A NEO-ASSYRIAN LETTER WITHOUT ADDRESS

Remko Jas — Amsterdam

K 992, published in copy by Leroy Waterman in AJSL 29 (1912/3), unlike the other letters there, never made its way into ABL. The purpose of this note is to make it somewhat better known.

K 992
(43x75x22 mm)

Transliteration

Obverse
1 ina UGU \L{U}_{\text{DAM.GÅ}}[\text{K}^{\text{MES}}]
2 ša be-li iq-bu-[u-ni]
3 ma-a kas-pi-šu-nu la "u²-bi³-la
4 ma-a KÜ.BABBAR la-āš-šū as-se-me
5 14 MA.NA KÜ.BABBAR be-li lu-še-bi-la
6 is-su-ri be-li i-qa-bi
7 ma-a a-ke-e tak-sip
8 4 \L{U}_{\text{DAM.GÅ}}[\text{K}^{\text{MES}}] 1/2 MA.NA-a-a
9 4 \text{M}^{\text{MES}}-šū-nu 1/2 MA.NA-a-š³
10 1 \text{M}^{\text{f}} mu-šap-pi-tú 1/2 MA.NA
11 re²x x x³ x (x)
12 ina [
13 10 [   ]

1) I would like to thank Professor K. Deller for sending me his transcription of the Waterman copy and for convincing me of the necessity to recopy the text.
Reverse
(blank space of about five lines)

6' ù [ ]
7' a-na [ ]
8' pa-an KÁ.GAL [ ]
9' al-ka
(remainder blank)

Translation

(1) As to the merchants my lord spoke to me about as follows: “He did not bring (?) their money. There is no silver.” (4) I have heard (it). Let my lord send 14 minas of silver. (6) Perhaps my lord will say: “How will you divide it?” (8) Four merchants: half a mina each. Their four wives: half a mina each. One female dyer: half a mina. (11) [......] in [......] 10 [......]. (Rev. 6') and [......] to [......]. (8') Come to the front of the city gate [......].

Notes

4: asseme is not part of the direct speech. See LAS 174, 6 and LAS 185, r. 21.
7: Although both dictionaries have this line under kasāpukeašepu we choose the verb kasāpu (with odd vocalization), following a suggestion by Professor K. Deller. Literally, it means “to break into pieces”, but note CTN III, no. 12, 8, where it has a metaphorical meaning as well (“to deduct”).
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Fig. 1