**Dossier Overview of the Neo-Assyrian correspondence of Sargon II**

The present corpus contains 954 letters written in the Neo-Assyrian dialect of Akkadian. These were edited in SAA 1 (264 letters), SAA 5 (300 letters), and SAA 15 (391 letters). Note that SAA 01 028 has been removed as that fragment now joins a fragment edited in SAA 10. The correspondence is sent from at least fifty-eight (presumably more) locations. Sargon and heir-designate Sennacherib corresponded with no less than 128 different individuals.

**Sender Locations**

At present, the locations more or less follow Parpola’s assignments of the texts given in the SAA publications.

Royal letters (those from the king [presumed here to be Sargon II] and Sennacherib) are tentatively assigned the sender location ‘Royal Court’, which at various times was Calah, Dur-Sharruken, and Nineveh (likely in the case of Sennacherib).

Forty-four specific sender locations are given by Parpola (and Fuchs in the case of SAA 15). Alphabetically, these are: Allabria, Amidi, Appina, Arbela, Arrapha, Arzuhina, Ashur, Babylon, Bit-Sangibuti, Bit-Zamani, Calah, Carchemish, Damascus, Der, Dur-Kurigalzu, Dur-Sharruken, Guzana, Habruri, Halzi-atbar, Hamath, Harran, Hindanu, Kar-Sharrukin, Kisheshim, Kumme, Kurbail, Lahiru, Mannea, Mazamua, Muṣaṣir, Naṣibina, Nineveh, Parsua, Qunbuna, Rab Šaqê Province, Raṣappa, Shadikanni, Shubria, Shurda, Tamnuna, Til-Barsip, Tušhan, Urzuhina, Zobah.

The locations of other senders are not easily situated and (vague) regional for these letters/dossiers have been assigned. These are: Assyria, Central or Southern Babylonia, Der region, Diyala region, Eastern Kurdistan, Lower Habur Region, Middle Euphrates Region, Northeastern Assyria, Northern Babylonia, The West, Vassal Kingdom, Western Assyria. There are numerous letters (103) that cannot be assigned even to a general geographic location (i.e. Assyria, Babylonia) and the sender location of these pieces of correspondence are simply noted as ‘uncertain.’

**The Senders**

The names of 128 different senders are preserved or partially preserved. In alphabetical order, these are:

* Abat-šarri-uṣur (Mannea)
* Ada (Shurda)
* Adad-ibni (northeastern Assyria)
* Adad-ibni (Til-Barsip)
* Adad-issiya (Mazamua)
* Adda-hati (Hamath)
* Ahu-lurši (Dur-Sharruken)
* Amar-ili (Arbela)
* Arihu (Lower Habur region)
* Ariye and Ariṣa (Kumme)
* Ašipa (Tušhan)
* Aššur-[...] (Assyria)
* Aššur-alik-pani (eastern Kurdistan)
* Aššur-balti-niše (northeastern Assyria)
* Aššur-bani (Calah)
* Aššur-bel-šarrani (central or southern Babylonia)
* Aššur-belu-da’’in (Halzi-atbar)
* Aššur-belu-taqqin (northern Babylonia)
* Aššur-belu-uda’’an (Kurbail)
* Aššur-belu-uṣur (Kisheshim)
* Aššur-dur-paniya (*Rab-šaqê* Province)
* Aššur-patinu (Bit-Zamani)
* Aššur-reṣiwa (uncertain)
* Aššur-reṣuwa (Kumme)
* Aššur-šarru-ibni (Assyria)
* Aššur-šumu-ka’’in (Assyria)
* Aššur-zeru-ibni (northeastern Assyria)
* Atanha-Šamaš (eastern Kurdistan)
* Bel-duri (Damascus)
* Bel-emuranni (northeastern Assyria)
* Bel-eriba (Parsua, Bit-Hamban, or Bit-Sangibuti)
* Bel-iddina (Allabria)
* Bel-le’i (Arrapha)
* Bel-liqbi (Zobah)
* City rulers (Assyria)
* Dinanu (eastern Kurdistan)
* Gabbu-ana-Aššur (Kurbail)
* Hu-Teššub (Shubria)
* Hunni (Nineveh)
* Il-yada’ (Dur-Kurigalzu)
* Ila’i-Bel (Middle Euphrates region)
* Ilu-iqbi (Assyria)
* Ina-šar-Bel-allak (Dur-Sharruken)
* Inurta-ila’i (Til-Barsip)
* Išmanni-Aššur (Middle Euphrates region)
* Issar-duri (Arrapha)
* Issar-šumu-iqiša (eastern Kurdistan)
* Kiṣir-Aššur (Dur-Sharruken)
* Kuškaya (Mazamua)
* Mahde (Nineveh)
* Mannu-ki-Adad (northeastern Assyria)
* Mannu-ki-Arbail (northeastern Assyria)
* Mannu-ki-Aššur-le’i (Guzana)
* Mannu-ki-Ninua (Kar-Sharrukin)
* Marduk-remanni (Calah)
* Marduk-šarrani (northern Babylonia)
* Marduk-šarru-uṣur (Bit-Sangibuti)
* Marduk-šarru-uṣur (northern Babylonia)
* Mitunu (western Assyria)
* Mušallim-Adad (northeastern Assyria)
* Na’di-ilu (*Rab-šaqê* Province)
* Nabu-[...] (Kurbail)
* Nabu-ahu-uṣur (Mazamua)
* Nabu-balliṭanni (Lahiru)
* Nabu-belu-ka’’in (Assyria)
* Nabu-belu-ka’’in (Diyala region, Kar-Sharrukin)
* Nabu-belu-uṣur and Dinanu (western Assyria)
* Nabu-de’iq (the West)
* Nabu-deni-epuš (Nineveh)
* Nabu-dur-makie and (unknown) (Hindanu)
* Nabu-duru-uṣur (Der)
* Nabu-hamatua (Mazamua)
* Nabu-pašir (Harran)
* Nabu-remanni (Parsua)
* Nabu-riba-ahhe (Nineveh)
* Nabu-šarru-uṣur (northeastern Assyria)
* Nabu-šumu-iddina (Lahiru)
* Nabu-ušabši, Igli (northeastern Assyria)
* Nabu-uṣalla (Tamnuna)
* Nabu-zer-ketti-lešir (Assyria)
* Nadin-[...] (uncertain)
* Nanu (northeastern Assyria)
* Nanu (uncertain)
* Nashir-Bel (Amidi)
* Nergal-[...] (uncertain)
* Nergal-balliṭ (Assyria)
* Nergal-belu-uṣur (uncertain)
* Nergal-eṭir (Namri, Bit-Hamban, or Bit-Sangibuti)
* Palace supervisor (royal court)
* Pan-Aššur-lamur (royal court)
* Recruitment officers (Assyria)
* Remutu (Lower Habur region)
* Ša-Aššur-dubbu (Tušhan)
* Šamaš-abu-uṣur (northern Babylonia)
* Šamaš-belu-uṣur (Arzuhina)
* Šamaš-belu-uṣur (Der)
* Šamaš-re’uwa (uncertain)
* Šamaš-taklak (uncertain)
* Šamaš-upahhir (Habruri)
* Samnuha-belu-uṣur (Shadikanni)
* Sargon II (royal court; always *šarru* [‘king’] in the letters)
* Šarru-emuranni (Babylon)
* Šarru-emuranni (Bit-Zamani)
* Šarru-emuranni (Mazamua)
* Šarru-emuranni (Qunbuna)
* Sennacherib (royal court)
* Sin-ašared (Assyria)
* Sin-ila’i (central or southern Babylonia)
* Sin-na’di (Arrapha)
* Šulmanu-[...] (Assyria)
* Šulmu-beli (eastern Kurdistan)
* Šulmu-beli-lašme (northeastern Assyria)
* Ṭab-šar-Aššur (royal court)
* Ṭab-ṣill-Ešarra (Ashur)
* Taklak-ana-Bel (Naṣibina)
* Tariba-Issar (Assyria)
* unassigned vassal king (vassal kingdom)
* Upaqa-Šamaš (eastern Kurdistan)
* Urdu-Sin (eastern Kurdistan)
* Urzana (Muṣaṣir)
* Zabayu (Appina)
* Zeru-ibni (Raṣappa)
* [...]-ka’’in (Tušhan)
* [...]-remanni (Kurbail)
* [...]ya (uncertain)

In addition, the names of numerous senders are not preserved. These correspondents sent letters to the king from Arrapha, Assyria, Bit-Hamban, Bit-Sangibuti, Carchemish, central or southern Babylonia, the region around Der, the Diyala region, eastern Kurdistan, Hindanu, Kar-Sharrukin, Kumme, Kurbail, the Middle Euphrates region, northeastern Assyria, northern Babylonia, Parsua, Urzuhina, western Assyria, as well as from other locations.

**Overview of dossiers (arranged by sender location and sender)**

Based on SAA 1, SAA 5, and SAA 15, the Neo-Assyrian 954 letters sent to and from Sargon II are arranged as follows:

**Allabria**

Bel-iddina [4]

**Amidi**

Nashir-Bel (Liphur-Bel) [20]

**Appina**

Zabayu [1]

**Arbela**

Amar-ili [5]

**Arrapha**

Bel-le’i [1]

Issar-duri [15]

Sin-na’di [1]

(unknown) [6]

**Arzuhina**

Šamaš-belu-uṣur [10]

**Ashur**

Ṭab-ṣill-Ešarra [36]

**Assyria**

Aššur-[...] [1]

Aššur-šarru-ibni [1]

Aššur-šumu-ka’’in [1]

City rulers [1]

Ilu-iqbi [5]

Nabu-belu-ka’’in [1]

Nabu-zer-ketti-lešir [1]

Nergal-balliṭ [1]

Recruitment officers [1]

Sin-ašared [1]

Tariba-Issar [2]

Šulmanu-[...] [1]

(unknown) [42]

**Babylon**

Šarru-emuranni [23]

**Bit-Sangibuti**

Marduk-šarru-uṣur [3]

**Bit-Zamani**

Aššur-patinu [4]

Šarru-emuranni [1]

**Calah**

Aššur-bani [13]

Marduk-remanni [1]

**Carchemish**

(unknown) [1]

**Central or Southern Babylonia**

Aššur-bel-šarrani [1]

Sin-ila’i [1]

(unknown) [32]

**Damascus**

Bel-duri [2]

**Der**

Nabu-duru-uṣur [7]

Šamaš-belu-uṣur [18]

**Der region**

(unknown) [13]

**Diyala region**

Nabu-belu-ka’’in [24]

(unknown) [5]

**Dur-Kurigalzu**

Il-yada’ [22]

**Dur-Kurigalzu or Babylon**

Il-yada’ or Šarru-emuranni [1]

**Dur-Sharruken**

Ahu-lurši [2]

Ina-šar-Bel-allak [3]

Kiṣir-Aššur [4]

**Eastern Kurdistan**

Atanha-Šamaš [2]

Aššur-alik-pani [10]

Dinanu [2]

Issar-šumu-iqiša [1]

Upaqa-Šamaš [2]

Urdu-Sin [1]

Šulmu-beli [12]

(unknown) [2]

**Guzana**

Mannu-ki-Aššur-le’i [2]

**Habruri**

Šamaš-upahhir [2]

**Halzi-atbar**

Aššur-belu-da’’in [3]

**Hamath**

Adda-hati [4]

**Harran**

Nabu-pašir [16]

**Hindanu**

(unknown) [2]

(unknown), Nabu-dur-makie [1]

**Kar-Sharrukin**

Mannu-ki-Ninua [16]

Nabu-belu-ka’’in [6]

(unknown) [5]

**Kisheshim**

Aššur-belu-uṣur [6]

**Kumme**

Ariye, Ariṣa [1]

Aššur-reṣuwa [20]

(unknown) [7]

**Kurbail**

[...]-remanni [1]

Aššur-belu-uda’’an [2]

Gabbu-ana-Aššur [13]

Nabu-[...] [1]

(unknown) [3]

**Lahiru**

Nabu-balliṭanni [2]

Nabu-šumu-iddina [4]

**Lower Habur Region**

Arihu [1]

Remutu [1]

**Mannea**

Abat-šarri-uṣur [1]

**Mazamua**

Adad-issiya [11]

Kuškaya [2]

Nabu-ahu-uṣur [1]

Nabu-hamatua [3]

Šarru-emuranni [13]

**Middle Euphrates Region**

Ila’i-Bel [2]

Išmanni-Aššur [4]

(unknown) [3]

**Muṣaṣir**

Urzana [2]

**Naṣibina**

Taklak-ana-Bel [15]

**Namri, Bit-Hamban, or Bit-Sangibuti**

Nergal-eṭir [4]

**Nineveh**

Hunni [2]

Mahde [4]

Nabu-deni-epuš [1]

Nabu-riba-ahhe [1]

**Northeastern Assyria**

Adad-ibni [1]

Aššur-balti-niše [1]

Aššur-zeru-ibni [1]

Bel-emuranni [1]

Mannu-ki-Adad [4]

Mannu-ki-Arbail [1]

Mušallim-Adad [1]

Nabu-šarru-uṣur [1]

Nabu-ušabši, Igli [1]

Nanu [2]

Šulmu-beli-lašme [1]

(unknown) [53]

**Northern Babylonia**

Aššur-belu-taqqin [7]

Marduk-šarrani [2]

Marduk-šarru-uṣur [2]

Šamaš-abu-uṣur [1]

(unknown) [1]

**Parsua**

Nabu-remanni [6]

**Parsua, Bit-Hamban, or Bit-Sangibuti**

Bel-eriba [1]

(unknown) [10]

**Qunbuna**

Šarru-emuranni [1]

**Raṣappa**

Zeru-ibni [4]

**Rab Šaqê Province**

Aššur-dur-paniya [10]

Na’di-ilu [12]

**Royal Court**

Palace supervisor [1]

Pan-Aššur-lamur [2]

Sargon II [37]

Sennacherib [13]

Ṭab-šar-Aššur [43]

**Shadikanni**

Samnuha-belu-uṣur [4]

**Shubria**

Hu-Teššub [2]

**Shurda**

Ada [1]

**Tamnuna**

Nabu-uṣalla [1]

**The West**

Nabu-de’iq [7]

**Til-Barsip**

Adad-ibni [2]

Inurta-ila’i [1]

**Til-Barsip or Harran**

Inurta-ila’i or Nabu-pašir [1]

**Tušhan**

[...]-ka’’in [1]

Ašipa [10]

Nashir-Bel or Ša-Aššur-dubbu [2]

Ša-Aššur-dubbu [10]

**Urzuhina**

(unknown) [7]

**Vassal Kingdom**

unassigned vassal king [1]

**Western Assyria**

Mitunu [1]

Nabu-belu-uṣur, Dinanu [1]

(unknown) [13]

**Zobah**

Bel-liqbi [6]

**Uncertain**

[...]ya [2]

Aššur-reṣiwa [2]

Nadin-[...] [1]

Nanu [1]

Nergal-[...] [1]

Nergal-belu-uṣur [1]

Šamaš-re’uwa [1]

Šamaš-taklak [1]

(unknown) [93]

**Overview of Dossier Numbers**

The format is as follows: SAANN.NN.NN.L. The first component is the SAA volume number, the second element is the chapter number, the third part of the ID is the sender number within the chapter, and the fourth and last element is the certainty code (a = certain, b = fairly certain [sender name partially preserved], c = sender name restored or completely missing). For example, SAA05.08.08.a = certain letters of Bel-iddina of Allabria; that sender’s letters are edited in Chapter 8 of SAA 5 and he is the eighth sender whose letters are edited in that book and chapter.

There are 304 letters in the corpus group whose senders are not known and these are marked in the ancient\_author field as ‘(unknown)’. Because the name(s) of the sender(s) is completely missing (in 299 cases), the certainty code is always designated as ‘c’. Moreover, because we are unable to distinguish individual authorship of these letters, we have tentatively decided to group the unknown letters of each SAA volume and chapter together rather than individually. For example, the ninety-six unassigned letters in SAA 15 Chapter 9 (Varia and Unassigned) are all given the dossier number SAA15.09.07.c, rather than assigning ninety-six different dossier numbers.

Several different dossiers should be treated together. These are:

* Nabu-belu-ka’’in: SAA15.02.01 and SAA15.04.01
* Sargon II (*šarru*): SAA01.01.01, SAA05.13.01, and SAA15.08.01
* Šarru-emuranni (of Mazamua): SAA05.10.01, SAA05.14.02 and SAA15.08.02
* Šamaš-belu-uṣur: SAA05.11.01 and SAA15.05.01
* Sennacherib: SAA01.02.01 and SAA05.13.02
* Ṭab-šar-Aššur: SAA01.03.01 and SAA05.13.03
* Ṭab-ṣill-Ešarra: SAA01.04.01 and SAA05.14.01

**Possible Test Scenarios**

*A. Careers of**Officials (Whose Geographic Locations Change)*

* Nabu-belu-ka’’in: Thirty-one letters are written by or attributed to Nabu-belu-ka’’in, a high Assyrian official operating in the Diyala region and governor of Kar-Sharrukin. SAA 15 divides his correspondence into two groups: (a) letters concerning the Diyala region (dossier SAA15.02.01) and (b) letters from Kar-Sharrukin (dossier SAA15.04.01).
* Šamaš-belu-uṣur: Thirty-one letters are written by or attributed to Šamaš-belu-uṣur, a man who was first the governor of Arzuhina (dossier SAA05.11.01) and later the governor of Der (dossier SAA15.05.01). There are several letters that Parpola suggests comes from Arzuhina (dossier SAA15.08.03), but the senders name is not preserved.
* Šarru-emuranni: It is possible that the governor of Mazamua (dossiers SAA05.10.01, SAA05.14.02 and SAA15.08.02) was sent to Babylonia during the campaign(s) of 710–708 and that this governor is the same individual who is regarded as the governor of Babylon (dossier SAA15.07.01) in SAA 15. It is also possible that the Šarru-emuranni who was governor of Bit-Zamani (dossier SAA05.03.03) was transferred to Babylonia during the campaign(s) of 710–708. If that proves true, then that man may be the Šarru-emuranni whose letters are edited as coming from Babylon (dossier SAA15.07.01).

*B. Transitions of Power and Regional/Local Scribal Trends*

* Calah: Marduk-remanni (dossier SAA01.05.01) and Aššur-bani (dossier SAA01.05.02) were both governors of Calah. The latter was eponym for the year 713. Marduk-remanni probably held the position of governor before Aššur-bani.
* Der: Il-yada’ (dossier SAA15.06.01) was replaced by Šamaš-belu-uṣur (dossier SAA15.05.01) sometime after 710. Letters of the deputy governor Nabu-duru-uṣur (dossier SAA15.05.02) are also attested. SAA 15 groups letters from Yadburu and Lahiru together with the correspondence from Der. These nineteen letters are from Nabu-šumu-iddina (fortress commander of Lahiru; dossier SAA15.05.03), Nabu-balliṭanni (dossier SAA15.05.04), and (an) unknown sender(s) (dossier SAA15.05.05).
* Kar-Sharrukin: Nabu-belu-ka’’in (dossiers SAA15.02.01 and SAA15.04.01) was replaced by Mannu-ki-Ninua (dossier SAA15.04.02) shortly after 708. Five unattributed letters (dossier SAA15.04.03) are attributed to Kar-Sharrukin.
* Mazamua: Thirty letters are assigned as coming from Mazamua. These are written by its governor Šarru-emuranni (dossiers SAA05.10.01, SAA05.14.02 and SAA15.08.02), its deputy governor Nabu-hamatua (dossier SAA05.10.02), an official by the name of Kuškaya (dossier SAA05.10.03), Adad-issiya (dossier SAA05.10.04) — another governor of Mazamua — and the royal bodyguard Nabu-ahu-uṣur (dossier SAA05.10.05). Because Šarru-emuranni was eponym late in Sargon’s reign (712) it is possible that he succeeded/followed Adad-issiya as governor.

*C. Disambiguating the Various Šarru-emurannis*

There appears that there may have been three or four different senders with the name Šarru-emuranni in the Sargon II correspondence: (a) the governor of Mazamua (dossiers SAA05.10.01, SAA05.14.02 and SAA15.08.02) and eponym of the year 712; (b) the governor of Bit-Zamani (dossier SAA05.03.03); (c) the governor of Babylon (dossier SAA15.07.01); and (d) the city lord of Qunbuna (dossier SAA05.12.04). Dalley and Postgate (1984, 172-173) suggest that (a) and (c) are one and the same individual. The PNA 3/II (1235 sub. 5.2’) suggests that (b) and (c) could be the same individual.

*D. Local/Regional Trends*

Can local/regional trends be distinguished from an analysis of diagnostic signs? That is what we need to find out.

Letters from the following locations could be initially examined:

* Arzuhina (see §A above for details)
* Calah (see §B above for details)
* Der (see §B above for details)
* Dur-Sharruken: letters from Kiṣir-Aššur (dossier SAA01.06.01), Ina-šar-Bel-allak (dossier SAA01.06.02), and Ahu-lurši (dossier SAA01.06.03)
* eastern Kurdistan: letters from Šulmu-beli (dossier SAA05.08.01), Urdu-Sin (dossier SAA05.08.02), Aššur-alik-pani (dossier SAA05.08.06), and Upaqa-Šamaš (dossier SAA05.08.07)
* Harran: letters from Nabu-pašir (dossier SAA01.09.04)
* Kar-Sharrukin (see §B above for details)
* Kumme: letters from Aššur-reṣuwa (dossier SAA05.06.01)
* Kurbail region: letters from the palace herald Gabbu-ana-Aššur (dossier SAA05.07.01), Aššur-belu-uda’’an (dossier SAA05.07.02), and other individuals from the area (dossiers SAA05.07.03, SAA05.07.04, and SAA05.07.05)
* Mazamua (see §B above for details)
* Naṣibina: letters from Taklak-ana-Bel (dossier SAA01.13.02)
* Rab Šaqê Province: letters from Aššur-dur-paniya (dossier SAA05.04.01) and Na’di-ilu (dossier SAA05.04.02)
* Royal Court: letters from the king (dossiers SAA01.01.01, SAA05.13.01, and SAA15.08.01), Sennacherib (dossiers SAA01.02.01 and SAA05.13.02), and Ṭab-šar-Aššur (dossiers SAA01.03.01 and SAA05.13.03)
* Tušhan region: Ašipa (dossier SAA05.02.01) and Ša-Aššur-dubbu (dossier SAA05.02.02)

The list is not exhaustive but tries to incorporate larger dossier sets, rather than smaller ones. The various groups and be compared and contrasted against one another.

*E. Assessing Sender Certainty*

Dossiers can be examined against themselves. Letters with absolute certainty (those whose dossier numbers are marked with ‘a’) should be cross examined with those with correspondence marked as fair certain (number with ‘b’) and conjectural (the ‘c’ numbered text). For example, dossier SAA01.05.02.a (Aššur-bani of Calah) compared to/against dossiers SAA01.05.02.b and SAA01.05.02.c, and dossier SAA01.05.02.b to/against dossier SAA01.05.02.c. Moreover, the ‘b’ and ‘c’ dossier should be compared to other dossier(s) containing the same diagnostic signs to see if other sender attributions are possible.

======

**Comments on Tasks (as written up by Jamie on Dec. 10, 2017) [29 May, 2018]**

The relevant document with the tasks described is [here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/10yjZh0u8i_tJV5BWHh7dk9QEuyUFt2jU1eo2qAmLjdw/edit).

*Task 1 no. (1)*

Completed by Jason Moser.

*Task 1 no. (2)*

Now that the dossiers numbers have been added to the catalogues and are exported in the relevant JSON files, work can begin on creating this script.

*Task 1 no. (3)*

This will result from our meeting and going through the data.

*Task 2*

See the comments for Task 1 no. (2).

*Task 3 (a)*

See § E (Assessing Sender Certainty) above.

*Task 3 (b) and (c)*

See § B (Transitions of Power and Regional/Local Scribal Trends) and D. Local/Regional Trends for test cases.

*Task 3 (d)*

Too early to start working on this; we need to understand what we can and cannot do with the data.