

Institute of Physics – L&SE Branch – Retired Members Section

“I am Ashurbanipal: King of the World, King of Assyria”
Exhibition at The British Museum
Monday 11 February 2019

This meeting has been organised by Tony Colclough



We visit the new BM Exhibition on Ashurbanipal, mighty king of the Neo-Assyrian empire. At the time of his reign (668–c. 631 BC) it was the largest empire in the world, stretching from Cyprus in the west to Iran in the east, and at one point it even included Egypt. Its capital Nineveh (in modern-day Iraq) was the world’s largest city. This is at a time when the Greek city-states (like Athens and Sparta) were still in their infancy and Rome was just a small settlement.

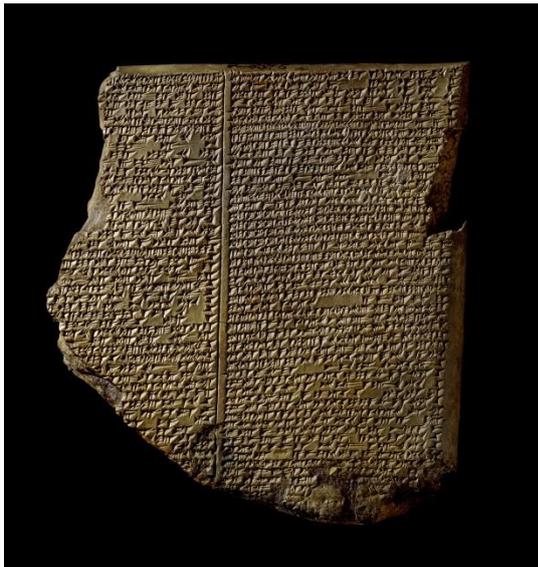
Ashurbanipal lacked magnanimity in victory and styled himself king of the world as well as of Assyria.

"I had the sanctuaries of the land Elam utterly destroyed and I counted its gods and its goddesses as ghosts... I destroyed and devastated the tombs of their earlier and later kings... I took their bones to Assyria. I prevented their ghosts from sleeping and deprived them of funerary-offerings and libations... On a march of one month and twenty-five days, I devastated the districts of the land Elam and scattered salt and cress over them."

"With the help of Ashur [the patron god of Assyria] and Ishtar, I killed them. Their heads I cut off in front of each other."

"As for the rest of the people, those still alive ... I myself now laid flat those people there as a funerary-offering... I fed their dismembered flesh to dogs, pigs, vultures, eagles, birds of the heavens, and fish of the apsû."

He also founded great library in Nineveh which was seen by the young Alexander and which contained many clay tablets in cuneiform script.



"I, Ashurbanipal, learned the wisdom of Nabu [the god of writing], laid hold of scribal practices of all the experts, as many as there are, I examined their instructions."

"I pierced the throats of raging lions, each with a single arrow."



Where and when to meet: we gather at The Great Court Café at the north east corner of the Great Court. from 11:00 for refreshments. Tony Colclough will distribute your tickets here. The British Museum is in Great Russell Street, WC1B 3DG.

Getting there: To the British Museum: Go to Tottenham Court Road Underground Station and emerge at EXIT 1. Cross the junction of the Tottenham Court Rd with Oxford St diagonally and walk a little way north up Tottenham Ct Rd. before turning right into Gt Russell St. Walk ahead crossing Bloomsbury St, until you come to the BM on your left. Enter the building and walk straight ahead to the Great Court. The Great Court Café is in the far right hand corner.

Getting there: To The Plough: This is a short walk away at 27 Museum Street, WC1A 1LH. Cross the road from the BM, turn right, then left at the Museum Tavern into Museum St. The Plough is a short distance along on your right at the junction with Little Russell St.

Timetable (approximate times)

11:00 on	Assemble at the BM's Great Court Café. Tickets and Refreshments.
12:15	Walk to The Plough for Lunch
12:30	Lunch
14:15	Leave together for the exhibition at the BM
14:30	Attend the exhibition
16:00	Finish. Refreshments at the Great Court Café for those who wish.

Size of party: 25 max.

Cost: £12.00 Members pay for their food and travel.

Contacts: before the day: contact Tony Colclough at tonycolclough@outlook.com or on 020 8398 0766. On the day: call 07930 171 307.

Late arrivals: call Tony on 07930 171 307, who will advise you to how catch up with the programme.

PAYMENT

You can pay either by cheque or by bank transfer. It is possible to pay for several places on one transaction.

Cheque: make your cheques payable to 'The Institute of Physics' (not IOP) and send them to:

Tony Colclough (REMS)
34 Sugden Road
Thames Ditton
Surrey KT7 0AE

***** Please annotate the backs of your cheques with:
REMS, Event title; event date**

If you are paying for several events with one cheque, please write them all.

Bank transfer: IOP Bank details are as follows:
Account Name: Institute of Physics (GBP)
Sort Code: 40-14-13
Account Number: 82403552
Bank Name: HSBC Bank plc
Bank Address: 62 George White Street, Cabot Circus, Bristol BS1 3BA
BIC:: MIDLGB22
IBAN: GB15MIDL. 40141382403552

***** Please enter a reference with the transfer as follows:**

REMS EVENT ddmmyy

where ddmmyy is the date of the event (first event if you are paying for several)