Sin-šarru-ššun

("Sin has established the
king"); Akk.; masc.; wr. m30-LUGAL-is-kun, m30-LUGAL-is-kun, m30-LUGAL-GAR-un, m30-LUGAL-GAR-un, m30-MAN-is-kun, m30-MAN-GAR-un, m30-MAN-GAR, m30-MAN-GAR, m30-MAN-GAR, m30-MAN-GAR, m30-MAN-GAR, m30-MAN-GAR, m30-MAN-GAR, m30-MAN-GAR, m30-MAN-GAR, m30-MAN-GAR, m30-MAN-GAR, m30-MAN-GAR; ft. Grk. Σαράγιος; Tallqvist (1918) 201.

King of Assyria c. 627-612, son of the king Assurbanipal, successor of his brother Aššur-etel-ilani:

a. Background: It has sometimes been argued that Aššur-etel-ilani and Sin-šarru-ššun were the same person, the former being the "Assyrian" throne name and the latter the "Babylonian" throne name; however, this theory can be discarded (see Frame [1992] 304 and nn. 27-28). The reign of this king is poorly documented, and its precise dates are still debated. For recent proposals concerning the chronology of his reign, with a bibliography of earlier treatments, see Beaulieu (1997); Gerber (1998); Reade (1998); Oelsner (1999); Liebig (2000).

b. In the Assyrian sources:

1. Royal inscriptions from Nineveh: A fragmentarily preserved cylinder of m30-LUGAL-GAR from Nineveh probably records the rebuilding of the Nabû temple in that city Sši Cyl B:1 (622*); see Reade (2000) 410a, 415b. Another cylinder inscription of m30-MAN-GAR-un from Nineveh commemorates his renovation of the western entrance of the South-West palace of Sennacherib Sši Cyl C:1 Grayson (1972a) 616* [exemplar c]; 613* [exemplar a]; see Falkner (1952-53) 306; Grayson (1972a) 159; Reade (2000) 415b. A third cylinder (D) from Nineveh has been attributed to Sin-šarru-ššun solely on the basis of his titulary; see Schramm (1975-76) 45-8. It is possible that K 6681 and BM 122613 also represent inscriptions of Sin-šarru-ššun; see Borger (1996) 335, 356.

2. A royal inscription from Kalhu: According to its inscription a sealed clay label from the Review Palace at Kalhu is said to belong to the palace (property) of m30-MAN-GAR CTN 3 83:1 (not dated).

3. Royal inscriptions from Assur: Clay cones from the Nabû temple at Assur commemorate the rebuilding of that temple by m30-LUGAL-GAR-un if [m30-LUGAL-GAR-un /// m30-LUGAL-GAR-un /// m30-LUGAL-GAR-ššun, king of Assyria, son of Assurbanipal, son of Esarhaddon, son of Sennacherib, descendant of Sargon Donbaz - Grayson (1984) 57ff exemplars a, b, d, o (620*). A brick inscription
of **md30-LUGAL-GAR-un**, again citing his descent from his forebears down to on, also commemorates the rebuilding of the Na ū at Assur KAH 2 134 1 (not dated), as does a cylinder inscription from Assur of **md30-LUGAL-GAR-un** Sši Cyl A: 1 27 (616*).

A fragment of an inscription written on a tablet from Assur records that [*md30-LUGAL-GAR-un//* md30-MAN-GAR//* md30-MAN-GAR//* md30-MAN-GAR//*md30-MAN-GAR//*] 1 15 4 (not dated); the second inscription states that **md30-LUGAL-GAR-un** fashioned a spoon from silver and dedicated it to the goddess Antu KAV 171:3, 11, r. 3, 9 (not dated). Another tablet from Assur contains two dedicatory inscriptions of Sin-sarru-šiškun. The first text records that [*md30-LUGAL-GAR-un//* md30-] decorated a vessel from reddish-gold and dedicated it to the god Nabû in Assur AFO 16 pl. 15 4 (not dated); the second inscription states that **md30-LUGAL-GAR-un//** fashioned a bowl from reddish-gold and dedicated it to the goddess Tašmetu in Assur AFO 16 pl. 15 r. 1 (not dated). According to its inscription, a brick from Assur is from the palace of **md30-LUGAL-GAR-un** KAH 1 56 1 (not dated). → Pedersén (1997) 340 (for a catalogue of Sin-sarru-šiškun inscriptions from Assur).

4. In loyalty oaths: Nabû-aplu-iddina, Šebetau, and Aqru, all possibly Babylonian, are mentioned in a fragmentarily preserved text as having a loyalty oath imposed upon them by **md30-MAN-GAR-un** SAA 2 11:1 (not dated or date lost, but possibly 627*). An extract copied from a treaty refers to "this treaty (še-e-e an-na-ne) of **md30-MAN-GAR-un** SAA 2 12:2 (not dated); Parpola - Watanabe (1988) xxxiiif suggest that this text may have been an extract from a loyalty treaty which was imposed on the Assyrian population shortly after the king’s accession in 627 (possibly after a civil war).

5. In a private votive donation: Nabû-sagibī son of Ahhe-damqu donates two slaves and a seven hectare estate in the town of Šabat-šukin to the god Nabû for the preservation of the life of **md30-MA-nings.** → Brinkman (1998a) 13f. During these years Assyrian and Babylonian forces appear to have vied for control of Nippur and Ur, and perhaps even Babylon and Sippar; Urūk could very well have changed hands more than once (Beaulieu [1997]).

The events of the following years (616-612) are relatively well-preserved in the Babylonian Chronicle, see Brinkman (1998a) 13f. During this time the Babylonians and their allies, the Medes (and?) Ummannamanda, aggressively campaigned in Assyria proper until the conquest and subsequent destruction of Nineveh. In 616, Sin-sarru-šiškun’s army was defeated by Nabopolassar near the town Balīhu, but it was not until an Egyptian army joined forces with Assyria that the Babylonians had to withdraw. Later that same year, the Assyrians were defeated once again by the forces of Nabopolassar, this time at Arrapha. The following year (615), the Babylonians attacked Assur, but were repulsed and pursued as far as Takrit (modern Tikrit); however, Sin-sarru-šiškun’s forces were decisively defeated when they attempted to take this fortress. In 614, Assyria’s fortunes took a turn for the worse when the Medes, under the authority of (Umakištar), captured the city Tarbišu, and then apparently captured and destroyed Assur (passage damaged). Two years later (612), the Babylonians, Medes (and?) Ummannamanda besieged Nineveh, and, after three months, defeated the Assyrians. Chronicle 3 mentions that **md30-LUGAL-GAR-un** KUR-d-aš [š(a)ru] either died or disappeared (passage damaged).
immediately after Babylonian and Median troops forcefully broke through Nineveh's defenses Grayson (1975) no. 3:44. Unfortunately, the true nature of Sin-šarru-iškun's death—whether he committed suicide (see below), was murdered by one or more of his officials, or was executed by the troops of Nabopolassar and Cyaxares—or disappearance is not recorded in cuneiform sources. For other proposals on the chronology, see the references cited in 1. above.

3'. In Berossos: According to the Hellenistic writer Berossos, Sarakos (Sin-šarru-iškun) made Bupalassaros (Nabopolassar) a general and sent him to Babylon to deal with an invading force from the Sealand. Soon after, Bupalassaros (Nabopolassar) rebelled against him, and marched against Nineveh; afraid of being captured, Sarakos (Sin-šarru-iškun) committed suicide by burning down his palace around him. → Burstein (1978) 26; Scurlock (1983) 95f.

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