

Annotations To Table XXIV

A. - The Astronomical Data:

I. The astronomical dating of Ramessu III and Uasarkon II are fixed by Table XI and Annotations.

II. The astronomical dating of Takerat II's 15th year is fixed as follows

1. By Table XXIV the 15th year of Takerat II began in 859 B.C.
2. In 859 B.C. a full moon occurred on 15th March (Julian) = Egyptian Day 25 Month XII (Mesore) of the vague or shifting year calendar.
3. The record of Takerat II's 15th year states that on this particular Day 25 Month XII (i.e. the precise day of full moon) "*heaven did not eat the moon*" (Budge, Hist. Egypt," VI, p. 90)
4. The record obviously states that on the day of Full Moon an eclipse of the moon did not take place. Calculations show that an eclipse did not take place. It is of importance to remember that an eclipse of the moon can only take place at full moon. Hence the importance of the identity of the recorded day with the full moon.

III. The astronomical dating of Tahrqa's 1st year is fixed as follows:

1. Uasarkon II celebrated a *sed heb* or *end festival* at the end of the Phoenix cycle that fell in his 22nd year (874 B.C.), **Table XI** and **Annotations**.
2. Tahrqa, having reigned as a powerful coregent for many years, determined to assert his own supremacy at a *Sed heb* so as to appear divinely appointed as dominant ruler of the land.
3. Tahrqa, therefore, reckoned 6 Sed periods, or 180 years from Uasarkon II's Sed heb in 874 B.C. This gave the date 694 B.C.
4. Tahrqa, therefore, began his reign as sole ruler in 694 B.C., and celebrated a *Sed heb* at his coronation (Petrie, "*Hist. Egypt*," III, 301).
5. By the annals of Assurbanipal and the astronomically fixed datings of Assurbanipal, the death of Tahrqa is fixed in 667 B.C.

B. – The Problem of the Reign of Psamtek I and Its Solution.

The facts relating to this are as follow:

1. Psamtek I, in an Apis record, claims that his reign began immediately following the death of Tahrqa in 667 B.C.; and supplies good reasons for his claims.
2. The records of Dynasty XXVI show conclusively that Psamtek I's reign ended in 609 B.C.
3. This gives 58 years' duration for the reign of Psamtek I.
4. The recorded duration of the reign of Psamtek I is 54 years.
5. If the records supplying the above data are all true records there is only one possible explanation of the facts. This is that Psamtek I reigned 54 years only out of the 58 years that intervened between the commencement of his reign and the termination of his reign. In other words, at some date after the commencement of his reign, Psamtek I was deposed, or failed to act as king during a period of 4 years.
6. This presentation of the facts and the solution offered find confirmation from the narrative of Herodotus (BK. II, Chs. 151 and 152). Psamtek I was deposed and banished. He returned with Carian and Ionian mercenaries (the Lydians of Gyges mentioned by Assurbanipal) and recovered his kingdom.

C. – The Resulting Statement of the Sequence of Historical events:

1. The priests of Memphis buried an Apis in the Serapeum, dated in 24th year Tahrqa, B.C. 671.
2. In the 25th year of Tahrqa, Esarhaddon defeated Tahrqa, and captured Memphis in June, 670 B.C.; Tahrqa retiring on Thebes.
3. Esarhaddon departed and Tahrqa recaptured Memphis in his 26th year, B.C. 669. In this year, according to Psamtek I's record, an Apis was born.
4. The record of Psamtek I, by its data fixes the ceremonial inauguration of the Apis at Memphis in the 27th year Tahrqa, late in B.C. 668 or early in B.C. 667
5. Hearing of the Assyrian reverses in Egypt, Esarhaddon advanced against Egypt but died on the march in October, 668 B.C.
6. The Tartan (general) of the Assyrian army continued the campaign, and was joined by a second army under the Rabshakeh from Nineveh. Tahrqa's army was defeated early in 667 B.C., at Karbanit; the Assyrians capturing Memphis. Tahrqa fled to Thebes, followed by the Assyrians. Still early in 667 B.C., Thebes was captured; Tahrqa retiring up the Nile.
7. During the Assyrian advance, the Assyrians intercepted messengers between the Delta princes and Tahrqa. The messages disclosed a plan of revolt which the Assyrians immediately took effective steps to thwart.
8. Assurbanipal states that Tahrqa continued his flight to Ethiopia and died there; the Assyrian operations in the meanwhile being completed during the first half of 667 B.C.
9. In the same year, 667 B.C., Psamtek I was appointed king of Athribis, When therefore, Psamtek I, in his Apis record, gives his reign as following immediately after the reign of Tahrqa, he is dating from his appointment as king of Athribis in the Delta. What he does not tell us is that he was compelled, a year or so later, to flee into the marshes and abroad into Syria for 4 years; that these 4 years were not reckoned as regnal years; and that to hide the gap in his reign the life of the Apis was reckoned as 4 years less than it actually was.
10. On the death of Tahrqa, in 667 B.C., Tanutamem became king of Ethiopia. The 1st year of Tanutamem is therefore the 1st year of Psamtek I. A record of Tanutamem's 3rd year at Luqsor indicates that his rule included Thebes in 665-664 B.C.
11. The annals of Assurbanipal confirm the Dream Stele of Tanutamem, and the traditions relating to Nekau, the father of Psamtek, Tanutamem advanced from Thebes against the Egyptian princes of the Delta and the Assyrian garrison in Memphis, Memphis was besieged and captured. Nekau I, the father of Psamtek was killed in the siege. Psamtek I and other delta princes retired into the marshes. By appearing to adopt the dictatorship of Nekau I, Psamtek I was banished from the Delta marshes by the other princes. Apparently Psamtek I was from continuing the conflict, for after his banishment, the other princes of the Delta left the marshes and submitted to Tanutamem.
12. The annals of Assurbanipal relate that upon receipt of the news of the Assyrian reverses in Egypt, a fresh expedition was organized against Egypt. Thebes was captured and pillaged. Tanutamem was decisively overthrown, and Psamtek I – obviously with the Assyrian army – restored as viceroy of Egypt under Assurbanipal. The Assyrian data fix the date as 661 B.C.
13. Now 665 B.C. is the earliest date for Tanutamem's 3rd year dating appearing at Thebes. This dating too is the earliest evidence of Tanutamem at Thebes. The date fixes the time of his invasion of Egypt and the banishment of Psamtek I.
14. With 665 B.C. as the date of Psamtek I's banishment, and 661 B.C. as the date of his reinstatement by the Assyrians, the 4 years' difference between his apparent 58 years and the 54 years he claims is accounted for. 661 B.C. is, therefore, identified with the resumption of Psamtek I's broken reign. His 3rd year – postponed for 4 years of banishment – began in 661 B.C.
15. In the annals of Assurbanipal, the next Assyrian expedition is against Tyre. Following the account of the subjection of Tyre, Assurbanipal states that Gyges, king of Lydia, applied to him for assistance against the invading Cimmerians; but that, after having tendered his submission to the Assyrian king, he (Gyges) – apparently having dealt successfully with the Cimmerians – sent "*his forces to the aid of Psammitichus (Psamtek I) of Egypt, who had thrown off the yoke of my dominion.*"
16. The first dating of Psamtek I at Thebes is of his 9th year, 655 to 654 B.C., this indicating that by 654 B.C. Psamtek I had established himself as king of all Egypt.