





Libation with Musicians

Kalhu (modern Nimrud, Iraq) Northwest Palace, Room B, Slab 19 (bottom)

Assyrian, mid-late 9th century BC

Harvard Museum of the Ancient Near East 1890.7.5

Modern painted resin cast of plaster copy of British Museum, London original 124535

Line Drawings by Catherine S. Alexander

On display at the Harvard Museum of the Ancient Near East

[From Stone to Silicone: Recasting Mesopotamian Monuments](#)

The gallery on the third floor of the Harvard Museum of the Ancient Near East showcases newly fabricated casts from ancient scenes that once adorned Mesopotamian palace walls. Meticulously created by museum curators and Harvard students, these relief sculptures show how the ancient kings commemorated their military triumphs and civic achievements.

This panel shows the particular ritual associated with lion hunts. The king, fanned by an attendant, pours out wine as an offering, or libation, over the body of a dead lion. He holds a bow, possibly the weapon used to slay the animal, while musicians perform at the right.

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