

28) KILAM = *nadānu* in Late Babylonian — In the Hellenistic period the Akkadian reading of KILAM seems to be *nadānu*, rather than *mahīru*, ‘exchange (rate)’, from *mahāru*, ‘to receive’. In fact, this does not affect the overall meaning of KILAM since it reflects as *pars pro toto* the principle of any transaction: *nadānu u mahāru*, ‘giving and receiving’ (see CAD M¹ 58, *nadānu u mahāru*, ‘to sell and buy, to do business.’). Both *mahīru* and *nadānu* can therefore mean “exchange; exchange rate”. The Akkadian rendering of KILAM is given in an interest-bearing promissory note arising from a deposit (277/6 BC): *kù.babbar ši-mi dan-nu kaš.sag-a’ | 5-ta lib-bu-ú na-dan šá ina E.ki ina iti.sig u iti.šu in-na-an-din-nu ina-an-din-u’*, “the silver, the price of the aforementioned 5 vats of beer, they will give (pay) according to the exchange rate (*na-dan*) that is given in Babylon in months III and IV”: CT 49, III: 7 (= Stolper 1993, text 13 + comm. p. 44; Jursa 2006: 183; n.b.: Stolper incorrectly deletes *ina-an-din-u’* as scribal error). In the same text we read: “If they do not pay at the appointed time for them, they will pay *lib-bu-ú na-dan ma-tu-ú šá mu 43.kam*, “according to the lowest exchange rate of year 43 (= according to the highest price)”, CT 49, III: 8-9 (= Stolper 1993, text 13 + comm. p. 44). In a Parthian period Astronomical Diary from 108 BC, we have: *na-dan ina SILA.MEŠ E.KI TAR-is*, “the exchange in the streets of Babylon was interrupted” (AD 3 -107D 32’). Perhaps we might translate here: “the supply (of grain) was interrupted”. It is a month of a peak price in grain (December 108 BC; cf. Van der Spek *et alii* 2015, Appendix for the price). Note the phrase in a diary from Uruk, 464 BC: [so and so much grain etc. for one shekel of silver] *šá ina KUR a-na KILAM SUM-nu*, “which was given in the land for exchange” (AD 1 -463: 4’. Cf. Van der Spek 2015: 7 and p. 13, n. 7). As these texts illustrate, the final short vowel was not pronounced in Late Babylonian (*na-dan*).

Abbreviations

AD 1 – 3 = Sachs, A.J. & Hunger, H. 1988, 1989, 1996, *Astronomical Diaries and Related Texts from Babylonia*. Vol. I. *Diaries from 652 B.C. to 262 B.C.*, Vol. II *Diaries from 261 B.C. to 165 B.C.*, Vol. III, *Diaries from 164 B.C. to 61 B.C.* Vienna.

CT 49 = Cuneiform Texts from Babylonian Tablets in the British Museum, Part XLIX: D.A. Kennedy, *Late-Babylonian Economic Texts*. London 1968.

Jursa M., 2006, ‘Agricultural management, tax farming and banking: Aspects of entrepreneurial activity Babylonia in the Late Achaemenid and Hellenistic periods,’ in: P. Briant & F. Joannès eds., *La transition entre l’empire achéménide et les royaumes hellénistiques (vers 350-300 avant J.-C.)* Persika 9 (Paris), 137-222.

Stolper M.W., 1993, *Late Achaemenid, Early Macedonian, and Early Seleucid Records of Deposit and Related Texts*. Napoli.

Van der Spek *et al.* 2015 = Van der Spek, R.J., B. van Leeuwen & J.L. van Zanden (eds.) 2015, *A History of Market Performance. From Ancient Babylonia to the Modern World*. London.

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