

A Legal Text from Borsippa Dated Posthumously under Aššur-nādin-shumi
 – After the capture and destruction of Babylon by Sennacherib’s forces in 689 B.C., discontinuity in the governance of Babylonia led to anomalous dating practices. The only two known Babylonian legal texts from 688 and 687, both drawn up in Borsippa, were dated by reference to the deceased Aššur-nādin-šumi, Sennacherib’s crown prince who had been deposed as king of Babylon in 694.¹ The earlier of these two texts (dated in 688) is published below. The later (dated in 687) has been published by Joannès, *Archives de Borsippa*, pp. 255-256, L 1672. The first text from Babylonia dated under Sennacherib himself comes from the year 686 (I-9-year 3).²

The tablet published below is BM 46916 (81-8-30, 382), which measures 39 mm (height) x 58 mm (width) x 22 mm (thickness). This damaged legal text records a debt of ten shekels of silver, which in case of tardy repayment was to be paid back as twelve shekels. Preserved portions of the witness list show the scribe’s name and patronym³ and three family names (in lieu of patronyms, in the style of the two-tier genealogies in favor in Babylonia in the early seventh century).⁴ This text and its date have been noted previously in *JCS* 35 (1983) 16 under Fn.2. I am grateful to the Trustees of the British Museum for allowing the text to be published here.

Transliteration :

- (1) 10 GÍN KÙ.BABBAR SAG.†DU¹ šá m^x[]
- (2) DUMU mDILI-SUR *ina muḥ-†ḫi¹ m^x[]*
- (3) m^dEN-eri-ba i-n[am(?)-din(?)]
- (4) *ki-i la id-dan-nu []*
- (5) 12 GÍN KÙ.BABBAR a¹-na m[]
- (6) [x] x []
- (7) []-†ŠEŠ(?)-SUM¹.NA
- (8) []-(x)-na-a

edge

(9) [A LÚ.SI]PA.GU₄.MEŠ

reverse

(10) [A LÚ.a]l-la-nu

(11) [] x 'A LÚ.BUR(?)'.IGUL

(12) 'šá-ṭir ūl-īl-ti =^d[AG(?)-NUMUN]-GÁL-šī

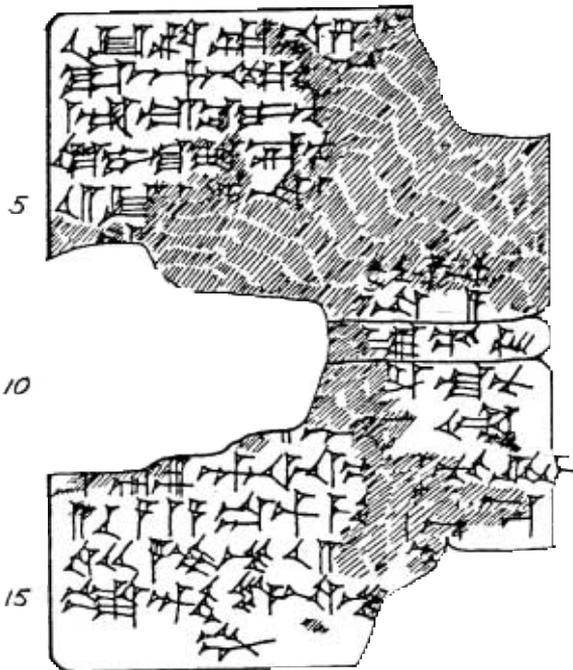
(13) A-šú šá =NÍG.DU bar-sip.'KI ITI.x]

(14) U₄ 24.KAM MU 12.'KAM' [()]

(15) EGIR AN.ŠÁR-SUM.NA-MU

(16) LUGAL [()]

BM 46916 (81-8-30,382)



Notes :

(13) The month name is perhaps to be read 'ITI.NE'.

(14) The year number appears to be no more than « 12. »

(16) The most commonly attested title for Aššur-nādin-šumi in legal texts written

during his reign is LUGAL TIN.TIR.KI : IM 65069 :30 (in *Bagh. Mitt.* 5 [1970] 275 no. 3 : 30, with the RN corrected in *Or NS* 41 [1972] 245 and 247 no.2.1), YBC 7162 :39, LB 1336 :23 (Böhl, *Orientalia neerlandica*, p. 125), and the kudurru Ashmolean 1933.1101 iii 21' (*ZA* 78 [1988] 81, with KI destroyed). Simple LUGAL is attested as a title in Ashmolean 1924.489 :23 (*OECT* 10 394) and in the posthumous L 1672 :19 (Joannès, *Archives de Borsippa*, p. 256).

1. For similar posthumous datings in seventh-century Babylonia, see *JCS* 35 (1983) 16 no. G.1, 49 nos. L.160 and L.163 ; cf. *ibid.*, p. 13 under Bn.1 (reference in an account entry to year 19 of Sargon II).

2. IM 57905 :20 (2 NT 285), in which Sennacherib has the title LUGAL KUR aš+šur KI. He bears the same title in the other two known texts dated in Babylonia during his final years : UM 29-13-568 rev. 16' (Nippur, IX-[x]-year 4) and VAT 4919 left edge 2 (VAS 5 1 ; Hursagkalama, III¹-24-year 24 ; title without KI). For bibliography and the mode of reckoning, see *JCS* 35 (1983) 14 section C.

3. Kudurru (line 13) seems to be a genuine patronym rather than an ancestral name ; note the prosopographical usage of the name at Borsippa as listed in Joannès, *Archives de Borsippa*, p. 384.

4. In so far as can be determined, the witness list in the other posthumous Aššur-nādin-šumi text, with the exception of an unread name in line 15, contains only ancestral names in the genealogy of its witnesses and scribe : Ilūta-bāni, Munnabittu, and Kidin-Sin.

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