

**Royal
Geographical
Society**

with IBG

Advancing geography
and geographical learning

WILEY

Mesopotamian Trade. Noah's Flood: The Garden of Eden

Author(s): W. Willcocks and H. Rassam

Source: *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. 35, No. 4 (Apr., 1910), pp. 459-460

Published by: geographicalj

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1777041>

Accessed: 21-06-2016 13:07 UTC

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at

<http://about.jstor.org/terms>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.



The Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers), Wiley are collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *The Geographical Journal*

these was satisfactory owing to the small amplitude of the tide at Casma, and also to the fortunate circumstance that the observations were made at time of neap tide.

The results of these measurements show the height of the north peak of Huascarán to be 6650 metres (21,812 feet), and the height of the south peak, 6763 metres (22,182 feet).

FANNY BULLOCK WORKMAN.

Mesopotamian Trade—Noah's Flood—The Garden of Eden.

Bagdad, February 14, 1910.

I have just received the *Journal* for January 1, and find a slight inaccuracy in the statement attributed to me at the end. I did not say that the merchandise of Mesopotamia went through Aleppo, but that "the merchandise of Northern Mesopotamia went through Aleppo, while the merchandise of Southern Mesopotamia or Babylonia and the regions to the East went through Tyre and Sidon."

I should also like to say that, not having space, I compressed too much what I had to say about the location of the flood, but subsequent correspondence with people interested in the question has encouraged me in adding it in the correspondence columns of the *Journal*.

"That the region to the south of Ur of the Chaldees is probably the spot where the ark landed is further proved by two facts:—

"(1) A vessel drifting down the Euphrates with the current and wind from the north and north-west would at Ur of the Chaldees meet the strong current of the ancient Tigris coursing down from the north, and would be driven ashore somewhere near the junction of the two rivers.

"(2) When at Ur of the Chaldees the other day we found that the Arabs called the mounds to the south of Ur of the Chaldees 'Nûawès.' Now, 'Nu' is the Arabic for Noah.

"That those primitive and early people whose records we possess in Genesis did truly think that the whole world was contained in the Euphrates-Tigris delta, and consequently destroyed by the flood, is proved by the only explanation they could find for the great influx of people into the valley from the surrounding countries once order began again to be established. They could attribute the multiplicity of languages which began to be spoken all at once to nothing but divine anger at their extraordinary high hopes and ambitions.

"I believe that history will repeat itself in our day, and once the works here are seriously undertaken the difficulty will not lie in finding labour, but finding means of getting work out of people who speak many languages and find it hard to work together."

W. WILLCOCKS.

30, Westbourne Villas, Hove,
February 23, 1910.

I am sorry I was not present when Sir William Willcocks delivered his lecture before the Royal Geographical Society in November, which appeared in the monthly *Journal* last month, as I might have said a few words regarding the ancient

sites of the Garden of Eden and the Ur of the Chaldees, which he places in the south instead of the north of Mesopotamia. I had some years ago lectured upon the position of those Biblical positions before the Victoria Institute and the Society of Biblical Archæology, and I then tried to prove that they were, according to ancient history, in the highlands of Armenia, and not in Southern Babylonia on the confines of the Persian gulf. It must be remembered that Mesopotamia of the Greeks is quite different from that of Biblical record, because the former embraced all the plain of what is known now in geography, whereas the Aram-Nahrain mentioned in Hebrew goes only as far as ancient Eddesa, known as Orfa, to the west of Nineveh.

We find that the Ur of the Chaldees was in Aram-Nahrain, in Northern Mesopotamia, and the Garden of Eden was in the highlands of Armenia, as we are told that two of the well-known rivers, the Euphrates and the Tigris, flow from the sacred river of Eden, situated in that locality.

With regard to the march of Artaxerxes and the ten thousand Grecian auxiliaries, and the battle which took place at a spot in Babylonia called Canoxa, I referred to them in the lectures I mentioned above before the Society of Biblical Archæology in 1884. If Sir William Willcocks is not able to obtain them, I shall be happy to lend them to him.

H. RASSAM.

MEETINGS OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, SESSION 1909-1910.

Ninth Meeting, February 21, 1910.—Major LEONARD DARWIN, President, in the Chair.

ELECTIONS.—*Cecil Beckwith Cave-Browne-Cave; Major John F. Church; Major Timothy Fetherstonhaugh (late Seaforth Highlanders); Herbert John Fleure; Leland Harrison; Gordon Noel Humphreys; George C. Ishmael; Owen Letcher; Rev. John Campbell MacGregor; Loris Emmerson Mather; Batt.-Major L. Boyd Moss (South Staffordshire Regiment, Pretoria); Josiah Kingsley Ohl; Captain W. W. Pitt-Taylor, D.S.O. (Rifle Brigade); George Edwin James Rose; William Herbert Semmens; Rev. Arthur J. Spencer; Willard Dickerman Straight; Algernon H. P. Strickland; Captain Arnold Johnston Wolff, R.E.; Frank Wright.*

The paper read was—

“Explorations in and around Lake Chad.” By Captain J. Tilho.

RESEARCH DEPARTMENT.

February 22, 1910.—Dr. A. STRAHAN in the Chair.

“Changes in the Course of the Cam since Roman Times.” By the Rev. Archdeacon W. Cunningham.

“Experiments on Rate of Deposition of Matter in Water.” By Dr. Owens.