

**A Neo-Babylonian Brick in the Armenian Mechitarist Monastery in Venice** – A Neo-Babylonian sun-dried brick with a stamped seven lines standard inscription of king Nebuchadnezzar II (604-562 B.C.) is part of the collection of the *Armenian Mechitarist Monastery* of the *San Lazzaro degli Armeni* island, in Venice lagoon. The inscription is a duplicate of text no. 41 published by S. Langdon, *Die Neubabylonischen Königsinschriften*, VAB 4 (Leipzig 1912) pp. 202-203. The brick, measuring cm. 6.8 x 14.9 has a break on the right-hand side affecting part of the inscription :

1.	ᵈAG-ku-ʿdu¹-[úr-ri-URÙ]	<i>Nabû-kud[urri-uşur]</i>
2.	LUGAL KÁ.[DINGIR.RA <sup>ki</sup> ]	king of Bab[ylon]
3.	za-ni-in ʿél¹-[sag-íla]	provider of the <i>E[sagill]</i>
4.	ù é-[zi-da]	and of the <i>E[zida]</i>
5.	IBILA a-[ša-ri-du]	the f[oremost] offspring
6.	ša ᵈ[AG.IBILA.URÙ]	of [ <i>Nab-apla-uşur</i> ]
7.	LUGAL KÁ.[DINGIR.RA <sup>ki</sup> ]	king of Bab[ylon]

Additional duplicates of this inscription may be found in P.-R. Berger, *Die Neubabylonischen Königsinschriften*, AOAT 4/1 (Neukirchen-Vluyn 1973) pp. 194-200. See also C. B. F. Walker, *Cuneiform Brick Inscriptions in the British Museum* (London 1981) n. 102, pp. 82-83. Attached to the brick is a brief ink-written note on paper in Armenian language and script reading: «From the ruins of Babylon, received the year 1846,» an indication added when the brick entered the collection, or left by the previous owner of the piece. Additional information regarding finding of the brick and acquisition by the Museum of the *San Lazzaro* Monastery is unfortunately unavailable. The Monastery was established in 1717 by the Armenian Father Mechitar, founder of the religious order called after his name *Congregation of the Mechitarists Fathers*. I am grateful to Father Vertanes Ouluhodjian of the *Armenian Mechitarist Congregation* of San Lazzaro for his kind help, and for his translation of the Armenian note. The brick is here published with the kind permission of the director of the Museum of the *San Lazzaro* Monastery.

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