

**A Nebuchadnezzar II Brick Inscription** — The royal inscription presented in the following dates to the reign of Nebuchadnezzar II (605-562 B. C. E.) and is currently in private possession. The cuneiform text is stamped on the face of a mud brick a considerable portion of which is now broken away. The fragmentary piece measures  $15.1 \times 11.9 \times 5.3$  cm; the measurements of the preserved section of the stamp impression are  $6.5 \times 6.9$  cm. The brick renders a variant of Nebuchadnezzar's standard inscription classified as «Nebuchadnezzar II no. 41a» by Christopher B. F. Walker: <sup>1</sup>

[<sup>d</sup>AG-ku-dúr-ri-ÛRU]

ʽLUGAL Ba-bʽ[*i-lu*<sup>ki</sup>]

za-ni-n[u] É-[SAG-ÍL]

ù É-ZI-D[A IBILA]

5 SAG.ʽKAL<sup>1</sup> šá ʽ<sup>d</sup>A[G-IBILA-ÛRU]

LUGAL Ba-bʽ[*i-lu*<sup>ki</sup> ana-ku]

**Translation:** I am Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, who provides for Esagil and Ezida, foremost son of Nabopolassar, king of Babylon.

1. See Christopher B. F. Walker, *Cuneiform Brick Inscriptions in the British Museum, the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, the City of Birmingham Museums and Art Gallery, the City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery* (London: British Museum Publications Limited, 1981), 85 no. 103. (with duplicates and previously published secondary literature).

For a recent study focusing on the typology and chronological significance of the individual variants of Nebuchadnezzar II's standard brick inscription, see Jeremy A. Black, «Brick Stamps of Nebuchadnezzar,» in Jeremy A. Black et al., *Ḫabl aš-Šahr 1983-1985: Nebuchadnezzar II's Cross-Country Wall North of Sippar*, Northern Akkad Project Reports, vol. 1 (Ghent: University of Ghent, 1987), 26-28.

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