



Rilievo che segue l'andamento discendente del corridoio e raffigura l'avviarsi alla battuta di caccia



corridoio R: attendenti che tornano dalla caccia



GUARDS AND ATTENDANTS RETURNING FROM THE CHASE

corridoio R: attendenti che tornano dalla caccia



ATTENDANTS CARRYING HOME DEAD LIONS



stanza S



BM 114871



Sala C , dettaglio





A TRIPLI-WALLER CITY ANOSC GALDENI, PERDATS NERVER OF ARELS.

ULAMITES HASTENING TO THE BATTLE



ROOM G

sala G: contro gli Elamiti





FRAGMENT OF SLAR 6(2)

ISTANBUL 29



SLAB 3 (Lost: see drawing above)



ROOMT

AN ASSYRBAN EXECUTING AN ELAMITE OFFICER, ITANI, ON THE BATTLEFIELD



1 SLAB 7



Co. Do. VIII D

PART OF SLAS 4



LOUVRE AO 19911

LOUVRE AO 19910

VATICAN 7 (14981)

CHALDAEAN PRISONERS LED AWAY





ENTRANCE (a) SLADS 1-3







ROOM L



area della sala del trono





BM 124925-6

ASSYRIAN CAVALRY, INFANTRY AND CHARIOTS ATTACKING ARABS





Due particolari della battaglia contro gli Arabi con due arcieri beduini montati su dromedano inseguiti da fanti dell'esercito assiro e con la caduta del dromedano dei beduini inseguito dalla cavalieria assira, alabastro, atazza generale della lastra. 1,32 m, da Quyunja, Palazzo nord, sala L. meta del VII secolo a.C. Londra, British Museum (WA 124926).

Particolare della battaglia sul fume Ulai con i cavalieri assiri che travolgono i fanti elamiti nel fiame, alabastro, da Quyunja, Palazzo sud-oversi, sala XXXIII, prima metà del VII secolo a.C. Londra, Britsh Museum (WA 124901). Sale M, N













## Stanza F – campagne elamite





BN 124918

THE SACK OF AN EGYPTIAN CITY



Sala M – saccheggio città egiziana







FIG. 9.1 Different types of recess





ASEUREANDAL JANQUITING WITH HIS QUIEN (ENLARGED VIEW OF SLABS B-C, Phie LXII)









Fig. 24-c. Façade of the throne room suite, view towards the south-west corner of the Great Northern Courtyard. (Image copyright 2007 and reprinted courtesy of Learning Sites, Inc.)



http://www.learningsites.com/NWP\_ThRm\_renders.html mentre per modello Onyx2


Fig. 24-f. Barrel arch reconstructions by Richard Sobolewski.



Fig. 24-d. Section drawing through the throne room façade, from the Great Northern Courtyard into the throne room. (Image copyright 2002 and reprinted courtesy of Learning Sites, Inc.)



Fig. 24-k. View from the throne room into Room C vestibule. (Image copyright 2002 and reprinted courtesy of Learning Sites, Inc.)



Fig. 24-1. Throne room, showing the king mounting his throne. (Image copyright 2002 and reprinted courtesy of Learning Sites, Inc.)



Fig. 24-m. View towards B-13. (Image copyright 2002 and reprinted courtesy of Learning Sites, Inc.)



Fig. 24-n. View through centre doorway of the throne room façade. (Image copyright 2002 and reprinted courtesy of Learning Sites, Inc.)



Fig. 24-o. Room F, partially painted. (Image copyright 2000 and reprinted courtesy of Learning Sites, Inc.) Combining the available sources, it appears that after the death of Assurbanipal in Assyria (presumably 631/630 BC) and that of Kandalanu in Babylonia, which occurred before the 8th month of 627 BC, various protagonists took the stage:

Aššur-etel-ilani: 630/31-627/26?

Sin-šumu-lišir: 630/31-626/25? (as tutor of Aššur-etel-ilani and then king) Sin-šarru-iškun: 628/627-620? recognized as king of Babylonia; 628?-612 king of Assyria Nabopolassar: 626-605 king of Babylonia.

The identity of Kandalanu has not been established and he has been considered either an Assyrian puppet king or even Assurbanipal himself, with a Babylonian name. The possibility should be considered that he was linked to the Assyrian dynasty by parentage and not simply by dependence ties.

In this dramatic phase, dates are crucial in order to reconstruct the development of the events and the question of legitimacy. Especially crucial are the years 628 and 627 BC, defined as kingless in the Babylonian Chronicle. From the Uruk king list and the legal documents it can be argued that both Sin-šumu-lišir and Sin-šarru-iškun were in control of some Babylonian cities although there was no king of Babylon de iure. The eunuch Sin-šumu-lišir is mentioned as king in the date formulas of some documents from Babylon, Nippur and Ru'a (in the territory of Nippur), and seemingly Sippar, dated up to the 6th month of his accession year. The lack of clear-cut documents and sound chronology has led to different reconstructions that, for the sake of brevity, can be summarized as follows: according to one interpretation, Sin-šarru-iškun claimed the Babylonian throne at the death of Assurbanipal and also claimed the throne of Assyria when Aššur-etel-ilani ascended it; according to a second interpretation, Sin-šarru-iškun ascended the throne of Assyria with minor turmoils at the death of his brother, but a rebellion arose against his rule in the years badly documented by the Chronicles (from 623 BC). In either case, the Assyrian internal struggle for the throne chronologically overlapped and interconnected with the mounting Babylonian rebellion, giving fuel to the anti-Assyrian party in Babylonian cities.

Nabopolassar (Nabû-aplu-uṣur) was seemingly a member of Uruk's aristocracy. It has been hypothesized that he was actually a son of the Kudurru who had served as governor (*šakin ṭēmi*) of Uruk under Assurbanipal.

It has been deduced that the town was in Nabopolassar's hands when he took the throne of Babylonia in 626 BC and until his 3rd year of reign, when the town was besieged by the Assyrians. Some letters from Nineveh possibly date from this period and corroborate the hypothesis that the pro-Assyrian party had at a certain point opposed Nabopolassar, re-taken control of the town and therefore caused his reaction and and the siege.

The case of Uruk, but also those of other towns, reveals how in the ever-fragmented situation of Babylonia, Assyrian control was based on the capacity to maintain in function a network of communication and consensus, and intervening quickly and successfully to sustain the pro-Assyrian parties and their interests.



The first phases of the war between Nabopolassar and the Assyrians took place in Babylonia, since the Assyrians tried to overthrow Nabopolassar's kingship. Our main source, the Babylonian Chronicles, incompletely covers the following events, but it seems that important cities such as Der passed to the Babylonians and that in a short time-span the Assyrian towns were attacked. When the Chronicles' narrative resumes, the Medes appear on the scene. The Medes' offensive was fatal to the enfeebled Assyrians, especially because the Medes were well acquainted with the Assyrian military machine. Their attack on Arrapha (modern Kerkuk) in 615 BC – after the battle the Babylonians had fought in the region in 616 – was an important contribution to the Babylonian strategy, since this city and her province appear to have always functioned as an Assyrian military headquarter for the operations in the south-east and a as fundamental connection with the Assyrian core.

According to the Babylonian Chronicle, Arrapha's capitulation was followed, in the next year, by the conquest of Tarbişu – located a few kilometers north of Nineveh, and therefore by a direct menace to the capital and by the march southwards to besiege and sack Assur, the religious capital, ancient seat of the Assyrian dynasty, and a cosmopolitan centre where people of Egyptian and Zagric origin appear as protagonists of the town's economic life.

According to the Babylonian chronicle it was next to the walls of Assur that the Medes stipulated peace and alliance with the Babylonians, which sanctioned the Median defection from their loyalty to the Assyrian dynasty to acknowledgment of the Babylonian one, as well as the recognizance of the Median's role by the Babylonians, and possibly negotiated the terms of intervention and division of booty.



That the Median contribution was fundamental is also suggested by the other front of military operations, that shows how already in 616 BC Assyria was being closed in a grip that clasped both the Tigris and the Euphrates fronts.

In the central region of the empire the blow was directed with determination at annihilating the centre of power. In 612 BC Nineveh, a metropolis built to be the magnificent heart of a prosperous empire, not a stronghold to be easily defended, was assaulted by joint Babylonian and Median forces, taken after three months of desperate resistance, largely destroyed, looted and its people massacred. The reigning dynasty had no hope: Sin-šarru-iškun died and the prince Aššur-uballiţ had to abandon the capital.



This event marks the end of the Assyrian empire, although the Assyrian prince organized a last resistence in Harran, trusting in Egyptian help, but finally capitulated in 609 BC. The Babylonian Chronicle records repeated incursions into Assyrian territory, as well as in the provinces of Naşibina and Raşappa, after 612 BC and this is supported by archeological evidence of destruction, which is visible even in the countryside.

In general, it has been recognized that the destruction of the Assyrian centres in 612 BC was widespread, and was followed by what has been defined as a phase of squatters' re-occupation. The lack of a clear-cut change in material culture from the previous period and the general great impoverishment and contraction of the settled urban areas suggest that neither the Babylonians nor the Medes consistently exercized their power in the area to restructure it and assign it a place in the new organization, so that the disastrous consequences of the destruction of the system of towns that had made Assyria the core of political and economic communication and exchange were still evident a couple of centuries later in Xenophon's Anabasis.

This collapse is dramatically portrayed in a letter from the periphery of the empire; it was written in – but seemingly never sent from – the northern town of Tušhan, situated in the Upper Tigris valley, where an Assyrian administrative office seems still to have been in function in 611 BC, i.e. soon after the fall of Nineveh, while frantic, but vain, resistance was being organized in the west. The Assyrian official in Tušhan, who was charged with the task of organizing chariot troops, desperately claimed that he could not find anyone and closed his message with one of the most impressive epitaphs on the end of the empire: mu-a-tú ina ŠÀ-bi il-la-ka la-a 1-en [ú-se-za-ab] ep-sá-ak, "Death will come out of it! No one [will escape]. I am done".

The letter is not dated but has been associated with an entry in the Babylonian Chronicle (no. 3, II. 53-55) which narrates the conquest of the northern town and province:

"In the 15th year (of Nabopolassar = 611 BC), in the month Tammuz, the king of Babylon [mustered his troops] and went to Assyria. [He marched about] imperiously [in Ass]yria and conquered the [citie]s of T[u]šha[n ...] and Su[br]ia. They took [their people] as captives and [carried away] a hea[vy] booty from them.". Text and translation after the edition of Parpola 2008: 87f (text no ZT 22). Cf. MacGinnis and Matney 2009.





C12 (no. 1) I 17-21: "*Regarding* the Assyrian, who from distant days had ruled over the entire people (and) had op[pressed] the people of the country with his heavy yoke, I, the weak one, the feeble one, the one who is re[peatedly seek]ing the lord of lords, [I cha]sed them out of the land of Akkad with the mighty strength [of] Nabû and Marduk my lords, and I caused (the Babylonians) to throw off their yoke."