

Sharruludari, Son of Rukibtu, Their Former King: A Detail of Philistine Chronology

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The history of the Philistine city of Ashkelon during Neo-Assyrian times has been ably treated by Tadmor.¹ It is the intention of this short note to add to Tadmor's excellent study by proposing a slight modification in the time of accession of one of Ashkelon's kings, Sharruludari, son of Rukibtu.

Rukibtu had assumed the kingship of Ashkelon in 733 when Tiglath-Pileser III (744-727) crushed the "Syro-Ephraimite" league of which his father, Mitinti,² was apparently a member.³ He presumably remained a faithful vassal to Assyria until his death, and we have indirect evidence that Ashkelon in general remained loyal until the death of Sargon II (721-705).⁴ However, after Sargon's death a revolt led by Sidqa⁵ took place, and Ashkelon joined the

1 H. Tadmor, "The Assyrian Campaigns to Philistia" in J. Liver, ed., *The Military History of the Land of Israel in Biblical Times* (Tel-Aviv, 1965), 261-85 [in Hebrew]; "Philistia Under Assyrian Rule," *Bib.Ar.* 29 (1966), 86-102.

2 Only the preceding year Mitinti ([M] *í-ti-in-ti máat As-qa-lu-na-ya*) had paid tribute to Tiglath-Pileser III (Rost, *Tig. III*, 72:11 = *ANET*³, 282).

3 This is the generally accepted interpretation of a most fragmentary part of Tiglath-Pileser's annals (Luckenbill, *ARAB* 1, #779; Oppenheim in *ANET*³, 283; Tadmor, "Philistia," 89). Rost's text (*Tig. III*, 38: 235-37) is obtained by a combination of lines 7-9 of Layard 29b (= Rost pl. xviiiib) and the ends of lines 12-16 of Layard 73a (= Rost pl. xviiiia). It is hoped that the long awaited new critical edition of Tadmor (announced in "Introductory Remarks to a New Edition of the Annals of Tiglath-Pileser III," *Proceedings of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities* 11/9, (Jerusalem, 1967), 168-87) will help elucidate this section.

4 Letters to Sargon show that other Philistine cities paid tribute; also, Ashkelon did not participate in the revolt of Ashdod in 712, see Tadmor, "Philistia," 92-95.

5 Sidqa was most probably a brother of Sharruludari (so B. Mazar, *Encyclopaedia Biblica* [Jerusalem, 1964], 770 [in Hebrew]) rather than of Rukibtu (so Tadmor, "Philistia," 96). His son Mitinti II later became king in Ashkelon. The link between Sidqa and Mitinti is seen from a contemporary Hebrew seal: *l'bd'l'b bn šb'c't c'bd mtt bn šdq'* "Belonging to Abdi-Eliab, son of Šb'c't, servant of Mitinti, son of Sidqa" (A. Bergman, *JBL* 55 [1936], 224-26; for further literature, see S. Moscati, *L'epigrafia ebraica antica 1935-1950*