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**THE BABYLONIAN
CHRONICLE REVISITED***

But no one has yet compared the only known entry shared between an astronomical diary and a chronicle, namely the ac-

count of the battle between the Assyrians and Babylonians at Hirītu on XII-27-652 BC.¹³³ We juxtapose the two accounts below.

Chronicle 16

- 13 ŠE 27 ÉRIN-ni KUR aš+šur u ÉRIN KUR.URI.KI
 14 šal-tum ina ħi-rit DÛ.MEŠ-ma ÉRIN KUR.URI.KI
 15 ina MÈ EDIN BAL.ME-ma ŠI.ŠI-šú-nu ma-a-diš GAR-in
 16 SAL.KÛR GAR-at šal-tum sad-rat

BM 32312, astronomical diary for 652 BC, column iv¹³⁴

- 18' [x x x x] ħi-ri-tum NAM UD.KIB.NUN.KI ÉRIN KUR.URI.KI u KUR aš-šur
 19' [šal-tú KI a-ħa]-meš DÛ.MEŠ-ma ÉRIN KUR.URI.KI BAL.ME ma-a²-diš GAZ

There is no doubt that these sources are describing the same battle, since the date, place, identities of the combatants, and name of the winner match. But differences in information and phraseology are also worthy of note: (a) the chronicle describes the circumstances of the encounter as *ina tāħaz šēri*, "in a battle in the countryside," which the diary does not, and also appends at the end of the passage a statement about continuing hostilities *nukurtu šaknat šaltu sadrat*; (b) the diary adds the information that Hirītu was located in "the province of Sippar" (NAM UD.KIB.NUN.KI) and the minor phrase *itti aħāmeš*, "with each other"; (c) the order of the contestants (Assyria/Akkad; Akkad/Assyria) varies in the two descriptions, as does the place at which the name *Hirītu* (Chronicle: *Īirit*) occurs; (d) different phrases are used to describe the defeat: *ŠI.ŠI-šunu ma²diš šakin* vs. *ma²diš dākū* (though the adverb is common to both).

¹³³Corresponding to an undetermined date in March or April 651, according to the Julian calendar.

¹³⁴The day date "27" is contained in the line preceding the passage here (iv 17), with day "28" following in iv 20'. Neither year nor month names are preserved in this diary, but these are confirmed by astronomical phenomena recorded. The text has been partially published by A. J. Sachs, "Babylonian Observational Astronomy," in F. R. Hodson, ed., *The Place of Astronomy in the Ancient World* (London: Oxford University Press, 1974), p. 48 and pl. 3 (photo) and is now edited in full in A. J. Sachs and Hermann Hunger, *Astronomical Diaries and Related Texts from Babylonia*, vol. 1: *Diaries from 652 B.C. to 262 B.C.* (Vienna: Österreichische Akad. der Wiss., 1988), pp. 42-47.