

**54) Nebuchadnezzar II’s Bricks in Cracow\*** — The bricks published here are part of a collection known as “the Field Museum”, created in 1943 by Jaroslaw Sagan, a soldier in the Polish Army that was formed in the Soviet Union in 1941. The itinerary of this army, under the commandment of General W. Anders, passed through Iran, Iraq, and Palestine where it became the 2nd Polish Corps. Sagan, the museum treasurer in a town near Drohobycz before the war, collected items that were bought by soldiers of the Polish Army in Middle Eastern bazaars. The collection has been brought to Poland in 1948 and most of it was conveyed to the Archaeological Museum of Cracow. A unique note in the inventory of “the Field Museum” concerning the provenience of the bricks published here, tells that they were purchased by soldiers in Iran.

All the four bricks (I, II, III, IV onwards) feature an intermediate ruling and are stamped on their face with the very well-known Standard Inscription of Nebuchadnezzar II.<sup>1)</sup> Bricks I and II bear the 6-line inscription which corresponds to type “B5” according to Da Riva’s classification.<sup>2)</sup> Artefacts III and IV bear the 7-line inscription which corresponds to Da Riva’s type “B6”.<sup>3)</sup> The average weight of the bricks is 12.6 kg. The photographs of the items are presented in CDLI.

**I. MAK/AS/118/ EW/3740**

CDLI no.: P513520

31 x 31 x 7 cm

Dimensions of stamped area: 16 x 10 cm

- 1 <sup>d</sup>nabû(nà)-ku-<sup>r</sup>dûr<sup>1</sup>-ri-ušur(urù)
- 2 šar(lugal) ba-bi-lu<sup>ki</sup>
- 3 <sup>r</sup>za<sup>1</sup>-ni-nu é-sag-íl
- 4 ù é-zi-da aplu (ibila)
- 5 ašarēdu(sag.kal) šá <sup>d</sup>nabû(nà)-apla(ibila)-ušur(urù)
- 6 šar(lugal) ba-bi-lu<sup>ki</sup> ana-ku

**II. MAK/AS/126/EW/3738**

CDLI no.: P513522

31 x 31 x 8 cm

Dimensions of stamped area: 15 x 8.5 cm

The brick is slightly damaged in its right corner.

- 1 <sup>d</sup>nabû(nà)-ku-dûr-<sup>r</sup>ru-ušur(urù)<sup>1</sup>
- 2 šar(lugal) ba-bi-i-lu<sup>ki</sup>
- 3 za-ni-in <sup>r</sup>é<sup>1</sup>-sag-íl
- 4 ù é-zi-da
- 5 mār (dumu) <sup>d</sup>nabû(nà)-apla(ibila)-ú-šur
- 6 šar(lugal) ba-bi-i-lu<sup>ki</sup> ana-ku

The arrangement of the two 6-line inscriptions on I and II conforms to the “6-line stamp (variant)” in Black’s classification.<sup>4)</sup> A specificity of this variant is the addition of ana-ku in line 6. Another particularity of “6-line stamp (variant)”, the use of a syllabic spelling for the name of Babylon, also occurs in the two Cracow bricks, namely *ba-bi-lu* on I and *ba-bi-i-lu* on II.<sup>5)</sup> An additional feature of the “6-line stamp (variant)”, attested in I, is the spelling *za-ni-nu é-sag-íl* instead of regular *za-ni-in é-sag-íl*. Although the format of the inscription on II accords with Black’s “6-line stamp (variant)”, Nebuchadnezzar is referred to as *mār* (dumu) <sup>d</sup>nabû(nà)-apla(ibila)-ú-šur instead of the typical, ceremonial expression *aplu*(ibila) *ašarēdu*(sag.kal) šá <sup>d</sup>nabû(nà)-apla(ibila)-ušur(urù) as in I.

**III. MAK/AS/119/EW/3741**

CDLI no.: P513521

32 x 32 x 7 cm

Dimensions of stamped area: 15 x 11 cm<sup>6)</sup>

- 1 <sup>d</sup>nabû(nà)-ku-du-<sup>r</sup>ur-ri-ušur(urù)
- 2 šar(lugal) bābili(<sup>r</sup>ká<sup>1</sup>.dingir.ra<sup>ki</sup>)
- 3 za-<sup>r</sup>ni-in<sup>1</sup> é-sag-íl
- 4 ù é-zi-da
- 5 aplu (ibila) a-ša-re-du
- 6 ša <sup>d</sup>nabû(nà)-apla(ibila)-ušur(urù)
- 7 šar(lugal) bābili(ká.dingir.ra<sup>ki</sup>)

**IV. MAK/AS/172/EW/3739**

CDLI no.: P513523

31 x 31 x 8 cm

Dimensions of stamped area: 14 x 11 cm

The right side of the inscription is slightly damaged.

- 1 <sup>d</sup>nabû(nà)-ku-du-<sup>r</sup>ur-ri-ušur(urù)<sup>1</sup>
- 2 šar(lugal) bābili(ká.dingir.ra<sup>1ki1</sup>)
- 3 za-ni-<sup>r</sup>in é<sup>1</sup>-sag-<sup>r</sup>íl<sup>1</sup>
- 4 ù é-zi-<sup>r</sup>da<sup>1</sup>
- 5 aplu (ibila) a-ša-<sup>r</sup>re-du<sup>1</sup>
- 6 ša <sup>d</sup>nabû(<sup>r</sup>nà<sup>1</sup>)-apla(ibila)-<sup>r</sup>ušur(urù)<sup>1</sup>
- 7 šar(lugal) bābili(ká.dingir.ra<sup>1ki1</sup>)

The arrangement of the two 7-line inscriptions published here as III and IV, corresponds to Black’s “7-line stamp” pattern.<sup>7)</sup> The identical spelling in both of them is exact as in Frazer 2017, 102-103, BMAG 7, Walker 1982, 81-82, no. 102, and Pettinato 1970, 51, Type A.

## Notes

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1. So far ten different arrangements of this inscription are known (Black 1987, 26-27).
2. Da Riva 2008, 117. “B5” corresponds to Berger 1973, A<sub>p</sub>(b’’)<sub>6</sub> and Walker 1981, no. 103.
3. Da Riva 2008, 117. “B6” corresponds to Langdon 1912, Nbk. no. 41, Berger 1973, A<sub>p</sub>(b’’)<sub>7</sub>, and Walker 1981, no. 102.
4. Black 1987, 27.
5. For the spelling *ba-bi-i-lu*, cf. Bramanti 2015, 394-395.
6. Cf. the identical dimensions of the stamp, Pettinato 1970, 63, no. 35.
7. Black 1987, 27. For the list of publications concerning the spelling variants and the dimensions of the stamped area of this format, see Frazer 2017, 102, note 13.

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