

**An early Neo-Babylonian sale document** — BM 114720 was issued in Babylon on 5.XII.656/5 BC. I should like to thank the Trustees of the British Museum for permission to publish this document. Tikva Zadok is responsible only for the copy.

1. 6-šú i-na 50-e šá<sup>md+</sup>AG<sup>1</sup>-[xx]-šá<sup>?</sup>
  2. šá i-na <<šá>><sup>um</sup>šá-ṭir-ti pu-ut HA.LA
  3. šá<sup>md</sup>AMAR.UTU-NUMUN-ib-ni 41 1/3 KÙŠ
  4. ṛpu-tú<sup>1</sup> e-li-ti GÚ pu-rat-ti
  5. ṛx<sup>1</sup> ṛdu<sup>?</sup> ki-i 1/3 1 GÍN KÙ.BABBAR
  6. <sup>md+</sup>EN-BA<sup>šá</sup> DUMU<sup>me</sup>-gi-bi
  7. i-na ŠU<sup>II</sup> <sup>md</sup>AMAR.UTU-NUMUN-ib-ni
  8. DUMU<sup>m</sup>ZÁLAG-<sup>d</sup>XXX ma-hir a-pil
  9. [za]-kí ru-gúm-m<sup>f</sup>a-a<sup>1</sup> ul i-ši
  10. [u] ṛGUR<sup>mes1</sup>-m<sup>f</sup>a<sup>1</sup> a-na a-ha-[meš]
  11. [u] i-rag-gu-mu ma-ti-[ma]
  12. i-na EGIR U<sup>4</sup><sup>mes</sup> u<sup>4</sup>-mu AŠ ŠEŠ<sup>mes</sup> DU[MU<sup>mes</sup>]
  13. <IM>.RI.A ni-su-[ti] ṛu sa-lat šá<sup>md+</sup>EN<sup>1</sup>-BA<sup>šá</sup>
  14. [šá<sup>1</sup> ṛe-la<sup>1</sup>-i (!) iq-bu-ú um-ma A.ṛŠÀ<sup>1</sup>
  15. ul SUM-ma KÙ.BABBAR ul ṛma-hir pa-qí<sup>1</sup>-[ra-nu]
  16. KÙ.BABBAR [imhuru]
  - r. 17. a-di 12-TA-<sup>f</sup>A<sup>4</sup><sup>1</sup> [itanappal]
- 
18. i-na ka-nak<sup>na</sup> [DUB šuāti]
- 
19. IGI<sup>md+</sup>EN-NIGIN<sup>ir</sup> DUMU<sup>m</sup>f<sup>x</sup><sup>1</sup> [
  20. <sup>m</sup>šá-ma-ia DUMU<sup>m</sup>DÙ<sup>es</sup>-DINGIR
  21. <sup>md+</sup>EN-ú-šal-lim DUMU<sup>m</sup>j-din-nu
  22. <sup>m</sup>MU-MU DUMU<sup>m</sup>ZÁLAG-<sup>d</sup>XXX
  23. <sup>m</sup>ŠEŠ<sup>mes</sup>-šá-a DUMU<sup>me</sup>-gi-bi
  24. <sup>md+</sup>EN-SUM<sup>na</sup> DUMU<sup>m</sup>DÙ<sup>es</sup>-DINGIR
  25. <sup>md+</sup>AG-ŠEŠ<sup>mes</sup>-MU DUMU<sup>lú</sup>GÍR.LÁ

26. <sup>lu</sup>UMBISAG <sup>md</sup>AMAR.UTU-GI DUMU <sup>me</sup>e-gi-bi  
 27. TIN.TIR<sup>ki</sup> <sup>iu</sup>ŠE U<sub>4</sub> 5 KAM  
 28. MU 12 KAM <sup>e</sup>GIŠ.NU<sub>11</sub>-MU-GI.NA  
 29. LUGAL TIN.TIR<sup>ki</sup> šu-pur <sup>md</sup>AMAR.UTU-  
 NUMUN-ib-ni  
 30. ki-ma <sup>na</sup>KIŠIB-šú

Triads of fingernail marks on all four edges.

### Translation

<sup>1</sup>One-sixth share in the «fifty» of Nabû-[iqī]ša(?) <sup>2</sup>which is in Šaṭirtu (and) to which <sup>3</sup>Marduk-zēra-ibni has title (= his share); 41<sup>1/3</sup> (= 41.33) cubits. <sup>4</sup>The upper cross-side (broadside situated on) the bank of the Euphrates.

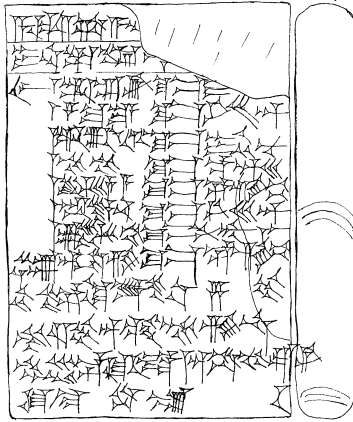
<sup>5</sup>[x] (a sum) amounting to 1/3 mina and one shekel (= 21 shekels) of silver <sup>6</sup>Bēl-iqīša descendant of Egibi <sup>8</sup>has received <sup>7</sup>from the hands of Marduk-zēra-ibni <sup>8</sup>descendant of Nūr-Sîn. He is paid <sup>9</sup>and has been quit (of claim). There shall be no (basis for) claim. <sup>10</sup>They shall not initiate (reopen) <sup>11</sup>litigation <sup>10</sup>against each other. <sup>11</sup>Whenever <sup>12</sup>in the future any of the brothers, sons, <sup>13</sup>family, kin or relatives of Bēl-iqīša <sup>14</sup>will raise (a claim and) declare «The field <sup>15</sup>was not sold and the silver was not received», the claimant <sup>17</sup>will repay twelvefold <sup>16</sup>the silver [which he received].

<sup>18</sup>(Witnesses) at the sealing of this tablet:

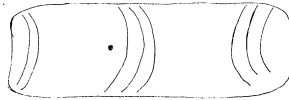
<sup>19</sup>Before Bēl-upahhir descendant of [...]; <sup>20</sup>Šamayyu (Šamāyu) descendant of Eppēš-ilī; <sup>21</sup>Bēl-ušallim descendant of Iddinnu; <sup>22</sup>Šuma-iddina descendant of Nūr-Sîn; <sup>23</sup>Ahhēšā descendant of Egibi; <sup>24</sup>Bēl-iddina descendant of Eppēš-ilī; <sup>25</sup>Nabû-ahhē-iddina descendant of the Butcher; <sup>26</sup>Scribe: Marduk-ušallim descendant of Egibi. <sup>27</sup>Babylon, month XII, day 5, <sup>28</sup>year 12 of Šamaš-šuma-ukīn, <sup>29</sup>King of Babylon. Fingernail mark of Marduk-zēra-ibni <sup>30</sup>(is affixed) as his seal.

BM 114720 (cont.)

Rev.

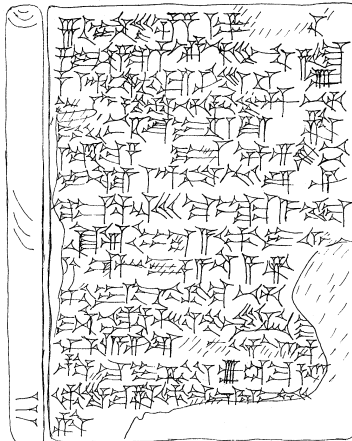


Uf. E.

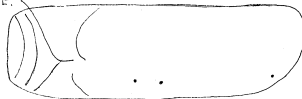


Obv.

BM 114720



Lo. E.



## Commentary

1. 6-šú — «one sixth» (*šeššu*; *šuššu* is recorded only in lexical texts; of the «fifty» section?); presumably short for 6-šú zitti (cf. e.g., TuM 2/3, 12, early NB). Cf., e.g., TuM 2/3, 11, 12.

2. <sup>uru</sup>šá-ṭir-ti — cf. <sup>uru</sup>šá-ṭir-tú (TuM 2/3, 51, 16), from 549/8 BC, which may be sought either near Nippur or near Babylon: concerning a Nippurean, but also mentions payment at Bīt-šar-Bābili. It cannot be proven that the homonymous MB <sup>uru</sup>šá-ṭir-tu (UET 1, 165, i, 2, see Kh. Nashef, RGTC 5, 246) is a physical forerunner of early NB <sup>uru</sup>šá-ṭir-ti.

3ff. The very short *Kaufabschlussklausel* resembles neither formulary A nor B of H. Petschow, *Die neubabylonischen Kaufformulare* (Leipzig 1939; henceforth: Petschow, *Kaufformulare*), 16ff. Concerning the absence of an announcement that the property is for sale and the lack of an *atru* clause, it should be remembered that the buyer had a share in the purchased property. The purchased object is explicitly defined only in line 14. The *Kaufpreisquittung* consists of two words only (*apil zaki*) like that of the early NB deed TuM 2/3, 8 (Nippur, 721/0-711/10 BC, cf. Petschow, *Kaufformulare*, 25: 3 in fine).

9ff. The impeachment clause (*Anfechtungsklausel*) resembles, but is not strictly identical, with formulary B of Petschow, *Kaufformulare*, 29f. (B is recorded later on, only since Nebuchadnezzar II's reign). Since the pertinent clause of the deed under discussion here preserves several elements of the earlier formulary A (common in the early NB period), such as *ina arkāt ūmē*, *ša illamma* and *qabū* (for B *ragāmu*), it may be characterized as a «proto B» formulary being a transition from the A to the B formulary.

10. GUR<sup>mes</sup> — cf. BRM 1, 34 = BR 8/7, 6, 22 (Dilbat, 666/5 B.C.) and C. Wunsch, AuOr 15 (1997), 167f.: 15, 3 (early NB, sometime before Nebuchadnezzar II's time).

14. The spelling *e-la-i* is unique.

22ff. The fourth and the fifth witnesses belong to the buyer's and seller's clans respectively. The scribe is of the same clan as the seller.

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