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MORE BALAWAT TABLETS

By John Nicholas Postgate

At Balawat in 1956 M.E.L. Mallowan excavated a small group of 18 Neo-Assyrian documents near the Mamu Temple. These are now published here in copies by A.R. Millard and J.N. Postgate, along with four tablets from his later work at the site in 1957 which were not included in Barbara Parker's edition of the majority of the texts from that season. They are all Neo-Assyrian utilitarian documents from the 7th century BC, mainly "legal" but in a few cases administrative. Parker observed (1963: 89) that the 1956 tablets "are a quite distinct group from the present collection" (that is, the 1957 group), and indeed there is little overlap in respect of content and prosopography between the two groups. A few of the 1956 tablets show that individuals whose private documents were kept in the town were engaged in agricultural and horticultural activities in (presumably) neighbouring villages, but they also include some rather informal conveyances of males and females.

Tablets from outside the temple

In 1956, a small group of tablets was found in a street alongside the temple, and Parker noted that they would "be published later". During his visit to Baghdad in 1961 most of these tablets were copied by Alan Millard, but he was unable to complete the study in the time at his disposal, and while I was in Baghdad in the 1970s he entrusted me with his copies. Eventually in 2021, finding myself in the Iraq Museum in search of unpublished Nimrud tablets from the 1952 season I realized that this gave me the opportunity to see the 1956 Balawat tablets, and they were almost instantly retrieved from the storeroom by the museum staff, for whose helpful collaboration I am most grateful. I was able to collate almost all of Prof. Millard's copies. Although they were only provisional, they were only rarely in need of correction, so that they are reproduced here without the need for a replacement. I am most grateful to him for allowing me to include them in this article, and it is a great sadness that he has not survived to see them in print. They are now supplemented by the remaining tablets from 1956 of which I was able to complete copies. Prof. Millard's copies were inked for publication; my own I have left in their original pencil, since improved technology has made them sufficiently clear, and inking them would only have introduced inauthentic deviations. Photographs I took in 2021 have occasionally allowed me to improve on the copies, both Prof. Millard's and my own. These were never intended for publication, but at the urging of the Editors have been made available at the following link https://doi.org/10.1017/irq.2025.10030.

The 1956 tablets are numbered BT 20-36, 39 and listed in Curtis & Tallis (eds.) 2008: 91, with their provenances taken from the field catalogue. The group was described by Parker as "thrown out into the street", and the context is specified as "in debris outside the south-west wall of the building" (i.e. of the temple; Oates 1974:176). The catalogue states that BT 23-36 were found in the street west of the Mamu Temple "associated with flattened and broken potsherds at street level". Isolated finds were BT 20 and 21 from "Trench 2, 1 m below surface about 3 m from W. end of trench at N. edge", BT 22 from Room 4 of the Mamu Temple, and BT 39 whose provenance was not recorded. BT 37 is an inscribed brick and BT 38, a stone tablet, both with an inscription of Aššurnasirpal (see Finkel in Curtis & Tallis (eds.) 2008: 95), and they are not considered here. Here we give an edition of 18 tablets from 1956, followed by four 1957 tablets which were not included in Parker's 1963 article.

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TABLE 1: the 1956 Balawat tablets in the order here used. Here, and throughout, the proposals of Reade (1998) and Parpola (in PNA 1/i: xviii-xix) for the years of post-canonical dates are cited

No.	*BT*	*IM*	*Plate*		*Purchaser/ creditor*	*Seller/debtor*	*Year*	*limmu*
1	22	59915	I	Sale of persons	Šumma-ilu	4 men	693	Idd[in]-a[hhe]
2	27	59922	II	Sale of male slave	Rimut-Bel-[Harran]	2 men	693(?)	Iddin-ahhe
3	31	59926	I	Sale of woman	Tabalaya	Sailu, Tabalaya, Ninurt(a)-ili	668	Ma[r-larim]
4	23	59916	II	Sale of female slave	Kišu	Nani	668	Mar-larim
5	25	59920	II	Sale of woman	Urisi	Nani, HARnamu, Urisi	[date	lost]
6	28	59923	III	Sale of male slave	[lost]	Man[nu-iq]-bi	PC	Nabu-nadin-ahi
7	29	59924	III	Conveyance of daughter	(Sagab ?)	Kisu	667	Gabbaru
8	24	59919	IV	Field lease	[lost]	Birdaku, …., [Na]ni, Asu[…]	PC	Nabu-dainanni
9	33	59928	IV	Field lease	Nabu-le'i	Kaššudu, Bau-šumu-iddina	668	Mar-larim
10	35	59930	V	Judgement re orchard	Nasi, Kabri	Nani & 6 others	668	Mar-larim
11	30	59925	V	Record of settlement	[lost]	Mannu-ki-[…], Kakusu, [HA]Rnamu	657	Labasi
12	26	59921	V	Silver loan	Kisu	[…]-sunqi	665	Mannu-ki-šarri
13	32	59927	VI	Field lease	Urasi	Kisu	658	Ša-Nabu-šu
14	34	59929	VI	Silver loan	Uarsi	Ištar-šum-ibni, Aššur-bani	PC	Aššur-matu-taqqin
15	36	59931	VI	Grain loan docket	[U]arsi	Ištar-muqiya, Aššur-bani	PC	Aššur-matu-taqqin
16	20	59918	VI	List of bronze & sheep	(Si'ilu)			n.d.
17	21	59917	VII	List of items				n.d.
18	39	59932	VII	List of men				n.d.

To judge purely from their dates, the 1956 tablets fall into three groups: the pair of sales in 693 (or perhaps 688: Nos. 1 and 2), the main group of various transactions in the 660s to 640s (Nos. 3-4, 6-13), and a third much later pair (Nos. 14-15). Nos. 6 and 8 are post-canonical dates, but belong in the 640s (Nabu-dainanni: Reade 645 Parpola 642) and Nabu-nadin-ahi (both Reade and Parpola 647). So, while Nos. 1 and 2 are outliers, and No. 1 is also different on the basis of its provenance, the majority of the transactions form a fairly coherent group, with the same individuals occurring at different times. Even the two late texts seem to belong with the main group despite the lapse of as much as 30 years because the creditor Uarsi in Nos. 14-15 is presumably the same as Urasi in No. 13 (658), where he gives a loan to Kis/šu, well known from still earlier tablets (e.g. Nos. 4, 7 and 12).

It is axiomatic that conveyance tablets should be retained by the purchaser as proof of ownership. Hence it would appear that the street group included tablets we would expect to find in the possession of Šumma-ilu (No. 1), Rimut-Bel[-Harran] (No. 2), Tabalaya (No. 3), Kišu (No. 4), U(a)r(i)si (No. 5), and perhaps Sagab (No. 7). Similarly, contracts, such as loans, would remain in the possession of the creditor until the debt was paid, and hence it is understandable that Kis/šu and

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Urisi, purchasers in Nos. 4 and 5 respectively are also found as creditors in Nos. 12 (Kisu) and 13-15 U(a)r(a)si.

Nabu-le'i, creditor in No. 9, acted twice as a witness (Nos. 5 and 11). What is perhaps more unexpected is that in No. 3 Tabalaya, the purchaser, is also one of the sellers. The same dual role applies to Urisi in No. 5, where he is found as one of three sellers but also as the sole purchaser. It is probably not coincidental that in both cases the conveyance is of a woman, since joint "ownership" of a woman probably has its origin in a family relationship.

Most in evidence is Nani, who features sometimes as a seller, once as "recipient", once as a neighbour, and three times as a witness (Nos. 4; 5; 8; 10-12). Kisu is also a protagonist in Nos. 7 and 13, and turns up as a witness in No. 9. Sa/ilu, the seller in No. 3, acts as a witness in three other texts (Nos. 5; 11; and 13). Likewise, Ṣil-šarri who is a "recipient" in No. 10 is a witness in No. 11. Ahu-lamur appears as a witness (No. 6), as a neighbour (No. 8), and is listed in the administrative text No. 18. Several other men act as witnesses to more than one transaction (Nabu-naṣir, 3 times; Ṣil-Bel-ta/illi, 7 times; Še'i–Aššur, 4 times). Two men, Ahu-lamašši and Šulmu-šarri, acted as witnesses to both the two loans, one of silver and one of grain, which Uarsi made late in life to Aššur-bani (Nos. 14-15).

The multiple overlaps between documents indicate that the 1956 tablets were not randomly associated but kept together for some reason, even if they are clearly not the archive of a single person or family. Unlike the 1957 tablets, none of the principals in the documents are given any professional designation suggesting a connection with the temple. As mentioned above, there are however several documents which relate to agricultural affairs and imply relationships with the countryside and its villages (Nos. 8; 9; 10; 11 and 13).

Balawat 1956

No. 1 Sale of persons
BT 22 = IM 59915 Plate I (ARM)
Room 4 of Mamu Temple 5.2 x 9.2
-.ii.693

Obv. 1 NA$_4$.KIŠIB [
2 NA$_4$.KIŠIB [
3 NA$_4$.KIŠIB [
4 NA$_4$.KIŠIB ^{1}[
5 PAB 4 LÚ.MEŠ [
(seal impression)
6 ^{1}qur-di-^{d}[x x (x)] x [
7 ú-piš-ma [
8 ina lìb-bi 2[MA.NA
9 UN.MEŠ TA* IGI LÚ.MEŠ an-n[u-te]
10 i-zi-rip i-se-qe kas-p[u]
11 ga-mur ta-din UN.MEŠ za[r-pu]
12 la-qi-u tu-a-ru de-e-[nu]
13 DU$_{11}$.DU$_{11}$ la-a-šú man-nu š[a ina ur-kiš]
14 ina KUR-ma i-za-qup-[pa-(a-)ni]
15 lu LÚ.MEŠ an-nu-te [....]
16 [lu(-u) DUMU.]MEŠ-šú-nu lu[(-u) ....]
17 [lu]-u LÚ*.GAR-nu-šú-nu [

Rev. 18 [TA* ^{1}]šúm-ma-DINGIR ù DUMU.ME[š-šú]
19 [de-e]-nu DU$_{11}$.DU$_{11}$ ub-ta-'u-u-ni [( )]

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20 GIL-u-ni 5 MA.NA KÙ.BABBAR i-dan [( )]
21 ina de-nu-šú-nu $DU_{11}.DU_{11}$-ub-[(b)u-ma]
22 la i-laq-qe-ú [( )]
23 IGI $^{1.d}$PA–ÁG–ZI LÚ* qur-bu-t[ú]
24 IGI ^{1}15-ši-i LÚ*.GAL ki-ṣ[ir]
25 IGI ^{1}DINGIR–da-la-a LÚ*.DA[M.GÀR]
26 IGI ^{1}U.GUR–PAB–PAB ^{1}ba-l[a$^{?}$-
27 IGI ^{1}da-a-di-e ^{1}[
28 IGI ^{1}na-ra-a-nu L[Ú*.
29 IGI ^{1}ti-ku-su L[Ú*.
30 IGI ^{1}PAB–AŠ $^{1.d}$⌜PA–X–PAB.M⌝[EŠ$^{?}$]
31 IGI ^{1}ba-na-šu ^{1}ba-la-si-i[()]
32 IGI $^{1.d}$MAŠ$^{?}$–DÙ ^{1}am-bu[r$^{?}$
33 IGI $^{1.d}$PA–DÙ–A [
34 IGI $^{1.d}$PA–MU–BA-šá LÚ*.A.B[A]
35 ṣa-bit dan-ni-te [
36 ITI.GUD lim-mu ^{1}⌜i-din–PAB.M⌝[EŠ]
37 ša KUR ku-[

[1] Seal of […], seal of […], seal of […], seal of […]. Total 4 men [owners of the slave$^{?}$ being sold]. (seal impression)

[6] Qurdi-[….and ……, Šumma-ilu] enacted (the procedures) and purchased (and) acquired the(se) people from these men in exchange for 2 [minas of silver].

[10] The price has been paid in toto, the people [are] legally purchased. There is no (further) withdrawal, lawsuit or litigation. Whoever, whether these men, or their [sons] or [their brothers o]r their officer who [in the future] at any time arises and initiates [leg]islation (or) litigation [against] Šumma-ilu and [his] sons (and) contravenes (the agreement), shall pay 5 minas of silver. They shall ple[ad] in their lawsuit (but) they shall not succeed.

[23] Witnesses: Nabu-ra'im-napišti, bodyguard. Issar-ši, centurion. Ilu-dala. mer[chant]. Nergal-ahu-uṣur. Bal[a…]. Dade. […]. Naranu. […]. Tikusu. […]. Ahu-iddina. Nabu-…-ahhe[…]. Banašu. Balasi. Ninurta-ibni. Ambu[ru]. Nabu-ban-apli […]. Nabu-šumu-iqiša, the scri[be], who drafted the conveyance.

[36] Month of Ayyaru (II). Eponymate of Iddin-ahhe, (governor) of the land of Ku[…].

Notes

5: the translation assumes the expected formula (such as EN.MEŠ UN.MEŠ *tadāni*). Here and in following texts the conventional translation "Owners of the people being sold" has been retained, although strictly it should probably be rather "the persons responsible for the sale of the people" (as noted in Herbordt et al. 2019: p. 21 note to l. 2).

6: in view of the "people" in ll. 9 and 11 we have to assume that a second person was mentioned here, and in that case there hardly seems room for the expected "their slaves".

7: the purchaser's name has to be restored from l. 18.

18: this name may fairly confidently be restored because a man of this name is well known in the archive from the Mamu Temple.

21: the formula requires here *idabbubū-ma*.

26: the sign after *ba* does not seem to be *la*, and there are several other possibilities, including *h*[*u*.

30: these traces collated.

32: the "horizontal" of MAŠ slopes and one cannot rule out reading the sign as ŠÚ.

36-7: The name was collated in 2021: the *i* is virtually certain, and the traces of the following signs permit us to restore -*din*-PAB.MEŠ. There are no other *limmu* names in the first half of the 7th century which fit. One eponym named Iddin-ahhe held office in 693, and a second, presumably not the same person, in 688, but was governor of Ṣimirra. In modern listings the first Iddin-ahhe has been described as governor of Dur-Šarruken. However, the only cited instance of this toponym appears to be on Bu.91-5-59 + 98. The date there was copied by Johns as ADD 264 edge 1-2:] *lim-mu* ^{1}AŠ–

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PAB.MEŠ/[ ] ME ME ….[ ]. Ungnad did not give a transcription of edge 2, but it is given in SAA 6 106.r.7 as [LÚ.GAR.KUR URU.BÀD.LUGA]L! –*ú*?-*k*[*in*!], and this evidently dubious reading (accepted in Millard 1994: 95 but not mentioned in Parpola's (1979: 42) collation of ADD 264) plainly needed a renewed collation in the light of Millard's clear copy of l. 37 here giving us KUR *ku*[-. This cannot equate to any form of Ṣimirra, but must give the beginning of the 693 eponym's province.

We are therefore left with two unresolved problems. The first is how to restore the 693 toponym. Both the KUR and the *ku*- would seem to rule out Dur-Šarruken (which was not a land but a city). Toponyms beginning KU[and occurring elsewhere in the *limmu* lists include *ku-muh*, *tuš-ha-an*, and perhaps *ku(-l)-la-ni-a*, but there is no good reason to opt for any of these.

The second problem is how the toponym in Bu.91-5-59 + should be restored, presumably to agree with either Ṣimirra (688) or KUR *ku*[… (693). Collation of edge 1 confirms] *lim-mu* ^{1}AŠ–PAB.MEŠ, and of edge 2 the upper parts of three signs are preserved. The SAA reading of LUGA]L! –*ú*?-*k*[*in*!] is certainly wrong, but the remnants of the second and third sign could be reconciled with either ^{uru}*ṣ*[*i*- or ^{uru}B[ÀD, although there is little space at the end of the line to complete either toponym. Unfortunately, the traces before the presumed URU do not resemble either NA]M or GA]R which would allow us to reconstruct "[govern]or". Since we do not require three different toponyms the neatest solution seems to be to read: ….]x ^{uru}*ṣ*[*i-mir-ra*] and assign ADD 264 (=SAA 6.106) to 688. BT 126 also dates to 688 as Ṣimirra is clearly preserved, but Nos. 2 and 21 here are more likely (but not certain) to belong like No. 1 to the first Iddin-ahhe in 693 BC (see note to No. 2 rev. 4).

Commentary

This is the only tablet recovered from Room 4 of the temple. While it is not obvious why it was found apart from the main group of temple tablets, it is plain from the persons mentioned that it belongs with them, and Room 4 is immediately adjacent to Room 8 (Oates 1974, Pl. XXV). The names of the sellers are lost in ll. 1-4, but from l. 18 we know the purchaser was Šumma-ilu, and he is a "principal character" (Parker 1963: 86). He was a purchaser in BT 107, and a creditor making a loan in 103, 105, 113, 116, 120, 127 and probably 118. In 114 he is a witness, and his precise role in BT 119 is unclear, but there, and very likely also in BT 118:1 he is given the title *šangu* "priest", while in BT 120 he lends silver which is described as "belonging to Ištar of Arbail", reinforcing the impression that he belonged to the temple staff, perhaps the predecessor of Mamu-iqbi. Moreover, among the witnesses here we find the merchant Ilu-dala, who recurs in BT 107, 120 and 139, and Naranu, who is found in nine tablets from 1957. Balasi (l. 31), acts as witness in BT 102, 113, 114, 120, 136 and 140, and Nabu-ban-apli (l. 33) in BT 113, 126.

The text is a conveyance of presumably two persons, one a man whose name begins with Qurdi-[, and the purchase price will have been between 2 and 3 minas of silver. Other details of the operative section are lost.

No. 2 Sale of male slave
BT 27 = IM 59922 Plate II (JNP)
Street west of Mamu Temple 5.0 x (3.7) x 2.7
12.iii.693

Obv. 1 ku KIŠIB-š[ú-nu] ṣu-pur-šú-nu iš-kun
2 ṣu-pu[r ^{1}]ka-ru-bi? ṣu-pur ^{1}ma-na-da-mu-u
3 PAB 2 LÚ.MEŠ-e EN ÌR? ta-din
3 finger nail impressions
4 [^{1} x-]da-na-a-ma LÚ.ÌR-šú-nu
5 [ú-pi]š-ma ^{1}rim-ut–^{d}EN.ᵀKASKALᵀ
6 [ina lìb-bi] 30 MA.NA ᵀKÙ.BABBARᵀ[x (x)]x

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(remainder of Obv. broken away)
Rev. (upper part broken away)
1' [IGI ^{1}x-]ta-ʳqu nu$^{?}$ x ˡ
2' [IGI ^{1} x x –š]al-lim-šú-nu LÚ.A.BA
3' ṣa-bit [da]n-ni$^{!}$-ti
3' ITI.S[IG$_4$] UD.12.KÁM
4' lim-mu [^{1}s]UM-na-PAB.MEŠ
(line erased)
T.E. 5' IGI ^{1}tar-hu-ṣa-bu-i
6' IGI ^{1}ma-a-ni

[1] Instead of th[eir] seal they impressed their nail. Nail of Karubu. Nail of Manadamû. Total 2 men, owner(s) of the slave being sold.
(nail impressions)
[4] […]danama, their slave, Rimut-Bel-Harran enacted (the procedures) and [in exchange for] 30 minas of sil[ver ….

(remainder of Obv. and upper part of Rev. broken away)

Rev. 1' [Witnesses: (…)]taqu… […]-šallimšunu, the scribe, who drafted the [con]veyance.
Rev. 3' Month of Si[manu (III)], 12th day, eponymate of Iddin-ahhe.
Rev. 5' Witnesses: Tarhu-ṣabui. Mani.

Notes

Rev. 4: That the *limmu*'s governorate is not mentioned makes it likely that he is the first eponym of this name (in 693) rather than his namesake, governor of Ṣimirra (688). See on No. 1:36-7. The same applies to No. 21 from the temple.

Commentary

Rimut-Bel-Harran purchases the slave [.]danama from two previous owners for the surprisingly large sum of 30 minas of silver. Although the signs after MA.NA are damaged, they cannot be URUDU(.MEŠ).

No. 3 Sale of woman

BT 31 = IM 59926 Plate I (JNP)
Found with No. 2 4.7 x 9.3 x 2.5
[n.n].668

Obv. 1 NA$_4$.KIŠIB ^{1}sa-i-[li]
2 NA$_4$.KIŠIB ^{1}ta-bal-[(la-)a-a]
3 NA$_4$.KIŠIB $^{1.d}$MAŠ–T[I–DINGIR]
4 PAB 3 LÚ-e EN MUNUS SUM-ni
(space for seal impression broken)
(about 5 lines broken)
10 x[ ]x
11 ina de-e-nu DU$_{11}$.D[U$_{11}$ i$^{?}$-s]e$^{?}$-qe
12 man-nu šá in[a u]r-kiš ù ma-te-ma
13 i-za-qu-pa-a-[n]i GIL-u-ni
14 lu-u ^{1}ta-bal-la-a-a
15 lu-u ^{1}[$^{.d}$M]A[š]–TI–DINGIR
16 [lu]-u ^{1}s[a-]i-lu lu$^{!}$-u DUMU.M[EŠ]-š[ú]-nu
17 [lu-u] DUMU.[DUMU(.MEŠ)]-šú-nu lu-u ŠEŠ.MEŠ-šú-n[u]

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	18	[lu-]u DUM[U ŠE]š-šú-nu
Rev.	19	lu-u [x x x] LÚ*.GAL ki-ṣir-šú-[nu]
	20	lu-u mam-ma- x (x) x -šú-nu ša$^{?}$ TA*$^{?}$
	21	^{1}[t]a-bal-a$^{!}$-[a] DUMU.ME-šú
	22	ù DUMU DUMU.M[E]š-šú de-e-nu
	23	$DU_{11}.DU_{11}$ u[b-t]a-u-ni
	24	5 MA.NA KÙ.BABBAR L[U]H-u SUM-an
	25	1 MA.NA KÙ.G[I] ⌜sag-ru⌝ ana [b]ur$^{!}$-ki
	26	^{d}MAŠ a$^{!}$-šib ^{u}[^{ru}k]àl-ha GAR-an [kas-pu]
	27	[a-n]a 10.MEŠ-te [ana EN].MEŠ-šú ú-ta-ra
	28	ina d[e-n]i-šú i-$DU_{11}.DU_{11}$ la TI-qé
	29	IGI ^{1}⌜x x x⌝ [I]GI ^{1}ṣil–EN–tìl-[li]
	30	IGI ^{1}⌜x x⌝[x –PA]B-ir IGI ^{1} x x x
	31	IGI $^{1.d}$[P]A–SU IGI $^{1.d}$IM–DINGIR-x
	32	IGI ^{1}ṣa-[x]-hal$^{?}$ IGI ^{1}⌜ab-da$^{?}$⌝-(x-)man$^{?}$-nu$^{?}$
	33	IGI $^{1.d}$[x (x)–]DÙ IGI ^{1}BÀD–⌜x⌝.MEŠ
	34	I[G]I ^{1}⟨UD⟩.⌜7⌝.KÁM* IGI ^{1}še-'i–aš-šur
	35	[IG]I ^{1} a-a- x x [(…)]
	36	IGI ^{1}(x) x–ku$^{?}$ (rest of line erased)
	37	IGI ^{1}KAM-eš LÚ*.[
	38	IGI ^{1}man-nu–ki–[
	39	IGI ^{1}TAR-[
T.E.	40	IGI ^{1}[x x x] IGI ^{1}t[a$^{?}$-
	41	ITI.[x] UD.[x.KAM]
	42	lim-mu ^{1}ma[r-la-rim]

[1] Seal of Sai[lu]. Seal of Tabal[aya]. Seal of Ninurt(a)-ili. Total 3 men, owner(s) of the woman being sold.

(seal impressions)

(about 5 lines broken)

[11] by a lawsuit (and) liti[gation has] taken. (?) [12] Whoever in the future and at any time arises and contravenes (the agreement), whether Tabalaya, or Ninurt(a)-ili or S[a]ilu, or their sons, [or] their [sons'] sons or their brothers or their brothers' son(s), or [….] or the[ir] centurion, or anyone of theirs, [20] who initiates legislation (or) litigation against Tabalaya (or) his sons or his sons' sons, [24] shall pay 5 minas of purified silver (and) place 1 mina of refined gold in the lap of Ninurta who dwells in Kalha. [26] He shall return the [(purchase) price] 10-fold [to] its [own]ers. He shall plead in his lawsuit (but) not succeed.

[29-39] Witnesses: […]. Ṣil-Bel-talli. […]naṣir. […]. Nabu-eriba, Adad-…. Ṣa[…]…, Abda-mannu(?) […]-ibni, Dur–…. Sab'a(ya). Še'i-Aššur. Aya[…]. […]ku. Ereš(?), the […]. Mannu-ki-[…]. TAR-[…]. […], T[a …].

[40] Month of […., nth] day, eponymate of Ma[r-larim]

Notes

3, 15: this name seems clearly to be written ^{d}MAŠ–TI–DINGIR, but it is not obvious how this should be normalized. See PNA 2/I, 550-1 and 558 for names rendered there Inurta-ila'ī and Inurtî.

4: PAB 3 was added retrospectively in the left margin.

11: This line is difficult to restore with confidence, but a form of *laqā'u* is required. The phrase *ina dēni dabābu* is not expected here. Without the preceding lines it is hardly possible to reconstitute the text.

29: the traces as copied seem closer to TI than to *dal*. A man bearing this name features often in an archive from the Town Wall Houses at Kalhu (CTN 6, p. 279; updating PNA 3/i.1172), regularly written with *-tal-*. In these Balawat

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documents the name is written in four different ways. In No. 4:35, *-tal-li* is written, but in Nos. 9 and 12 *-til* (BE) and in No. 10 *-til-li*, which authorizes us to transcribe the -TI- here and in Nos. 5 and 11) as *-tìl*. If /di/ or /dil/ were intended it is unlikely the signs TI or *til* would have been selected, and it seems as though the final component of this name should therefore be normalized as /talli/ or /tilli/. This can scarcely be *dallu* "poor", as was hitherto understandably assumed, and the name now to be normalized as Bel-talli-ilaya, attested once in a lexical list and once on a tablet from Ma'allanate (PNA 1/ii.289) suggests that Bel-ta/illi is some form of divine persona, the alternation between *a* and *i* perhaps an indication that we should not see the second component as linguistically Akkadian.
34: the numeral as copied resembles ⌜6⌝ rather than 7, but the tails of verticals from a higher line sometimes show. For the name UD.7.KÁM-*a-a* "(born on) 7th day" see PNA 3/I,1098 (though it should not be normalized Sebettaiu).
39: cf. ^{1}*tar-hu-ṣa-bu-i* (no. 2 T.E. 5').

Commentary

While in most respects this appears to be a regular slave sale, though with three "owners", it has the peculiarity that the purchaser has the same name as, and presumably is the same person as, one of the three sellers. In other words, Tabalaya seems to be "buying out" the other two previous "owners" to secure sole ownership. Without knowing how the three men came to be joint owners in the first place, it is hard to say more. Conceivably they could have been brothers inheriting from their father, but that is only one speculative possibility.

No. 4 Sale of female slave

BT 23 = IM 59916 Plate II (ARM)
Found with No. 2 5.5 x 6.2
[-.]vi.668

Obv. 1 NA$_4$.KIŠIB ^{1}n[a]-ni-i
2 EN MUNUS SUM-ni
(seal impression)
3 ^{munus}kal-lat-ša-^{uru}NINA GEMÉ-šú
4 ša ^{1}na-ni-i
5 ú-piš-ma ^{1}ki-šu-ú
6 ina ŠÀ 1 MA.NA KÙ.BABBAR MUNUS il-qe
7 kas-pu gam-mur ta-din MUNUS šu-a-tú
8 zar-pat laq-qí-at tu-a-ru!
9 de-e-nu DU$_{11}$.DU$_{11}$ la-áš-šu
10 man-nu šá ⟨ina⟩ ur-kiš! ina mat-e-ma
11 GIL-u-ni lu-u ^{1}na-ni-i
12 lu-u DUMU.MEŠ-šú TA* ^{1}ki-šu-ú
13 ⌜DUMU⌝.MEŠ-šú ù DUMU DUMU.MEŠ-šú de-e-nu
14 DU$_{11}$.DU$_{11}$ ub-ta-u-ni 3 MA.NA KÙ.BABBAR
15 SUM-an kas-pu a-na 10.MEŠ-te
16 a-na EN.ME(Š)-šú GUR-ra
17 ina de-ni-šú DU$_{11}$.DU$_{11}$-ma
18 la i[-la]q-qé
Rev. 19 ṣib-tú bi-en⟨-nu⟩ a-na 1 ME UD.ME
20 sa-ar-tú a-na kàl UD.ME
21 IGI ^{1}si-ia-a
22 IGI ^{1}ma-a$^{?}$-ni-ú
23 IGI ^{1}ha-ri-DINGIR
24 IGI ^{1}na-nu-ki

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25 IGI [1]da[?]-a-in-si
26 IGI [1]bar-bu-ru
27 IGI [1]URU.KASKAL-a-a
28 IGI [1]ka-ka-la-te
29 IGI [1.d]PA- X
30 IGI [1]DINGIR-ta-ga-ba
31 IGI [1.d]PA–PAB-ir
32 [IGI [1]]aš-šur–AŠ IGI [1]še-'i–aš-šur
33 IGI [[1]x]x-mu-u IGI [1.d]PA–SU
34 IGI [1]ar-ma-t[a][?]-su[?]
35 IGI [1]ṣil–EN–t[al]-li
36 [IGI] [1]ab-da-ʳxˀ
T.E. 37 [I]TI.DU$_6$ lim-mu [[1]]mar–la-rim
38 IGI [1.d]UTU-d[e]-ni–IGI.LÁ
39 [L]Ú*.A.BA

[1] Seal of Nani, owner of the woman being sold.
(seal impression)
[5] Kišû enacted (the procedures) and in exchange for 1 mina of silver acquired the woman, [3] Kallat-ša-Ninua, the female slave of Nani.
[7] The price is paid in toto, that woman is purchased (and) acquired. There is no (further) withdrawal, lawsuit (or) litigation. [10] Whoever in the future at any time contravenes (the agreement), whether Nani or his sons, (and) initiates legislation (or) litigation against Kišû, his sons, or his sons' sons, shall pay 3 minas of silver. [15] He shall return the price ten-fold to its owners. He shall plead in his lawsuit but not succeed.
[19] (Guarantee against) seizure (and) epilepsy for 100 days, criminality for all time.
[21] Witnesses: Siya. Maniyu. Hari-ilu. Nanuki. Dainsi. Barburu. Harranaya. Kakalate. Nabu-[…]. Ilu-tagaba. Nabu-naṣir. Aššur-iddin. Še'i-Aššur. […]mu. Nabu-eriba. Armatasu(?). Ṣil-Bel-talli. Abda[…].
[37] Month of Tašritu (VI), eponymate of Mar-larim (668).
[38] Witness: Šamaš-deni-amur, the scribe.

Notes

7: note *šuātu* unexpectedly referring to the female slave.
8: faint traces of at least a second vertical are visible in *ru* (coll.)
22: the sign after *ma* is possibly *a* (after collation); cf. [1]*ma-a-ni* (No. 2 r.6').
25: the first sign resembled *da* on collation.
31: PAB (coll.).
32-36: several of these witnesses also witnessed No. 3:29-34, from the same year. There they are listed first, here at the end. The name in l. 34 is restored after No. 5 rev. 2', and it is tempting to restore the name in l. 33 after the name HAR-*na-mu-u* in No. 5:2, but I can see no way of reading the traces to achieve this.
38: *–d*[*e*- coll.

Commentary

Kišû here purchases a female slave from Nani, who is also one of three sellers in No. 5. The unfamiliar witnesses in ll. 21-30 are perhaps associated with Nani.

No. 5 Sale of woman
BT 25 = IM 59920 Plate II (JNP)
Found with No. 2 4.2 x (7.2) x 2.5
[Date missing]

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Obv. 1 NA4.KIŠIB [1]na-ni-i
2 " [1]HAR-na-mu-u
3 " [1]ú-ri-si
(seal impressions)
4 EN MUNUS SUM-an [munus]ga-lu-su
5 MUNUS-šú-nu ú-piš-⌜ma!⌝
6 [1]ú-ri-si ina lìb-bi 1 MA.NA KÙ!.BABBAR
7 is!-se!-qe!! kas-pu
8 ⌜ga-mur!⌝ ta-din
9 [MUNUS šu]-a-tu za-pat la-qi-at
10 [tu-a-r]u [d]e-e-ni
11 [DU11.]DU11 [l]a-áš-šú
12 [man-nu ša x x x]-u-ni
(remainder of Obv. broken away)

Rev. (upper part of Rev. broken away)
1' [ ] ⌜x x¹ [
2' [IGI [1]a]r?-ma-ta-s[u?]
3' IGI [1]na-ni-i
4' IGI [1]aš-šur–še-zib-a-ni
5' IGI [1]ṣil–EN–tìl-li
6' IGI [1]sa-a-lu
7' IGI [1]še-'i–aš-šur
8' IGI [1.d]PA–ZU
9' IGI [1]PAB–i-pu

[1] Seal of Nani. Ditto of HARnamû. Ditto of Urisi.
(seal impressions)

[4] Owner(s) of the woman being sold.

[6] Urisi enacted (the procedures) and in exchange for 1 mina of silver has acquired [4] Gallusu their woman.

[7] The price is paid in toto, [th]at [woman] is purchased (and) acquired. There is no [(further) withdraw]al, lawsuit (or) litigation. [Whoever ….ari]ses [……]

(Remainder of Obv. and upper part of Rev. broken)

Rev. 2' [Witnesses A]rmatas[u]. Nani. Aššur-šezibanni. Ṣil-Bel-tilli. Sa'alu. Še'i-Aššur. Nabu-le'i. Ahu-ipu.

Notes

3: The third seller's name, written here [1]*ú-ri-si*, is written [1]*ú-ra-a-si* in No. 13, [1]*ú-ar-s*[*i*] in No. 14, and [1][*ú*]-*ar-si* in No. 15. Hardly Akkadian, it is interesting that despite the variation in the second syllable, the final syllable is consistently given as /si/.

4: this name, the feminine of Gallulu, is attested at Nimrud (PNA 1/ii.420).

12: there is possibly enough room after l. 12 for a date, but space is also needed to complete the penalty, and dates on conveyances are normally at the very end of the tablet, unlike contracts.

Rev. 2': name restored in the light of No. 4:34 where the witness' name seems to begin *ar-ma-*.

Rev. 5': For this name see on No. 3:29.

Rev. 6': this may be Sa'ilu (see No. 3:1, 16).

Rev. 9': the signs *-i-pu* are clearly written. Since BU is rarely if ever used logographically in Neo-Assyrian personal names it seems probable that this is a syllabic writing. The witness' name written PAB-*ú-pu* in No, 13:15 may well be the same. A derivation from *(w)apû* "to appear" is tempting but lacks parallels.

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Commentary

This tablet was unusually poorly written and forms like SUM-*an*, *de-e-ni* and *za-pat*, while not unparalleled, are noticeably ungrammatical. As in No. 4, three sellers are listed as sealing the tablet, but one of them (Urisi) appears to have been also the purchaser of the woman. The rather convoluted social relationship this implies may partly explain the reappearance of Nani as both a seller and a witness. The informality of the document is underlined by the possibility that it may not have been dated.

No. 6 Sale of male slave
BT 28 = IM 59923 Plate III (JNP)
Found with No. 2 4.8 x 8.6 x 2.2
-.ii.PC

Obv. 1 [N]A4.KIŠIB 1man-n[u!]–ʳiqʾ-bi
2 [E]N LÚ.ÌR S[UM]-ni

(seal impression)

3 line undeciphered
4 line undeciphered
5 ʳsa-árʾ-[t]i 1man-[x x x]
6 ina lìb-bi 33 GÍN.MEŠ KÙ.BABBAR
7 [L]Ú.ÌR? [il-q]e kas-pu gam-mur
8 [t]a-din LÚ* šu-a-tú
9 za-[ri]p laq-qí [tu-a]-ru
10 de-e-nu K[A.KA la-á]š-šu
11 m[an?-nu] šá [
12 šu-a-[tú
13 [l]u-[u] 1man-ʳnuʾ[-iq-bi lu-u DUMU.MEŠ-šú]
14 [lu-]u DUMU.DUMU.MEŠ-ʳšúʾ [lu-u x]X.MEŠ-šú
15 [lu-u] mam-ma-nu-šú ša [TA* PN]
B.E. 16 [lu-u DUMU.M]EŠ-šú DUMU.DUMU.MEŠ-š[ú de-e-nu]
17 [K]A.KA ub-ta-u-n[i]
Rev. 18 ʳ5ʾ MA.NA KÙ.BABBAR LUH-u 1 [MA.NA KÙ.GI (....)]
19 ina bur-ki diš-tar a-š[i-bat uruarba-ìl]
20 i-šak-kan kas-pu a-[n]a 10.MEŠ[-te]
21 a-na EN.MEŠ-šú GUR-ra i-na de-n[i-šú]
22 DU11.DU11-ma la i-laq-qé
23 ṣib-ti be-ʳen-nuʾ a-na 1 ME UD-me
24 sa-ar-tú ina kàl [U]D.MEŠ-te
25 [I]GI 1bi-ru-ʳxʾ IGI 1ga[-
26 IGI 110.10–ʳx xʾ IGI 1 x (x)-a
27 IGI 1GÌR.2–aš-šur IGI 1PAB–l[a-mur]
28 [IG]I 1dà-ri–MAN IGI 1pa?-x[
29 IGI 1[x x (x)] ʳIGI 1 xʾ[(x)]me
30 IGI 1TE-a-a
31 IGI 1ki-ba-k[u?] ʳx xʾ
32 IGI 1da?-ú-a-ri
33 IGI 1ÌR?–PAB.MEŠ L[Ú].A.BA
34 ṣa-bit dan-n[i-ti]
35 I[T]I.GUD? lim-mu 1.dPA–AŠ–PAB

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[1] Seal of Mannu-iqbi, [ow]ner of the slave being sold.
(seal impression)
[3-4] (lines not deciphered)
[5] penalty(?) of Man[nu-iqbi ….]
[6] in exchange for 33 shekels of silver he [acqui]red the [slave?].
[7] The price is paid in toto, that man is purchased (and) acquired.
[10] [There is] no (further) withdrawal, lawsuit (or) li[tigation]. Any[one ….] that [whet]her Man[nu-iqbi, or his sons] or his grandsons, [or] his [broth]ers(?), or anyone of his, who [17] initiates [legislation] (or) litigation [15] [against PN, or] his [son]s (or) his grandsons
[18] shall place 5 minas of purified silver (and) 1 [mina of (refined) gold] in the lap of Ištar who dwel[ls in Arbail (?)].
[20] He shall return the price ten-fold to its owners. He shall plead in his lawsuit but not succeed.
[23] (Guarantee against) seizure (and) epilepsy for 100 days, criminality for all time.

[25-32] Witnesses: Biru[…]. Ga[…]. Dadi[…]. [….]a. Šepe-Aššur. Ahu-l[amur]. Dari-šarru. Pa[…]. [……….]. Sukkaya. Kibaku. […]. Dauari.

[33] Witness: Urdu-ahhe, the scribe, who drafted the conveyance.
[35] Month of Ayyaru (II), eponymate of Nabu-nadin-ahi (PC).

Notes

1: the sign following *man* here and in ll. 5 looks more like *k*[*i*, but the very clear *-bi* suggests that we should read *nu*, noting that a Mannu-iqbi is known from BT 138.
5: the *ti* seems clear; the reading of the first two signs is taken from the photo, though the winkelhakens of *ár* were not seen when the copy was made.
7: some form of *laqā'u* is needed here; possibly rather *i-se-qe*.
14: "his brothers" would normally follow his name, but the traces of the sign preceding MEŠ do not lend themselves to either ŠE]Š or PA]B.
15: the name of the new owner will have stood here.
18: there is perhaps space for [*sag-ru*] at the end of the line.
31: if this name is Kibaku it is otherwise unattested. Kilaku is known, but the sign here definitely looks like *ba*, not *la*.
35: the post-canonical eponym Nabu-nadin-ahi is assigned to 647 BC by both Reade and Parpola.

Commentary

In the absence of ll. 3-4 it is impossible to identify the purchaser, since l. 1 makes it clear that the previous owner of the slave is probably called Mannu-iqbi. One would expect l. 3 to begin with the slave's name, and l. 4 somehow to identify the purchaser (perhaps introduced by the single vertical Personenkeil surviving in the middle of the line), but the remaining traces do not lend themselves to a convincing restoration. If *sarti* is correctly restored in l. 5 this may account for the absence of the expected *ûppiš* or *ūtappiš*, assuming that previous legal processes prescribing a penalty (*sartu*) obviated the necessity for the procedures referred to by *uppušu*, which quite possibly included public announcements. The rather high "price" of 33 shekels of silver may also be associated with the "penalty".

No. 7 Conveyance of daughter
BT 29 = IM 59924 Plate III (JNP)
3.0 x 7.0 x 1.9
Found with No. 2 18.viii.667

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Obv. 1 ⌜NA4.KIŠIB⌝ 1 k[i?-su-ú]

(seal impression)

2 DUMU.MUNUS 1ki-su-ú
3 munus! kal-lu-⌜tu⌝
4 ša 1s[a]-g[a]b
5 1ki-su-ú
6 hi-bil-a-te-šú
7 i-ti-[d]in?
8 DUMU.MUNUS-su z[ar-pat?] laq!-qi!?
Rev. 9 ú-ṭ[u-ru ( )]
10 TA* IGI [a-ha-iš]
11 mam-ma TA* mam-ma
12 NU DU11.DU11
13 man-nu ša GIL-u-ni
14 1 GÚ.UN KÙ.[BABBAR] SUM-⌜an⌝
15 IGI 1mu-na-[x (x)]
16 LÚ*.3-šú [( )]
17 IGI 110–rém-a[-ni
18 IGI 1.dšá-[maš–
19 IGI 1.d[
20 IGI 1x[
21 IGI 1x[
22 IGI 1x[
L.S. 23 ITI.APIN UD.18.KÁM lim-mu 1gab-ba?-r[i?]

[1] Seal of K[isu].

[2]The daughter of Kisu, (as) the bride of Sagab, Kisu has given (as payment of) his debts.

[8] His daughter is [legally] acquired(!). They are [mutually] acquitted. No one shall litigate against any one. Whoever contravenes shall pay 1 talent of sil[ver].

Witnesses: Muna[…], third rider. Adad-remanni. Šamaš-[… and 4 more].

[23] Month of Arahsamna (VIII), 18th day, eponymate of Gabbaru (667).

Notes

8: at the end of the line the tablet seems stubbornly to have É.GAL which is improbable; reading *laq-qi* seems the best solution, although it should be feminine (*laqi'at*).

14: this is an unusually high figure for a fine.

18: the reading d*šá*-[is from the photograph, correcting the copy.

Commentary

This is a unique, and laconic, document, which appears to record that Kisû has given his daughter in marriage to Sagab in fulfilment of his debts. The quit clause in ll. 9-10 belongs in a receipt, rather than a conveyance, and is presumably there to confirm that Kisû has hereby paid off all that he owed.

No. 8 Field lease
BT 24 = IM 59919 Plate IV (ARM)
Found with No. 2 5.4 x 6.8
24.viii.PC

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Obv. 1 NA4.KIŠIB [1]bir-da-ku[(-x)]
2 NA4.KIŠIB [1]e? -TI(-)GAL[(-x)]
3 [N]A4.KIŠIB [1][na]-ni-i
4 N[A4.KIŠ]IB [1]a-su-ʳx(-x)ˡ

(3 seal impressions)

5 É 3 A[N]ŠE 2 KÙŠ 3 ŠE
6 ina [uru]hu-sa-a-ni
7 ú-piš-ma [1] x x x (x)
8 ina ŠÀ 13 GÍN.MEŠ KÙ.[BABBAR]
9 il-qe 6 MU.AN.NA KÚ.ME
10 ʳÉˡ 4BÁN ṭihi [1]a-su-pu-ra
11 ṭ[ihi [1](x-)]x-li-gu-za
12 [ṭihi] [1]PAB[sup.ras.]-la-IGI
13 [ṭihi] [1] ŠE DÙ x za x ZU
Rev. 14 ṭihi [1]a-du-u-ni ṭihi
15 ṭihi [1]ba-si-ki!-si! (x)
16 tab-ri-u ṭihi [1]na-ni!-i
17 ṭihi GIŠ.SAR ša [1]ga[b-b]a?-ra-u
18 ṭihi [1]ba-x x?-qi ṭi[hi [1] x (x)]-bi-i
19 É 2 [AN]ŠE A.ŠÀ ina! mu-ʳli-ˡe
20 ṭihi x [x] ṭihi [1]aš-šur–PAB
21 IGI [1] x -a-mur?
22 IGI [1]iq?-bi-ha-gal
23 IGI [1]li-si-nu?
24 IGI [1]de?-nu–la-IGI
25 IGI [1]ke-nu-ʳtiˡ [L]Ú*.GAL 50
26 IGI [1]30-[
27 IG[I
28 [IGI]x-si-a [lú*]ša-[x(-x)]
29 [IGI]ˡʳgab-biˡ–PAB–MEŠ
30 IGI [1]U.GUR–PAB–PAB
31 IGI [1]EN–PAB–PAB
T.E. 32 IGI [1]TA*–[d][M]ES?-PAB IGI[
L.S. 33 I[TI].APIN UD.20.KÁM
34 lim-mu [1.d]PA–KAL-a-ni

[1] Seal of Birdaku(…), Seal of PN, seal of [Na]ni, s[ea]l of Asu……
(seal impressions)

[5] An estate of 3 homers, 2 cubits and 3 grains in the town of Husanu [7] PN enacted (the procedures) and took in exchange for 13 shekels of sil[ver].

[9] He will enjoy (the land) for 6 years.

[10] A plot of 4 *sūtu* adjacent to Asupura, ad[jacent to …]liguza, [adjacent to] Ahu-lamur [adjacent to]…., adjacent to Aduni, adjacent to <adjacent to> Basikisi? (…);

[16] a *tabriu* adjacent to Nani, adjacent to the orchard of Gabbarau?, adjacent to Ba…qi, ad[jacent to …]bi.

[19] A plot of 2 [ho]mers of field in the upland, adjacent to [….], adjacent to Aššur-naṣir.

[21] Witnesses: […]-amur. Iqbi-hagal. Lisinu. Denu–lamur. Kenuti the chief of 50. Sin-[… ….], [….]. [.]sia, the *ša*[…]. Gabbi?–ahhe. Nergal–ahu–uṣur. Bel–ahu–uṣur. Issi-Mar[du]k-ahu [….].

[33] Mo[nth] of Arahsamna (VIII), 20th day, eponymate of Nabu-da"inanni (PC).

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Notes

4: this PN is probably the same as that in l. 10, but I am unable to reconcile the final traces of the two spellings. After this line there is a ruling above the seal impressions, not shown in the copy.

5: field dimensions are not usually given values of cubits and "grains". One would expect a subdivision of a *sūtu* to be expressed in *qû*, and I know of no other case of ŠE acting as an area measure.

6: An orchard at the same village is the subject of a legal case in No. 10 (written in 668 and so some 20 years later). A town (or village) written ^{uru}*hu-sa-na* is listed in ND 2728:8 from the North-West Palace at Kalhu (Parker 1961: 46) as being in the environs (*qanni*) of Arbail. The same toponym is also found in Middle Assyrian documents from Assur (Nashef 1982: 133; for a town called ^{uru}*hu-sa-na-nu* see Freydank 1982 (=VS 21) No. 17:42 and No. 21:25).

7: this line must contain the name of the leaser.

8: the function of the ME here is dubious, since l. 7 indicates only a single leaser (unless it is a Gtn form).

10: this neighbour was one of the "sellers" (in l. 4).

16: Nani is presumably the seller listed in l. 3. The nature of the agricultural facility called *tabriu* remains unknown.

18: the sign after *ba* is uncertain; if it were *šid* one might compare Ba/išidqi (PNA 1/ii, 348-9) although there is no evidence for a value *ṣid*.

21: it is not certain of this line begins IGI, and the final sign is not certainly *mur*.

22: the name is obviously uncertain; there is a possibility that the same name is in l. 2. The first sign may have been *kir* (rather than *iq*).

34: Nabu-da'inanni is assigned to 645 by Reade and 642 by Parpola.

Commentary

This is a land lease for six years, the land in question totalling 3 homers and a fraction. This is in two or three segments including 0.4 homers (l.10) and 2 homers (l. 19), leaving 0.6 homers plus 2 cubits and 3 grains which may have been listed at the start of l. 13. Whether the *tabriu* would have been included in the l. 5 total is uncertain.

The document lacks any supplementary clauses.

Nani, familiar from Nos. 4-5 and as a witness in text 12, appears here both as "seller" and as a neighbour of the property. Likewise the "seller" in l. 4 is probably the neighbour in l. 10.

No. 9 Field lease

BT 33= IM 59928 Plate IV (ARM)
Found with No. 2 3.7 x 2.3
-.xi.668

T.E.	1	1 ½ MA.NA KÙ.BABBAR
Obv.	2	ša $^{1.d}$PA–ZU
	3	ina IGI ^{1}kaš-šú-di
	4	ina IGI $^{1.d}$ba-ú–MU–AŠ
	5	ina pu-u-hi it-ta-ṣu
	6	ku-um ru-bé-e šá KÙ.BABBAR
	7	É 8$^{?}$ ANŠE A.Š[À ( )]
B.E.	8	a-na 4-ut-ti-šá [tar-bi]
	9	2 me-re-š[e]
Rev.	10	2 ka-rap-h[i]
	11	[K]Ù.⌜BABBAR⌝ [ina U]GU t[a-ra(m)-me]
	12	i-šá-kun ⌜A.ŠÀ-šú-nu⌝
	13	ú-še-ṣu-u ITI.ZÍZ

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14 lim-m[u] [1]mar–la-rim
15 IGI [1]sa-gab [1]ki-su-u
T.E. 16 IGI [1]ṣil–EN–til
L.S. 17 IGI [1]ki-ma-ma

[1] 1 ½ minas of silver, belonging to Nabu-le'i, at the disposal of Kaššudu, at the disposal of Bau-šumu-iddina. They have taken it as a loan.

[6] Instead of interest on the silver: an estate of 8(?) homers of field. [8] [It will increase] at one-fourth. Two (seasons) cultivation, 2 (seasons) fallow.

[11] (If) they deposit the silver at the th[reshing-heaps], they will redeem their field.

[13] Month of Šabaṭu (XI), eponymate of Mar-larim.

[15] Witnesses: Sagab. Kisû. Ṣil-Bel-tilli. Kimama.

Notes

7: from photo, this figure looks like a 5 separated by a small gap from two superimposed wedges, the combination looking most like a Neo-Assyrian 8.

8: what the scribe means here is perhaps "They shall enjoy the field for 4 years in all" (PAB 4 MU(.AN.NA.MEŠ) A.ŠÀ *ekkulū*) but (s)he seems to have accidentally reverted to the phrase used for defining interest, perhaps because of the figure 4. On collation traces of signs were seen on the right edge, possibly for *tarabbi* as restored.

10: on the broken edge possibly restore a form of *ekkulu* "they shall enjoy" (e.g. KÚ.MEŠ, as in No. 8:9).

11: collated.

12: collation indicated the presence of the two final signs not shown in the copy.

16: for this name see the Note on No. 3:29 (and No. 10:20 which has *-til-li*).

Commentary

This loan of 1.5 minas of silver to Kaššudu and Bau-šumu-iddina gives the creditor Nabu-le'i four years usufruct of 8(?) homers of field in lieu of interest. Since the debtors are entitled to redeem their field on payment of the capital after the harvest, the motivation for this contract must be to provide the silver as a loan, rather than to give the creditor a guaranteed four years' usufruct of the land. As suggested above, the interest phrase in l. 8 is probably erroneous (since l. 6 quite explicitly says that the field usufruct replaces interest). For this type of contract see Postgate 1976: 51, §3.7.6.

No. 10 Judgement about orchard
BT 35 Plate IV (ARM)
IM 59930 4.6 x 3.0
Found with No. 2 18.ii.668

Obv. 1 de-e-nu š[a] GIŠ.SAR
2 ša [uru]hu-sa-a-ni
3 ½ MA.NA 10 [GÍ]N ina ⌜]-te¹
4 [1][ ]x
5 [1]na-ni-i [1]š[u-(x)]-x [(x)]
6 [1]tab-ri–MAN [1]ar-ša-n[u?]
7 [1]ṣil–MAN [1]i-lu-ku-⌜x x¹
8 PAB 7 LÚ*.MEŠ an-nu-ti
9 TA* IG[I] [1]na-a-si-⌜i¹
10 T[A*] IGI [1]kab?-r[i?]-i
11 i[na l]ìb-bi ½ MA.NA KÙ.BABBAR

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B.E. 12 [10 GÍ]N ina QÀL-te! ŠUB?–u-ni
13 uṭ-ṭu-ru TA* a-hi-iš
14 mam-ma TA* mam-ma la $DU_{11}.DU_{11}$
Rev. 15 man-nu ina [u]r-kiš ina ma-ti-ma
16 GIL-u-ni 10 MA.NA KÙ.BABBAR GAR-ma
17 ina bur-ki ^{d}MAŠ a-šib ^{uru}kal-hi
18 ina la de-ni-šú-nu $DU_{11}.DU_{11}$ la i-laq-⟨qe⟩
19 IGI $^{1.d}$PA–PAB-ir IGI ^{1}na?-bi-da?-a[d?]
20 IGI ^{1}sil–EN–til-li [x x x]x
21 IGI ^{1}DÙG.GA–IM–^{d}[x (x) x]x
22 IGI ^{1}man-nu–ki–PAB.MEŠ PAB 4 I[GI.MEŠ]
23 ^{uru}bu-ur-qu-a-a IGI ^{1} x x
24 IGI ^{1}ha-ri–DINGIR PAB 2 IGI.M[EŠ .....]
25 IGI ^{1}še-'u ITI.GUD UD.18.K[ÁM*]
26 lim-mu ^{1}mar–la-ri-me

[1] Judgement ab[out] the orchard (in) Husanu (village).

[3] 1/2 mina and 10 shekels (of silver measured) by [the light (mina)].

[4] [PN_1], Nani, Šu[…], Tabri-šarri, Aršan[u], Ṣil-šarri, Iluku[…] – in all these 7 men *have concluded* (the dispute) from Nasi[…] (and) from Kabri, in exchange for 1/2 mina [and 10 shekels] of silver by the light (mina).

[13] They are mutually acquitted. No-one shall litigate against anyone. Whoever in the future at any time contravenes (the agreement) shall place 10 minas of silver in the lap of Ninurta who dwells in Kalhu. He shall plead in their invalid lawsuit but not succeed.

[19] Witnesses: Nabu-naṣir. Nabidad(?). Ṣil-Bel-tilli [….]. Ṭab-šar-[…]. Mannu-ki-ahhe. In all 4 wi[tnesses] from Burqu village. [23] [….]. Hari-ilu. In all 2 witnesses [(from … village)].

Witness: Še'u.

[25] Month of Ayyaru (II), 18t[h] day, eponymate of Mar-larime.

Notes

3: restored after l. 12; note that the scribe does not specify "silver".

4. Given the Personenkeil this line must have given the first of the seven names, perhaps, in view of the space, with a profession.

6: In the light of the MAN, which can hardly stand for anything other than *šarru*, *tab-ri* in the first half of the name should perhaps be Akkadian, despite the West Semitic etymology suggested by Zadok for Tabri-ammi at Til-Barsip (PNA 3/ii.1301).

9-10: TA* IGI (= *issu pān*(*ī*)) regularly precedes the name of a person (or persons) handing over an item in exchange for its purchase price (e.g. No. 1:9; and CTN 6 Nos. 61:6; 62:7; 63:5; 64:6; etc.). It is then followed by the item conveyed and by a form of *laqā'u* "he/they received".

11-12: it rather looks as though the scribe forgot the 10 shekels and had to add them after the silver in the next line.

12: there would appear to be a single sign before *-u-ni*, hence probably a logogram. The only way to find the verb *laqā'u* here would be to assume the sign transliterated as ŠUB is mis-copied for TI, but given the *ru* in the following line and the experienced copyist, this seems improbable. Moreover, there is no object for such a verb in ll. 9-12, and noting that this is the record of a lawsuit, not a purchase conveyance, one must assume that the intended verb is not *laqā'u*. The verb is presumably 3rd plural ventive, and in the translation the words (these men) *have concluded* are meant to suggest a meaning consistent with the outcome of a judgement between two parties, but without any certainty as to which verb the scribe intended. ŠUB is of course the logogram for *nadû*. This verb is more Babylonian than colloquial Assyrian, but it might give the meaning "drop, abandon" (a claim), although it is not to my knowledge attested elsewhere in Assyrian legal documents.

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13: For this standard phrase in "receipts", confirming the relinquishing of any mutual claims, see Postgate 1976: 57 §4.3 b).
16-17: *išakkan* is expected here, often written GAR-*an*, but the copy suggests *-ma*, and either the modern or more likely the ancient scribe seems to have placed these signs at the end of l. 16 instead of l. 17.
20: Ṣil-Bel-tilli is presumably the same person found here in other transactions, so it is a little surprising to find him apparently among the residents of Burqu; or reformulated, it seems likely that Burqu, not otherwise attested, is close to Imgur-Enlil [the village or town of ^{uru}*bu-ru-qi* (CTN 2 No. 64:6) is said to be in the province of Halahhu, further north where Dur-Šarrukin was later to be built].
24: presumably the home village (possibly Husanu) of these two witnesses was written onto the now broken right side of the tablet.

Commentary

It appears that the seven men in ll. 5-8 have paid 40 shekels of silver (by the light mina) to Nasi and Kabri in ll. 9-10. Since l. 1 states that the document relates to an orchard in the village of Husanu (see on No. 8:6), the sum of silver presumably is some kind of compensation as determined by the legal authority. L. 5 mentions Nani, also encountered in No. 8 as one of four owners leasing their fields in the village of Husanu to a man whose name is unfortunately illegible. We would expect Nos. 4, 5, tablets recording Nani's purchase of slaves, to have been in his custody, and here it seems probable that he and his six fellows have secured rights to the orchard, and it is therefore understandable that this tablet was found with the others naming him, whether or not the other six also had copies.

The tablet may not have been sealed, but was not seen by me in 2021.

No. 11 Record of settlement
BT 30 = IM 59925 Plate V (JNP)
Found with No. 2 4.6 x (9.2) x 2.4
1.ix.657

Obv. 1 NA_4.KI[ŠIB x] ⌜x (x) x x⌝
2 not deciphered
3 not deciphered
4 3 a šá ⌜x x⌝ [x]x -šú-nu
5 ⌜x x x x⌝ PAB 2 ŠU.2
(space for seal impression)
6 [^{1}]man-[nu–]ki–⌜x x x⌝-ni$^{?}$
7 15 UDU.MEŠ HA.LA ⌜x (x) x⌝
8 ^{1}ka-ku-su 15 UDU.MEŠ 1 GUD
9 HA$^{?}$.LA$^{?}$ ^{1} x x x
10 [^{1} x (x)]-ZU 15 UDU.MEŠ 1 GUD
11 [^{1}HA]R-na-mu-u
12 [šu]m$^{?}$-ma la i-šá-ka-nu$^{?}$
13 HA.LA ú-ta-ra x
14 šùl-mu i-bir-tú-šú-nu
15 man-nu šá ib-bal-[kat-u-ni]
Rev. (a few lines broken away)
1' ⌜IGI ^{1} x x⌝[x x (x)]
2' IGI ^{1}na-ni-i
3' IGI $^{1.d}$PA–Z[U]
4' IGI ^{1}ṣil–MAN ⌜ x x ⌝
5' IGI ^{1}ṣil–EN–tìl-li

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6’ IGI [1]sa-a-lu
7’ IGI [1]še-’i–aš-šur
8’ ITI.GAN UD.1.KAM
9’ lim-me [1]la-ba-si
10’ [I]GI [1]pa-ra-ku-u-tú

[1] Seal [of ….] [2-3] [….] [4] their [….] [5] [….] Total 2 “hands” (?). (Seal impression).
[6] Mannu-ki-[… ……]. [7]15 sheep, share of …. Kakusu. 15 sheep 1 ox, share(?) ….
[10] [of …]-le’i. 15 sheep, 1 ox [of HA]Rnamu.
[12] [I]f they do not place(?) he(?) will return the share …
[14] Settlement (has been reached) between them, whoever contra[venes ….]
(break)
[r.1’] Witnesses: [PN]. Nani. Nabu-le’i. Ṣil-šarri …. Ṣil-Bel-tilli. Sa’alu. Še’i-Aššur.
[r. 8’] Month of Kislimu (IX), 1st day, eponymate of Labasi.
[r.10’] Witness Parakutu.

Notes

5: the final sign appears to be ŠU.2, but the state of the surface is so poor that the scribe may have intended PAB 2 UDU.MEŠ, which would be easier to reconcile with the remainder of the text.

10: the name Nabu-le’i is found in Nos. 5 and 9, and as one of witnesses here in Rev. 3’.

11: this name is restored after No. 5:2 where HARnamu is one of three men selling a woman.

12: this reading is doubtful, since the Assyrian form should be *išakkunū*. Moreover if the verb is indeed *šakānu* without an object the precise meaning is unclear.

13: *utarra* “He shall return” would make good sense but I have no plausible suggestion for the final sign; one possibility might be *-šun* “to them”, but the traces as copied hardly support this.

Rev. 4’: Ṣil-šarri is well attested as a complete name (and is found here in No. 10:7), so the remainder of this line may have been some kind of professional title.

Commentary

This text is unique, but the surface is badly eroded and consequently convincing restorations are often impossible. It is a formalized (being sealed) record of agreement about some division of domesticated livestock. In ll. 7-11 there appear to be three shares assigned to different individuals, each share comprising 15 sheep and twice also one ox. Whether Mannu-ki-… in l. 6 was also in receipt of a share is unclear because of the damage, and the damaged lines at the beginning of the text will also have identified the other party to the transaction, who must have been the subject of *utarra* in l. 13. It is noticeable that all the witnesses whose names we can read on the Reverse feature in other texts in the archive, some several times.

No. 12 Silver loan
BT 26 = IM 59921 Plate V (JNP)
Found with No. 2 3.8 x 2.9 x 1.9
Inner tablet 5.x.665

Obv. 1 1/2 MA.NA KÙ.BABBAR
2 [ša [1]k]i-su-u
3 ina IG[I [1] x x]x–su-un-qi
4 ina pu-u-hi i-ti-ši
5 a-na 3-si-šú GAL-bi
6 ITI.AB UD.5.KAM
B.E. 7 lim-mu [1]man-nu–ki–MAN

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8 [IGI] $^{1.d}$PA–PAB-ir$^{!}$
Rev. 9 [IGI] $^{1.d}$PA–KAR-ir$^{!}$
10 I[GI] ^{1}ʿmanʾ-nu-ki–^{d}IM
11 IGI ^{1}ṣil–EN–ʿtilʾ
12 IGI ^{1}da-pi-na-ni
13 [IG]I ^{1}na-ni-i

[1] Half a mina of silver, [belonging to K]isû, at the disposal of [. . .]-sunqi. [4] He took it as a loan. It will increase at one-third.
[6] Month of Kanunu (X), 5th day, eponymate of Mannu-ki-šarri.
[8] [Witnesses]: Nabu-naṣir. Nabu-eṭir. Mannu-ki-Adad. Ṣil-Bel-tilli. Dapinani. Nani.

Notes

3: it seems unlikely that this name involved *sunqu* "famine".

Commentary

This is an entirely straightforward silver loan. The creditor Kis/šu purchases a female slave in No. 4, sells a daughter in No. 8, acts as a witness in No. 9 and takes out a loan of grain in No. 13.

No. 13 Field lease

BT 32 = IM 59927
Found with No. 2

Plate V (ARM)
5.5 x 4.0
19.xii.658

Obv. 1 10[(+x)+]1 ANŠE ŠE.PAD.MEŠ
2 [š]a ^{1}ú-ra-a-si
3 [ina] IGI ^{1}ki-su-u
4 ku-um ru-bé-e
5 ša ŠE.PAD.MEŠ
6 É 1 ANŠE 2BÁN A.ŠÀ.GA
B.E. 7 ina MU.AN.NA KÚ
8 6 MU.AN.NA
9 A.ŠÀ KÚ
Rev. 10 man-nu ša ŠE.PAD.MEŠ
11 i-da-na-nu
12 A.ŠÀ ú-še-ṣa
13 ITI.ŠE UD.19.KÁM
14 lim-mu ^{1}šá–^{d}PA–SU
T.E. 15 IGI (x) ^{1}PAB-u-pu
L.S. 16 IGI ^{1}sa-ʾi-li
17 IGI [^{1}(x)-]x-lu-u
18 IGI ^{1}[x x x]

[1] 10[(+x)] homers of grain, belonging to Urasi, [at] the disposal of Kisû. [4] Instead of interest on the grain he shall enjoy an estate of 1.2 homers of field. He shall enjoy the field for 6 years.
[10] Whoever pays the grain shall redeem the field.
[13] Month of Addaru (XII), 19th day, eponymate of Ša-Nabu-šu(!).
[15] Witnesses: Ahu-upu. Sa'ilu. [. . .]lu. [. . .].

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Notes

1: collation indicates at least 1 vertical wedge before ANŠE.

2: for this name with its variant spellings see on No. 5:3.

11: to put it mildly, an unusual writing of the more normal Neo-Assyrian *iddunū*.

14: this unorthodox writing of the well known eponym Ša-Nabu-šu was already noted in Millard 1994:120 and as listed there is also attested in ND 2337 (*Iraq* 16 Pl. IX). This may be compared to the alternation in these Balawat tablets of the two sibilants in the name Kis/šû (e.g. SU in l. 3 here, and ŠU in No. 4).

15: see No. 5 r. 9' on Ahu-i-pu.

Commentary

The clause in ll. 10-12 makes it clear that we should view this as a commercial venture of Urasi who is securing cultivation rights on a plot of land over a period of 6 years (probably three of them fallow, to judge from similar texts which specify this) by meeting the need of Kisu for a loan. The document does not state what transpires after the lapse of six years: would a debt novation be required to extend the loan of the grain for a further period, or would the debt be written off in recognition of the value secured by Urasi from his six years of cultivation?

No. 14 Silver loan

BT 34= IM 59929 Plate VI (ARM)
(2.8 x 1.2)

Found with No. 2 5.ii.post-can.

Envelope

Obv. 1 NA$_4$.KIŠIB $^{1.d}$15–MU–D[Ù]
2 NA$_4$.KIŠIB ^{1}aš-šur-DÙ[( )]
3 4 GÍN.MEŠ KÙ.BABBAR [(…)]
4 ša ^{1}ú-ar-s[i]
(seal impressions)
B.E. 5 ina I[GI-š]ú-nu ina pu-u-hi it-[ta-ṣu]
6 a-na 4-ut-ti-šú GA[L-bi]
Rev. 7 ITI.[GU]D UD.5.K[ÁM]
8 [lim-mu] ^{1}aš-šur-KUR-[LÁ]
9 IGI ^{1}SUHUŠ–^{d}[PA]
10 IGI $^{1.d}$šá-maš–G[IN–NUMUN]
11 IGI ^{1}rMAŠ$^{1?}$-nu-u-š[u$^{?}$ (…)]
12 IGI ^{1}šùl-mu–[MAN]
13 IGI ^{1}PAB–la-maš-[ši]

Tablet

Obv. 1 4 GÍN.MEŠ KÙ.BABBAR[
2 ša ^{1}ú-ar-[si]
3 ina IG[I] $^{1.d}$15–MU–D[Ù]
4 ina IGI ^{1}aš-šur-DÙ
5 ina pu-u-hi it-t[i-ši]
6 a-na 4-ut-ti-šú GAL-[bi]
7 ITI.GUD UD.5$^{!}$.KÁM
8 lim-mu ^{1}aš-šur–KUR–LÁ
9 IGI ^{1}SUHUŠ–^{d}[PA]
10 IGI $^{1.d}$šá-maš–GIN–NUMUN$^{?}$

Translation of envelope

^{1}Seal of Ištar-šum-ibni, seal of Aššur-bani.

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[3] 4 shekels of silver, belonging to Uarsi (….). At their disposal. They [have] taken it on loan. It will increase at 25%.

[7] Month of Ayyaru (II), 5th day. [Eponymate] of Aššur-matu-[taqqin.]

[9] Witnesses: Ubru-[Nabu]. Šamaš-[mukin-zeri]. …nu… Šulmu-[šarri]. Ahu-lamaš[ši].

Notes

E.1: this name is also on the tablet, l. 3. It is tempting to wonder if the sign after MU, better preserved on the tablet, is the beginning of a *q*[*i*- rather than a DÙ to give the same name as in No. 15, but I did not see this tablet and was unable to collate the signs in question. Provisionally it is preferable to accept the evidence of the copy of l. 3 of the tablet.

E.2: it is uncertain whether this name, also a borrower in No. 15, should be read as Aššur-bani or Aššur-ibni (cf. PNA 1/i. 158 and 187).

E.5: *it*[*taṣū*] is restored here in view of the two borrowers, although on the tablet the scribe has used the singular form *ittiši*.

E.7: on the tablet the date is copied as 2. Collation is needed.

E.9: this name is restored after Ubru-Nabu, who acts as a witness in No. 15.

E. 11-13: these three witnesses are additional to the two listed on the inner tablet, who are listed first here in ll. 9-10.

E12: no doubt to be restored as Šulmu-[šarri] who is listed as a witness after Ahu-lamašši in No. 15:13.

Commentary

A simple silver loan to two borrowers, with 25% (annual) interest and no repayment conditions specified.

This document and the grain loan No. 15 are from the post-canonical eponymate of Aššur-matu-taqqin (in the reign of Sin-šarru-iškun, assigned to 626 by Reade and 623 by Parpola). Uarsi, the creditor here, is already making a grain loan to Kisu in No. 13, in 658 BC, so at least 30 years before Nos. 14-15, as well as purchasing a slave girl in No. 5 (the date of which is lost).

No. 15 Grain loan docket

BT 36 = IM 59931 Plate VI (JNP)
3.9 x 5.6 x 2.2
5.ii.PC

Found with No. 2
Triangular docket

Obv. (uninscribed space)
1 30 A[NŠE ( ) ŠE.]PAD.ME[Š] SAG.DU
2 ša [1][ú]-ar-si
3 ina IGI [1.d]15–mu-qi-ia
4 ina IGI [1]aš-šur–DÙ
5 i[na p]u-u-hi it-ta-ṣ[u]
6 a-na 4-ˈúˀ-ti-šá
7 tar-bi
Rev. 8 ITI.GUD
9 UD.5.KÁM
10 lim-mu [1]aš-šur–KUR–LÁ
11 IGI [1.d]šá-maš–ra-mu
12 IGI [1]SUHUŠ–[d]PA
13 IGI [1]PAB–la-maš-ši
14 IGI [1]šùl-mu–MAN

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15 IGI [1]ni-nu-u–ú-ri
16 [IG]I [1]ab-da-li-mu

[1] 30 homers of grain, capital, belonging to [U]arsi, [3] at the disposal of Ištar-muqiya, at the disposal of Aššur-bani. [5] They have taken (it) as a loan. It will increase at 25%.
[8] Month of Ayyaru (II), 5th day, eponymate of Aššur-matu-taqqin.
[11] Witnesses: Šamaš-ramu. Ubru-Nabu. Ahu-lamašši. Šulmu-šarri. Ninu-uri. Abda-limu.

Notes

2: as in No. 14 the creditor here is Uarsi, in whose possession we would expect the document to have been kept.
4: for this name see on No. 14 E.2.

Commentary

This grain loan has the creditor, at least one borrower, and the date the same as No. 14. Moreover Ahu-lamašši, and probably Šulmu-šarri and Ubru-Nabu act as witnesses to that transaction also.

No. 16 List of bronze and sheep
BT 20 = IM 59918 Plate VI (ARM)
9.2 x 6.2
Trench 2, 2.1 m below surface not dated

Obv. 1 [š]a? [1]si-'i-i-lu
2 [G]A [1]⌜x x⌝

3 [x MA.N]A UD.⌜KA.BAR⌝ [( )[
4 ⌜x⌝ [x (x)] EME x[x (x x)]
5 3 MA.NA [1][ ]
6 1? MA.NA [1]⌜KAM?⌝-[d][x]
7 1 MA.NA [1]de-nu–⌜(x)- x⌝
8 1 MA.NA [1.d] PA-PAB-AŠ
9 3 MA.NA 1/2 MA.NA [1]DINGIR?–rém-[ni?]
10 2 MA.NA 3-su [1]PAB–DU
11 2 MA.NA [1]ma-an-nu–i-šá
12 1 MA.NA [1]NUMUN- ⌜x x⌝
13 4 UDU.U8?.MEŠ [
14 1 MA.NA [1][
15 2 MA.NA 5/6? [1][
BE 16 [1]DINGIR šu l[a?-
Rev. 17 4? MA.NA [1][
18 7 MA.NA [1]⌜x x⌝ [
19 [ ]
20 ša [uru] É?[(x-)]i-[(x)]-pa-ni
21 1 MA.NA [1]x[(x x)] NUN? ⌜x (x) x⌝
22 3 MA.NA [1]bir-[ ]
23 3 ra-bu-'a-a-te [ ]-ia
24 [x x x] [1]ìR–[d]MA[š x (x x)][uru]kal-hi
25 4 MA.NA [[1] x (x)]-lu-pu-x[x x (x x)]šu-ri-na?-a-a
26 2 MA.NA [1]be-let–x[ ]-ti
27 4? MA.NA [1]pa-an-ni [( )]

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28 1 MA.NA 1/2 MA.NA [1]du-ru-[x x (x x)]-ia
29 2 MA.NA [1]DI.KUD–EN-⌜x (x)⌝
30 ½? MA.NA [1]pa-ra-[n]i
31 PAB 2 GÚ.UN 15 MA.NA
32 UD.KA.BAR 4? UDU.MEŠ

TE uninscribed

Notes

1-2: these two lines presumably stated the purpose of the list. All that survives is the name of the person Si'ilu, whose role is now lost in the breaks. He is presumably the individual also named in other texts here as Sa'alu and Sa'ilu.
4: obscure. EME can of course mean the "blade" of a weapon, but this seems out of place.
6: the first half of the KAM sign was seen on collation.
7: the signs after *nu* do not seem to be *-la-mur* (cf. No. 8:24).
9: possibly rather *aš-šur* (as opposed to DINGIR).
10: the wedges of 3 are sloping, as in the copy; the left part of *su* is visible on photo; the vertical of DU was confirmed by collation.
12: the traces after *-šá* in the copy may be merely damage.
13: coll. from photo.
23: this line gives us the Assyrian for three "quarters".
32: the copy shows a clear 2 before UDU, but collation saw the heads of 3 vertical wedges with damage below, and the clear 4 in l. 13 suggests that this is the correct reading here. The apparent Winkelhaken at the end of the line is probably nothing.

Commentary

This tablet lists 9 amounts of bronze associated with personal names (in ll. 5-12), totalling 14 minas and 50 shekels (plus an unknown amount in l. 3). This is followed by 4 ewes (l. 13) and a further 13 (+3?) amounts with personal names in ll. 14-30, totalling 33 minas 35 shekels (+x), adding up to 48 minas 25 shekels (+ x), save for the unknown quantities in the damaged lines (ll. 3-4 at the top of the list and ll. 16, 19 and 24). Using the "light" talent of 30 minas (cf. Postgate 1976:64-5) the total weight in l. 31 would have amounted to (2x30)=60+15 = 75 minas, leaving 26 minas 35 shekels unaccounted for. Even this seems an unexpectedly but not inconceivably large amount to retrieve from the damaged lines. Thanks to the damaged heading, we have no way of knowing whether the persons listed were receiving, delivering, owing or promising to deliver the bronze and the sheep.

No. 17 List of leather and wooden items
BT 21 = IM 59917 Plate VII (JNP)
Found with No. 16 4.6 x (7.8) x 2.2
no date preserved

Obv. (upper part broken)

1'	[ ] x[ ]	
2'	[x x] x pa ⌜x x ⌝	
3'	[x x]⌜x x x ⌝ -a-te	
4'	[x x] " KUŠ ka-sa-[(a-)te]	[...] ditto, leather bindings
5'	1 KUŠ maš-li-ú	1 leather bucket
6'	2 KUŠ duh-ši-e	2 leather items
7'	2 GIŠ ku-ta-h[a]-te	2 lances
8'	GIŠ.BAN KUŠ a-za[!]-[nu]	(a) bow (and) quiver
9'	8 GIŠ.KAK.TI.MEŠ	8 arrows
10'	1 šu-ši 4 KUŠ lu-pi?[()]	64 leather bags

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	11’	1 ku-tùm SÍG?	1 wool (?) wrap(?)
	12’	2 GIŠ.GU.ZA.MEŠ	2 chairs
	13’	ša hu-li	(for) the road
B.E.	14’	[P]AB ša? ⌜x⌝ mu [(1.)] dMAŠ? [(x)]	Total of ⌜.... Ninurta-[...]
		(remainder of B.E. broken)	
Rev.	1’-2’	(broken)	
	3’	ša [1] ta-x[(x) x]	
	4’	1lu-TI-x[(x x)]x	
	5’	1 GIŠ ku-ma-[	
	6’	1 ⌜x x x⌝ [	
	7’	2? ⌜x x⌝ KUR [ ]	
	8’	KAM? ⌜(x) x⌝ [ ]	
	9’	x x pi 1 x[ ]	
	10’	2 TÚG na-⌜x (x)⌝-a-tú x[ ]	
	11’	IGI 1⌜x x x x⌝	
		(2 possible nail mark(s)	
	12’	(erased line)	

Notes

Obv. 4’: hardly related to *kāsu* “cup”; the best guess seems to be *kāsâtu* from *kasû* “to bind”, a word attested as equivalent to níg.lá (see AHw 454a citing CT 17 33:2).

5’: CAD M/i.380 s.v. mašlû A, this instance tending to confirm the Tell Halaf reading kuš*maš-lì-e*.

6’: the exact nature of *duhšiu* leather remains uncertain; for Middle Assyrian instances see Postgate 2013: 166.

7’: *kutāhu* “lance” (CAD K.603a; SAA 7 No. 89:11), but perhaps rather “javelin” if kept in a container (É).

9’: for GIŠ.KAK.TI = *ū(ṣ)ṣu* see CAD U/W.289b.

10’: for *luppu* “leather bag” see CAD L.252, no Neo-Assyrian occurrences listed there.

11’: for *kutummu* “mat” or similar, see CAD K.612b: no Neo-Assyrian instances listed there, but the Old Babylonian *kutum buqūmim* offers a construct form *kutum* and *buqūmum* (“shearing”), so could suggest reading the final sign SÍG, although the traces after the apparent KU sign are sparse and minimal, so perhaps TÚG “textile” is safer.

14’: conceivably PAB *ša lim-mu* “Total of the eponymate ....”, but the second sign does not seem to have the sloping wedges present in *ša* in Rev. 2’, and one might rather expect a line similar to Rev. 11’.

Rev.: this face is not severely damaged, but hard to read; a further collation might yield results.

Rev. 4’: cf. names with TI = *balāṭu* (PNA 2/ii.665-6) or beginning Lute[or Luti[(PNA 2/ii.672).

Rev. 10’: the traces do not favour a form of *nah(l)aptu* or of *naṣbalutu*.

Commentary

It is possible that Rev. 11’ should be understood to summarize the items on the Reverse as “at the disposal of”, i.e. “owed by” the PN in this line, but the breaks at the lower edge make it impossible to be sure if a similar note was written recording someone else’s obligation in respect of the longer list on the Obverse, which looks like a package of military equipment.

No. 18

BT 39 = IM 59932	Plate VII (JNP)
	6.2 x (8.5) x 2.8
Find spot not recorded.	(probably undated)

The unbroken lower edge of this tablet acts as the base for both faces, so that the tablet needs to be rotated sideways round its vertical axis, not from top to base as is normal. It is uncertain from the

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textual content which face should be read first, but side B is somewhat convex and side A flatter, suggesting that Side A should be considered the Obverse.

A (upper part broken away)

1’	[	M]U$^{?}$.MEŠ
2’	[	]-^{d}⌜X⌝
3’	[1] ^{1}[	1] ^{1}EN-iq-bi
4’	[1] ^{1}man[-nu–SI]G$_5^{?}$	[1] ^{1}10–MAN–DINGIR.MEŠ
5’	1 ^{1}ì.GÁ[L–D]INGIR-a-⌜a⌝	
6’	1 ^{1}GIŠ.[X]–DINGIR$^{?}$ [( )]	
7’	1 ^{1}PAB–tab-[š]i	1 [^{1}]a[k-
8’	1 ^{1}pu-d[i$^{?}$ -M]EŠ$^{?}$	1 [^{1}]ub-r[u
9’	1 ^{1}qur-di–DINGIR	1 ^{1}le-še-ru
10’	1 ^{1}la-ga-za	1 ^{1}gab–DINGIR.MEŠ-ni
11’	1 ^{1}IR–[DINGIR].MEŠ-ni	1 ^{1}DINGIR$^{?}$–i-si-a
12’	2 ^{1}ma-lu-ú	1 ^{1}áš$^{?}$-ti-na$^{?}$-ni
13’	PAB 24 DUMU.MEŠ URU [( )]	

B (upper part broken away)

1’	1 ⌜x x⌝ [	
2’	1 [	
3’	1 [	
4’	PAB 13 [	
5’	3	$^{1.d}$UTU–ri-ba
6’	2	$^{1.d}$UTU–[DU]MU.ÚS–PAB
7’	2	^{1}PAB–[l]a-mur
8’	2	$^{1.d}$UTU–rém-ni
9’	2	^{1}[10]-DÙ

Notes

A.4’: this name perhaps already registered in PNA 2/ii/, 679 under Mannu-de’iq.

A.5’: the photo suggests that the first syllabic sign is NI rather than IR, enabling the reading ì.GÁ[L–D]INGIR-*a-a* (PNA 2/i.499).

A.7’: if correctly restored this is for Ahu-(it)tabši, a name attested in Neo-Babylonian texts.

A.8’: the DI looks much clearer in the photo (though it could also be K[I], and the M]EŠ does have at least three rather short and sloping wedges intersecting its horizontal. Unfortunately, this does not suggest a convincing name, not even an Egyptian one to which an initial *pu-t[i-* might have belonged.

A.9’ for Lešeru see PNA 2/ii.659-60. Unclear if this is a singular or plural verb (cf. the plural verbs such as Lipūšū (not Libūšū, from *puāšu*, cf. CAD P.473-4), Lidbubū etc.).

A.10’: for Gabbu-ilani see PNA 1/ii.414.

A.12’: or *-ti-šu'-ni* at the end.

A.13’: “Total: 24 sons of the town [(x)]” (see note on B.4’ below). Due to damage I was unable to determine if the writing continued round the edge after URU.

B.4’: If the total of 13 refers to men, rather than commodities, it is hard to see how as many as 13 names could have been accommodated on the broken part of face B (since to judge from face A there cannot have been many more than 7 or 8 lines including ll. 1-3’. This suggests that the 13 does in fact refer to commodities, and this leads one to wonder if we should understand A.13’ as meaning “Total 24 (items) from/for the sons of the town”.

B.9’: there is no writing below this line, and one is forced to conclude that the scribe did not complete the document.

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Commentary

Parts of at least 20 names survive on face A, suggesting that only four are missing in the lost lines at the top: they are described either as "sons of the city" (or perhaps rather "town" or "village") or of a toponym whose name is lost at the end of the line. Neither on this face nor on face B do we learn what items were being counted.

Balawat 1957

Tablets from the Mamu temple

In *Iraq* 25 (1963) Barbara Parker published copies and editions of 29 cuneiform tablets excavated at Balawat in the 1957 season under the direction of M.E.L. Mallowan. These were the best preserved of a total of 40 tablets found east of the cella of the temple of Mamu, on the floor of Room 8 (except for BT 104 from Room 7, which is much later than the others); for a single tablet found in 1956 in Room 4 see No. 1 above. For the location of Rooms 4 and 8 see Curtis & Tallis 2008:150 with Fig. 49, and Oates 1974:174 with Pl. XXV. Some "marginalia" to these texts were offered in Deller 1965.

Below, as text Nos. 19-22, four more of the Mamu Temple tablets which I saw in 2021 are published (BT 110, 111, 120 and 121). They are not in good condition, and indeed were dismissed by Parker as "too badly preserved to give a useful text", but in fact each has points of interest. The remaining unpublished 1957 tablets were not seen in 2021, but are listed in Table 2.

The majority belong in a span of 20 years from 697 to 678, with just three widely spaced forerunners from the 8th century, two later Room 8 tablets from 666 and 657, and BT 104 from Room 7, from the eponymate of Nabu-šarru-uṣur, Palace Scribe, which is assigned variously to 629 by Parpola but 624 by Reade. These documents are therefore collectively rather earlier than the 1956 tablets found outside the temple, and on the whole the two groups have different dramatis personae. A few of the names in the 1956 group do turn up in 1957 texts, both in those in *Iraq* 25 and the four published here, and in the list below and in the index these instances are listed, in italics. None of the names are specially unusual, and in several cases there is a gap of some 4 decades or more between the temple and the street groups (Ahu-lamašši; Dade; Kaššudu – 66 years!; Nergal-ahu-uṣur). Solely Nabu-naṣir (668 and 665 in the street and 682 in the temple) and Tabalaya (668 street and 693/688 temple) look plausible candidates for identity.

	1956	**1957**
Ahu-lamašši 14.E.13 w; 15:13 w; *107:22*	PC 626/3	*666*
Dade, Dadi *1:27 w;* 6:26 w; *BT 100 r.3*	PC 647	*693, 689*
Kaššudu 9:3 debtor; *BT 106:1*	668	*734*
Mannu-iqbi 6:1, 5, 13 seller; *BT 138:11*	PC 647	*679*
Nabu-ahu-iddin(a) 16:8; *BT 117:8*	n.d.	*686*
Nabu-naṣir 4:31 w; 10:19 w; 12:8 w; *116:11*	668, 668, 665	*682*
Nergal-ahu-uṣur *1:26 w;* 8:30 w	PC 645/2	*693*
Tabalaya 3:2, 14, 21 seller and buyer; *21:6 debtor*	668	*693/688*

Nos. 19-22 Additional texts from the Mamu Temple.

No. 19

BT 111	Plate VIII (JNP)
IM 73522	3.5 x 2.3 x 1.7
Mamu Temple, Room 8	[n.]ix.684

Inner tablet, clay from envelope adhering in places

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Obv. 1 1 MA.NA KÙ.ᶠBABBARᶤ?
2 [1]pu-u-lu(- x)
3 TA* IGI [1]si-bi-na
4 ina pu-u-hi i-t[i-ši]
B.E. 5 2 GÍN ša IT[I]
6 GAL-bi
Rev. 7 ITI.GAN UD.[x(.KAM)]
8 lim-mu [1]man-za-ᶠni-eᶤ
9 IGI ᶠx x x (x)ᶤ
10 IGI [1][x x x].MEŠ-te

[1] One mina of silver(?), Pulu has taken as a loan from Sibina. It will increase by two shekels per month. [6] Month of Kislimu (IX), [n]th day, eponymate of Manza(r)ne.
[9] Witnesses: [….]. […]ate

Notes

1: the final sign is damaged; it does not look like UD, and a reading GI (i.e. "gold") cannot be entirely ruled out.
2: there does appear to be a sign after *lu* although Pulu would seem to be sufficient alone.

Commentary

If this laconic debt note concerned a whole mina of gold, rather than silver, it would no doubt belong within the administrative circle of the temple rather than being a normal commercial transaction, and this could account for its minimalist formulation.

No. 20 Silver loan
BT 110 Plate VIII (JNP)
IM 73521 3.5 x 2.2 x 1.5
Mamu Temple, Room 8 2.xi.682

Inner tablet (with clay from envelope adhering in places).

Obv. 1 [ ]ᶠx x ᶤ.[M]EŠ
2 [ ]x x
3 [ ]x (x)
4 [ina pu(-u)-hi i-]ti-[ši]
5 [2? GÍN KÙ.]BABBAR šá IT[I]
6 [i-ra]b-bi
B.E. 7 ITI.ZÍZ UD.2.KÁM
8 lim-mu [1.d]PA–MAN–PAB
9 ša [uru]mar-qa-si
Rev. 10 IGI [1]ba-ri-ku
11 IGI [1]DINGIR–na-at-bi [()]
12 [IG]I [1]ki-qi-la-nu
13 IGI [1.d]PA–mu-ra-bi

Envelope (a small fragment showing at least two stamp seal impressions and below them parts of two lines restoring ll. 4-5 of the tablet.)

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1’ [ina pu-(u-)h]i i-ti-ši
2’ [1+]1 GÍN KÙ.[BABBAR]

Tablet: [Lines 1-3 lost [4] has ta]ken [on loan. [5] It will] accrue at [2 shekels of sil]ver per month.
[7] Month of Šabaṭu (XI), 2nd day, eponymate of Nabu-šarru-uṣur (governor) of Marqasi (682 BC).
[10] Witnesses: Bariku. Ilu-natbi. Kiqilanu. Nabu-murabbi.

Notes

1: this line presumably gave the amount of silver loaned, but it is not clear to what logogram the final plural MEŠ was attached.
2: this line presumably gave the name of the creditor.
3: this line presumably gave the name of the borrower.
8: this eponym also in BT 104; 108; and 128.
10: Bariku was also a witness in BT 128.
11: this PN not apparently attested elsewhere. Perhaps *natbi* = inchoative N stem stative from *tebû* “has arisen”.
12: Kiqilanu was also a witness in BT 115.

Commentary

A simple silver loan, the details of the item borrowed and both principals now lost.

No. 21 Copper loan

BT 122 Plate VIII (JNP)
IM 73533 (4.1) x 2.7 x 2.4
Mamu Temple, Room 8 2.i.693

T.E.	1	[(x+)]1 MA.NA URUDU.MEŠ
Obv.	2	SAG.DU SAG.MEŠ
	3	ša ^{d}15 ša ^{uru}[arba-ì]l
	4	$^{1.d}$UTU–ku-mu-u-a
	5	^{1}ha-di$^{!}$-bi
B.E.	6	[^{1}t]a-bal-a-a
	7	[ina p]u-u-hi it-ta-ṣu
Rev.	8	[ina SAG].DU ša ITI$^{?}$ SUM$^{?}$-n[u$^{?}$]
	9	IGI ^{1}na-ra-nu
	10	ṣa-bit IM
	11	[I]TI.BARAG$^{?}$ UD.2
	12	[l]im-mu ^{1}⟨x⟩ AŠ–PAB.MEŠ

[1] 1(+x) mina(s) of copper, capital, first-fruits of Ištar of [Arba]il [4] Šamaš-kumua, Hadibi (and) Tabalaya have taken on loan. [8] They shall pay (back) [at the begin]ning of the month.
[9] Witness Naranu, drafter of the tablet.
[11] Month of Nisanu, 2nd day, eponymate of Iddin-ahhe (693/688).

Notes

2: SAG.MEŠ (Assyrian *rēšāte*) “first-fruits”.
3: capital of Ištar of Arbail is also borrowed in BT 101 (from 710 BC) and BT 113 (697 BC), both early like this loan.
9: Naranu was probably a resident scribe, being attested in BT 100; 107; 116; 117; 119; 125; 127; 136; and 139.
11: There seem to be wedges between the Personenkeil and AŠ (=iddin), but they are unwanted and this name has to be Iddin-ahhe. As in No. 2, since no mention is made of his province it is likely that this is the first Iddin-ahhe, eponym for 693 BC (see Note on No. 1:36-7).

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Commentary

Three borrowers take out a straightforward loan of 1 or possibly 2 minas of copper from the "first fruits", which are capital accumulated in the control or possession of a temple of Ištar of Arbail (but not necessarily **at** Arbail).

No. 22 Witnessed debt-note
BT 121 Plate VIII (JNP)
IM 73532 4.9 x 3.2 x 1.6

Obv.	1	[x MA.NA KÙ.BABBAR ki]-˹i˺ [m]a-˹hi˺-ri
	2	˹ša˺ ANŠE.A.BA.AB.MEŠ
	3	ša sa-hi-pa-a-te
	4	ša NA_4 mu-še-bi-ri
	5	ša $^{1.d}$ma-mú–iq-bi
B.E.	6	ša ^{1}gi-ri-ia
Rev.	7	ina IGI ^{1}ITI.AB-a-a
	8	ina SAG.DU DINGIR GIBIL
	9	ša ITI.DUL KÙ.BABBAR i-dan[-n]a
	10	e$^{?}$-la ina UGU 1 ma-né-e
	11	2 GÍN i-rab-bi
L.S.	12-14	(3 illegible witnesses)

[1] [x minas of silver as the] price equivalent of the camels of the covers(?) of the stone overpass installation, [5] belonging to Mamu-iqbi (and) Girriya, at the disposal of Kanunaya.

[8] At the beginning of the new divine (moon) of the month of Tašritu (VII) he shall pay the silver.

[10] In addition(?) on 1 mina 2 shekels will accrue.

Notes

This unusual and undated text poses problems.

1: this line must presumably have contained a statement of the value of the silver mentioned. The restoration is obviously tentative but fits the traces. For grain prices *a-ki ma-hi-ri* see Deller 1964: 261 (Neo-Assyrian scribes write *ki-i,* but not *a-ki-i*).

2: it seems clear that the scribe has written BA.AB in place of AB.BA!

3: if the word is correctly understood as *sāhipāte* it probably refers to some kind of covering, from *sahāpu* "to envelop", but it is otherwise unknown. (It seems unlikely that it refers to a class of travelling woman). The *pa* was specifically collated to be sure that it has only two horizontals and is not therefore the second part of a HAR sign.

4: an irrigation installation called *mušēbiru* is mentioned in a Susa *kudurru* (CAD M/ii.263). If it was used for transferring something (people, or water?) across a canal it might well have been built in stone although there the determinative NA_4 is not used. Whatever it was, the fact that camels were used to transport its "coverings" suggests that it was large.

5: Mamu-iqbi is one of "the principal characters" of the archive, "active between 692 and 685 B.C." (Parker 1963: 86), and his close association with the temple is presumably reflected in his name. Girriya is not otherwise known.

10-11: *e-la* is unusual in Neo-Assyrian, as is this phrase.

Commentary

Kanunaya has presumably received the camels before paying for them, and is here contracted to provide the purchase price in due course (how far ahead we cannot tell since the tablet is not dated). The lack of a date, the low rate of interest (3.33%), and the small number of witnesses suggest that this was a relatively informal transaction between parties familiar with each other, perhaps both engaged on temple affairs.

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TABLE 2: the 1957 Balawat tablets in chronological order

BT	*IM*	*Text no. here*	*Plate here*	Iraq *25 pp. and Pl.*	*Day.month*	*Year*	*Transaction*
106				91-2 Pl. XX	[n].ix	734	field sale
131				99 Pl. XXV	[n].viii	719	sheep
101				89-90 Pl. XIX	15.xi	710	silver loan
113				93 Pl. XXI	14.xii	697	copper loan
114				93-4 Pl. XXII	2.i	697	silver loan
115				94 Pl. XXIII	-.iv	694	silver loan
122	73533	**21**	VIII		2.i	693(?)	copper loan
125				97-8 Pl. XXV	-.ix	692	conveyance of woman
137				not seen 2021		692	house sale
127				98 Pl. XXVI	1.[n]	692?	silver loan
128				98-9 Pl. XXVI	16.xi	682	silver loan
119				95-6 Pl. XXII	[n].ix	692	silver due
136				99 Pl. XXIV	[n.n]	691/686	land lease
102				90 Pl. XX	-.vii	691	silver loan
126				98 Pl. XXIV	[n].ix	688	conveyance of woman
100				89 Pl. XIX	15.viii	689	copper loan
105				91 Pl. XIX	1.v	687	silver receipt
123				96 Pl. XXII	19.vii	686	pledge of son
124				96-7 Pl. XXII	1.xii	686	silver debt
117				95 Pl. XXII	1.vii	686	king's grain
140				100 Pl. XXVI	-.i	685	copper fine
120				96 Pl. XXIV	-.-	684	silver loan
139				100 Pl. XXV	12.ix	684	silver loan
111	73522	**19**	VIII		[n].ix	684	silver loan
103				90 Pl. XX	5.xi	682	silver loan
116				94 Pl. XXIII	20.ix	682	king's grain
108				92-3 Pl. XXI	30.i	682	silver loan
110	73521	**20**	VIII		2.xi	682	silver loan
138				100	20.viii	679	silver debt
118				95 Pl. XXIII	14.v	678	court ruling
107				92 Pl. XXI	15.xi	666	field lease
109				93 Pl. XXVI	-.-	657	silver receipt
112				93 Pl. XXI	[n.n]	–	field lease
104				90-91	5.i	PC	reaper contract
121	73532	**22**	VIII		-.-	–	debt note
129				not seen 2021		–	list
130				not seen 2021		–	letter?
132				not seen 2021		–	contract
133				not seen 2021		–	contract
134				not seen 2021		–	?
135				not seen 2021		–	slave sale

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Indices

Personal names from the 1956 tablets published here are indexed here, and where the name is also attested in the 1957 tablets these instances are added. Italicized numerals refer to tablets from within the Mamu Temple (i.e. No. 1 from 1956, Nos. 19-22 from 1957, and 1957 tablets published in *Iraq* 25 with their BT number).

Given the large number of names with no obvious Akkadian identity,I have refrained from using circumflexes and macrons since this would be arbitrary. Asterisks (*) indicate eponym names, and w = witness.

Abda-limu 15:16 w
Abda-[…].nu 3:32 w
Abda-[…] 4:36 w
[Adad]-ibni 18.B.9'
Adad-remanni 7:17 w
Adad-šar-ilani 18.A.4'
Adad- … 3:31 w
Aduni 8:14 neighbour
Ahu-iddina *1:30*
Ahu-i-pu 5 r. 9' w; cf. Ahu-u-pu
Ahu-kenu 16:10
Ahu-lamašši 14.E.13 w; 15:13 w; *BT 107:22*
Ahu-lamur 6:27 w; 8:12 neighbour; 18.B.7'
Ahu-tabši 18.A.7'
Ahu-u-pu 13:15 w; cf. Ahu-i-bu
Ak[…] 18.A.7'
Ambu[ru] *1:32*
Armatasu 4:34 w; 5:r.2' w
Aršan[u] 9:6 recipient
Asu … 8:4: seller
Asupura 8:10 neighbour
Aššur-bani 14.E.2, T.4; 15:4 debtor
Aššur-iddin 4:32 w
*Aššur-matu-[taqqin] 14.E.8, T.8; 15:10
Aššur-naṣir 8:20 neighbour
Aššur-šezibanni 5 r.4' w
Aštinani(?) 18.A.12'
Aya[…] 3:35 w
Balasi *1:31 w; BT 102:15; 113:9; 114:13; 120:14; 136:21; 140:17*
Bal[a…] *1:26 w*
Banašu *1:31 w*
Barburu 4:26 w
Bariku *20:10 w; BT 128:4*
Basikisi 8:15 neighbour
Bau-šumu-iddina 9:4 debtor
Ba…qi[?] 8:18 neighbour
Bel–ahu–uṣur 8:31 w
Belet-[…] 16:26
Bel-iqbi 18.A.3'
Birdaku 8:1 seller
Biru[…] 6:25 w
Bir[…] 16:22
Dainsi 4:25 w
Dade, Dadi *1:27 w;* 6:26 w; *BT 100 r.3*
Daian-… 16:29
Dapinani 12:12 w
Dari-šarru 6:28 w
Dauari 6:32 w
Denu–lamur 8:24 w

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Denu-[…] 16:7
Duru[…] 16:28
Dur- … 3:33 w
Ereš 3:37 w
Ereš?-[…] 16:6
e[?] -TI(-)GAL[(-x)] 8:2 seller
Gabbarau 8:17 neighbour
*Gabbaru 7:23
Gabbi-ahhe 8:29 w
Gab(bi)-ilani 18.A.10'
[f]Gallusu 5:4 sold
Ga[…] 6:25 w
Girriya *22:6 creditor*
Hadibi *21:5 debtor*
Hari-ilu 4:23 w; 10:24 w
HARnamu 5:2 seller; 11:11
Harranaya 4:27 w
Ibašši-ilaya 18.A.5'
*Iddin(a)-ahhe *1:36;* 2 r.4; *21:12; BT 126:24*
Ilu-dala *tamkāru 1:25 w; BT 107:26; 120:12; 139:12*
Ilu-issiya 18.A.11'; **BT 115 limmu*
Iluku[…] 10:7 recipient
Ilu-natbi *20:11 w*
Ilu-rem(an)ni ? 16:9
Ilu-tagaba 4:30 w
Iqbihagal[?] 8:22 w
Issar-muqiya 15:3 debtor
Issar-ši *rab kiṣri 1:24 w*
Issi-Marduk-ahu 8:32 w
Ištar-šum-ibni 14.E.1, T.3 debtor
Kabri 10:10 field owner
Kakalate 4:28 w
Kakusu 11:8
[f]Kallat-ša-Ninua slave woman 4:3 sold
Kanunaya *22:7 debtor*
Karubu 2:2 seller
Kaššudu 9:3 debtor; *BT 106:1*
Kenuti *rab hanšē* 8:25 w
Kibaku 6:31 w
Kimama 9:17 w
Kiqilanu *20:12 w; BT 115:14*
Kisu 7:1, 2, 5 seller/father; 9:15 w; 12:2 creditor; 13:3 debtor
Kišu 4:5, 12 buyer
*Labasi 11 r.9'; BT 109:8
Lagaza 18.A.10'
Lešeru 18.A.9'
Lisinu 8:23 w
Lu … 17 r.2'
Malu 18.A.12'
Mamu-iqbi *22:5 creditor; BT 100:8 and several other texts*
Manadamu 2:2 seller
Mani 2 r.6' w
Maniyu 4:22 w
Man[nu-da]'iq[?] 18.A.4'
Mannu-iqbi 6:1, 5, 13 seller ; *BT 138:11*
Mannu-i-ša 16:11
Mannu-ki-Adad 12:10 w
Mannu-ki-ahhe 10:22 w
*Mannu-ki-šarri 12:7
Mannu-ki-[…] 3:38 w; 11:6
*Manzanie *19:8*
*Ma[r-larim 3:42; 4:37; 9:14; 10:26
MAŠ[?]-nu-u-š[u[?] 14.E.11 w
Muna[…] 7:15 w, *tašlišu*
Nabidad(?) 10:19 w
Nabu-ahu-iddin(a) 16:8; *BT 117:8*
Nabu-ban-apli *1:33 w; BT 113:8; 126:20*
*Nabu-da"inanni 8:34
Nabu-eriba 3:31 w; 4:33 w
Nabu-eṭir 12:9 w
Nabu-le'i 5 r. 8' w; 9:2 creditor; 11 r.3' w
Nabu-murabbi *20:13 w*
*Nabu-nadin-ahi. 6:35
Nabu-naṣir 4:31 w; 10:19 w; 12:8 w; *BT 116:11*
Nabu-ra'im-napišti *ša qurbūti 1:23*
*Nabu-šarru-uṣur *20:8 ša [uru]Marqasi*; *BT 104:10; 108:8; 128:10*
Nabu-šumu-iqiša scribe *1.34 w*
Nabu-[…] 4:29 w
Nabu- …-ahhe *1:30 w*
Nani 4:1, 4. 1 seller; 5:1 seller, r.3' w; 8:3 seller, 16 neighbour; 10:5 recipient; 11: r.2' w; 12:13 w
Nanuki. 4:24 w
Naranu *1:28 w; 21:9 ṣābit tuppi; BT 100:11 and 9 other tablets*
Nasi 10:9 field owner
Nergal-ahu-uṣur *1:26 w;* 8:30 w
Ninurta-ibni *1:32 w*
Ninurt(a)-ili 3:3, 15 seller
Ninu-uri 15:15 w
Panni(…) 16:27
Parakutu 11 r.10' w
Parani 16:30
Pa[…] 6:28 w
Pudi … 18.A.8'
Pulu *19:2 debtor*
Qurdi-ili 18.A.9'
Qurdi-[…] *1:6 sold*
Rimut-Bel-Harran 2:5 buyer
Sa'alu 5 r.6 w; 11 r.6' w; Sailu 3:1, 16 seller; 13: 16 w; Si'ilu 16:1

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Sab'a(ya) 3:34 w
Sagab 7:4 husband; 9:15 w
Sibina *19:3 creditor*
Sin-[…] 8:26 w
Siya 4:21 w
Sukkaya 6:30 w
Ṣa[…] 3:32 w
Ṣil–Bel-tal[li] 3:29 w; 4:35 w; Ṣil-Bel-tilli 5 r.5' w; 9:16 w; 10:20 w; 11 r.5' w; 12:11 w
Ṣil-šarri 10:7 recipient; 11:r.4' w
Šamaš-aplu-uṣur 18.B.6'
Šamaš-deni-amur scribe 4:38 w
Šamaš-kumua *21:4 debtor*
Šamaš-mukin-zeri 14.E.10, T.10
Šamaš-ramu 15:11 w
Šamaš-remanni 18.B.8'
Šamaš-riba 18.B.5'
Ša[maš-…] 7:18 w
*Ša-Nabu-šu 13:14
Še'i–aš-šur 3:34 w; 4:32 w, 5 r.7' w; 11 r.7' w
Šepe-Aššur 6:27 w
Še'u 10:25 w
Šulmu-šarri 14.E.12 w; 15:14 w
Šumma-ilu *1:18 buyer; BT 103:2 and 8 more tablets*
Šu[…] 10:5 recipient
Tabalaya 3:2, 14, 21 seller and buyer; *21:6 debtor*
Tabri-šarri 10:6 recipient
Tarhu-ṣabui 2 r.5' w
TAR[…] 3:39 w
Ta[…] 3:40; 17 r.3'
Tikusu *1:29 w*
Ṭab-šar-[…] 10:21 w
Uarsi 14:E.4, T.2 creditor; 15:2 creditor; Urasi 13:2 creditor; Urisi 5:3 seller, 6 buyer
Ubru 18.A.8'
Ubru-Nabu 15:12 w
Ubru-[…] 14.E.9, T.9 w
Urdu-ahhe scribe 6:33 w
Urdu-ilani 18.A.11'
Urdu-Ninurta 16:24
Urdu-[…] 8:18
Zeru[…] 16:12
[…]-a 6:26 w
[…]–ahhe 8:29 w
[…]-amur 8:21 w
[…]bi 8:18 neighbour
[…]danama, slave 2:4 sold
[…]-ibni 3:33 w
[…]ku 3:36 w
[…]-le'i 11:10
[…]liguza 8:11 neighbour
[…]lu 16:25
[…]lupu … 16:25
[…]lu-u 13:17 w
[…]me 6:29 w
[…]…mu 4:33 w
[…]-naṣir 3:30 w
[…]-Ninurta 17:14'
[…]sia *ša*[…] 8:28 w
[…]-sunqi 12:3 debtor
[…]-šallimšunu scribe 2 r.2' w
[…]-šumati 18.A.1'; *19:10(?)*
[…]taqunu 2 r.1' w

Toponyms

Arbail	[6:19]; *21:3*
Bit-[….]ani	16:20
Burqa(yu)	10:23
Kalhu	3:26; 10:17; 16:24
Husanu	8:6; 10:2
^{kur}Ku[….]	*1:37*
Marqasi	*20:9*

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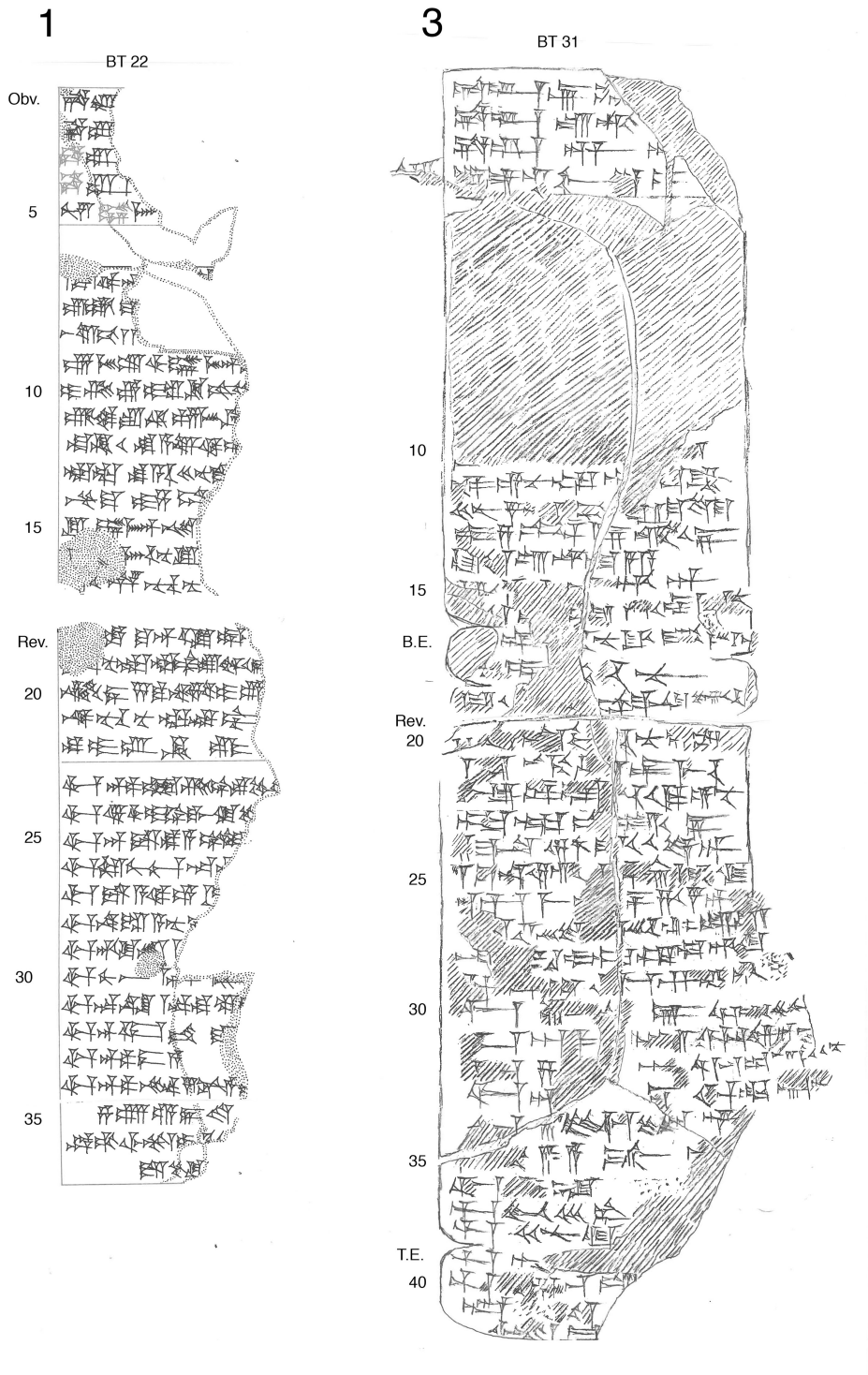
المزيد من الواح بلوات

ج. نيكولاس بوستغيت

في بلاوات عام 1956، قام م.ي. ل. مالوان بالتنقيبِ في مجموعةٍ صغيرةٍ مُكوّنةٍ من 18 وثيقةٍ آشورية جديدة بالقرب من معبد مامو. وتمّ نشرها الآن هنا في نسخ بواسطة أي. آر. ميلارد و ج. ن. بوستغيت بالإضافة إلى أربعة ألواحٍ من أعماله اللاحِقة في الموقع عام 1957 والتي لم يتمّ تضمينها في طبعة باربرا باركر لغالبيةِ النصوص من ذلك الموسم. وتُعتبرُ جميعها وثائقَ نفعيةً آشورية جديدة من القرن السابع قبل الميلاد وهي في الأساس معظمها قانونية، ولكن في حالاتٍ قليلة إدارية. لاحظ باركر (1963: 89) أنّ ألواحَ عام 1956 تُشكلُ مجموعةً متميزةً تماماً عن المجموعة الحالية (أي مجموعة 1957) والواقِع أنّ هناك القليل من التداخل فيما يتعلّقُ بالمحتوى والتخطيط بين المجموعتين. وتُظهِرُ بعض الألواح التي يعودُ تأريخها إلى عام 1956 أنّ الأفرادَ الذين كانتْ وثائقهم الخاصة محفوظةً في المدينة كانوا مُنخرطين في أنشطةٍ زراعيةٍ وبستنة في القرى المجاورة على الأرجح، ولكنها تشملُ أيضاً بعضَ وسائل النقل الملكية غير الرسمية إلى حد ما لِلذكورِ والأناث.

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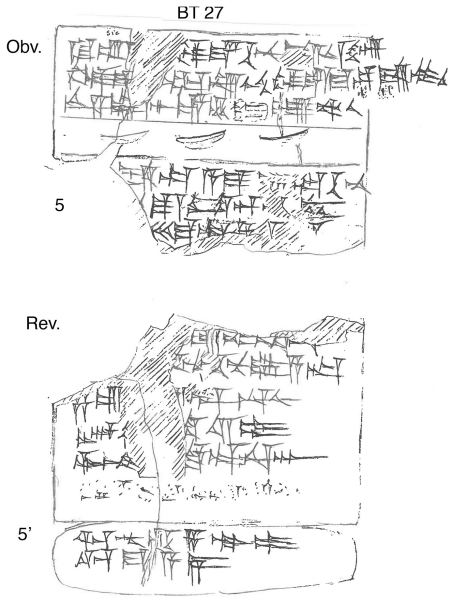
Plate I



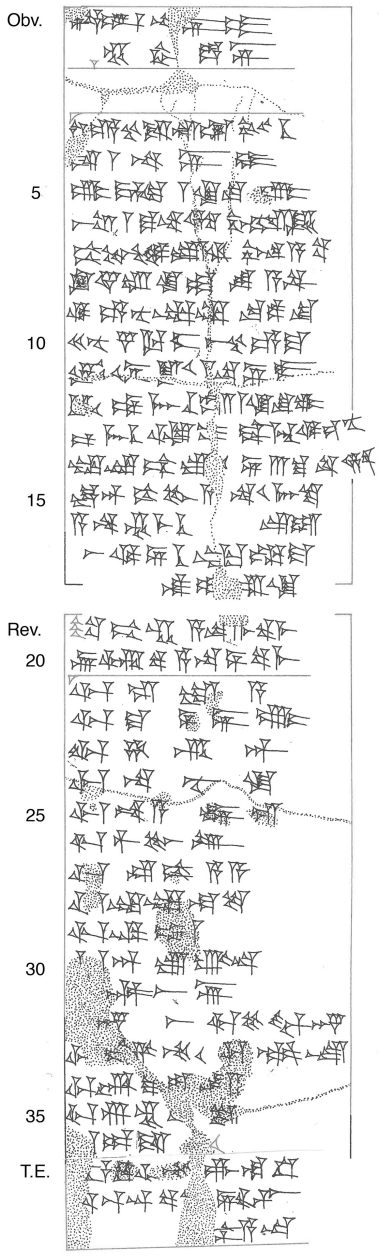
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Plate II

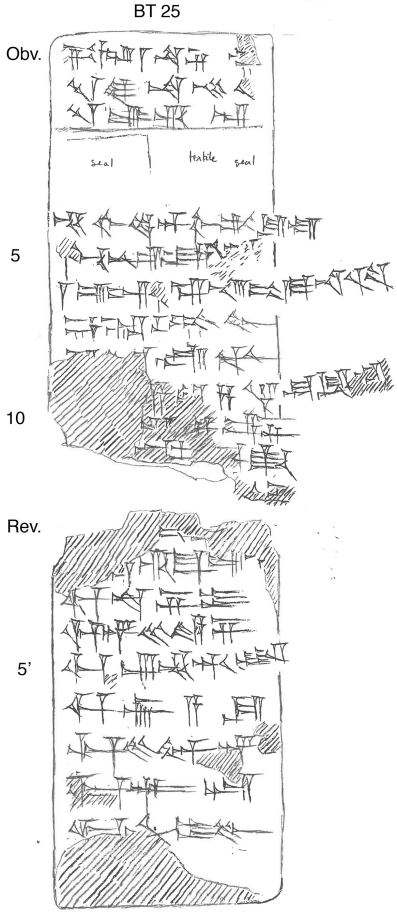
2 BT 27



4 BT 23



5 BT 25

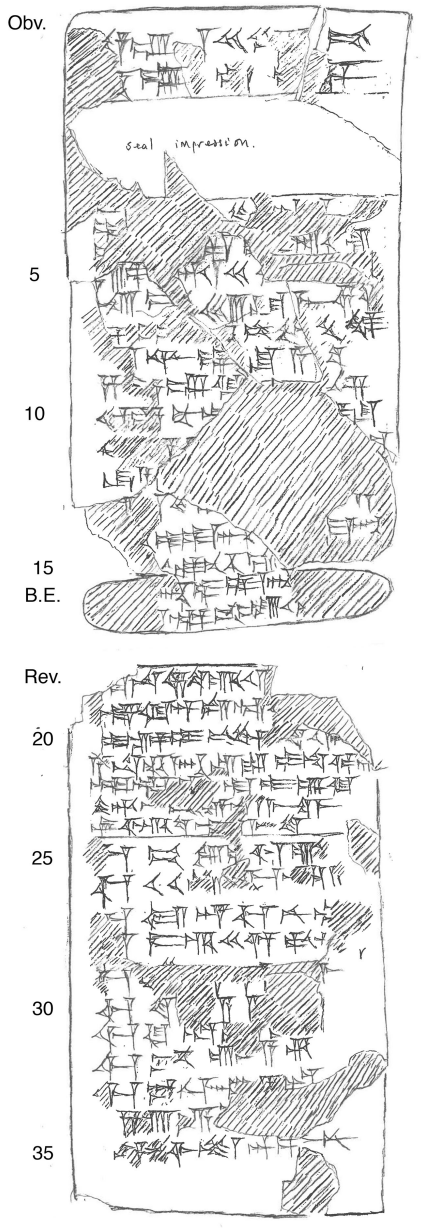


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Plate III

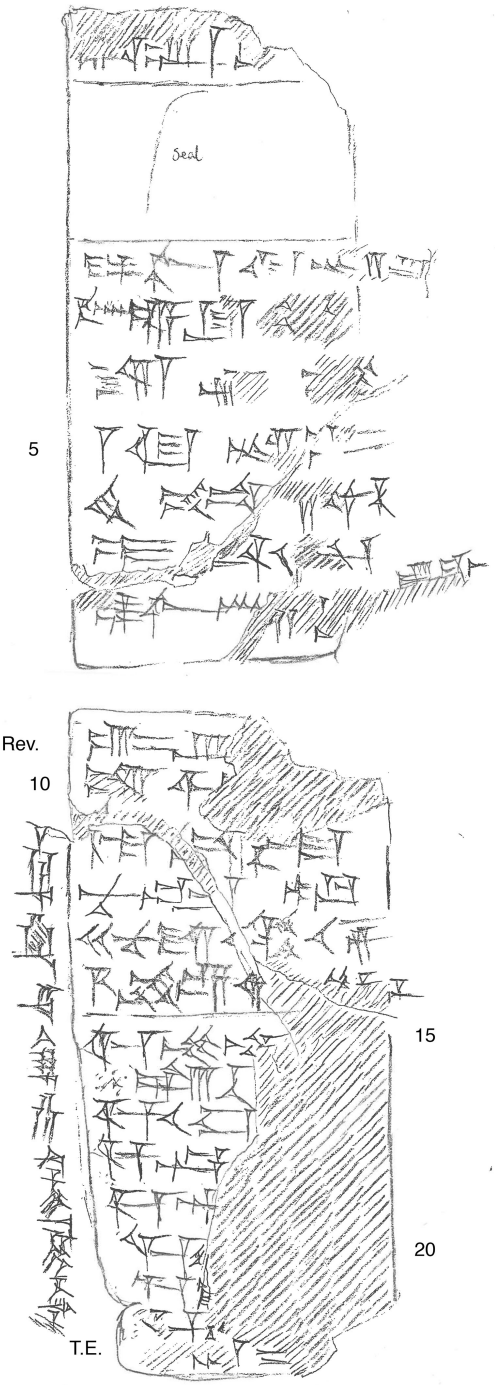
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BT 28



7

BT 29

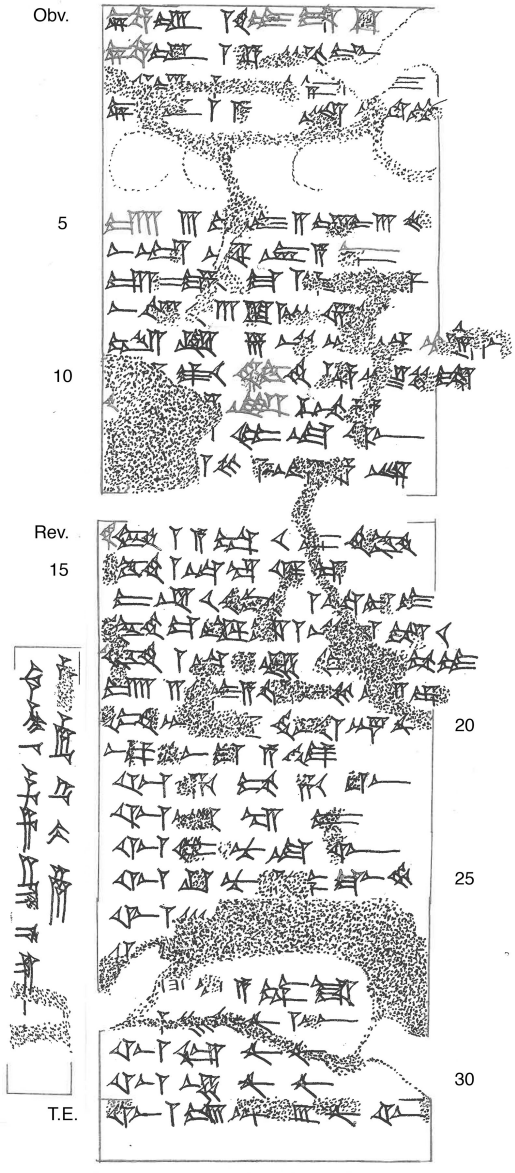


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Plate IV

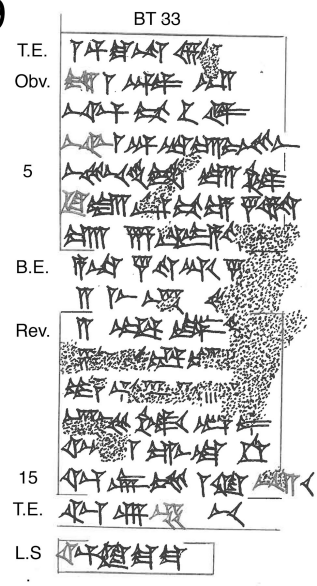
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BT 24



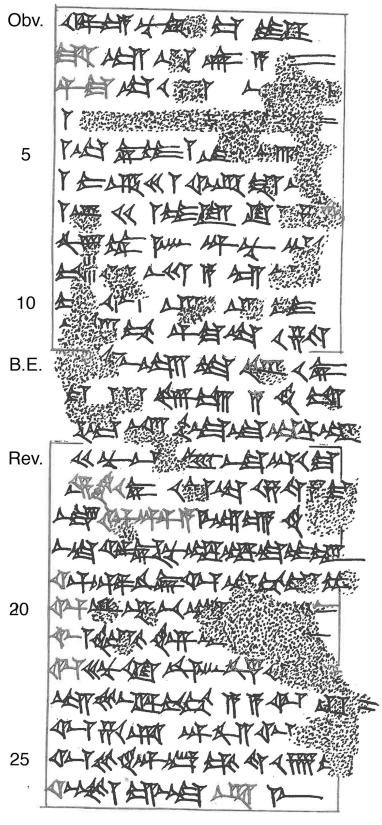
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BT 33



10

BT 35

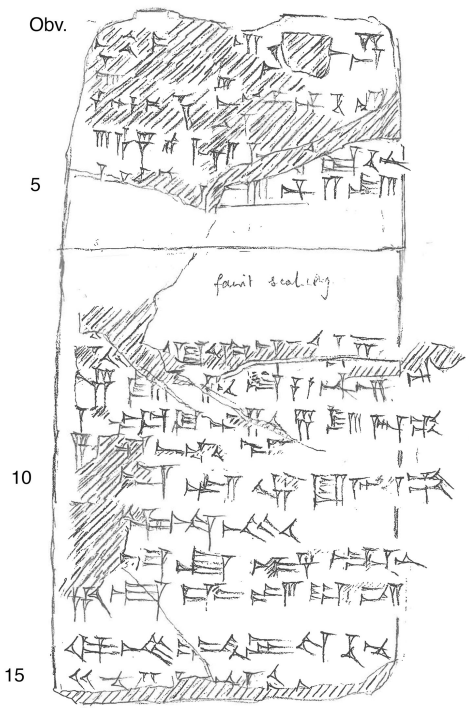


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Plate V

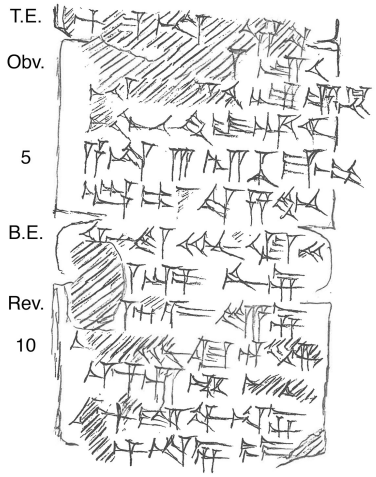
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BT 30



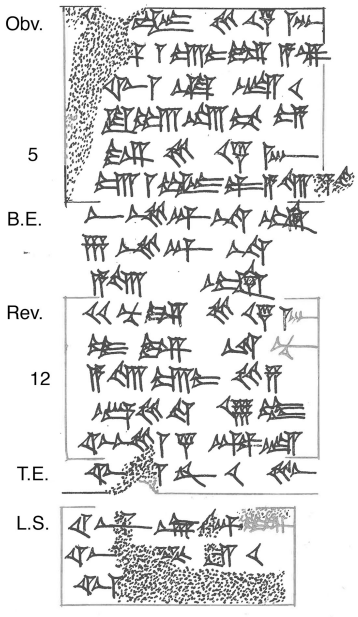
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BT 26



13

BT 32

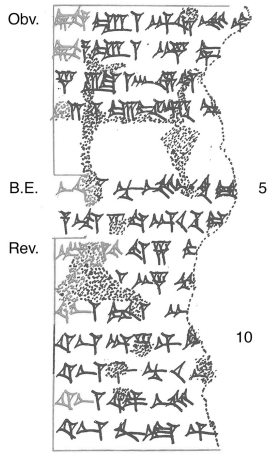


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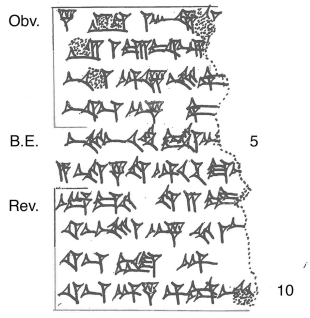
Plate VI

14 BT 34

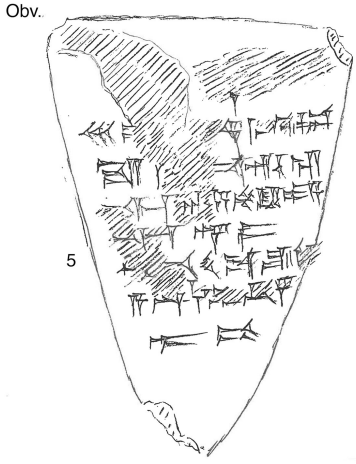
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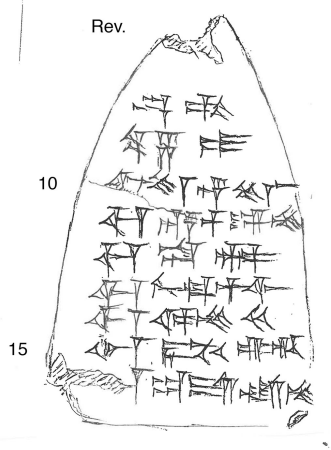


Tablet

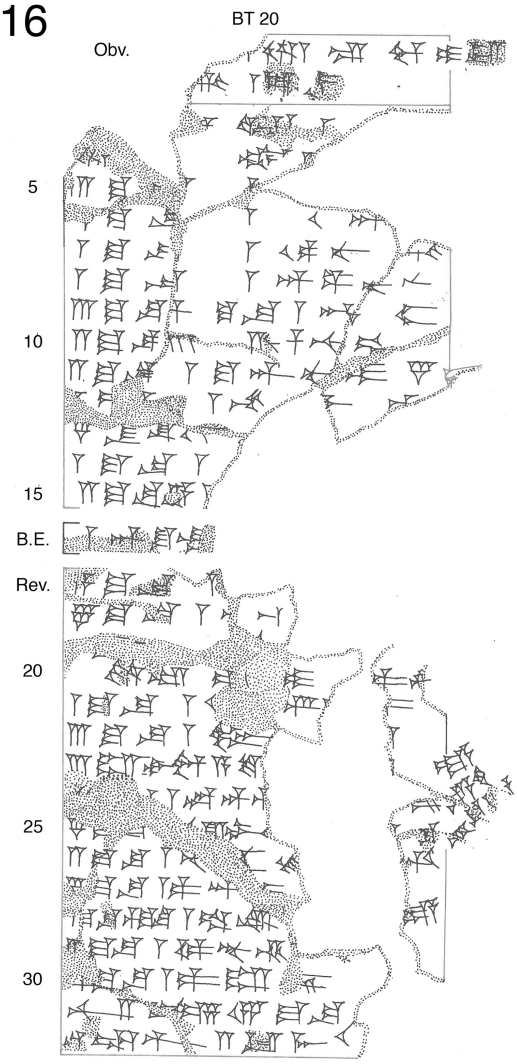


15 BT 36



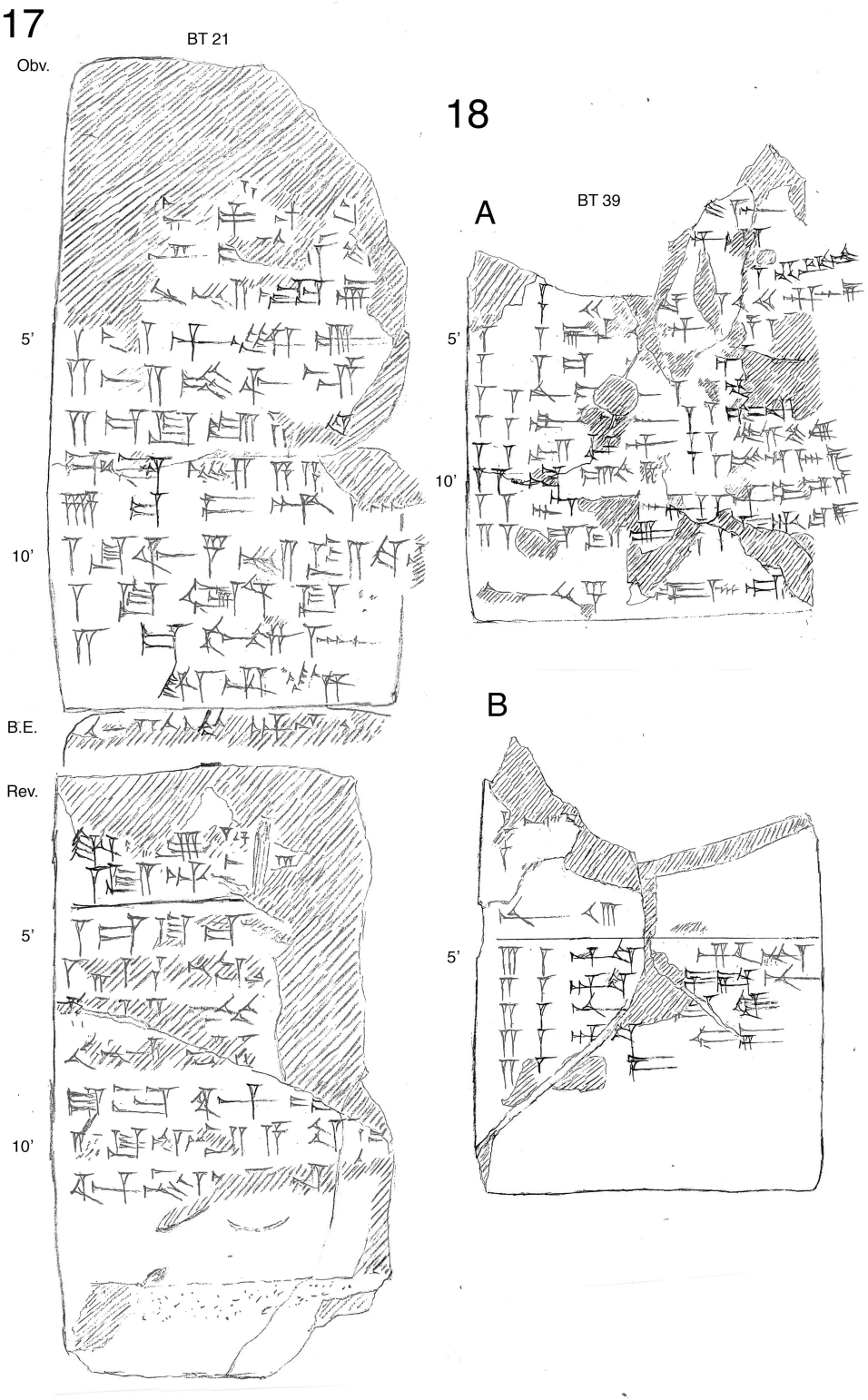


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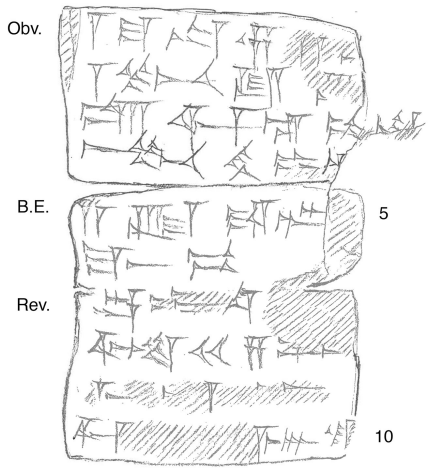


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Plate VIII

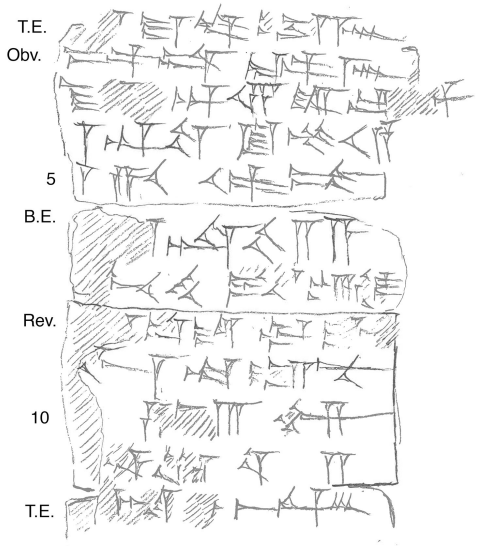
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BT 111



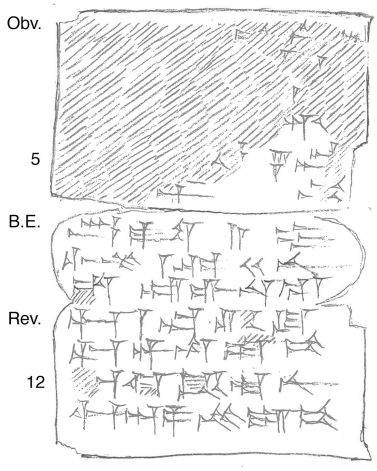
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BT 122

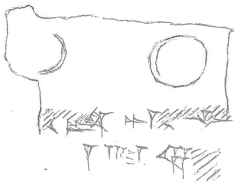


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BT 110

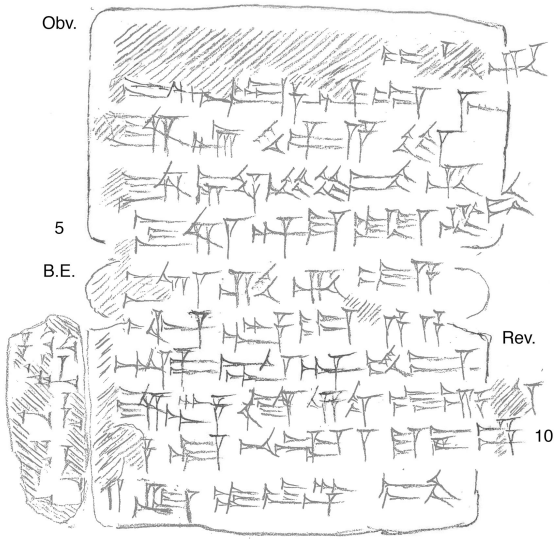


20 fragment of envelope



22

BT 121



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