SOME NEO-ASSYRIAN CONTRACTS FROM GIRNAVAZ AND VICINITY *

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The six tablets published here¹ are from the south-eastern part of Turkey. Three of them were excavated on mound Girnavaz during two successive campaigns, in 1984 and 1986². They belong to the archives of a man called Ištar-nādīn-ahhē, most likely a wealthy inhabitant of the ancient town, who purchased orchards and fields in the area. The fourth document, Šar. 146, said to originate from Šariza (near Mardin), perhaps may also stem from Girnavaz, if the occurrence of the personal name Dūr-ahhē (also attested in Gir. 84/84, 28) in line 15 is not a pure coincidence³. That the three texts from Girnavaz, 84/84, 84/85, and 86/23, belong together is clear since they feature numerous identical persons⁴:

Ištar-nādīn-ahhē : 84/84, 12, rev. 7; 86/23, 4, 13;
Rēmūti : 84/84, rev. 11, son of Urad-Ištar in 86/23, 23;

¹ This article was originally planned to be published in the journal Anatolia, and the original manuscript was extensively edited for this purpose by Prof. K.R. Veenhof. Later, when it became apparent that appearance in Anatolia would be delayed beyond what was originally intended, the idea was dropped in favour of the present solution. I am most grateful to Prof. Veenhof for his editorial efforts as well as for his kindness in letting the article appear in the SAA Bulletin, where it doubtless more properly belongs.
² I would like to thank Dr. Hayat Erkanal for entrusting me with the publication of the texts, two of which were unearthed during the 1984 season (Gir. 84/84, 84/85) and one (Gir. 86/23) in 1986 in the same spot. The texts Šariza 146, 78/294 and 75/157-2 are stray finds from the vicinity of Mardin, now housed in the museum there.
³ For names beginning with Dūr-, see APN pp. 71f. and ARU p. 413.
⁴ I am grateful to Drs. M. Jas (Amsterdam) for contributing the “Index of Personal Names” and for suggestions on the reading or interpretation of a few names and words, indicated by (J) in the remarks on the texts.
Mannu-ki-Arba’il
Bebe’e/Bibi
Bēl-na’id, son of Ninurta-ēṯir
Hampūte, son of Urad-Gula
Abu-salām, son of Ahi-imme
Hanṣi, son of (A)hi-abinu

The other NA texts, Gir.78/294, provenance unknown (Mardin?), and 75/152-2, from Erzen, near Mardin, are stray finds, which do not link up with the Girnavaz texts, but are published here since they originate from the same region and are also of Neo-Assyrian times.

As for the dates of the texts, Gir. 84/84 is from the eponymy of Adad-rēmanni, a post-canonical eponym dated to 630 and 631 B.C. by Falkner (AfO 17[1954-6], pp. 101, 108ff., 119 fn. 59). Gir. 86/23, whose eponymy dating is not preserved, must date from about the same period, since the purchaser in both texts is the same man, Ištar-nādin-ahhē, who is enlarging his property by buying fields and orchards around Girnavaz. The eponymy of Gir. 84/85 is not preserved, but the occurrence of some persons also appearing in 84/84 and 86/23 indicates that it has to be dated to the same period. Šar. 146, a record of a verdict, is dated to the eponymy of Marduk-šarru-usur, to whom Falkner assigns one of the years 636 or 639 B.C. We cannot make out whether he was identical to Ashurbanipal’s general, dated to 639 B.C., or to the governor of Que, dated 636 B.C.6 A possible connection between Šar.146 and the documents from Girnavaz, from Ištar-nādin-ahhē’s archives, has been suggested above, but we must mention that in Šar.146, 15, Dūr-ahhē himself acts as witness, while in Gir. 84/84, 28, a son of Dūr-ahhē appears as such. If both Dūr-ahhēs are identical, Šar. 146 would be somewhat earlier. Text 78/294 is dated to the eponymy of Bēl-šadû’a, which I take as an abbreviation of Bēl-Harrān-bēl-šadû’a, who was eponym in 650 B.C. and governor of Kār-Aššur-ahu-iddina near Tyrus6. The text hence also dates from the reign of Ashurbanipal.

As for the geographical background of the Girnavaz texts we call attention to the information provided by 84/84 and 86/23. The field bought in 86/23 is adjacent to another field and a brook or wadi (nahallu, line 2'), while 84/84, 11 mentions that the

5) See M. Falkner, AfO 17(1954-6), pp. 112 and 118.
6) RIA 2, p. 446 equates the name to Bēl-Harrān-šadû’a. The same limmu occurs in the unpublished text A. 1880, 7: lim-mu 1EN-KUR-u-a. The equation has to be accepted with some caution in view of YBC 11893, 32. ITAPIN UD.2.KĀM lim-mu 1EN-KASKAL4-DINGIR7 (courtesy W.W. Hallo).
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It is likely that the brook is to be identified with Nahal Çağ Çağ, which flows at the foot of the Girnavaz mound. The “royal road” of course must be the Assyrian highway which connects Nasibina (Nusaybin) and Guzana (Tell Halaf), and crosses two tributaries of the Habur river west of Nusaybin, where Girnavaz is situated.

Gir. 84/84, 10 suggests that Girnavaz (in the Turkish orthography; also spelled Ger Nawwâs) is to be identified to ancient Nabul(a/u), which suits the topographical indications just mentioned. On TAVO map B III, 7 (by Khaled Nashef), square A/5, we see a town identified as “Nusaybin / Ger Nawwâs [Nabula]”, correctly located, but where the problem of the identification of Nusaybin raises problems. Classical Nisibis is situated at a distance of some 4 to 5 kms from Tell Ger Nawwâs, but the location of Assyrian Nasibina is not clear because of intensive occupation during later periods. It seems premature to identify the site of ancient Nasibina with Ger Nawwâs.

A NA toponym URU Na-bu-ur is mentioned in ADD 447, 9, and this raises the possibility that Nabur is identical to Nabul (with the l/r interchange frequent in Hurrian). Going a step further we may even propose the following identification: Nawala/u = Naw/bar = Nabur/(a/u), which would make our Nabul identical to one of the cities ruled by the famous Tišatal of Urkiš and Nawar, and to Na-wa-la mentioned in ARMT 23, 446, 65’ (ref. Professor Deller) as the town from which some Hanaeans arrived in Mari, a town which also occurs in ARMT 4, 42, 16 as Na-wa-la. In addition to the references quoted by Kessler and Nashef, Nabula occurs in the unpublished text A. 3211 = Ass. 14842z, line 14, in connection with types of bread and wooden utensils: {1 KI}MIN (=1 GIŠ pa-ás-ru) ša Na-bu-la. This combination reminds me of VAS 19, 7, 9-10; 97 NINDA MES GAL-tu ša mil-hi 10 ša URU Du-a-ra, “7 big loaves of milhu-bread of the city of Du’ara” (a town in the vicinity of Dûr-Katlimmu). The words seem to refer to a special, local type of bread, perhaps a specialty of the area. If the parallel is correct,

10) See Kessler, op.cit., fn. 8.
A. 3211, 14 in the same way would refer to a town Nabula rather than to an ambiguous item whose identity is unknown.

84/84, rev. 5 mentions [\textsuperscript{[K]}\textsuperscript{UR}Barhalza, “the province of Barhalza”. We also know the city Barhalzi, whose governor, Aššur-dūru-usur, was eponym during the year 652 B.C. (\textit{RIA} 2, p. 428). Becking\textsuperscript{13} suggests a location of Barhalza north or north-west of Nineveh, but in view of the new reference this location should be reconsidered. The penalty clause in Gir. 86/23, 17 mentions “the god Adad who dwells in the city of Urakka”, which may have been modern Kemaliye near Girnavaz\textsuperscript{14}. Similarly 75/152-2 (undated) mentions “Ninurta who dwells in Ehiman (or: Etišiš)\textsuperscript{15}, presumably a town in the region where the tablet was found, the area of Erzen/Erzan. In Gir. 78/294, finally, in rev. 2’, a witness is qualified as “from the town of Asih(i)”, a town twice attested thusfar (Parpola, \textit{NAT}, p. 40; in \textit{ADD} 742 and in a document from Tell Halaf/Guzana). Another reference is in Kayseri 71/155-2, a NA document of sale of fields, found at Eğriköy near Yeşil Hisar, Kayseri (unp.).

The texts published here show that Assyrians had settled in the area at the foot of the Kašiari mountains. In addition to these texts mention should be made of seven rock reliefs with badly damaged Assyrian inscriptions, belonging to Sennacherib, on the slopes of the Cudi mountains in the Kašiari region (Tür-Abdin), already known\textsuperscript{16}. The exact location of these rock inscriptions is to the east and north-east of modern Cizre\textsuperscript{17,18}.

\textsuperscript{13} \textit{JEOL} 27 (1981-82), p. 83, in connection with his publication of the tablet Fi. 12, from Gezer. I take the opportunity to mention that the Istanbul tablet archives comprise also a third cuneiform tablet from Palestine, Fi. 16, which reads: [\textit{1\textsuperscript{1}Sum-ma ina Ša-bi UD}10.KÂM \textsuperscript{2}\text{[...]} \text{ša} \textit{11\textsuperscript{INE} U.GUR-wa-ši} \textsuperscript{3}[...]} \text{LU} \text{GU} \textsuperscript{4} \text{A-a-PaP} \textsuperscript{MES} \textsuperscript{5} [\text{LU} \text{ABA} \text{LU} \text{GAL URU} \textsuperscript{MES}]

\textsuperscript{14} All towns qualified as the dwelling of a certain god (\textit{ašib} GN) are important towns; cf. the listing in B. Menzel, \textit{AT II}, T 195 (“penalty clauses”): Ehiman/Etišiš may now be added to that list. The only other occurrence of this town thusfar is in the letter TCL 9, 68, 11 (AO 4506), where it seems to belong to the province of Halzi-adbar (\textit{de-ni ša LU} \text{EN} \text{NAM} \textit{101ša KUR Ha-li-ad-bar} \textsuperscript{11} \text{ina muhhi URUE-HI-MAN-a-a} \textsuperscript{12} \text{ma-a} \textsuperscript{13} \text{IR} \textsuperscript{MES-ia} \textsuperscript{14} \text{at-tu-ù-ni}).


\textsuperscript{19} I have quoted only a few relevant passages in the ca. 500 NA documents of the Istanbul tablet archives. A few NA texts erroneously have been registered with a Babylon tablet signature: B 71 (Ass. 9966a, Ph. 1737-38), from Asb. year 9 (cf. Nassouhi, \textit{MAOG} 3/1-2, p. 23), B 96 (Assur Ph. 1611-12) and B 110 (Assur Ph. 2049), both NA sale documents.
1. Gir. 84/84
Found at Girnavaz near Mardin during the excavations of 1984 by H. Erkanal. Upper right edge and lower part missing; 7 x 4.5 x 2 cm.

Obverse
1. NA-KIŠIB iHa-am-pu-[te]
2. A 1IR.Ş[UART][u-la]
3. NA-KIŠIB 1AD-[sa-lam]
4. NA-KIŠIB 1Man-nu-ki-[arba-il]
5. NA-KIŠIB iHa-an-st-
6. PAP 3 A MES 1Kit-tir-1 MAN-
7. EN GIŠSAR SUM-an

Two stamp-seal impressions

8. {GIŠ]SAR ša GIŠstit-lit zi-am-ra
9. [ša LÜMES-e an-nu-te
10. [ina UR]UNa-bul GAB.DI 1Ši-ha-a-a
11. [GAB.DI]1 ID dan-nu GAB.DI KASKAL.MAN
12. [ša-]ši-ma Ld15-SUM-PADMEŠ
13. [ina ŠÀ 1 ma-na 20 G]IN KÜ.BABBAR x x

(reverse of obv. and beginning of rev. broken away)

Reverse
1'. [ ] x [
2'. ]ba-[la-at] 'LUGAL'

3'. [LU]NU.GIŠSAR] 1MAN-lu-dâ-ri
4'. [IR ša Ld]IM-ú-bal-šu LÜ3.Üs
5'. [ša LÜGAR K]URBar-hal-za šu-ú la GIŠSAR
6'. [ba-lat LÜ]ha-za-ni-šu la É ek-kal2 LÜ šu-ú
7'. [Ld15-SUM-PADMEŠ TA* IGI LÜMES-e
8'. an-nu-ti ip-ta-tar

9'. TIŠU UD.4.KAM lim-mu 10-rém-a-ni
10'. IGI 1MAŠ-KAR-ir LÜ.A.BA
11'. IGI 1Re-mu-ti LÜ.A.BA
Translation

(Obv. 1) Seal of Hammute (?) son of Urad-G[ula], seal of Abu-[salām], seal of Manu-ki-[Arba’il], seal of Hanši - in all 3 sons of Kit(t)ir(i)-ṣarrī, owner of the orchard being sold.

(8) The orchard with vine and fruits, belonging to these men, [located in the city ] of Nabulu, adjacent to Şihāia, adjacent to the main river, adjacent to the royal road, Istar-nādīn-ahhē [bought it for 1 mina 20 shekels of silver (rest lost) (Rev. 2') ... without(?) the king.

(Rev. 3') [The gardener] Šarru-lū-dāri, [a dependent of] Adad-uballīt, third man (on the chariot) of the governor of Barhalza, that man does not have usufruct of a garden nor of a house [without] his mayor's [approval]: Istar-nādīn-ahhē has redeemed the above mentioned man from these men.
(Rev. 9°) The month Du’uzu, the fourth day, the eponym of Adad-rēmanni.

Witnessed by Ninurta-ētir, the scribe; by Rēmāti, the scribe; by Nabū-lē’ūti, the scribe; by Bēlu-taklussu, the scribe; by Mannu-ka-ili, son of Kabar-ili, carrier of 30 shekels of silver; by Nabū-nādin-ahhē, carrier of 1/2 mina 8 shekels of silver; by Bēlu-na’id, carrier of 12 shekels of silver. Total: 1 mina 20 shekels. Witnessed by Sakuhū, by [ ..... ], by Halmusū [ ..... ], by AHziū[a-nu ... ]; by Bēl-zēri, son of B[abilāia]; by Andarānu, [ ..... ], the herald of the city of [Nabu1u (?)], by Šumu-ukīn son of [ ..... ], [by ..... ], by Bebe’e [ ..... ] son of Dūr-ahhē, [by ..... ], by Iānā-ahhē [ ..... ] Šumu-ukīn [ ..... ] of their seals. [ ..... ] the scribe who wrote the tablet.

Remarks

Obv. 6°: ek-kal°, from akāl, “to eat”, in the sense of “to have the usufruct of” (a field, etc.; see CAD A/1, pp. 252b-253a)?

9°: For Adad-rēmanni see also BaM 15(1984), p.231, with an improved reading of another Adad-rēmanni date.

10°: Ninurta-ētir, for this name see APN p.175a (-ētiranni).

14°: Both Mannu-ka-ili (see APN p.124b for other names starting with 1Man-nuka-) and 1Kabar-ili (APN p.109b) are Aramaic names.

15°: hi-ia-ṭi = hijāṭi or hi’āṭi (also in 16° and 18°, and Gir. 86/23, 25), is the infinitive of hāṭu, “to weigh out, to pay” (CAD H p. 161). This clause reminds one of NA EN KU. BABBAR na-se-en-na-ši-i, “the one who carries/brings the silver” in a transaction which is used in Gir. 86/23, 30°. The men in question (Mannu-ka-ili, Nabū-nādin-ahhē, Bēlu-na’id, and Mannu-ki-Arba’il) probably were Ištar-nādin-ahhē’s debtors.

21°: 1Hal-mu-su is to be considered complete, despite the break which follows immediately; cf. 1Ha-mu-su NALK 48, 2 and 322, 18; Fales, CCENA, 2, II, 5°; ARU 375, 26; 1Hal-mu-si CTN 2, 43, 1, 7; 1Ha-li-mu-si BM 103393 = Postgate, FNAD 40A, 2; CTN 2, 91, 5. We may restore IG1 plus another witness following the name.

22°: AH-zi-[a-nu] for Hā-zi-[a-nu] (J)?

27°: In fact, the sign looks more like SUR, as copied (hence: Sur-bē-e ?). Cf. for 1Bi-bi-e NALK 15, 373, 35 and CTN 3, 33, 20; also 1Bi-bi-i NALK 152, 1 and CTN 2, 5, 14; AfO Beih. 6, 101, 4; Gir. 86/23, 27; B. 110, 6.12 (Ass. 11393 dd II, unp.).

2. Gir. 84/85

A great portion of the tablet is gone, only the reverse and part of left edge are preserved; 5 x 4 x 1.2 cm.

Reverse

1° [ tu-a-ru ]

2° de-en-[nu DUG₄.DUG₄ la-ās-ṣu]
3' man-nu ša ina u[r-kiš ina ma-te-ma ina UGU e-gér-te/dan-né-te]
4' an-ni-te e-p[ár-ri-ku-u-ni Aš-šúr 4 UTU]
5' dEN dAG dBe-[let-NINA lu-u EN de-ni-šu]
6' a-de-e ša LUGAL [ina ŠUšú lu-ba-i-u]
7' IGI 1Ha-za-DINGIR DUMU [ ]
8' IGI 1Hi-AD-nu [ ]
9' IGI 1Ha-am-pu-te D[UMU 1IR-dGu-la]
10' IGI 1la-na-PAPM[ES ]
11' IGI 1Ak-ki-[ ]
12' [IGI 1d]10-DINGIR-a-[a ]

(remainder of reverse broken away)

Left Edge
1 [ 1 1URUD ]Uš-ab-na-a-a IGI 1Za-ha-tu-[tu]
2 [ ] x ša NA·KIŠIB'[ši-nu]

Translation
(1') [ ... there is no] withdrawal or litigation. Whoever in the fu[ture, at any time],
infringes upon this [deed], may Aššur, Šamaš, Bēl, Nabû, Bē[let-Ninua] be his oppo-
nents. The oath in (the name of) the king should be asked from him.

(6') Witnessed by Haza’îl, son of [ ... ], by (A)hi-abinu, [son of ... ], by Hampute, s[on of
Urad-Gula], by Iâna-ah[hē ... ] ..., by Akki-[ ... ], [by] Adad-ilâ’ā ... [ ... ] ... (L.E. 1) [ ...
Ti]l-abnāia, by Zahatuṭu, [ ... ] of their seal [ ... ].

Remarks
1': de-en-[nu] as in ADD 434, ARU 54, 21, 23, against the usual de-e-nu or de-nu.
3': The unusual an-ni-te requires an unusual restoration in 2': “Whoever in the
future, at any time, infringes upon this deed”; the noun must be feminine, hence only
eguru and dannatu are possible.
5': See Deller, AfO 32(1985), pp. 43 and 49.
6': Haza’îl, see APN pp. 87-88 (Arabic and Aramaic).
7': 1Hi-AD-nu, see Gir. 86/23, 31’, but here the father of Hanṣî. Reading as
(A)hi-abinu by F.M. Fales.
8': Restored after Gir. 84/84, 1-2.
10': 1Ak-ki ... , see APN pp. 19b/20a for possible readings.
L.E.1': 1Ab-na-a-a is not excluded, but the vertical wedge probably is part of a
broken sign in front of AB, hence 1URUD ]Uš-ab-na-a-a = 1Til-abnāia would be a
possible restoration. See for 1Za-ha-tu-[tu] ARU 357, 22 (NALK 98). Our reference
seems to be the second for this name.
3. Gir. 86/23
The third NA sale contract found at the Girnavaz mound. The upper right part is missing and several lines are broken; 6 x 5.5 x 2.3 cm.

1' *tihi A.[ŠÀ ša
2' *tihi na-hal-[li
3' ša ad-ri [ ]
4' ú-piš-ma [Iš]tar-SUM-PAPMES
5' TA* IGI [PAP-|[a-DÛ]
6' ina ŠÀ 14 GÍN KÚ.BABBAR il'-[qê]
7' kas-pu gam-mur ta-din A.ŠÀ šu-[a-tu]
8' za-riq laq-qê tu-a-ri de-e'[nu]
9' DUG₄.DUG₄ la-āš-sù man-nu ša ina ur-kiš
10' ū ma-te-ma GIL-u-ni
11' lu-u [PAP-ia-DÛ lu-u DUMUMES-šù
12' lu-u DUMU.DUMU[MES]-šù
13' DUG₄.DUG₄ TA* [Ištar-SUM-PAPMES
14' DUMU[MES]-šù DUMU.DUMU[MES]-šù
15' ub-ta'-i-u-ni
16' 10 ma-na KÚ.BABBAR 1 ma-na KÚ.GI
17' ina bur-ki di[IM a-šib URU]-rak-ka
18' GAR-an kas-pu a-na 10[MES]-te
19' a-na ENMES-šù ú-ta-ra
20' ina de-ni-šù DUG₄.DUG₄ la i-laq-qê
21' de-en-šù DI.KUD la i-šam-mu-U

22' IGI [NUMUN-15 A [Ha-am-bi-i
23' IGI [Rém-u-te A [IR-15 [LU.A.BA
24' IGI [Man-nu-ki-arba-il A [Ab-da-a
25' EN hi-a-ši ša KÚ.BABBAR
26' IGI [Sal-mu-te A [DINGIR-AŠ
27' IGI [Bi-bi-i A [SUM-na-PAPMES
28' IGI [EN-I A [Maš-SUR
29' IGI [AD-sa-lam A [PAP-im-me
30' PAP 4 EN na-ši-e ša KÚ.BABBAR
31' IGI [Ha-an-ši-i A [Hi-AD-n[u]
32' IGI SU-15 [X x [MES
33' IGI [U- [ ]
Translation

(1') ... adjacent to the field [of ...], adjacent to the brook [of ...], of the threshing-floor of [ ...]. The ownership has been set up and Ištar-nadin-ahhē from Ahi-ya[rīm] in exchange for 14 shekels of silver [bought]. (7') The price is paid in full, that field is acquired by purchase, there is no withdrawal or litigation. (9') Whoever in the future, at any time, may contravene, either Ahi-ya[rīm], or his sons, or his grandsons, whoever litigates and seeks a lawsuit against Ištar-nadin-ahhē, his sons, his grandsons, shall place ten minas of silver (and) one mina of gold in the lap of Adad who dwells in the town of Urakk, and shall have to return the purchase price tenfold to the owner. (20') In his lawsuit he may plead, but he will not succeed, the judges will not listen to his case.

(22') Witnessed by Zēru-Ištar, son of Hambī, by Rēmūte, son of Urad-Ištar, the scribe, by Mannu-kī-Ara'īl, son of Abdāia, the one who brings the silver. (26') Witnessed by Šalmūte, son of Dī-iddīn, by Bībī'ī, son of Iddīna-ahhē, by Bēl-na'id, son of Ninurta-ēṣīr, by Abu-salām, son of Aḥu-imme, in all four bringers of the silver. (31') Witnessed by Hānsī, son of Aḥi-ābīnu, by (E)rba-Ištar son of [...], by Adad²-[ ...].

Remarks

5', 11': 'PAP-ia-DÜ = Ahuia-ibni is problematic, but can be compared with 'PAP-DÜ = Ahi-ibni, in Šar. 146, 18 (father of Ištar-šumu-iddīn). [Alternatively, one may read 'PAP-ia-rīm, an Aramaic name from the root *rwlm, “to be high, exalted” (Ed.).]

28': Ninurta-ēṣīr (J).

4. Šariza 146
Found accidentally on Šariza mound in the vicinity of Mardin; 6 x 3.3 x 1.8 cm.

1 NA.KIŠIB 'Mi-nu-lam-ši A 'Mu-me-[ x (- x)]
2 de-e-nu ša 'ŠU.SI-ša-i
3 TA* 'Mi-nu-lam-ši ina UGU ANŠE.NĪTA-šū
4 ša ina URU.ŠE Ta-tū-u ina UGU KŪ.BABBAR
   (four round stamp seal impressions)
5 ša 'Si-in-qt-15 ša 'Bu-sa-a-a
6 de-e-nu iq-ru-u-ni
7 šum-ma 'Ba-a-si DUMU
8 'Am-ja-a 'Man-nu-ki-[U].DAR²
9 A 'I-DINGIR 'PAP-DU-² kα²
10 L⁰' GAL ú rat-te iq-ti² bi².<ū>
**Translation**

(1) Seal of Minu-lamši, son of Mume ... The lawsuit which Ubān-erbi initiated against Minu-lamši because of his donkey (found) in the farm of Tatū (and) because of the silver of Sinqi-Ištar and Busāia. (7) Should Bāsi, son of Qarhā, Mannu-ki-Ištar, son of Na'id-ilī, (and) Ahī-illik[a], the overseer of the team horses, say: (11)“Minu-lamši has taken the silver and credit”, then Minu-lamši has to give the donkey and its cart to Ubān-erbi. (14) Month Ab(u), day 26, eponym Marduk-šarru-usur.


**Remarks**

1: Minu-lamši, “What/why should I forget?”, see *APN* p.138b (Minu-lamši). The female name perhaps could be avoided by reading the PN ¹Šal-mu-ME-[ x (-x)]?

2: This name is rendered Ubān-ša-na’datʔ in *AHw* p.1398b, but this interpretation is rather questionable. I would prefer Ubān-erbi, “(born with only) four fingers”, but note also a name like ¹IM-ŠÁ-i in *ZA* 73(1983), p. 236 no. 5:4' (J).

4: ¹Ta-u-[u] see *ARU* 158, 40.

5: Sinqi-Ištar, compare *APN*, p. 201a, and *RA* 67(1978), p.191; for Busāia see ¹Bu-su-sa-a, *AfO Beih. 6, 105, 3* (from Guzana).

7: ¹Ba-a-si, see *APN*, p. 53a.

8: For ¹Am-ha-a perhaps better read ¹Qar-ha-a, see e.g. *NALK* 131, 35: 247, 4, 248,6; *STT* 407, 2'; BM 103394, envelope 16 / tablet 16, Postgate, *FNAD* p. 21; see also ¹Qar-ra-ha-a S.U.51/36, 22' (AnSt 7[1957], p. 139).

9: ¹PAP-DU-k[a] = Ahī-illika, “my brother has come”. See for syllabic spellings interchanging with ¹šEš-DU-ka, *Nuzi Personal Names*, p. 10a. This name is often misread in editions of NA texts.

11: i-[t]a-as-ha, perfect of nasāhu, a technical term of banking, “to take out a loan”.


14: Marduk-šarru-usur was governor of Que, see Falkner, *AfO* 17(1954-6), p. 10a-b.
5. Gir. 78/294
Provenance unknown; Mardin? 4.3 x 4.5 x 2.1 cm.

Obverse
1. **NA-KIŠIB** 110-id-ri
2. A 1Id-ri-a-ni
3. EN GÉME ua-da-a-ni
   (seal impressions)
4. 1Și-id-da-a-nu NU7.IGI
5. [n ru-t]u GÉME-šú <ša> 110-id-ri
6. [ú-piš-ma] 1Sa-ší-bi-i
7. 1
   (the remainder of obverse broken away)

Reverse
1. IGI 110-[id-ri] IGI 1Ba-di-i [A].BA
2. TA* ŠÁ URU A-ú/sih 1Za-bi-nu
3. IGI 1PAP-la-ri m TA* URU ””
4. IGI 1Ra-ši-me-U.U LC DAM.GAR
5. T1IZ[Z UD.26.KAM
6. lim-mu 1EN-KUR-u-a
7. IGI <I>Si-sa-tú IGI 1MAN-PAP-AŠ7

Left Edge
1. [IGI] 1EN-MAN-PAP

Translation
(Obv. 1) Seal of Adad-idrī son of Idirānu, owner of the slave being sold. (4) Şiddānu, blind? [her height x half]-cubits, a slave-girl belonging to Adad-idrī, Sagibī bought ... (Rev. 1’) Witness: Adad-[idrī]; witness: Badī, the scribe from the town Asīhi-Zabinu; witness: Ahi-larim from the (same) town; witness: Rāhime-daddi the merchant. (5’) Month Šabātū, day 26, eponym Bēl-šadū’a. Witness: Sisatu; witness: Šarru-ahu-iddin; witness: Bēl-šarru-uşur.
Remarks
Obv. 1: (H)adad-idri, see APN, p. 8a.
2: Idri’anu is not known, but see 1Id-ra-nu, APN, p. 108a.
4: Reading and interpretation of the last two signs suggested by J.A. Brinkman, 
Zikir Šumim, p. 5 fn. 27. Line 5 suggests [ x ru-t]u “x spans of height”, so she must be a 
child.
7: There is not much to read, but one expects a mention of the price and its 
payment, e.g. ina libbi x GIN sarpi ilqe kaspur gammur tadin, cf. A.351-2694 (Ass. 
11770g-f, Ph. 2648), 4-7: [...] GÊME-sú ğ[u]-piš-ma 'Sa-mi-di 6ina [SÁ-b]î 1 1/2 GÎN 
KU.BABBAR 7kas-pu gam-mur ta-din; A. 346 (Ass. 11770b, Ph. 2648) 6-9: 5 ... PN 
6[u]-piš-ma 'Aš-sur-[ ... ] 7ina SÁ-bi 33 GÎNMES KU.BABBAR 8il-qé kas-pu gam-mur 
ta-din] 3 SAL zá-ar-pat la-qé-at; A.2691 (Ass. 11770c Ph. 2648) 8-11: 7 ... PN 8up-piš-ma 
'Sa-mi-di 9ina SÁ-bi 20+ x GÎNMES KU.BABBAR 10TA IG1 LÚMES an-nu-ti 11il-[qé] 
kas-pu [gam]-mur [ta]-din.
Rev. 1*: 1Ba-di-i, cf. NALK 200,3.
2*: The GN is difficult to read; URRU A-sih or URRU A-sihi is possible and the name then 
could be equated with URRU A-si-hi in Parpola, NAT, p. 40 with the references AfO Beih. 
6, 69, 8 (from Guzana/Tell Halaf) and ADD 742 (=CCENA 24), 19. The same toponym 
URRU A-si-hi also occurs in Kayseri 71/155-2 (unpubl.).
3*: 1PAP-la-rim, see APN, p. 17a, NALK 388, 9.
4*: 1Ra?7-hi-me-U.U, a very common Aramaic name, see AfO Beih. 6, 111, 16; ND 
2305, 35 (Iraq 16, p. 51a); cf. also ARU 349, 11 (variant -mu-).
5*: The limmu is also attested in A. 1880 (Ass. 14671n) 6-8: 6ITI KIN UD.1.KAM 
7lim-mu ğEN-KUR-u-a 8IG1 'Man-nu-ki-NINA KI. See fn. 9.
7*: Since Šarru-ahu-iddina is not attested, one may emend to Sîn-ahu-iddin, attested 
in APN p. 198a.

6. Gir. 75/157-2
From Erzen/Erzan/Arzaniya in the vicinity of Mardin; 5.2 x 2.5 x 1.7 cm. Left part is 
gone, beginning broken away

Obverse
1* [EN SA]L ta'[da-ni] 
(blank seal space)
2* [ ] x (x) NIN-su
3* [ ] A 1Ū-šā-an-ni
4* [ ] x-a 3 ru-tu
5* [u]-piš-ma 'Man-nu-ki-10
6* [TA IG]L 1GIN-i
7' [ina ŠÀ n ma-n]a KÙ.BABBAR ina ŠÀ-bi/TIł
8' [kas-pu gam-mu]r ta-din
9' [SAL šu-a-te] za-ar-pat TI
10' [tu-a-ru de]-e-nu DUG₄,DUG₄ la-āš-šú
(remaider of the Obverse broken away)

Reverse
1' [ ... man]-n nu ša] ina ur-kiš
2' [i-za-qu-pa]-ni i qa-bu-u-ni
3' [ma-a SAL a-pat-tar 1 ma-na KÙ].BABBAR 1 ma-na KÙ.G1
4' [ina bur-ki dM]AŠ a-siš URU E-hi-man
5' [GAR-an kas]-pu ana 10MES ana ENMES-šū GUR
6' [ina de-ni-s]ū DUG₄.DUG₄ NU TI-qtł
7' [IGI dAMAR].JUTU URU₄-eš
8' [IGI 1 ... ]-sur LUGAL.rakMES
9' [IGI 1 ... KA]-DINGIR-a-a LUGAL 10
10' [IGI 1 ... ] x-AD LUGha-Za-nu
11' [IGI 1 G]ME-Ištar
12' [IGI 1 ... ]-DI? LUG pa-hi-teł
(remaider of the Reverse broken away)

Translation
[Seal of PN₁, son of PN₂]
(Obv. 1') [owner of the woman] being sold. [.....] his sister, [.....] son of Ušanni, [her height] 3 half cubits, Mannu-ki-Adad bought [from] Kēnī [for n mina(s)] of silver he bought”. [The price is paid] in full; [that woman] is acquired by purchase. There is no [withdrawal] or litigation [...].
(Rev. 1') [Whoever] in the future [stands] up and declares: “[I will redeem the woman]”, shall [place 10 minas of sil]ver (and) 1 mina of gold [in the lap of Ni]nurta who dwells in the city of Ehiman; the purchase-price will return tenfold to the owner. [In his ca]se he may plead, but he will not succeed. [Witness: Mar]duk-ēreš, [witne ...]sur, the overseer of the raksute, [witne ... Ba]bilāia, chief of ten, [witne ...] x-abu the mayor, [witne ... A]mat-Ištar, [witne ...] the provincial governor.

Remarks
Rev. 4’: URU E-hi-man is also attested in TCL 9, 68,11.
8’: Perhaps LUGAL rakMES = LUGAL raksūtì (Ed.).
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Gir. 84/84, Obverse

Gir. 84/84, Left Edge

Fig. 1
Gir. 84/84, Reverse

Fig. 2
Gir. 84/85
SOME NEO-ASSYRIAN CONTRACTS FROM GIRNAVAZ AND VICINITY
Şariza 146

Fig. 5
Fig. 7
PLATE III

Gir. 86/23, Reverse

Gir. 86/23, Edge

Gir. 86/23, Obverse
PLATE IV

Gir. 78/294, Obverse

Gir. 78/294, Reverse

Gir. 78/294, Left Edge

Gir. 75/157-2, Obverse

Gir. 75/157-2, Reverse

Gir. 75/157-2 Reverse, Right Edge