CUNEIFORM TEXTS

FROM

BABYLONIAN TABLETS, &c.,

IN THE

BRITISH MUSEUM.

PART XIII.

(50 Plates.)

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE TRUSTEES.

SOLD AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM;

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LONGMANS & CO., 20, PATERNOSTER ROW;

BERNARD QUARITCH, 15, PICCADILLY;

ASHER & CO., 13, BEDFORD STREET, COVENT GARDEN;

KEGAN PAUL, TRENCH, TRÜBNER & CO., PATERNOSTER HOUSE, CHARING CROSS ROAD

AND

HENRY FROWDE, OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, AMEN CORNER,

LONDON.

1901.

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LONDON:
HARRISON AND SONS,
PRINTERS IN ORDINARY TO HER LATE MAJESTY,
ST. MARTIN'S LANE.
Part XIII. of "Cuneiform Texts from Babylonian Tablets, &c.," contains texts from fifty-three baked clay tablets and fragments of the Kouyunjik and other collections. The texts are mythological legends and may be divided into the following classes:—

(1.) Texts belonging to the Creation series styled by the Assyrians "Enuma Elish," "When in the height," from the two opening words of the first tablet of the series. The poem describes the birth of the gods, the battle of the god Marduk with the monster Tiamat, and the creation of the world by Marduk.

(2.) Miscellaneous Legends of the Creation. Under this heading are given a second version of the battle with the Dragon, the text of a tablet referring to the creation of beasts, and a completely different version of the narrative of the creation, in which no contest with a dragon is mentioned.

(3.) Legends of early Babylonian kings. The legends form a distinct class and include texts relating to Sargon, king of Agade, about B.C. 3800, and his son Naram-Sin, about B.C. 3750; Dungi, king of Ur, about B.C. 2500; Libit-Ishtar, king of Isin, about B.C. 2300; Khammurabi, king of Babylon, about B.C. 2200; and Nebuchadnezzar I., king of Babylon, about B.C. 1120.

In the following Plates an attempt has been made to place in the hands of students the whole of the Babylonian and Assyrian material preserved in the British Museum relating to two important groups of legends concerning the creation of the world and the mythical origins and deeds of some of the earliest and most famous kings of Mesopotamia. The true character of the texts inscribed upon the larger and more clearly written Assyrian fragments containing the principal legend of the Creation was recognized by the late General Sir H. C. Rawlinson, Bart., G.C.B., as far back as 1855, but it was not till some ten years later that the late Mr. George Smith published translations of a selection of them with brief remarks, in which he pointed out the resemblance between certain portions of the legend and passages in the early chapters of the Book of Genesis (see Chaldaean Genesis, London, 1876; and Transactions of the Society of Biblical Archaeology, Vol. IV., 1876). Since that time the fragments published by Mr. George Smith have been frequently examined and commented on by Assyriologists, and several renderings of them have appeared in English, French and German; but no collected edition of the cuneiform texts has hitherto been made. In the present work will be found copies of a relatively large number of Creation fragments, the texts of which have remained unpublished; among those of special interest is No 38,396 (see Plate 4), which supplies a large portion of the missing text of the Second Creation Tablet. An
important unnumbered fragment of a duplicate text of the last tablet of the Creation Series, which was used by Mr. George Smith in the preparation of his published copy referred to above, was after his death lost sight of for about twenty-five years; during the re-examination of the collections, however, in the year 1900, it was identified, and it now bears the number K. 9267 (see Plate 28).

The legends of early Babylonian kings given on Plates 44–50 are here published for the first time.

The copies have been made by Mr. L. W. King, M.A., Assistant in the Department.

E. A. WALLIS BUDGE.

Department of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities,
British Museum.

May 11th, 1901.
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1. The Series of Tablets called by the Assyrians "ENUMA ELISH," describing the
Creation of the World —

1. Tablet I. [K. 5419; No. 93,015 (82-7-14, 402), 81-7-27, 80, and K. 3978].

   The first Tablet describes the time when the heavens and the earth were
   not, and when the primeval water-gods, Apsû and Tiamat, alone existed;
   subsequently the great gods were created, and Apsû and Tiamat revolted
   against them. The Tablet ends with an account of the monsters which
   Tiamat created to help her in the fight with the gods.......

2. Tablet II. [No. 38,396, K. 4832, 79-7-8, 178, and K. 292].

   The second Tablet records how Anšar sent Annu to appease Tiamat, but
   he met with no success. Whereupon Anšar appealed to his son Marduk to
   fight Tiamat on behalf of the gods and to slay her. Marduk consented to do
   so, and requested that the gods should be summoned to ratify his appointment
   as their champion.......

3. Tablet III. [K. 3473 + 79-7-8, 296 + R. 615, K. 6650, No. 93,017 (88-4-19, 13),
   K. 8375, K. 8524, 83-1-18, 2116, 83-1-18, 1858, and 82-9-18, 1403].

   The third Tablet tells how Anšar sent Gaga his minister to summon
   Lakhmu and Lakhamu and the other gods to an assembly. The gods met in
   Upshukkinaku, their council chamber, where they feasted at a banquet in
   honour of Marduk.......

4. Tablet IV. [No. 93,016 (82-9-18, 3737), K. 3437 + R. 641, K. 2, 83, No. 93,051,
   79-7-8, 251, K. 54206].

   The fourth Tablet contains an account of the election of Marduk to be
   the champion of the gods, who conferred supreme power upon him; Marduk
   tested the magical powers which had been given to him by making a
   garment to disappear and reappear. He then armed himself for the fight and
   set out in his chariot, accompanied by the winds which he had created. He
   slew Tiamat and routed her followers, and after the battle he cut her body in
   halves, with one of which he covered the heavens.......

Table V.—[K. 3567 + K. 8588, K. 8526, and K. 34492].

   The fifth Tablet records the creation of the stars by Marduk, the
   establishing of the year, and the appointment of the Moon to determine the
   days.......

   and K. 9267].

   It is uncertain how many Tablets, or numbered sections, the Creation
   Series contained. Under this section are given the texts of a number of
   fragments which must probably belong to the Series; thus K. 8522 and its
   duplicate K. 9267 are no doubt parts of the last Tablet of the Series, and they
   contain a number of addresses to the god Marduk in his character of
   champion of the gods and creator of the world. The text ends with an
   epilogue which enjoins the study of the poem and promises prosperity to
   those who make known to others its contents.......

Plates.
In this section are given the texts of a number of tablets, which on insufficient evidence have been assigned to the Creation Series. S. 747 seems to be part of an Assyrian Commentary to the last Tablet of the Series...

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1. Another version of the battle with the dragon. In this account the fight does not precede the creation of the world, and details are given as to the dragon's size [R. 282]...

2. An account of the creation of the beasts of the field and of the cattle of the field [D.T. 41]...

3. An account of the creation of the world by Marduk and the goddess Aruru. The text is written both in Sumerian and Babylonian [825-22, 1048]...

III. Legends of Early Kings:

1. Legend of an ancient king of Cuthah [K. 5418a and K. 5640]...

2. Legend of Sargon, king of Agade [K. 3401 + S. 2118, K. 4470, and No. 47,449]...

3. Legend of Naram-Sin, the son of Sargon [S1-2-4, 216]...

4. Legend referring to Dungi, king of Ur [K. 3568]...

5. Legend referring to Lugal-Ishtar, king of Isin [K. 2973]...

6. Legend referring to Khammurabi, king of Babylon [Ru. 91-5-9, 221]...

7. Legend of Nebuchadnezzar I, king of Babylon [K. 3426]...

8. Legends of early kings [K. 4541 and K. 7861]...
CREATION SERIES, TABLET I.  PLATE I.

K. 5419,

OVERSE.

No. 93,015 [82-7-14,402.]

REVERSE.


1. For the Reverse, see Plate 3.
CREATION SERIES, TABLET I. PLATE 3.

K. 3938.

REVERSE.

No. 93,015 [82-7-14,402.]

REVERSE.

1. The tablet reads, "KU, i.e. add; cf. No. 10562."
No. 38,396.

OBVERSE.

REVERSE.

Note. The reverse of the tablet restores a considerable portion of the text of Tablet II, which is not known from other duplicates. The position of this new portion of the text is certain from its correspondence with some of the reads of lines 3 and 4 of the text of Tablet II, preserved in tablet 9368 (see plate 9). The following is a transcription and translation of the text:

[Transcription and translation of the text provided as per the image.]
CREATION SERIES, TABLET III. PLATE 10.
No. 93,017 [88-4-19, 13].

OBVERSE.
CREATION SERIES, TABLET III. PLATE 11.
No. 93,017 [88-4-19, 13].

REVERSE.

1. The sign is N, not T; read um-har-EL. 2. Partly erased. 3. Read el, not su-um-
PLATE 13.
CREATION SERIES, TABLET III.
82-9-18, 1403.

OVERSE.

REVERSE.

1. The text contains excerpts from Tablet 3 of the Genesis, Babylon, 82-9-18, reproduced in the CIP.

(Additional notes and citations can be found in the reference text.)
PLATE 14.
CREATION SERIES, TABLET IV.
No. 93,016 [82-9-18, 3737].

[Tablet text and images]
PLATE 18.

CREATION SERIES, TABLET IV.

K. 3437+Rm. 641.

REVERSE.
PLATE 19.

CREATION SERIES, TABLET IV.

K. 3437+Rm. 641.

REVERSE. (CONTINUED)

Rm. 2, 83.
PLATE 23.

CREATION SERIES, TABLET V.

K. 8526.

OBVERSE.

REVERSE.

K. 3449.

OBVERSE.

REVERSE.
PLATE 28.

CREATION SERIES, UNNUMBERED TABLETS.

K. 9267.

OBERSE.

[broken surface]

REVERSE.

[broken surface]

1. The text is a duplicate of K. 9262 (see Plate 16). It contains a new cuneiform text added by Mr. B. Hoff, as noted in the notes.
PLATE 34.

OTHER CREATION LEGENDS.

RM. 282.

REVERSE.

D.T. 41.
PLATE 35.

OTHER CREATION LEGENDS.
LEGEND OF AN ANCIENT KING OF CUTHAH.
LEGENDS OF EARLY KINGS. PLATE 42.

[LEGEND OF SARGON, KING OF AGADE.]

K. 3401+S. 2118.
LEGENDS OF EARLY KINGS.

[LEGEND OF NARAM-SIN, THE SON OF SARGON.]

81-2-4, 219.

OVERSE.

REVERSE.
LEGENDS OF EARLY KINGS.  

PLATE 46.  

MENTION OF HAMMURABI, KING OF BABYLON.  
B. 91-5-9, 221.  

OBVERSE.
LEGENDS OF EARLY KINGS.

PLATE 47.

[MENTION OF HAMMURABI, KING OF BABYLON.]

B. 91-5-9, 221.

REVERSE.

BROKEN SURFACE;
LEGENDS OF EARLY KINGS.

PLATE 48.

[LEGEND OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR I., KING OF BABYLON.]

K. 3426.

OBVERSE.

REVERSE.

[SMOKE LINES]
LEGENDS OF EARLY KINGS.

K. 4541. PLATE 49.