

Notes on Babylonian Geography and Prosopography — (I should like to thank the Trustees of the British Museum and Mr C.B.F. Walker for permission to quote from unpublished *BM* tablets and to consult the Bertin copies [henceforth « Bert. »]).

1. Northern Babylonia

Sippar (^{urn}*UD.KIB.NUN*^{ku}) is mentioned in 330 B.C. (A. Sachs and H. Hunger, *Astronomical diaries and related texts from Babylonia 2 : Diaries from 652 B.C. to 262 B.C.*, text and plates ; Vienna 1988 [henceforth Sachs and Hunger 1988], 178 :-330, r. 6'). *Nār(I₇)-Pal-lu-kát* (near ^{urn}*Pal-lu-ka-tu₄*) is the only watercourse in NW Babylonia which is also recorded in these diaries (Sachs and Hunger 1988, 186 :-328, 26 and 102 :-373, A, 9' resp.). A field situated on *Nār-dannatu* and bordering on the property of Šapazayyu is recorded in *HSM* 891.11.033 (poss. from *Āl-Šamaš*, damaged ; date not preserved ; I should like to thank Profs. P. Steinkeller and S. Cole for permission to study the Harvard Semitic Museum tablets). *ŠE.NUMUN la-hi-ru* is recorded in *BM* 58612 r. 3 (undated) from the Ebabbarra archive. For connections between Sippar and NE Babylonia (including Lahīru and Arrapha) cf. *NABU* 1995/5 in fine (note *Ki-i-^dUTU^{urn}Ar-pa-hu-A+A* [« Arraphean »], *BM* 49249, 2f. from the Sippar collection). The same archive has *Nār(I₇)-^mku-ra-áš* (*BM* 59064, 2f., undated). *BM* 75968 (559/8 B.C.) was issued at ^{urn}*Šá-^{DIR}(I)-tu₄* (or *URU šá DIRI-tu₄* ; poss. just a homonym of *Šá-TIR-tú*) where the debtor (Atkal-Bēl/Rēmūtu/Ardi-Marduk) had a field. The creditor (archive holder), Mušallim-Marduk/Šamaš-šuma-ukīn, might have been from Sippar if to judge from his surname (Šangī Sippar). *AN.GAL-zēra(NUMUN)-ibni(DŪ)* and the scribes of the shrine of *AN.GAL* ([...]^{tu}*I DUB¹.SAR^{mes} šá É AN.GAL* ; originally the deity of *Dēr*) are mentioned in *BM* 59069, a fragmentary list of temple personnel (Sippar collection, undated).

Here follows a list of several pre-Achaemenian private « archives » from Sippar (arranged chronologically) :

Bíbea (buyer of a slave ; among the witnesses three royal officials ; 675/4 B.C. ; *Vs* 5, 2) ;

Iqīša/Mu-ba-ši (loan of 1 gur barley ; 637 B.C., *BM* 49174) ;

Bēl-ahhē-iddina/Šamaš-aha-iddina/Ardi-Nergal (*harrānu* contract ; 614/3 B.C., E.F. Weidner, *AfO* 16, 43 :9) ;

Bēl-mukīn-a[pli?][...] (*harrānu* contract ; 611/0 B.C., *BR* 8, 49) ;

Bēl-ēṭīr/Itinnu (loan of 15.25(?) shekels of silver ; 608/7 B.C. ; *Vs* 4, 8) ;

Nabû-ki-tab-ši-lišīr/Aqarā/Ile'i-Marduk (1 and 5/6 minas of silver ; 608/7 B.C. ; the debtor was the scribe of the tablet ; E. Revillout, *BOR* 1, 117f.) ;

Iqīša/Šamaš-nāšīr/Šangī Sippar (15 minas of silver ; 597/6 B.C., *BM* 74493) ;

Nabû-aha-iddina/[x xl-gu-mu (loan of 1 mine silver ; one sheep and

iškaru-delivery of the king are mentioned in a broken context ; time of Nebuchadnezzar II ; *BM* 74496) ;

[...]/Marduk-aha-ibni/Šigū'a (loan of 7[+x] gur barley ; 558/7 B.C., *BM* 74495).

Nār-šarri (*I₇-LUGAL*) flowed near the Tigris and Seleucia (Sachs and Hunger, *Astronomical diaries and related texts from Babylonia 2 : Diaries from 261 B.C. to 165 B.C.*, text and plates ; Vienna 1989 [henceforth Sachs and Hunger 1989], 440 :- 171, B. U.E ; 384 :-181, r. 10 ; 414 :-178, C, r. 22' : *Se-lu-k[e]-a šá AŠ UGU ʾID]IGNA* à *I₇-LUGAL*), cf. M. Streck, *Realencyclopaedie der classischen Altertümer* (henceforth *RECA*), 2.Reihe, 3 Halbbd. (Stuttgart 1921), 1155f. ; G. Meier, *RECA* 18 (Stuttgart 1939), 683f. with lit.

Cutha had a quarter named after *Abul-mahīri* (*KÁ.GAL KI.LAM*, *BM* 92716 = Bert. 2861, 3 ; 459/8 or 399/8 B.C.). Bit-Pāniya was situated near Cutha in the 1st half of the 5th century B.C. (see M.W. Stolper, *RA* 85, 1991, 49ff.). It is also recorded (spelled *É-IGI^m-iá*) in *OECT* 10, 195, r. 7' (not found in Kish : concerning a female slave) from Artaxerxes' 9th year (456/5, 396/5 or – less likely in view of the script – 350/49 B.C.). A principal (Nergal-da-nu s. of Ardi-Nergal) bore a name and a patronym containing Nergal, the main god of Cutha. None of the individuals recorded in *OECT* 10, 195 recurs in Stolper's dossier.

Dūr-Adad (^m*BĀD-dIŠKUR*) is recorded in *BM* 74539 = Bert. 2635, 4, where Ku-la-a² and Īl-tar-ra-hi-iá f. of Nabû-ušur are also mentioned (from ^m[...], poss. 494/3 B.C.). If the fact that this document belongs to the Sippar collection is significant, then one may compare it with homonymous place recorded in a MB letter which was found in Dūr-Kurigalzu. However, there is no telling whether the MB settlement is not physically identical with the homonymous MB place mentioned in the Nippur documentation (see K. Nashef, *RGTC* 5, 87, bottom).

2. Central Babylonia

Important information on the organization of the Esaggila temple is contained in Sachs and Hunger 1989 (26 :-254, 12'f. ; 476 :-168). Property of Šababa and Mullissu is recorded in the middle of the 3rd century B.C. A long list (*HSM* 893.5.6) records rations for the 2nd month (*ayaru*) of Philip's 2nd year (*Pi-li-ip-su* ; 322/1 B.C.) given to exorciste (^{tu}*MAŠ.MAŠ^{mes}*), presumably of Esaggila in view of the numerous Bēl and Marduk anthroponyms. At least 112 individuals are listed in the preserved 74 lines, but an estimate of c. 230 people would not be far off the mark, seeing that about half of the tablet is missing (it was deliberately sawn in the middle, presumably by modern clandestine diggers, as observed by Dr. James Armstrong, personal communication). These individuals are arranged by several schemes : (a) PN₁ A PN₂ ± u A-šú, (b) PN₁ u ŠEŠ^(mes)-šú (highest number five) or (c ; N= number of sons/brothers wherever applicable) PN₁, N A^{mes}-šú u N ŠEŠ^(mes)-šú A^{mes} šá PN₂ (see, e.g., F. Joannès, *TEBR*

337 ad 93 which is very probably from Babylon as well ; I have encountered lists of the same type in other collections). The seal impressions of Belšunu, Nabû-bullissu and Bēl-x[...] are preserved. Their scenes are cultic, e.g., a worshipper standing in front of an offering table.

Til-nu-qa-bi was situated near [x x]Bū(É)-^{cmz}Zēr(NUMUN)-ú-tu (Babylon, 536/5 B.C., Joannès, *NABU* 1996/62). *Ālu/Huṣṣēti-ša-Ahu-leya* (*OECT* 10. 61. 63, see Zadok, *Abr-Nahrain* 27, 1989, 157) are recorded in the same archive (Rēmūtu); an analogous case is *Ālu-ša-Nabû-immē/Huṣṣēti-ša-Nabû-hammē/immē* (*RGTC* 8, 16, 174).- A field of Nabû-bullissu/Dagana-šarra-ušur on *Ḥar-ri-Ha-ba/ma-ri* (bordering on fields of Balātu the ^uma-še-e-nu and a certain *Da-pa-ap-si-in-du* [non-Sem.]) was given for cultivation according to the contract *OECT* 10,150,1 (issued at Hursag-kamma; 497/6 B.C.).

^uTup-pul(or *dub-bul*)-x, is recorded in a promissory note from the reign of Darius (I; *OECT* 10, 342, R.E. 1, found in Kish). The debtor, Balātu/Bēl-kāšir/Atkuppū, recurs as the creditor of the damaged receipt *OECT* 10, 122 (6; Hursag-kamma, 531/0 B.C.), whereas the creditor, Šá-KAR (?needs collation)-ra-nu/ *Ra-hi-im* (both WSem.) is not recorded elsewhere. The surname ^uSANGA na-ta-ni (Vs 4, 5, 16; Babylon, 654 B.C.) recurs as ^uÉ.BAR É-na-ta-nu in *OECT* 10, 305 which was issued at Hur-[sag-kalam-ma] in the year [x+?]4 (ruler's name damaged, but it is probably much later than the preceding document; an early Hellenistic date is not impossible). Note (*ana KASKAL*^{II}) *iš-hu-nu-*³ instead of *iš-kun-nu-*³ in line 7 (with k > k̄. provided it is not a scribal error as the 1st component of *KUN* resembles *HU*). The latest occurrence of Marad (^uMár-da) is from 232 B.C. (Sachs and Hunger 1989, 108, Lo.E. 2).- The *šandabakku* of Nippur is mentioned as late as 64 B.C. (Sachs and Hunger, *Astronomical diaries and related texts from Babylonia 3 : Diaries from 164 to 61 B.C., text and plates ; Vienna 1996 ; henceforth Sachs and Hunger 1996*), 510 :-72, 10⁷; restore perhaps on fine 9⁷ [*EN.LÍL*^{ki}? *šá ana muh-hi* ^uBURANUN). This enhances the plausibility of J. Oelsner's proposal (*WZJ* 20, 1971,141ff.) to regard *Hipparenum* of Pliny (*Nat. Hist.* 6, 123) as a corrupted form of **Nipparenum*, and may point to an organized temple community. *Nār(I₇) ka-ba-ri* (Sachs and Hunger 1996, 146f. :-140 : 141 B.C.) may be identical with one of the homonymous canals (one near Nippur and the other near Borsippa) if there was not a third homonym near Seleucia or Babylon.- ^uDu-te-e-ti was situated on the Euphrates (W.G. Lambert, *JAOS* 88, 1968, 126, Ib, 18) perhaps in central Babylonia.

3. Presumably in SE Babylonia

Bū(É)-^uKar-ku-d/ṭi-i (Sachs and Hunger 1996, 146f. :-140 ; 141 B.C.) was presumably located not far from Apamea of Mesene seeing that the Apameans fled there because of the Elamite assault. « Elamite » in these late diaries refer to Elymeans. This can be inferred from the description of the location of Media in relationship to Elam : ^{kur}ma-di-na-at (« province ») *šá* ^{kur}Ma-da-A+A a-na tar-ši *NIM.MA*^{ki} (Sachs and Hunger 1996, 168 -137, C ; 138 B.C.) suits Elymais

rather than Susiana. The Elymeans invaded Babylonia also from the northeast, viz. via the Diyala (Kār-Aššur, 77 B.C., see G.J.P. McEwan, *Iran* 24, 1986, 91ff.). A river of Elam named [...] 'x¹(-?)ár-ra-ta-āš is recorded in a broken context (Sachs and Hunger 1996, 230 : -132, D2 r. 18'). In Sachs and Hunger 1989, 358 : -183, A, r.12', ^uE-[la?]-mu?-ú, the enemy (^uKÚR), is mentioned after a reference to the commander of Susa. If the restoration is correct, then it may refer to Elymean hostilities in connection with neighbouring Susiana. *Ú-bul-lu₄* ^dKa-ni-sur-ra, presumably not far from the Babylonian-Susian border, is a compound toponym (differently M.W. Stolper, in L. De Meyer, H. Gasche and F. Vallat [eds.], *Fragmenta historiae Elamicae, Mélanges offerts à M.J. Steve*, Paris 1986, 237). It is possibly homonymous both with *I/Ubul(l)u* (*AOAT* 6, 364 [NA]; *RGTC* 8, 178, 317) and with Obolla (= Rēmā) in Mesene.- A high frequency of attacks of Arab(ian)s (^uAr-ba-A+A) on SW and central Babylonia is reported (refs. are to Sachs and Hunger 1996) : ^uAr-b[a-A+A] (130 B.C. ; 250 :-129, A 2, r.' 19' ; cf. 21'), 126 B.C. (260 : -125), 125 B.C. (264 : -124), 112 B.C. (342 :-111, B) ; and perhaps 109 B.C. (360 : 108, B. r'. 20' : Ar?-[ba-A+A?]). The Arabian Skhnitai (« tent dwellers ») inhabited western Babylonia and Mesene in the time of Strabo (16, 1, 26).

4. Presumably in eastern Babylonia, but region unknown

Nār(I₇)-Na-ag/q-ra-a (Sachs and Hunger 1996, 260 : -125 ; 126 B.C.) ;
Nār(I₇)-hi-šál-la (Sachs and Hunger 1996, 366 : -107, B (prob. near the Tigris ; 108 B.C.). ^uŠá-šá-í-x¹-[...] (Sachs and Hunger 1996, 434 : -90, 16') might have been situated on the other side of the Tigris.

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