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Prisoners and Booty

Kalhu (modern Nimrud, Iraq) Northwest palace, Room B, Slab 17 (bottom) Assyrian, mid-late 9th century BC Harvard Museum of the Ancient Near East 1902.15.3 Modern painted resin cast of plaster copy of British Museum, London original 124539 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.

In this scene, prisoners are led before the king (not seen in this reproduction). The lead prisoner is tied at the elbows and held by his hair. The men at the left of the scene, leading the procession, are Assyrians of some importance. The items at the top are tribute or booty, including ivory tusks.

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