

ONE MORE TEXT FROM NANŪNU'S ARCHIVE (*ALA II*, N 22)

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In the second part of my *Archives and Libraries in the City of Assur* (= *ALA II*), Uppsala 1986, I discussed the small archive N 22 from the area with private houses in the sector c6 in Assur. It belonged to a man called Nanūnu. In the present paper some additions and corrections to the treatment of this archive in *ALA II* will be given, including a new edition of one text (5) (numbers in parenthesis refer to the list of texts below) recently published, which is here shown[†] to belong to this archive.

At present the 5 texts listed below have been identified as belonging to this archive. This can be compared with three texts (1, 3, 4) certainly identified and one (2) only suggested as a possibility in *ALA II*.

- (1) Ass. 8996 a; Ph. Ass. 1162/63; loan; cf. K. Deller, *JESHO* 30 (1987), p. 23.
- (2) Ass. 8996 b; (Ass. 8890 b* is incorrect); Ph. Ass. 1162/63; purchase; cf. K. Deller, *OrNS* 56 (1987), p. 185.
- (3) Ass. 8996 c (Ass. 8890 c* is incorrect); Ph. Ass. 1162/63; loan.
- (4) MAH 16602; loan; J.N. Postgate, *JSS* 28 (1983), p. 155; cf. K. Deller, *JESHO* 30 (1987), p. 23.
- (5) BM 103017; loan; F.M. Fales, *ZA* 73 (1983), pp. 238f., 250 (copy), No. 7.

The second text (2) was in *ALA II* still treated under the incorrect excavation number Ass. 8890 b* in archive N 21. As said in 'Critical note on texts' to N 21, there were several problems with the numbering of individual texts for N 21 and 22 during the excavation. Ass 8890 b* was the result of an incorrect change in the original photo index, and the probable correct number according to the system of book-keeping during the excavation was Ass. 8996 b. Because I at that time wrongly reconstructed a broken part of this partly fragmentary text, the content of the text seemed to contradict this correction of the excavation number, which was only suggested there. A new study of the text from the excavation photos has clearly established Nanūnu as the central person (see below). Therefore Ass. 8996 b is the correct number before the incorrect change in the photo index. Ass. 8890 b should be another text.

The main subject of this paper will be to present the last of the listed texts (5), BM 103017, with new transliteration and translation. On several points the correct archival assignment has resulted in new readings. Dr. I.L. Finkel at the British Museum has kindly collated my suggestions as well as some readings not clear on the published copy. Collations correcting or clarifying the published copy are marked with exclamation marks (!); if after the collation there is still uncertainty concerning the correct reading a question mark (?) is placed before the (!). The result is a simple loan document. Only the tablet is preserved. It was once probably enclosed in a sealed case, which, however, is not preserved. The size of the tablet is 33 x 22 x 15 mm. The photos of the tablet are published with the kind permission of the Trustees of the British Museum.

BM 103017

Transliteration

- 1 1 1/2 MA.NA KÙ.B[ABBAR]
 2 ša¹ Na¹-nu-ni
 3 ina IGI GÌR^{II}-15[!]
 4 ina IGI 15-I
 5 KÙ.BABBAR a-na 4-tú-šú
 6 GAL-bi
 7 ^{IT}BARAG UD[!].27[!]
 8 lim-mu ^{Id}AG[?] MAN-PAP
 9 IGI ^{Idr}IM[?] [b]a-ni
 10 IGI Aš-šur-ZU
 11 IGI Šam-šá-a-ni-DINGIR
 12 erased line

Translation

1 1/2 mina sil[ver] belonging to Nanūnu to the disposal of Šēpā-Ištar, to the disposal of Ištar-na'id. (5) The silver will increase with 1/4. (7) Month Nisan (I), day 27, eponym Nabû-šarru-ušur. (9) Before Adad-bani, before Aššur-le'i, before Šamšānni-ilī.

Notes

7: according to I.L. Finkel, 27, or less probably 26, without KÁM.

8: ^dAG seems to be the only possibility. Fales' Aš-šur is impossible according to the tablet. Finkel and C.B.F. Walker have informed me that ^dEN or ^dAG seems to correspond to the traces. Whereas ^dEN does not give any known eponym, ^dAG gives the post-canonical eponym Nabû-šarru-ušur, dated preliminarily by M. Falkner, AfO 17 (1954-1956), pp. 100ff., to 645* B.C. (or less probably 626* B.C.). At the end of the line there are some additional traces, but Finkel informs me that he is not certain that it is cuneiform writing.

9: IM is possible, according to Finkel, for the slight remains of a diagonal and a vertical.

11: The reading Šamšânni-ilî (“Let me forget, oh my god!”) according to a suggestion kindly supplied by K. Deller in a letter. The name is also attested in *APN*, p. 244, where the ú- should be read šam-.

12: Finkel thinks the whole line was erased. Fales’ remains of a final sign Finkel takes as damage because it is below the surface of the tablet. According to the type of document this line would have given the name of one or more witness.

With the reservation for the correct reading of the eponym given above, the text dates to the post-canonical 645* B.C. (or less probably to 626* B.C.) according to Falkner’s reconstruction of eponyms. This can be compared with the canonical dates 648 B.C. (4) and 649 B.C. (1) given in two other texts in the archive.

Nanūnu is the central person in this text as well as in the 4 other texts (1-4) from this archive. The name Nanūnu is written ¹*Na-nu-nu* in nominative (2) and ¹*Na-nu-(u)-ni* in genitive (1-5), thus correcting *ALA II*, N 22. K. Deller, *JESHO* 30 (1987), p. 23, also used the form Nanūnu. One of the two recipients of the loan of 1 1/2 mina silver, Ištar-na’id, also occurs in similar function in another loan document (4). Among the 3 witnesses, Aššur-le’i is also attested as a witness for another loan (1). The occurrence of the central person, Nanūnu, and the two other persons in other texts, shows that these 5 texts (1-5) originally belonged to the same archive.

In addition to the text discussed here (5) three more documents (1, 3, 4) record loans given. The loans are mostly of silver, but once (3) probably of corn. At least one of the group of the loans (4) is probably rather an investment, given to a group of 3 men including Nanūnu himself.

Together with the loan documents was one text Ass. 8996 b (2) documenting the purchase of a slave girl by Nanūnu. The beginning of the text with the operative clauses is given here according to the excavation photo (courtesy DOG).

Ass. 8996 b

Transliteration

1 [N^A KIŠIB] r¹ r^{IT} r^A B-a²-a² r

2 [EN MÍ] r^{ta-da} r^a rⁿⁱ r

(2 stamp seal impressions)

3 [Š^úl-m]u-i-tu GÉME-šú

4 [ša¹ r^{IT} A]B-a-a

5 [ú-piš-m]a¹ Na-nu-nu

6 [ina ŠÀ-bi x G]ÍN KÙ.BABBAR il-qi

Translation

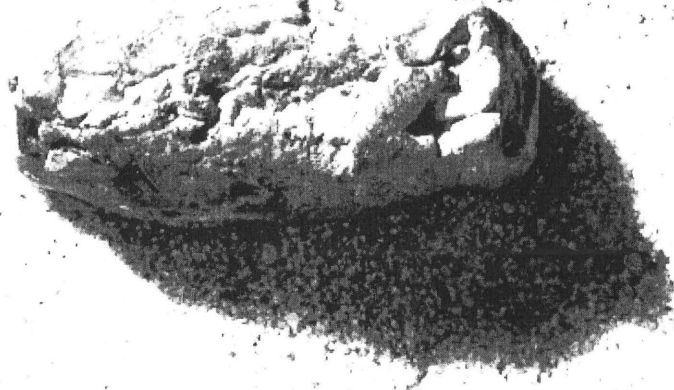
[Seal] of Kanūnāja, [owner of the woman] being sold. (3) [Šulm]uītu, slave girl [belonging to Kanū]nāja, Nanūnu [has contracted a]nd taken [for x she]kels of silver.

The text continues with the remaining part of the operative clauses, the clauses against litigation, the witnesses and the rather broken dating.

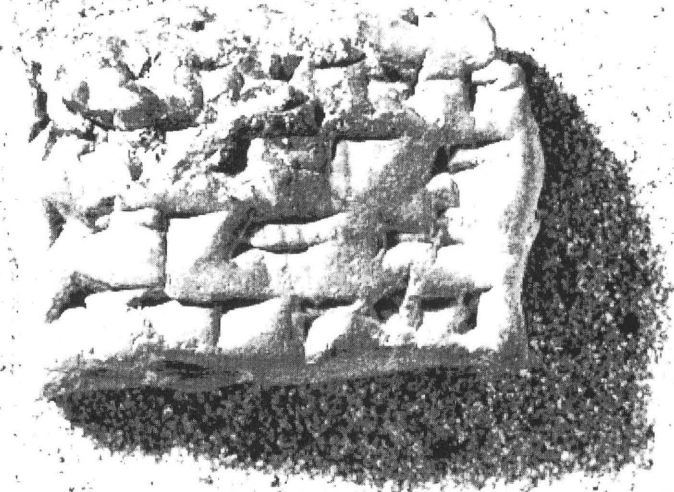
The name of the slave girl in line 3 has been reconstructed according to another Assur text (*VS I*, 96), from 641* B.C., where a slave girl with the name Šulmuītu can be found. That both texts refer to the same slave girl, not only two slave girls with the same name, is a possibility, but this cannot be proven.

Three of the texts (1-3) were registered and photographed during the DOG excavation at Assur. One of the other texts is in Musée d'Art et d'Histoire in Geneva (4) and one in the British Museum, London (5). These last two texts were not registered and photographed during the excavation. Also several other clay tablets in the British Museum and in Musée d'Art et d'Histoire can from their prosopography and other contextual reasons be shown originally to have belonged to Middle Assyrian and Neo-Assyrian archives in Assur. However, as far as I presently have been able to establish, none of these tablets appears on the German excavation photos. Therefore the tablets may have been sold, perhaps by workers, without being registered by the archaeologists.

PLATE II: BM 103017



Last erased line of Reverse and first line of Obverse



Obverse

PLATE III: BM 103017

