



STATE ARCHIVES OF ASSYRIA STUDIES

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THE EPONYMS OF THE ASSYRIAN EMPIRE
910-612 BC

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Double Datings

Scribes sometimes referred to the reigning king in dating documents. In a few cases they gave the dates by eponyms and by the regnal years of the kings. In the case of Sargon only, they also bear his regnal years as king of Babylon. The eponymates concerned and the regnal years are listed here, details may be found in the Catalogue of Eponym Dates. (Incomplete date-lines which add nothing are not included below.)

Eponym	Date	King	Year
Ṭab-šil-Ešarra	29:iii	Sargon	6
Ištar-dūri	22:x	Sargon	9
Aššur-bāni	5:iii	Sargon	9
Šarru-ēmuranni	12:[]	[Sargon]	[10]
Ninurta-ālik-pāni	25:vi	Sargon	11
Mannu-kī-Aššur-lē'i	[]	Sargon	12/13, Babylon 1
"	13:viii	Sargon	12
Šamaš-upaḥḥir	24:i	Sargon	14, Babylon 2
Ša-Aššur-dubbu	10:iii	Sargon	15, Babylon 3
Ša-Aššur-dubbu	13:viii	Sargon	(1)5

Mutakkil-Aššur	24:xi	Sargon	16, Babylon 4
Nasḥur-bēl	2:i	Sar[gon]	17, Babylon [5]
Nabû-dēnī-ēpuš	22:xii	Sennacherib	[1]
Metūnu	11:[]	Sennacherib	6
Šulmu-šarri	[]:ix	Sennacherib	7
Ilu-issiya	23:xii	Sennacherib	11
Nabû-kēnu-ušur	25:viii	Sennacherib	14
Aššur-daʿinanni	20:xii	Sennacherib	21
Manzernê	8:ii	Sennacherib	22
"	30:x	Sennacherib	22
Mannu kī Adad	1:ii	Sennacherib	23
Banbâ	25:i	Esarhaddon	5

Scrutiny of the lists reveals that these double dates are frequently appended to copies of literary texts, but they occur as well in the date-lines of ordinary deeds. It is impossible to explain their sporadic use. The numbers for some of the years of Sennacherib (6, 21, 22, 23) show that his first year could be counted as 705 BC, the year of his father's death and his own accession, as the rulings in some of the Eponym Lists imply (see above, pp. 13-14). The other years were reckoned from 704 BC as his first year, as Sargon's were reckoned from 721 and Esarhaddon's from 680.¹⁰

¹⁰ The attribution of Nabû-kēnu-ušur to Sennacherib's fourteenth year, reckoning from 703 as his first year either harks back to the system of the royal eponymate in the second year of reign and counts from that, or, hard though it may be to accept, is an error. There appear to be no other grounds for accepting 703 as the first year, for all the other arguments advanced by J. Lewy, *Analectia Orientalia* 12 (1935) 225-31 can be answered; see L. D. Levine, *JCS* 34 (1982) 29-40.