The letter fragments Sm 807 (ABL 741) and K 5609 (CT 53, 296) were published by G.B. Lanfranchi and S. Parpola in SAA 5 (respectively nos. 55 and 61). The first fragment contains part of the obverse of a letter, including the sender’s name Aššur-dur-paniya; the reverse is said to be “destroyed”. The second fragment, which was attributed to Aššur-dur-paniya on the basis of the scribal hand, contains the first one or two signs of eight lines on the obverse and the beginning of twelve lines on the reverse. While studying this individual’s correspondence in the British Museum, I physically joined K 5609 and Sm 807 (15 November, 2007). The new join confirms Parpola’s attribution of SAA 5, 61, to Aššur-dur-paniya, and may slightly improve our understanding of the text, although both fragments are badly damaged. Sm 807 (SAA 5, 55) contains part of lines 1-13 and K 5609 (SAA 5, 61) preserves parts of lines 7-14 and twelve lines on the reverse.
The letter now reads as follows:

**Obverse**

1. \([a-na \text{ LUGAL } be-lí-ia]\)
2. \([\text{ARAD-ka} \ aš-šur-BÀD-II-gi-ia]\)
3. \([\text{lu-u šul-mu a-na LUGAL be-}'lì'-ia]\)
4. \([\text{LÚ.da-ia} a-li-ia ša ina ŠÀ K[UR-i]\)
5. \([šu-n]u-u-ní LÚ.EME šu-[ú šà]\)
6. \([\text{TA* URU-i}³-gi-is-ti-a-ní a-na 0?]\)
7. \(^1[a-r]i-e a-na KUR-i i[l-lik-u-ní]\)
8. \([LÚ.[d]a-a-li-ia iš-šab-[tu-ni-šú]\)
9. \(a-sa-[?]a-al-šú mu-ku mi-³-[nu]\)
10. \((³]eɪ-[e]-mu ša KUR.U[RI³-a-a]\)
11. \(ma-³[a] \text{KUR.} e³-ti-na-a-a x[x x x]\)
12. \(ma-³[a] x i l \text{Giši} [x x x]\)
13. \(ma-³[a] x l a-ša x[x x x]\)
14. \(i³[x x x x x x x x x]\)

rest broken away

**Reverse**

beginning broken away

1. \([x x x] x\) x\) [x x x x x]
2. \(x x x ꝏ [x x x x x]\)
3. \(x x x ꝏ [x x x x x]\)
4. \(i³[x x x x x x x x x]\)
5. \([D x x p]a-an [x x x x]\)
6. \(x x x \) ri ᵃ [x x x x x]
7. \(i³-da-at am-[u³-ti x x x x]\)
8. \(x x x \) ul "la" a [x x x x x]
9. \(x x x x x x ꝏ [x x x x x x]\)
10. \([\text{Giši}³-r]i³ \) i³ [x x x x x x x]
11. \(i³-ta-lak [x x x x x x]\)
12. \([x] x i k [x x x x x x]\)

rest broken away
Translation (as in SAA 5, except for line 11):

[To the king, my lord, your servant] Aššur-dur-paniya. Good health to the king, [my lord! (4) My scouts in the mountain have captured an informer who was going from the city Argisti ani to Arije, over the mountain. (9) I asked him about the news of the Urartian, and he told me: “The Etinean(s) […] …… (13) has not come out […]

The reverse remains too broken for translation.

Notes

6: The Urartian city Argis/štiani is attested two other times in published Neo-Assyrian sources: in Sargon Annals, 145, and in TCL 3, 287. Sargon claims to have conquered and burnt this Urartian stronghold along with many other cities during his eighth campaign.

11: I would not exclude the reading [KUR]'-ti-na-a-a, which was considered by Lanfranchi and Parpola, but rejected in the SAA 5 edition. The traces of the first sign preserved in Sm 807, 11, may be a single vertical wedge or two vertical wedges, one on top of the other. Therefore, the restoration Etināja is plausible. The association between (Mount) Etini and Urartu is confirmed by ND 2453 (NL 48). In this letter, the sender, probably [Aššur-le’i], informs the king of “the news of Urartu”. He reports that the ruler of Etini has already attacked, defeated and plundered Urartu twice. His third raid, however, provoked the Urartian king Ursā to leave his capital Šuruśpā and march against the ruler of Etini. The Assyrians took advantage of the situation by attacking cities on the other side of the Zab river. Ursā’s reaction, unfortunately, is broken off. SAA 5, 55+ may refer to the same episode. Thus, it is possible that both ND 2453 and SAA 5, 55+ give us significant information about some of the events surrounding Sargon’s famous eighth campaign.

Rev. 6*: Possibly another reference to Arije.

10’, 12*: The verbs halāqu, “to run away, escape”, or hapā, “to destroy”, may be reconstructed at the end of r.10’ and 12’: “he es[cape[d over]/de[stroyed] the bridge and went to …”

1. Fuchs 1993, pp. 113, 321.
4. For the location of Mount Etini at the border between Tummu and Zamua, see Liverani 1992, pp. 19, 53, fig. 1.
SAA 5 = Lanfranchi – Parpola 1990.
TCL 3 = F. Thureau-Dangin, *Une relation de la huitième campagne de Sargon* (*Textes cunéiformes du Louvre*, 3), Paris 1912.