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INSCRIPTION OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR, VARIANTS OF AN
UNPUBLISHED DUPLICATE OF THE NEW
YORK CYLINDER.

BY J. F. X. O'CONNOR, S. J.,

Woodstock College, Md.

Through the kindness of the assistant of the British Museum and of my learned confrère, J. N. Strassmaier, I have been enabled to secure for the readers of the New York inscription, the text of an unpublished duplicate of this cylinder of Nebuchadnezzar, which was brought to light by the publication of the New York original in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The value of the first text as published, becomes enhanced by this corroboration of its general accuracy, though differing in some minor points, especially where the original was partly indistinct. This new copy of the text, besides confirming the substantial correctness of the first translation, supplies us with a number of variants that will be of interest and value, to the students of the first text who wish to become familiar with this peculiarity of the Babylonian scribes.

The first publication supplied three styles of writing, which give a useful table for the study of variations between Assyrian and early and late Babylonian characters. The present notes indicate in one inscription several instances of variants in the Babylonian text itself. The text of this new cylinder of the British Museum, is the same as that published in my pamphlet, in January, 1885, but the division of lines is quite different, as well as many of the characters, as will be seen from the accompanying plate, and the following parallelism. In both cylinders there are the same number of lines, one hundred. In the duplicate of the British Museum, column I. continues as far as line 35 inclusive; in the New York cylinder, column I. continues as far as line 28, a difference of eight lines. Column II. in each ends at line 70. On the British Museum cylinder, lines 47 and 48 are represented by one line. It is the reverse for lines 76, 77. These two lines of the British Museum cylinder are represented by one line on the New York cylinder. Lines 92, 93, and lines 97, 98 are also represented by one line on the cylinder of New York.

DIVISION OF LINES

BRITISH MUSEUM (unpublished).

NEW YORK CYLINDER (O'Conor).

Col. I.

Col. II.

Line 29 is seven lines from the beginning of Column II.

Line 29 is precisely the beginning of Column II.

30. a-na ma-na-ma

30. a-na ma-na-ma šarri ma-aḥ-ri-im

31. šarru ma-aḥ-ri-im

31. la im-gu-ur-ma

Col. II.

36. a-na e-bi-eš eš-ri-e-ti

36. a-na e-bi-eš eš-ri-e-ti

37. li-ib-bu-am

37. li-ib-ba

38. ti-is-mu-ur-ma

38. u-ga-ru am-ša-as-si (?)

39. i-na ši-ga-ti

39. aš-ši ga-ti . . .

40. u-sa-ap-pa ša-aš-ši

40. u-sa-ap-pa ša-aš-ši (?)

44. ni-iš ga-ti-ia

44. ni-iš ga-ti-ia im-ḥu-ur-ma

45. im-ḥu-ur-ma

47. } one line.

47. e-bi-eš biti ša il Šamaš

48. }

48. il Šamaš il Ramanu u il Marduk

Col. III.

Col. III.

71. li-bi-it ga-ti-ia šu-ku-nu

71. li-bi-it ga-ti-ia šu-ul-bi-ir

75. i-na ki-bi-ti-ka

75. i-na ki-bi-ti-ka ki-it-ti

76. ki-it-ti lu-uš-ba-a

76. lu-uš-ba' li-it-tu-ti

77. li-it-tu-ti

78. ba-la-tam u-ûm ru-ku-ti

77. ba-la-tam ana ûm ru-ku-ti

79. ku-un kussî

78. ku-un kussî lu-si-ri-ik-tu-um-ma

80. lu-ši-ri-ik-tu-um-ma ri-'u-a

79. li-ri-ku li-iš-ša-li-bu

81. a-na da-er-a-ti

80. ri-'u-u a-na da-ra-a-ti

92. i-ša-ri-iš

92. i-ša-ri-is a-pa-la-an-ni

93. a-pa-la-an-ni

.....

94. i-na a-ma-ti-ka

93. ina a-ma-ti-ka

95. el-li-ti

94. ša-li-mu

96. šu la šu-pi-e-su

95. ša la (ma bi-e-ri) uttakaru

97. lu-ti-bu-u

97. lu-ti-bu-u lu-za-ak-tu

98. lu-za-ak-tu

98.

For the rest the division of lines is the same.

OTHER INSCRIPTIONS OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR.

The name of Nebuchadnezzar has been handed down to us, not only in the Sacred Writings, and in early profane history, but especially and with peculiar interest in the cuneiform inscriptions.

The records of this king, however, confine themselves, for the most part, to descriptions of edifices erected or restored by him; and not one document has yet been brought to light which may be termed strictly historical; none that recount his military expeditions or conquests, as we find so abundantly with regard to the Assyrian Kings Tiglath-pileser, Sennacherib and Assurbanipal. It may be that future excavations will reveal such a monument, but up to the present, there has been a remarkable contrast in this regard between the Babylonian and Assyrian documents.

Those who have been interested, hitherto, in one or other of these texts, will be pleased, no doubt, with an enumeration, complete, as far as known, of the previously published texts.

The inscriptions of Nebuchadnezzar already edited, independently of recent ones, are thirteen in number. They are familiar to many readers of Assyrian, not so to others. They vary in length and importance from the seal of the king, bearing simply his title, to the standard inscription including over six hundred lines. This last is usually known as the East India House Inscription. It was published in I R., and has been translated and commented upon by various authors.¹

In recording the inscriptions we begin with the smallest.

No. I.—This is a seal containing the profile of the king, with the inscription, “Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, to Merodach, his Lord; he made it for his own life.” This cameo is preserved in the Berlin Museum. It was published by Schenkel in his *Bibel-lexicon*, and in the monthly journal of the Academy of Science, Berlin.

II.—Among the inscriptions found by Smith in Babylon, one is inscribed on the pupil of the eye of a statue of the god Nebo,² “To the God Nebo, his Lord, Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, son of Nabopolassar, King of Babylon, for his preservation he made.”

III.—Three contract tablets, discovered by Smith, bearing the date of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar:

1) City of Babylon, month of Tammuz, 15th day, 20th year of Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon.

2) City of Babylon, month of Iyyar, 21st day, 37th year of Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon.

¹ See Smith's *Assyrian Discoveries*, Rawlinson, Schrader, Menant, Lenormant, Budge, Flemming, Brunengo, etc.

² Smith's *Assyrian Discoveries*, p. 385.

3) City of Babylon, month of Kisleu, 8th day, 37th year of Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon.

These are of special interest on account of the dates.

IV.—Numberless bricks with the inscription “I am Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, restorer of the Temple of Saggil and the temple of Zida, oldest son of Nabopolassar, am I”—(Menant, Schrader).

V.—The epigraphs of Larsam (Senkereh), and Mugheir (Ur), which, in addition to the preceding inscription, add that this king restored the temple of the Sun at Larsam, and of the Moon at Ur.

VI.—On the side of a brick was found a record of the palace of the great king. This inscription begins like No. IV, and continues thus: “I built a palace for the sojourn of my majesty in the city of Babylon, situated in the land of Babylon. And I dug foundations to a great depth, below the water of the river, and wrote there the record on cylinders, covered with bitumen and brick. With thy aid, I, Merodach, God of the gods, I built this palace in the heart of Babylon. Come and dwell there, multiply its progeny, and make the people of Babylon, by my hand, victorious forever.” On the gate of one of the palaces of Babylon is the short inscription, “Palace of Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, restorer of the temple Saggil and Zida, constant in the adoration of Nebo and Merodach, son of Nabopolassar, King of Babylon.”

VII.—Among the ampler inscriptions is that of the temple of Zarpanit (My-litta) of which there are four copies, two in the Berlin Museum and two in the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris: “I am Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, son of Nabopolassar, King of Babylon, I.—

“I founded, I built the august temple, the temple of Zarpanit in the midst of Babylon, in honor of Zarpanit, the august sovereign, within the limits of Babylon. I had built of brick and bitumen a square sanctuary. I dug the arches of its niches in the depth of the earth.

“O Sovereign of the gods, august mother, be propitious to me, my work is perfected with thy assistance. Favor the increase of families, watch over the mothers at the time of bringing forth, thou who presidest over the birth of children.”¹

VIII.—Similar in style, but longer, is the inscription of Senkereh or Larsam. After the usual titles and salutations to the god, the king recounts his building the temple of the Sun in the City of Larsa.

It ends with the invocation, “O Sun, great God, bless thy offering in its beginning and end, the temple of the Sun, the glorious work of my hands. By thy help, give me a happy life for long years, the permanency of my throne, and the victory of my arms. May the arches, porticoes, the columns of the temple of the Sun, my glorious works, make perpetual remembrance of me in thy sight.”

¹ Menant, *Babylon and Chaldea*, p. 215.

IX.—As at Larsam, so at Sippara (Abu Habba), there was a temple of the Sun, Eparra, which had fallen to ruin. This Nebuchadnezzar restored, and left a record of it on the recently discovered cylinder, now in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. It has been named the New York cylinder, in contradistinction to the cylinder of Senkereh, and to the duplicate of the same text in the British Museum. The variants of the British Museum duplicate cylinder are given in the plate in parallel lines with the New York original.

X.—Among inscriptions of greater length is the famous inscription of Borsippa, where Nebuchadnezzar built the great temple Bît Zida to Nebo.

XI.—Next in order comes a cylinder of the British Museum, in two columns of thirty lines each. It describes the defences of Babylon (Menant, *Babylon et la chaldée*).

XII.—The cylinder of Sir Thomas Phillips, similar to the preceding, with the additional enumeration of the building and restoration of temples in other Chaldean cities, at Cutha, Sippara, Larsam, Ur, Nipur, Uruk, in honor of Nergal, Šamaš, Sin, Anu and Ištar.

This inscription of 170 lines is in three columns, in the cursive cuneiform. It was published first by Grotefend, in 1848, and then by Sir Henry Rawlinson in I R., 65-66. This, with the exception of the following, is the largest of the inscriptions.

XIII.—This, perhaps the best known of the inscriptions, has been named the Standard Inscription. It is inscribed on a block of black basalt, one meter high, ten centimeters wide. It includes ten columns with 619 lines of writing in archaic characters. For a long time it remained in the museum of the East India Company, and hence it is sometimes called the East India Inscription. Sir John Hartfoot was the first to translate it, and later it was published with modern transcription by Sir Henry Rawlinson in the I R., 56-64. Oppert read the entire translation to the Academy of Rhiems, Nov. 3, 1865. A complete version was given by Menant, and subsequently by Lenormant, Rawlinson, and in 1883, a transcription with translation and commentary was published by Flemming.

This list includes the earlier published inscriptions of Nebuchadnezzar. The number of cuneiform cylinders is not large; but the vast multitude of contract tablets of the time of Nebuchadnezzar, Nabonidus, Neriglissar, Cambyses, Cyrus and Darius, not yet translated, but pregnant with knowledge of those times, leave a useful task for the lover of Assyrian.

The writer acknowledges the generous welcome extended by the Assyriologists of America and Europe to the first translation and publication in America of a Babylonian original.

- 1 Dabû-ku-du
- 3 Ga-â-ru ša-âb-tu
- 13 û bit xi-
- 15 Ša Dabû-aplu-u-
- 16 Šarru
 a-na-ku
- 23 u ud- di- uš eš-ri-e-ti-šu
- 23 Šu-ma si-ra-am
- 27 Ša u-ul-la-mu-a
- 28 e-mu-u
- 31 la im-gu-ru-ma
- 33 a-ši
- 34 e-im-du mu-ut
- 36 a-na e-bi-eš
- 37 li-ib-ba
- 38 aš-ši
- 39 aš-si ga-ti
- 40 u-ša-ap-ja ša-aš-ši
- 42 u-um ana mu-ê-um-ma
- 45 iš-ša-a su-ji-e-a
- 47 same as l. 47.
- 49 ip-ru-uo-ma
- 52 an-num si-i-num
- 57 Ša Ša-me-e u iv-si(ū)
- 61 pu-ru-uo
 xi-it-ti
- 63 bit-
- 64 Ša xi-ri-ib
- 69 a-na bit Šara bit-ka
- 70
 i-na e-ri-bi-ya
- 71 li-bi-it ga-ti-ia
- 72 xi-ni-iš na-ap-li-iš-ma
- 76 lu-uš-ba' li-ib-tu-ti
- 77 ba-la
- 78 xu-um xussi li-ši-ri-ia-tu
- 79 li-ri-ku li-iš
 li-bu
- 80 ri-u a-na
- 84 mu-ša-li-im
- 86 lu-i-ba
 Šar-ru-ti-ia
- 89
 um-ma-nia
- 91 ma si-i-num u bi
- 94
- 95 Ša-la
- 100

- 1 Dabû-ku-du
- 3
 ša-âb-tu
- 13 û bit xi-
- 15. oš Dabû-aplu-u-
- 16. Šarru
 a-na-ku
- 22.
- 23.
- 27. Ša u-ul-la-mu-a
- 28. e-mu-u
- 31. la im-
- 33. ia-si
- 34. e-im-du mu-ut
- 36. ana e-bi-eš
- 37. li-ib-ba-am
- 38. u-ga-a-am Ša-aš-ši
- 39.
- 40.
- 42.
- 45.
 su-ji-e-a
- 47.
- 49.
- 52.
- 57. Ša Ša-
 û iv-si-
- 61. pu-ru-
 xi-it-ti
- 63. bit-
 bit Šar-ra
- 64. Ša xi-ri-ib
- 69. a-na bit Šara bit-ku
- 70.
 di-iš
- 71. li-bi-it ga-ti-ia
- 72. xi-ni-iš na-ap-li-iš
- 76. lu-uš-ba-
 -it-tu-ti
- 77. ba-la
- 78. xu-um xussi
 ō-ri-ia-tu
- 79. li-
 ku li-iš
- 80.
 da-er-a-ti
- 84. mu-ša-li-im
- 85.
 ut-ia
- 89. lu-ru-lu
 um-ma-ni
- 91. i-na di-i-num u bi
- 94.
- 95. Ša la
- 100. li-mi-e