Ur of the Chaldees

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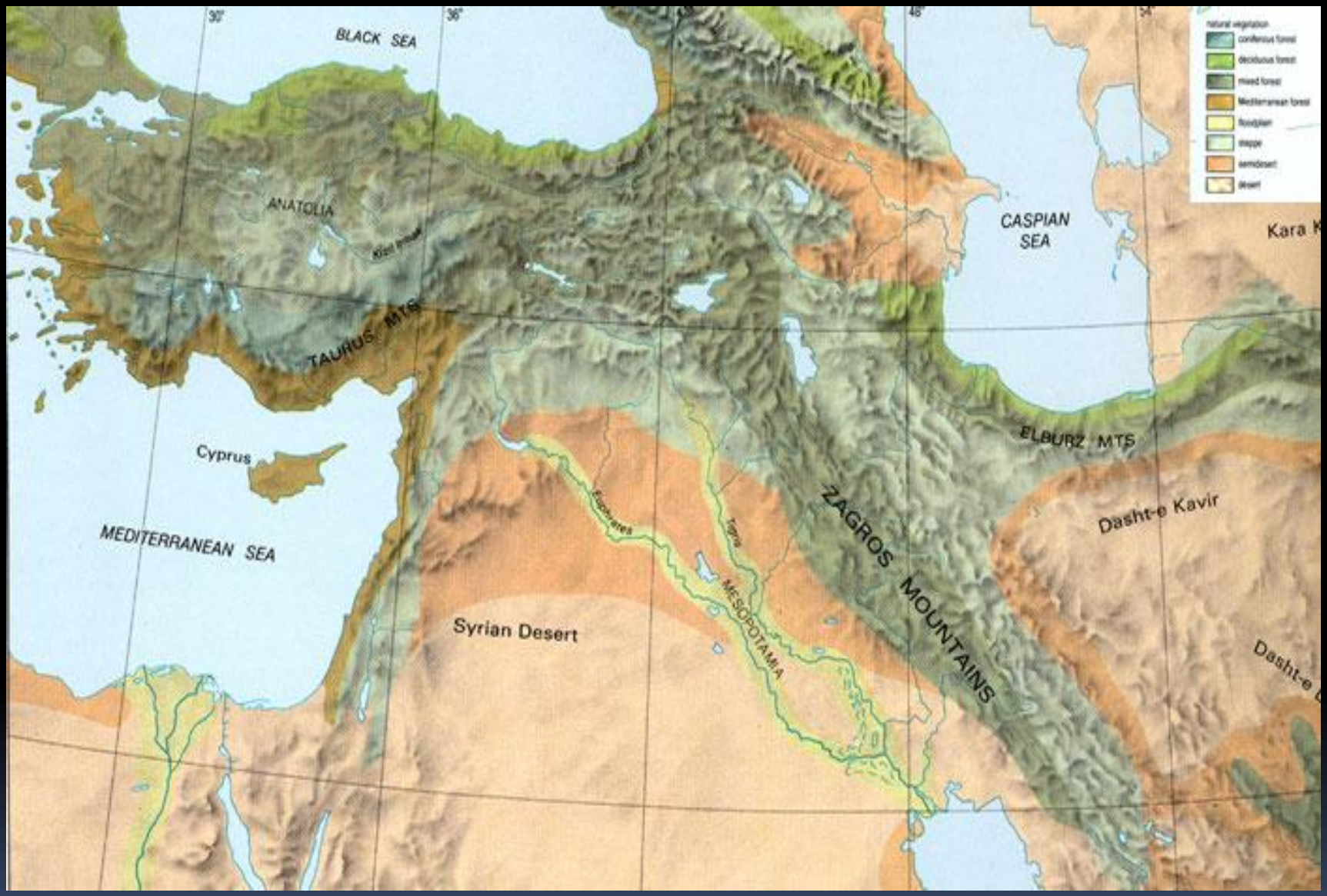
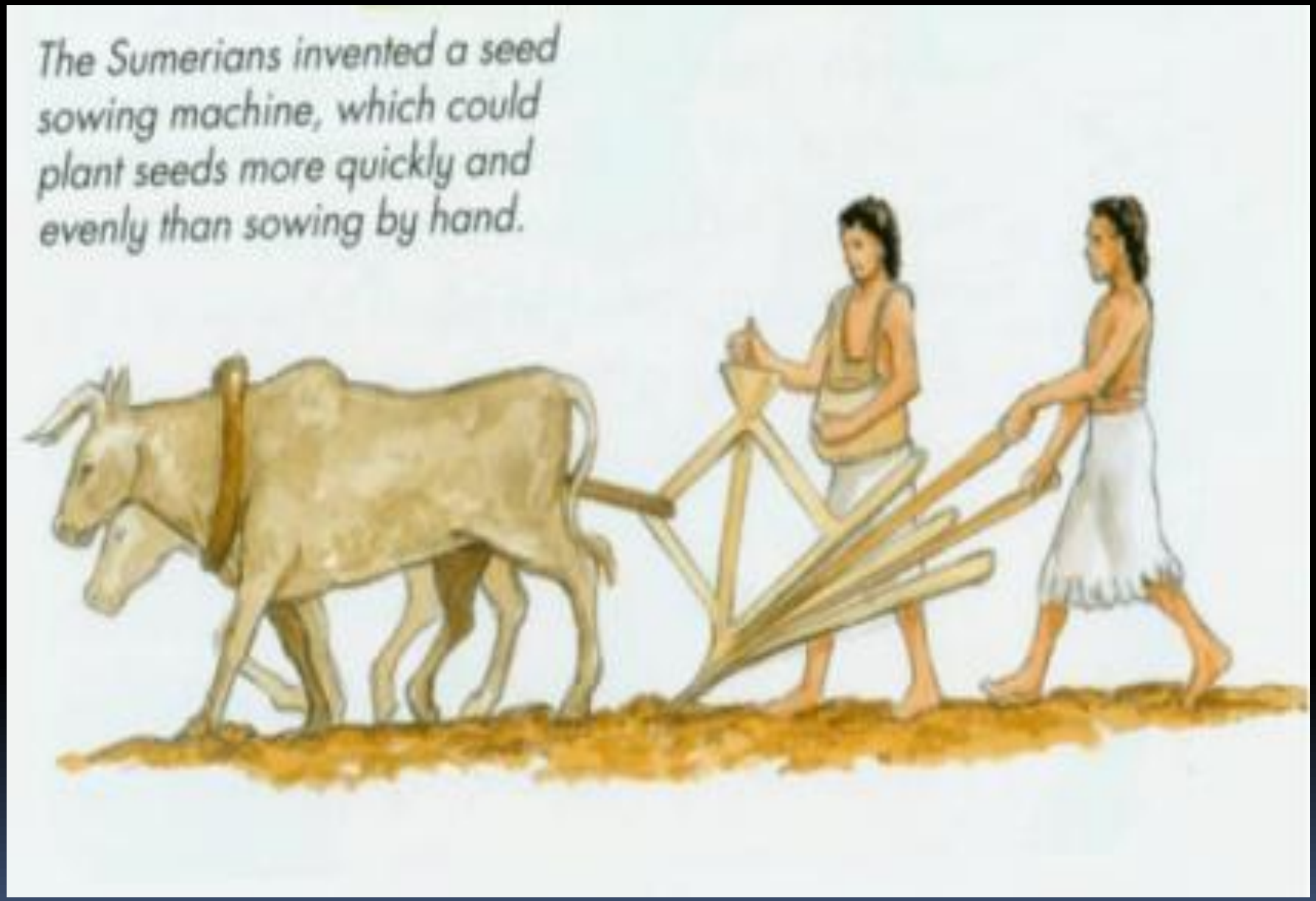
- Introduction – Background
- Discovery
- Pre the Three Dynasties
- Three Dynasties of Ur
  - -1st Dynasty (2,600BC to 2,340BC)
  - -2nd Dynasty (2,334 BC to 2,154 BC)
    - -Akkadian rule & Dark Age)
  - -3rd Dynasty (2,154 BC to 2004)
- Post the Three Dynasties



The Cradle of Civilisation

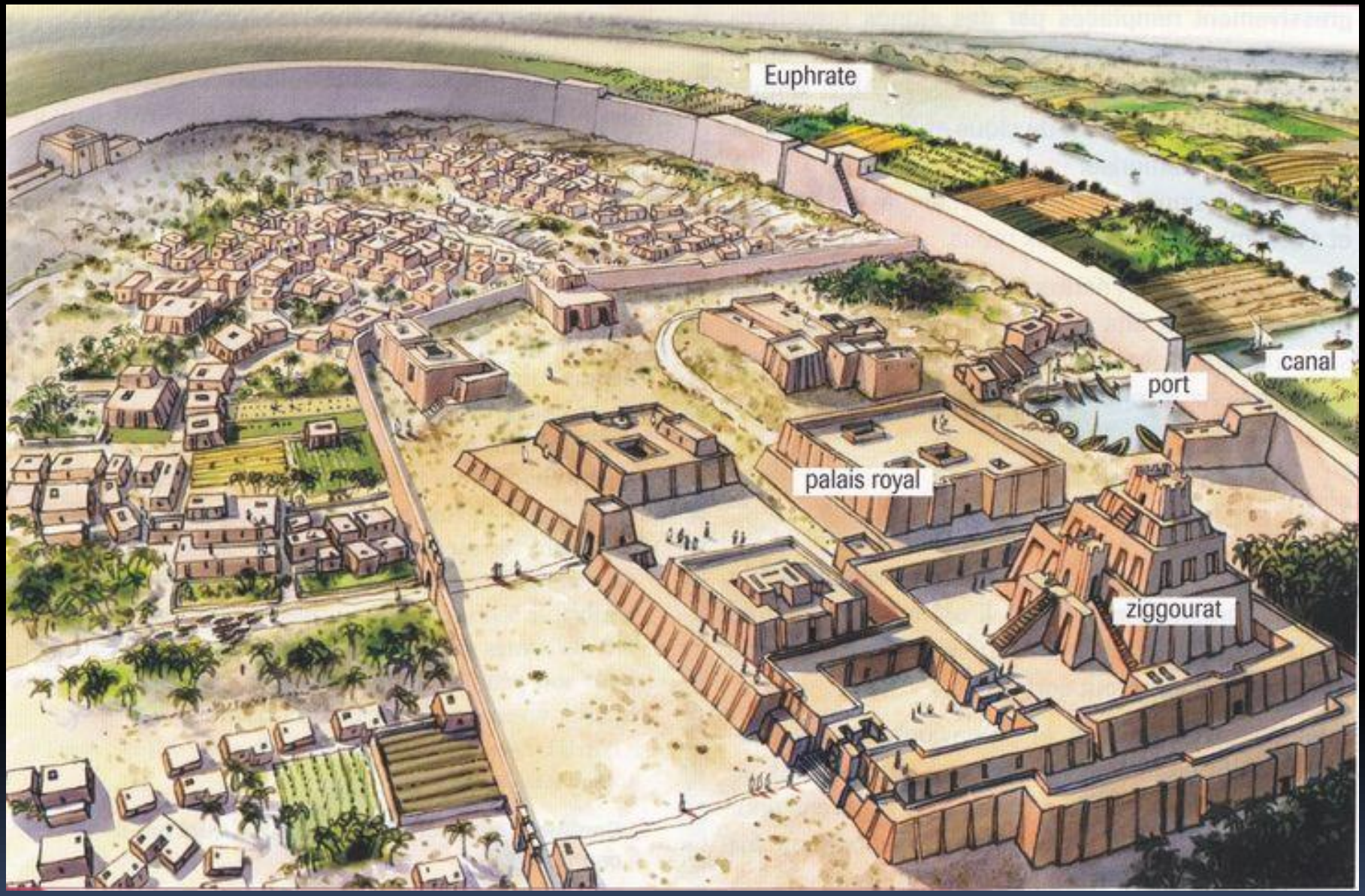
Mesopotamia



Early Farming

Early Civilisations/Empires

Sumerian	5300	1940
Akkadian	2500	2000
Babylon	1792	1595
Hittite	1500	1200
Assyrian	1244	614
Persian	550	612
Roman	264	476
Egyptian	3100	30



City of Ur

GOVERNMENT

- Each city state had a king (hand picked by god, hereditary)
- Complex government with scribes to collect taxes and keep records
- Cities were built with walls and moats for protection
- All city states had their own army

SOCIAL STRUCTURE

- King and nobility
- Priests
- Scribes
- Craftsmen and peasants
- Slaves

RELIGION

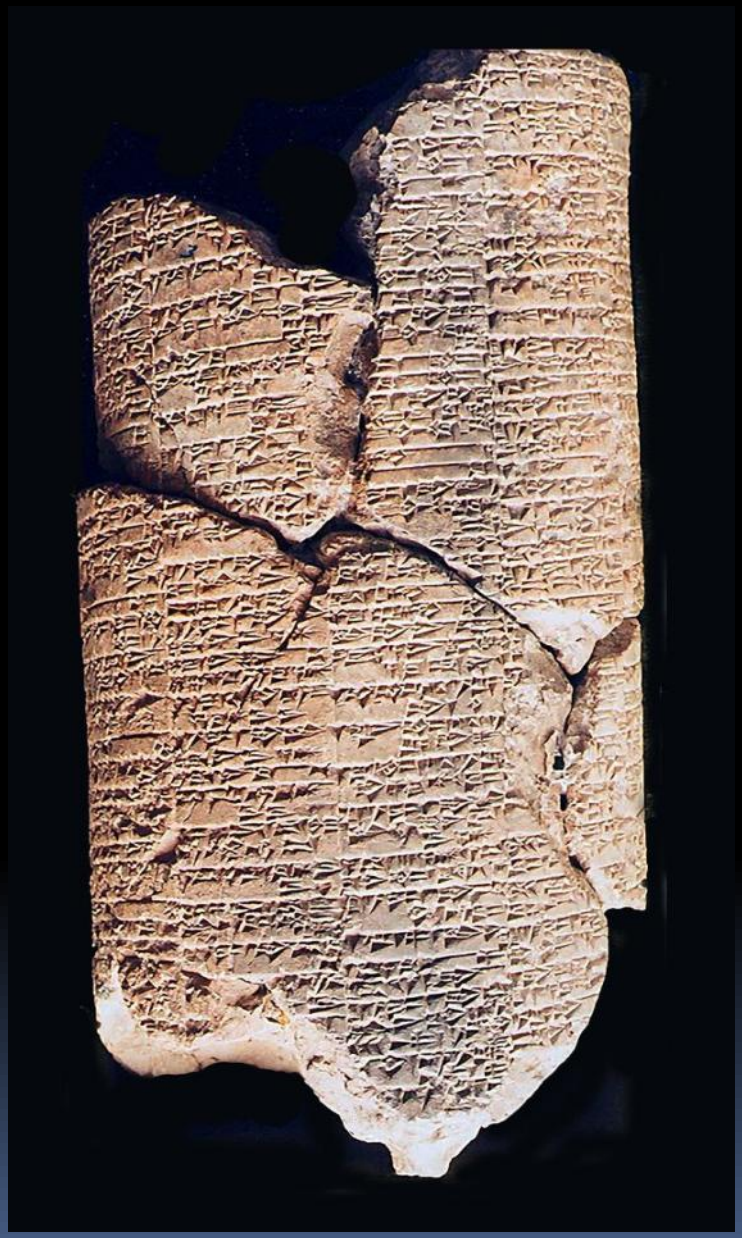
- Sumerians had many gods
- Each city state had its own god, Ur's was Nanu the moon god
- Believed that gods controlled every aspect of life
- Afterlife was a grim place. Everyone went into darkness and ate dirt
- To keep gods happy each city built a ziggurat or pyramid temple at centre of city with temple/shine on top

WRITING

3300 BCE Picture writing

WRITING

3000 BC Cuneiform



WRITING ALLOWED

- Laws and rules to be written down
- Records to be kept
- Histories and legends to be written
- Business transactions to be recorded
- System of weights and measures implemented

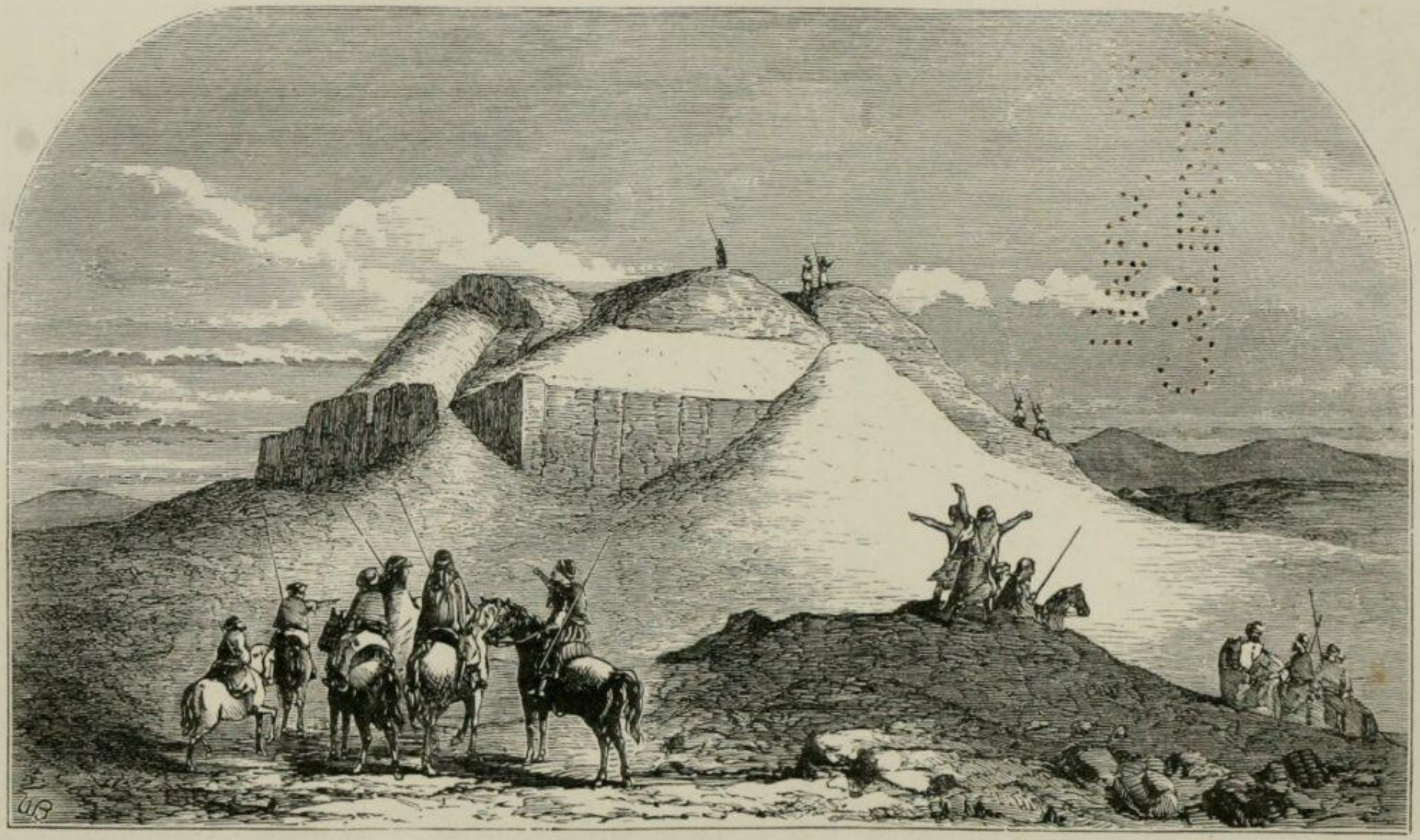
NEW TECHNOLOGY

- Wheel, potters, grinding, transport etc
- Ploughs and other farming implements
- Mathematics and geometry
- Better sailing boats

Steady food supply

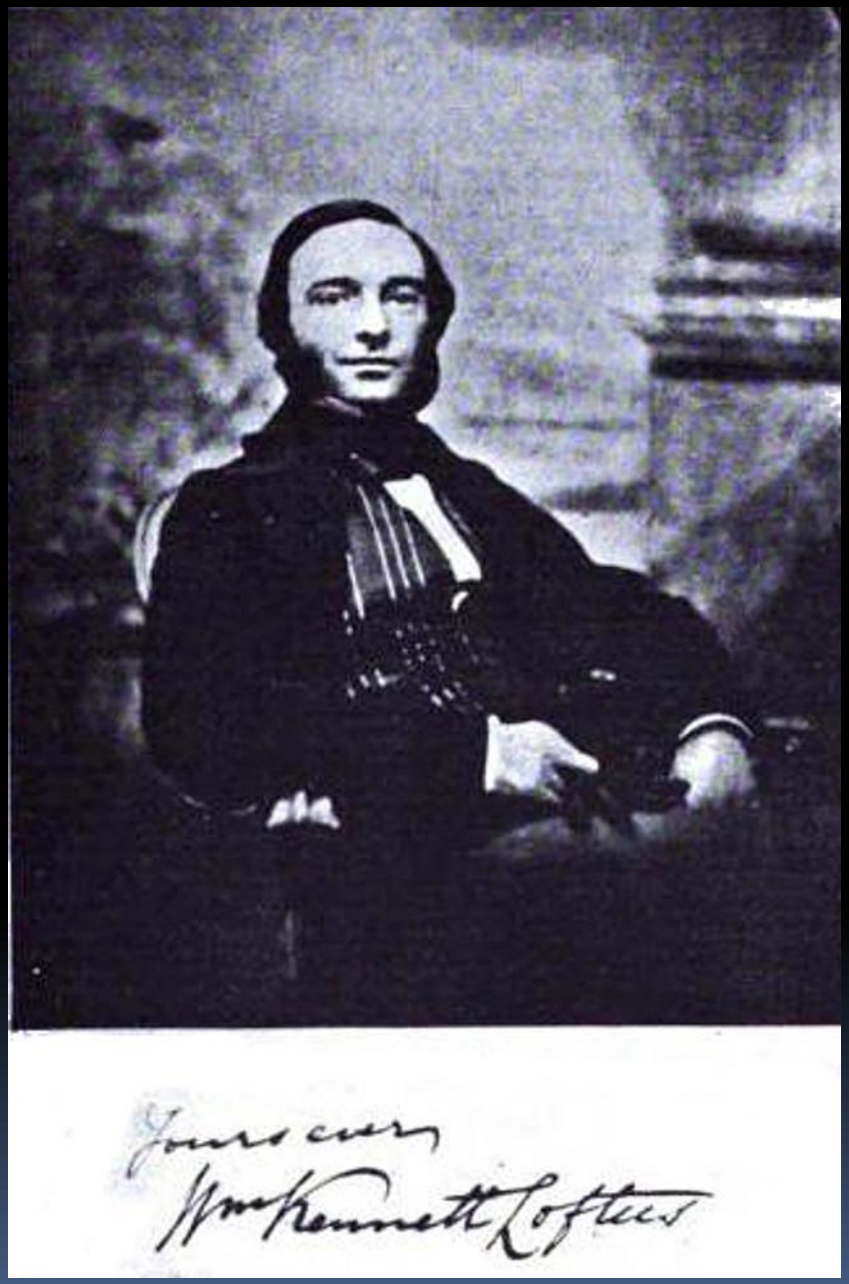
Travelling and trade with Egypt and India

Bedouin Tent (Ur in background)



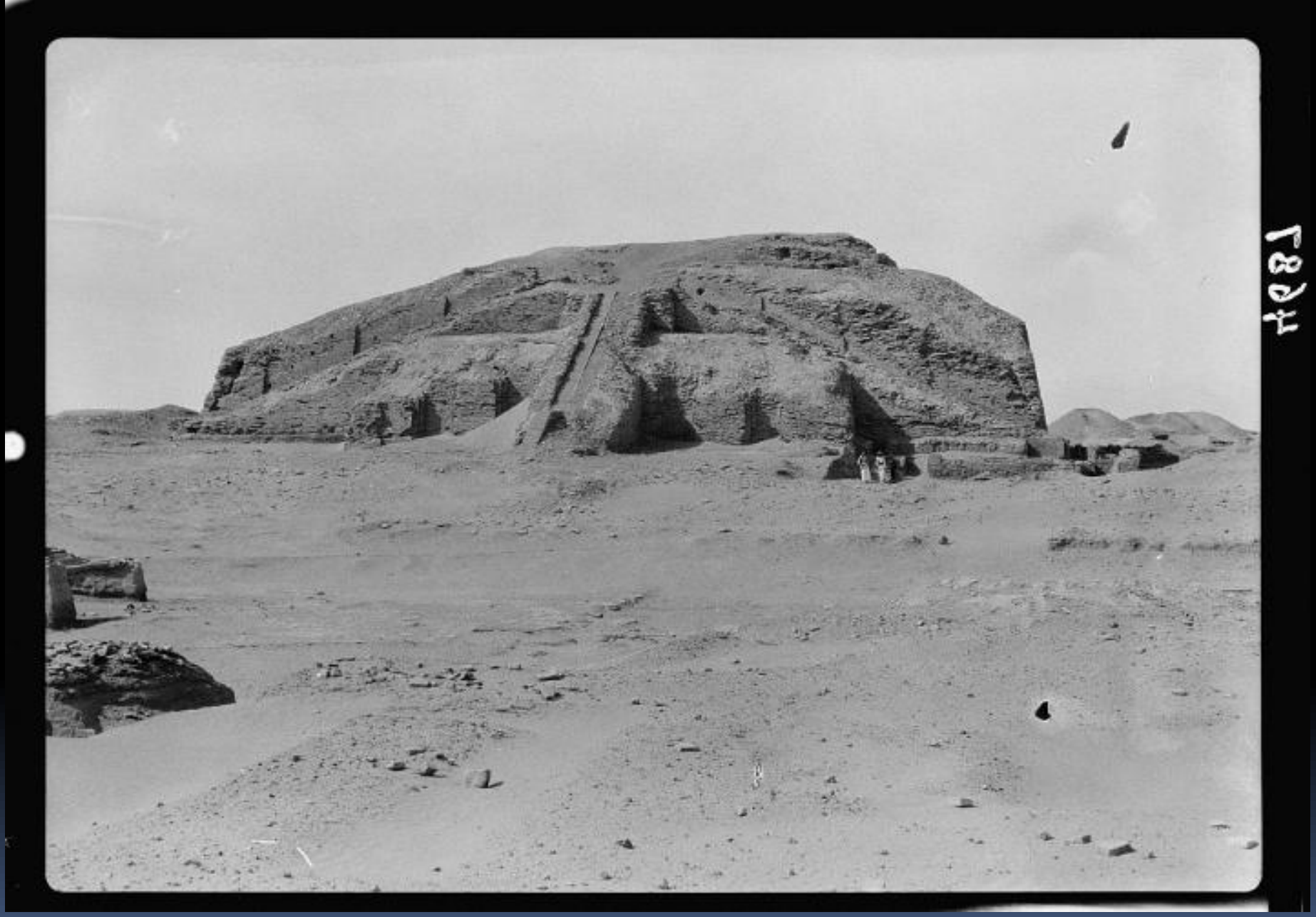
The Great Temple at Múgeyer, from the west.

The Great Temple of Mugeyer



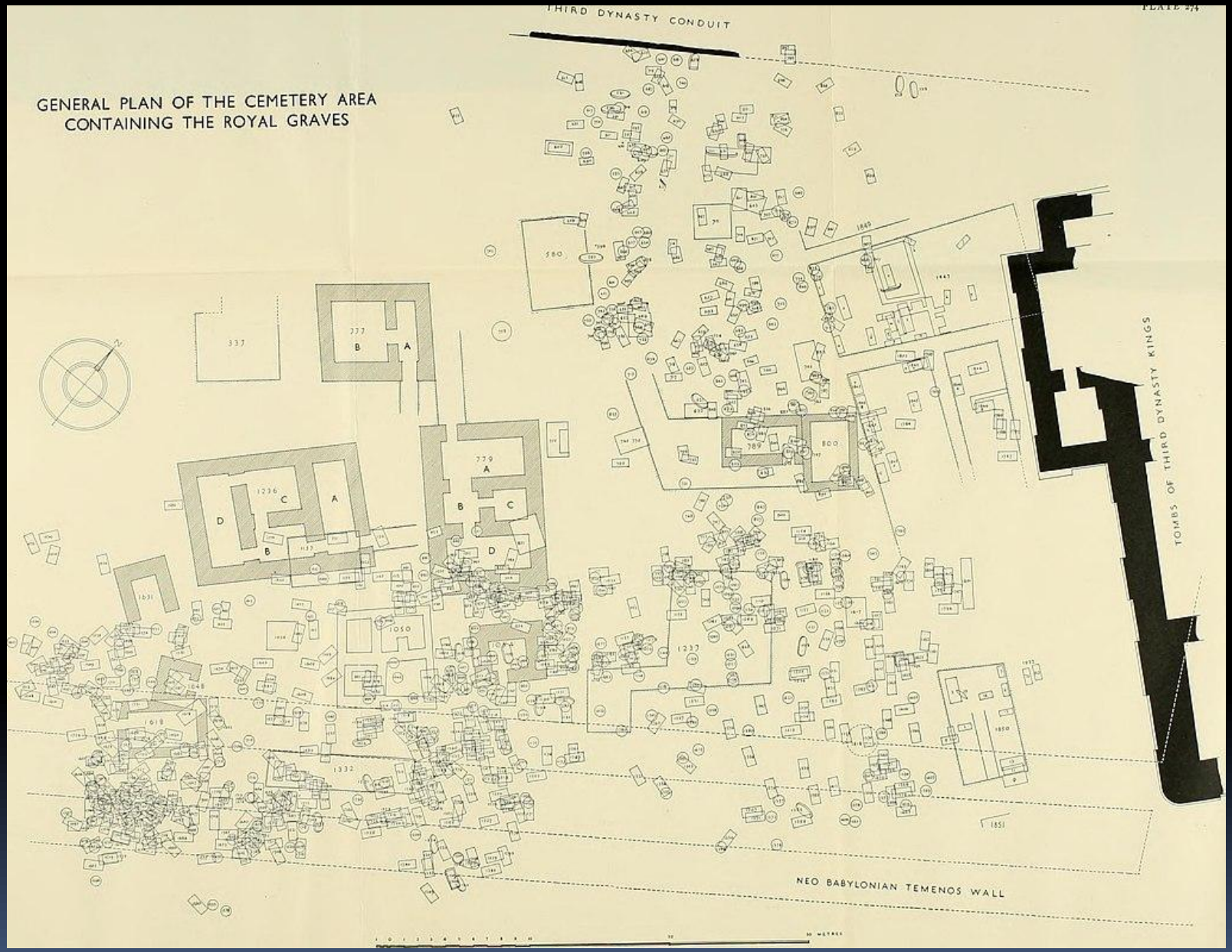
William Loftus (1820-1858)

Sir Charles Leonard Woolley (1880 – 1960)



Ziggurat in the desert (1923)

Ubaid pottery
(5th/6th Millennium BC)



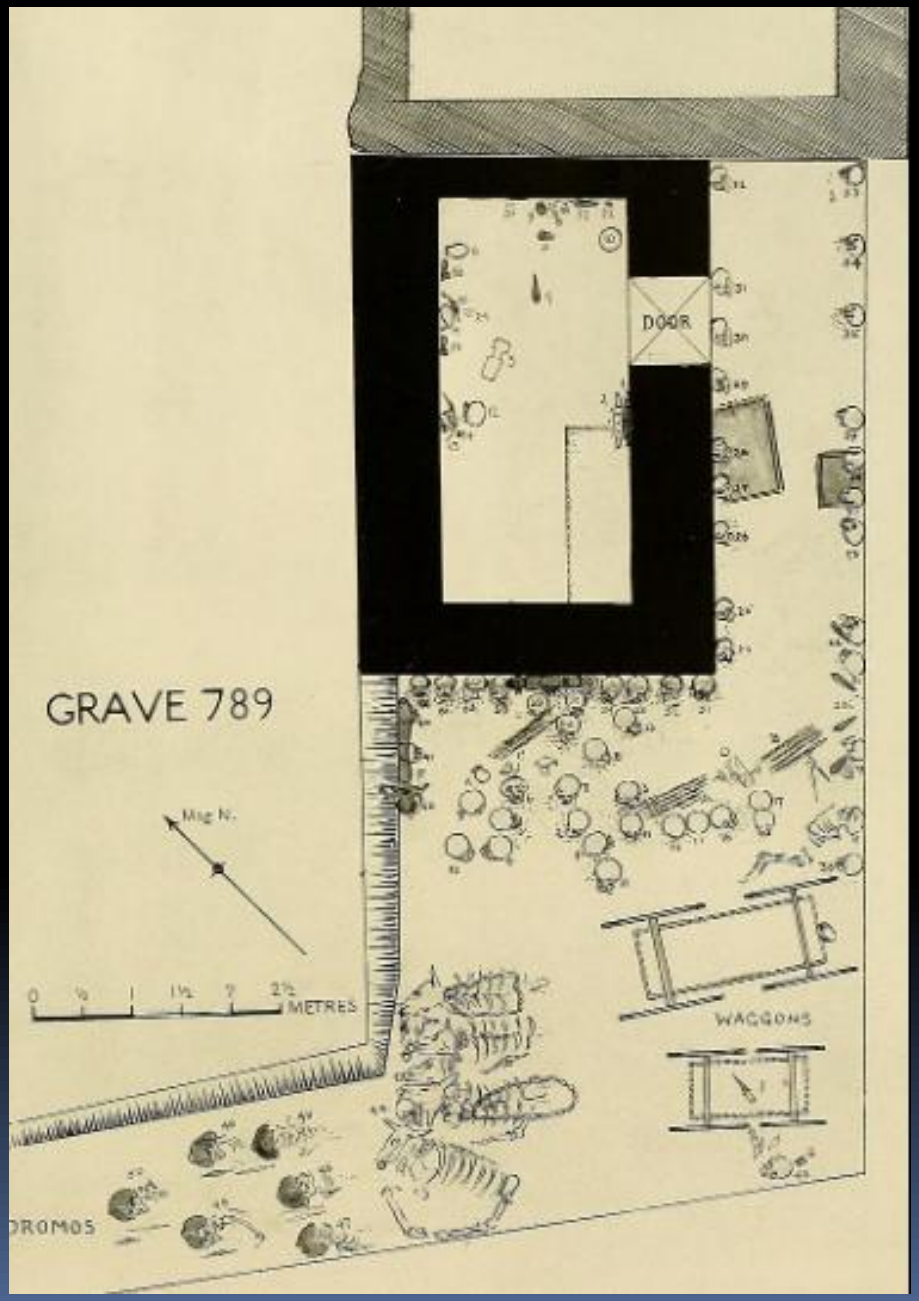
Plan of cemeteries in Ur

Excavation of Ur

Hamoudi and Woolley

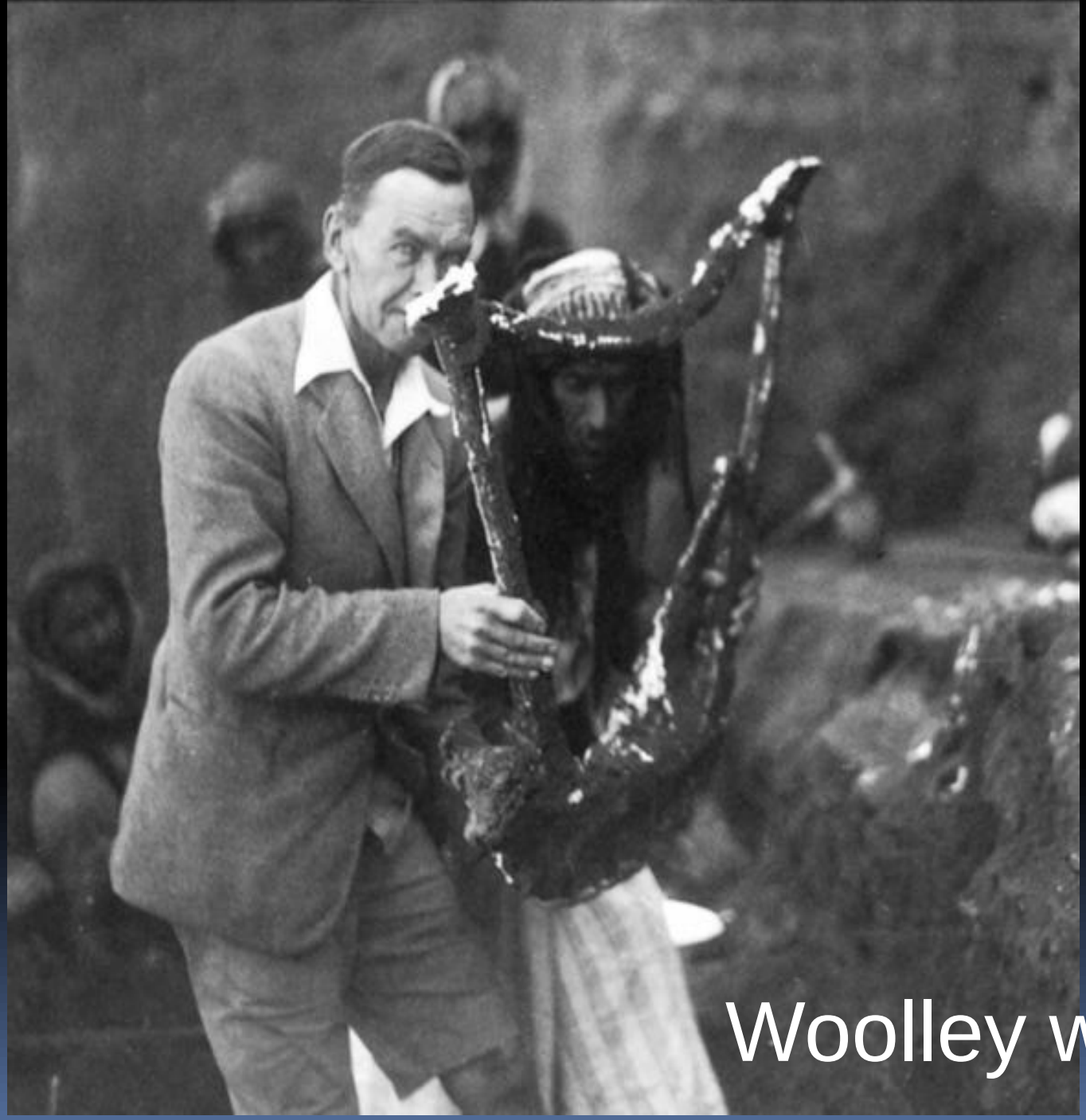
Excavation of the great cemetery

Golden Dagger –
King A’annepada’s tomb (c2350 BC)



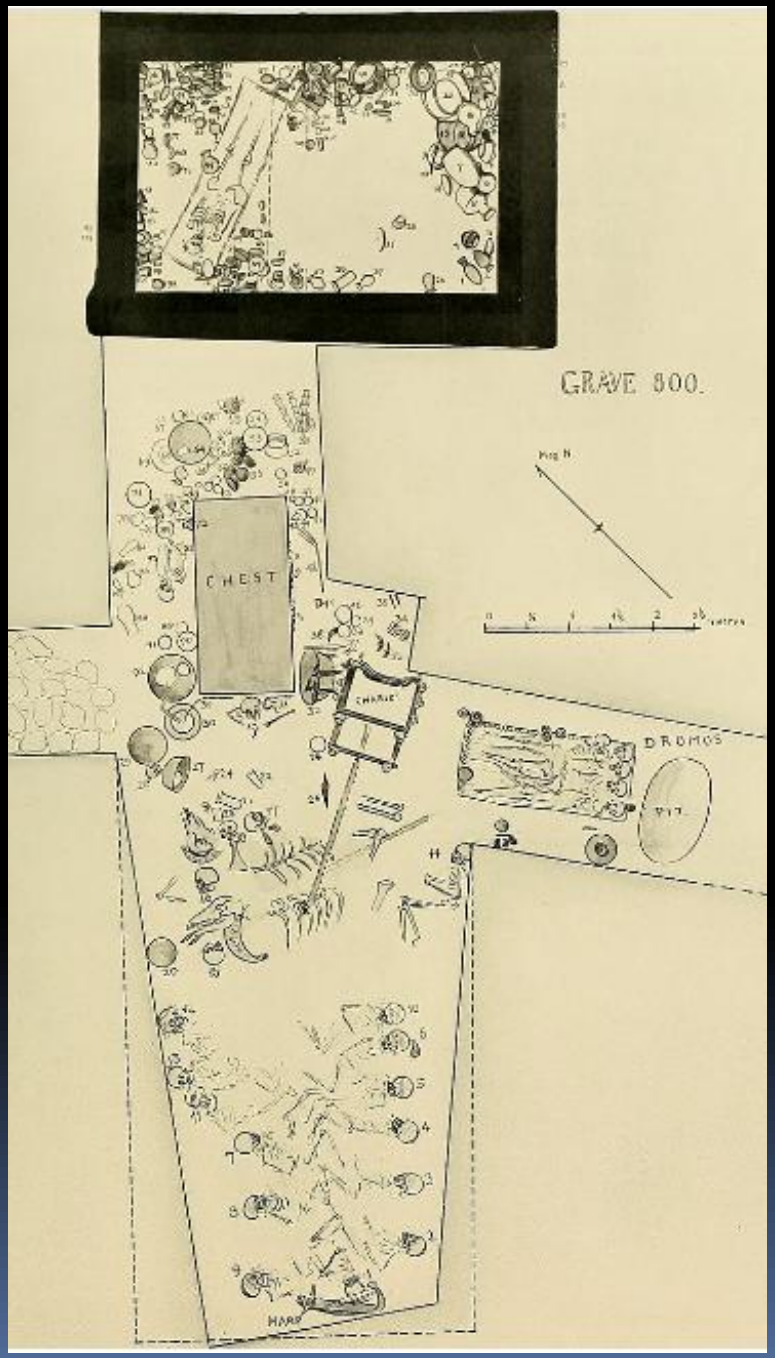
[PG 789] King Meskalamdug's grave

[PG 789]
Guard’s helmet and skull

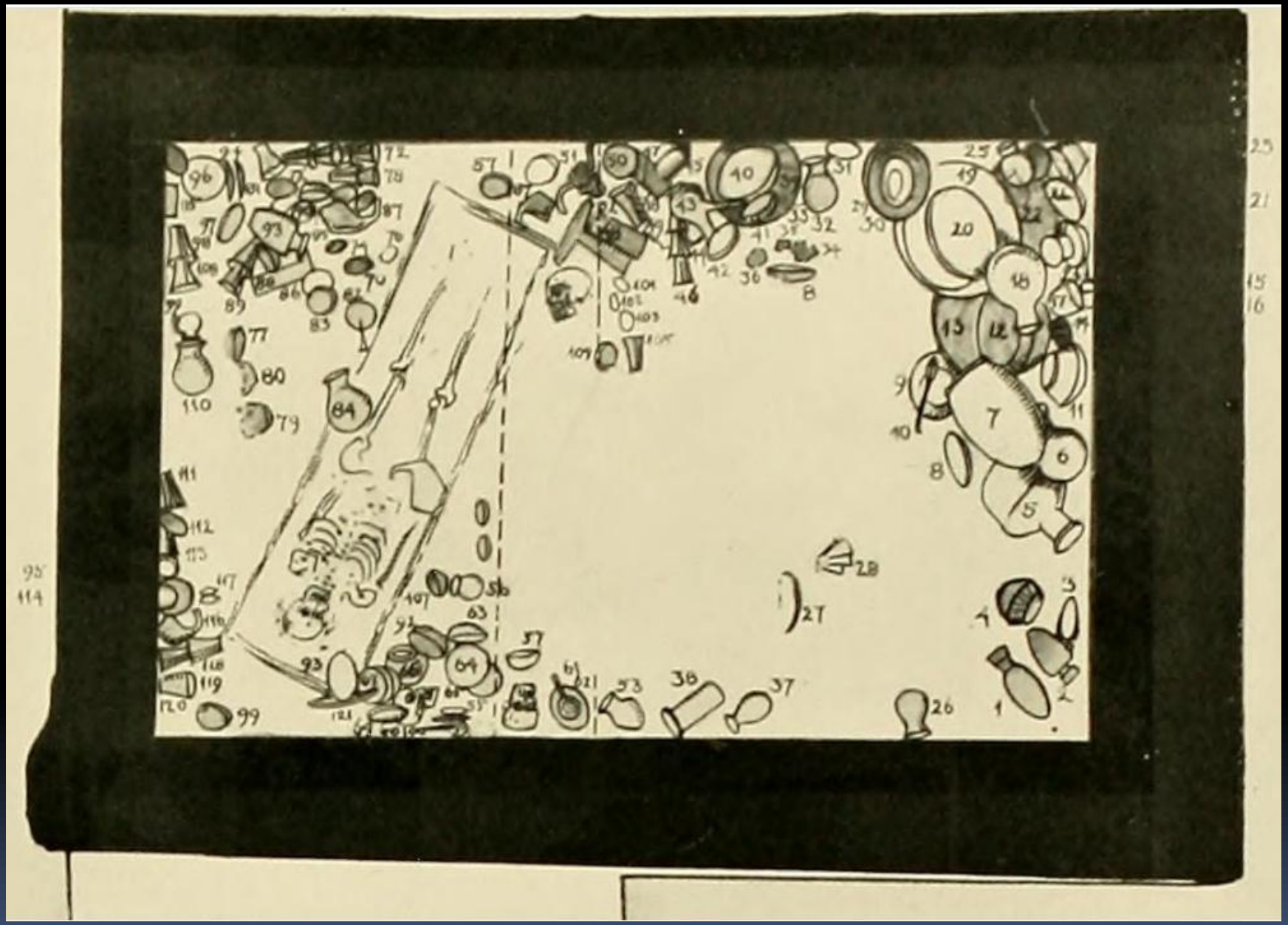


Woolley with lyre

[PG 789] Lyre



[PG 800] Queen Puabi's Tomb (2550 BC)



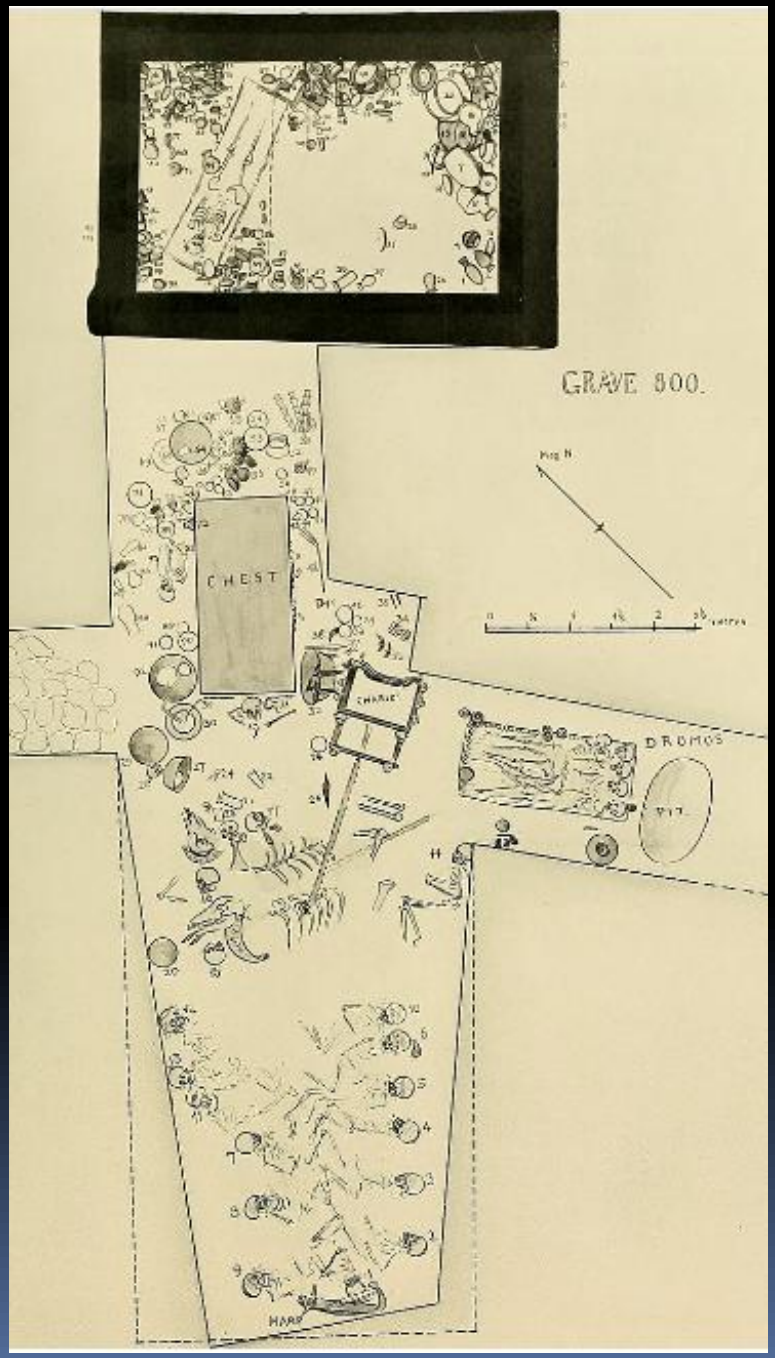
[PG 800] Queen Puabi’s Burial Chamber

[PG 800] Queen Puabi’s head dress and jewellery as discovered.

[PG 800] Queen Puabi’s roller seal

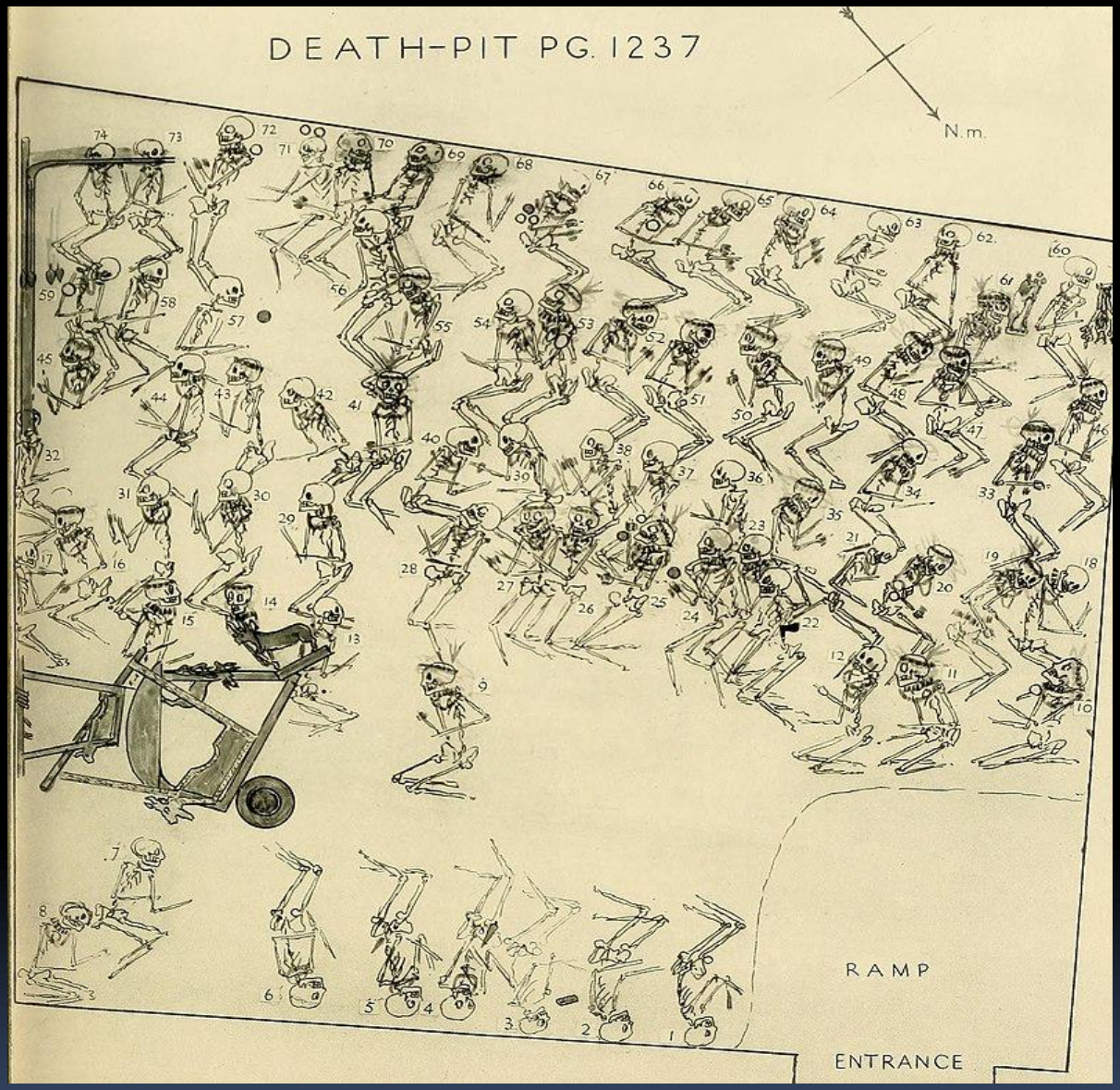
[PG 800] Queen Puabi’s headdress

[PG 800] Queen Puabi’s headdress

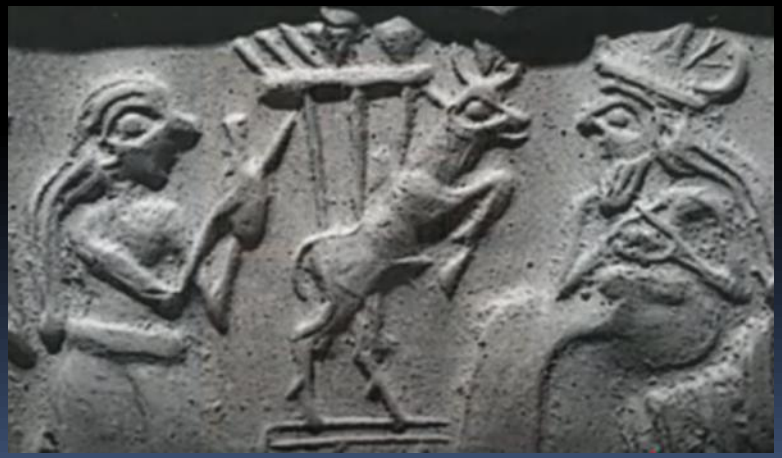


[PG 800] Queen Puabi's Tomb

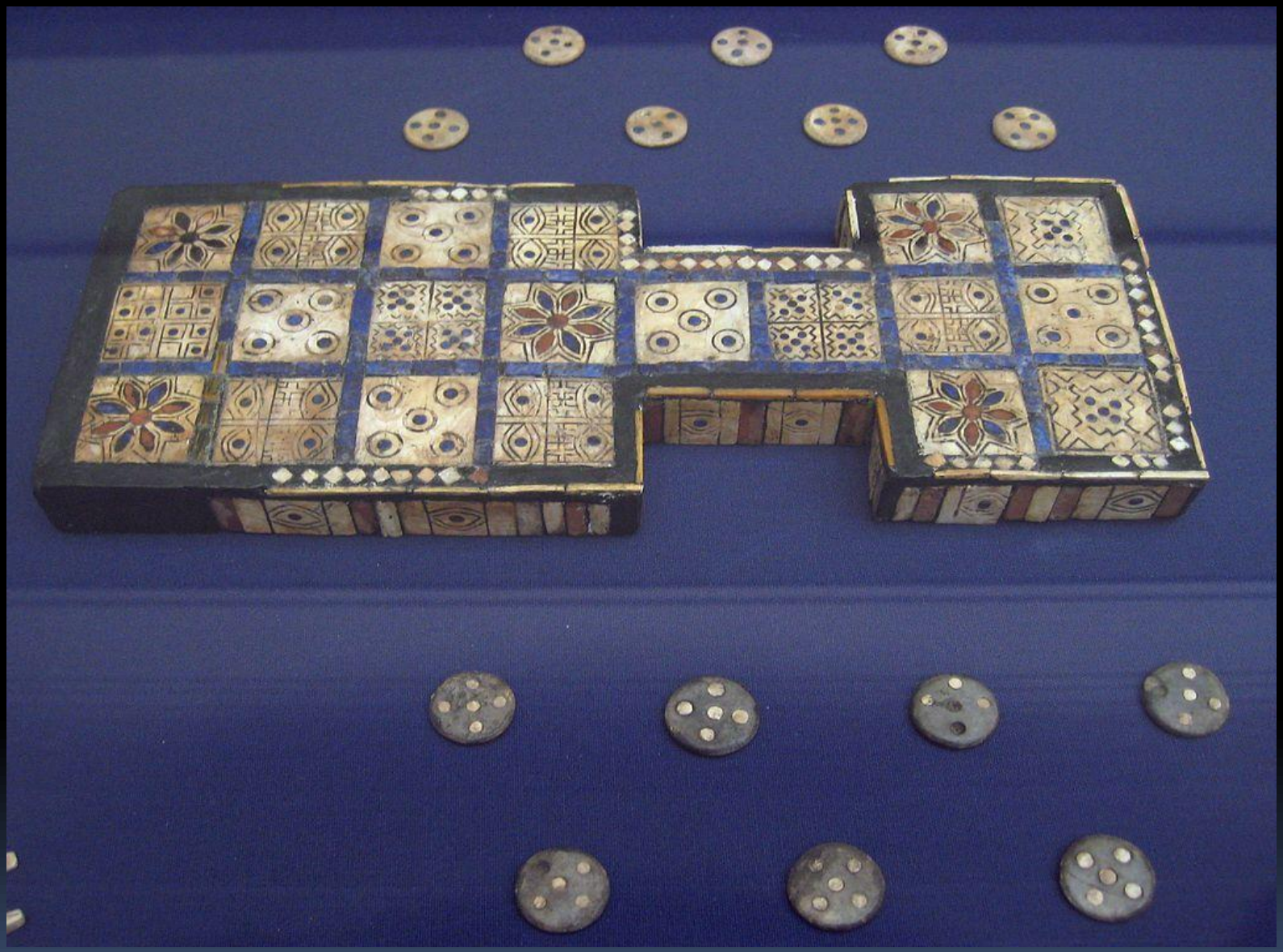
[PG 800] Queens attendant headdress



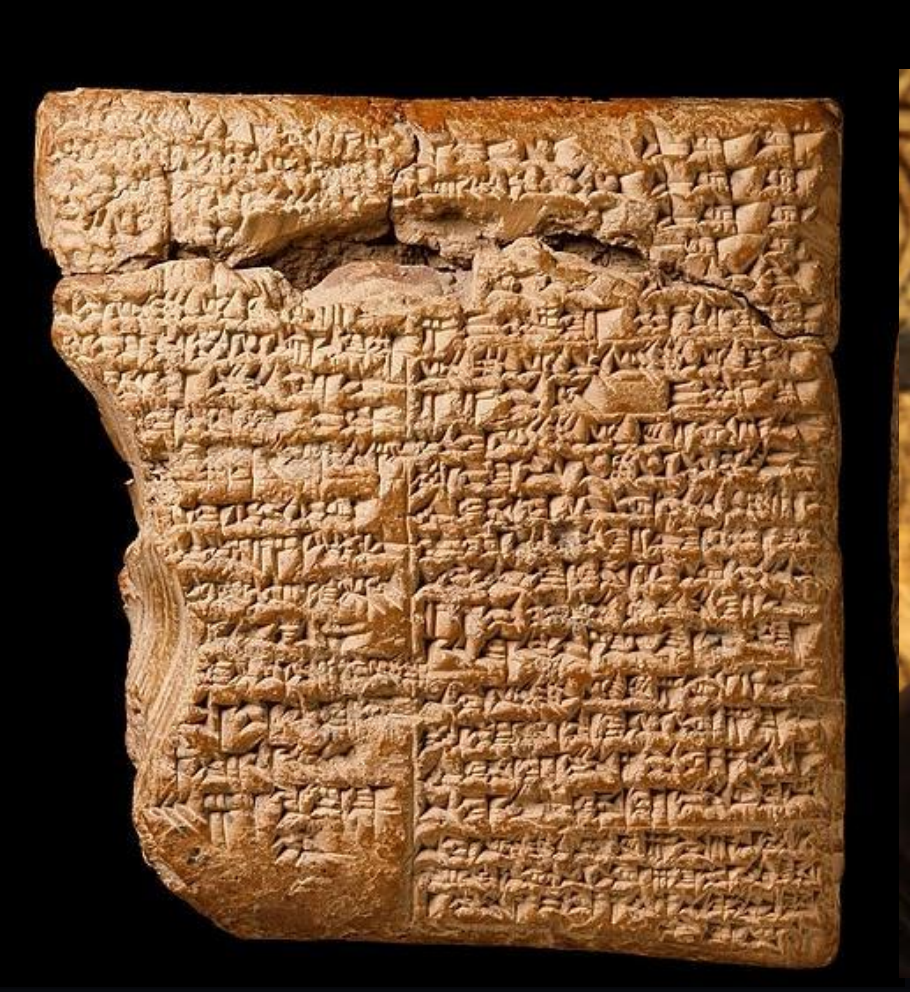
[PG 1237] The Great Death Pit

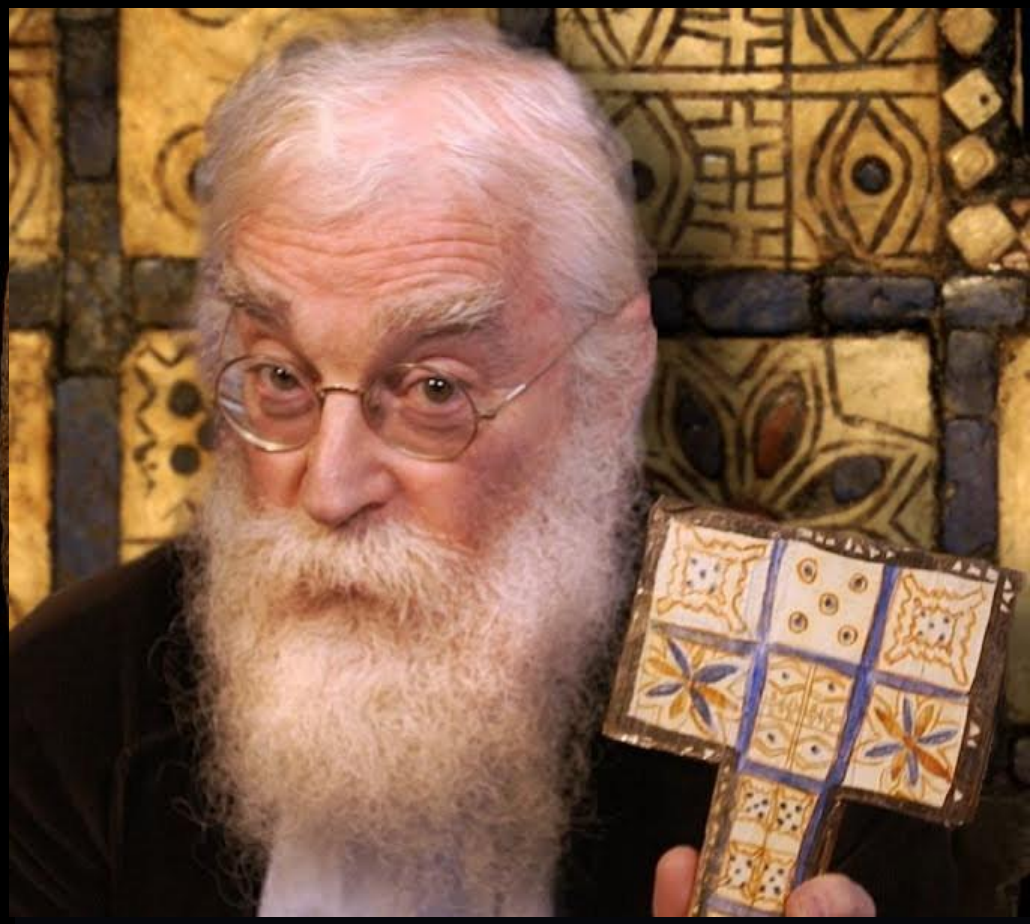


[PG 1237] Ram in a thicket



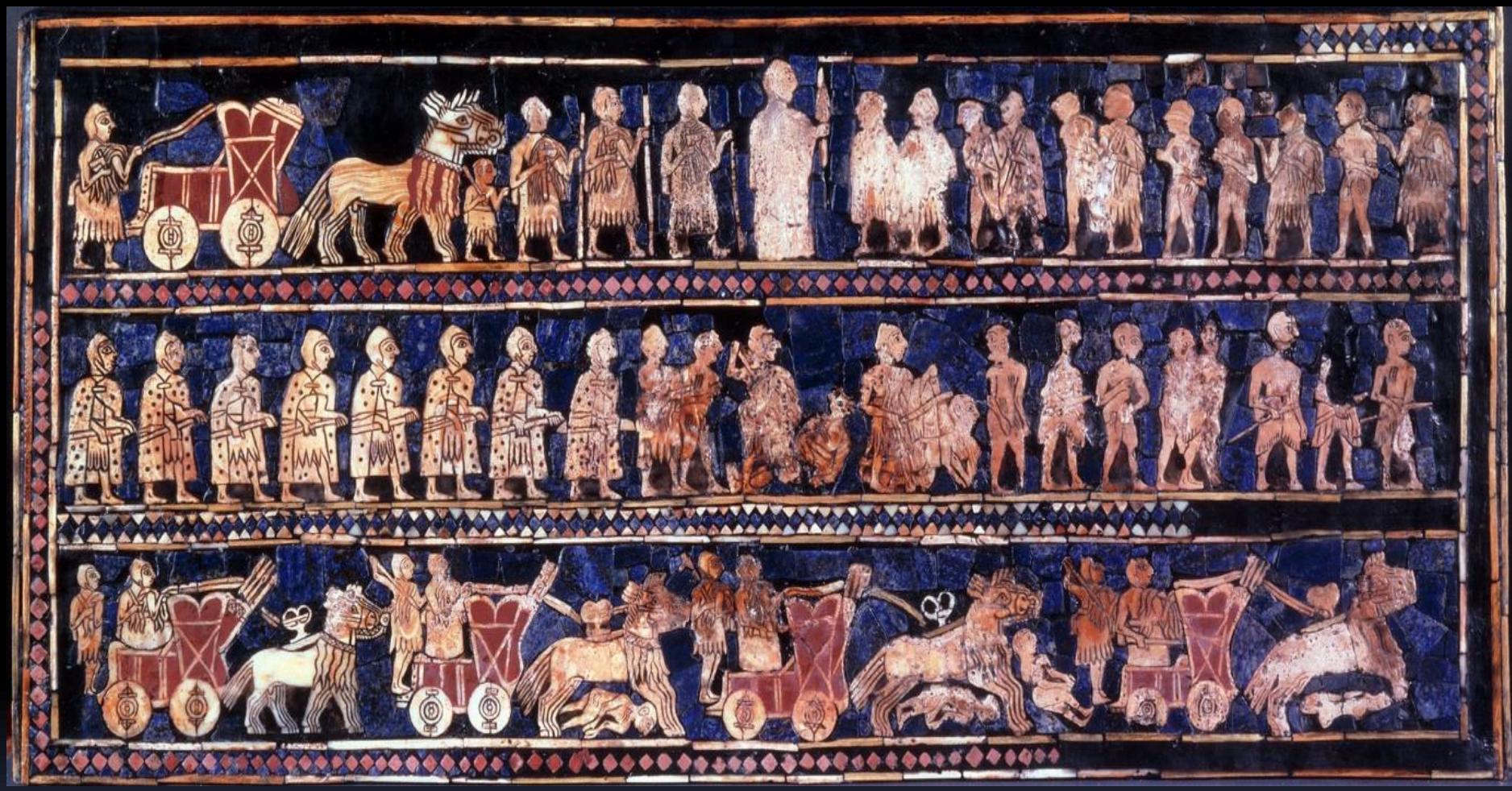
Royal Game of Ur (British Museum)



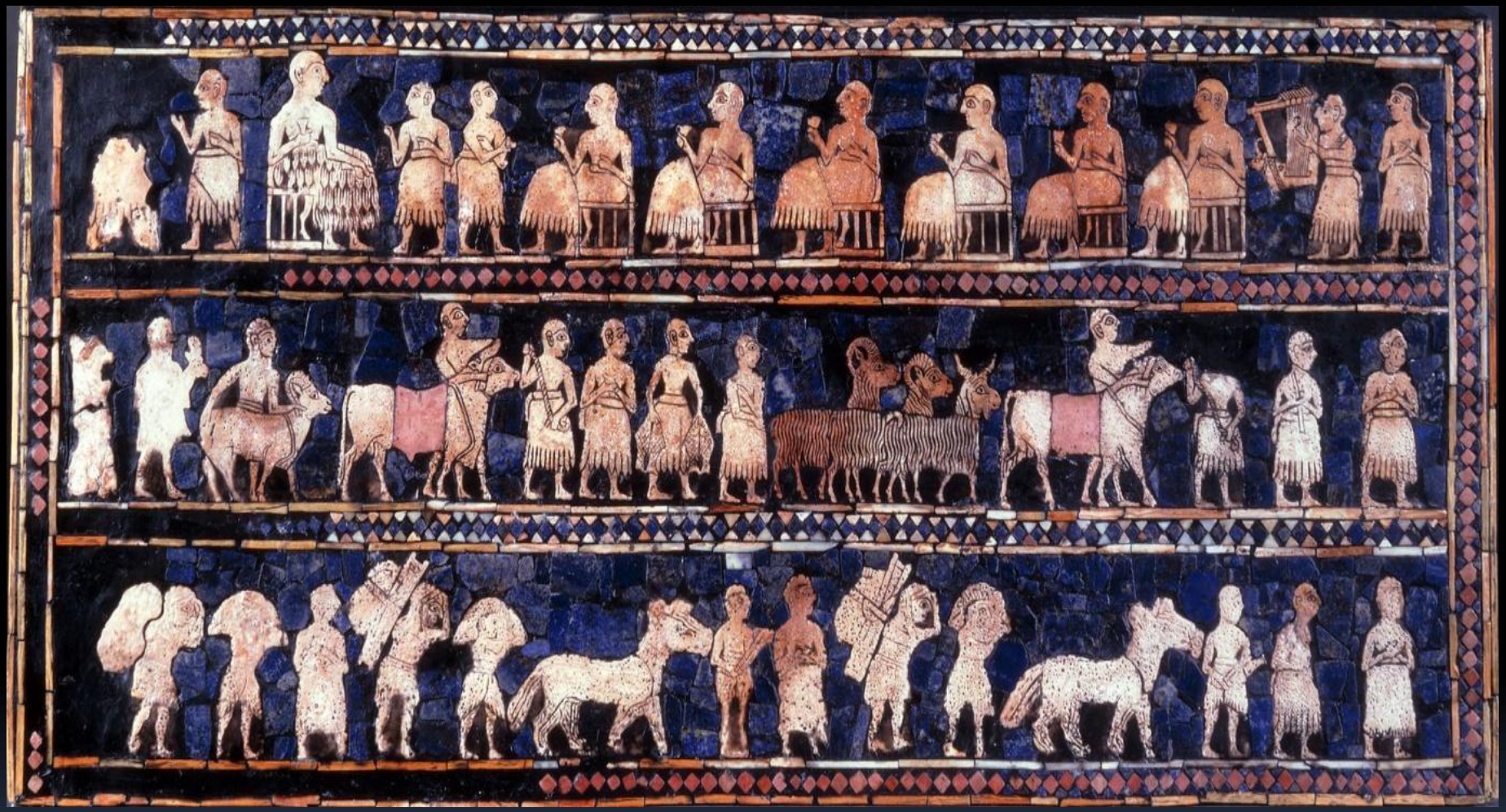


Royal Game of Ur (Irving Finkel)

[PG 779] Standard of Ur



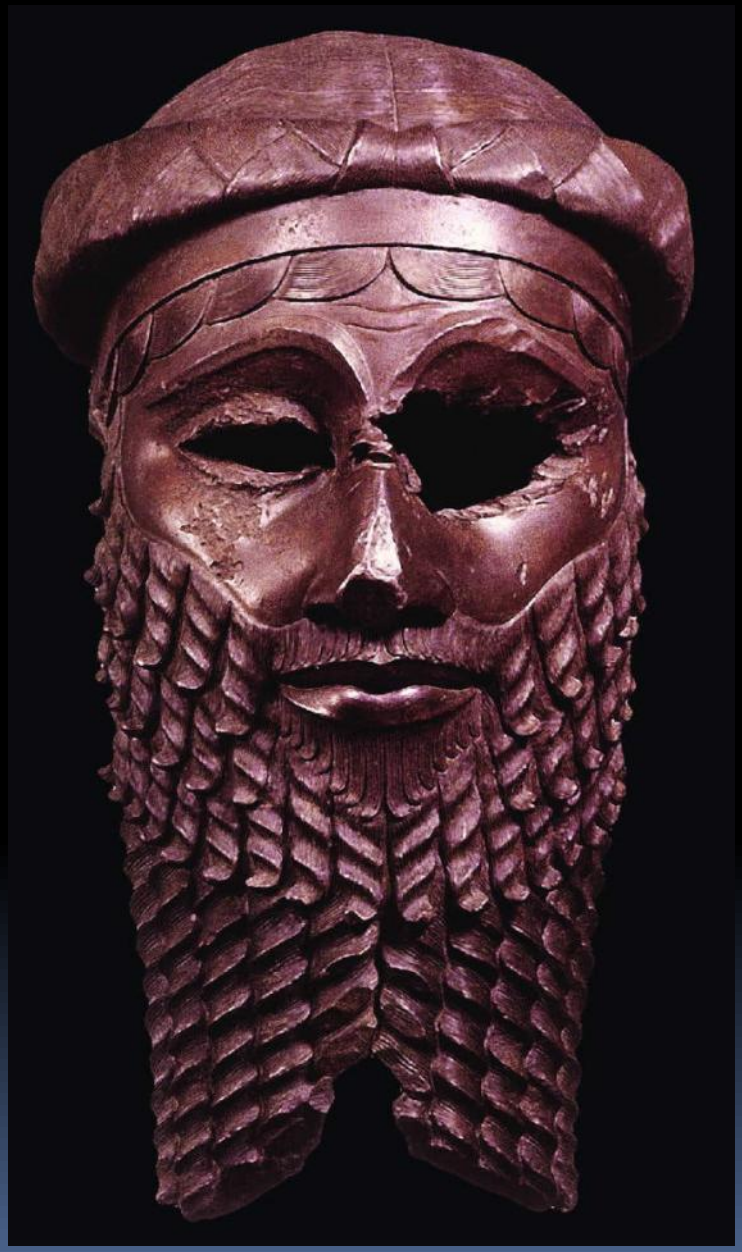
[PG 779] Standard of Ur (War)



[PG 779] Standard of Ur (Peace)

[PG 755] Helmet of Meskalamdug (2550 BC)

Western visitors at the excavation

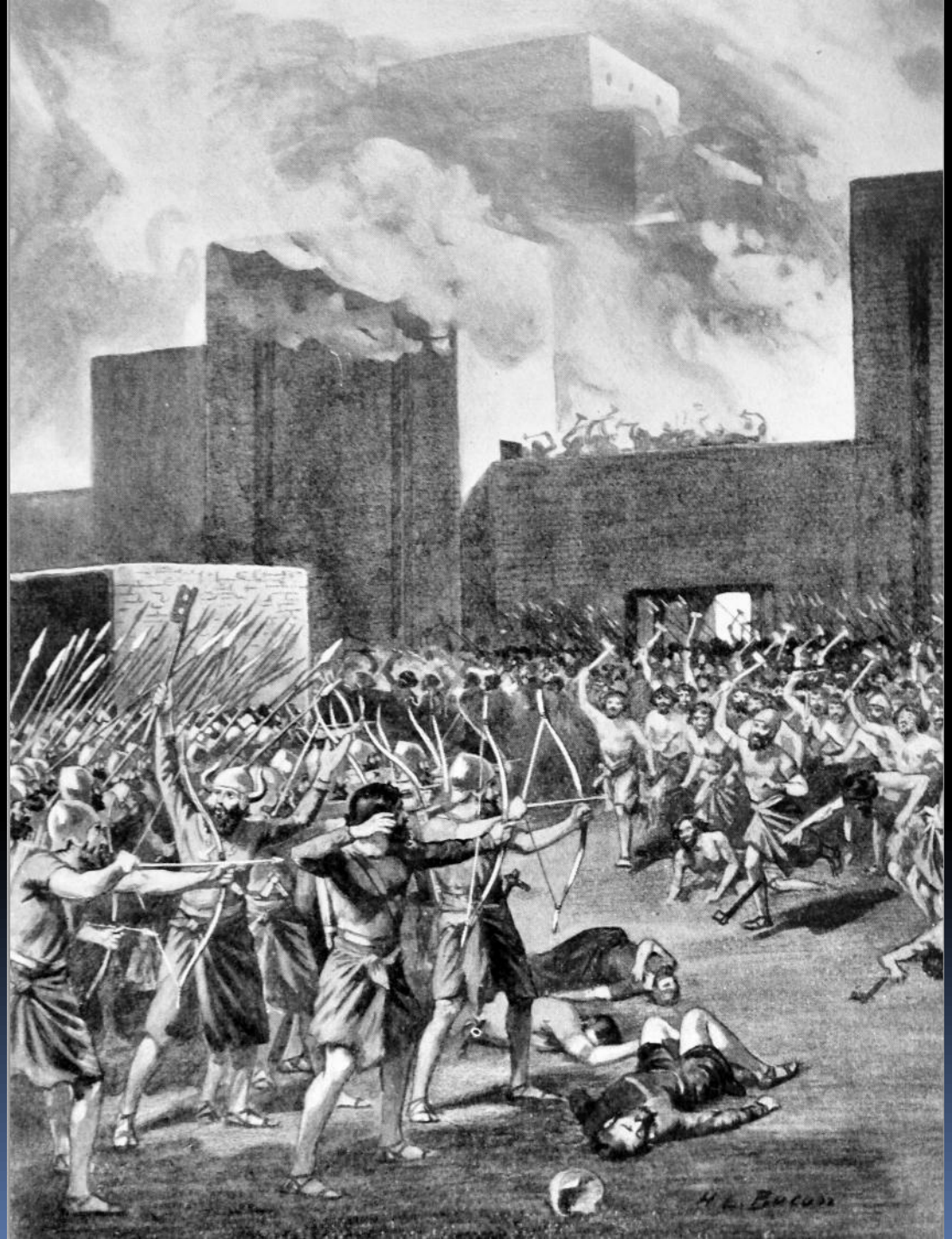


Sargon the Great

Akkadian Empire and expansion

The Moon Disc (c 2300 BC)

Victory Stele of Naram-Sin, c. 2230 BC



Gutians capturing a city with the Akkadians making a last stand

The Three Dynasties of Ur

c 2600 - 2340 BC 1st Dynasty of Ur
c 2334 - 2154 BC 2nd Dynasty of Ur
(Akkadian rule + Dark Age)
c 2154 - 2004 BC 3rd Dynasty of Ur

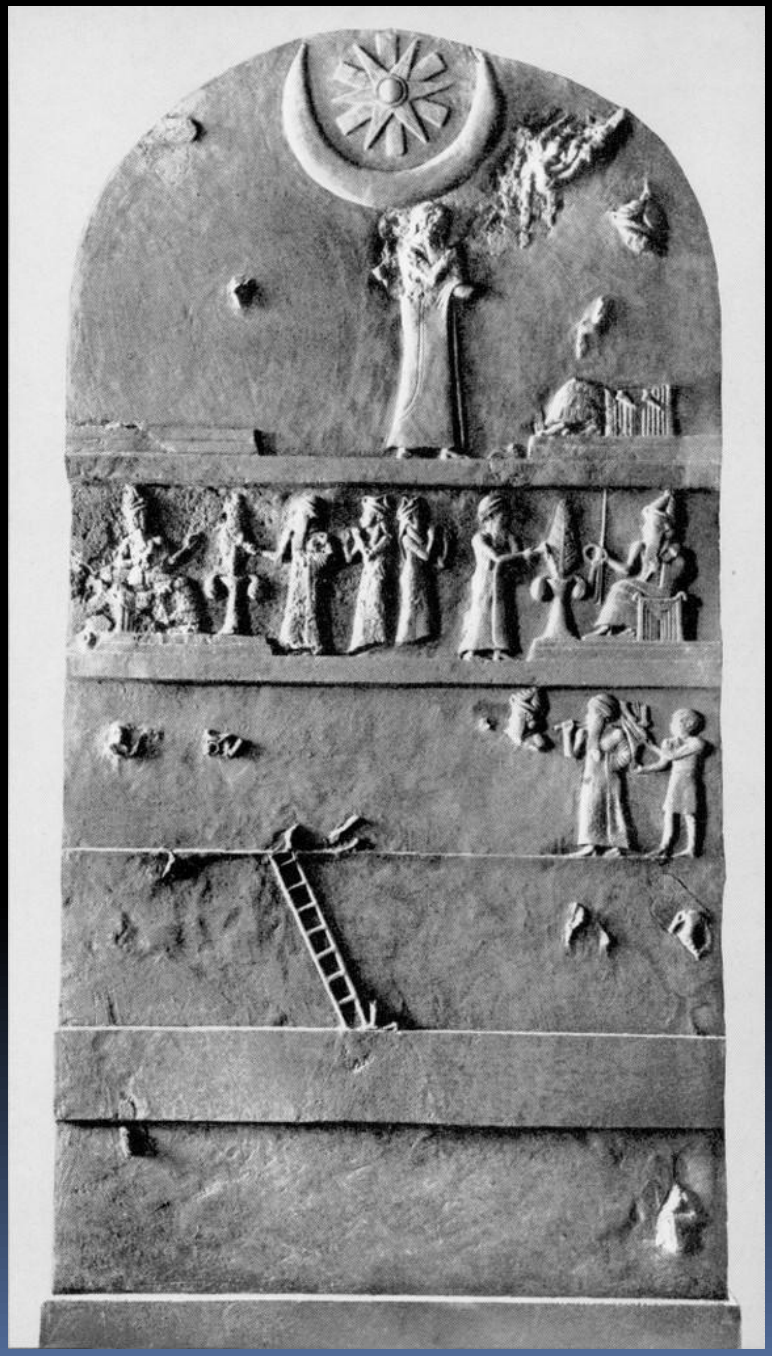
The Third Dynasty

Ur Nammu (2112 BC to 2094 BC)
Shulgi (2094 BC to 2046 BC)
Amar-Sin (2047 BC to 2037 BC
Shu-Sin (2037 BC to 2028 BC)
Ibi-Sin (2028 BC to 2004 BC

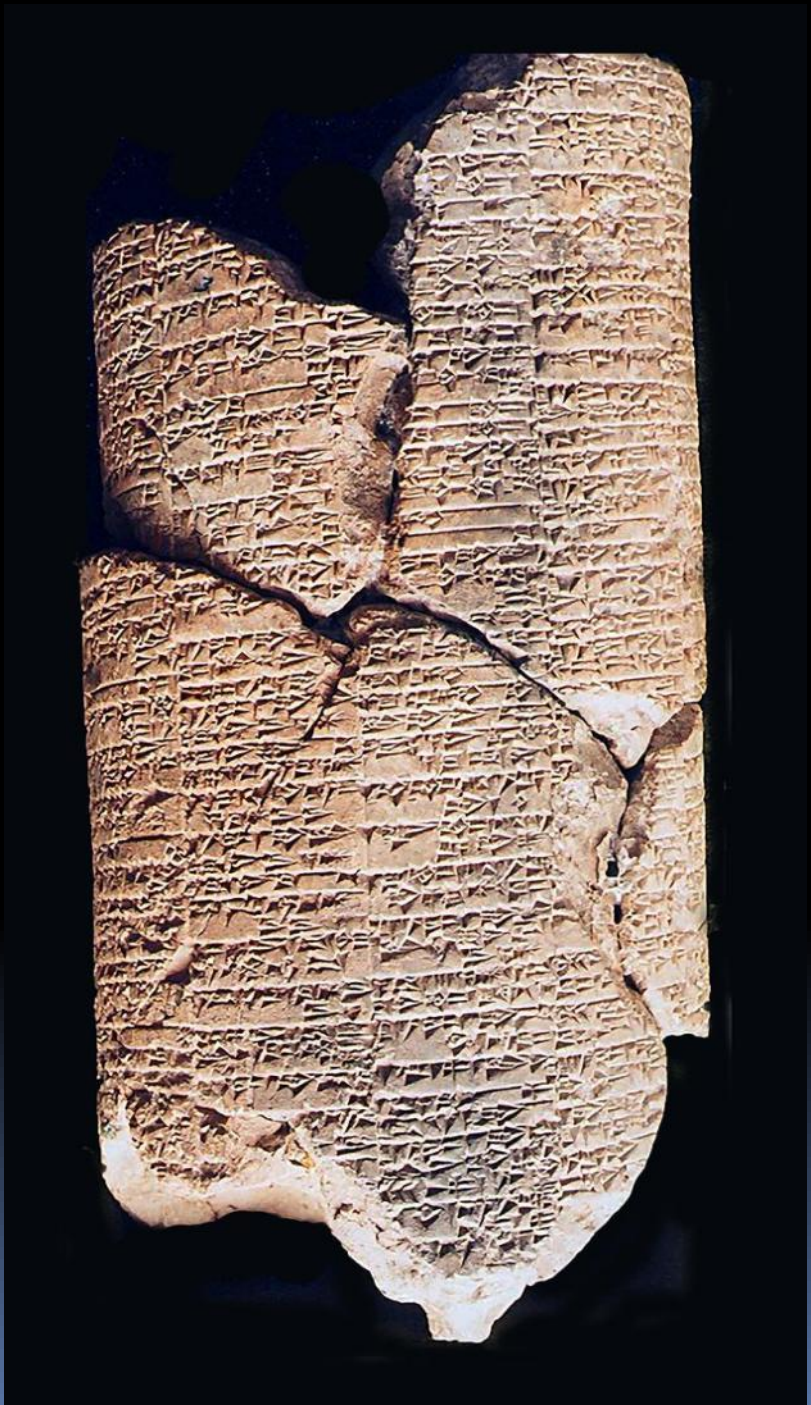
The Great Ziggurat of Ur

The Great Ziggurat of Ur (1923)

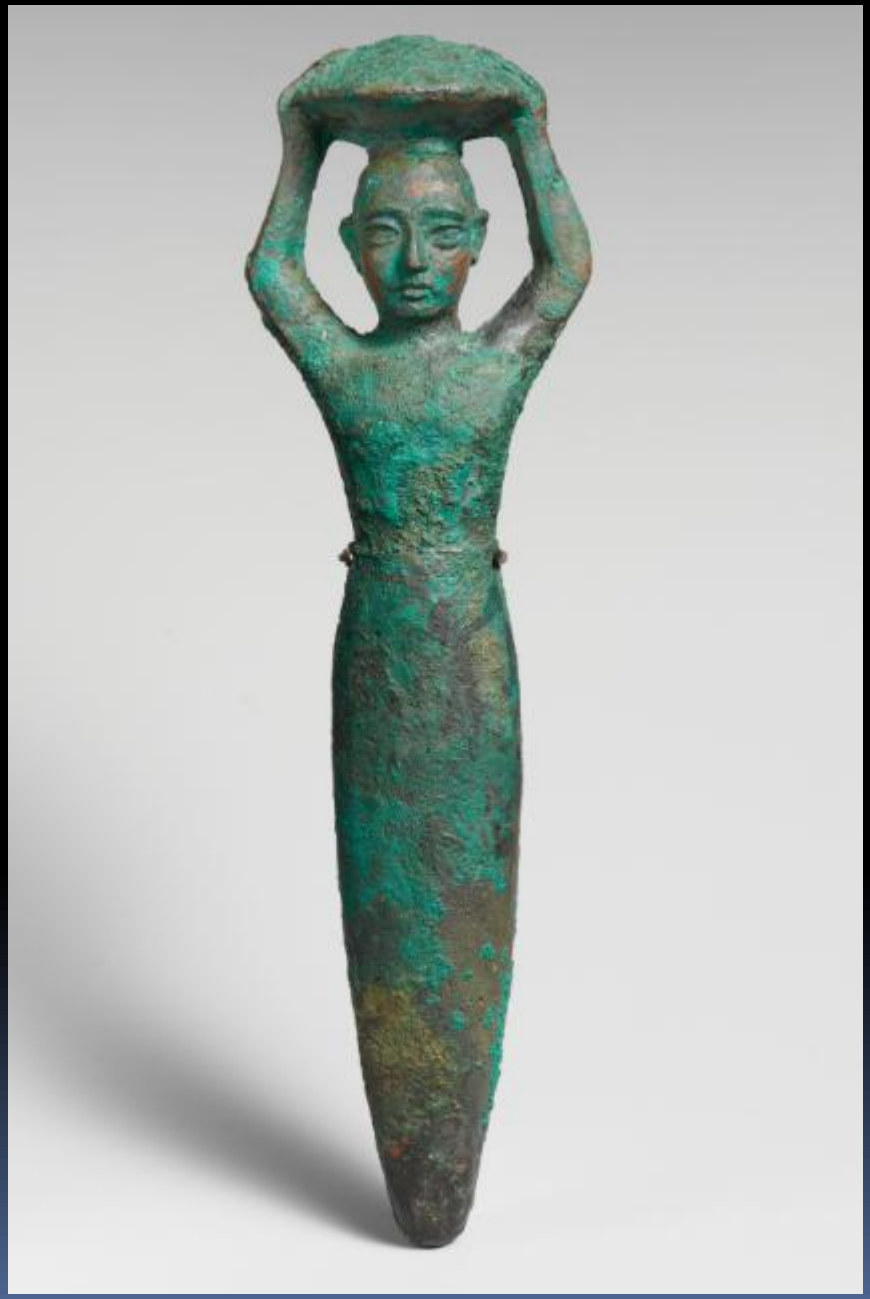
Seal of Ur-Nammu (British Museum)



Ur-Namu Stele (Penn Museum)



Code of Ur-Nammu (British Museum)

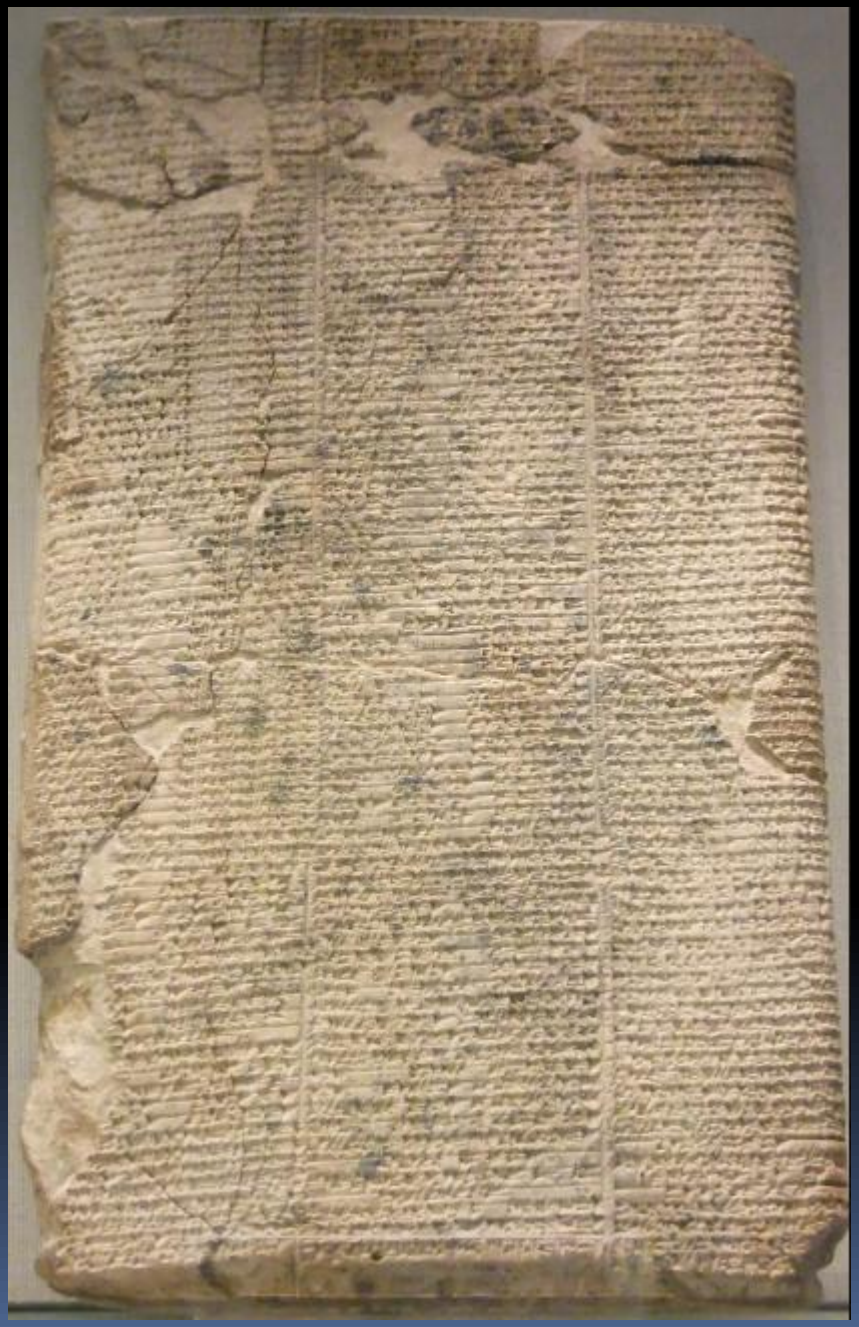


Foundation Stone of King Shulgi

Empire of King Shulgi

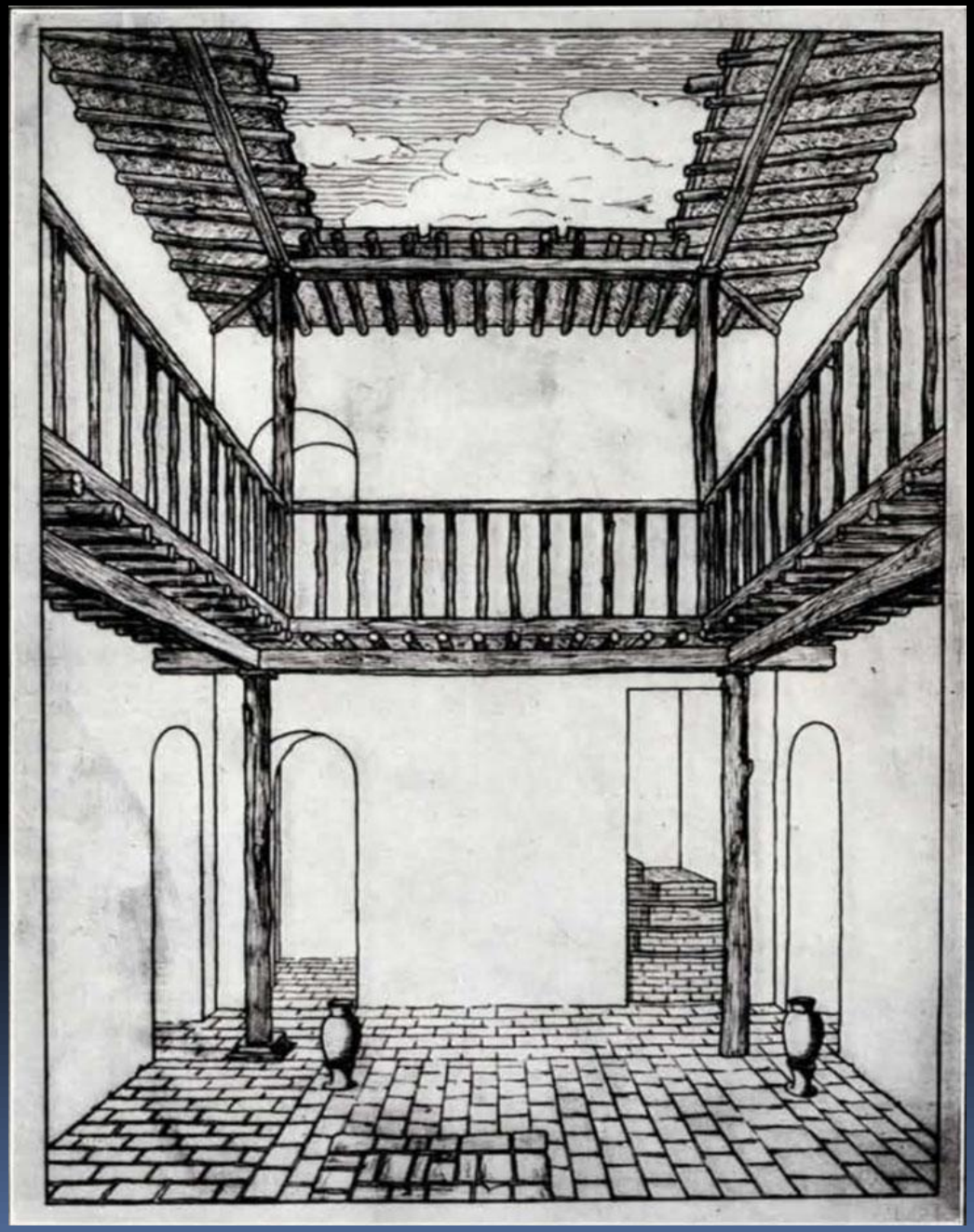
Figure of Amar-Sin and foundation tablet.

Cylinder Seal of Ibbi-Sin



Lament of Ur (c2000BC)

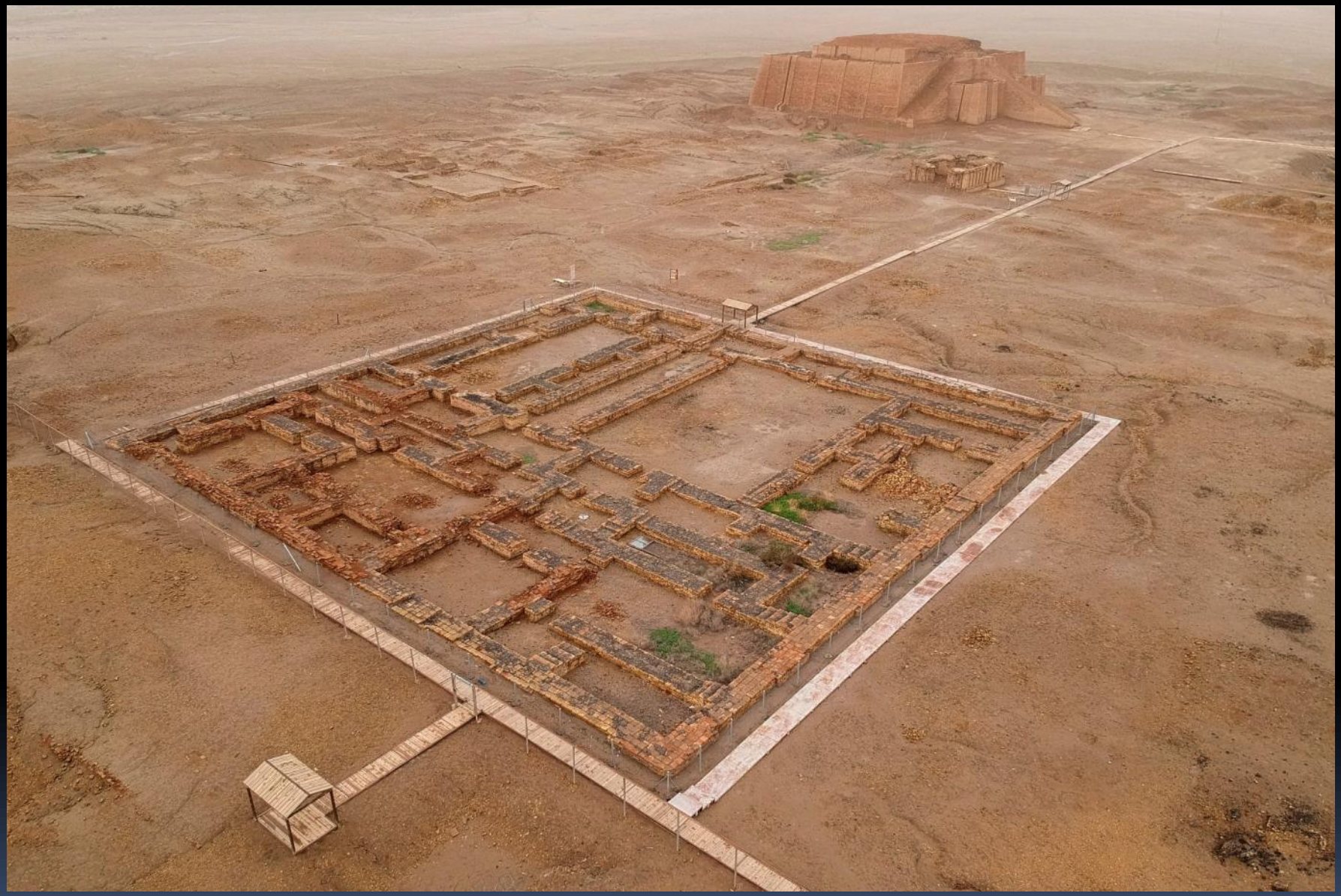
Quiet Street at the time of Abraham c2000BC



Middle Class dwelling (c2000BC)

Middle Class dwelling
(c2000BC)

Ziggurat of Ur restored



City of Ur restored

US soldiers descend Ziggurat steps in 2009

Soldiers on reconstructed houses

Museum Deputy Director Mashin Hasan

Baghdad Museum Order restored