

## THE ANNALS OF SARGON.

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TRANSLATED BYDR. JULIUS OPPERT.

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THE annals of Sargon are the largest of all Assyrian texts. They have been engraved in the two halls of Khorsabad, which are noted in the plan of Botta as Nos. II. and V. The annals formed an immense ribbon of inscriptions, disposed in columns like the papyrus rolls. Evidently the manner of the writing of this great text is an imitation of the usual style of papyrus rolls. In entering the hall, the reader commenced at his left hand, and followed all the sides and angles of the room, until he returned to the entrance door, where the last lines of the inscription were opposite to its beginning.

I have restored the texts by the four copies of Hall II., V., XIII., and XIV. The Roman cyphers at

the margin designate the rooms, and the Arabic number indicates the tablet in the Botta collection.

My translation of this important text appeared first in the work entitled *Dour-Sarkayan*, Paris, 1870, and has been re-edited by M. Menant in his *Annales des Rois d'Assyrie*, with some alterations. I have corrected in this English edition a great many of the errors which existed in my former version.

The Annals are arranged in a chronological order by the years of Sargon, commencing with the civil year (*palu*), and distinct from the computation after the real accession (from one date of the accession to another, *sanat*). Every year commences therefore about March or April.

The text contains, moreover, one of the most important documents concerning chronology. In this inscription, as in the great inscription of the Hall, there is the mention of a period of Sin, or lunar period, which ended in B.C. 712. I have proved that this period was an eclipse epoch, and contained 22,325 synodical months, or 1805 years. By the aid of this text we can with a mathematical certainty fix the

Median Dynasty in Babylon at B.C. 2517 (712+1805). Indeed, 234 after this event, took place the Elamite invasion, 2283; and we equally obtain this date from the Assurbanipal texts, which put the capture of Babylon by the Elamites 1635 years before 648, that is, B.C. 2283.

In the Larnaca text of Sargon, now at Berlin, the parallel confirming passage is as following:—

*(ultu yu)me rukuti sibit Assur  
(adi muan)na.*

“From the most remote days, the constitution of Assyria, until now.”

Here follows the true chronology of Babylon, after Berossus:—

10 antediluvian kings . . . . .	432,000 years.
Deluge according to the Babylonians . . . . .	B.C. 41,697
86 Chaldean kings, 39,180 years, cyclical time of 12 periods of 1805, and	
12 sothiac periods of 1460 years . . . . .	41,697-2517
8 Median kings (Aryan) 234 years . . . . .	2517-2283
11 Median kings (Elamite) 224 years . . . . .	2283-2059
49 Chaldean kings 458 years . . . . .	2059-1601
9 Arabian kings 245 years . . . . .	1601-1356

Semiramis 42 years . . . . .	1356-1314
45 Assyrian kings 526 years . . . . .	1314-788

(Until the Babylonian and Median revolt.)

Downfall of Nineveh, B.C. 606.

Median empire, 228 years . . . . .	788-560
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Sargon states that from the ancient times until his reign three hundred and fifty kings had ruled over Mesopotamia, but this Berosian canon, restored by aid of the inscriptions, contains only the names of the Babylonian monarchs.



INSCRIPTION OF THE ANNALS OF SARGON.

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XIV.-3.—PALACE of SARGON, the great King, the mighty King, King of the legions, King of Assyria, Vicar of the gods in Babylon, King of the Sumers and the Accads, King of the four regions, Favourite of the great gods.

The gods ASSUR, NEBO and MERODACH, the gods of my worship have entrusted me with the royalty without equal, and have propagated the glory of my name until the end of the world. I caused the contentment of Sippara, Nipur, Babylon and Borsippa, I have made men respect the laws and I have punished the transgression. I have restored to the towns of Kalu, Ur, Orchoé, Rata, Kullab, Kisik, the dwelling of the god LAGUDA, the gods who are living there, I have dispersed their inhabitants. The laws of the "old empire"<sup>1</sup> and of the town of Harran had fallen into oblivion since many years, I have re-established their altered dispositions.

I walked in the obedience of the great gods; I forced under my dominion the lands, which would not bow to me, I opened forests which have never been crossed, I explored their retreats.

I broke the pride of HUMBANIGAS, King of Elam, I subdued the lands of Karalla, of Surda, the towns of Kisasi, of Kharkhar, of Media, until the ends of Bikni. I put under the domination of Assyria the land of Ellip; I brought war into Armenia, I destroyed MUSASIR, I subdued the land of Andia, I transported the populations to the land of Van, I placed them into a delicious spot in

<sup>1</sup> This term is explained by *Assur*, but it means Sumir.

transporting them to the dwellings of Syria, of Carcamis, and of Commagene. I took away GUNZINAN of Khammanua of the town of Miliddie,<sup>1</sup> the town of his royalty; I instituted my Governors as Lieutenants. I changed the royalty of TARKHULAR in the town of Markas. I carried into Assyria the whole of the tribes of GAMGUM the Great . . . .<sup>2</sup> YAMAN of Asdod despised my power, he left his wife, his sons, his daughters, and fled through the lands of the midday sun to the limits of Libya.<sup>3</sup> I established him on the throne powerfully; I put over the whole of his extent country and on the men *uhati*, the Satraps my Lieutenants for governing them; I extended the limits of Assyria.

XIV.—2.—Then the King of Libya was overwhelmed by the immense fear of ASSUR, my Lord, he bound his (Yaman's) hands and feet with iron chains, he sent his envoys in my presence to Assyria. I plundered the district of Samaria and the entire house of OMRI, I entered to Tamna, which is situated in the middle of the Western sea, swimming like a fish. I took away the treasure of the lands of Kaska,<sup>4</sup> Tabal, Hilakhu.<sup>5</sup> I expelled MITATTI, King of the Moschians. I overpowered Egypt at Raphia; I treated like a slave HANON, King of Gaza. I made tributary seven Kings of the land of Yahnagi, the land of Yatnan,<sup>6</sup> who have established their dwellings in the midst of the sea of the setting sun, within seven days of navigation.

MERODACHBALADAN, King of the Chaldeans, who inhabited the shores of the sea had exercised the supreme power against the will of the gods of Babylon; my hands reached him. I took for hostage his entire country, and I entrusted it to the hands of my Lieutenant of Babylon,

<sup>1</sup> The Melitene.

<sup>2</sup> Lacuna.

<sup>3</sup> Meluhhi.

<sup>4</sup> Colchis.

<sup>5</sup> Cilicia.

<sup>6</sup> The island of Cyprus.

and of my Lieutenant of Gambul. I subdued to ASSUR UPER, King of Dilmun, who has established his hidden dwellings in the middle of the sea like the fishes; he sent presents to me to submit himself under my royalty.

By the assistance of the great gods ASSUR, NEBO and MERO-DACH, I became victor by my arms, and obtained the destruction of my enemies. I reigned from Yatnan, which is in the midst of the sea of the setting sun, until the limits of Egypt and of the land of the Moschiens, from the great Phœnicia, Syria in its totality, to all the cities of remote Media, near the country of Bikni from Ellip, Ras,<sup>1</sup> which is neighbour to Elam on the border of the Tigris until the tribes of Ituh, Rubu, Haril, Labdud, Hauran, Ubul, Ruhua, Litai, who live on the rivers of Surappi and Ukné, the *suti* of the desert which are in the land of Iatbur, the . . . .<sup>2</sup> until the towns of Samhun, Babdur, Dur-Telit, Bilat, Dumni-Samas, Bubi, Tell-Khumba, which belong to Elam; and Kar-Duniyas, the Higher and the Lower, from the lands of Bet-Amukkan, Bet-Dakkur, Bet-Silan, Bet-Pahalla, which form Chaldea in its totality, the land of Bet-Iakin, which is on the sea shore until the prescinity of Dilmun.<sup>3</sup> I took their tributes, I put over them my Lieutenants as Governors and I forced them under my sovereignty.

II.-2.—That is what I did until the fifteenth year of my government . . . .<sup>2</sup>

Selected by the Kings who to my favour explained the eclipse<sup>4</sup> visible over Haran and signed their pacts according to the will of OANNES and of DAGON. Long and

<sup>1</sup> The Ros of the Bible; some scholars believed them to be the Russians; Ras, Mesek Tubal were explained by Russia, Moscaÿ Tobolok.

<sup>2</sup> Lacunæ.

<sup>3</sup> The modern Daylem, near Bunder-Bushir.

<sup>4</sup> This is the lunar eclipse of 721 (9, 280), March 19, mentioned in the *Almagest*.

# END OF SAMPLE TEXT



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