

and ready to put their ban and curse on any intruder. A large collection of administrative documents of the Cassite period has been found at Nippur.

The Assyrian Period

The names of the kings of Assyria who reigned in the great city of Nineveh in the eighth and seventh centuries until its total destruction in 606 B.C. have been made familiar to us through Biblical traditions concerning the wars of Israel and Juda, the siege of Samaria and Jerusalem, and even the prophet Jonah. From the palaces at Calah, Nineveh, Khorsabad, have come monumental sculptures and bas-reliefs, historical records on alabaster slabs and on clay prisms, and the many clay tablets from the royal libraries. Sargon, Sennacherib, Esarhaddon, Ashurbanipal—the Sardanapalus of the Greeks—carried their wars to Babylonia, to Elam, to the old Sumerian south on the shores of the Persian Gulf. Babylon became a province of the Assyrian Empire under the king's direct control, or entrusted to the hand of a royal brother or even to a native governor. The temples were restored by their order. Bricks stamped with the names of the foreign rulers have been found at Nippur, Kish, Ur and other Babylonian cities, and may be seen in the Babylonian Section of the University Museum. Sin-balatsu-iqbi was governor of Ur and a devoted servant of Ashurbanipal. The temple of Nannar was a total ruin. He repaired the tower, the enclosing wall, the great gate, the hall of justice, where his inscribed door-socket, in the shape of a green snake, was still in position. Within the wall, on the platform, he rebuilt the shrine of Ningal, and the well attached to it. His foundation cones and inscribed bricks are now in the University Museum.

The Neo-Babylonian Period

Foreign rule was deeply resented by the Babylonians. The fall of Nineveh which filled the Orient with stupor found them on the side of Elam and the Medes, ready to share the spoils of the empire. The Chaldean princes, Nabopolassar, Nebuchadnezzar and Nabonidus, equalled the Assyrians as conquerors, and surpassed them as builders. Babylon with its enormous walls and moats, the Ishtar gate decorated with glazed

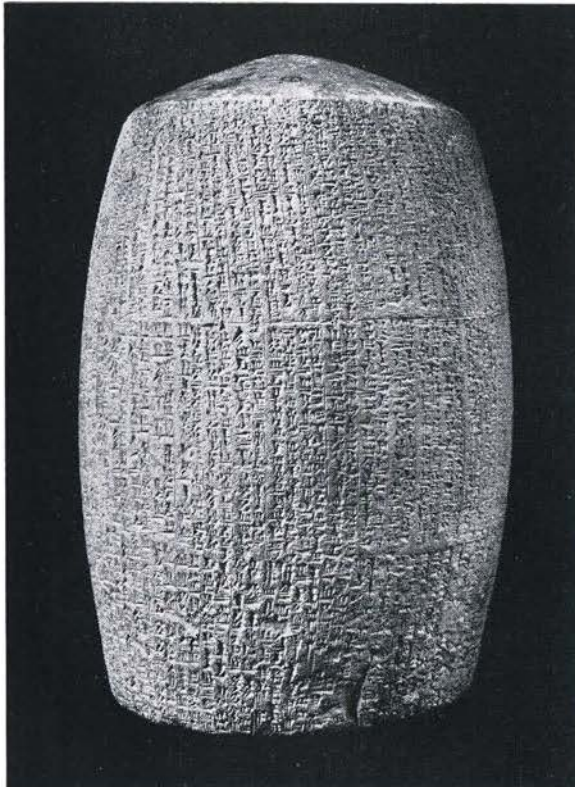


Figure 42. Clay cylinder of Nebuchadnezzar II, King of Babylon, 604-561 B.C



Figure 43. Alabaster vase of Artaxerxes I with his name in Old Persian, Elamite, Babylonian and Egyptian

brick reliefs, the procession way leading to the great temple and tower of Bêl-Marduk, the palace with its hanging gardens, the Euphrates bridge, became one of the marvels of the world. (cf. Dr. R. Koldewey, *The Rediscovered Babylon*, 1899-1912.) The Babylonian Section of the University Museum is rich in monuments of this period: stamped bricks bearing the name, title, filiation of the king, and the name of the building shrine or tower for which it was intended; foundation documents like the clay cylinder of Nabopolassar, the large clay barrel of Nebuchadnezzar (*Figure 42*), bought in London in 1888 (cf. PBS, Vol. XV, *Royal Inscriptions and Fragments from Nippur and Babylon*, 1926), describing the restoration of the temples of Marduk and Nabu at Babylon and Borsippa, and their magnificent state-boat, and another describing the restoration of the great walls; the clay cylinders of Nabonidus discovered by Taylor in 1854 on the second stage of the Ziggurat at Ur, which first identified the ruin with the native city of Abraham. On them is inscribed a prayer for Belshazzar, his son and heir, the same who saw the ominous writing on the wall. A daughter of Nabonidus, Bel-shalti-Nannar, was high priestess of the moon-god, as was the daughter of Sargon centuries before. She lived in state in the Egipar palace with a large retinue and endowment, as we know from a cylinder in the Yale University collections. A small clay column dating to Sin-balatsu-iqbi and inscribed with copies of ancient brick stamps was one of the curiosities exhibited in her museum. The blue glazed bricks of the shrine at the top of the Ziggurat restored by Nabonidus may be seen in the Babylonian Section of the University Museum.

The Persian Period

The capture of Babylon by Cyrus in 539 B.C., almost a century after the ruin of Nineveh, sealed the destiny of the Semitic emperors who had ruled over the four corners of the world. Henceforth Mesopotamia became a mere province of the Persian, the Greek, the Roman empires, of the Parthians and the Sassanians, until centuries after Christ it passed under the domination of the Moslem conquerors. A list of the tribes and nations assembled by Darius on the Hellespont before his invasion of Europe, gives a good illustration of the new conditions of life in the Oriental world. Cyrus put an end to the captivity of Babylon and let the