

Neo-Babylonian « Practical » Lu-Lists — Four short NB lists of professions from 8th century Nippur comparable to those from Sultantepe and Kuyunjik (*MSL* 12, 233-241, NA) have recently been published by Stephen W. Cole, *Journal of Ancient Civilizations* 1 (Changchun, 1986) 127-143. Three entries call for further comment :

a) LÚ.EN.NAM = *be-el pa-ḥaš* (129 : 5 ; 131 : 5 ; 134 : 1) for expected **pāḥat(i)* or *pīḥat(i)* : this strange spelling is not unique (p. 135) but occurs also in ÌR-ka LÚ.pa-ḥaš(!), *ABL* 1074 : 1 (letter of the governor of Nippur to the Assyrian king, NB) ; this reading fits the traces much better than LÚ.pa-ḥaḥ(?), tentatively proposed by the present writer, *ZA* 74, 236.

b) LÚ.IGI.DU = *ma-as-pan* (130 : 18 ; 131 : 18 ; 134 : 6) : Cole's derivation from **massū pāni* (p. 138) is too far-fetched. IGI.DU is in all likelihood an inverted spelling for GUB.IGI (e.g. LÚ.GUB.IGI = LÚ.ma-za-az pa-ni, *MSL* 12, 239 iii 29-30, NA) ; *ma-az-pan* should, therefore, be considered an abbreviation of *manzaz/mazzaz pāni*.

c) LÚ.EN.GIŠ.GIGIR = *bi-ir-kab-ḥūḥ-tu* (130 : 12 ; 131 : 12) is, in Cole's opinion, « a contracted form of *bēl narkabti* » (p. 136). Though plausible as a literal translation of the logogram this contraction is difficult to explain phonetically. An interpretation as **bir kabti*, « son (*bir* allophone of Aramaic *bar*) of a nobleman, member of the nobility », should, therefore, be seriously considered. To own a chariot or to be No.1 on it certainly was a class privilege from Mittanni/Kassite times onward. The sequence LÚ.A.SIG / LÚ.A.SIG₅ «LÚ.GIŠ.GIGIR / LÚ.EN.GIŠ.GIGIR (*MSL* 12, 239-240 v 10-11, NA) implies that these four terms are, if not homonymous, then at least closely interrelated. In the Babylonian Theodicy *ma-ar kab-ti ù šá-ri-i* (*BWL* 80 : 186, SB) denotes one who belongs to the nobility and/or the affluent society.

The crux LÚ.ÀR.ÀR = *En-i-ni* (134 : 19, see comment on p. 140-141) could be plausibly explained, as A. Livingstone observed (oral communication), by assuming that the scribe confused the signs EN and NE : **tè-i-ni* would be the exact equivalent of LÚ.ÀR.ÀR.

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