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**SAA 5, 55, AND SAA 5, 61, REJOINED**

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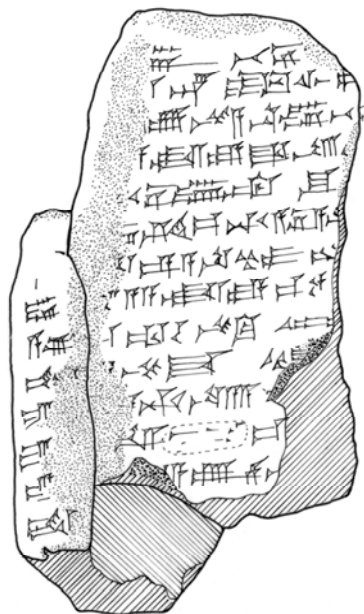
The letter fragments Sm 807 (ABL 741) and K 5609 (CT 53, 296) were published by G.B. Lanfranchi and S. Parpola in SAA 5 (respectively nos. 55 and 61). The first fragment contains part of the obverse of a letter, including the sender's name Aššur-dur-paniya; the reverse is said to be "destroyed". The second fragment, which was attributed to Aššur-dur-paniya on the basis of the scribal hand, contains the first one or two signs of eight lines on the obverse and the beginning of twelve lines on the reverse. While studying this individual's correspondence in the British Museum, I physically joined K 5609 and Sm 807 (15 November, 2007). The new join confirms Parpola's attribution of SAA 5, 61, to Aššur-dur-paniya, and may slightly improve our understanding of the text, although both fragments are badly damaged. Sm 807 (SAA 5, 55) contains part of lines 1-13 and K 5609 (SAA 5, 61) preserves parts of lines 7-14 and twelve lines on the reverse.

The letter now reads as follows:

Obverse

1. [a-na LUG]AL be-lí-[ia]
2. [ARAD-ka] <sup>1</sup>aš-šur-BÀD-IGI-i[a]
3. [lu-u š]ul-mu a-na LUGAL be-<sup>r</sup>lī-[ia]
4. [LÚ.da-a]-a-li-ia ša ina ŠÀ K[UR-i]
5. [šú-n]u-u-ni LÚ.EME šu-ú ša
6. [TA\* URU.i]r<sup>1</sup>-gi-is-ti-a-ni a-n[a 0?]
7. <sup>r</sup>1[a-r]i-e a-na KUR-i i[l-lik-u-ni]
8. LÚ.[d]a-a-a-li-ia iṣ-šab-[tu-ni-šú]
9. a-sa-[<sup>p</sup>]a-al-šú mu-ku mi-<sup>r</sup>i'-[nu]
10. ṫ[è]-<sup>r</sup>e'-mu ša KUR.U[Ri<sup>1</sup>-a-a]
11. ma-<sup>r</sup>a' [KUR].e<sup>2</sup>-ti-na-a-a x[x x x]
12. ma-<sup>r</sup>a' [x i]l [[x]] GIŠ<sup>1</sup> [x x x]
13. ma-<sup>r</sup>a' [x l]a-a ú-ša x[x x x]
14. it-[x x x x x x x x]

rest broken away



Reverse

beginning broken away

- 1'. [x x x] <sup>r</sup>x' [x x x x x]
- 2'. <sup>r</sup>x x' šá [x x x x x]
- 3'. mi-mi-n[i x x x x x]
- 4'. <sup>r</sup>it'-x[x x x x x x x]
- 5'. í[D x x p]a-an [x x x x]
- 6'. <sup>r</sup>x'-[x x x] ri <sup>r</sup>e<sup>2</sup>' [x x x x]
- 7'. i-da-at am-m[u<sup>2</sup>-ti x x x x]
- 8'. <sup>r</sup>x x' ul <sup>r</sup>la' a x[x x x x]
- 9'. <sup>r</sup>x x x x x' [x x x x x]
- 10'. [giš<sup>2</sup>-r]i<sup>2</sup> <sup>r</sup>ih<sup>2</sup>'-[x x x x x x x]
- 11'. <sup>r</sup>it'-ta-lak [x x x x x x]
- 12'. [x]x ik x[x x x x x x x]

rest broken away



Translation (as in SAA 5, except for line 11):

[To the ki]ng, [my] lord, [your servant] Aššur-dur-paniy[a. Good h]ealth to the king, [my] lord! (4) My [s]couts in the m[ountain] have captu[red] an informer [who] was g[oin]g from the city A[rgistiani] t[o Ar]rije, over the mountain. (9) I asked him about the news of the Ur[arṭian], and he told me: “The E]tinean(s) [...] ..... (13) [has n]ot [yet] come out [...]

The reverse remains too broken for translation.

#### Notes

6: The Urarṭian city Argis/štiani is attested two other times in published Neo-Assyrian sources: in Sargon *Annals*, 145,<sup>1</sup> and in TCL 3, 287.<sup>2</sup> Sargon claims to have conquered and burnt this Urarṭian stronghold along with many other cities during his eighth campaign.

11: I would not exclude the reading [KUR].<sup>†</sup>*e<sup>1</sup>-ti-na-a-a*, which was considered by Lanfranchi and Parpola, but rejected in the SAA 5 edition<sup>3</sup>. The traces of the first sign preserved in Sm 807, 11, may be a single vertical wedge or two vertical wedges, one on top of the other. Therefore, the restoration *Etināja* is plausible. The association between (Mount) Etini and Urarṭu is confirmed by ND 2453 (NL 48)<sup>4</sup>. In this letter, the sender, probably [Aššur-le’i], informs the king of “the news of Urarṭu”. He reports that the ruler of Etini has already attacked, defeated and plundered Urarṭu twice. His third raid, however, provoked the Urarṭian king Ursâ to leave his capital Ṭurušpâ and march against the ruler of Etini. The Assyrians took advantage of the situation by attacking cities on the other side of the Zab river. Ursâ’s reaction, unfortunately, is broken off. SAA 5, 55+ may refer to the same episode. Thus, it is possible that both ND 2453 and SAA 5, 55+ give us significant information about some of the events surrounding Sargon’s famous eighth campaign.

Rev. 6’: Possibly another reference to Arije.

10’, 12’: The verbs *ḫalāqu*, “to run away, escape”, or *ḫapû*, “to destroy”, may be reconstructed at the end of r.10’ and 12’: “he es[caped over]/de[stroyed] the bridge and went to ...”

1. Fuchs 1993, pp. 113, 321.

2. Mayer 1983, pp. 96-97.

3. See Lanfranchi – Parpola 1990, p. 49, note to text 55, line 11.

4. For the location of Mount Etini at the border between Tammu and Zamua, see Liverani 1992, pp. 19, 53, fig. 1.

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- Mayer W. 1983, “Sargons Feldzug gegen Urartu – 714 v. Chr. Text und Übersetzung,” MDOG 115, pp. 65-132.
- SAA 5 = Lanfranchi – Parpola 1990.
- TCL 3 = F. Thureau-Dangin, *Une relation de la huitième campagne de Sargon (Textes cunéiformes du Louvre, 3)*, Paris 1912.