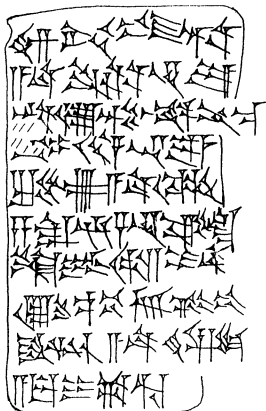


NABU 1997-14 Ran & Tikva Zadok

PTS 2005 — We should like to thank Professor Erle V. Leichty, who most generously let us study this tablet (copied and collated by Tikva Zadok).



Translation

¹Letter of Nidinti-Šamaš ²to the *šatammu*-official my lord. ³May ³Šamaš and Bunene pronounce ⁴the well-being of my lord. ⁵Concerning ⁶the tent(s) (or canopy/canopies), which (my) lord sent, ⁷the *qīpu*-official is not here ⁸and ¹⁰he sent ⁹all the workmen ⁹with him for the digging (work) ¹⁰of the canal.

Remarks

Lines 1ff. The greeting formula leaves no doubt that the letter is from Sippar. I do not know anything about the sender of this letter.

Line 2. *šatammu* – high temple official. J. MacGinnis (WO 26, 1995, 21ff.) argues that no *šatammu*-s of Sippar postdate the end of the Neo-Assyrian rule in Babylonia. Like most epistolary documents, this letter is undated. Its ductus is not decisive for the dating: it can be either from the late-Assyrian or the «Chaldean» period (but hardly Achaemenian). From the context it cannot be established who was senior, the *šatammu* or the *qīpu*.

Line 10. *ītabak* may be Gt preterite rather than G perfect.

Ran and Tikva Zadok (08-01-97)