. Loud was assisted by Mr. Hamilton D. Darby. In this first chapter we are concerned only with the town gate numbered 7 in Place's plan (Fig. 1).²

Figure 2 shows the mound which covered the ruins of the gate before we started work. The palace mound, astride the town wall, can be seen in the background. The brook which now runs along the ruins of the town wall has cut into the pavement of large rough blocks which leads up to the gate from outside the town. It was these stones, from which the earth had been washed away, that gave us a basis from which to start work. The walls themselves were very much damaged, and we did not trace what was left of them. The portions adjoining the outer of the two portals of the gate were covered with whitewashed mud plaster (Fig. 3).

The portals themselves possessed dadoes of fine slabs of stone set on end and forming a kind of revetment for the brickwork. The slabs stood on bases of projecting stones which protected them against possible damage from cart wheels. The whole gateway down to these slabs

¹ Victor Place, *Ninive et l'Assyrie* (3 vols.; Paris, 1867-70).

² *Ibid.* III, Pl. 2.

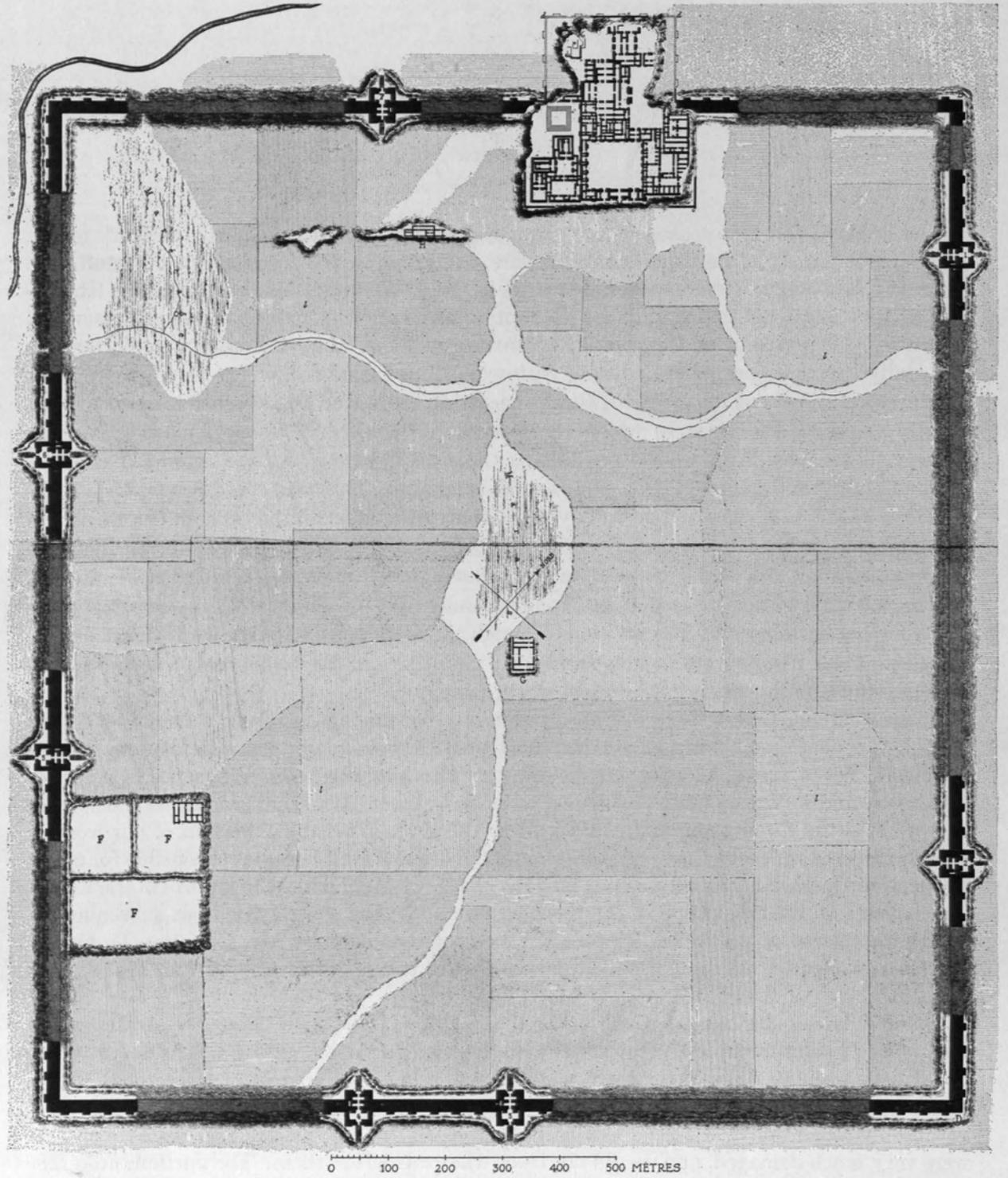


FIG. 1.—PLAN OF THE CITY AND PALACE OF KHORSABAD (DUR SHARRUKIN), AFTER PLACE

GATE 7

3

was covered with whitewashed mud plaster, which thus concealed the arch of baked bricks inserted into the outer face of the outer portal (Figs. 3 and 4, section *BB*). Many fragments



FIG. 2.—THE MOUND COVERING GATE 7, WITH THE PALACE MOUND IN CENTER BACKGROUND AND THE MODERN VILLAGE OF KHORSABAD AT LEFT



FIG. 3.—THE OUTER PORTAL OF GATE 7, SHOWING DADO SLABS AND BLOCKING. NOTE SPRINGING OF BRICK ARCH

of glazed bricks, with the usual rosette pattern, were found, but none in position. They must have been placed high up in the gate and its towers, as Place suggested.

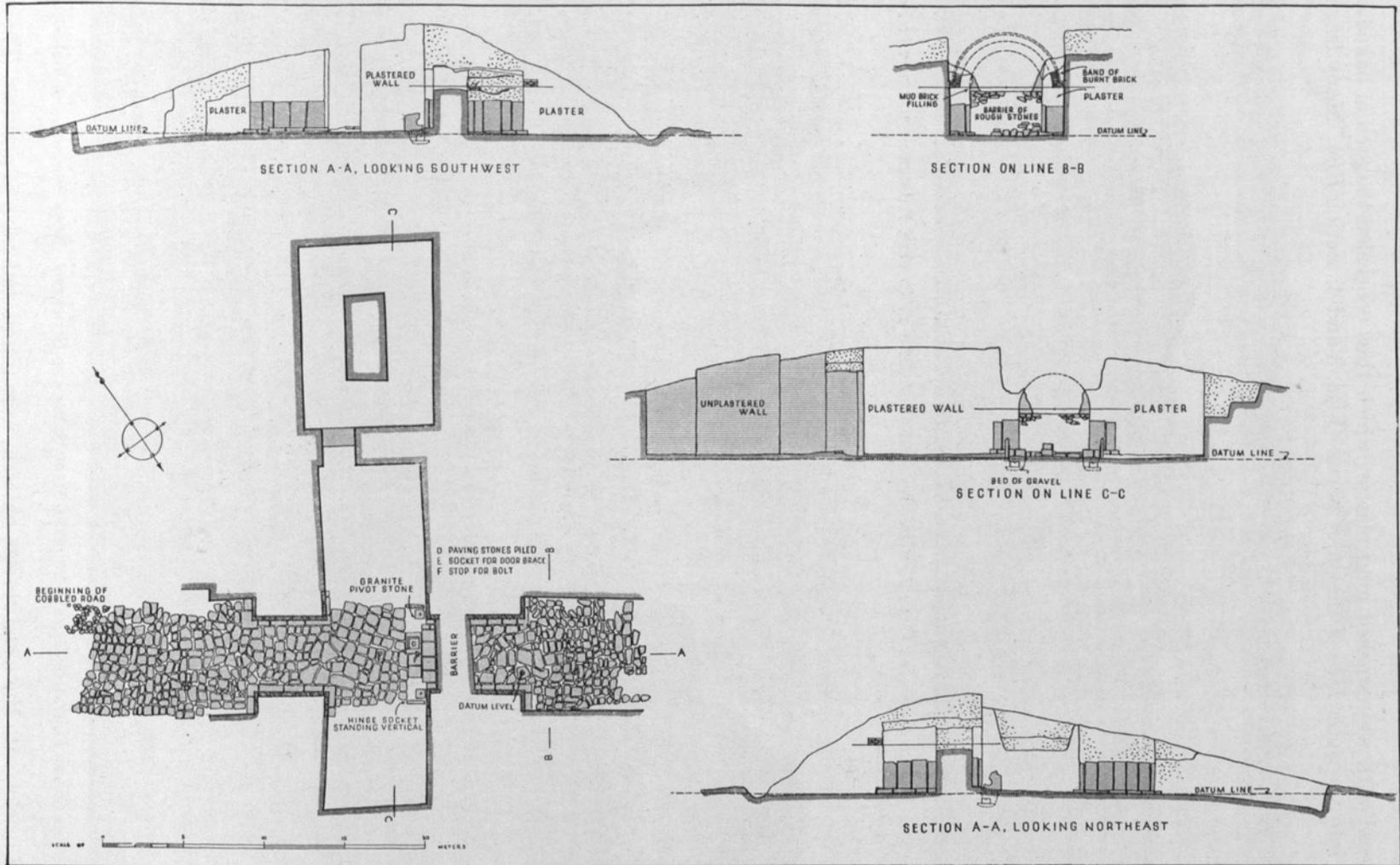


FIG. 4.—PLAN AND CROSS-SECTIONS OF GATE 7. SCALE, 1:400

The arch of the outer portal was well preserved, and the whitewash on its soffit showed clearly above the blocking if looked at from the inside (Fig. 5). The pavement of large stones laid throughout the gateway joins one of small cobblestones, which we assume to be the pavement of a street, since it descends and can be picked up again when one digs down in front of the gateway in the fields within the city.

The inner portal also had been arched over, but here an almost continuous layer of fallen white plaster is all that remains of the soffit of the arch. A small fragment on the wall showed where the springing of the arch began; the good preservation of the arch in the outer gateway was, of course, due to the support of the barrier of rough stones which formed the blocking.



FIG. 5.—GATE 7, FROM WITHIN THE CITY

Inside the gate there are two large chambers, situated on the same axis (Figs. 4 and 6), not at right angles as Place's drawings show. It is, of course, impossible to assert with absolute confidence that the plan of the simpler of the two types of gate which Place dug is identical with ours. Since they were similar to each other, however, this is highly probable; and the divergence between his plan and ours may well be a result of his method of working out his field notes in Paris, a procedure which we suspect him of having followed on the strength of similar divergencies in portions of the palace where both he and we excavated.

The side chamber contains a block of brickwork which can only be explained satisfactorily as the central support around which stairs or a ramp led to the second story of the gate. From here access to the towers on either side and to the town wall was obtained. The walls of the central chamber are actually standing at the western corner to a height of nearly 7 meters. The doorway leading from this room to that which contained the ramp had been blocked by mud brick supported on one layer of baked brick.

We gained sufficient evidence not only to prove that the central chamber was roofed but also to show the method by which the roofing was accomplished. Fibrous substances, the remains of beams (Fig. 7) and matting (Fig. 8), were found on the pavement. They were excavated with the utmost care, mostly with tools no bigger than penknives, so that we might



FIG. 6.—CENTRAL GATE CHAMBER, WITH INNER PORTAL AT LEFT, OUTER PORTAL AT RIGHT, AND SIDE CHAMBER IN BACKGROUND

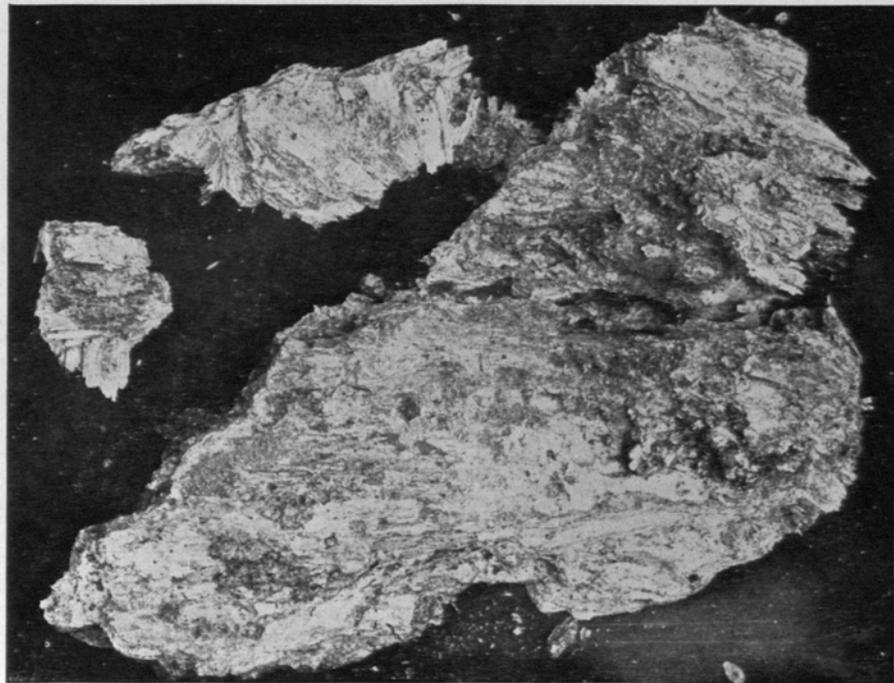


FIG. 7.—REMAINS OF A BEAM USED IN ROOFING. SCALE, 7:10

not miss the smallest shred of evidence. Fortunately the fragments were numerous, and the evidence gained from them was often mutually corroborative. Moreover, work in Room 7 later gave valuable possibilities for checking our deductions, for there also wood and matting had been charred by a fire. There the edges of matting which had been buried in mud plaster and had not been burned appeared as a white, fluffy layer (Fig. 85), exactly as in the gate, where the crosswise weave could often be distinguished (Fig. 8).

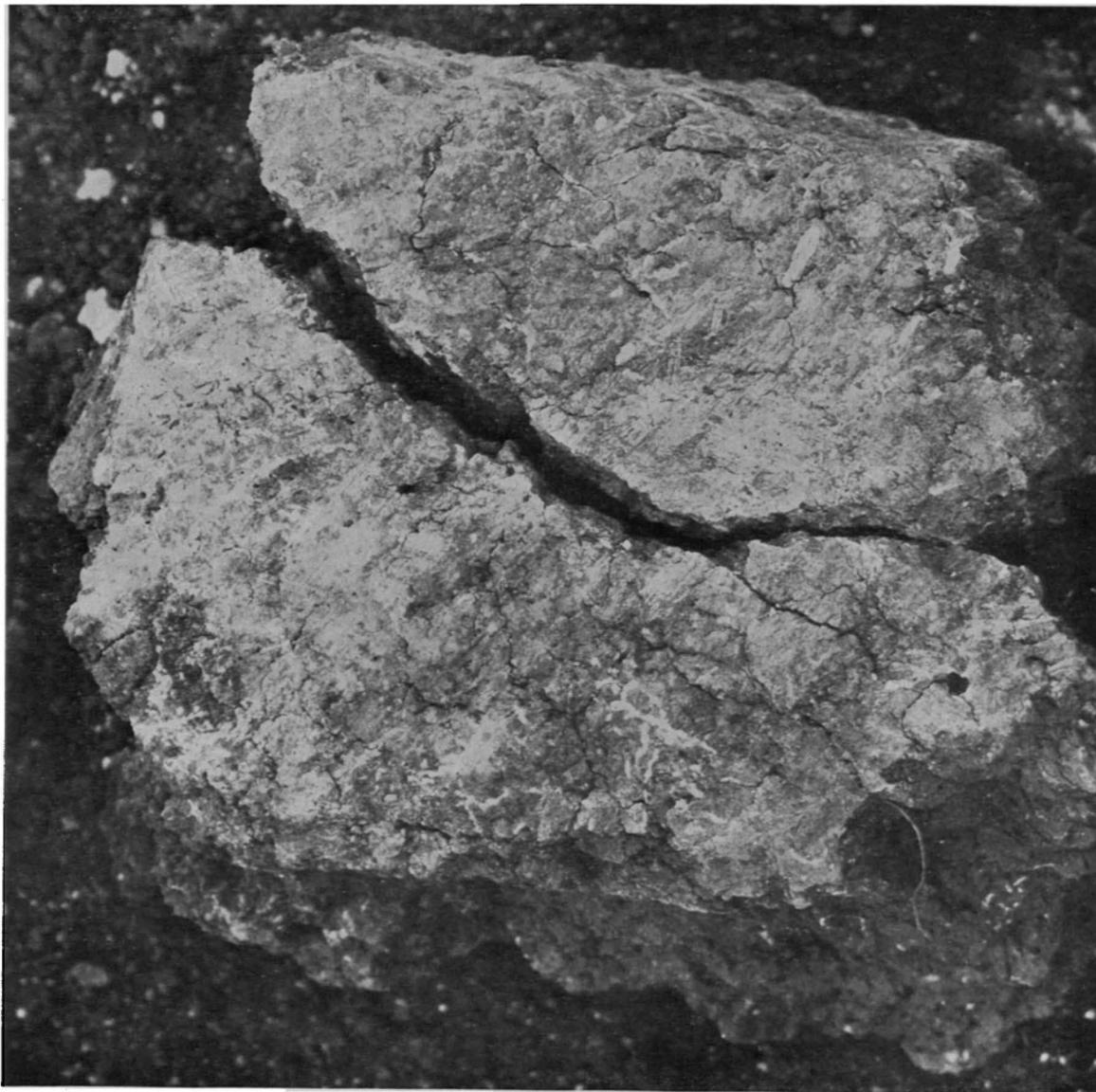


FIG. 8.—REMAINS OF MATTING USED IN ROOFING. SCALE, 7:10

Quite high up in the filling of the central chamber were found remains of an iron hoe, animal bones, and a pot, which could only have come from an upper story. But the strongest evidence for the existence of a second story was provided by the position in which a small pivot stone was found in the rubbish caused by the collapse of the roof (Fig. 9). Immediately underneath it there was some hard gray plaster, obviously a floor of tamped earth; then followed decayed mud or mud brick, then an equally clear layer of whitewash, fallen from the wall before the

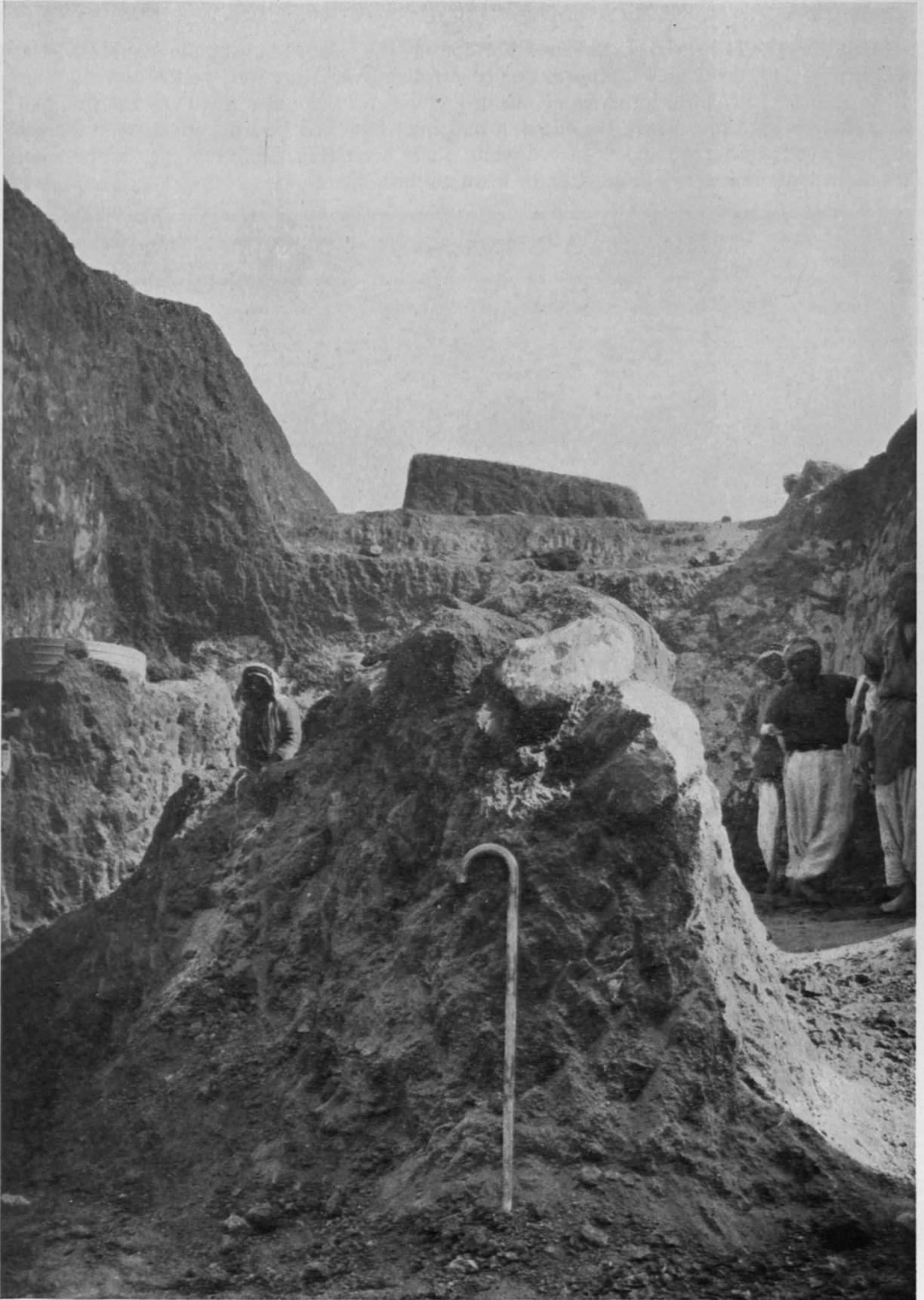


FIG. 9.—PIVOT STONE IN DÉBRIS WITHIN CENTRAL GATE CHAMBER

roof collapsed and before objects from the upper story, such as the pivot stone, crashed down onto the rubbish which had been slowly filling the deserted structure.

High up in this rubbish again were found many small traces of red paint, about 3 meters below the highest point of the wall now extant. Their position showed that the red coating belonged either to the ceiling or to a decorated band running round the walls immediately



FIG. 10.—REMAINS OF FALLEN ROOFING

adjacent to it. The first pieces found were about 20 cm. wide and had a somewhat convex surface. After the remains of beams were found, it became clear that the red material was not red plaster, but red paint applied directly to wood and matting. The convex pieces were all fragments of decayed matting, which, like the remnants of wood (Fig. 7), crumbled at the merest touch. But there seemed some regularity in the convexity of these pieces; several had a width of 20 cm. and two a width of 26 cm. The explanation seems to be that the roofing

beams had been placed about 26 cm. (i.e., half a cubit) apart and covered with matting which, under the weight of the superimposed layers, sagged in the spaces between successive beams. The roofing had certainly consisted of alternate layers of matting and of mud (Fig. 10), but how many of these there had been could not be established. The actual ceiling of the room, consisting of beams and the lowest layer of matting, had been painted red.

When the remains of the fallen walls and ceilings had been removed, the most interesting features of the central chamber became clear (Fig. 11). It was seen that the paving blocks on either side of the outer portal had been cut out so that they could be lowered round the pivots



FIG. 11.—OUTER PORTAL OF CENTRAL GATE CHAMBER, FROM WITHIN. CUT-OUT PAVING STONES STAND READY TO BE DROPPED INTO PLACE AROUND THE DOOR PIVOTS

of the wooden doors after these were brought into position (Fig. 12). Furthermore, slabs were piled up near a place where a socket had been cut in a stone, ready to support a strut or brace leaning obliquely against the closed doors. The doors, however, had never been put in place; the pivot stones were there, but these show no sign of wear. Instead, the gate had been blocked with a barrier of rough stones crowned with mud brick. This blocking had been done while the gate was still in good repair—perhaps even almost as soon as it was built. For outside the blocking we found, over a depth of about 50 cm., loose wind-blown rubbish and earth, clearly distinguished from the superimposed layers of brickwork fallen from the walls and towers. In our preliminary report we have already explained this blocking as caused by “the failure of Sargon’s attempt to change the political geography of Assyria by transferring the capital from Nineveh to Dur Sharrukin. After Sargon’s death in 705 B.C. Sennacherib immediately moved the capital back to Nineveh. It seems probable that most of Sargon’s subjects, unless their attendance upon the king was obligatory, had been too closely connected

with the old capital by family and business ties to follow their ruler. Thus it came about that large areas within the walls of Dur Sharrukin were never built upon, and the seven gates



FIG. 12.—CUT-OUT PAVING STONE READY TO DROP INTO PLACE OVER PIVOT STONE

with which Sargon equipped his town walls were far in excess of the demands made by traffic. That we found no trace of houses behind the gate which we excavated evidently explains why the gate itself was blocked.”³

³ “Oriental Institute Communications,” No. 16 (Chicago, 1933) pp. 86 f.

II

THE BATHROOM, COURT VIII, CORRIDOR, AND WINGED BULL

This chapter has been written from the notes of the late Dr. Edward Chiera. It is regrettable that his untimely death prevented his writing this report of the excavations he carried on at Khorsabad, for only his own account could do full justice to his splendid work at that site.

During the survey Dr. Chiera was accompanied by Mr. Richard S. Starr, of the Fogg Art Museum of Harvard University, who was assisting him in the excavations at Nuzi at the time this first work at Khorsabad was undertaken. Some months later when the expedition was organized to begin systematic excavations Dr. Chiera's staff consisted of Mr. Frank H. Blackburn, Mr. Richard A. Martin, Mr. Pinhas Delougaz, and Mr. E. Wilensky.

CIRCUMSTANCES AND METHODS OF WORK

The first season's excavations undertaken at Khorsabad by the Oriental Institute were carried out during the late winter and spring of 1929 under the direction of the late Dr.



FIG. 13.—MODERN GRINDSTONE MADE FROM AN ANCIENT SCULPTURE, IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE OF THE LOCAL AGHA

Edward Chiera. They had been prompted by a preliminary investigation of the site in 1927, when Dr. Chiera, upon being advised by a colleague in this vicinity that an inscribed stone had been unearthed by natives in a hill near the palace mound, proceeded to Khorsabad for such a purpose after the completion of his season at Nuzi. The stone in question proved to be an inscribed doorsill in a building in that part of the city designated *F* by Place (see Fig. 1). The inscription was already known. Near by a second slab was exposed. Digging at this point disclosed the fact that this was one of four wall slabs, still in position, with inscriptions on their backs, while their faces had never been carved. They were probably a part of the same building to which the doorsill belonged.

Further excavation at this mound would undoubtedly have made many interesting disclosures; but since a survey was the purpose of this post-season campaign, Dr. Chiera trans-

ferred his workmen to the site of the palace, a portion of which was at that time being used as a stone quarry by the inhabitants of the surrounding villages. Besides being burned for lime the stone was put to many useful purposes. A grindstone (Fig. 13) in front of the house of the local agha was made of one huge block of gypsum. Its thickness of half a meter precluded the possibility of its having come from a relief, but it could easily have been cut from one of the mammoth bulls. This was later found to be the case, when excavations showed a bull so mutilated. A basalt relief slab served as a bridge over an irrigation ditch, while doorsills, lintels, and paving stones in nearly all the village houses bore traces of former carving.

At a point where many fragments of reliefs were lying about on the surface Dr. Chiera began his soundings to ascertain the real state of affairs. Were there any reliefs remaining, it was far better that they should find their way to some museum rather than the lime-burner or a native house. After very little digging, part of a wall once covered with reliefs was found. But here only the feet and lower parts of the garments of the figures were extant. Farther on toward the edge of the mound, however, the upper portions of some figures decidedly worth saving were encountered. At this point the order of work was reversed; and whatever reliefs had been uncovered in this survey, as well as the entire quarry, were buried beneath such quantities of earth as to discourage the natives from further destruction.

A fine bearded head of one of Sargon's officials was found in the courtyard of the house of the local agha, this being used as a chopping-block for cutting wood (Fig. 14). It had obviously suffered such usage for a very short time, for only a few marks of the ax had scarred its countenance. This stone would make a good museum piece and was accordingly purchased by Dr. Chiera, much to the surprise of the peasants. Their consternation that such a block of stone would bring in good silver money was quite evident. In a few days a peasant asked in great secrecy what he would be given for another head just as good as the one already purchased. Upon being told to produce the head before a price could be set, he proceeded to a spot near the edge of the mound, and within three or four minutes of digging with his spade he unearthed a head of a eunuch. Chisel marks clearly showed how this had been cut away from the rest of the body. After the purchase price of this had been agreed upon, the peasant asked Dr. Chiera if he would buy still another one. This time a head of Sargon's prime minister or *turtanu* was produced, this also crudely chiseled away from the body.

That such an outrage had been committed against these fine reliefs was irritating, to say the least. An area surrounding the spot from which these heads had come was marked out, and the workmen were directed to dig as the peasant had done, no deeper than one foot from the surface—this in an effort to salvage whatever else might have been hidden. Two more eunuchs' heads, rather poorly preserved, soon came to light. And then the prize find—a fragment of the heads of two horses. So fine was this piece that the surrounding ground was carefully combed in the hope of finding other fragments to complete the figure. But the only reward was small bits which completed no more than the heads and a part of the trappings.

The surprise at finding the horses' heads shown by the peasant who had first led the way to this hoard of relief fragments was so marked as to vindicate him completely of having hidden them there. And it is incredible that any modern villager would have bothered to dig 2 meters deep to chisel off a head, only to rebury it for future sale to dealers. The use to which reliefs had been put throughout the village clearly indicated their value to the present-day natives. That the French excavators were not responsible for cutting away these heads is certain, even though this destruction of the reliefs must have taken place during or shortly after their time. When they did remove any slabs they did it well, sawing them off completely at their bases. And had they wanted small museum pieces, the "quarry," which later proved to be Place's Room 10, abounded in excellent small reliefs. This was doubtless the cache of

one of the workmen employed by the French who, realizing the value of these sculptures as evidenced by the careful removal of some of them by his employers, secretly removed and buried these few, hoping some day to make a small fortune from their sale. Rascal that he was, we must forgive him, for his cache played no small part in contributing toward the evi-



FIG. 14.—HEAD USED AS A CHOPPING-BLOCK UNTIL PURCHASED BY DR. CHERA. ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM No. A 7370. SCALE, 1:5

dence which prompted the decision to organize the Khorsabad Expedition of the Oriental Institute.

It was nearly two years later when the Khorsabad Expedition began actual excavations at the palace of Sargon. Once the decision to carry on the work here had been made, months

of preparation were necessary before operations could begin. The staff must be assembled, and living- and working-quarters must be provided, not to mention the innumerable small details connected with setting up a working organization under the conditions found in a small village in Iraq. A portion of the local agha's house (Fig. 13) was rented and, after alterations necessary to make it habitable, served as the expedition house.

A study of the publications of Botta¹ and Place² had shown that the heads found during the preliminary survey had come from Court VIII. Owing to the fact that they had been chiseled away from the slabs, there was some likelihood that the bodies of the figures to which the heads originally belonged might be found by digging in this court. Near the "quarry" the first trench was started, for it was certain that Court VIII was in this portion of the mound, and once a wall was located in this section the court could easily be found.

The first room encountered was baffling, for its measurements did not correspond to those of any room in this part of the palace as shown on Place's plan (frontispiece).³ The reliefs which originally covered its walls had been burned, and those small portions that remained were in such wretched condition as to make their removal not worth while. A doorway near one corner led into another room, the reliefs of which were intact and extended nearly to the ground surface. The walls of this latter room were completely traced, a matter of comparatively little work, for it was necessary to dig to a depth of but one or two feet. Typical wall slabs were thoroughly examined and found to be so badly damaged by the fire that the stone flaked off at the merest touch. There was, then, no point in the clearance of this room, for it was evident that all the slabs were in a similar condition. Since the plans called for excavation in the court and any further work here would incur the responsibility of preserving these badly damaged reliefs—a task which alone would be nearly a season's work—it was decided to abandon this room.

By process of elimination it became clear that the first room must be Room 12, and the long narrow adjoining one Room 11. Court VIII must therefore be on the other side of one of the walls of Room 12. A new trench was started at this point and shortly succeeded in disclosing the slabs of the court. The court walls were followed in both directions from the point where the first slab was located; they led eventually to the corridor called Room 10 and to the colossal bulls gracing the central entrance to Court VII. By this time the season was so far advanced that the removal and packing of the relief slabs more than sufficed to keep the entire staff occupied. And when the decision to remove one of the great bulls was made, the problem of time became acute. It was fortunate indeed that exploration was carried no farther, for, as it turned out, the work of packing and shipping the sculptures was not completed until the middle of June, long after the terrifically hot weather had set in.

The task of handling the reliefs, once they were discovered, was not the least of the problems encountered at Khorsabad. In most excavations the *antikas* can be lifted from the spot where found and carried to the storeroom provided for their registration and care. But here at Khorsabad, where slabs and fragments weighing hundreds of pounds are to be handled, mechanical means must be employed. The removal and transport of a large bull, one fragment of which alone was estimated to weigh about fifteen tons, was, of course, an exceptional case and will be described later. But the ordinary wall slabs required in their removal a considerable amount of mechanical assistance. These slabs, like most of the sculptures found, were of gypseous alabaster.

The original plan for unearthing the wall reliefs called for a trench 5 meters in width following the line of the walls. As the slabs in this area had a standing height of 3.50 it was felt that a trench of this width surely could not fail to disclose all fragments that had been pitched

¹ P. E. Botta and E. Flandin, *Monument de Ninive* (5 vols.; Paris, 1849-50).

² Victor Place, *Ninive et l'Assyrie* (3 vols.; Paris, 1867-70).

³ *Ibid.* III, Pl. 7.

forward in those sections where the wall had fallen. At one point, however, where only the feet of the personages pictured on the reliefs were found in position and no traces of the slabs



FIG. 15.—CARRYING FRAGMENTS OF RELIEFS TO THE EXPEDITION HOUSE



FIG. 16.—RELIEF FRAGMENTS ASSEMBLED IN COURTYARD OF THE EXPEDITION HOUSE

appeared within this 5-meter clearance, it was necessary to extend the width of the trench to 14 meters from the wall face. This widening proved fully justified, for, by so doing, six complete slabs, besides others that could not be reconstructed in their entirety, were found.

CIRCUMSTANCES AND METHODS OF WORK

17

Such a widening of the trench only tended to complicate the removal of the reliefs. The small broken-off fragments and those portions of the slabs of such weight as to permit their being lifted by hand presented no problem. After being duly marked as to the slab to which they belonged they were placed upon a wooden "stretcher" and carried to the courtyard of the expedition house on the shoulders of four husky men (Fig. 15). There they were spread upon the ground, sorted according to the slabs of which they formed parts, and the complete slabs gradually assembled preparatory to being packed for shipment (Fig. 16). But in the case of the heavier pieces it was quite a different matter. A tripod of large wooden poles such as are used in the roof construction of the modern village houses was assembled and erected over the trench, this to permit a vertical pull to raise the blocks of stone the 4 or 5 meters to the ground surface. This, though simple in principle, proved not so easy in execution. For the



FIG. 17.—LOWERING A SLAB ONTO SKIDS PREPARATORY TO HAULING IT TO GROUND SURFACE

men, unused to teamwork, could not be taught to pull in unison. A team of oxen was tried and proved equally unsatisfactory. Finally a winch was obtained from the Public Works Department in Mosul, and the problem was solved. The slabs were thus raised slightly above the level of the ground surface and lowered onto two long poles laid across the top of the trench (Fig. 17). Then by man power and ropes they were pulled along these poles to the high ground. This procedure worked admirably, but it required the constant shifting of the tripod, which must be set up directly over the stone to be lifted. And when the wider part of the trench was reached, this method had, of course, to be abandoned, for the tripod could not span the opening. An inclined cut was, therefore, made in the side of the trench so that the stones could be dragged to the surface, either on skids (Fig. 18) or loaded on a heavy two-wheeled cart especially constructed for this purpose. The tripod was set up in the bottom of the trench, and by its means the slabs were lifted onto the cart (Fig. 19). The cart was pulled by



FIG. 18.—DRAGGING A SLAB TO SURFACE WITH WINCH AND SKIDS

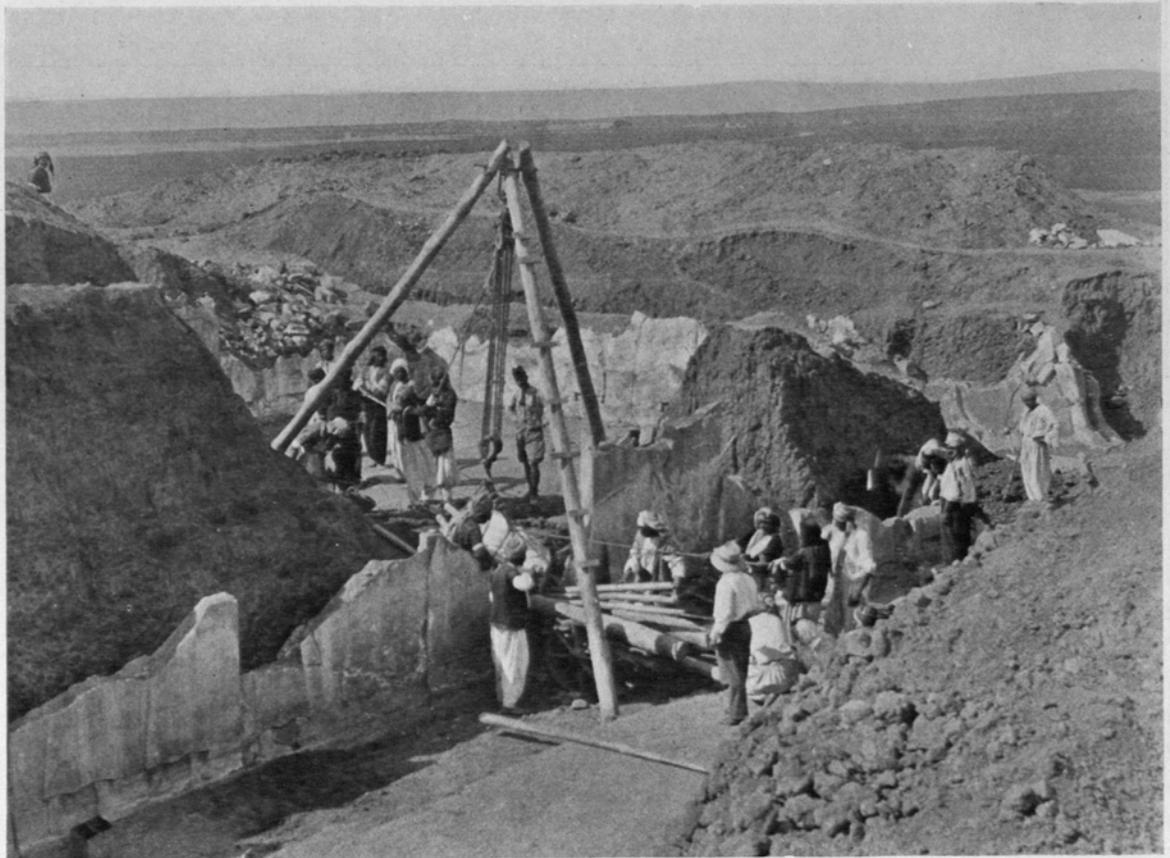


FIG. 19.—LIFTING A SLAB ONTO THE CART

CIRCUMSTANCES AND METHODS OF WORK

19

the men to the bottom of the incline and there attached to the cable from the winch, which slowly brought it to the ground surface (Fig. 20).

A further complication in handling these heavy stones arose from the inability of the workmen to comprehend the ever present danger of injury. The staff had constantly to warn them against crushing fingers or toes while working with these heavy pieces, and to see that they



FIG. 20.—HAULING THE CART TO THE SURFACE

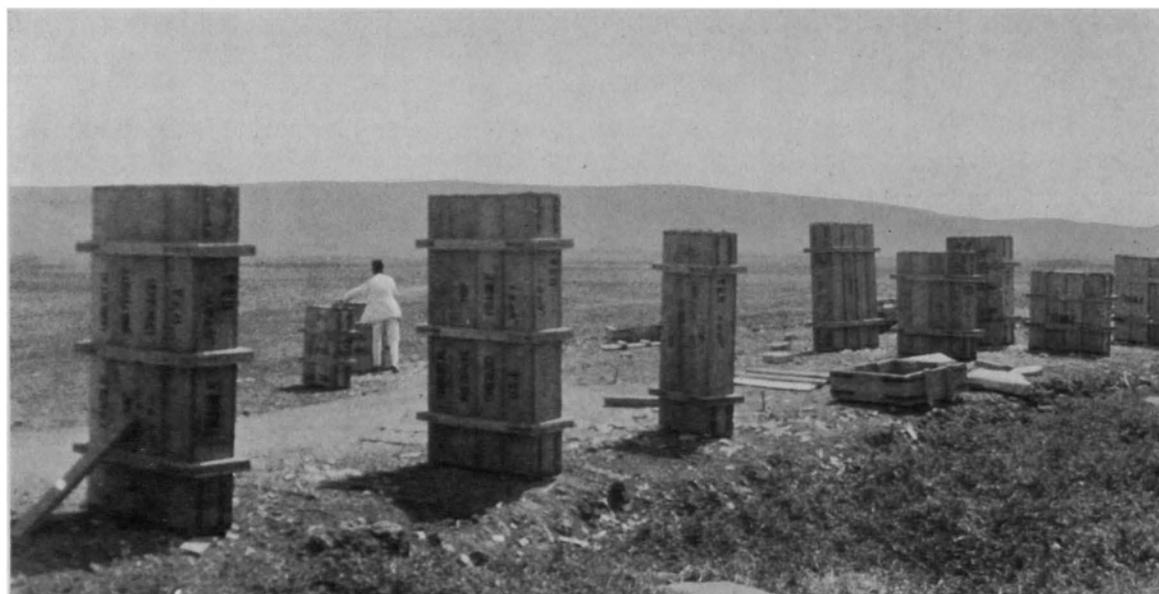


FIG. 21.—CASES OF RELIEFS PACKED AND READY FOR SHIPPING

were well out of the way whenever the accidental breaking of some of the apparatus might suddenly let a slab drop. Despite the force required to move a fragment of any considerable size they could not understand why they couldn't support such a piece and prevent its falling by placing a knee against it. Upon many occasions the staff was subjected to fright when one or several of the workmen would place themselves in precarious positions. Only by careful watching and constant cautioning were any serious accidents of this sort avoided.

The slabs, reassembled from their many fragments, remained in the courtyard until after the division of objects was made by the Director of Antiquities. Once this division had taken place, there came the work of packing them for shipment. A corps of carpenters was employed

to measure the slabs and construct cases for them. These had to be made of heavy wood reinforced with steel bands. Thick matting protected the stone from rubbing against the wood, and between the fragments raw cotton was stuffed so the edges would not chafe each other in transit. The cases, upon being packed and marked, were removed from the courtyard and lined up outside the house (Fig. 21), where the truck could load them to start them on their way, some to Baghdad and some to Chicago.

THE BATHROOM (ROOM 12)

The function of this comparatively small room (No. 12 in Fig. 22), comprising part of the residential "wing" of the palace, seems clear from the excavations made at this point. Its



FIG. 23.—WALL RELIEFS OF SARGON'S BATHROOM, FROM SOUTHWEST. THE SECOND FIGURE FROM THE RIGHT IS PROBABLY THAT OF THE KING, WHILE HIS ATTENDANT STANDS BEHIND HIM

dimensions (6.00×8.50 —representing mean measurements, for the room is not truly rectangular) are at some variance with those shown on Place's plan. A shallow niche, 2.80 in width and centered in the southeast wall, also changes slightly the plan drawn by the early excavators of this site. Such minor discrepancies, however, fade into insignificance in the just appreciation of their great work.

The walls were covered with reliefs showing figures of heroic size in procession. So great was the damage from fire in this room that little of this procession, unfortunately, remains (Figs. 23 and 24). Of the slabs facing the southeast and southwest walls, there is nothing left but a very few fragments near the floor showing only an occasional foot. The adornment of the other two walls, however, can be partially reconstructed, although any hope of salvaging the

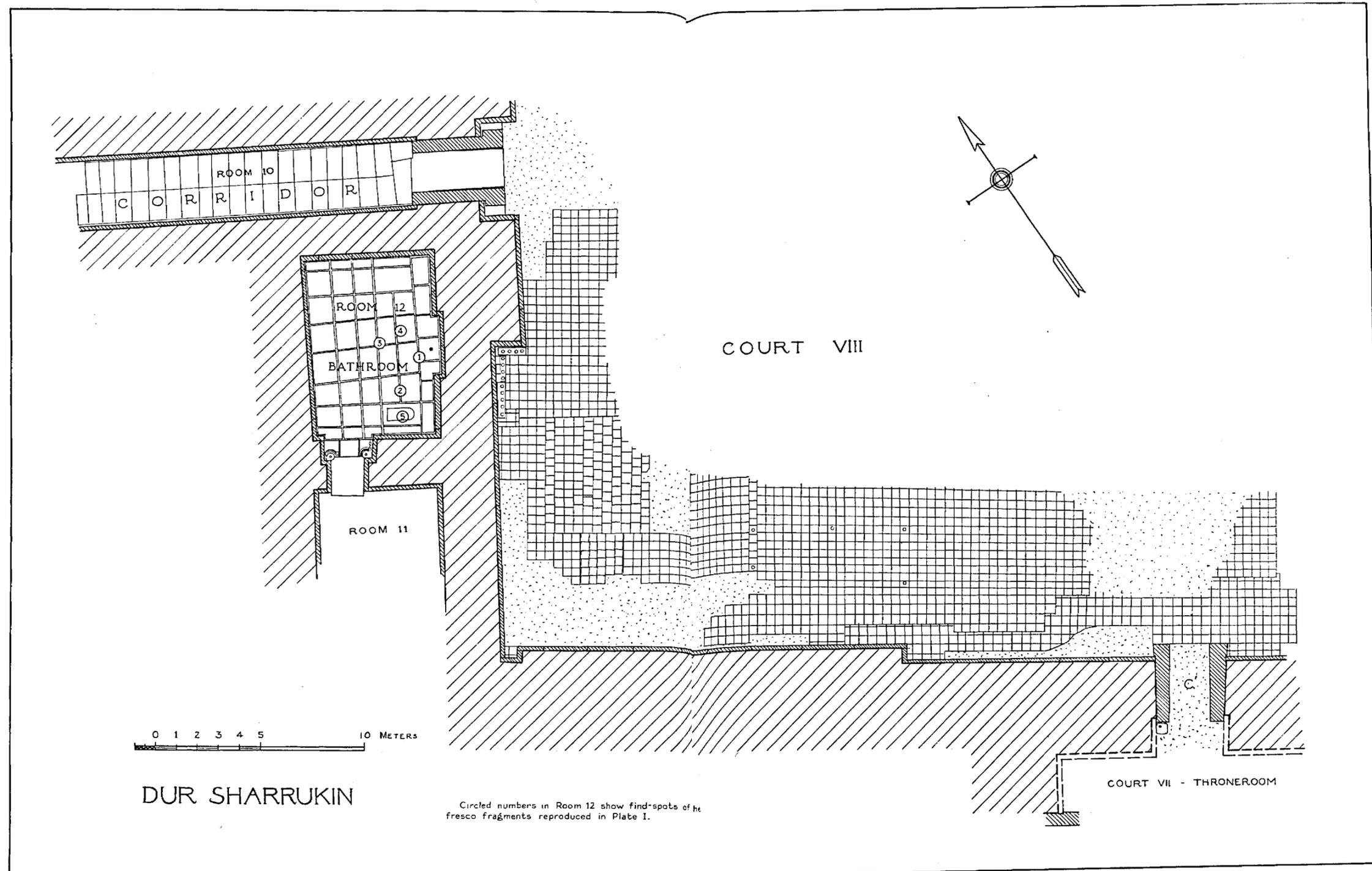


FIG. 22.—PLAN OF WEST CORNER OF COURT VIII AND ADJACENT ROOMS: THE CORRIDOR (ROOM 10), THE BATHROOM (ROOM 12), AND THE THRONE ROOM (COURT VII). SCALE, 1:200

THE BATHROOM

21

reliefs is out of the question, for the burned stone crumbles at touch. From the feet and lower parts of the garments we know that the procession moves toward the northeast wall, turns the north corner, and meets one who is probably the king about midway along this shorter wall face (see Fig. 23). For we find the king facing the other way, as is his attendant standing behind him. The figures toward the rear are slightly more complete (Fig. 25) and show clasped hands. Obviously, then, this was not a procession of captives or subjects bearing tribute but rather one of servants or eunuchs attendant upon the king.



FIG. 24.—RELIEF SLABS ON THE NORTHWEST WALL OF THE BATHROOM. AT LEFT IS THE DOORWAY INTO ROOM 11. IN THE FOREGROUND IS THE SOUTHWEST WALL OF THE CORRIDOR

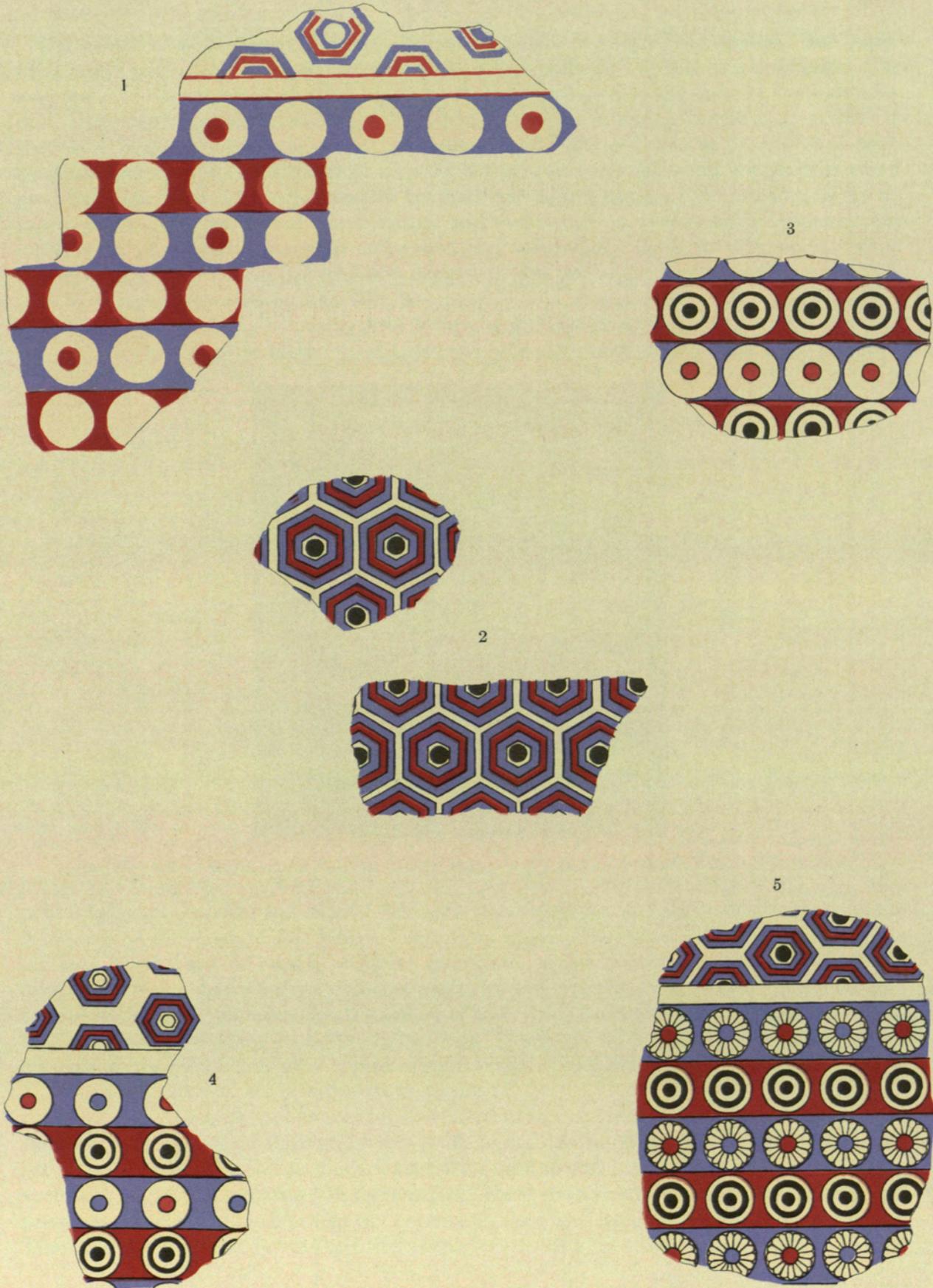
The doorway in the southwest wall leading into Room 11 (see Fig. 24) shows a high order of architectural development. The slabs forming the walls beside the raised threshold were carved in relief, but of these only one remains in sufficiently good state of preservation to determine the subject of the carving. Standing with his back to the procession is a figure of what is undoubtedly a soldier, for it carries bow, arrow, and quiver. The door itself opened in the middle, as is clearly shown by the sockets at either side. So that the doors, when open, would neither project into the room nor be a hindrance in the passageway, the doorway was slightly recessed to a width just sufficient to allow the leaves to fall into the planes of the slabs at the threshold and to a depth only great enough to keep them behind the face of the room wall (see Fig. 22).



FIG. 25.—FIGURES WITH CLASPED HANDS IN PROCESSION ADORNING THE WALLS OF SARGON'S BATHROOM. DETAIL FROM NORTHWEST WALL



FIG. 26.—FLOOR OF THE BATHROOM, SHOWING THE DEPRESSION INTO WHICH A TUB MAY HAVE BEEN SET. IN CENTER BACKGROUND APPEARS AN OPENING INTO A DRAIN



FRAGMENTS OF THE PAINTED PLASTER THAT ONCE ADORNED THE ROYAL BATHROOM. SCALE, 1:10

THE BATHROOM

The pavement of the room is of rectangular stone slabs of varying dimensions. One somewhat larger paving slab near the south corner of the room has cut into it a depression 1.30 long and 0.15 deep in the shape of a bathtub. Near by, centered in the niche in the southeast wall, a circular hole connected with a drain penetrates one of the paving slabs (Fig. 26). It was these irregularities in the floor that immediately suggested this as having once been Sargon's bathroom. Originally it had been roofed, so there was no need for a drain to carry away rain water. Into the depression in the floor might have fitted a tub, probably of metal, in which the sovereign bathed. And the size and location of the room suggest it as well; or, rather, they present no obstacle to such theorizing. Mr. Sidney Smith, at that time Director of Antiquities for the Iraq Government, suggested that perhaps it might have been used for some of the purification rites that are often mentioned in Assyrian tablets.

The relief slabs were by no means the sole form of decoration applied to this room. The ceiling or the walls above the slabs, or, what is more probable, both of them, were adorned with



FIG. 27.—REMAINS OF PAINTED PLASTER FALLEN FROM THE WALLS OR CEILING OF SARGON'S BATHROOM

painted plaster. For over a portion of the "bathtub" depression and scattered elsewhere on the floor were found traces of this plaster fallen from above. The plaster was so damaged in its fall that it could not be handled without going into minute pieces, but its contact with the earth upon which it had lain for so many centuries had reproduced in reverse upon this earth the design originally painted upon the plaster (Fig. 27). The color remained vivid, undoubtedly little, if at all, changed from its original hue. There was no possibility of removing these remains of fresco, but they were copied in color by Mr. Wilensky and are reproduced in Plate I. Their exact find-spots are indicated in Figure 22.

Several clay labels or seal impressions were found in a charcoal layer, the only remains of the roof, which extended throughout this room just above the floor. These served in ancient times the same purpose as our modern lead disks used to seal knots. No traces of the bags or strings so sealed had escaped the destruction. There were insufficient numbers of such impressions to indicate that this room had necessarily been used for the storage of bags or packets. They might easily have found their way there between the time the palace ceased to be used



FIG. 28.—KING SARGON AND ATTENDANT. ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM NO. A 7359. SCALE, 1:15



FIG. 29.—PROCESSION OF ATTENDANTS AND FOREIGN SUBJECTS BEARING TRIBUTE TO THE KING. NORTHWEST WALL OF COURT VIII



FIG. 30.—HORSES AND GROOMS FOLLOWING TRIBUTE-BEARERS IN PROCESSION ON THE NORTHWEST WALL OF COURT VIII



FIG. 31.—FIRST GROOM AND HORSES, AS RESTORED. ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM NO. A 7358. SCALE, 1:15



FIG. 32.—SECOND GROOM AND HORSES, AS RESTORED. IRAQ MUSEUM NO. 18627. SCALE, 1:15

as a royal residence and its destruction, or it is not impossible that such packets contained bath accessories imported from abroad and were thus where one might expect to find them.

COURT VIII

A complete description of Court VIII can by no means be attempted here. A glance at the frontispiece readily shows what a small portion of the entire court is that between the corridor (Room 10) and the central entrance to Court VII. And only the walls of that section were exposed by the Oriental Institute expedition.

The first slab disclosed by the excavations in this court was one on which were carved the figures of Sargon and an attendant (Fig. 28), the former complete though badly weathered,

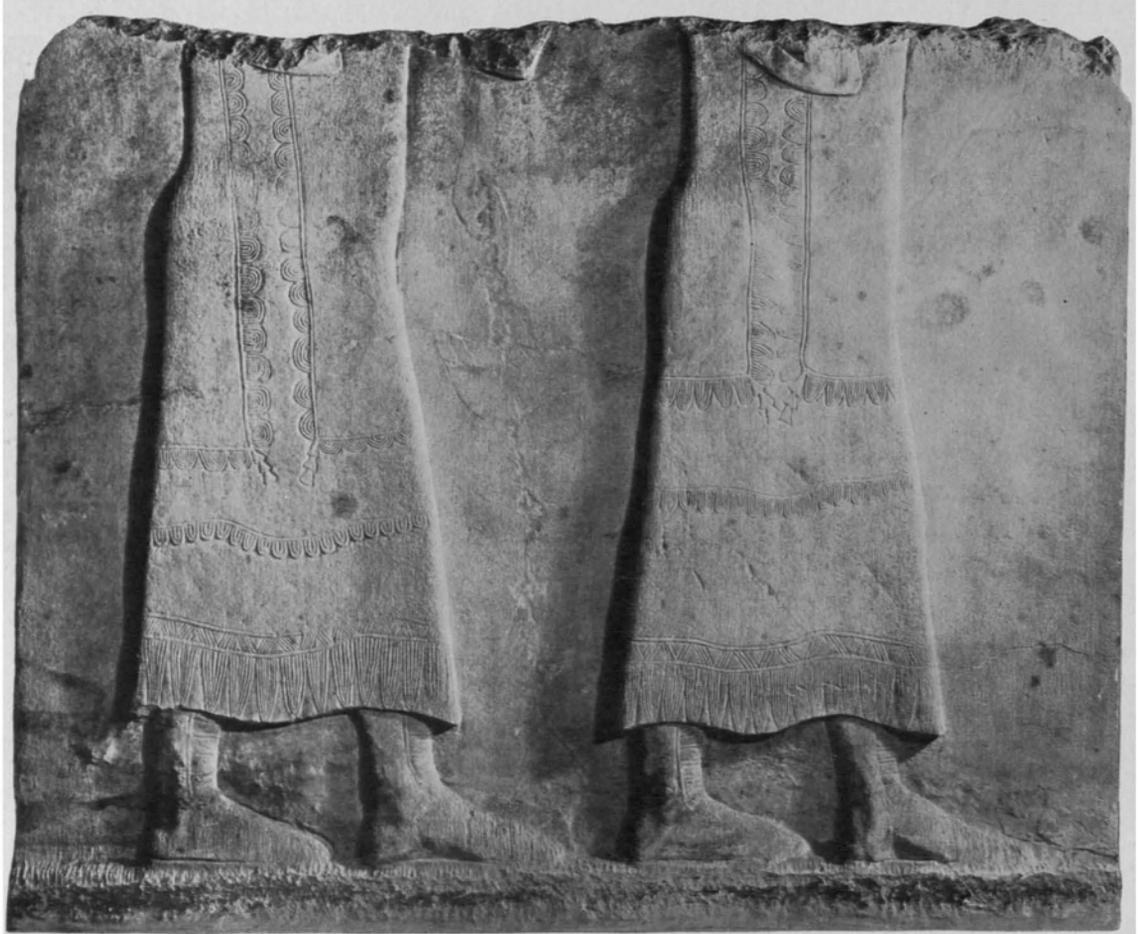


FIG. 33.—FRAGMENTARY FIGURES FROM THE PROCESSION ON THE NORTHWEST WALL OF COURT VIII. ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM NO. A 7360. SCALE, 1:15

while the latter was headless, evidently as a result of the work of the chisellers whose spoils had been found during the exploratory season. This slab stood immediately adjacent to the bull which formed one wall of the entrance to the corridor (Room 10). A procession of attendants and foreign subjects, the latter identified by their non-Assyrian dress, bearing tribute to the king was the scene displayed on the slabs between this figure of Sargon and the west corner of the court (Fig. 29). Following in the rear were two pairs of horses with their grooms (Fig. 30). The foremost team was none other than the one to which belonged the heads previously found in the workman's cache. Other figures found in this very procession were clearly the one-

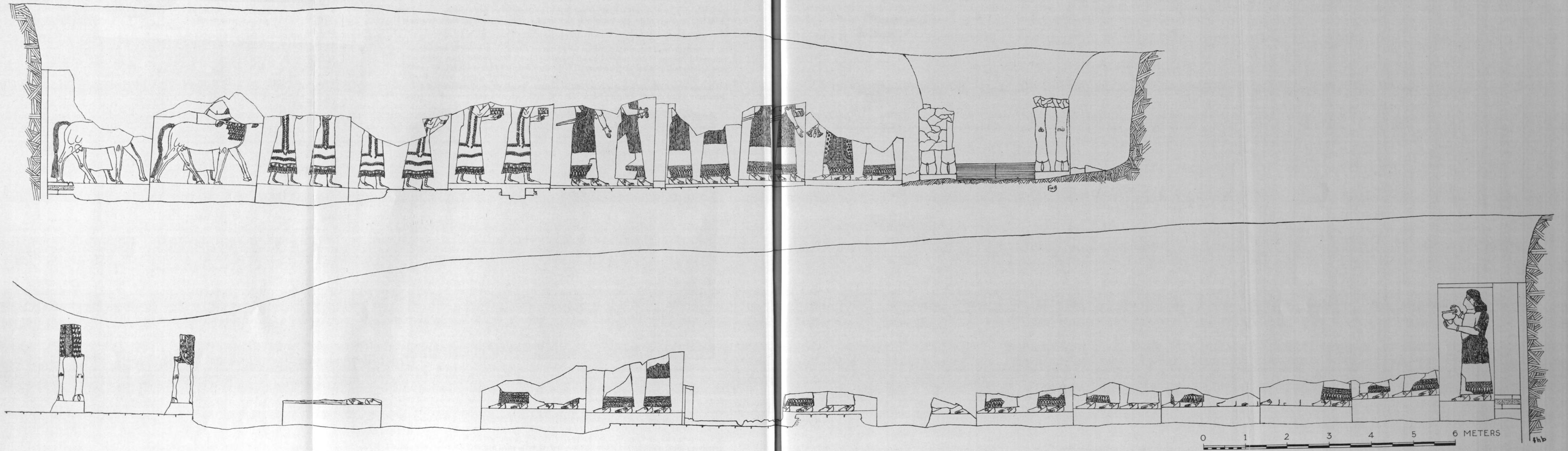


FIG. 34.—RELIEFS AS FOUND IN COURT VIII. NORTH WALL ABOVE; SOUTHWEST WALL BELOW. SCALE, 1:50

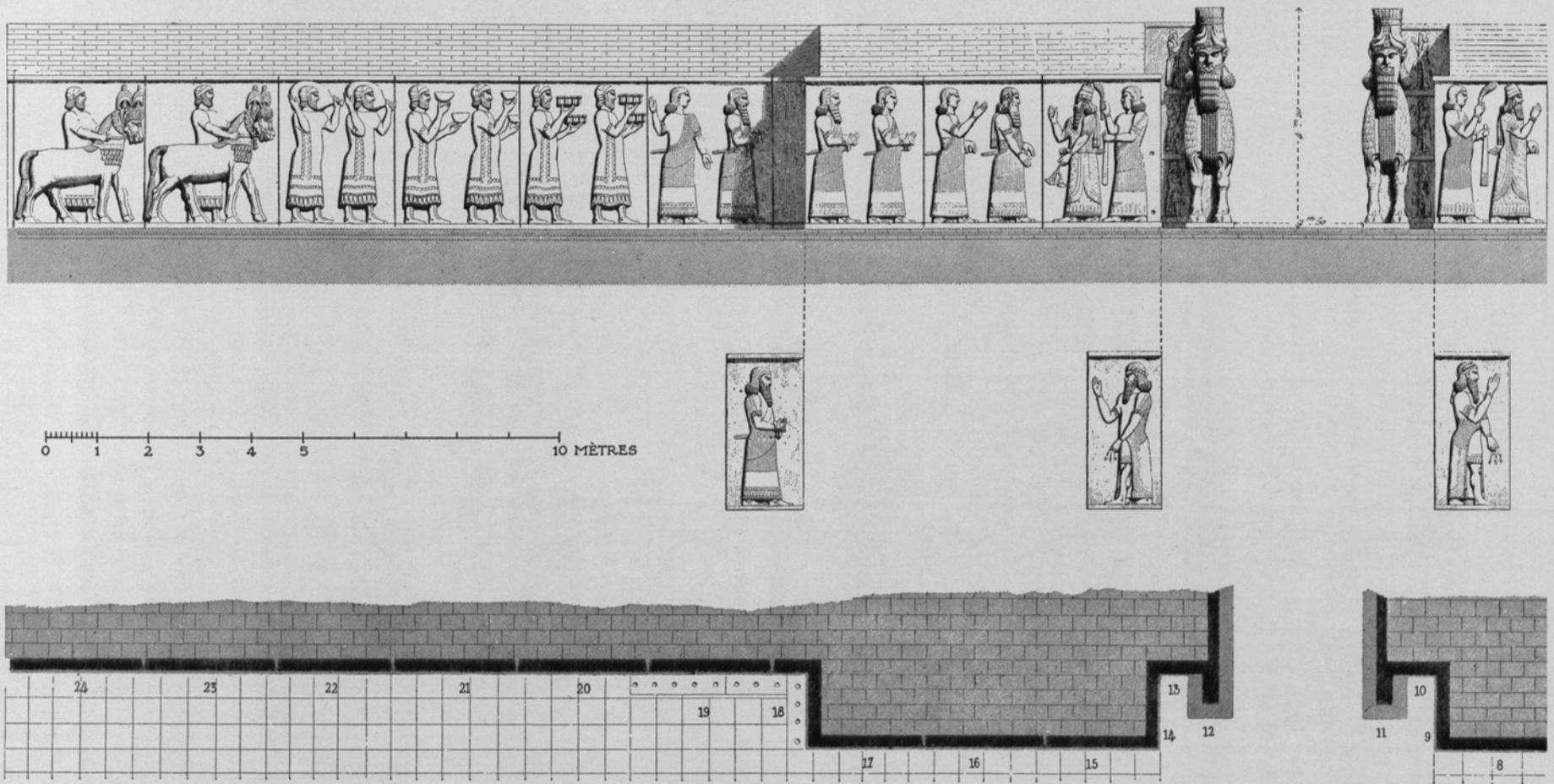


FIG. 35.—BOTTA'S RESTORATION OF A PORTION OF THE NORTHWEST WALL OF COURT VIII

time possessors of the human heads taken from this same hoard. Happily the fine horses' heads could again be joined to their bodies as they now stand restored (Fig. 31) in the Oriental Institute Museum. The second team was removed to the 'Iraq Museum, where it has been restored (Fig. 32). The lower portions of the two figures immediately preceding the horses are in Chicago (Fig. 33). Of the remaining slabs comprising the northwest wall so little has survived other than those portions irreparably damaged by weathering that restoration is impossible. Figure 34, in which are reproduced drawings of the reliefs made after a careful study



FIG. 36.—STANDING FIGURE CARRYING A BOWL. THE RELIEF WAS PROPPED UP TO PREVENT ITS FALLING, UNTIL ITS REMOVAL COULD BE UNDERTAKEN



FIG. 37.—REMAINS OF THE PROCESSION ON THE SOUTHWEST WALL OF COURT VIII

of the damaged figures, shows more clearly than do the photographs the remains of this once spectacular display of homage to the king. The same portion of the wall, as restored by Botta when the figures were considerably more complete, is reproduced in Figure 35.⁴

Upon turning the west corner of Court VIII, the trench disclosed a complete standing figure bearing a bowl resting on the left hand and steadied by the right. Only a fragment of the skirt and a large portion of the face were missing. Careful digging in the débris before this slab, however, successfully produced the latter unharmed. To prevent its breaking and falling,

⁴ Botta and Flandin, *op. cit.* I, Pl. 29.



FIG. 38.—THE PRIME MINISTER AND AN ATTENDANT, AS RESTORED. ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM No. A 7368. SCALE, 1:15

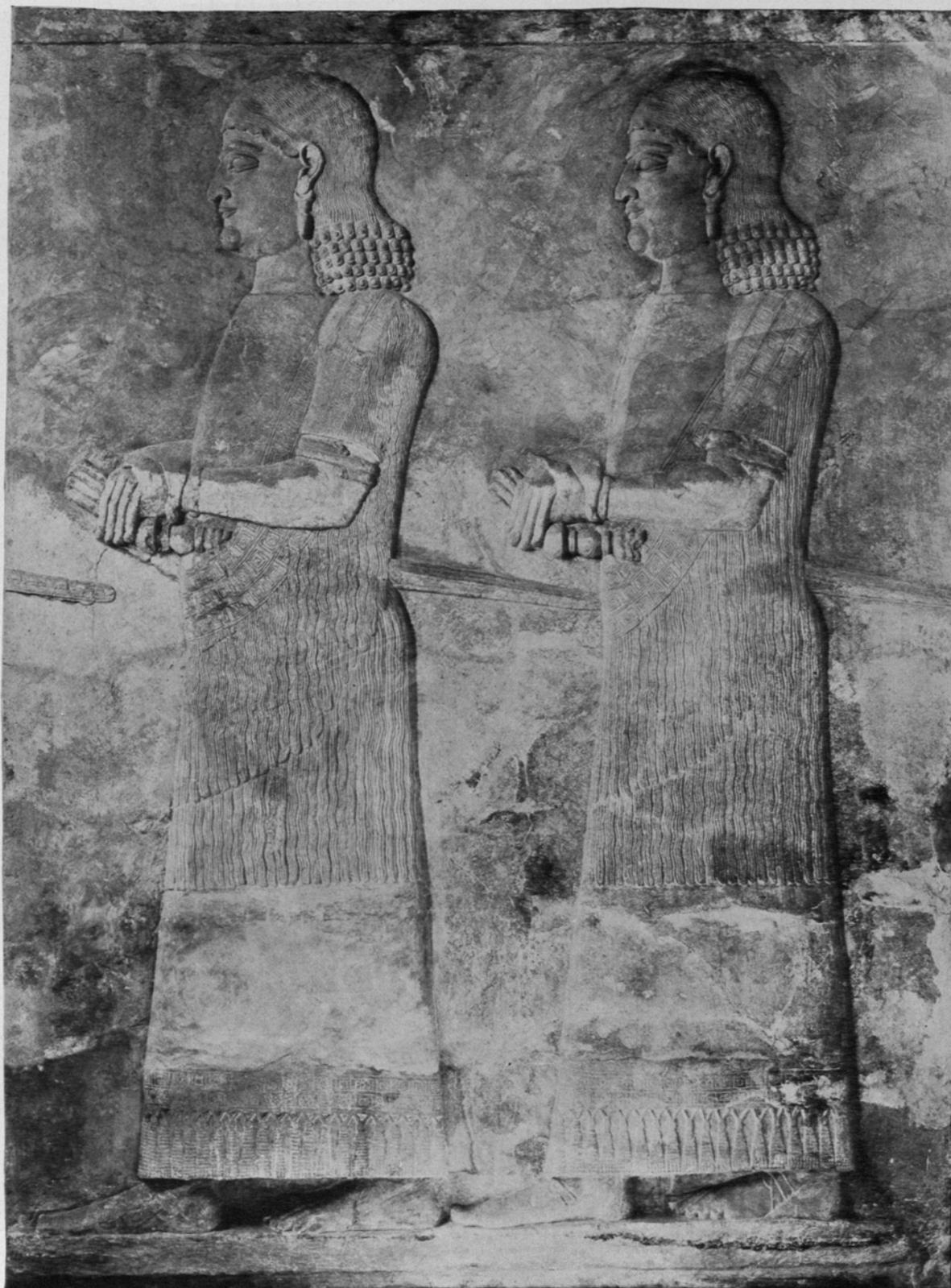


FIG. 39.—TWO EUNUCHS, AS RESTORED. ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM No. A 7367. SCALE, 1:15



FIG. 40.—TWO EUNUCHS, AS RESTORED. ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM No. A 7366. SCALE, 1:15



FIG. 41.—TWO COURTIER'S BEARING A LION-FOOTED TABLE. IRAQ MUSEUM NO. 18629. SCALE, 1:15



FIG. 42.—TWO COURTIERS CARRYING A TABLE. IRAQ MUSEUM No. 18630. SCALE, 1:15



FIG. 43.—TWO COURTIER'S CARRYING A STOOL AND A CITY MODEL. ©IRAQ MUSEUM No. 18631. SCALE, 1:15



FIG. 44.—TWO COURTIERES CARRYING A CHAIR. IRAQ MUSEUM NO. 11961. SCALE, 1:15

the upper part of this figure was bound together with rope and propped up by wooden poles (Fig. 36) until the clearance of this corner made its removal practicable. While the first figure to be found on the northwest wall of the court was that of the king, toward whom the procession moved, this first slab comprising the reliefs of the southwest wall eventually proved to picture the last figure of a somewhat similar procession headed toward another representation of Sargon. In this instance the slab containing the figures of the king and his attendant had been sawed off cleanly and taken away, probably by Place. It most likely now reposes on the bottom of the Tigris as a result of the misfortune that overcame one of the rafts on which his antiquities were being shipped to the sea. Those forming the procession are clearly eunuchs or attendants carrying gifts to their monarch. Figures 34 and 37 show only too well how but little more than the feet of the figures in this scene remained in place. It was indeed fortunate that the trench at this point was so widened as to lead to the discovery of some of these slabs at a considerable distance from their original location (p. 16). Figure 38 shows the slab which was immediately adjacent to that bearing the representation of the king, and pictures the like-



FIG. 46.—REMAINS OF THE WINGED BULLS OF PORTAL C', ONE OF THE TWO MINOR ENTRANCES FROM COURT VIII TO THE THRONE ROOM

nesses of the prime minister and an attendant. Figures 39 and 40 show eunuchs, likewise restored, who follow the prime minister in attendance upon the king. Other reliefs now in the Iraq Museum in Baghdad depict more tribute-bearers farther along in the procession. In Figure 41 we have two courtiers carrying an elaborately fashioned lion-footed table. Two figures bearing a second table very similar in construction but different in decoration are shown in Figure 42. Figure 43 also pictures two figures, one of whom carries a stool while the other holds a city model. An elaborately fashioned chair carried by two attendants appears in Figure 44. Figure 45, reproduced from the publication of Botta,⁵ gives drawings of this procession, one showing the actual state in which the reliefs were found by him and another giving his restoration of them. It is evident that he and his associates did not find the slabs later uncovered by our excavations, for they do not appear in his restoration. Obviously imagination played some part in putting together in pen and ink this scene.

This same Figure 45 indicates the treatment of the doorways leading to Court VII and their relationship to the wall reliefs of Court VIII. Just beyond the tribute-bearing procession

⁵ *Ibid.* Pl. 30.

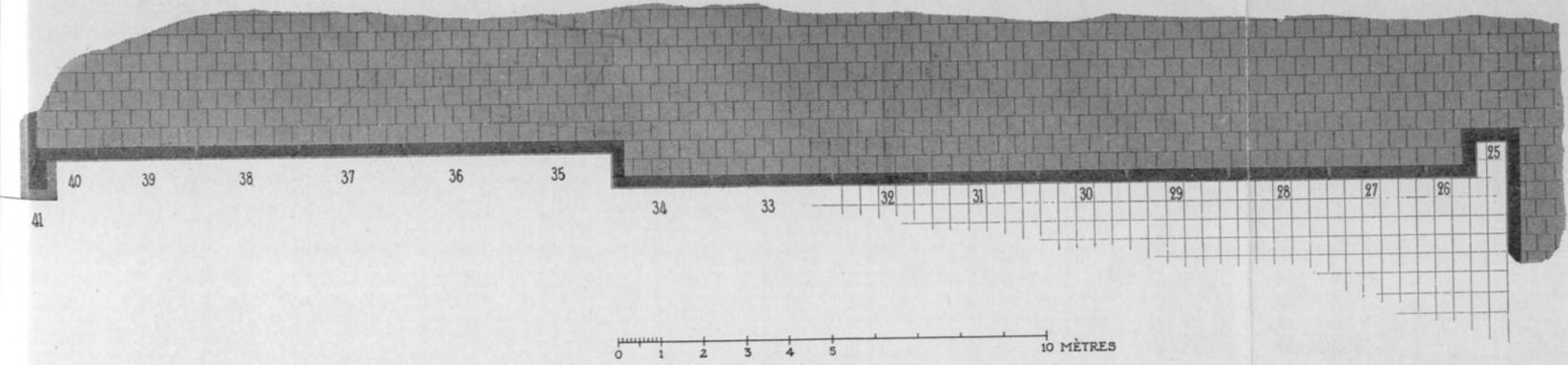
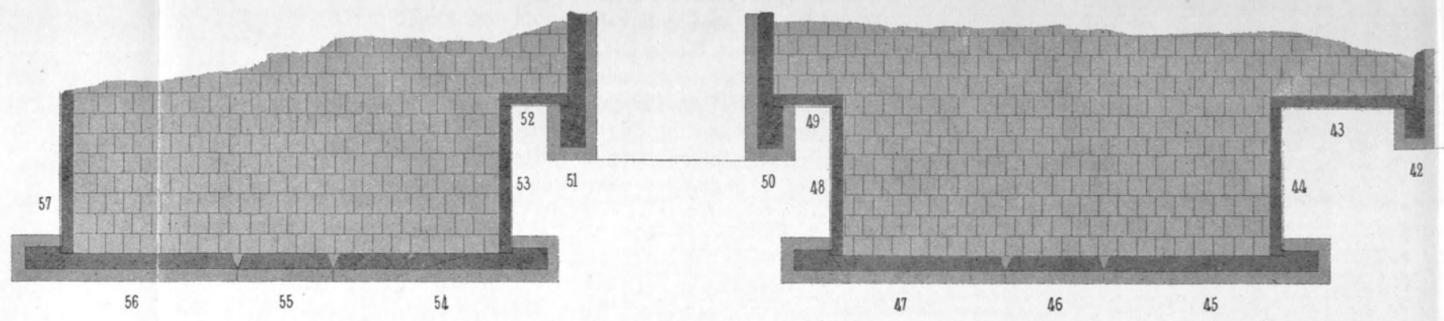
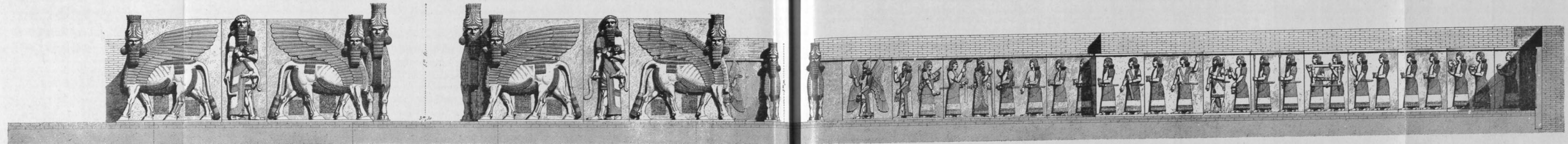


FIG. 45.—RELIEFS ON THE SOUTHWEST WALL OF COURT VIII. FOUND (BELOW) AND AS RESTORED (ABOVE) BY BOTTA

is one of the small doorways situated on both sides of the huge central portal. This side entrance was lined with bulls facing Court VIII, and was flanked with winged human figures (Fig. 46). The discovery of these bulls solved the mystery of the provenance of the grindstone found before the agha's house. Of the same material and thickness and of a diameter approximately equal to the dimensions of the cut-out portions of these bulls, there is little doubt but that this grindstone was chiseled out of one of the sides of this door, and that in Khorsabad or a neighboring village barley is today being ground by a stone cut from the complementary bull. Figure 47, in which is drawn the condition of these two bulls as found by the expedition, clearly shows how the stone for these grinders was cut from the central portions of the bulls, leaving standing but the forelegs and tails. Close examination showed how carefully, and necessarily laboriously, these had been chiseled off.

Referring once again to Figure 45, we are enabled to gain a clearer conception of the colossal magnificence of the central entrance leading to Court VII. This portal was undoubtedly the outstanding feature of the entire court. As in the side entrances, the walls of the doorway consisted of winged human-headed bulls facing Court VIII. But here the buttress-like projection into the court, pierced centrally by the door opening, was flanked on each side by two huge

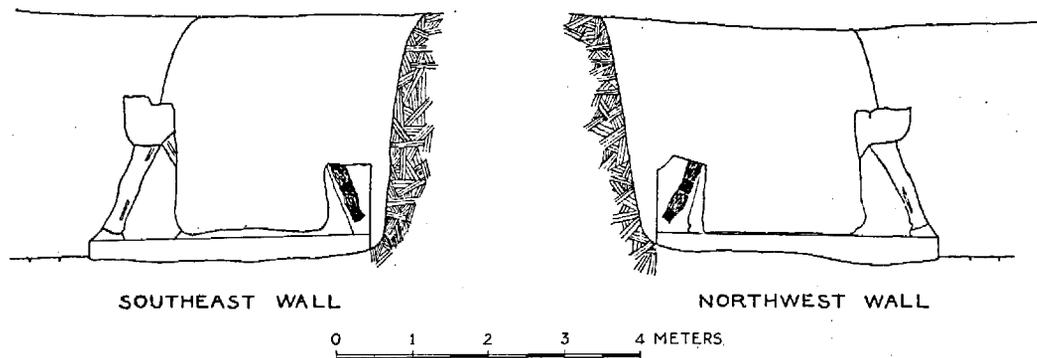


FIG. 47.—WINGED BULLS OF PORTAL C', SHOWING MUTILATION FOR UTILITARIAN PURPOSES. SCALE, 1:100

bulls with their human heads turned sideways to face the court. Those of each pair were placed back to back and separated by a slab on which was depicted a bearded figure, of a type often called "Gilgamesh," strangling a lion. The bull farthest to the observer's right, upon the right half of this portal buttress, was removed and shipped to Chicago, where it now stands restored. Before proceeding with a description of the removal and transportation of this bull, mention must be made of some interesting points disclosed by the pavement and by general observation.

With such an elaborate wall treatment one would naturally expect greater care to have been exercised than was apparently the case in laying the bricks of the pavement. Figure 22 shows how irregularly these were laid, with joints changing not only their alignment but their direction as well. There are two courses of bricks separated from each other by a layer of sand, the lower course being laid in and covered with bitumen. By removing the floor at one point near the wall and digging down to a depth of nearly a meter quantities of stone chips were found mixed up with the soil. They were unquestionably the result of the sculptor's work; the slabs had been set up with plain surfaces and later carved, this taking place, however, before the laying of the pavement.

Five round sockets cut into the pavement, as indicated in Figure 22, were found not far from the southwest wall. Their purpose cannot be stated with complete certainty, though it

seems not unlikely that they were cut to receive and hold in place poles upon which awnings were supported. Surely in the heat of the summer such protection would be neither unwelcome nor unreasonable. This can be offered only as a suggestion, for no traces of awning or support were found.

A small niche at the west corner of the court, its back unadorned with any relief, might seem offhand to be due to an error in calculation of the length of wall required for the reliefs depicting the scene upon the northwest wall. It is rather, in all probability, an architectural trick, for when viewed from within the court this niche cuts from sight the rear of the horse which winds up the procession. This has the immediate effect of suggesting to the spectator that the procession is without end, continuing on indefinitely, surely a scheme to play upon the vanity of Sargon. Another trick conceived by a clever architect, perhaps in collusion with the chief sculptor, was employed in this same northwest wall, likewise to flatter the king. For structural reasons the drain to carry off the rain water had to be placed directly in front of the figure of the king. The floor must necessarily slope down to this drain, thereby causing the royal figure to stand below that of his tribute-bearing subjects and captives. Actual levels show that the pavement at the drain is 0.05 lower than that at the corner of the court; yet in Figure 34 the figure of Sargon appears, as it does on the spot, to be standing on higher ground, the other figures walking up an incline. The trick is simple; referring again to the drawing one sees how the slab joints, as well as the figures themselves, are not absolutely vertical. They lean slightly forward in the direction of the procession, thereby giving this effect of elevating the king.⁶

THE CORRIDOR (ROOM 10)

Forming the principal communication between the official and residential sections of the palace is Room 10, the corridor actually connecting Court VIII with the broad terrace facing the mountains. That important personages were to pass through it is evident from its sculptured walls and stone paving. Measuring 3 meters from side to side, it extended some 22 meters from court to terrace. At either end the doorways had bulls lining their walls. A vault may have served as a roof.

Although the complete excavation of this corridor was not undertaken by the expedition, a major portion of it was cleared sufficiently to show its nature and state of preservation (Fig. 48). Of the latter, Figure 49 tells the tale. No more than the legs of the bulls remained, while with rare exceptions there was standing but little more of the figures of men and horses marching the length of the room. Figures 50 and 51 show some of the more complete slabs in position and testify to the excellent portrayal of the horse by the Assyrian sculptor of this period.

A second register of figures, however, was originally superimposed upon the one now partially standing. Between the two registers was a band of inscription,⁷ the many fragments of which, together with those from the upper register, have greatly assisted in the restoration of some of these slabs. Two slabs from the northeast wall now installed in Chicago (Fig. 52) show how successful was the sculptor in attaining a sense of motion as expressed only in the legs, which are all that remains preserved to any extent. The garments of skins and the high boots indicate non-Assyrians. Slabs from the opposite wall, similarly installed in Chicago, give us somewhat more of this picture (Figs. 53 and 54) and include a portion of the inscription.

⁶ A mathematical discussion of this effect is given by F. H. Blackburn in *American Journal of Semitic Languages and Literatures* LII (1936) 114-16.

⁷ Sargon's "Display Inscription"; in this room it extended along the southwest wall and back along the northeast wall. For translation see D. D. Luckenbill, *Ancient Records of Assyria and Babylonia* II (Chicago, 1927) §§ 52-75. His translation actually covers Winckler's Nos. 63-78 inclusive, not merely "63, 67-75, 77" as stated in his § 52. Botta's "Salle X," from which Winckler's basic text is taken, is our corridor (Room 10).

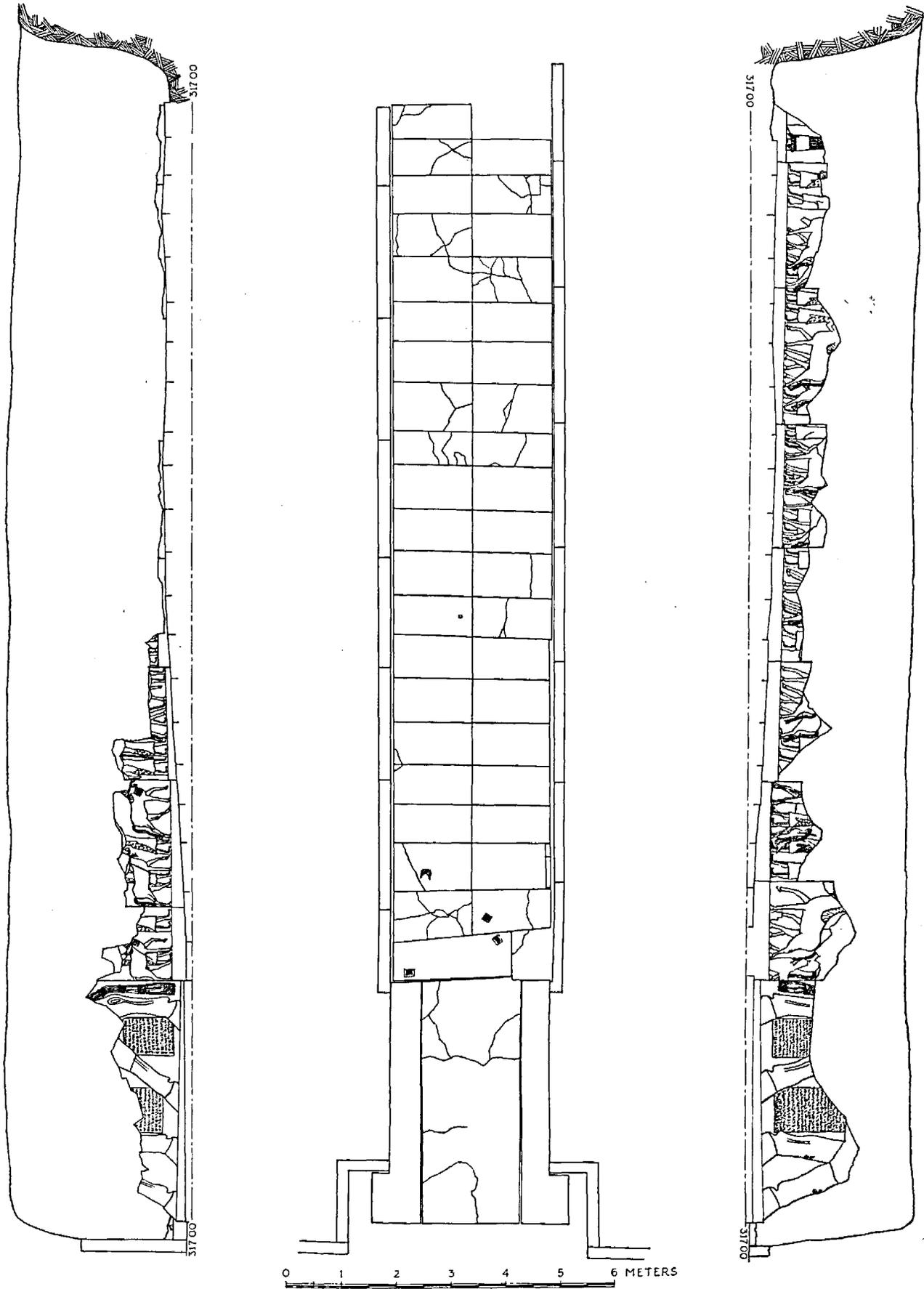


FIG. 48.—PLAN AND WALL ELEVATIONS OF THE CORRIDOR (ROOM 10). SCALE, 1:100

In Figure 55 we have from this latter side a section of the upper register depicting five tribute-bearers following a man driving three camels. From these meager fragments we may conclude

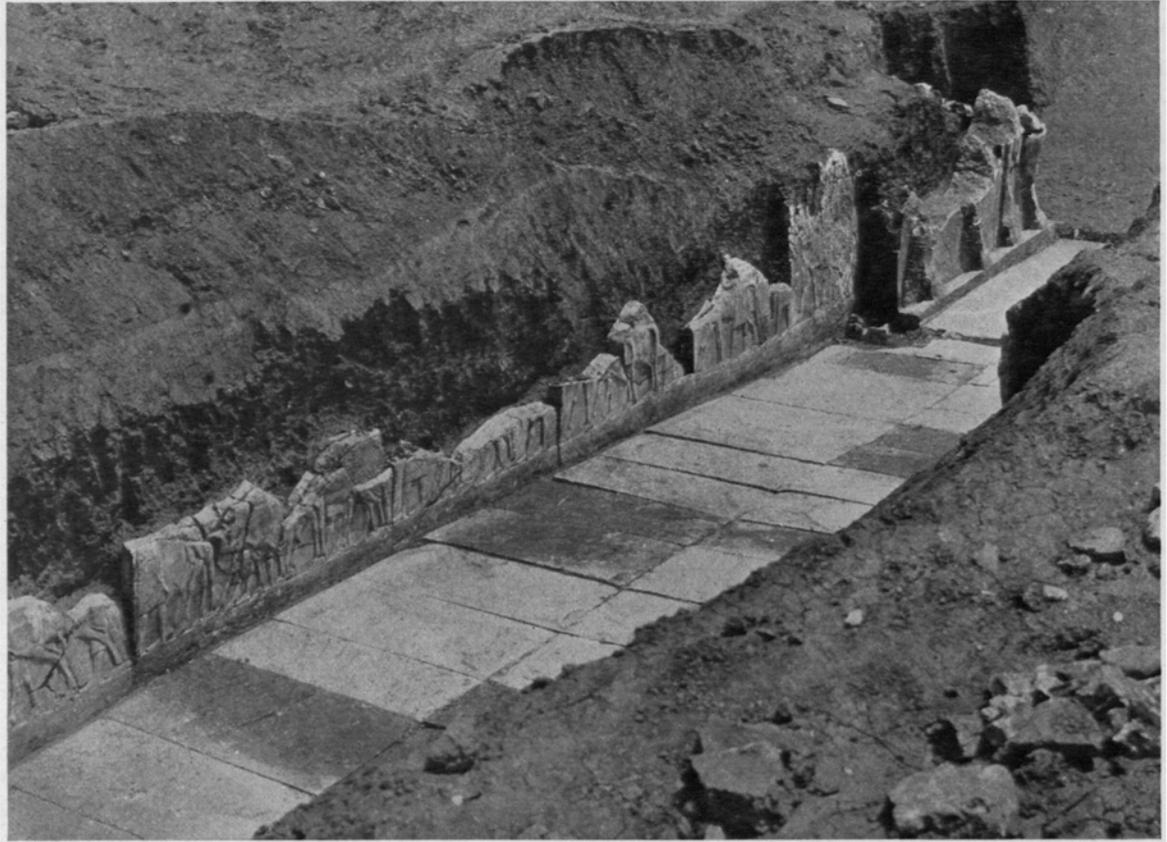


FIG. 49.—THE NORTHEAST WALL OF THE CORRIDOR (ROOM 10)

that the reliefs as a whole represented a victorious return from a campaign of conquest, a subject always pleasing to the eyes of a vain king, and to others a constant reminder of the might of Sargon.

THE WINGED BULL

When one views this colossal figure as it stands restored (Fig. 56) at the end of the great Egyptian hall of the Oriental Institute Museum he cannot help but be impressed with awe at the scale of it; he is instilled with respect for the king whose palace was so magnificent as to contain such adornment, and with admiration for the designer and sculptor responsible for its conception and execution. But little does he realize what great credit is due those who undertook its removal and who under great difficulties succeeded to such extent that it now stands in Chicago unscathed but for the damage caused by its fall when the collapse of the palace walls pushed it forward into the court.

The first fragment encountered in the course of the excavations was one comprising only the front legs, broken off just above the knees. It had obviously been discovered by the French, for it bore the marks of workmen's picks. The fact that it was slightly out of its original position and no longer stood in the wall alignment led at first to the conclusion that Botta or Place had attempted to remove it but had later been forced, because of its weight and the inadequate equipment for such work available at the time, to abandon the project. Subse-

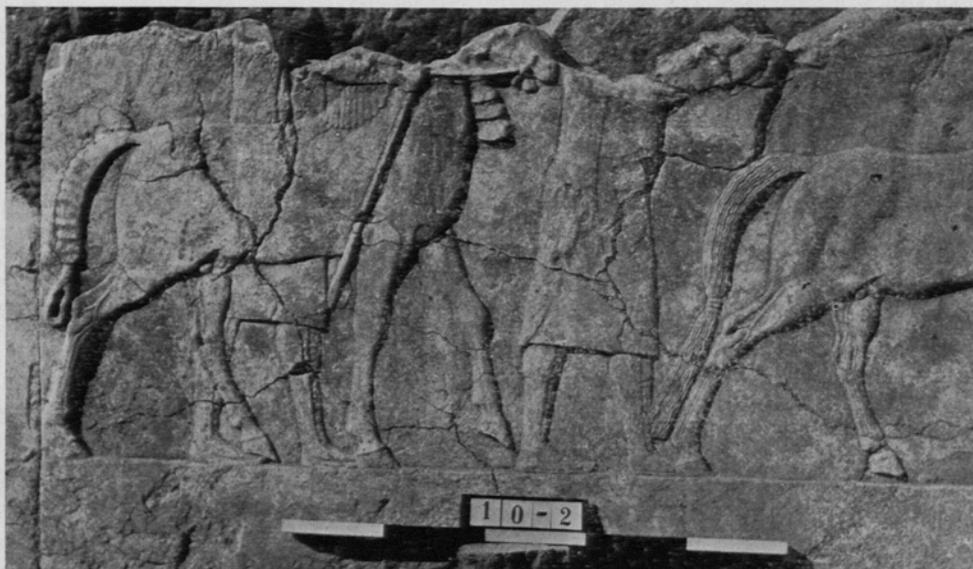


FIG. 50.—RELIEFS FROM THE SOUTHWEST WALL OF THE CORRIDOR (ROOM 10). ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM NO. A 7363. SCALE, 1:15

quent evidence, however, tended to disprove this theory. It was wall expansion caused by rain seepage which had no doubt forced not only the upper portions to fall forward but the base to be pushed slightly from its position. And as there were no pick marks or any signs of disturbance upon either of the other two large fragments, it is probable that only the portion whereon were the front legs was seen by the French excavators.

Lying directly upon the pavement of the court was the fragment containing the bull's head. So great had been the impact of the fall that the bricks of the pavement beneath it were crushed. It was a marvel that the face was not damaged, for it was in direct contact with these broken bricks; yet the features were all intact with the exception of the tip of one ear. The face is that of a human being with three pairs of horns adorning the head. The ears are composite, the upper parts being like those of a bull, while the lower portions resemble those of man, the lobes holding large pendants. The hair is "bobbed" in a style similar to that found

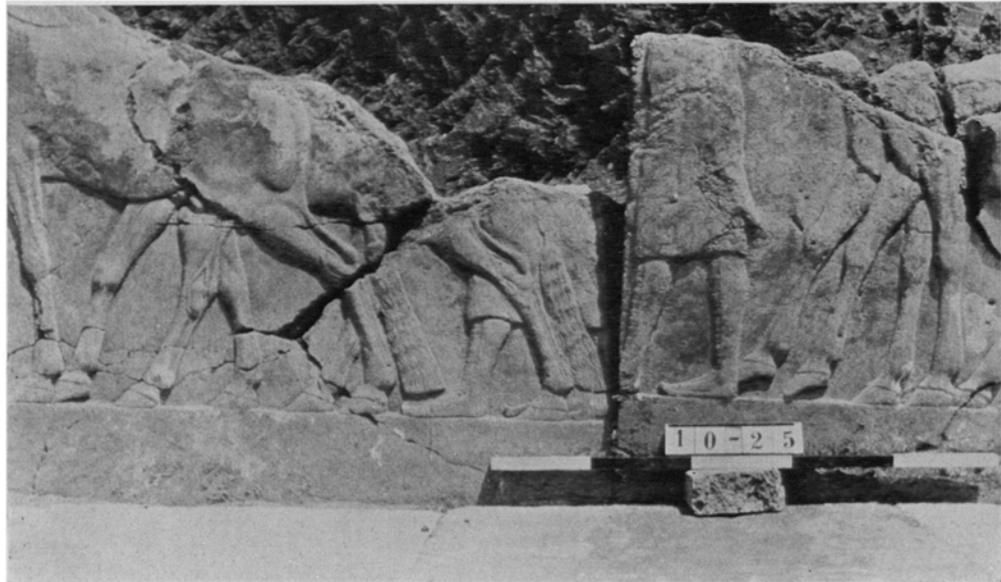


FIG. 51.—RELIEFS FROM THE NORTHEAST WALL OF THE CORRIDOR (ROOM 10). SCALE, 1:15

on the eunuchs of the wall reliefs. A turban composed of feathers and bands of rosettes crowns the head. Figure 57 shows the relative positions of head and forelegs as they were found.

A third major fragment, by far the largest, completed the bull. It was estimated that this one piece alone weighed about fifteen tons, whereas the head and the legs would be little more than eight and six tons respectively. The dimensions of the entire animal would seem to imply poor proportions—a height of 5 meters compared to a length of 4.64 with a thickness varying from 0.50 to 1 meter. But in appearance the spread wings increase the height while the turned head decreases the length. Actually the proportions are excellent.

The task of lifting and boxing a stone of fifteen tons or more would in itself be difficult. But this was only one of the problems involved in getting the bull started on its way to Chicago. It must be transported to the Tigris and then taken by boat or raft to Basrah, where it could be loaded onto an ocean-going boat. A raft would be decidedly risky, for so swift is the current and so treacherous are the rapids in certain parts of the Tigris that such a structure of timber supported by inflated skins might easily be wrecked. The disaster in which so many of Place's antiquities from Khorsabad were lost in this same river was ample precedent for what might befall another raft. The boats which ply the river during the spring months when the Tigris

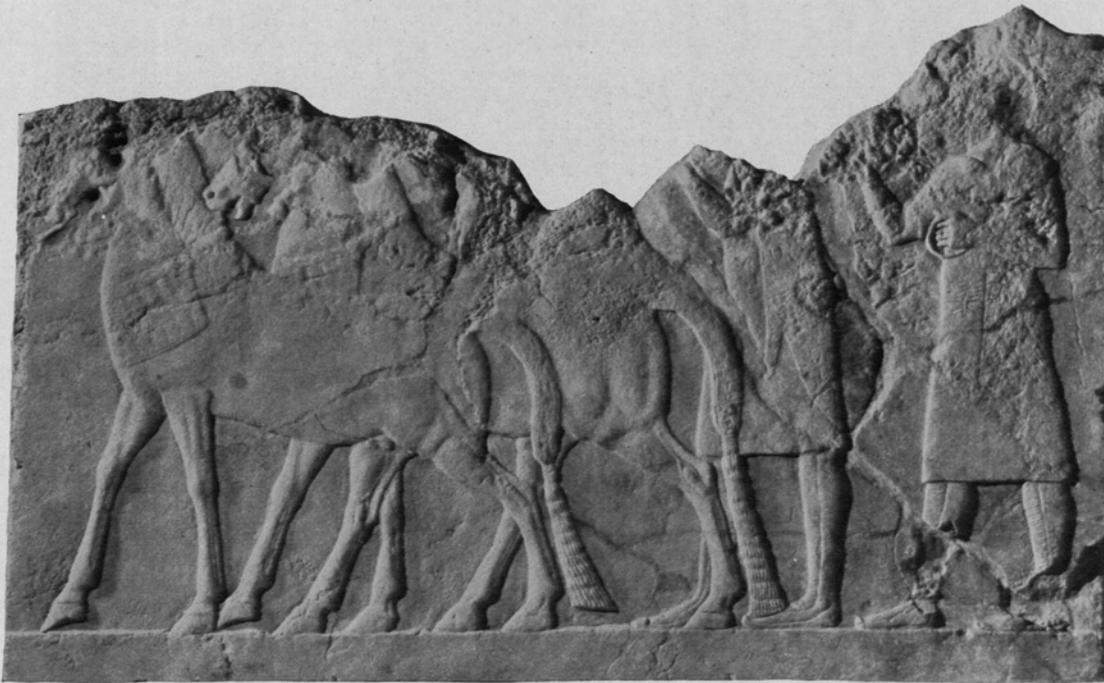
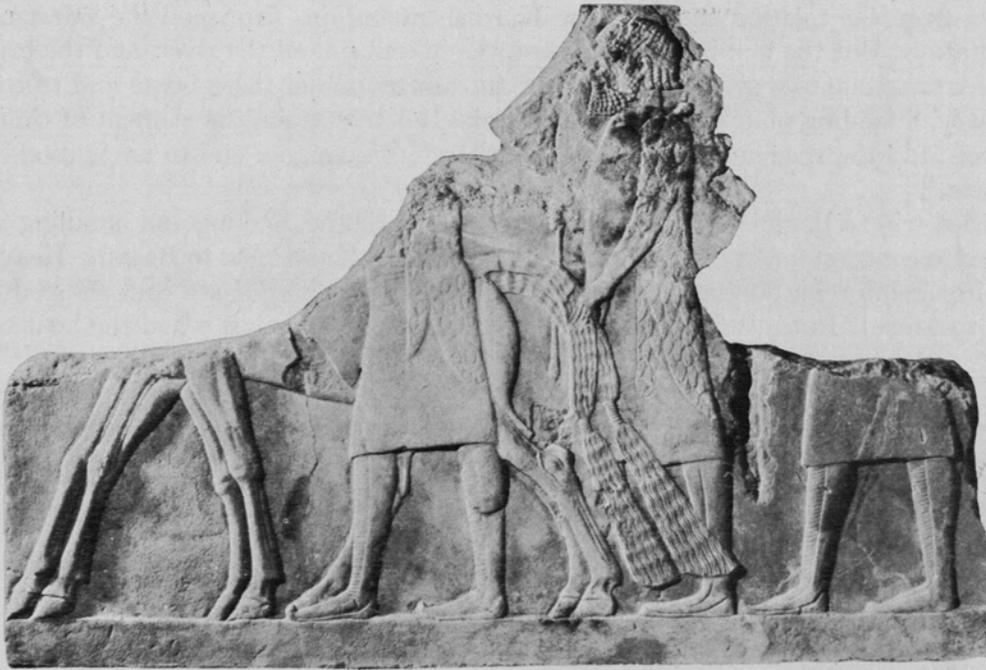


FIG. 52.—CAPTIVES AND HORSES FROM THE NORTHEAST WALL OF THE CORRIDOR (ROOM 10). ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM NOS. A 7361 AND A 7364. SCALE, 1:15

is swollen from the melting snows of the Kurdish mountains furnished the safest means of transportation. But the landing place was on the Mosul side of the river, and the bridge was broken. Arrangements were made, however, to ship by one of these boats and to construct, if necessary, a loading platform on the left bank. But here came the element of time, for by the end of May the river might begin to fall, thereby putting an end to navigation by boats of this size.

A hurried trip to Baghdad was made to collect material for making and handling the large cases, and to contract for transporting the shipment from Khorsabad to Basrah. Heavy 4-inch planks, iron reinforcing, bolts, hoists, and raw cotton were purchased and shipped by river steamer to Mosul. But all these materials and equipment were lost when the boat on which



FIG. 53.—PORTION OF THE PROCESSION OF HORSES AND CAPTIVES FROM THE SOUTHWEST WALL OF THE CORRIDOR (ROOM 10). ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM No. A 7365. SCALE, 1:15

they were being transported caught fire and burned. There was no time in which to collect such things a second time in Baghdad. The work must be carried on with what could be found in Mosul. The city was scoured and eventually did produce whatever material was used. A number of Kurds, used to heavy coolie work in Mosul, were brought to Khorsabad to assist the regular workmen, who were not accustomed to this type of labor. Thirteen carpenters and seven iron-workers with their tools and a forge were added to the corps of laborers, and work on the cases was begun.

The large fragments had to be lifted by means of several locally made hoists and the cases built around them (Fig. 58). Iron beams must be bent and the bolt holes drilled to provide suitable reinforcement for the heavy wood casing. All this was accomplished with no undue difficulty, though the work was considerably handicapped by lack of proper equipment and the employment of carpenters and iron-workers who, while the best in Mosul, would be classed as unskilled according to our standards. Nature too was adverse, for by this time the



FIG. 54.—PORTION OF THE PROCESSION OF HORSES AND CAPTIVES FROM THE SOUTHWEST WALL OF THE CORRIDOR (ROOM 10). ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM NO. A 7363. SCALE, 1:15

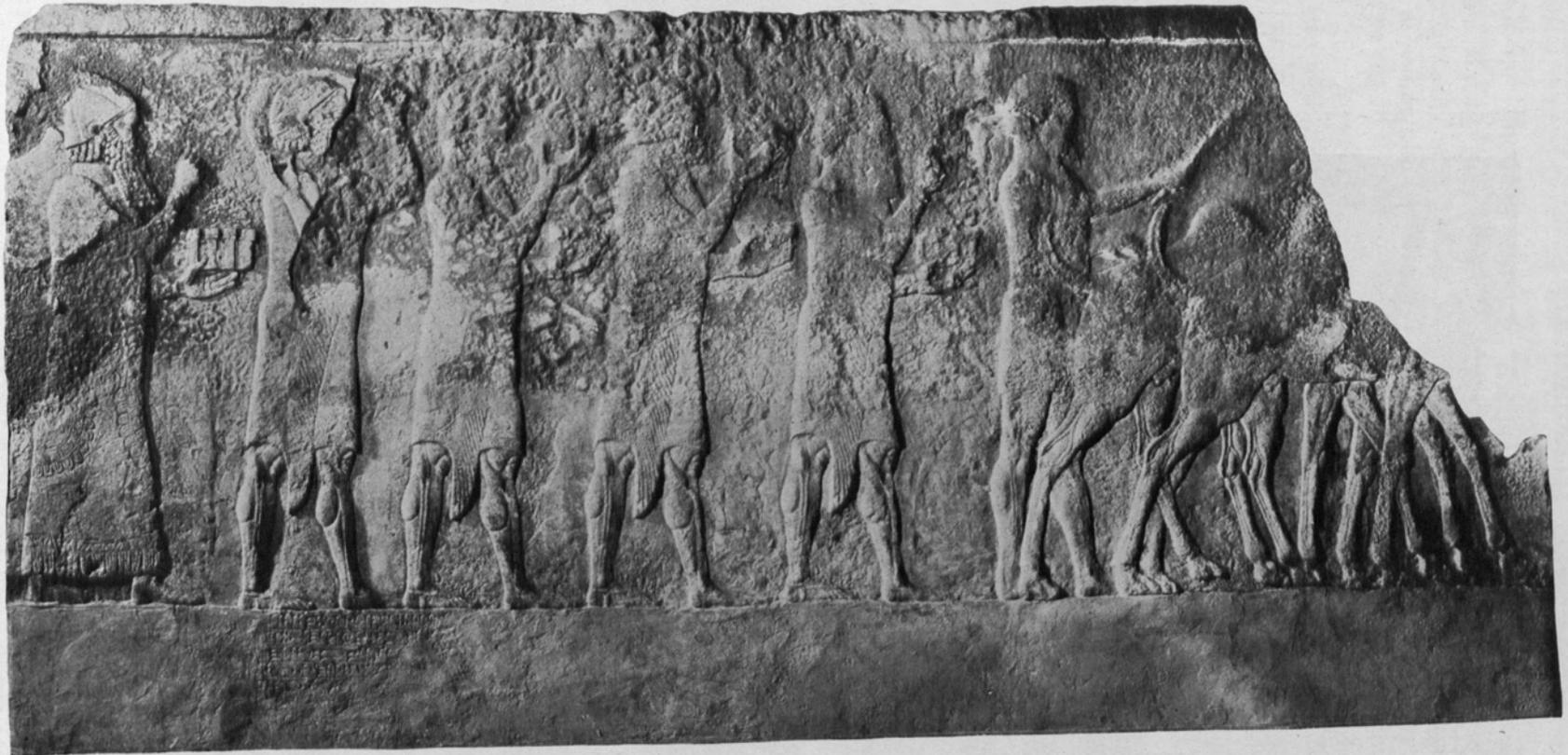


FIG. 55.—TRIBUTE-BEARERS AND CAMELS IN UPPER REGISTER FROM THE SOUTHWEST WALL OF THE CORRIDOR (ROOM 10). ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM NO. A 7362.
SCALE, 1:15

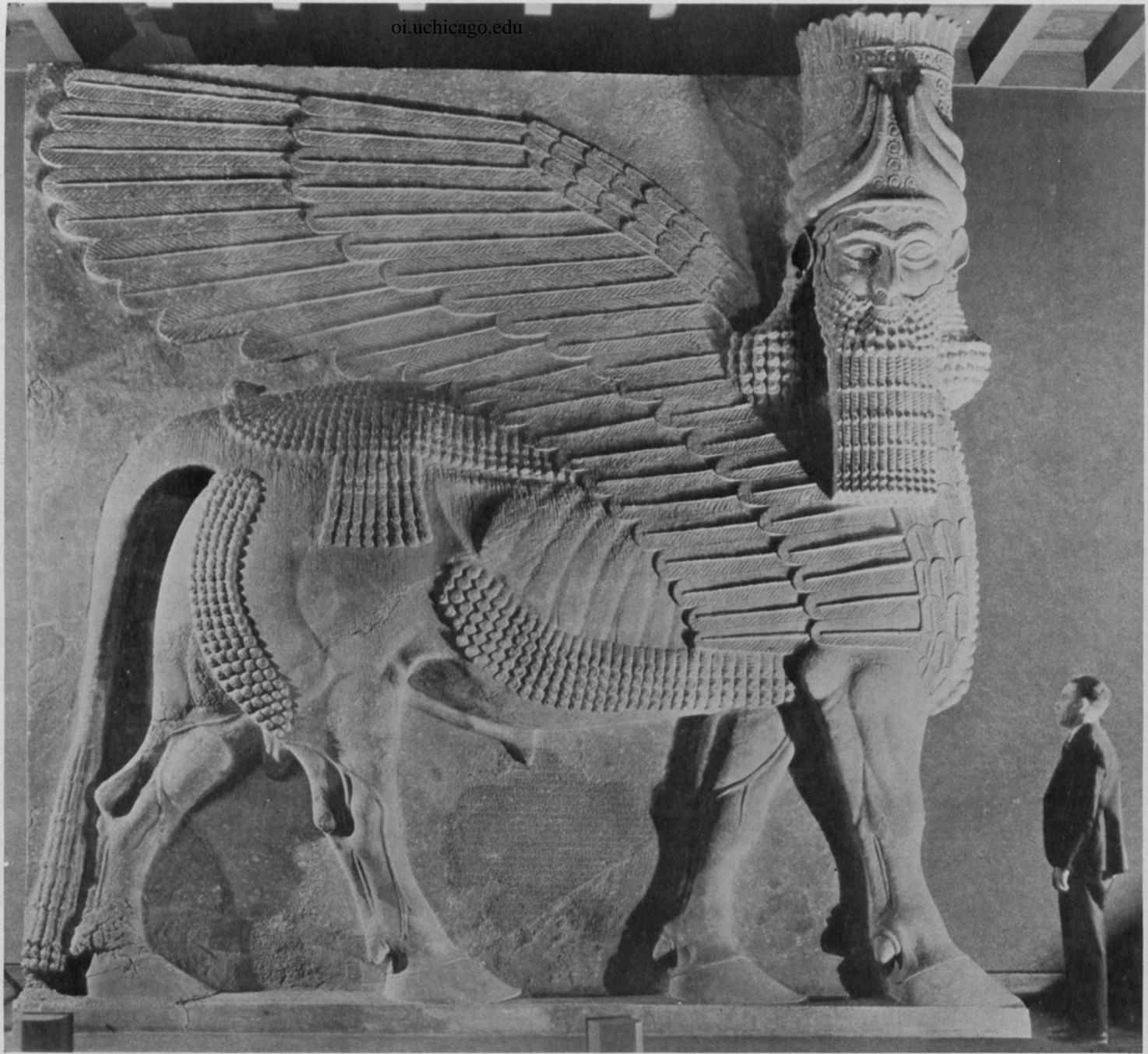


FIG. 56.—A WINGED HUMAN-HEADED BULL (RESTORED) THAT ONCE FLANKED THE PRINCIPAL ENTRANCE TO THE THRONEROOM. ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM No. A 7369

days had become so hot and the sun so intense that shelters had to be constructed not only over the iron-workers but over the iron itself, which when exposed to the sun absorbed such heat as to make touching it impossible. Clouds of sand flies bothered the workmen, penetrating their noses, eyes, and ears. They begged to have their faces sprayed with anti-insect fluid, which furnished temporary relief. And of those workmen who had been trained during the season only three remained. Work on their lands had taken the others from the excavations, and replacements bringing in men new to such work had to be made.

The greatest obstacle was yet to be overcome—the task of getting the tremendously heavy cases out of the trench and over the road to the river. The contractor's agent arrived upon the



FIG. 57.—FRAGMENTS OF THE COLOSSAL BULL AS THEY WERE DISCLOSED BY THE EXCAVATIONS. DR. CHIERA STANDS BESIDE THE FALLEN HEAD

scene with two winches, both defective. When he finally succeeded in comprehending the size and weight of the largest case, evidently in excess of his anticipation in both of these respects, he announced that the contract was to cover transportation from Khorsabad to Basrah and that the village of Khorsabad did not include the excavations. In his eyes the expedition was therefore responsible for getting the cases out of the trench and to the village, and technically he was right. But there was no time for argument. Work must proceed lest the falling river win out.

The loan of a ten-ton truck belonging to the Turkish Petroleum Company was requested and kindly granted. But when the truck failed to appear it was discovered that the contractor had countermanded the request, thinking it too expensive. A three-ton truck was obtained in Mosul; this was suitable for hauling the two smaller cases to the river, but obviously incapable

THE WINGED BULL

51

of carrying the large fragment. A trailer might be the solution. Such a vehicle especially constructed of heavy iron and the strongest wheels obtainable—these wheels from wartime cannon—was ordered in Mosul. In the meantime the two smaller cases were taken to the river bank, each case necessitating an all-night trip. But night work was by this time no novelty, for a twenty-four hour schedule had already been in effect for many days—the only way in which the battle with the falling river might be won. Three shifts were employed—carpenters, ironworkers, and the Kurds—a most successful arrangement, for these three groups could not work at the same time without interfering with one another.



FIG. 58.—ENCASING THE LARGEST FRAGMENT OF THE BULL

Upon the arrival of the trailer began the biggest job of all. This specially constructed vehicle was attached to the truck for a trial run and, though empty, broke. It was repaired; and after a second trial had made it seem satisfactory it was placed under the suspended case, which was then lowered upon it (Fig. 59). But at the moment when the truck began to pull, all the upper part bent. The case was lifted and the trailer extricated for further repairs.

Repeated attempts to have sent up from Baghdad a heavy tractor to assist the truck in this tremendous pull met with only negative results. The tractor was not available—at least so telegraphed the contractor, who obviously was unwilling to add any further expense to the work.

A second time the trailer was placed beneath the case and the load properly adjusted thereon, and again when the truck attempted to move it there was trouble. This time all the screws were dislodged, and the 9-inch T-iron frame bent like paper. The procedure of lifting the case and removing the trailer was repeated and further repairs undertaken. The two



FIG. 59.—LOADING THE LARGEST FRAGMENT OF THE BULL UPON THE TRAILER



FIG. 60.—REPAIRING THE TRUCK ON THE ROAD

front wheels of the trailer were removed and the fore part fastened directly to the truck over its rear axle, not, to be sure, without great protest on the part of the truck-owner. By this arrangement and by assisting the truck with a winch, the case was finally brought to the ground level.

In the meantime, while the primary task was necessarily halted for the various repairs on

the trailer, all the workmen who were not engaged in mending it were set to building a road from the palace mound to the plain level at a point where the descent was more gradual than it was in the case of the regular road. And once the plain was reached, there were repairs to be made to the main Mosul road.

The troubles, however, had not yet ended. The descent from the palace mound caused part of the now six-wheeled vehicle to give way, and repairs were necessitated (Fig. 60) even before the Mosul road was reached. At the end of the first day only half the 12-mile distance to the river had been covered. The combined truck and trailer with its enormous load was but part of the procession that moved slowly along the road. In a small car was Mr. Delougaz with two foremen, the latter to be left in places where the road needed immediate repairing. Behind them came a small truck with a gang of workmen armed with picks, shovels, and wooden



FIG. 61.—A BREAKDOWN FARTHER ALONG THE ROAD

planks; this would stop where the foremen stood waiting. Next was the case upon its strange conveyor, which was followed by a third truck with more workmen, the winch, tripods, steel cables, pulleys, etc. to assist in the more difficult places.

The following day when within sight of the river there was engine trouble, and shortly after this was remedied the shaft broke (Fig. 61). During the next three days but little headway was made. By the time one repair to the truck was completed and the procession set in motion another part of the vehicle would give way, necessitating more repairs and delays. Finally upon the fifth day after leaving Khorsabad and when within but 300 meters of the river, the truck became completely disabled. It was then a case of bringing the boat to a point opposite the breakdown and of dragging truck and all over a road hastily constructed through plowed fields to the river bank by means of cables and power from the boat (Fig. 62).

This procedure was not without its complications, for in order to load the case from the truck onto the boat the truck must be headed away from the river. With the aid of anchors



FIG. 62.—HAULING THE DISABLED TRUCK TO THE RIVER BY MEANS OF CABLES AND POWER FROM THE BOAT



FIG. 63.—RAISING THE LARGEST FRAGMENT OF THE BULL BY MEANS OF BLOCKS AND JACKS PREPARATORY TO LOADING IT UPON THE BOAT

THE WINGED BULL

55

and pulleys it was moved from its stalled position paralleling the river to one whereby it could be dragged backward to the river bank. Another day was consumed in covering this 300-meter distance while punctures, tearing of steel cables, and placing of heavy wood under the wheels to keep them from sinking into the ground caused innumerable delays.

During the period on the road there was constant trouble with the contractor in Baghdad, who, upon being advised by his agent that the case was too large for the boat, wired that in such event the boat must go without it. The other cases had already been loaded on board and a space cleared amidships for the large section of the bull. The deck had been reinforced with supports—in fact all was in readiness if only the large case could be brought to the bank before the water receded. The agent was finally prevailed upon to allow an attempt to load the one remaining case, and the work proceeded.

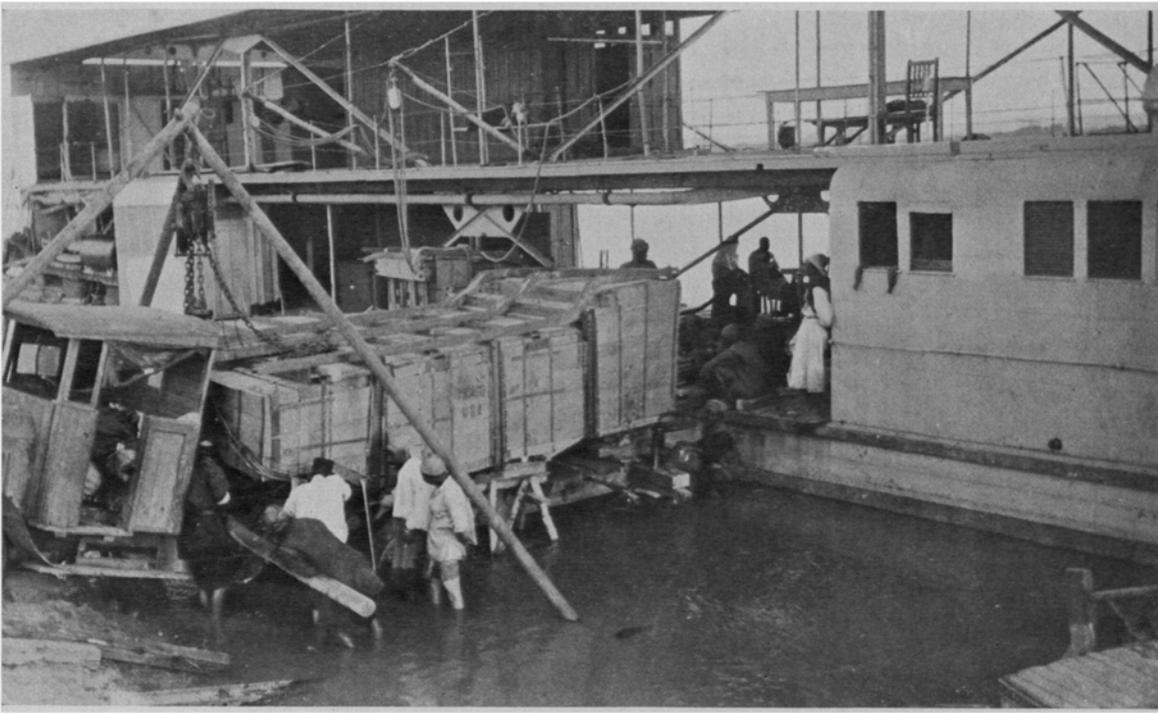


FIG. 64.—LOADING THE LARGEST FRAGMENT OF THE BULL UPON THE BOAT

At the river bank new difficulties were encountered. The now brakeless truck and trailer was intermittently held back and dragged into the river to a point where the case could be raised and hauled onto the deck of the boat. Here there was no hard ground upon which supports for the tripod could be constructed, and the men were handicapped by having to work waist-deep in the water. By means of jacks and blocking the case was raised (Fig. 63) to a height where steel beams could be placed beneath it, these to act as skids upon which it could be pulled onto the boat (Fig. 64).

On the ninth day after leaving Khorsabad, the bull was on the boat. But the boat was no longer afloat. It was necessary to extend cables to secure anchors across the river in order to pull the boat from the mud bottom. The river had lost by a small margin to the ingenuity and persistence of Mr. Delougaz, who since the departure of the rest of the staff had for the last three weeks supervised alone this difficult undertaking. To him must go a major share of the credit for the preservation to posterity of this magnificent reminder of the glory that was once the capital of Sargon's empire.

III

THE THRONEROOM AND ROOM 7

The two rooms of the palace chosen as the scene of the excavations carried out in that area during the 1929/30 season well warranted such an undertaking, though each in a very different way. The one disclosed a considerable amount of new architectural knowledge, whereas the excavation of the other was noteworthy in the rescue of some rapidly deteriorating reliefs contained therein.

The large rectangular area which Place called Court VII seemed to us to be especially worthy of investigation. Its colossal scale, its prominent position in relationship to the principal court (Court VIII) of the palace, and its three entrances from that court, each one adorned with winged human-headed bulls, four of which, flanking the central portal, were among the largest and most magnificent in the entire palace, suggested something surely of greater importance than a secondary court. Our reward for the clearance of such a large area, which proved barren of objects, was the discovery that here was the throneroom of Sargon. Fragments of decayed beams and painted plaster contributed much to our knowledge of Assyrian architectural decoration by revealing how such a room was roofed and decorated.

The removal to Baghdad and Chicago of the fine reliefs on the walls of the small square Room 7 proved timely indeed; for a comparison of their present state with the drawings made by Flandin, who worked with Botta at the time of their original discovery, shows only too clearly how the damage caused during the last eighty years by moisture and by the lime-burners of the surrounding villages surpassed any injury incurred during the previous period of nearly twenty-six centuries following the abandonment of the palace. The clearance of this room also made some interesting disclosures concerning methods of construction employed.

THE THRONEROOM

Since the excavations of the preceding season in Court VIII had partially disclosed doorway *C'* (frontispiece and Fig. 22), northwest of the central portal, leading into what was supposedly Court VII, the logical approach to the complete clearance of the latter was through this side entrance. The men were accordingly set to work at this point (Fig. 65) and in a few hours succeeded in clearing the remains of the bulls forming the sides of the doorway. With this doorway thus established it was possible to stake off upon the ground surface the approximate area of the "court" as given by Place, and to commence its excavation from the surface while at the same time pushing on into the lower levels through the doorway.

To a staff at that time unaccustomed to the scale upon which the palace of Dur Sharrukin was built the size of this staked-out area (approximately 10×40 meters) seemed appalling, especially when the first few hours of work made clear how slow was the task of breaking up and removing the hard-packed earth. We decided, therefore, that a race with a slight monetary reward for each member of the winning team might be an incentive for faster work. The area was accordingly divided into two equal sections, the dividing line marked by a rope stretched across the width of the "court" (Fig. 66), and the men were organized into opposing gangs, each man on the winning side to receive four annas (about nine cents) at the completion of the race. The anticipation of this extra remuneration acted like oil to a machine, and the

THE THRONEROOM

57

speed with which the hole was deepened became appreciably greater. This procedure, however, had soon to be abandoned, for while the upper level contained only rubbish which could be removed without fear of destroying evidence we soon reached strata in which the appearance of wall slabs, bits of painted plaster, and other fragmentary remains necessitated a slowing-up of the work. So equal was the showing of both groups of workmen at this point that the race was called a tie, each man on both teams receiving two annas.

It was not until the "court" was almost completely cleared that we were able to arrive at our new conclusions concerning its construction and function. For the wall slabs had been removed in antiquity, leaving no traces of their original plane except a few fragments fortunately overlooked or considered unworthy of fulfilling any secondary purpose. The bulls in the several doorways had been left intact (Fig. 67), as had two huge monolithic niches, one opposite the central portal and the other in the southeast end of the room, the latter backing



FIG. 65.—CLEARANCE OF DOORWAY C' LEADING FROM COURT VIII TO THE THRONEROOM

what was later discovered to be the base upon which the throne had rested (Fig. 68). Quantities of fallen plaster, painted in many designs (Figs. 69 and 70), were found throughout the entire room at varying levels, some in such position and relationship with traces of wood as to make certain the nature of the original roofing. The levels and locations of all significant plaster fragments were recorded. The various designs are discussed and illustrated on pages 67 ff. It is sufficient to state here that above the row of relief slabs which originally faced the walls the plaster was adorned with painted figures, and that the beamed ceiling was likewise plastered and decorated with brilliantly colored patterns.

Figure 71, in which existing remains are drawn in solid black line as compared to broken-line restoration, shows very clearly how little escaped the original destruction of this room. That the wall slabs were removed before the collapse of the building is certain, for with the exception of the few lower portions left behind in position when the slab accidentally was broken we found almost no traces of them, whereas abundant fragments of the plastered ceiling and upper walls existed throughout the entire area. It is very possible that this thorough

removal of the slabs was for the purpose of re-using them elsewhere, perhaps to expedite the many building projects of Sennacherib. Had lime-burning been the motive it is strange that the bulls, with one exception, should have escaped nearly intact the work of the destroying hands.

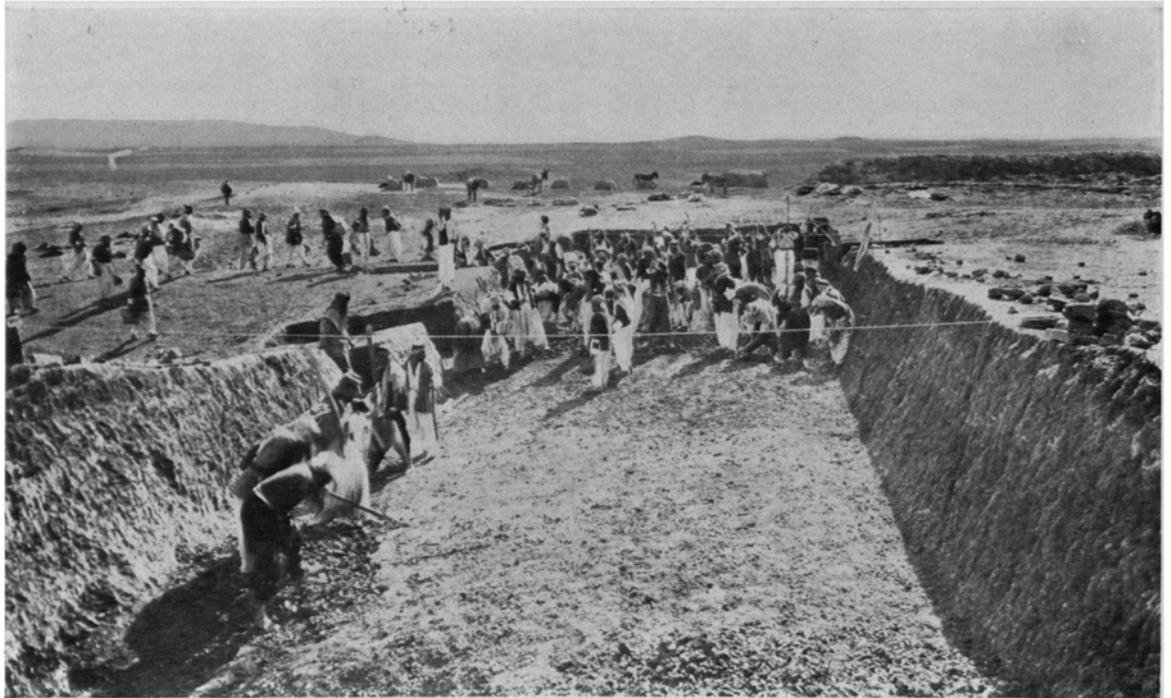


FIG. 66.—THE RACE TO CLEAR THE THRONE ROOM

Of the slab fragments found loose in the débris of the room, but two are worthy of note. One contains a very brief and badly damaged portion of text from the beginning of Sargon's annals; the other is a fragment of a relief showing Assyrian soldiers towing a boat during a campaign against Merodachbaladan (Marduk-apal-iddina), who is mentioned in the text (No.



FIG. 67.—REMAINS OF BADLY WEATHERED BULLS LINING A DOORWAY IN THE SOUTHWEST WALL OF THE THRONE-ROOM



FIG. 68.—NICHE ONCE BACKING THE THRONE, AS IT WAS FOUND FALLEN OVER THE THRONE BASE

1, p. 129) above the figures (Fig. 72). Both were found in the proximity of doorway *C'* and had no structural significance.

For a clearer understanding it is better to turn to the frontispiece, which shows this room in its relationship to the rest of the palace. From Court VIII, in and about which the official life perhaps centered, three portals lead into the throneroom. The central one (*C* in frontispiece) is decidedly the most imposing in both scale and decorative treatment. Flanked on the court side by four colossal winged human-headed bulls, one of which is now in Chicago, it

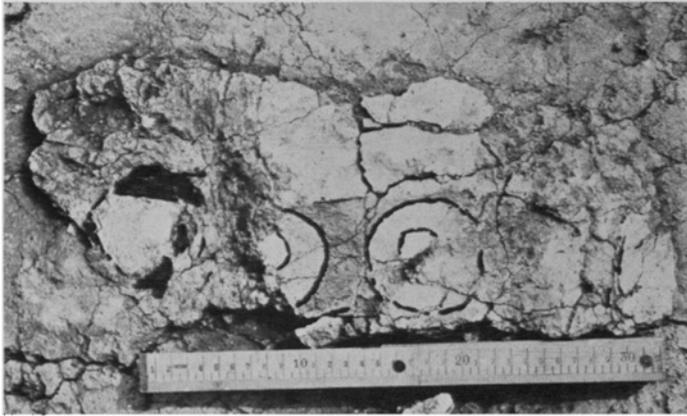


FIG. 69.—FRAGMENT OF FALLEN PLASTER PAINTED WITH A BAND OF CONCENTRIC CIRCLES

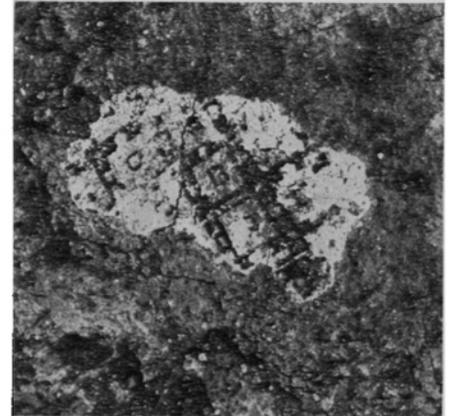


FIG. 70.—FRAGMENT OF FALLEN PLASTER PAINTED WITH WHAT WAS PROBABLY A GARMENT DESIGN.



FIG. 72.—ASSYRIAN SOLDIERS TOWING A BOAT DURING A CAMPAIGN AGAINST MERODACHBALADAN. ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM No. A 11258. SCALE, 1:10

formed the focal point of the huge courtyard. A pair of even larger bulls served as walls for the passageway itself. The two side entrances (*C'* and *C''* in frontispiece), of more modest dimensions, were similarly lined with smaller bulls which projected slightly beyond the plane of the relief slabs of the court. In these instances there were no flanking bulls.

Within the throneroom (Fig. 71), directly opposite the central entrance, are the remains of one huge monolithic niche, 5 meters wide, which originally may have extended to the top of the wall relief slabs or even to the ceiling. The latter hypothesis seems the more probable when we consider the width of the niche and its position opposite the doorway, the opening of which doubtless reached a height considerably above that of the reliefs. To the left of one entering through this principal portal a pavement of stone slabs measuring about 2×4 meters

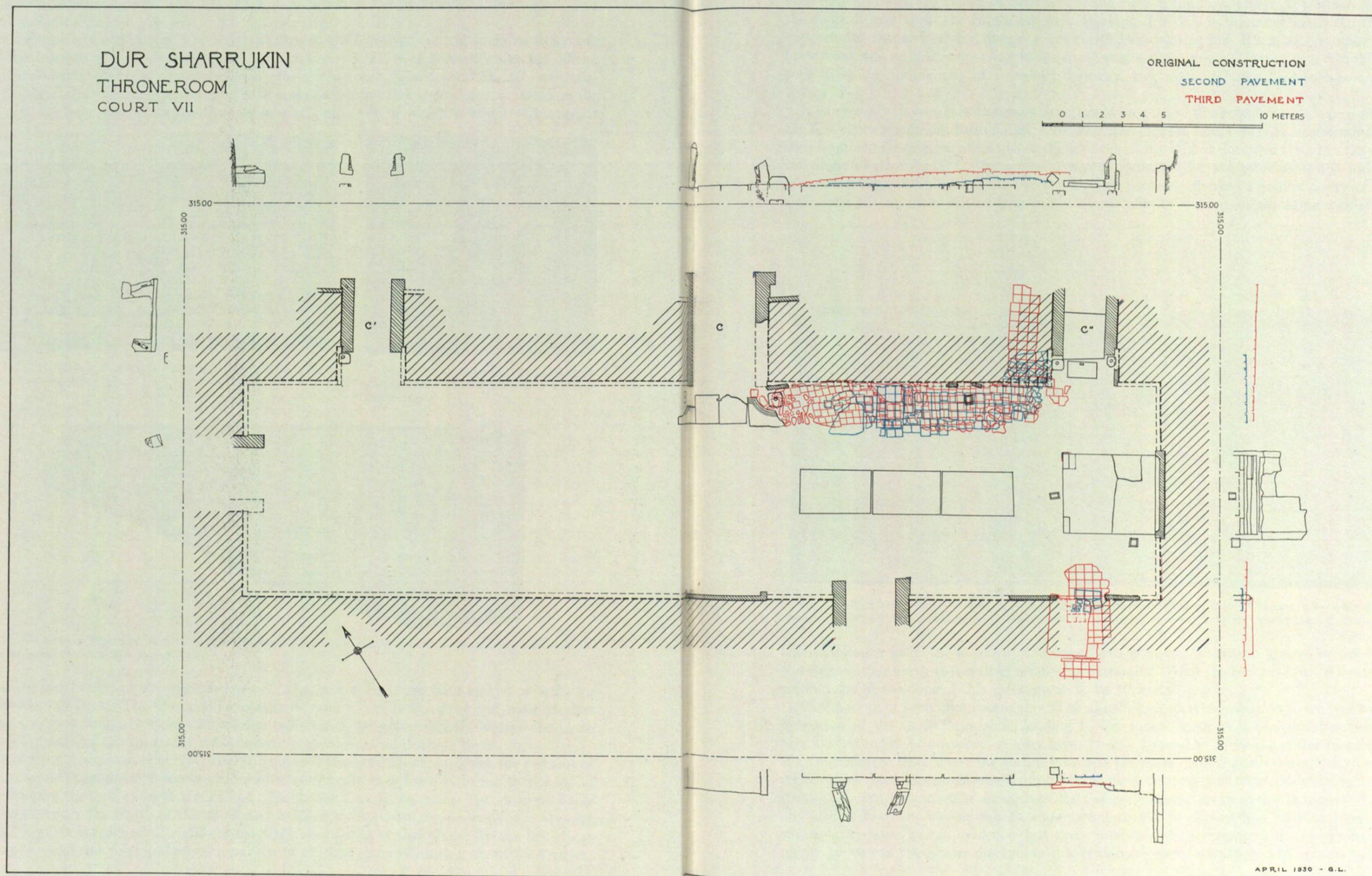


FIG. 71.—PLAN AND ELEVATIONS OF THE THRONE ROOM. THE EXISTING REMAINS ARE INDICATED IN SOLID BLACK LINES WHILE BROKEN BLACK LINES SUGGEST THE ORIGINAL PLAN. LATER PAVEMENTS ARE SHOWN IN BLUE AND RED. SCALE, 1:200

THE THRONEROOM

61

each extends down the center of the room to the base of the throne (Fig. 73), which occupies the central position in the southeast wall. Backing this dais is the other niche. In the wall opposite the throne base is a doorway lined with bulls leading into Room 24. Another pair of bulls forms the walls of a doorway in the southwest wall leading to Room 27; and in this same wall there are indications of a second doorway, but without bulls, likewise opening into Room 27.

It can readily be seen how the reconstruction of the plan of this room was made possible from the few clues remaining to this day. The wall face nearest Court VIII is clear from the few slab fragments in alignment and from the grooves in the bull at doorway *C* and in the slab at the angle of doorway *C''*. The opposite wall is indicated by the remains of the niche, the grooves in the two bulls, and the two slabs which probably flanked a second doorway in this wall. The throne niche with a groove cut at one side to receive an adjoining wall slab can



FIG. 73.—THE THRONEROOM FROM THE NORTHWEST. THE STONE PAVEMENT SLABS CENTRALLY LOCATED FORM AN APPROACH TO THE THRONE JUST BEYOND. THE BRICK PAVEMENT ON THE LEFT IS OF SECONDARY CONSTRUCTION

leave no doubt as to the location of that end of the room, while the groove in the bull to the right in the northwest wall gives us this extremity. With the four walls thus determined we find the dimensions of this throneroom to be 10.50×47 meters.

That a room of such importance should be unpaved seemed incongruous to us; yet with the exception of the three large slabs leading to the throne base we found nothing indicating original pavement of any sort. A gray layer of clay seemed to cover the entire room area at the approximate level where the throne base and the stone slabs indicated the floor should be. At the time there was no alternative but to assume a tamped mud floor. More extensive subsequent excavations in other sections of the palace, however, have shown that every room of any size or function was paved. In some instances the pavement had been removed and a similar gray layer was in evidence, but there was always some remnant of an original pavement. In view of these later disclosures it is reasonably safe to state that this throneroom was

once paved with stone or brick. The brick foundation deposit boxes (e.g. Fig. 74) found before and beside the throne base and along the northeast wall provide another argument. If the pavement was of stone, its floor slabs would undoubtedly have been of the standard size found elsewhere in the palace. In either case the three larger slabs leading to the throne would therefore have emphasized the approach to this important object. The gray layer can easily be accounted for as caused by water running in from Court VIII after the removal of



FIG. 74.—FOUNDATION DEPOSIT BOX OF BAKED BRICKS BEFORE THE THRONE BASE



FIG. 75.—THE TWO PAVEMENTS OF LATER OCCUPATION IN THE THRONEROOM. THEY ARE SEPARATED BY A LAYER OF DÉBRIS

the pavement, for the raised thresholds would make of this lowered interior area the natural place to which would flow the water from the heavy rains. Brick pavements of later occupation found within this room suggest this material as a possibility, although these bricks might have been brought from elsewhere, perhaps from Court VIII, where the pavement had been partially removed.

Little can be said concerning the later occupations, of which but scant traces remain. There are two distinct periods, both of which undoubtedly followed very shortly after the abandonment of the palace as a royal residence, one closely upon the other. Evidence of such occupations appears only in the southeast end of the room, in the form of fragmentary pavements.

THE THRONEROOM

63

In Figure 71 these pavements are indicated in color, the earlier in blue and the later in red, in contrast to the original construction, which is shown in black. Wherever any trace of a later occupation appears, both periods are present. In one area each of the brick pavements begins near the central portal in the northeast wall at the level of the stone slabs immediately within its threshold. Continuing along this wall toward the throne base they slope upward, the earlier to a maximum level 0.40 above the original floor, while the later one rises 0.75 in its



FIG. 76.—PAVEMENT OF THE SECOND PERIOD OF LATER OCCUPATION, IN WHICH SMALL STONE FRAGMENTS WERE INCORPORATED (AT LEFT)

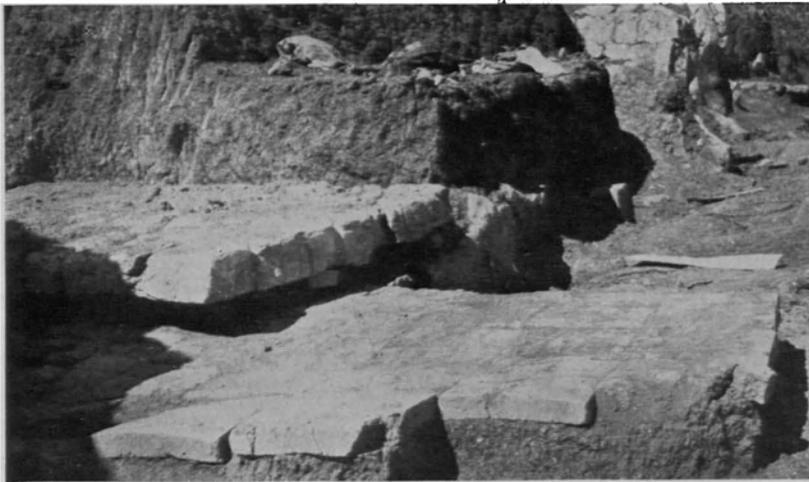


FIG. 77.—STONE SLAB, POSSIBLY A THRESHOLD, USED ON THE PAVEMENT OF THE SECOND PERIOD OF LATER OCCUPATION. PAVEMENT OF THE SECOND PERIOD IN FOREGROUND

upward course. Figure 75 shows the juxtaposition of these two crudely built pavements. That appearance meant nothing to their builders is clear from the fact that in both cases stone was incorporated where it was handy (Fig. 76).

A second area in which we find traces of post-Sargonid occupation is near the south corner of the room, where the two pavements extend from the throneroom itself into the southwest wall. Only a very few bricks remain of the earlier one; but the later one, upon which a large stone slab, possibly a section of a threshold, reposes (Fig. 77), continues well into the wall as

though it formed the floor of a portal. Whether or not a doorway into Room 27 originally existed at this point we cannot state for certain. Place indicates two doorways on his plan (see frontispiece), one with bulls at this point and an unadorned one where we find the portal with bulls some 8 meters farther along in this same wall. It is not improbable that ample evidence of a second doorway existed at the time of his excavations and that a draftsman's error is responsible for reversing the locations of the plain one and the decorated one. Fragments of two wall slabs, still in position, spaced about as far apart as the bulls lining the walls of doorways *C'* and *C''*, surely suggest the possibility of an undecorated portal at this point. And it seems unlikely that later occupants would go to the bother of breaking through a wall to connect these rooms when another opening existed near by. It is far more credible that they extended their building operations through the original portal, robbed before their time of its threshold and wall slabs.



FIG. 78.—REMAINS OF THE BULL LINING THE NORTHWEST SIDE OF THE PRINCIPAL ENTRANCE TO THE THRONEROOM

There is positive evidence not only of the existence but of the method of construction of all the other doorways. The second doorway in the southwest wall, if we assume as a fact the one just mentioned, is lined with bulls facing and extending into the room. Age and moisture have caused such deterioration that they are today a sorry sight (see Fig. 67). Enough remains of them, however, to give us the breadth of the doorway and to show, not only by their position but by grooves into which the wall slabs fitted, that their foreparts projected into the room nearly a meter beyond the plane of the wall surface.

A portion of one of the bulls forming the walls of the doorway leading through the northwest wall into Room 24 is the only evidence we have of this portal. That one fragment fortunately stands in its original position and contains a groove for the wall slab which once adjoined it. This groove is the sole indication of the line of the northwest wall. On our plan (Fig. 71) this doorway has been restored upon the basis of the decorated one in the southwest wall; for the fragment found here shows very clearly that the bulls at the two doorways were of the same size and projected into the room in a similar manner. The width of the opening is, of course,

conjectural, but with bulls of identical dimensions it seems highly probable that the two doorways were of approximately the same size.

The three portals in the northeast wall exist practically as we have known them from Place's excavations. All of the six bulls with which their walls were faced remain sufficiently well preserved to show very definitely how these portals once appeared. Only in *C''* was the threshold found in position.

It is the bull to the right (Fig. 78) as one entered the throneroom through the central portal *C* that gives perhaps the most important new information concerning this doorway. Of this bull nothing remains standing above the legs, the inscription between which is still legible. But on the reverse side, at the corner directly behind the end of the bull's tail, the stone is cut away to receive the stone facing of the wall, directly in line with the few slab fragments found in position. Corroborated by the two pivot stones found here in position set in baked brick casings, this shows beyond a doubt that the doorway was not recessed as shown on Place's plan.

The four bulls lining the walls of *C'* and *C''* together with a portion of the wall slab just within *C''* give us a corrected version of the construction of these two side portals. The reverse side corners are cut away to receive the wall slabs, but in these instances the slabs were set parallel to the length of the bulls. A fragment of one of these wall slabs at *C''*, fortunately found in position (see Fig. 71), shows this construction very clearly. It is safe to assume a similarity in such structural treatment at *C'*. These doorways, therefore, were recessed, but to a width only slightly in excess of that between the bulls.

Although badly mutilated by stone-robbers who cut away huge slabs from its top surface, the throne base and the huge niche backing it remain to this day the most impressive feature of the entire room, just as the architect planned it should be while Sargon held court here. Centered approximately in the southeast wall of the room, this massive monolithic dais upon which the throne rested measures 4 meters in width and projects into the room 4.60 from the face of the wall. Its horizontal surface, now destroyed, was probably slightly more than 1 meter above the floor.

Access to the throne was effected by means of two small flights of steps at the front corners of the base. The stone-robbers nearly succeeded in removing all traces of these, but their chisels fortunately missed the bottom treads and a portion of the second one at the north corner. The stairways are of approximately the same size, 0.80 in width and each tread 0.30 deep. The height of the risers was 0.25, at least in the case of the lower one, the only one that survives. There is no direct evidence that the vertical face of the base between these two stairways was carved in relief, for weathering and wilful destruction have obliterated whatever may have here existed. Reliefs on the two side faces of the base suggest this, however, and make it seem probable.

The scene carved upon the northeast side of the throne base is the better preserved of the two, though but a small portion of it survives (Fig. 79). It shows the king halting his chariot on the battlefield over the body of a fallen enemy. Before him officers pile up a pyramid of heads of the vanquished. That the battle took place near a river, or possibly the sea, is shown by a horizontal band representing water in which fish are swimming. Below this a band of rosettes serves as a border.

On the opposite face (Fig. 80) the relief represents Assyrian archers attacking a mountain city. They carry their shields and weapons as they approach the stronghold. They are shown marching over mountainous territory, while the attacked city rises from a higher mountain. The defenders of the town are apparently meeting defeat, for we see them falling headlong from the ramparts. A band of rosettes again forms the lower border.



FIG. 79.—RELIEF FROM NORTHEAST SIDE OF THE THRONE BASE. IRAQ MUSEUM. SCALE, 1:10



FIG. 80.—RELIEF FROM SOUTHWEST SIDE OF THE THRONE BASE. ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM NO. A 11257. SCALE, 1:10

The niche rising behind the throne extends across the entire width of the throne base. It is undecorated, doubtless with the purpose of setting off the more effectively the throne and of not detracting from the splendor of the magnificently garbed king and his attendants. It probably rose nearly or actually to the ceiling, as in the case of the somewhat wider niche opposite the central portal.

The positions of these two niches show an interesting mixture of cultural influences. Professor Andrae,¹ in studying the cultural differences between the Assyrians in the north and the Babylonians in the south in so far as such differences are manifest in their architecture, has shown that the northern people, though always under strong southern influences, nevertheless retained special indigenous features. In a Babylonian temple, derived from a southern dwelling, the niche harboring the statue of the god faces the entrance. In Assyria the plan of the sanctuary is based upon the plan of the northern house, where the master and his guests sit around a hearth removed as far as possible from the entrance.² Now for the first time we find evidence that the contrast between the north and the south, which is reflected in the primitive houses and in the sanctuaries (the dwellings of the gods), holds good also for the throneroom of the divine king. In the Neo-Babylonian palaces discovered at Babylon the king's throne is found facing the entrance in a room corresponding exactly in shape and position to the throneroom at Khorsabad. In Sargon's throneroom, however, the niche facing the entrance was empty, the throne occupying the place corresponding to the position of the god's statue in the usual northern temple.

Complementing the grandeur of the throne, the wall reliefs, and the niches is the painted plaster upon the ceiling and the upper part of the walls. The many fragmentary designs enumerated below and reproduced in the accompanying plates clearly testify that the decoration of the room above the wall slabs was by no means neglected. The brilliant red and blue designs outlined in black, probably with yellow and flesh tints in addition, played no small part in creating an atmosphere of splendor befitting the magnificent court demanded by a ruler as powerful as was Sargon.

That a painted procession of life-sized, if not heroic, figures adorned the walls is almost certain. Plate III 12 clearly shows a portion of a large figure in line drawing, this fragment probably part of a foot, as explained in the notes accompanying the plates. Other bits of line drawings, too faint or too small to denote a definite design, do nevertheless add to the evidence of these figures. And the many fragments of designs, largely geometrical, of a scale far too small to stand by themselves could be nothing but portions of larger figures. The pattern shown on Plate III 8 and in Figure 70 is almost identical with that of the garment of the prime minister as pictured on the glazed brick tableau at the entrance to the Sin temple (Fig. 104). To prevent the monotony that an unbroken procession of figures extending around the entire four walls of this large room might cause, other decorative elements were introduced. The arches of the doorways and the two huge niches are architectural features already breaking into this frieze. In addition we find a combination of stripes and squares (Plate III 10) which, to judge by its fallen position, may very possibly have adorned the wall over door C'' or even that portion adjoining the niche behind the throne. Such a stiff geometrical design would have been in keeping with the severity of the undecorated niche in emphasizing the throne itself.

¹ *Das Gotteshaus und die Urformen des Bauens im alten Orient* (Berlin, 1930) chap. i, esp. pp. 16 ff.

² Exceptions are to be found in the palace temples of Dur Sharrukin (see chap. iv), where in five of the six sanctuaries we find the niches facing the entrances. In these cases, however, the entrances are at the ends rather than the long sides of the chambers, and the arrangement represents merely another compromise between the northern and southern types of plan.

Below and above the procession of figures there were doubtless bands of geometrical or natural ornamentation. One of rosettes, either by themselves or combined with other elements into a larger motive, may well have served as a lower border for the frieze. And at the top near the angle formed by the walls and ceiling the combination of a palmetto pattern and a band of circles (Plate II 5) would make an excellent transition from the somewhat free design of the wall to the geometrical ceiling decoration of circles and rosettes.

The treatment of the beamed ceiling is shown in Figure 81 and in Plate II 4 and 4a, where the design is reproduced. Although the wooden beam had in this instance decayed, the plaster covering two adjoining surfaces had survived. Upon one face is a row of circles, while a band of rosettes appears upon the other. Their common border band runs along the angle made by the two perpendicular surfaces. It is therefore probable that the three exposed faces of the

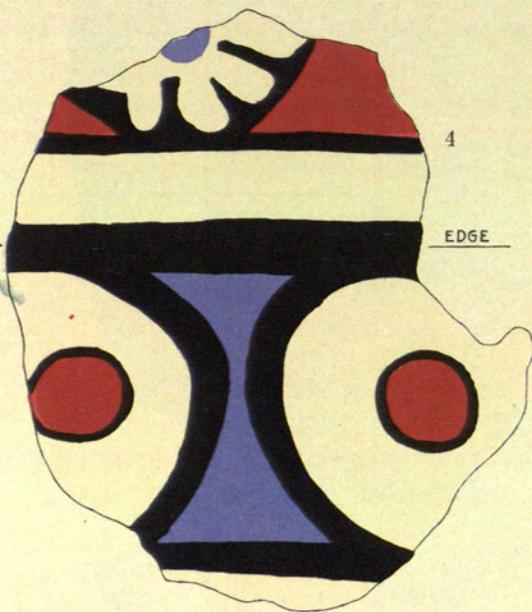
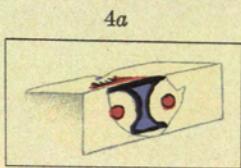
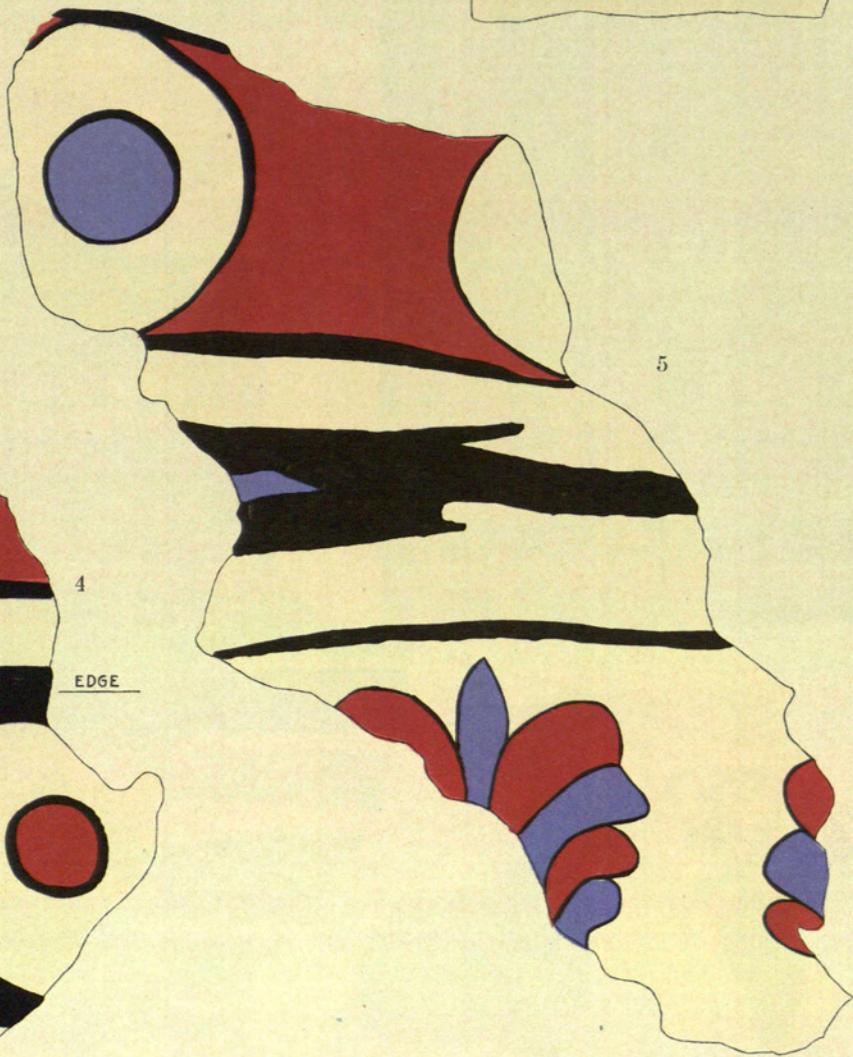
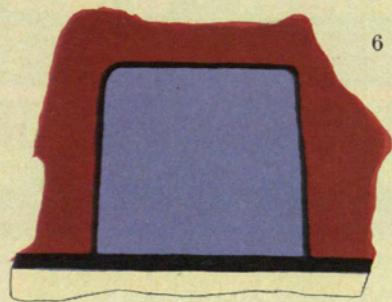
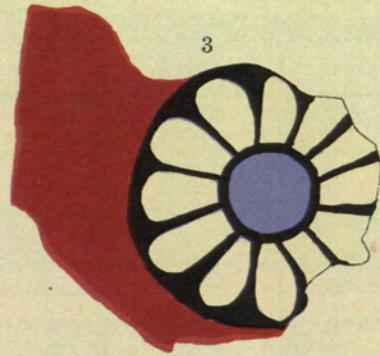
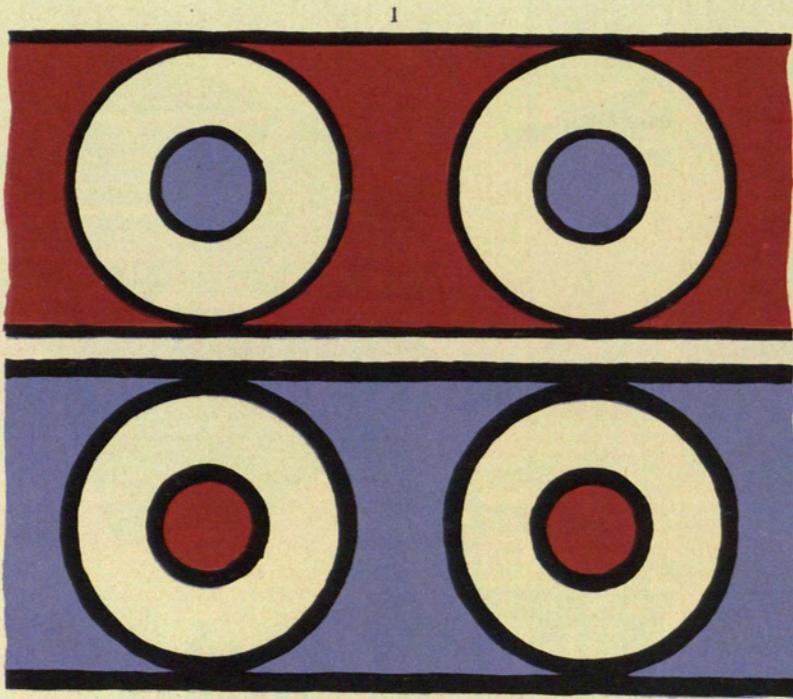


FIG. 81.—PAINTED PLASTER OF A CEILING BEAM OF THE THRONE ROOM

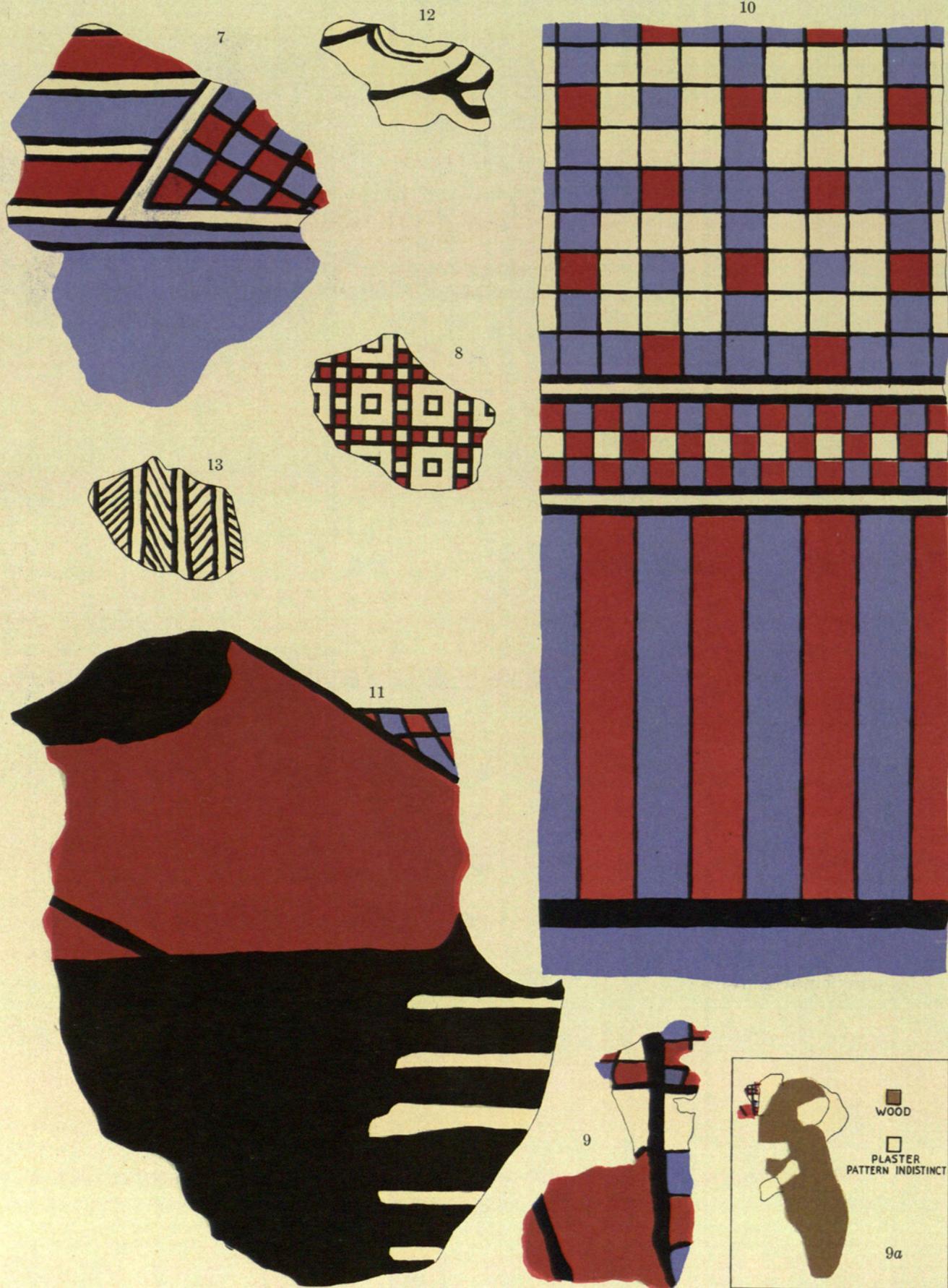
beams were decorated. The ceiling was evidently painted a plain blue, many fragments of which were found throughout the entire room area.

Figure 82 shows the locations in which the painted fragments were found, the numbers within the circles corresponding to those used in Plates II and III and in the following notes.

Nos. 1-2.—This pattern in its two forms, the red background with blue centers and the blue background with red centers, was found scattered throughout the entire area of the room. Its prevalence everywhere suggests it as a favorite pattern which was very likely used as a decoration for the ceiling beams. This is further implied by the bit of it found in connection with what was probably a beam, recorded as No. 4. This design was usually employed only as a single decorative band. There was no trace of its having been used repeatedly in adjacent parallel rows to cover any area, as was the case in the bathroom. In the throneroom the area on either side of the design itself was usually found to be painted a solid color, blue, red, or white, although in No. 5 this band appears as part of a more elaborate scheme of decoration. Nos. 1 and 2 are drawn from measurements—not tracings as are all the others except No. 10—and the design thereon is more geometrically correct than those on most of the fragments, where



PAINTED PLASTER FROM THE THRONE ROOM. SCALE, 1:2



PAINTED PLASTER FROM THE THRONEROOM. SCALE, 1:2

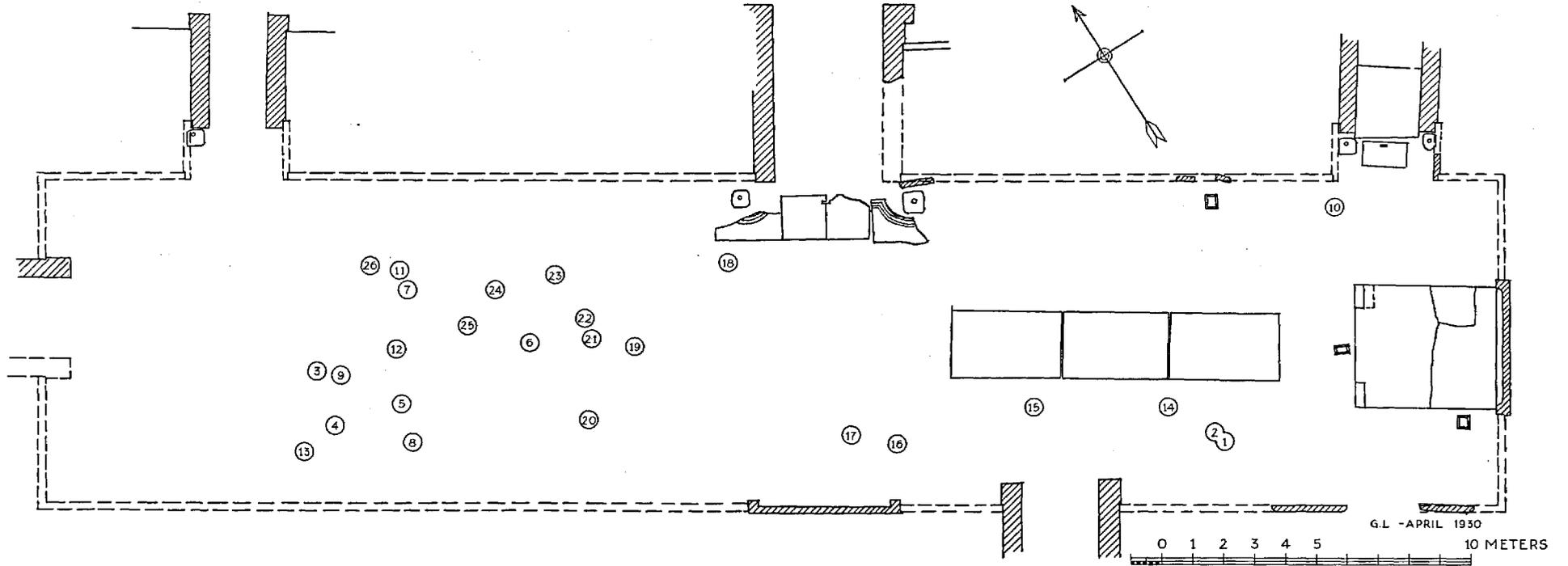


FIG. 82.—PLAN OF THE THRONEROOM, SHOWING LOCATIONS IN WHICH FRAGMENTS OF PAINTED PLASTER WERE FOUND. SCALE, 1:200

the pattern is often somewhat distorted, probably due to the falling of the plaster and the pressure of the earth upon it, or to hurried or inaccurate workmanship.

No. 3.—This is merely a variation of the design of Nos. 1 and 2. Here the white area is divided into twelve sections, making a rosette out of the more prevalent blue-centered circle.

No. 4.—The designs shown in Nos. 2 and 3 are here combined to form what is probably a ceiling-beam decoration. The two bands of circles and rosettes were found in two planes perpendicular to each other, the common angle running through the outer black band of the circle pattern.

No. 5.—This combination of a palmetto design and the band of circles shown in No. 1 suggests a rather elaborate frieze which would form a splendid transition from the ceiling decorations of circles and rosettes to whatever pattern might be used upon the walls. The proximity of the palmetto blossoms to each other indicates that the bud commonly found appearing alternately with the blossom is in this case absent. It is possible, however, that the bud was here sufficiently low to have escaped, along with the connecting stems, preservation on this fragment, which shows only the upper portions of the blossoms.

No. 6.—This shows the simplest form of the many types of designs made up of squares which were found throughout the room. It was doubtless part of a more elaborate decorative scheme, very possibly a band, as the continuing white portion indicates. It was found in a mound of mud bricks in which the bricks were in position relative to one another but fallen as a mass from elsewhere. There were other fragments of plaster throughout this mound, but none of them was of sufficient size or in such condition as to disclose any pattern.

No. 7.—This fragment suggests a band made up of triangles which in turn are composed of small red and blue squares. The plain blue area adjacent to this and also a much larger fragment of plain blue plaster found but a few centimeters from and in the same plane with it indicate that this band of triangles may have served as a border surrounding or running along one side of a plain blue area. Fifteen centimeters directly below this plaster were found traces of a wooden beam, the remaining fragment of which measured 0.65 in length by 0.30 at the widest point. On this, however, there was no evidence of plaster.

No. 8.—A very distinct pattern and one of such small scale as to make it seem probable that it was used only as part of a larger design.

No. 9.—This fragment is interesting not so much for the design, which is so incomplete as to be of practically no value, but rather for its position in relation to the wood with which it was found. This position is shown in No. 9a, which includes not only the wood and this fragment, but traces of other plaster on which the design is unfortunately not traceable.

No. 10.—This combination of stripes and squares was found in an area in which red and blue stripes were frequent, all evidently thrown out of their relative positions in falling. The stripes were uniformly 0.02 wide, the longest found being 0.40 long though showing no original termination at either end. They might, therefore, have extended a considerable distance, possibly from the top of the stone wall slabs to a frieze just below the angle made by the ceiling joining the wall. There were also found in this area fragments of the circle and rosette patterns, but these in no relationship to the stripes or to the checkered design.

No. 11.—A fragment difficult of interpretation. It seems likely that there are here three separate pieces of plaster, now appearing as one from their having fallen in this position. The red portion, bounded on one side by what appears to be a band of triangles similar to that in No. 7 and cut by a black stripe parallel to this band, gives to this design a direction not in keeping with the black portion into which penetrate white stripes. It appears, therefore, that the two black portions were originally elements of some other design or possibly of one including the red portion but in a relationship to it other than that found and shown in the plate.

No. 12.—This peculiar small bit was evidently part of a larger line drawing. No trace of color could be found in any way connected with it. It suggests the large toe and nail of a left foot, although in assuming this to be the subject of the drawing it is difficult to account for the branching line protruding from the edge of the toe. It may, however, have been accidental when the drawing was executed, or it may possibly have been a crude way of expressing a toe ornament or some sort of sandal. Near this drawing in black and white was found a considerable plaster surface decorated in blue and white, but out of this no design could be interpreted.

No. 13.—This small piece of herringbone design was found by itself in no relationship to any other design. It is impossible to say to what extent it was used—all that is certain is its existence. In a parallel plane about 0.05 below was found a large plaster area of blue. A similar plane about 0.10 above disclosed the common band of circles as shown in No. 1.

No. 14.—An area of plain blue plaster immediately upon the gray layer.

No. 15.—Another fragment of plain blue. The distribution of these blue fragments throughout the entire room suggests its having been used upon the ceiling between the decorated beams.

No. 16.—Rather a large area of indistinct pattern. The coloring is entirely blue with occasional traces of black lines.

No. 17.—Very small fragment of band of circles as shown in No. 2.

No. 18.—Considerable surface of plain blue plaster.

No. 19.—Small fragment of band of circles as in No. 1—very distinct.

No. 20.—Large area of plaster about 0.03 above gray layer. Color was largely blue, although one small trace of band of circles of No. 1 type was distinguishable. Three small potsherds were found imbedded in the plaster.

No. 21.—In this spot were found many plaster surfaces in all planes. Many of them gave no traceable pattern, although one showed bands of rosettes similar to that of No. 3. Among these plaster fragments were also traces of burned wood with, in some cases, signs of blue plaster upon it.

No. 22.—With many fragments of indistinct patterns was found one containing a band of circles of No. 1 type.

No. 23.—Among several fragments only one clear pattern could be distinguished—the band of circles as shown in Nos. 1 and 2.

No. 24.—A considerable number of fragments showing no clear pattern, only traces of the usual three colors: black, red, and blue.

No. 25.—In a section full of plaster fragments in all planes was found a surface of wood 0.55 wide by 0.30 long. On this were traces of a band of circles of No. 1 type. At a distance of 1 meter from this, running in the direction of the grain of the wood, appeared another piece of wood, 0.50 long by 0.20 wide, which may possibly have been part of the same beam, as the plane of the two surfaces was the same.

No. 26.—A plaster surface on which could be recognized, only because of familiarity with the pattern, a band of circles of No. 1 type. The surface on either side of the band itself was in this case white.

ROOM 7

Situated within the interior of that portion of the palace which forms a wing extending out upon the terrace to the northwest is Room 7, a small room approximately 7 meters square. Its function cannot be stated with complete certainty, although it is not unlikely that it was planned as a place where the sovereign might entertain informally a few intimates when the summer heat made the rooms with exterior openings less desirable. That this wing comprised the royal living-quarters can scarcely be doubted. The plan (see frontispiece), showing its

eleven rooms with at least one large bathroom (Room 12), clearly indicates its completeness and suitability for a residence. There is no direct communication with the rest of the palace; any access to the portion in which the official court life was carried on must be via the terrace and open courts. It enjoys the choicest location, opening upon the broadest part of the terrace, and faces not the city and the comparatively flat country extending toward Nineveh but the river Khosr and the Kurdish mountains, snow-capped during a large portion of the year. Its position likewise gives it greater privacy than any other part of the palace. A detached building, designated a "temple" by Place, stood near by upon the same broad terrace and may have served as a pavilion for private entertainment; it may have been a "guesthouse" or even the harem. So little remains of this "temple" that we can only guess as to its original purpose.

It is this portion of the palace that was first discovered and excavated by Botta, whose findings eventually led to the more extensive work of Place and his associates. To Botta and to

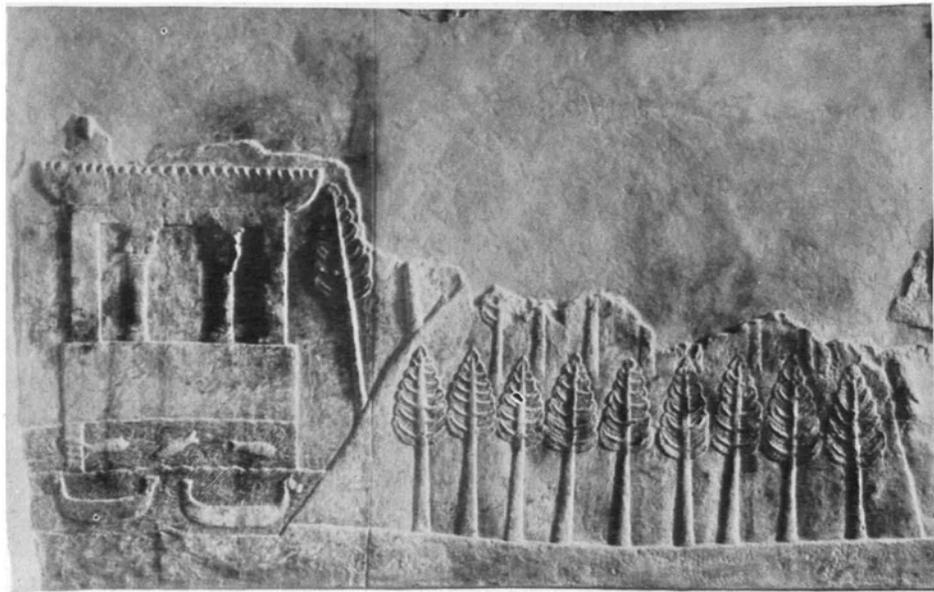


FIG. 83.—RELIEF FROM ROOM 7 SHOWING AN "IONIC TEMPLE" STANDING NEAR A WOODED MOUNTAIN AND A STREAM. ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM NO. A 11255. SCALE, 1:15. CF. FIG. 89

Flandin, who worked with him and whose admirable drawings of the reliefs have preserved some of the glory of the palace, we are greatly indebted, for without their records³ much would have been lost, so great has been the deterioration of the sculptures since their day. All of the exterior façades of this wing of the palace have sculptured reliefs upon the walls; this is the only section completely so adorned. And all of the rooms have their walls similarly embellished. In Rooms 1, 2, 3, 5, and 7 the reliefs are in two registers separated by a band of inscription. Such an arrangement, whereby the figures are necessarily much smaller, surely suggests the intimacy of a dwelling rather than the feeling of austerity that figures of heroic size create.

Of the reliefs in Room 7¹ the lower register shows scenes from a royal hunting expedition. The king is pictured in his chariot drawn by two horses. Followers upon horses or on foot proceed through the forest. Some carry weapons while others bear the spoils of the hunt, birds and hares. There are birds in flight as well. In one section (Fig. 83) is shown a building standing near a wooded mountain and a stream. Its roof is supported by columns with volute capitals, surely forerunners of the Ionic order. So little of the upper tier remained at the time

³ Botta and Flandin, *Monument de Ninive*.

⁴ *Ibid.* II, Pls. 107-14.



FIG. 84.—ROOM 7, WITH HUNTING SCENES PICTURED IN ITS FRAGMENTARY RELIEFS. IN THE FOREGROUND CAN BE SEEN THE REMAINS OF A ROOFING BEAM AND CHARRED MATTING. VIEW FROM NORTH

of the discovery of these reliefs that we can only agree with Botta in his belief that a banquet scene was thereon depicted, this having been suggested to him by a few fragments similar to



FIG. 85.—DÉBRIS IN THE MIDDLE OF ROOM 7, SHOWING A ROOFING BEAM AND TRACES OF DECAYED MATTING (BELOW AT LEFT)



FIG. 86.—REMOVAL OF THE RELIEFS OF ROOM 7

those comprising the upper register feast scene in Room 2. What more perfect spot, therefore, for intimate gatherings, where affairs of state might be forgotten, than this small Room 7, protected from the summer heat and with constant reminders of the hunt and the feast!



FIG. 87.—A SECTION OF THE RELIEFS FROM ROOM 7. ABOVE THE INSCRIPTION A BANQUETING SCENE IS SHOWN, WHILE BELOW IT A ROYAL HUNT IS PICTURED. ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM NO. A 11254. SCALE, 1:15



FIG. 88.—RELIEF FROM ROOM 7. THE UPPER REGISTER SHOWS A BANQUETING SCENE, WHILE BELOW THE INSCRIPTION IS PICTURED THE KING RIDING TO A HUNT IN HIS CHARIOT. ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM NO. A 11256. SCALE, 1:15



FIG. 89.—RELIEF FROM ROOM 7. THE NATURE OF THE COUNTRY WHEREIN THE HUNT TAKES PLACE IS INDICATED BY A WOODED MOUNTAIN AND A STREAM BESIDE WHICH STANDS A BUILDING WITH ITS ROOF SUPPORTED BY COLUMNS WITH VOLUTE CAPITALS. ORIENTAL INSTITUTE MUSEUM No. A 11255. Cf. FIG. 83

The work of excavating this room was a small task compared to that of clearing the throne-room. Measurements from the corridor (Room 10) and the west corner of Court VIII easily gave its approximate location, and the standing slabs, soon uncovered, eventually verified the walls. In the débris near the center of the room were found the remains of a wooden roofing beam (Fig. 84) charred at one end, upon which was a layer of what is probably charred matting. This beam fragment exists to a length of 0.90 and measures 0.27 in width. At a slightly lower level and almost directly below this beam was another layer of charred and decayed matting. When conflagration caused the destruction of this section of the palace it doubtless burned the



FIG. 90.—UNFINISHED HEAD, THREE-FOURTHS LIFE-SIZE, FOUND IN FILLING BEHIND RELIEF SLABS OF ROOM 7. IRAQ MUSEUM

matting with the exception of that imbedded in the plaster, and it is that which exists today in decayed form as the white layer seen in Figure 85. Similar evidence was found at Gate 7 (see pp. 5 ff.).

A fine face of a human-headed bull, with crown complete, was found amid the débris within this room. It is extremely well preserved in all details, even to the moustache. The fact that it had not been incorporated into the original treatment of this room may mean that it was carried here by later occupants of the palace, evidence of whose building activities we find again in this spot. The wall slabs at the south corner of the room had been removed, apparently at an early date, for we find the space they originally occupied partially blocked

with baked brick and stone fragments (Fig. 84). The half not so blocked may have served these later occupants as a doorway, for the original doorway is filled with blocking similar to that in this south corner.

Figure 84 shows the wretched condition in which we find the reliefs today, with the lower register badly damaged and with but few remnants of the band of inscription or the upper register. A comparison with the drawings of Flandin shows us how great have been the deterioration and destruction caused by moisture and lime-burners since these reliefs were first discovered some ninety years ago.⁵

The removal of these reliefs (Fig. 86), some to Baghdad and some to Chicago, where they have since been set up and partially restored (Figs. 87, 88, and 89), made some interesting disclosures. The slabs were backed and supported by a rough stone filling, indicating that they had been set in position before the surrounding walls were erected. This would seem offhand to be a reverse procedure, but when one considers the size and weight of these slabs it becomes evident that it would be a simpler task to build brick walls around standing slabs than to move without damage several tons of finely sculptured stone into place inside a comparatively small room. The stone slabs were thus probably first set up and then carved on front and back. In this instance a long inscription covered the backs of the slabs.

Among the stones backing the wall slabs was found a remarkable head (Fig. 90), carved perhaps as a diversion by one of the workmen employed in the erection of the palace and cast into the filling. The sculptor could never have intended its completion, for the stone is not large enough to accommodate the other side of the face. But the freedom and spontaneity found in the modeling and carving of this small head are indeed rare in the official sculpture of the period, and make of this piece one of the choicest and most delightful objects yet found at Dur Sharrukin.

⁵ Botta began his work at Khorsabad in 1843. See his letters published by Jules Mohl in the *Journal asiatique*, 1843-44.

IV

THE PALACE TEMPLES

With the purpose of determining the hitherto debated functions of that portion of the palace situated at the south corner of the platform, and to obtain more complete records of the glazed brick tableaux, the earliest of their kind yet known, existing therein, the excavations during the season of 1931/32 were concentrated in this area. In Place's restoration of the palace this section was designated as the "harem," his primary argument being the lack of such quarters elsewhere and the comparative isolation of and indirect means of entrance to this area. Andrae, however, makes of this area not a harem but a complex of temples.¹ This supposition our excavations proved to be correct.

A glance at the frontispiece readily shows how detached from the rest of the palace is this complex, almost as though it were a unit added to the original plan subsequent to its conception, and how access to it was possible only through two somewhat concealed doorways both of which led into its outer court (Court XXX). One might enter from Court XV by passing through Rooms 90 and 195, from the area about the ziggurat through the long passageway No. 193 and Rooms 194 and 195, or from the platform terrace facing the city through corridor No. 183 and Room 182. But one must still cross the outer court and pass through other chambers before reaching the inner courts from which opened the "bedrooms," as Place would have them. It is not surprising that he, acquainted as he was with the ways of the East, should have followed the line of reasoning leading to the conclusion that here was the harem.

When the excavations were begun in February, 1932, the assumption was that we were to find temples rather than a harem. Two doorsill inscriptions, certainly more in keeping with temples than with a harem, found by Place in the entrances to Rooms 173 and 192,² tended to corroborate this. Where, then, to begin? For, considering the nature of the work of clearing the ruins of Dur Sharrukin, we could hope to expose but a very small portion of this area in one season. From Place's plan (see frontispiece) it seemed to us that the "temple" situated between the ziggurat and Court XXVII might be the most important of the three larger ones and therefore the one most worthy of investigation. Its somewhat greater area, its proximity to the ziggurat, and its position in relation to the principal axis of Court XXVII led us to this conclusion.

From the remains of the ziggurat, to this day the outstanding feature of the ruins of Dur Sharrukin, was measured a distance equivalent to that separating this towering structure from Court XXVII as shown by Place's plan, and here we began the first trench, hoping to locate the northwest façade of Court XXVII somewhere near the north corner. Time and the heavy winter rains frequent in this locality had made such an irregular-shaped mass of the ziggurat that finding its exact center as a base for measuring was an impossibility. Our trench, therefore, while certainly in the approximate vicinity of the north corner of Court XXVII, might very probably lie some meters from the desired location and lead us into a near-by room instead.

¹ *Das Gotteshaus und die Urformen des Bauens im Alten Orient*, pp. 22 ff. Cf. his restoration in Schäfer and Andrae, *Die Kunst des Alten Orients* (Berlin, 1925) p. 519.

² Luckenbill, *Ancient Records II* §§ 126-27.

As a means of checking our location in the shortest possible time several trial trenches were simultaneously started, in the hope of picking up some wall from which more accurate measurements could be made. Our only guide in such a procedure was the surface indication of what might be below, a thing here in modern Khorsabad often misleading, owing to the former digging. One of these trenches, placed where the slope of the ground indicated the proximity of the southwestern inclosing wall of the temple group, very gratifyingly produced after a few hours' digging a plastered wall surface but a few centimeters below the present ground level. This, however, told us nothing as to where we were, for although we had a perfectly good plastered wall surface we were still faced with the problem of determining on which side of it was wall and on which débris. Offhand this sounds rather ludicrous, and only one familiar with the ruins of Dur Sharrukin or of similarly constructed edifices can appreciate the meaning

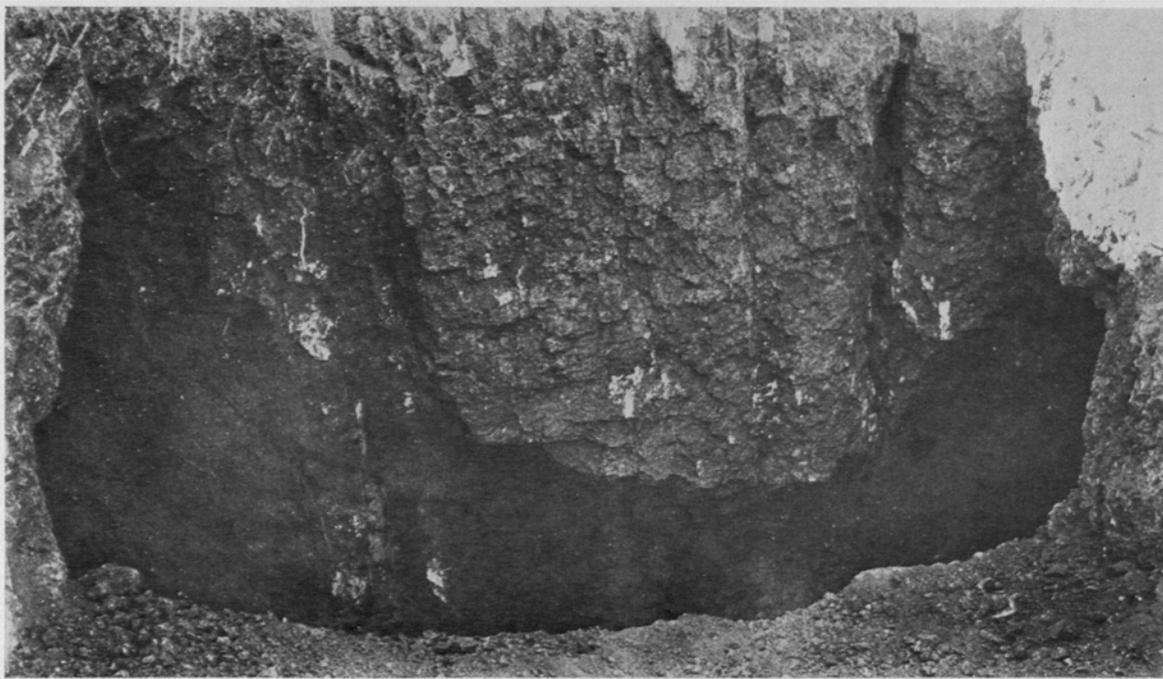


FIG. 91.—TUNNEL BY WHICH PLACE AND HIS ASSOCIATES TRACED THE SOUTHWEST WALL OF COURT XXVII

of it. So similar is the texture of the standing walls to that of the débris, which is after all only the fallen portions of these same walls, that it is often a matter of days before stray bits of fallen plaster or fragments of stone or baked bricks give assurance of rubbish, or a slight variation of color indicates a structure of mud bricks laid without mortar. It was not until the extension of this trench produced two more wall surfaces that we knew for sure that here we had the outer wall face and two of the wall surfaces of Room 170. Then by following one of the walls of Room 170 we were able to reach a corner of this room, our first definite point.

A second trial trench was started in a depression that seemed fairly certain to be somewhere within Court XXVII, this with the view of picking up the southwest wall of the court. Although unproductive of immediate results, this eventually proved interesting in disclosing to us for the first time the method by which our French predecessors had worked. After several days, during which time nothing but rubbish was encountered, we suddenly burst into a cavern-like hole, the top of which was some 2 meters beneath the ground surface. This naturally caused considerable consternation until opening it to the light exposed the sought-

for wall standing bare on the side opposite our approach. The underground opening extended along the wall in both directions and could be nothing else but a tunnel by which this wall had originally been traced (Fig. 91). Similar trenches were subsequently found in every section of this area that we investigated. Invariably they proved to be less than a meter in width, often of insufficient height to permit a man to stand, and were generally at floor level. The difficulty and discomfort of working in such airless, dark quarters—several terra-cotta oil lamps such as are for sale in the bazaars in Mosul today showed the inadequate method of



FIG. 92.—REMAINS OF THE GLAZED BRICK TABLEAU AT LEFT OF THE ENTRANCE TO THE SHAMASH TEMPLE

illumination—only increase one's admiration for those who worked in this manner and for the excellent results obtained thereby. The tunnels offer a partial explanation of how such a stupendous task was accomplished in such a short period.

Our impatience at finding nothing during the first few days of work in two of the three above mentioned trenches apparently spread among the workmen; for the foreman came to us with a tale that some of the laborers from the village of Khorsabad had been discussing how under one of the houses formerly occupying this portion of the mound some dozen or so years ago was a *sirdab* or cellar containing an ancient doorsill. We called the men, questioned them, and decided that at the spot indicated we would risk the chance of finding something worth while to give us our bearings, which were not yet established. Their story was shortly proved

accurate beyond our expectations, for the *sirdab* turned out to be in reality a Place trench which led us around the south corner of Room 191 to the doorsill of the broad opening between this room and Court XXVII.

Although the original trench had failed to produce the north corner of Court XXVII, we were now certain, by checking from the walls found in the other three trenches, that we were in the immediate vicinity of our objective. Quantities of bronze nails and fragments of burned brick assured us that we were not digging away a wall, and as increasing the depth of the trench rather than expanding laterally involved less risk of destruction in this case we decided to dig to the floor and then follow that to the wall. Before reaching the floor, however, we came upon what appeared to be the top course of a wall of baked brick but one brick thick. Here,



FIG. 93.—CLEARING THE FAÇADE OF THE NINGAL TEMPLE

then, was the glazed brick facing of the shelf flanking the entrance to the larger temple in the northwest wall. With this located, it was a simple task to find the long sought-for north corner.

With our bearings definitely established we were able to increase the number of workmen and proceed with the enormous trenches required to expose satisfactorily the northwest and southwest walls of Court XXVII. The latter, when so suddenly exposed by the finding of our predecessor's trench (Fig. 91), had disclosed what was obviously the scant remains of the tableau at the left of the entrance of the second large temple. Figure 92 shows how for the most part only the lower course of bricks was in place, the others having fallen forward.

With the work of clearing the three principal portals of Court XXVII now under way, it seemed wise at this time to investigate the doorway and façade comprising the northwest side of Court XXXI, behind which lay the third of the larger temples. It was an easy matter to locate this from our points now definitely established elsewhere in this area; and but a few days elapsed before we had picked up the wall of the actual doorway, and from that the façade of this temple (Fig. 93). It was constantly becoming more and more evident from the mammoth scale upon which these temples were built and from the enormous trenches (Fig. 94)

required to expose their portals that our intention of investigating thoroughly the large temple nearest the ziggurat must be abandoned for the present. What time remained of this season would be no more than sufficient to clear and record the entrance façades of the various temples. The small temple (Room 166; see frontispiece) comprised within the same unit, however, we did clear before the climate put an end to our work. The excavation of the larger temple was not undertaken until the following season.

Before proceeding with the detailed account of the results of the work within the temple area proper, mention must be made of another dig carried on simultaneously in Court XV. In Place's account of his work in this court he writes of finding in Room 84, one of those along the southwest wall, an assortment of iron implements, arranged in such order as to suggest a place of storage.³ His description of the variety of these implements and of their excellent state of preservation made it seem worth while opening up this room in the hope that its contents might shed considerable light upon the agricultural methods used in Sargon's times. Because of our mistaking a ridge, later learned to be Place's dump, for the wall of Court XV,



FIG. 94.—TRENCH ALONG SOUTHWEST WALL OF COURT XXVII

our trench begun at this point landed us well within Court XV rather than in the doorway leading to Room 84. Our error, however, proved of some interest, for the level of the court pavement disclosed by this trench actually appeared over 3 meters below that in the throne-room and Court VIII excavated during previous seasons. This new lower level was later found to correspond exactly to that in the temple area, eliminating thereby the possibility of its having been caused by local settling.

Two alternatives are, therefore, presented as accounting for this change in pavement level: either the existence of stairways somewhere within the various communications between Courts VIII and XV, or sloping pavements in one or both of these courts. The regularity with which the entire edifice was constructed in all parts examined immediately suggests the former. A careful study of the plan (see frontispiece), however, indicates how highly improbable stairs would be. It is unlikely that the principal communication between these courts through Rooms 80 and 81 would contain them; for portals *D* and *D'*, with sculptured side walls, would most certainly have level thresholds, leaving the opening between Rooms 80 and 81 the only possible place for stairs. This middle doorway, moreover, could scarcely contain sufficient steps to take care of the considerable change in level. Granting for the moment

³ Place, *Ninive et l'Assyrie* I 84-89.

that stairs might have existed in the principal passageway, it is evident that there must have been similar means of changing level in the many other ways of communication by which one could get from one court to the other. Surely had such stairs existed in the number of instances necessary, they would have been discovered and noted by those who originally explored this section of the ruined palace. A positive argument favoring sloping pavements rather than stairs lies in the fact that the water collected over such a large area from the heavy winter rains must be carried off to drains. Were this area completely excavated it seems probable

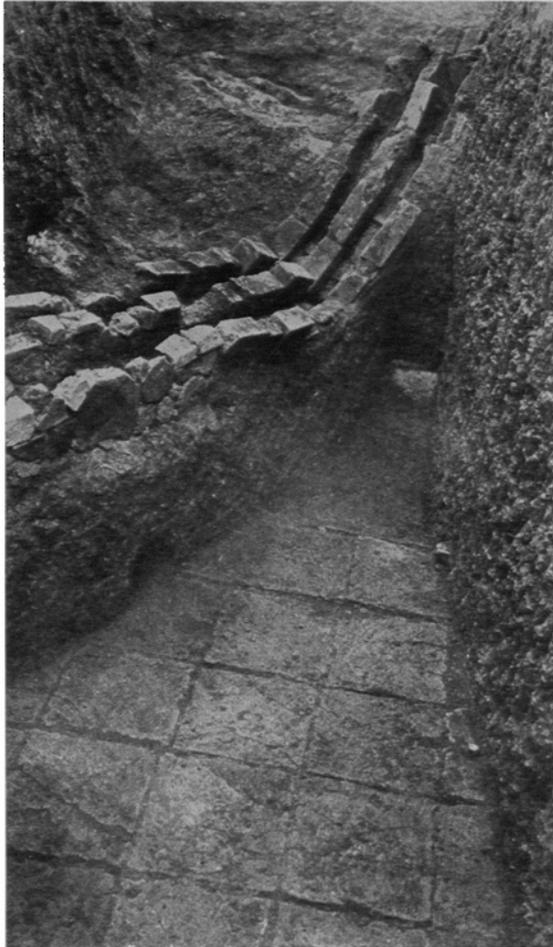


FIG. 95.—SECONDARY CONSTRUCTION IN COURT XV

that such drains would be found, and that the pavements leading to them would be graded accordingly.

A curious piece of secondary construction of problematical function owes its discovery to the misplacement of the trench in Court XV. Extending diagonally across the trench are segments of two seemingly abutting arches wretchedly built of whole and broken baked bricks, both glazed and plain, obviously gathered from débris. The crowns of the "arches" reach a height of a meter above the original pavement, while the latter is separated by but 0.15 from the lowest bricks where the arches are joined to each other. The bricks are laid on edge, five courses thick horizontally, in such a manner that the tops of the second and fourth courses remain about 0.10 lower than those of the center and outer courses, thereby giving the appearance of a two-channel drain (Fig. 95). The absence of an outlet precludes any such

function. That they served as foundation or support for some structure now missing seems to be the most plausible explanation for such a strange arrangement of bricks. The presence of an approximately horizontal layer of white lime plaster at the upper level of this structure

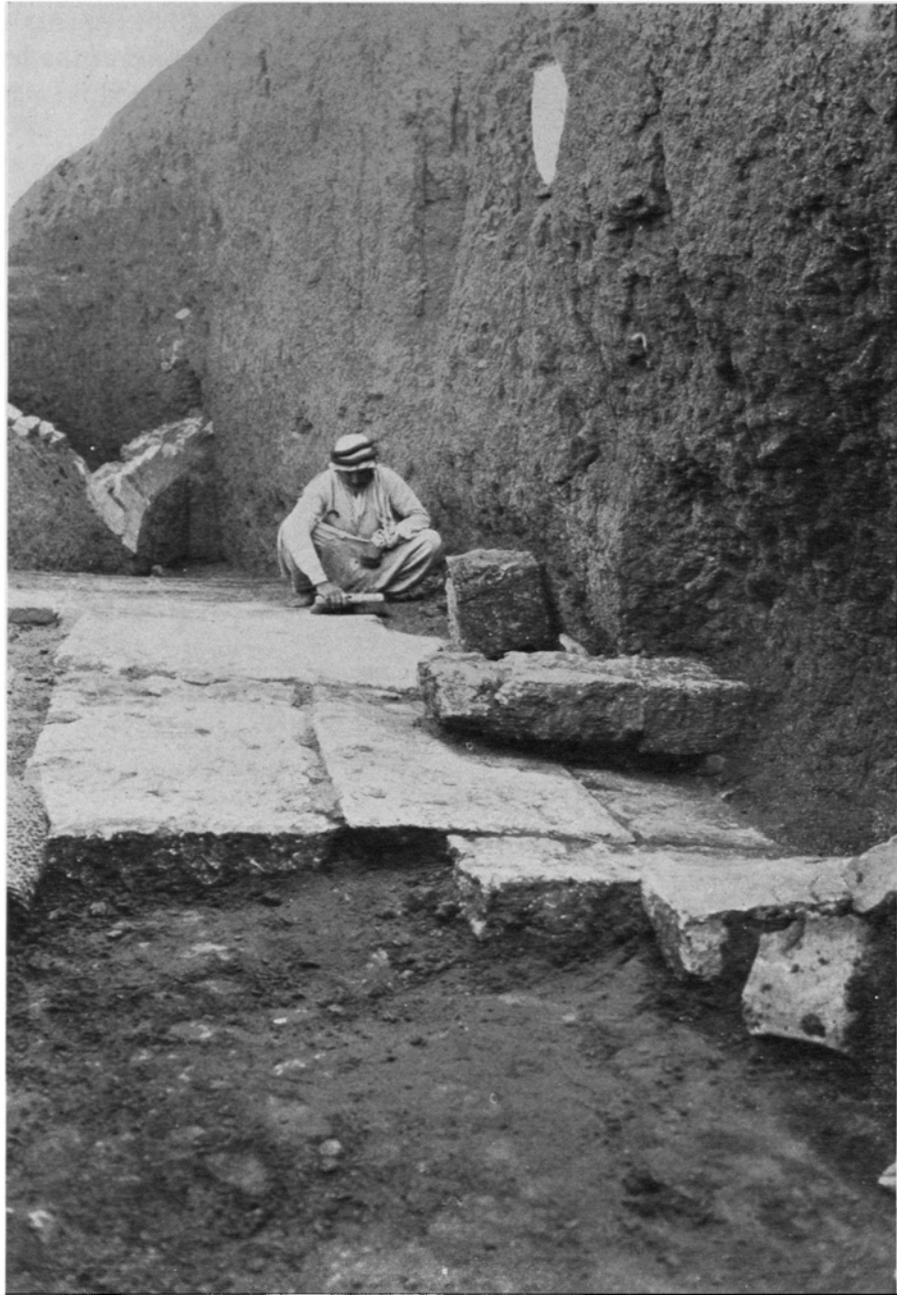


FIG. 96.—THRESHOLD OF DOORWAY FROM COURT XV TO ROOM 84

indicates that this existed at a period of very early secondary occupation before the walls of the court had fallen.

The extension of this trench led us directly through the doorway into Room 84, the threshold of which proved to be of stone slabs, now fragmentary, but unquestionably original (Fig. 96).

Greatly to our surprise we found, when once within the room, large *hubb's* or jars of pottery, these in a badly broken state, within which were quantities of fragments of smaller jars (Fig. 97). Here then, obviously, pottery was stored; and the iron implements, if any still exist, doubtless repose in Room 86, designated by Place as a storage place of pottery. It is not improbable that his field notes made upon the spot were confused, and that when his detailed account was written in Paris after the completion of the excavations these two room numbers were unintentionally interchanged.⁴

Room 84 itself, at least in the small portion of it actually cleared, had been stripped of any pavement that may have originally existed. The walls were plastered and painted white



FIG. 97.—STORAGE JARS CONTAINING FRAGMENTS OF SMALLER POTS IN ROOM 84

except for a black dado. Very small fragments of red and blue painted plaster were found in the débris just without the doorway. These must have fallen from a place originally protected from the elements—probably in the doorway itself—for it is unlikely that a room of such utilitarian function would be adorned with this type of decoration.

COURT XXVII

This court, though of somewhat smaller area than Court XXX, was doubtless the center of activity of the entire temple complex (see frontispiece), for from it open five of the six temples comprising this group. Upon entering it from the forecourt through Room 187, the sole approach from the outside, one faces, almost directly opposite, the portal of a large temple consecrated to Sin, the moon-god. To the left of this elaborately decorated temple entrance is a more simple doorway leading into a smaller sanctuary, dedicated to Adad, the storm-god.

⁴ Subsequent excavations have proved this to be the case.

A similar treatment is found upon the southwest wall, to one's left upon entering. Here the large central portal leads to the temple of Shamash, the sun-god, while the small temple adjacent to it is that of Ninurta, the god of war. To the right the northeast wall presents a slightly different face, but one similar enough in treatment to give unity to the entire court. Here there are three portals, the central one, massive and elaborately handled, leading to a small chamber which was possibly a waiting-room for those of high state anticipating presentation in the temples. The treatment of the doorway is due undoubtedly to a desire for balance in the court rather than to the importance of the chamber within. The two side portals completing this wall face serve quite different purposes. That to the left, near the north corner of the court, leads to the small temple of Ea, the god of water and wisdom, while its complement serves as entry into a small chamber which might have been a second waiting-room of lesser importance. The fourth wall, that through which one enters, was not excavated by our expedition; but there is no reason to doubt its existence, as Place gives it with two doorways and walls unadorned.⁵

Reference to Figure 98 clearly shows which portions of this court were excavated during the course of our work. The northwest and southwest walls were completely cleared to a distance of 6 or 7 meters from their faces; the northeast wall was exposed sufficiently to determine its architectural treatment and to permit restoration based on symmetry, for which there was ample proof; the center of the court and the fourth wall were left untouched, for it seemed unlikely that results commensurate with the terrific amount of time and work involved would be obtained by complete excavation of the entire court.

The court is almost a perfect square, measuring 31.20×30.40 from wall to wall if we disregard the buttresses flanking the principal doorways. The pavement consists of two courses of baked bricks, the lower one being set over a bed of bitumen with the same material filling the joints. The upper or surface course is laid without mortar of any sort and is separated from the lower one by a layer of sand averaging about 0.05 in thickness. The two courses again differ in the dimensions of the bricks employed, the lower one consisting of the usual $0.32 \times 0.32 \times 0.11$ size whereas the surface is made up of those measuring $0.40 \times 0.40 \times 0.06$. These dimensions apply to most of the bricks found throughout the entire excavations and may be considered the two standard sizes generally employed. Individual bricks, obviously intended to comply with these standard sizes, do of course vary somewhat in all dimensions, but the figures quoted represent a fair average. Most of those employed on the surface have the imprint of Sargon's stamp in one form or another.

A comparison of the frontispiece with Figure 98 shows that in Place's restoration there appear intersecting diagonal walks extending to and from the doorways situated near the four corners of this court, whereas in our plan these walks are nonexistent. According to Place's account⁶ these walks were of stone paving slabs, the surface of which was raised slightly above the adjoining brick pavement. Such a prominent feature so carefully described must have existed, but our excavations here disclosed nothing of this nature. Three of the corners, in two of which the pavement was intact, were thoroughly examined, and not one paving slab nor any traces of the original existence of one were found. And as the area in the center of the court, with the exception of his tunnels cutting across it, remains today as it did before Place's excavations, it is certain that such stonework could not have been removed since his time. Again it is probably a case of confusion of the notes from which his text was written, and these walks may exist in some other court of the palace.

⁵ Subsequent excavation of the important Nabu temple standing alone in the city has shown the wall through which one enters the temple court to be the only undecorated one of the four.

⁶ *Op. cit.* p. 115.

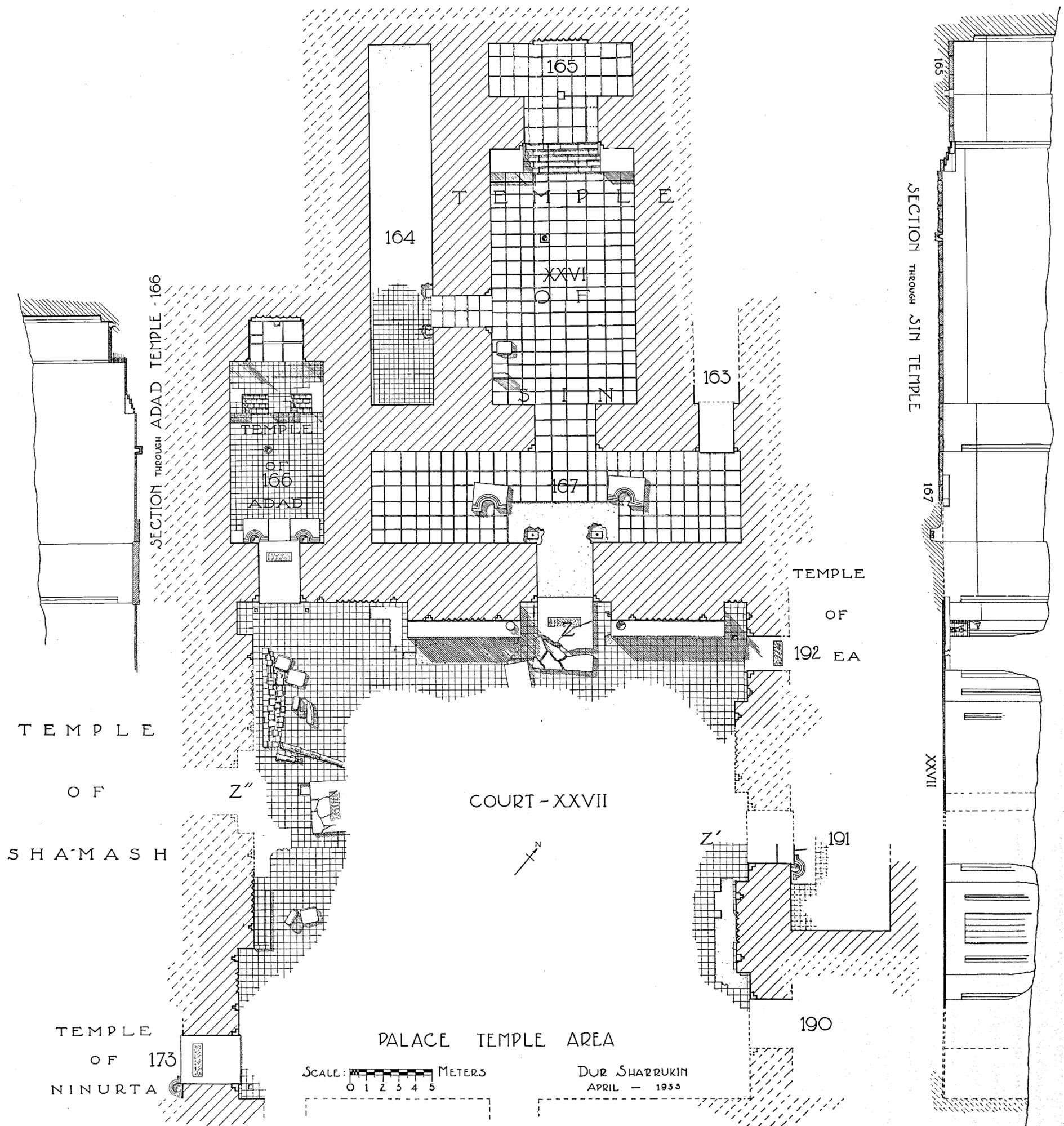


FIG. 98.—PLAN AND SECTIONS OF COURT XXVII AND THOSE ADJOINING ROOMS WHICH WERE EXCAVATED BY THE IRAQ EXPEDITION. SCALE, 1:200

The walls with the exception of a small section including doorway *Z'* along the southwest side remain standing nearly to the present ground level, a height varying from 3 to 7 meters from the floor. Their surfaces are broken by an elaborate treatment of niches and engaged half-columns and are covered with whitewashed mud plaster. A black dado extends around the court, varying in height with the different motives of architectural treatment.

The doorways opening from the court are of various widths and are all, at least on the three decorated sides, rabbeted with double setbacks to within 1 meter of the floor. They have stone thresholds, those in the temple portals being inscribed each with a prayer to the deity for whom that temple was built. The temple thresholds are each of one piece of stone, whereas the remaining ones are made up of several slabs fitted together. Vaults undoubtedly spanned these portals at a considerable height. There is no direct evidence for this except scattered fragments of glazed brick such as are known to have been used in the decoration of the gateway found with vault intact in the town wall.⁷

NORTHWEST WALL

The principal feature of this wall (Fig. 98) is the motive of doorway *Z* leading to the Sin temple. The actual opening, colossal in itself, is but a small portion of this architectural unit. It is rather the decorated flanking buttresses before which stand the glazed brick tableaus, "trees" (p. 97), and statues that give to this composition the impressive majesty it must originally have possessed (Fig. 99).

The passageway through this portal measures 3.40 in width and has for depth 3.60, the thickness of the wall. The threshold was originally of one slab of alabaster, but now lies broken into several pieces (Fig. 100). It was found not within the doorway, but rather just before it. The reason for its present position is conjectural. Our first conclusion was that an attempt to remove it had been made, possibly by Sennacherib with the intention of re-using it in his palace at Nineveh, and that when the stone reached this point it cracked and was therefore abandoned. Later evidence, however, rather points to the fact that the temple never reached completion and that this threshold was about to be placed in the spot for which it was intended when Sargon fell in battle and his building program was halted. There is no trace of the plaster within the doorway being broken or even scarred, which most certainly would be the case had the removal of such a heavy stone been attempted. And we find within Room 167 similar evidence of incompleteness. Here the pivot stones are in place, but the large stone slabs cut out and grooved to surround the pivots lie unbroken beside the places intended for them (Fig. 101). Again there are no scars upon the plastered wall surfaces, and had removal been undertaken it is likely that these large slabs would have been broken. The sill very possibly was broken by the falling of the superstructure of the doorway.

The inscription (No. 3, p. 130) upon this doorsill was our first decisive evidence that this unit was a temple. The signs are beautifully cut in a panel nearer the interior than the court side of the threshold.

In the corner formed by the buttress and the wall just to the right of the doorway itself (Fig. 102) is a stone ring projecting slightly above the floor surface, the ring being cut in the upper part of a stone which extends about 0.30 below the floor. A hole in which a complementary ring originally rested was found in the corresponding place to the left of the entrance. Slight traces of wear appear within the ring, clearly indicating its use as an "anchor." It may have been used to tether animals intended for sacrifice within the temple. Its proximity to the glazed brick, however, rather points to other purposes, for it seems unlikely that restless animals would be fastened where they might damage the glazed brick. A ring such as this

⁷ *Ibid.* pp. 170-78.

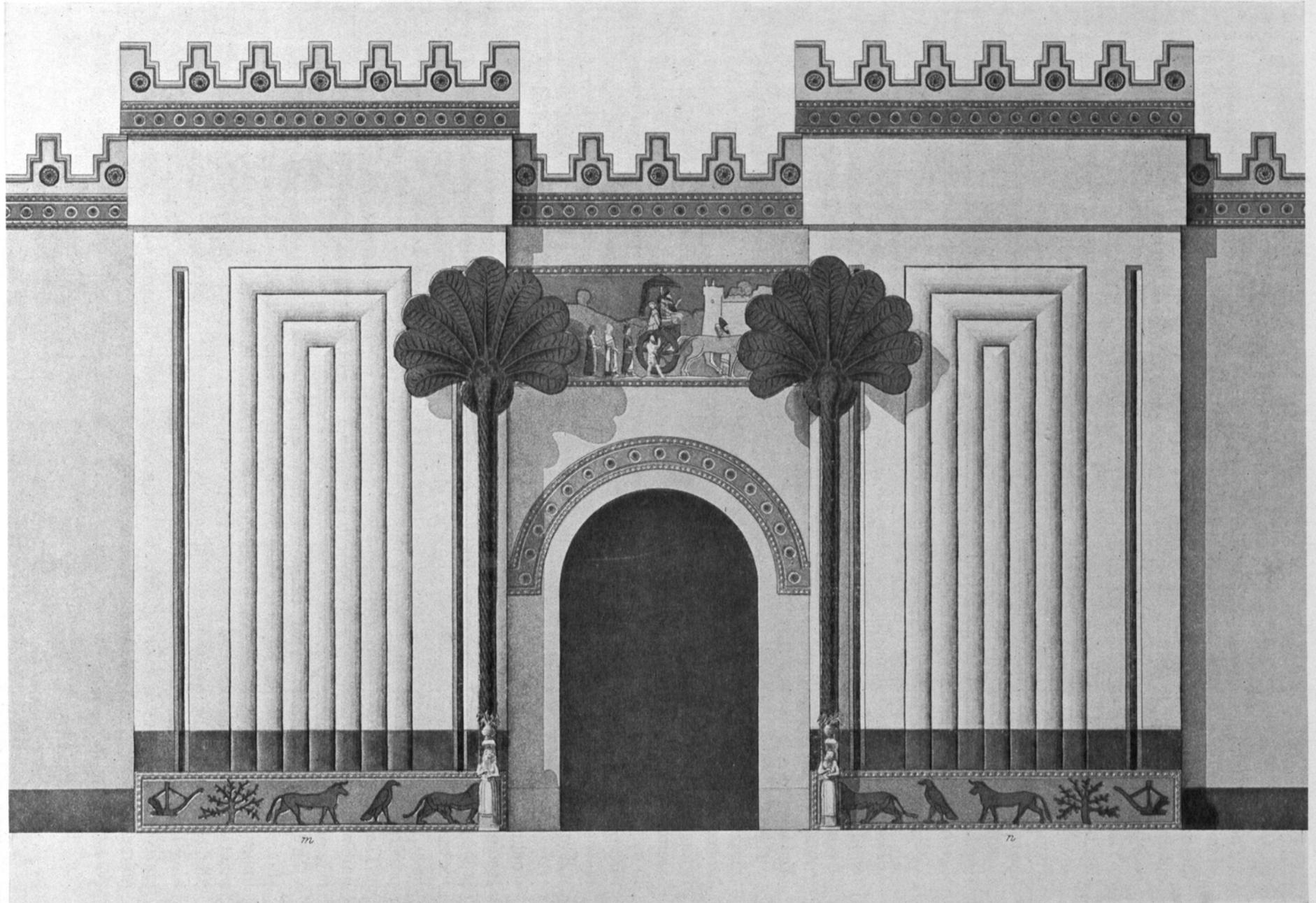


FIG. 99.—PLACE'S RESTORATION OF THE FAÇADE OF WHAT HAS PROVED TO BE THE SIN TEMPLE. SCALE 1:100



FIG. 100.—A PORTION OF THE NORTHWEST WALL OF COURT XXVII. IN THE FOREGROUND IS THE THRESHOLD OF THE DOORWAY INTO THE SIN TEMPLE. THE DOORWAY IS FLANKED BY GLAZED BRICK TABLEAUS, SHOWN ONLY PARTIALLY CLEARED. AT THE FAR END OF THE TRENCH WORKMEN CARRYING BASKETS OF EARTH ARE EMERGING FROM THE ADAD TEMPLE DOORWAY

would be an excellent means of fastening halyards, if banners or streamers were attached to the near-by shaft or "tree." The close parallel between the "trees" here and the flagstaves of Egyptian temple pylons readily suggests this possibility. There may, of course, have been

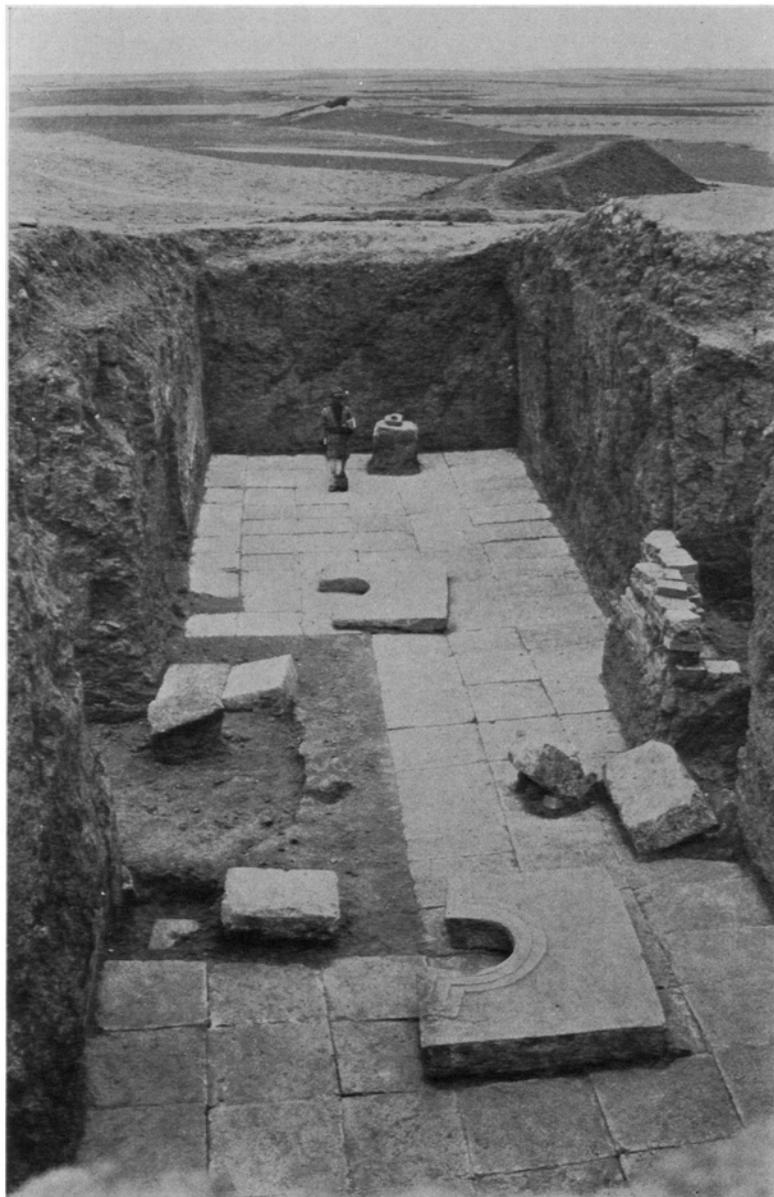


FIG. 101.—ROOM 167 FROM NORTHEAST. IN THE LEFT FOREGROUND CAN BE SEEN A PIVOT STONE OF THE DOORWAY FROM COURT XXVII, WHILE THE LARGE SLABS CUT OUT TO SURROUND THE PIVOTS LIE UPON THE PAVEMENT, UNBROKEN AND OUT OF PLACE

awnings or flagstaves upon the superstructure over the door. These would have been served equally well by such rings.

Probably the greatest decorative feature of the entire northwest wall is the pair of shelves faced with glazed bricks forming the earliest known tableaux of this material. These project a meter in front of the faces of the buttresses on either side of the doorway, extend their entire width of 7 meters each, and rise from the floor to a height of 1.50 (Fig. 100). They were

constructed after the buttresses had been finished, for the plaster on the buttress walls extends to the floor behind them. The baked brick facing, consisting of alternate courses, fifteen in all (though Place shows only twelve), of square and half-square bricks, was set up, and filling was packed in behind it. In this instance the ledge was topped with a layer of plaster (Fig. 103) probably covered with bitumen to shed the rain.⁸ The baked bricks undoubtedly were set up in a workshop, painted, and then taken down to fire the glaze before being finally reassembled in the court. The eventual removal of the tableaus disclosed how the bricks were marked for reassembly prior to being baked, for crudely painted upon the top faces are identifying marks.



FIG. 102.—CORNER FORMED BY WALL AND BUTTRESS TO THE RIGHT OF THE ENTRANCE TO THE SIN TEMPLE. NOTE FASTENING-RING IN CENTER AND LOWEST COURSE OF CORNER OF TABLEAU AT RIGHT. BEHIND TABLEAU IS THE IMPRINT OF THE WOODEN SHAFT SET INTO THE FILLING OF THE SHELF

These consist of plain circles, plain squares, and crosses contained within circles or squares, so arranged that edges marked with the same symbol belonged together. Such marks appeared only where the glazed design upon the face offered an insufficient guide for assembly.

Unfortunately weather and time have effaced much of the original splendor of the design and coloring of these glazed tableaus,⁹ although at this entrance the structure is almost completely intact. There are only a few spots where the fading and flaking of the glaze have not removed all but the faintest suggestion of the original appearance. Yet these occasional sections or individual bricks where better baking or protection have preserved the glaze in its original brilliance are sufficient to give one a conception of the magnificence these tableaus once possessed.

⁸ Other examples, found in the Nabu temple, have brick surfaces to serve this purpose.

⁹ See Place, *op. cit.* III, Pls. 27-31.

The much stylized design (Fig. 104) is identical on both tableaux, but in reverse, so that the figures in each case face the entrance. Place's restoration of one complete tableau, made, fortunately, before its general condition reached its present deplorable state, is an invaluable aid in filling in the parts now missing. Nearest the portal end we have a lion, sovereign of the earth, a symbol perhaps of the power of the Assyrian Empire. It is probably the most realistic of the living figures, done in good proportions and with a strong sense of motion. The head, with jaws apart, is especially fine, and highly expressive of the ferocity that makes of this animal the symbol that it is.

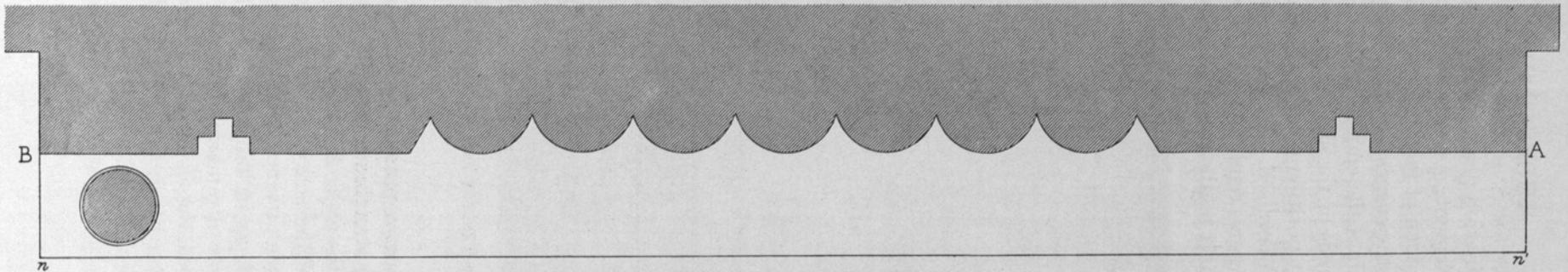
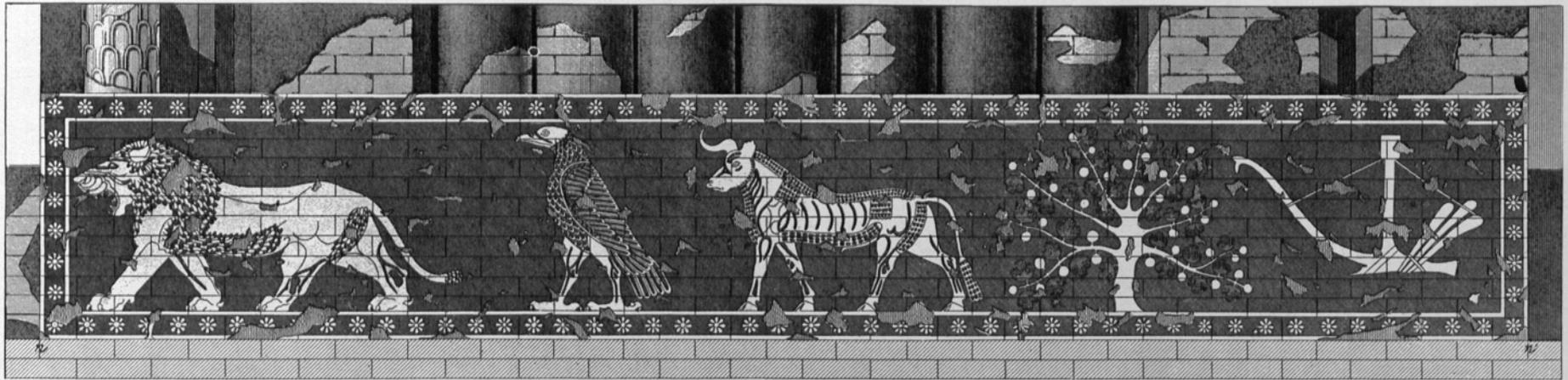


FIG. 103.—TOP OF SHELF AT LEFT OF ENTRANCE TO THE SIN TEMPLE

Next comes an eagle, sovereign of the air, reflecting like the lion the might of Sargon's empire. Although somewhat more stylized than the lion, it yet retains a certain degree of naturalness in its proportions, but is definitely lacking in any sense of motion.

A bull occupies the central position in the array, rather unfortunately, perhaps, for at the outset it is dwarfed in scale by the immediately neighboring eagle and loses thereby something of its significance as the emblem of productive force. It lacks power, gives forth no sense of life, and in the proportions of the body suggests a horse rather than a bull. Its most notable deficiency is the lack of perspective, shown too clearly by the visibility of a single horn, which completely hides the second one.

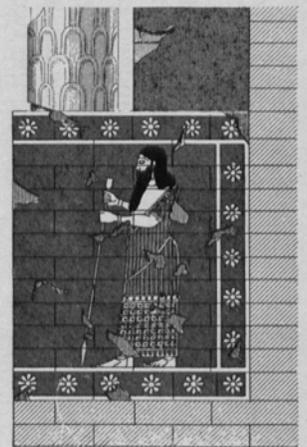
The fig tree no doubt represents the fertility of the land. The trunk and branches are stiff and artificial, and the fruit and leaves decidedly out of proportion to them. Here the designer has abandoned all idea of realism and has produced a highly conventional and decorative figure.



0 1 2 3 MÈTRES



CÔTÉ B



CÔTÉ A

FIG. 104.—TABLEAU AT RIGHT OF ENTRANCE TO THE SIN TEMPLE, AS FOUND BY PLACE. SCALE, 1:30

Completing the panel is a combination plow and grain-seeder, the earliest known Assyrian representation of this useful implement. As a reminder of the necessity of agriculture it rounds out very nicely indeed the idea of fertility suggested by the bull and the fig tree. It may have been intended to convey the suggestion that the cycle of agricultural production was the primary reason for the strength of the empire.

The figures occupying the two ends of the shelf represent the king and his prime minister. The former occupies the important position next to the portal and is represented as wearing the royal pointed helmet. One arm is raised. The prime minister is bareheaded and carries in his hands a long staff. Both these figures remind one of the human representations found upon the stone reliefs, where realism exists to about the same degree.



FIG. 105.—PORTION, SHOWING EAGLE, OF TABLEAU AT LEFT OF ENTRANCE TO THE SIN TEMPLE, AS FOUND BY THE IRAQ EXPEDITION

A border of rosettes between narrow parallel bands extends completely around the front face. At the ends a similar border stretches horizontally along the top and the bottom and vertically along the edge abutting the wall. Apparently the vertical borders of the front panel were to serve as the outer edges of the end ones—not unreasonable, for seldom would these end panels be viewed except at some distance from the wall.

The original coloring was vivid, as is indicated by a few examples still retaining their original hue: the background a clear ultramarine blue, the figures a chrome yellow with deep ochre flesh and black hair and beards, the fig leaves green, and the rosettes white-petaled with yellow centers and banding stripes. Black was used in the drawing and for outlining the various figures.

Fragments from here and from other parts of the palace show clearly how the coloring

changes with time. The blue apparently turns to green and eventually becomes a washed-out yellow, the color usually found today. Green, on the other hand, reverts to blue. The remaining colors merely become less intense. Figures 105 and 106, showing respectively the eagle of the tableau at the left of the entrance and the figure of the king on the portal end of the one at the right, indicate the condition of the bricks and the glaze as found today. Actually much more of the design and color appears than the camera succeeded in registering.

Set into these shelves and extending some meters vertically (Fig. 99) were the so-called "trees," of which but fragmentary remains now exist. They were apparently pushed forward when the upper part of the walls fell, leaving *in situ* only the portions set into the earth filling of the shelves. Removal of the tableaus has shown that the wood extended down to floor level.

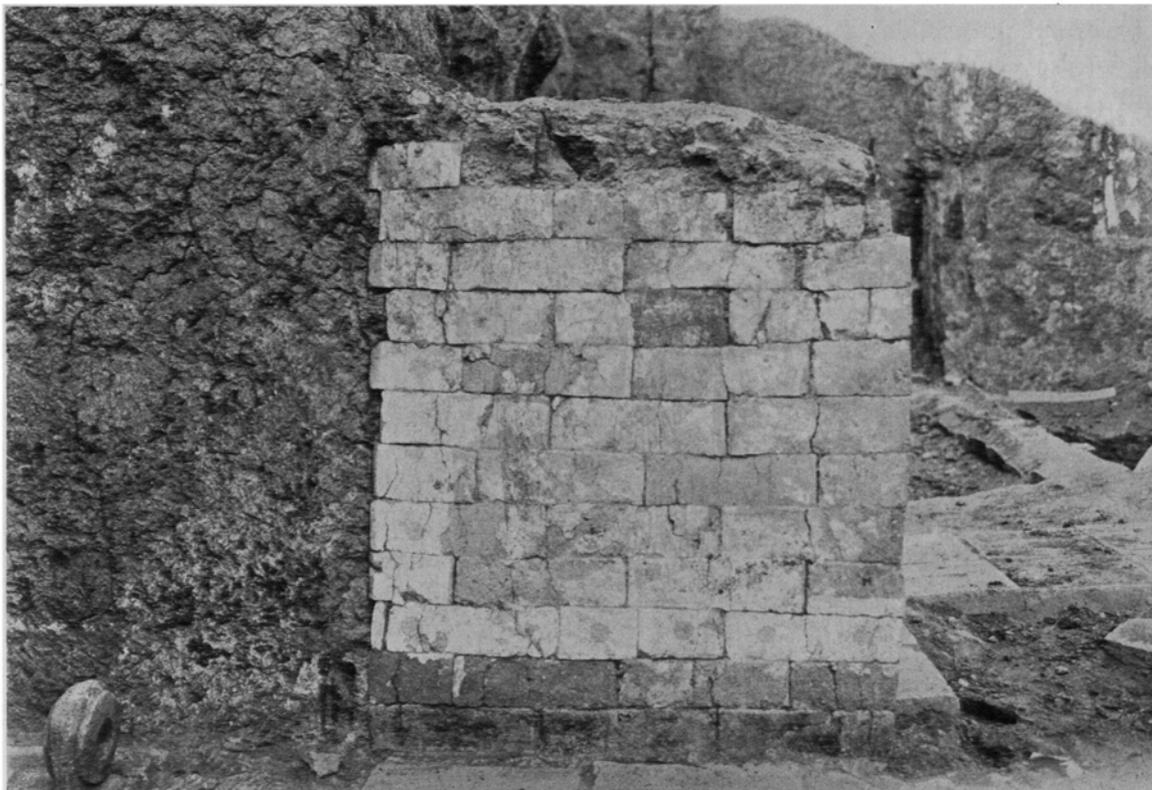


FIG. 106.—PORTAL END, SHOWING KING, OF TABLEAU AT RIGHT OF ENTRANCE TO THE SIN TEMPLE, AS FOUND BY THE IRAQ EXPEDITION

In Figure 102 we see but the imprint, although the wood was actually found as it had been placed there originally. So great was its decay, however, that it fell to pieces as the surrounding earth was removed. From the remains we know that the "trees" were of cedar,¹⁰ each measuring half a meter in diameter at its base, and were set with circumference 0.40 from the front and portal faces of the tableaus.

Since the fallen sections of the "trees" at this façade were removed by Place and were therefore not to be found in our excavations, we must refer to his account of them. He tells of finding a cylindrical bronze casing inclosing a shaft of well preserved cedar. This extended horizontally to a length of 9 meters and had a constant diameter corresponding exactly to that of the base still remaining within the shelf. He assumes, therefore, that the "trees"

¹⁰ Analysis by the Director of the Royal Gardens at Kew.

originally must have reached a height of 10 or 11 meters. The bronze casing was adorned with an embossed scale-like design, probably intended to represent the bark of the tree, and was fastened to the wood with bronze nails. Sheets of gold leaf found near by and bearing this same design suggested to him that the bronze was formerly overlaid with gold. There were no traces of branches; these were restored by him merely to complete the "tree."¹¹ A similar "tree" (see p. 104), but with bronze bands rather than a complete casing, was found by us before the entrance to the Shamash temple.

There is no questioning the decorative value of these tall vertical shafts emerging from behind the tableaus and framing the temple portal. But in addition to this there is a possibility that they played some part in the temple ritual. As decorated staffs rather than trees they may have been used to display flags and banners of religious significance, a practice certainly not without present-day parallel; or as trees they may have played an important part in the religious services. Mr. Sidney Smith, in studying the part played by trees in Assyrian religion, states that at the New Year festival in Assyria in the gardens of Nabu's temple fillets of fresh green leaves were put on a bare tree trunk to take the place of the old ones which had dried; metal bands called "yokes" were removed, also perhaps to be replaced by fresh ones; and at least in one case a golden dish was set on top of the trunk.¹² This most certainly suggests a connection between the "trees" of Dur Sharrukin with their bronze bands and the ritual of the New Year. The security with which the bronze bands were fastened to the wood with a goodly number of rather large nails and the general unattractiveness of dried green fillets during the major portion of the year lead one to suspect and hope that the ritual as carried out in the temples of Dur Sharrukin differed slightly from that described by Mr. Smith.

We must again refer to Place¹³ for an account of the statues at the entrance to the Sin temple, for his removal of them left us with no evidence other than the pavement holes in which they doubtless originally stood. The entrance to the Shamash temple, however, furnished us with one of exact similarity (see p. 107). In Place's restoration (Fig. 99) we find these figures standing before the tableaus near the portal corners, directly in front of the lions' heads—an awkward position, to be sure. But our investigations at the Shamash temple entrance where the base of one of these statues was actually *in situ*, at the temple entrance in Court XXXI where the statues were missing but the holes in which they stood were clearly evident, and at this very portal where similar holes were also disclosed, show that these human representations actually stood at the corners rather than in front of the shelves.

That these figures were not cult statues is clear not only from their position outside the temple but also because of the saucer-like hollows cut into the tops of the square blocks resting upon the crowns. They were obviously intended to support something, possibly the golden dishes used in the New Year festival. They are slightly less than life-size, conventionalized in the figure though lifelike in features (Fig. 107). Surmounting the head is a crown with two pairs of horns, from under which falls a mass of curls covering the back of the neck. A heavy beard extends well down the chest. Altogether the head and crown strongly suggest those of a human-headed bull. Held by both hands against the breast just below the beard is a jar (Fig. 108) from the mouth of which extend wavy bands (the conventionalized method of rendering water spouting forth from a vase), two over the shoulders and down the back, two down the front. The garment is otherwise plain except for a fringe through which protrude the feet.

¹¹ Place, *op. cit.* I 120–22.

¹² London Institution, *Bulletin of the School of Oriental Studies* IV (1926–28) 69–76, esp. p. 72.

¹³ *Op. cit.* I 122–25.

The jars held by these figures are suggestive of a type found in great quantities throughout the temple area. Such jars, of coarse pottery, are carafe-shaped, very similar to the water bottles used to this day by the inhabitants of this district. One curious feature of the ancient ones, however, is a circular aperture about 0.01 in diameter directly at the bottom of the bulging base. Obviously they could not hold a liquid substance unless this hole were stopped up, presumably by the thumb or palm as indicated in this figure. That bottles of this type



FIG. 107.—STATUE FROM RIGHT OF ENTRANCE TO THE SHAMASH TEMPLE. SCALE, 1:15

were used in the temple ritual to scatter holy liquid of some sort is a possibility, though there is an equal likelihood of their being *sikkāti* inserted in the walls for decorative purposes.¹⁴

The faces of the buttresses rising above the tableaus are treated with the motive found most frequently throughout the interior and exterior of the entire palace. This was unquestionably employed to relieve the monotony of plain wall surfaces and to break the predominantly horizontal feeling which this spread-out type of architecture tends to create. We find centered on the buttress a group of seven engaged half-columns, the outer points of their circumferences being in the plane of the wall surface (Fig. 100). There is no space between the columns, each of which has an average diameter of 0.35. On each side of this group is a niche, 0.35 wide, once

¹⁴ Andrae, *Assur: Farbige Keramik* (Berlin, 1923) pp. 28 ff.

recessed to a depth of 0.30. Between the central group and these niches are plain surfaces 0.75 in width.

It is doubtful if this central group terminated at the top as shown in Place's restoration (Fig. 99), wherein the first and seventh half-columns are turned at right angles, becoming one horizontal band, and the third and fifth are treated similarly. This form was suggested to him by certain bas-reliefs found in other Assyrian palaces.¹⁵ It is rather more probable that the en-



FIG. 108.—UPPER PART OF STATUE, SHOWING BOTTLE HELD IN BOTH HANDS

gaged half-columns terminated as abruptly above as below. An exceptional case of but two engaged half-columns, which ordinarily appear only in groups of odd numbers, is found in the alcove-like space between the buttress to the right of the Sin temple entrance and the north corner of the court. Obviously a horizontal upper terminal could not be employed here. More recent excavations in the Nabu temple have disclosed actual cases of similar groups of half-columns terminating abruptly at the top.

¹⁵ Place, *op. cit.* II 49.

COURT XXVII

101

Near the west corner of Court XXVII and in the same northwest wall we find the entrance to the Adad temple. The simplicity of this temple as compared with the architectural elaborateness of the Sin temple is reflected in its entrance. For here we have nothing but the actual



FIG. 109.—TRENCH ALONG SOUTHWEST WALL OF COURT XXVII, WITH ENTRANCE TO ADAD TEMPLE IN THE DISTANCE

doorway opening directly from the court to the temple proper, with no trace of buttress, tableau, "tree," or statue. Hitherto untouched foundation deposit boxes under the pavement at either side of this portal proved to be filled only with sand. Whatever tablets or amulets were once intended for them obviously never reached their destination. Possibly they found

their way to the pockets of the masons instead. In this doorway (2.50 wide by 3.60 deep) the threshold is in position and is inscribed near the inner edge with a clear-cut prayer (No. 4, p. 130) to Adad, the storm-god.

The wall surface between the doorway of the Adad temple and the buttress forming the left extremity of the Sin temple entrance is decorated with the usual motive of two niches between which are seven engaged half-columns (Fig. 109). This was evidently overlooked by Place, for in both his plans and his restorations this is given as an undecorated surface.

SOUTHWEST WALL

A description of the southwest side of Court XXVII becomes something of a repetition of what has just been said concerning the Sin and Adad temple fronts. The two sides were conceived and executed almost identically except for minor variations due to a slight difference in dimensions. The general plan is the same, the magnificent entrance to the Shamash temple being the major feature, again set to the right of the center axis of the court and composed of the same architectural and decorative motives, while to the left, occupying a position corresponding to that of the Adad temple entrance in the northwest side, is the simple doorway leading into a second smaller temple, dedicated to Ninurta.

The present state of preservation, however, presents quite a different picture. Whereas the entire wall fronting the Sin and Adad temples remains intact to the ground surface, a height of 6-7 meters above the pavement of the court, we find less than half of the southwest wall still standing and this, poorly preserved, to but 2-3 meters from the floor. The doorway proper leading to the Shamash temple has completely disappeared, at least from the court side, and large portions of its flanking buttresses have fallen forward, carrying with them the tableaus, "trees," and statues. From the remaining section of the left buttress, which indicates the original existence of seven engaged half-columns since actual traces of five and a half were found, from the far corner of the right buttress, and from the position of the tableaus fallen face downward on the pavement, it has been possible to reconstruct this entrance as shown in Figure 98. Its similarity to the Sin temple entrance is at once evident.

The limestone threshold intended for doorway Z'' lies even more out of place than does that belonging to portal Z. It has an inscription, so badly weathered as to be undecipherable except for the first line, which fortunately gives us the name of the deity. It measures 3.20 in width, 0.20 less than its counterpart at the Sin temple; while it has not been cleared to its entire depth, it is safe to assume 3.60 for this dimension. This corresponds to that at the Sin temple, where the wall was probably of the same thickness, for a comparison of the entrances to the Ninurta and Adad temples shows walls and thresholds of similar thickness and depth. Whether to account for the present position of this threshold as due to removal or to intended placement in position we have no way of telling, for there is no wall to examine for evidence and nothing in the line of a clue remains in the court. We can only assume that what arguments apply to the Sin threshold apply here also.

General similarity in almost every respect between this and the doorways to the two other larger temples can be the only reason to assume that stone rings were originally set into the floor just without the portal. Destruction has removed every trace of them, but it seems probable that whatever reason necessitated their presence at one entrance likewise demanded their existence here.

The tableaus which originally faced the shelves projecting from these buttresses present a sorry sight today (Fig. 110). They lie with the glazed surfaces downward, directly upon the pavement, the few lower courses intact as to relative position, the top courses incomplete and scattered everywhere about. Their fallen state, however, is not to be too highly deplored, for,

possibly because the glaze was on the underside and therefore subject to less moisture from the penetrating rains, we find the colors much more vivid and more nearly like their original hues than in the case of all but a very few of the bricks in the more complete standing tableaus at doorway Z. The fact that these fallen tableaus had faced northeast and therefore in antiquity received less direct sunlight than the others may account for the stronger coloring. The brightest coloring found upon the Sin temple tableaus was on the portal end of the left one, a section likewise exposed only to the northeast light. It is difficult to attribute this better preservation of color to any one thing, for in addition to the above mentioned alternatives there is the possibility that better baking of this set of bricks is responsible for it.



FIG. 110.—REMAINS OF TABLEAU AT LEFT OF ENTRANCE TO THE SHAMASH TEMPLE

The construction of these tableaus is identical with that of those at the Sin temple—alternate courses of square and of half-square bricks. Similarity of design and color also prevails. Although restoration of these tableaus was out of the question, it was at first thought that good individual bricks from here could be salvaged and used in the restoration of the tableaus from the Sin temple, substituting them when their better condition warranted. A closer study of them, however, showed that while the design was the same on each tableau it was not identical in its relationship to individual bricks. A section that might appear entirely upon one brick in one tableau might on the other be distributed over portions of four bricks. Clearly, then, substitution was out of the question; but the coloring of these bricks should be invaluable to those working upon the restorations, both for itself and because it naturally clarifies the design and may therefore prove extremely useful in supplying bits of detail which have already disappeared from the tableaus being restored.

The different distribution of a similar design over the bricks of the two tableaus substanti-

ates the fact that the bricks were originally set up, painted, and removed for baking before being finally assembled. Factory methods of painting several individual bricks with the same portion of the complete design, each brick eventually to take its relative place in its own tableau, are obviously out of the question, for were such the case our hopes of substitution in the restoration of one tableau could have materialized.

Though most of our discussion concerning the "trees" or staffs at the entrance to the Sin temple was necessarily based upon evidence found by Place, we have at the Shamash temple our own example. The "tree" which once rose above the shelf to the right of the entrance we find lying slightly above the pavement in a horizontal direction perpendicular to that of the

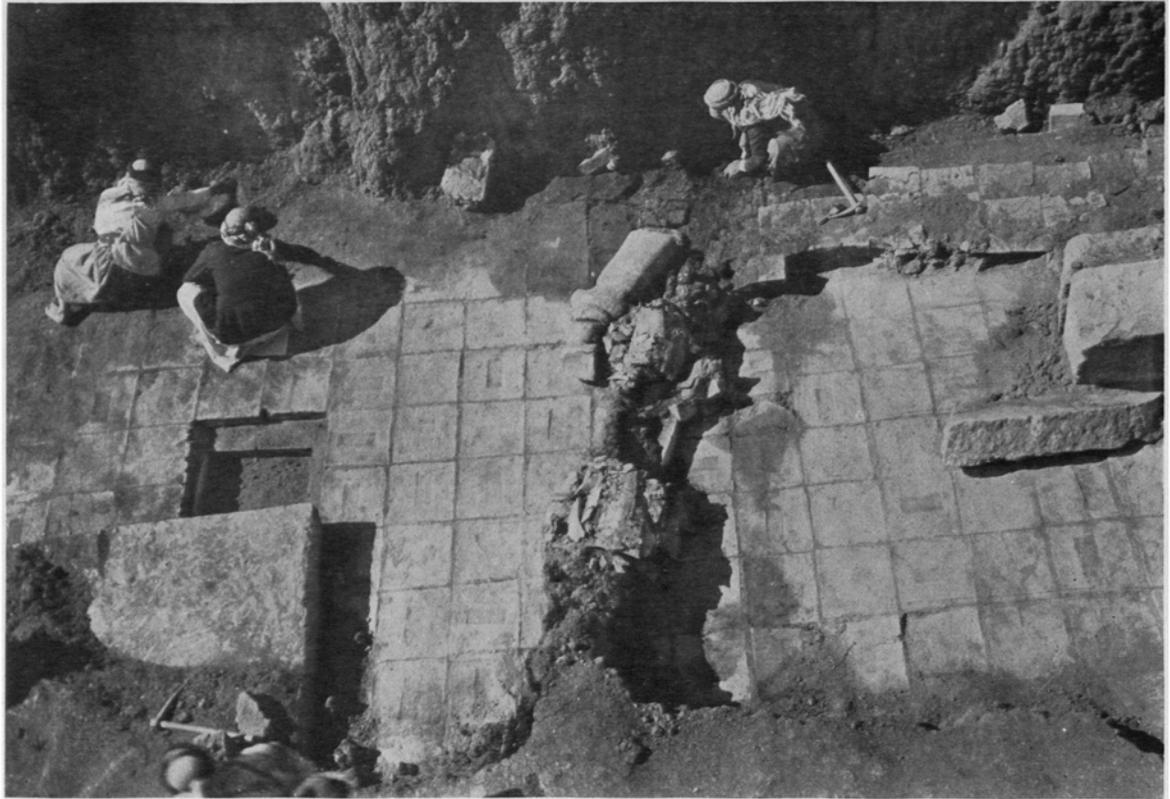


FIG. 111.—SECTION OF PAVEMENT BEFORE ENTRANCE TO THE SHAMASH TEMPLE. IN THE LEFT FOREGROUND IS SHOWN A CORNER OF THE THRESHOLD AS FOUND NOT IN POSITION. IN THE CENTER MAY BE SEEN THE STATUE, LYING FACE DOWNWARD, AND THE TWO BRONZE BANDS SURROUNDING THE WOODEN STAFF. IN THE RIGHT BACKGROUND ARE THE REMAINS OF THE TABLEAU FLANKING THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE ENTRANCE

face of the wall. It was obviously pushed forward when this section of the wall collapsed. Since the shelf itself fell forward with the wall, we have no traces of any vertical section of this "tree"; but we have intact a horizontal section cleared to a length of 4.50 (Fig. 111), at which point it disappears into the wall of our trench.

Unlike the "tree" at the Sin temple, which was entirely incased in bronze, this "tree" was adorned with bronze rings or bands extending around its circumference and overlapping at their joints. Within the distance uncovered we find two of them, each 0.70 wide, separated from each other by a slightly narrower interval. Figure 112 shows the fragmentary state in which these bands were found; but from their numerous fragments we learn that the bands were embossed, the design being raised above the background. Not all of the figures compris-

ing the complete design can be ascertained from the fragments that have survived. Enough remains, however, so that we have entirely or in part in several instances representations of a man leading a bull by its horns, a man (possibly the king) walking in the procession, a bird in flight, a barren tree reminiscent in the distribution of its branches of the fig trees pictured on the glazed brick tableaus, and what may easily be the plow likewise pictured on the tableaus. These figures appear in two registers separated by a band of rosettes. Two similar bands serve as borders above the upper register and below the lower one respectively. Through the centers of the rosettes were driven nails whereby the bands were fastened to the wood, the heads of the nails forming the eyes of the rosettes. Many nails were found actually extend-



FIG. 112.—STATUE AND BRONZE BANDS OF THE "TREE" AS FOUND BEFORE ENTRANCE TO THE SHAMASH TEMPLE

ing into the now decayed wood. The part these bands may or may not have played in the ritual of the New Year festival has already been mentioned (see p. 98).

The scale on which these stylized figures were executed and the detail with which they were worked out indicate that they were employed near the base of the "tree," for placed high up they would have become meaningless bands. The skill with which such delicate problems as facial features, hands, hair, beards, and dress ornamentations are handled is truly remarkable. This exquisitely wrought detail seems rather incongruous applied to such artificial, conventionalized figures. Surely the craftsman has outshone the draftsman. That the craftsman was not free from error, however, is humanly demonstrated by a small patch carefully riveted to the band where some slip of the tool had necessitated the removal of a damaged portion and a fresh start on an untouched surface.

Place found in Room 166 bronze fragments similar to these in many respects.¹⁶ They showed definite traces of having been attached to wood, were of the same scale, and were embossed in similar designs. But these could not have been "tree" bands, for his suggestion that they might

¹⁶ Place, *op. cit.* I 129.

have been used to ornament a stair balustrade or the side of the "bed" indicates that they had plane rather than curved surfaces. It is very possible, however, that the fragments found were so small as to give no indication of whether or not the surface was curved.

Strangely enough, our excavations disclosed no traces of the complementary "tree" which once rose above the shelf at the left of the entrance. Its removal may have taken place in

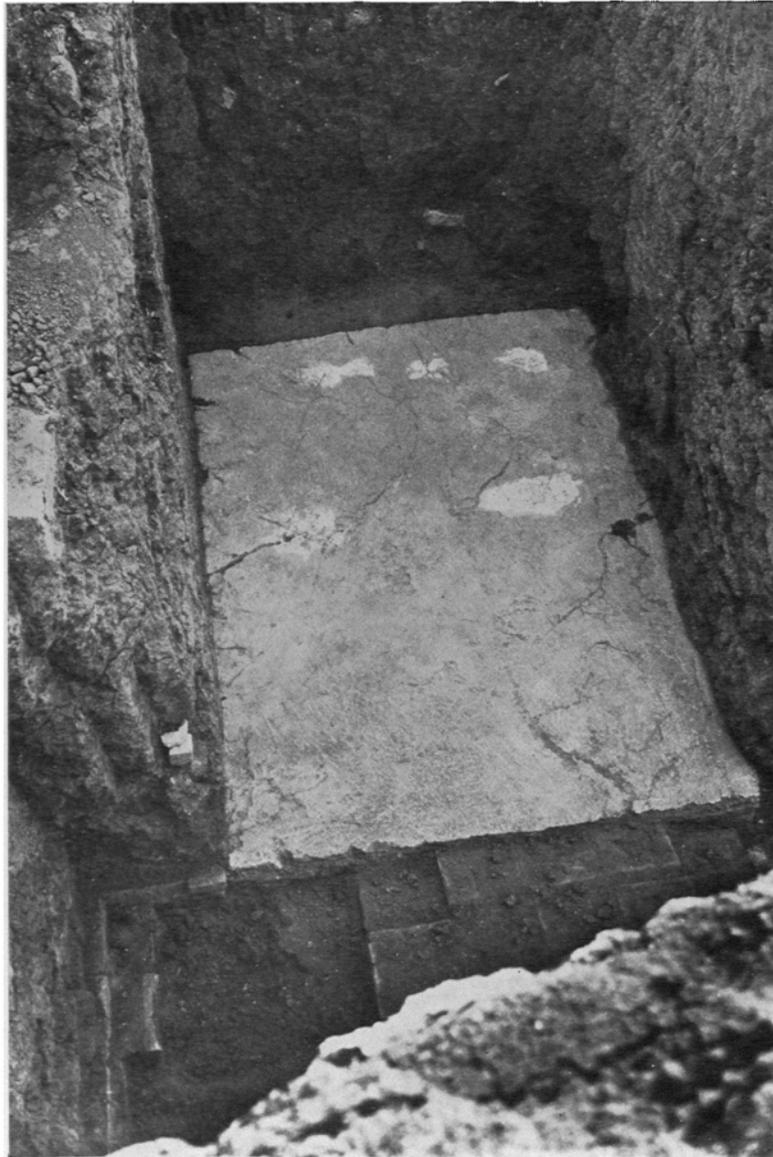


FIG. 113.—THRESHOLD IN ENTRANCE TO THE NINURTA TEMPLE. ITS INSCRIPTION (NEAR FAR END OF BLOCK) IS BADLY WEATHERED

antiquity, for had it been standing at the time of the complete collapse of the court wall in this section we should have found it lying parallel to its mate. That it was unwittingly destroyed by Place is extremely unlikely, for such destruction could have happened only within his tunnel, which was considerably narrower than our trench. His investigation of this portal was obviously far from thorough, for he describes it as having neither "trees" nor shelves faced with tableaus.¹⁷ We know from his trenches that he examined only the doorway proper and

¹⁷ *Ibid.* pp. 126 f.

the court wall to the left of it, where we find neither "tree" nor statue. In the matter of the tableaux he was obviously misled by finding the plastered walls of the buttress extending to the floor (cf. p. 93) and assumed therefrom that no shelf had existed in front of it.

The statue found at this entrance has already been mentioned (p. 98). As in the case of the "trees," but one was found, that to the right of the entrance. Figures 111 and 112 show its prostrate position, face downward, parallel to and almost touching the fallen "tree." Here we have direct proof of its original position at the corner of the tableau, for the lowest of the three fragments in which this figure was found was still standing upright where the builders of the palace had placed it. And although the tableau had fallen forward, its position was evident from the lowest course of bricks, which remained intact.



FIG. 114.—TRACES OF WOOD, POSSIBLY SKIDS, UPON THE PAVEMENT OF COURT XXVII

The fate of the statue to the left of this portal is perhaps not quite as conjectural as that of the "tree." Place mentions finding both statues here,¹⁸ and it is very possible that he removed one of them. Two such figures he packed and shipped to the Louvre, but they were both lost in the unfortunate disaster that befell most of his antiquities. Probably the two from the Sin temple entrance were the ones thus lost, for he describes them as being in a better state of preservation than the broken ones before the Shamash temple. A torso had previously been brought to us by workmen who had come across it in their plowing, and this may very well belong to the statue missing from the Shamash temple. Place may have removed it before deciding to abandon it as inferior to those from the Sin temple.

Just as the entrance to the smaller Adad temple lies near the west corner of the court, so does the doorway to the similar Ninurta shrine open from near the south corner. They were doubtless originally of the same appearance, differing only slightly in width, which we find in the Ninurta temple entrance to be 3 meters as compared to 2.50 in the Adad temple. Their depth is the same, as has been stated on page 102. The threshold here (Fig. 113) bears an

¹⁸ *Ibid.* p. 126.

8-line inscription (No. 5, p. 131). Foundation deposit boxes just outside this entrance had been previously found and opened.

But three engaged half-columns, rather than seven, appear between the niches in the motive decorating the wall surface between the left buttress of the Shamash temple entrance and the doorway to the Ninurta temple. This is no doubt due to the fact that this entire wall is shorter by 0.80 than that along the northwest side of the court. Between the Shamash temple entrance and the west corner of the court we find a slight variation from Place's plan. He indicates a setback at the extreme northwest end of this side (see frontispiece), whereas our research shows the wall continuing straight from the buttress to the corner. In all probability the wall surface at this point was broken by three engaged half-columns corresponding to the two in the similar section of the northwest side. Since the only wall remaining here rises but a few centimeters above the pavement, we can only by analogy assume such decoration. Since the space involved is slightly wider than its counterpart in the adjacent side, we assign three rather than two half-columns to fill this section of wall.

Several limestone blocks of the dimensions of paving stones were found upon the pavement in the débris before this wall face. To account for them is a difficult matter. From their position so near the fallen tableaux (Fig. 112) they could scarcely have fallen from a place as high as the roof must have been. The most likely assumption is that the Shamash temple was incomplete at the time of its destruction and that these blocks were lying in the courtyard awaiting their final places in the pavement of interior rooms. Remains of timber, the lengths laid upon the pavement parallel to one another (Fig. 114) where a large number of the blocks were found, suggest skids upon which they were moved.

NORTHEAST WALL

Occupying the central portion of the northeast side of Court XXVII is a portal similar in plan to those leading to the two large temples (Fig. 98). It leads, however, to a comparatively small chamber of uncertain function rather than to a temple. Its threshold, of several blocks of stone, is uninscribed and covers an area measuring 3.20×2.60 . These dimensions result from restoration based on partial excavation and symmetry. Here we have the portal flanked by buttresses of smaller dimensions, this no doubt due to the space requirements of two, rather than the usual one, additional smaller doorways. These buttresses project but 0.80 into the courtyard and measure 5.50 in width as compared with the 1-meter projection and 7-meter width of the others. They are, accordingly, decorated with but five engaged half-columns between the niches instead of the seven found on the others.

These smaller dimensions would in themselves change but little the general appearance of the portal. More drastic differences, however, alter considerably the effect of this entire wall face. There are no shelves faced with glazed bricks and, accordingly, no "trees." The lack of this brilliant coloring and of the tall vertical shafts adorned with gay banners or fillets must indeed have made of this a drab sight as compared with the temple façades. Possibly there were statues, for according to Place's account of this doorway figures similar to those at the temple entrances graced this side also.¹⁹ No traces of them were found in our excavations, nor did the pavement show evidence of where they might have been placed.

The temple dedicated to Ea, the third of the smaller temples opening from Court XXVII, has its entrance to the left of the central portal. Here the portal does not face the altar; the changed arrangement is doubtless due to the exigencies of the general plan, which provides insufficient space to orient the temple differently. The doorway to this temple measures 2.10×2.60 and occupies a position near the corner, as do those of the other smaller temples.

¹⁹ *Ibid.* p. 127.

Here, however, we find the adjacent wall decoration setting off the doorway, for symmetrically placed on either side are recessed niches, whereas similar niches at the other smaller temples are found on only one side of the doorway and are in these instances component parts of the motive decorating the wall. The inscription (No. 6, p. 132) upon the threshold within this doorway is of 8 lines.

Balancing the entrance to the Ea temple is the doorway leading into Room 190, at the right of the central portal. We can say nothing new concerning this, for our excavations included but one side of it and its restoration upon our plan is made according to Place.

SOUTHEAST WALL

The southeast side of Court XXVII remains untouched by our excavations except for the small portion extending about 1.50 from the south corner of the court. It has been drawn on our plan (Fig. 98) exactly as given by Place.

COURT XXXI

A second temple court, considerably smaller than Court XXVII, for it served but one temple, is entered from the forecourt through Room 181 (see frontispiece). Court XXXI, like the principal temple court, is nearly square, measuring 21.70×20 meters.²⁰ At one's right upon entering is the façade (partially restored in Fig. 115) of the temple of Ningal, its doorway almost identical with those of the Sin and Shamash temples facing Court XXVII. The wall directly opposite the entrance—a portion of that inclosing the entire temple group—contains a series of nichelike alcoves, probably originally vaulted, while according to Place the two remaining walls of the court are unpierced, except for the single entrance from Room 181, and are undecorated.

Structurally, this court (Fig. 116) resembles Court XXVII. The paving is of two courses of baked brick, the lower one set in bitumen, with a layer of sand separating the two. The plastered walls are painted white, except for a black dado, and are treated along the northwest wall with the usual recessed niches and engaged half-columns. The doorways have stone thresholds and are rabbeted to within 1 meter of the pavement.

Destruction here evidently involved more than the collapse of the walls. Distinct traces of a conflagration extended over the entire area included in our clearing. An ash layer in which were found quantities of potsherds and bronze fragments appeared directly upon the pavement. One wonders whence came combustible material in quantities sufficient to produce this ash layer, for with no roof beams or matting overhead there was little of this nature other than applied decoration. Were it not for the presence of the bronze fragments in the ash, later occupation before destruction might account for this débris. A more likely reason, however, lies in a wilful desecration of the temple. In this event the furniture might have been carried from the various rooms into the court and burned in one large conflagration. Such destruction would account for the absence of any traces of the statues and "trees" which undoubtedly adorned the temple façade.

NORTHWEST WALL

The entrance to the temple, 3.40 in width, lies almost on the central axis of the court and is flanked by buttresses in the usual manner. It furnishes the only instance in which the threshold of one of the larger temples is in position. Upon the threshold is inscribed a prayer (No. 7, p. 133) to Ningal.

Near the angle formed by the right buttress and the wall just without the doorway we find the hole into which once was set the stone fastening-ring; close by is the ring itself, removed

²⁰ The 20 meters according to Place, for the extent of our excavations does not include any of the southeast wall.

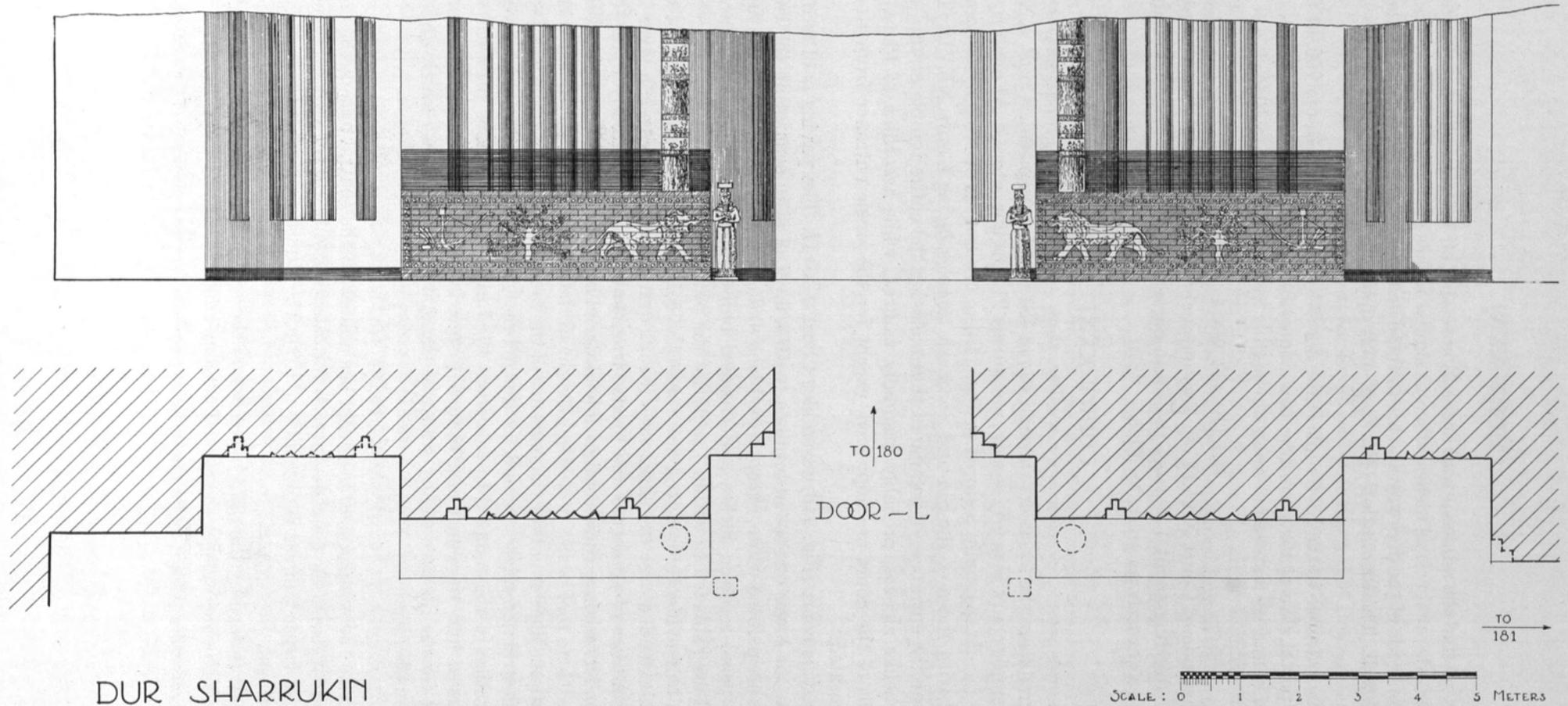
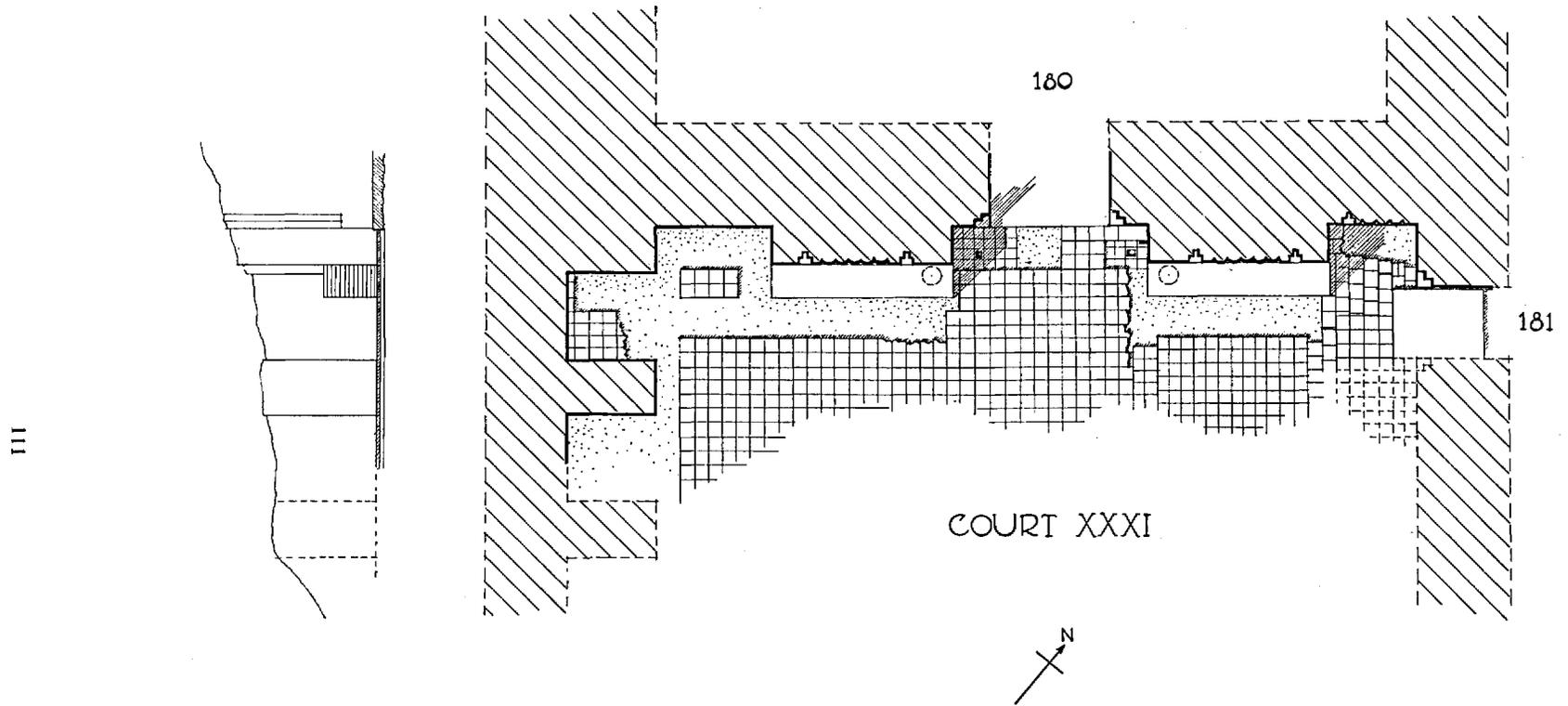


FIG. 115.—FAÇADE OF THE NINGAL TEMPLE (PARTIALLY RESTORED). SCALE, 1:100



SCALE : 0 1 2 3 4 5 METERS

DUR - SHARRUKIN

APRIL 1932

FIG. 116.—PLAN AND SECTION OF EXCAVATED PORTION OF COURT XXXI. SCALE, 1:200

but never carried away (Fig. 117). Slightly forward of this is a pilfered foundation deposit box, and correspondingly on the other side of the entrance is a second one.

The buttresses flanking the entrance have the same 1-meter projection as those at the Sin and Shamash temples but are considerably narrower, as the scale of the smaller court demands. They are 5.20 in width and have their surfaces decorated with the usual motive composed of niches and engaged half-columns. In this case but five of the latter are included between the niches. Here the niches appear much nearer than is usual to the group of half-columns, and the entire motive is not centered on the buttress surface.

The glazed brick tableaus projecting from these buttresses give us little new information. Of the portal ends none but the foundation courses remain, and but little more of the entire tableau to the left of the entrance exists. Of the one to the right of the portal enough of that

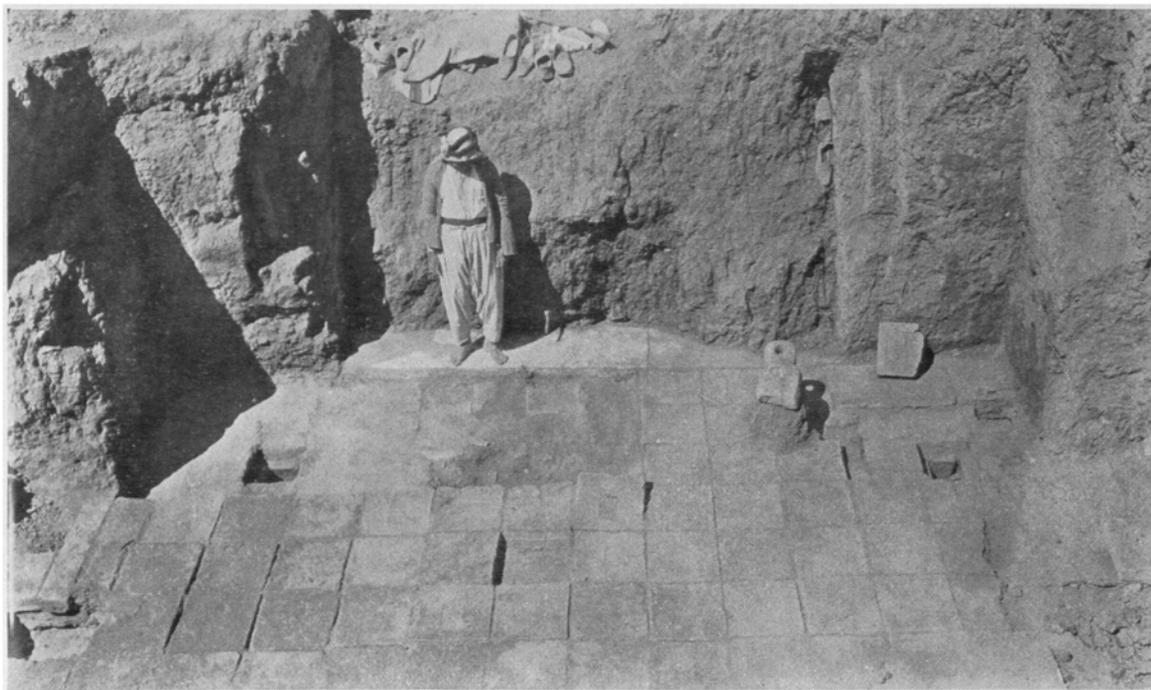


FIG. 117.—ENTRANCE TO THE NINGAL TEMPLE. THE TWO SQUARE HOLES IN THE PAVEMENT ARE FOUNDATION DEPOSIT BOXES, ONE AT EACH SIDE

portion near the end away from the doorway remains standing so that one can recognize the plow and a portion of the fig tree. The presence of these figures upon this tableau was surprising, for Place tells us that both of them were omitted at this entrance.²¹ It is clear that the five figures usually found upon the front faces of the shelves could not be placed upon this pair, each of which is 1.80 shorter than the tableaus in Court XXVII. One or two must be missing, and it is indeed unfortunate that the sections which would give this information have suffered such destruction as to remain forever silent. Except for their shorter length and the omission of one or two of the figures, these tableaus were similar to those already described. The coloring was undoubtedly the same, as is shown by various fragments; and the fact that the plow and fig tree appear as they do on the others leads us to believe that whatever figures existed were identical with those in Court XXVII.

A very good reason for placing off center away from the portal the decorative panels of

²¹ *Op. cit.* I 135.

niches and engaged half-columns which appear above the tableaux is evident when we consider the "trees" or shafts rising up from the shelves. It would be confusing, as well as less effective, if these vertical elements were placed before the wall decoration. A plane surface was definitely desirable to set them off to full advantage. The greater width of the other buttresses allows ample space for this between the niches and the ends of the buttresses, but here the only way by which this could be achieved was by shifting the niches and half-columns to one side. It is not surprising that Place states that no trees existed at this portal,²² nor is it any more so that we find today no traces of wood among the débris. The destruction of the portal ends of the shelves is so complete and so obviously a case of wilful demolition and removal that were it not for the portals in Court XXVII we should be unable to attempt a restoration here. Al-

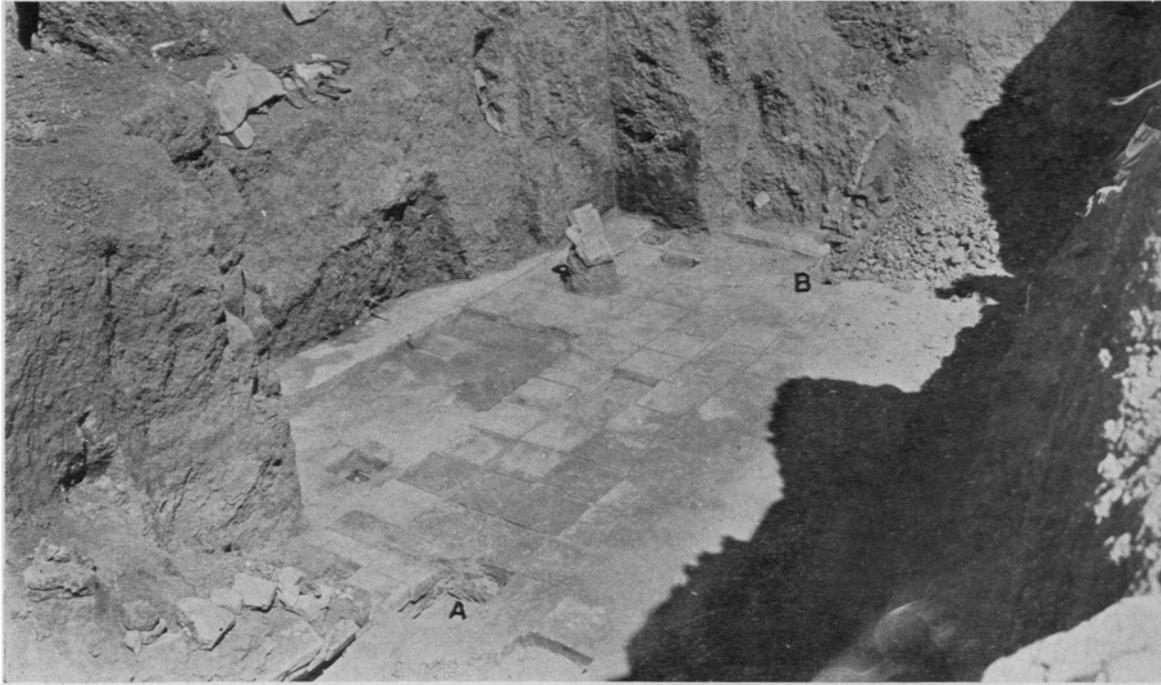


FIG. 118.—PAVEMENT BEFORE ENTRANCE TO THE NINGAL TEMPLE, SHOWING AT CORNERS OF THE TABLEAUS HOLES (A AND B) IN WHICH STATUES ORIGINALLY STOOD

though there are no fragments of wood to suggest the shafts, the many small pieces of embossed bronze found among the ashes most assuredly suggest the bands with which the shafts at the Shamash temple were bound. If these bronze fragments were from shaft bands, there is all the more reason to assume destruction and fire before the collapse of the temple front, an order of events which would also explain the lack of any wood in the débris.

The removal of the statues was as complete as in the case of the shafts. In this instance, however, they may have been taken by Place, for he mentions finding both of them at this entrance.²³ Ample evidence of their original existence and position is not lacking, for at the corners of both tableaux we find the holes in which they once stood (Fig. 118).

The wall between the portal buttress and the north corner of the court presents an unusual form of asymmetrical decoration in three engaged half-columns with but one adjoining niche. This same arrangement in reverse order with five half-columns probably appeared in the corresponding section of the wall at the other extremity of this façade, where the wall now re-

²² *Loc. cit.*

²³ *Loc. cit.*

mains to but a few centimeters above the pavement, insufficient to show its decorative treatment. Such an unbalanced composition appearing in these two sections would tend to make of this entire façade one complete architectural motive rather than a large portal somewhat crowded into a space too narrow for it.

SOUTHWEST WALL

The wall extending across the southwest side of Court XXXI presents a thing unique within the entire palace. For into its thickness and extending across the entire width of the court is cut a series of niches or alcoves, each 2.50 square. Between the alcoves, a distance of 1.50, the wall retains its thickness. The pavement of the court extends into the alcoves, the walls of which are plastered as are the walls of the court. That they were vaulted overhead and the wall continued upward at full thickness seems highly probable, for otherwise this outer wall would have lost a great deal of its strength. Whatever function the niches served can be but a guess, for they are empty of all evidence. Perhaps they played some part in the temple ritual, but had this been the case one would expect to find similar alcoves near the other temples; for so alike are all these temples in plan that the ritual in each would seem to have been the same, at least as it concerned the architectural layout. It is more likely that these alcoves provided shade from the sun or shelter from the rain for those awaiting presentation within the temple, for about this court there are no such rooms as Nos. 186, 190, and 191, which may have served this purpose in Court XXVII.

THE SIN TEMPLE

Returning again to Court XXVII we enter the Sin temple through doorway Z (Fig. 119). Immediately upon passing through the portal we find ourselves in a long narrow anteroom the main axis of which extends at right angles to the entrance. Within, it is very dark, for in contrast to the brilliancy in the open court whatever light is admitted through the one outer doorway or from a possible clerestory or openings in the roof seems inadequate. Gradually, however, we notice that to the left the walls are unpierced, but that near the corner to the right in the opposite wall is a doorway leading into a corridor-like chamber which nearly surrounds the inner portion of the temple. Directly opposite the outer doorway is a second large portal, through which we look into the principal room of the temple. At the far end of this we see the sanctuary, elevated above the general floor level and approached by a broad flight of steps extending across the width of the opening between the large room and the sanctuary. A shallow niche backed by adjoining engaged half-columns serves as a background for the statue of the god which stood perhaps in the center of the sanctuary. Nearly halfway down the wall on the left side of the central hall is a doorway leading into a long narrow chamber.

The major part of the temple ritual no doubt took place in Room XXVI; the central hall of the temple (Fig. 98). Worshipers probably proceeded no farther than this, the sanctuary being reserved for members of the priesthood. Room 164 may either have served the priests as living- or dressing-quarters or have been a storage place for the temple furniture. The latter seems more likely in view of its lack of sanitary arrangements and its position in relation to the main hall and sanctuary.

That all the rooms within portal Z were covered seems certain, for the floor levels of Rooms 167, XXVI, and 164 at least are below that of the threshold in Z and with no drains to carry off the water the entire temple, were there no roofs, would become flooded in times of rain. The walls vary in thickness from 3.00 to 3.60 and by the addition of the portal buttresses attain a maximum width of 4.80 between Room 167 and Court XXVII. They are ample to

support either flat or vaulted roofs, but the dimensions involved make it seem likely that only the surrounding "corridor" and possibly Room 164 were vaulted, the other chambers being spanned by beams carrying flat roofs.

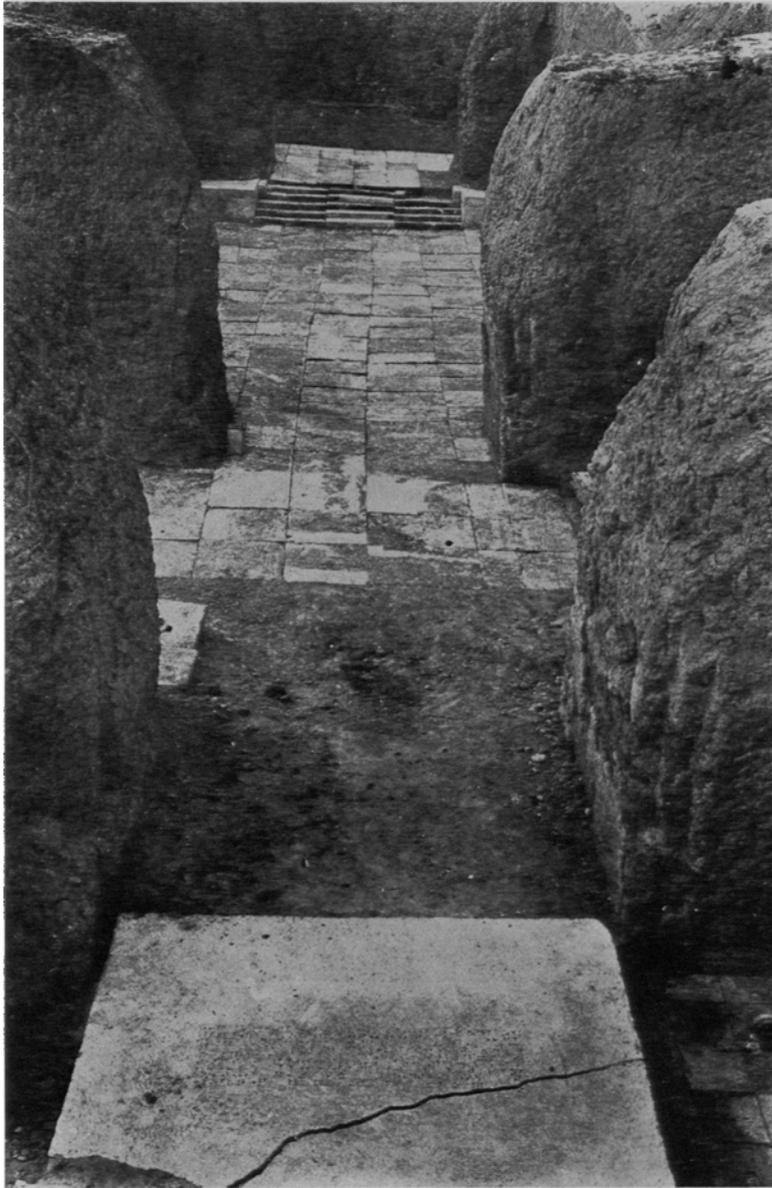


FIG. 119.—THE SIN TEMPLE. ENTRANCE FROM COURT XXVII IN FOREGROUND, SANCTUARY IN THE DISTANCE

ROOM 167

This anteroom, perhaps a forerunner of the narthex of the early Christian church, extends laterally across the entire width of the temple. Covering an area measuring 5.60×22.70 , its floor is paved with stone blocks. These paving slabs vary considerably in all dimensions, but maintain a general average of approximately $0.80 \times 1.00 \times 0.35$. Most of them are in place to this day except in the area just within the entrance. Resting on the pavement (Figs. 120 and 101) were found a few other blocks, including the two large slabs shaped to receive the door pivots. On each of these slabs triple bands as decoration follow the circular contour of

the recess and continue in both directions along the interrupted edge. The diameter of 0.80 indicates the size of the pivots required to support the tremendous doors necessary to close this large entrance. Whether these two slabs were awaiting the setting of the threshold before being laid in position or were left here after an abortive attempt at removal has been discussed on page 89.



FIG. 120.—ROOM 167 FROM SOUTHWEST

The walls are plastered with mud and are whitewashed. An unusually high dado of 2 meters extends around the room. The present height of the walls approximates 6 meters with no sign of the springing of the arch in any one of the three doorways. Were the arch to start just above the present height, the roof could not be less than 8 meters above the floor; and as there was doubtless a decorative band of glazed bricks above the supporting arch it is more than likely that the ceiling height considerably exceeded this minimum.

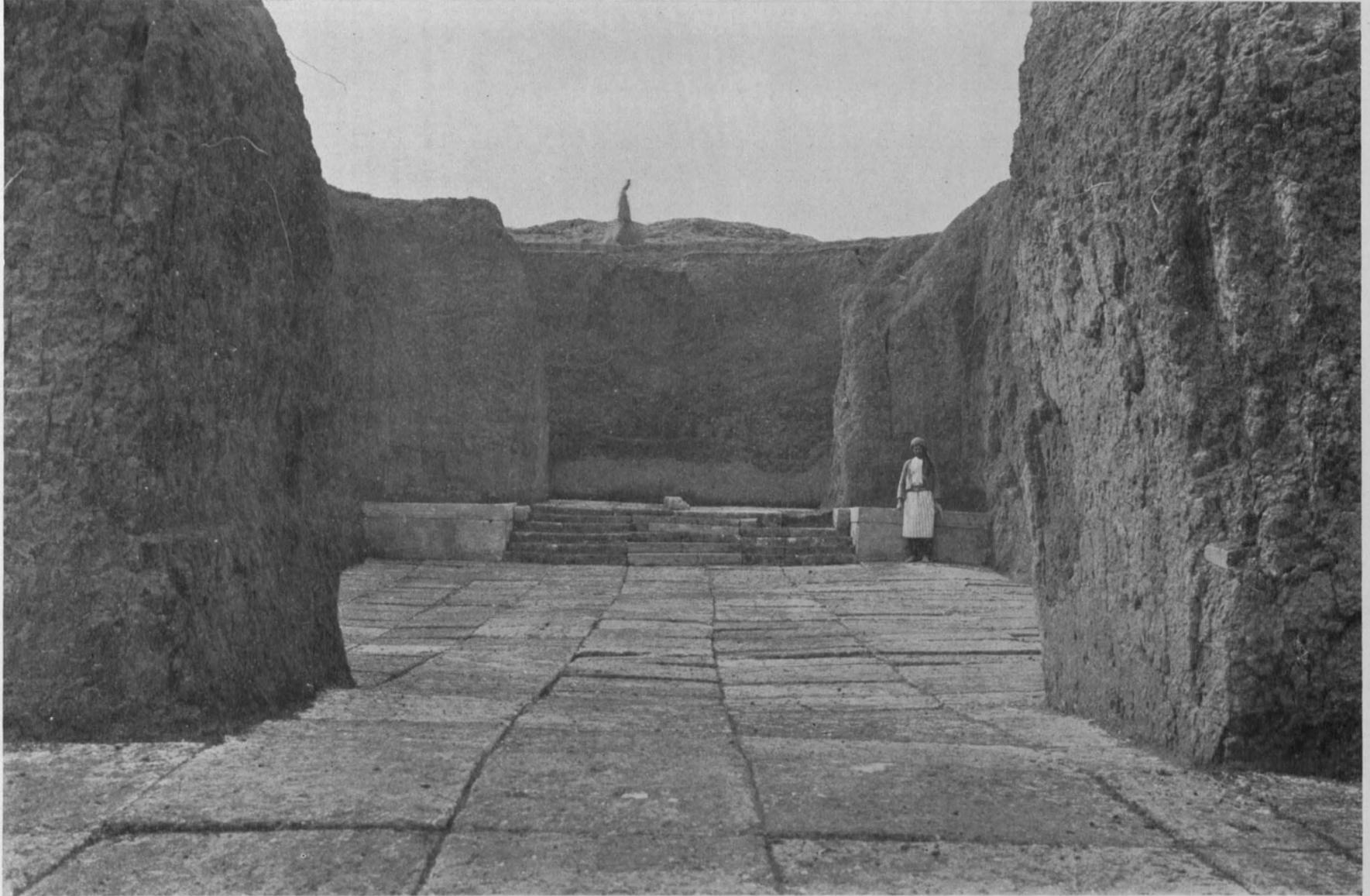


FIG. 121.—CENTRAL HALL AND SANCTUARY OF THE SIN TEMPLE AS VIEWED FROM THE ANTEROOM (ROOM 167)

In the northwest wall near the north corner of this room is a doorway rabbeted with but a single setback instead of the more common double one. This is 2.10 wide and leads into Room 163, the first chamber of the "corridor." An uninscribed stone threshold remains in position. Our excavations in Room 163 extend but slightly beyond the portal and fail to disclose any traces of the pavement within the room. Opposite entrance Z is the portal leading into the inner portion of the temple. Although the southwest walls of these two doorways are in alignment, the greater width (3.80) of the inner one throws their central axes out of line. The inner doorway, however, is centered in the axis of the inner temple. The stone pavement of Room 167 continues through this doorway, in which there is no raised threshold.



FIG. 122.—CENTRAL HALL OF THE SUN TEMPLE, WITH STONE JAR IMBEDDED IN THE FLOOR. IN THE LEFT FOREGROUND IS THE ENTRANCE TO ROOM 164

No objects of any significance were found within Room 167. Evidence of a later occupation, however, appeared in the blocking of the doorway leading to Room XXVI. This occupation did not immediately follow the abandonment of the site as a royal palace but rather after 0.70 of débris had accumulated within this room, for the crudely built baked brick wall blocking the doorway rested upon rubbish of that depth (Fig. 120).

ROOM XXVI

Room XXVI because of its size and position was undoubtedly the scene of the greater part of the temple ritual, although we may concede that Room 165 was the more sacred of the two. It is more than possible that Room 167 served not only as a vestibule but also for some part of the services, for the absence of doors and the common pavement extending through the broad opening joining these two rooms create a sense of unity not ordinarily found between separate rooms (Fig. 121).

The area, 8.90×15.80 , is the largest covered by any one room of the temple. The pavement, similar to that of Room 167, remains completely intact. At a point slightly to the left of the central axis and about two-thirds of the distance down the length of the room there is set into the pavement a stone jar (Fig. 122) tapering in section. At the rim the stone becomes square, occupying about a quarter of the surface area of a paving slab. The inside diameter measures 0.30 at the top, constantly decreasing to but a third of that at the saucer-like bottom, 0.35 below the floor surface. There is no question but that this jar played a part in the temple ritual. Its position in the floor suggests a receptacle for refuse, possibly from the sacrifices. The lack of any outlet points on the other hand to the impracticability of this. It might very well have served as a container of holy water or oil, which could be dipped from it by means of a long-handled spoon or ladle and poured over the suppliant or the sacrificial animal. Perhaps the altar stood near by, placed centrally before the flight of steps. In such event the priests conducting the service before the altar would have ready access to this jar imbedded in the floor.

At the far end of this room a flight of limestone steps leads up to the broad opening into the raised sanctuary (Fig. 123). These steps extend across the entire 4.50 width of the opening and are flanked by platforms projecting into Room XXVI to the line of the lowest riser. Six risers serve to reach the upper level, which is 0.80 above the lower pavement. The small platforms at either end of the stairway are at the level of the sanctuary; they are faced with undecorated limestone slabs. Since no steps approach them directly, they may have been used merely to hold statuary or ritual furniture. From the top of the stairway the stone pavement continues through the opening into the sanctuary.

The walls of Room XXVI remain standing to a height of 6.50. Like those in the anteroom they are plastered with mud and are whitewashed except for a 1.50 dado. The only doorway is in the southwest wall; it leads to Room 164. Again there is no raised threshold, the pavement continuing through the passageway instead. Pivot stones found just within Room 164 tell us, however, that, unlike Room 167, this side chamber could be shut off from the temple proper.

ROOM 165

Room 165 makes up in importance what it lacks in size. Measuring but 3.40×8.90 , it is the smallest chamber in the temple. That it is the sanctuary cannot be denied, for its location at the end of the long principal axis and its raised position approached by a monumental stairway clearly emphasize its function as the focal point of the temple. The central opening with no doors comprises half its width, thereby making of it a part of the main hall rather than a separate room. The figure of the deity, standing immediately in front of the niche in the back wall, or perhaps farther forward over the foundation deposit box centrally placed in the opening in line with the wall nearer the main hall, would command the attention of all those gathered for worship.

The plastered whitewashed walls above a 2-meter dado are plain. A niche placed centrally in the back wall is 0.30 deep and 3.40 wide. It begins 1.20 from the floor and probably extended nearly to the ceiling, although we find but the lower portion intact today (Fig. 123). Already prominent because of its position, it is further emphasized by containing the only bit of wall decoration, seven engaged half-columns, within the entire temple.

The foundation deposit box with its stone cover fitted tightly in place gave us hope of finding some new inscriptions of a dedicatory nature. Removal of the stone cover disclosed a second one, a single baked brick resting upon the vertically laid bricks forming the sides of the box. All was as the builders had left it, but the contents were only sand. Perhaps the masons

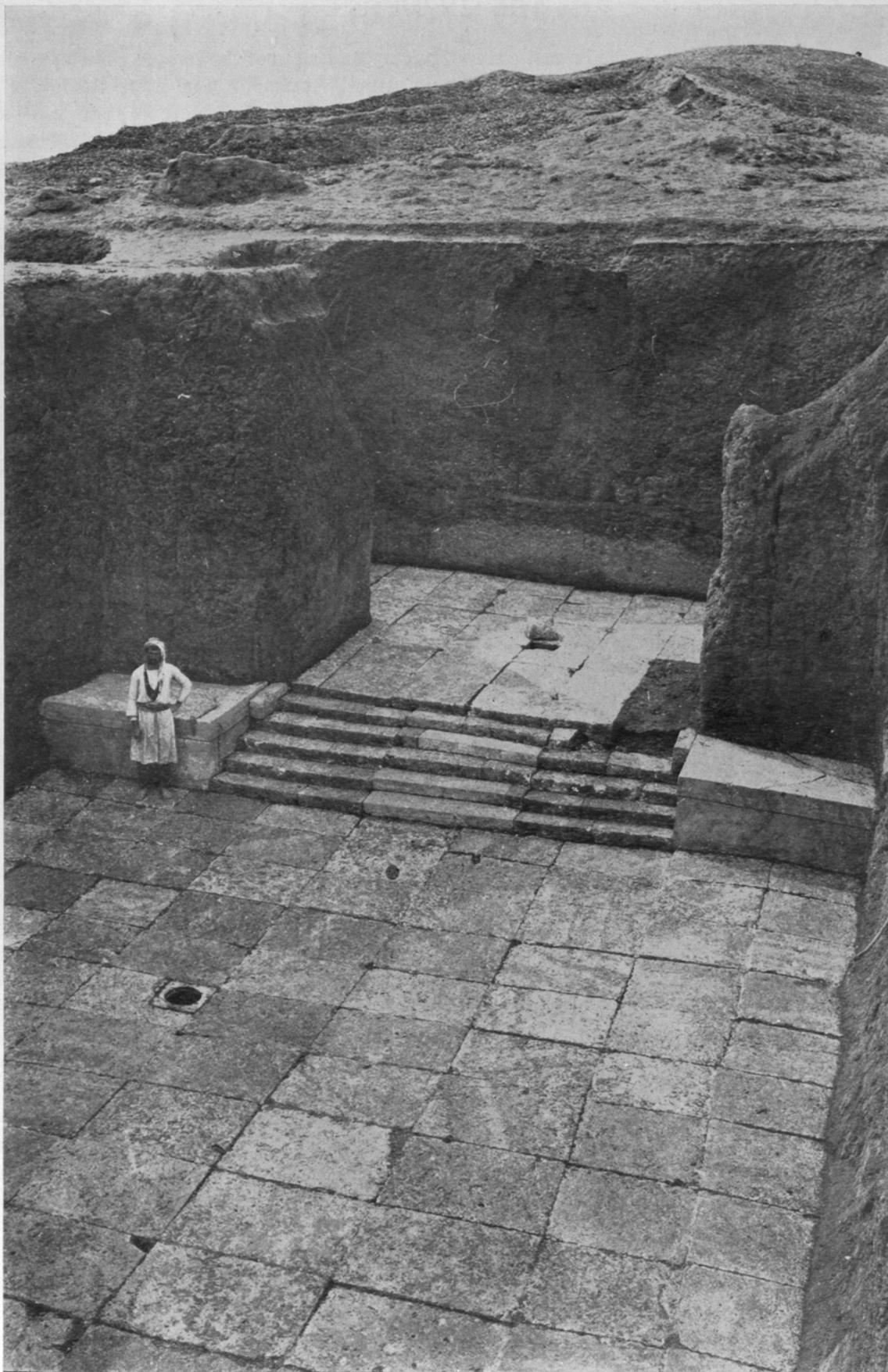


FIG. 123.—STAIRWAY LEADING FROM CENTRAL HALL TO SANCTUARY OF THE SIN TEMPLE

THE SIN TEMPLE

121

had pocketed the objects intended for this depository; or the temple may never have been consecrated. The latter alternative seems likely if we consider the misplaced threshold and paving stones at the entrance as evidences of non-completion. That services had been held here, however, is shown by a tablet found within the temple revealing the payment of a certain

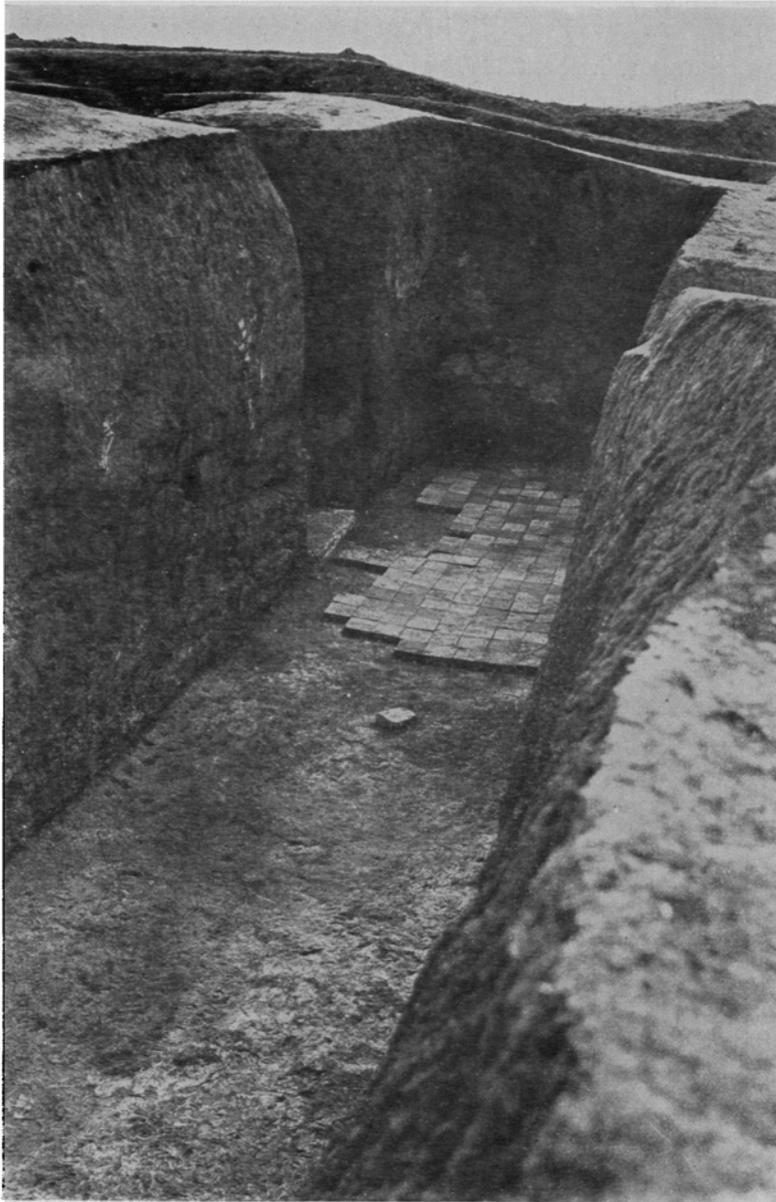


FIG. 124.—ROOM 164 FROM NORTHWEST

tribute to Sin. Just as churches today are often used for service before their dedication, so might this have been the case in the Sin temple at Dur Sharrukin.

A wooden "beam" in vertical position was found 0.50 from the center of the southwest wall of the sanctuary. The wood was intact but so decayed that it crumbled upon being touched. Of 0.50 diameter, but 1.50 of its original length existed when found. It was at first thought to have been a roofing beam; but since its lower extremity was 1.20 above the floor and its position so nearly vertical, it is more probable that it was used as a roof support during a later

occupation when débris had collected to this level. It may still have served originally as a beam supporting the roof, but it is unlikely that it would have fallen directly in such an upright position so far from the floor. It is logical to expect the collapse of the roof before that of the walls. Then, too, a single beam cannot be considered as sufficient evidence of a roof which doubtless fell at one time.

ROOM 164

This long narrow chamber, 3.80×22.40 , opening from the main hall of the temple, was paved with a single layer of baked brick, removed in antiquity except in the area between the doorway and the southeast wall (Fig. 124). The imprints left by the missing bricks clearly show that originally they covered the entire room area. The walls are of whitewashed mud plaster painted with an 0.80 black dado. Pivot stones in position indicate the actual or intended existence of doors at the entrance from Room XXVI.

This side room probably played no part in the actual ritual of the temple. It was definitely separated by doors from the unit composed of Rooms 167, XXVI, and 165, which are all paved alike and open into one another without hint of barriers of any description. Place speaks of finding within this room four bronze wheels of 0.30 diameter mounted in pairs upon iron axles.²⁴ This find immediately suggests a movable altar or a vehicle on which perhaps various pieces of temple furniture were transported between the temple and the storage place assigned to them when not in use. He states, however, that these wheels were found between two buttresses, which his plan (see frontispiece) shows extending out from the northeast wall near the north corner of this room. Since we found intact the plaster of this wall with no signs of such buttresses, it may be that a confusion of notes is responsible for his assigning these wheels to this room when they were actually found elsewhere. Yet their being found here seems reasonable enough, and if we accept it they give a very good clue toward the function served by this room. Ceremonial robes must be donned by the priests, however, and what room could be more convenient for such a purpose than this? Perhaps it served a dual function.

THE ADAD TEMPLE

Included within the same architectural unit or wing of the temple complex, but having no direct communication with the Sin temple, is the Adad temple, Room 166 (Fig. 98). Though but a single room, only 5.70×11.10 in size, sufficiently small to permit its being placed within the central hall of the Sin temple, its arrangement of platform and niche is so similar in scheme to that of its larger neighbor that the same form of ritual might easily be carried on in both shrines. The stone vessels imbedded in their floors occupy the same relative positions. The sanctuary of the Sin temple is here replaced by a platform and a deep raised niche, the platform being reached by two flights of steps (Fig. 125). Whereas in the Sin temple there are but two levels, floor and sanctuary, here there are three: floor, platform, and niche.

The lesser importance of Adad in the Assyrian pantheon may account for the simpler form and smaller area of the temple constructed for his worship, but the architect is responsible for the less massive detail with which it was worked out. Proper scale demanded that the temple should be paved with brick rather than large stone slabs, that two small flights of steps should lead to the platform, and that the statue of the deity should stand in a niche set into the wall. And it was not mere chance that the two stairways were so arranged that the portion of the platform extending out between them is centered on the entrance rather than on the room and niche. The fitting of this small temple into the entire complex required that its doorway be slightly off the central axis of the room on which the niche was centered.

Just within the inscribed stone threshold are three limestone paving slabs extending nearly

²⁴ *Op. cit.* I 132.



FIG. 125.—THE ADAD TEMPLE

across the width of the room (Fig. 126). The two outer ones are cut to allow the pivots of the doors to extend down to the stones upon which they rested and turned. Each of the circular cuts is edged as usual with a triple band which continues along the interrupted side of the stone. The slab occupying the central position is undecorated, but centered near its edge adjacent to the threshold is a rectangular slot into which the bolt was dropped when the doors were closed

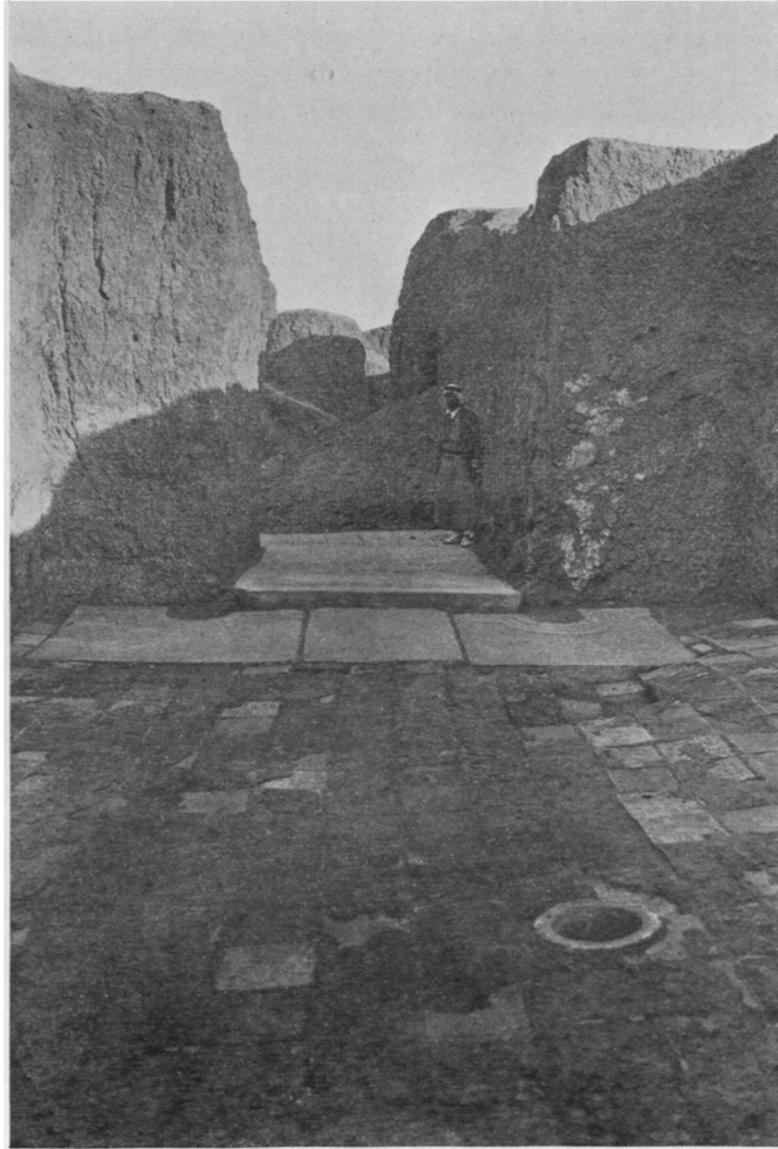


FIG. 126.—ENTRANCE TO THE ADAD TEMPLE, FROM WITHIN. NOTE STONE JAR IMBEDDED IN BRICK-PAVED FLOOR

and locked. With the exception of the floor of the niche, which is paved with stone slabs of varying dimensions, the remainder of the temple is paved with baked bricks. They are laid with the joints filled with bitumen and are covered with a thin layer of the same material. Set into the pavement to the left of the central axis of the room and nearer the platform than the entrance is a stone jar corresponding to the one in the Sin temple. Its inner diameter is 0.40 at the top and diminishes toward the bottom. Its depth is 0.60. The outer edge of the rim is

THE SHAMASH TEMPLE

125

round in this case, as compared to the square one in the Sin temple, where the task of cutting a paving slab to fit a round rim was avoided by cutting the less massive rim to fit a squarely cut-out corner of a slab.

The walls remain standing to a height of about 6 meters. They are plastered with mud and whitewashed. A black dado probably extended around the room, but of this no trace remains. No ornamentation is evident except at the back of the niche, where six engaged half-columns served to set off the figure of the deity.

The platform extending across the entire northwest end of the room projects 3.25 into it (Fig. 125). It is 0.60 above the level of the room and is reached by two flights of stairs of five risers. As the lowest riser is in the line of the face of the platform, the two stairways divide the edge of the platform into three projecting sections perhaps serving as podia for temple furniture. These stairways are of unequal width to allow the central projection to be on the axis of the entrance, as noted above, and at the same time to maintain equal widths for the two side projections. They are of bricks covered with bitumen, that to the left having a width of 1.60 while that to the right measures but 1.30. The size and position of the platform indicate that an altar may have been placed before the niche.

The niche or alcove, raised 1 meter above the platform level, is 3.30 wide and 2.60 deep. The outer corners are rabbeted with but a single recess. The panel of six engaged half-columns covers the entire rear wall, its lower extremity being 0.45 above the floor. A foundation deposit box centrally placed near the rear wall proved empty of objects. The base of the niche is faced with baked brick covered with a coating of bitumen, surely an uninteresting way of treating such a prominent part of the ensemble.

It may well be, however, that the face of the niche and that of the platform originally bore some form of decoration appliquéed over the coating of bitumen. Place mentions finding within the débris of this room fragments of frescoes and embossed bronze²⁵ which may or may not have fallen from these surfaces. One would, then, expect in the case of frescoes to find at least some traces of plaster adhering to the bitumen, though it seems unlikely that bitumen would have been used between the plaster and the bricks; and had the bronze decorated these faces they should show evidence of the nail holes. It is difficult to believe that only plain black surfaces faced the worshipers, although there is no convincing evidence of anything else.

THE SHAMASH TEMPLE

A comparison of the plans of the Sin and Shamash temples (see frontispiece) shows how similar in most respects are these two shrines. Since our excavations extended into such a small portion of the Shamash temple, we can say little about it that is based upon our own evidence. What has been said concerning the structural features, the decoration, and the ritual as practiced in the Sin temple can, with slight, if any, chance of error, well be applied to this place of worshiping the sun-god. But minor details vary the plan. From the anteroom the "corridor" (Rooms 171 and 170) opens at the left upon entering, rather than at the right, and extends only along one side and a portion of the rear of the temple. Room 168, opening off the temple hall, here is at the right and is terminated at the back by the outer wall. A second doorway in this case joins this side room to the sanctuary. The dimensions of the individual rooms in the two temples are about the same, although the width of the Shamash temple as a whole is considerably less, owing to the infringement of the Ningal temple upon the space corresponding to that occupied in the Sin temple by Room 162.

²⁵ *Ibid.* pp. 128-29. Here, as elsewhere, the bronze is said to have shown nail holes, some with bronze nails still in place, and traces of wooden backing.

ROOM 170

Of this temple the only portion, other than the façade already described, touched by our excavations is Room 170, the rear portion of the "corridor." This we came upon in one of our trial trenches (see p. 81). Except for a difference in length, 15.20 instead of 13.40, it proved to be exactly as shown on Place's plan. It is paved with baked bricks, and its walls are plastered and whitewashed. It was probably vaulted originally.

The appearance of five vertical niches, 0.15 in width, spaced unequally along the southwest wall of this room, with all their sills at the same level, caused us no little consternation and

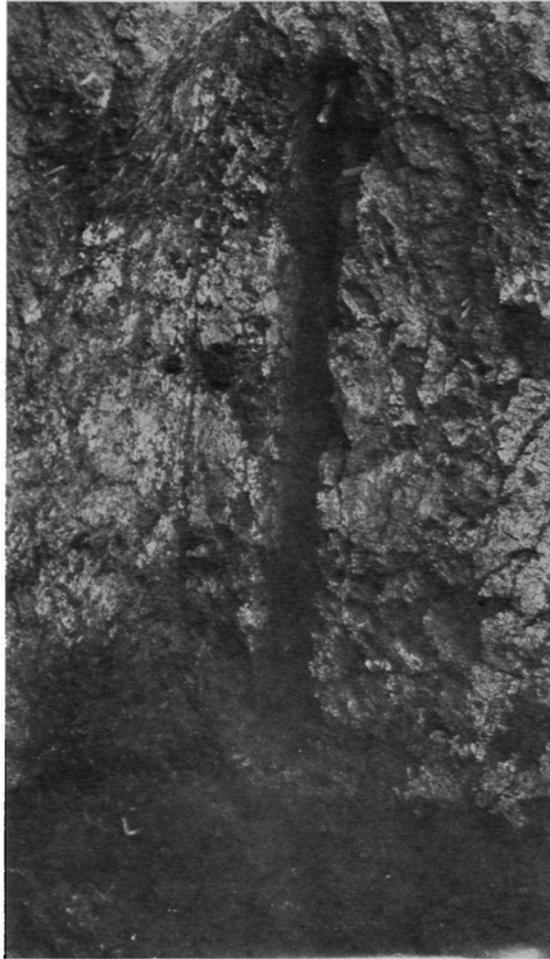


FIG. 127.—NICHE NEAR SOUTH CORNER OF ROOM 170

speculation. To what height they originally extended we cannot say. The first one to appear (Fig. 127) seemed offhand to be directly opposite a niche in the outer surface of this wall. This led us to the supposition that a connection between these two niches might serve as a window, so arranged as part of the half-column and niche decoration of the outer wall surface that it would in no way mar the exterior design.

Figure 128 shows how an attempt was made to trace this "window" to the outer wall surface. The narrowness of the niche made work impossible beyond an arm's length from the room. It was therefore necessary to clear away the surface débris in order to trace the niche from above. This examination gave us nothing but negative proof. It exploded our theory of

THE SHAMASH TEMPLE

127

windows extending through to the exterior wall surface, but failed to give the solution. From it, however, we know that the side surfaces of the niche were plastered only as far in as the plasterer could reach, and that the niche extended at least a meter into the wall. Its exact depth we were unable to determine.

That these niches were not purely decorative is evident from their depth. The window theory still seems the most plausible. A room situated at such a distance from the doorway to the court would indeed be very dark were there no other means of letting in light. While we



FIG. 128.—SOUTH CORNER OF ROOM 170. ABOVE IS THE TRENCH WHEREBY IT WAS HOPED TO TRACE THE NICHE

know that these niches do not penetrate the entire thickness of the wall, there is no reason to believe that they could not have extended upward to the roof, thereby conducting light from above. Their width is such as to cause a negligible weakening of the vaulting, and a raised covering could easily be arranged in order to prevent rain from entering the room. Or the openings may have been small and higher up, the niches being prolonged downward to give appropriate scale.

ROOM 171

Actually a part of Room 170, though at right angles to it, is Room 171, extending along the entire southeast side of the Shamash temple. It was disclosed to us quite by accident when we came upon the tunnel whereby our predecessors had explored this long, narrow chamber

(Fig. 129). As the results to be obtained did not warrant risking the collapse of this tunnel, we were able to examine only the small area that could be seen from the mouth of this underground passage. From this superficial examination it is very clear that this chamber structurally resembles Room 170; its width is exactly as Place indicates.

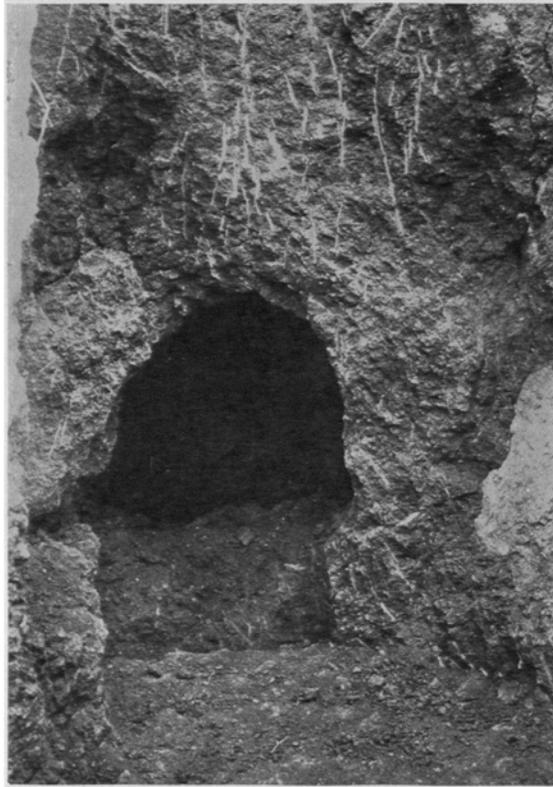


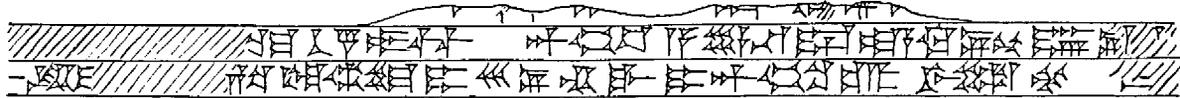
FIG. 129.—THE TUNNEL WHEREBY PLACE TRACED ROOM 171

THE TEMPLES OF NINGAL, NINURTA, AND EA

Since only the doorways of these three temples (Rooms 180 etc., 173, and 192) were investigated during the course of our excavation, we can offer no new evidence other than the doorsill inscription to Ningal (see p. 109). Our finds throughout this area, while of great value in the light of modern science, indicate so few variations from Place's records that further examination is unwarranted. Such minor differences as we found in the Sin and Adad temples may well occur in the remaining three also, but it is useless to check further such an excellent archeological achievement as that of Place and his associates.

V
INSCRIPTIONS

NO. 1

LEGEND ON A SCULPTURED SLAB FOUND IN THE THRONEROOM¹

- 1] TÚ(?)*-ma-šú šá-kan abikti* ^a*marduk-apal-iddina*^{na} *mār* ^m*ia-ki-ni zēr* ^{amēl}*kal*^l-*d*[*i*
- 2 *ina su-pe-e u te-m*]*e-gi b[a-laṭ-su-u]n ut-nin ul-tu i-sin-ni bēlī rabi*ⁱ ^a*marduk ú-šal-li-mu-šú*¹ [. . . .
- 1] the defeating of Mardukapaliddina (Merodachbaladan), son of Yakini, of Chaldean extraction [. . . .
- 2 with prayers and supplications he prayed for [thei]r l[ife]. After I had accomplished the feast of my great lord Marduk for him (Marduk) [. . . .

NO. 2

INSCRIPTION ON A BAKED BRICK FOUND IN DÉBRIS OF THE THRONEROOM



- 1 ^m*šarru-kēn*(GI.NA) *šar*₄ *kiššati šar*₄ ^{māt}*aš-šur*^{ki}¹
- 2 *i-na bi-bil libbi-ja*(šÀ-MU) *ālu ēpuš*-[*ma*]
- 3 *dūr-^mšárru-kēn*(GI.NA)^{ki} *šùm-šú a*[*b-bi*]
- 4 *ēkal ta-aš-ba-ti šá i-na* [*kibrat*]
- 5 *arbā*ⁱ *lā tišū ištēt gab-ri-šá* ^{ki}*rib-šú*¹ [*ab-ni*]

- 1 Sargon, king of the world, king of Assyria, (says):
- 2 "Because I wanted to, I built a city.
- 3 Dūr Sharrukēn I c[alled] its name.
- 4 An ideal² palace which in the four [quarters (of the world)]
- 5 does not have one rivaling it [I built] in its midst."

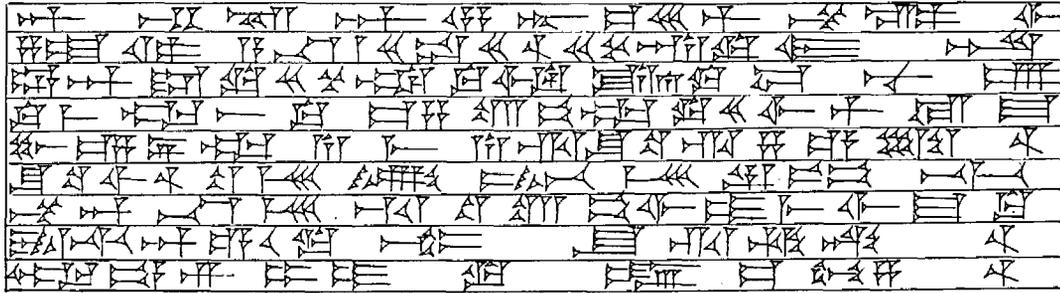
¹ This text is closely related to Sargon's annals; cf. Hugo Winckler, *Die Keilschrifttexte Sargons* (Leipzig, 1889) I 54, ll. 315 f., and A. G. Lie, *The Inscriptions of Sargon II, King of Assyria* (Paris, 1929) p. 58, V.9, l. 13.

² *tašbāti*, gen. pl. of a word *tašbātu* which seems to be a derivative of *šibū*, "to desire." Probably *tašbātu* is only a variant form (without vowel assimilation) of *tešbātu*, "desire." "A palace of desires" = a palace such as one desires = "an ideal palace."

KHORSABAD

NO. 3

INSCRIPTION ON THRESHOLD OF ENTRANCE TO THE SIN TEMPLE

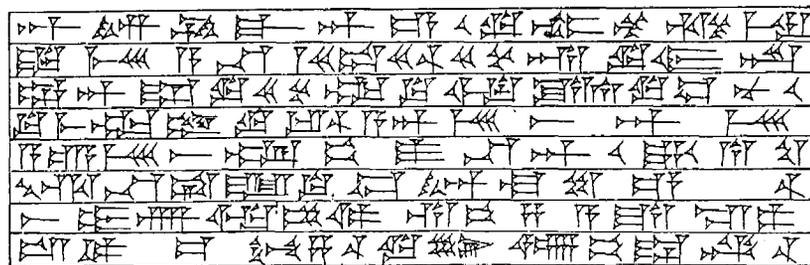


- 1 ^dsin(EN.ZU) ilu ellu pāris^{is} purussē mu-šak-lim
- 2 ša-ad-di a-na ^mšárru-kēn šar₄ kiššati šar₄ ^{ma}aš-šur^{ki} šakkanak
- 3 bābili^{ki}(KÁ-DINGIR-RA^{ki}) šar₄ māt šumeri ù akkadi^{ki} ba-nu-ú
- 4 ku-me-ka ina ku-un lib-bi-ka ki-niš naplis-su-ma
- 5 bu-un-ni-ka šá me-šá-ri šu-ut-ri-ša e-li-šú
- 6 šu-ut-lim-šú ūmē^{meš} tūb šēri^{meš} ru-qu-ti
- 7 šanāte^{meš}(MU-AN-NA^{meš}) hu-ud lib-bi ši-i-me ši-ma-tuš
- 8 it-ti šamē^e u iršiti^{tim} šu-ri-ik palū-šú
- 9 eli kib-rat arbāⁱ ki-in ^{is}kussū-šú

- 1 O Sin, pure deity, who renders decisions, who causes
- 2 portents to be seen, as to Sargon, king of the world, king of Assyria, governor
- 3 of Babylon, king of the land of the Sumerian and the Akkadian, builder
- 4 of your throneroom, in the steadfastness of your heart look truly upon him and
- 5 direct toward him your righteous countenance;
- 6 grant him long days of bodily well-being,
- 7 years of heart's delight fix as his destiny;
- 8 make his dynasty (last as) long as heaven and earth,³
- 9 make firm his rule⁴ over the four quarters (of the world).

NO. 4

INSCRIPTION ON THRESHOLD OF ENTRANCE TO THE ADAD TEMPLE



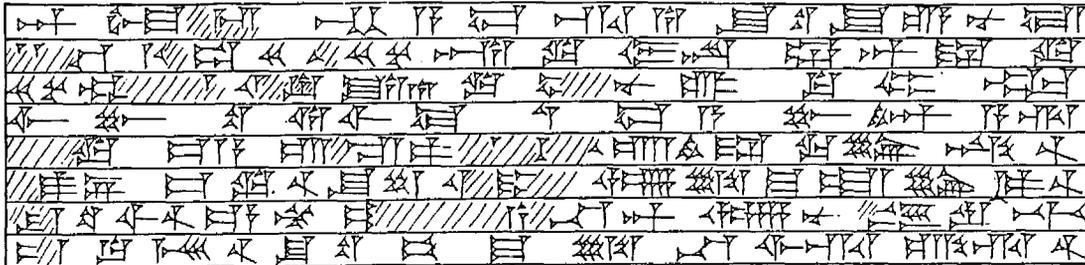
- 1 ^dadad(IM) gú-gal šamē^e u iršiti^{tim} mu-nam-me-ru
- 2 parakkē^{meš} a-na ^mšárru-kēn šar₄ kiššati šar₄ ^{ma}aš-šur^{ki} šakkanak
- 3 bābili^{ki}(KÁ-DINGIR-RA^{ki}) šar₄ māt šumeri ù akkadi^{ki} ba-nu-u

³ Literally, "with heaven and earth make long his dynasty."⁴ Literally, "his throne."

- 4 *ku-me-ka uk-ki-ip-šú zunnē^{me3} ina šamē^{me3}*
 5 *mēlē^{me3} ina naq-bi áš-na-an u gir-šá-tú^{4a}*
 6 *qūr-ri-na ta-mir-tuš ba-u-la-te-e-šú*
 7 *ina nuḥši ù tuḥ-di šur-bi-ša a-bur-riš*
 8 *iš-di ³kussī-šú ki-in šul-bi-ra palū-šú*

- 1 O Adad, foremost in heaven and on earth, who brightens
 2 the *parakku*'s,⁵ as to Sargon, king of the world, king of Assyria, governor
 3 of Babylon, king of the land of the Sumerian and the Akkadian, builder
 4 of your throneroom, bring near⁶ for him rain in heaven,
 5 floods in the springs; emmer and leeks
 6 accumulate (thou) in his common;⁷ let his subjects
 7 lie down in peace amidst plenty and abundance;
 8 make firm the foundation of his throne, make his dynasty old.

NO. 5

INSCRIPTION ON THRESHOLD OF ENTRANCE TO THE NINURTA TEMPLE^{7a}

- 1 *^{4a}nin-urta bēl a-ba-ri šá šu-tú-gat dan-nu-su*
 2 *'a-na¹ ^mšárru-kēn šar₄ 'kiššati¹ šar₄ ^{mat}aš-šur^{ki} šakkanak bābili^{ki}(KÁ-DINGIR-RA^{ki})*
 3 *šar₄ mā^t 'šumeri ù¹ akkadi^{ki} 'ba¹-nu-ú ku-mi-ka*
 4 *ši-bu-tam šuk-ši-su liš-ba-a bu-a-ri*
 5 *[ina] ki-rib é-sag-¹il¹ u é-šár-ra ki-in palū-šú*
 6 *[m]ur-ni-is-qi-šú šu-te-'ši-ra¹ šul-li-ma ši-in-di-šú*
 7 *šu-ut-lim-šú e-mu-q[an la] 'šá¹-na-an dun-nu 'z'ik-ru-ti*
 8 *³kakkē^{me3}-šú šu-ut-bi-ma li-na-ar ga-ri-šú*

- 1 O Ninurta, strong one, whose strength is surpassing,
 2 as to Sargon, king of the world, king of Assyria, governor of Babylon,
 3 king of the land of the Sumerian and the Akkadian, builder of your throneroom,

^{4a} A reading *piš-šá-tú*, "ointment," is also possible. The verb *qarānu*, "to heap up," does not, however, apply as well to "ointment" as to "leeks." For that reason we have preferred the reading *gir-šá-tú*, "leeks." The peasants of northern Iraq still live chiefly on leeks and bread made from barley. It is therefore natural to find these two things mentioned together.

⁵ *parakku*—as shown by Albert Schott in *Zeitschrift für Assyriologie*, n.F. VI (1931) 19–23—denotes the platform on which stands the statue of the god in an Assyrian or Babylonian temple. To what the epithet "brightener of *parakku*'s" alludes is not, however, clear to me.

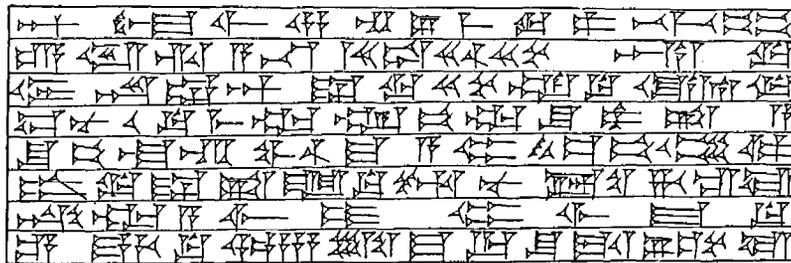
⁶ On *akāpu* see Delitzsch, *Assyrisches Handwörterbuch* (Leipzig, 1896) p. 58 (the citation for *akāpu* I₁ belongs under *naqābu*). The idea in our passage seems to be that Adad, the wind-god, is asked to sweep clouds in over Assyria, thus providing the rains of spring on which also the yearly flood of the brooks and rivers depends.

⁷ See my remarks on *tamirtu* in Jacobsen and Lloyd, *Sennacherib's Aqueduct at Jerwan* ("Oriental Institute Publications" XXIV [1935]) p. 33, n. 7.

^{7a} Winckler, *Die Keilschrifttexte Sargons II*, Pl. 49, No. 3A.

- 4 make him attain old age, may he satisfy his desire;⁸
- 5 [in] the midst of Esagila and Esharra make firm his reign;
- 6 make his thoroughbreds⁹ thrive, make his teams perfect;
- 7 grant him [un]equaled powers, strength of manhood;
- 8 call out his weapons,¹⁰ and let him kill his foes.

NO. 6

INSCRIPTION ON THRESHOLD OF ENTRANCE TO THE EA TEMPLE^{10a}

- 1 ^dNIN-IGI-KÙ bēl ni-me-gi pa-ti-qu
- 2 kal gim-ri a-na ^mšárru-kēn šar₄ kiššati šar₄ ^{mā}aš-šur^{ki}
- 3 šakkanak bābili^{ki}(KÁ-DINGIR-RA^{ki}) šar₄ māt šumeri u akkadi^{ki}¹¹
- 4 ba-nu-u ku-me-ka¹² naq-bi-ka šu-up-ta-a
- 5 šu-bi-la kùp-pi-šú ma-a-mi hi-iš-bi u tuh-di
- 6 šum-gi-ra ta-mir-tuš uz-nu rapastu¹⁴ ha-si-su
- 7 pal-ka-a ši-i-mi ši-ma-tuš
- 8 e-piš-tuš šul-li-ma lik-šu-da ni-is-mat-su

- 1 O Ea, sage, fashioner of
- 2 everything, as to Sargon, king of the world, king of Assyria,
- 3 governor of Babylon, king of the land of the Sumerian and the Akkadian,
- 4 builder of your throneroom,¹³ cause your springs to open up,

⁸ The original meaning of *bu'aru* seems to be "thirst." Compare Arabic بَدَأَ, "unquenchable thirst," and note that it is used with *šebū*, "to satisfy (thirst or hunger)." In addition to this original meaning, "thirst," it also acquired—by metaphorical use—the meaning "yearning," "strong inclination," in which it is generally found.

⁹ *murnišqē*; literally, "picked foals."

¹⁰ Literally, "cause his weapons to rise up."

^{10a} Winckler, *op. cit.*, Pl. 49, No. 3B.

¹¹ This is the usual Akkadian form of the title. The ideographic writing which we have here, KUR EME-KU u URI KI, is then to be dissolved into KUR = māt, EME-KU = šumeri, URI^{ki} = akkadi^{ki}: māt šumeri u akkadi. The meaning of the title is—as pointed out by O. E. Ravn, *Om nominernes Bøjning i Babylonisk-Assyrisk* (København, 1909) p. 62—" (of) the land of the Sumerian and the Akkadian" and not "(of) the Sumerian and Akkadian land."

¹² Note the variant writings *ku-me* (Nos. 3, 4, and 6), *ku-mi* (No. 5), and *ku-mi-i* (No. 7).

¹³ *kūmu* means "cella," "holy of holies" of an Assyrian or Babylonian temple. That it has this meaning is clear from our inscriptions, for in several cases (Nos. 4-6) the sanctuary referred to as "your *kūmu*" consists only of the cella itself, a single "Langraum" with niche and platform for the statue of the god. In perfect agreement with this interpretation is also the fact that not only gods but also kings could sit in a *kūmu* (see e.g. Delitzsch, *Assyrisches Handwörterbuch*, pp. 320 f.), for—as shown by Frankfort in "Oriental Institute Communications," No. 16, p. 93—the thronerooms of Babylonian and Assyrian palaces have exactly the same shapes as the sanctuaries of the corresponding temples. Inasmuch as the function of the "holy of holies" in a temple is the same as that of the throneroom in a palace, and since a "holy of holies" may adequately be described as the god's throneroom, this term has been chosen as the most appropriate rendering of *kūmu*.

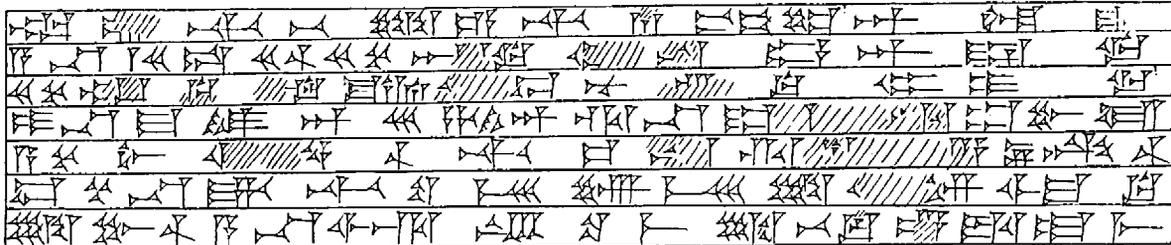
INSCRIPTIONS

133

- 5 make his brooks bring waters of fecundity and abundance,
- 6 water his common; extensive powers of apprehension,
- 7 wide understanding fix as his destiny;
- 8 make his work succeed, let him attain his desire.

NO. 7

INSCRIPTION ON THRESHOLD OF ENTRANCE TO THE NINGAL TEMPLE



- 1 *ka-'bit'-ti be-le-e-ti 'sá'-qu-tu 'nin-gal*
- 2 *a-na mšárru-kēn šar₄ kiššati šar₄ mā'aš-'šur^{ki} 'šakkanak¹ bābili^{ki} (KÁ-DINGIR-RA^{ki})*
- 3 *šar₄ māt 'šumeri ú¹ akkadī^[ki] ba-nu-'ú¹ ku-mi-i-ki*
- 4 *i-na ma-ḥar 'sin(EŠ) ḥa-i-ri na-ra-[mi]-'ka¹ (!)¹⁴ ab-bu-su*
- 5 *a-mat damqūti(SAL.SIG₅)-šú ti-iz-'ka¹-ri 'sá¹ [du-u]n-ni palē-šú*
- 6 *ba-laṭ na-piš-ti ūmē^{meš} rūqūti^{meš} li-ši-īm ši-ma-tuš*
- 7 *li-pu-šú a-na ar-kāt u₄-me li-be-lu kal da-ad-me*

- 1 O momentous one among the deesses, exalted Ningal,
- 2 as to Sargon, king of the world, king of Assyria, governor of Babylon,
- 3 king of the land of the Sumerian and the Akkadian, builder of your throneroom,
- 4 before Sin your beloved consort intercede for him;
- 5 speak a word of kindness for him concerning the solidness of his dynasty.
- 6 Breath of life,¹⁵ long days may he fix as his (Sargon's) destiny;
- 7 may his (Sargon's) descendants rule all habitations to the end of days.

¹⁴ The correct form would have been *na-ra-mi-ki*; but the traces are those of *ka*, not *ki*.

¹⁵ Literally, "life of breath."

INDEX OF PALACE SCULPTURES

Provenance and Figure No.	Text Reference, Page	Present Location ¹ and Museum No.	Plate in Botta ²
Unknown			
Fig. 14	13	C A 7370	
Room 12 (Bathroom)			
Fig. 23	21	<i>In situ</i>	138
24	21	<i>In situ</i>	138
25	21	<i>In situ</i>	138
Court VIII			
Fig. 28	28	C A 7359	29 ³ (No. 15)
29	28		29
30	28		29 (Nos. 24, 23, 22)
31	30	C A 7358	29 (No. 23)
32	30	B 18627	39
33	30	C A 7360	29 (No. 22)
34	30		29-30
36	30		29-30
37	38		30 ⁴
38	38	C A 7368	30 (No. 36)
39	38	C A 7367	30 (No. 35)
40	38	C A 7366	30 (No. 33)
41	38	B 18629	30
42	38	B 18630	30
43	38	B 18631	30
44	38	B 11961	30
46	39	<i>In situ</i>	30 (Nos. 42 and 41)
56-57	42	C A 7369	30 (No. 45)
Room 10 (Corridor)			
Fig. 48	40		122
49	40		122
50 and 54	40	C A 7363	124-25
51	40	C	132-33
52	40	C A 7361 and A 7364	136 and 135
53	40	C A 7365	126
55	42	C A 7362	127-28
Court VII (Throneroom)			
Fig. 72	58	C A 11258	
78	65	<i>In situ</i>	30 (No. 50)
79	65	B	
80	65	C A 11257	
Room 7			
Fig. 83 and 89	72 and 79	C A 11255	114
84	73	C and B	107 (Nos. 8, 10, 11)
87	79	C A 11254	112
88	79	C A 11256	113
90	79	B	
Court XXVII			
Figs. 107-8	98	B	

¹ B = Iraq Museum, Baghdad; C = Oriental Institute Museum, Chicago.² Botta and Flandin, *Monument de Ninive* I-II (Paris, 1849).³ See our Fig. 35.⁴ See our Fig. 45.

GENERAL INDEX

- Adad, 87, 102, 131; — temple, 101–2, 107, 122–25, 128, 130
 agha, house of, 13, 15, 39
 agriculture, ancient, 84, 96
 Akkad, 129, 131–33
 alabaster, 15, 89; *see also* reliefs and sculptures
 alcoves, 109, 114, 125
 Andrae, Walter, 67, 80
 animal bones, 7
 animals as sacrifices, 89, 119
 annals of Sargon, 58, 129
 archers, 65
 arches, 3, 5, 67, 85, 116; *see also* vaults
 architecture, Assyrian and Babylonian, 67, 132
 arrow, 21
 Assyrian Empire, 94
 attendants, king's, 21, 28, 38, 67, 72; prime minister's —, 38
 awning, 40, 92
 axles, iron, 122
- Babylon, 67, 130–33
 Babylonian architecture, 67, 132
 Baghdad, 20, 38, 46, 51, 55–56, 79; *see also* Iraq
 banners, 92, 98, 108
 banqueting scene, 74
 basalt, 13
 Basrah, 44, 46
 bath accessories, 28
 bathtub, 23
 beams, 5, 9–10, 56–57, 68, 70, 78, 109, 121–22
 “bed,” 106
 “bedrooms,” 80
 birds, 72, 105; *see also* eagles
 bitumen, 39, 88, 93, 109, 124–25
 Blackburn, Frank H., 12, 40
 boats, ancient, 58, 72; modern —, 44–46, 53–55; *see also* rafts
 bolt (of door), 124
 bones, animal, 7
 Botta, Paul Émile, 15, 30, 38, 40, 42, 56, 72, 74, 79
 bottles, 99
 bow, 21
 bowl, 30
 brace, 10
 brick boxes, *see* foundation deposit boxes
 bricks, baked, 3, 5, 62–63, 65, 79, 81, 83, 88, 93, 109, 118, 122, 124–26, 129; glazed —, 3, 67, 83, 85, 89, 92, 97, 102, 104–5, 107–8, 112, 116; sun-dried (mud) —, 1, 5, 7, 70, 81, 85; *see also* pavements
 brickwork, 1, 5, 10
 bronze, 83, 97–98, 104–5, 109, 113, 122, 125
 building *F*, 12
 bull, winged, removal and transportation of, 42–55
 bulls, reliefs of, in glazed brick, 94–96, 105
 bulls, winged, 13, 15, 28, 39–40, 42–44, 56–61, 64–65, 78, 98
 buttresses, 88–89, 92–93, 99–102, 107–9, 112–14, 122; buttress-like projection, 39
- camels, 42, 48
 captives, 45–47
 cedar, 97
 ceilings, 9–10, 23, 57, 60–61, 67–68, 70
 cella, 132
 chairs, 38
 Chaldea, 129
 chambers, gate, 5–10
 chariots, 65, 72
 Chiera, Edward, 1, 12
 chopping-block, 13
 church architecture, 115
 circles, decorative, 68–70; — as masons' marks, 93
 city, representation of, 65
 city model, 38
 clay floors, 61, 71, 161–62; — labels, 28
 clerestory, 114
 cobblestones, 5
 color, use of, 23, 63, 68–71, 81, 96–97, 103, 112; *see also* paint and plaster, painted
 columns, 72; engaged half- —, 89, 99–100, 102, 108–9, 112–14, 119, 125–26
 costume, 21, 28, 30, 40, 44, 67, 71, 78, 96, 98, 105
 courtiers, *see* attendants
 crosses as masons' marks, 93
 cultural influences, 67
- dadoes, 1, 87, 89, 109, 116, 119, 122, 125–27
 dais (throne base), 57, 61–62, 65
 Darby, Hamilton D., 1
 decorative design, *see* design
 deities, 67, 89, 102, 119, 122, 125, 129–33; *see also* Adad, Ea, Marduk, Ningal, Ninurta, Shamash, and Sin
 Delitzsch, Friedrich, 131–32
 Delougaz, Pinhas, 1, 12, 53, 55
 design, decorative, 23, 57, 67–68, 70–71, 89, 93–94, 97–99, 102–5, 115
 doors, 1, 10, 21, 116, 122, 124
 doorsills, 13, 80, 82–83, 89, 128; inscribed —, 12, 89, 128; *see also* thresholds
 doorways, 5, 15, 21, 38–40, 56–57, 60–62, 64–65, 67, 79–80, 83–84, 87–89, 92, 101–3, 106–9, 112–14, 116, 118–19, 122, 128; *see also* entrances and portals
 drains, 22–23, 40, 85
 dress, *see* costume
 Dur Sharrukin (ancient name of Khorsabad), 10–11, 56, 67, 79–81, 98, 121, 129
- Ea, 88, 132; — temple, 108–9, 132
 eagles, 94, 97
 emmer, 131
 entrances, 28, 104, 115, 119, 121, 124; *see also* doorways and portals
 Esagila, 132
 Esharra, 132
 eunuchs, 13, 21, 38, 44
 façades, 72, 83–84, 97, 108–9, 113–14, 126
 feast, 74

- fig trees, 94–96, 105, 112
 fillets of leaves, 98, 108
 fire, damage from, 7, 15, 20–21, 23, 46, 78, 83, 109, 113
 fish, 65, 72
 flags, 98
 flagstaffs, *see* “trees”
 Flandin, Eugène N., 15, 30, 56, 72, 79
 floors, 7, 23, 40, 61, 64, 83, 89, 93, 102, 107, 119, 122, 124;
 see also pavements
 Fogg Art Museum of Harvard University, 12
 foreign subjects, 28
 forest, 72
 foundation deposit boxes, 62, 101, 108, 112, 119, 125
 Frankfort, Henri, 132
 frescoes, 23, 125; *see also* painted plaster
 friezes, 67–68, 70
 furniture, 109, 114, 125; *see also* chairs and tables

 garments, *see* costume
 gate, town, 1–11, 89; — chambers, 5–10
 “Gilgamesh,” 39
giršatu (leeks), 131
 glaze, 92–94, 97, 102–3, 105, 112; baking of —, 93, 104
 gold leaf, 98
 grain-seeder, *see* plow and grain-seeder
 grindstone, 12–13, 39
 grooms, 25–28
 grooves, 61, 64
 “guesthouse,” 72
 gypsum, 13, 15

 halyards, 92
 harem, 72, 80
 hares, 72
 herringbone pattern, 71
 hoe, iron, 7
 horses, ancient, 13, 28–30, 40–41, 72, 132; modern —, 12–
 13, 17, 39
hubb's (large jars), 87
 human-headed bulls, *see* bulls, winged
 hunt, 72–74

 illusions, optical, 40
 implements, 7, 84, 87, 105
 impressions, seal, 23
 inscriptions, 12, 40, 58, 65, 72, 79–80, 89, 102, 107–9, 122,
 129–33
 Ionic capitals, 72
 Iraq, 1, 15; — Government, 19–23; — Museum, 30, 38;
 see also Baghdad
 iron, 7, 84, 86, 122

 Jacobsen, Thorkild, 1, 131
 jars, 87, 98–99; stone —, 119, 122, 124–25
 joints, masonry, 39–40, 88, 104, 124

 Kew Gardens, 97
 Khosr River, 72
 king, 10, 21, 28, 30, 38, 40, 42, 65, 67, 72, 96–97, 105, 129–
 33; *see also* Sargon
kūmu (cella), 132
 Kurds, 46, 51

 labels, clay, 23
 landscape, 72–77
 “Langraum,” 132

 later occupations, 62–64, 78, 86, 109, 118, 121–22
 leeks, 131
 Lie, A. G., 129
 lime-burning, 13, 56, 58, 79
 lime plaster, 1, 86
 limestone, 102, 108, 119, 122
 lions, 39, 94, 98
 living-quarters, king's, 71–74; priests' —, 114
 Lloyd, Seton, 1, 131
 Loud, Gordon, 1
 Louvre, 107
 Luckenbill, Daniel D., 40

 Marduk, feast of, 129
 Marduk-apal-iddina, 58–60, 129
 Martin, Richard A., 12
 masons' marks, 93
 matting, 5, 7, 9–10, 20, 73, 109
 Merodachbaladan, 58–60, 129
 Mohl, Jules, 79
 mortar, 81, 88
 Mosul, 46, 50–51, 82
 mountains, 40, 46, 72; — on reliefs, 65, 72
murnisqē (picked foals), 132

 Nabu, cult of, 98; — temple, 100
 nails, 83, 98, 105, 125
 narthex, 115
 New Year festival, 98, 105
 niches, 20, 23, 39–40, 57, 59–61, 65, 67, 89, 99–100, 102, 108–
 9, 112–14, 119, 122, 124–26, 132
 Nineveh, 10, 72, 89
 Ningal, 109, 133; — temple, 109, 125
 Ninurta, 88, 131; — temple, 102, 107–8, 131
 Nuzi, 12

 officials of Sargon, 13, 38, 65, 67, 96
 ornamental designs, *see* designs
 outlets for drains, 23, 85

 packing and shipping the bull, 42–55
 paint, 9–10, 57, 68–70, 87, 89, 93, 104, 109, 122, 125
parakku, 131
 patterns in painted plaster, 68, 70–71
 pavements, brick, 39, 44, 62–63, 88, 109, 114, 122, 126;
 post-Sargonid —, 61–63; sloping —, 84–85; stone —, 1,
 5, 10, 23, 40, 60–63, 88, 108, 115, 118–19, 121–25; *see also* thresholds
 pavilion, 72
piššatu (ointment), 131
 pivot stones, 7–10, 65, 89, 115–16, 119, 122, 124
 Place, Victor, vii, 1, 3, 5, 12–13, 15, 20, 38, 42, 56, 64–65, 72,
 80, 82, 84, 88, 94, 97–98, 100, 102, 104–9, 112–13, 122,
 125–26, 128
 plaster, 1, 3, 5, 7, 70–71, 89, 114, 116, 119, 122, 125–27;
 ceiling —, 57, 68; painted —, 23, 56–57, 67–68, 70–71,
 78, 81, 86–87, 89, 93, 107, 109, 116, 122, 125; *see also*
 color, design, and paint
 platforms, 119, 122, 124–25; *see also* dais and shelves
 plow and grain-seeder, 96, 105, 112
 podia, 125
 portals, 1, 3, 5–6, 10, 39, 56, 60, 63–65, 67, 83–84, 87–89,
 94–98, 101–3, 112–14; *see also* doorways and entrances
 post-Sargonid occupations, *see* later occupations
 potsherd, 71, 109
 pottery vessels, 7, 87
 prayers, 89, 102, 109, 130–33

- priesthood, 114
 prime minister (*turtanu*), 13, 38, 67, 96
 processions, 20-21, 28, 38, 40, 67-68, 105
 purification rites, 23
 quiver, 21
 rabbetting, 89, 109, 118, 125
 rafts, 38, 44; *see also* boats
 rain, prayer for, 130-31
 ramp, 5
 ramparts, 65
 Ravn, O. E., 132
 realism in sculpture, 94-96
 reliefs, 13, 15-17, 20-21, 23, 28-42, 56-60, 65-67, 72, 74, 78-79; *see also* bulls
 religion, 98, 105; *see also* ritual
 rings, stone, 89, 102, 109
 ritual, 23, 98-99, 114, 118-19, 122, 125
 roofs, 5-10, 23, 40, 56-57, 78, 108, 114-16, 121-22, 127
 rosettes, 3, 44, 65, 68-70, 96
 sacrifices, 89, 119
 sanctuaries, 67, 87, 114, 119, 122, 125, 132
 sand, 88, 101, 109
 Sargon, 10-11, 40, 42, 55-56, 58, 65, 67, 88-89, 94, 96, 129; representations of —, 28, 38, 40; *see also* king
 Schott, Albert, 131
 sculptures, 13, 15, 40, 72, 79, 84; removal of —, 17-20, 42-55, 79, 100; *see also* bulls, statues, and reliefs
 seal impressions, 23
 secondary occupations, *see* later occupations
 Sennacherib, 10, 58, 89
 servants, 21, 25-28
 setbacks, 89, 108; *see also* niches and rabbetting
 shafts, *see* "trees"
 Shamash, 88, 104; — temple, 88, 98, 102, 107-8, 112-13, 125-28
 shelves, 83, 92, 96-98, 102, 104, 106-8, 112-13
 shields, 65
sikkāti, 99
 sills (of niches), 126; *see also* doorsills and thresholds
 Sin, 87, 129, 133; — temple, 67, 89, 98, 100-104, 107, 109, 112, 114-22, 124-25, 128-29
sirdab (a cellar), 82-83
 skids, ancient, 108
 slabs, *see* dadoes, pavements, thresholds, and wall slabs
 Smith, Sidney, 23, 98
 sockets in pavements, 10, 21, 39-40; *see also* pivot stones
 soffit of arch, 5
 soldiers, 21, 58, 65
 springs, 131-32
 staff, 96
 staffs, decorated, *see* "trees"
 stairs, 5, 65, 84-85, 106, 114, 119, 122, 125
 stamp, Sargon's, 88
 Starr, Richard S., 12
 statues, 67, 89, 98, 101-2, 107-8, 113-14, 119, 122, 125
 steps, *see* stairs
 stone in ancient building, 1, 10; *see also* dadoes, pavements, thresholds, and wall slabs; — in modern building, 13
 stone jars, 119, 122, 124-25
 stone-robbers, 12-15, 28, 39, 65
 stool, 38
 storage rooms, 84, 87
 stream, 72
 streamers, 92
 street, 5
 strut, 10
 stylized figures, 94, 105
 subjects of king, 21, 28
 Sumer, 130-33
 superstructure, 89, 92
 symbols of sovereignty, 94
 tableaux, glazed brick, 80, 89, 92-94, 97-99, 101-8, 112-13
 tables, 38
 tablets, 101, 121
 tamped mud floor, 7, 61
 technique of excavation, 1, 5, 15-20, 56-57
 "temple" (of Place), 72
 temples, Babylonian, 67, 132; palace —, 80-128, 130-33; *see also* Adad, Ea, Nabu, Ningal, Ninurta, Shamash, and Sin
 terrace of palace, 40, 71-72, 80
 Thomas, Félix, vii
 thresholds, 21, 62, 84, 86, 116, 118-19, 121-24; inscribed —, 12, 65, 89, 102, 107-9, 122, 130-33; *see also* doorsills
 throne, 57, 61-62, 65, 67, 131
 throneroom, 1, 56-71, 129-32
 Tigris, 38, 44-46, 50-51, 53-55
 towers, 3, 5, 10
 town gates, 1-11; — walls, 1, 5, 11, 89
 trappings of horses, 13
 trees, 94, 96, 98, 105, 112-13
 "trees," 89, 92, 97-98, 101-2, 104-8, 113
 tribute-bearers, 28, 38, 42, 48
 tub, 23
 tunnels dug by Place, 82, 88, 106, 127-28
 Turkish Petroleum Company, 50
turtanu, *see* prime minister
 upper story, 7, 9
 vases, *see* jars
 vaults (for roofing), 40, 89, 109, 114-15, 126-27
 vessels, pottery, 7, 87; stone —, *see* jars; representations of —, 30, 98-99
 volute capitals, 72
 waiting-room, 88
 walks, 88
 wall slabs, 13, 15-17, 19-21, 23, 28, 30, 38-40, 57, 58-60-61, 64-65, 78-79
 walls, condition of, 1, 5, 12-13, 15-16, 20-21, 30, 44, 57, 61, 64, 78-79, 81-82, 89, 97, 102, 104, 108-9, 113-14, 125; construction of —, 40, 57, 64, 79, 81, 92-93, 114
 war scenes, 42, 58, 65
 water, representations of, 60, 65, 72, 98
 weapons, 21, 65, 132
 wheels, 122
 whitewash, 1, 3, 5, 7, 116, 122, 125-26
 Wilensky, E., 12, 23
 Winckler, Hugo, 40, 129, 131-32
 windows(?), 126-27
 winged bulls, *see* bulls, winged
 winged human figures, 39
 wood, 7, 9-10, 57, 68, 70-71, 78, 97-98, 105, 108, 113, 121, 125
 Yakini, 129
 "yokes," 98
 ziggurat, 80, 84

