

Joint Expedition to Nippur, Iraq

1024

Finding aid prepared by Amanda Ball.

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University of Pennsylvania, Penn Museum Archives

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Summary Information

Repository	University of Pennsylvania: Penn Museum Archives
Title	Joint Expedition to Nippur, Iraq
Call number	1024
Date [inclusive]	1948-1952
Extent	4 linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	The Joint Expedition to Nippur was conducted by the University of Chicago Oriental Institute and the University of Pennsylvania. The collaboration lasted for three seasons until Penn withdrew in 1952. The collection consists of four archival boxes organized into four series.

Biography/History

The Penn Museum had excavated at the ancient site of Nippur, Iraq from 1889 to 1900, under the direction of John P. Peters and Hermann V. Hilprecht. In 1948, the Penn Museum decided to return to the site, and teamed up with the Oriental Institute, University of Chicago, for a Joint Expedition to Nippur, under Donald McCown. Francis R. Steele was the Museum's representative. The OI-Penn collaboration continued for three seasons, until Penn withdrew in 1952, to be briefly replaced by the American Schools of Oriental Research. Subsequently, the Oriental Institute continued to work alone until the outbreak of the Persian Gulf War in 1991. The first portion of this expedition (1948-1952) concentrated on the area of the ziggurat and the adjacent mound called Tablet Hill. The earlier Penn excavators gave the name Tablet Hill or the Scribal Quarter to that mound in the belief that all or most of the scribes at Nippur had lived in that one part of the site. However, written records of the governmental offices and numerous private

businesses were found all over Nippur.

Scope and Contents

In 1948 a joint University of Chicago Oriental Institute-Penn Museum expedition resumed work at the site of Nippur, Iraq under Donald McCown. The OI-Penn collaboration continued for three seasons, until Penn withdrew in 1952. The Joint Expedition to Nippur records consist of one box of textual records organized into three series. The correspondence series contains legal documents, memos, budgets and general letters between the principals. It is arranged chronologically.

The Catalogues series comprises a register and census of tablets. The series dealing with Skeletal Descriptions includes data on male, female, and children's remains.

The last series consists of expedition photographs, including images of architecture, skeletal remains and pottery. These are arranged by field photograph number, or topically, and are housed in three boxes.

Administrative Information

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Controlled Access Headings

FORM/GENRE(S)

- Photographs

GEOGRAPHIC NAME(S)

- Egypt
- Nippur (Iraq)

PERSONAL NAME(S)

- Coon, Carleton S., b. 1904-d. 1981
- Jacobsen, Thorkild, Director, 1904-1933 -- Correspondence
- Kraeling, Carl Herman, 1897-1966 -- Correspondence
- Kramer, Samuel Noah, 1897-1990 -- Correspondence
- McCown, Donald Eugene, 1910- -- Correspondence
- Rainey, Froelich, Director of the University Museum
- Steele, Francis Rue, 1915- -- Correspondence

SUBJECT(S)

- Antiquities
- Archaeology--Burials

Collection Inventory

CORRESPONDENCE.

	Box
General 1948-Feb. 1949.	1
General 1950-March 1951.	1
General May 1951-April 1952.	1
General July 1952-1953, 1955.	1
General 1966-1967.	1

CATALOGS.

	Box
Tablet Register.	1

SKELETAL DESCRIPTION, 1949-1953.

Box

Nippur TA children, 25 1950.	1
Male Nippur TA, Levels 0(?), I, II, Achaemenean 550-400 BC, 26 1950.	1
Female, Nippur TA, levels 0(?), I, II Achaemenean 550-400 BC, 27 1950.	1
Female, Nippur TA, Babylonian levels III, IV, 28 1950.	1
Male, Islamic, surface levels, TA, 29 1950.	1
Male, Nippur TB, 30 1950.	1
Female, islamic, surface level, TA, 31 1950.	1
Female, Babylonian, levels III, IV, TA, 32 1950.	1
TA sex measurements, Jan 1949.	1
Measurements 1950.	1
TB children 1950.	1
Sex unknown, TB 1950.	1
Female, TB 1950.	1
Male, Kassite, ca. 14th cent. B.C., levels VI-VII, TA 1950.	1

PHOTOGRAPHS, 1949-1953.

	Box
Photo reference- Photo + object numbers.	1

Unnumbered-Features I.	PA NE 24
Unnumbered-Features II.	PA NE 24
Unnumbered-Team and Trench.	PA NE 24
Unnumbered-Skeletal Remains.	PA NE 24
Architecture.	PA NE 24
Impressions and Seals to Duplicate.	PA NE 24
Skull and Burials, Folder IV A.	PA NE 25
Skulls and Burials Folder IV B.	PA NE 25
Skulls and Burials. Photos and lists of numbers.	PA NE 25
Skeletal Remains and Skulls.	PA NE 25
Features.	PA NE 25
Seals.	PA NE 25
Trench and Team.	PA NE 25
Site Plans.	PA NE 25
Artifacts figurines and jewelry.	PA NE 25
Pottery.	PA NE 25
Small Prints #1-364.	PA NE 26
Small Prints- #365-557.	PA NE 26
Small Prints (5x7)- #558-1032.	PA NE 26

Misc. Photographs.	PA NE 26
Large Prints w/ no numbers.	PA NE 26
Large Prints #42-148.	PA NE 26
Large Prints #152-319.	PA NE 26
Large Prints #321-717.	PA NE 26