

# NABU 1989-65 Paul-Alain Beaulieu

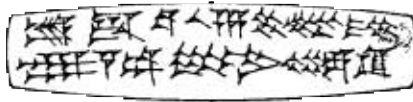
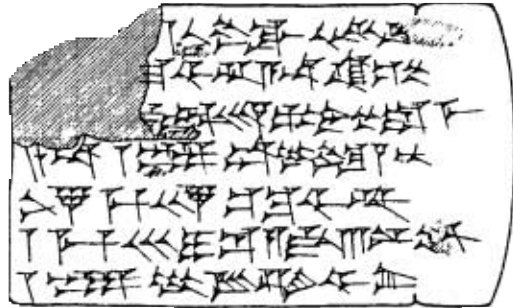
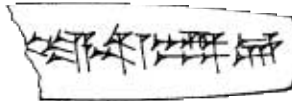
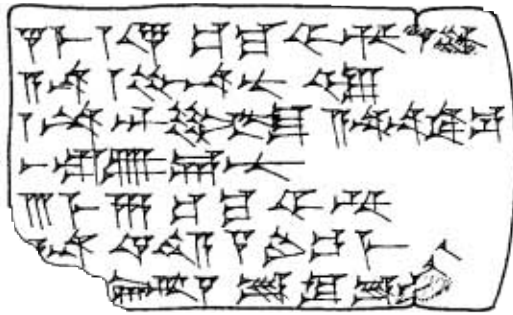
**The capacity of the mašīhu Measure in Neo-Babylonian Eanna** – Several institutions and private contractors in the Neo-Babylonian period used a standard called *mašīhu* « measure » whose capacity varied from place to place within a range from 30 to 54 *qû* (CAD M s.v. *mašīhu*). The Eanna temple at Uruk used a *mašīhu*, sometimes designated as the *mašīhu ša Eanna*, the *mašīhu ša Bēlit ša Uruk*, or the *mašīhu ša Ištar Uruk*, but mostly attested without such qualifications. This *mašīhu* was used in the Eanna for all sorts of purpose, especially in the hundreds of texts dealing with the delivery of offerings to the deities worshipped in the temple. In spite of the large number of texts from Neo-Babylonian Eanna, however, there has been so far no clue as to the capacity of the measure, a factor which has hampered research on that archive. Publication of the following text will therefore be welcome by students of the Neo-Babylonian period, since it gives the equivalent of the *mašīhu* of the Eanna in the standard system for dry and liquid capacities. I am grateful to Prof. W.W. Hallo, curator of the Yale Babylonian Collection, for permission to publish this tablet. It bears the museum number NCBT 620 and can safely be assigned to the archive of the Eanna on the basis of internal evidence. Measurements of the tablet are 34 x 47 x 17 mm.

## NCBT 620

obv. 1.	477 <sup>giš</sup> ma-ši-ḥu ʾšá ŠE.BAR <sup>1</sup>
2.	a-na <sup>I</sup> Bu-na-nu ù
3.	<sup>I</sup> IR- <sup>d</sup> In-nin a-na na-de-e
4.	ina <sup>un</sup> Ú-dan-nu
5.	306 <sup>giš</sup> ma-ši-ḥu
6.	ʾa-na <sup>1</sup> PAD.ḪI.A šá <sup>u</sup> ERÍN.ME
7.	[šá pi]-ir-ri šá <sup>u</sup> DU <sub>6</sub> <sup>u</sup> fAPIN <sup>1</sup>
lo.e. 8.	[u <sup>u</sup> ]GAN a-na <sup>I</sup> dNÀ-KAL
r. 9.	[.....] x 10 <sup>u</sup> GAL-10-ti.ʾMEŠ <sup>1</sup>
10.	[4 <sup>giš</sup> ]ʾma <sup>1</sup> -ši-ḥu a-na ki-is-sat
11.	[šá TUR] ʾ-i <sup>1</sup> .MEŠ šá ANŠE.KUR.RA.ME

	12.	Γ <sub>a</sub> <sup>1</sup> -na I <sup>d</sup> NÀ-DU-ŠEŠ <sup>i</sup> š <sup>u</sup> -šá-nu
	13.	PAP 787 g <sup>iš</sup> ma-ši-ḫu
	14.	196GUR 3 (PI)4 (BÁN) 3 SILÀ ŠE.BAR
	15.	I <sup>d</sup> NÀ-ŠEŠ.MEŠ-GI IGI-er
u.e.	16.	<sup>u</sup> KIN u <sub>4</sub> -16-KÁM MU-43-KÁM
	17.	d <sup>d</sup> NÀ-NÌ.GUB-URÌ LUGAL TIN.TIR <sup>ki</sup>
l.e.	18.	[..... <sup>i</sup> ]APIN.ME
	19.	[.....]-na-aḫ pu-ut-ti

	1.	477 measures of barley
	2.	to Bunnānu and
	3.	Arad-Innin, to be placed in storage
	4.	in the city Udannu ;
	5.	306 measures
	6.	for the rations of the workmen
	7.	[of the te]am of the months Tašrītu, Araḫsamnu,
	8.	[and] Kislīmu, to Nabû-dān
	9.	[.....] x ten « commanders of ten » ;
	10.	[4] measures as fodder
	11.	[for the off]spring of horses,
	12.	to Nabû-mukīn-aḫi, the servant.
	13.	Total : 787 measures, (that is),
	14.	196 <i>kurrū</i> , 3 <i>pānū</i> , 4 <i>sūtū</i> , and 3 <i>qū</i> of barley,
	15.	received by Nabû-aḫḫē-ušallim.
	16.	Months Ulūlu, sixteenth day, forty-third year
	17.	of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon.
	18.	[.....] the ploughmen
	19.	[.....] x opened (?)



The text was written only a few days before the death of Nebuchadnezzar, which occurred in the first week of October 562 (Parker and Dubberstein, *Babylonian Chronology*, p. 12). It is clear that the amount given in the standard system in line 14 is intended as an equivalent of the amount in *mašihu* of line 13. This tells us that the *mašihu* used by the Eanna temple had a capacity of 1 *pānu* 1 *sūtu* and 3 *qū*, that is to say, 45 *qū* (= ca. 45 litres). This is compatible with the capacities known for other such measures, between 30 and 54 *qū*.

Paul-Alain Beaulieu (01-09-89)