

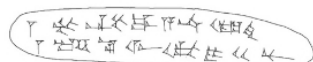
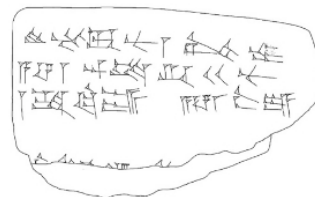
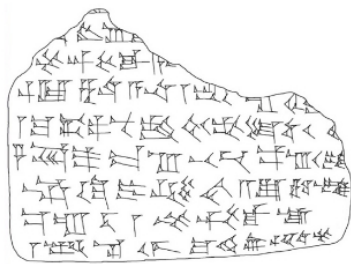
**33) A New Attestation of Baga-pānu, the assumed governor of Babylonia** — BM 38453 published here deserves attention because it is an addition to the texts that mention Baga-pānu, although this time indirectly, as it concerns the activity of certain Bēl-silim, a person dependent on Baga-pānu, presumably his official. Baga-pānu is mentioned in a few texts,<sup>1)</sup> while in two he holds the title of governor of Babylon.<sup>2)</sup> Most recently BM 47423 was published by M. Sandowicz,<sup>3)</sup> and although Baga-pānu is not named governor, this supports his high position as it shows him as person higher in status than the governor of Dilbat and the local authorities of the Eimbianu temple of Uraš. The local body of *mār banē* working under the supervision of Mušēzib-Marduk, the šangū of the Eimbianu temple in Dilbat made the decision to release Bēl-iddin from the custody in the city in accordance with the desire of Baga-pānu delivered to them by Ubār, father of Bēl-iddin, acting as the messenger of Baga-pānu. BM 47423 shows clearly that Baga-pānu's authority extended beyond Babylon.

BM 38453 concerns the hire of a boat by Bēl-silim, official of Baga-pānu, from Iddin-Amurru beginning from 10th day of Šabaṭu of an unknown year. The parties agreed that Bēl-silim will pay the rent and give back the boat to Iddin-Amurru in the capital city. This is important because it suggests that Bēl-silim, a person from entourage of Baga-pānu, lived in the capital like his master. Presumably the text was written in Babylon in the time of Darius I, although it did not resolve the question of Baga-pānu's position in the administrative structure of Persian empire. From both the new documents BM 47423 and BM 38453 two conclusions seem certain, i.e. that Baga-pānu exercised his power from Babylon, and that he extended it outside the district of Babylon, at least over north and central Babylonia, at least in the period between 503/2 and 494/3 BC (see note 2), although nothing speaks for his position of governor of large satrap of Babylon and Across-the-river (Ēbir-nāri) for already in 502 BC this position was held by Tattannu; i.e. Baga-pānu must have held an inferior position.<sup>4)</sup>

**BM 38453** (80-11-12, 336)<sup>5)</sup>

5.5 x 3.7 cm

Obv. 1'. [...]'x' [...]	
2'. [x x-n]a <sup>1</sup> 'x' [... giš.má šá]	[...the boat, which] Iddin-Amurru rented to Bēl-silim,
3'. [m]mu- <sup>d</sup> kur.gal a-n[a x iti.meš	a-na x ma-na] [the ...] of Baga-pānu f[or x month(s) for x mina](s)
4'. ½ gín kù.babbar a-na <sup>md</sup> en-si-lim 'ú [...]	(and) half shekels of silver.
5'. <sup>m</sup> ba-ga-pa-nu id-din ul-tu u <sub>4</sub> .10.ka[m]	From 10th day of Šabaṭu, the boat is in his (Bēl-silim)'s
6'. šá iti.zíz giš.má ina igi-šú giš.má u i-di	disposal. He (Bēl-silim) will give the boat and a wage
7'. ina e <sup>ki</sup> i-nam-din 2 gín kù.babbar ina i-di	(for the boat) in the city of Babylon. 2 shekels of silver as
8'. giš.má-šú <sup>m</sup> mu- <sup>d</sup> kur.gal ina šu <sub>ii</sub>	wage for his boat Iddin-Amurru has received
9'. <sup>md</sup> en-si-lim ma-ḫi-ir 1 <sup>en</sup> u <sub>1</sub> -mu	from Bēl-silim. One/First day
Edge 10'. <sup>m</sup> mu- <sup>d</sup> kur.gal ana muḫ-ḫi	Iddin-Amurru will not count to Bēl-silim.
11'. <sup>md</sup> en-si-lim ul i-man-nu	
Rev. 12'. lú mu-kin-nu <sup>m</sup> ni-din-tu <sub>4</sub>	Witnesses:
13'. a-šú šá <sup>md</sup> amar-utu-ri-man-ni	Nidintu, son of Marduk-rēmanni
14'. <sup>m</sup> id-di-ia a-šú šá <sup>m</sup> dù-ia	Iddiya, son of Bāniya
One blank line	
15'. 'x x x x' [...]	...
Rest lost	



## Notes

Ll. 9-11'. The expression 1<sup>en</sup> *u<sub>4</sub>-mu* PN1 *ana mu<sub>h</sub>-hi*/PN2 *ul i-man-nu* has no parallel in texts known to me; the translation is literal, and its sense not fully certain.

L. 14. For the spelling <sup>m</sup>dù-*ia* as Bāniya, see Thissen 2014, 150f.

## Notes

1. Tavernier 2007, 137 and Zadok 2009, 135, 138, see also MacGinnis 2008, 87-94.

2. Stigers 1976, no. 22 dated to 19th year of Darius I (503/2 BC) and Zadok 2002, 585-86 (BM 85223: 30; date broken, but years 27th and 28th (of Darius I, i.e. 495/4 and 494/3) are mentioned (l. 16).

3. Sandowicz 2019, no. 45.

4. See the list of Governor of Babylon and Across-the River, "Governor of Babylon" and "(district governor)", in Stolper 1989, 290.

5. The tablet is published with the kind permission of the Trustees of the British Museum.

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