

ÖSTERREICHISCHE AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN
PHILOSOPHISCH-HISTORISCHE KLASSE
DENKSCHRIFTEN, 195. BAND

ASTRONOMICAL
DIARIES AND RELATED TEXTS
FROM BABYLONIA

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Volume I

Diaries from 652 B.C. to 262 B.C.



VERLAG DER ÖSTERREICHISCHEN AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN
WIEN 1988



No. -651 (BM 32312)

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BM 32312 (= S+ 76-11-17,2040)

Šamašsumukin year 16

Photo: Pl. 1

I [...] ... [...] XII

Copy: Pl. 2 (Rev. only)


Upper Edge (smaller script): [...] EN' liš-lim


Col. i

- 1 [x x x] *sin ina(!)* DIR IGI-mar GUR' NIM-a
 2 [SA]G GE₆ ŠÚ GE₆ 1 ILLU GIN 1 *šamáš TÙR NIGÍN* GE₆
 3 2 2 ŠÚ-up ULÛ GIN 3 *ma-diš ŠÚ ina* KIN-SIG [Š]ĒG ŠUR
 4 GE₆ 4 4 ŠĒG ŠUR 6 AN-BAR₇ *šamáš TÙR NIGÍN*
 5 *ana KUR TAR-is* 7 *sin TÙR NIGÍN ILLU GIN-kám*
 6 GE₆ 12 ŠÚ-up 12 13 14 ŠÚ 14 DINGIR KI DINGIR {x} IGI
 7 ILLU LAL-is GU₄-UD *ina* NIM *ár* ^{mul}·KUN^{me} ŠÚ(!)
 8 *ù* SAG-UŠ *ár* ^{mul}·KUN^{me} ŠÚ U₄^{me} ŠÚ^{me} NU PAP
 9 17 *ina še-rì* ŠÚ-up GÛ U ULÛ ŠÁR ŠĒG NA₄ TUR
 10 AN KI NUNDUN GÍR-TAB UŠ-id *ana MÚL SA₄*
 11 *šá* SAG ^{mul}·GÍR-TAB TE TA 22 EN 24 [x x]
 12 25 AN *ina* NIM MUL_x *šá* 15 ^{mul}·GÍR-TAB [x x x x]
 13 ILLU GIN GE₆ 20 ŠÚ-up GÍR G[Û U x x x x]
 14 *i* IM KALAG GE₆ 21 ŠĒG [...]
 15 ŠĒG *i* GÍR GÍR ULÛ [...]
 16 *ina* IGI ^{mul}·RÍN 2 KÙŠ ~~⌘~~ [...]
 17 *šá* 15 ^{mul}·GÍR-TAB ~~⌘~~ [...]
 18 DU *šamáš ina* DIR ŠÚ ~~⌘~~ [...]
 19 [A]N *né* ŠUR ULÛ [...]
 20 [x] ~~⌘~~ GE₆ [...]
 (rest of column broken)

Col.ii

- 1 SI GIN 15 ṚAN⁷-K[U₁₀ ...]
 2 ^{mul}·ŠU-GI IGI ILLU [...]
 3 *ana* ṚULÛ⁷ GAR ~~⌘~~ [...]
 4 USAN ~~⌘~~ [...]

5 U  [...]

6 
(rest of column broken)

Col.iii

1' *šá* x [...]
2' *ina* KI[N-SIG]
3' x [...]
4' SI GIN AN-KU₁₀ *sin* x [...]
5' 20' *sin* TÜR NIGÍN GU₄-UD *ina* Š[À GUB]
6' IM KALAG 21 x x [...]

Col.iv

1' [...] MUL_x *šá* x [...]
2' [...] x x 15' *sin'* [...]
3' [...] x x x x x [...]
4' [x x] x x x [x] DÜ x [...]
5' [x x x] x KÜŠ' x PI 15 *sin* x 5' KÜŠ' x x [...]
6' [x] x x x x x ^dU GÜ-šú [...]
7' x x x x x 5 GU₄-UD *ina* NIM *ina nu-nu* IGI [...]
8' x x x x x x DU^{me} *ana* ULÜ x [...]
9' x IM AN *né* ŠUR 12 TÜR' x ILLU GIN x [...]
10' ERÍN^{me} KUR URI^{ki} *ana* ŠÀ ERÍN KUR *Aš-šur šal-tú* DÜ^{me} ERÍN MU x [...]
11' 13 ILLU *i* GIN 14 *ni-di* *ina* 15 *šamáš* ŠUB GE₆ 15 ŠÚ-up 3 TI[R-AN]
12' 1 *ina* MAR 1 *ina bi* SÍ *u* MAR ù 1 *ina* SI IGI^{meš} ŠÈG GÍR GÜ U x
13' DIR 15 DINGIR KI DINGIR IGI ULÜ ŠÁR *hi-tu* IGI AN DIB GE₆ 16 *sin* TÜR GAL'
14' NIGÍN 16 TÜR *šamáš* NIGÍN 18 *šamáš* TÜR x NIGÍN ULÜ GIN 19 *dele-bat* *ina* KI
15' ^{mul} HUN-GÁ *ár* AN 10 SI GUB *sin* TÜR NIGÍN SI₄ *ina* ŠÀ GUB 20 AN *ina* 2.30
16' ^rx^r KI ^{mul} HUN-GÁ 1 SI TE *sin* TÜR NIGÍN SÀG-ME-GAR *ina* ŠÀ GUB ULÜ GIN
17' [x x] x A 27 TIR-AN *šá* SUH^{me}-šú *ma-a* 'diš MAH *ina* NIM GIB
18' [x x x x] *hi-ri-tum* NAM UD.KIB.NUN^{ki} ERÍN KUR URI^{ki} *u* KUR *Aš-šur*
19' [*šal-tú* KI *a-ḥa*]-*meš* DÜ^{meš}-*ma* ERÍN KUR URI^{ki} BAL^{me} *ma-a* 'diš GAZ
20' [x x x S]I GIN 28 ŠÈG *i* *ina* KIN-SIG TIR x DIR' *ina* KUR GIB
21' [x x x x] 27 ILLU *i* GIN AN UTAH ŠUR MU BI ŠÈG *i* KI TU x [...]

Calendar

No calendaric information is preserved in this diary.

Comments

i 1: GUR may be an unusual writing for $kur_4 = ba'lu$ "bright".

i 5: TAR is said of a halo also in No.-567 rev. 15'; its reading here is *paris* "is split, divided", see AHw. 831a mng. 7b.

i 6: "one god was seen with the other" refers to sun and moon in opposition.

i 8: NU PAP "I did not watch" unfortunately refers to both planetary statements.

i 12f.: the items listed in these lines are not in chronological order.

iv 16': The traces at the beginning of the line may be restored to $\lceil SAG \rceil.KI$ "front".

iv 20': I cannot read the sign after TIR; *ma-diš* is possible; this is written *ma-a'-diš* in iv 17' and 19', but *ma-diš* in i 3. $DIR^?$ could be SA_5 "red"; although a rainbow usually is multicolored, a (predominantly) red rainbow occurs in ACh Adad 6:5f., quoted by F. X. Kugler, SSB II 104.

iv 21': The signs $KI TU x$ at the end of the line do not seem to continue the words preceding them; they may be the beginning of the last line of col. iii.

No. -651

Upper edge

1 [At the command of] Bēl' may it be well.

Col. i

1 [Month I,] the moon became visible in a cloud; it was bright' and high.
 2 [Beginn]ing of the night, overcast. Night of the 1st, the river level rose. The 1st, the
 sun was surrounded by a halo. Night
 3 of the 2nd, (and) the 2nd, overcast. The south wind blew. The 3rd, very overcast.
 In the afternoon it rained.
 4 Night of the 4th, (and) the 4th, it rained. The 6th, middle part of the day, the sun
 was surrounded by a halo.
 5 It was split towards the east. The 7th, the moon was surrounded by a halo. The river
 level rose.
 6 Night of the 12th, overcast. The 12th, the 13th, the 14th, overcast. The 14th, one
 god was seen with the other.
 7 The river level receded. Mercury's last appearance in the east behind Pisces,
 8 and Saturn's last appearance behind Pisces; I did not watch because the days were
 overcast.
 9 The 17th, in the morning, overcast. Thunder, gusty south wind, rain, small (hail)-
 stones.
 10 Mars became stationary in the area of the Lip of the Scorpion, it came close to the
 bright star
 11 of the Scorpion's head. From the 22nd to the 24th, [. . . .]
 12 The 25th, Mars was east of the star to the right of the Scorpion [. . . .]
 13 The river level rose. Night of the 20th, overcast. Lightning, thun[der,]
 14 a little [. . . .], strong wind. Night of the 21st, rain [. . . .]
 15 A little rain, lightning flashed, the south wind [. . . .]
 16 2 cubits in front of the Scales. . . . [. . . .]
 17 to the right of the Scorpion 1' [. . . .]
 18 The sun set in a cloud. . . . [. . . .]
 19 It rained slowly, the south wind [. . . .]
 20 [. . . .] night [. . . .]
 (rest of column broken)

Col. ii

1 The north wind blew. The 15th, an eclipse' [. . . .]
 2 first appearance in the Old Man. The river level [. . . .]
 3 was placed towards the south. . . . [. . . .]
 4 first part of the night, [. . . .]

- 5 [. . . .]
 6 [. . . .]
 (rest of column broken)

Col.iii

- 1' of [. . . .]
 2' in the after[noon]
 3' [. . . .]
 4' The north wind blew. Lunar eclipse [. . . .]
 5' The 20th², the moon was surrounded by a halo, (and) Mercury [stood] in i[t]
 6' strong wind. The 21st, [. . . .]

col.iv

- 1' [. . . .] the star of [. . . .]
 2' [. . . .] right² of the moon [. . . .]
 3' [. . . .] [. . . .]
 4' [. . . .] [. . . .]
 5' [. . . .] right of the moon² [. . . .]
 6' [. . . .] thunder, [. . . .]
 7' The 5th, Mercury's first appearance in the east in Pisces. [. . . .]
 8' towards the south [. . . .]
 9' It rained slowly. The 12th, a halo The river level rose [. . . .]
 10' The troops of Babylonia fought against the troops of Assyria; the troops [. . . .]
 11' The 13th, the river level rose a little. The 14th, a cloud bank lay to the right of the sun. Night of the 15th, overcast. Three ra[inbows,]
 12' one in the west, one between north and west, and one in the north, were seen. Rain, lightning, thunder,
 13' clouds². The 15th, one god was seen with the other. Gusty south wind, haze crossed the face of the sky. Night of the 16th, the moon was surrounded by a large halo.
 14' The 16th, the sun was surrounded by a halo. The 18th, the sun was surrounded by a . . . halo; the south wind blew. The 19th, Venus
 15' stood in the region of Aries, 10 fingers behind Mars; the moon was surrounded by a halo, and α Scorpii stood in it. The 20th, Mars was 1 finger to the left
 16' of the front² of Aries; it came close. The moon was surrounded by a halo, Jupiter stood in it. The south wind blew.
 17' [. . . .] The 27th, a rainbow whose brightness was very great stretched in the east.
 18' [. . . . in] Hiritu in the province of Sippar the troops of Babylonia and of Assyria
 19' fou[ght with each] other, and the troops of Babylonia withdrew and were heavily defeated.
 20' [. . . . The no]rth wind blew. The 28th, a little rain. In the afternoon, a very red² rainbow stretched in the east.
 21' [. . . .] The 27th, the river level rose a little. A rain shower fell. That year little rain [. . . .]

Date

Year and month names are broken, but the military events reported in lines iv 18'f. clearly refer to the same events as BM 86379:13-16 (Grayson Chronicles p. 132) which are dated to Šamašsumukin year 16 XII 27. This date is independently confirmed by the following astronomical events mentioned in the present diary: Last appearance of Mercury in the east behind Pisces and last appearance of Saturn behind Pisces (both around the 14th of month I); stationary point of Mars in Scorpius (17th of month I); first appearance of Mercury in Pisces (5th of month XII).