



# THE BÖHL COLLECTION

NINO is the owner of the Böhl Collection, which holds the largest collection of ancient cuneiform inscriptions, on tablets, bricks, and other media, in the Netherlands. Additionally the collection includes a large number of cylinder seals, a variety of other Ancient Near Eastern objects, and a group of Ancient Egyptian objects. The collection was created by the late Prof. F.M.Th. de Liagre Böhl in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and later acquired by NINO. It is kept in a special reinforced room ('vault') in the NINO library, and is maintained in cooperation between NINO and the Assyriological section of SMES (LIAS, Leiden University). A selection of highlights from the collection are on display in the National Museum of Antiquities in Leiden.

## Access to the Collection

There are two protocols for access:

**1. NINO and SMES scholars** who wish to study items must make an appointment with the daily NINO curator, R. de Boer, or the NINO director, C. Waerzeggers, for initial selection of the item(s) for study. The item(s) chosen is(/are) placed in a separate box and a list made. The item(s) may be kept apart in the vault for a period of continued study as agreed on individual basis.

Please note that requests should be received (ultimately) on the Thursday before the planned visit; boxes are prepared once a week on Fridays.

Subsequently scholars can – on a daily basis – ask the staff at the NINO library to retrieve the relevant box from the vault.

This is possible Monday through Thursday:

- request for box can be made 9.30-10.00 and/ or 13.30-14.00 hrs;
- since objects outside the vault are *the personal responsibility of the relevant scholar*, and must be under observation at all times, the box may be returned to the library desk for lunch break (optional) before 12.00 hrs;
- the box must in any case be returned to the library desk before 16.30 hrs.

**2. Other Dutch or international scholars** may study objects in the collection in agreement with the director of NINO. Requests must be submitted well in advance to J. Eidem, preferably with collection numbers listed.

If the request is granted, an appointment for access will be arranged in accordance with the procedures under 1.

## Publication rights

Selections of tablets and other objects in the Collection have already been published. Other selections are subject to current agreements or plans for publication. Scholars seeking publication rights are therefore advised to consult the Collection curators (cf. above) for information.

## Handling of objects in the Collection

Professional conservation gloves issued by NINO must be worn when handling any object in the collection. The NINO library desk offers these gloves in three sizes at € 2,- a pair. No other gloves may be used.

Objects should be kept at safe distance from all liquids, food etc.

When not held for inspection objects should rest always on the acid-free foam pad provided with the box of the objects.

Objects may be inspected, but not otherwise manipulated (brushed, cleaned, sampled etc.) without specific permission of the NINO curators.

Photography and digital recording of objects is not permitted without specific permission of the NINO curators.

A number of tablets and other objects in the Collection are fragile and need conservation (/stabilisation). For the time being access to these objects is restricted.

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## Contact

*First-time requests:*

NINO Director, Prof. Dr C. Waerzeggers  
[c.waerzeggers@hum.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:c.waerzeggers@hum.leidenuniv.nl)

*Subsequent requests:*

NINO Collections curator: Dr R. de Boer  
[rientsdeboer1981@gmail.com](mailto:rientsdeboer1981@gmail.com)

Please submit requests well in advance.