Statement of Provenance

THE NEAR EASTERN PICTOGRAPHIC TABLETS, CUNEIFORM TABLETS, AND SEALS

A. *Ownership History*

The holdings of pictographic tablets, cuneiform tablets, and seals in the Schøyen Collection were collected mainly in the late 1980s, with further items in the 1990s. They derive from a great variety of former collections and sources. It would not have been possible to collect so many items, of such major textual importance, if it had not been based on the endeavor of some of the greatest collectors in earlier times. Collections that once held tablets and seals now in the Schøyen Collection are:

Institute of Antiquity and Christianity, Claremont Graduate School, Claremont, California (1970–94)
Erlenmeyer Collection and Foundation, Basel (1943–88)
Cumberland Clark Collection, Bournemouth, UK (1920s–1941)
Lord Amherst of Hackney, UK (1894–1909)
Crouse Collection, Hong Kong and New England (1920s–80s)
Dring Collection, Surrey, UK (1911–90)
Rihani Collection, Irbid (ca. 1935) and Amman, Jordan (before 1965–88) and London (1988–)
Lindgren Collection, San Francisco, California (1965–85)
Rosenthal Collection, San Francisco, California (1953–88)
Kevorkian Collection, New York (ca. 1930–59) and Fund (1960–77)
Kohanim Collection, Tehran, Paris, and London (1959–85)
Simmonds Collection, UK (1944–87)
Schaeffer Collection, Collège de France, Zürich (1950s)
Henderson Collection, Boston, Massachusetts (1930s–50s)

Pottesman Collection, London (1904–78)
Geuthner Collection, France (1960s–80s)
Harding Smith Collection, UK (1893–1922)
Rev. Dr. W. F. Williams, Mosul (ca. 1850–60)
Frida Hahn Collection, Berlin (1925–73)
Mixon Collection, California and UK (1920s–1967) and heirs

These collections are the source of almost all the tablets and seals. Other items were acquired through Christie's and Sotheby's, where in a few cases the names of their former owners were not revealed.

The sources of the oldest collections, such as Amherst, Harding Smith and Cumberland Clark, were antiquities dealers who acquired tablets and seals in the Near East in the 1890s–1930s. During this period, many tens of thousands of tablets came on the market: in the summers of 1893–94 alone some thirty thousand tablets. While most of these were bought by museums, others were acquired by private collectors. In this way, some of the older of these collections were the source of some of the later collections. For instance, a large number of the tablets in the Crouse Collection came from the Cumberland Clark, Kohanim, Amherst, and Simmonds collections. The Claremont tablets came from the Schaeffer Collection, and the Dring tablets came from the Harding Smith Collection.

B. *Archaeological Provenance, Findspots*

In most cases, the original findspots of tablets that came on the market in the 1890s–1930s and later are unknown. Therefore, great parts of the holdings of most major museums in Europe and the United States are without archaeological provenance. This also applies to the Schøyen Collection. Based on the texts of the tablets themselves, the following provenances can nevertheless be identified:

About 85 percent of the Early Dynastic and Old Akkadian tablets come from palace and temple archives in Adab and Umma.

About 90 percent of the Old Babylonian tablets come from Larsa.

The Old Assyrian tablets all come from Kanesh (Kültepe) excavation level II, mostly from Bedřich Hrozný's findspots 2, 3, 4, and 10, unearthed 1890–1925.

All Ugaritic tablets come from Ras Shamra, excavation level I, excavated under the direction of Claude Schaeffer, 1957–58.

Most Neo-Assyrian tablets come from Assur, unearthed during the German excavations under Walter Andrae, 1903–14.

From Lagash and its vicinity, there are tablets from the E-Ninnu temple, the Ninkar temple in Nimin, the Ningishzida temple, the Nindara and Ningirsu temples in Girsu, the Ur-Bau temple in Urukug, and the Inanna and Emush temples in Bad-Tibira.

From Nineveh: The Royal Library of Ashurbanipal and the Ezida temple of Nabu.

From Nimrud: North-West palace of Ashurnasirpal II, the library of Nabû-zuqup-kena, and the palace of Sargon II.

In addition to other major sites like Ur, Uruk, Eridu, Isin, Babylon, Nippur, Susa, and Persepolis, there are tablets and seals from at least thirty further sites.

Martin Schøyen

MANUSCRIPTS IN THE SCHØYEN COLLECTION

CUNEIFORM TEXTS

- Vol. I. Jöran Friberg, *A Remarkable Collection of Babylonian Mathematical Texts*
Sources and Studies in the History of Mathematics and Physical Sciences
New York: Springer, 2007
- Vol. II. Bendt Alster, *Sumerian Proverbs in the Schøyen Collection*
Cornell University Studies in Assyriology and Sumerology 2
Bethesda, Md.: CDL Press, 2007
- Vol. III. Stephanie Dalley, *Babylonian Tablets from the First Sealand Dynasty in the Schøyen Collection*
Cornell University Studies in Assyriology and Sumerology 9
Bethesda, Md.: CDL Press, 2009
- Vol. IV. A. R. George, *Babylonian Literary Texts in the Schøyen Collection*
Cornell University Studies in Assyriology and Sumerology 10
Bethesda, Md.: CDL Press, 2009
- Vol. V. Miguel Civil, *Lexical Texts in the Schøyen Collection*
Cornell University Studies in Assyriology and Sumerology 12
Bethesda, Md.: CDL Press, 2010
- Vol. VI. A. R. George, *Cuneiform Royal Inscriptions in the Schøyen Collection*
with contributions by M. Civil, G. Frame, P. Steinkeller, F. Vallat, K. Volk, M. Weeden, and C. Wilcke
Cornell University Studies in Assyriology and Sumerology 17
Bethesda, Md.: CDL Press, 2011
- Vol. VII. A. R. George, *Babylonian Divinatory Texts Chiefly in the Schøyen Collection*
with an appendix of materials from the papers of W. G. Lambert[†]
Cornell University Studies in Assyriology and Sumerology 18
Bethesda, Md.: CDL Press, 2013
- Vol. VIII. A. R. George, *Mesopotamian Incantations and Related Texts in the Schøyen Collection*
Cornell University Studies in Assyriology and Sumerology 32
Bethesda, Md.: CDL Press, 2016
- Vol. IX. A. R. George, T. Hertel, J. Llop-Radua, K. Radner, and W. H. van Soldt, *Assyrian Archival Texts in the Schøyen Collection and Other Documents from North Mesopotamia and Syria*
Cornell University Studies in Assyriology and Sumerology 34
Bethesda, Md.: CDL Press, 2017
- Vol. X. Vitali Bartash, *Sumerian Administrative and Legal Documents ca. 2900–2200 BC in the Schøyen Collection*
Cornell University Studies in Assyriology and Sumerology 35
Bethesda, Md.: CDL Press, 2017
- Vol. XI. A. R. George, *Old Babylonian Texts in the Schøyen Collection, Part One: Selected Letters*
Cornell University Studies in Assyriology and Sumerology 36
Bethesda, Md.: CDL Press, 2018
- Vol. XII. Christopher Metcalf, *Sumerian Literary Texts in the Schøyen Collection*
Vol. 1: Literary Sources on Old Babylonian Religion
Cornell University Studies in Assyriology and Sumerology 38
University Park: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2019

Other volumes are in preparation