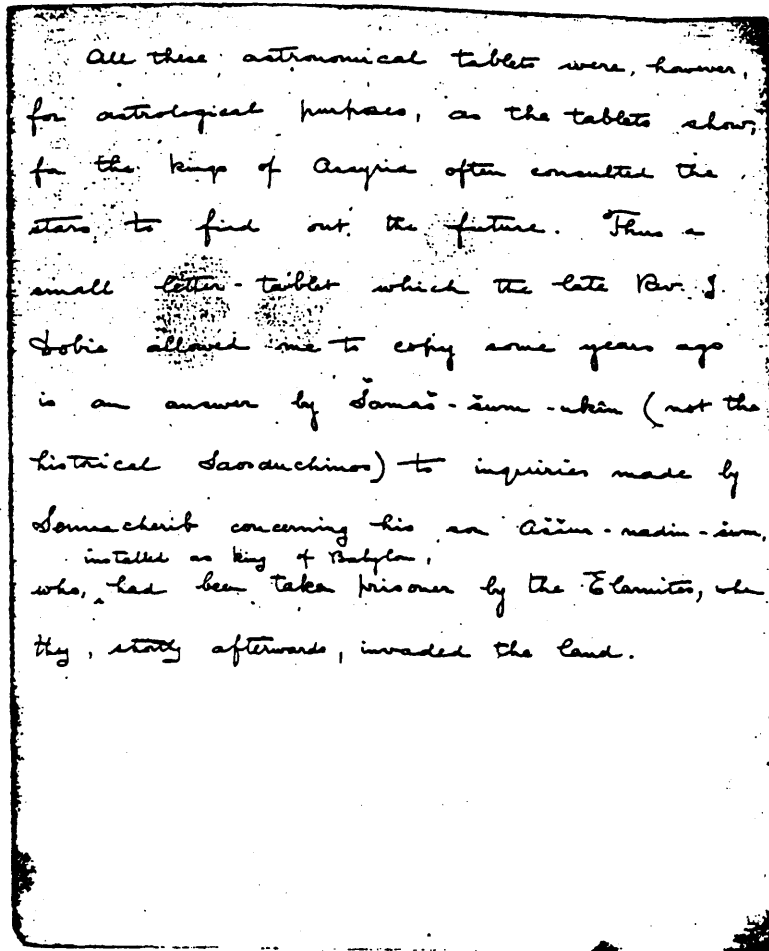


ODDS AND ENDS

A REPORT ON EXTISPICIES PERFORMED FOR SENNACHERIB ON ACCOUNT OF HIS SON AŠŠUR-NADIN-ŠUMI

An archive of papers of T.G. Pinches in the possession of his family includes the following intriguing autograph:



All these astronomical tablets were, however, for astrological purposes, as the tablets show, for the king of Assyria often consulted the stars to find out the future. Thus a small letter-tablet which the late Rev. J. Tobie allowed me to copy some years ago is an answer by Šamaš-šum-ukin (not the historical Sardanachinos) to inquiries made by Sennacherib concerning his son Aššur-nadin-šum, ^{installed as king of Babylon,} who had been taken prisoner by the Elamites, who, shortly afterwards, invaded the land.

Absolutely nothing is known about the tablet mentioned here beyond what is on the sheet. Presumably, the tablet is in private hands somewhere; no copy seems to have survived. If found, the text would be the only extispicy report surviving from the reign of Sennacherib and certainly of considerable historical interest.

Irving L. Finkel, 23/2/1987