

No Nineveh in the Cyrus Cylinder — A topographical crux in the Cyrus Cylinder which has attracted some attention, most recently in the edition by W. Eilers entitled «Der Keilschrifttext des Kyros-Zylinders» (*Festgabe Deutscher Iranisten zur 2500 Jahrfeier Irans* (Stuttgart, 1971) 156-168), involves the reading of a city name, the first in the series of cities which showed obeisance to Cyrus on his arrival, symbolising the widespread welcome he received. It has been proposed that this first name is that of Nineveh, but recent collation by the present writer confirms that this reading is impossible. All that remains for certain of the sign is a final vertical wedge, leaning slightly to the left. It is possible, but not certain, that there is also a trace of a low oblique wedge immediately to the left of the final vertical. This fragmentary sign does not fit with any of the known writings of Nineveh, and thus this proposed reading may now be safely excluded.

I L. Finkel (28-01-97)