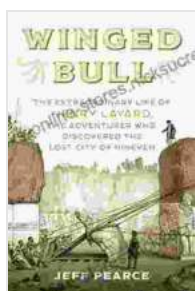


The Extraordinary Life of Henry Layard, the Adventurer Who Discovered the Lost City of Nineveh

Henry Austen Layard (1817-1894) was a British adventurer, archaeologist, diplomat, and politician. He is best known for his groundbreaking excavations of the ancient Assyrian city of Nineveh, one of the most impressive archaeological discoveries of the 19th century. Layard's work revolutionized our understanding of ancient Mesopotamia and made him one of the most famous archaeologists of his time.

Early Life and Travels

Layard was born in Paris, France, on March 5, 1817, to English parents. His father was a wealthy doctor, and his mother was a talented pianist. Layard was educated at Westminster School and Trinity College, Cambridge. After graduating from Cambridge, Layard spent the early part of his life traveling the Mediterranean region, visiting Greece, Turkey, Egypt, and Syria. He also studied Arabic and Persian and developed a passion for ancient history and archaeology.



Winged Bull: The Extraordinary Life of Henry Layard, the Adventurer Who Discovered the Lost City of

Nineveh by Jeff Pearce

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 5006 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
X-Ray : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 250 pages



Discovery of Nineveh

In 1845, Layard traveled to Iraq to explore the ruins of Nineveh. Nineveh was one of the largest and most important cities in the ancient world. It was the capital of the Assyrian Empire, which ruled over much of the Middle East from the 9th to the 7th century BC. The city was destroyed by the Babylonians in 612 BC and had been lost to the sands of time for centuries.

Layard began his excavations at Nineveh in 1845. He worked for several years, uncovering the remains of the city's palaces, temples, and other buildings. Layard's excavations were the first systematic archaeological excavations of an ancient Near Eastern city. He meticulously recorded his findings, including detailed drawings of the ruins and sculptures he discovered.

Layard's work at Nineveh revolutionized our understanding of ancient Mesopotamia. He discovered the remains of the Assyrian Empire, which had been one of the most powerful empires in the ancient world. Layard's excavations also uncovered a wealth of artifacts, including sculptures, jewelry, and cuneiform tablets. These artifacts provided invaluable insights into the history, culture, and religion of the Assyrians.

Later Career

Layard's discoveries at Nineveh made him a world-renowned archaeologist. He returned to England in 1851 and published his findings in

a two-volume book entitled "Nineveh and Its Remains." The book was a bestseller and established Layard as one of the most famous archaeologists of his time.

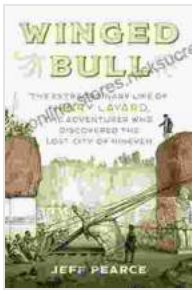
In addition to his work as an archaeologist, Layard also served as a diplomat and politician. He was the British Consul-General to Constantinople from 1852 to 1858 and the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs from 1861 to 1866. Layard was also a member of Parliament from 1852 to 1874.

Layard died in London on July 5, 1894. He is buried in Westminster Abbey, one of the most prestigious burial grounds in England. Layard's legacy as an archaeologist is immense. His excavations at Nineveh transformed our understanding of ancient Mesopotamia, and he is considered one of the most important figures in the history of archaeology.

List of Layard's Major Discoveries at Nineveh

* The remains of the city's palaces, temples, and other buildings * A vast collection of sculptures, jewelry, and cuneiform tablets * The Library of Ashurbanipal, one of the largest and most important libraries in the ancient world * The remains of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World

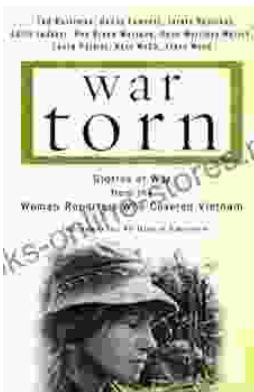
Henry Layard was a remarkable man who made extraordinary contributions to the field of archaeology. His excavations at Nineveh revolutionized our understanding of ancient Mesopotamia and helped to establish archaeology as a scientific discipline. Layard's legacy continues to inspire archaeologists and historians today.



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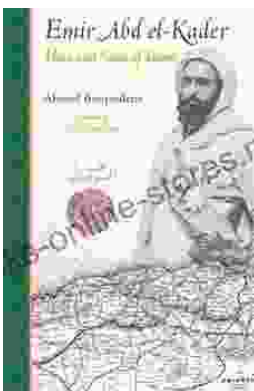
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