

NABU 1990-7 Matthew W. Stolper

In the Chronicle of the Diadochi r. 3 f. (according to the line numbering in Grayson Chronicles p. 117 ; by the numbering of BHT p. 141, r. 2f.) Oelsner suggested restoring a reference to the sixth year of Alexander IV, the counterpart to the seventh year of Antigonus ; he remarked that the title LÚ.GAL LÚ.ERÍN.MEŠ (probably rab uqu, not rab ummāni), otherwise reserved for Antigonus (e.g., Iraq 16 203 :4, the Hellenistic King List), must refer here to Seleucus ; and he considered that ŠID.MEŠ may be a verb, a form of manû, expressing the conversion of chronological notation (AoF 1 [1974] 136f. n. 33).

Oelsner's views — both his recognition of Seleucus' title and his proposition that the passage states a chronological conversion — find support in passages now published in A. Sachs and H. Hunger, *Astronomical Diaries and related Texts from Babylonia*, I (Vienna, 1988) :

No.-308 (LBAT *216) 1' [MU.8.KÁM ᵐA-lek-sa-an-dar LUGAL A ᵐK]I.ᵐMINᵐ ᵐSe-lu-ku LÚ.GAL LÚ.ERÍN.MEŠ ; and *ibid.* upper edge 1' [EN.NUN šá gi-né-e šá TA ITU.BAR EN TIL IT]U.KIN MU.8.KÁM ᵐA-lek-sa-an-dar LUGAL A ᵐKI.MIN ᵐSe-lu-ku LÚ.GAL ERÍN.MEŠ —these passages being the apparent grounds for restoration of No.-309 (LBAT *215) r. 11' [...MU.7.KÁM ᵐA-lek-sa-an-da]r LUGAL ᵐAᵐKI-MIN ᵐSe-lu-ku L[Ú.GAL ERÍN.MEŠ] and *ibid.* upper edge 1' [...MU.7. KÁM ᵐA-lek-sa-an-da]r LUGAL AᵐKI.MIN ᵐSe-lu-ᵐkuᵐ L[Ú.GAL ERÍN.MEŠ].

Given the alleged dependence of the NB and LB chronicles on the astronomical diaries (Grayson Chronicles pp. 13f. ; Or. NS 49 [1980] 174f. ; RLA 6 1/2 [1980] 86 ; but contrast Brinkman, *Festschrift Moran* [in press]), these passages in diaries from 310 and 309 B.C. encourage a restoration of the chronicle's notation of 311/310 B.C. along the lines suggested by Oelsner :

^(r.3) [...]-x iqbi umma MU.7.KÁM ᵐAn-ti-g[u-nu-su ana MU.6.KÁM] ^(r.4)[ᵐA-lek-sa-an-dar A ᵐKI.MIN] ᵐSe-lu-uk-ku LÚ.GAL LÚ.ERÍN.MEŠ imannû (?) (ŠID.MEŠ) = [...] said « the seventh year of Antigonus » (but) it is reckoned (?) [as the sixth year of Alexander son of ditto], Seleucus being general.

The subject of iqbi to be restored at the beginning of r. 3 is not obvious. Oelsner proposed [ᵐSi-lu]-ku, surmising that the passage refers to an official proclamation of the correct chronological form. The subject may instead be the

primary document from which the compiler of the diary drew the events of Antigonus year 7/Alexander IV year 8 : a « short diary », memorandum, king list, or some other text¹.

On this interpretation, the lines following r. 3f. narrating events of 311/10 B.C., when Seleucus was fighting for control of Babylonia, were drawn from a source for the early part of the year that was contemporary with the events, hence dated by Antigonus ;² the compiler of the chronicle corrected the date to a form reflecting a chronology that became official on Seleucus's political ascendancy and before his assumption of the royal title in 305. The diaries now corroborate that this was the correct form of chronological citation in the years immediately following Seleucus's achievement of power.

The space available for these restorations, as Oelsner observes, is rather small.

1. But the preterite seems an awkward form to express this nuance, as passages cited CAD qabû mng. 2 suggest.

2. Presumably with no title, or with the title rab uqu, as in legal and administrative texts of the time ; see Oelsner, ZA 61 (1971) 162 and Joannès, Anatolica 7 (1980) 108f. ; BM 67431, 77204, 78877 in Leichty et al. Babylonian Tablets in the British Museum, VII (Tablets from Sippar, 2) 205 and VIII (Tablets from Sippar, 3) 83 and 170. CT 49 50 is dated in year 7, scil. of Antigonus.

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