HIMYARITIC INSCRIPTIONS

FROM

SOUTHERN ARABIA.

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INSCRIPTIONS

IN THE

H 2 M Y A R I T I C C H A R A) C T E R

DISCOVERED CHIEFLY IN

SOUTHERN ARABIA,

AND NOW IN

140757

THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

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PREFACE.

This volume contains facsimiles of all the ancient monuments in the British Museum with inscriptions in the Himyaritic character. They are forty-two in number, and, with the exception of five (represented in Plate XVIII.), were all discovered in Southern Arabia, and have been acquired within the last year.

This great addition to the national collection, consisting of a class of antiquities that have rarely found their way into European Museums, is chiefly due to the liberality of two English officers, Colonel Coghlan, Military Commandant and Political Agent at Aden, who presented twenty-seven bronze tablets and a stone altar, and Lieutenant-Colonel Playfair, now Her Majesty's Consul and British Agent at Zanzibar, who presented one bronze tablet and two inscriptions on stone. Six inscriptions on stone were purchased from the British and Foreign Bible Society.

Owing to the great rarity of these monuments, and the uncertainty of the correctness of the transcripts hitherto published, which have been made principally by travellers under very disadvantageous circumstances, it has been deemed advisable to issue, as soon as they could be prepared, facsimiles of the inscriptions in the British Museum, without attempting any elaborate interpretation, or literary commentary, which would have delayed the publication.

It is believed, however, that a Memoir in preparation by Dr. Ernst Osiander, of Göppingen, to whom photographs of nearly all the monuments here represented were forwarded from Arabia, will fully supply this want.

The Plates have been executed by Messrs. Netherclift, and are facsimiles of the originals, as regards the exact forms of the letters. It has not, however, been considered desirable to represent every corrosion or injury: such details would have added greatly to the cost of publication without any adequate advantage. The originals are, moreover, preserved in a Museum, where they can readily be examined, and are secured from those causes of destruction to which most other known Himyaritic inscriptions are exposed.

The Plates have been revised by Mr. A. W. Franks, Assistant in this Department of the Museum, by whom the following descriptive notices have been chiefly compiled. In these notices it has been deemed advisable to represent the Himyaritic letters by their Hebrew equivalents rather than by modern Arabic letters; Hebrew letters having been more generally adopted by writers on the subject.

S. BIRCH.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

THE traveller who first called attention to the existence of inscriptions in a peculiar character in the Southern districts of Arabia was Carsten Niebuhr, who states that he was informed that there existed at Zhafar and Hoddafa inscriptions which neither the Jews nor the Mahometans could decipher. (Reisebeschreibung nach Arabien, &c. 4°. Kopenhagen, 1774-78. Bd. I. pp. 400, 709.)

In 1810 Dr. Seetzen, a German traveller, followed up the indications of Niebuhr; he was unable to find Hoddâfa, but at Zhafar he discovered three inscriptions, one of which he copied, another he purchased and took with him to Mocha. He also discovered five inscriptions built into the walls of the mosque of the neighbouring village of Mankat, but was unable to copy more than two, owing to the height at which the others were placed. Seetzen's copies were, unfortunately, made very hastily, and, with the exception of that of the fragmentary inscription which he carried away, are so full of inaccuracies as to be illegible; engravings from them were published in "Fundgruben des Orients," Vol. ii, p. 275.

The next discoveries were made by various officers of the Palinurus, a vessel of the Indian Navy, stationed in the Red Sea in order to make a survey of the coast. Lieutenant J. Raymond Wellsted found, on the rocks which bear the remains of the ruined castle of Hisn Ghorâb, three inscriptions, the longest of them in ten lines; these inscriptions were first published in the "Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal," Vol. iii. (1834), p. 554: "Account of some Inscriptions in the Abyssinian character found at Hassan Ghorâb, near Aden, on the Arabian coast." They were also published in "Wellsted's Travels in Arabia," Vol. ii. p. 424, and in the German translation of the same by Dr. E. Rödiger (Halle, 1842), as well as in Forster's "Historical Geography of Arabia" (London, 1844), and in a Memoir by Mr. George Hunt (Plymouth, 1848). Lieutenant Wellsted also discovered an inscription in the ruins of Nakb el-Hajar, some miles in the interior.

Mr. Charles J. Cruttenden, an officer of the same ship, found, in 1836, at San'à, the present capital of Yemen, four inscriptions, which were stated to have been brought there from the ruins of Marib. They were published in the "Journal of the Royal Geographical Society," Vol. viii. (1832), p. 267: "Narrative of a Journey from Mokha to San'à by the Tarík-esh-Shám, or Northern Route, in July and August, 1836."

Dr. J. G. Hulton, the medical officer of the *Palinurus*, and Mr. J. Smith, discovered twenty-two inscriptions on the sides of two caves, one in the Jebal Aaledma, the other at Nakhal Mayuk. The inscriptions, which were very fragmentary, had been executed in red paint. They were published in the "Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal," Vol. iv. (1835), p. 533. "Report on some Inscriptions found at Hammam, on the Southern Coast of Arabia, 1835;" and on a larger scale in the "Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society," Vol. v. (1839), p. 91: "Account of some Inscriptions found on the Southern Coast of Arabia."

About the same time Dr. Mackell, of the Bombay Army, found four inscribed stones at Marib; two of them he copied, and two others he sent to Dr. Smyttan at Bombay, by whom they were presented to the Bombay Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society. The last two stones were remarkable for having on them figures in low relief. Engravings of all four have appeared in "The Lands of the Bible Visited and Described," by John Wilson, D.D., Vol. ii. (Edinb. 1847), p. 747.

In 1842, Capt. S. B. Haines, Political Agent at Aden, transmitted to the Government of India a copy of an inscription on a white marble basin, or altar, discovered at Aden; this is published in the "Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal," Vol. xi. (Calcutta, 1842), p. 958; as well as in the Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes, Bd. V. p. 205; and in Wilson's "Lands of the Bible," Vol. ii. p. 750.

The next discovery of importance took place in 1843 during the journey of M. Thomas Joseph Arnaud, who copied at San'â, Khariba, Marib, and the so called Haram of Bilkîs, no less than fifty-six inscriptions, including two which had been previously copied by Mr. Cruttenden. An account of his journey is given in the Journal Asiatique for 1845 (4° Série, Tom. v. pp. 211-245 and pp. 309-345); transcripts of the inscriptions made by M. Fresnel, together with some remarks on the language, appeared also in the Journal Asiatique for 1845 (4° Série, Tom. vi. pp. 170-237).

About the same time an inscription was discovered by Baron A. von Wrede on a dyke in the Wadi Webeneh in Hadramaut. (See Journal Asiatique, 4° Série, Tom. vi. p. 395, and Bulletin de la Société de Géographie, 3° Série, Tom. iii. (1845), p. 46).

In 1849-52 Mr. W. Kennett Loftus, while making excavations in the mounds at Warka, in Southern Babylonia, came upon a tomb closed in with a rough sandstone slab inscribed in the Himyaritic character. (Pl. XVIII. No. 38.) See Loftus, "Travels and Researches in Chaldrea and Susiana," London, 1857, p. 233.

From Babylonia have likewise been brought two gems with Himyaritic characters, now in the British Museum; where are also two others, the history of which is unknown. (Nos. 39-42.) Engravings of two other gems have been published in the Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes.

The other Himyaritic inscriptions now in the British Museum, may be classed as follows:-

The bronze tablets (Nos. 1-28), presented by Colonel Coghlan and Lieutenant-Colonel Playfair, were discovered at Amrân, near San'â, in or before the year 1855. They are principally dedications to Almakah.

An altar of limestone dedicated to Athtor (No. 29), found at Ibyan (or Abyan), about 30 miles north-east of Aden; presented to the Museum by Colonel Coghlan.

Two inscriptions on stone, one (No. 31), from Taizz in Yemen, the other (No. 35) from Abyan, near Aden, both transmitted as presents from Lieutenant-Colonel Playfair.

Six inscriptions on limestone, obtained from the dyke at Marib by Mikal Joseph, a person in the employment of the British and Foreign Bible Society, by whom they were transmitted to the Society through Dr. Wilson, of Bombay; they were ultimately purchased for the Museum.

Such are the principal discoveries of inscriptions in the Himyaritic character that have been recorded.

No general collection of these inscriptions, which are about 140 in number, has as yet been published, nor any very comprehensive treatise on the nature of their contents. It is hoped that this want may be supplied by the work in preparation by Dr. Ernst Osiander.

The principal notices that have hitherto appeared on the subject of the Himyaritic characters, or the interpretation of the inscriptions, are the following:-

- Dr. E. Rödiger, "Notiz über die himjaritische Schrift nebst doppelten Alphabet derselben," printed in the Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes. Bd. I. (1837), p. 382.
- H. von Ewald, "Eine himjaritische Inschrift," being a transcript of some Himyaritic characters found in two Mss. in the British Museum, poems of the Caliph Ali, [Add. Mss. 7534, f. 108 b, and 7536, f. 274 b,] printed in the same periodical as the last. Bd. II. (1889), p. 107.
- Dr. Wilhelm Gesenius, "Ueber die himyaritische Sprache und Schrift," published in the Allgemeine Litteratur-Zeitung, July, 1841, and also separately.
- 4. Dr. E. Rödiger, Versuch über die himjaritischen Schriftmonumente. Halle, 1841.
- Dr. E. Rödiger, "Excurs über himjaritische Inschriften," appended to his translation of Wellsted's Travels in Arabia. 2 vols, 8vo. Halle, 1842.
- H. von Ewald, "Ueber eine in Aden neuentdeckte himjaritische Inschrift," in Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes. Bd. V. (1844), pp. 205-210.
- J. Gildemeister, "Himjaristische Alphabete und Verwandtes," in the same periodical. Bd. V. (1844), pp. 211-217.

- H. von Ewald, "Ueber die Himjarische Sprache," in Zeitschrift für die Wissenschaft der Sprache."
 Bd. I. (1846), pp. 295-315.
- Fulgence Fresnel, Remarks on the Inscriptions discovered by M. Arnaud at San'a, Khariba, Marib, &c., printed in Journal Asiatique, 4° Série, Tom. VI. (1845), pp. 194-237.
- Abbé Bargès, "Termes Himyariques, rapportés par un écrivain arabe," printed in Journal Asiatique, 4° Série, Tom. xiv. (1849), p. 327.
- Dr. Ernst Osiander, "Zur himjarischen Alterthums- und Sprachkunde," in Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft. Bd. X. (1859), p. 17.
- Dr. M. A. Levy, notices of two gems with Himyaritic Inscriptions in the Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgentändischen Gesellschaft. Bd. XI. (1857), p. 73, and Bd. XII. (1858), p. 159.
- Dr. Ernst Osiander, "Ueber cine Sammlung neuentdeckter himjarischer Inschriften," printed in the same periodical as the last. Bd. XVII. (1863).

The Himyaritic character is so called from its having been made use of by the Himyarites, or Homeritæ, descendants of Himyar, the Joktanite king of Yemen, although its use appears to have extended beyond the districts properly within the jurisdiction of that people. It is termed Musned by the Arabic writers, several of whom have preserved to us alphabets of the character with the corresponding Arabic letters. These alphabets have formed the basis of the interpretations of the inscriptions by modern orientalists. Two alphabets were published by Rödiger in a Memoir above noticed (No. 1), and three others by Gildemeister in his treatise (No. 7). They correspond generally with each other, and in most essential particulars they agree with the inscriptions discovered in Arabia.

The inscriptions are in horizontal lines, generally from right to left, but occasionally a boustrophedon mode is adopted, chiefly where the lines are of great length; only one example of this is to be found in the inscriptions now published (No. 38). The words are usually separated from each other by a vertical stroke, which has greatly facilitated the interpretation of the inscriptions. Had any doubt remained on this point it would be set at rest by the bronze tablets now published, in which certain formulæ frequently recur; in many instances where a word exactly terminated at the end of a line, and there was no space for the upright stroke, it was altogether omitted, showing that it was not an integral part of the writing; see for instance, Nos. 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 28.

The language of these inscriptions is the ancient Himyaritic, which is considered by Arabic authors to be a form of Arabic, that to a certain extent preceded, and was ultimately superseded by, the Ishmaelitish Arabic, or language of the Hijaz. It seems, however, from the researches of orientalists to have been closely allied to the

ancient Æthiopic and Hebrew, and it is with the assistance of those languages, and the present Amharic, that the inscriptions have been interpreted. It is not improbable that it may contain remains of the languages of the earlier races of Arabia, such as the Adites, Amalekites, &c.

With regard to the age of these monuments, it is not unlikely that the larger number may be referred to the later and more flourishing period of the Himyarite kings of Yemen, commencing with Hârith-Er-râish, whom M. Caussin de Perceval is disposed to place about 100 years before Christ, and ending with Dhu Nowàs and his successor, who were defeated by the Abyssinian conquerors of Yemen in A.D. 525. As, however, the later kings were greatly inclined to Judaism, it is possible that monuments such as these, full of invocations to idols, may belong to the earlier times of the empire. To this flourishing period of the Himyarite power belong the three Tobbas, or conquering kings, who extended their dominions considerably by military expeditions. The age here assigned to the monuments accords very well with such scanty traces of ornament as are to be found upon them.

Two inscriptions have been discovered bearing dates, one from San'à, dated 573, and one from Hisn Ghorâb, dated 604. It does not, however, appear to have been determined by what æra these dates are calculated.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLATES.

BEFORE proceeding to the description of the individual specimens it may be desirable to make a few general observations which will apply to the whole of the bronze tablets. These tablets are all rectangular; the largest of them (No. 1) is 12\frac{3}{2} in. high and 2 ft. 7 in. long, but must have originally been twice that length; the smallest (No. 23) is only 6\frac{1}{2} in. high and 3\frac{1}{2} in. wide. In all but four of them the inscriptions are across the narrowest dimensions of the plates. At the corners are holes for nails, by which, no doubt, the tablets were attached to the walls of a shrine or temple; in one instance a plug of metal is fixed to the back in order to afford additional support.

The whole of the tablets have been cast, and some of them subsequently tooled. The letters are in low relief, rising occasionally to the level of the margins or frames of the tablets; in a few instances, when the legend has been too long for the enclosed space, the redundant letters have been given on the margins in relief (as in Nos. 11, 16, and 19), or in engraved lines (as in Nos. 6 and 14). It is not easy to explain the exact mode in which the plates were formed; from some peculiarities to be noticed in them, it seems not improbable that a board was prepared of the requisite size and covered with wax, or clay, on which parallel lines were scored to assist the workmen in placing the letters, and that the latter were formed of flat strips of wire, or some other material; this is more especially shown in the Himyaritic n (resembling our x) where there is occasionally a greater elevation in the centre, as if produced by two bands crossing. The letters having all been fixed, a mould would be taken in clay, or sand, and the metal cast therein. In some cases the letters and ornaments seem to have been accidentally cast blind, especially in the case of Tablet No. 19, where also may be noticed an imperfectly-formed ornament at the top. In those letters which contain small circles, such as the y, y, y, p, and n, the circular portions seem to have been opened out by drilling. Only one of the tablets has any inscription at the back, viz., No. 6, on which are a few characters, probably the name of the workman.

With regard to the nature of the inscriptions they are unquestionably votive; they commence with the name of the votary, to whom are sometimes joined his sons or his brothers, with the name of his father or of his tribe, the latter being generally the בני מרות , or sons of Marthad. Then follows a verb indicating a gift, or vow, and the name of the divinity, who, in all cases but one, is Almakah, designated further by the name of the place at which it was worshipped מון . The name of this divinity occurs very frequently in the Himyaritic inscriptions that have been brought to light, and was formerly thought to be the same as Balkamah, or Bilkis, the famous Queen of the South. Dr. Osiander has, however, recently determined the divinity to be a male god; by pro he understands a Himyaritic castle, Hirrân.

Some of the tablets have on them devices of an ornamental character; most commonly the upper margin is decorated with a series of drops, or gutte, similar to those found below the architraves of Doric buildings. A band or border of vine branches occurs in several tablets, and in others stiff symmetrical flowers, either pomegranates or roses. Two of the tablets, however, have more important decorations, and are of great archæological interest, owing to the absence of any other means of judging of the style of art of the Himyaritic period. One of them, No. 4, has along the upper part a design in low relief, being a stiff tree, or plant, guarded on each side by sphinxes, or winged lions with human heads; each of them is placing a paw on the lower part of the tree, and behind each of them is a palm tree. In this device will be noticed a considerable analogy with Assyrian and Persian designs of a religious character. There is likewise a certain similarity in execution to some works in bronze of Etruscan origin; this tablet, however, belongs to a later period, as is evidenced by the imitation of the egg and tongue moulding on the upper edge, and of the scroll and lotus patterns on other parts of the same

plate, which seem all derived from classical designs of no great antiquity. Another tablet (No. 3) has on it a lion in bas-relief resting on a pedestal, with a palm tree rising above it. This is not executed in a conventional manner, and appears in the original as if modelled in the first instance in clay.

A monogram is to be found on one tablet only (No. 1). It is composed, as usual, of Himyaritic letters, slightly modified in form to give them an ornamental character. In one or two tablets a symbol or ornament occurs at the beginning or end (see Nos. 4 and 10). The same device is to be found on the inscribed stone No. 36.

- Plate I. No. 1.—Portion of a bronze tablet with a dedication to Almakah; 12\frac{1}{2} in. high and 2 ft. 7 in. long, probably once double its present length; at the end is a monogram composed apparently of the letters w, n, and 1; the lower edge is ornamented with a moulding. Presented by Colonel Coghlan.
- Plate I. No. 2.—Portion of a bronze tablet, similar to the last, made of thin metal, 11 in. high, and 14½ in. long. At the bottom is a moulding similar to that on the preceding tablet, but rather smaller in size. Presented by Colonel Coghlan.
- Plate II. No. 3.—An imperfect bronze tablet, 81 in. by 212 in., of which not less than half is wanting; at one end is a bas-relief, representing a lion standing on a pedestal in the form of a reversed cone; in the upper part a palm-tree. Along the top is a row of gutte; the lower moulding is similar to the two last. The inscription, which is a dedication to Almakah, is given in the Plate full size, while a reduction below represents the whole of the tablet, including the lion. Presented by Colonel Coghlan.
- Plate III. No. 4.—A remarkable bronze tablet, 19\frac{3}{2} in. by 10\frac{3}{2} in., highly ornamented; the inscription is a dedication to Almakah by proper and his brother, children of Marthad, and by their men at Amran property. This is no doubt the place Amrân, at which the tablets were discovered; the name occurs also in tablet No. 27. In the upper part are represented two sphinxes, or winged lions with human heads, each resting a paw on a stiff tree, probably sacred; behind each of them is a palm-tree; below are two pomegranate flowers, and two four-petaled flowers. The edge is highly ornamented, the upper part with egg and tongue moulding, and the lower with a stiff pattern, somewhat Chinese in appearance; the sides have a roll ornament; the two inner margins have wreaths or bands of a lotus pattern. On the margin, at the commencement of the inscription, is a sign which occurs elsewhere at the beginning and end of inscriptions. This tablet has the usual holes in the upper corners, but at the back, towards the lower part, is a thick plug of bronze to fasten it to a wall. Presented by Colonel Coghlan.
- Plate IV. No. 5.—A bronze tablet, 18 in. by 11½ in. An inscription similar in style to the last; a dedication to Almakah by משנילה, Sadilah, and his sons, children of Marthad. This tablet has in the upper part three flowers somewhat similar to the last; it is, unfortunately, much corroded. Presented by Colonel Coghlan.
- Plate V. No. 6.—A'bronze tablet, 9 in. by 12½ in., somewhat different in character and in its contents from the rest. The votary's name seems to be מַּתְיְבֶּיר Zadik-dhakar, ben אַר Alashrach, apparently a king of Hadramaut מַּבְּיר The divinity is מְּבְּיר Sîn, who has been identified by Dr. Osiander with the moon. Other divinities are mentioned, such as Athtor and Almakah. The end of the inscription is engraved on the lower margin of the plate; towards the centre of the back of this tablet are a few characters, perhaps the name of the workman. The name Alashrach has been found in an inscription at San'â, as that of a king of Saba. (See Arnaud's Inscriptions, No. 55.) Presented by Colonel Coghlan.
- Plate VI. No. 7.—Bronze tablet, 11 in. by 7 in.; a dedication to Almakah by אורפט his brothers and their children, children of אורפט Arfat; at the top, the usual guttae. Presented by Colonel Coghlan.
- Plate VI. No. 8.—Bronze tablet, 103 in. by 61 in.; a dedication to Almakah by נשמר דבב; similar ornamentation to the last, but with a pair of hands. Presented by Colonel Coghlan.
- Plate VII. No. 9.—Bronze tablet, 10½ in. by 6 in.; a dedication to Almakah by various persons of the tribes of Arfat and Marthad; usual ornament of guttæ at the top. Presented by Colonel Coghlan.
 - Plate VII. No. 10.—Bronze tablet 10 in. by 5½ in.; a dedication to Almakah by אמטרם אצלח; same ornament at top. Presented by Colonel Coghlan.
- Plate VIII. No. 11.—Bronze tablet, 123 in. by 63 in.; a dedication to Almakah by רבבם יאחם; in the upper part are four pairs of hands and a single hand, in two imperfect rows; the last three characters of the inscription are in low relief on the bottom margin. Presented by Colonel Coghlan.
 - Plate VIII. No. 12.—Bronze tablet, 12½ in. by 7½ in.; a dedication to Almakah by קרום משל שמר with the usual ornament at top. Presented by Colonel Coghlan.
- Plate IX. No. 13.—Bronze tablet, 10½ in. by 6½ in.; a dedication to Almakah by עברשטשט (Abdshams); usual moulding. The absence of the dividing line may be noticed at the end of lines 1, 4, 7, 9, and 10. Presented by Colonel Coghlan.
- Plate IX. No. 14.—Bronze tablet, 10% in. by 6% in.; a dedication to Almakah by אממרם susual ornament; the termination of the inscription is engraved on the lower margin; the absence of the dividing line may be noticed at the end of lines 1 and 10. Presented by Colonel Coghlan.
- Plate X. No. 15.—Bronze tablet, 10 in. by 7\frac{1}{2} in.; a dedication to Almakah by run of the tribe of Marthad. This tablet is peculiar for having a rich border, of which the inner portion is a plaited ornament, moulded apparently on wire, or cord; beyond this is a trailing vine stem, with bunches of grapes and leaves. The usual guttae ornament within the border at top. Presented by Colonel Coghlan.

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- Plate VIII. No. 11.—Bronze tablet, 12½ in. by 6¾ in.; a dedication to Almakah by דרכם ישתם; in the upper part are four pairs of hands and a single hand, in two imperfect rows; the last three characters of the inscription are in low relief on the bottom margin. Presented by Colonel Coghlan.
 - Plate VIII. No. 12.—Bronze tablet, 12½ in. by 7½ in.; a dedication to Almakah by שנים ben שנים the usual ornament at top. Presented by Colonel Coghlan.
- Plate IX. No. 13.—Bronze tablet, 10½ in. by 6¾ in.; a dedication to Almakah by various (Abdshams); usual moulding. The absence of the dividing line may be noticed at the end of lines 1, 4, 7, 9, and 10. Presented by Colonel Coghlan.
- Plate IX. No. 14.—Bronze tablet, $10\frac{6}{10}$ in. by $6\frac{3}{4}$ in.; a dedication to Almakah by שמרת ; usual ornament; the termination of the inscription is engraved on the lower margin; the absence of the dividing line may be noticed at the end of lines 1 and 10. Presented by Colonel Coghlan.
- Plate X. No. 15.—Bronze tablet, 10 in. by 7\supera in.; a dedication to Almakah by rrm of the tribe of Marthad. This tablet is peculiar for having a rich border, of which the inner portion is a plaited ornament, moulded apparently on wire, or cord; beyond this is a trailing vine stem, with bunches of grapes and leaves. The usual guttae ornament within the border at top. Presented by Colonel Coghlan.

- Plate X. No. 16.—Bronze tablet, 9 in. by 6 in.; a dedication to Almakah by sure; usual moulding. The termination of the inscription is formed of letters in low relief on the margin; usual ornament of guttæ at the top. Presented by Lieutenant-Colonel Playfair.
- Plate XI. No. 17.—Bronze tablet, 7\frac{1}{2} in. by 5\frac{1}{4} in., unfortunately much broken; a dedication to Almakah by a woman, apparently of the tribe of Marthad; usual moulding. Presented by Colonel Coghlan.
 - Plate XI. No. 18.—Bronze tablet, 9 in. by 43 in.; dedication to Almakah by www As'ad, of the tribe of Marthad. Presented by Colonel Coghlan.
- Plate XI. No. 19.—Bronze tablet, 8 in. by 5 in.; dedication to Almakah by הלידה and his children and grandchildren, of the tribe of Marthad; usual ornament of guttæ, one of which is defective from imperfect casting. The same proper name occurs in the gem No. 41. Presented by Colonel Coghlan.
- Plate XII. No. 20.—Bronze tablet, 9½ in. by 5¾ in., dedication to Almakah by w and his brethren and their children, children of הַבְּבֶּם, of the tribe of Marthad; usual moulding. No dividing line at the end of line 1. Presented by Colonel Coghlan.
- Plate XII. No. 21.—Bronze tablet, 8½ in. by 4¾ in.; dedication to Almakah by 17/29, son of Marthad; usual moulding at top; at the bottom is a branch of vine with grapes. Presented by Colonel Coghlan.
 - Plate XII. No. 22.—Mutilated bronze tablet, at present 101 in. by 41 in.; a dedication to Almakah, by insual moulding. Presented by Colonel Coghlan.
- Plate XIII. No. 23.—Bronze tablet, 6½ in. by 3½ in.; dedication to Almakah by ממת and his brothers, children of מלפת; usual moulding of guttæ. This inscription is somewhat imperfectly cast; the first character may be in v. Presented by Colonel Coghlan.
- Plate XIII. No. 24.—Upper part of a bronze tablet, 45 in. by 63 in. Dedication to Almakah by a woman named מולם; usual guttæ at the top. Presented by Colonel Coghlan.
- Plate XIII. No. 25.—Lower part of a bronze tablet, 6 in by 5 fo in. Part of a dedication to Almakah, whose name and title terminate the inscription. Presented by Colonel Coghlan.
- Plate XIII. No. 26. Lower part of a bronze tablet, 7½ in. by 6 in. Part of a dedication to Almakah; along the bottom is a vine branch. Presented by Colonel Coghlan.
- Plate XIV. No. 27.—Lower part of a large bronze tablet, 7 % in. by 8½ in. Part of a dedication to Almakah, whose name and title form the end of the inscription; the name of the city of Amrân occurs in this tablet. Presented by Colonel Coghlan.
- Plate XIV. No. 28.—Upper part of a bronze tablet, 4\frac{a}{2} in. by 6\frac{1}{2} in. Dedication to Almakah by שוולם ben שוולם. Along the top is a vine branch. Presented by Colonel Coghlan.
- Plate XV. No. 30.—An inscription sculptured in limestone, 9½ in. by 22½ in. The letters are in relief, and the lines are separated by parallel bands also in relief. It is unfortunately imperfect; it contains the name of a son of Wahbîl, King of Saba, and there is an invocation to the god, Dhu Samawi now 7 (the God of Heaven). The fragment obtained by Sectzen at Zhafar was apparently cut in the same manner as this inscription. Obtained at Marib by Mikal Joseph. Purchased from the British and Foreign Bible Society.
- Plate XV. No. 31.—Fragment of an inscription in red sandstone with incised letters. Height, 11½ in.; width, 8½ in. From Taizz in Yemen. Presented by Lieut.-Colonel Playfair.
- Plate XVI. No. 32.—Inscription carefully engraved on a block of limestone, 13½ in. high, 21 long; the upper part is wanting. The deities mentioned in this inscription seem to be [Ath]tor, Almakah, Shems (the Sun), &c. Brought from Marib by Mikal Joseph. Purchased from the British and Foreign Bible Society.

Plate XVI. No. 33.—Long inscription cut on a block of limestone; 9 in. high, 2 ft. 1\frac{1}{2} in. long. The commencement is wanting. The inscription contains the names of Kings of Saba and their relations; among them are prof. Dhuraydan and process. Alashrach, which occur likewise in Arnaud's inscriptions, Nos. 54 and 55. The second word of the last line should be prof. Brought from Marib by Mikal Joseph. Purchased from the British and Foreign Bible Society.

Plate XVII. No. 34.—Inscription 7 in. high, and 11 in. long, with incised letters. It is a dedication to several divinities, Dhu Samawi, Athtor, Haubas, Almakah, Dhat-Hamim, and Dhat-Badanim, names known from other inscriptions. All the names, excepting the first and last, are to be found in the inscription from the Haram of Bilkîs copied by Arnaud, No. 56. Brought from Marib by Mikal Joseph. Purchased from the British and Foreign Bible Society.

Plate XVII. No. 35.—Fragment of an inscription on limestone, 10% in. by 7 in., with incised letters, mutilated. From Abyan, near Aden. Presented by Lieutenant-Colonel Playfair.

Plate XVII. No. 36.—Inscription on limestone, 16 in. by 8\frac{3}{4} in, with incised letters. It contains the name of the divinity Almakah, and of the city of Marib. Brought from Marib by Mikal Joseph. Purchased from the British and Foreign Bible Society.

Plate XVII. No. 37.—Inscription on limestone, 123 in. by 9 in., with incised letters. It contains the name of the divinity Dhu Samawi. Brought from Marib by Mikal Joseph. Purchased from the British and Foreign Bible Society.

Plate XVIII. No. 38.—Rough sandstone slab, 24 in. by $17\frac{1}{2}$ in., with deeply-incised letters. It appears to be the tombstone of a person named TETH Hanctesar, son of Esau (?), son of Hanctesar. This slab was discovered by Mr. W. Kennett Loftus, in excavating a mound at Warka. It closed the entrance of a tomb with the letters placed inwards: the tomb was empty. Engraved in Loftus' "Travels and Researches in Chaldæa and Susiana, 1857," p. 233; in "Transactions of the Royal Society of Literature," 2nd Series, Vol. vi. (1859), p. 58; and in the Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft, Bd. XII. p. 216.

Plate XVIII. No. 39.—Inscription on a cylinder of pale blue chalcedony; the cylinder, which is 1½ in. long and ¼ in. in diameter, has on it three standing figures of good workmanship; the central figure is a winged divinity, wearing the horned head-dress over his long hair; in his left hand he holds a thunderbolt; at his feet is an ox, recumbent; behind him is another divinity with a similar head-dress, holding a branch: on the other side, facing these divinities, is a man with long beard, raising his hands in adoration. The Himyaritic inscription is placed lengthwise, and roughly cut in comparison with the figures; it appears to be the name of a person, and to read with respect to reculiar form of some of the letters may have been caused by the desire of the workman to avoid curved lines; the form of the last letter (either x or x) is singular, but may be compared with some on a gem given by Cullimore, "Oriental Cylinders," No. 144. The inscription is probably much later than the figures, which are of good Babylonian workmanship. This interesting object was found at Anah, on the Euphrates, and purchased by the Museum in 1854, with a collection formed by Captain Jones, E.I.C.S.

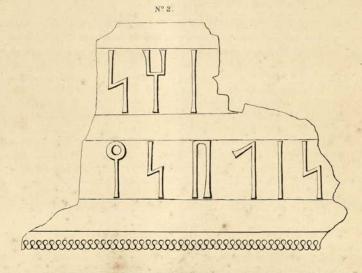
Plate XVIII. No. 40.—Seal, or amulet, of banded onyx, and of a peculiar form, derived, apparently, from a scarabæus. It is \$\frac{1}{2}\$ in. long, and is pierced lengthwise, to be attached to a ring; in the centre is a monogram, and the letters \(\pi \pi_{\text{N}} \), probably a proper name. This stone formed part of a collection formed by Mr. J. R. Steuart, and was acquired by the Museum in 1841.

Plate XVIII. No. 41.—An eval intaglio on niccolo, on which are represented a lion leading a crane by a string; in the field are the letters rawn, a proper name which occurs likewise on the bronze tablet No. 19. The material and workmanship of this intaglio closely resemble the engraved gems of the Roman period; its history is unknown.

Plate XVIII. No. 42.—Very convex oval intaglio, engraved on a sardonyx with white layers, $\frac{1}{10}$ in. high; in the centre is an eagle holding a branch; about it are the Himyaritic letters are: Nadim; below is an inscription in Cafic characters, of which only the latter part can be deciphered, yiz. :— if the punishment (or torture) of the fire." This gem was probably found in Babylonia; it was acquired by the Museum in 1854 with a collection formed by Captain Jones, H.E.I.C.

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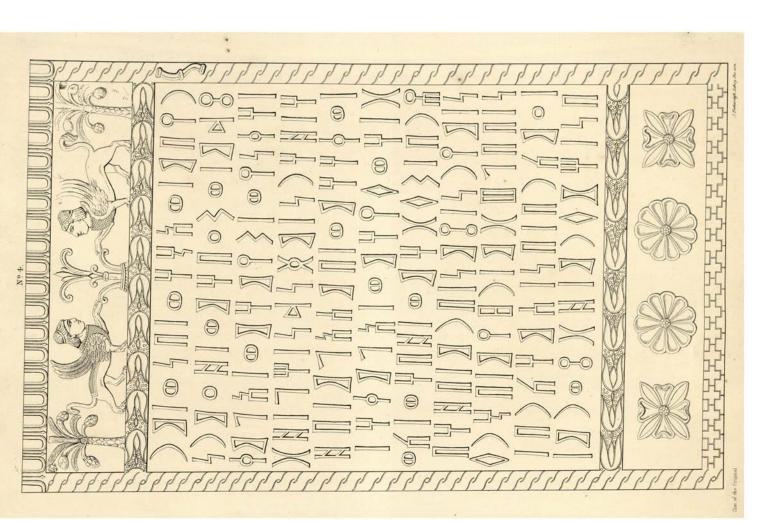
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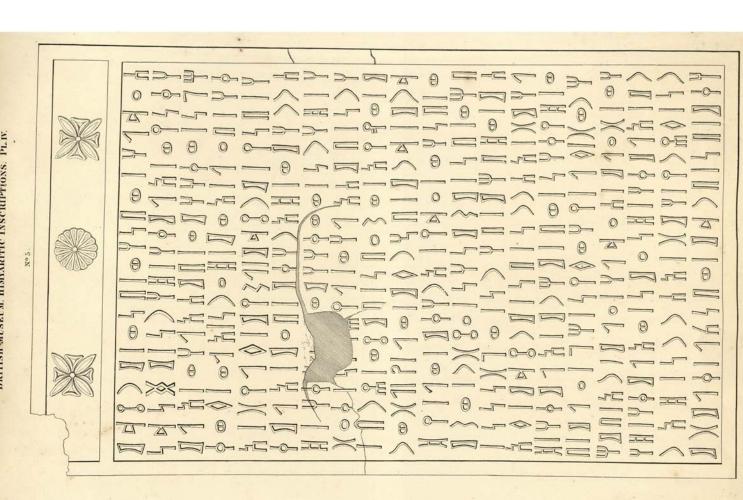
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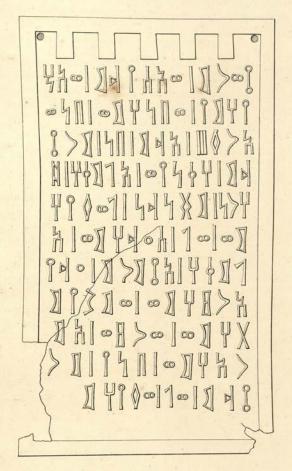
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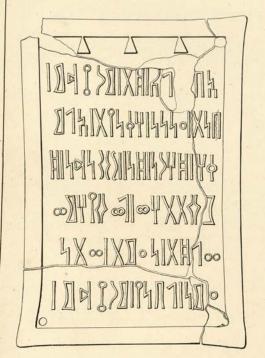
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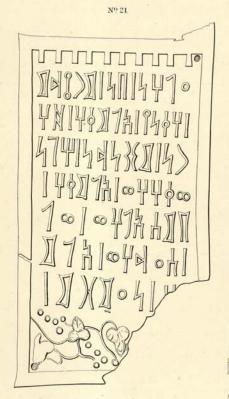
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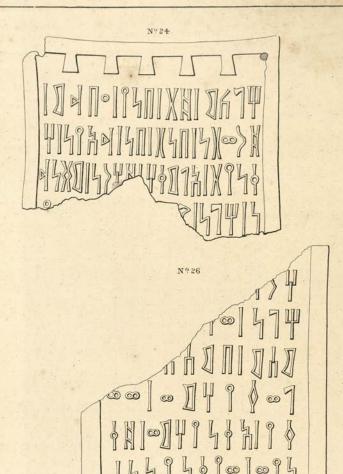


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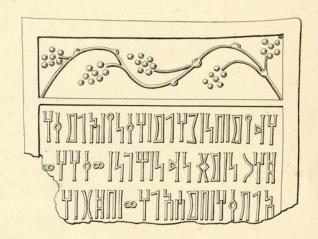


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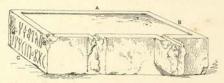
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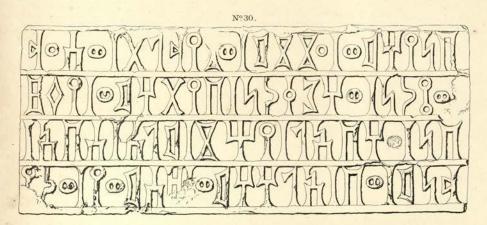
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No 32



No 33











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On a Chalcadony Cylinder

Nº 40



Banded Onga Soul





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