The fragmentary inscription published here has an importance beyond what its modest size would suggest for it represents the first royal inscription of Adad-nārārī I (c. 1306–1274 B.C.) in which Babylonia (Karduniash) is mentioned. The stone fragment on which the text is inscribed is in the possession of a European collector who wishes to remain anonymous but who generously permitted its publication. The text was first brought to my attention by Professor W.G. Lambert.

The fragment contains the last few lines of Adad-nārārī’s Standard Introduction (1’–5’a’ = Weidner, IAK XX, 1 = Grayson, ARI 1, LXXVI, 1:29–32) but the remainder of the text (5b’–19’) is new and unique. It seems to combine descriptions both of building activity and military action, a highly unusual combination for a royal inscription. But the reference to Karduniash (11) is particularly noteworthy. That Adad-nārārī I waged war with Karduniash is known from other sources (see Grayson, Chronicles Appendix B sub Adad-nārārī I) but this is the first occurrence of the name in one of his royal inscriptions. The text from which this fragment comes must have been the king’s official narration of that war. If this is so, then the apparent mention of the earlier king, Enil-nārārī (7’), must be an allusion to his war with the same foe.

The buildings referred to are a wall (5b’) and the ziggurat of Assur (15’), which is reminiscent of another Adad-nārārī I text (Edzard, Sumer 20 [1964], pp. 49f. and pls. If. = Grayson, ARI 1, LXXVI, 14) in which reconstruction of the wall of the Inner City, opposite the Assur ziggurat, was described. However, in this fragment work on the ziggurat itself seems to be narrated, activity otherwise unattested for this king.
Kurigalzu for Kur. kar-du-ni-as i-n a(?) kar-istar(?) ...

15') The ziggurat of Assur my lord [ ...... ] the location of which [ ...... had destroyed]

Lacuna

Commentary

11') cf. Grayson, Chronicles no. 21 i 25'
16') cf. Weidner, IAK XX, 6:40