

**41) Cuneiform Tablets from Various Auctions – Part III: The Second and First Millennium B. C. —**

This article is the last one of a series of compilations of inscribed cuneiform tablets, which were collected by the author from various catalogues of auctions. The first part was published in NABU 2017 n° 3 (Theis 2017) and compiles tablets from the third Millennium B. C. up to the beginning of the Third Dynasty of Ur; the second part in NABU 2021 n° 1 (Theis 2021) compiles tablets from the time of the Third Dynasty of Ur and also tablets from the third Millennium B. C. of uncertain date. As it was the aim of the first two parts, the aim of this part containing a list of cuneiform tablets from the second and first Millennium B. C. is to make these tablets available for scholars and preserve their content for research. It is unknown how many of the mentioned tablets were acquired by a museum or another scientific institution, but we can assume that some or most – if not all – of them were acquired by private collectors, and are therefore lost for research.

The tablets were entered according to their dating and the entries offer the given information from the catalogues. Unfortunately, some of the catalogues did not present a photo or anything similar, so that the presented information could not be checked. The internet addresses listed were last accessed on 20th December 2021.

**Isin-Larsa period**

- Clay tablet containing an account for the temple of Dagan. Date: accession year of Šu-ilišu, king of Isin. Size: 7 × 4,5 cm. Auction: Wednesday, 20th June, 1990 → Sotheby's 1990, no. 132.
- Clay cuneiform cone of Lipit-Ištar with a commemoration: "I am Lipit-Ištar, the solicitous shepherd of Nippur, the faithful farmer of Ur, who cares unceasingly for Eridu, the exemplary Lord of Uruk, King of Isin, King of Sumer and Akkad, cherished by the goddess Inanna. When I had established justice in Sumer and Akkad, I built the house of justice in the Namgarum area, the eminent place of the gods." Height: 10,6 cm; two columns of text. Auction: Wednesday, 15th June, 1988 → Sotheby's 1988, no. 43.
- Terracotta foundation cone of Lipit-Ištar with a dedicatory inscription. Size: not mentioned. Auction: Thursday, 8th December, 1994 → Sotheby's 1994, no. 66.
- Three foundation cones, each inscribed with one register of columns for Lipit-Ištar, king of Isin, with a building inscription of the Gipar-complex for Enninsunzi. Height: between 14,3 and 15,9 cm. Auction: Thursday, 14th December, 1978 → Sotheby's 1978c, no. 184.
- Six clay foundation cones, all with identical inscriptions recording a dedication of a storehouse built in the city of Isin. Size: 11,3 cm; some small pieces are chipped off; 37 lines of text each. Auction: New York, 4th June, 2015 → Christie's 2014, no. 107 (Parallel: Frayne 1990, nos. 49–51).
- Four clay tablets: one recording a receipt of barley; one with an administrative account of sesame; one an envelope tablet recording an account of the receipt of sesame oil; and one an account of barley rations for the house of the lady. Date: from the reign of king Rim-Sîn I of Larsa. Size: largest tablet 10 cm. Auction: New York, 4th June, 2015 → Christie's 2014, no. 108.
- Three clay tablets: one with an account of barley; one with an account of grain disbursement; and one with an account of silver from the 59th year of king Rim-Sîn I of Larsa. Size: largest tablet 10,3 cm. Auction: New York, 4th June, 2015 → Christie's 2014, no. 109.
- Two clay cuneiform tablets including one recording an account of barley and one recording rations of grain and persons receiving them. Date: from the reign of king Rim-Sîn I of Larsa. Size: largest tablet 12,7 cm; some small pieces are chipped off. Auction: New York, 4th June, 2015 → Christie's 2014, no. 111.
- Cuneiform tablet from the reign of king Rim-Sîn I of Larsa, recording the restoration of the temple E-a-ga-ga-kilib-ur for the goddess Ningal by Simat-Ištar, the wife of king Rim-Sîn I. Size: 12,2 cm. Auction: New York, 4th June, 2015 → Christie's 2014, no. 114.
- Limestone cuneiform tablet from the reign of king Rim-Sîn I of Larsa, with the same inscription as the aforementioned object. Size: 11,7 cm. Auction: New York, 4th June, 2015 → Christie's 2014, no. 115.
- Five terracotta foundation cones recording a dedication of a storehouse built in the city of Isin, with the same inscription as the aforementioned pieces. Size: 12,5 cm; some small pieces are chipped off; 37 lines of text each. Auction: New York, 4th June, 2015 → Christie's 2014, no. 110.
- Limestone cylinder from the reign of king Warad-Sîn of Larsa. Size: 13,8 cm; 20 lines of text. Auction: New York, 4th June, 2015 → Christie's 2014, no. 113.
- Clay tablet of the 20th century B. C., probably from the city of Umma, with details about work to be done on a boat. Date: unknown. Auction: Monday, 11th April, 1960 → Sotheby's 1960, p. 5, no. 10.
- Clay tablet of the 20th century B. C., probably from the city of Umma, with details of work by twelve men in three groups. Date: unknown. Auction: Monday, 11th April, 1960 → Sotheby's 1960, p. 5, no. 10.
- Clay tablet of the 20th century B. C., probably from the city of Umma, with details of work by one man. Date: unknown. Auction: Monday, 11th April, 1960 → Sotheby's 1960, p. 5, no. 10.
- Clay tablet of the 20th century B. C., probably from the city of Umma, with an issue of barley for offerings. Date: unknown. Auction: Monday, 11th April, 1960 → Sotheby's 1960, p. 5, no. 10.

- Clay tablet of the 20th century B. C., probably from the city of Umma, with receipts for three kinds of woollen cloth and two linen cloths. Date: unknown. Auction: Monday, 11th April, 1960 → Sotheby's 1960, p. 5, no. 10.
- Clay tablet of the 20th century B. C., probably from the city of Umma, with details about an issue of grain. Date: unknown. Auction: Monday, 11th April, 1960 → Sotheby's 1960, p. 5, no. 10.

#### Old-Assyrian period

- Large clay tablet. Date: unknown. Size: 12,7 × 7,6 cm. Auction: Tuesday, 18th June, 1991 → Sotheby's 1991, no. 311.

#### Old-Babylonian period

- Three fragmentary foundation cones of Sin-kāšid, king of Uruk. Size: between 4,9 and 6,3 cm. Auction: Thursday, 14th December, 1978 → Sotheby's 1978c, no. 185.
- Clay cone of Sin-kāšid, king of Uruk. Size: 15,7 cm. Auction: Tuesday, 18th June, 1991 → Sotheby's 1991, no. 310.
- Clay cone of Sin-kāšid, king of Uruk. Size: not mentioned. Auction: Thursday, 8th December, 1994 → Sotheby's 1994, no. 66.
- A clay tablet recording the dedication of the royal palace by king Sin-kašid, king of Uruk. Auction: New York, 4th June, 2015 → Christie's 2014, no. 109.
- Steatite cuneiform tablet with a dedication inscription of Sin-kāšid, king of Uruk: "For Lugalbanda, his god, and for Ninsun, his mother, Sin-kāšid, king of Uruk, king of Amnanum, and the provider of the Eanna temple, when he had built the Eanna temple, he built for them the Ekankal, their dwelling house which makes the heart happy. For the period of his kingship, one shekel of silver could buy, at the market rate of his land: three kor of barley, twelve minas of wool, ten minas of copper, or three ban of vegetable oil. May his years be years of abundance". Size: 9,3 cm. Auction: New York, 4th June, 2015 → Christie's 2014, no. 112.
- Four clay tablets with administrative texts, including lists of issues or deliveries of various types of oil and others. Size: not mentioned. Auction: Monday, 17th December, 1979 → Sotheby's 1979, no. 201.
- Clay tablet recording the names of recipients of barley rations. Size: 17,5 cm; 142 lines of text. Auction: New York, 4th June, 2015 → Christie's 2014, no. 106.
- Clay tablet. Old Babylonian period, but no further information given. Auction: Monday, 8th December, 2000, lot 157 → <http://www.sothebys.com/en/auctions/ecatalogue/2000/antiquities-and-islamic-works-of-art-ny7572/lot.157.html>.
- Clay tablet. Old Babylonian period, but no further information given. Auction: Monday, 8th December, 2000, lot 158 → <http://www.sothebys.com/en/auctions/ecatalogue/2000/antiquities-and-islamic-works-of-art-ny7572/lot.158.html>.

#### Middle-Assyrian period

- Gypsum Alabaster foundation plaque from the reign of Tukulti-Ninurta I. The text records the restoration of the temple of Ištar, which Ilu-šuma had built. Size: 37 × 27 cm; 59 lines of text. Auction: Wednesday, 10th December, 2008 → Sotheby's 2008, no. 62 (Parallel: Grayson 1987, no. 13).

#### Middle-Elamite period

- Terracotta commemorative brick of Untaš-Napiriša with a dedication of a temple to the goddess Upurkubak: "I am Untaš-Napiriša, son of Humban-numena, King of Anzan and Susa. When I beseech Upurkubak she will [...], and when I make a claim she will bring it about. I built this temple. I had Upurkubak cast and placed it in the temple. May that which was made and beautified by me be preserved forever by Upurkubak!" Size: 38,7 cm; four lines of text. Auction: Friday, 23th June, 1989 → Sotheby's 1989, no. 299a.

#### Neo-Assyrian period

- A Gypsum inscription fragment from the palace of Assurnasirpal II at Nimrud. Size: 47,9 × 76,8 cm; the edges are chipped off; 22 lines of text. Auction: 7th June, 2007 → Sotheby's 2007, no. 82 (Parallel: Grayson 1991, no. 111).
- A Gypsum inscription fragment from the palace of Assurnasirpal II at Nimrud. Size: 53 × 52 cm. Auction: Thursday, 8th December, 1994 → Sotheby's 1994, no. 67.
- Clay brick from the reign of Šalmanassar III, recording the construction of the Ziggurat of Kalḫu. Size: not mentioned. Auction: Wednesday, 9th June, 2004 → <http://www.sothebys.com/en/auctions/ecatalogue/2004/antiquities-n08003/lot.77.html>.
- Clay cylinder of octagonal form, the inscription is describing a part of the history of the reign of Sargon II and the building of his palace. Size: 23,5 cm. Auction: Monday, 9th July, 1973 → Sotheby's 1973, p. 11, no. 27.

#### Neo-Babylonian period

- Large clay tablet from the reign of Nebukadrezar II with the inscription "Nebukadrezar, King of Babylon, supporter of Esagila and Ezida, first-born son of Nabupolassar, King of Babylon." Size: 32,5 × 32,5 cm. Auction: Monday, 27th February, 1978 → Sotheby's 1978a, no. 229.
- Large clay tablet from the reign of Nebukadrezar II with the inscription "Nebukadrezar, King of Babylon, supporter of Esagila and Ezida, first-born son of Nabupolassar, King of Babylon." Size: 33 × 8,5 cm; 7 lines of text. Auction: Wednesday, 18th December, 2013 → Gorny u. Mosch 2013, no. 583 (Parallel: Identical with the aforementioned piece).
- Large clay brick from the reign of Nebukadrezar II with the inscription "Nebukadrezar, King of Babylon, supporter of Esagila and Ezida, eldest son of Nabupolassar, King of Babylon." Size: 31,7 × 33 cm. Auction: Monday, 18th December, 1978 → Sotheby's 1978b, no. 238.
- Terracotta cuneiform cylinder from the reign of Nebukadrezar II with the king's description of numerous public works, including the building of the temple for Lugal-Marada at Marad. Size: 22,6 cm; two bigger pieces are broken out; three registers of text. Auction: Wednesday, 15th June, 1988 → Sotheby's 1988, no. 41 (Parallel: Langdon 1905, no. 2).

- Terracotta cuneiform foundation brick from the reign of Nebukadrezar II with the recording of the restoration of the temples of Bit Šagget and Bit Zida. Size: 20,3 × 16,5 cm; seven lines of text. Auction: Wednesday, 15th June, 1988 → Sotheby's 1988, no. 42.
- Clay cuneiform foundation brick from the reign of Nebukadrezar II with the recording of the restoration of the temples of Esagila and Ezida. Size: 33 × 33 cm; three lines of text. Auction: Friday, 23th June, 1989 → Sotheby's 1989, no. 300.
- Clay cuneiform foundation brick from the reign of Nebukadrezar II with the recording of the restoration of the temples of Esagila and Ezida. Size: 8,9 × 17,2 cm. Auction: Monday, 22nd December, 1975 → Sotheby's 1975, no. 156.
- Clay cuneiform foundation cylinder from the reign of Nebukadrezar II, recording a general account of the kings building activities. Size: 20,2 cm. Auction: New York, 4th June, 2015 → Christie's 2014, no. 116.
- Clay cuneiform foundation cylinder from the reign of Nebukadrezar II, recording the rebuilding of the temple of Ninkarrak in Sippar. Size: 23 cm. Auction: New York, 4th June, 2015 → Christie's 2014, no. 117.
- Clay cuneiform foundation cylinder from the reign of Nebukadrezar II, recording the restoration of the Ebabbar temple of Šamaš in Sippar. Size: 12,1 cm. Auction: New York, 4th June, 2015 → Christie's 2014, no. 118.
- Clay cuneiform foundation cylinder from the reign of Nebukadrezar II, recording the restoration of the temple of Šamaš in Sippar. Size: 12,1 cm. Auction: New York, 4th June, 2015 → Christie's 2014, no. 119.
- Clay cuneiform foundation cylinder from the reign of Nebukadrezar II, recording the restoration of the Ebabbar temple of Šamaš in Sippar. Size: 11,4 cm. Auction: New York, 4th June, 2015 → Christie's 2014, no. 120.
- Clay cuneiform foundation cylinder from the reign of Nebukadrezar II, recording the restoration of the temple of Šamaš in Larsa. Size: 14 cm. Auction: New York, 4th June, 2015 → Christie's 2014, no. 121.
- Clay cuneiform tablet from the reign of Nebukadrezar II, with inscription "Nebukadrezar, king of Babylon, restorer of Esangila and Ezida, eldest son of Nabupolassar, king of Babylon." Size: 19,5 × 20,3 cm. Auction: Monday, 27th March, 1961 → Sotheby's 1961, p. 11, no. 41.
- Clay tablet with rations for workman, giving the names of overseers or employers. Size and condition not mentioned. Auction: Monday, 18th May, 1970 → Sotheby's 1970, no. 63.

#### Without further information

- Ten clay tablets. Auction: Friday, 20th June, 2003, lot 42 → <http://www.sothebys.com/en/auctions/ecatalogue/2003/fine-books-and-manuscripts-including-americana-n07914/lot.42.html>.
- Eight clay tablets. Auction: Friday, 20th June, 2003, lot 43 → <http://www.sothebys.com/en/auctions/ecatalogue/2003/fine-books-and-manuscripts-including-americana-n07914/lot.43.html>.
- Seven clay tablets. Auction: Friday, 20th June, 2003, lot 41 → <http://www.sothebys.com/en/auctions/ecatalogue/2003/fine-books-and-manuscripts-including-americana-n07914/lot.41.html>.
- Four clay tablets. Auction: Friday, 20th June, 2003, lot 44 → <http://www.sothebys.com/en/auctions/ecatalogue/2003/fine-books-and-manuscripts-including-americana-n07914/lot.44.html>.

#### Persian period

- Rectangular clay tablet documenting a mortgage of an orchard and a tract of land, pledged by Abda and Banunu, to Enlil-šum-iddin, senior member of the firm Murašu, sons of Nippur. Date: from the 29th day of the 4th month of the first year of Darius II. (5th August, 423 B. C.). Size: 5,1 × 7,9 × 2,2 cm. Auction: Friday, 12th December, 2014 → Sotheby's 2014, no. 48 (Parallel: cf. Hilprecht 1898, Nos. 20sq.).

#### Seleucid Era

- Clay tablet with a contract for the sale of a house in the city of Erech in southern Babylonia, with fourteen pointed oval seal impressions each with adjacent inscription. Dated to the 81st year of the Seleucid Era, 231 B. C. Size: 9 × 10,1 × 3,02 cm. Auction: Friday, 22nd May, 1981 → Sotheby's 1981, no. 58.

#### Literature

- Christie's 2014: Christie's Antiquities, Thursday 4 June 2015, New York.
- FRAYNE 1990: Douglas R. FRAYNE, *Royal inscriptions from Mesopotamia, Old Babylonian Period (2003–1595 BC)* (RIME 4), Toronto.
- GRAYSON 1987: Albert K. GRAYSON, *Assyrian rulers of the third and second millennia B. C. (to 1115 B. C.)*, Toronto.
- GRAYSON 1991: Albert K. GRAYSON, *Assyrian rulers of the second millennia B. C.*, vol. 2, Toronto.
- GORNY u. MOSCH 2013: GORNY u. MOSCH. Gießener Münzhandlung GmbH. Auktion Kunst der Antike, 18. Dezember 2013, Nr. 218, Gießen.
- HILPRECHT 1898: H. V. HILPRECHT, *Business documents of Murashû sons of Nippur dated in the reign of Artaxerxes I. (464–424 B. C.)* (The Babylonian expedition of the University of Pennsylvania, Series A: Cuneiform Texts 9), Philadelphia.
- LANGDON 1905: Stephen LANGDON, *Nabopolassar and Nebuchadnezzar*, Paris.
- Sotheby's 1960: Sotheby's. Catalogue of fine Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Assyrian and Celtic antiquities, 11th April, 1960, London.
- Sotheby's 1961: Sotheby's. Catalogue of fine Egyptian, Near Eastern, Greek and Roman antiquities, 27th March, 1961, London.
- Sotheby's 1970: Sotheby's. Catalogue of Egyptian, Western Asiatic, Greek, Etruscan and Roman antiquities, Islamic pottery and metalwork, African, Oceanic and Indian art. The property of the Right Hon. the Earl of Lonsdale and other owners. Auction Monday, 18th May, 1970, London.

- Sotheby's 1973: Sotheby's. Catalogue of Egyptian, Western Asiatic, Greek, Etruscan and Roman antiquities, ancient glass and jewellery, Islamic and Isnik pottery. Auction 9th July 1973, London.
- Sotheby's 1975: Sotheby's. Catalogue of antiquities and Tribal art, Tibetan, Nepalese, South-East Asian and Indian art. The property of various owners. Auction Monday, 22nd December, 1975, at 10.30 a.m., London.
- Sotheby's 1978a: Sotheby's. Catalogue of antiquities and tribal art also Islamic, Indian, Nepalese, Tibetan and South-East Asian Art. The Property of Mrs. Stella Pitt-Rivers from the Pitt-Rivers Museum, Dorset, and other owners, Monday 27th February, 1978, at 11 a.m. and 2.30 p.m., London.
- Sotheby's 1978b: Sotheby's. Catalogue of antiquities and tribal art, Islamic, Indian, Nepalese, Tibetan and South-East Asian art. Auction Monday 18th December, 1978, at 11 a.m. and 2.30 p.m., London.
- Sotheby's 1978c: Sotheby's. Important Egyptian, Greek, Roman and Western Asiatic Antiquities. Auction Thursday, December 14, 1978, New York 1978.
- Sotheby's 1979: Sotheby's. Catalogue of Antiquities and primitive works of art, Islamic, Tibetan, Nepalese, Indian and South-East Asian art. Auction Monday, 17th December 1979 at 2 p.m., London.
- Sotheby's 1981: Sotheby's. Fine Classical, Near Eastern and Egyptian antiquities. York Avenue Galleries, Friday, May 22, 1981, New York.
- Sotheby's 1988: Sotheby's. Egyptian, Greek, Etruscan, Roman and Western Asiatic antiquities and Islamic works of art. Auction Wednesday, June 15, 1988, at 10:15 am and 2 pm, New York.
- Sotheby's 1989: Sotheby's. Egyptian, Greek, Etruscan, Roman and Western Asiatic antiquities and Islamic works of art. Auction Friday, June 23, 1989 at 10:15 am and 2 pm, New York.
- Sotheby's 1990: Sotheby's. The Breitbart Collection of Ancient Glass, Egyptian, Western Asiatic and Classical antiquities. Auction Wednesday, June 20, 1990, New York.
- Sotheby's 1991: Sotheby's. Egyptian, Greek, Etruscan, Roman and Western Asiatic antiquities and Islamic works of art. Auction Tuesday, June 18, 1991 at 10:15 am and 2 pm, New York.
- Sotheby's 1994: Sotheby's. Thursday, 8th December, 1994 at 10.30 am and 2.30 pm in the Colonnade Galleries, 34–35 New Bond Street, London, London.
- Sotheby's 2007: Sotheby's. Egyptian, Classical and Western Asiatic antiquities, including property of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, New York.
- Sotheby's 2008: Sotheby's. Egyptian, Classical and Western Asiatic antiquities, including property from the collection of Denys Sutton and property from the collection of W. Arnold Mejer. Auction in New York, Wednesday 10 December 2008, 2:00 PM, New York.
- Sotheby's 2014: Sotheby's. Egyptian, Classical and Western Asiatic antiquities. Auction in New York, 12th December 2014, 2:00 PM, New York.
- THEIS 2017: Christoffer THEIS, Cuneiform Tablets from Various Auctions – Part I: The Third Millennium B. C. up to the beginning of the Third Dynasty of Ur, in: *Nouvelles Assyriologiques Brèves et Utilitaires* 2017/62, S. 116–118.
- THEIS 2021: Christoffer THEIS, Cuneiform Tablets from Various Auctions – Part II: The Third Dynasty of Ur, in: *Nouvelles Assyriologiques Brèves et Utilitaires* 2021/9, S. 16–20.

Christoffer THEIS <Christoffer\_Theis@web.de>  
Universität Leipzig (GERMANY)