

# NABU 1993-102 Veysel Donbaz & Matthew W. Stolper

## Gleanings from Murašû Texts in the Collections of the Istanbul Archaeological Museums –

### 1. *karašu*

Ni. 2667, a gardening contract, was drawn up by the same scribe and before the same witnesses as BE 9 99. The tenant named in it applied his seal to BE 9 99. It was probably drawn up on the same day, [4/VII]/41 Artaxerxes I. The description of the property and the terms of the lease include distinctive phrases like those found in BE 9 99. Among the tenant's obligations Ni. 2667 :6 stipulates *ka-rl-a-šú u ár-qa ina libbi išak[kan]* « he will plant leeks(?) and vegetables in (the orchard). » The parallel passage BE 9 99 :7 has *ka-rl-šú u ár-qa* (coll. Erle V. Leichty and Ran Zadok), to be corrected CAD s. vv. *arqu* s. mng. 2 and *kamantu* usage c. BE 9 99 :7 and Ni. 2667 :6 (despite the spelling with extra -*a*- in the second syllable) are to be added as extraordinary NB syllabic spellings s.v. *karašu* B mng. 1 a.

### 2. *kamātu*

Although the corrected reading of BE 9 99 :7 eliminates the sole reference cited by CAD s.v. *kamantu* usage c (that is, the sole reference from a context reflecting late Babylonian land use, rather than from lexical, pharmacological and medical contexts), a cultivated plant *kamātu*, of uncertain identity, is nevertheless attested in Ni. 528, a lease in dialogue form (20/V/41 Artaxerxes I) in which the description of the leased properties includes the exception <sup>(5)</sup> ... *elat ŠE.NUMUN.MEŠ É ka-ma-a-tú* <sup>(6)</sup> *ŠE.NUMUN.MEŠ É as-pa-as-ti ša ana tarṣi* GN « not including the arable lands planted with *k.* (and) the arable lands planted with lucerne(?) that are in the direction of (the village) Enlil-ašābšu-iqbi » (cf. *elat ŠE.[NUMUN] É aspastu u ŠE.NUMUN [É] SUM.SAR*, Entrepreneurs and Empire No. 19 :6f. ; and for *aspastu* in Graziani, Testi ... datati al regno di Bardya No. 14 :3, see Jursa NABU 1993/19).

### 3. *mašḥātu/mašḥītu*

Ni. 537, another lease in dialogue form (16/xiiib/35 Artaxerxes I) includes among the rented items <sup>(5)</sup> 20 GU<sub>4</sub> *ummānu ša* 5 GIŠ.APIN 5 GIŠ.APIN *ša majāri* 5 GIŠ.APIN *ša* ŠE.NUMUN 5 *maš-ḥa-tu* AN.BAR <sup>(6)</sup> 5-*ta appāt* AN.BAR 10 GIŠ.MAR AN.BAR « twenty trained oxen for five plowing teams, five *majāru* plows [see van Driel, Bulletin on Sumerian Agriculture 4 231], five seeder plows, five iron *m.*, five iron plow tips(?), ten iron spades. » Another damaged lease from the Murašū archive has a variant of the same word : GIŠ.APIN *maš-ḥi-tu* PBS 2/1 56 rev. at line 17, (to be corrected in Cardascia Murašū 152f. and CAD s.v. *ṣibtu* A mng. 1g ; the signs have the same orientation as the others on the reverse, hence cannot be interpreted as a continuation of a damaged line at the beginning of the obverse ; below them, at the end of line 19, is another line, omitted from the copy, perhaps 1-*it*(?) MAR MA (or : BA) ; coll. Erle V. Leichty and Ran Zadok). And the same word occurs in the terse administrative context 1/2 MA.NA 6 GÍN U[D.KA.BAR] *gamri*(!) KLLÁ *ešrū ša tarikātu*(!) *maš-ḥa-a-tu* *ša ina panišu* PN *nappāhu ittadin* Nbn. 118 :4, where the associated terms are of uncertain meaning. The Murašū leases imply that *mašḥātu/mašḥītu* indicates a part of a plow, an attachment to a plow, or a tool used by plowing teams. If it is cognate with the verb *šaḥātu* A and the substantive *mašḥātu* (found among other words for ladders in Hh. IV 229 and glossed with *nakbasu* in Hg. I 38), it perhaps indicates an implement or attachment shaped like a step or the rungs of a ladder.

### 4. *rab unqāti*

The lease Ni. 530 (18/vi/40 Artaxerxes I) refers to property adjoining <sup>(3)</sup> [ŠE.NUMUN] *ša sepīrī ša* É GAL *un-qu-[a-tú]*, establishing that PBS 2/1 185 :4 mentions a *haṭri* *ša sepīrī ša* É LÚ.GAL *un*(copy ERÍN)-*qu-a-tú*, « landholders' aggregation of scribes of the estate of the «master of seals» » (to be corrected in Stolper, Entrepreneurs and Empire 76 No. 36 and CAD s.v. *sepīru* mng. 2 a). The administrative and property-holding entity called « estate of the «master of seals» » and the *sepīru-* scribes attached to it appear at least as early as the reign of Darius I : É LÚ.GAL *un-qa-a-tú* Dar. 208 :8 (–/vii/10 Darius I) ; PN *sepīru ša* É *un-qa-a-ta* Dar. 393 :3 (12/xi/14 Darius I), but the title *rab u.* was pre-Achaemenid (e.g., YOS 6 10 :8 and 11 :27 with dupl. Durand Textes babyloniens pl. 64 Ao 19924, BIN 1 22 :151 and cf. ABL 238 r. 11f.).

## 5. Uštapānu

Ni. 535 is a receipt for a payment of taxes collected (6) *akî šipirtu u kunukki* (7) *ša <sup>m</sup>Man-nu-uš-ta-na-*’ LÚ.DUMU.É *u <sup>m</sup>Uš-ta-pa-nu ŠEŠ-šú* « according to a sealed authorizing document issued by Menostanes the prince and Uštapānu, his brother » ; the recipients are characterized as LÚ.ARAD.MEŠ *ša <sup>m</sup>Uš-ta-pa-nu* (line 10, rev. and lower edge). Other reflexes of the Old Iranian name underlying the name Uštapānu — presumably *\*ušta-pāna-*, « protecting what is desired » (less likely *\*vista-pāna-*, « freely[?] protecting, » on the model of Babyl. *Uštānu* < Ir. *\*vištāna-*, Babyl. *U/Ištabūzana* < Ir. *\*vištabaujana-*) — are surprisingly absent in other known Achaemenid Babylonian texts, and in other Achaemenid and Old Iranian sources. The phrasing of this text, less precise and less succinct than such possible alternatives as « M. the prince and U. the prince » or « M. and U., princes, » leaves Uštapānu’s attachment to the Achaemenid royal family subject to at least some doubt. Even if U. was a literal brother or half-brother of Manuštānu, it is possible that he was not entitled to the same epithets of rank applied to Manuštānu (*mār bīti*, « prince, » also in BE 9 83 :9 and Entrepreneurs and Empire 59 :1 and 3 ; *mār bīt šarri*, « royal prince, » BE 9 84 :4). But even if ŠEŠ implies something as vague as « colleague » or « coadjutor » of M., the fact that U. is identified solely by his association with M. suggests that U. was a figure of high administrative rank and so probably of high social status.

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