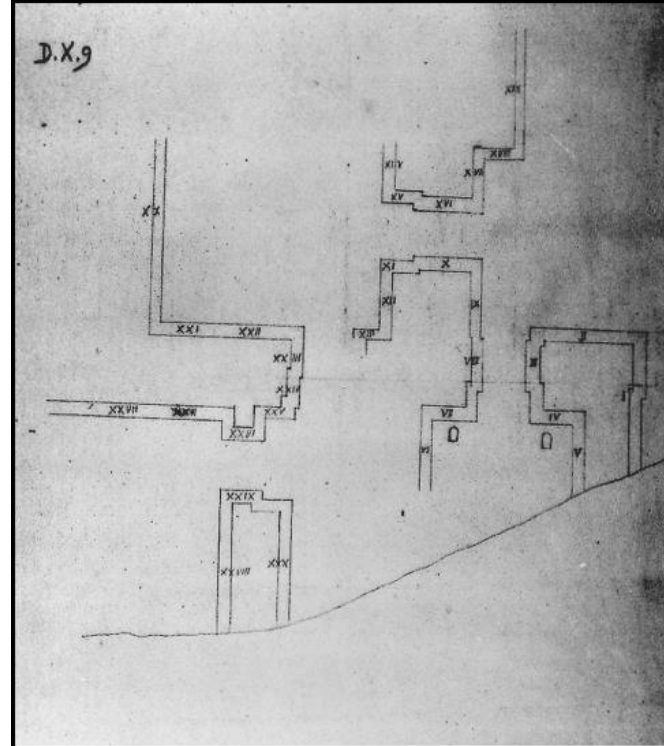
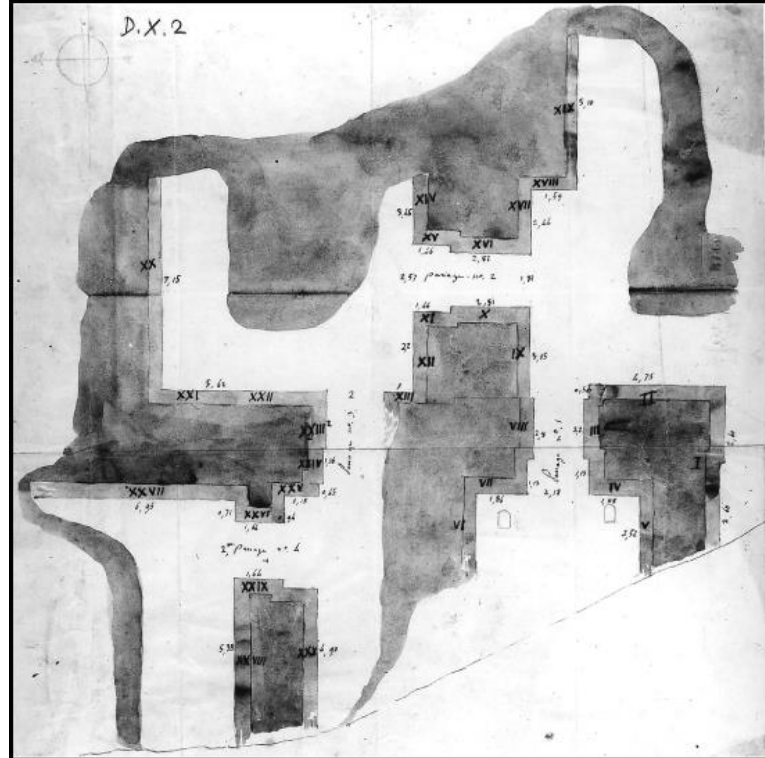


### 1. *La ricerca archeologica nella regione centrale dell'impero assiro*

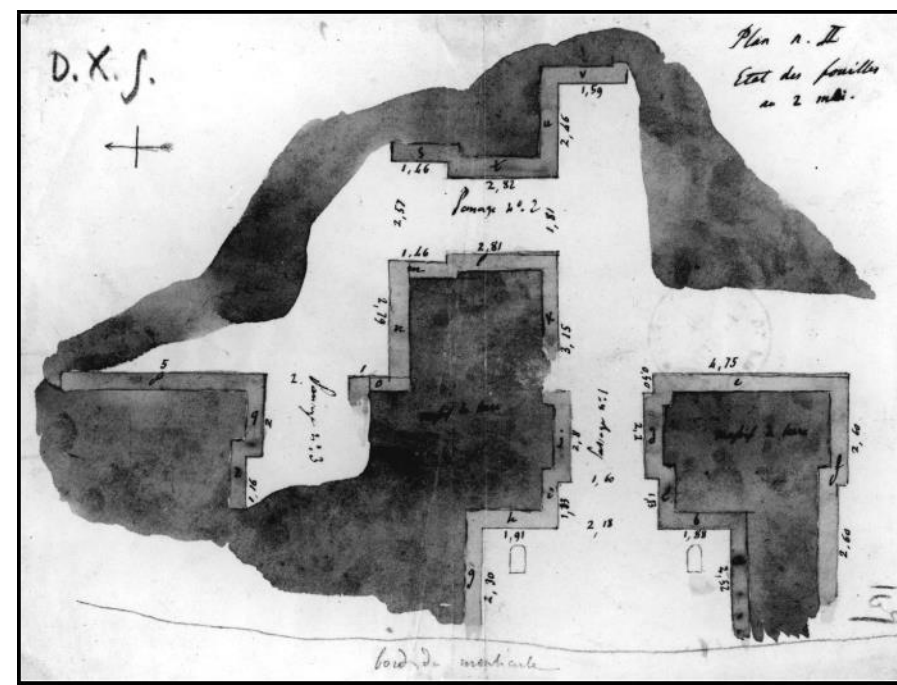
Lo stato della ricerca archeologica nel cuore geografico e politico dell'antico impero assiro, ubicato nell'odierno Iraq settentrionale (Fig. 1), è assai incoerente, ricco com'è di straordinarie luci, offuscate tuttavia da pesanti lacune e zone d'ombra che lo caratterizzano ancor oggi, a 170 anni dall'inizio (1842) delle prime indagini archeologiche nelle capitali assire di Ninive e Khorsabad per opera del console francese a Mosul, l'oriundo italiano Paolo Emilio Botta. La ricerca archeologica nel triangolo compreso fra i corsi dell'alto Tigri iracheno e del Grande Zab è stata segnata in profondità dalle pioneristiche, ma certo fondamentali indagini condotte dalla metà dell'Ottocento nei siti di Khorsabad/Dur-Sharrukin<sup>1</sup>, Nimrud/Kalhu e Ninive<sup>2</sup>, le grandi capitali imperiali del I millennio a.C. ubicate nella regione di Mosul. Gli scavi di questa prima, cruciale stagione della ricerca archeologica diedero senza dubbio risultati straordinari, in quanto consentirono di ricostruire l'impianto urbanistico delle acropoli delle capitali dell'impero neo-assiro, la loro architettura monumentale e di rinvenire numerose opere d'arte e importantissimi archivi di testi cuneiformi negli edifici pubblici portati alla luce. A questi interventi nelle capitali assire, condotti su grande scala, ma non ancora sostenuti da adeguate metodologie di scavo e ricerca, seguì, dagli anni Venti del '900, la ripresa degli scavi a Ninive (dal 1927)<sup>3</sup> e, subito dopo, a Khorsabad<sup>4</sup>, Nimrud<sup>5</sup> e Balawat<sup>6</sup>.

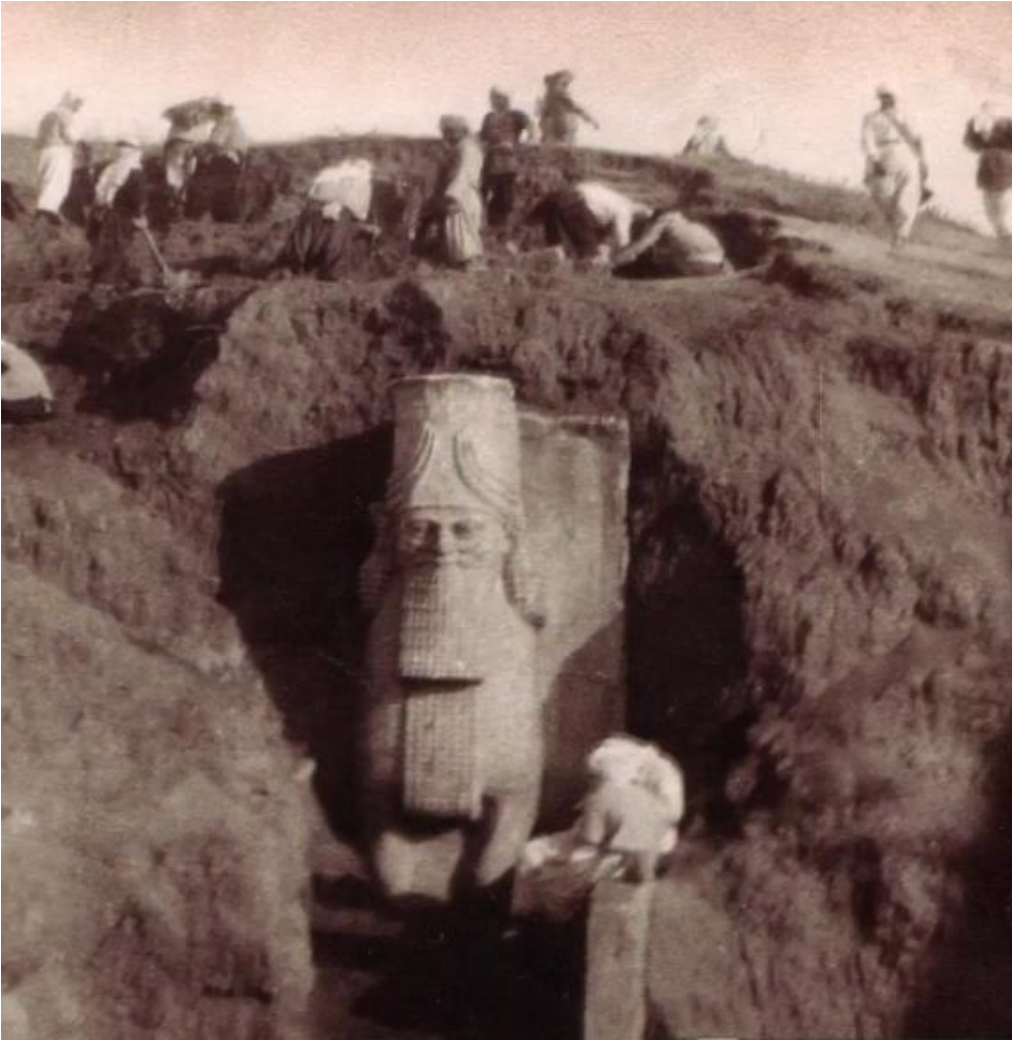
D. Morandi Bonacossi, «Il paesaggio archeologico nel centro dell'impero assiro. Insediamento e uso del territorio nella 'Terra di Ninive'», *Atti dell'Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti. Classe di scienze morali, lettere ed arti* 171, 2012-2013, 181-223



## Schizzi di Emile Botta (scavi di Khorsabad)

Le tecniche usate in questi primi scavi non sono scientifiche. Si scavano spesso tunnel, magari seguendo gli ortostati, come in questi esempi: lo scopo è trovare quanti più oggetti interessanti da spedire ai musei in Europa.

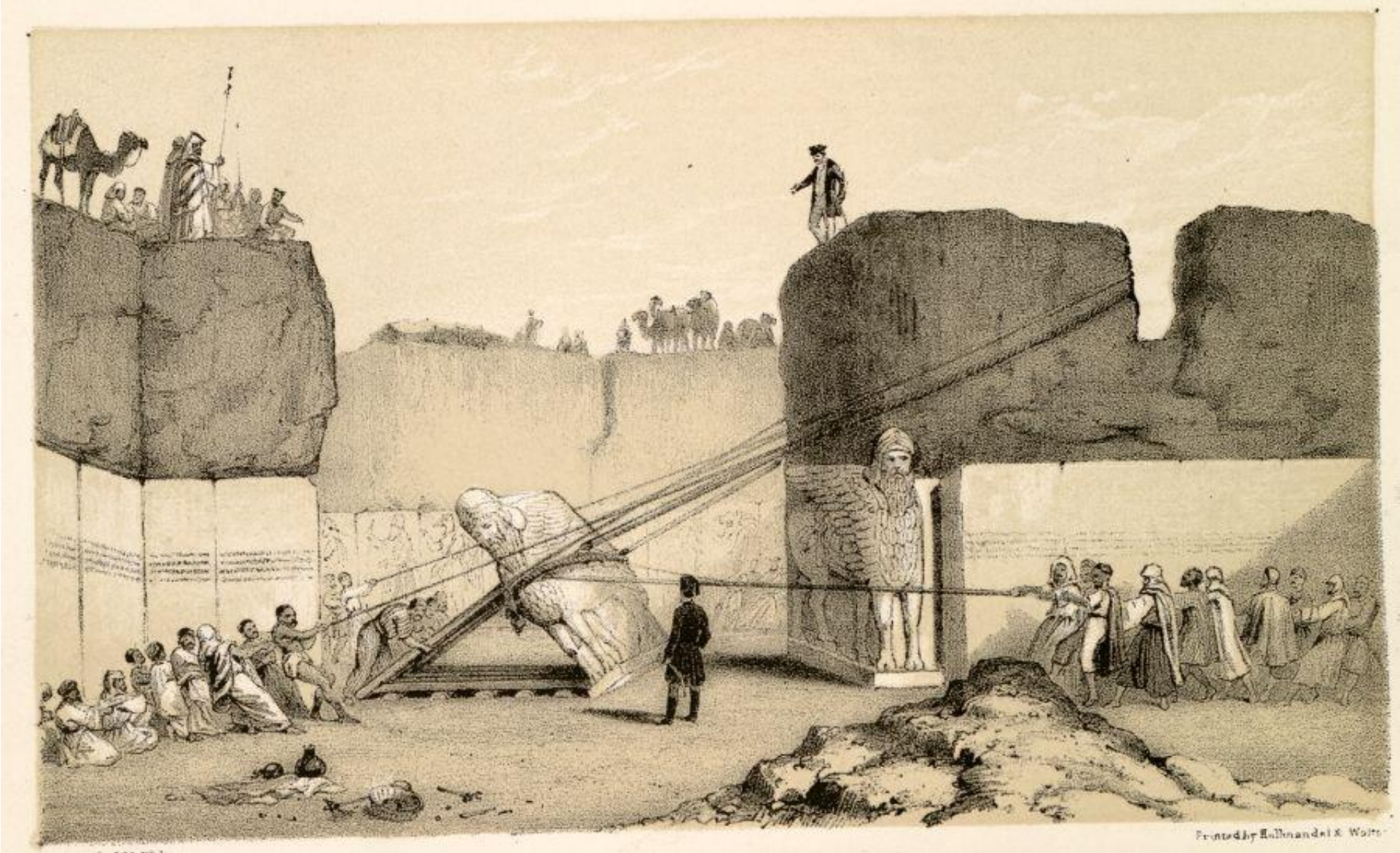




**Scavi di Emile Botta a Khorsabad**

(nella foto a destra si vedono chiaramente le entrate dei tunnel)





### **Scavi di Layard a Ninive.**

Rimozione di un Lamassu per prepararlo alla spedizione in Europa.

Il Lamassu è un essere divino dalla forma di toro alato androcefalo, spesso scolpito in alabastro e che decora le soglie dei palazzi assiri. Il suo peso può arrivare a decine di tonnellate.



**Esposizione dei Lamassu e degli ortostati scolpiti a rilievo al British Museum**



**"Tell"** ("hill"), in Middle Eastern archaeology, is a raised mound marking the site of an ancient city. The shape of a tell is generally that of a low truncated cone. In ancient times, houses were constructed of piled-up mud (*pisé*), lumps of clay pressed together (adobe), or (later) sun-dried or kiln-baked bricks strengthened with straw, gravel, or potsherds. All mud structures, however, crumble easily when exposed to the elements, and that feature, combined with repeated wholesale destruction from man-made or natural causes, made repairs and rebuildings frequent. Earlier debris was simply leveled off, and new buildings were erected on top of it. Thus, most tells are stratified, with the lower strata usually being older than those above them. (Encyclopedia Britannica)





The heartland of the Neo-Assyrian Empire contained three types of cities, based on their genesis: first, old towns with a long and uninterrupted settlement history, which gave them an appearance of successive growth; second, newly founded towns with a properly planned outline reflecting the idea of a 'perfect' settlement; and third, a combination of the two: significantly transformed old towns. The first type is represented by Assur; the second by Khorsabad (ancient Dur-Šarrukin); and the third by Nineveh, a city with a long history, which was significantly restructured and reshaped when it became the new capital.

The city of Assur was the eponymous core of Assyria, its ancient capital and seat of the national god Aššur; god, city, and country bore the same name and were of crucial importance for Assyrian identity (figs. 24.1-2). Already flourishing in the late third millennium BC, the city was of some importance due to its role as trade centre in the early second millennium. Unlike Babylonian cities, which were centred on the temples and ziggurats of their tutelary gods, Assur's main sanctuary, dedicated to the god Aššur, was situated at the city's northernmost periphery, on a peak of a steep mountain ridge overlooking the river valley. In its immediate vicinity was the palace of the ruler, who was at the same time high priest and representative of the god. The spatial vicinity of temple and palace, perceivable from inside and outside the city, represented the ideological connection between the city god and the king. This provided the pattern for all later Assyrian capitals.

(M. Novak)

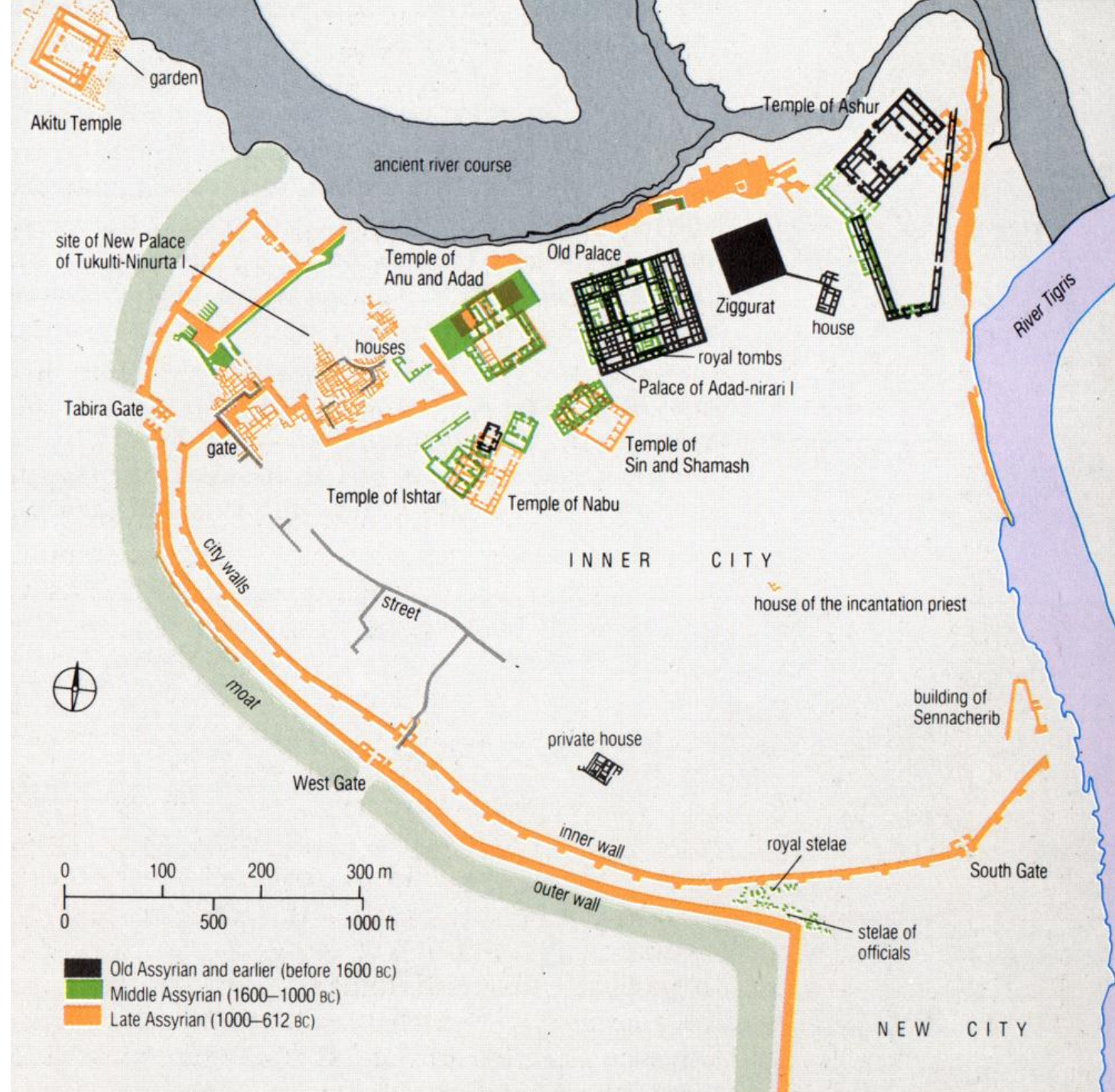


**Assur con la ziqqurat sullo sfondo**



**AŠŠUR** (also Ashur; modern Qal'at Šerqat), site located approximately 110 km (68 mi.) south of Mosul, on the west bank of the Tigris river in northern Iraq (35°28' N, 43°14' E). The ancient settlement is situated some 40 m above the alluvial plain of Šerqat on a natural, nearly triangular eminence at the junction of two branches of the Tigris. This location provided the site with natural protection on two sides. On the third, the landward side, its defenses were completed by a crescent-shaped array of mighty walls enclosing an area of nearly 65 ha (161 acres). Inside the fortification walls the settlement was subdivided into two parts: the Old City (about 40 ha or 99 acres), with temples, palaces, and some "private" buildings in the north, and the so-called New City (about 15 ha or 37 acres) whose function has not yet been identified but which is most probably a dwelling area. It is adjacent to the Old City in the settlements' extreme southeast.

The first archaeological investigations at the site were carried out in the nineteenth century by Austen Henry Layard, Hormuzd Rassam, and Victor Place. Although hardly scientific, their work was of considerable importance in identifying Qala'at Šerqat with the first Assyrian capital, Aššur. Well-known objects associated with these early excavations are a statue of Shalmaneser III (854–824 BCE) and a clay prism of Tiglath-Pileser I (1115–1077 BCE). The latter was of considerable importance in deciphering cuneiform writing. [See Cuneiform.] What is known of the city's archaeology, however, belongs almost exclusively to the work of the German excavators who began their investigations at Aššur in 1903. From then onward, until 1914, Walter Andrae carried out large-scale excavations at the site on behalf of the Deutsche Orient-Gesellschaft. Andrae's combined achievements, in recovering historical information and perfecting archaeological method, have since come to be generally recognized. No further work took place at the site until 1945. Apart from some investigations in the following decades by the Department of Antiquities of Iraq, two more German campaigns, but on a much smaller scale, took place in 1988–1989, conducted by the Free University of Berlin under the direction of Reinhard Dittmann, and in 1989–1990, by the University of Munich under the direction of Barthel Hrouda. In attempting to resolve specific details

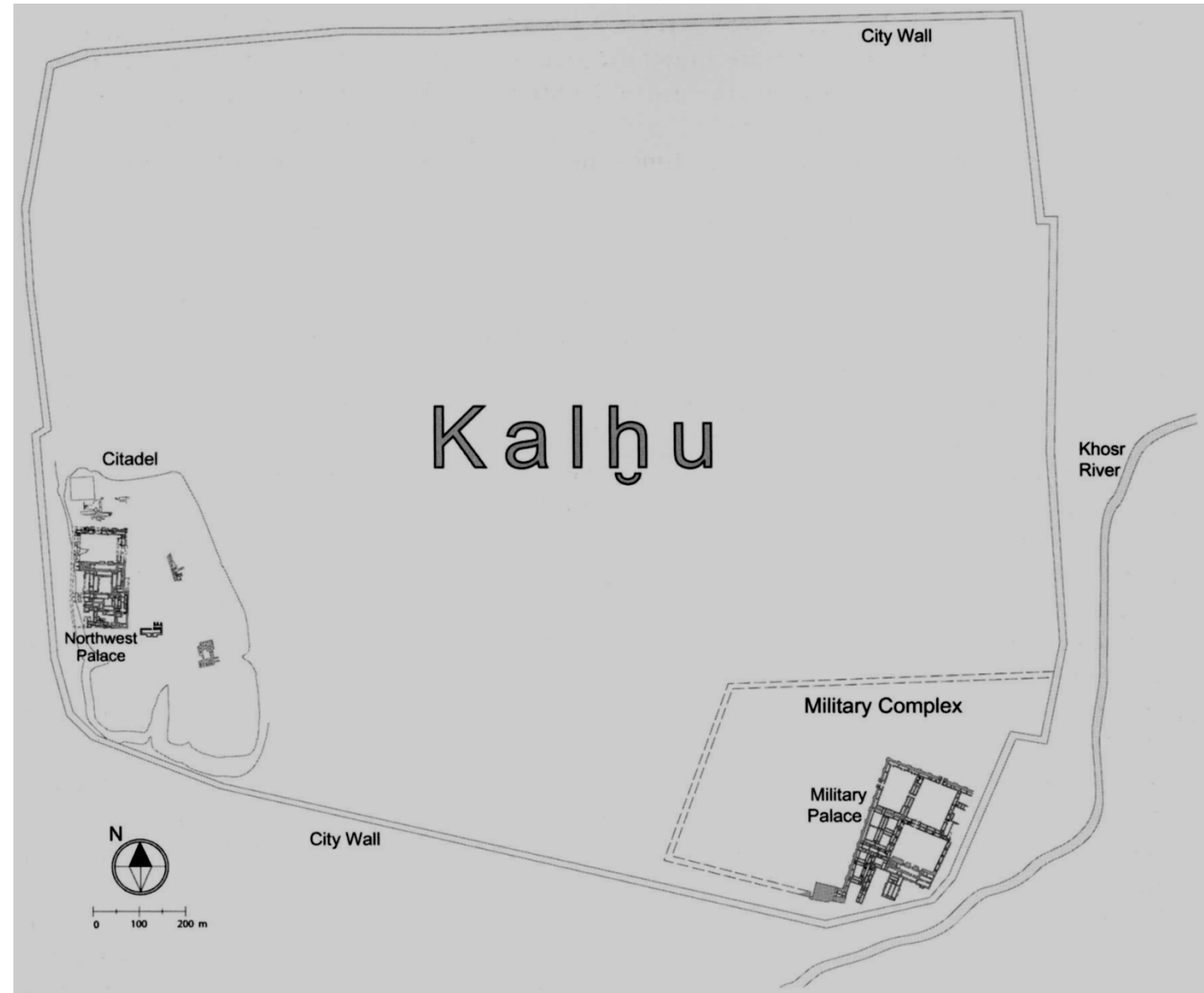


**Pianta di Assur**



The limited extension of available urban space and the location at the southernmost periphery of the dry-farming Assyrian heartland meant that Assur was neither big nor economically powerful enough for the ambitious building programmes of the Neo-Assyrian kings: the enormous administration and the wish for gigantic palaces as symbols of royal power required more space. Hence, large residential cities became political capitals beside Assur, which continued to be the religious centre. The separation of political and religious capital was a characteristic feature of the Assyrian Empire.

## Nimrud (Kalkhu)



## Il sito di Kalhu



Kalhu è situata a ca. 35 km. a valle di Mosul, vicino alla confluenza del Tigri con lo Zab superiore.





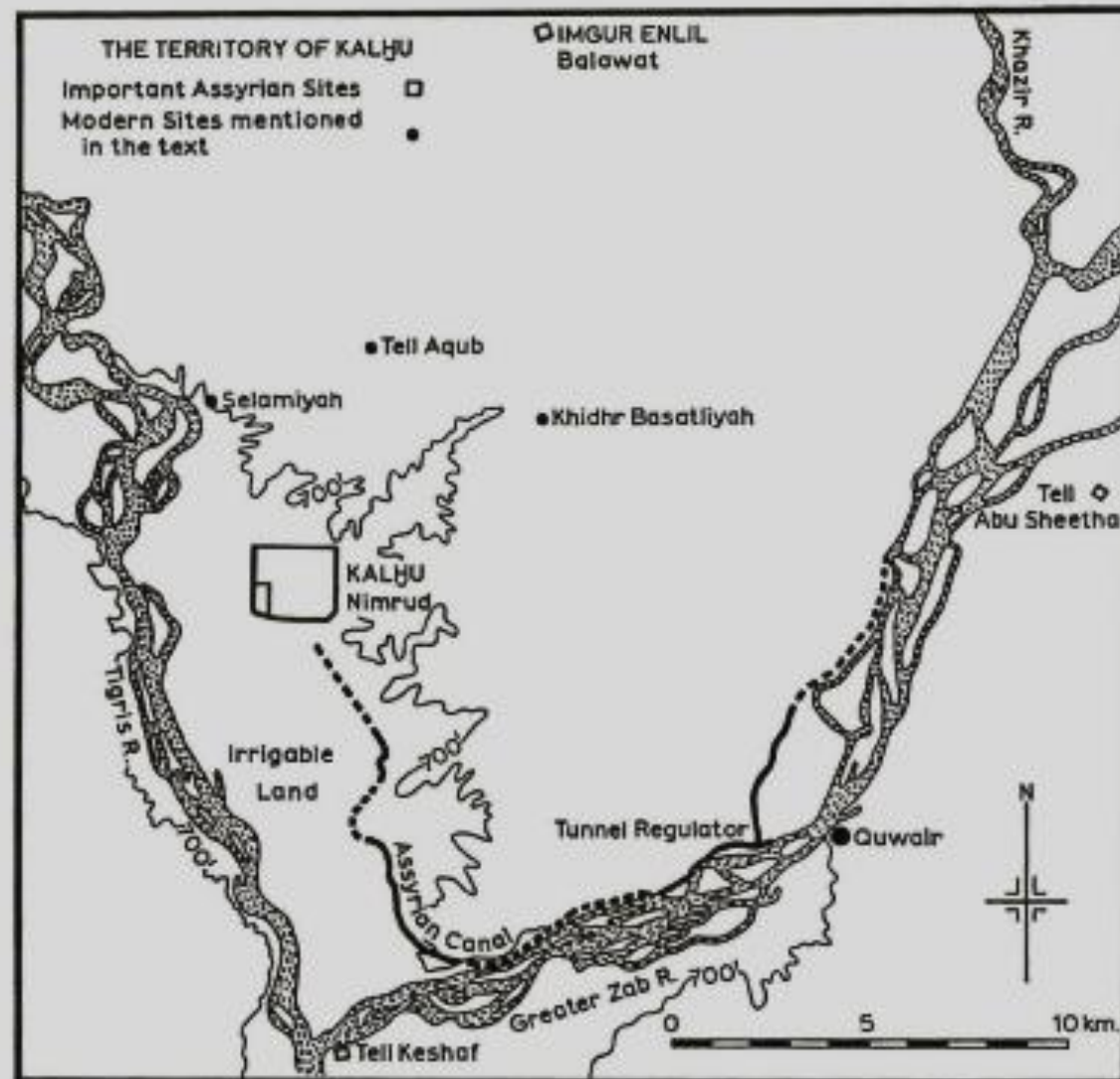


Fig. 13. Plan of area around Kalhu, showing the course of the Patti-hegalli canal (after D. Oates 1968, fig. 3).



The first Assyrian residential city built in the first millennium was Nimrud (ancient Kalhu; fig. 24.3). In the ninth century BC, the ruins of this once occupied but now abandoned city were chosen by Ashurnasirpal II (reigned 883-859 BC) as his new residence. Nimrud was situated close to the confluence of the Tigris and Greater Zab rivers, in between the two major cities of Assur and Nineveh. The city was surrounded by extra-urban royal gardens and a 'zoo', to which plants and animals from conquered countries were brought. In the city itself were settled deportees from all the countries that were under the yoke of the Assyrian king, making the city an illustration and symbol of the whole world. All of the public buildings were situated on top of a fortified and elevated citadel on the edge of the city, with the temple of the tutelary god Ninurta standing at the north-western corner. The element of the citadel was previously unknown to Babylonian and Assyrian urban architecture, being inspired by Northern Levantine patterns and at the same time the result of the elites' growing wish for security against their subjects. Again, the temple and the palace formed a close spatial connection, higher in elevation than the dwelling

the outside and could be perceived as towering over the fortification walls. During the reign of Shalmaneser III (reigned 859/858-824 BC), a second citadel was added on top of an artificial terrace towards the south-eastern corner of the city. This secondary citadel, 'Fort Shalmaneser', was the seat of the military palace of the city.

This newly established pattern of a 'typical' Assyrian urban layout was copied 150 years later by King Sargon II (reigned 721-705 BC) when he founded the next residential city, Khorsabad, on virgin ground (fig. 24.4). Here, an almost square layout was chosen for the city. Its main elements were again the citadel with the royal palace and the temples of the gods of the city, and a secondary citadel with the military institutions.

The last Assyrian residential city was Nineveh (fig. 23.1), an existing city that was rebuilt and significantly enlarged by Sennacherib (reigned 705/704-681 BC). Again, the environment was transformed into an artificial landscape consisting of parks and gardens. Two citadels dominated the skyline of the city: the larger one (Kuyunjik) was the main citadel, whilst the smaller one (Nebi Yunus) was the secondary one. On top of the main

citadel and close to its edges, the palaces of Sennacherib and Ashurbanipal were erected, whilst temples occupied the area in between them. Since the palace of Sennacherib lay close to the western slope of the citadel, it overlooked the riverside and the gardens, just as the palaces of his predecessors had done.

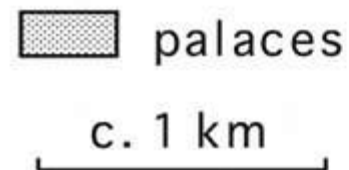
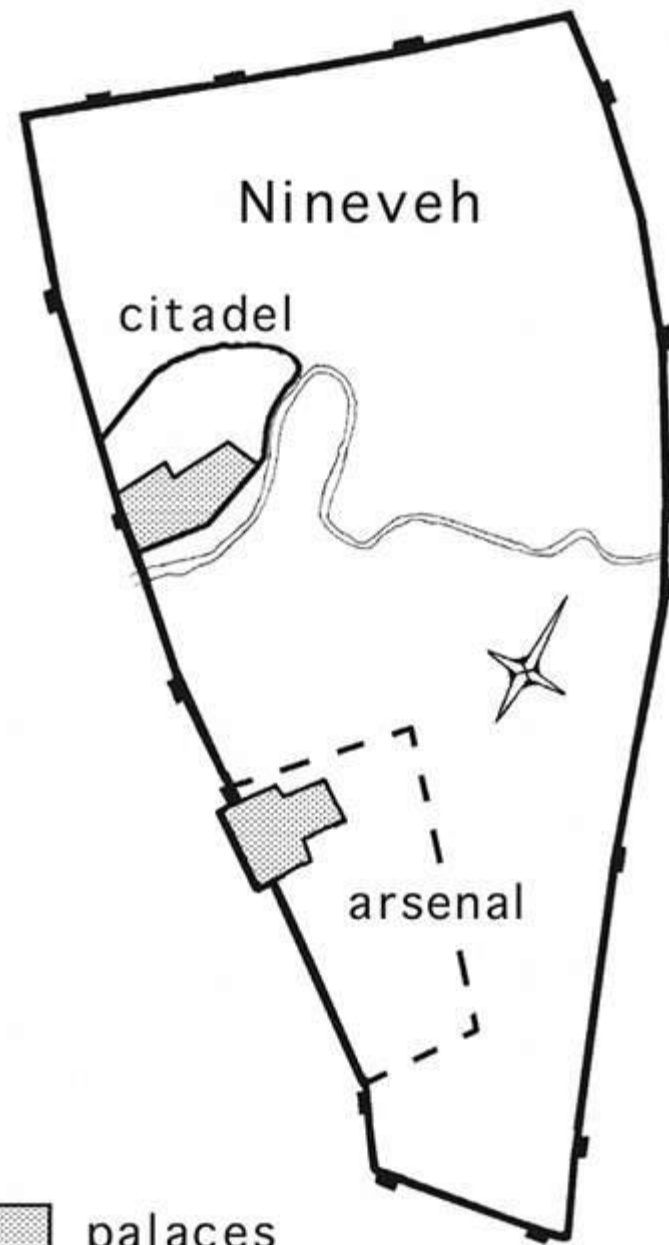
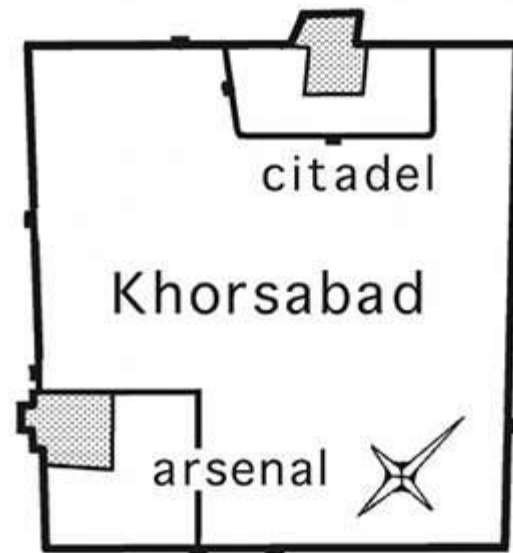
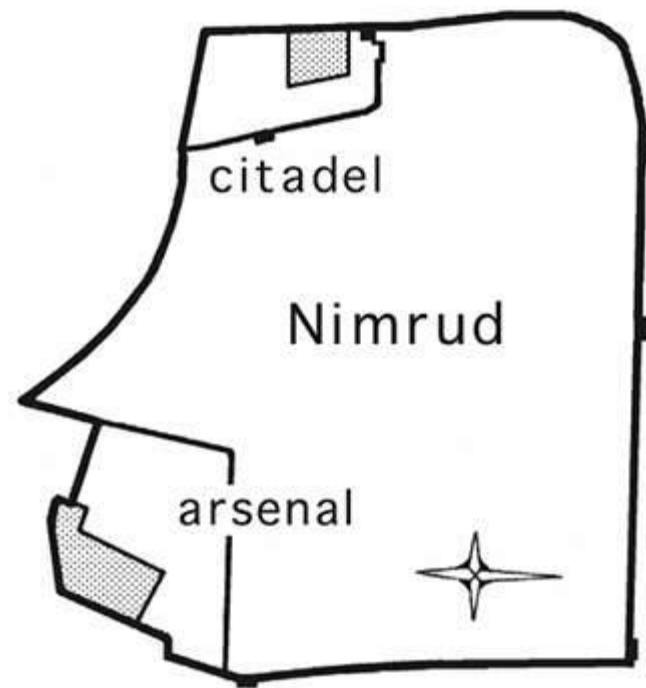
(M. Novak)

La cinta esterna ha una lunghezza di ca. 7.5 km e racchiude un'area di ca. 360 h., a ovest e sud essa segue la terrazza che fiancheggia l'alluvio del Tigri e dei suoi affluenti; a est scorre uno *wadi* e si trova un pozzo di bitume.

La cittadella misura 600 x 400 m e fu fondata su un tell preesistente; nell'angolo SO si trova il complesso dell'arsenale.



Fig. 11. The 'Shalmaneser Gate' through which a stone-paved street leads from the outer town into the citadel; the stone lion bears an inscription of Shalmaneser III. The cap-stone of a gate socket and the central bolt hole are visible in the photograph.





Layard was the first to find the palace and gave it its name.<sup>30</sup> His excavations lasted for two campaigns during the years 1845–7 and 1849–51 (Fig. 2.1).<sup>31</sup> The palace was regularly revisited by excavators and adventurers in subsequent decades. Their main goal was to take away the reliefs that had been left by Layard. As a result, reliefs have ended up all over the world. Finding them and reconstructing their original location within the palace has been the primary scholarly challenge throughout the twentieth century.<sup>32</sup> Although some details are still debated, this elementary work can be considered finished with the publication of the books of Meuszyński, Paley, and Sobolewski in the *Baghdader Forschungen* series.<sup>33</sup> This book will follow their designations when referring to the reliefs.

Regular excavations did not commence again until Mallowan started his work in 1949 on behalf of the British School of Archaeology in Iraq. His excavations of the Northwest Palace continued until 1953. Shortly thereafter, in 1956, the Iraqi Department of Antiquities started with the protection, reconstruction, and excavation of the palace. This work lasted, with short interruptions, until 1975 and continued between 1985–93 and 2001–2.<sup>34</sup> It is now one of the most extensively excavated palaces of the Late Assyrian period. Except for the western part that has eroded away in the past millennia, the entire palace has been retraced.

la ricerca archeologica a  
Nimrud (Kertai 2015)

# NIMRUD

*An Assyrian Imperial City Revealed*

*Joan and David Oates*

BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN IRAQ

## Bibliografia:

M.L. Mallowan, *Nimrud and Its Remains*, 1966.

S.M. Paley – Sobolewski, *The reconstruction of the relief representations and their positions in the northwest palace at Kalḫu (Nimrūd)*, 1992.

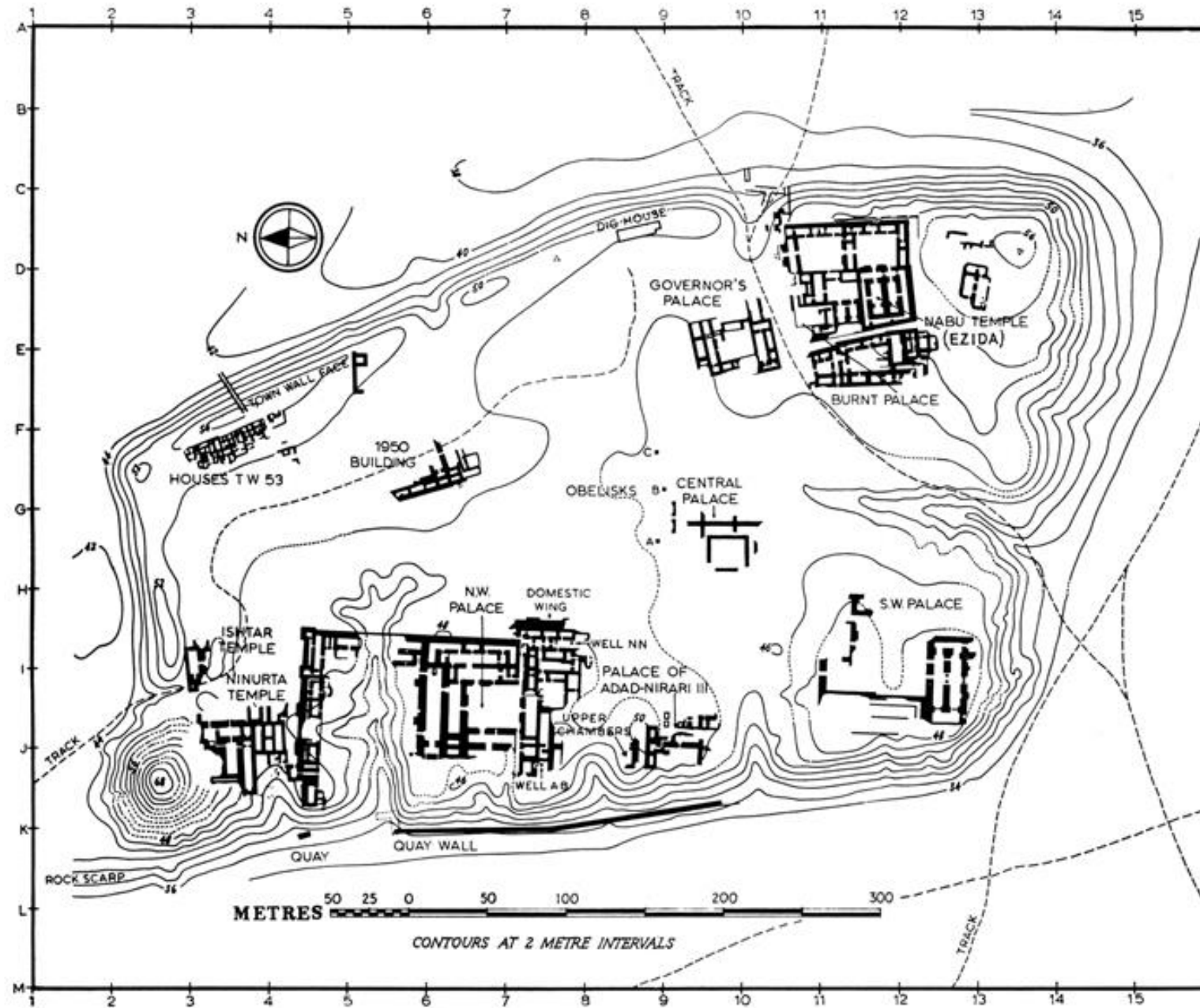
(<http://digital.library.stonybrook.edu/cdm/ref/collection/amar/id/92551>)

Curtis, McCall, Collon, al-Gailani Werr (eds) - *New Light on Nimrud*, 2008.

J.M. Russell, *Writing on the Wall*, 1999.

D. Kertai, *Architecture of Late Assyrian Royal Palaces*, 2015.

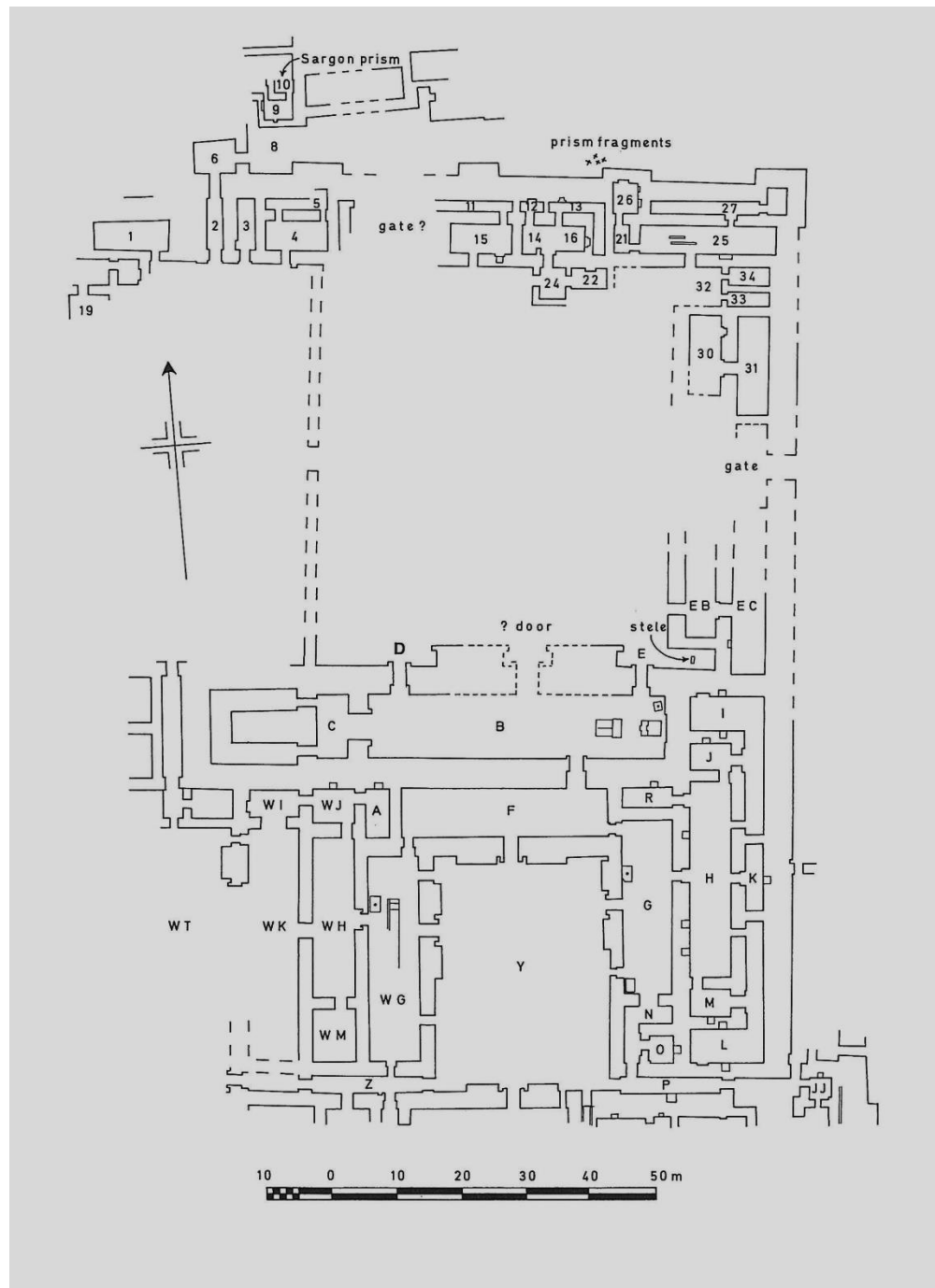
Gli scavi iniziarono nel 1845 e l'8-11-1845 *The Times* dedicava ai rinvenimenti un lungo articolo: nel suo primo giorno di scavo Layard aveva trovato una stanza nel North-West Palace (room A) e una parete del South-West Palace. Gli scavi procedevano col sistema dei tunnel alla ricerca soprattutto dei rilievi e in generale con grande economia di mezzi e di tempo, secondo la richiesta dei finanziatori di ottenere: “the largest possible number of well-preserved objects of art at the least possible outlay of time and money.”







*Fig. 24. The North-West Palace throne room façade was originally excavated by Layard; the photograph illustrates how it appeared when re-excavated by Mallowan in 1952.*



*Plan of the northern part of the North-West Palace (after Mallowan 1966, plan 3, and Paley & Sobolewski 1987, plan 2)*

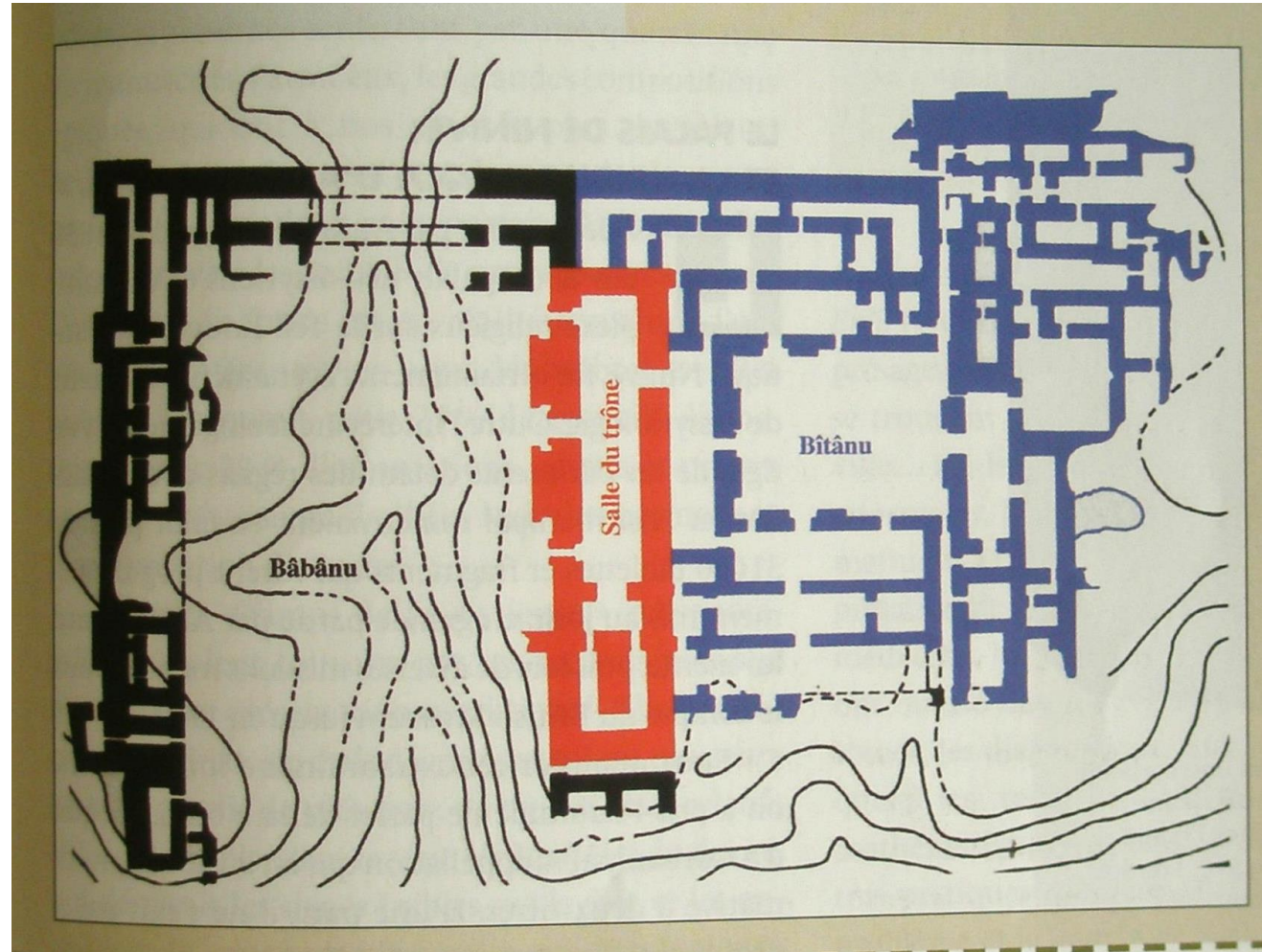
Le stanze da A a AB rappresentano gli scavi del 19° sec.; le altre quelle scavate da Mallowan, ad eccezione di quelle contrassegnate da una 'W', che furono in parte indagate dagli archeologi iracheni e poi dalla spedizione polacca negli anni 1970. Gli scavi più recenti sono quelli iracheni sotto la direzione di Muzahim Mahmud Hussein.

Il North-West Palace è l'edificio più grande, misurando ca. 200 x 130m. Assurnasirpal II innovò anche la decorazione, sia attraverso la monumentalità delle sculture, sia attraverso la serie narrativa degli ortostati a rilievo.

Il complesso è formato da tre parti. A nord si trova il *babanu*, ossia l'ingresso, caratterizzato da una corte, in gran parte oblitterata, su cui doveva aprirsi la porta principale. Doveva comprendere un'area amministrativa organizzata su due corti. Gli ambienti a Nord Est erano stati ritenuti parte di un altro edificio e denominati ZT (Ziggurrat Terrace). Le tavolette amministrative in essi rinvenute indicano invece la loro funzione di ala amministrativa del palazzo.



A sud del *babanu* si trova l'area della sala del trono (BCF) con fregi a rilievo e figure colossali all'ingresso. A sud di questa sezione si trovano altri ambienti con funzione cerimoniale, intorno a un'altra corte, Y, dietro la quale si apre l'area di residenza, il *bitanu*, dove gli scavi più recenti hanno messo in luce ricche sepolture.



Pianta del palazzo di Assurnasirpal II, da Mallowan 1966



Le palais « nord-ouest »  
de Nimrud, l'antique Kalhu,  
vu depuis la ziggurat.  
Cliché D. Charpin.





The palace was entered through the Throneroom Courtyard, which occupied the northern part of the palace.<sup>56</sup> The courtyard formed the centre of the palace's administration. It must have been relatively easily accessible especially for the people working there and those who had business with them. People coming to visit the king will have waited in this courtyard before being allowed to continue to their final destination within the palace.

The Throneroom Courtyard was dominated by the façade of the throneroom. It was the largest and highest room of the palace and by far the most monumental space within this courtyard. The throneroom was the first main reception suite encountered after having entered the palace. Late Assyrian palaces are typified by the forward placement of the throneroom, rather than it being hidden within the complex. Its location placed the king to the fore in his own palace. It made him architecturally present in the most accessible part of the palace. The façade embodied a closeness to the king, regardless of his physical presence.

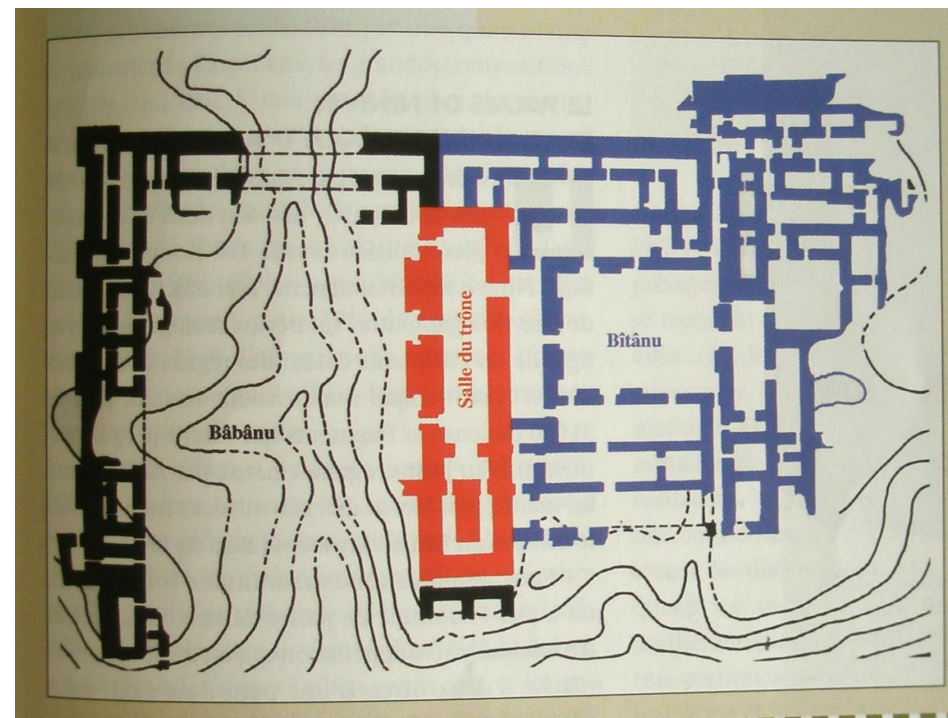
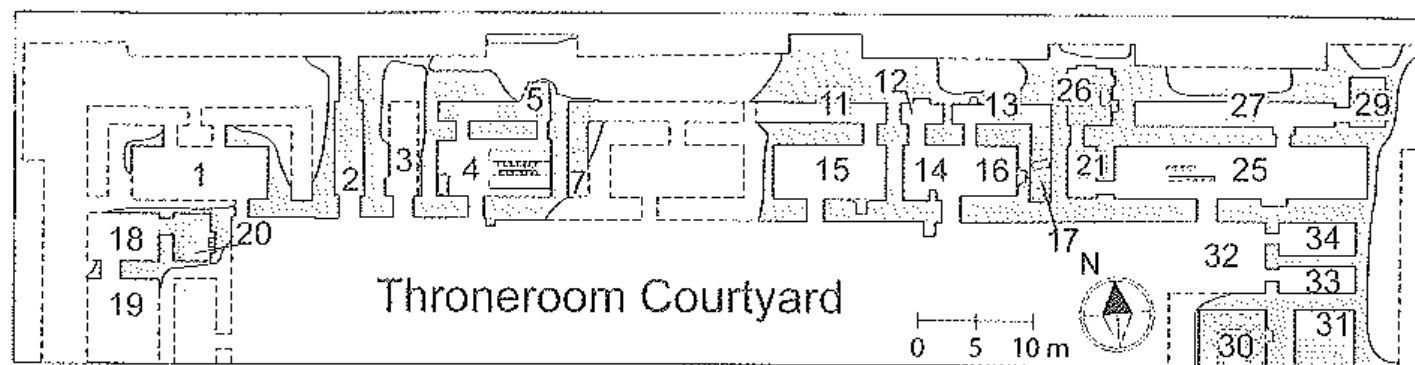
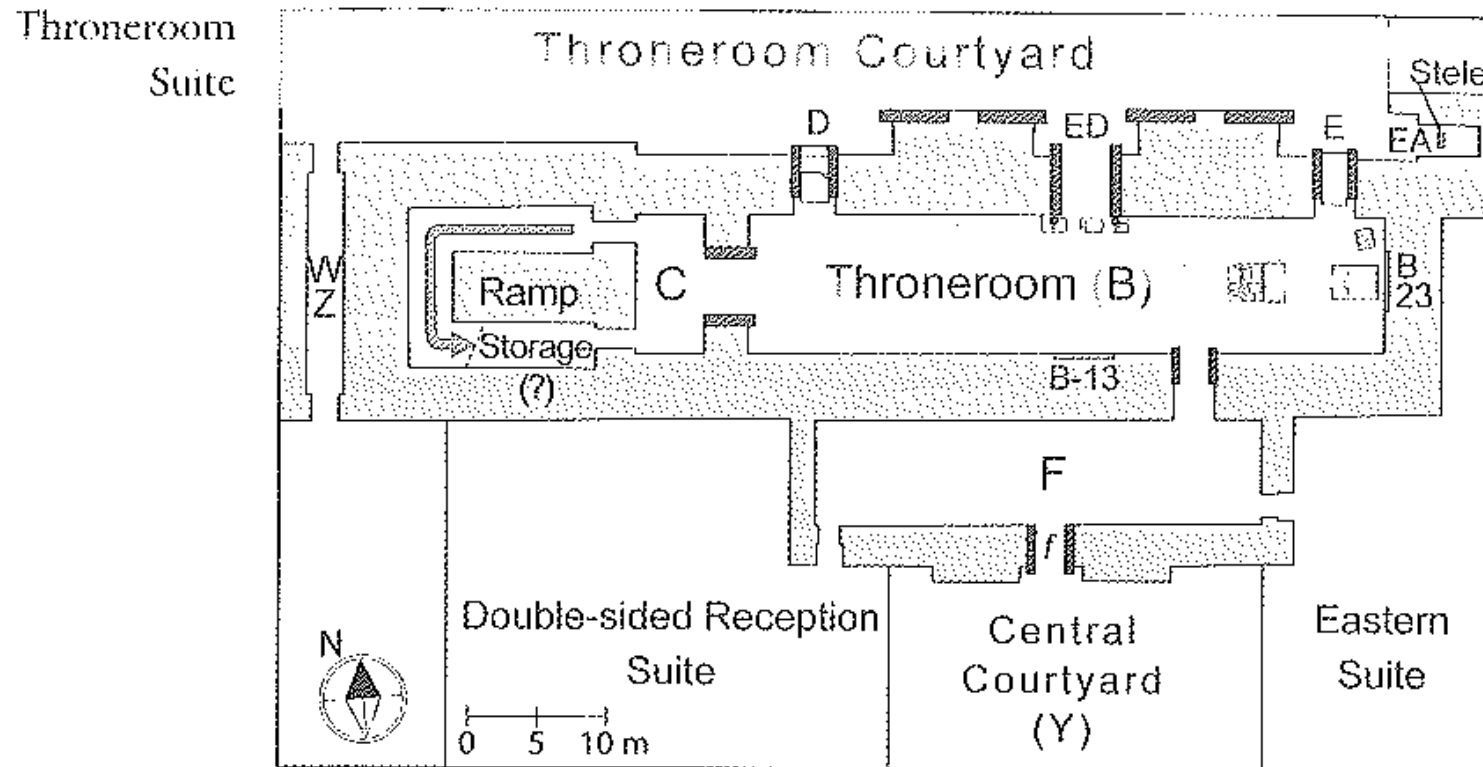


FIG. 2.2 Northern part of the Throneroom Courtyard





The king was made present also through two royal images incorporated into the throneroom façade. The first was part of a series of reliefs that covered the western part of the façade showing a procession of tributaries walking towards the king with their tribute.<sup>57</sup> Real time processions would probably have culminated inside the throneroom, but they were perpetuated for eternity on its outside. The king's position (relief D-2) is somewhat hidden behind the colossi flanking the façade, but the eyes are drawn to him by the movement shown on the preceding wall. The scene also made the crown prince present in his standard role of introducing tributaries to the king. Such correlation between the decoration of a façade and the room to which it gave access is uncommon and is generally limited to the



Parte superiore della stele del banchetto, Museo di Mosul. La stele si trovava nella stanza EA, affacciata sulla corte presso l'entrata est della sala del trono.



- 1) É.GAL <sup>m</sup>*aš-šur*-PAB-A ŠID *aš-šur ni-šit* <sup>d</sup>BAD *u*  
<sup>d</sup>MAŠ *na-ra-am* <sup>d</sup>*a-nim*
- 2) *u* <sup>d</sup>*da-gan ka-šu-uš* DINGIR.MEŠ GAL.MEŠ MAN  
*dan-nu* MAN Š[Ú *šar* KU]R *aš-šur* A TUKUL-MAŠ  
MAN GAL-*e*
- 3) MAN *d[an-n]i* MAN ŠÚ MAN KUR *aš-šur* A 10-  
ÉRIN.TÁḪ MAN GAL-*e* MAN *dan-ni* MAN ŠÚ MAN  
KUR *aš-šur-ma eṭ-lu qar-du*
- 4) *šá ina* [GIŠ.*t*]*ukul-ti aš-šur* EN-*šu* DU.DU-*ku-*  
*ma ina mal-ki*.MEŠ *šá kib-rat 4-ta šá-nin-šu*
- 5) *la-a* TUK-*ú* [LÚ].SIPA *tab-ra-a-te la a-di-ru*  
GIŠ.LAL *e-du-ú*

1–20a) (Property of) the palace of Ashurnasirpal, vice-regent of Aššur, chosen of the gods Enlil and Ninurta, beloved of the gods Anu and Dagan, destructive weapon of the great gods, strong king, king of the universe, [king of] Assyria, son of Tukultī-Ninurta (II), great king, strong king, king of the universe, king of Assyria, son of Adad-nārārī (II) (who was) also great king, strong king, king of the universe, (and) king of Assyria; valiant man who acts with the support of Aššur, his lord, and has no rival among the princes of the four quarters, (5) marvellous shepherd, fearless in



- 6) *gap-šu šá ma-ḥ[i-r]a la-a TUK-ú MAN mu-šak-ni-iš la kan-šu-te*
- 7) *šá nap-ḥar kiš-šat UN.MEŠ i-pe-lu MAN šá ina GIŠ.tukul-ti DINGIR.MEŠ GAL.MEŠ*
- 8) *EN.MEŠ-šú DU.DU-ku-ma KUR.KUR.MEŠ D[Ù]-ši-na šu-su KUR-ud ḥur-šá-ni*
- 9) *DÙ-šú-nu i-pe-lu-ma bi-lat-su-nu i[m]-ḥu-ru ša-bit li-i-ṭí*
- 10) *šá-kín li-i-te UGU DÙ-ši-na KUR.KUR.MEŠ MAN šá TA e-ber-tan*
- 11) *ÍD.ḤAL.ḤAL a-di KUR lab-na-na u A.AB.BA GAL-ti KUR la-ge-e*
- 12) *ana si-ḥír-ti-šá KUR su-ḥi a-di URU ra-pi-qi ana GÌR.II.MEŠ-šú*
- 13) *ú-šék-ni-šá TA SAG e-ni ÍD su-ub-na-at a-di*
- 14) *KUR ú-ra-ar-ṭí šu-su KUR-ud TA KUR né-re-be šá KUR kîr-ru-ri*
- 15) *a-di KUR gíl-za-ni TA e-ber-tan ÍD za-ba K[I.T]A a-di URU.DU<sub>6</sub>-ba-a-ri*
- 16) *šá el-la-an KUR za-ban TA URU.DU<sub>6</sub>-šá-ab-ta-a-ni a-di URU.DU<sub>6</sub>-*
- 17) *šá-za-ab-da-a-ni URU ḥi-ri-mu URU ḥa-ru-tu KUR bi-ra-a-te*
- 18) *šá KUR kar-du-ni-áš ana mi-iš-ri KUR-ia ú-te-er*
- 19) *TA KUR né-re-be šá URU ba-bi-te a-di KUR ḥaš-mar a-na UN.MEŠ*

battle, mighty flood-tide which has no opponent, the king who subdues those insubordinate (to him), he who rules all peoples, the king who acts with the support of the great gods, his lords, and has conquered all lands, gained dominion over all the highlands and received their tribute, capturer of hostages, (10) he who is victorious over all countries, the king who subdued (the territory stretching) from the opposite bank of the Tigris to Mount Lebanon and the Great Sea, the entire land of Laqû, (and) the land Suḥu including the city Rapiqu; he conquered from the source of the River Subnat to the land Urartû; I brought within the boundaries of my land (the territory stretching) from the passes of Mount Kîrruru (15) to the land Gilzānu, from the opposite bank of the Lower Zab to the city Tîl-Bāri which is upstream from the land Zaban, from the city Tîl-ša-Abtāni to the city Tîl-ša-Zabdāni, the cities Ḥirimu, Ḥarutu, (which are) fortresses of Karduniaš; I accounted (the people) from the pass of the city Babitu to Mount Ḥašmar as people of my land;

- 20) KUR-ia am-nu aš-šur EN GAL-ú ina ni-še  
IGI.II.MEŠ-šú e-mu-ra-ni-ma
- 21) mal-ku-ti kiš-šu-ti ina KA-šú KÙ È-a <sup>m</sup>aš-šur-  
PAB-A
- 22) MAN šá ta-na-ta-šú da-na-nu ina ħi-sa-at lib-  
bi-ia
- 23) šá <sup>d</sup>é-a MAN ZU.AB uz-nu DAGAL-tu NÍG.BA-ni  
URU kal-ħu ana eš-šú-te aš-bat DU<sub>6</sub> la-be-ru  
ú-na-kir<sub>7</sub>
- 24) a-di UGU A.MEŠ ú-šá-píl TA UGU A.MEŠ a-na  
e-le-na 1 ME 20 tik-pi tam-la-a
- 25) ú-mal-li É.GAL GIŠ.TÚG.MEŠ É.GAL GIŠ mes-  
kan-ni É.GAL GIŠ e-re-ni É.GAL GIŠ šur-mi-ni  
É.GAL
- 26) GIŠ bu-uṭ-ni É.GAL GIŠ ṭar-pi-'i É.GAL GIŠ me-  
eḫ-ri 8 É.GAL.MEŠ a-na mu-šab MAN-ti-ia
- 27) a-na mul-ta-ṽi-it EN-ti-ia ina qé-reb-šá ad-di  
ú-si-im ú-šar-riḫ GIŠ.IG.MEŠ
- 28) GIŠ e-re-ni GIŠ šur-mi-ni GIŠ dáp-ra-ni  
GIŠ.TÚG.MEŠ GIŠ mes-kan-ni ina me-sir ZABAR
- 29) ú-re-kis ina KÁ.MEŠ-ši-na ú-re-ti si-kát kar-ri  
ZABAR al-me-ši-na
- 30) ta-na-ti qar-du-ti-a ʾšá pi-rík ħur-šá-ni  
KUR.KUR.MEŠ u A.AB.BA.MEŠ at-tal-la-ku
- 31) ki-šit-tu šá KUR.KUR.MEŠ DÙ-ši-na ina za-gi-

20b-36a) Aššur, the great lord, cast his eyes upon me and my authority (and) my power came forth by his holy command. Ashurnasirpal, the king whose strength is praiseworthy, with my cunning which the god Ea, king of the *apsû*, extensively wise, gave to me, the city Calah I took in hand for renovation. I cleared away the old ruin hill (and) dug down to water level. From water level to the top, (a depth of) 120 layers of brick, (25) I filled in the terrace. I founded therein a palace of boxwood, *meskannu*-wood, cedar, cypress, terebinth, tamarisk, *mehru*-wood, eight palace (area)s as my royal residence (and) for my lordly leisure (and) decorated (them) in a splendid fashion. I fastened with bronze bands doors of cedar, cypress, *daprānu*-juniper, boxwood, (and) *meskannu*-wood (and) hung (them) in their doorways. I surrounded them with knobbed nails of bronze. I depicted in greenish glaze on their walls (30) my heroic praises, in that I had gone right across highlands, lands, (and) seas, (and) the conquest of all lands. I glazed bricks with lapis lazuli (and) laid (them) above their doorways. I took people which I had conquered from the lands over which I had gained dominion, from the land

- in-du-re-e ina É.SIG<sub>4</sub>.MEŠ-ši-na e-šir*
- 32) NA<sub>4</sub> *a-gúr-ri ina NA<sub>4</sub>.ZA.GÌN ú-šab-šil a-na e-le-na KÁ.MEŠ-ši-na ú-ki-ni*
- 33) UN.MEŠ KUR-ti šu-ia šá KUR.KUR.MEŠ šá *a-pe-lu-ši-na-ni šá KUR su-ḫi URU [ka]p-ra-bi*
- 34) KUR *za-mu-a ana paṭ gim-ri-šá šá KUR É-za-ma-ni u KUR šub-re-e URU sir-qu šá ni-bir-ti*
- 35) ÍD *pu-rat-te u ma-'a-du-te KUR la-qa-a-a šá KUR ḫat-ti u šá <sup>m</sup>lu-bar(\*)-na*
- 36) KUR *pa-ti-na-a-a al-qa-a ina lib-bi ú-šá-aš-bit ÍD-tu TA ÍD za-ba AN.TA*
- 37) *aḫ-ra-a KUR-ú a-na zíq-pi-šu ab-tu-qu ÍD pa-ti-ḫÉ.GÁL MU-šá ab-bi*
- 38) *ú-šal-la-a-te šá ÍD.ḪAL.ḪAL mi-ik-ru ú-ma-ki-ir GIŠ.KIRI<sub>6</sub>.MEŠ ina li-me-tu-šá*
- 39) *áš-qup GIŠ.GURUN.MEŠ DÙ.A.BI GEŠTIN.MEŠ áš-ḫu-ut SAG.MEŠ a-na aš-[š]ur EN-ia u É.KUR.MEŠ*
- 40) KUR-ia BAL-qí URU šu-ú a-na aš-šur EN-ia *a-qi-su ina [KUR].KUR.MEŠ šá at-tal-la-ku*
- 41) *u ḫur-šá-ni šá e-ta-ti-qu GIŠ.MEŠ NUMUN.MEŠ-ni šá a-tam-ma-r[u G]IŠ e-re-nu GIŠ.ŠUR.MÍN*
- 42) GIŠ.ŠIM.ŠAL GIŠ.ŠIM.LI GIŠ.ŠIM.A.SU GIŠ *dáp-ra-nu GIŠ lam-mu [GIŠ].GIŠIMMAR GIŠ.ESI*
- 43) GIŠ *mes-kan-nu GIŠ sir-du-u GIŠ šu-šu-nu GIŠ al-la-nu GIŠ ṭar-pu-'u GIŠ duk-du GIŠ bu-uṭ-nu*
- 44) *u GIŠ mur-ra-nu GIŠ me-eḫ-ru GIŠ.ŠE.ḪAR GIŠ ti-ia-tu GIŠ al-la-an-ka-niš GIŠ.ḪA.LU.ÚB*
- 45) GIŠ *ša-da-nu GIŠ.NU.ÚR.MA GIŠ šal-lu-ru GIŠ a-šu-ḫu GIŠ in-gi-ra-šu*
- 46) GIŠ *ka-miš-še-ru GIŠ su-pur-gi-lu GIŠ.PÈŠ GIŠ.KIN.GEŠTIN GIŠ an-ga-šu GIŠ.ŠIM.GAM.MA*
- 47) GIŠ *tí-ti-ip GIŠ šip-pu-tu GIŠ za-an-za-li-qu GIŠ.ḪAŠḪU[R].GI[š.G]I GIŠ ḫa-am-[bu]-qu-qu*
- 48) GIŠ *nu-ḫur-tu GIŠ ur-zi-nu u GIŠ.ŠIM.GIG ÍD-tu*

Suḫu, (from) the city Kaprabu, (from) the entire land of Zamua, (from) the lands Bīt-Zamāni and Šubrû, (from) the city Sirqu which is at the crossing of the Euphrates, (from) the multitude of the people of the land Laqû, from the land Ḫatti, and from Lubarna, the Patinu. I settled (them) therein.

36b-52) I dug out a canal from the Upper Zab, cutting through a mountain at its peak, (and) called it Patti-ḫegalli. I irrigated the meadows of the Tigris (and) planted orchards with all kinds of fruit trees in its environs. I pressed wine (and) offered first-fruit offerings to Aššur, my lord, and the temples of my land. I dedicated (40) this city to Aššur, my lord. In the lands through which I marched and the highlands which I traversed, the trees (and) plants (lit. 'seeds') which I saw were: cedar, cypress, *šimiššalû*, *burāšu*-juniper, ..., *dapranu*-juniper, almond, date, ebony, *meskanu*, olive, *šušunu*, oak, tamarisk, *dukdu*, terebinth and *murrānu*, *meḫru*, ..., *tīiatu*, Kanish-oak, *ḫaluppu*, (45) *šadānu*, pomegranate, *šallūru*, fir, *ingirašu*, pear, quince, fig, grapevines, *angašu*-pear, *šumlalû*, *titipu*, *šippūtu*, *zanzaliqqu*, 'swamp-apple', *ḫambuququ*, *nuḫurtu*, *urzīnu*, and *kanaktu*. The canal cascades from above into the gardens. Fragrance pervades the walkways. Streams of water (as numerous) as (50) the stars of heaven flow in the pleasure garden. Pomegranates which are bedecked with clusters like grape vines ... in the garden ... [I,] Ashurnasirpal, in the delightful garden pick fruit like ... [...]



- 53) *ina URU kal-ḫi ma-ḫa-zi EN-ti-ia É.KUR.MEŠ*  
 54) *šá ina pa-an la-a ba-šu-ú É<sup>d</sup>BAD u<sup>d</sup>MAŠ*  
 55) *ina qé-reb-šú ad-di É<sup>d</sup>é-a-MAN<sup>d</sup>dam-ki-na*  
 56) *É<sup>d</sup>IŠKUR<sup>d</sup>ša-la É<sup>d</sup>gu-la É<sup>d</sup>30*  
 57) *É<sup>d</sup>MUATI É<sup>d</sup>GAŠAN-KUR-ḫi É<sup>d</sup>IMIN.BI*  
 58) *É<sup>d</sup>kid<sub>9</sub>-mu-ri É.KUR.MEŠ DINGIR.MEŠ GAL.MEŠ*  
 59) *ana eš-šú-te ina lib-bi ad-di šu-bat*  
*DINGIR.MEŠ*  
 60) *EN.MEŠ-a ina qé-reb-ši-na ú-kín ú-si-im-ši-na*  
 61) *ú-[š]ar-riḫ-ši-na GIŠ.ÙR.MEŠ GIŠ e-re-ni*  
 62) *UGU-ši-na ú-kín GIŠ.IG.MEŠ GIŠ e-re-ni*  
 63) *MAḪ.MEŠ DÙ-uš ina me-sir ZABAR ú-re-kis*  
 64) *ina KÁ.MEŠ-ši-na ú-re-ti ALAM.MEŠ ZABAR*  
 65) *KÙ.MEŠ ina KÁ.MEŠ-ši-na ú-še-zi-iz DINGIR-su-*  
*nu*  
 66) *GAL-tu ina KÙ.GI.MEŠ ḫu-še-e ina NA<sub>4</sub>.MEŠ eb-bi*  
 67) *lu ú-šar-riḫ šu-ku-tu KÙ.GI NÍG.GA*  
 68) *ḪI.A.MEŠ KUR-ti šu-ia a-qi-su-nu-ti*  
 69) *É at-ma-ni<sup>d</sup>MAŠ EN-ia ina KÙ.GI.MEŠ*  
 70) *NA<sub>4</sub>.ZA.GÌN ú-šab-bi-it IM.MEŠ-ni ZABAR*  
 71) *ina ZAG-šú u GÙB-šú ú-še-zi-iz*  
 72) *ú-šúm-gal-li KÙ.GI šam-ru-te a-na šub-ti-šú*  
 73) *ú-kín i-si-na-te-šú ina IZI.ZÍZ ITI.KIN GAR-un*  
 74) *MU i-si-ni-šú ša ITI.ZÍZ taš-ri-iḫ-tu*  
 75) *MU-šá ab-bi-ma sir-qu qut-ri-nu ú-ki-na-šú-*  
*nu-ti*  
 76) *NU MAN-ti-ia tam-šil bu-na-ni-a ina KÙ.GI.MEŠ*  
 77) *ḫu-še-e u NA<sub>4</sub>.MEŠ eb-bi ab-ni ina ma-ḫar*  
*<sup>d</sup>MAŠ*

53–78a) In the city Calah, the centre of my dominion, temples which had previously not existed (such as) the temple of the gods Enlil and Ninurta (55) I founded. I refounded therein the temple of the deities Ea-šarru (and) Damkina, the temple of the deities Adad (and) Šala, the temple of the goddess Gula, the temple of the god Sîn, the temple of the god Nabû, the temple of the goddess Šarrat-nipḫi, the temple of the divine Sibitti, the temple of the divine Kidmuru, the temples of the great gods. (60) I established in them the seats of the gods, my lords. I decorated them in a splendid fashion. I installed over them cedar beams (and) made high cedar doors. I fastened (them) with bronze bands (and) hung (them) in their doorways. (65) I stationed holy bronze images in their doorways. I made (the images of) their great divinity resplendent with red gold and sparkling stones. I gave to them gold jewellery, many possessions which I had captured. I adorned the room of the shrine of the god Ninurta, my lord, with gold (and) (70) lapis lazuli, I stationed bronze ... on his right and left, (and) installed wild ferocious dragons of gold at his throne. I appointed his festivals in the months of Shebat (and) Elul. The name of his festival in the month Shebat (75) I called ‘Splendour’. I established for them food (and) incense offerings. I created my royal monument with a likeness of my countenance of red gold (and) sparkling stones (and) stationed (it) before the god Ninurta, my lord.

- 78) EN-ia ú-še-zi-iz URU.MEŠ-ni na-tu-te  
 79) šá ina AD.MEŠ-ia a-na DU<sub>6</sub> GUR-ru ana eš-šú-te  
 80) aš-ba-su-nu UN.MEŠ ma-'a-du-te ina lib-bi  
 81) ú-šá-aš-bit É.GAL.MEŠ maḥ-ra-a-te  
 82) šá pi-rík KUR-ia ana eš-šú-te ar-šip-ši-na ú-si-  
 im-ši-na  
 83) ú-šar-riḥ-ši-na ŠE.AM u ŠE.IN.NU ina lib-bi-ši-na  
 84) DUB-uk <sup>d</sup>MAŠ u <sup>d</sup>IGI.DU šá SANGA-ti i-ra-mu  
 MÁŠ.ANŠE  
 85) EDIN ú-šat-li-mu-ni-ma e-peš ba-'u-ú-ri  
 86) iq-bu-ni 4 ME 50 UR.MAḤ.MEŠ KAL.MEŠ a-duk  
 87) 3 ME 90 GU<sub>4</sub>.AM.MEŠ ina GIŠ.GIGIR.MEŠ-ia pa-  
 tu-te  
 88) ina qi-it-ru-ub EN-ti-ia a-duk  
 89) 2 ME GÁ.NA.MUŠEN.MEŠ ki-ma MUŠEN.MEŠ qu-  
 up-pi  
 90) ú-na-pi-iš 30 AM.SI.MEŠ ina šub-ti  
 91) ad-di 50 GU<sub>4</sub>.AM.MEŠ T[I.L]A.MEŠ  
 92) 1 ME 40 GÁ.[NA].MUŠEN.M[EŠ TI.L]A.MEŠ  
 93) 20 UR.MAḤ.「MEŠ」KAL.MEŠ [ištu KUR]-e

78b-84a) Abandoned cities, which during the time of my fathers had turned into ruin hills, I took in hand for renovation (and) settled therein many people. Ancient palaces throughout my land I built anew. I decorated them in a splendid fashion (and) stored grain and straw in them.

84b-101) The gods Ninurta (and) Nergal, who love my priesthood, gave to me the wild beasts and commanded me to hunt. I killed 450 strong lions. I killed 390 wild bulls from my ... chariot with my lordly assault. (90) I slew 200 ostriches like caged birds. I drove 30 elephants into an ambush. I captured alive 50 wild bulls, 140 ostriches, (and) 20 strong lions from the mountains and forests. I received (95) five live elephants as tribute from the governor of the land Suḥu and the governor of the land Lubdu (and) they went about with me on my campaign. I formed herds of wild bulls, lions, ostriches, (and) male (and)

- 94) *u* GIŠ.TIR.[MEŠ *i-n*]a(?) š[U(?)]-te [l]u *ú-šab-bi-ta*
- 95) 5 AM.SI.MEŠ TI.LA.MEŠ *ma-da-tu* ʽšá LÚʼ.GAR KUR
- 96) KUR *su-ḫi u* LÚ.GAR KUR URU *lu-ub-da lu-ú am-ḫur*
- 97) *ina ger-ri it-ti-ia it-ta-na-la-ka*
- 98) šá GU<sub>4</sub>.AM.MEŠ UR.MAḪ.MEŠ GÁ.NA.MUŠEN.MEŠ
- 99) *pa-ge-e pa-ga-a-te su-gul-la-te-šú-nu*
- 100) *ak-šur mar-ši-si-na ú-šá-lid* UGU KUR *aš-šur* KUR
- 101) UGU UN.MEŠ-šá UN.MEŠ *a-na-sa[h(?)]* *ú-rad-di*
- 102) *ina u<sub>4</sub>-me* <sup>m</sup>*aš-šur-PAB-A* MAN KUR *aš-šur* É.GAL *ḫu-ud lib-bi*
- 103) É.GAL *kúl-lat né-me-qi šá* URU *kal-ḫi*
- 104) *ú-šar-ri-ú-ni aš-šur* EN GAL-ú *u* DINGIR.MEŠ
- 105) šá KUR *gab-bi šá ina lib-bi iq-ra-a-ni*
- 106) 1 ME GU<sub>4</sub>.MEŠ ŠE.MEŠ 1 LIM GU<sub>4</sub>.AMAR.MEŠ
- 107) *u* UDU.MEŠ *ú-re-e* 14 LIM UDU.DAM.GÀR.MEŠ
- 108) *ina* IGI <sup>d</sup>INANNA NIN-*ti-ia* 2 ME GU<sub>4</sub>.MEŠ
- 109) *ina* IGI <sup>d</sup>INANNA NIN-*ti-ia* 1 LIM UDU *si-ser-ḫu*
- 110) 1 LIM UDU.NIM.MEŠ 5 ME DÀRA.MAŠ.MEŠ 5 ME MAŠ.DÀ.MEŠ
- 111) 1 LIM MUŠEN.MEŠ GAL.MEŠ 5 ME UZ.MUŠEN.MEŠ

female monkeys. I bred herds of them. I added *by force* additional territory to Assyria (and) people to its population.

102–154) When Ashurnasirpal, king of Assyria, consecrated the joyful palace, the palace full of wisdom, in Calah (and) (105) invited inside Aššur, the great lord, and the gods of the entire land; 100 fat oxen, 1,000 calves (and) sheep of the stable, 14,000 ...-sheep which belonged to the goddess Ištar my mistress, 200 oxen which belonged to the goddess Ištar my mistress, 1,000 *siserḫu*-sheep, (110) 1,000 spring lambs, 500 *aiialu*-deer, 500 deer, 1,000 ducks (*iššūrū rabûtu*), 500 ducks (*usû*), 500 geese, 1,000 *mesukku*-birds, 1,000 *qāribu*-birds, 10,000 pigeons, 10,000 turtle



- 112) 5 ME KUR.GI.MUŠEN.MEŠ 1 LIM *me-su-ki*.MUŠEN  
 113) 1 LIM *qa-ri-be*.MUŠEN.MEŠ 10 LIM  
 TU.MUŠEN.MEŠ 10 LIM TU.KUR<sub>4</sub>.MUŠEN.MEŠ  
 114) 10 LIM MUŠEN.MEŠ TUR.MEŠ 10 LIM KU<sub>6</sub>.MEŠ 10  
 LIM *ak-bi-ri*  
 115) 10 LIM NUNUZ.MEŠ 10 LIM NINDA.MEŠ 10 LIM  
 KAŠ.MEŠ  
 116) 10 LIM KUŠ *zi-qu šá* GEŠTIN.MEŠ 10 LIM *ziq-*  
*pa-a-ni*  
 117) *šá še šu-'e* ŠE.GIŠ.Ì.MEŠ 10 LIM DUG *lu-um-mu*  
*šá šar-ḫi*  
 118) 1 LIM GIŠ *ḫa-ba-ra-ḫu šá ur-qi* 3 ME Ì + GIŠ.MEŠ  
 119) 3 ME ŠE.BÙLUG.MEŠ 3 ME Ú *ra-qu-tú*  
 120) *sa-mu-uḫ-tu* 1 ME *ku-di-me* 1 ME MUN.GAD.NI  
 121) 1 ME ŠE *gu-bi-ba-te* 1 ME ŠE *ú-(bu)-uḫ-šen-nu*  
 122) 1 ME DIDA SIG<sub>5</sub> 1 ME GIŠ.NU.ÚR.MA.MEŠ  
 123) 1 ME GIŠ.KIN.GEŠTIN.MEŠ 1 ME *za-am-ru sa-*  
*mu-ḫu*  
 124) 1 ME GIŠ *bu-uṭ-na-te* 1 ME GIŠ.SU.SI.MEŠ  
 125) 1 ME Ú.SUM.SAR 1 ME Ú.SUM.SIKIL.SAR  
 126) 1 ME *ku-ni-ip-ḫi* 1 ME *ri-ga-mu šá lap-te*  
 127) 1 ME ŠE *ḫi-in-ḫi-ni* 1 ME *gíd-de-e* 1 ME LÀL.MEŠ  
 128) 1 ME Ì.NUN.NA.MEŠ 1 ME ŠE *ab-ši qa-lu-te*  
 129) 1 ME ŠE *šu-'i qa-lu-te* 1 ME Ú *kar-kar-tu*  
 130) 1 ME Ú *ti-ía-tú* 1 ME GAZI.SAR 1 ME GA.MEŠ

doves, 10,000 small birds, 10,000 fish, 10,000 jerboa, (115) 10,000 eggs, 10,000 loaves of bread, 10,000 jugs of beer, 10,000 skins of wine, 10,000 containers of grain (and) sesame, 10,000 pots of hot ..., 1,000 boxes of greens, 300 (containers of) oil, 300 (containers of) malt, 300 (containers of) (120) mixed *raqqatu*-plants, 100 (containers of) *kudimmus* (a salty plant), 100 (containers of) ..., 100 (containers of) parched barley, 100 (containers of) *ubuḫšennu*-grain, 100 (containers of) fine *billatu*-beer, 100 (containers of) pomegranates, 100 (containers of) grapes, 100 (containers of) mixed *zamrus*, 100 (containers of) pistachios, 100 (containers of) ..., (125) 100 (containers of) onions, 100 (containers of) garlic, 100 (containers of) *kuniphus*, 100 bunches of turnips, 100 (containers of) *hinḫinu*-seeds, 100 (containers of) *giddū*, 100 (containers of) honey, 100 (containers of) ghee, 100 (containers of) roasted *abšu*-seeds, 100 (containers of) roasted *šu'u*-seeds, 100 (containers of) *karkartu*-plants, (130) 100 (containers of) *tīiatu*-plants, 100 (containers of) mustard, 100 (containers of) milk, 100 (containers of) cheese, 100 bowls of *mīzu*-drink, 100 salted oxen, 10 homers of shelled *dukdu*-nuts, 10 homers of

- 131) 1 ME *e-qi-de* 1 ME DUG.ŠAB.MEŠ *šá mi-zi* 1 ME GU<sub>4</sub>.MEŠ
- 132) *ma-ad-lu-te* 10 ANŠE *ku-ul-li šá* GIŠ *duk-di*
- 133) 10 ANŠE *ku-ul-li šá* GIŠ *bu-uṭ-na-te*
- 134) 10 ANŠE *šá* GIŠ.SU.SI.MEŠ 10 ANŠE Ú *ḥa-ba-qu-qi*(\*)
- 135) 10 ANŠE ZÚ.LUM.MA 10 ANŠE *ti-ti-ip* 10 ANŠE Ú.GAMUN
- 136) 10 ANŠE *sa-ḥu-nu* 10 ANŠE *ú-ri-a-nu* 10 ANŠE Ú *an-daḥ-ši*
- 137) 10 ANŠE Ú *ši-šá-ni-be*
- 138) 10 ANŠE GIŠ *si-im-be-re* 10 ANŠE GIŠ *ḥa-še-e* 10 ANŠE Ì + GIŠ DÙG.GA
- 139) 10 ANŠE ŠIM.MEŠ DÙG.GA 10 ANŠE BÍL.LI.MEŠ 10 ANŠE GIŠ *na-še-be*
- 140) 10 ANŠE Ú *zi-in-zi-me* 10 ANŠE GIŠ *ser-du ki-i* É.GAL
- 141) *šá* URU *kal-ḥi ú-šar-ru-ni* 40 LIM 7 LIM 74
- 142) ÉRIN.MEŠ MUNUS.MEŠ *qa-ri-ú-te šá pi-rík* KUR-ia *gab-bi šá*
- 143) 5 LIM LÚ.MAḤ.MEŠ LÚ *šap-ra-a-te šá* KUR *su-ḥi*
- 144) KUR *ḥi-in-da-na-a-a* KUR *pa-ti-na-a-a* KUR *ḥat-ta-a-a*
- 145) KUR *šur-ra-a-a* KUR *ši-du-na-a-a* KUR *gúr-gu-ma-a-a*
- 146) KUR *ma-li-da-a-a* KUR *ḥub-uš-ka-a-a* KUR *gíl-za-na-a-a*
- 147) KUR *ku-ma-a-a* KUR *mu-ša-ši-ra-a-a* 16 LIM ZI.MEŠ
- 148) *šá* URU *kal-ḥi* 1 LIM 5 ME LÚ *za-ri-qi*.MEŠ *šá* É.GAL.MEŠ-a
- 149) DÙ-li-ši-na PAP-ma 1 *šu-ši* 9 LIM 5 ME 74
- 150) LÚ *sa-si-ú-te šá* KUR.KUR.MEŠ DÙ-li-ši-na *a-di*
- 151) UN.MEŠ *šá* URU *kal-ḥi* 10 *u<sub>4</sub>-me* KÚ.MEŠ-šú-nu-ti
- 152) NAG.MEŠ-šú-nu-ti *ú-ra-me-ek-šú-nu-ti* ŠÉŠ.MEŠ-šú-nu-ti
- 153) *ú-DUGUD-su-nu-ti ina šùl-me ù ḥa-de-e a-na* KUR.KUR.MEŠ-šú-nu
- 154) GUR.MEŠ-šú-nu-ti

shelled pistachios, 10 homers of ..., 10 homers of *ḥabbaququ*, (135) 10 homers of dates, 10 homers of *titipu*, 10 homers of cumin, 10 homers of *saḥūnu*, 10 homers of *uriānu*, 10 homers of *andahšu*, 10 homers of *šišanibu*, 10 homers of *simberu*-fruit, 10 homers of *ḥašû*, 10 homers of fine oil, 10 homers of fine aromatics, 10 homers of ..., 10 homers of *naššabu*-gourds, (140) 10 homers of *zinzimmu*-onions, 10 homers of olives; when I consecrated the palace of Calah, 47,074 men (and) women who were invited from every part of my land, 5,000 dignitaries (and) envoys of the people of the lands Suḥu, Hindānu, Patinu, Ḫatti, (145) Tyre, Sidon, Gurgumu, Malidu, Ḫubušku, Gilzānu, Kummū, (and) Mušaširu, 16,000 people of Calah, (and) 1,500 *zarīqū* of my palace, all of them — altogether 69,574 (150) (including) those summoned from all lands and the people of Calah — for ten days I gave them food, I gave them drink, I had them bathed, I had them anointed. (Thus) did I honour them (and) send them back to their lands in peace and joy.

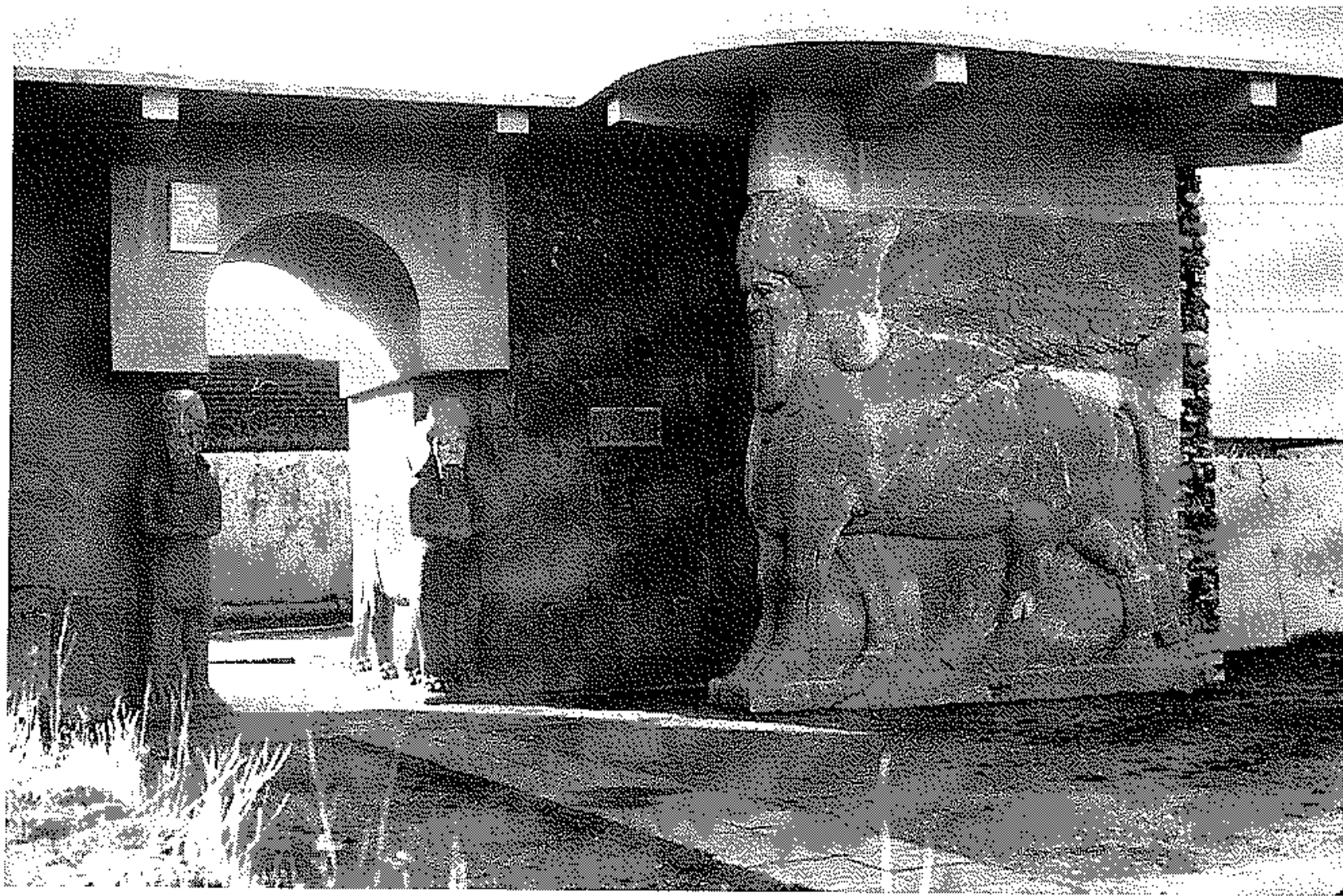


FIG. 8. Kalhu, Northwest Palace of Assurnasirpal II, throne-room façade, Court E, Door c, view (photo: author).



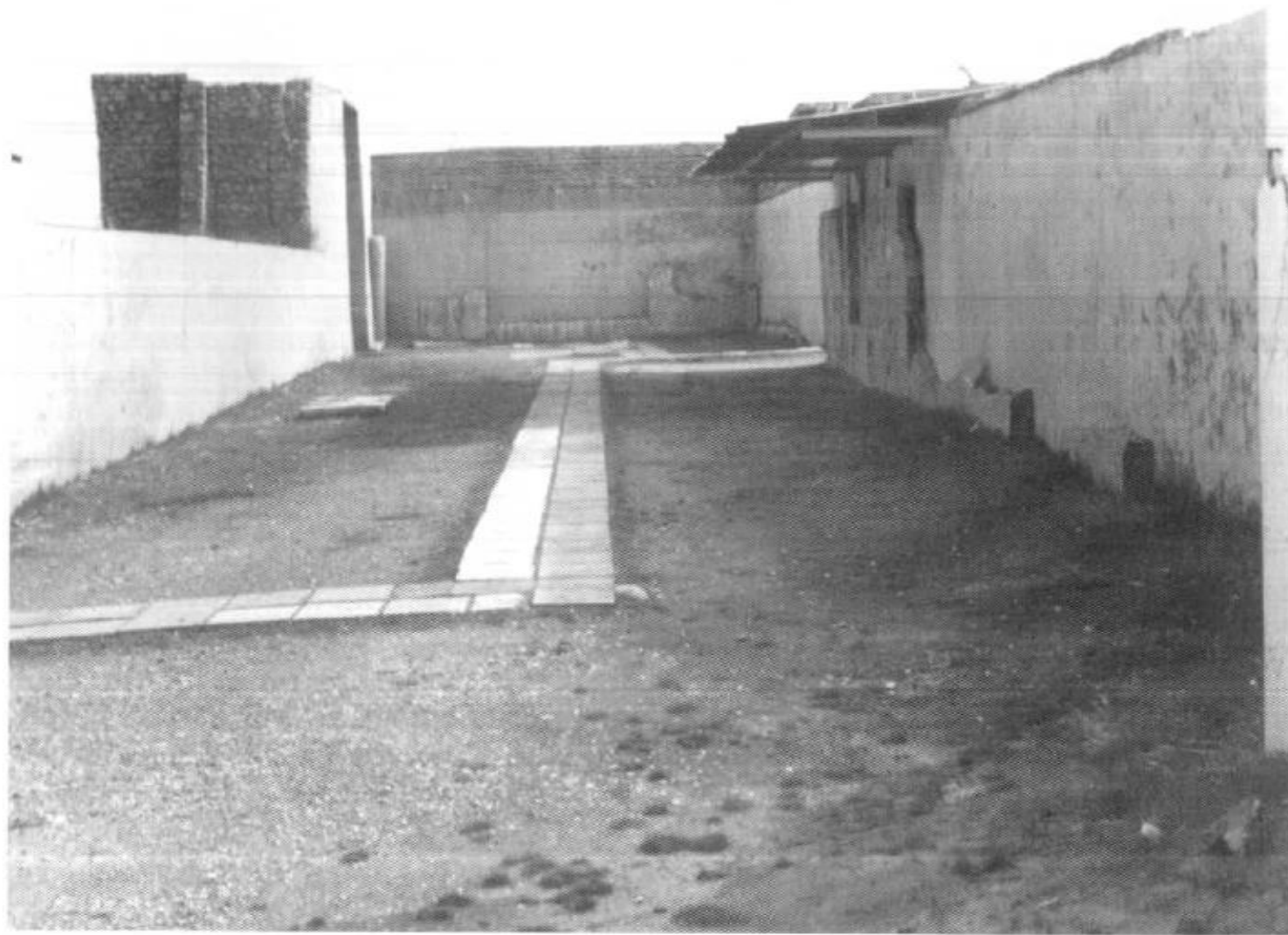


FIG. 10. Kalhu, Northwest Palace of Assurnasirpal II, Room B (throne room), view toward east (photo: author).

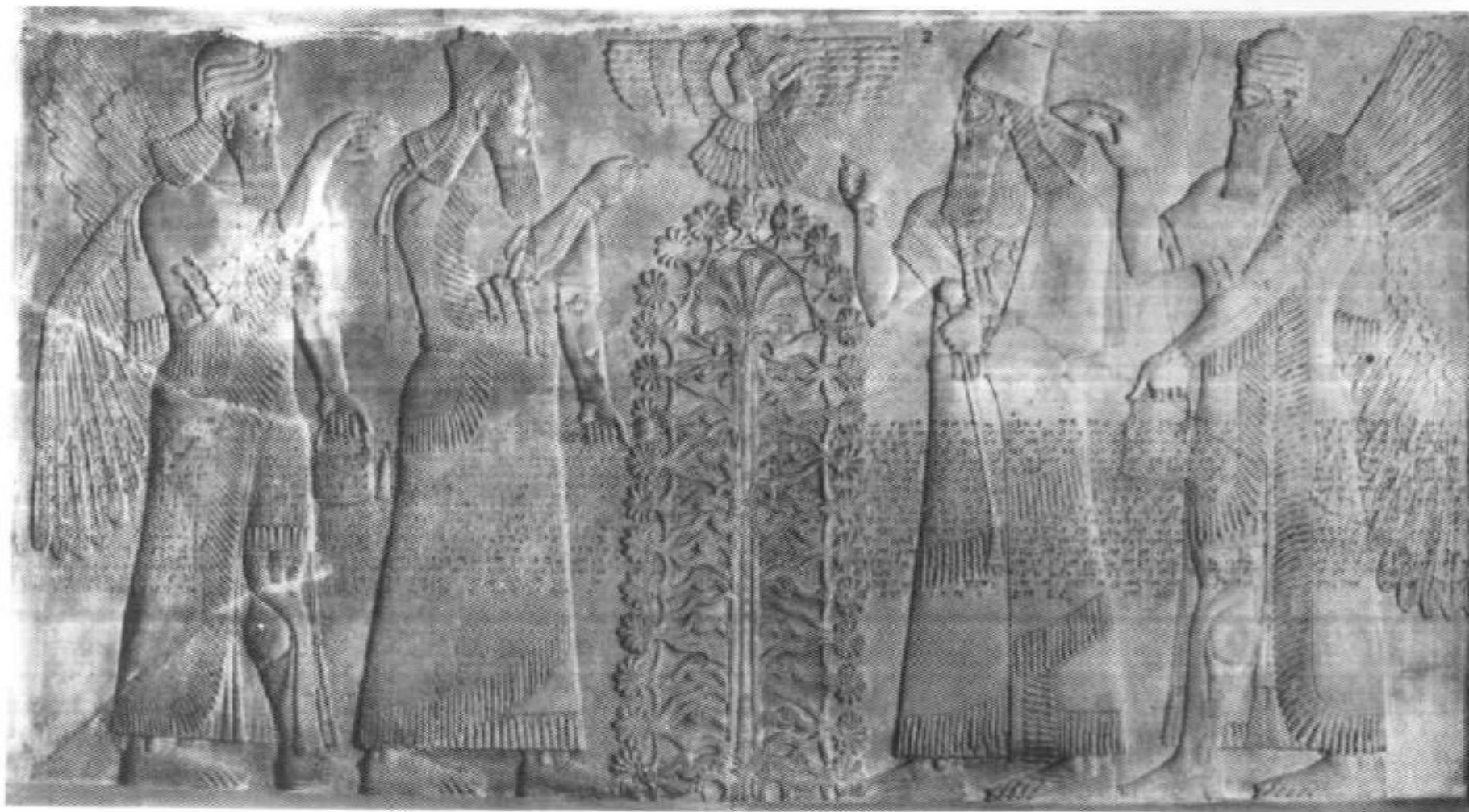


FIG. 11. Kalhu, Northwest Palace of Assurnasirpal II, Room B, Slab 23, relief behind throne base, width 423 cm. British Museum, WA 124531 (photo: Trustees of the British Museum).



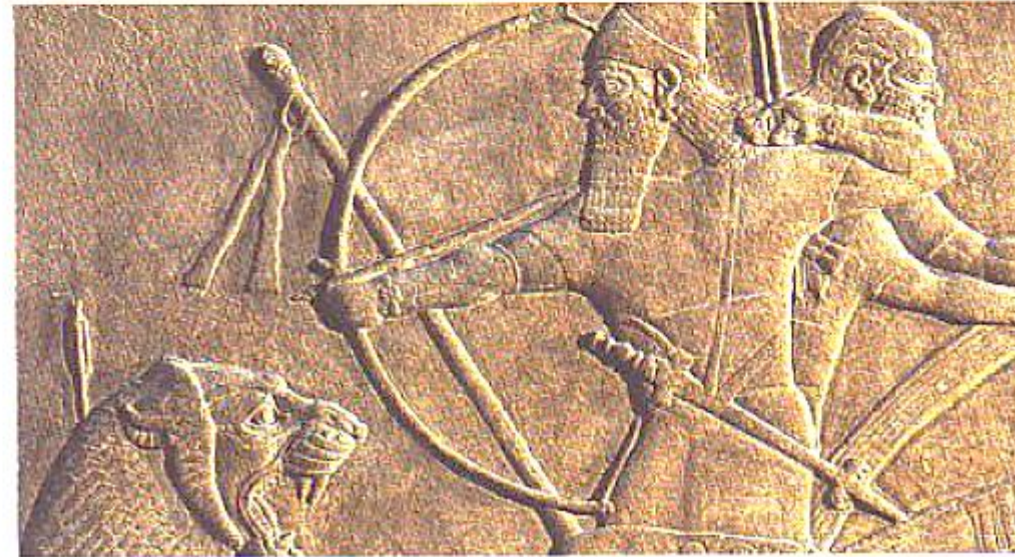
*Fig. 26. The royal lion hunt, an event of especial significance in ancient Mesopotamia; alabaster relief from the throne room of the North-West Palace; lions were the property of the king, and the bowman is the king, or perhaps the crown prince. Ht .98 m; British Museum.*



12. Rilievo con caccia al leone del re Assurnasirpal II sul carro, dalla sala del trono B del palazzo nord-ovest di Nimrud (Irak), prima metà del IX secolo a.C. Londra, British Museum.



13. Rilievo con caccia al leone del re Assurnasirpal II sul carro, particolare, dalla sala del trono B del palazzo nord-ovest di Nimrud (Iraq), prima metà del IX secolo a.C. Londra, British Museum.

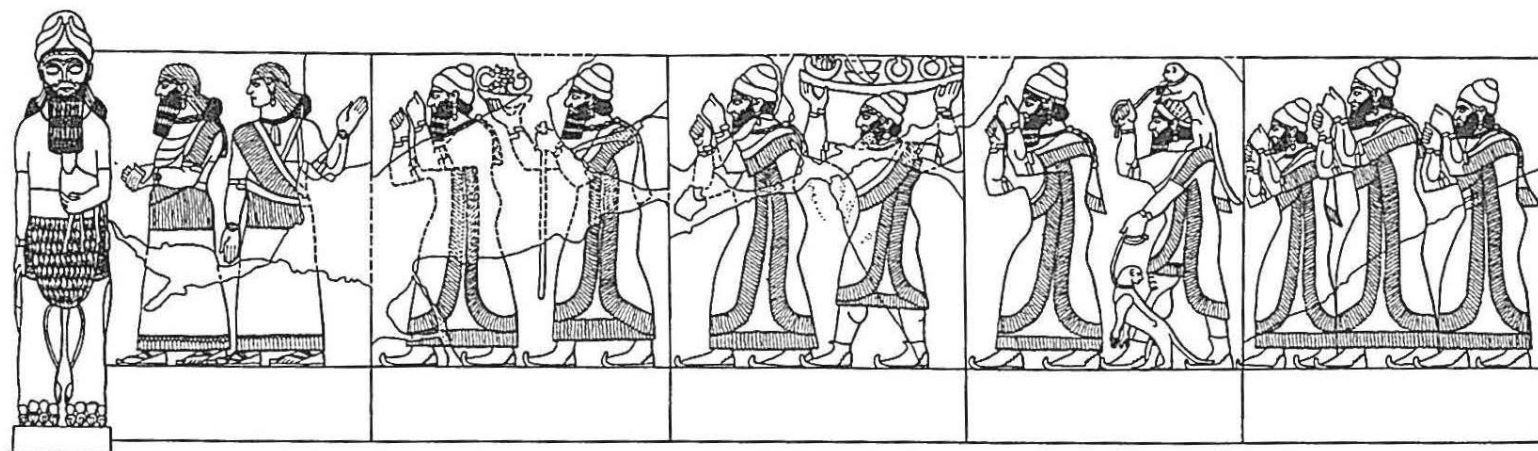




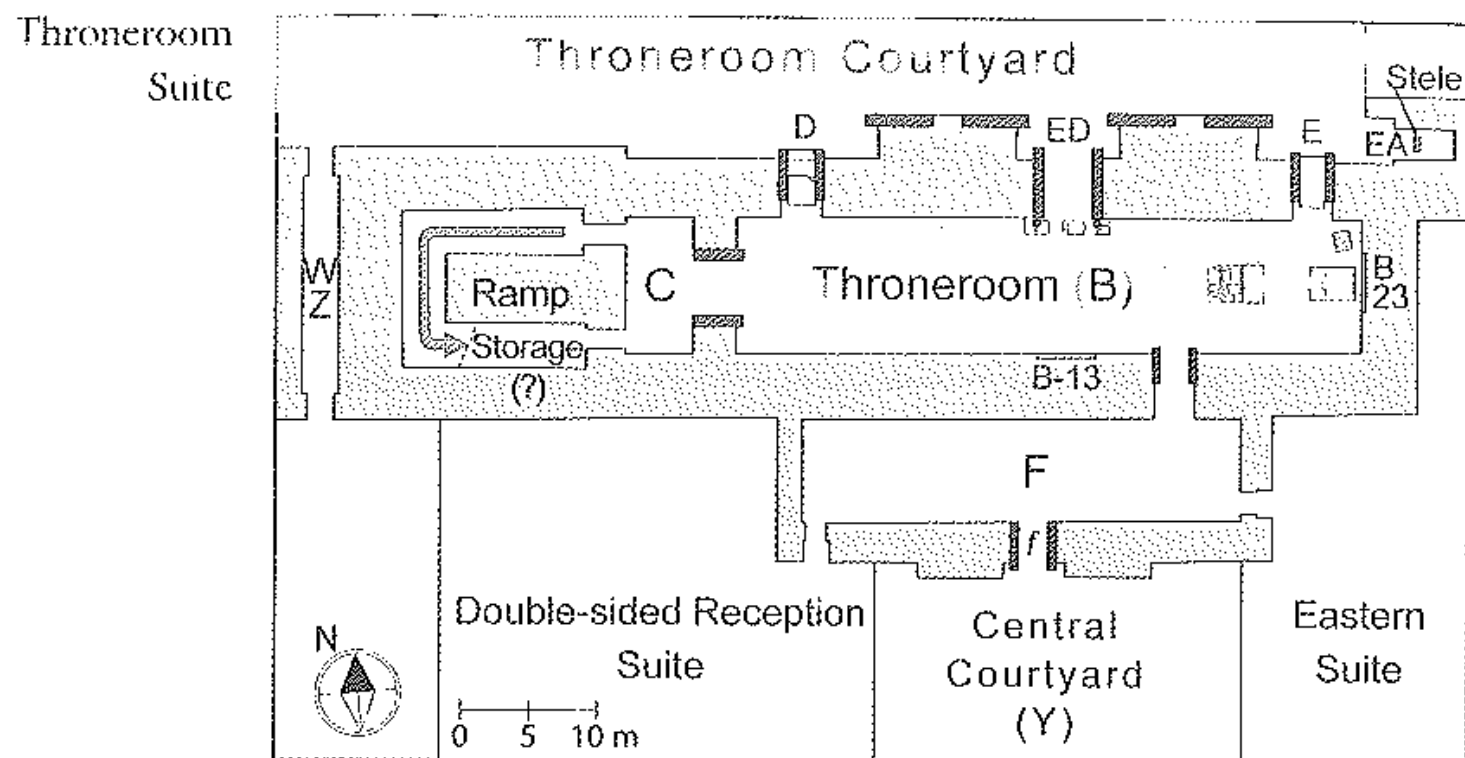
THE FACADE OF the throne room was decorated with lines of tribute-bearers wearing distinctive foreign clothing and bringing exotic gifts. PLACED CLOSE TO the royal throne were visual statements of power which

included the king hunting wild lions and celebrating his divinely granted success. The so-called Standard Inscription naming Ashurnasirpal II once linked these two images but it was cut away in the nineteenth century, *see next slide*

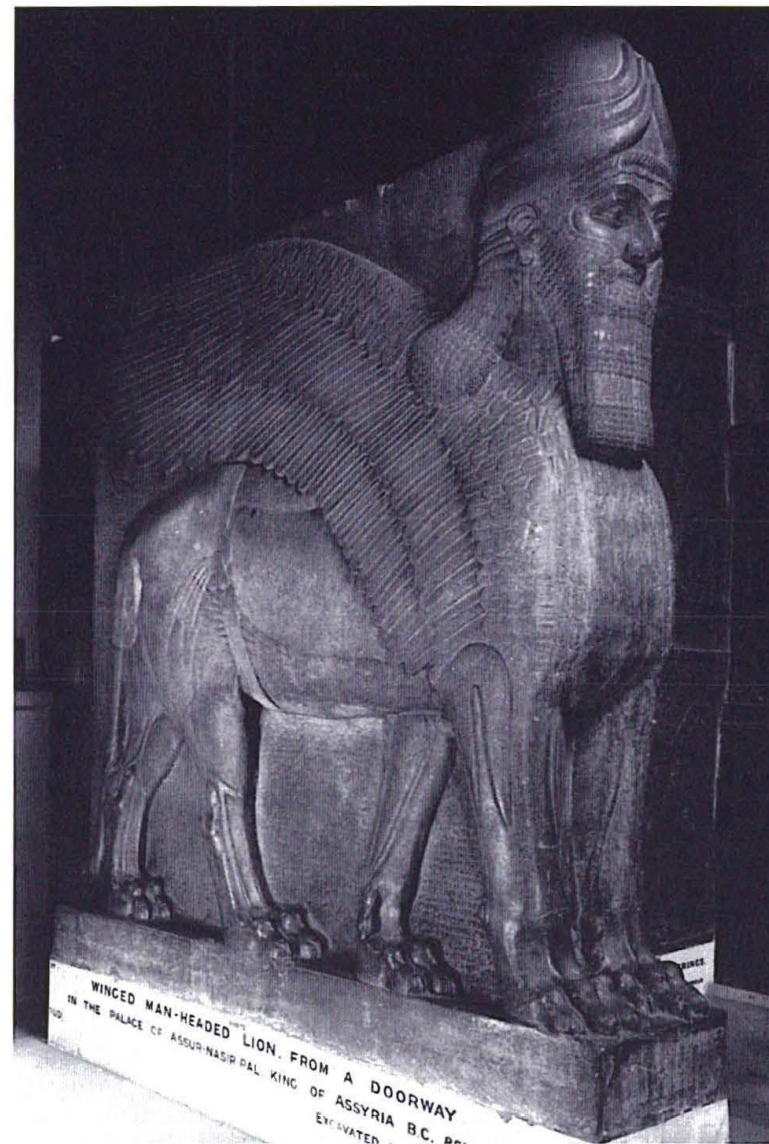
THE SCALE OF the king overwhelmed the enemy who are small and helpless when faced by his weapons, which include a steep tower with battering rams. *following page*



Fregio sulla facciata della corte D







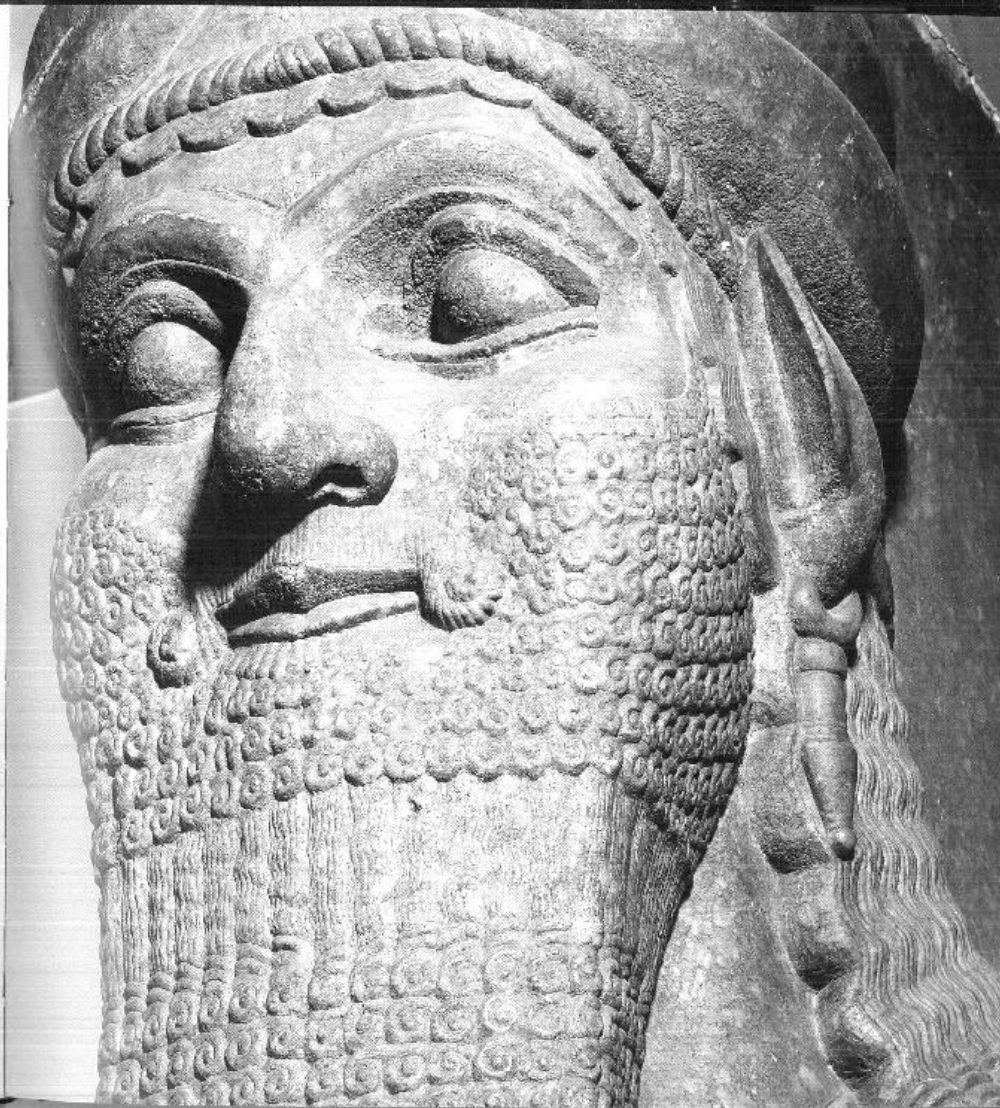
*Fig. 16. Colossus gate figure from the main west doorway into room G, ht. 3.5 m, wt. c. 10 tons. BM 118873.*



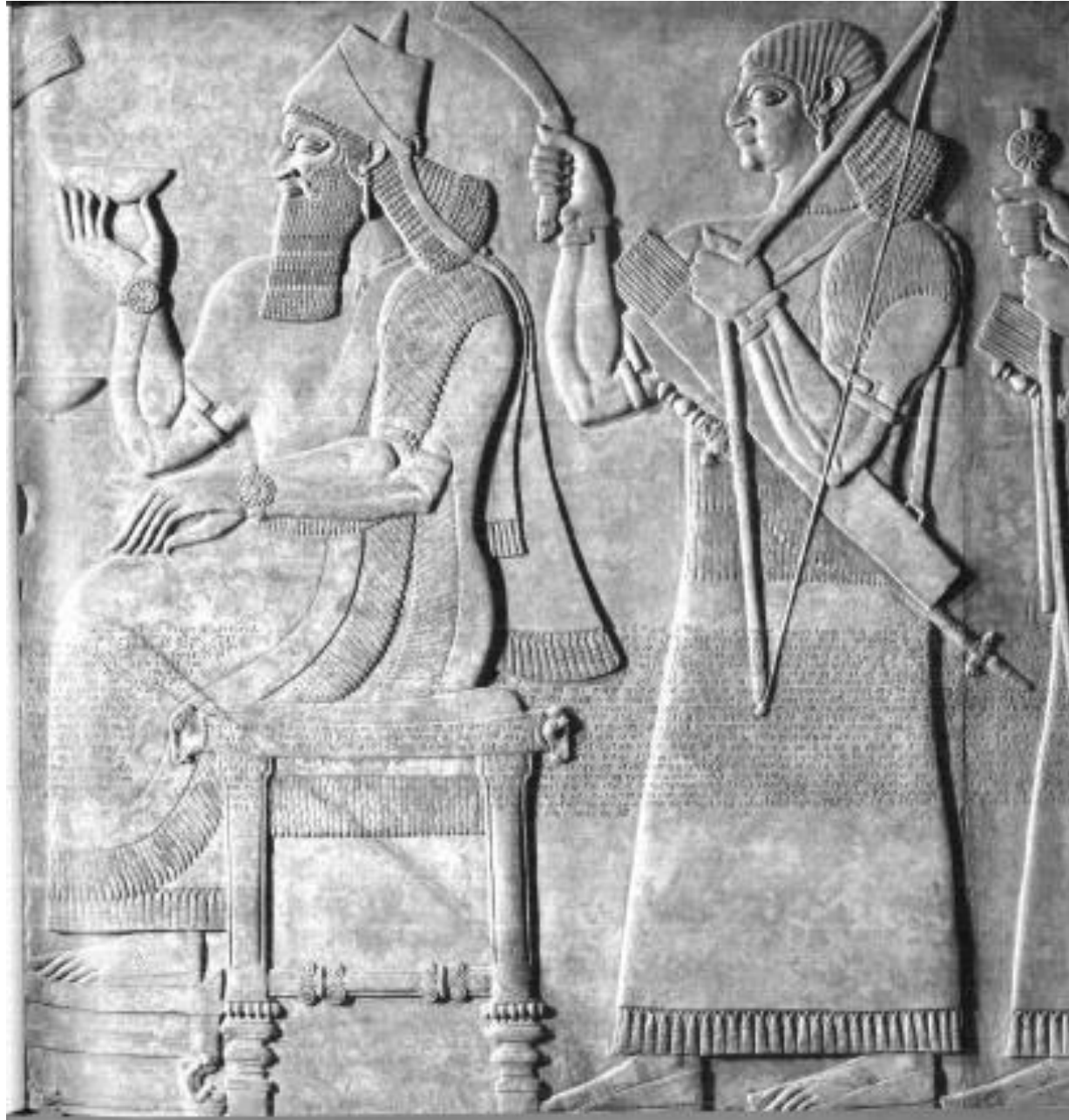


VIEWS FROM THE front, the legs of  
a colossal bull-god stand firm against  
any threat. *above*  
THE EYES OF A human-headed  
winged bull apprise all those approaching  
the palace gate he guards. *right*

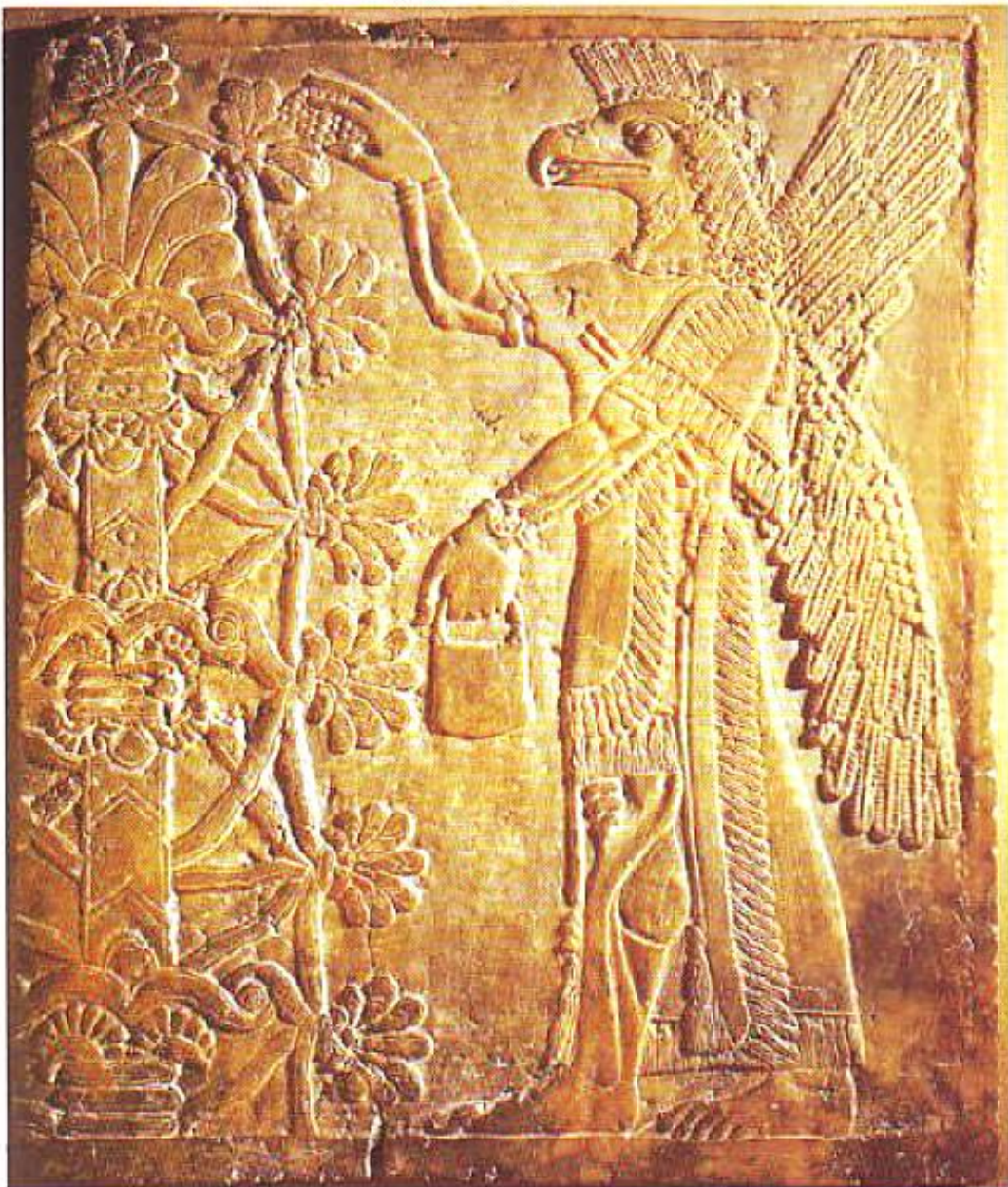
CULTURES



Rilievo con iscrizione dal palazzo di Assurnasirpal II (sala G), che raffigura il re assiso su uno sgabello decorato con protomi di animali, mentre liba da una coppa. Questi oggetti, che facevano parte dell'arredo del palazzo, sono stati in qualche caso rinvenuti, anche se solo parzialmente, e mostrano l'uso dei beni di pregio di cui le élites al potere si circondavano.







14. Rilievo con genio alato a testa di uccello  
e albero sacro, dal palazzo nord-ovest di  
Nimrud (Iraq), prima metà del IX secolo a.C.  
Parigi, Musée du Louvre.

Palazzo di  
Assurnasirpal II





Palazzo di Assurnasirpal II

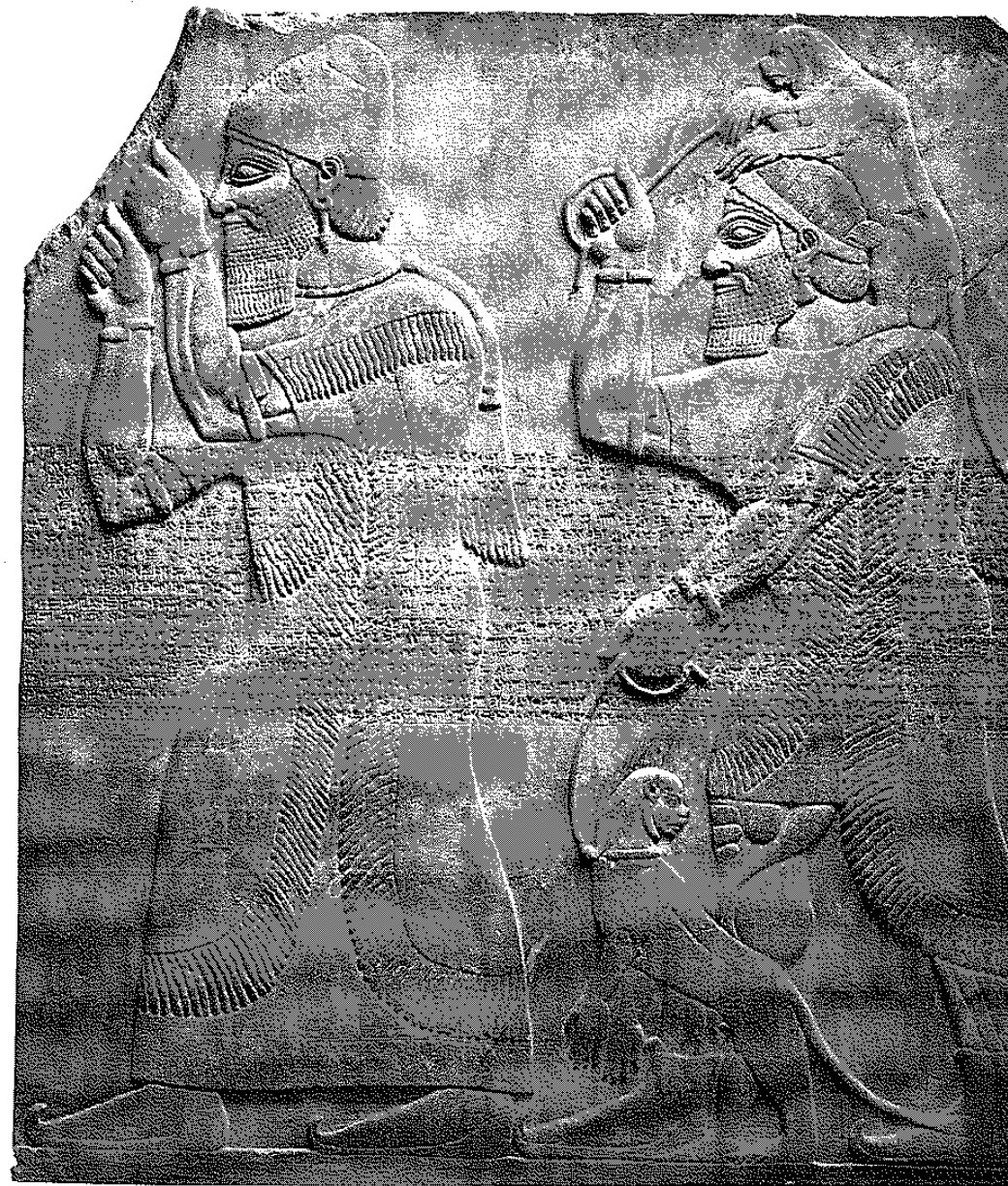
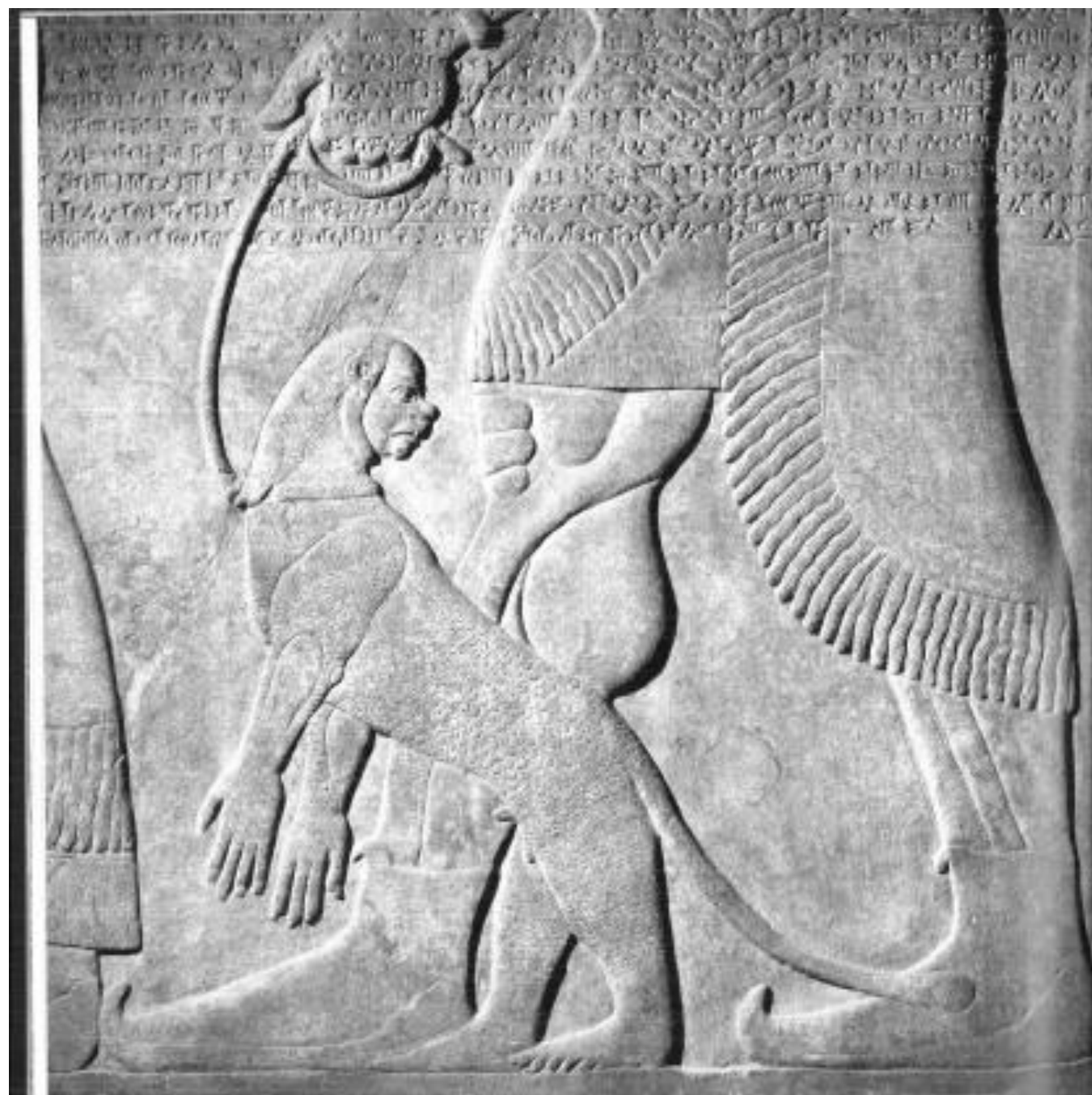
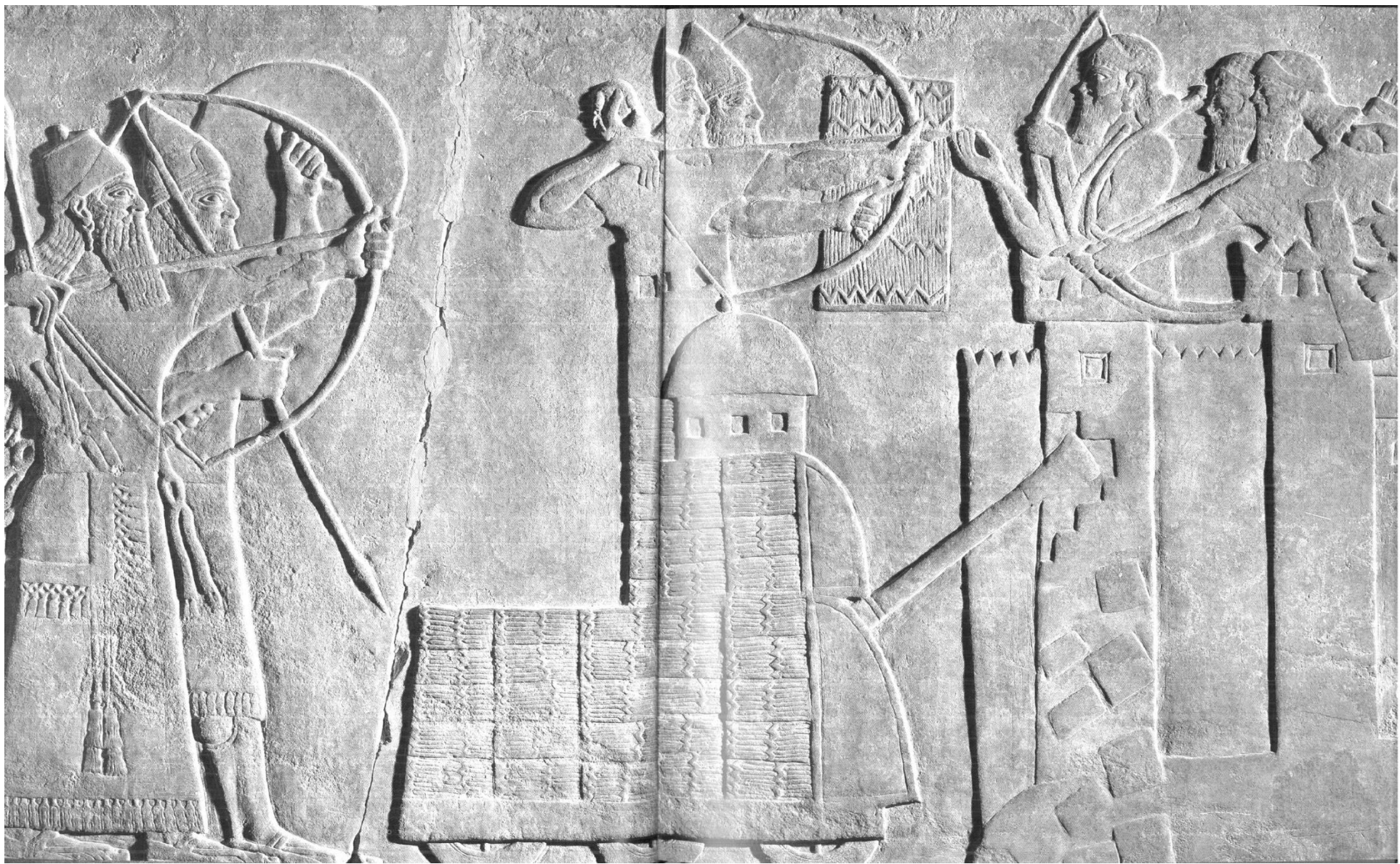


FIG. 9. Kalhu, Northwest Palace of Assurnasirpal II, Court D, Slab 7, western tribune, width 214 cm. British Museum, WA 124562 (photo: Trustees of the British Museum)







Palazzo di Assurnasirpal, rilievo narrativo con scena di assedio.

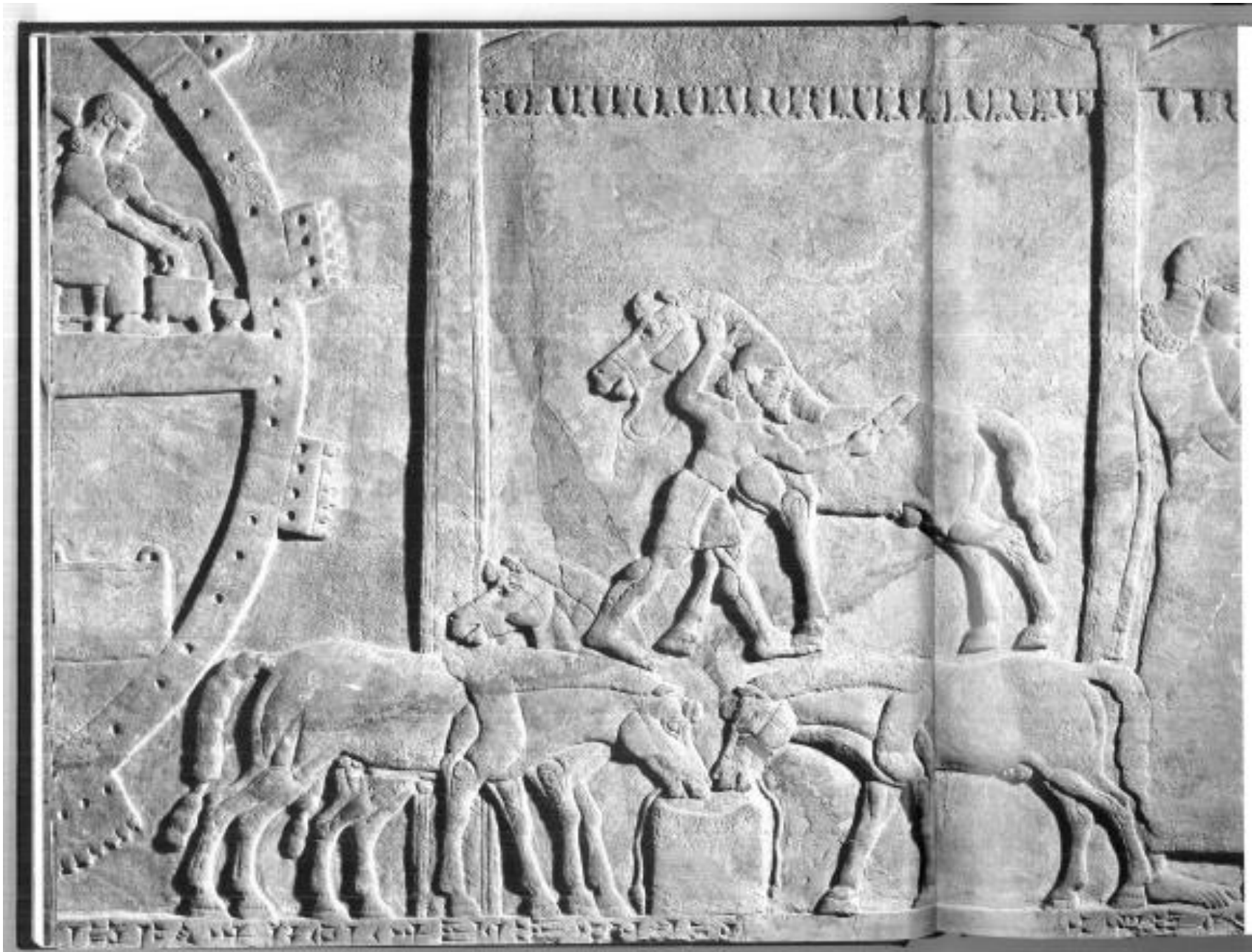






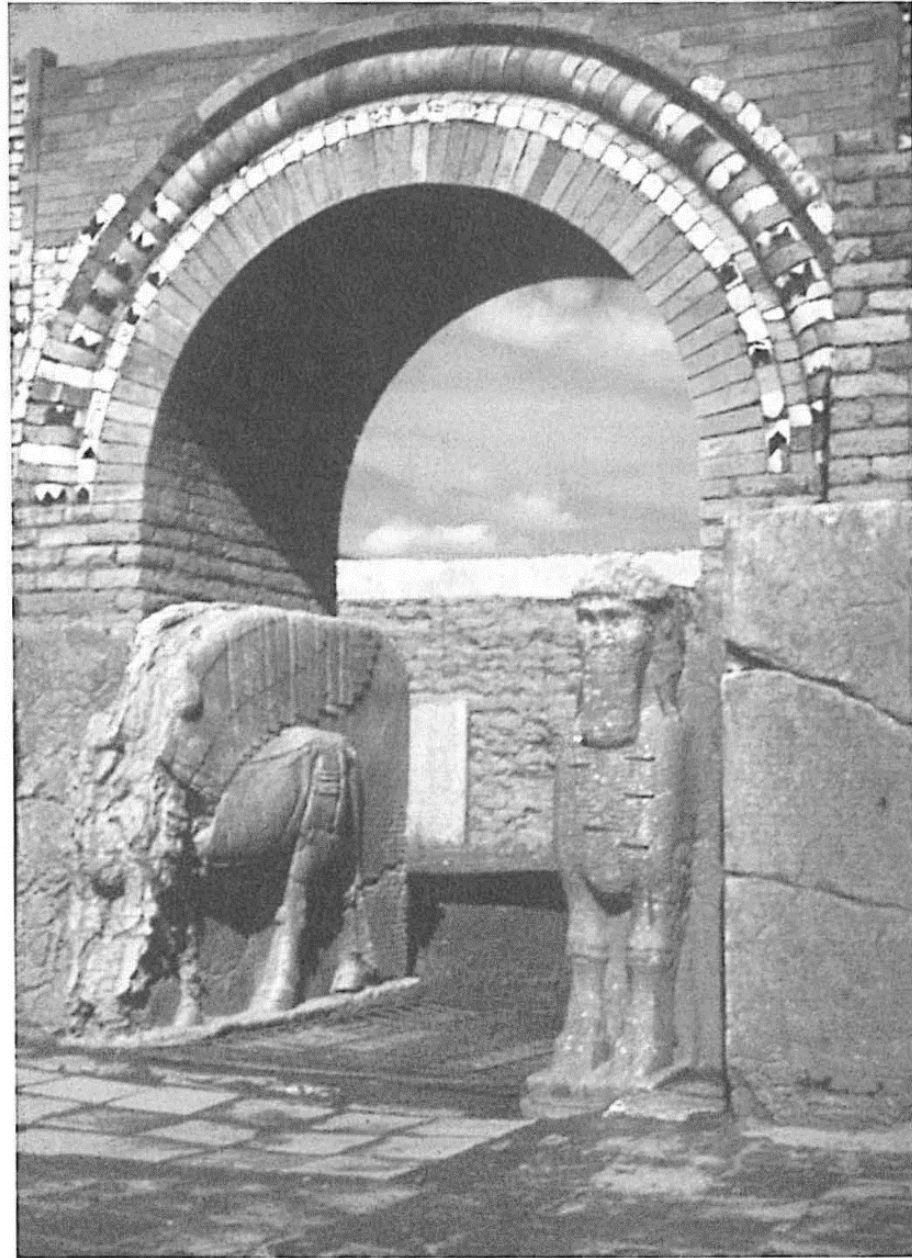
THE SWIRLING WATERS of a wide river, probably the Euphrates, present no obstacle for Assyrian industry, who inflate animal skins as buoyancy aids at the same time as chariots are ferried in boats, or soldiers, horses and fish swim through the fast-flowing waters. They are shown as if floating above the river, so as not to obscure their true form.

*Following page*





*Fig. 32. The north gate of courtyard Y, leading into room F, taken after restoration of the glazed brick surround by the Iraqi Directorate-General of Antiquities.*

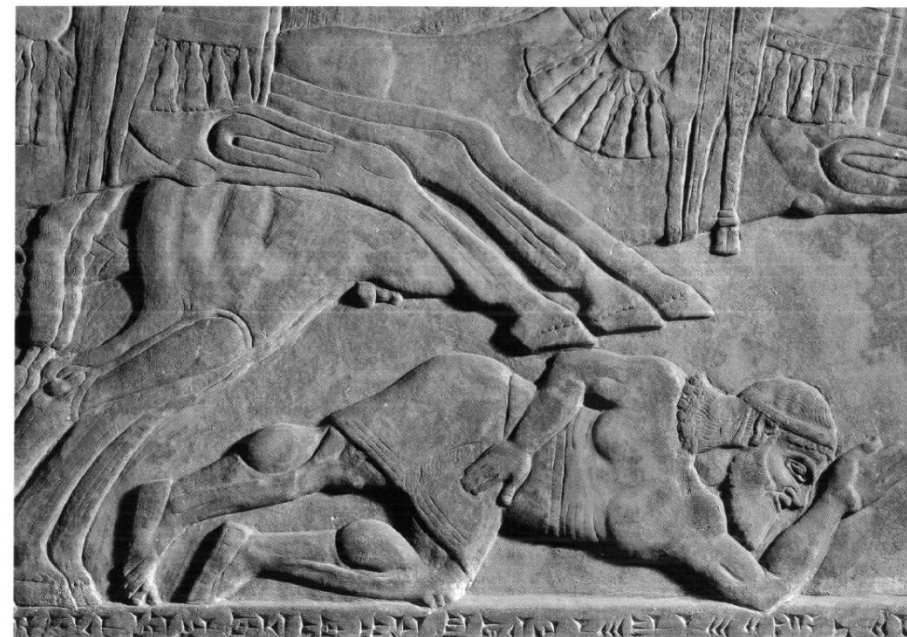










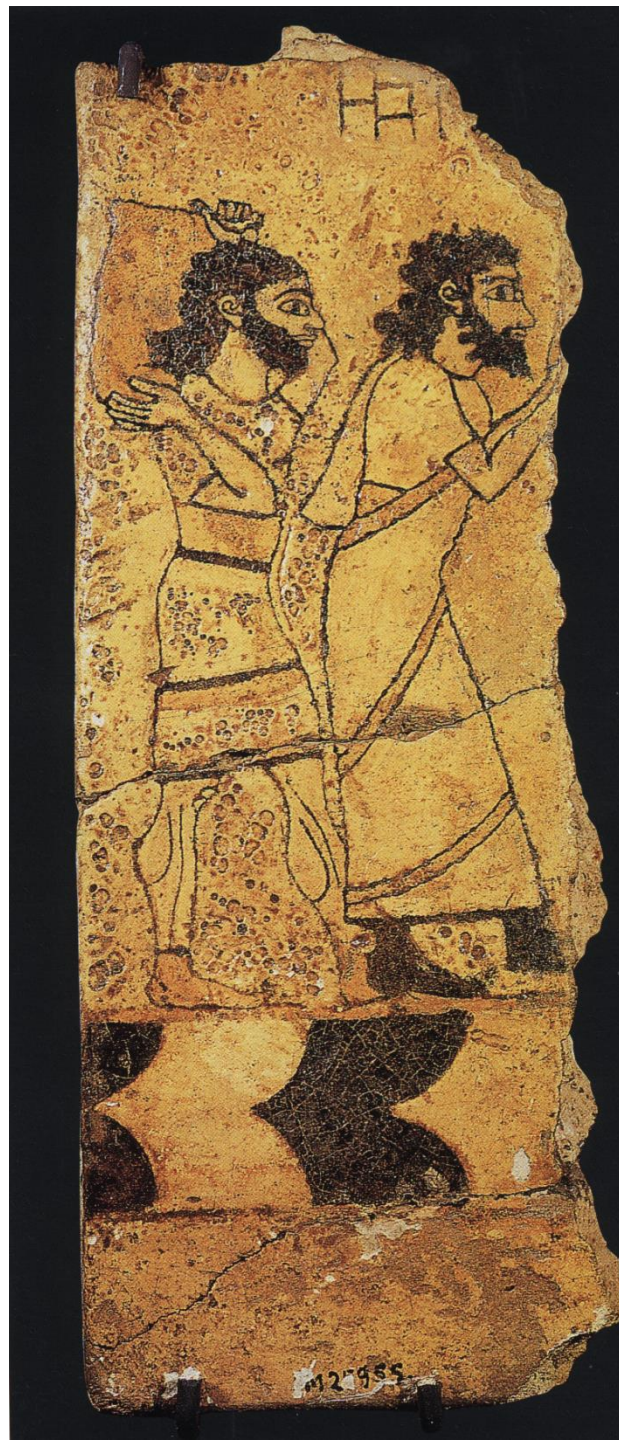


THE HORSES OF ENEMY chariots tumble in a choreography of confusion at the advance of the Assyrians. *left*

AN ENEMY SOLDIER falls beneath horses' hooves. He occupies a similar position to that of a dead lion in one of Ashurnasirpal's hunting reliefs. *above*



Frammento di  
decorazione parietale  
in ceramica invetriata  
Assurnasirpal II





Placca decorativa in  
argilla con pomello

Assurnasirpal II

