

**NOTES ON SOME  
OFFICIALS OF THE  
SARGONID PERIOD:  
PART OF A DISSERTATION**

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Notes on Some Officials of the Sargonid Period: part of a dissertation by Allen Howard Godbey

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**ALLEN HOWARD GODBEY**

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## ABBREVIATIONS.

- ABC. — Stevenson, *Assyrian and Babylonian Contracts*.  
 ABLCL. — Johns, *Assyrian and Babylonian Laws, Contracts, and Letters*.  
 ABPR. — Meissner, *Alt-Babylonische Privatrecht*.  
 ADD. — Johns, *Assyrian Deeds and Documents*.  
 AJSL. — *American Journal of Semitic Languages and Literatures*.  
 AKA. — Budge and King, *Annals of the Kings of Assyria*, Vol. I.  
 AL. — S. A. Smith, *Assyrian Letters*.  
 AOF. — Winckler, *Alt-Orientalische Forschungen*.  
 BAS. — *Beiträge zur Assyriologie*.  
 Br. — Brünnow, *A Classified List*.  
 CH. — RPHarper, *The Code of Hammurabi*.  
 DB. — Hastings, *Dictionary of the Bible*.  
 DES. — Thompson, *Devils and Evil Spirits of Assyria and Babylonia*.  
 EAH. — E. A. Hoffman Collection in Radau's *EBH*.  
 EB. — Cheyne-Black, *Encyclopædia Biblica*.  
 EBA. — Amlaud and Mechineau, *L'Écriture babylonienne et assyrienne*.  
 EBH. — Radau, *Early Babylonian History*.  
 HABL. — RPHarper, *Assyrian and Babylonian Letters*.  
 HWB. — Delitzsch, *Assyrisches Handwörterbuch*.  
 JAOS. — *Journal of the American Oriental Society*.  
 JEL. — Johnston, *Epistolary Literature of the Assyrians and Babylonians*.  
 JRAS. — *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*.  
 LIH. — King, *Letters and Inscriptions of Hammurabi*.  
 LS. — Lehmann, *Samat-sum-ukta*.  
 MVAG. — *Mitteilungen der Vorder-Asiatischen Gesellschaft*.  
 OBI. — Hilprecht, *Old Babylonian Inscriptions*.  
 PEFQS. — *Palestine Exploration Fund Quarterly Statement*.  
 PSBA. — *Proceedings of the Society of Biblical Archaeology*.  
 RMA. — Thompson, *Reports of the Magicians and Astrologers of Nineveh*.  
 RS. — Robertson Smith, *Religion of the Semites*.  
 SAS. *Abp.* — S. A. Smith, *Die Keilschrifttexte Assurbanipals*.  
 SO. — Barton, *A Sketch of Semitic Origins*.  
 Strabdk. — Strassmaler, *Inschriften von Nabonida*.  
 Strabk. — Strassmaler, *Inschriften von Nabuchodonosor*.  
 Sup. — Meissner, *Supplement zu den assyrischen Wörterbüchern*.  
 TSB. — *Transactions of the Society of Biblical Archaeology*.  
 ZA. — *Zeitschrift für Assyriologie*.

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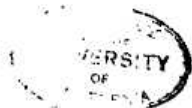
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## NOTES ON SOME OFFICIALS OF THE SARGONID PERIOD.

(Revised from *American Journal of Semitic Languages and Literatures*,  
January, 1906, and October, 1906.)

It is not to be expected that any exhaustive treatment of this subject can be achieved for years to come. C. H. W. Johns, in his *Assyrian Deeds and Documents*, has shown us one field from which much information may be derived, and has done excellent pioneer work in Assyrian official antiquities. It is the present purpose to render more available for the general student the rich material in R. F. Harper's *Assyrian and Babylonian Letters*. The accompanying index is intended to give a list of all the various officials, tradesmen, and men of sacred and learned professions, that are mentioned in the eight volumes of letters now published. It will be followed by excursus upon different functionaries.

The determinative prefix *amēlu* is used throughout the letters with very great regularity. But few cases of its omission are noticeable. A *rab-so-and-so* may sometimes be without it, as in the case of Abni, the *rab BIR* of the land of the city of Arpedda, in [221] K. 175, obv. 12. The term *piḳittu* is also used in a way that leaves one a little uncertain whether or not some functionary is always meant. We have *amēl bēl piḳitte*, as in [573] K. 1003, obv. 7; *bēl piḳitti* [608] K. 1136, rv. 9; *piḳitte ša bit mār-šarri ša kutalli*, [658] 83-1-18, 81, obv. 9, 10. In the stereotyped formulæ of salutation, we have

ana <sup>amēl</sup> piḫitti ša Bēlit parši šulmu, in [12] K. 666, obv. 6, 7. The same without the <sup>amēl</sup> occurs in [7] K. 601, obv. 4. I do not at present know any other term that affords so much cause for uncertainty. Its occurrence without any determinative prefix is frequent; yet in some of these places a functionary is certainly meant. There may be a few other words without any determinative prefix which really indicate officials; one cannot be positive on this point till every word occurring in the letters is certainly understood.

It is not intended to include in this index gentilic names and adjectives. These belong rather to the geographical data afforded by the letters, which are being compiled by Mr. O. A. Toffteen. There are terms, of course, concerning which there may be a reasonable doubt; and it may be that some have been assigned to the geographical data that should have been included here.

Also, it has been the intention to omit all occurrences of other words with the determinative prefix <sup>amēl</sup> that do not promise anything of importance in relation to the general subject. The word ṣābē has been omitted from the list, being a purely general term, without any necessary implications of rank. For illustration, we have in [631] K. 1265, obv. 9-13, Ya-ra-pa-a, rab ki-ṣir; Ḫa-tar-a-nu, rab ki-ṣir; Ga-na-bu, Ta-am-ra-nu; puḫur 4 <sup>amēl</sup> ṣābē; yet two of the four are officers.

It will be recognized, then, as advisable that a list should be given here indicating terms systematically excluded from the index. Besides the frequent <sup>amēl</sup> ṣābē, we find <sup>amēl</sup> emāḫi-ia or -šu, "a man of my or his troop," *e. g.*, [197] K. 181, obv. 11; amēlu alone, for "a man" or "any man," [55] K. 483, rv. 1, 4; amēl + u-tu for "mankind," [128] K. 650, obv. 10; <sup>amēl</sup> mār-šu = "the man his son," [117] K. 991, rv. 12, <sup>amēl</sup> ardu, [9] K. 618, obv. 14; <sup>amēl</sup> nakru, or nakrūti, "the enemy," [340] Bu. 91-5-9, 183, obv. 21; <sup>amēl</sup> tebiš, "attacking forces," [275] K. 82, obv. 17, rv. 12; <sup>amēl</sup> bēlē ḫiṭu, "leaders of rebellion," [460] K. 1250, obv. 15; <sup>amēl</sup> parriṣu šū, "that liar," [208] K. 617, obv. 17; <sup>amēl</sup> bēl iḫtalliḫāni, "the leader of those who ravage," [771] 83-1-18, 49, rv. 13; <sup>amēl</sup> lišānišu, "a man of his speech," [741] S. 807, obv. 5; <sup>amēl</sup> mukinnika, "thy supporter," [416] 80-7-19, 19, obv. 6; <sup>amēl</sup> kinātatikunu, similar to preceding, [37] K. 1039, obv. 7; <sup>amēl</sup> ra'māni, "(those men are not) lovers (of the king my lord)," [277] K. 1066, rv. 8;



<sup>amēl</sup> zi'rāni, "haters," [210] K. 647, rv. 9; <sup>amēl</sup> bēl dīni'a, "my adversary, prosecutor," [416] 80-7-19, 19, obv. 7; <sup>amēl</sup> ḫabtūte, "plunderers," [839] 83-1-18, 21, obv. 16; <sup>amēl</sup> ḫubtu, "prisoner, captive," [280] K. 10, obv. 10; <sup>amēl</sup> munnabitu, "fugitive," [839] 83-1-18, 21, obv. 16; <sup>amēl</sup> bēlē ṭabtia, "my allies, partisans," [281] K. 13, obv. 12, 24; <sup>amēl</sup> ḫanū, is for <sup>amēl</sup> ḫanū, [787] R<sup>m</sup> 55, rv. 6; <sup>amēl</sup> GIG, might be "sick man," usually <sup>amēl</sup> ḫadištu, [370] 81-2-4, 49, obv. 14; <sup>amēl</sup> miḫir, [718] Bu. 91-5-9, 87, rv. 6; <sup>amēl</sup> mār-bānū, [280] K. 10, obv. 16; <sup>amēl</sup> ḫinniṣū, etc., "a man of his family," [542] K. 114, rv. 7; amat ḫalli, "a female slave of the palace," [99] K. 5466, rv. 13; all passages that merely express family relationships, such as "father," "brother," "sister," etc.; <sup>amēl</sup> a, in a broken passage, [101] K. 561, rv. 11, perhaps stands for "son." In a few passages there may be scribal errors; but this question is best deferred for the excursus. It is understood that the foregoing are but specimen references; some of the phrases occur frequently. Their irrelevance to the proposed investigation will be recognized.

Nor has it been deemed within the province of the index to correct the occasional scribal errors. It is preferred to give the reading as it stands, leaving corrections and comments for the excursus. Anyone will recognize that tur ṣip-ia, [500] K. 1308, obv. 10, is an error for tur ṣip-ri-ia; ma-za-si pa-ni, [656] 82-5-22, 168, rv. 8, is the reading in the text for mazazi = manzazi. Tur me-ša-ni occurs in [205] K. 537, obv. 5. I suspect the ša is a defective ra, and that we should read mār-ṣiprāni. A.ri, however, for "courier," does not seem to be an error, as one might at first suppose. It is listed by Brānow, No. 11451. It occurs in <sup>amēl</sup> a.ri.ka, [208] K. 617, rv. 9. Scribal errors are, on the whole, rare in titular elements of the Letters.

The references given are double: the first number, in brackets, being the number of the letter in Harper's *Assyrian and Babylonian Letters*, while the second is the British Museum number. In the excursus the Harper Letters are distinguished by a prefixed H.

The order of the officials is that followed by Johns in *Assyrian Deeds and Documents*, so far as the data permit. It is hoped that this will facilitate the use of both sets of data by those who may take an interest in the subject. Yet many terms occur which

are not discussed by Johns; these follow immediately after the others, and are arranged in alphabetical order.

The present state of Assyriology leaves us in uncertainty about many terms and words. The last page or so of this index contains terms that are *hapax legomena* in the letters so far published; and their occurrence is of a character that renders it impossible to dogmatize. Frequently all preceding or subsequent connection is lost, and all that can be affirmed at present is that here are phrases to be examined: a few of them may not after all indicate officials or artisans. The compiler of the index has examined these places carefully, and decides that the phrases demand consideration from those interested in the official life of Assyria. It is not advisable to commit one's self further now.

The damaged character of many letters results in the frequent occurrence of the "m" with the following characters missing. Here and there a restoration might be ventured from the connection; but this has not been attempted in the index. Many are but partially effaced, and when the restoration of such seems safe, it has been given in the index, with properly bracketed parts. But many occur that do not suggest to me any known official, yet are comparatively little damaged. It has been deemed advisable to append an autographed page of these damaged words.

It has not been deemed advisable to attempt any association or grouping of terms in the index, except where the facts are well established. The "messenger," or "courier," for instance, is indicated by a variety of phrases, already well known. But we may have in our data various terms for some other office; *e. g.*, *rab ali* and *hazanu* might be interchangeable. It has been decided that the index should merely give the data, and leave the discussion of such points to the excursus. On the other hand, it is not intended that an excursus shall be limited in its discussions to the data given in this index. Any attempt to comprehend more clearly the institutions of ancient Assyria and Babylonia must consider something more than the epistolary literature. This work would be facilitated if similar compilations were accessible for other bodies of the cuneiform literature; and it is to be hoped such may be eventually available. As to the actual range of excursus upon various functionaries, it is clear to any student of the cuneiform records that such may involve the whole field of

Assyrian and Babylonian linguistic, scientific, historical, religious, civil, and social development.

The custom, very generally followed hitherto, of indicating ideographic or Sumerian expressions by capitals has been abandoned. While helpful to the young student, it does not seem necessary for those who are likely to avail themselves of this index. Each form of the term has been given in transliteration; the various spellings, and the occurrences with pronominal suffixes, that the lexicographers and grammarians may find their tasks facilitated. But few of the functionaries are of a character that render possessive suffixes probable in the letters. The "courier" shows more variety of terms, and more occurrences with suffixes than any other; almost as many as all others combined; and I have questioned if this list were worth the space, since we already know what may be expected of the average courier or messenger.

In the transliteration, effort has been made to indicate clearly how each spelling is written. The capital catch-word endeavors, where possible, to be phonetically accurate; in detailing the citations, I have intended to suggest the syllables used. Thus, under *amēl Itū'a*, the scribe has choice of two characters for the syllable *tu*: the ordinary *ud*, and the heavier *tu*, which I have uniformly marked *tū*, where occurring.

A few other terms, fairly well understood, have been included in the index: such as *paršumu*, *hīalu*, *šēbu*, *ummanu*, *agrūtū*. Their occurrence is not frequent, and investigation produced reason to suspect a particular technical sense in some of them.

*amēl TURTĀNU, TARTĀNU*: *amēl tur-tan*, [205] K. 537, rv. 6, [571] K. 998, obv. 11; *amēl tur-tan-nu*, [682] K. 508, obv. 8; *amēl tur-tan-ni*, [649] 81-2-4, 110, obv. 4, rv. 3, [373] 82-5-22, 99, obv. 8, [428] 83-1-18, 25, rv. 2, [684] 80-7-19, 37, rv. 3; *amēl tur-ta-nu*, [568] K. 956, rv. 13, [795] Bu. 91-5-9, 107, obv. 5; *amēl tur-ta-nu-šu*, [197] K. 181, rv. 1, [492] 81-2-4, 60, obv. 8; *amēl tur-ta-nu II-u* (=šantū), [144] K. 194, obv. 13; *amēl tur-ta-ni*, [71] K. 1113 +K. 1229, obv. 10; *amēl tar-ta-nu*, [998] 80-7-19, 25, rv. 8, [701] S. 1338, obv. 8.

*amēl NĀGIRU*: *amēl lagar*, [281] K. 13, obv. 10, [576] K. 1009, obv. 9; *amēl lagar ē-gal*, [112] K. 485, obv. 1, [408] R<sup>m</sup> 2, 1, rv. 27, [409] R<sup>m</sup> 2, 2, obv. 2, [781] K. 823, rv. 2; *amēl na-gi-ri*, [521] 83-1-18, 4, rv. 16; *amēl nēr ē-gal*, [373] 82-5-22, 99, obv. 10, [785] K. 13142, obv. 5, [258] K. 1175+1207, obv. 8 (?).