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## THE BABYLONIAN COLLECTIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM

by

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THE design on the cover was taken from the mosaic of shell plaques illustrated on page 22; it was drawn by Miss Marie Strobel. The maps were drawn by Miss Carol-Joyce Howell.

The carving illustrated on page 1 is the shell lid of a silver toilet box of Queen Shubad. The relief, on a background of lapis, shows a lion felling a ram.



Copper bull's head from a lyre in  
the Royal Cemetery at Ur



Map of the Near East showing Mesopotamia and surrounding countries

## CHRONOLOGY\*

THE succession of archaeological periods in Mesopotamia in the IVth and IIIrd millennia is fairly well established. However, absolute dates are still out of the question. King's lists—not all complete—, astronomical observations, parallel dynasties, synchronism between the kings of Assyria, Babylonia and Egypt, have been combined in turn by the authors of conflicting systems. The present table follows a middle way, intended as a practical help to the reader.

al-'Ubaid Period . . . . .	before 3200 B.C.
Uruk Period . . . . .	before 3000 B.C.
Jemdet-Nasr Period . . . . .	3000-2850 B.C.
Early Dynasties . . . . .	2850-2750 B.C.
Ur Royal Cemetery . . . . .	c. 2750 B.C.
First Dynasty of Ur . . . . .	c. 2700 B.C.
Eannatum of Lagash . . . . .	c. 2650 B.C.
Sargon of Agade . . . . .	c. 2550 B.C.
The Gutti domination and Gudea . . . . .	c. 2200 B.C.
The Third Dynasty of Ur . . . . .	2130-2015 B.C.
The Kings of Isin and Larsa . . . . .	2025-1863 B.C.
The First Dynasty of Babylon . . . . .	1894-1595 B.C.
The Cassite Dynasty . . . . .	1741-1164 B.C.
Ashurnasirpal of Assyria . . . . .	884-860 B.C.
Sargon II of Assyria . . . . .	722-705 B.C.
The destruction of Nineveh . . . . .	612 B.C.
The Neo-Babylonian Kings (Nebuchadnezzar etc.) . . . . .	612-539 B.C.
Cyrus conquers Babylon . . . . .	539 B.C.
The Persian Achaemenides (Darius, Xerxes, etc.) . . . . .	539-331 B.C.
Alexander, the Greek period . . . . .	331-129 B.C.
The Parthian, Arsacid Persian rulers . . . . .	129 B.C.-79 A.D.
The Sassanian Persian rulers . . . . .	79-632 A.D.
Muhammed and the Arab rulers . . . . .	632-1258 A.D.

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\* On the short chronology of the 2d and 3d millennia now generally accepted see Sidney Smith, *Alalakh and Chronology*, 1940, and *The Statue of Idri-mi*, 1949 (London); W. F. Albright, *From the Stone Age to Christianity*, 1946 (2d Edition, Baltimore).