

runner of the palaces of Assyria. The Ishtar temple was destroyed by Eannadu, King of Lagash (Tello), a Sumerian conqueror (2650 B.C.). The palace was ruined by Hammurabi, the founder of the empire of Babylon (1792-1750 B.C.).

Elam. Isin-Larsa

Elam, across the Persian Gulf on the borderland of Persia, has always been in close relation with the Sumerian south. From Elam the first Sumerian invaders may have come across the sea to the land of Shinear. Elam was often under Sumerian rule, and marriages between royal houses were frequent. But the Elamites belong to a different race, with a language—the Anzanite—and a writing of their own. Their fine painted pottery, of the First Susa style, probably antedates the al-'Ubaid wares. The cemetery in which they were discovered by the French expedition under Jacques de Morgan (1897), at the foot of the citadel, lies directly over virgin soil.

But from being allies, the Elamites often turned into enemies and plunderers of Mesopotamia, out of which they brought spoils of war, such as the famous stela of Naram-Sin, and the Code of Hammurabi, recovered at Susa. An Elamite invasion ruined Ur at the time of Ibi-Sin (2015 B.C.), the last king of the third dynasty. The great stela of Ur-Nammu, a memorial of the building of the Ziggurat at Ur, was then broken to pieces, and the fragments scattered over the ground. It is now restored and forms one of the most impressive monuments of the Babylonian Section of the University Museum. In the same campaign, Elam was the ally of Mari, notably of Ishbi-irra, who established himself as king of Isin (near Shuruppak). Other Sumerian cities, Uruk, Larsa and Ur, after centuries of independence under local rulers, were finally united under kings Arad-Sin and Rim-Sin, two brothers, sons of Kudur-Mabug of Elam. Isin was conquered by Rim-Sin, who in turn succumbed to the growing power of Babylon. The political independence of the Sumerians had come to an end. There is in the Babylonian Section a curious monument of that time. It is a small alabaster stela of Rim-Sin describing his refounding and endowing the temple of the moon god at Ur. The inscription is in the old Sumerian language (Ur Excavations, Vol. I, *Royal Inscriptions from Ur*, no. 137). The stone was broken by

the soldiers of Hammurabi. After his victory, the king left in the temple of Ur, as a memorial, a black diorite stela (fragments in the British Museum). This time the inscription was both in the Semitic and the Sumerian languages.

India and Egypt

Semitic supremacy over lower and upper Mesopotamia was thus achieved at the beginning of the second millennium by the kings of Babylon. In this they followed the traditions of another famous Semitic ruler, Sargon of Agade, who before the middle of the third millennium could boast that he ruled the four corners of the world and controlled the land from the Upper to the Lower Sea, from the Mediterranean to the Persian Gulf. He probably visited Cyprus and planted colonies of Semitic merchants in Cappadocia. Recent excavations have confirmed the fact that even in the early dynastic period, in a purely Sumerian time, the trade roads were opened from Mesopotamia to India, and eventually towards Egypt.

Curious flat seals of Indian origin found at Kish, Ur, Umma, Lagash, and stone vases from Tell Agrab carved with reliefs in Indian style, point toward early trade relations with the East. They have been confirmed by the discovery in 1924 of similar seals and reliefs at Mohenjodaro and Harappa in the Indus Valley by Sir John Marshall. The Mesopotamian finds helped to date the Indian sites. The seals are mostly made of grey glazed steatite, square or round like a button, with the back slightly convex or ridge-shaped, perforated lengthwise. The engraved figures are purely Indian: elephant, rhinoceros, humped bull tied to a manger, water-carrier with jars and yoke. The inscriptions are in the strange characters of an unknown Indian script. Five examples from Ur are shown in the Babylonian Section of the University Museum. (cf. C. J. Gadd, "Seals of the Indian style found at Ur," *Proceedings of the British Academy*, Vol. XVIII.)

Sumerian culture seems to have reached the Nile Valley even before the first dynasty of Egypt and the unification of the land under Menes. For a while, in sharp contrast with Egyptian predynastic tradition, objects and methods of distinctly Sumerian origin, like the cylinder seal, the pear-shaped mace-head, the stone vases, the recessed brick constructions, were adopted, but not being native, they soon disappeared.