

BM 36761, the Astronomical Diary for 331 B.C. — D.J. Wiseman in his recent publication, *Nebuchadrezzar and Babylon* (Oxford University Press/British Academy, 1985), pp. 117-121, has edited an important astronomical diary which mentions the final defeat of [Darius III] and Alexander the Great's subsequent entrance into Babylon. This text was catalogued more than thirty years ago by A.J. Sachs, *LBAT*, p. xiii no. 196 and identified as referring to the year « —330/29 ». A considerably improved edition of the text, including an additional fragment not known to Wiseman, will appear in Sachs and Hunger, *Astronomical Diaries and related Texts from Babylonia*, vol. 1 (now in press).

Regrettably, in his publication, Wiseman misunderstands Sach's calendrical notation and hence dates the events mentioned in this diary a year too late, that is to 330 B.C. (the battle of Gaugamela to « the end of September 330 B.C. » and the beginning of the next month to « 27 September 330 », *Nebuchadrezzar and Babylon*, p. 118). Lest these mistakes creep into the historical literature, it should be firmly asserted that the notation « —330/29 » means 331/30 B.C. (confirmed by the lunar eclipse of 20 September in that year [information courtesy of Hermann Hunger]); and so the battle of Gaugamela remains dated to 1 October 331 (i.e., the 24th day of Ulūlu in the fifth year of Darius III), with the following month beginning on 8 October. Alexander's entrance into Babylon ([^I]a¹-lik-sa-an-dar-ri-is LUGAL ŠÚ ana E.KI T[U], BM 36761 rev. 11') is to be dated to 21 October or shortly thereafter (either as part of or just after the entry for the 14th [Sachs/Hunger] or 15th [Wiseman] day of Tašrītu).

John A. Brinkman (17.07.87)

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