

34) Another fragment of MUL.APIN from Babylonia (BM 43871)\* —The cuneiform collection of the British Museum seems to be a never-ending source for cuneiform texts of various genres. In particular, the collection of Babylonian tablets yields many treasures. Searching this collection for celestial omens, I came across a small fragment of MUL.APIN tablet I. The fragment BM 43871 (1881-07-01, 1632) has the beginnings of lines MUL.APIN I ii 33-39. In line 1' (= ii 33), the text parallels text AA (VAT 9429) of the edition of the series MUL.APIN (see H. Hunger & D. Pingree, *MUL.APIN. An Astronomical Compendium in Cuneiform* [AfO Beiheft 24; Horn: Ferdinand Berger & Söhne, 1989], 39) by writing MUL.MEŠ instead of MUL and thus referring to “stars” instead of “a star” or “a star constellation”. The cuneiform signs in line 1' move slightly upwards towards the right, which indicates that the scribe had added an additional line at the – now lost– right part of the column and combined lines 33 and 34 this way, presuming he had not forgotten to write line 34 altogether. No join with any of the texts in the edition of MUL.APIN could be established. In the following transliteration the corresponding line numbers of MUL.APIN I ii precede each line of the new copy.

BM 43871 (measurements: 37<sup>+</sup> × 34<sup>+</sup> × 21<sup>+</sup> mm.)

33	1'	[DI]Š 'MUL.MEŠ šá EGIR-šú <sup>1</sup> -n[u GUB-zu MUL.pa-bil-sag]
34	1'a <sup>?</sup>	[DIŠ MUL.MÁ.GUR <sub>4</sub> u MUL.SUḪUR.MÁŠ.KU <sub>4</sub> ]
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35	2'	[1]5 MUL.MEŠ [šu-ut <sup>d</sup> é-a]
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36	3'	[DI]Š ina ITU.BÁR UD.1.KAM [MUL.LÚ.ḪUN.GÁ IGI.LÁ]
37	4'	[DI]Š ina ITU.BÁR UD.20.KAM [MUL.GÁM IGI.LÁ]
38	5'	[DI]Š ina ITU.GUD UD.1.KAM [MUL.MUL IGI.LÁ]
39	6'	[DI]Š i[na] 'ITU.GUD UD.20'.K[AM MUL.is-le-e IGI.LÁ] (remainder is missing)
1'		The stars that [stand] behind the[m (are) Pabilsag (= Saggitarus),]
1'a <sup>?</sup>		[the Bark and the Goat-Fish].
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2'		[(These are) 1]5 stars [of Ea].
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3'		In month <i>nisanu</i> on the 1 <sup>st</sup> day [the Hired Man becomes visible].
4'		In month <i>nisannu</i> on the 20 <sup>th</sup> day [the Crook becomes visible].
5'		In month <i>ajjaru</i> on the 1 <sup>st</sup> day [the Stars (= Plejades) become visible].
6'		I[n] month <i>ajjaru</i> on the 20 <sup>th</sup> day [the Jaw of the Bull becomes visible]. (remainder is missing)

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