

Babylonian writings, cuneiform writings, Babylonian language clay tablets, even though found in Egypt and written largely between Egypt and Canaan. Now, the other phase, the history of excavation.

It is rather hard, in a way, to take up one of these first and then the other because the two went on together. Advances were made in the language and this made it possible to understand better what was excavated. Further excavation was done and you could understand better what the language meant and also you would have a new amount of tablets to deal with. To mention all of the places that have been excavated in Mesopotamia would take us a long time; to say anything about them would be a very long study we could give a semester; to give just a very brief, superficial study of the main excavations, and there is no need of that in this particular course, so I just want to give you an idea, a little bit of the main trend of the excavation, with a few of the main places. The first excavations of importance in Mesopotamia took place shortly after 1842, well December 1842 it began, so that it really was in 1843 but began actually in 1842. In 1842 the French government created a vice consulate at                   , a city on the upper Tigris river, and there they appointed                    to the position Paul-Émile Botta, and Botta was given to understand when he was appointed there that he was not sent by the French government only to do commercial work but that part of his work was to begin excavation and learn something about the history of ancient Mesopotamia, and so Botta found that across the Tigris river from                    there was a large number of mounds there in the desert, just great hills covered with sand, nobody living there, and he went over to these hills and began digging into them and he found evidence that people had lived there, but nothing of much importance, so after digging there for awhile he went up to a hill fourteen miles northeast of there. Some of those men had come from the little village                    fourteen miles northeast and found what he was doing and brought/some tablets they had come across up there and they said, "Come up to our place and you will find something worth digging for. You are not finding anything here." Evidently