A Contribution to Ancient Near Eastern Chronology (c. 1600 – 900 BC)

- Methodology
- Core Hypotheses
- Major Historical Repercussions
Methodology: Theory of Paradigms

- T. Kuhn (1962), *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*.

- Paradigm definition:

  ‘universally recognized scientific achievements that for a time provide model problems and solutions to a community of practitioners’ (e.g. Ptolemaic astronomy vs. Copernican astronomy; Creation-evolution vs. Darwinian evolution; etc.).
Paradigm Change

- Requirements of successful new paradigms:
  - Resolve anomalies that triggered crisis
  - Preserve most of the puzzle-solving solutions of ‘old’ paradigm.

- Criteria of good (better) paradigm:
  - Breadth of scope (e.g. chronological/geographic)
  - Accuracy/precision – essential for relating theory to data
  - Consistency
  - Fruitfulness:
    - Integrate currently isolated historical texts
    - Reveal new historical relationships
    - Make testable predictions
  - Simplicity – minimum ‘core’ and ‘subsidiary’ hypotheses.
Assyrian Anomalies

Shalmaneser II to Adad-nirari II – current anomalies:

1) Ashur-rabi II to Ashur-nirari IV – almost complete lack of contemporary texts (only one exception)

2) Name of Shalmaneser II omitted from the Nassouhi King-list (possibly composed by Ashur-dan II)

3) The entire Assyrian eponym canon contains only three reigns with ‘repetitive eponyms’, i.e., ‘One after PN’ Shalmaneser II (1/12), Ashur-nirari IV (6/6), Tiglath-pileser II (from 3rd eponym)

4) Tiglath-pileser II: Khorsabad King-list (32 years); KAV 22 (33 eponyms)

5) Ashur-dan II to Adad-nirari II; revolutionary change in position of king’s eponym, from 1st to 2nd position

6) Shalmaneser II to Ashur-resha-ishi II; 2 burial stele expected in Ashur (Ashur-nirari IV and Ashur-rabi II), only 1 found.
Dating the Fall of the First Dynasty of Babylon (A)

Middle Mesopotamian Chronology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EGYPT</th>
<th>HATTI</th>
<th>ASSYRIA</th>
<th>BABYLONIA</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amosis (1575-1550 CC)</td>
<td>Mursili I (c. 1595 CC)</td>
<td>Samsuditana (c. 1625-1595 CC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuthmosis III (1504-1450 CC)</td>
<td>11 generations of Hittite kings</td>
<td>Puzur-Ashur III (1481-1458 CC)</td>
<td>Burnaburiash I (c. 1500-1480 CC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Horemheb (1348-1320 CC)</td>
<td>Mursili II (c. 1347 CC)</td>
<td>Ashur-uballit I (1365-1330 CC)</td>
<td>Burnaburiash II (c. 1375-1347 CC)</td>
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## Dating the Fall of the First Dynasty of Babylon (B)

### Chronology A-E

<table>
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<td>Amosis</td>
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<td>(1375-1350 AC)</td>
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<td>of Hittite kings</td>
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<td>Horemheb</td>
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<td>Tukulti-Ninurta I</td>
<td>Burnaburiash II (c. 1186-1160 AC)</td>
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<td>(1148-1120 AC)</td>
<td>(c. 1147 AC)</td>
<td>(1159-1123 AC)</td>
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Map of the Late Bronze Age Near East
Conventional Arrangement of Great Kings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EGYPT</th>
<th>HATTI</th>
<th>MITANNI</th>
<th>HURRI LAND</th>
<th>ASSYRIA</th>
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<tr>
<td>Amenophis III</td>
<td>Tudhaliya II</td>
<td>Artatama I</td>
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<td>Amenophis IV (Akhenaten) —</td>
<td>Shuppiluliuma I — Tushratta — Artatama II</td>
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<td>Shattuara — Shattuara III</td>
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<td>Hattushili III —</td>
<td>Shattuara II —</td>
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</tbody>
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— brother of predecessor
: relationship to predecessor
unknown
— known synchronism
Proposed Genealogy of the Kings of Mitanni, Hanigalbat and Hurri Land

Artatama I
  ┌───────────────────────┐
  │ Artashumara          │
  │ Tushratta            │
  │ Shattuara            │
  │ Uasashatta           │
  │ Artatama II (of Hurri Land) │
  │ Shuttarna II/Shattuara I │
  │ Shuttarna III        │
  └───────────────────────┘
Mitanni, Hanigalbat and Assyria
The Syrian Campaign of Tiglath-pileser I
Author/s: FURLONG, PIERCE JAMES

Title: A contribution to ancient Near Eastern chronology (c. 1600 – 900 BC)

Date: 2008


Publication Status: Unpublished

Persistent Link: http://hdl.handle.net/11343/35011

File Description: A contribution to ancient Near Eastern chronology (c. 1600 – 900 BC)

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