**Working Plan:Photogrammetric documentation and 3D imaging of the ‘Ashurbanipal’ Stela from Nineveh**

In the first year of the project (2025–2026), efforts will focus on the high-resolution photogrammetric documentation and 3D imaging of the epigraphic material uncovered in the Shamash Gate of Nineveh (Area L), with particular emphasis on the ‘Ashurbanipal’ Stela. This key phase aims to digitally preserve and record these significant Neo-Assyrian inscriptions in exceptional detail, while also developing an accessible web-based platform to support research, conservation, and public engagement.

The documentation process will involve capturing extensive image datasets of the stela using high-resolution photogrammetry. A carefully structured imaging workflow will be applied, utilizing DSLR cameras, calibrated lighting setups, and reference scales to ensure the highest accuracy. Attention will be paid to environmental conditions, such as ambient lighting and the physical stability of the stela, to optimize surface visibility and enhance the legibility of the inscriptions. The result will be a comprehensive image archive suitable for generating metrically accurate and visually detailed 3D reconstructions.

The photogrammetric data will be processed using Agisoft Metashape, enabling the production of dense point clouds, textured 3D mesh models, and orthophotographic views of the inscription. These outputs will undergo quality control to confirm their suitability for both detailed epigraphic study and online dissemination. In collaboration with epigraphers and specialists in Assyrian material culture, preliminary annotations of the digital model will be undertaken, highlighting specific textual, iconographic, and surface features.

The resulting models will then be displayed inside a dedicated web infrastructure to host and visualize the 3D documentation. This platform will rely on open-source frameworks such as Omeka S and 3DHOP, offering an interactive and scalable environment for exploring the models. Users will be able to engage directly with the 3D reconstructions of the stela, navigate the inscriptions from multiple perspectives, and access layered metadata and interpretive commentary. The infrastructure will be built to accommodate future content expansion, ensuring its long-term relevance and utility for both scholars and the wider public.

Following the integration of the 3D models into the platform, a testing phase will be carried out to collect feedback from researchers, students, and cultural heritage professionals. This feedback will inform refinements to the interface and presentation of content, ensuring that the system meets the needs of diverse user groups.

By the end of the first project year, the team expects to have completed the full 3D documentation of the ‘Ashurbanipal’ Stela, produced detailed annotated models, and launched an operational online platform through which the results can be accessed and explored. This initiative represents a significant contribution to the digital documentation of Nineveh’s monumental epigraphy and establishes a foundation for the broader application of 3D technologies in the study and preservation of the Neo-Assyrian heritage.