

Unusal Writing of Cyrus's Name – In *NABU* 1987/93 the late Professor Herbert Petschow wrote a short note concerning the unusual form of the Cyrus name which appears in Neo-Babylonian texts following Cyrus's conquest of Babylonia in 539 B.C. I have also found the same writing ^m*Ku-kur-ra-áš* in the unpublished document BM 79699 (89-10-14, 248) dated as other texts mentioned by Petschow, to the second year of Cyrus's reign¹.

Here I wish to present two other texts written in the first and second month following the Persian conquest of Babylonia, with quite a new writing of Cyrus's name, where the second syllable was written with the ideogramme SAG which suggests a reading of the name as *Ku-reš* or *Ku-riš*. It reminds us of the form Ko⁻rēš known from the Biblical Books of Isaiah (44 : 28 ; 45 : 1) and Ezra (1 : 1-2, 7-8 ; 3 : 7 ; 4 : 3-4 ; 5 : 13-14, 17 ; 6 : 3) ; and thus we might postulate that both texts were written by a scribe of Hebrew origin, i.e. from among the groups of peoples living in Babylonia as a result of the deportations made by Nebuchadnezzar II after his first and second capture of Jerusalem in 597 and 587 B.C.

BM 62644, chronologically earlier, was written after Cyrus decided to refrain using the title of « king of Babylon », which happened after he entered Babylon on the second day of the month of Arahšamnu. The text is better preserved and is partially translated here. The second one, BM 83526 dated 2.9.Cyr 0, is badly preserved and is too fragmentary for translation².

BM 62644 (82-9-18, 2613)

1. [x x x x NÍG].GA ^dAG (sic!) šá ^{md}30-MU u ^m*Mu-ra nu*
 2. [^{ld} x.MEŠ *a-na*] É-babbar-ra *id-din-nu* ITI.APIN
 3. [U₄.x].KÁM MU.SAG.NAM.LUGAL.LA ^m*Ku-SAG LUGAL KUR.KUR*
 4. 1 me 97 KÙR 2 (PI) 2 +x. BÁN ŠE.BAR *a-na ka-lak-ku*
 5. [x x x x *a-na*] ^{ld}ERÍN.MEŠ šá ^{ld}qí-i-[p]i
 6. [x x x x E]N A ^{md}EN-MU-G[ÁL-šī
 7. [x x x x x]-ú-tu
 8. [x x x x x] x x x
- (Rest broken)

Rev.

- 1'. illegible
- 2'. ^{md}AG-MU-ŠEŠ *a-na* ŠE.NUMUN
(one blank line)
- 3'. [x (x)] x NIGIN? PA ^{lu} ri? un PAP šá LUGAL
- 4'. [(x) UMB]IN ^{md}30-DINGIR *ina qí-r[ib??]* x

1. [..., prop]erty of Šamaš!, which Sin-iddina and Muranu
2. [the ...] gave to Ebabbar. Month of Arahsamnu,
3. [x] day, accession year of Cyrus, king of the Lands.
4. 197 *kur* 2 Pi and 2+x *sutu* of barley for the silo.
5. [x (dates or barley)] for the servants of the *qīpu*
6. [x for x x-Bē], descendant of Bēl-šum-u[šabšī]
7. [x for _____] -*utu*
8. [.....]

Rev. 2'. Nabû-šum-ušur for seeds

Commentary :

1.1. ^dAG is most probably a mistake for ^dUTU. Note, however, that in a list of deliveries to the tutelary deities of Sippar the god Nabû is also mentioned.

Muranu can be identified with ^{lu}*šāhit ginê*, who was active in the period between Nbk 40 (Nbk 30) and Dar 4 (Dar 125).

Rev. 2. The name can be read alternatively as Nabû-nadin-ahi.

Rev. 3'-4'. Most probably both lines were written at a later time than the text preceding them, after the scribe had noted the lack of some additional data. Another possibility which should also not to be excluded is that the scribe changed his stylus and finished the text at using a new one. The signs look different from the signs in the preceding lines and even though most of them are preserved quite well, the sense of information included there is not clear to me.

BM 83526 (83-1-21, 689)

1. [x] i? [x] mu si mu
2. ^mKi-i-^dAG? u ^{md}EN-T[IN^{it}]
3. a-na ^{md}30-MU x [x x]
4. x x nu ŠEŠ x [x x]
5. [x x x] x [
(two lines broken)

Rev

- 1'. [x x x] KASKAL^{II} a-na [
2'. [x x x] x šú? kun na x [(x)]
- 3'. ITI.GAN U₄.2.KÁM MU.SAG.
4. NAM.LUGAL.LA ^mKu-SAG
5. ^lLUGAL^l KUR^l.KUR

1. And not to the first year as in E. Leichty, J. J. Finkelstein, C. B. F. Walker, *Catalogue of the Babylonian Tablets in the British Museum*, vol. VIII : Tablets from Sippar 3, London 1988, p. 201.

2. Published with the kind permission of the Trustees of the British Museum.

Stefan Zawadzki (10-07-95)