

DIE WELT DES ORIENTS

Wissenschaftliche Beiträge
zur Kunde des Morgenlandes

herausgegeben

von Ernst Michel, Lohra Kr. Marburg, Wolfgang Röllig, Tübingen
und Wolfram von Soden, Münster/Westf.

Band V
1969—1970



VANDENHOECK & RUPRECHT
IN GÖTTINGEN

The Akitu Inscription of Bēl-ibni and Nabū-zēra-ušabši¹⁾

By J. A. Brinkman, Chicago

No royal inscriptions are known from Babylonia from the time of Nabonassar (747-734 B.C.), and only a few private contemporary sources bearing on his reign have been published. These private texts consist of eighteen administrative tablets from an unknown location and a private building inscription from Uruk²⁾. The building inscription has been known principally from two incomplete copies on clay cylinders³⁾, which between them preserve the greater part of the text, although in some places with doubtful readings. We are fortunate, therefore, in bringing to light a practically undamaged copy of this inscription, the cylinder BM 113205, which finally allows us to publish the complete text for the first time and to correct or establish the readings of some heretofore dubious passages.

The following transliteration of BM 113205 was made during a visit to the British Museum in May 1965. Variants from the other two cylinders and revised readings for these texts (usually minor emendations of the published copies) are based on collations made at Yale in March 1967; these

¹⁾ Abbreviations generally follow CAD A/1, pp. xxiv-xxxvi, with the following exceptions:

- Bischof = B. Landsberger, Brief des Bischofs von Esagila an König Asarhaddon.
Final Vowels = J. P. Hyatt, The Treatment of Final Vowels in Early Neo-Babylonian.
PKB = J. A. Brinkman, A Political History of Post-Kassite Babylonia (*Analecta Orientalia* 43; Rome, 1968).
Prosopographie = M. San Nicolò, Beiträge zu einer Prosopographie neubabylonischer Beamten der Zivil- und Tempelverwaltung.
TCS = Texts from Cuneiform Sources.
TN = temple name.

²⁾ The economic texts have been published as BRM 1,4-21, the private building texts as BIN 2,31 (dupl.: YOS 9,74). A fragmentary legal text dated in Babylon in the second year of his reign is as yet unpublished: BM 38114, kindly called to my attention by Prof. D. J. Wiseman.

³⁾ NBC 2502, published by Keiser in BIN 2,31 (copy), pp. 48-50 (transliteration, translation); corrected readings by Ungnad, OLZ 25 (1922) 70. YBC 2170, published by Stephens in YOS 9,74 (copy).

variants and emendations are indicated in the critical apparatus. The newly recovered portion of the text consists principally of a few signs at the ends of lines 8-10 plus the colophon; hence we have not thought it necessary to recopy the entire text, especially since the ductus of BM 113205 closely corresponds to that of the other cylinders, for which accurate copies have been provided by Keiser (BIN 2,31) and Stevens (YOS 9,74).

I wish to express my gratitude to the Trustees of the British Museum for allowing me to publish BM 113205, to Dr. E. Sollberger for his help especially in obtaining photographs of the text, to Prof. A. L. Oppenheim for collating several doubtful signs on BM 113205 in November 1967, and to Prof. W.W. Hallo and his former assistant, Dr. R. Kutscher, for facilitating my collation of the Yale texts.

Transliteration of BM 113205

- (1) *a-na* ^dŠEŠ-a-mat-su GAŠAN šir-ti da-i-na-at di-ni ma-a-ti
 - (2) *pa-ri-sa-at* EŠ.BAB AN-e ù er-še-ti bu-uk-rat ^dIM
 - (3) *na-ár-mat* ^dAMAB.UTU šá la in₅-né-nu-ú qi-bi-is-su
 - (4) *a-ki-ti* šá ul-tu u₄-mu ru-qu-tu la-ba-riš il-lik-ma
 - (5) *šu-uš-šu* im-ma-šu-ma sa-ra-ši-iš uš-bu
 - (6) *i-ga-ru-šu* i-qu-pu-ma 'qup¹-pu-u' uš-šá-šu-un
 - (7) *ú-šu-ra-tu-šu* im-ma-šá-a-ma iš-nu-ú ši-kin-ši-in
 - (8) LUGAL LÚ qi-pu LÚ ru-bu-ú ù LÚ EN URU
 - (9) *a-na e-peš* šip-ru šu-a-ti ù ud-dúš a-ki-ti ú-zu-šu la iš-kun-nu-ma
 - (10) *ár-ka-na* ^mEN-ib-ni ù ^{md}AG-NUMUN-GÁL-ši DUMU.MEŠ šá ^mBul-lu-tu UNU[G].^rKI-ú¹
 - (11) *a-na e-peš* šip-ru šu-a-ti u ud-dúš a-ki-ti ú-zu-šu-nu iš-kun-nu-ma
 - (12) *al-la* ù tup-šik-ki ina gi-mir lib-bi-šu¹-nu in-na-šu-ma
 - (13) *maš-tak* la-li-e el-lu.^rtu¹ a-na ^dIŠ.TAR ú-še-pi-iš
 - (14) *ina šat-ti* ^dŠEŠ-a-mat-su GAŠAN šir-ti a-na a-ki-ti é-šá ha-diš ina e-re-bi-š[á]
 - (15) ù ina šu-bat DINGIR-ti-šá GAL-ti šá-qi-iš i-na a-šá-bi-šá
 - (16) UGU ^{md}EN-ib-ni ù ^{md}AG-NUMUN-GÁL-ši bu-ni-šá nam-ru-tú ki-niš lit-ru-[u]š(?)¹-ma
 - (17) *li-ir-ri-ki* u₄-mi-šu-nu a-na GÍD.DA u₄-mi-šu-nu TI.LA nap-šá-ti-šu-nu
 - (18) *šá-la-ma* NUMUN-šu-nu la ba-še-e GIG-šu-nu a-ki-ti eš-šiš ú-še-piš
 - (19) MU 5 KAM ^dAG-ŠEŠ-ir LUGAL KÁ.DINGIR.RA.KI
 - (20) *ina DU šá* ^{md}AG-DU-NUMUN DUMU ^{md}AG-NUN.ME-DINGIR.MEŠ ĞIR.NITÁ KUB UG.UD.^rKI¹
- edge: (21) šá ^mIR.^dNa-na-a
- (22) DUMU ^mAN.NAM(?)¹-ú-a
- (23) LÚ É.BAB UNUG.KI
- (24) ú-šá-pu-ú

Translation of BM 113205

¹To Ušur-amāssu, the exalted lady, who gives (oracular) judgments for the land, who makes decisions for the heavens and netherworld, daughter of Adad, beloved of Marduk, whose word is unalterable. ⁴The akītu temple—which long ago had grown old, whose name had been forgotten, and which stood in ruins—its walls had collapsed and their foundations crumbled; its outlines had been forgotten and their shape changed. ⁸Neither king nor commissioner nor dignitary nor city ruler had turned his attention to perform this task and to renew the akītu temple. ¹⁰Finally, Bēl-ibni and Nabû-zēra-ušabši, sons of Bulluṭu of Uruk, turned their attention to perform this task and to renew the akītu temple; and they wholeheartedly took up hoe and basket and built a chamber of pure abundance for the goddess. ¹⁴Wherefore, when Ušur-amāssu, the exalted lady, enters joyfully into her akītu temple and when she sits on high in the dwelling of her great divinity, may she steadily turn her shining countenance upon Bēl-ibni and Nabû-zēra-ušabši; and may she lengthen their days. ¹⁷They have built anew the akītu temple to prolong their days, to sustain their lives, to ensure the well-being of their offspring, to ward off illness (from themselves). ¹⁹(Dated) the fifth year of Nabû-nāšir, king of Babylonia, in the presence of Nabû-mukīnzeri, son of Nabû-apkal-ili, viceroy of G.N. ^{Edge}(Document) which Arad-Nanâ, son of Annamua(?), šangû of Uruk, . . .