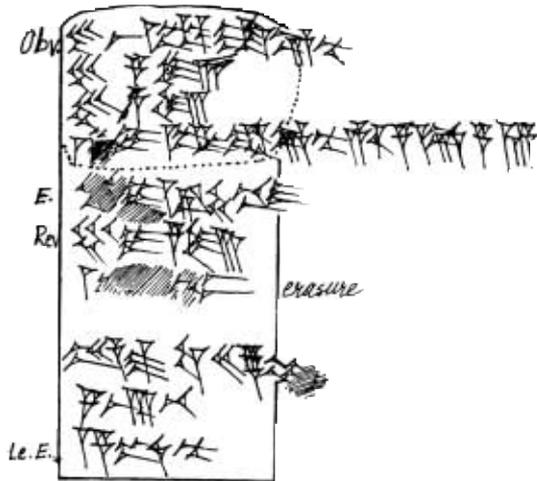


A Late-Babylonina Text from Assur – A.1907 Ass.18676 is in the Istanbul Assur collection, and surely must have been excavated from Ashur itself¹. The document, so far is the smallest tablet which is found in the collection (2×1.5×1.1 cm) of which enlarged copy is given below. In the first incident I thought that it was a Neo-Assyrian text which was planned to be published within the NA group of tablets² transliterated for text edition. During the final proof reading and collations I have seen that it was not NA but NB disbursal text to individuals whose names are attested from Murašû texts from Nippur, Dilbat, Ecbatana etc., from the late Achaemenid texts. Hence the text in Neo-Babylonian script slanted to the left and PNs.³

Transliteration :

- Obv. 1) 40+1 ^{md}AG-it-tan-nu
 2) 40 šá KI.MIN
 3) 50 šá KI.MIN
 4) ʾ60+51 ^{md}AG-it-tan-nu A-šú šá ^mUš-šá-a-a
- E. 5) 50+5 ^mNi-din-tu₄
- Rev. 6) 50+5 šá KI.MIN
 7) erased
 8) ITI.ZÍZ UD.27.KÁM
 9) šá Ri-bat
- Le.E. 10) ^mŠá-du-nu⁴



Translation :

1) 41 Nabû-ittannu (2) 40 for the same person (3) 50 for ditto (4) ʾ65ʾ Nabû-ittannu son of Uššaya (5) ʾ55ʾ Nidintu (Rev.6) 55 for ditto (7) erased but begins with a personal wedge and ends with -tu₄ (?) or perhaps another allotment beginning with 60 (8) month *šabatu* (11th month) day 27 (9) of Rībat (Le.E.10) Šadunu.

Context of this text is a disbursement of an item of which identity is not mentioned, though one can assume that the assignment was done by GUR=kur measuring device, whether it implies area or volume one cannot be sure of (see lately Donbaz-Stolper, *Istanbul Murašû Texts*, Nederlands Historisch-Archaeologisch Instituut te Istanbul, vol. LXXIX 1997 p. XI, Neo-Babylonian units of measure and metric equivalents). The persons mentioned in this text by name Nabû-ittannu (lines 1-4 probably not the same person)⁵ and Nidintu⁶ were assigned with the unknown item with disbursements of 40 to 65 more than once as this fact is shown by KI.MIN (lines 2.3 and 6, see recently in CBS texts published by L. Sassmannhausen, « Mittelbabylonische runde Tafeln aus Nippur » BagM Band 28 1997 pp. 185-208 with fifteen plates, Nos 6.8.9 and especially Nos 16 and 18). The expression šá Ri-bat lacks the personal wedge before Ri-bat even so may not refer to anything but a PN⁷ for Ribat as a PN we have a large number of attestations. The last name ^mŠá-du-nu appears in texts from Uruk and was already in use in the reign of Nabonaid⁸. The prosopographic links are equi-

vocal or attenuated to extract a historical result because our text does not mention a regnal year of a ruler which is very common in NB texts. Therefore I see no likelihood that this text may have been found elsewhere than Assur ; and may have been written by a Babylonian scribe. This text should not be mixed with the texts excavated from Kasr⁹.

1. This does not seem to be a sheer coincidence for Olaf Pedersén lists six small unbaked clay tablets under Ass. 18676 a-f (ALA II N 1 p. 28) and all the texts are checked through (they bear now : Ass.18676 –a=A.1591, –b=A.1558, –c=A.1555, –d=A.1533, –e=A.1537, –f=A.1530) and are NA texts fragments.

2. Ca. 300 NA tablets will be published by me and Simo Parpola in the serie *Studien zu Assur Texten* which will be initiated by the Deutsche Orient Gesellschaft at Berlin, Eds., K. Deller-V. Donbaz-H. Freydank-M. F. Fales.

3. Judging from the format of the tablet it is rather in Assyrian form with no straight, smooth edges which is the fashion of the NB writing practice as seen by the many examples published already.

4. Šá-du-nu see Francis Joannès. *Textes économiques de la Babylonie récente* (Étude des textes de TBER-Cahier n 6) / *Études Assyriologiques ...* Paris, 1982, No 45,3 ... ^mŠá-du-nu A ^mIR-^dInnin-na ; Karlheinz Kessler, *URUK, Urkunden aus privathäusern I*, No. 67,3 ^mNÍG.DU-nu (Kudurra-nu) A ^mKUR-i.

5. Nabû-ittannu is well documented by the Murašû texts (BE IX and X, K. Tallqvist, NN pp. 133-134 ; V. Donbaz-M. W. Stolper, *Istanbul Murašû Texts*, see index. Perhaps the two Nabû-ittannus in our text are different individuals for one of them (1.4) is indicated as son of Uššaya, a likename appears in K. Tallqvist, NN (1902) p. 216 as ^mUš-ša-a-(a) with no association to Nabû-ittannu, and a relative to Murašû (see K. Tallqvist, *ibid.*, p. 113a).

6. PN Nidintu (1.5) appears almost exclusively in all kind of Neo-Babylonian texts with various family ties as father and son combination : Father of Aḫušunu (Donbaz -Stolper IMT No. 37,3, father of Bēl-iddin in *ibid.*, 4,4, son of Arrabi, J.-M. Durand, *Documents Cunéiformes-École Pratique des Hautes Etudes II*, 1982, No. 286,1 ; 521, rev. 2 ; F. Joannès, TEBR, 1982, p. 405.

7. M. W. Stolper quotes a reference for the Rībat Canal : « The Babylonian Enterprise of Belesys » (*Dans les pas des Dix-Mille*, éd., P. Briant, 43, 1995) p. 223, but Rībat as a place name is not attested otherwise.

8. Mention of Uruk and the regnal year of Nabonaid is ascertained from AO 19925 = TBER PL 65 = Francis Joannès, 1982, No. 45, 26 and 33 respectively.

9. M. W. Stolper studied the texts from Kasr, which is a Mound at Babylon in the eastern part of the Hauptburg excavated by the Deutsche Orient Gesellschaft in 1913 and 1915 under Robert Koldewey's overall supervision, during which time the expedition resulted with the findings of Kasr Archive that had been plundered by villagers, and antiquities dealers and these tablets scattered among collections in Berlin, London, Paris, Oxford, Philadelphia and the number of them are about 350-500. It is very possible that some of these tablets have been acquired to Istanbul when the yield of German Excavation was divided between Istanbul and Berlin. I have traced at least half a dozen of them and the study of them will be published elsewhere. The observations of M. Stolper can be seen in : « Bēlšunu the Satrap » (in F. Rochberg-Halton ed., *Language, Literature and History. Philological and Historical Studies Presented to Erica Reiner / AOS 67, 1987*) pp. 389-402 ; « The Kasr Archive » in H. Sancisi-Weestenburg and A. Kuhrt, eds., *Ach H IV : Centre and Periphery* pp. 195-205 ; « The Babylonian Enterprise of Belesys » pp. 217-238 (see his charts in pages 220-223).

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