



EMORY

MICHAEL C.
CARLOS
MUSEUM

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THE CARLOS MUSEUM DETAILS THE CATASTROPHIC FLOOD STORY AS DEPICTED IN AN ANCIENT CLAY TABLET FROM NIPPUR, IRAQ

ATLANTA, GA (July 31, 2014)— *Two of Each: The Nippur Deluge Tablet and Noah's Flood* (August 30 – July 26, 2014) at the Carlos Museum will feature a tablet discovered in the ruins of the ancient Babylonian city of Nippur in the nineteenth century by a team from the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology (Penn Museum). The Nippur tablet is on loan to the Carlos Museum from the Penn Museum to highlight programming and research focused on creation stories. One of the most exciting events in Near Eastern Archaeology was the discovery of a cuneiform tablet from Nineveh that recounted the ancient story of the hero, Gilgamesh. The tale is remarkable not only for being mankind's oldest epic, but also because it tells the story of a catastrophic flood that parallels the biblical story of Noah. The translation of the tablet caused a sensation when it was first announced in 1872. Other tablets with versions of the flood story were later discovered at a number of ancient Near Eastern sites, including Nippur.

The Nippur Tablet tells the story of a plan by the gods to destroy the world by means of a great flood and recounts the tale of an immortal man named Utnapishti, who builds a boat to rescue his family and every type of animal. Dating from the seventeenth century BC, the tablet contains six columns of text, three per side, with ten to fifteen lines in each column. Written in Sumerian, it not only tells the story of the deluge, but also describes the creation of humans and animals, and records the names of the first cities and their rulers.

For press images: <http://bit.ly/nippurtablet>
Website: carlos.emory.edu/two-of-each

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About the Michael C. Carlos Museum

The Michael C. Carlos Museum of Emory University collects, preserves, exhibits, and interprets art and artifacts from antiquity to the present in order to provide unique opportunities for education and enrichment in the community, and to promote interdisciplinary teaching and research at Emory University. The Carlos Museum is one of the Southeast's premier museums with collections of art from Greece, Rome, Egypt, Near East, Nubia, the Americas, Africa, and Asia, as well as a collection of works on paper from the Renaissance to the present. For location and admission information, visit carlos.emory.edu/visit/hours-admission.

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