

THE  
ANNALS OF ASSURBANIPAL,  
THE SARDANAPALUS OF THE GREEKS.

---

BY GEORGE SMITH.

---

CYLINDER A.

THE text of Cylinder A of Assurbanipal is compiled from a terra cotta cylinder found by Mr. Loftus in the North Palace, Kouyunjik, and the fragments of several duplicate cylinders from the same place. All these inscriptions are now in the British Museum.

A copy of this text was published in the *Cuneiform Inscriptions of Western Asia*, Vol. III, p. 17 to 26.

Translations of parts of the Egyptian campaigns were published by Sir H. Rawlinson, in the *Transactions of the Royal Society of Literature*, Vol. VII. 137; and by M. Oppert, in his *Mémoire sur les*

*rapports de l'Égypte et l'Assyrie, dans l'antiquité éclairés par l'étude des texts Cunéiformes*;<sup>1</sup> and the complete text of the cylinder, accompanied by an interlinear transcription and translation, was published by Mr. G. Smith in his *History of Assurbanipal*.

<sup>1</sup> Accompanied by parts of the texts.



## TRANSLATION OF THE INSCRIPTION.

## COLUMN I.

- 1 I AM ASSURBANIPAL, the progeny of ASSUR and  
 BELTIS,  
 2 son of the great King of Riduti,<sup>1</sup>  
 3 whom ASSUR and SIN the Lord of crowns, from days  
 remote,  
 4 prophesying his name, have raised to the kingdom.  
 5 and in the womb of his mother, have created him to  
 rule Assyria.  
 6 SHAMAS, VUL, and ISHTAR, in their supreme power,  
 7 commanded the making of his kingdom.  
 8 ESARHADDON, King of Assyria, the father my begetter,  
 9 the will of ASSUR and BELTIS the gods his protectors  
 praised,  
 10 who commanded him to make my kingdom.  
 11 In the month Iyyar the month of HEA, Lord of  
 mankind,  
 12 on the 12th day, a fortunate day, the festival of BEL ;  
 13 in performance of the important message which  
 ASSUR,  
 14 BELTIS, SIN, SHAMAS, VUL, BEL, NEBO,  
 15 ISHTAR of Nineveh, SARRAT-KITMURI,<sup>2</sup>  
 16 ISHTAR of Arbela, NINIP, NERGAL, and NUSKU had  
 spoken,  
 17 he gathered the people of Assyria, small and great,

<sup>1</sup> Riduti is the name of the North palace Kouyunjik.

<sup>2</sup> Kitmuri was a temple at Nineveh.

- 18 and of the upper and lower sea ;  
 19 to the consecration of my royal sonship,  
 20 and afterwards the kingdom of Assyria I ruled.  
 21 The worship of the great gods I caused to be offered  
 to them,  
 22 I confirmed the covenants.  
 23 With joy and shouting  
 24 I entered into Riduti the palace,  
 25 the royal property of SENNACHERIB, the grandfather  
 my begetter,  
 26 the son of the great King, who ruled the kingdom  
 within it,  
 27 the place where ESARHADDON, the father my begetter,  
 28 within it grew up, and ruled the dominion of Assyria.  
 29 . . . . . and the family increased  
 30 . . . . .  
 31 I ASSURBANIPAL within it, preserved  
 32 the wisdom of NEBO, all the royal tablets,  
 33 the whole of the clay tablets, all there were, their  
 subjects I studied.  
 34 I collected arrows, bows, carriages, horses,  
 35 chariots, their furniture and fittings. By the will of  
 the great gods  
 36 who . . . . . I proclaimed their laws,  
 37 they commanded the making of my kingdom,  
 38 the embellishment of their temples they entrusted to me,  
 39 for me they exalted my dominion, and destroyed my  
 enemies.  
 40 The man of war, the delight of ASSUR and ISHTAR,  
 41 the royal offspring am I.  
 42 When ASSUR, SIN, SHAMAS, VUL, BEL, NEBO, ISHTAR  
 of Nineveh,  
 43 SARRAT-KITMURI, ISHTAR of Arbela, NINIP, NERGAL,  
 and NUSKU

44 firmly seated me on the throne of the father my  
begetter,

45 VUL poured down his rain, HEA feasted his people,

46 fivefold<sup>1</sup> the seed bore in its ear,

47 the surplus grain was two-thirds, the crops were  
excellent

48 the corn abundant, my face *was pleased* with the  
raising of the harvest,

49 . . . . . the cattle were good in multiplying,

50 in my seasons there was plenty, in my years famine  
was ended.

51 In my first expedition to Makan<sup>2</sup>

52 and Milukha<sup>3</sup> I went. TIRHAKAH King of Egypt and  
Ethiopia,

53 of whom, ESARHADDON King of Assyria, the father my  
begetter, his overthrow had accomplished ;

54 and had taken possession of his country ; he  
TIRHAKAH,

55 the power of ASSUR, ISHTAR, and the great gods my  
Lords

56 despised, and trusted to his own might.

57 Of the Kings and Governors, whom in the midst of  
Egypt,

58 the father my begetter had appointed ; to slay, plunder,

59 and to capture Egypt, he came against them ;

60 he entered, and sat in Memphis, the

61 city which the father my begetter had taken, and to  
the boundaries

62 of Assyria had added. I was going in state in the  
midst of Nineveh,

<sup>1</sup> Variant reading : fourfold.

<sup>2</sup> Makan supposed to be Egypt.

<sup>3</sup> Milukha supposed to be Mercæ.

- 63 and one came and repeated *this* to me ;  
 64 over these things  
 65 my heart was bitter and much afflicted ;  
 66 *by the command* of ASSUR and the goddess ASSURITU,  
 67 I gathered my powerful forces,  
 68 which ASSUR and ISHTAR had placed in my hands,  
 69 to Egypt and Ethiopia I directed the march.  
 70 In the course of my expedition, 22 Kings  
 71 of the side of the *sea and the middle of the sea*, all  
 72 tributaries dependent *on me*,  
 73 to my presence *came and kissed my feet*.  
 74 Those Kings . . . . .  
 75 on sea and land *their roads I took*,  
 76 the level path . . . . .  
 77 for the restoration of the Kings and Governors  
 78 who in the midst of Egypt *were* tributaries dependent  
 on me ;  
 79 quickly I descended and went to Karbanit.  
 80 TIRHAKAH King of Egypt and Ethiopia, in the midst  
 of Memphis,  
 81 of the progress of my expedition heard ; and to  
 make war,  
 82 fighting and battle, to my presence he gathered the  
 men of his army.  
 83 In the service of ASSUR, ISHTAR, and the great gods,  
 my Lords,  
 84 on the wide battle field I accomplished the overthrow  
 of his army.  
 85 TIRHAKAH in the midst of Memphis, heard of the  
 defeat of his army ;  
 86 the terror of ASSUR and ISHTAR overcame him, and  
 87 he went forward ; fear of my kingdom  
 88 overwhelmed him, and his gods glorified me before  
 my camp.

- 89 Memphis he abandoned, and to save his life  
 90 he fled into Thebes. That city I took,  
 91 my army I caused to enter, and rest in the midst  
 of it.
- 92 NECHO<sup>1</sup> King of Memphis and Sais.  
 93 SARLUDARI King of Pelusium.  
 94 PISAN-HOR King of Natho.  
 95 PAQRURU King of Pi-supt.<sup>2</sup>  
 96 PUKKUNANNI-HAPI King of Athribis.  
 97 NECH-KE King of Henins.  
 98 PETUBASTES King of Tanis.  
 99 UNAMUNU King of Natho.  
 100 HORSIESIS King of Sebennytus.  
 101 BUAIUYA King of Mendes.  
 102 SHESHONK King of Busiris.  
 103 TNEPHACHTHUS King of Bunubu.<sup>3</sup>  
 104 PUKKUNANNI-HAPPI King of Akhni.  
 105 IPTIKHARDESU King of Pizatti-hurunpiku.  
 106 NECHT-HOR-ANSINI King of Pi-sabdinut.  
 107 BUKUR-NINIP King of Pachnut.  
 108 ZIKHA King of Siyout.  
 109 LAMINTU King of Chemmis.  
 110 ISPIMATHU King of Abydos.  
 111 MUNTI-MI-ANCHE King of Thebes.  
 112 These Kings, Prefects, and Governors,  
 113 whom in the midst of Egypt, the father my begetter  
 had appointed ;  
 114 who before the advance of TIRHAKAH  
 115 their appointments had left, and fled to the desert,  
 116 I restored ; and the places of their appointments

<sup>1</sup> Necho was father of Psammitichus I.

<sup>2</sup> Mentioned in the stele of Mt. Barkal.

<sup>3</sup> See Penub the modern Badnub in the "*Inscription of Pianchi*," by Canon Cook, p. 17.

117 in their possessions, I appointed them.  
118 Egypt and Ethiopia, which the father my begetter  
had captured,  
119 again I took, the bonds more than in former days  
120 I strengthened, and I made covenants.  
121 With abundant plunder and much spoil  
122 in peace I returned to Nineveh.  
123 Afterwards all those Kings whom I had appointed,  
124 sinned against me; they did not keep the oath of  
the great gods,

*(Continued on Column II.)*



## COLUMN II.

1 the good I did to them they despised,  
 2 and their hearts devised evil ;  
 3 seditious words they spoke, and  
 4 evil council they counselled among themselves ;  
 5 thus : "TIRHAKAH from the midst of Egypt  
 6 is cut off, and to us our seats are numbered."  
 7 Unto TIRHAKAH King of Ethiopia  
 8 to make agreement and alliance  
 9 they directed their messengers,  
 10 thus : "May an alliance by this treaty be established,  
 and  
 11 we will help each other ;  
 12 the country on the other side we will strengthen, and  
 13 may there not be in this treaty any other Lord."  
 14 Against the army of Assyria the force of my dominion,  
 15 which to their aid had been raised, they devised  
 16 a wicked plot. My Generals of this plot  
 17 heard ; their messengers  
 18 and their despatches they captured, and saw  
 19 their seditious work. These Kings  
 20 they took ; and in bonds of iron and fetters of iron,  
 21 bound their hands and feet. The oath of ASSUR  
 King of the gods  
 22 took them who sinned  
 23 against the great (gods); who had sought the good of  
 their hands, and  
 24 who had given them favours ;  
 25 and the people of Sais, Mendes, Zoan,  
 26 *and* the rest of the cities, all with them *revolted*  
 27 devised an evil design. Small and great with the  
 sword they caused to be destroyed  
 28 one they did not leave in the midst.

- 29 Their corpses they threw down in the dust,  
 30 . . . . . they destroyed the towers of the cities.  
 31 These Kings, who had devised evil  
 32 against the army of Assyria, alive to Nineveh  
 33 into my presence they brought.  
 34 To NECHO . . . . . of them,  
 35 favour I granted him, and a covenant . . . .  
 36 Observances stronger than before I caused to be  
 restored, and with him I sent.  
 37 Costly garments I placed upon him, ornaments of gold,  
 38 his royal image I made for him, rings of gold I  
 fastened on his feet,  
 39 a steel sword its sheath of gold,  
 40 in the glory of my name more than I write I gave him.  
 41 Chariots, horses, and mules  
 42 for his kingdom I appointed ;  
 43 my Generals as Governors,  
 44 to *Egypt* with him I sent.  
 45 The place where the father my begetter, in Sais to the  
 kingdom had appointed him,  
 46 to his district I restored him ;  
 47 (and) NEBOSHAZBAN his son in Athribes.  
 48 Benefits and favours, beyond *those* of the father my  
 begetter,  
 49 I caused to restore, and gave to him.  
 50 TIRHAKAH to *Ethiopia* fled ;  
 51 the might of the soldiers of ASSUR my Lord over-  
 whelmed him, and  
 52 he went to his place of night.<sup>1</sup>  
 53 Afterwards RUDAMMON, son of his sister,  
 54 sat on his royal throne.  
 55 Thebes his fortified city he made, and  
 56 he gathered his forces

<sup>1</sup> *I.e.*, he died.

57 to fight my army, *the sons* of Assyria ;  
 58 who within Memphis gathered in the midst of *it*.  
 59 . . . . and besieged and took the whole of them.  
 60 . . . . . came and told me.

---

61 In my second expedition to Egypt and Ethiopia  
 62 I directed the march. RUDAMMON of  
 63 the progress of my expedition heard, and that I had  
 crossed over  
 64 the borders of Egypt. Memphis he abandoned, and  
 65 to save his life he fled into Thebes.  
 66 The Kings, Prefects, and Governors, whom in Egypt  
 I had set up,  
 67 to my presence came, and kissed my feet.  
 68 After RUDAMMON the road I took ;  
 69 I went to Thebes, the strong city ;  
 70 the approach of my powerful army he saw, and  
 Thebes he abandoned,  
 71 and fled to Kipkip. That city<sup>1</sup>  
 72 the whole of it, in the service of ASSUR and ISHTAR  
 my hands took ;  
 73 silver, gold, precious stones, the furniture of his  
 palace, all there was ;  
 74 garments costly and beautiful, great horses,  
 75 people male and female,  
 76 two lofty obelisks covered with beautiful carving,  
 77 . . hundred talents their weight, set up before the  
 gate of a temple,  
 78 with them I removed, and brought to Assyria.  
 79 *Its spoils* unnumbered I carried off. From the midst  
 of Thebes,  
 80 over Egypt and Ethiopia ;

<sup>1</sup> Thebes.

81 my servants I caused to march, and  
 82 I acquired glory. With the tributes  
 83 peacefully I returned to Nineveh, the city of my  
 dominion.

---

84 *In my third expedition* against BAHAL King of Tyre  
 85 . . . I went ; who my royal will  
 86 disregarded, and did not hear the words of my lips ;  
 87 towers round him I raised ;  
 88 on sea and land ; his roads I took ;  
 89 their spirits I humbled and caused to melt away ;  
 90 to my yoke I made them submissive. The  
 91 daughter proceeding from his body, and the daugh-  
 ters of his brothers  
 92 for concubines he brought to my presence.  
 93 YAHIMELEK *his* son, the glory of the country, of  
 unsurpassed renown  
 94 at once he sent forward, to make obeisance to me.  
 95 His daughter and the daughters of his brothers,  
 96 with their great dowries I received.  
 97 Favour I granted him, and the son proceeding from  
 his body  
 98 I restored and gave him. YAKINLU  
 99 King of Arvad, dwelling in the midst of the sea,  
 100 who to the Kings my fathers was not submissive,  
 101 submitted to my yoke, his daughter  
 102 with many gifts, for a concubine  
 103 to Nineveh he brought and kissed my feet.  
 104 MUGALLU King of Tubal, who against the Kings my  
 fathers  
 105 made attacks, the daughter proceeding from his  
 body,  
 106 and her great dowry, for a concubine

- 107 to Nineveh he brought, and kissed my feet.  
108 Over MUGALLU great horses  
109 an annual tribute I fixed upon him.  
110 SANDASARMI of Cilicia,  
111 who to the Kings my fathers did not submit,  
112 and did not perform their pleasure,  
113 the daughter proceeding from his body, with many  
114 gifts, for a concubine  
115 to Nineveh he brought, and kissed my feet.  
116 When YAKINLU King of Arvad,  
117 had met his death. AZIBAHAL, ABIBAHAL,  
118 ADONIBAHAL, SAPADIBAHAL, PUDIBAHAL,  
119 BAHALYASUP, BAHALHANUN,  
120 BAHALMALUK, ABIMELEK, and AHIMELEK,  
121 sons of YAKINLU, dwelling in the midst  
122 of the sea, from the midst of the sea arose, and  
123 with their numerous presents  
124 came and kissed my feet.  
125 AZIBAHAL gladly I received, and  
126 to the kingdom of Arvad appointed.  
127 ABIBAHAL, ADONIBAHAL, SAPADIBAHAL,

*(Continued on Column III.)*

## COLUMN III.

- 1 PUDIBAHAL, BAHALYASUP, BAHALHANON,  
 2 BAHALMELEK, ABIMELEK, and AHIMELEK ;  
 3 costly clothing . . . . rings . . . . .  
 4 in my presence . . . . .  
 5 GYGES King of Lydia,  
 6 a district which is across the sea, a remote place,  
 7 of which the Kings my fathers had not heard speak of  
 its name ;  
 8 the account of my grand kingdom in a dream was  
 related to him by ASSUR, the god my creator,  
 9 thus: "The yoke . . . . .  
 10 (when) in remembrance . . . . .  
 11 the day *he saw that* dream,  
 12 his messenger *he sent, to pray for my friendship.*  
 13 That dream *which he saw,*  
 14 by the hand of his Envoy he sent, and repeated *to me.*  
 15 From the midst of the day when he took the yoke  
 of *my kingdom,*  
 16 the Cimmerians, wasters of *his* people,  
 17 who did not fear my fathers  
 18 and me, and did not take the yoke of my kingdom,  
 he captured,  
 19 in the service of ASSUR and ISHTAR the gods my Lords.  
 20 From the midst of the Chiefs of the Cimmerians,  
 whom he had taken,  
 21 two Chiefs in strong fetters of iron, and bonds of iron,  
 22 he bound, and with numerous presents,  
 23 he caused to bring to my presence.  
 24 His Messengers whom, to pray for my friendship  
 25 he was constantly sending, he wilfully discontinued  
 26 as the will of Assur, the god my creator, he had  
 disregarded ;

27 to his own power he trusted and hardened his heart.

28 His forces to the aid of PSAMMITICHUS (King) of Egypt.

29 who had thrown off the yoke of my dominion, he sent ; and

30 I heard *of it*, and prayed to ASSUR and ISHTAR

31 Thus : " Before his enemies his corpse may they cast, and

32 may they carry captive his attendants." When thus to ASSUR

33 I had prayed, he requited me. Before his enemies his corpse

34 was thrown down, and they carried captive his attendants.

35 The Cimmerians whom by the glory of my name he had trodden under him ;

36 conquered and swept the whole of his country after him his son

37 sat on his throne, that evil work at the lifting up of my hands,

38 the gods my protectors in the time of the father his begetter had destroyed.

39 By the hand of his envoy he sent and took the

40 yoke of my kingdom thus : " The King whom god has blessed art thou ;

41 my father from *thee* departed, and evil was done in his time ;

42 I am thy devoted servant, and my people all perform thy pleasure."

---

43 In my fourth expedition, I gathered my army ;

44 against AKHSERI King of Minni<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Minni bordered on Armenia.

# END OF SAMPLE TEXT



The Complete Text can be found on our CD:  
**Primary Literary Sources For Ancient Literature**  
which can be purchased on our **Website :**

[www.Brainfly.net](http://www.Brainfly.net)

or

by sending **\$64.95** in check or money order to :

**Brainfly Inc.**

**5100 Garfield Ave. #46**

**Sacramento CA 95841-3839**

## **TEACHER'S DISCOUNT:**

If you are a **TEACHER** you can take advantage of our teacher's discount. Click on **Teachers Discount** on our website ([www.Brainfly.net](http://www.Brainfly.net)) or **Send us \$55.95** and we will send you a full copy of *Primary Literary Sources For Ancient Literature* **AND** our *5000 Classics CD (a collection of over 5000 classic works of literature in electronic format (.txt))* plus our *Wholesale price list*.

If you have any suggestions such as books you would like to see added to the collection or if you would like our wholesale prices list please send us an email to:

[webcomments@brainfly.net](mailto:webcomments@brainfly.net)