

The Tower of Babel before archaeology. The Ziggurat of Babylon according to European travellers (XII-XVII centuries)

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Abstract

Until the excavation of the ziggurat of Babylon, universally known as the “Tower of Babel”, by German archaeologists in 1913, many were the European travelers, between the 12th and the 17th centuries, that thought they have found the famous biblical monument. In this article are collected the reports of some of these travelers, who had mistaken the Tower of Babel with other Mesopotamian buildings.

Keywords: Babylonia; Tower of Babel; Birs Nimrud; Aqar Quf; Tell Babil; European travellers.

Resumo

Até 1913, ano em que a arqueologia alemã levou a cabo a escavação da zigurate da Babilónia, universalmente conhecida como “Torre de Babel”, muitos foram os viajantes europeus, entre os séculos XII e XVII, que acreditaram ter encontrado o famoso monumento bíblico. Neste artigo recolhem-se os relatos de alguns destes viajantes, que confundiram a Torre de Babel com outros edifícios da Mesopotâmia.

Palavras-chave: Babilónia; Torre de Babel; Birs Nimrud; Aqar Quf; Tell Babil; viajantes europeus.