

Basic Detail Report



Title

North Palace Relief with War Captives

Date

668-627 BCE

Dimensions

13 3/4 × 19 5/8 × 1 1/8 in. (34.9 × 49.8 × 2.9 cm)

Medium

alabaster, gypsum

Classifications

Sculpture

Credit Line

Museum Purchase

Object number

1921.84

Published References

Toledo Museum of Art Museum News, no. 40, Dec. 1921, p. [484-485], repr. p. [483].

Godwin, Blake-More, "Reliefs from the Palace of Sennacherib," *Art in America*, vol. 10, no. 6, Oct. 1922, p. 282, repr. p. 280.

Collections

Sculpture

Label Text

This fragmentary relief originates from the North Palace of Ashurbanipal in Nineveh (modern Mosul, Iraq). The palace was part of the grand architectural program of Ashurbanipal (reigned 668–627 BCE), the last great king of the Neo-Assyrian Empire, known for expanding the empire and consolidating his influence through extensive military campaigns. The relief fragment depicts a procession of captives and booty, a scene typical of Assyrian palace art, used to glorify military victories. This specific relief, excavated in Court J of the North Palace, features civilian prisoners, likely Babylonians or Chaldeans, identifiable by their distinctive hairstyles and beards. The captives are escorted by Assyrian soldiers in pointed helmets, armed with raised sticks. The two reliefs 1921.83 and 1921.84 were purchased on the London art market in 1921, reportedly from the personal collection of Austen Henry Layard, the archaeologist who led the excavations at Nineveh on behalf of the British Museum in London.

Not On View