

54) **Large Wooden Writing Board Mentioned in the Astronomical Diary -213**<sup>1)</sup> – This astronomical diary -213 is now preserved on the fragment of clay tablet, Rm. 847 + Rm. unnumbered of the British Museum. The size of this fragment is 23 × 56 × 29 mm. The obverse of this fragment partly preserves the first five lines of the original tablet. These lines at least cover the period from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> days of the month Araḥsamna, 214/213 BC (98 SE)<sup>1)</sup>. This indicates that the first nineteen or less days of this month are out of the coverage of the diary -213. The last few days of the same month was probably mentioned in the lower part of the obverse and/or in the upper part of the reverse on the original tablet of this diary, but these parts are now lost. However, one line is inscribed on the reverse and two are on the upper edge of the fragment Rm. 847 + Rm. unnumbered. The author's recent study of this fragment results the following new reading and the copies of these three lines<sup>2)</sup>.

Rev.

1' [...] 'x x x x x<sup>m</sup> an lugal kur.kur

(ca. 2 lines are blank)

Upper Edge

1 [... mu-1,3]'8'-kam<sup>m</sup> an lugal íb-tag<sub>4</sub> apin ana muḥ-ḥi

2 <sup>giš.</sup>ig gal-tum sar

Rev.

1' [...] .... Antiochus, king of the lands.

(ca. 2 lines are blank)

Upper Edge

1 [... year 9]8, Antiochus, king. The remaining (diary) for Araḥsamna is

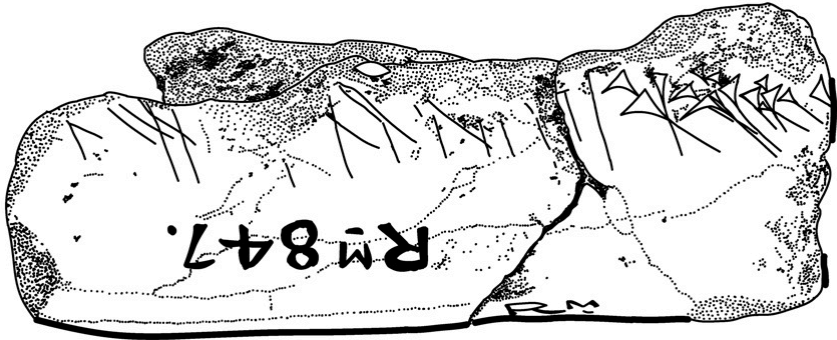
2 written on the large wooden writing board.

Commentary

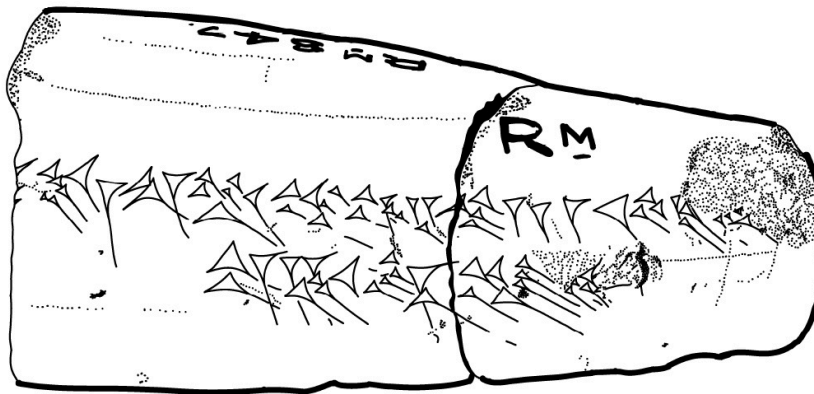
Rev. 1' The last signs kur.kur partly overlap each other. The latter sign consists of two (rather) horizontal strokes and one Winkelhaken. For this style, see R. Borger, *Mesopotamisches Zeichenlexikon* (Münster: Ugarit, 2003), 667, n578.

The right end of Rev. 1' and the first half of Upper Edge 1 show the year number "98" and the name of the king who ruled Babylon in 98 SE, Antiochus. This king is Antiochus III of the Seleucids. He is called "king of the lands" in Rev. 1', but just "king" in Upper Edge 1<sup>3)</sup>. The latter simple title of Antiochus III precedes a note. This note shows that the remaining diary for the month Araḥsamna of 98 SE was written on a large wooden writing board (<sup>giš.</sup>ig gal-tum)<sup>4)</sup>. This should mean that the writing board covered the first nineteen or less days of this month, which are out of the coverage of the diary -213.

Rm. 847 + Rm. unnumbered.  
Rev.



Upper Edge



\*) My research for this article is funded by JSPS KAKENHI Grant No. 24700245 and JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship for Research Abroad. I am greatly indebted to the Trustees of the British Museum for allowing me to study the diary fragment Rm. 847 + Rm. unnumbered. The abbreviations used here follow the list in *The Assyrian Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago*, ed. M. T. Roth, vol. 20, *U and W* (Chicago, Illinois: The Oriental Institute, 2010) with the following exceptions:

ADART = A. J. Sachs and H. Hunger, *Astronomical Diaries and Related Texts from Babylonia* (Vienna: VÖAW, 1988-).

SE = Seleucid Era

**1** See the transliteration, translation, and date of the diary -213 in ADART 2, 158-59.

**2** Cf. ADART 2, 158-59; G.F. Del Monte, *Testi dalla Babilonia ellenistica*, vol. 1, *Testi cronografici* (Pisa: Istituti editoriali e poligrafici internazionali, 1997), 59.

**3** Some Seleucid kings are also called “king of the lands.” See BM 33541:28 (Seleucus I and Antiochus I); BRM 4 7:48, BRM 4 8:38, W. 18828 Rev. 8, K. 3753 IV II, YOS 1 52:2 (Antiochus II); MLC 1890:36 (Seleucus III). For further references, see J. Oelsner, “Ein Beitrag zu keilschriftlichen Königstitulaturen in hellenistischer Zeit,” *ZA* 56 (1964): 268-69; Del Monte, *Testi dalla Babilonia ellenistica*, 1:227, 231, 233.

**4** For this meaning of *daltu*, and further literature on the wooden writing boards of the Ancient Near East, see Marten Stol, “Einige kurze Wortstudien,” in *Festschrift für Rykle Borger zu seinem 65. Geburtstag am 24. Mai 1994*, ed. S. M. Maul (Groningen: Styx, 1998), 343-44.

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