

45) KU 14: a Neo-Babylonian tablet about Susa in Amsterdam – The collectie van der Meer, on permanent loan to the VU University Amsterdam (cf. M. de Vries, NABU 2009/13), contains a Neo-Babylonian tablet from the Rē'ialpi family of Borsippa that mentions the Achaemenid capital Susa. The Rē'i-alpi archive is the largest surviving archive from Neo-Babylonian Borsippa with over 400 assigned tablets dating between Nbp 03 and Xer 02. The archive will be studied in a forthcoming monograph by Ran Zadok, but for the time being see van Driel 1992: 32, Jursa 2005: 93, Waerzeggers 2005: 356f., and Zadok 2009: 64-75. Like most Borsippa archives, tablets of the Rē'ialpi archive are found in a number of museums and collections, most notably in the British Museum, Vorderasiatisches Museum, Louvre, Bodleian and at Yale University. The archive was discovered during illegal excavations at Birs Nimrud at the end of the 19th century and from there it was dispersed around the world. How exactly tablet KU 14 ended up in the collection of P.E. van der Meer is not known. Other collections with only one or two tablets of this archive include Amherst (nos. 240, 248), Berens (nos. 103, 107), Smith College (no. 82), the Kalamazoo Valley Museum (Seri 2007 nos. 57, 58, 60), Harvard Semitic Museum (Zadok 2005: 646, 649).

KU 14 belongs to a particular dossier within the Rē'ialpi archive. This dossier consists of tax receipts paid by the archive holders, Nabû-mukīn-zēri and his son Rēmūt-Nabû, to the *gugallu* of Borsippa or one of his representatives. The receipts are dated between Dar 10 and Dar 33, and relate either to corvée duty in general (*urādšu*) or more specifically to the duty of provisioning *upiyātu*, foodstuffs, in Elam or Susa: BM 94620 (dupl. Moore Michigan no. 26), BM 94545, BM 102259, BM 102004 (dupl. HSM 1895.1.8), HSM 1899.2.145, EAH 223, BM 102010 (dupl. BM 82666 and BM 102262), BM 82716, EAH 254, VS 6 160. See Waerzeggers *in press* for a study of these and other tax flows from Babylonia to Elam and Susa in the reign of Darius I, and see Jursa & Waerzeggers 2009: 264 for the dossier of the Rē'ialpi archive.

Like in the other texts of the dossier, the recipient Bazuzu son of Balātu of the Kidin-Sîn family was presumably the *gugallu* responsible for organizing the corvée, but he is mentioned without title in our text. A *gugallu* by the name of Bazuzu is referred to once in the dossier (BM 94545), but this time he appears without patronymic or family name, and the question of his identity must therefore remain unresolved. A more interesting detail of KU 14 is that it uses the verb *epēšu* in l. 6 to indicate that Bazuzu performed some

task on behalf of Rēmūt-Nabû and his father in Susa. Because of the damaged first line, we do not know what this task entailed. It seems unlikely that we should reconstruct the line in analogy with the other texts of the dossier, as neither the expression *ilku ša urāši ša Elam*, nor *urāšu/ilku/qaštu ša zebēli ša upiyāti ša Elam* are combined with this verb.

A digital photograph of KU 14 can be found on the website of the library of the VU University Amsterdam (http://imagebase.uvu.vu.nl/cdm4/about_vdmc.php?CISOROOT=/vdmc). The website also yields additional information about the history of the collection and its collector P.E. van der Meer.

Obv.

1. [x x x x x x] šá^{uru}šu-šá-an
2. [šá^{re}-mut-^dag a-šú šá^dag-gin-numun
3. [a^{lú}sipa].gud.meš ú [l^dag]-gin-numun ad-šú
4. [šá^{ba}-zu]-zu a-šú šá^{ba}-la-^{tu} a^{ki}-din-^d30
5. [ina]^{uru}šu-šá-an a-na ugu^{re}-mut-^dag
6. i-pu-šu^{ba}-zu-zu ina šu^{re}-mut-^dag
7. e-^{ti}-ir mim-ma ra-^{šu}-tu gab-bi
8. [šá^b]a-zu-zu ina ugu^{re}-mut-^dag
9. [ia]-a-nu dib-bi-šú-nu gab-bi it-ti

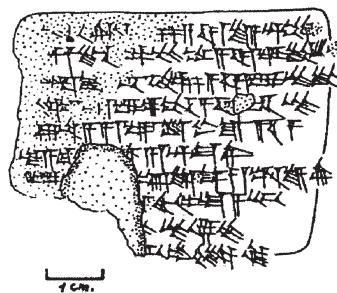


Lo.E.

10. [a-h]a-meš qa-tu-ú

Rev.

11. [lú]mu-kin-ni [x]-^dag a-šú šá^{kar}-amar.utu
12. [a^l]dingir-šá-bu-šú [l^d]ag-numun-gin a-šú šá^dag-šeš-meš-[gi]
13. [a^{lú}má.lah₄] [l^{re}-mut-^dag a-šú šá^dag-mu-ùru
14. [a^l]šar-ra-hu^dag-ú-šur-šú a-šú šá^den-mu
15. [a^l]ib-na-a-a^dag-bul-liš-su a-šú šá
16. [l^a]a-a-ba-ši-[^damar].utu a^dingir-ba-ni
17. [l^dag-[na-din-šeš^{lú}]dub.sar dumu šá^den-kar^{ir}
18. [a^{re}-gi-bi^{ur}]ušùr-<a>-mi-la-a-ti
19. [itⁱx ud.y.k]am mu.18.kam
20. [l^da-ri-ia-m]uš lugal tin.tir^{ki}
21. [lugal kur.kur]



Translation: (1) [x (corvée or work obligation)] of Susa [of Rēmūt-Nabû son of] Nabû-mukîn-zēri [of the Rē'i]-alpi family and his father [Nabû]-mukîn-zēri, that Bazuzu son of Balā^{tu} of the Kidin-Sîn family performed [in] Susa on behalf of Rēmūt-Nabû: (6) Bazuzu has

received payment from Rēmūt-Nabû. (7) No claims whatsoever of Bazuzu are still resting upon Rēmūt-Nabû. (9) They have resolved all their matters with each other.

(11) Witnesses: [x]-Nabû/Mušēzib-Marduk / Ilšu-abūšu, Nabû-zēru-ukīn / Nabû-ahhē-šullim / Mallāhu, Rēmūt-Nabû / Nabû-šumu-ušur / Šarrahu, Nabû-ušuršu / Bēl-iddin / Ibnāya, Nabû-bullissu / Lâbâši-Marduk / Ilibani.

Scribe: Nabû-[nādin-ahi] / Bēl-ēter / [Egibi].

Sūr-amēlāti,

Dar [x-x]-18.

Commentary: (12) Patronymic restored from BM 94956: 12. (17-18) Restored from BM 94620 (dupl. Moore Michigan no. 26) and Seri 2007 no. 57. (18) See Joannès 1989: 432 for this place name in the vicinity of Borsippa.

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Caroline WAERZEGGERS (ERC StG 241118),
VU University Amsterdam, De Boelelaan 1105, 1081 HV AMSTERDAM,
THE NETHERLANDS