

ECONOMIC TABLETS FROM THE TEMPLE OF MAMU AT BALAWAT

By BARBARA PARKER

DURING the spring of 1957, the British School of Archaeology in Iraq carried out a second short season of excavations at Balawat, ancient Imgur-Bel. The excavation of the temple of the god Mamu was continued and to the east of the cella two small rooms were uncovered.¹ In one of these was found a collection of forty tablets, in varying state of preservation. Of this collection I publish twenty-nine, the others being too badly preserved to give a useful text.

Evidence of Date. The majority of the tablets were written between 697 and 671 B.C., during the reigns of Sennacherib and Esarhaddon. There are three isolated documents of earlier date: BT.101, 710 B.C.; BT.106, 734 B.C.; BT.131, 719 B.C. There is one isolated tablet of much later date, belonging to the reign of Sin-šar-iškun, BT.105. It is noticeable that these tablets do not contain any of the names familiar from the transactions of the main group of documents.

Nature of the Transactions and Personalities Featuring in them. As we have often noticed at Nimrud, the collection of tablets gives the impression of an odd basketful left behind after the majority had been carried away to be disposed of in some manner, perhaps on to an adjacent dump, for tablets are sometimes found in building rubbish; *e.g.* the collection of Nimrud letters was found in earth and broken mudbrick used to level up a room, and some of the tablets from the Governor's palace were found in a secondary mud wall. It has been suggested to me that unwanted tablets might have been levigated in water for re-use of the tablet clay. If, however, tablet clay was easily obtained from river and stream beds, then this would not appear to be worthwhile.

The tablets are all of an economic and legal nature and were presumably the private collection of members of the temple personnel. The principal characters are Šumma-ilu, a scribe *šangu*, who features in nine of these documents, between 697 and 671 B.C. and Mamu-iqbi, who was active between 692 and 685 B.C. In 687 and 686 B.C. he appears as a witness at Nineveh in two documents, ARU.135 and 397, both connected with land leased and bought by Ribate, who also appears as a witness in three Balawat texts, BT.100, 123, 125, and who, in BT.125, is described as a Ninevite. There is no informa-

¹ M. E. L. Mallowan, *Twenty-five years of Mesopotamian Discovery*, p. 79.
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tion, unfortunately, about the status of Mamu-iqbi. He also appears to lease land near Nineveh,² for it is said to be bounded by a wall to or towards Nineveh. Since Balawat is about fifteen miles from Nineveh, this description could not apply to land in Balawat. However, this is no reason why he should not be from Balawat in origin, as his name suggests. Another person who frequently appears is Naranu, who acts as a witness in eight contracts between 694 and 671 B.C. He also is called a Ninevite in BT.125, but must have been a resident or a frequent visitor to Imgur-Bel. An interesting figure is Mannu-ki-Arbela who is described as a scribe, *A.BA*, in BT.117, where he takes over an offering or a tax debt from Mamu-iqbi. In this contract he has an important guarantor, the royal secretary, *A.BA ekalli*, whose driver acts as a witness. In the previous year, Mannu-ki-Arbela, who is presumably the same man, although this is not certain, is involved in a case concerning a slave woman of the queen, and has to be bailed out by Mamu-iqbi, BT.140. He is said to have stolen the slave. It is clear from other late Assyrian texts, *ARU.657, 658*, that theft was not always punished by death, as laid down by the Code of Hammurabi and the Laws of Ešnunna. The theft must be made good and a penalty paid, for which poor men were sold into slavery. This accords with the treatment of Mannu-ki-Arbela, who is freed upon payment by Mamu-iqbi of a half talent of copper.

Description of the Documents; Loans. The tablets include a number of documents which may be called loans, BT.100, 101, 103, 108, 113, 114, 127, 138. These conceal in a simple formula various financial transactions which it is rarely possible to identify. BT.138, for example, is clearly a debit note on an outstanding bill. All these transactions concern silver, or the debt is stated in terms of silver. Sometimes the standard of silver is specified, *e.g.* the royal standard, BT.114, 127, or the standard of the Ištar temple at Arbela, BT.113, or the *tamqaru* standard of the same temple, BT.101. There are two difficult texts, BT.116, 117, concerning the transfer of tax or offering obligations³, in the form of first quality barley, to other persons. The texts suggest that these are to be paid in Arbela. There may be some special circumstance in this case, as Balawat cannot have been in the administrative area of Arbela, for it is about fifty miles away across the greater Zab, whereas Calah and Nineveh are twelve and fifteen miles respectively.

Debts with Security. A number of loans or debt documents involve the lodging of the debtor's son with the creditor until the debt is paid. Most of these are no doubt cases where the creditor has distrained a member of the debtor's family for non payment of the debt, because only in BT.139 does the debtor apparently benefit from the value of the boy's labour and then only to the extent of the interest. In three of these documents, BT.102, 128 and 139, there is a curious condition about the cost of certain provisions, water, bread

² BT. 136

³ From the well-known Balawat characters Mamu-iqbi and Šumma-ilu.

or barley, oil and sometimes meat. It appears from BT.139 that the cost of this is half a shekel. Water is never counted in labourers' rations, so the provisions may be required for some ceremony.

Debts. BT.124 is a debt of silver, called *kiširtu*, against the *bēl piḫāti* of Arzuḫina and another, on the part of the Crown Prince? and Mamu-iqbi. As the personal name of the *bēl piḫāti* is not given, it may be that the debt was against the administration, but the governor's association with an individual seems against this interpretation.

Contracts for Reapers. BT.104 is a contract, using the loan formula, for the provision of reapers for the harvest. There is the usual penalty for non appearance at the date required. This document is unusual in that no advance payment is made and A. is said to lend the reapers to B.

Leases or Mortgages. BT.107, 112 and 136 are leases or mortgages of agricultural land and in one case, BT.136, an irrigation ditch or small canal. A sale formula is used and a fixed sum paid. Similar texts, ARU. pp. 454-5, have been described as mortgages, and, as the sum specified seems too large for yearly rent, this may be true.

Court Cases. There are two of this type of document. In BT.118 Šummu-ilu the *sartinu* gives judgement against an individual who is ordered to produce a camel by a certain date. Perhaps this is a case of dispute over the ownership of the animal or an attempted theft. BT.131 is less well preserved, but concerns the delivery of a flock of three hundred sheep, perhaps also a case of theft, but the facts are not clear.

Penalties. BT.115 is an interesting case in which three mana of silver, royal standard, has to be paid as a fine due to the temple of Mamu, either as penalty or possibly on account of a theft. Most sale contracts include various penalties for contesting the contract, which often take the form of payments of gold to specified temples, e.g. BT.126. BT.119 is about the payment of damages, *ḫibiltu*, in which Šumma-ilu, *šangu* of Imgur-Bel, is involved, but the facts of the case are uncertain owing to the damaged condition of the tablet.

Sales. There is one contract for the sale of a female slave, BT.125, and another sale contract, BT.106, concerns agricultural land.

Settlements. BT.105 and 109 are debt settlements.

We have no knowledge of the history of Imgur-Bel after its brief period of royal favour under its founder Aššurnaširpal II and his son, Shalmaneser III. It took part in the revolt of Aššur-danin-apli at the end of the reign of Shalmaneser III,⁴ but thereafter the records are silent. Although it is not mentioned in historical inscriptions, letters or economic tablets from Nineveh

⁴ L.A.R. I, § 715.
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or Nimrud, it is clear from the Balawat tablets that small town life went on⁵ nevertheless in the seventh century, and that the shrine of Mamu continued in use (see BT.115, theft of gold from Mamu). In fact this shrine was not finally destroyed until the end of Assyria, *c.* 612 B.C., and we found the temple doors set up by Aššurnaširpal still in position. They were adorned with bronze bands decorated with repoussé figures like the famous gate bands of Shalmaneser III, although badly disfigured by the final conflagration. The gate, which was open, had dropped and could not have been moved for years. A small collection of tablets of post-canonical date, which will be published later, were found in 1956 thrown out into the street. They are a quite distinct group from the present collection and they contain no internal evidence to indicate whether they also were originally preserved in the temple.

Catalogue

BT. 100. Tablet with broken envelope, tablet 2.4 × 3.8 cms., envelope 3.2 × 4.3 cms. Seal impression. Plate XIX.

Tablet: (1) 43 MA.NA URUDU.MEŠ SAG.DU (2) *ša* ^mTi-ku-su (3) *ina* IGI ^mDa-di-i (4) *ina pu-u-bi it-ti-ši* (5) *a-na* $\frac{1}{2}$ MA.NA-šú-nu GAL-u (6) ^{ITI}APIN UD 15 KÁM (7) *lim-mu* ^mGi-i-lu (8) ^{md}Ma-mù-iq-bi (9) *bēl qatate ša* URUDU.MEŠ (10) IGI ^mBi-su-nu (11) IGI ^mNa-ra-nu (12) IGI ^mHu-da-a-a (13) IGI ^mEš-bu (14) IGI ^mBab-ili-a (15) ^mPAP.AŠ (16) IGI ^mRi-ba-a-te

Envelope: (1) [*kum*]uk ^mDa-di-i (2) [43] MA.NA URUDU.MEŠ SAG.DU (3) [^mD]a-di-i *issu* IGI ^mTi-[ku-su] (4) *du?* *ša* ^{m,d}Sin (5) *ina pu-u-bi it-ti-ši* (6) [*a-na*] $\frac{1}{2}$ MA.NA-šú-nu *i-rab-[bi]* (7) ^{ITI}APIN UD 15 KÁM⁶ (8) [*lim*]-mu ^mGi-i-lu (9) ^{md}Ma-mù-iq-bi (10) *bēl qatate ša* URUDU.MEŠ (11) [IGI] ^mNa-ra-nu (12) [IGI] ^mBi-su-nu (13) [IGI] ^mHu-da-a-a (14) [IGI] ^mEš-bu (15) [IGI] ^mRi-ba-a-te



⁶ 33 *mana* of copper, the capital sum belonging to Tikusu, at the disposal of Dadi, (which) he has taken in exchange (or on an exchange basis). It shall increase $\frac{1}{2}$ *mana*. Mamu-iqbi is guarantor for the copper.' Dated 15th Araššamna, limmu Gaḥilu (689 B.C.). Witnesses: Biṣunu, Naranu, Ešbu, Babilia, Ribate.

Notes

(2) The name *Tikusu* occurs in ND. 2684, *Iraq* XXIII, Pt. 1, p. 43, and several times in these tablets.

(5) It is not clear whether the interest is $\frac{1}{2}$ *mana* for the whole sum, *i.e.* just under 1 shekel in the *mana* or $\frac{1}{2}$ *mana* in each *mana*. The former is rather low and the latter rate very high. One third is demanded in *ARU*.293 and 281.

(7) I am assuming that *Gi-i-lu* is a writing of the name Gaḥilu, for there is no record of another *limmu* of this name.

BT. 101. Tablet with much broken envelope, tablet 2.3 × 3.5 cms., envelope 3.2 × 4.0 cms. Seal impression unrecognisable. Plate XIX.

Tablet: (1) $\frac{1}{2}$ MA.NA KÙ.BABBAR *ša* ^lutam-[qar] (2) *ša* ^dIštar *ša* ^{URUTATTAB}.DINGIR (3) ^mSa-ma-ta IGI (4) ^mGIŠ.GÍG.EN *ina pu-u-bi it-ti-ši* (5) *a-di* 10 ^u4-me KÙ.BABBAR SUM-an (6) *šum-ma la* SUM-ni

⁵ It had a *rab alāni*, BT. 107, 2 in 671 or 666 B.C.

⁶ The copy should read 15.

a-na (7) $\frac{1}{2}$ GÍN-šú GAL-u (8) ʾIZ UD 15 KÁM (9) *lim-mu* m.d.UTU.EN.PAP (10) IGI mPIN-eš⁷-DINGIR (11) IGI mQī-bit-d.ŠÁR (12) [IGI] mEN.DAN-an (13) [IGI m]Man-nu-ki d.XV

‘ $\frac{1}{2}$ mana of silver of the merchant of Ishtar of Arbela, Samā from Šil-Bel has taken it on exchange. Up to ten days he shall repay (give) the silver. If it is not repaid (in this time) it shall increase $\frac{1}{2}$ shekel.’ Dated 15th Šabatu, limmu Šamaš-bel-ušur (710 B.C.). Witnesses: Ereš-ili, Qībit-Aššur (goldsmith), Bel-dan (a captain), Mannu-ki-Ishtar (an official of the private rooms of the palace).

Notes

The fragmentary envelope provides the restoration for *tam-qar* in line 1 and an additional witness mPAP . . . , whose title is not clear. It also gives the titles of the other witnesses: Qībit-Ištar L⁶SIMUG KÙ.GUŠKIN; Bel-dan *rab-kišir*; Mannu-ki-Ištar L⁶ša UGU *Bit-a-ni*.

(7) For this way of expressing the interest, see ARU, 260, 264, 270 and 301. Kohler takes it as meaning $\frac{1}{2}$ shekel in the shekel, i.e. 50%, cf. *ibid.* p. 460.

BT. 102. Tablet and fragment of envelope with three impressions of oval seal. Tablet 2.5 × 4 cms. Plate XX.

(1) $\frac{1}{2}$ MA.NA 2 GÍN KÙ.BABBAR (2) ša m^dMa-mū-iq-bi (3) ina IGI m^aAššur-MAŠ (4) [ina] pu-ḫi it-ti-ši (5) m^aMar-dī-i DUMU-šú (6) *a-na ša-par-ti ša-kín* (7) [ina] A.MEŠ ina Ì.MEŠ ina ŠE . . . (8) (9) m^aMa-mū-iq-bi (10) KÙ.BABBAR *i-ša-qal* (11) ʾIDU₆? *lim-mu* mEN.IGI.LAL (12) IGI m^aMan-nu-li-sa-meš/me (13) IGI m^aI-na-ši-a (14) IGI m^dPA a (15) IGI m^aBa-la-si-i

‘ $\frac{1}{2}$ mana 2 shekels of silver belonging to Mamu-iqbi at the disposal of Aššur-ašaridu?. Mardi, his son, is lodged (with the creditor); for water, oil, grain and Mamu-iqbi shall pay.’ Dated Tešrit, limmu Bel-emuranni (691 or 686 B.C.).

Notes

(7–8) For similar conditions about provisions see also BT. 128, 139 and ARU, 127. BT. 128 has meat and bread in place of barley. The inclusion of water is very unusual. The normal rations are barley, oil and cloth, e.g. *Laws of Ešnunna* 9, A. Goetze, *AASOR XXXI*, p. 41. The mention of water suggests some ceremony in connection with the conclusion of the contract. See D. J. Wiseman, *Vassal Treaties of Esarhaddon, Iraq XX*, Pt. 1, pp. 40–41, iii, 154–156 for mention of water and oil used in ceremonies performed at the conclusion of treaty contracts.

(12) For this name cf. BT. 107, 10.

BT. 103. Tablet and fragment of envelope. Tablet 2.8 × 4 cms. Plate XX.

(1) 3 MA.NA KÙ.BABBAR SAG.DU (2) š[a m^aŠum]-ma-DINGIR (3) ina IGI m^aA-mát-d.UTU.PAP (4) ina pu-u-ḫi it-ti-ši (5) 1 GÍN ina 1 MA.NA ša ITI-šú (6) *i-rab-bi* (7) ʾIZ UD 5 KÁM (8) *lim-mu* m.d.PA-šar₄-PAP (9) IGI m.d.MAŠ.MAŠ.MU.GIŠ (10) IGI m^aMu-ta-kil-Aššur (11) IGI mEN.ZU (12) IGI mXX-a-a (13) IGI mÈRI-d. A-la-te (14) IGI m^aMan-nu-ki-NINA. KL.

‘3 mana of silver, the capital sum, belonging to Šumma-ilu, at the disposal of Amat-šamaš-ušur (which) he has taken on exchange. It shall increase 1 shekel in the mana per month.’ Dated 5th Šabatu, limmu Nabu-šar-ušur (682 B.C.). Witnesses: Nergal-šum-lišir, Mutakil-Aššur, Bel-li’u, Manai? Arad-Alate, and Mannu-ki-Ninua.

BT. 104. Tablet, 3.2 × 4.5 cms. Plate XX.

(1) 12? ŠE.KIN.KU₆ ša m.d.XV.I (2) ina IGI m^aMil-ku-PAP (3) ina IGI m^aNa-bi-ia-a (4) ina u₄-me . . . -ri A.ŠÀ (5) *i-la-ku-nu e-ši-du* (6) *šum-ma la e-ši-du* (7) 2 BÂN ša L⁶ŠE.KIN.KU₆ (8) *i-du-nu* (9)

⁷ This should read XXX.

¹¹BARAG UD 5 KÁM (10) *lim-mu* ^{m.d.}PA-*šar*₄-PAP ^{LÚ}A.BA KUR (11) IGI ^mMan-nu-*ki-d*.XV (12) IGI ^mSUḪUŠ.É.KUR (13) IGI ^mDÙ-*ia* (14) IGI ^mÈRI^d.XV (15) IGI ^{m.d.}PA.LAL-*a-ni*

‘12 reapers belonging to (or for) Ištar-na’id, at the disposal of Milku-ušur and Nabia. On the day of . . . the field, they shall go and reap. If they do not reap they shall pay 2 *sutu* for each reaper.’ Dated 5th Nisan, limmu Nabu-šar-ušur, the palace scribe. Witnesses: Mannu-ki-Ištar, Išdi-É.kur, Ibnia, Arad-Ištar, Nabu-taqinani.

This document appears to be a contract to provide reapers by Milku-ušur and Nabia, although no advance in money or grain is being given. The 12? reapers mentioned as *ša* Ištar-na’id are probably those the contractors agree to provide. There is the usual penalty for not performing the contract. This is probably 2 *sutu* per reaper, the daily wage for a reaper fixed by article 7 of the Laws of Ešnunna.

Notes

(8) Nabu-šar-ušur, the A.BA *ekalli*, belongs to the post-canonical period and the reign of Sin-šar-iškun, M. Falkner, *AfO* XVII, p. 114. Another limmu of this name appears in these texts, Nabu-šar-ušur, the governor of Marqasi, whose date is 682 B.C. The preceding tablet, BT. 103, has been placed in this year because Šumma-ilu was active during the earlier period.

BT. 105. Tablet and fragmentary envelope, tablet 3 × 5 cms. Plate XIX.

(1) [NA₄.KIŠI]B ^mŠa-la-xv-man-nu (2) . . . [ÈRI-šú ina IGI]I ^mŠam-si-ia-da-a (3) . . . ½ MA.NA . . . GÍN KÙ.BABBAR (4) ^mŠum-ma-DINGIR a-na ^mŠa-la-xv-man-nu (5) *it-ti-din* ^mŠam-si-ia-da-a (6) *issu* IGI-šú *ú-si-li-šá* (7) *man-nu ša* GIL-u-ni (8) 5 MA.NA KÙ.BABBAR SUM-an (9) ¹¹NE UD 1 *lim-me* ^mXXX.PAP.SU (10) IGI ^{m.d.}PA-u-a DUMU.SIG (11) IGI ^mDÙ-*ia* IGI ^mIa-u-da (12) IGI ^mDi-nu-a-nu

‘The seal of Ša-la-Ištar-man-nu, his slave at the disposal of Šamsi-iada. . . ½ *mana* . . . shekels of silver Šumma-ilu has paid to Ša-la-Ištar-man-nu. Šamsi-iada has deducted it (from his total debt). Whoever contests (this receipt) shall pay 5 *mana* of silver.’ Dated 1st Ab, limmu Sennacherib (687 B.C.). Witnesses: Nabua, a messenger or servant, Ibnia, lauda, Dinu-Anu?

Ša-la-Ištar-man-nu, “Who can exist without Ištar”, is owed the price of a slave by Šamsi-iada. Šumma-ilu pays this debt (or part of it) and Šamsi-iada deducts it from his total debt (presumably to Ša-la-Ištar-man-nu).

Notes

(2) ÈRI-šú is restored from the envelope.

(12) Might this name be *Dīnu-Anu*?, cf. *Dīnu-Marduk*, A. T. Clay, *Kassite Personal Names*, p. 69.

BT. 106. Tablet, 5.5 × 4 cms., three nail marks. Plate XX.

(1) *šu-pur* ^mKa-šu-di EN A.ŠÀ (2) É 5 BÁN A.ŠÀ ina URU KAR.MEŠ? (3) SUḪUR na-ab-li (4) *ša šap-li-i a-di*? . . (5) *ri-eš qa-bu-ra-ni* (6) *ú-piš-ma* ^mNa-zi-i (7) ina ŠÀ 13 MA.NA URUDU.MEŠ (8) *issu* IGI ^mKa-šu-di DUMU ^mDINGIR.SU (9) *il-qi kas-pu ga-mur* (10) *ta-din* A.ŠÀ *za-rib laq-qi* (11) [*tu-a*]-ru KA.KA (12) *i-pa-ri* . . . (13-14) destroyed (15) [*di-ni-šú*] KA.KA-šú ul *li-qi* (16) IGI ^mUr-ni-i ^{LÚ}GAL Še-lap-pa-a-a (17) IGI ^mSUḪUŠ.PAP.MEŠ ^{LÚ}SANGA *ša* IGI IM (18) IGI ^mHa-ḥa-a ^{LÚ}Še-lap-pa-a-a (19) IGI ^mPAP.TA-a . . . ^{LÚ}SANGA (20) [IGI]^mPAP.GIŠ ^m? . . . *li-IGI-u-ni* (21) IGI ^mGab-bi-i (22) IGI ^mBar-zi-i (23) ¹¹GAN UD . . . *lim-mu* EN.DAN-an (24) ^{LÚ}šá-kìn ^{URU}Kal-ḥi (25) IGI ^m. -ba ^{LÚ}A.BA (26) *u-me-šú il-ku-šú* (27) ^mKa-šu-du *i-da-an*

‘The nail-mark of Kašudi, owner of the field. A plot of 5 *sutu* of field in the town of KAR.MEŠ (or Karmēš) bounded by the lower stream, as far as the head of the graves?, Nazi has concluded a sales agreement and, for 13 *mana* of copper, has taken possession of it from Kašudi, son of Ilu-eriba. The silver ! has been paid in full, the field is bought and taken

into possession. There shall be no litigation or complaints if he (the seller) claims in court he shall not be able to take it.' Witnesses: Ur-ni, a captain of the Šelapai tribe, Išdi-aḥḥe, a priest of Adad?, Ḥaḥai, a Šelappai tribesman, Aḥu-itti, a priest, Aḥu-lišir and , Gabbi, Barzi and a scribe whose name is broken. Dated Kislimu, limmu Bel-dan, šakin of Calah (734 B.C.). Kašudi (the seller) is responsible for paying the *ilku*-duty when it falls due.

Note

(2) The town or village might be called 'The Depots' (*karum* pl.) or *Karmeš* 'The Ruined Village'.

BT. 107. Tablet, 8.5 × 4.5 cms. Plate XXI.

(1) *kunuk* EN (2) LUGAL URU.MEŠ ša URUIm-gūr-d.Bēl (3) EN A.ŠÀ SUM-ni (4) É I ANŠE A.ŠÀ ina URUEN ša? (5) SUḪUR MLAḪ.SIG₅ SUḪUR KASKAL (6) SUḪUR ma'-a-ti u-piš-ma (7) mŠum-ma-DINGIR LÚ (8) m [GA]L URU.MEŠ (9) É A.ŠÀ ina līb-bi (10) I4 ANŠE ŠE.PAD ku-um⁸ (12) IO MU.AN.NA.MEŠ (13) e-da-nu ša-kín (14) ŠE.PAD ina muḫ-bi [ŠE] (15) ta-ra-me i-šak-[kan] (16) A.ŠÀ-šu u-še-ša (17) IGI mMan nu (18) IGI m.d.ME.ME.MU.[GIŠ] (19) IGI mMan-nu-li-sa (20) IGI mI-na-a-a (21) IGI mNa-ra-a-nu (22) IGI mUGUR.AD.PAP LÚSÚL.[DU₈] (23) IGI mPAP-la-maš-ši (24) IGI mDi-na-a-nu (25) IGI m.URUTATTAB. DINGIR-a-a (26) IGI mDINGIR-da-la-a (27) IGI mDU.PAP (28) IGI mA-mar-DINGIR-šu (29) mZÍZ UD I5 KÁM (30) lim-mu mQa-na-nu

'The seal of Bel, the *rab-alāni* of Imgur-Bēl (Balawat), the owner of the field sold. A plot of one homer of land in the (area) of the town (or village) of Bel ša?, bounded by (the land of) Nur-damiq, bounded by the road, bounded by the , Šumma-ilu the . . . has made a sales agreement with Bel, the *rab-alāni*, (and has acquired) the plot of land for 15 homers of grain. In return for the grain (Šumma-ilu will have the field) for ten years. When the agreed time has elapsed the grain (loan) shall be set against the produce? (of the land) and his field shall be released.' Witnesses: Man nu, Gula-šum-lišir, Mannu-li-sa . . . , Inai, Naranu, Nergal-ab-ušur, a porter, Aḥu-lamašši, Dinanu, Arba-ilaia, Ilu-dala, Kin-aḥu, Amar-ilišu. Dated 15th Šabatu, limmu Qananu (671 B.C.).

Notes

(6) This word also occurs in ND. 2782, 8, *rab ma'ati*, Iraq XXIII, Pt. I, p. 51.

(13-14) For this phrase see ARU nos. 134, 135, 140. *taramē* from *ramū*, 'to throw'. H. Lewy in JNES XI (1952), p. 275, suggests a translation 'piled up'.

(18) For the name Mannu-lišame see BT. 102.

(30) There is no known *limmu* of this name. It most nearly resembles Kanunai (671 and 666 B.C.) whose date would fit in with the period of the tablet, but the writing is difficult to explain. The tablet is not otherwise badly written.

BT. 108. Tablet in envelope, complete, 3.5 × 5 cms., cylinder seal impression on obv. and rev. Plate XXI.

(1) *kunuk* mAm-me-ru-me (2) I9 GÍN KÙ.BABBAR SAG.DU (3) mA-ḥa-tu-ú (4) ina IGI mAm-me-ru-me (5) ina pu-u-bi it-ti-ši (6) 'a'-na ½ GÍN-šu i-rab-bi (7) mBARAG UD 30 KÁM (8) IGI m.d.PA.LUGAL-šar-PAP ša URUMa-ar-qa-si (9) IGI mHa-sa-me-e (10) IGI m A?-ba-āš-ti (11) IGI m A-ḥi-i IGI mAg-ga-ra-a-a (12) IGI mBa-la-ku

'The seal of Ammerume. 19 shekels of silver, capital sum, belonging to Aḥatu, at the disposal of Ammerume (and) taken on exchange. It shall increase ½ shekel (in each shekel?).'

⁸ Line 11 should be inserted here: (11). ŠE.PAD DŪ?-e ša AN . . .

Dated 30th Nisan, limmu? Nabu-šar-ušur of Marqasi (682 B.C.). Witnesses: Ḥasame, A?-bašti, Aḫi, Aggaraī, Balaku.

Note

(8) The fact that *ša* ^{URU}Marqasi is added after the name Nabu-šar-ušur, suggests that *me* has been erroneously omitted after IGI.

BT. 109. Tablet, 2.5 × 4 cms. Plate XXVI.

(1) . . . MA.NA KÙ.BABBAR (2) *ša* ^mŠar₄-bi-DINGIR-a-a (3) *ša* IGI ^mNi-ni-e (4) *ú-sa-lim-šú ú-ṭu-[ru]* (5) TA IGI a-ḫi-ši (6) *man-nu ša* GIL-u-ni 2 MA.NA KÙ.BABBAR *dan-an* (8) *lim-mu* ^m[a-ba-šú] (9) IGI ^mTi-ku-su (10) IGI ^mMa-ḫu?-nu (11) IGI ^{m.d}UGUR.BE (12) ^mMan-nu-ki-URUTATTAB.[DINGIR]

‘. . . *mana* of silver, belonging to Šarbi-ilaia, which was at the disposal of Ninie, he has re-imbursed him, they are fully paid in respect one of another. Whoever contests (this) shall pay? 2 *mana* of silver.’ Dated limmu Labaši (657 B.C.). Witnesses: Tikusu, Mazunu, Nergal-BE . . . , Mannu-ki-Arbaili.

Note

This is the normal type of late Assyrian receipt.

(2) Šarbi-ilaia, cf. Šarbi-Enlil, *APN*, p. 214.

BT. 112. Tablet, much broken, rev. illegible, 6 × 4.5 cms., nail marks. Plate XXI.

(1) ¹šul-pur ^mSa-[ma-a] (2) [EN] A.ŠÀ *ta-da-ni* (3) ANŠE A.ŠÀ SUḪUR *táb-ru-u* (4) [SUḪUR ^{m.d}]UTU.DU-du-gul (5) [SUḪUR] KASKAL MAN *ina* URU É.ÚSANGA (6) [*u-pi*]š-ma ^mSu-ba?-a-a (7) [TA] IGI ^mSa-ma-a (8) [*ina* ŠÀ] I [MA.NA] ḫ? [GÍN URU]DU.MEŠ (9) (10) . . . [10] *me-ri-še* 10 *ka-rap-ḫi* (11) . . . 20 MU.AN.NA *e-da-nu* (12) [šá]-kín *kas-pu a-na muḫ-ḫi* (13) [ŠE *ta-* *ra-me i-šá-kan* (14) [A.ŠÀ-šú] *i-še-ša* (15) DINGIR AMAR (16) KAR.MU-a?-a (Remainder lost)

‘The nail mark of Samai, the owner of the field given; . . homers of field bounded by *tabru*⁹ land, bounded by the (land of) Šamaš-kēna-dugul, bounded by the royal road to the town (or village) of the manor of the priest. Subai has concluded an agreement with Samai for 1 (*mana*) ḫ (shekels) of copper? 10 cultivated and 10 fallow (years) 20 years is the term (of the lease) the silver shall be set against the grain crop, his field shall be released.’ Lines 15–16 are probably the names of witnesses.

BT. 113. Tablet, 2.7 × 4.4 cms. Plate XXI.

(1) 15 MA.NA URUDU.MEŠ SAG.DU (2) *ša* XV *ša* ^{URUTATTAB.DINGIR} (3) *ša* ^mŠum-ma-DINGIR *ina* IGI ^mSANGA.XV (4) *ina pu-ḫi it-ti-ši a-na 3-šú-nu* (5) *i-rab-bi* ^{ITIŠE} 14 KÁM (6) *lim-mu* ^{m.d}.PA.BÀD.PAP (7) IGI ^{m.d}.PA-u-a-a (8) IGI ^{m.d}.PA.DÙ.A (9) IGI ^mBa-la-si-i (10) IGI ^mSal-mu (11) IGI ^mMan-nu-li-sa-me (12) IGI ^{m.d}.PA-šá-kín-SILIM

‘15 *mana* of copper, capital sum belonging to Ištar of Arbela, belonging to Šumma-ilu at the disposal of Šangu-Ištar, and taken on exchange. It shall increase a third.’ Dated 14th Addaru, limmu Nabu-dur-ušur (697 B.C.). Witnesses: Nabua, Nabu-bani-apal, Balasi, Šalmu, Mannu-lisame, Nabu-šakin-šulmu.

BT. 114. Tablet and fragmentary envelope, tablet 2.8 × 4.5 cms. Plate XXII.

(1) I MA.NA KÙ.BABBAR *ša* LUGAL (2) ^{m.d}.MAŠ.AD.PAP (3) TA IGI ^mḪu-tu-ni (4) *ina pu-u-ḫi it-ti-ši* (5) 2 GÍN [š]a ITI-šú (6) GAL-bi ^{ITI}BARAG UD 2 KÁM (7) *lim-mu* ^{m.d}.PA.BÀD.PAP (8) IGI ^mŠum-ma-DINGIR (9) IGI ^mMan-nu-li-sa¹-me (10) IGI ^mDÙG.GA.IM^dPA (11) IGI ^{m.d}.PA-u-a (12) IGI ^{m.d}.UTU.AD.PAP (13) IGI ^mBa-la-si-i

⁹ *tabru* has recently been discussed by E. Cassin *R.A. LVI* (1962), pp. 72–75.

‘1 *mana* of silver, royal standard, Ninurta-ab-ušur has taken on exchange from Ĥutuni. It shall increase 2 shekels per month.’ Dated 2nd Nisan, limmu Nabu-dur-ušur (697 B.C.). Witnesses: Šumma-ilu, Mannu-lisame, Ṭab-šar-Nabu, Nabua, Šamaš-ab-ušur, Balasi.

Note

(4) If Kohler’s explanation of the phrase *ina puhi ittiši* is correct (ARU, p. 459), the amount of silver is merely the valuation of the total debt.

BT. 115. Tablet and fragmentary envelope, tablet 3 × 4.5 cms. Plate XXIII.

(1) 3 MA.NA 3 SU KÙ.BABBAR (2) *ina* MA.NA ša MAN qa-di (3) *sa-ár-tu* ša KÙ.GUŠKIN (4) ša d.Ma-mú *ina* IGI (5) mBa-ti-at-te (6) mTA.U.PAP-te [EN ŠU].2.MEŠ (7) šum-ma LÚ TA KÙ. BABBAR-šú (8) a-na m.d.PA.SUĤUŠ.ZI (9) la i-[din]-nu (10) *sa-ár-tu a-na* IO-te (11) ú-šá-lu-mu (12) mŠU lim-mu mAN.KI-ia (13) IGI mIl-ai-a-a (14) IGI mKi-qi-la-nu (15) IGI mUGUR.PAP.PAP

‘3 1/36 *mana* of silver, according to the royal *mana*, together with (including) a fine of gold belonging (due) to the god Mamu, owed by (at the disposal of) Batiate, the Itti-Adad-aḥute is guarantor. If the man does not pay Nabu-išdi-kina from his silver, the fine shall be re-imbursed tenfold.’ Dated Tammuz, limmu Ilu-itti-ia (694 B.C.). Witnesses: Ilatia, Kiqilanu, Nergal-aḥu-ušur.

Notes

This document appears to concern a theft or fine of gold due to the temple of Mamu. Whether it follows upon a court case or is in place of it is uncertain. The compensation decided upon is stated in the form of an ordinary debt, for this style cf. ARU, 647. Alternatively it might be a fine due to the temple of Mamu for breaking a contract, after the manner of BT. 127.

(3) For *sartu* in the sense of fine or penalty see ARU, 658.

BT. 116. Small tablet, 3 × 4.5 cms. Plate XXIII.

(1) UD-mu ŠE.PAD.LUGAL (2) *il-ka-ka-te gab-bu* (3) ša mŠum-ma-DINGIR (4) *ina* IGI m.d.PA.PAP-ir GAL da-ni-nu (5) *ina* IGI m.d.PA.SU A.BA (6) *ina* IGI m.d.PA.LAL-a-ni idem (7) u₄-mu ša mŠum-ma-DINGIR *ina* URUTATTAB.DINGIR (8) *e-rab-u-ni šum-mu* UD-mu (9) la i-nu 20? ma-an KÙ.BABBAR (10) *i-da-[nu]* mTIGAN UD 20 [KÁM] (11) *lim-mu* m.d.PA.MAN.PAP (12) IGI m.d.MAŠ.MAŠ.MU.SUM SANGA URU Aššur (13) IGI m.d.PA.NUMUN.AŠ SANGA (14) IGI m.d.PA.KAR-a-ni A.BA É.DINGIR (15) IGI m.d.PA.KAR-ir IGI mNa-ra-nu (16) IGI m.d.ME.ME.MU.GIŠ (17) [IGI] m.d.ŠÚ.DÙ (18) [IGI] mAššur-ši-i A.BA

‘. . . first quality grain, all *ilku*-taxes of Šumma-ilu, at the disposal of Nabu-našir, the *rab daninu*, Nabu-eriba, the scribe, and Nabu-taqqinani, idem. The day Šumma-ilu enters Arbela if it is not delivered? they shall pay 20 *mana* of silver.’ Dated 20th Kislimu, limmu Nabu-šar-ušur (perhaps the limmu of 682 B.C., in which period Šumma-ilu was active). Witnesses: Nergal-šum-iddin, priest of Aššur, Nabu-zer-iddin, priest, Nabu-eṭirani, scribe of the temple, Nabu-eṭir, Naranu, Gula-šum-lišir, Marduk-bani, Aššur-ši, scribe.

Notes

For accounting purposes of which we are not told, Šumma-ilu has transferred the grain due from him as *ilkekate* (pl?)-tax to three men, a *rab daninu* and two scribes. The grain is to be paid on the day when Šumma-ilu enters Arbail. Perhaps it has to be paid in or at that city.

(1) The meaning of u₄-mu or UD-mu is not clear to me, perhaps tax day, cf. BT. 117.

(2) *ilkekate* is taken as the plural of *ilku* as suggested in CAD 7, p. 73.

(9) *ma-an* appears to be a scribal error for MA.NA.

BT. 117. Tablet, encrustations of clay on the surface suggest that there was originally an envelope, 2.7 × 4.7 cms. Plate XXII.

(1) *kunuk* mMan-nu-ki-TATTAB.DINGIR L^UA.BA (2) UD-mu ša qa-ri-te ša URUTATTAB.DINGIR (3) a-di ŠE.PAD.MEŠ MAN ša mMa-mu-iq-bi (4) UD? 2? KÁM ša ITIBARAG? MAŠ šum-ma ul i-din (5) I2 MA.NA KÙ.BABBAR ina ma-ni-e (6) ša MAN i-dan ITIDU₆?UD I KÁM (7) lim-mu m.d.E[N.IGI.LAL]-an-ni (8) m.d.PA.PAP.AŠ L^UA.BA É.GAL (9) EN ŠU.2.MEŠ ša UD-mu (10) ša qa-ri-te ša URUTATTAB.DINGIR (11) IGI mKÁ.DINGIR-a-a (12) IGI mAb-da-a L^Umu-kil¹⁰.PA.MEŠ (13) ša L^UA.BA É.GAL (14) IGI mNa-ra-nu mTi-ku-su (15) IGI mAm-bur

‘Seal of Mannu-ki-Arbaili, scribe. A due? for the feast of Arbela, including first quality grain of Mamu-iqbi (transferred to Mannu-ki-Arbaili) shall be paid on the 2nd Nisan? If it is not paid, 12 mana according to the royal standard shall be paid.’ Dated 1st Tešritu, limmu Bel-emuranni (686 B.C.). Nabu-aḥa-iddin, the palace secretary, is guarantor for the debt. Witnesses: Babilaia, Abda, charioteer of the palace secretary, Naranu, Tikusu, Ambar.

Notes

(2) *qaritu* a feast, see *CAD* 4, p. 216. For UD-mu, cf. BT. 116. The context suggests some sort of obligation, tax or offering. The reference to Arbail, the site of a famous temple of Ishtar, suggests a temple offering. There is also evidence in neo-Assyrian texts of *ilku*-duty owed to a temple, see references in *CAD* 7, p. 76, h. It is curious that the inhabitants of Imgur-Bel-Balawat should be responsible for the payments of tax or offerings to Arbail, which is some fifty miles distant, whereas Calah is only ten.

(4) MAŠ is certain; if the first part of the line is correctly read it could be an error for SUM.

BT. 118. Tablet and fragment of envelope, tablet 2.6 × 4.2 cms. Plate XXIII.

(1) [di-e-nu ša] mŠum-mu-DINGIR URU? KÁ? (2) [L^Usar-ti a-na mDi-i-du (3) e-me-du-u-ni-šú (4) ina U[D] I KÁM ša ITIKIN ur-ki-u (5) ša ANŠEGAM.MAL ú-ba-la (6) a-na mŠum-mu-DINGIR SUM-an (7) šum-ma la na-ša [la i-dir] (8) sa-ar-tú ša (9) mDi-i-du a-na [m]Šum-mu-DINGIR (10) ú-ša?-lam (11) IGI mHa-ba-aš-ti L^UGAL SÚL.DU₈ (12) IGI m.d.PA.AŠ.PAP L^UGAL ki-šir (13) IGI mERÌ.XV KIMIN (14) IGI mDINGIR.SAG.KI 3-šú (15) IGI mBu-di-tú (16) IGI mBI.GUL (17) IGI m.d.ME.ME. MU.GIŠ (18) EN ŠU2 ša L^U (19) The envelope gives the date ITINE UD 14 KÁM lim-mu mUGUR.MAN.PAP

‘The penalty which Šumma-ilu . . . the *sarṭinu* imposed on Didu. On the 1st of second Elul he will bring the camel and give it to Šumma-ilu. If he does not bring and deliver it, a fine of . . . Didu shall make good to Šumma-ilu.’ Witnesses: Ḥabašti, foreman of the porters, Nabu-nadin-aḥa, captain of the guard, Arad-Ištar, the same, DINGIR.SAG.KI, a third man, Buditu, BI.GUL, Gula-šum-lišir. Dated, 14th Ab, limmu Nergal-šar-ušur (678 B.C.).

Notes

(2) the scribe has written *tī* by mistake for *tin*.

(6) the purpose of *ša* is obscure.

BT. 119. Tablet and broken envelope, tablet 3.3 × 5.5 cms. Plate XXII.

(1) nu ru ti . . . (2) . . . na mŠum-ma-[DINGIR]L^USANGA (3) . . . URU URUIm-gur-dBE (4) a-na URU? URUIm-gur-dBE . . . (5) ina UGU 20 ne-un KÙ.BABBAR ḥi-[bil]-tú (6) šú-nu ú-ta-piš-ma a-di? . . . (7) šú-nu (8) nu (9) ina [mub]-ḥi-šú-nu (10) šum-ma la ú-šá-ša (11) šu-u GID.GAB i-na-dš (12) ITIGAN lim-mu m[. . .]-ia (13) IGI m.d.XV [m]Il-la-a (14) IGI m.d.UGUR.PAP DINGIR (15) IGI mNa-ra-[nu]

¹⁰ The sign *kil* has not been completed by the copyist.

This tablet concerns Šumma-ilu, a scribe of Imgur-Bel (Balawat), and twenty talents of silver, damages, but the text is much damaged and the relation of these facts to each other is uncertain. Dated, Kislimu, limmu destroyed.

Notes

(3) The duplication of the URU determinative is difficult to explain unless the town itself is a party to this deed.

(5) I cannot explain *NE-un* unless it is an error for GUN: *biltu*, talent. BÍL/BIL.EN.ZU mentioned in ND. 2774 (*Iraq XXIII*, Pt. 1, p. 50) was clearly a substance.

BT. 120. Tablet in envelope, 4 × 4 cms. Plate XXIV.

(1) *kunuk* m.d.MAŠ.AD.PAP (2) 34 GÍN.MEŠ KÙ.BABBAR SAG.DU (3) *ša* dXV *ša* URUTATTAB.DINGIR (4) m.d.MAŠ.AD.PAP TA IGI (5) mŠum-ma-DINGIR *ina pu-ḫi i-ti-ši* (6) *a-na* ½ GÍN-ŠU *i-rab-bi* (7) mGal-lu-lu EN ŠU.MEŠ (8) *ša* KÙ.BABBAR IGI mUr-du (9) IGI m.d.UGUR.NUMUN.DÙ (10) IGI mAm-bu-u-ru (11) IGI mMan-nu-ki- URUTATTAB.DINGIR (12) IGI mDINGIR-da-la-a (13) IGI mKÁ.DINGIR-a-a (14) IGI mBa-la-si-i (15) IGI mRi-ba-ti

‘Seal of Ninurta-ab-ušur. 34 shekels of silver, capital, of Ištar of Arbela, Ninurta-ab-ušur has taken on exchange from Šumma-ilu. It shall increase ½ shekel. Galulu is guarantor for the silver’. Witnesses: Urdu, Nergal-šum-ušur, Amburu, Mannu-ki-Arbail, Ilu-dala, Babilai, Balasi, Ribati. Date not given on the envelope.

Note

(6) For this way of expressing the interest see BT. 101.

BT. 123. Tablet, 3.8 × 2.4 cms. Plate XXII.

(1) MA.NA.URUDU.MEŠ (2) m. MU . . . TA IGI (3) mNi-ni-e *i-ti-ši* (4) mBu-lu-si-e DUMU-ŠU (5) *a-[na] ša-par-ti kam-mu[-us?]* (6) *ina* UD . . . *ša* URUDU SUM-an (7) DUMU ERÍN *ú-še-ša* (8) ITIDU₈ UD 19 KÁM (9) *lim-mu* mEN.IGI.LAL . . . (10) IGI m. . . . *la-nu* (11) IGI mBa-la-? *ki* (12) IGI mRi-(erasure) *ba-a-te* (13)-i LÚA.BA

‘x mana of copper PN has taken from Ninie, Bulusi, his son, has been lodged as a pledge. The day the copper is repaid, the young man shall be released. Dated 19th Tešritu, limmu Bel-emurani (686 B.C.)’. Witnesses: . . . lanu, Balaki, Ribate, and a scribe.

Notes

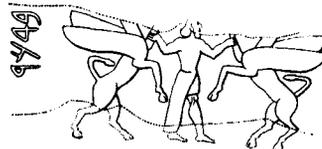
(5) For similar phraseology see BT. 128, envelope, and ARU, 127.

(7) The sign after DUMU is possibly ERÍN.

BT. 124. Tablet and envelope complete, 4.5 × 6 cms., cylinder seal impression on obv. and rev., stamp seal impression on left and right edges. Plate XXII.

(1) *kunuk* LÚEN.NAM *ša* URU *Ar-zu-ḫi-na* (2) *kunuk* mRim-ni-DINGIR *kunuk* mA-ḫu-DINGIR (3) *qi-šir-tu* 3 MA.NA KÙ.BABBAR *la* AB/DU-e (4) *ša* DUMU? LUGAL (5) *ša* mMa-rab-iq-bi (6) *ina* IGI LÚEN.NAM *ša* URU *Ar-zu-ḫi-na* (7) *ina* IGI mRim-ni-DINGIR *ina* IGI mA-ḫu-DINGIR (8) *ina lib-bi* SAG.DU DINGIR GIBIL (9) *ša* mŠE KÙ.BABBAR.MEŠ *ina* SAG.DU-ŠU (10) [SU]M-an Šum-ma *la* SUM-ni (11) . . . GÍN KÙ.BABBAR *ina ma-[ni]-e* *ša* ITI *i-rab-bi* (12) KÙ.BABBAR *ina qab-si* URU *Ni-nu-a i-da-an* (13) IGI mEN.ZU LÚGAL.É (14) IGI m.d.XV.MU.GIŠ LÚGAL *ki-šir* (15) IGI m. . . *ḫu-ki-in-su* (16) IGI mTI.LA-su-iq-bi (17) IGI mURU.SUM.DINGIR-a-a IGI m.d.UGUR.MAŠ (18) ITIZÍZ UD 1 KÁM (19) *lim-me* mEN.IGI.LAL-a-ni LÚtur-ta-nu (left edge, 20) Šum-ma *ina* URU *Ar-zu-ḫi-na* KÙ.BABBAR . . . (21) [i]-da-an 1½ (22) KÙ.BABBAR.MEŠ *i-da-[an]*

' Seal of the *bēl pihati* of Arzuḫina, seal of Rimni-ilu, seal of Aḫu-ilu. Rent? amounting to 3 *mana* of . . . silver belonging to the Crown Prince?, belonging to Mamu-iqbi, at the disposal of the *bēl pihati* of Arzuḫina, Rimni-ilu and Aḫu-ilu. It shall be paid at the new-moon of Addaru. If it is not then repaid it shall increase x shekels in the *mana* per month. It shall be paid in the district of Nineveh.' Witnesses: Bel-li'u, the *rab biti*, Ištar-šum-lišir, *rab kisir*, x-ḫu-kinsu, Balatsu-iqbi, URU.ŠUM-ilai, Nergal-ašarid. Dated 1st Addaru, limmu Bel-emurani, the *turian* (686 B.C.). A postscript on the left edge provides that if the silver is paid in Arzuḫina some different sum shall be given.



Notes

- (3) *qisirtu*, rent, as *Bez.* p. 246a.
 (4) The sign is LÚ, but may be an error for DUMU.
 (5) ^mMa-rab-iq-bi. This name has now been collated. Although the scribe appears to have written LUGAL not *rab*, I suggest that this is an error for *mú*, both signs commencing with similar strokes.
 (11) *qapsi*, province, district, *Bez.* p. 245a.

BT. 125. Tablet, 7.7 × 4.5 cms., row of nail marks on obv. Plate XXV.

(1) *ku-um kunukki-šu-nu šu-pur-šu-nu* (2) *iš-kun-nu* (3) *šu-pur* ^mAššur-KAR-ir-a-ni (4) *šu-pur* ^mLUGAL.IGI.LAL-a-ni (5) PAP 2 LÚ.MEŠ EN SAL SUM-na (6) ⁱNin-lil-um-me GEME-šu-nu (7) *ú-piš-ma* ^{m.d.}Ma-mú-iq-bi (8) *ina lib-bi* I MA.NA KÙ.BABBAR *il-qí* (9) *kas-pu gam-mur ta-din* SAI *šu-tu* (10) *ša-ar-pa-at la-qi-at* (11) *tu-a-ru di-nu* KA.KA (12) *la-dš-šu man-nu ša ur-kiš* (13) *ina mat-ma i-za-qu-pa-a-ni* (14) *lu-u* LÚ.MEŠ *an-nu-te lu-u* (15) . . . *šu-nu lu-u* DUMU.DUMU.MEŠ-šu-nu (16) *lu-u* EN *il-ki-šu-nu* (17) *lu-u* LÚGAR-nu URU?-šu-nu (18) *lu-u* NIN-nu-šu-nu (19) TA ^{m.d.}Ma-mú-iq-bi (20) *ú* PAP.MEŠ-šu DUMU.MEŠ-šu (21) *di-nu* KA.KA *ub-ta-u-ni* (22) 5 MA.NA KÙ.BABBAR I MA.NAKÙ.GUŠKIN (23) *a-na* ^dIš-tar *a-ši-bat* (24) URUNINA SUM-an *kas-pu a-na* 10 MEŠ (25) *a-na* EN.MEŠ-šu *ú-ta-ra* (26) *ina la di-ni-šu* KA.KA *ul ti* (27) IGI ^mNa-ra-nu DUMU URUNINA (28) IGI ^mRi-ba-te DUMU URUNINA (29) IGI ^{m.d.}PA.PAP.PAP KIMIN (30) IGI ^mBAL-šum-ri-ba (31) IGI ^mKÁ.DINGIR-a-a (32) IGI ^mDUG.GA.IM^dPA (33) IGI ^mEḫ-bu IGI ^{m.d.}SANGA.DÙ (34) IGI ^mUGUR.MAN.PAP IGI ^mKal-bu (35) ^mGAN *lim-mu* ^mZa-za-ia (left edge 36) IGI ^{m.d.}PA.MU.GIŠ (37) LÚA.BA *ša-bit* (38) *e-gir-te*

' Instead of their seals, they impress their nails; nail mark of Aššur-eṭirani and Šarrumurani, two men, owners of the woman sold. Ninlilumme, their female slave, Mamu-iqbi has concluded a sales agreement and taken possession of her for one *mana* of silver. The whole sum has been paid, this woman is bought and taken possession of. There shall be no renewal of litigation. Whoever in future appears in court, whether these men, or their sons, or their grandsons, or any owner of their *ilku*-duty, or the governor of their town, or anyone else connected with them, with Mamu-iqbi, his brothers or his sons, to lodge a complaint, shall pay five *manas* of silver and one *mana* of gold to Ishtar dwelling in Nineveh, shall return the sale money tenfold, and even if he claims in court without legal procedure, he shall not be able to take it.' Witnesses: Naranu, a man of Nineveh, Ribate, a man of Nineveh, Nabu-aḫa-ušur, same, BAL-šum-ri-ba, Babilaiā, Tab-šar-Nabu, Ešbu, Marduk-bani, Nergal-šar-ušur, Kalbu. Dated Tešritu, limmu Zazaia (692 B.C.). Witness: Nabu-šum-lišir, scribe, depositary of the contract.

Notes

- (7) *upišma* CAD 4, p. 231, 4a.
 (10) *šarpat* CAD 16, p. 105, *šarapu* C.

- (13) *zaqapu* CAD 21, p. 55, meaning B.
 (16) *bel ilkišunu* CAD 7, p. 81.
 (26) *ina la dinišu* KA.KA *ul ilaqqi* CAD 3, p. 155, 5b.

BT. 126. Tablet, 7.7 × 4.5 cms. Plate XXIV.

(1) *kunuk* ^mDU.PAP (2) EN SAL SUM-na ¹A-a-su-ri (3) SAL-šú *ú-piš-ma* ^mNi-ni-e (4) *ina lib-bi* 2 GUN 7 MA? URUDU.MEŠ (5) SAL *iš-ši* ^mDU.PAP *i-zi-ri-p* (6) *i-si-qi kas-pu gam-mur* (7) . . . *din* SAL *šu-a-tú ša-ár-pat* (8) [*la-qi*] *at tu-a-ru di-e-nu* (9) [KA.KA *la*]-a-šú *man-nu ša* GIL-u-ni (10) *da-an* (11) (12) [*ina*] *di-ni-[-šu]* KA.[KA] (13) *la i-laq-[qi]* (14) IGI (15) IGI ^m. (16) IGI ^{m.d.}. (17) IGI ^mSU (18) IGI ^mSUHUŠ? (19) IGI ^mMan-nu-li (20) [IGI] ^{m.d.}PA.DÙ.A? ¹U¹A.BA (21) IGI ^mA-tar-ḥa-a-ú (22) IGI ^mZU.DINGIR (23) ¹IGAN UD . . KÁM (24) *lim-mu* ^mSUM-na.PAP.MEŠ (25) *ša* ^{KUR}Si-mir-ra

‘Seal of Kin-aḥu, owner of the woman Aya-suri, to be sold. Ninie has concluded a sales agreement and has taken possession of her for 2 talents, 7 *mana*? of copper. The whole sum is paid, that woman is bought and taken possession of. There shall be no renewal of litigation, whoever in future contests if he claims in court, he shall not be able to take it.’ Witnesses: . . . Mannu-lisame?, Nabu-bani-apli, scribe, Atar-ḥau, Le’uti-ilu. Dated, Tešritu, limmu Iddina-aḥḥe of Simirra (688 B.C.).

Notes

- (1) *Kin-aḥu*, Stamm, *M.V.A.G.* 44, p. 295, “my brother is legitimate”.
 (22) *Le’uti-ilu*, Stamm, *ibid.*, p. 37, note 3.

BT. 127. Tablet, 4.5 × 3 cms. Plate XXVI.

(1) 2 MA.NA KÙ.BABBAR SAG.DU (2) 1 *ša* LUGAL (3) 1 GUN MA.NA URUDU.MEŠ SAG.DU (4) ^mAššur-maš TA IGI (5) ^mŠum-ma-DINGIR *ina pu-u-ḥi* (6) *i-ti-ši* KÙ.BABBAR 2 GIN (7) *ša* ITI-šú *i-ra-bi* (8) URUDU.MEŠ 2 MA.NA *ša* ITI-šú (9) *i-ra-bi-ú* (1) UD 1 KÁM (11) *lim-mu* *ia* (12) IGI ^{m.d.}UGUR.MAŠ (13) DU-a (14) [Na]-ra-nu (15) *si?-ḥar-di*

‘2 *mana* of silver, capital sum, 1 royal (*mana*), 1 talent of copper, capital sum, Aššur-ašaridu? has taken on exchange from Šumma-ilu. The silver shall increase 2 shekels per month, the copper 2 *mana* per month.’ Date mostly destroyed, limmu perhaps Zazaia (692 B.C.) or Ilu-ittia (694 B.C.). Witnesses: . . . Nergal-ašaridu, . . . Naranu . . .

BT. 128. Tablet and fragment of envelope, tablet 4 × 2.7 cms. Plate XXVI.

Tablet: (1) $\frac{1}{2}$ MA.NA KÙ.BABBAR SAG.DU *ša* ^{dxv?} (2) *ša* ^mDINGIR.SAG.KI *ina* IGI ^mITI-KIN-a-a (3) *ina pu-u-ḥi it-ti-ši* (4) ^mNa-ni-i (5) *a-na ša-par-ti-šú-nu* . . . (6) $\frac{1}{2}$ GÍN KÙ.BABBAR *ša* (erasure) (7) *ina me-e ina* NINDA ME Ì (8) *šir-ru* TAB INA [UGU.EN]-šú (9) ¹ITIZ (10) *lim-mu* ^{m.d.}PA.MA[N.PAP] (11) [*ša*] ^{URU}Mar-qa-si (12) IGI ^mPAP.AŠ IGI ^mA-ki-lu (13) IGI ^mA?-da-si-ḥa-ú (14) IGI ^mBa-ri-ku (15) IGI ^{m.d.}PA.MU-ra-bi

Envelope: (1) *bi?* ^mNa-ni . . . (2) DUMU? ^mITI-KIN-a-a *a-na ša-par-ti* (3) *kam-mu-su ma-aḥ-ri ina me-e* (4) Ì.MES *šir-ru* TAB *ina* UGU EN-šú (5) ^mDINGIR.SAG.KI KÙ.BABBAR-šú *i-ša-qal* (6) *ina u₄-me ša* KÙ.BABBAR *ú-še-rab-a-ni* (7) LÚ *ú-ša* ¹ITIZ UD 16 KÁM

‘ $\frac{1}{2}$ *mana* of silver, capital of Ištār? . . . is put at the disposal of Ululaia by DINGIR.SAG.KI and taken on exchange. Nani, his son?, goes to live as a pledge. The creditor is responsible for paying $\frac{1}{2}$ shekel of silver for water, bread, oil and meat. When the silver is repaid, the son will be released.’ Dated 16th Addaru, limmu Nabu-šar-ušur of Marqasi (682 B.C.). Witnesses: Aḥu-iddin, Adasi-ḥau, Bariku, Nabu-šum-rabi.

Notes

Envelope (3) *ana šaparti kammusu*, see also BT. 123 and BT. 139. This term is also used in ARU 127.5, a female goes *ana šaparti kammusat*, and ARU 155, *kammusu*, pl. The use of the plural in this document may mean that two pledges are being given; the name of the second might be lost in l. 4 and envelope, l. 1, but the verb in l. 7 is in the singular.

Envelope (3-5) The creditor is here required to pay the value *ma-aḫ-ri* of the water, oil, bread and meat. For *mehru*, see *Laws of Ešnunna*, 19, p. 66, for this provision, cf. BT. 102.

BT. 131. Tablet, 3 × 4.5 cms. Plate XXV.

(1) *šum-ma* UD 20 KÁM *ša* (2) ^m*Da-di-ia a-na* (3) *la na-ša a-na* ^{m.d.}MAŠ.MAŠ.MU (4) *la i-din* (5) 300 UDU.MEŠ *a-na li-da-[ti-šu-nu?]* (6) *a-na gi-za-ni-šu-nu* (7) [ri]-bu (8) (9) [IGI ^m]EN.KAM SILIM-mu (10) [IGI] ^mUGUR.AŠ (11) IGI ^mTab?-ni-i (12) IGI ^mRu?-šu?-a (13) *lim-me* ^mMAN? (with erasure) GI.[NA] (14) ^{ITT}APIN UD (15) IGI ^mMU.KUR Left edge traces of two lines, mostly destroyed.

‘If, on the 20th day of Dadia does not bring . . . does not deliver to Nergal-x . . . They shall make good 300 sheep with their offspring and their fleeces?’ Witnesses: Bel-ereš . . . , Nergal-nadin-x, Tabni, Rušua. Dated limmu Sargon (719 B.C.), month of Araḫšamna?. Witness: MU.KUR.x.

Note

(6) Perhaps this is a writing of *giḫzatu*, wool yield, see CAD, 5, p. 116. The text suggests defaulting shepherds. A theft of 300 sheep is the subject of ARU 658.

BT. 136. Tablet, 8.5 × 4.5 cms., three impressions of a seal with a union jack design. Top left and lower left corners missing. Plate XXIV.

(1) [NA₄.KIŠ]IB ^{m.d.}PA-še-ḫib-a-ni (2) ^{LUGAL}URU.MEŠ-ni (3) EN *ḫi-ri-ši a-di* UŠ BÀD-šú (4) *a-di šap-ti ḫi-ri-ši-šú* SUM-an (5) TA *lib-bi na-me-ri ša* ZAG (6) [*a-di*] *si-ip-pi ša du-u-ri* (7) *a-na* NINA^{KI} SUḫUR *du-u-ri* (8) SUḫUR KASKAL ^{URU}Ni-nu-a (9) *ú-piš-ma* ^{m.d.}Ma-mu-iq-bi (10) *ina lib-bi* 30? MA.NA URUDU.MEŠ (11) *a-na pa-ḫu ri-e?-bi?* (12) *la ši-ib-si la nu-sa-ḫi* (13) *me-ri-še* 14 *ka-rab-ḫi* (14) MU.AN.NA.MEŠ (15) [*e-da*]-nu *ša-kín* (16-19) destroyed (20) . . . *man-nu* . . . nu (21) IGI ^mŠal-mu ^{m.ITI}. -a-a (22) IGI ^mTi-ku-su ^mBi-gul (23) IGI ^{m.d.}ME.ME.MU.GIŠ (24) IGI ^mBa-la-si-i (25) IGI ^mNa-ra-a-nu (26) IGI ^mNa-na- . . . (27) ḪAR.SILIM.MEŠ (28) IGI ^mSILIM-mu-PAP.MEŠ (29) [*lim*]-mu ^mEN.IGI.LAL-a-ni (30) . . . *lib-bi* GUB.BA.ME

‘The seal of Nabu-šeziḫani, *rab alāni*, owner of the irrigation ditch, from the edge of the wall to the lip of the ditch, to be sold. (The extent of the property is) from the right embankment to the edge of the wall to Nineveh, as far as a wall and bounded by the road to Nineveh. A sales agreement has been arranged and Mamu-iqbi has bought it for 30? *mana* of copper there is no grain or straw tax 15 cultivated years and 15 fallow years, in all thirty years. When the period fixed is reached? the land will be released.’ Witnesses: Šalmu, . . . aia, Tikusu, Bigul, Gula-šum-lišir, Balasi, Naranu, Nana , Šulmu-aḫḫe. Dated limmu Bel-emurani (691 or 686 B.C.), day and month missing.

Notes

(3) *ḫirisi* according to the occurrences in CAD 6, p. 198, is normally used for a moat. In the present case, however, it has an agricultural purpose and irrigation ditch or canal seems a better translation.

(5) *nameri* means filling according to Bez. p. 43, but as it seems to be used here to repeat the description in line 4, *i.e.* edge of ditch, I have used embankment, the raised ground running along the side of canals and composed of earth dug from the canal.

(15) *edanu šakin* see ARU, 135, which must be read the same way.

BT.138. Tablet with small fragments of envelope. Tablet broken along the upper edge and lower right corner missing, tablet 2.9 × 4.3 cms. Plate XXIII.

(1) GANÁM *ri-a-te* (2) *ša* ^mRig-me-Aššur (3) *ina* IGI ^mERÌ-Nin-líl (4) *ina* IGI ^mA-mar-DINGIR-šú (5) *ina* IGI ^mQi-ša-a-a (6) *a-du* 20?UD.MEŠ 2 MA.NA KÙ.BABBAR (7) *i-dan šúm-ma ul i-[din]* (8) UDU.MEŠ *a-du* ANŠE (9) *i-dan* ^mAPIN UD 20 [KÁM] (10) *lim-mu* ^mTA.U-a-ni-nu (11) IGI ^mMan-nu-iq-bi (12) IGI ^mdUTU.DINGIR-šú (13) IGI ^mSu-u-ia-a (14) *iq-bi* (15) *še-si?*

‘. . . ewes shepherds? belonging to Rigma-Aššur, at the disposal of Arad-Ninlil, Amar-ilišu, and Qisai, in 10 days 2 *mana* of silver will be paid. If it is not paid the sheep together with the donkey? will be returned (lit. given).’ Dated 20th Arahsamna, limmu Itti-Adad-aninu (679 B.C.). Witnesses: Mannu-iqbi, Šamaš-ili-šu, Suia,

BT. 139. Tablet, left edge broken, 3.5 × 5 cms. Plate XXV.

(1) KÙ.BABBAR ^md.BU-*da-la-a* (2) [*issu*] IGI ^mNi-ni-e *ina pu-u-bi* (3) [*it-ti*]-šì ^md.LI?.DÙ ^lDUMU-šú (4) [*ina ša*]-pár-[*ti*] *ku-um ru-bi-e* (5) [*ša* KÙ.BABB]AR *kam-mu-[su?]* *ina* A.MEŠ Ì.MEŠ (6) [*šir*]-*ru?* *ina* UGU AD-šú (7) *i-pal-laḫ-šú* (8) [*u₄-me ša* KÙ.BABBAR] *ú-še-rab-ba* (9) [DUMU] *ú-še-ša* ^mGAN UD 12 KÁM (10) [*lim*]-*mu* ^mMan-*za-ni-e* (11) KAK.IGI.LAL ^lSÚL.DU₃ (12) DINGIR-*da-la-a* (13) IGI ^mEḫ-bu (14) *ra-nu* (15) *-ku-su* (16) *za*

‘. of silver Šer-dala has taken on exchange from Ninie. His son, ^lLI?.DU is lodged as security, in lieu of interest on the silver. His father is responsible for the provision of water, oil, . . . and meat. (The son) will serve him (the creditor) and when the silver is paid, he will be released.’ Dated 12th Kislimu, limmu Manzani (684 B.C.). Witnesses: Gabbu-amur?, porter, Ilu-dala, Ešbu, Naranu?, Tikusu?

Note

(6) In this case the debtor and not the creditor is responsible for bearing the cost of certain provisions, see BT. 102 and 128.

BT. 140. Tablet and envelope, tablet, 3.2 × 4.5 cms. Plate XXVI.

Tablet: (1) ^mMan-nu-*ki*-URUTATTAB.DINGIR (2) GEMÉ *ša* SAL.É.GAL (3) *i-si-ri-qi ku-um* (4) *ka-su ta-din-ni* (5) ^md.Ma-mú-*iq-bi* (6) ½ GUN MA.NA URUDU.MEŠ (7) *a-na* ^mA-*ga-ri* (8) *ta-di-ni* (9) ^mMan-nu-*ki*-URUTATTAB.DINGIR (10) *ip-ṭa-tar* ^mBARAG (11) *lim-me* ^mAššur-*dan-in-a-ni* (12) IGI ^m.URUKÁ. DINGIR-*a-a* (13) IGI ^md.PA.BÁD.PAP (14) IGI ^lGAL.MU.MEŠ *ša* SAL.É.GAL (15) [IGI ^m]Ti-*ku-su* (16) . . . UGUR (17) [IGI] ^mBa-*la-[si]*

Envelope: (1’) [NA₄].KIŠIB ^mA-*ga-ri* (2) ^mMan-nu-*ki*-URUTATTAB.DINGIR (3) GEMÉ É.GAL *i-si-ri-qi* (4) *ku-um* *ti-šú* (5) *ka-su ta-din-ni?* (6) ^md.Ma-mú-*iq-bi* (7) GUN MA.NA URUDU.MEŠ (8) *a-na* ^mA-*ga-ri* (9) *din-ni* Remainder lost.

‘Mannu-ki-Arbail has stolen the slave-woman of the queen. In place of confinement? (he is) to be sold. Mamu-iqbi has paid ½ talent? of copper to Agari and Mannu-ki-Arbail is freed. Dated Nisan, limmu Aššur-daninani (685 B.C.). Witnesses: Babilaia, Nabu-dur-ušur, servant of the chief of the queen’s cooks, Tikusu, . . Nergal . . , Balasi. On the envelope, the seal of Agari.

Notes

(3) *šarāqu* to steal, I₂ with overhanging vowel.

(4) *kasū* to bind, fetter or manacle.

(11) Aššur-daninani. There are two *limmu* of this name, 735 B.C. and 685 B.C., but in view of the personalities in this document, particularly Mamu-iqbi, the later *limmu* is probable.

PERSONAL NAMES

- †A-a-su-ri, 126, 2.
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BT.100

obv.

5

rev. 10

15

envelope obv.

5

edge

10

rev.

15

BT.101

tablet

obv.

5

rev.

10

envelope

obv.

5

rev.

10

15

BT.105

obv.

5

rev.

10

BT.104

obv.

5

rev.

10

left edge 15

BT.106

obv.

5

10

rev.

15

20

25

BT.102

obv.

5

rev.

10

15

BT.103

obv.

5

rev.

10

BT.114

obv. 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨
 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨
 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨
 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨
 5 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨
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 10 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨
 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨
 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨
 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨

BT.119

obv. 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨
 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨
 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨
 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨
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 rev.10 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨
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 15 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨
 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨

BT.117

obv. 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨
 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨
 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨
 5 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨
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 15 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨
 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨

BT.124

obv. 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨
 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨
 5 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨
 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨
 10 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨
 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨
 rev. 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨
 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨
 15 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨
 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨
 left edge
 20 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨
 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨

BT.123

obv. 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨
 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨
 5 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨
 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨
 rev. 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨
 10 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨
 𐎧𐎠𐎡𐎢𐎣𐎤𐎥𐎦𐎧𐎨

BT.118

obv. 1
 5
 rev. 10
 15

BT.115

obv. 1
 5
 rev. 10
 15

envelope
rev. 2

5

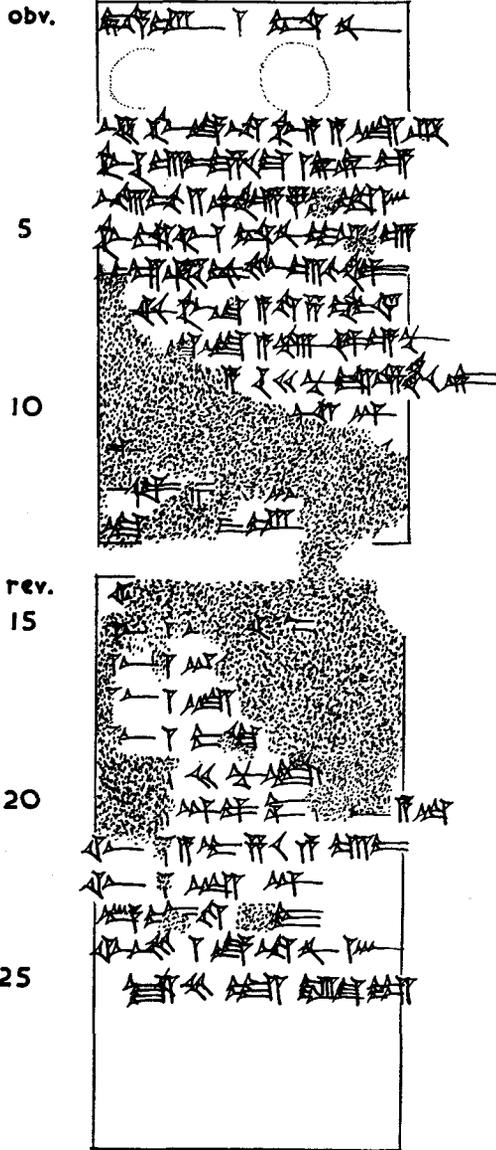
BT.116

obv. 1
 5
 rev. 10
 15

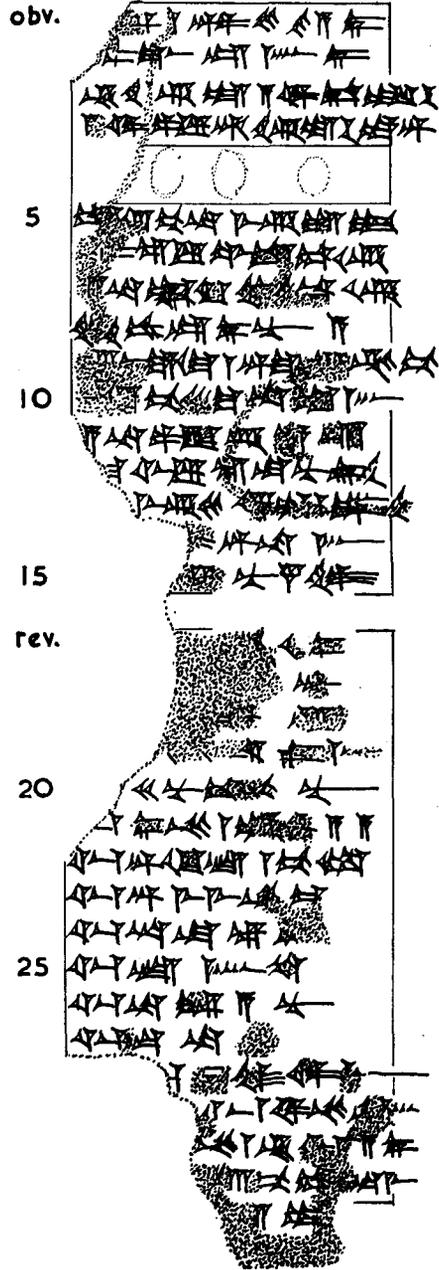
BT.138

obv. 1
 5
 rev. 10
 15

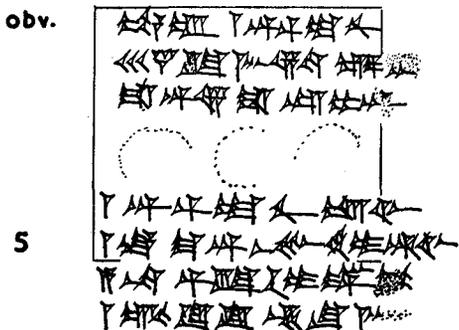
BT.126



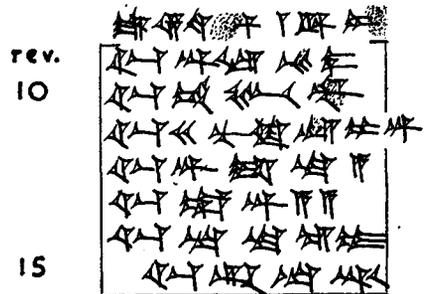
BT.136



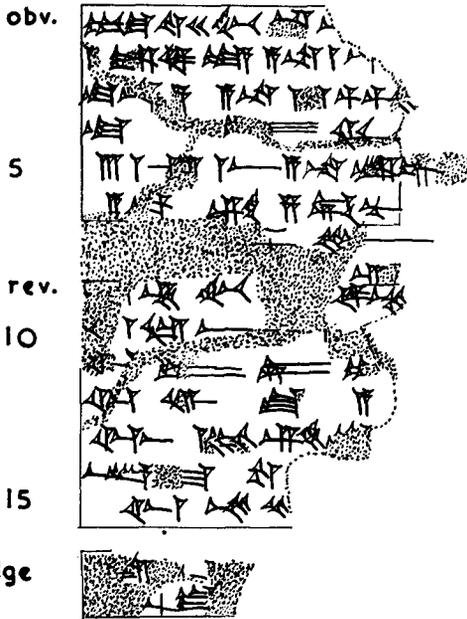
BT.120



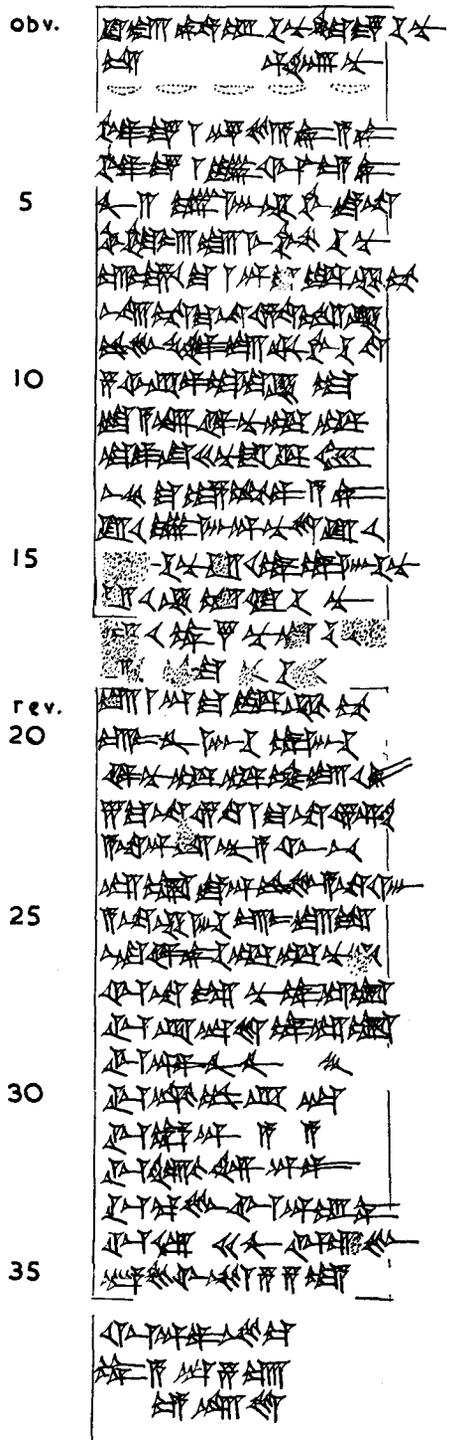
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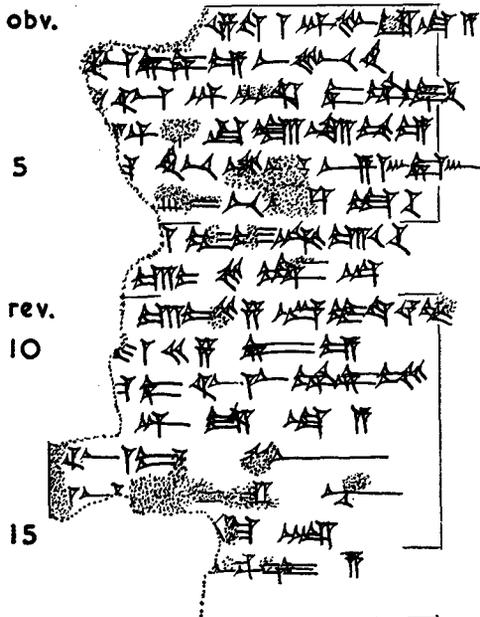
BT.131



BT.125



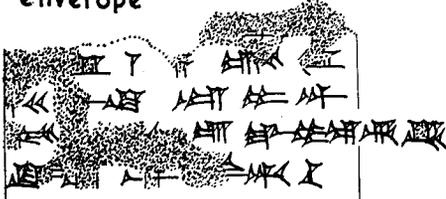
BT.139



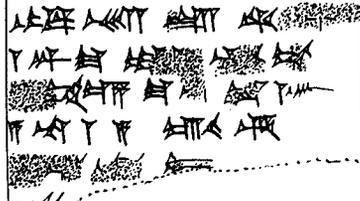
BT 140

envelope

obv.

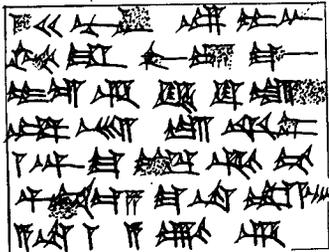


5



tablet

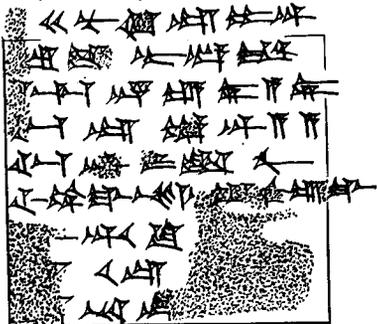
obv.



5



rev. 10



15



BT 109

obv.



5



rev.

10



BT.128

envelope

obv.

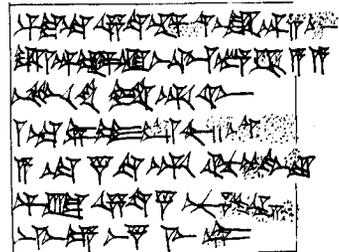


5



tablet

obv.



5



rev. 10



15



BT.127

obv.

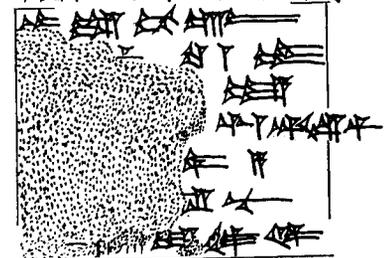


5



rev

10



15

