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REPORT ON THE SECTION OF ORIENTAL ANTIQUITIES *on the*
~~U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE~~
20, 1889, BY CYRUS ADLER.

By Cyrus Adler, ~~Hon.~~ Assistant Curator.

The word "Oriental" as usually understood in Museum administration, or in philological or archaeological circles covers a ~~large~~ ^{broad} field. India, China, Japan, Siam, Armenia, Persia, Phoenicia, and Cyprus, Palestine and the Jews, the Samaritans, Arabia and Mohammedanism, Syrāa, and Egypt are included within the range of the American Oriental Society or of the Royal Asiatic Society. The scope of the International Congress of Orientalists ^{held in 1889} indicated by the following division into sections:

Sections:

1st. Semitic and Islâm:

- a. Languages and literatures of Islâm.
- b. Semitic languages, other than Arabic; cuneiform texts and inscriptions, &c.

2nd. Aryan.

3rd. African, including Egyptology.

4th. Central Asia and the Far East.

5th. Malay and Polynesia.

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

UNDER DIRECTION OF

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

WASHINGTON

Much of the material which would find place in a department established with such a scope had been collected for the Museum and installed in other departments before the erection of a section especially devoted to Oriental Antiquities was contemplated.

The establishment of this section was due originally to a desire to collect in the National Museum copies of the smaller Assyro-Babylonian objects preserved in this country. These objects (principally seals) are of much importance for the history of the Assyro-Babylonian religion and art, and the Museum has devised a plan for copying them which much facilitates their study and exhibition. It is hoped that among other results there will grow from this work a catalogue of all the Assyro-Babylonian objects preserved in this country.

The ~~plan~~ of the Oriental Section, in view of the limitations upon its scope and resources, is practically devoted to Biblical Archaeology - to the history, archaeology, languages, arts, and religions of the peoples of Western Asia and Egypt. Material is chosen which especially illustrates Biblical ^{history} and labels are prepared from this point of view.

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Report on the Section of Oriental
Antiquities, U.S. National Museum for
the year ending June 30, 1889, by
Cyrus Adler

The first six weeks of the fiscal year (which included a stay of two weeks in Cincinnati) were devoted to the arrangement and labeling of the exhibit of Biblical Archaeology for the Centennial Exposition of the Ohio Valley. The whole of the last two weeks of August, as much time as could be spared from work at the Johns Hopkins University during the winter, and the whole of the latter part of May and of the month of June

was spent in arranging, labeling, and
in putting on exhibition specimens acquired,
in conducting correspondence with a
view to increasing the collection, in
gathering a working library for the
use of the section, and of properly
accredited Orientalists visiting Washington,
in the preparation of a report on
the progress of Oriental science in
America during 1888, and in the
transaction of the business connected
with the meeting of the 8th Inter-
national Congress of Orientalists at
Stockholm.

The collection of casts of Babylonian and Assyrian seals has grown satisfactorily during the year.

While attending the exhibition at Marietta, U. S. in July 1888, Mr. W. V. Cox, Chief Clerk of the Museum, and Mr. J. Elfrith Watkiss, Curator of the Section of Engineering and Transportation, noticed a Persian seal; they secured an impression of this object which was forwarded along with the name of its owner, Major E. C. Dawes. The correspondence which followed resulted in Major ~~Dawes~~ Dawes offering his small collection for copy accompanied by the information of the expected return to this country.

of their collector, the Rev. Dr. J. H. Shedd.
Dr. Shedd also sent a small collection
for copy and gave information of the
existence of a collection made by
himself but sold some time since,
through the instrumentality of Mr. A
Van Name, Librarian of Yale College.
this collection was traced to the
hands of Professor O. C. Marsh of New-
Haven who placed it at the disposal
of the Museum for copy.

The small but valuable collection
of Miss M. W. Bruce of New York to
which attention was first called by

Madame Zenaidé A. Ragozin¹ was secured
for copy through the instrumentality of
Madame Ragozin. It includes three cylinder-
seals and six contract tablets.

President D. L. Gilman of the Johns
Hopkins University called attention to a
communication from Professor Spencer H.
Baird, under date of January 29th
1864, in which he referred to objects
"collected at Babylon and Nineveh, by
my old pupil Rev. Israel S. Dichl." A
careful search revealed no trace of

(Foot-note!)

¹ "Media" in the "Story of the Nations" series
page 251

6

their whereabouts, but with the assistance of Bishop Newman it was found that they were in possession of Mrs. Anna Randall Dick of New York who deposited the collection of seals with the Museum.

The manner of obtaining these small objects has been dwelt upon to show how they are scattered throughout the country, and how the ~~kind~~ kind assistance of friends of learning is necessary to rescue them from their hiding places.

Professor Paul Haupt, Honorary Curator of the Section, spent the summer of 1888 abroad, and visited the Royal Museum of Berlin

7

and the British Museum. From the former he made a selection of casts of Assyrian and Egyptian objects illustrating the collections in the Royal Museum of Berlin, the Museum of Egyptian Antiquities at Turin, Italy, the Louvre at Paris, the Boulaq Museum at Cairo, Egypt, and the British Museum. This collection was purchased from the Royal Museum of Berlin. We are indebted to the officers of the institution for courtesies in its transmission and for excellent packing whereby the entire collection arrived in good condition.

Two Egyptian scarabæ, the gift of Miss Aline E. Solomons of Washington, a series of Egyptian photographs, and

8

the Egyptian Ethnographic series prepared by Mr. W. Flinders Petrie, have also been added to the collection.

Labels have been prepared for all Assyrian-Babylonian seals mentioned above as well as for those received during the previous year. Only a portion of these objects has thus far been placed on exhibition. The labels included a statement of the material of the original when known, a history of the original, translation of the inscription, and significance of the representation where it could be determined. Labels were also prepared for the series of Assyrian photographs and the Assy from the

British Museum, the Bonfils photographs, and the Assyrian and Egyptian objects from the Royal Museum of Berlin. In Germany space was assigned the section in the west hall and on ~~on~~ March 2nd the collection was set up, the larger slabs on frames especially constructed for the purpose.

There have been no published researches on the specimens collected, though the ~~study~~ collection of casts of Assyrian and Babylonian seals has been studied with a view to future publication. It may ^{not} be proper in this connection, to call attention to the proposed edition of the "Life and Writings of Edward Hincks" by the

Semitic Seminary of the Johns Hopkins University. In July the Acting Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution consented to make the Institution a depository for papers and MSS sent to this country to further the prosecution of the work. Professor H. Max Müller of the University of Oxford, under date of September 27th, forwarded manuscript letters of Dr. Hincks in his possession. and under date of October 29th he kindly offered to permanently deposit these letters in the Smithsonian Institution.

(Foot-Note!)

[±] Cf. Dr. Cyrus Adler, Note on the proposed edition of the life and writings of Edward Hincks, Amer. Antent. Soc. Proc. Oct. '88 p. c1.

The Museum secured an interesting ^{Persian} ~~Arabic~~ astrolabe. After a preliminary examination it was submitted to Dr. C. Johnston Jr. Fellow-elect, in Semitic Languages, of the Johns Hopkins University. He is now engaged upon it and has ~~as far as~~ presented a study suggested by this instrument, at the May meeting of the American Oriental Society entitled "The Chaldean Astronomy".

The Catalogue of the section is kept by the Department of Ethnology and the figures in the report of that Department include the accessions to the Section of Oriental Antiquities. The number of specimens on exhibition

(including 150 photographs) is about 425
with an equal number in the
reservoir and study collections which
include a collection of paper squeezes
from the BoulaK Museum.

Cyrus Adler. The Views of the Babylonians concerning life after death. American Review. I pp. 92-101.

The Assyro-Babylonians believed in a future life. Reward and punishment were as a rule awarded in the flesh. A region of the blessed was reserved for a select few.

Cyrus Adler. Assyrian verbs 1^{"5} and 7^{"5}
Amer. Orient. Soc. Proc. Oct. '88 pp. xcvi-

c.

Showed that those classes of weak verbs usually confounded can be sharply differentiated.

Cyrus Adler. The U.S. National Museum exhibit of Oriental Antiquities at

the recent Cincinnati Exposition. Amer. Or. Soc.

Proc. Oct. '88 pp. I-III

Brief description of the exhibit.

Cyrus Adler. Note on the proposed edition
of the life and writings of Edward Henrici.

Amer. Orient. Soc. Proc. Oct. '88 pp. C1-CIV.

Record of progress of the work and
additions to the bibliography.

Cyrus Adler. Report on the progress of
Oriental science in America during

1888. Amer. Orient. Soc. Proc. May '89
p. CXLIX.

Announcement of intention to prepare
report and request for co-operation.

C. Johnston Jr. The Chaldean Astronomy
Amer. Orient. Soc. Proc. May '87 pp. CXL -

CXL 1

The beginnings of Chaldean astronomy - theories
of the calendar - method of reckoning time -
observation and calculation of eclipses.

We are indebted for co-operation and assistance in addition to the persons already named to the Hon. Oscar Strauss, Ex U.S. Minister at Constantinople, Prof. Howard Doane of Rochester N.Y., Dr. James Grant Bey of Cairo, Egypt, and Prof. S. G. Lyon of Harvard University.

Paul Haupt. Dimensions of the Babylonian Ark.

Amer. Jrnl. of Philology IX pp. 419-424. Abstract Proc.

Amer. Oriental Soc. Oct. '88 pp. LXXXIX-XC.

Determination of the dimensions of the ark in the cuneiform account of the flood; 120 half-cubits (-110 ft.) for both the depth and width, and 600 half-cubits (540 ft.) for the length.

Paul Haupt. Some passages in the Cuneiform Account of the Deluge.

Johns Hopkins University Circulars VIII No. 69 pp. 17-18.

New translation of column I of the Babylonian account of the flood on the basis of recently found fragments.

Paul Haupt. Semitic Studies in this country.

Hebraica V p. 89.

Progress of Semitic study in this country during the last decade. Suggests more co-operation and centralization and the publication of a series of Semitic dictionaries in the English language especially a Hebrew-English dictionary and a National Society of Biblical Archaeology.

Paul Haupt. Contributions to the History of Assyriology
with special reference to the Works Of Sir Henry Rawlinson.

Johns Hopkins University Circulars Apr. '89 pp. 57-62.

On the importance of the study of the history of Assyri-
ology.-Biographical sketch of Sir Henry Rawlinson, by C.
Johnston Jr.-Tentative Bibliography of his works by W. M.
Arnolt.