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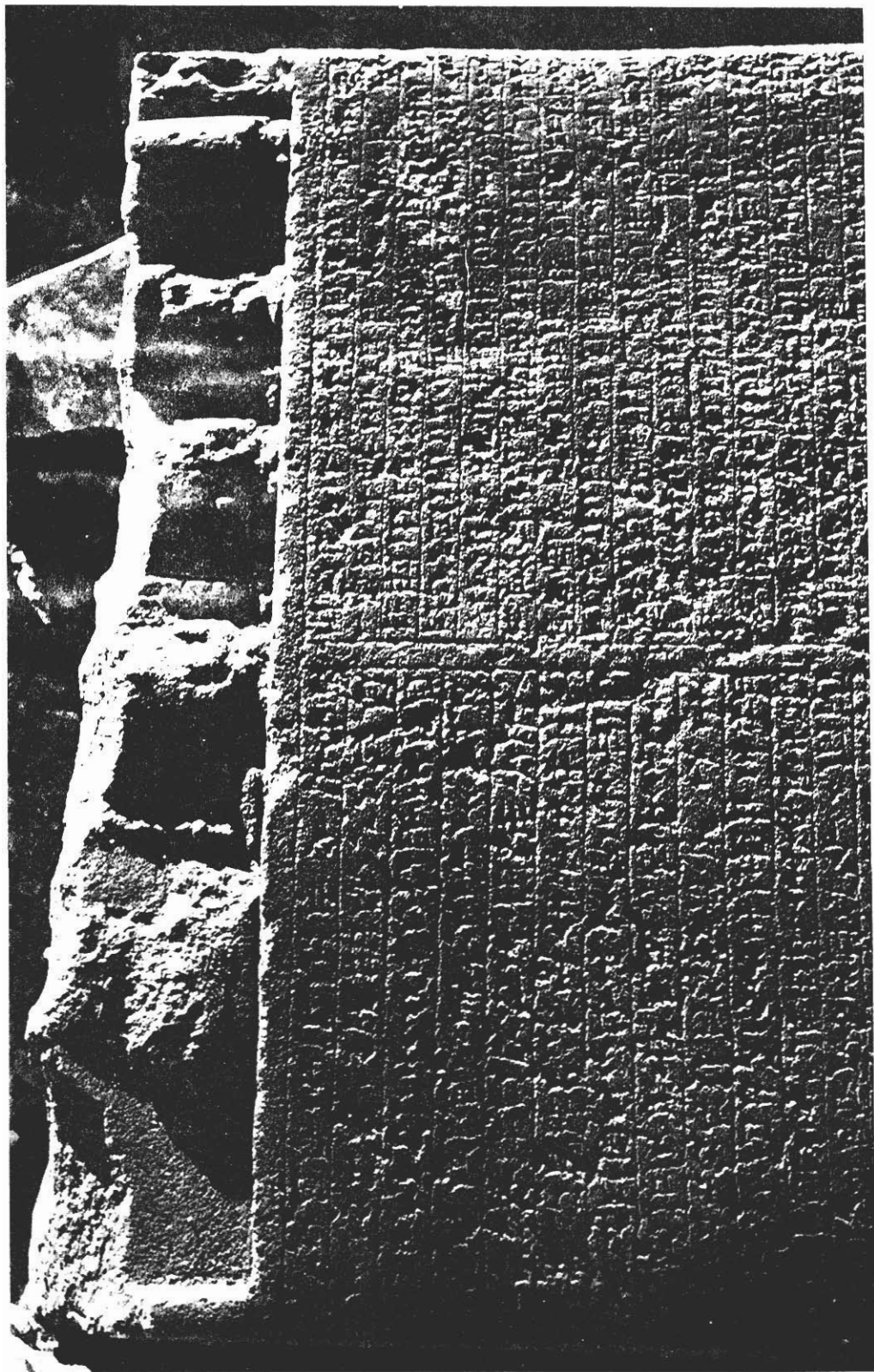
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THE HARRAN INSCRIPTIONS OF NABONIDUS

By C. J. GADD

Discovery and Present Location

THE THREE STELAE bearing the inscriptions here published were discovered by Dr. D. S. Rice at Harran in August–September 1956, while he was engaged in examining the architecture of the ruined Great Mosque at that place. A preliminary account of his work, which is sufficient to convey the essential information about the positions and arrangement of these stones in the paving or steps of the Mosque, has been given by the discoverer in the *Illustrated London News* of 21st September, 1957, pp. 466 ff. All readers of this must admire the acumen which enabled Dr. Rice to “turn but a stone”, where so many “estranged faces” had missed its promise. The original monuments are stated to be kept for the present at a school-house in Urfa until arrangements have been made for their permanent conservation.



Stele H1.B : the broken relief, and parts of columns I and II.

NABONIDUS H 1, B

TRANSLATION

Col. I.

1. I (am) the lady Adda-guppi', mother
2. of Nabium-na'id, king of Babylon,
3. votaress of the gods Sin, Nin-gal, Nusku,
4. and Sadarnunna, my deities ;
5. who, from my childhood, have sought after
6. their godheads. Whereas in the 16th year of Nabopolassar,
7. king of Babylon, Sin, king of the gods, with his city
8. and his temple was angry and went up to heaven—the city and
9. the people that (were) in it went to ruin.
10. (Now) forasmuch as the shrines of Sin, Nin-gal, Nusku,
11. and Sadarnunna I sought after and was worshipper of their godhead,
12. (and) that I laid hold on the hem of the robe of Sin, king of the gods,
night and daytime
13. I had ever in mind his great godhead—daily, without ceasing,
14. of Sin, Šamaš, Ištar, and Adda, so long as I am alive,
15. I (am) their votaress (both) in heaven and earth. My blessings,
16. the goodly things which they gave me, I (too) by day, night, month,
and year, gave (back) to them.
17. I laid hold on the hem of the robe of Sin, king of the gods, night and
daytime
18. my two eyes were with him, in prayer and humility of face
19. was I bowed before them (and) thus (I prayed), " May thy return
20. to thy city be (vouchsafed) to me, that the people, the black-headed,
21. may worship thy great godhead." For calming
22. the heart of my god and my goddess, a dress of fine wool, jewels,
23. silver, gold, a new shift, perfumes, sweet oil,
24. I applied not to my body, (but in) a torn shift
25. I went clothed, my goings-out were noiseless, I proclaimed
26. their praises : the glory of my city and of my goddess
27. was (ever) set in my heart, I kept watch upon them,
28. anything good of mine I did not omit, but carried it (ever) before them.
29. From the 20th year of Aššurbanipal, king of Assyria, that I was born (in)
30. until the 42nd year of Aššurbanipal, the 3rd year of Aššur-etillu-ili,
31. his son, the 21st year of Nabopolassar, the 43rd year of Nebuchadrezzar,
32. the 2nd year of Awēl-Marduk, the 4th year of Neriglissar,
33. in 95 years of the god Sin, king of the gods of heaven and earth,
34. (in) which I sought after the shrines of his great godhead,
35. (for) my good doings he looked upon me with a smile
36. he heard my prayers, he granted my saying, the wrath
37. of his heart calmed. Towards E-ḫul-ḫul the temple of Sin
38. which (is) in Harran, the abode of his heart's delight, he was reconciled,
he had

26. From the time of Aššurbanipal, king of Assyria, until the 9th year
27. of Nabu-na'id king of Babylon, the son, offspring of my womb
28. 104 years of happiness, with the reverence which Sin, king of the gods,

40. endure not, (but) let him worship thy great godhead. In the 21 years
41. of Nabopolassar, king of Babylon, in the 43 years of Nebuchadrezzar,
42. son of Nabopolassar, and 4 years of Neriglissar, king of Babylon,
43. (when) they exercised the kingship, for 68 years
44. with all my heart I revered them, I kept watch over them,

CHRONOLOGY AND HISTORY

(1) *The Last Kings of Assyria*

The inscription H 1 (of the royal Mother) gives, in its present more complete form (B),¹ no less than three arithmetical summaries covering the end of Assyrian rule and almost the whole of the Chaldaean dynasty in Babylonia :

Col. I, 29-35.

The narrator was born in the 20th year of Assurbanipal.

She survived the 42nd year of Aššurbanipal,

3rd ,, ,, Aššur-etillu-ili, his son,

21st ,, ,, Nabopolassar,

43rd ,, ,, Nebuchadrezzar

2nd ,, ,, Evil-Merodach,

4th ,, ,, Neriglissar.

A total of 95 years.

Col. II, 26-8.

She lived from the time ² of Aššurbanipal to the 9th year of Nabonidus her son, 104 years.

Col. II, 40-3.

She served the kings of Babylon during

21 years of Nabopolassar,

43 ,, ,, Nebuchadrezzar,

4 ,, ,, Neriglissar.

A total of 68 years, before her son's accession.

¹ The first two of these summaries were already present in A, but the former was defective, and most of the figures missing.

² Lit. "from before", i.e. she came into the world during the lifetime of Aššurbanipal.