

35) **A new Greek from Seleucid Babylonia**<sup>9)</sup> – So far, line r.17 of the Astronomical Diary -226A has defied interpretation. In the first edition by H. Hunger and A. Sachs, the line was read ITU BI *ana* DI-*im šá* TE E and left untranslated. G. Del Monte then, in his edition of the historical passages of the Diaries read the passage with reservations as *ana* SILIM IM, ‘per recitare interamente la tavola degli scongiuri’, which is not impossible but quite improbable (Del Monte 1997, 58). Normally, a conjuration would be designated as ÉN or called by name as was the case with the “ritual of covering the kettledrum” (*nēpešu ša arām lilissu*) in AD -270B, r13; see Linssen 2005, 92-99 on this ritual. It is also unlikely that TE.E refers in the present instance to the district in the south-eastern part of the city, it lacks both the determinative KI which usually follows this city-quarter’s name (e.g., AD -257B, 5 or AD -256, r17) as well as the normally preceding KI-ti.

Our suggestion is to interpret the line as actually referring to a Greek personal name <sup>1</sup>T/Di-*im-gar-te-e*. Timokrates would be the best reading in that case. While Demokrates would also be an option, a reading Theokrates is unlikely as Greek θ was usually rendered by *t* (Röllig 1960, 379). The absence of the final -s does not constitute a problem, the same phenomenon is also encountered with the name of Seleucus, regularly written <sup>1</sup>Se-*lu-ku* in the corpus of the Astronomical Diaries (and see also Röllig 1960, 390 on the elision of the final consonant). Furthermore, the marking of the η by means of an additional vowel – as -*te-e* in the present case – is current usage (Röllig 1960, 385f.). For this reason, Timokrates is also preferable over Demokrates (Greek Δημοκράτης), precisely because the first η is not marked. The elision of the omikron is finally paralleled in BRM 2, 37 where the name is written repeatedly <sup>1</sup>Tim-*gi-ra-te-e* (Röllig 1960, 379<sup>+10</sup>).

Another text from the same period deserves mention here. BHP 16 is provisionally published on-line at [www.livius.org](http://www.livius.org) (with the subtitle of “Document of land and tithes”) and dates to an uncertain year between 75 and 90 SE (thus, 236 and 222 BC). This chronicle also gives in line r.4 the name of a Greek who is identified as the messenger of an official (maybe the satrap, but the title is broke off). The name in this case is written <sup>1</sup>T/Di-*mug-ra-te* and thus also that can be interpreted as Timokrates, and it cannot be excluded that we are dealing with the same person. We conclude this small contribution with an edition of the lines of AD -226A under discussion.

#### AD -226A: Months I, II and III

(Museum number: BM 41655+41683+41866 (=81-6-25,271+301+486), Copy: LBAT 288-289-290, Previous editions: ADART II, 130-135 and plate 95; Del Monte 1997, 57-58)

#### Text

r17: ... ITU BI 2I <sup>1</sup>D/<sup>1</sup>Ti-*im-gar-te-e*

r18: [... ..] *uš-k*]in-nu GU<sub>4</sub><sup>HLA</sup> u SISKUR<sup>MEŠ</sup>

r19: [... ..]{*ana*<sup>d</sup>EN u}<sup>d</sup>GAŠAN-*ía* DÛ-uš

r17: ... That month, day 21, Timokrates

r18: [... ..] prostrated himself. Oxen and *niqû*-sacrifices

r19: [... ..] for Bēl and Bēltiya he sacrificed.

## Bibliography

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\*) The research for this note was carried out at the VU University Amsterdam within the framework of the larger project “On the efficiency of markets for agricultural products in pre-industrial societies: The case of Babylonia c. 400 – c. 60 BC” financed by ‘The Netherlands’ Organization for Scientific Research’ (NWO), under the direction of Prof. R. Van der Spek.

Reinhard PIRNGRUBER <reinhard.pirngruber@univie.ac.at>  
Universität Wien, Institut für Orientalistik, Spitalgasse 2 Hof 4, A-1090 Wien  
Research Network <http://imperiumofficium.univie.ac.at/>