

## CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

*Books of enduring scholarly value*

### Archaeology

The discovery of material remains from the recent or the ancient past has always been a source of fascination, but the development of archaeology as an academic discipline which interpreted such finds is relatively recent. It was the work of Winckelmann at Pompeii in the 1760s which first revealed the potential of systematic excavation to scholars and the wider public.

Pioneering figures of the nineteenth century such as Schliemann, Layard and Petrie transformed archaeology from a search for ancient artifacts, by means as crude as using gunpowder to break into a tomb, to a science which drew from a wide range of disciplines - ancient languages and literature, geology, chemistry, social history - to increase our understanding of human life and society in the remote past.

### Records of the Reign of Tukulti-Ninib I, King of Assyria, about BC 1275

In the preface to this 1904 work by Leonard King (1869–1919) of the British Museum's department of Egyptian and Assyrian antiquities, he states that the text it presents 'is of great historical value, inasmuch as it supplements our knowledge of the history of Assyria and her relations with Babylonia during the early part of the thirteenth century B.C.'. The tablet containing the text was buried under the wall of a city founded by King Tukulti-Ninib I (transliterated as Tukulti-Ninurta by modern scholars), to commemorate its building and his previous military achievements, which included the invasion of Babylonia. This account confirms earlier documents, and gives more detail on the chronology of a crucial period in the ancient history of the Near East. The book offers a lengthy introduction on the tablet and on the tradition of such foundation documents, as well as the cuneiform text and a parallel translation, along with an appendix of related documents.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-08241-9 — Records of the Reign of Tukulti-Ninib I, King of Assyria, about BC 1275

Edited and translated by Leonard William King

Frontmatter

[More Information](#)

---

Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library and other partner libraries, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection brings back to life books of enduring scholarly value (including out-of-copyright works originally issued by other publishers) across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-08241-9 — Records of the Reign of Tukulti-Ninib I, King of Assyria, about BC 1275

Edited and translated by Leonard William King

Frontmatter

[More Information](#)

# Records of the Reign of Tukulti-Ninib I, King of Assyria, about BC 1275

*Edited and Translated from a  
Memorial Tablet in the British Museum*

LEONARD WILLIAM KING



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-08241-9 — Records of the Reign of Tukulti-Ninib I, King of Assyria, about BC 1275

Edited and translated by Leonard William King

Frontmatter

[More Information](#)

**CAMBRIDGE**  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge, CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108082419](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108082419)

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2019

This edition first published 1904

This digitally printed version 2019

ISBN 978-1-108-08241-9 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

Cambridge University Press wishes to make clear that the book, unless originally published by Cambridge, is not being republished by, in association or collaboration with, or with the endorsement or approval of, the original publisher or its successors in title.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-08241-9 — Records of the Reign of Tukulti-Ninib I, King of Assyria, about BC 1275

Edited and translated by Leonard William King

Frontmatter

[More Information](#)

---

Studies in Eastern History.

I.

RECORDS OF THE REIGN OF TUKULTI-NINIB I,  
KING OF ASSYRIA, ABOUT B.C. 1275.

*a*

Cambridge University Press

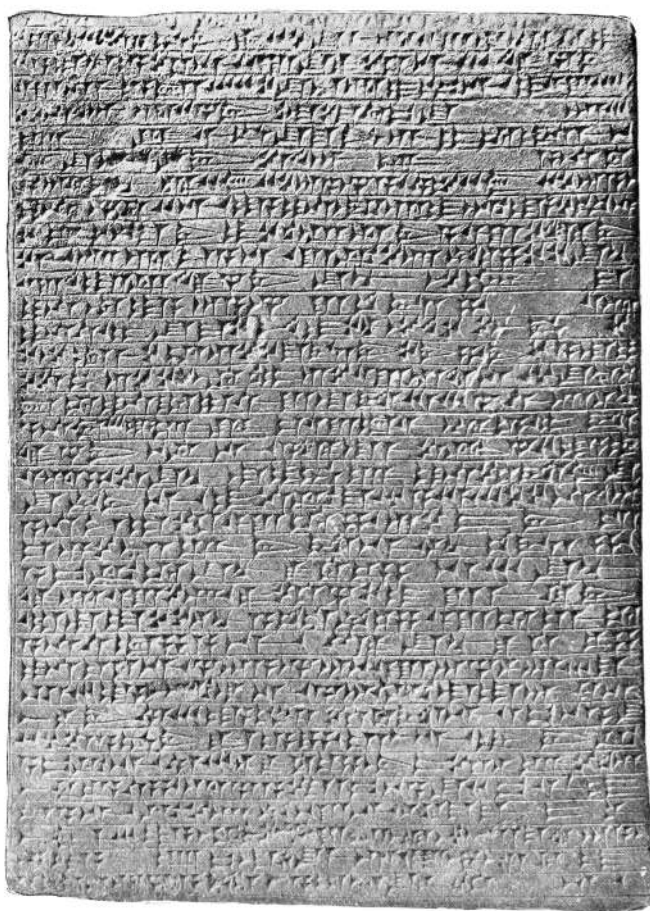
978-1-108-08241-9 — Records of the Reign of Tukulti-Ninib I, King of Assyria, about BC 1275

Edited and translated by Leonard William King

Frontmatter

[More Information](#)

[*Frontispiece.*]



Limestone tablet inscribed with the Annals of Tukulti-Ninib I,  
King of Assyria. [Brit. Mus. No. 98494, Obverse.]

Studies in Eastern History.

RECORDS  
OF THE  
REIGN OF TUKULTI-NINIB I,  
KING OF ASSYRIA, ABOUT B.C. 1275.

EDITED AND TRANSLATED FROM A MEMORIAL TABLET  
IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM

BY

L. W. KING, M.A., F.S.A.,

ASSISTANT IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EGYPTIAN AND ASSYRIAN ANTIQUITIES  
IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

LONDON :  
LUZAC AND Co.  
1904.  
[*All Rights Reserved.*]

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-08241-9 — Records of the Reign of Tukulti-Ninib I, King of Assyria, about BC 1275

Edited and translated by Leonard William King

Frontmatter

[More Information](#)

---

HARRISON AND SONS,  
PRINTERS IN ORDINARY TO HIS MAJESTY,  
ST. MARTIN'S LANE, LONDON.



Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-08241-9 — Records of the Reign of Tukulti-Ninib I, King of Assyria, about BC 1275

Edited and translated by Leonard William King

Frontmatter

[More Information](#)

---

MEINEN FREUNDEN

HERRN UND FRAU DR. NAAB

IN DIARBEKR.

## PREFACE.



SOME two years ago, in the first volume of *The Annals of the Kings of Assyria*, issued by the Trustees of the British Museum, a collection was published of all the historical inscriptions of the early Assyrian kings, from about B.C. 2000 to B.C. 860, which are preserved in the British Museum. In that work the period between the reign of Adad-nirari I, about B.C. 1325, and that of Tiglath-pileser I, about B.C. 1100, is represented only by a brick-inscription and some votive texts inscribed upon fragments of clay bowls. In fact, the only historical inscription of any length belonging to the early Assyrian period which had up to that time been recovered was the memorial tablet of Adad-nirari I, brought from Mōsul by the late Mr. George Smith in 1875. In the present volume the text is published of a very similar memorial tablet of Tukulti-Ninib I, the grandson of Adad-nirari I, which is of great historical value, inasmuch as it supplements our knowledge of the history of Assyria and her relations with Babylonia during the early part of the thirteenth century B.C.

The limestone tablet from which the text is taken was made by the orders of Tukulti-Ninib I, who had it

buried as a foundation memorial in, or under, the wall of the city of Kar-Tukulti-Ninib, which was situated near the Tigris between Kuyunjik and *Ḳal'a Sherḳât*. The text contains an account of the founding of the city by the king and the building of the city-wall, preceded by a list of the military expeditions which he had conducted up to the time the tablet was engraved. From these records we learn for the first time of extensive conquests to the north and east of Assyria made in a series of expeditions by Tukulti-Ninib I, who closes the narrative of his campaigns by an account of his invasion of Babylonia and the complete subjugation of Sumer and Akkad.

That Tukulti-Ninib I conquered Babylon and ruled it for seven years during the period of the Third, or Kassite, Dynasty was already known from a tablet of the "Babylonian Chronicle," and it has been suggested that the Babylonian king he conquered was Bibe, or Bibeiashu, whose name occurs in the Babylonian List of Kings, and on a fragment of the "Synchronous History" of Babylonia and Assyria, and upon some votive objects found at Nippur. From his memorial tablet we learn that the opponent of Tukulti-Ninib was Bibeiashu, who was not only defeated but was deported to Assyria. The new text thus confirms the suggested synchronism between Babylonian and Assyrian history, and is of great importance in its bearings upon the problems of Babylonian chronology.

In addition to the publication of the new memorial tablet, the texts and translations are given of a number of supplementary inscriptions which treat of the history and date of Tukulti-Ninib I. Of these mention may be made of the portion of the "Babylonian Chronicle" dealing with Tukulti-Ninib's reign, and the famous copy of Tukulti-Ninib's seal-inscription written upon a tablet of the time of Sennacherib, by means of which the date of Tukulti-Ninib is fixed. In the account of the conquest of Babylon by Tukulti-Ninib on the former of these two documents, I have succeeded in deciphering the name of Bibeiasu, which has escaped the notice of those who have hitherto edited and translated the text. On the latter I believe I have made out the meaning of the line of archaic characters, twice repeated on the tablet, which has puzzled translators of the text during the last thirty years. According to my interpretation the line in question gives the name and title of Shagarakti-Shuriash, the father of Bibeiasu, who is thus proved to have owned the seal before Tukulti-Ninib captured it in Babylon. Sennacherib's scribe was unfamiliar with the Old-Babylonian character in which the name was written upon the seal, and he did not recognize many of the signs, but he has made a fairly accurate copy of their general form. On p. 69 I have given a conjectural restoration of the original text, and below it I have added the forms of the signs as they are found upon Sennacherib's tablet. I think a glance at

this will suffice to show that the suggested interpretation is correct.

In the Introduction to this volume an analysis and description are given of Tukulti-Ninib's memorial tablet, and the information which it supplies on the early history of Assyria is fully treated. An attempt has also been made to discuss the class of foundation memorials to which it belongs, and a comparison has been drawn between the origin and object of these documents and those of the foundation deposits found during recent years under the walls and pavements of Egyptian buildings dating from the Fifth Dynasty down to the Ptolemaic period. It may here be added that the recent find of foundation-pits by Mr. Howard Carter at the entrance to the tomb of Hâtshepset at Dêr el-Baharî supports the theory as to the origin of the Egyptian foundation deposits which is suggested below. The object of the Babylonian and Assyrian foundation memorials was of a less magical and more practical character than that of the Egyptian foundation deposits. With the Babylonian practice we may fairly compare our custom of burying coins and current newspapers in the foundations of public buildings at the present day, though it is unlikely that the newspapers will serve our purpose as effectively as the stone and almost imperishable clay have preserved the records of the early kings of Western Asia.

As the text of the memorial tablet of Tukulti-Ninib I

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-08241-9 — Records of the Reign of Tukulti-Ninib I, King of Assyria, about BC 1275

Edited and translated by Leonard William King

Frontmatter

[More Information](#)

PREFACE.

xiii

is of great interest for the study of Assyrian epigraphy, the tablet is published in facsimile in a series of outline blocks. The text which accompanies the translation and transliteration is printed in the larger cuneiform type of Messrs. Harrison and Sons, which was specially designed from the lapidary forms of the later Assyrian characters.

The present book is the first in a series of small volumes which I have prepared on various epochs in the history of Western Asia. In addition to a number of historical studies the volumes will contain unpublished documents which throw new light upon the periods of which they treat.

My thanks are due to Dr. E. A. Wallis Budge for his help during the preparation of the work.

L. W. KING.

LONDON,

*October 3rd, 1904.*

## CONTENTS.

	PAGE
PREFACE ... ..	ix
INTRODUCTION :—	
I. MATERIALS FOR THE EARLY HISTORY OF ASSYRIA ...	1
II. THE MEMORIAL TABLETS OF ADAD-NIRARI I AND TUKULTI-NINIB I ... ..	3
III. THE HISTORICAL VALUE OF TUKULTI-NINIB'S TABLET...	4
IV. DESCRIPTION OF THE TABLET ... ..	9
V. ANALYSIS OF THE TEXT ... ..	13
VI. BABYLONIAN AND ASSYRIAN FOUNDATION MEMORIALS...	15
VII. EGYPTIAN FOUNDATION DEPOSITS COMPARED ... ..	19
VIII. THE FOUNDATION SACRIFICE ... ..	22
IX. OBJECT AND ORIGIN OF FOUNDATION DEPOSITS ... ..	26
X. THEIR MANNER OF BURIAL ... ..	31
XI. THE CITY OF KAR-TUKULTI-NINIB ... ..	40
XII. TUKULTI-NINIB'S CAMPAIGNS ... ..	43
XIII. HIS CONQUEST OF BABYLON ... ..	49
XIV. EARLY RELATIONS OF ASSYRIA AND BABYLON ... ..	53
XV. SMALLER INSCRIPTIONS OF TUKULTI-NINIB ... ..	60
XVI. THE SEAL-INSCRIPTION OF TUKULTI-NINIB ... ..	63
XVII. THE UNDECIPHERED PORTION OF THE SEAL-INSCRIPTION	65
XVIII. SUGGESTED INTERPRETATION OF THE CHARACTERS ...	66
XIX. TUKULTI-NINIB'S SUCCESSORS ... ..	72
XX. PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH TUKULTI-NINIB'S RULE IN BABYLON ... ..	73

	PAGE
TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS:—	
I. THE ANNALS OF TUKULTI-NINIB I ... ..	78
II. SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS:	
1. PASSAGE FROM A TABLET OF THE “BABYLONIAN CHRONICLE” RECORDING THE DEFEAT OF BI- BEIASHU, KING OF BABYLON, BY TUKULTI-NINIB I, AND THE LATTER’S RULE IN BABYLONIA ... ..	96
2. PASSAGE FROM THE “SYNCHRONOUS HISTORY” RE- FERRING TO BIBEASHU, KING OF BABYLON, AND ITS CONTEXT ... ..	100
3. SEAL-INSRIPTION OF TUKULTI-NINIB I FROM A CLAY TABLET OF THE TIME OF SENNACHERIB ...	106
4. ACCOUNTS OF THE CAPTURE OF BABYLON BY SENNACHERIB IN 702 B.C. AND 689 B.C., ON ONE OF WHICH OCCASIONS HE RECOVERED THE SEAL OF TUKULTI-NINIB I ... ..	110
APPENDIX: THE BOWL-INSRIPTIONS OF SHALMANESER I, THE FATHER OF TUKULTI-NINIB I, AND KING OF ASSYRIA, ABOUT 1300 B.C. ... ..	123
CUNEIFORM TEXTS ... ..	139
INDEX ... ..	176



## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

	PAGE
I. LIMESTONE TABLET INSCRIBED WITH THE ANNALS OF TUKULTI-NINIB I ... ..	iv
II. THE ANNALS OF TUKULTI-NINIB I, OBVERSE, LL. 1-14 ...	5
III. THE ANNALS OF TUKULTI-NINIB I, OBVERSE, LL. 14-26 ...	11
IV. THE ANNALS OF TUKULTI-NINIB I, OBVERSE, LL. 25-37 ...	17
V. THE ANNALS OF TUKULTI-NINIB I, REVERSE, LL. 1-14 ...	23
VI. THE ANNALS OF TUKULTI-NINIB I, REVERSE, LL. 14-26 ...	29
VII. THE ANNALS OF TUKULTI-NINIB I, REVERSE, LL. 23-30 ...	35
VIII. THE ANNALS OF TUKULTI-NINIB I, RIGHT SIDE ... ..	41
IX. PORTION OF A BABYLONIAN CHRONICLE REFERRING TO THE REIGN OF TUKULTI-NINIB I ... ..	51
X. SEAL-INSCRIPTIONS OF SHAGARAKTI-SHURIASH AND TUKULTI-NINIB I, INSCRIBED UPON A CLAY TABLET OF THE TIME OF SENNACHERIB... ..	61
XI. INSCRIPTION OF SHAGARAKTI-SHURIASH, KING OF BABYLON	69