TABLETS FROM NEBI YUNUS *

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The tablets published here come from the excavations at the North-East end of Nebi Yunus directed by Mohammed Ali Mustafa in 1954. A preliminary report of this work appeared in Sumer 10 (1954), pp. 110-111, and further details may be found in the article by M.L. Scott and J. MacGinnis in Iraq 52 (1990), pp. 64-67. These excavations revealed the remains of a ramp and gate leading up to the arsenal. The cuneiform tablets recovered numbered only sixteen in all, but including as they do royal annals, issues to the cavalry, a silver receipt, a muster of donkeys, a contract, an omen text, and lists of livestock, as well as inscribed sikkātu and a docket written in Aramaic, these texts paint a balanced picture of life up in the arsenal, and give a hint of the wonderful things that may yet await.

In two texts (Nos. 4, 11) Sin-šar-ūṣur features as the limmu by whom the year was dated. Three post-canonical limmus of this name are known, one a Scribe of the Palace, one the Governor of Hindanu, and one the Governor of Nineveh (Weidner, AfO 13 [1939-41], p. 317). If the Sin-šar-ūṣur appearing in the formula of the sikkātu fragments (Nos. 7-9) and in No. 11 is the same man as the limmu of our texts, it is evident that he was personally active in Nineveh and we may be justified in identifying him with the last of Weidner’s possibilities.

It is a great pleasure to express my thanks to Dr. Muayyad Damirji, Director General of Antiquities, Mohammed Ali Mustafa and Dr. Bahija Ismail for permission to publish these texts and for assistance in doing so.

*) In agreement with the author, alterations and additions have been made by members of the SAA/SAAB Editorial Committee.
1. IM 59047/A (Pl. I)
2. IM 59047/B (Pl. I)


3. IM 59049 (Pl. I)
Transliteration
Obverse
1. TA* ša-bi UD-2-KĀM ša ITI."BARAG"
2. 1-me-33 ša-ri 1PA-[a][x]
3. 32 ša-ri 1nu-ri-sa
4. 60 ša-ri 1mu-r[a]
5. 1-me-12 ša-ri 1ARAD-0[PA]
6. 73 ša-ri 1PA-GIŠ[7]
7. 47/5/8 ša-ri 1NIN."LĪL-AL"[3]
8. 24 ša-ri 1qi-te-sra
9. 147/4 sa-ri 1na-ri-
10. 12 ša-ri 1a-mi-x]

Reverse
1. 2 ša-ri 1A-[a]
2. 3 ša-ri 1DI-mu-MA[N]
3. 1 ša-ri ša-IGI-ne-ri-b[1]
4. 1 ša-ri 1SU[H]UŠ-4PA LŪ."ŠA-ú-ra-ni

5. 1 ma-qar-rat 1bî-na-2-te

6. TA* ša-bi UD-16-KĀM ša ITI."BARAG" 1PA-pad-da
7. LŪ.GAL-ki-šir TUG. ME 3 ma-qar-rat
8. \text{UD-16-KAM} 1\text{hu-}\text{re}^\text{e}-\text{a} 1\text{PAP-pad-da}

9. 4 \text{ma-qar-rat} \text{PAP} 8 \text{ma-qa[r-rat]}

10. \text{PAP 5-me-15 ʂa-ri}

Edge

11. \text{PAP 1-me-80 ma-qa[r-rat]}

Translation

"From the second day of Nisan (I), 133 stacks: Nabû-[…]; 32 stacks: Nuriya; 60 stacks: Šumayu; 112 stacks: Urad-[Nabû]; 73 stacks: Ahu-\text{lešir}; 48/58 stacks: Mullissu-iddina; 24 stacks: Qite-raf[…]; 14/4 stacks: Nani; 12 stacks: Ami[…]; 2 stacks: Aplay[u]; 3 stacks: Šulmu-šar[ri]; 1 stack: en-tran[ce] supervisor; 1 stack: Ubru-Nabû, the …; 1 bale: … From the 16(?)th of Nisan (I), Ahi-padda, cohort commander …, 3 bales. 16th day, Hurea (and) Ahi-padda, 4 bales: a total of 8 bales. A total of 515 stacks. In all 180 ba[les]."

Notes

2: For ʂa-ri, "shock, stack (of sheaves of barley)", cf. CAD S, p. 184, s.v. sar\text{ru} A (SP). This seems the first known occurrence in NA.

6: For the last sign, the reading is possibly giš (SP); although ma (McG) is not to be ruled out.

7: Here and in I. 9 the initial digit is uncertain: resp. either 48 (McG) or 58 (SP) and 14 (McG) or 4 (SP). In both cases, the total of 515 of rev. 10 is attained correctly.

r.5: ma-\text{qar-rat}: for maqarrutu, a bale or bundle of straw or reeds, see the dictionaries and the entries in Parpola, SAA 1, p. 219. After ma-\text{qar-rat}, McG proposes \text{1bi-na-te}; SP \text{1bi-te'}; FMF suggests that perhaps no personal name is involved here.

r.6: SP suggests UD-6-KAM.

r.10: 515 (the number of sar\text{ru}, "stacks") divided by 3 makes 172, which added to 8 (the number of maqarrutu, "bales") gives 180, the grand total of "bales". Thus sar\text{ru} obviously was a subdivision of maqarrutu, more specifically 1/3 of it (SP).

4.

\text{IM 59048 (Pl. I)}

Transliteration

1. 20 \text{GUN 13 MA.NA}
2. 18 \text{gN 3-su KU.BABBAR}
3. ʂa \text{UDU.MEŠ kas-pi SIG gi-zi}
4. s/šar-tù
5. $\text{šu.2}
\text{I\text{EN-MAN-PAP G\text{AR-NU}}}

6. $\text{ttzu l\text{im-me I\text{50-MAN-PAP}}}$

Translation
"20 talents 13 minas 18 1/3 shekels of silver from sheep, (and) silver from the wool of the shearing, ... . In charge of Bel-šar-ušur, the šaknu. Month of Shebat (XI), limmu of Sin-šar-ušur."

Notes
2: 3-su is a standard Assyrian way of writing a third of a shekel, see Postgate, FNALD, p. 66. Following Postgate, \textit{ibid.}, p. 64, the silver in this text comes to about 1225.5 kg by the heavy standard (or half that by the light).

4: sar-tū, "fine" (SP), is a possibility; the other, perhaps more relevant, is sar-tū, "hair", "sheared skin", as suggested by McG.

5.
IM 59050 (Pl. II)

This is an Aramaic docket, and is currently being prepared for publication by Erica Hunter.

6.
IM 59045 (Pl. II)

Transliteration
Obverse
Col. I'
1'. ...] Dū-uš
2'. ...] xx
3'. ...] SIG5-tū GĀL-ši
4'. ...] Dū-uš
5'. ...] DAGAL-āš SIG5-tū GĀL-ši

6'. ...] bi šá ni
7'. ...] kal lut ma šen? GĀL-ši
8'. ...] KIMIN
9'. ... \text{ina-an]}-ziq ul i-bir-ri
10'. ...] *ki-im-ti* ^d^AMAR,UTU
11'. ...] UD-ad ù HUL-ti GÁL-ši
12'. ...] D-ad ù HUL-ti GÁL-ši

13'. ...] šá-bi
14'. ...] KUR-ad
15'. ...] KUR-ad
16'. ...] -te-šú KUR-ad
17'. ...] im-mar
18'. ... ARHUŠ] GAR-šú
19'. ...] šá-a-qu šá-šú
20'. ...] DÜG.GA
21'. ...] iš-še-er
22'. ...] AN iš-šer
23'. ...] iš-še-er

Col. II'
1'. [DIŠ] GAB.A [IGI xxxxx]
2'. DIŠ DUH.ŠE.GIŠ.Í IGI 'X'[xxxx]
3'. DIŠ DU.ÜR.RA IGI KIMIN
4'. DIŠ a-za-al-la IGI KIMIN
5'. DIŠ mim-ma GI6 IGI KIMIN
6'. DIŠ NIG.NA IGI INIM SIG$-ti
7'. DIŠ i-na ki-di GIŠ.ÁPIN IGI de-e-na [xx(x)]
8'. DIŠ UKÚŠ št, IGI INIM de-e-ni [xx(x)]
9'. DIŠ UKÚŠ AL.ŠE.GA IGI INIM Aššur i-ger-rum

10'. DIŠ Ú.SAL IGI ep-ša i-še-rum
11'. DIŠ Ú.na-ak-ra IGI a-di-ra-tu "šá-bi"
12'. DIŠ Ú.SAL a-ha IGI ar-nu ma-a-tu x [x(x)]
13'. DIŠ še-e-tú IGI a-na ša ab^7 xx^7 [x(x)]
14'. DIŠ mim-ma IGI ip-tú [i-mal-li]
15'. DIŠ mim-ma SUMUN IGI ul-tab-[bar]
16'. DIŠ mim-ma GIBIL IGI ul-tab-[bar]
17'. DIŠ mim-ma ep-ša IGI "ep^3-ša i-še-[rum]

18'. DIŠ bar-sip.KI IGI ša-lim
19'. DIŠ dil-bat.KI IGI ša-lim
20'. DIŠ KIŠ.KI IGI ša-lim
21'. DIŠ ^d^30 IGI "ša^7-[lim]
22'. DIŠ ^d^UTU IGI ša-lim
23'. diş ²šim igi "de²-e²[na²]-xx(x)"
24'. diş mul.[x] igi ina kám [xx(x)]
25'. diş mul.[x] a-tir arhuš gar-šu
26'. diş "mul."[x] igi ša-bi [dùg.ga²]
27'. diş "mul."[x]-ma mi-ni-û xxx[xx]

Reverse

Col. I
1. [diš xx.ku₆ su]m-[nu-šu] xxx(x)
2. [diš xx].ku₆ sum-nu-šu [xxx(x)]
3. diš x bar.ku₆ sum-nu-šu "xxxxx"²
4. diš zag².ku₆ sum-nu-šu ad-šu ba.[u₆]
5. diš su-maš.ku₆ sum-nu-šu ti-bu-u
6. diš gir.ku₆ sum-nu-šu ana de-en-i i-ger-ru
7. diš muš².ku₆ sum-nu-šu mim-ma-šu ha.a
8. diš ur₄².ku₆ sum-nu-šu i qal x raša "šu"²
9. diš ur₄.tur.ku₆ sum-nu-šu ma ga la rab [x] "x²
10. diš mu-sa²."i-ra-nu².ku₆ sum-nu-šu "ana de²-e²-ni [i-ger-ru]
11. diš gu.bi.ku₆ sum-nu-šu i²-na² de-en-i [i-qal-lil]
12. diš ú màš.ku₆ sum-nu-šu i-na [xxx]
13. diš hu gi.ku₆ sum-nu-šu mim-mu-šu²² [ha.a²]
14. diš nî.bûn.na.ku₆ sum-nu-šu šib-šat [dingir]

15. diš na sum-nu-šu ruk kar-šu [xx]
16. diš x kâd.mušen sum-nu-šu nî.shu.meš ki[.min²]
17. diš x ka².mušen sum-nu-šu tur bu [xxx]
18. diš la ka².mušen sum-nu-šu [x] x [xxx]
19. diš mir² ba².mâ².mušen [sum-nu-šu xxx][xx]
20. diš xxx[x.mušen sum-nu-šu xxx][xx]

Col. II
4. ... dûg].ga
5. ... [sa²]
6. ...] uzù
7. ... tûk]-šû
8. ...] "dûg²].ga
9. ...] x
10. ...] mu
11. ...] dûg.g[a
12. ...] dûg.g[a
13. ... *ul-tab]-bar
14. ... *DUG.GA*"n
15. ... [(α)]
16. ... x
17. ... x
18. ... $λ$ dU
19. ... TUK-ši
20. ... TU]K-ši

Translation

Obverse

Col. I': only the ends of apodoses preserved, not translated.

Col. II'

1. [If he sees a] ..., [.......].
2. If he sees residue of linseed, [.......]
3. If he sees the base of a roof, *ditto*.
4. If he sees an azallû-plant, *ditto*.
5. If he sees something black, *ditto*.
6. If he sees an incense burner, (it is) a sign of favour.
7. If he sees a plough in the field, [he will conduct (?)] a court case.
8. If he sees a raw cucumber, (it is) a matter of a court case.
9. If he sees a cooked cucumber, he will conduct a case of Aššur.

10. If he sees a ...-plant, a just deed (?).
11. If he sees a ...-plant, darkening of the heart.
12. If he sees a ...-plant, a great sin [...].
13. If he sees a net, ......
14. If he sees something <..., [he will attain (lit. find)] success.
15. If he sees something old, he will grow old.
16. If he sees something new, he will grow old.
17. If he sees something completed, a just deed (?).

18. If he sees Borsippa, it is well.
19. If he sees Dilbat, it is well.
20. If he sees Kiš, it is well.
21. If he sees Šīn, it is well.
22. If he sees Šamaš, it is [well].
23. If he sees Adad, ... [...]
24. If he sees the star [...], ... [...]
25. If the [...] star is too *bright*, it will have pity on him.
26. If he sees the [...] star, his heart [may be pleased (?)].
27. If he sees the [...] star, whoever ... [...]

Reverse

Col. I
1. [If they give]e [him a ... fish, ...].
2. [If] they give him a [...]-fish, [...].
3. If they give him a ...-fish, [...]..
4. If they give him a ...-fish, his father will [die].
5. If they give him a sumāštû fish, rebellion.
6. If they give him a šahû-fish, he will conduct a court case.
7. If they give him a snake-fish, something of his will go missing.
8. If they give him a ...-fish, ...
9. If they give him a small ...-fish, ...
10. If they give him a frog, [he will conduct] a court case.
11. If they give him an eel, [he will lose] a court case.
12. If they give him a ...-fish, he [will lose a court case].
13. If they give him a ...-fish, something of his [will go missing (?)].
14. If they give him a tortoise, anger [of a god].
15. If they give him a man (?), ...
16. If they give him a ...-bird, his property ditto.
17. If they give him a ...-bird, ...
18. If they give him a ...-bird, [
19. If they give him a ...-bird, [

Col. II: only the ends of apodoses preserved, not translated.

Several considerations lead to the conclusion that this tablet is from the series of Dream Omens iškār ziqiqu, last edited by A.L. Oppenheim in The Interpretation of Dreams in the Ancient Near East, 1956. Firstly, the contents of many of the protases (seeing gods, cities and stars; eating various kinds of food) seem to make most sense in the content of a dream; in particular note that seeing Illil forms the catch-line to tablet VIII (Oppenheim, cit., p. 262) and that dreams in which fish are eaten form part of Oppenheim’s tablet A. Secondly, the “kenning” (Oppenheim’s word) iddinu-su which occurs in Rev., col. I, of our new text also crops up in his tablet B (with the minor variant sum-nu-štû for sum-štû); thirdly, many of the apodoses found in the Nebi Yunus tablet are also attested in the Dreams series, including inanziq (new text, Obv., I, 9, cf. Oppenheim, cit., p. 318, x+17; 325, x+11; 326, x+28; 327, 69; 329;66; 330, 43, 59; 334, x+4), ibirri (Obv., I, 9, cf. Oppenheim, cit., p. 314, 13; 316, Sm. 2073, x+14), ultabbar (Obv., II, 15, 16; Rev., II, 13, cf. Oppenheim, cit., p. 319, x+18; 321, 3; 324, x+13,
1992] TABLETS FROM NEBI YUNUS


7.  
**IM 59051/a (Pl. III)**  
Transliteration  
1. *xxx ni]-gi-’*  
2. *lim-me *(d)*]30-[MAN-PAP]

8.  
**IM 59051/b (Pl. III)**  
Transliteration  
1. *xxx] ni-gi-’*  
2. *lim-me *(d)*]30-[AN-PAP]

9.  
**IM 59051/C (Pl. III)**  
Transliteration  
1. [0] *110]-im-me [  
2. [t]a-mi-tū [  
3. *uš.z]ud’-10’-kām"]*30-[MAN-PAP]

These three pieces are all fragments from *sikkātu* bearing the same inscription.

10.  
**IM 60010 (Pl. III)**  
Transliteration  
Obverse  
1. *(l)[ša’]-la”]-ma[š]a-e *(l)a”]-bu-dāl-a  
2. *la’šur’]-PAP*’ 2 *GUD-APIN-a’*? ["]
3.  ìٗx²-aššur GAL-ki ina itti šu UD-1
4.  a-[n]a gemé-i-te i-da-an
5.  ṣe-[m]a la i-din UN.meš GUD.meš
6.  a-du³ tal-lul-a-te-šú-nu i-da-an
7.  pu-tú-hu še. NUMUN-šá i-na-ši

Edge
1. in.GUD UD-22 lim-me š[a³] x[xxx]

Reverse
1. igi³ PAP-Aš x[xxx]xx[x]
2.  ša de-e³-ni igi ìxx³[xx]
3.  igi arrap-ha²-a³ a igi (i³)en-[xxx]
4.  igi x³-la-10 igi igt[xxx]

Translation
“[..]-Aššur, cohort commander, shall give Ša-la-mašē, Labbu-dalā, Aššur-usur (??), and two plough oxen to the woman Amtiltu on the 1st of Tammuz (IV). If he does not give (them), he shall give the people and oxen with their equipment. He bears the responsibility for her (tablet: his) seed. Month Iyyar (II), 22nd day, eponym year of[..]. Witness (??): [..]-ahu-iddin, chief [..] of the court. Witness: [..]. Witness: Arraphayu. Witness: Bel-[..]. Witness: [..]la-Adad. Witness [..].”

Notes
1: Perhaps the last name should be read ṣe+rù(= bu)-dāl-a (FMF).

11.
IM 60011 (Pl. III)
Transliteration
1.  33 PAP 9-me-60
2.  5 ANšē 1 ³07 KUR? x³
3.  ṣa³ 1 MES
4.  ṣa x³ 1 30 (?x³
5.  šu.2 ³30-MAN-PAP

Edge
1. ṣu³ PAP-SU A
Reverse
1. (blank) *arrap?-ha
   blank space
2. *ttl.gan (blank)
3. *lim-me 130-MAN-PAP

Translation
   “33, in all 960. 5 homers/donkeys ... of ... in charge of Sin-šar-usur and
   Ahu-eriba ... Arrapha. Month Kislev (IX), eponym year of Sin-šar-usur.”.

Notes
   2: After ANŠE, perhaps 1301-MAN?-P[AP?], like in 1. 5 (GBL).

12.
IM 60012 (Pl. IV)

Transliteration
Obverse
1. šd 1na?-x
2. "Lú*".ZA"

Reverse
1. (blank) pu-hal
2. (blank) 4*
3. (blank) 3*
4. (blank) 2*
5. (blank) A-MU
6. (blank) mf."ûZ"*

Translation
   “Of Na[...], ... rams, 4(-year-old sheep), 3(-year-old sheep), 2(-year-old sheep),
   yearlings, she-goat.”

This and texts nos. 14, 15 and 16 are small, badly written tablets noting the
composition of flocks under the care of individual shepherds. No. 12 was evidently
drawn up in advance but left unfinished as the numbers of each class of goat were never
entered. For other lists of this kind, see CTN II, 131, 132, and Iraq 15 (1953), pl. XI (ND
3418).
13. IM 60013 (Pl. IV)
Transliteration
1. PAP 1-me-1 PA.ME
2. tu? li "x' ki

Translation
“In all 101 staffs …”.

The reading and translation of this tablet are not certain.

14. IM 60014 (Pl. IV)
Transliteration
Obverse
1. 29 KALAG.MEŠ
2. (blank) 3
3. (blank) 2
4. 2-me "U8";
5. 1-me-30 "NIM.ME?n"
6. 2 KALAG.ME

Reverse
1. 2 3*
2. 5?" 2*
3. 20 ÚZ
4. 8 MÁŠ TUR
5. 1ARAD-na-na-a

Translation
“29 full-grown (sheep), 3(-year-old sheep), 2(-year-old sheep), 200 ewes, 130 lambs, 2 he-goats, 2 3(-year-olds), 5 2(-year-olds), 20 she-goats, 8 kids. Urad-Nanaya.”

Notes
5: NIM.TUR is also possible.
15. IM 60015 (Pl. IV)
Transliteration
1. 14 "xx"
2. 13 x[xx]x

16. IM 60016 (Pl. IV)
Transliteration
Obverse
1. (blank) KALAG
2. (blank) 3*
3. 3 2*
4. 93 u₈
5. 46 NIM

Reverse
Blank space
1. 1aš-šur- x[x]x[x]

Translation
"Full-grown (sheep), 3(-year-olds), 3 2(-year-olds), 93 ewes, 46 lambs, Aššur-[…]."
Photos courtesy of the Iraq Museum
Photos courtesy of the Iraq Museum
PLATE III

Text no. 7 (IM 59051/a)

Text no. 8 (IM 59051/b)

Text no. 9 (IM 59051/c)

Text no. 10 (IM 60010)

Text no. 11 (IM 60011)