

The Art and Archaeology of  
Nimrud An Ancient Capital City

By

Dr. Katharyn Hanson

Moderator: Ahmed Utaifa  
2nd Secretary

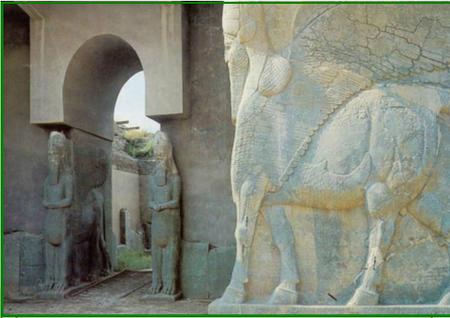
## Description:

The ancient city of Nimrud, also known as Kalhu or Biblical Calah, was once the lavish capital of a Neo-Assyrian empire that stretched from the Gulf to the Mediterranean around 800 BC. Human habitation at Nimrud dates back to the late fourth millennium BC and at its height in the ninth century BC its ancient walls encircled over 900 acres that included temples, palaces, elaborate monumental buildings, a ziggurat, and some of the most famous archaeological artifacts. Nimrud's remarkable remains can be seen at every major museum in the world and its renowned carved reliefs, gold burial goods, and sculptures of giant winged lions and bulls are a reflection of the political power and artistic skill in ancient Iraq.

Located just 20 kilometers south of Mosul, Nimrud suffered greatly from intentional destruction by ISIS. Today Nimrud is under Iraqi military control and Smithsonian is working with the Iraqi State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH) and their Rescue Nimrud Team from Nineveh Province on developing rescue skills and a framework for documentation and salvage work. This lecture will highlight the ancient art and archaeology, as well as provide an update on the Rescue Nimrud Team's current work.



A relief showing an Assyrian horseman



A city of Nimrud Gate Guarded by Lamassu (A winged Bull or Lion)



Two sculptures of Lamassu and a replica of the huge gate of Shalmaneser III (858-824 BC) from Balawat (the British Museum)



The jeweled Crown of the Assyrian Queen Hama, depicting pomegranates, leaves, flowers and female genies. 8th cc. BC.

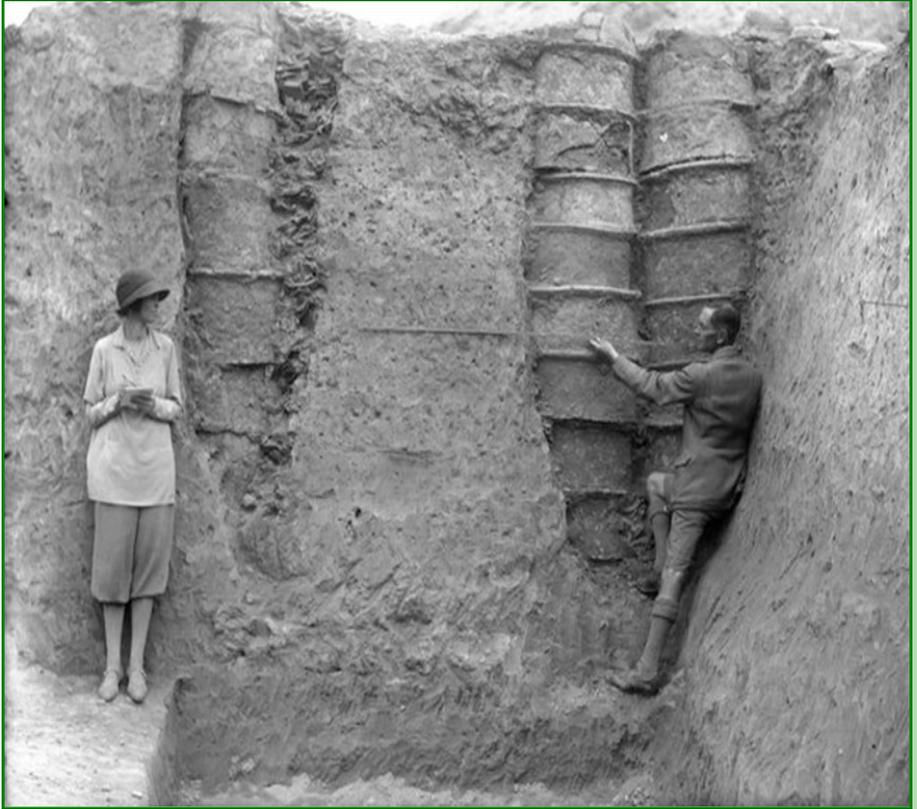
## Katharine Woolley, née Menke (June 1888 - 8 November 1945)

was a British archaeologist who worked principally at the Mesopotamian site of Ur. She was married to archaeologist Sir Charles Leonard Woolley.

She was born in England in June 1888 to German parents. Her father was called Carl Menke. She read Modern History at Somerville College in Oxford, but did not complete her education there due to health issues.

She joined the Red Cross in 1915, and was posted first to Alexandria and then to Poland. In 1924 she went to Baghdad and saw Ur for the first time. She was offered a position on site by Charles Leonard Woolley and began work in 1925 as an artist. She continued working there until 1934, by which time she was the primary assistant on site. Her drawings of the site were an important contribution and her work was featured in the Illustrated London News. She also helped restore a queen's headdress from the site. <sup>[3]</sup>In 1929 she published a romantic adventure novel, *Adventure Calls*, set in the contemporary Middle East.

She was the inspiration for the murder victim in the novel *Murder in Mesopotamia* by Agatha Christie; Christie's second marriage in 1930 was to Max Mallowan, Sir Leonard Woolley's assistant at Ur.



Katharine and Leonard Woolley, examining the waste-water network at the ancient city of UR( Iraq, early-mid twenties)

## Dr. Katharyn Hanson

She is the Director for The Academic Research Institute in Iraq (TARII) and a Smithsonian Fellow with the Smithsonian Institution's Museum Conservation Institute. She works as an archaeologist specializing in the protection of cultural heritage.



Katharyn received her doctorate from the University of Chicago with a dissertation entitled: Considerations of Cultural Heritage: Threats to Mesopotamian Archaeological Sites. She has curated museum exhibits and published on damage to ancient sites in Iraq and Syria. Her research combines archaeology, remote sensing, and cultural heritage policy. Katharyn has been involved in various archaeological fieldwork projects for over 20 years and works to promote on-the-ground action to protect culture. She directs the Archaeological Site Preservation Programs at the Iraqi Institute for the Conservation of Antiquities and Heritage in Erbil, Iraq and is in the process of establishing TARII's office in Baghdad.



Dr. Katharyn Hason at the Iraqi National Museum in Baghdad

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## The Academic Research Institute in Iraq (TARII)

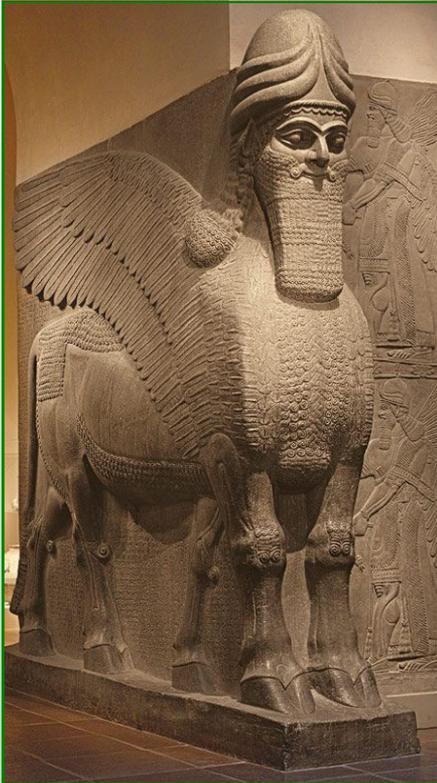
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was established to promote scholarly research on and in Iraq. TARII is a consortium of American universities and museums, and is working to establish a multidisciplinary American scholarly research center in Iraq. TARII funds graduate and post-graduate fellowships for Americans and Iraqi to work on Iraq in as broad a range of disciplines as possible and initiates its own research projects to fosters joint projects between American and Iraqi academics.

TARII was founded in 1989 and was formerly the American Association for Research in Baghdad (AARB).



The late Iraqi archeologist & anthropologist, Dr. Donny George Youkhanna, and author, Curator, Scholar and a visiting professor at Stony Brook University in NY.



He was also the Director General of Iraq's National Museum and chairman of the Board of Antiquates.

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## The Boardman House

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The Boardman house was designed in 1893 by the firm of Hornblower and Marshall-Washington's first and foremost Beaux Arts architects.

The photographs shown on these panels were taken by Frances B. Johnston (1864-1952), a friend of the architects and the first professional woman photographer in Washington.

The exterior and interior views highlight the Building's interesting architecture; features, including the dramatic Syrian entrance arch, the whimsical second-story balcony, the elaborate mosaic fireplace, and the intricately carved interior woodwork. The undated photographs were probably taken ca. 1930, when Mabel Boardman was in residence and the house served as a gathering place for the leading social and political figures of Washington.



**Front view of Boardman house**

Taken by Frances B. Johnston (1864-1952), a friend of the architects and the first professional woman photographer in Washington.



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