

**Two Bricks in the Johns Hopkins University Archaeological Collection –**

Following the recent renovation of the Johns Hopkins University Archaeological Collection, two inscribed bricks have been added to the permanent display. Despite the fact that records regarding the acquisition of the two bricks cannot be located anymore, it seems likely that these two artifacts originally belonged to the collection of Mesopotamian clay tablets and seals donated to the University by the late Paul Haupt, founder of the University's Department of Near Eastern Studies (then, the Oriental Seminary).

The first is a Neo-Babylonian brick with a stamped four line standard inscription of Nebuchadnezzar II (604-562 B.C.). The inscription is a duplicate of no. 39, published by S. Langdon in *Die Neubabylonischen Königsinschriften*, VAB 4 (Leipzig 1912) pp. 202-3.

1. <sup>d</sup>AG-ku-du-úr-ri-URÙ LUGAL KÁ.DINGIR.RA<sup>ki</sup>
2. za-ni-in é-sag-íla ù é-zi-da
3. IBILA a-ša-re-du
4. ša <sup>d</sup>AG.IBILA.URÙ LUGAL KÁ.DINGIR.RA<sup>ki</sup>

For duplicates of this inscription, see P.-R. Berger, *Die Neubabylonischen Königsinschriften*, AOAT 4/1 (Neukirchen-Vluyn 1973) pp. 185-87, L. de Meyer, *Tell ed-Der* Vol. II (Leuven 1978) p. 157, and C. B. F. Walker, *Cuneiform Brick Inscriptions in the British Museum* (London 1981) p. 80.

The second is an Elamite brick, presenting along the edge a badly preserved six lines Neo-Elamite building inscription of king Untaš-Napriša (ca. 1275-1240 B.C.). A fragment on the right-hand side of the brick is missing. The inscription celebrates the construction of the ziggurat in Choga-Zambil, dedicated to the god Inšušinak. The *editio princeps* of this inscription is found in F.W. König, *Die elamischen Königsinschriften*, AfO Beiheft 16 (Graz 1965) pp. 60-61, no. 12 a+b+c.

1. ù<sup>m</sup>un-taš-<sup>d</sup>GAL ša-ak<sup>m</sup>du-um-ban-nu-me-na-ki su-un-[ki-ik an-za-an]
2. šu-šu-un-ka ta-ak-me ú-me tu<sub>4</sub>-ur hi-ih si-it-me<sup>†</sup>ú<sup>1</sup>-[me šu-ul-me-ga]
3. az-ki-it tu<sub>4</sub>-ur sah-ri hu-šu-ia in-gi hi-en-ga in-[di-ig-ga a-gi]
4. si-ia-an ú-pa-at hu-us-si-ip-m[e ku-]ku-un-nu-um up-q[u-mi-ia ku-ši-ih]
5. <sup>d</sup>in-šu-ši-na-ak si-ia-an ku-uk-ra in-tu<sub>4</sub>-ni-ih [ú zag-ra-tu<sub>4</sub>-me]

6. ki-ik-ki-te-eh hu-út-tak ha-li-ik ú-me<sup>d</sup>in-šu-ši-na-ak [ul-li-na te-la-ak-mi]

On this inscription, see also M.-J. Steve, *Tchoga Zanbil* Vol. III (Paris 1967) p. 9, no. 1. For additional duplicates, see C.B.F. Walker, *Cuneiform Brick Inscriptions in the British Museum* (London 1981), p. 131. Another duplicate, today in an Italian private collection is found in F. M. Fales, *Prima dell'alfabeto* (Venezia 1989) p. 209.

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