

Reallexikon der Assyriologie und Vorderasiatischen Archäologie

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Nies, James Buchanan, Protestant Episcopal clergyman, archaeologist, and Assyriologist, born Newark, N.J., U.S.A., 22. XI. 1856, † Jerusalem, Palestine, 18. VI. 1922. B.A. Columbia College (later University), 1882; B. D. General Theological Seminary, 1885; ordained 1886; M.A., Ph.D. Columbia, 1887, 1888. Served in various pastorates until 1898, later engaged in independent archaeological travel and research in Europe and the Near East. Served as field director for the American School for Oriental Study and Research (later ASOR) in Jerusalem, 1901, subsequently endowing its exploration program and the construction costs of its permanent headquarters there. Studied Sumerian with A. T. Clay and purchased numerous cuneiform tablets later housed in the Yale Babylonian Collection as the Nies Babylon Collection (NBC). Published *Ur Dynasty Tablets* (1916), collaborated *BIN 2* (1920), and several articles. Left important bequests to ASOR and the Yale Babylonian Collection.

Appreciation by A. T. Clay, *BASOR*, Oct. 1922, 11f. See the *National Cyclopaedia of American Biography* 20 (1929) 256 f.; *Dictionary of National Biography* 13 (1934) 519.

B. R. Foster