CUNEIFORM TEXTS FROM NIMRUD V

THE NIMRUD LETTERS, 1952

Edited by
HENRY W.F. SAGGS

BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN IRAQ
2001
To Joan,
my dear wife
The "filing cabinets" in ZT 4 [after *Iraq* 15 (1953), Plate IV.1].
CONTENTS

Bibliography vii
Bibliographical abbreviations x
Abbreviations of grammatical terms xi

Chapter One
Introduction 1
Conventions 4

Chapter Two
Letters relating to Babylonia 9
(a) The Mukin-zer rebellion 9
(b) Other letters relating to Babylonia 67

Chapter Three
Letters relating to the North 100

Chapter Four
Letters relating to the West and Northwest 150
(a) Palestine and Transjordan 150
(b) Syria 164
(c) The Northwest 184

Chapter Five
Letters relating to the Assyrian homeland 193
(a) Wellbeing of the Land 193
(b) Land administration 205
(c) Building operations 213
(d) Other letters relating to the Assyrian homeland 223

Chapter Six
Letters of uncertain provenance 234

Indices 323
Copies of cuneiform tablets Plates 1-60
Photographs of cuneiform tablets Plates I-II
BIBLIOGRAPHY
AND ABBREVIATIONS

Bibliography

[Admiralty], A Handbook of Mesopotamia, III, IV (Admiralty War Staff Intelligence Division, 1917).


Deller, K., "[UL] = [parrisu] und [sarru]", Or. 30 (1961), 249-257.


Deller, K., "Studien zur neuassyrischen Orthographie", Or. 31 (1962), 186-196.

Deller, K., "Recensiones [CAD, 16, S]", Or. 33 (1964), 89-96.


Deller, K., "Notes to Nimrud Letters 85-95", Or. 36 (1967), 81-82.


Ebeling, E. et al., Reallexikon der Assyriologie (Berlin & Leipzig, 1932-).


Fales, F.M., Censimenti e catasti di epoca neo-assira (Rome 1973).

Fales, F.M., "On Aramaic Onomastics in the Neo-Assyrian Period", Or.Ant. 16 (1977), 41-68.
Fuchs, A., *Die Inschriften Sargons II. aus Khorsabad* (Göttingen, 1994).
Gelb, I.J. et al., *The Assyrian Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago* (Chicago, 1956-).
Pečírková, J., “The administrative organization of the Neo-Assyrian Empire”, Ar.Or. 45 (1977), 211-228.
Postgate, J.N., Taxation and Conscription in the Assyrian Empire (= Studia Pohl, Series Maior 3) (Rome, 1974).
Salonen, A., Hippologica Accadica (Helsinki 1956).
Tadmor, H., The Inscriptions of Tiglath-Pileser III King of Assyria (Jerusalem, 1994).
Tallqvist, K.L., Assyrian Personal Names (Helsingfors, 1914).
Waterman, L., Royal Correspondence of the Assyrian Empire, I-IV (Ann Arbor, 1930-36).
Ylvisaker, S., Zur babylonischen und assyrischen Grammatik (Leipzig, 1912).

The following works, which may contain material relevant to published Nimrud Letters, have not been available to me. At the time of my completion of my edition (July 1997) they were not in the catalogue of the major university library which I used for my research:
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

[Helsinki], *State Archives of Assyria Bulletin*, volumes after VIII/1 (1994).

**Bibliographical abbreviations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABL</td>
<td>Harper, R.F., 1892-1914.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABZ</td>
<td>Borger, R., 1978.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFO</td>
<td><em>Archiv für Orientforschung</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHw</td>
<td>von Soden, W., 1965-81.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AKA</td>
<td>Budge, E.A.W. &amp; King, L.W., 1902.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An. Or.</td>
<td><em>Analecta Orientalia</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AOAT</td>
<td><em>Alter Orient und Altes Testament</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APN</td>
<td>Tallqvist, K.L., 1914.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ar. Or.</td>
<td><em>Archiv Orientální</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BM</td>
<td>British Museum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSAI</td>
<td>British School of Archaeology in Iraq.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAD</td>
<td>Gelb, I.J. et al., 1956-.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLNA</td>
<td>Fales, F.M., 1983.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CT</td>
<td><em>Cuneiform Texts from Babylonian Tablets in the British Museum</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAG</td>
<td>von Soden, W., 1952.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM</td>
<td>Iraq Museum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td><em>Iraq</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEA</td>
<td>Labat, R., 1976.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NABU</td>
<td><em>Nouvelles assyriologiques brèves et utilitaires</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAT</td>
<td>Parpola, S., 1970.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NBK</td>
<td>Langdon, S.H., 1912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Or. An.</td>
<td><em>Oriens Antiquus</em>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bibliography and abbreviations

RCAE  Waterman, L., 1930-36.
RLA  Ebeling, E. et al., 1932-.
SAA, 14  Parpola, S., 1994 [Not seen].
SAA, 15  Dietrich, M., 1995 [Not seen].
SAAB  State Archives of Assyria Bulletin (Padova, Italy).
Sargon, 8th. Camp.  Thureau-Dangin, F., 1912.
VAB  Vorderasiatische Bibliothek.
WO  Welt des Orients.
WZKM  Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes.
Ylv.  Ylvisaker, S., 1912.
ZA  Zeitschrift für Assyriologie.

Abbreviations of grammatical terms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acc.</td>
<td>Accusative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>adj.</td>
<td>adjective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c.</td>
<td>common gender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D, G, G¹, G², Ş, N</td>
<td>designation of themes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dat.</td>
<td>Dative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f.</td>
<td>feminine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impf.</td>
<td>Imperfect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impv.</td>
<td>Imperative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indic.</td>
<td>Indicative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infin.</td>
<td>Infinitive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m.</td>
<td>masculine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA</td>
<td>Middle Assyrian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MB</td>
<td>Middle Babylonian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA</td>
<td>New Assyrian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NB</td>
<td>New Babylonian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nom.</td>
<td>Nominative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pf.</td>
<td>Perfect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pl.</td>
<td>plural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prec.</td>
<td>Preterite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pres.</td>
<td>Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pron.</td>
<td>pronoun, pronominal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ptp.</td>
<td>Participle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sg.</td>
<td>singular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St.</td>
<td>Stative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subj.</td>
<td>Subjunctive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Plan and section of ZT 4 [after *Iraq* 15 (1953) p. 31].
Chapter One

Introduction

The Nimrud Letters are part of an archive excavated at Nimrud in Spring 1952 by the British School of Archaeology in Iraq, under the direction of the late Professor M.E.L. (Sir Max) Mallowan. Their find-place was a chamber designated ZT4, near the ziggurat terrace. Tablets continued to be found in ZT4 until the end of the 1952 excavation season. None were discovered in the following year, which seemed to indicate that the 1952 excavation had exhausted the hoard, and there is no conclusive evidence pointing to any other conclusion. There is, however, a hint of another possibility. In 1954 I made friends in Baghdad with a gentleman from Europe who was a keen amateur in matters Assyriological; he was the person in possession of the important bronze Pazuzu figurine which I published in Archiv für Orientforschung 19 (1960), 123-127. This friend informed me that when his duties had taken him into the vicinity of Nimrud after the end of the British excavations in 1952, he had been offered, and had bought, cuneiform tablets. He generously offered to make these tablets available to me for examination, but potential problems arising from possible contravention of the Iraqi Excavation Laws led me to decline. I did, however, receive a detailed description of the physical form of the cuneiform tablets in question, which suggested that they were Neo-Assyrian letters. This does not, of course, prove that the tablets came from ZT4 at Nimrud, but it presents a possibility which might be borne in mind.

The limited conservation facilities available in Iraq in 1952 made it desirable that excavated tablets should be baked on site, and for this purpose a kiln was constructed, which operated very successfully. The tablets from ZT4 classified as letters originally amounted to just over 250, but joins have slightly reduced this number, and a few (one religious document) have proved not to be letters, or are so severely damaged that they do not merit publication. In the present work I publish or re-publish, or in a few cases record without a copy, a total of 240 texts. One of these certainly and a few others possibly are not letters.

I originally copied (or, in the few cases for which there is no copy, recorded) all these tablets in Baghdad in 1954, with the intention of publishing them in Iraq. I had published 95 in articles in Iraq by 1966, with a further 10 in 1974. The excessively long delay in publishing the remainder, for which I apologise, has been largely due to factors beyond my control. From 1966 to 1983 I occupied a chair of Semitic Languages in which, although I enjoyed the valued privilege of directing post-graduate students in Akkadian, duties related to Biblical Studies and Theology occupied almost the whole of the remainder of my time. I had planned to resume publication of the Nimrud Letters in

---

1 See Iraq 15 (1953), 33-34.
2 Iraq 17, 21-50 and pl.IV-IX, 126-154 and pl.XXX-XXXV; 18, 40-56 and pl.IX-XII; 20, 182-212 and pl.XXXVII-XLI; 21, 158-179 and pl.XLIII-XLIX; 25, 70-80 and pl.XI-XIV; 27, 17-31 and pl.II-VII; 28, 177-191 and pl.LIII-LVI.
3 Iraq 36, 199-221 and pl.XXXIV-XXXVII.
1983, the earliest date at which the terms of my contract of employment gave me the option of retiring. However, I fell seriously ill in 1981, from when until a surgical operation in 1988 I suffered repeated disabling spells of illness, so that such time as was available to me was fully occupied with writing *The Might that was Assyria* (1984), the revised edition of *The Greatness that was Babylon* (1988) and *Civilization before Greece and Rome* (1989).

Most of the Nimrud Letters are in New Assyrian script and grammar, the remainder, rather less than one in seven, in New Babylonian. Some of the latter have physical features sufficient by themselves to identify the tablets as Babylonian; they are composed of a characteristic type of clay which has baked to a distinctive pink colour with a very smooth surface, and their faces and edges have a curvature which differs from that of the typical Assyrian tablet in the same archive. But such physical differences are not infallible guides to script: some skilled Babylonian scribes demonstrated either their versatility or their pro-Assyrian sympathies by writing in Assyrian script on tablets of Babylonian clay and shape. ND 2602, for example, is beautifully written on a tablet of such a form, with the small compact writing which generally distinguishes Babylonian letters from Assyrian in this archive, so that at a cursory glance one might take this for a Babylonian tablet. But the scribe has, with one single slip-up where he has inscribed RA in New Babylonian form, written all the signs in New Assyrian. ND 2648, although predominantly in NA script, has three signs in NB shape and a NB grammatical form.

A further feature of the Babylonian tablets in this archive is a very high lime content, which makes them less brittle than a typical Assyrian tablet, but softer. In consequence, the Babylonian tablets are less likely to show the crazing, cracking or chipping which not a few of the Assyrian tablets have suffered, but are more liable to have had part of the surface obliterated, or damaged by efflorescence of salts. The Babylonian tablets often have a surface layer of higher quality clay over a core; examples of this also occur with the Assyrian tablets, although less commonly.

Currently it is more usual to publish Assyrian and Babylonian tablets as separate groups, and deviation from this custom may require explanation. The main justification is the fact that, particularly in relation to the Mukin-zer rebellion, some of the Assyrian and Babylonian tablets are closely related in subject-matter. In addition, the distinction between the two types of letter is not always clear-cut, since some letters in NB script bear Assyrian features (e.g. ND 2391), and some in NA script exhibit certain Babylonian characteristics (e.g. ND 2400). There is the further point that the ancient scribal administrators placed these particular Babylonian and Assyrian tablets together, although one must hasten to disclaim any suggestion that the practice of ancient Assyrians should settle details of modern Assyriological procedures.

Damage to some of the Assyrian tablets has exposed the core and thereby revealed the techniques by which they were made. Although this matter has not gone undiscussed, it may not be out of place to present conclusions from the Nimrud Letters. With quite a number of broken tablets, the cross-section of the core is clearly visible, and shows plainly that the tablet must have been made by rolling out the clay, folding it on itself, and then compressing it (for examples see Plates I-II). This procedure was not, however, invariable; there are rarer instances where the cross-section at a break
Introduction

makes it apparent that the tablet was pressed direct from a piece of clay without folding; such tablets seem to be less carefully formed (see Plate II).

Neo-Assyrian letters and economic documents are normally distinguishable by their shape, the economic documents usually being squared off at ends and sides, whilst the letters have curved sides and (with few exceptions) curved ends. The Assyrian scribes appear to have produced the characteristic curvature of the letters by the use of little concave-sided cylindrical rollers of terracotta to shape the wet clay; a number of such rollers, whose concave curve exactly matched the typical convexity of the sides and ends of most of the Assyrian letters, were found near the Nimrud Letters in 1952, and I suggested to Professor Mallowan at the time that this was their purpose, a suggestion he accepted.

Some scribes in the imperial administration, instead of preparing a tablet from scratch immediately before the letter was written, used ready-made tablet blanks. Evidence for this comes from one of the Nimrud Letters, ND 2623. On this tablet the scribe has written over a surface where a flake had obviously chipped off from the top right corner of the reverse, leaving a sharp line of break. I see only one way in which this could have happened: a tablet blank had dried so completely between being shaped and being used, that its corners had become brittle enough to chip off under impact instead of distorting. Presumably such a tablet blank would have been wrapped in a damp cloth before use to soften the surface.

There were, however, cases in which tablets must have been prepared ad hoc; one finds, for example, some which are composed of a coarse clay containing tiny stones, obviously made from poor local material. It is interesting that one of the few abat šarri ('Royal Command') tablets in the archive (ND 2404) was written inexpertly on such a tablet. This suggests either that the king sometimes sent written orders back to Calah when actually in the field, away from his chancery staff and normal writing materials, or, more likely, that an abat šarri was not always written directly by the king.

The condition of the text of the tablets ranges from totally preserved to almost totally illegible. But there are very few at either extreme, and most yield some information with gaps from damage. It is sometimes difficult to distinguish with the naked eye between damage marks and partially lost wedges, but in many cases the use of a binocular microscope immediately solves such problems. Following the very strong precepts of my mentor Professor Sidney Smith, who had known cases in the British Museum in which illicit attempts at cleaning by an Assyriologist had destroyed a sign or created a bogus new one, I have only in very rare cases, where Nimrud tablets in the Iraq Museum have been heavily encrusted with dirt, personally attempted cleaning.

As is usual with letters, the present examples cover a wide range of subject matter. Whilst some are mere reports on the wellbeing of the land, others are highly informative about international affairs, such as the rebellion in Babylonia of Mukin-zer. Some have biblical relevance, such as a letter, unfortunately broken, which reports that an official had seen a shrine in Samaria, presumably in the northern kingdom's temple of Yahweh.

I have attempted to divide up the tablets and to arrange them in relation to their mise en scène. Tablets in Chapter Two concern Babylonia, those in Chapter Three northern areas including Urartu, whilst Chapter Four deals with the west and northwest. In Chapter Five I have placed tablets which appear to relate primarily to the Assyrian homeland, whilst those whose geographical provenance I cannot with certainty identify
are in Chapter Six. Since the text of many of the letters is damaged, and for rather more than half of them this is their editio princeps, failure to recognize place-names, or to evaluate place-names correctly, may well have resulted in the misplacing of letters, particularly in chapter six.

Within each chapter, the primary criterion for the order in which letters are published is excavation number, but this is in places overridden by other considerations. In part (a) of chapter two, which deals with texts concerned with the Mukin-zer rebellion, an attempt has been made to present letters in an approximate chronological order rather than in order of excavation number, although it is recognized that at some points other conclusions may be drawn about the chronological sequence. In all chapters, where two or more letters appear to be interlinked, they are presented consecutively, as are letters by the same correspondent.

In the initial stages of my work on the Nimrud Letters I had the advantage of the guidance of both Professor Sidney Smith and Professor C.J. Gadd. I also briefly enjoyed the shrewd counsel of Professor A.L. Oppenheim, who inter alia suggested that problems inherent in documents of this category justified initial publication in the form of transliterations and notes with no attempt at translation, a tempting suggestion which I did not however feel justified in adopting. Professor Gadd gave encouragement, with the proviso that he found Assyrian letters amongst the most difficult category of cuneiform documents, since often (as he put it) when one has finally translated an Assyrian letter, one wonders if the result adequately represents the meaning. Professor Sidney Smith took on the whole a more optimistic view, but with the warning: 'If the translation makes sense, it may well be wrong. If it makes nonsense, it is wrong.' I have attempted to apply this last comment to my own translations, which incorporate idiomatic rather than more literal renderings only where the precise nuance seems assured. Doubtless other scholars will be able to offer improvements both of reading and of understanding, which I look forward to seeing.

I wish to express my thanks to Professor J.N. Postgate, who read my manuscript before publication, for many helpful suggestions and criticisms, a large number of which I have incorporated. The errors and misunderstandings which remain are my own.

Conventions
(1) Terminology
The successive inscribed parts of a tablet are designated Obv. or Face A; Base; Rev. or Face B; Top (between end of Rev. and beginning of Obv.); End (between two faces where it is uncertain which is Obv. and which Rev.); Side (where the inscription, always on the left side, begins near the beginning of Obv.) or Side* (where the inscription begins near the beginning of Rev.).

(2) Numeration
Where practicable, lines are numbered continuously throughout. Where there is a hiatus, Obv., Rev. and Side/Side* (if any) are numbered separately.
(3) **Transliteration symbols**

- $x$ one unidentified sign, whether damaged or undamaged
- $[x]$ one sign completely lost
- $[x]?$ possibly one lost sign
- $? (after a sign) probable but not certain
- ?? (after a sign) improbable
- ! (after a sign) certain, despite contrary indications in copy
- DN unidentified divine name
- LN unidentified place name
- N unidentified numeral
- PN unidentified personal name
- V (in transliteration of syllabograms) one of the vowels $a, e, i, u$
- /// ancient erasure
- $< >$ signs supplied by editor but omitted by scribe (except in ND 2716 q.v.)
- ... lost text estimated at from 2 signs to $\frac{1}{4}$ line
- ... ... lost text of between $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ line
- ... ... ... lost text of between $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ line
- ... ... ... ... lost text of more than $\frac{3}{4}$ line

(4) **Transcription of logograms**

Numerals are represented by Akkadian values, if certain, otherwise by Roman numerals.

J. Friberg, H. Hunger and F. al-Rawi, *Baghdader Mitteilungen* 21 (1990), p. 485, in an edition of mathematical texts, cogently argued for transcribing logograms as Sumerograms. In the context of mathematical texts this is undoubtedly valid, but Neo-Assyrian letters admit a different solution. Assyrians of the eighth century BC, when they encountered a logogram in a letter, normally read it with an Akkadian value, a point put beyond doubt by cases in which ideogrammic and syllabic spellings alternate. To represent logograms in Assyrian letters as Sumerian would therefore not in most cases correspond to ancient practice. For this reason, wherever practicable I transcribe logograms into what I take to be the appropriate Akkadian form, according to the equivalences given below; only for the less common equivalences, not in that list, is the assumed Akkadian form followed by the logogram in brackets. There are, however, instances where there is uncertainty as to the probable Akkadian equivalent in eighth century BC Assyria, as, e.g., UDU (see CAD, $\S/3$, 417a, apud $\tilde{s}u'u$ B). Or the context may be unclear, leaving the case ending doubtful; or the text may be so badly damaged that it is not obvious from the copy which sign is assumed to be present. In such instances logograms are represented by their most appropriate Sumerian value in upper case. Determinatives which have no obvious Akkadian equivalents and were probably not sounded, are rendered in lower-case Roman; determinatives with obvious Akkadian equivalents are given an Akkadian value unless there is some overriding consideration. This procedure admittedly produces a limited inconsistency, but this seems preferable to a Procrustean uniformity which consistently fails to reproduce what the scribe intended to be understood.
Equivalences

(i) Determinatives

ai
amēl
amēlā
ā
imēr
m
mašak
māt
meš
sal
še

URU
LŪ
LŪ
* 1
DINGIR
ANŠE
DIŠ
KUŠ
KUR
MEŠ
MUNUS
ŠE

(ii) Other logograms

amēlābarakku 1
abu
arahābu
abullu
adad
adad
ahu
ahu 2
akalu 3
alpu
ālu
ammatu
aplu
āplu
ardu

LŪ.AGRIG
AD
ITI.NE
KĀ.GAL
DINGIR.IM
DINGIR.U
ŠEŞ
PAP
NINDA.MEŠ
GUD
URU
KUŠ
DUMU.NITA
A
İR

(Butonian dialect)

arhu
amēlatū
babilu 1
babilu 2
balātu
balātu 3
banā
bēltu
bēltu
bištu

ITI
LŪ.NI.GAB
KĀ.DINGIR.RA.KI
TIN.TIR.KI
TIL(-LA)
TIN
DŪ
NIN
EN
GU

bītu
baštātu
damāqū
dāru
ēbāru
ekallu
ēteleppu
ēnīlī
ēnướta 4
ēnurtā 4
ēsepmnu
ēglu
ēriba
ēriču
ērā
ēḫēru
harrānu
harrānu II
hūrāsu
iblu
ikkaru
ilatu
ilu
imēru
ina
irtu
issu
īškaru
īštar 4
īštar 3
itti
kānu
kaspu
kurummatu 5
kussu
le̱ātu
libbu
libītu
manā
amēlā mār šipri

É
GIŠ.IG
SIG5
BĀD
ŠIBĪR
É.GAL
GIŠ.MĀ
DINGIR.BAD
DINGIR.NIN.IB
DINGIR.MAŠ
GIŠ.APIN
A.ŠĀ
SU
KU4
URUDU
KAR
KASKAL
KASKAL.II
KŪ.GI
ANŠE.A.A.B.A
ENGAR
ILLAT
(KASKAL.KUR)
DINGIR
ANŠE
AŠ
GABA
TA
ĒŠ.GÂR
DINGIR.INANNA
DINGIR.XV
KI
GIN
KŪ.BABBAR
ĒŠ.PAD
GIŠ.GU.ZA
ZU
ŠĀ
SIG4
MA.NA
LŪ.A.KIN

1 See ABZ, Nr.330, line 1.
2 KUR is always treated as a determinative before names of countries, including (contrary to some scholars) the land Ashur.
3 See p. 86.
4 For the earliest recognition of this pronunciation see Sidney Smith, Early History of Assyria (1928), 391, n.3.
5 But see ABZ, Nr.367 and 469.
Introduction

dmarduk  DINGIR.AMAR.UTU
dmárduk  DINGIR.ŠU
márū  DUMU
maššarutu  EN.NUN
mātāti  KUR.KUR
mātu  KUR
mehretu  GAG
muḫhi  UGU
mukīn  GIN
  (in personal names)
mišu  GI₆
mēnabū  DINGIR.AK
mēnabū₃  DINGIR.MUATI
nadānu  SUM
nadānu₃  AŠ
nādu  I
  (in personal names)
amēnāgiṟu  LŪ.NIMGIR
nakāru  KŪR
nakru  KŪR
napharu  PAP
nāpištu  ZI
šēnarkabtu  GIŠ.GIGIR
nāru  A.ENGUR
nasāru₂  PAP
našhuru  NIGIN
ānērgal  DINGIR.U.GUR
ānērgal₄  DINGIR.MAŠ.MAŠ
nippur₃  EN.LIL.KI
araḫnisantu  ITIL.BĀR
nuhatimmu  MUHALDIM
pāhatu¹  NAM
pānu  IGIG
qātu  ŠU
rabā  GAL
rādītu, rēdū  LŪ.ÚŠ
amēlērušu  LŪ.SAG
šinništētu  MUNUS
sisū  ANŠE.KUR.RA
sisū₂  ANŠE.KUR
sukkallu  SUKKAL
V sātī  BANIA
šābū  ERIM (ÉRIN)
amēššīru  LŪ.MAH
šakānu  GAR
amēššaknu  LŪ.GAR
šalāmu  SILIM
amēššangu  LŪ.SID
šanū  MIN
amēššanū  LŪ.II
amēššāpiru  LŪ.PA
amēššāqū  LŪ.BILLUL
  (Assyrian dialect)
amēššāqū  LŪ.BILLUL
  (Babylonian dialect)
šammu  Ū
šarru  LUGAL
šârru  MAN
šattu  MU.AN.NA
šatā  NA₆
šēpu  GĪR
šīnu  MIN
šīpatu  SĪK
šulmu  SILIM
šumu  MU
  (in personal names)
tamkaru  DAM.GĀR
ṭābu  DŪ.GA
ṭuppu  DUB
ṭāppu  IM
amēššāparru₃  LŪ.A.BA
ubānu  ŠU.SI
arāḫulālu  ITI.KIN
ūmu  UD
māṭurarṭu  KUR.URI
urdu  ĪR
  (Assyrian dialect)
zēru  NUMUN
II  MIN
:
  pseudo-GAM

¹ See AHw, 862a.
Chapter Two
Letters relating to Babylonia

(a) The Mukin-zer rebellion

(i) Letters edited in tentative chronological order:
ND 2390, ND 2438, ND 2674, ND 2389, ND 2695, ND 2494, ND 2717, ND 2603, ND 2663, ND 2630, ND 2628, ND 2365, ND 2418, ND 2452, ND 2623, ND 2363, ND 2729, ND 2723, ND 2444, ND 2761, ND 2382, ND 2602, ND 2385, ND 2350, ND 2455, ND 2634, ND 2689, ND 2065, ND 2478, ND 2710.

(ii) Letters edited in order of excavation number:
ND 2360, ND 2388, ND 2398, ND 2421, ND 2493 (may not belong in this chapter), ND 2636, ND 2681, ND 2700, ND 2779.

Summary of letters edited in tentative chronological order
The chronological order offered is based primarily on two factors: apparent links between letters, and relationship of the data they contain to the records of Tiglath-Pileser III, as most recently edited by H. Tadmor in The Inscriptions of Tiglath-Pileser III King of Assyria (Jerusalem, 1994). Some of the conclusions are tentative, offered with the recognition that other scholars might reasonably give an alternative evaluation of the data.

The interpretation of ND 2390 is particularly tentative. This is a very fragmentary letter, which, since it is in NB script, must almost certainly refer to events in Babylonia. Almost the only legible portion, in line 8', is [šar]ru-ú-ti is-ši, 'he appropriated kingship', an allusion which seems to refer to a usurpation. Prima facie, if this interpretation is correct, the phrase might, within the termini of this archive, as well fit the later activities of Merodach-baladan as Mukin-zer's grasp of power. On the other hand, whereas the archive contains a large number of letters concerning Mukin-zer's assumption of the kingship, there is not a single other reference which may reasonably be taken as referring to Merodach-baladan's seizure of the Babylonian throne. Thus, this makes it not improbable that the words quoted from ND 2390 constitute the earliest allusion to the Mukin-zer rebellion.

ND 2438, a royal decree to the administration of Babylon, reflects the anxiety of the citizens of Babylon at some threat to their security. A reasonable interpretation of this is that it dates from the beginning of Mukin-zer's rebellion, but before he had actually entered Babylon. Another letter from early in the period is ND 2674. Although the writer's name is lost, he was clearly a Chaldean leader. This leader, acting independently of Nabu-nasir, the impotent king of Babylonia, and writing to the king of Assyria about the problems Babylon and Borsippa were facing under threat from Mukin-zer, can hardly have been anyone other than Merodach-baladan.

Another letter certainly from Merodach-baladan is ND 2389. Since this retains very little legible beyond the address and a broken reference to provision of ships and men, it is difficult to date it with any exactness. It is, however, provisionally placed near the beginning of the rebellion, since it appears to belong to a period when princes who were loyal to Assyria, as the form of address shows Merodach-baladan to have been at this time, were offering their forces in support of Tiglath-Pileser III.

ND 2695 can be placed with some exactness, since it reports the actual entry of Mukan-zer into Babylon. The next letter may be ND 2632, written at a time when Mukan-zer’s supporters had just gained control of Babylon. The recentness of the usurpation is suggested by the fact that the native Babylonians had doubts as to whether the Assyrian king would come to take the city, although the Litamu tribe had already sided with Assyria. ND 2494, which reports that no Babylonian citizens had yet come over to the Assyrian side, could be from about the same date as ND 2632.

ND 2717 may come next. It speaks of sheep of Mukan-zer grazing in Puharu, a city of Bit-Amukkani, the tribe to which Mukan-zer belonged. At a later stage, Bit-Amukkani, or at least a part of it, seems to have switched allegiance and, as ND 2636 (published in part ii) reflects, joined the Assyrian king. The fact that in ND 2717 the loyalty of Bit-Amukkani to Mukan-zer was still unquestioned suggests that this letter was from quite early in the rising. Another pointer to a relatively early date is that lines 48’-53’ show that Mukan-zer was in control of Babylon, although the citizens were not prepared to join him in attacking Dilbat. In addition, Mukan-zer had plundered Larak (lines 45’f.), a city to which, as we see from ND 2603 (see below), the Assyrians persuaded Balasu, chief of the Bit-Dakkuri tribe, to give assistance.

Several letters mention Balasu, a major chieftain who, though apparently never overtly hostile to Assyria, initially hesitated to give active support. What is probably the earliest of this group of letters, ND 2603, shows how Assyrian diplomacy won over this important leader. The Assyrians persuaded him to give his active even though reluctant assistance by showing him, to his alarm, a letter from Chaldean sources suggesting that he was ruining the land by his attitude. This may reflect the point at which, according to the annals of Tiglath-Pileser III, Balasu paid tribute.

The Assyrians also persuaded Balasu (lines 20’f.) to go to the assistance of Larak, which ND 2717 tells us had been looted by Mukan-zer. This links up with the statement in the annals of Tiglath-Pileser III that Nadinu of the city Larak paid tribute at the same time as Balasu. ND 2663, written by Shamash-bunaya, may tentatively be placed here, since the extant part refers to the road to Larak, and also mentions Itu’a protecting the Tigris. ND 2630, by the same correspondent, concerns troop movements, and ND 2628, also by Shamash-bunaya, reports a tour of inspection of Babylonia, including ‘people who were formerly citizens of Larak’; although there is insufficient evidence for a precise chronological placement for these two letters, about this time appears possible. ND 2403 could also be from Shamash-bunaya, but the restoration of this as the name of its author is highly tentative, for which reason the letter is provisionally placed in the general section of letters relating to Babylonia.

An indication of Balasu’s active support of Assyria seems to be given in ND 2365, one of four letters written by Ashupa, which speaks of troops of Balasu being killed in
company with an Assyrian messenger; it also mentions ships. ND 2418, another letter by Ashipa concerning shipping, may reasonably be placed here. ND 2452 and ND 2623, by the same correspondent, both mention Kutha. The names of Balasu and Nadinu occur alongside in a broken context in ND 2363, which mentions both Dur-ladini of Bit Dakkuri and Dur-balihaya of Bit-Sha'alli. ND 2729 is tentatively placed here, in view of its reference to Dur-ladini. Another mention of Balasu occurs in ND 2723, 38; although the context is too broken to indicate specifically on which side he was fighting, there is no hint anywhere that he was at any time actively anti-Assyrian.

Since the writer of ND 2444 was in Mukin-zer’s erstwhile capital Sapia (also written Shapia), this letter must be from well on in the period of the rebellion. The rebellion was, however, not yet subdued, since Nabu-ushabshi, paramount chief of the Chaldean tribe of Bit-Shilani, who was caught and killed by Tiglath-Pileser III before the end of the rebellion, was still alive, although, according to lines 4'-6', the Assyrians had succeeded in making some of his followers desert.

ND 2761, one of seven letters written by Ashur-shallimanni, reports intervention by the king of Elam, dealt with by the governor of Arrapha, who was in fact Ashur-shallimanni himself. Since in Tiglath-Pileser III’s royal records the only references to Elam recount the annexation of cities on the border of Elam, which were placed under the governor of Arrapha, and go on to recount the attack upon Nabu-ushabshi of Bit-Shilani¹, we tentatively place this letter here.

Ashur-shallimanni, governor of Arrapha, also wrote ND 2382, ND 2602, ND 2385, ND 2350, ND 2455 and ND 2634. The first of these letters refers to the mustering of pro-Assyrian Aramaean tribesmen, whose leaders included Nadinu, presumably the ruler of Larak, and the second is also concerned with operations involving Aramaeans. Both may reasonably be placed at about this point. The important letter ND 2385 reports the defeat, presumably within Babylon (although not explicitly named), of Mukin-zer and his son. ND 2350 and ND 2455 contain nothing specifically linking them to the Mukin-zer rebellion, but are placed here in view of their authorship. ND 2634 is an important letter linking Ashur-shallimanni with Shamash-bunaya, with whom he wished to share the responsibility for feeding six thousand prisoners.

ND 2689, ND 2065 and ND 2478 were all from the same correspondent, Nabu-balassu-iqbi. In ND 2689 the writer was in Dur-sha-balihaya of the tribe of Bit-Sha‘alli, which had recently been defeated. It seems to belong just before ND 2065, which implies, with its mention in broken contexts of Babylon, ‘messengers to Babylon’, and ‘the centre of the city’, a situation in which the Assyrians were reasserting control in the Babylonian capital. ND 2478 shows Nabu-balassu-Iqbi rebutting an accusation that he had failed to reply to a communication from the king. Probably the latest letter linked to the rebellion of Mukin-zer is ND 2710, which, since it reports that all is well at Babylon, must be subsequent to the rebel’s defeat.

Summary of letters edited in order of excavation number
Other letters associated with the rebellion of Mukin-zer are less easily given a precise chronological placement. ND 2360 is too badly damaged for certainty but its mention of

Aramaean troops, Borsippa, (probably) troops of Muki-n-zer and slaughter link it to the rebellion. ND 2388, although to a large extent illegible after the introductory four lines, has a clear reference to 'the sons of Muki-zer'. ND 2398 refers to Bit-Amukkani and, if the final lines are correctly interpreted, may indicate that at the time it was written Shapia had been brought under Assyrian control. ND 2421 in a broken context alludes to military operations [in]a mātrimu-x, which could be the land of Ru’a. The contents of ND 2493 are obscure but it seems to be concerned with incidents in a difficult campaign. ND 2636 speaks of part of Bit-Amukkani deserting from Muki-zer. In ND 2681 troops are still being mustered and have to be sent into Dilbat; possibly this activity was linked to Muki-zer’s threat to Dilbat (see ND 2717 above), which would give this letter a more definite chronological placing. ND 2700 speaks of the arrest and subsequent escape of Muki-zer’s emissary, who was currently at Hindanu on the middle Euphrates. ND 2779 tells of negotiations with Merodach-baladan, who, although not always ready to accept instructions, was operating on behalf of the Assyrians; this letter could be linked with either ND 2602 or ND 2603.

**ND 2390 (IM for study; Plate 1)**

*Transliteration*

**Face A**

1' 

\[\ldots \ldots \times \times \times \ldots \]

\[\ldots \times a\ a-m[a]? \ldots \]

\[\ldots x za ka? i\dot{a}b x \ldots \]

\[\ldots x mi-nam-ma \ ip-pu-u\u0120 \ldots \]

5' 

\[\ldots aq-bu-\u0120 um-ma DIŠ x \ldots \]

\[\ldots \dot{u}-tu i-\ddot{i}\ a-na x x \ldots \]

\[\ldots [b]\ddot{a}?-nu-\u0120-a \ šarru-\u0120-tu i-x \ldots \]

\[\ldots [\ddot{s}ar]ru-\u0120-ti i\dddot{s}-t\ddot{i} i-n[a] \ldots \]

\[\ldots x-ni \ šarru iq-ta-ba x \ldots \]

10' 

\[\ldots \times x \ šarru \ x x? \ \text{KASKAL \ldots} \]

\[\ldots \times \times \times \ldots \]

**Face B**

1' 

\[\ldots \ldots \ldots \]

\[\ldots x \ šar[ru] \ i{[\ddot{s}]}-x \ x \ldots \]

\[\ldots [b]\ddot{a}?-nu \ ša ul-tu \ldots \]

\[\ldots x-\ddot{s}[a]?-az-z[u] \ldots \]

5' 

\[\ldots \ x-ti \ en-na x \ldots \]

\[\ldots x \ ŪR x x \ldots \]

\[\ldots x-\ddot{s}[u] x x \ldots \]

\[\ldots x x x e \ s[i]? x \ldots \]

\[\ldots x x ul x \ldots \]

10' 

\[\ldots x x x x \ldots \]

**End** 

\[\ldots x x \ldots \]

\[\ldots x \ldots \]

---

1 Cf. H. Tadmor, *Inscr. TP III*, Summ.3: 9' (mādRu-u-a as part of region annexed when Tigglat-Pileser III imposed tribute on chieftains of Chaldaea); Summ.7: 32 (mādRu-ū-a as part of region defeated by Tigglat-Pileser III). See also op.cit., Ann.15: 6.
Translation

[The only significant remains are in part of Face A:] (7') ... *my creator; kingship* (8') ... he appropriated kingship ... (9') ... the king has said ...

Notes

Fragment from top or bottom of a tablet. NB script.

A 8') Taken as referring to the usurpation by Mukin-zer; see above, p. 9.

**ND 2438** (= LIV; BSAI; Plate 1)

**Transliteration**

**Obv.**

a-bat šarrī

*a-na amēlerībēmeš[ī] [b]īti*  
amēkī-na-a[l-t]ī

LŪ.SAG.KALmeš ša [x] x

5  
*a-na LŪ.TIN.TIR.K[I.ME]Š*  
šulmu₉₉ ia-a-šī

šulmu₉₉ a-na mātāš-šur

libbi-ku-nu lu DUG.GA-ku-nu

ina muhhi ū-e-me an-ni-u

10  
ša taš-me-a-ni

la pal-ha-ku-nu

dāhi-ir-da-su b[a]-l[a]-a-te

šab-bi-ta maṣṣartu ša ra-me-ni-ku-nu

tu-u-ra an-nu-rīq

15  
*ana-k[u] ak-tar-ba-ku-nu*  
*ma'id-ilu amēl, qar-bu-ti*

*iq-ṭi-bi-a ma-a-pal-[h[a-x]]*

**Base**

ig-da-nar-ru-ru

**Rev.**

*dbēl u d[n[a/b]] lu u-[d[u]-u*

20  
*u DINGIR.GAL šu-tu-ma*  
lu ú-da šum-ma a-ki

ina pa-ni-ti aš-mu-ni-ni

ša ahhēmeš-ku-nu di-ku-ni-ni

[S]um-ma III ūme₉₉meš me-me-ni pa-ni-ia

25  
e-ru-ub-an-ni li-bi i-di-pa-ri-ni-ni

tu-u-ra ú-ma-a pal-ha-ku-nu

bēl u ṣnab₉₉ lu u-du-u

šum-ma hi-[a-k]u-ni i-ba-āš-šû-ur-ni

libbi-ku-nu a-da[n-n]i-š lu DUG.GA-ku-nu

30  
maṣṣartu-k[u-n]u [l]u d[an-[n]a-a[r]  
a-du bi-[f[t] a-qar-[a-[b]-[n]]

'a-l-[n-[a]] pa-an amēl[a]lu[r]-bu-ta ...  
x x ūnu XXVI.KAM i[l-]a-a[k]
Translation

(1-5) Royal decree to the Chapter, the Congregation, the Senior Officials of ..., (and) the Babylonians. (6-8) It is well with me. It is well with the land of Assyria. Let your hearts be glad.

(9-13) Concerning this report which you heard, do not be anxious. (As to) the town of Hirdasu, seize the gates. The watch is your responsibility. (14-15) Again now I myself invoke blessings on you.

(16-18) Na'id-ilu the Qurbutu-official has told me 'they are anxious; they are constantly scared'. (19-25) Bel and Nabu certainly know, and that great god certainly knows, that when I formerly heard that your brethren were mustered, for three days no-one came into my presence. My heart blew away from me. (26) Again now you are anxious. (27-30) Bel and Nabu indeed know that there is no fault on your part. Let your hearts be very glad. Let your watch be strong. (31-33) Until I arrive, [pay heed] to the Qurbutu-official. He will come on the 26th of the month.

Notes

Complete tablet. Has worm-hole running from near top right corner to rev., 28-22 mm from bottom, middle of line. Slight surface loss on both obv. and rev. near right edge between lines obv. 3-5. Some abrasion passim. Final 13 mm of rev. uninscribed. NA script.

4) LÚ.SAG.KAL = ašaridu, but the Akkadian form of the plural here is not clear.
12) ē[i]ri-[da-su]. A town of this name is not otherwise known to me.
12) b[a]l-[a]-t[e]. The two uppermost strokes of the first two signs are in line and markedly oblique, and since each sign is slightly damaged, each prima facie suggests qa.
13) ra-me-ni-ku-nu. The final -nu, which has run over to the rev., is almost concealed in the end of line 25, which has slightly distorted it.
25) i-di-pan-ni-ni. <edēpu. The final -ni appears to be an unexplained Subj. affix.
27) bèl. There is no trace of DINGIR.

ND 2674 (= VI; IM 64111; Plate 1)
See also WZKM 86 (1996), 380-381.

Transliteration

Face A

1'  x x x-MU [u]m-[ma] [i]na? [muhhi?]  
    ū per-va um-[ma] ...  
    é-e-mi [i]-[i-me] ... ...  
    mi[m]-mu-ū mukin-zēr x ... ...  
5'  [u]l a-[š]ap?-p[a]?-[r[a]]? x x x ...  
    [m]i[m]-ma? [i]-[n]a? [b]i? x x ul x ...  
    ū per-va [u]m-[ma] m[i]-[n]u-[ū]  
    é-e-mi ša mātā it-ti-ka id-bu-bu
Letters relating to Babylonia

10' muš-šaq-ru-ra i-na da-ri-i
m₃-nab₃-nāṣir a-na šar[r] [i]l-tap-ra um-ma
m₃-mukin-zēr sišēmek ša bāb [b]ār-siptki
a-na muh-hi babiš[i]ki ki-i ir-bu-u
man-ma ul-tu babiliški ul us-ṣi-ma

15' e-ri-šu ul ni-ri-iš ār-ki-šu
šarru [i]l-tap-ra um-ma i-na bi-riṭ
babiliški u bār-siptki SIG₃ ši
a-[n]a-[k]u u umēlra-ša-a-nu ša umēlkal-du
ki-ma il-li-ku sīšēmek-nu

20' ul-tu bār-siptki nu-ul-te-ṣa-a
..... x [ba]biliški u bā[r]-siptki
..... x x e x ti
..... x x x x

Face B

1 ....... x qu-ā-tū x x?
..... x x ki šu x x x
[x] x [i]a?[ x x ša ūṭtti-iš x-[n]u
xxx t̪u? [š]u? [u]m-[a] x nu x x
5 [š]d?[ x x x x x u[m?-m]a?
[ki]-?-[i]? x x [a]-[d]-e e x x DU
AŠ x x x āš-šu x ū x x x
xxx t̪u-[n]a x x? [b]ī? BU DA x x ta
î-[t]-i šar mūš-šurš[i]ki [t]-ti x x x?
10 î-[t]-i x x x î?[?-t]î?.... x x
ki-î lāš-l[u]-ru um-ma LU[GAL]? . . . [a]-de-e x-iḥ?-hi gab-r[i]
a-na ūṭtti-iš [a] î[t].... x x x x? -tî?
i[t]-a-[d]î u iā-a-š[i] . . . x x x
a-na šar mūš-šurš[i] šup-[r]a? x [a]-[n]a? [E]?: GAL??
15 a-de-e a-na ūṭtti-iš GUB tū-šē-sa a-na-ku
[u] a-man-gur um-ma šā-ni-tu a-na šar māt aš-šurš[i]
u[l] [a]-šap-par en-na ki-i E.G[A][L] [a]-[k]-e
[a]-na ūṭtti-iš GUB tū-šar-[k][i-s]a? x x
x x AN? x a-na šarri x x x ...
20 a-šap-pa-ra ū ki-i la tū-tir-ru
a-na šarri a-šap-pa-[r][a]m-ma mim-mu ...
šā šarri x x x? li-ś[u-u]ʾ DIS.SUM ...
x x x x x um-[a] ...
(8') About that on which which my brother sent a message, saying: 'What (9') reports of the land did they discuss with you?', (10') (things are) a cause of alarm continually. (11') Nabu-nasir sent a message to the king, saying: (12'-13') 'Mukin-zer, when he came in against Babylon (with his) horses from the Borsippa gate, (14') no one could get out of Babylon; (15') we could not get on with the cultivation.' Afterwards (16'-17') the king sent a message, saying: 'Is it well within Babylon and Borsippa?' (18-20') I, and the chieftains of the Chaldeans when they came, we brought our horses out from Borsippa. (21') ... Babylon and Borsippa (22'-23') [Nothing intelligible]

Face B
(1-2) [Nothing intelligible] (3) ... of my tablet ... (4) ... thus: ... (5) of ... ... thus (6) when ... until ... (7) ... concerning ... and ... (8) ... ina ... house of ... (9) with the king of Assyria, with ... (10) with ... with ... (11-12) when I sent a message, saying: 'The king ... as long as ... [he has] not [sent] an answer to my tablet, ... ...' (13) he has been negligent, and to me ... (14) Send a message to the king of Assyria ... to the palace. (15) Until you have a written reply brought to my tablet, (16) I shall not comply. I say, (16-17) I shall not send a message to the king of Assyria a second time. (17-18) Now if the palace, as soon as you organize a written reply to my tablet... ... (19) ... to the king .... (20) I shall send a message, and if you do not return (an answer), (21) I shall send a message to the king. Anything (22) which the king pleases, let him do. Nadin-... (23) ... ... thus ... (24) ... ... ...
Letters relating to Babylonia

1’) x x x-MU. This could represent the name Marduk-apil-iddina, but the traces are insufficient to confirm this.

5’) x-mi-ri-tu[m]? The traces do not necessitate ta for the first sign, but this seems a possible reading, giving a form linked to tawwertum, tamertu, AHw, 1341a, ‘Umland, Umgebung’.

6’) a-[š]ap?-p[a]-r[a]???. The traces do not favour reading ra or ram for the fourth sign, but the earlier elements in the verb make one of these probable.

10’) muš-šag-ru-ra. Taken as linked to šugarruru, CAD, G, 48a, 2 (cf. also 49a, garāru B, 2), AHw, 1259b-1260a.

11’) m.Šhaba-našir a-na šar[ri]. In this context Nabu-našir must be the king of Babylon of that name, whilst šarri must refer to the king of Assyria.

12’) sisemēš ša bāb [b]ár-sīpki. Must refer to some circumstance obscure to us but clear to the correspondents.

11’, 15’) a-de-e. The contexts suggest that this is a variant spelling of a-di-i for adi, ‘until’, rather than from adā ‘treaty terms’.

Face B

15, 18) GUB = šatāru. The context suggests that this refers to a reply.

18) tū-šar-[k]-[i-s]a? If a correct reading = Pret. 2 sg. m. of rakāisu Š, lit. ‘to cause to attach’.


23) The initial uncertain traces could be interpreted as ū-lu-ū a-na.

ND 2389 (IM 64023; Plate 2)

Transliteration
Obv.
1  arad-ka m.dmarduk-apla-iddina(än)
a-na di-na-an be-li-ia [lul-lik]
um-ma-a a-na šarri be-li-i[a qi-bi]  
4  ša šarru a?-ši x x x  

[There is a horizontal split along the middle of line 5. Line 6, which retains parts of most signs, and lines 7-9, which retain only the first half or less, are badly abraded.]

Rev.
1’  x ni [………]  
    um-ma-a x [………]  
    XXX ŠE.BAR x [………]  
    ŠE? BARD x š[a] LUGAL [………]  
5’  ki-i pa-an LUGAL? [………]  
    išteleppēmeš ma-[i]a? …xx  
    [ū1 Šabēmeš su-uh-hi-ll-[-ma  
    a-na šarr [i]š-pu-[r]a  
    ū mi-n[i]? x lu?-ta-mi?
Partial Translation

Obv.
(1) Your servant Merodach-baladan. (2) I would go as substitute (in death) for my lord. (3) Say this to the king my lord: That which the king ... ...

Rev.
(5') when before the king ... ... (6') ships as many as ... ... (7') and ... troops. (8') He sent a message to the king ... (9') and why ... ... 

Notes

Upper part of tablet. Obv. bears 6 largely complete lines plus half or less of 3 further lines; only the first 3 lines are significantly legible. Rev. bears 5 partial and 4 largely complete lines. NB script.

Rev. 7') su-uh-hi-il?-ma. If a correct reading, is Impv. D of sahālu (AHw, 1003b, ‘durchbohren’, D ~ G), but sense in this broken context is uncertain.

Rev.
7') -mal. This, which seems to be the only possible reading, is, if correctly taken, in a MB form, with two verticals.
7') lib-hi-r[u]?+. Although the traces of the third sign are not certain, this reading appears to be the only one which makes sense with the two preceding signs. For the verb see AHw, 117b-118a, behêru ‘auswählen, (Truppe) ausheben’.

ND 2695 (IM 64122; Plate 2)

Transliteration

Obv. 
[a]rad-ka mdu-um-mu-q[u]
a-na di-na-an šarri be-ll-la [I][ul-lik]
dnergal u ḫa-az a-n[a]
šarri be-ll-la lik-ru-bu um-ma-1a
5
a-na šarri be-ll-la-ma ṯup-pi
a-na šul-mu šarri be-ll-la al-tap-r[a]
šul-mu a-na e-kur-ra-ti
ū ēli š[a] šarri be-ll-la u4-mu-u[s-su]
in[pa-n[i-t[i] a-d[i]? x-x
10 LUGAL x x LUGAL $[e]-e-[m]u$
šá babi[1k][i] mmuk[m]-zê[r]
ū X sisēmes
it-ti-šu ul-tu
[b]īt a-mu[k]-a-ni a-na
15 babili[k] i-te-ru-ub

Rev. 
šu[l]-mu a-na amēl-babila[k]-a-a
iq-[l]-bi u[m]-ma V?/VT? ME
sisēmes AN[ȘE].KU.[DI]N.M[EȘ]
KUR x x x x x
20 a-na babili[k] ultu(TA) ir-[bu-ū]
um-ma [l]a ta-pal-[l][ak]
amēl-babili[k].mes ina U[GU]?


Translation

(1-4) Your servant Dummuqu. [I would go] as substitute (in death) for the king my lord. May Nergal and Lazar bless the king my lord.

(4-5) (Say) thus to the king my lord. (5-6) I have sent a tablet (asking after) the wellbeing of the king my lord. (7-8) It is well with the temples and the (capital) city of the king my lord. Daily (9-10a) [unclear].

(10b-15) A report about Babylon. Mukan-zer and ten horses with him from Bit-amukkani have entered Babylon. (16-17a) He has spoken peace to the Babylonians. (17b-18) He said: 5/600 horses and mules (19) [fragmentary] (20-21) After he entered Babylon he said: ‘You are not to be afraid.’ (22a) The Babylonians (22b-24) [fragmentary] (25) they have come up. When (26) he sent (them) forth to (27) the king my lord, they did not ...

Notes

Complete except for top right corner. A space equivalent to one line is uninscribed at end of rev. There are cracks across middle of obv. and bottom left corner of rev. Legibility is good in lines 1-9, but damage elsewhere leaves obscurities. Indicates that Mukan-zer entered Babylon without resistance. NB script.

10) LUGAL x x. The traces do not suggest EN-fa for the lost signs.

22-23) These badly damaged lines may have elaborated upon the reaction of the Babylonians to the entry of Mukan-zer.

26) ū-s[a]?-[s]??-iū?? This restoration is very dubious.

ND 2632 (= I; IM 64084; Plate 2)

Transliteration

Obv. a-na šar[ri] be-lī-ia

urad-ka m₃[d][šama][š-bûn(DU)]-a-a m₃[bnabû]-namir(ZÁLAG)ₘ₃
lu-u šulmuₘ₃ a-na šarri be-lī-ia

ₘ₃[bû]-ₘ₃[du]-ₘ₃[a]-ₘ₃[li]-ₘ₃[ka]-ₘ₃[r]-ₘ₃[l]-ₘ₃[bu]-ₘ₃

5 ūm XXVIII [KÁ]M a-na babiliₘ₃ ni-it-ta-la[k]

pa-an [abul][li] mar-duₘ₃ ni-it-ti-ti-zi

issu [L]U? babiliₘ₃ ni-id-duₘ₃-ub

ₘ₃[a]-ₘ₃[n]-ₘ₃[um]-ₘ₃[ra]-ₘ₃-[a]-ₘ₃[e]-ₘ₃[š]-ₘ₃[d]-ₘ₃[ra]-ₘ₃[e]-ₘ₃[š]

₁₀ i[t-t]-uₘ₃-su-uₘ₃-iₘ₃ issu mārē babiliₘ₃ [meš]

pa-an abulli i-za-zu a-ni-ni [k[i] an-ni-i

a-na mārē babiliₘ₃ [meš] ni-iq-ṭī-bi

ma-a m₃[n]-ₘ₃[li] ina muh-hi-[š][u]-ₘ₃-nu [a][k][k]-ₘ₃-ra-nₘ₃-ši

ma-a ... xₘ₃-šu-nu issu L[U]? ... x x

19
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

15  x ........ x x a
    [a]-na x x ba[bili]ki lim-gur
    amelki-di-nu-tu-ku-nu i[a]-na k[a]-ta-un
    a-na babili ki al-la-ka [di]b-bi ma'-a-du-ti
    i-sti-sa-nu ni-id-du-ub-ub sabelme [i] h[a]-mez

20  sabeme X i-ba-as-si la i-ma-g[ur]u
    la u-su-uni ni-si ni la i-da-bu-bu
    i-sa-nap-pa-ru-na-si a-ni-ni
    ni-ti-ba-šu-nu ma-a abulla pi-ti-ia
    a-na babili ki ni-ru-ub la i-ma-gur

25  ma-a a-na ka-na-šu-nu a-na babili
    nu-si-ri-ib-ku-nu ma-a ki-ma
    šarru-ka it-tal-ka mi-i-nu
    a-na šarri a-qa[b-b]i ki-ma
    šarru it-tal-ka abulla i-pat-zi-ú

30  la i-qi-pu ša šarru [i]-lak-u-ni

Rev.  ki-i an-ni-i ni-ti-šu-n[u]
    m[a]-a mxx-xx u amelurdañi meš
    ša m[mu]kin-zar lu en-du-ni šu-nu
    a-di bit šarru il-[a]-ka-an-ni

35  a-ni-ni ina dilkaš-
    anergal-ma x-[x]?-x-ma?
    [in]-n[a]-ni issu amel babili
    ni-da-bu-ub
    mi-i-nu ša te-mu ša-nu nu-x-ta-u
    a-na šarri be-li-ia ni-šap-pa-ra
    amel QA-ma-a a i-sa-ap-ru-na-si

40  ma-a amelurdañimeš ša ša[rr]i a-ni-ni ma-a um XXX KAM
    ni-il-la-ka i-[s]-ku-nu ni-dib-bu-ub
    ulla[LU]i-an.DAN.MEŠ [iš]-ni ina muhhi šarri il-lu-ku
    ki-ma it-tal-ku-u-n[i] pa-an šarri be-li-ia
    [lu]? ša-ba-la-su-n[u] te-e-m[u] ša aš>[il-šak]

45  šu-u[h sab] ša[rr]u be-li iliš-pur-a[n-n]i
    mukin Zar[er] ........
    a-ni-ni ........ x
    a-na ........ x UD?
    ni x ........

50  a-na šarri be-li-ia ni-šap-p[a-ra]
[On left side aligned with line 50 and in slightly smaller script:]
    ni-mur-ra-a

Translation
(1-2) To the king my lord your servant(s) Shamash-bunaya (and) Nabu-namir. (3) May it be well with the king my lord. (4) May Nabu (and) Marduk bless the king my lord.

(5) On the 28th day we went back to Babylon. (6) We took our stand in front of the Marduk Gate. (7) We talked with the Man of Babylon. (8-9) Asinu the servant of Mukin-zer the Chaldaean was there. (9-11) They came out at his side and stood with
the citizens of Babylon in front of the gate. (11-12) We ourselves spoke to the citizens of Babylon in these terms: (13) 'Why are you hostile to us for their sake? (14-15) [badly damaged] (16) Let him agree to [entry into] Babylon. (17-21) I am coming to Babylon to confirm your citizen privileges.' We had many discussions with them. Five or ten people were present. They would not agree to come out. They would not negotiate with us. (22-24) They just kept sending us messages. We ourselves said to them: 'Open the Great Gate. Let us enter Babylon.' They would not agree. (25-29) (They) said: 'For you should we let you into Babylon?' (1) said: 'When the king himself comes, what shall I say to the king? When the king comes they will open the Great Gate.' (30) They did not believe that the king would come. (31) In these terms we spoke to them: (32-33) ‘PN and the servants of Mukin-zer are subject to penalty. (34-35) Until the king comes, we ourselves will wait in Kar-Nergal.' (36) Now we are talking with the Man of Babylon. (37-38) Whatever other report we hear, we shall send a message about it to the king my lord.

(39) The people of the Litamu tribe have sent us a message, (40-41) saying: ‘We are servants of the king. On the thirtieth day we shall come (and) have discussions with you, (42) and a strong force of soldiers will come with us to the king.' (43-44) When they have come back, I shall certainly send them before the king my lord.

(44b) A report about the city of Dilbat. (45) Concerning that on which the king my lord sent me a message, (46) Mukin-zer .... ..... (47) we ... ... (48) to ... ... (49) ... ... ... (50) We shall send [a message] to [the king my lord].

[On left side aligned with line 50:] We have seen (it).

Notes
Virtually complete large tablet, broken and rejoined. Has several cracks, and a worm hole near middle of top of obv. Obv. is almost flat, rev. is convex, ends and sides are rounded. Tapers very slightly to the ends. 40 mm of rev. is uninscribed. NA script.

2) m[dšama]š-būn(DU)-a-a. On this official see Iraq 17(1955), 45.
8) m[a]-si-nu. The unidentified PN in line 32 appears to differ from this in all three signs.
9) i-[d[a]-ešu. e, rather than the expected a, seems clear.
17) k[a]-un. NA form of D infin. of kānu.
24) ni-ru-ub. Cohortative without preceding i; see GAG §81g.
35) x-[x]?-x-ma?. The final -x-ma? could be -[r]u.
42) L[U]?x.DAN.MES. The group possibly represents amēšābē dannūtīmeš.

Level with 50) ni-mur-ra-а. Presumably represents a note added by the king or his secretary after the reading of this important letter.

ND 2494 (= LXVI; BSAI; Plate 2)

Transliteration
Obv. [ana šarri bēliya]  
[u]rad-ka mPN lu šulmu]
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

[ina muhhi ša šarru]
[bēlī i]š-pur-an-n[i]
5 m[a]-l[a] amēlmarēmeš bab[i][l][i]ki
mar ina ir-ti-ia
il-li-ku-nin-ni
MU.MESš-sū-nu
ina lib-bi e-gūr-ti
10 šu-tu
E. šē-bi-lat
Rev. mi-nim-mi-ni
la il-[i]-ka

Translation
[(1-2) To the king my lord your servant PN.]

(4- ) [Concerning the matter about which the king] my lord sent me a message,
saying, 'Write in a letter the names of Babylonian citizens, as many as came over to my
side, and send it (to me)', no one came over.

Notes
Tablet with top missing. The surface is mainly in good condition. The core shows no
indication of coiling of clay or of a distinct surface layer of clay. Has a final ruled line.
33 mm of extant rev. is uninscribed. NA script.
6) mar. See GAG §48j.
6) ina ir-ti-ia. For a distinction between usage of ana irtiya in SB and NA, the former
of a hostile confrontation and the latter of a neutral or friendly meeting, see CAD, I/J,
187a-b, 2’c’ and 2’d’. The reference here may be to the situation at the time of the
Mukin-zer rebellion, when Assyrian officials attempted to secure the goodwill of the
Babylonian citizens; see ND 2632, lines 12ff.

ND 2717 (= II; IM 64132; Plate 3)

Transliteration
Obv.
1' ... x x ... 
... x nu x [x] [a1-ta-[a]\ x ...
... [muh]?-hi [i]a? at-[u]-nu ina bīti kam-mu-sa-[u]-[n]u
... amēl-mu-q[i] ša ekalli ina lib-bi
5' [ina]? [lib]?-[b]? [i]a ni-il-lak pa-ti-hu šu a-dan-niš
... x ina lib-bi-šū la il-lu-ku a-na-ku
... x a-na pa-nī-šū-nu la-lī lik mükin-zer
[ina pa-n]a-tu-u-a ina bi-ri-tu-šū-ну ma-dak-tū
... x x la il-lak ina muh-hi-šū-nu la e-ti-qi
10' i-[s]a-he-[i]a-šī la nu-[s]a-ta-mah müa-su-ba-a-a
ina l[ib]-bi pūl-hal-[i] ina muhhi-šū-nu a-sap-ra mu-uk
a-[l][k] qi-ba-d[š]-šū-nu [u]š-su-ú-ni mu-uk
a-ta-[l\ a] ina bīti kam-mu-sa-[l]u-nu mu-uk šūm-ma
Letters relating to Babylonia

15' a-[d]i ḫša-raḍ al-ka-ni mu-uk ana-ku
issa [a]n-na-ka la-li-ka ina libbi-ku-nu
lu-[s]a-me-eh it-ta-[a]r ṣi-su-[b]a-a-a
iq-ti-ba-ā-[s] šā-nu la i-ma-gūr-[u]-(n) lā-ū-ṣu-u-ni
ṣi-su-ba-a-(a) i-su-hu-ra it-tal-ka

20' ṣē-[n]u-iq-ṭi-bi-a ma-a i-da-bu-ub
ma-a šūn-ma ṣumē-μu-qī i-ba-āš-šī
[i]t-tal-ku-u-ni nī-ta-rad ma-a issu libbi
[i-bīt?] nu-ṣa-a ma-a ū-la-a ṣumē-μu-qī
[i]-lī-ku-u-ni ma-a la-āš-šī lā nū-[ṣ]a-[a]-t[a]

25' āla nu-kal la kam-nu-sa-ni [ina bīti
[ṣi]m-[m]a-[m]a ṣumē-μu-qī nī-ma-ra-[u-ni
[?]-ba-?-[d]-ḥī-ṣū-ā ṣē-[n]-u-ni a-na x ...
[?]-la]-[a]-[a]-la-āš-šī qa-ra-bu [a] ... 

29' ... x la il-lu-[k] (u) ... 

Base ... be-li ū-še-x ... 

31' ... x x la-āš-šī-nu ana-ku ....
... x x x a x ....

Rev.
[The text of rev. continues from base without a break, but the traces in lines 33'-39' contain no recognizable sign and have not been copied.]

40' ki x x x .........
ma-a m-[r]? ... [a]-[a]-a-qa du-[l]-li-šū-nu
ṭa-[d]-[a]-x x ū-ṣu am-mar ṣumē-μu-ru-
šā ina ḫ[s]-a-pī-ia issu ṣumē-μu-zi [l]-ku-u-ni
ṣu-mu-zi-ē kī i issu ḫ[s]-a-pī-[i]-a ū-[ṣ]-a-ni

45' ina x illati(ILLAT)-šū lu? x [l]/li/[k]-a? larak(UD.UD)-[k]-ki ih-ta-bat
UDU.MES ša ṣumē-μu-zi ina ḫ[lu]-ha-ru [l]u? fe-ku-šu
amē-[k]-larak(UD.UD)-[k]-a-a it-tal-ku UDUMES XX LIM
ša ṣumē-μu-zi ih-ta-bu-u-ni ū-te-mu ša
babill[i] ṣumē-μu-zi-a-na mārēmēs babill[i]

50' iq-ṭi-bi ma-a i-si-ia a-[t]-a-[k] a-ni ma-a
gīšgīšimmarē ša dil-bak-[k] a la i-tam-gu-ru
mārēmēs babill[i] i-si-šū la il-lu-ku
amēši-ir-ki ša bēl i-si-šū it-tal-ku
[r]-e-mu [f]-a amēl[G]\EN. NA ūn III KAM* ša ištāṛiti

55' x-[a]-[k]a [p]-a-ni-ia it-tal-ka III GIŠ.GIGIR
[x] [L][U].pet-hal-lu V ME amēšišābēmēs GIŠ.BAN i-si-šū
[i]-t-tal-ku-u-ni issu muhhi amēši-ri-me ša
šarru? bēl[i]? [iš]-pu-[r]-a-[n]-ni [m]-a-a šu-tur še-[a]-la
... x x MEŠ smar-me-te-la

60' ... ṣarru be]-li i-qab-bi
... ti x ... x x e

[At least three further lines totally lost on rev.]
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

Side *

1' ... amēlēl pāḥati ša ālarrap-ḥa a-na U[RU] ... 
   ... x-[r]u a-na šarri be-ši-ša [ā]-si-[ʔ]-bi-[ʔ]-la?]
   [amēlēl]mār [s]ipri ša šarri be-ši-ša ina muhhi-šū-[n][u] ... 
   ina muhhi-ša lu-bi-[l]a-šū x ... 

Translation

Obv.

(2') ... ... why ... (3') that you are assembled in the tribal area (4') ... the forces of the Palace within. (5) We will not go there, he is extremely ... (6') ... they will not go inside it. (6'-9a') I myself will go to their presence. Muki-n-zer [has set up] camp opposite me in the midst of them. (9b'-10a') He will not come on (and) I did not cross to them, (so) we have not joined forces with each other. (10b'-11') I sent Iasubaya to them with cavalry. I said: (12') 'Go! Tell them to set out. Say: “Come out! (13') Why are you assembled in the area? If (14') you are not going with Muki-n-zer, (15') go as far as Marad. (15'-17') I will come from here myself (and) join you.’” He then went back. (17'-18') Iasubaya spoke to them, (but) they would not agree to come out. (19'-20') Iasubaya came back again and gave me the report about them. He said: (21-23a) ‘They say: “If there were forces and they had come, we would have come down, we should have come out from within the settlement. (23b'-25') But forces have not come, (and) there are none, (so) we are not coming out. We are holding the city; we are not (just) assembled [in the settlement]. (26'-27') [If] we see forces, (showing) there are (some), [we shall send] information about them to [my lord]. (28') But if there are none, (and) battle [is not imminent], (29') ...” They will not come ... ... (30'-32') [broken]

Rev.

(41') ... ... their service (42'-43') ... ... as many Aramaeans as go with Muki-n-zer in Sapia. (44') Muki-n-zer, when he went out from Sapia, (45') with his forces ... he plundered Larak. (46') Muki-n-zer’s sheep were pasturing in the town Buharu. (47'-48a') The people of Larak came and plundered 20,000 sheep of Muki-n-zer. (48b'-49') Report about Babylon. Muki-n-zer said to the Babylonians: (50'-51') ‘Come with me! Destroy the date-palm(s) of Dilbat!’ They were not willing. (52') The Babylonians would not go with him. (53') (Some) temple-slave(s) of Bel did go with him.

(54'-57a) Report about the Shandabakku-official. On the third of the month Tashritu he came into my presence; three chariot(s), (56') [a stated number of] cavalry (and) 500 archers (also) came with him.

(57b'-57') Concerning the Aramaeans about whom [the king my lord] sent me a message, saying, ‘Write (and) send (information) (59’) ... ... ... my Aramaean woman.’ (60') Perhaps [the king] my lord will say: (61') ... ... ... Left Side

(1') ... the governor of Arrapha to the town ... (2') ... I have/He has sent to the king my lord. (3'-4') Let the messenger of the king my lord bring it to me for them.
Letters relating to Babylonia

Notes
Top end is lost, there is some damage at base, and surface is lost at beginning of rev. NA script.

Obv. 3') [muh]?-hi [ṣa]?

The traces of the third sign do not suggest ia.

5') pa-ti-hu. See Iraq 17 (1955), 29. The equation pa-ti-hu = nu-u-hu of ZA nF 9 (1936), 242, line 239, seems to have no relevance here.

10') i-[a-ha]-[ṣa]-ṣi < iṣtu aḥa'iṣ, see GAG §120e. This reading, now verified by collation, was proposed in CAD, S, 109b (where ia is read as ji).

10') nu-[s]a-ta-mah. D1 of samāhu.

17') it-ta-[a]r. Taken as G1 tür, and anomalous for ʾittāar or ʾittūr.

31') x x la-aš-šu-nu. The traces of the two unidentified signs could be interpreted as [D]U.[NU]MU[N] = mukīn-zēr, but the plural form of the following verb is against this.

Rev. 46') ʾi defendants. A city of Bit-Amukkani; see NAT, 94.

56') [L]Ù. pet-hal-lu. Or [AN][Ē]. pet-hal-lu.

ND 2603 (= V; IM 64071; Plate 4)

Obv. 1') ... ʾī-hal-[a] (...-x ...)


... PEŠ ina mukhī m.darduk-apla-iddina na-ṣu-ni

5') ... [m]a at-ta-a ina libbi amēri-ṣa-ni ša māškal-di

[lu] pa]-la-ha-ka-ni ma-a a-ta-a qa-la-ka māškal-du i-ṣa-am-mu

[ina]? pa-ni-ka ma-he-e-ri a-di mba-la-su māškal-du

[li]-ha-pe-e id-da-nu-ni e-gir-tu ša ina mukhī

[m.darduk-ápla-iddina] na-ṣu-ni-ni it-tab-lu-ni

10') [ana p]a-ni-ni i-si-sti-šu : ü mba-la-su

[ip-ti]a-la-ah a-dan-niš ma-a an-nu-riš šu[m-ma]?

Base [ar]-tu-nu tal-la-ka ma-a ša-ga-la-ni

[x]-x-ku-nu la-al-lik ma-a DUMUN.IN-IA

[a]-ke-e a-na-ki-ir ma-a amēle-mu-qi

15') [m]mekīn-zēr i-ša-da-da māta i-hap-pi

Rev. [x] un-qaʾ-ka amēl ʾdi[m]a?-[lu]-la-ta-a ina mu[ḥhi-ʃa]

...-fli ma-a a-ke-e a-ha-rī-di ma-a ib-ra-ni

...-x-tu ku-ul-da i-su-rū šarru be-li i-qab-bi

...-x-ti-bi-ra šarru be-li ū-da pa-du-ni ma-ḥi-ši

20') ... x lib-bi DUG.GA.MEŠ i-si-šu ni-du-bu-ub

... x x a-na a-šu-e ša ʾdi]-la-rak-a-a

...... x li-ka ik-ke-e-la ni-la-ka

...... ina mukhi-šu lu tal-li-ka lu-šar-ḥi-šu-šu

...... x a ... a i-ga-li-ū
Translation

(1') ... ... ... (2') he is unwilling. He will not come. His messengers concerning ... (3'-4') [The messengers] of Mukin-zer came concerning him. They brought a letter about Merodach-baladan. (5'-6') [It said] thus: 'You are amongst the leaders of the Chaldean land, they indeed respect you. Why are you silent? The Chaldean land listens. (7'-9') There is a rival in your presence, while Balasu ruins the Chaldean land. They gave (it) to me. They brought the letter which was sent to me about Merodach-baladan. (10'-12') They read it in my presence, and Balasu was very much afraid. (He said) 'Now if you yourself go, ... ... (13'-15') Let me go with your ... [He is] my nephew. How can I show hostility? The forces of Mukin-zer will devastate (and) ruin the land.' (16') ... your seal the man of Malulat for me. (17'-18') He said: 'How can I do what is fitting?,' I said: 'Cross over (and) defeat the ...' Perhaps the king my lord will say: (19') '... you shall cross over.' The king my lord knows ... ... (20') We spoke kind words with him about it. (21') [We persuaded him to go] to the help of the people of Larak. (22') ... ... Is he delayed? We will go (23') ... ... You indeed went against him; let them encourage him. (24') ... ... They will go into exile.

Notes
Approximately lower half of a letter. NA script, mainly in sound condition. 7'-8') a-di ... i-ha-pe-e. For usage see GAG §173f. 8') id-da-nu-ni.
12') ša-ga-la-ni. AHw, 275b takes as galû II, Impv. Š 'in die Verbannung führen', but the exact sense here is unclear to me; the signs are certain, with no possibility of a suffix -šû, as tentatively suggested ibid.
15') i-ša-da-da. This is assumed to have the meaning of the West Semitic verb, as in Hebrew. The normal Akkadian meaning does not give good sense.
16') un qa?-ka. A photograph suggests that the second sign should be qa rather than na as read in editio princeps. The copy has been altered, although the line so read gives no obvious sense.
16') āl[m(a)]-lu-la-ta-a-a. The first sign of this town name seems marginally more likely to be ma than šû.
19') pa-du-ni ma-hi-ši. Lit. 'are sparing of fighting', but the words may have an idiomatic sense.
20'-24') These obscure lines appear to speak of proposals to encourage Balasu to support the Assyrian side.
21') a-a-li-e. CAD, A/1, 226b ajalu B, 'help', taken as West Semitic loanword.
22') ik-ke-e-la. Taken as N Pret. of kalû, with lengthening of second vowel perhaps to denote a question.

ND 2663 (= VIII; IM 64101; Plate 3)

Transliteration

Obv.
1 [ana šar]ri be-li-[ia]
   [urad-ka] m.dšamaš-bu-na-[a-a]
   [ina muhhi] ţe-me ša amēšaš[meš]
Letters relating to Babylonia

[ša šarru b]e-li iš-pu[r-a]n-ni
5 ... [a]n?-na-šú-nu la t[u]-še-b[i-la]
[a]mēlšabemés Ṭ[r]-L? ša amēlš-[r]u-[l]a
x-x İDIGNA [a]-na
bat-ti am-mi-ti ša nāri
[h]arrānu ša ālUD.[UD] x x x-tu-u-nu
10 i-si-šú-nu [ṭ][r]-[a]-[a][r]-[ka]-?-[ka]l-ni
[a]-[r]a pa[a]-an šar[r]ī re-li-[a]įa [ā]-[r]al-[a]-l[u]
...... x amēl[r]-[u]-l-ša
...... ni harrānu ša ālkar-dšamaš
[ana pān šarr]į be-li-ia il-la-ku-u-ni
15 ...... x.MEŠ ša m[a]-m[u]-d[a]-n[i]
...... m[a]-mu-da-ni
...... [amēlš][a]bemēš māti-šú-nu
...... [amēlš][a]bemēš.[š][u]-nu
...... x x
Rev.
1' ...... x
...... UD?
...... [KÁ.DIN]GIR.RA.KI
...... x KÁ.DINGIR.R[A.K]I
5' ...... [i]r?[n]i? ʧū
...... [p[a]-ni-te
la ū-ši-ū [isšu]? [K]A.DINGIR.RA.K[I]
it-ta-lak bidualu š[a] x x-PAPir
ina lib-bi tal-li ša x x ...
10' [i]-[r]-a-ha-aš ư x-x-[x]-?-[m]ir
i[t]?[a][r]-[a]-lak x-ta-x x x x
x x qa-ni(-)t[a] at x [x] x
i x x ša ālši(KIRIš) tu-un-[t]a?-gi-ir
š[u]?-gu-ul-tu ma-[a'-]da a-dan-niš
15' e-ta-na-rab māršmek KÁ.DINGIR.R[A.K]I
x x a zu ni ta x x ...
[x] x ab? x x .......
...... .......
...... x x ...
20' ...... a-n[a] ...
...... x k[i]-l[...]?
Side
...... il-l[a-k]a [a]-la ša[rri bēliya]

Translation
Obv.
(1-2) To the king my lord your servant Shamash-bunaya. (3-4) In the matter of the report on the soldiers about whom the king my lord sent me a message, (5) saying, 'you have not brought their ...', (6) soldiers, fifty of the Itu’a (7-8) protect the Tigris
on this side of the river. (9) The road for the city La[rak] ... (10) (when) they went with them, (11) they came into the presence of the king my lord. (12) ... ... the Ru’a tribesmen (13) ... ... the road for the city Kar-Shamash (14) (when) they come into the presence of the king my lord (15) ... ... [the troops] of Amudanu (16) ... ... ... Amudanu (17) ... ... ... the troops of their land (18) ... ... ... their troops (19) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ... ......
Letters relating to Babylonia

10  III I[V]? : [I]I? x .......
naphar L?[I]I? [š]a? .......
LXX amēlšaq[bēmeš] .......
XII ša 4 [vr]-[ru] .......
XVI ša III x .......

15  naphar I ME XXXVI .......
V ša IV : x .......
(a)?-[n]a? SU [.....
..... x [.....]

Rev. [On lines 4a'-9a' see notes below]
1’  LÚ x [.....]
issu x [.....]
il-lik [.....]
MU MEŠ-šú [.....] 4a’ [šarri bē]-lí-ia
5’  a-na šarri [.....] 5a’ -ri-bi
abi-ša ša DĪŠ [.....] 6a’ [šarri bē]-lí-ia
abi-ša ša DĪŠ x [.....] 7a’ x LÚ.GAL.MEŠ
mga-ra-ba [.....] 8a’ x-ne
mgb-bu-dšam[af] [.....] 9a’ -an-ni

10’  ŠA?[m]ānabû-š[e] [.....
šu-nu amēlšabēm[es] [.....] x x
nīšem[e][-š][u][a][i][n] [šarri] be-lí-ia
ú-si-bi-[a] in[a li]b-bi
amēl[X-x]-[b]a-te amēli-da-a-nu
15’  šu-nu

Partial Translation

Obv.
(1-2) To the king my lord your servant Shamash-bunaya. (3) Concerning the people
about whom the king my lord sent a message, (4-6) now I have despatched to the king
my lord 373 special troops by the hand of Shumu-abi. [Lines 6b-18, which are very
broken, appear to have given statistics on the composition of this group.]

Rev. [disregarding lines 4a'-9a', on which see notes below]
(12'-13') I have sent their people to the king my lord. (13'-15') Therein are the ...

Notes
Five fragments rejoined to form tablet with base missing. Surface is lost from right half
of obv. after line 6 and from much of rev. before the final 4 lines. Final 10 mm of rev. is
uninscribed. N.A script.

The ends of lines on rev. designated 4a'-9a' are on two joining fragments which have
been attached to the middle of the right half of the tablet. Whilst the join looks very
convincing, with closely matching dimensions and curvature, it is not perfect, and two
points suggest that it may be false. Firstly, the distance from beginning of line 4a' to
end of line 9a' is 23.5 mm, whilst that on the left of the tablet from beginning of line 4'
to end of line 9' is 26 mm. Secondly, on the reverse, the first eight lines of the main
tablet all run up to, and all but one go beyond, the right margin, whereas the right ends of the added fragments, which correspond to seven lines on the main tablet, are all blank, so that these seven lines, if part of the tablet, would all have borne from 2 to 11 mm less inscription than the shortest line earlier. It is therefore assumed that lines rev. 4a'-9a' are not a true join.

Obv.
4) zi-me. Perhaps an abbreviated form of zīm pānī, for which see CAD, Z, 122a, 4. J.N. Postgate suggests reading ZLME(Š), 'people' or 'deportees', which may well be preferable.

Rev.
14') amêlx-[x]-[b]a-te. The first sign might be qi, but some of its apparent diagonals could be damage marks.
14') amêli-da-a-nu. Not otherwise attested.

ND 2628 (= LXXVI; BSAI; Plate 4)

Transliteration
Obv. a-na šarri be-li-ia
u-rad-ka m.âšamaš-bu-na-a-a
lu-u šulmu-ša a-na šarri be-li-ia
ûm XXIX KAM* issu ma-ra-kī
5 ú-ta-me[š][a a-di
parak-mār[ī][i] at-ta-lak
nišmeš ša ina pa-an
[l[a]]lar[k](UD.UD.K[I])-a-a
10 a-ta-šar at-ta-har
ûm I KAM* issu parak-mārī[ki
Rev. ú-nam-maš nišmeš
ár-ti a-pa-qid
a-na pa-an šarri be-li-ia
15 al-la-ka

Translation
(1-3) To the king my lord your servant Shamash-bunaya. May it be well with the king my lord. (4-6) On the 29th I set out from Marad and went as far as Parak-mari. (7-10) I checked and received the people who were formerly citizens of Larak or Nippur. (11-13) On the first I shall set out from Parak-mari. I shall appoint the people ...
(14-15) I shall come into the presence of the king my lord.

Notes
Complete tablet rejoined from three fragments. Text very clear, with significant damage affecting only lines 5 (middle) and 8-9 (beginning). Two-thirds of rev. uninscribed. NA script.
Letters relating to Babylonia

2) m.dšamaš-bu-na-a-a. One of the authors of ND 2632.
5) ú-ta-m[e-š]a. For the final sign, [š]a is the only likely reading, the tail of a third vertical (shown in copy) being probably a damage mark.
7) iņa pa-an. Taken in the sense in which used in AKA, 164, 20.
13) ār-tti. Or ubh/p-ti. Neither reading seems to be otherwise attested in an appropriate sense.

ND 2365 (= XI; IM 64011; Plate 3)

Transliteration

Obv.
1 [a-n]a ša[rr]i bēli-ia
ur[ad]-ka mš-[š]i-pa-a
l[š]-u šulmuš a-na šārri bēli-[š]a
išelippāti[m] āš.kusma[š-ki]r

Rev.
1 ............ x x
............ x-a-a
............ x-šu-ni
[ina mu]hhi amēšābēmeš

Translation

Obv.
(1-3) To the king my lord your servant Ashipa. May it be well with the king my lord.
(4-5) I have brought the ships of Kelek-town. (6) ... ... I brought ...

Rev.
(4-6) Concerning the troops of Balasu: they have taken station. (7-8) Seven soldiers came out. Five were killed. (9-11) One of my messengers was killed actually with them. It is well with the ships of Kelek-town.
Notes
Lacks bottom left corner and surface of most of bottom half of obv. Has distorting vitrification at the beginning of obv. Text is otherwise sharp and mainly clear. No lines are lost at the beginning of rev. NA script.

Obv.
4, rev. 13) āl.kušmaš-kir. Thanks are due to J.N. Postgate for this proposed restoration.
5) uq-ṭa-ri-ba. There is a confusing adventitious mark after the vertical of ba.

Rev.
6) i-zu-uq-pu. See CAD, Z, 55a, zaqāpu B, b.
10) itti-šš-a-nu-ma. Enclitic -ma for emphasis.

ND 2418 (= XCI; IM 64030; Plate 5)
See K. Deller, Or. 36 (1967), 82.

Transliteration
Obv.
1) a-na šarri bēli-[a]
urad-ka m-aš-p[a]-l[a]
lu-u šulmu[m] a-[a bēliya]
ina muhhi išelippatimès
5) ša šarru bēli [iš-p]ur-an-ni
[x ME ku]šmaš-kir

Rev.
1’) x . . . . . . . x
I[ú]-na-m[a]-dš
ki-ma : GI[Š.M]Á.MEŠ
ú-sa-[i-q]u
5’) lu-ra-mi-i
ll-li-ku
ú-la-a
End [n]i-ka-[a-s]ú-nu

Translation
Obv.
(1-3) To the king my lord your servant Ashipa. May it be well with my lord.
(4-5) Concerning the ships about which the king my lord sent a message, (6) 400 ships (7) x00 inflated waterskins

Rev.
(2’) I shall set in motion. (3’-4’) When they have unloaded the ships, (5’) shall I release (them), (6’) so that they may go on, (7’-8’) or shall we detain them?

Notes
Top half of tablet, broken in several places and rejoined. Has very square edges. Large clear NA script.
Letters relating to Babylonia

Obv.

2) \( \text{ma-ši-p[a]-1a} \). Since an official of the same name, also concerned with ships, was the writer of ND 2365, we present the two letters together.

7) \( \{x \ \text{ME ku}\}_{5} \text{maš-kir.} \) Restored after Deller, op.cit.

Rev.

4') \( \text{ú-sa-r[i-q]u.} \) See AHw, 979b, \( \text{ri₆a₇qu(m)} \) apud Š 2. After \( \text{kima} \) one expects Subj. particle \(-ni\); see GAG §116e.

5') \( \text{lu-ra-mi-i.} \) See AHw, 953b, \( \text{ram₃u₃(m)} \) III, D 'entlassen'. Deller, op.cit., points out that the form indicates a question.

8') \( \{n\}i-ka-[\{a-š\}u-nu. \) See CAD, K, 95a, \( \text{kal}_{₆₄₅}. \)

ND 2452 (= XXXV; IM 64046; Plate 5)

Transliteration

Obv. \( \text{a-na šarri [b]elī-ia} \)

\( \text{urd}u<\text{k}ar> \text{ma-ši-pa-a} \)

\ VI LIM ŠE.PAD.MES Ša m₅illi-bēl amē₃lab ālā₃ni₅ni \n
\( \{i\}a-ba-at ri-i₃h-ti \)

ŠE.PAD.MES la ū-du \( \{t\}a₃b-ku \)

[see note]

III LIM ŠE.PAD.MES ina ḫ₃i₅par \n
\( \text{pa-ti-a-at} \)

Rev. \( \text{ŠE.PAD.MES x-a'-ra-at} \)

\( \text{a-na ḫ₃i₅par} \)

\( \text{la a-lak} \)

\( \text{15 ŠE.PAD.MES issu pa-<an>₃ nāri} \)

\( \text{pa-ti-a-at} \)

\( \text{šum-mu šarru i₃qa-bi} \)

\( \text{ma a-li₃k} \)

\( \text{dul-lu ū₃ku₃šu} \)

\( \text{20 šu₃tu} \)

\( \text{i₃da₃bu₃bu} \)

\( \text{ma₃a issu [d₃]ku₃ti₃-e} \)

\( \text{ma₃a issu ḫ₃i₅kar₃d₃nergal} \)

Translation

(1-2) To the king my lord your servant Ashipa.

(3-6) 6,000 (gur) of grain supplies of Silli-Bel, Chief of the Towns, is good. (6-7) I do not know about the rest of the grain supplies. (7-9) The store of ... ... ... ... ... ... ... 3,000 (units) of grain supplies (are) in Sippar, (10-11) the grain supplies are distant from me. (12) The grain supplies are [not] available, (13-14) I cannot go to Sippar. (15-16) The grain supplies are distant from the river.
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

(17-20) If the king says: 'Go! The task is to be settled', they will argue: 'From Kutha, from Kar-Nergal' [message apparently incomplete]

Notes
Complete tablet in good condition. Large clear NA script. Ends clear but uninscribed.

The writer, subject matter, and mention of Śilli-bel, link this letter to ND 2623, q.v.

3) ŚE.PAD.MEŠ. The verbal accordance appears to treat this as sg. f.

8) Either II LIM LXX GUR ețiïrīr or, as J.N. Postgate suggests, 2 LIM mU+GUR-KARīr.

11, 16) pa-ti-a-ar. Lit. 'is opened', but for patā in sense 'to be distant' see SAA, 5, p. 232.

19) ú-ku-šā. Taken as D infin. of akāšu, with a sense approximating to 'is to be got out of the way'.

ND 2623 (= XXXVI; BSAI; Plate 5)

Transliteration
Obv. a-na šarrī be-li-ia
urdu-ka mā-ši-pa-a
lu-ū šulmu-mu a-n[a] be-li-ia
ina muhhi ŚE.PAD.MEŠ[S] š[a] šarru
5 be-li i[s-p]ur-an-ni-ni
issu pa-an šarri be-li-ia
ša l[a]-nam-mi-a-an-ni
a-na [a][k][a]-u-[i]-u
l[a] na a[i]-k[l]-r-[i]-p[a]r
10 e-ta-[r]-ba
I[l]-ümēme[S] ina babī[i]ki
ka-mu-[s]a-ak
Rev. ŚE.PAD.MEŠ ša mšilli-bē[l]
lā qu-[r]-ba-ti
15 lā aq-[r]-i-[i]-b
a-du l[mu]-še-zib-ili
[i][s]su [a][k]-kār-aš-šur
[i]-li-kām-m[a]
GIŠ.M[Å].MEŠ a-s[a-d]a-d[a]?/a[d]?
20 mar-di-ti ša-pa-al
GU.DU₈.A.KI at-ta-lak
ūm XXIII KĀM ú-[s]e?-šē-ri
Ś[E.P]AD.MEŠ š[a] GU.D[U₈].A.K[I]
a-ka-r-ra-ar

Translation
(1-3) To the king my lord your servant Ashipa. May it be well with my lord.

(4-6) Concerning the grain supplies about which the king my lord sent me a message, (7-10) when I set out from the presence of the king my lord, I went into
Letters relating to Babylonia

Kutha (and) Kar-Sipar. (11-15) For two days I was stationed in Babylon. The grain supplies of šilli-bel not being at hand, I could not start work. (16-19) While Mushezib-ili came from Kar-Ashur, I towed the boats. (20-21) I have gone back on the stage downstream from Kutha. (22) (By) the twenty-third I shall have put things in order. (23-24) I shall put in place the grain supplies of Kutha.

Notes
Tablet composed of three fragments rejoined. Complete except for a lost fragment (18 mm × 9 mm maximum) on lower part of obv., and a smaller lost fragment on right of rev. At top right corner of rev., a flake has chipped off, leaving a sharp line of break, over which the scribe has written a sign; this is evidence for the use of previously prepared tablet blanks see above, p. 3. NA script.
9) ăll[kär]-s[î]-p[a]. The spacing demands another sign between URU and si.
15) la aq-[r]-i-ib. 'I could not start work.' See CAD, Q, 235b-236a, 6.
15-18) A possible alternative translation is ‘The grain supplies of šilli-bel not being at hand, I could not start work until Mushezib-ili came from Kar-Ashur’.
19) a-s[a-d]a-a[d[a]?/a[d]? G1 of šadadu.
22) ă-u-se-sh. Taken as Ș of esēru with ‘überhängende’ ı, (GAG §18e). It seems possible that this type of usage marked the beginning of an attempt (presumably under the influence of Aramaic) at using cuneiform signs alphabetically; i.e. ri was taken to represent not only r +i but also, in occurrences like the present, r alone.

ND 2363 (BSAI; Plate 6)

Transliteration
Obv. [ana šarri bē]li-a
[urad-ka ṃx?]-x-x-a-h[i]? [lu šilwm]m[ù (a)na šarri bēl-a [x? (x?)] x maššaš-kir 5 [x? (x?)] ăldür-la-di-ni [x].MEŠ [i]k-ra-ru-ni [u-t]a-am-meša (ina bâb bi[t-q]i [x? (x?)] l?-[u-tu] [l]u?-[i[a]?-[m]u? [x? (x?) ]x i-qab-bi ma-a x x x-[m]a [l]e-e-ti-qu 10 [l]i-[l-q]i-[l-â] [x? (x?) (x?) x]-la-mu l?-ba-la-su [x?] x [G]AB? mn-di-nu [x?] x x š[a]? GIŠ x x?
Base [x?] [maššaš-k[i]-i[r] 15 [x?] x ă[l(-)] x [l][u?]-â-[i?[a]?-[m]a am-meša a-du ana-[k[u] u[r]-ki-u-te issu ă[l[d]âr-baliḫ(KASKAL.KUR)-a-a [a]r-[i[a]-i[a]-kan-ni
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

Translation

(1-3) To the king my lord your servant ...-ahi. May it be very well with the king my lord. (4) ... water-skin (5) ... the town Dur-ladini (6-7) they put the ... in place, (then) they set out. In the sluice-gate (8) ... ... ... (9-10) ... he says thus: '... let them pass through, let them take ... ' (11) ... Balasu ... (12) ... against Nadinu (13) ... ... ... (14) ... water-skin (15) ... ... ... (16) let them set out (17-19) until afterwards I myself have come back from Dur-balihaya.

Notes

Has lost substantial piece at top left corner and has surface damage down almost the whole of left of obv.; 45 mm of rev. is uninscribed. NA script.

4ff.) These damaged lines are obscure, but they may be explaining how Chaldean tribesmen escaped from a marsh city being invested by the Assyrians.

5) ãldûr-la-di-nî. Known from the annals of Sargon II as a city of Bit-Dakkuri; see A. Fuchs, Inschr. Sargons II., p. 152, Ann.305. See also SAA, 1, p. 236.

6) [i]k-ra-ru-nî. For other instances of characteristic vowel a in this verb see ND 2453, 5, 7.

7) [á-t]a-am-me-šú. D' Pret. from namâšu; see CAD, N/1, 222a-b, 4.

11, 12) mba-la-su, mna-di-nu. Balasu, head of the Bit-Dakkuri tribe, and Nadinu, ruler of the city of Larak, are mentioned together as paying tribute to Tiglath-Pileser; H. Tadmor, Inschr. TP II, Summ.7: 26, Summ.11: 18.

15) [x]? x ū-ul(-)x x. As a restoration lu-u-šak-la might fit, but the sense ‘let me hold back, let them set out’ would be questionable unless it were idiomatic for ‘let me hold them back from setting out’.

17) u[r]-ki-u-te. Pl. of an adjectival form, but appears to be used here with an adverbial sense.

18) ãldûr-balih(KASKAL.KUR)-a-a. The capital city of Bit-Sha’alli; see H. Tadmor, Inschr. TP III, p. 163, Summ.7, obv. 20. For the value of KASKAL.KUR see E.I. Gordon, JCS 21 (1967), 77, and for a NA pronunciation dûr-bi-li-ha-a-a see ABL 1292, obv. 5. See also below, p. 51, ND 2689, 7.

ND 2729 (BSAI; Plate 5)

Transliteration

Obv.

1  a-na šarri bēli-ia  
   urad-ka mšin-šašarid  
   lu šulmu-mu a-na šarri bēli-ia  
   LÚ.A.KI[N].MEŠ issu li-bi ãldûr-la-di-n[i]

5  i-tal-ku-ni ma-a e-mu-qi  
   [š]a-at ina šadda ma-a II ME L pét-hal  
   [x]? x PA? G[Il]R.II i-šal-la-šū i-si-niš  
   [m]a-i ina mu[h-h]-[n]i i-tal-ku-[n]i  

10  i[n]a]? x x am-me-te [k]am-mu-š[u]  
    [m]a-a ni-x ... x ...  
    x ... ...
Letters relating to Babylonia

Rev.
[Although, for the sake of completeness, a copy and transliteration are offered, few signs are sufficiently preserved to justify even a tentative restoration, and only five can be considered certain. Some of the traces drawn may reflect adventitious marks rather than remains of wedges.]

1'  x x x x ... ...
    x ša? nu? x ... ...
    x x me? d[u]? ... ...
    x x x x ... ...

5'  x x x i[k] fā? ?-x ...
    x x x x ZI[G]? x ...
    fā? x x x q[u]? ...
    fī? ?-na šī? šu x ...
    la x x ... ...

10'  x x x x ... ...
Top
11'  i-[a]-ak-nu-š[u-nu]
    [h]a-ra-ma-ma

Side*
[Traces of two illegible signs show there was originally a further line of script.]

Translation
Obv.
(1-3) To the king my lord your servant Sin-asharid. May it be well with the king my lord.
(4-7) The messengers have come from within Dur-ladini. They say: ‘The forces that are in the mountain(s) are 250 cavalry and ... infantry. They are coming for a third time together.’ (8) They say: ‘They have come against us.’ (9) Silver ... ...(10) They are gathered on that [side of the river].
Rev.
[Nothing intelligible.]
Top
(11') they stationed them. Afterwards
Side
[Nothing legible. Presumably another verb.]

Notes
Upper part (between half and two-thirds) of tablet. Obv. convex, rev. slightly so. Some abrasion on obv., very severe abrasion on rev. NA script.
Obv.
4) dūr-la-di-n[i]. Cf. ABL 1292, 5 and Fuchs, Inschr. Sargons II., Ann.304, 305, 312.
6) [s]a-at. If correctly restored, would appear to be a form of anaphoric pronoun; see GAG §41f.
7) PA?. G[ī]R.II. I do not see the first sign as GIŠ. After the reference to ‘250 cavalry’, in what seems to be an intelligence report about troop concentrations, one might expect
GİR.II to be the end of a term for ‘infantry’, but the traces do not permit the restoration zu-uk šēpe.

7) išal-la-šū. In form could be from šalu or šalû with pron. suf., or from šalāšu ‘to do for a third time’.

10) [na]? x x. The two unidentified signs presumably conceal a feminine noun qualified by the following ammete. The traces are consistent with a restoration ba-te, which could be a form of battu ‘side’, which occurs so spelt in earlier Assyrian.

ND 2723 (BSAI; Plate 6)

Transliteration

Obv.

5'-8' [contain no recognizable traces]
9' ... ... x n[i]?-ib? ...
10' ... ... x x x [š][a]? M[EŠ]? ...
11'-12' [contain no recognizable traces]
13' ... ... x x x qa? b[ir]? x ...
14' ... ... x x ERIM.M[EŠ]? x ...
15'-16' [contain no certainly recognizable traces]
17' ... ... x x x [r][a]?? x ...
18'-20' [contain no certainly recognizable traces]
21' ... ... x ma-a x ...

On turn to rev.

22' ... ... [i]? x ...
23' ... ... x a ...
24' ... ... x x ...
25' ... ... [n]u]-ra x ...
26' ... ... [b]i x ...

Rev.

27'-31' [contain no certainly recognizable traces]
32' ... ... x x da k[i]? ...
33' ... ... n[a]??-sa-ma? ina? pa? x UD x ...
34' ... ... x kam-m[u-s]u x x ...
35' ... ... [š]a?? ina pa-at-te ša ina mu[hhi] ...
36' ... ... qa-qa-ru LŪ x n[i]? x ...
37' ... ... šuššušu ANŠE x x x ...
38' ... ... [š][a]? mba-la-s[i] a1-na DĪŠ x ...
39' ... ... x šubi(KLTUS)-š[u]?? x x ...
40' ... ... x ma-a ú-da(-)x x ...
41' ... ... x bi-ra-šu-nu x ...
42' ... ... x ina [mu]h-hi-šu-nu ...
43' ... ... x x x [e]? ...
44' ... ... x na? x ...
45' ... ... ma x ...
46' ... ... x ...

38
[Insufficient consecutive text remains for a useful translation. Line 38' mentions mba-la-s[i], chief of the Chaldean Bit Dakkuri tribe.]

Notes
Fragment from the bottom of the right side of a largish tablet. The dimensions of extant sections of text are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Width</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>obv.</td>
<td>76 mm</td>
<td>between 17 mm and 35 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>base</td>
<td>19 mm</td>
<td>between 8 and 14 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rev.</td>
<td>69 mm</td>
<td>between 10 mm and 28 mm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are traces of 21 lines on obv., 5 on base, and 20 on rev. Obv. 1' to 4', which bear only the graves of lost signs. These have not been copied. For the remainder, especially on obv., many signs are uncertain, and the copies are offered with due reservation. NA script.

In terms of physical appearance, dimensions and perhaps contents, ND 2723 could have been part of the right side of a tablet of which ND 2456 was part of the left, the total width of the postulated original tablet being between 70 and 75 mm. Possible line correspondences are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ND 2456</th>
<th>ND 2723</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>obv. 16'</td>
<td>circa obv. 12'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rev. 4'</td>
<td>rev. 38'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There is also indication of a common subject matter, since ND 2723 appears to touch upon resettlement (rev. 39', šubti-šu, and qaqqaru in a broken context, rev. 36') and ND 2456 has the words 'he(?)/they(?) returned to the land'. If ND 2456 and ND 2723 were not parts of the same tablet, they possibly came from tablets written by the same scribe.

14') ERIM.M[EŠ]?? Some marks taken for traces in M[EŠ] could be mere scratches.
32') x da k[i]? The traces before da could be part of i.
33') pa? x. The traces of the unidentified sign most suggest either ār or LÚ.
34') x kam-m[u-s]u. The traces are against reading the first sign as ta.
37') ANŠE x x x. The upper part of the first unidentified sign precludes taking it as a miscopied GĪR. The succeeding signs could not be NUN.NA to give ANŠE.GĪR.NUN.NA = kūdanu 'mule'.

ND 2444 (BSAI; Plate 7; Photo Plate II)

Transliteration
Obv.
1 [a]-[n]a ša[rrī] be-li-i[a]
[u]rad-ka m.dPA-x x [l]u šu[lmu][m][u] [a]-[n]a
[ša]rrī be-li-la d[PA]? [i]? [d]AMAR.UTU]? [a]-[n]a
b[e-li]-[i]a l[ik-r]u-bu x x x x x x
5 ú-ta-na-aš-šī a-šur x x x x x
i-qa-[b]u-niš-šú : DINGIR x x x x x x
... k[u]?-ka-ru-u [DI]NGIR [H]I? x x x x
... x x x x x x x

39
Rev.
1' ... [a]-[-]-[a]? a-na(-)k[a] x x x
... x [a]-[-]-[n]a? UG[U]? m.d₄nabû₃-û-šib-ši
...... m₅[a?-]-l[a?-]-m[u]? m₅x-x-n[u]
x x x-[a]? : i-si-e-a
5' it-tal-ku-u-nu issu pa-an m.d₄nabû₃-û-šib-ši
ú-si-tu-qu-u-ni a-na-ku an-nu-rig
ina ál-sa-pi-ia x x x x
a-d[a-b]u-bu-n[i]? i₁-l-n[a] te-m[u] x ...
9'(End) a-har-ra-ša a-na šarri be-šš-ia a-šš[p-p]a-[ra]

Translation
Obv.
(1-4a) To the king my lord your servant PN. May Nabu and Marduk bless my lord.
(4b-5) [fragmentary] (6) They said to him: .... ... (7-8) [fragmentary]
Rev.
(2') ... before Nabu-ushibshi (3'-4a) [fragmentary] (4-7') They came back with me; they made them pass over from the presence of Nabu-ushibshi. I now in Sapia ... ...
(8a') (that which) I tell, (8b'-9') I shall make clear in the report (and) shall send a message to the king my lord.

Notes
Top fragment of tablet. Obv. is flat with 8 lines extant, and rev. curved with 7 lines extant. There are 2 lines on base. Much of obv. and some of rev. is abraded; this is particularly severe in the second half of lines on obv. NA script.
The cross-section where the fragment has broken clearly shows the core with a layer of finer clay of slightly lighter colour around it, varying in thickness from 2 to 6 mm.
Obv.
5) ú-ta-na-aš-ši. Reading certain. Does this represent *untanāššī, an otherwise unattested Din of naššī?
Rev.
2', 5') m₄nabû-û-šib-ši. The reference to Sapia in rev. 7' shows that this letters concerns Chaldean affairs. This person was therefore Nabu-ushabshi, paramount chief of the Chaldean tribe of Bit-Shilani, against whom Tiglath-Pileser III took action. Since Tiglath-Pileser III caught and killed this leader before the end of the Mukin-zér rebellion, and he was still alive in this letter, the letter must date from c. 732 BC. Lines 4'-6' show that the writer had succeeded in making some of Nabu-ushabshi's followers desert.
3') m₅[a?-]-l[a?-]-m[u]? Although this reading of this name is not beyond question, the traces cannot represent m₅DU.NUMUN = m₅mukin-zér.
4') -[a]? Or -B[U]-ri.
4') i-si-e-a. Passim on this tablet are some shallow scratches simulating headless wedges. In this word there is one such scratch below the two horizontals of certain -e-, which could conceivably be the result of unskilled cleaning in an attempt to read i-si-ia[-a].

40
ND 2761 (IM 64157; Plate 7)

Transliteration

Obv. [a-na šarrī bēlī]-ia
[urad-ka m.d.a[š-šu]r-šallim-an-ni
[lu šēl]muₘ a-na šarrī be-[l]-la
ina muh-hi te-mi ša šar elanṭīkī
5 e-ti-bir ina muh-hi giš-ri i-sak-na
i-si-me ma-a amēlbaēl pāhati ša ālarrap-ha
a-na āl-di-ri it-tal-ka
mzi-ni-e-ni issu muh-hi
giš-ri ū-sa-hi-ra ū-ma-a
10 mzi-ni-e-ni a-di amēle-muqe-e-šū

Base

Rev.

25 ālbi[r]-tu ū-x......
amēlšabemēš ina lib-b[i]......
[x]a ina āl-di-ri x......
amēlmār šipri ina muhhi x......
a-sap-ra ū-x......

30 la il-lā-ka e-[gi[r]-ti]
ša šarru be-[l]-ū-šē-bi-[la-ni]

35 a-n[a š]arrī be-[l]-la a-šap-pa-ra

Translation

(1-3) To the king my lord your servant [Ashur]-shallimanni. May it be well with the
king my lord.

(4-5) About the report on the king of Elam: he crossed over (and) set up camp at the
bridge. (6-7) He heard: 'The governor of Arrapha has come to Der. (8-9) He has
turned Zineni back from the bridge. (9-11) Now he has finished off Zineni together
with his whole army.' (12) They have crossed over at his side. (13-14) He has gone back from the bridge in ... (14-15) The Aramaean is stationed there. (15-16) From Der to the midst of the bridge (17-18) I have heaped up earth against ... (18-19) I caused to go up ... (20) I came back in the ... (21) in front of you ... (22-23) [nothing extant] (24) of (my) side (25) the fortress ... (26) soldiers therein ... (27) who in Der ... (28-29) I sent a messenger concerning ... (29-30) I have ..., he will not come. (30-32) ...-ilu-nasir has brought the letter that the king my lord sent. ... (33) He will not come. When ... (34-35) Whatever the news is ..., I shall send a message to the king my lord.

Notes
Top left and bottom right corners missing. Text in good condition. NA script.
2) m.da[š-šu]r-sallim-an-ni. Governor of Arrapha, and eponym for 735 BC; see RLA, II, 424, C8 1 and 431, C8 1.
5, 9, 13, 16) giš-ri. Taken as CAD, G, 107b-108a, gišru B 'bridge', but one cannot wholly exclude CAD, G, 107a-b, gišru A 3 'barricade' with reference to some type of military defence position.
8, 10) mzi-ni-e-ni. The context indicates that this person was an Elamite commander. The same name occurs as that of an Elamite general in ABL 576, obv. 9, from the reign of Esarhaddon or Ashurbanipal.
13) ŠA x x DU A. ŠA is undamaged and is not a misreading of ša DIŠ. One expects a place name to follow, but the following sign could only be URU if very carelessly inscribed; a photograph seems to confirm mar of the copy. The other sign, copied as ti, is uncertain from damage. DU A could represent mukin-apla as part of a place name based on a personal name.

ND 2382 (= XC; IM 64019; Plate 7)
See K. Deller, Or. 36 (1967) 82 and Fales, CLNA, pp. 33f.

Transliteration
Obv. [a-n]a ša[rri b]e-li-ia
    [ur]ad-ka maš-šur-šallimanni(SILIMni)
    lu-u šulmu[m]a-na šarri
    be-li-ia ina muhhi
5 amēlšābēšeš[a šar]ru be-lí
    iš-[p]ur-an-ni-ni
    ma-a a-[šur]
    I ME L š[a] mna-di-nu
    x ME ša mha-a-la-a
10 LX ša ma-a
    XX[X] ša amēlš[u]-ha-a-a
    ... ša amēlhi-i-[n-d]a-n[a]-a-a
    [a-kal]-la-šu-nu
Rev. [a-di amēlš]ābēmesš-šu-nu
    [18 mm uninscribed, then:]
Letters relating to Babylonia

16  X UD.MEŠ áḥharrānu(KASKAL)
17  álx
18  álx
19  álaš-šur

Translation
(1-4a) To the king my lord your servant Ashur-shallimanni. May it be well with the king my lord.

(4b-6) Concerning the people about whom the king my lord sent me a message, (7-12) saying: ‘Organize (matters)!’ (There are) 150 of Nadinu, x hundred of Halaya, 60 of Aya, 30 of the Suhaeans, ... of the Hindanaeans. (13-15) Should I detain them (or) should they come to me [together with] their people?

[space] (16-19) (It will take) 10 days (via) Harran, city ... city ..., Ashur.

Notes
Complete except for small fragment missing from bottom left corner. Surface mainly in good condition, except in parts of lines 11-12, which appear to have been accidentally cut during excavation. On rev. there are only two lines of the main message, followed by a space equivalent to four lines, and then three incomplete lines of text. The latter are in slightly smaller script less deeply impressed and less sharp, perhaps added by a different scribe after information not immediately available had come to hand. NA script.

2) māš-šur-šallimanni(SILIMni). Governor of Arrapha, and eponym in 735 BC; see above, note on ND 2761, 2. The same name occurs as that of the writer of six other letters (see above, p. 11) all concerned with military and tribal affairs in Babylonia.

7) a-[š[ur]. Adopted from Deller, op.cit. The supernumerary horizontal shown in the copy is presumably damage.

8) mna-di-nu. Possibly the ruler of Larak; see p. 11.

11) amēlš[u]-ha-a-a, amēlhi-[n-d]a-n[a]-a-a. Suhu was a tribe, Hindanu a city, along the middle Euphrates; see S. Schiffer, Die Aramiier (1911), 110f., and refs. in SAA, 1, pp. 238, 237.


16) X UD.MEŠ. Taken as the time required for a journey to Calah via the four cities named.

16-19) áḥharrānu(KASKAL) álx álx álaš-šur. Suggests an itinerary, but since the homeland of the Suhaeans and Hindanaeans was along the middle Euphrates, it is not clear why they needed to start from Harran (if this was the city in south Anatolia and not a place elsewhere with the same name) to reach Ashur.

ND 2602 (= X; BSAI; Plate 7; Photo Plate I)
Re-edited in Fales, CLNA, p. 67.

Transliteration
Obv.
1  [ana šarri beli-ia urad-ka] māš-šur-šallim-an-ni
[Lu šulmu₄ a-na šarri bēlî-ia] šulmu₄ a-na ma-da[k]-t[a]?
... [i]a ša šarri be-li i-ma-[i]-ku-na-[i-n]i
... [i]-kal-ka issu al₄ma-ri ni-su-uh-r[a]
5 ... a-na libbi amēla-ri-mi pa-ni-ni
... x in pu-ut nippurkl ina muhhi-ni na-šu-ni
... x ina muhhi-ku-nu il-la-ka
... pu-uh-ra? li-tan-ka še’a ub-bu-lu
... [bi]l? a-mu-ka-ni us-ka ni-su-hur
10 ... [it-t]al-KAM-in-ni amēša pet-hal-la-ti
... al₄ma-ri-ni nu-še-ti-qu-ni
... x(-)ku-ti úša-bi-tu-ni a-na II? ünimî
... x x x [x] x x x x

Rev.
1’ ... ... x ...
... ... x i x [x] [x]? [x]?
... ... i x x [x] [x]? [x]?
... ... [te-e]n-ši-nu a-na šarri bēlî-ia a-sap-ra

Translation
Obv.
(1-2) [To the king my lord your servant] Ashur-shallimanni. [May it be well with the king my lord.] It is well with the camp.
(3-4) [In the matter of ...] about which the king my lord counsels us, [saying, ‘...’] let him go’, we have come back from Maruri. (5-6) [we have gone/are going] into the midst of the Aramaeans before us. They were brought against us opposite Nippur. (7) ... ... he will come against them. (8) ... ... assemble. Let him go. They will bring the corn. (9) ... ... ‘Expel [the people of] the Bit-Amukkani tribe!’ We have come back.
(10) ... ... [when] they came back. (11) The cavalry [which] we sent on [to] Maruri (12) are [now] stationed in Maruri. They arrested 60 soldiers (13) ... ... , for the day /two days (14) ... ... ...
Rev.
(1’-3’) [nothing legible remains] (4’) ... I have sent the report about them to the king my lord.

Notes
Top right-hand corner of tablet which looks Babylonian in form but bears beautiful small NA script, 9 lines to the inch. There are several indications that the scribe normally wrote in Babylonian script; e.g., in signs such as ma, še, UZ, there are four or five strokes where an Assyrian scribe usually wrote three. Also, in obv. 8 the third extant sign is ra in Babylonian form (despite the normal Assyrian ra in obv. 4 and rev. 4’); theoretically it could be a hybrid Assyro-Babylonian hîr, but this would only be possible if the scribe had also imported Babylonian morphology (NB pu-uh-hîr against NA pa-ah-hîr). ub in obv. 8, with its horizontals not extending beyond the diagonals, also shows NB features, and the grouping of wedges at the beginning of obv. 10 looks more NB than NA. It seems probable that the sender, who as Governor of the province
of Arrapha controlled the region east of the Tigris right into Babylonia, was using a Babylonian scribe, who wrote in NA script rather than the NB to which he was most accustomed.

In physical appearance and calligraphy this fragment provides a marked contrast to ND 2350, from the same administrator and also apparently dealing with events in Babylonia. Whilst ND 2602 is a report of current military developments, ND 2350 seems to concern transport. Possibly the tactical report went to the king in person, so that the best scribe available was employed, whereas transport was a routine matter, dealt with by a subordinate minister.

The longest line preserved contains not more than half of the original line, perhaps slightly less. The length preserved may not be more that one-third of the original. Thus ND 2602 probably represents not more than one-sixth of the original tablet, although rather more than that proportion of the original text, since not all the reverse was inscribed.

The fragment shows clearly that the tablet was made with a layer of finer clay over a core.

Obv.
1) māš-šur-šallim-an-ni. Author also of ND 2350 and of ND 2385, for which see Fales, CLNA, I.4.
4) [l]i-tan-ka. G1 Prec. of alāku; AHw, 33b.
7) muhhi-šu-nu. Not muhhi-ku-nu as proposed in editio princeps.
9) us-ha. Vent. Impv. 3 sg. m. nasāhu.
9) ni-su-hur. Since the writer has already in obv. 4 said that he has come back from a specific place, using a form with Vent. ending, the present form is likely to be an auxiliary with the sense 'we have done again'.
10) ... [it-t]al-KAM-in-ni. It is assumed that KAM here serves for KĀM = kan, in italkaninni, Assyrian form of 3 pl. G1 Vent. Subj. alāku; see GAG, parad.8.

ND 2385 (= LXV; BSAI; Plate 8)

Transliteration
Obv.  a-na šarri be-li-i[a]
      urad-ka māš-šur-šallima(SILIM)-ni
      lu-u šulmu[a] a-na šar[r]i bēliya]
      ūm XXVI KAM ni-ip-tu bi[r]-ta]
5   ina amēštur-ta-ni ni-te-[e]-z[i]
    ū[e] m[a]-ha-aa-iš ni-aa-kan
    ina lib-bi abullātimēš
    ni-iq-il-[r]-ib di-ik-tū
    ni-du-a[k] mukin-zēr
10  de-e-ki mšum-ukūn māri-šū
de-e-ki ēlu k[a-a]-d-du šu-[m]1
    šarru be-li i[的手] ha-di
    šarru be-li pa-an
    amēšmār šipri-[n]i li-din
15  a-d[u] bi-it amēlμār šipri-ni
    il-[a]-kan-ni
    ha-a[l-š]u šarri ina

Base
[q]ab-li ʾali ([šu-u]?)

Rev.
    i-su-ri šarru be-[l[i]

20  i-qab-bi ma-a ina libbi K[À].G[AL].M[ÈS]
    i-du-ku ilānumes ša šarri be-ll[i]a
    šum-ma DIS.KUŠ DIS.LAL ina qabli ʾali
    [ ]a e-[r]a-bu-ni
    ša[rru] be-li liš-al

25  muhhh ŚE.PAD.MEŠ ša a-na m.d-marduk-apla-iddin³
    ša ša[rru] be-li iq-bu-u-ni
    a-ki di-[i]k-tū e-mu-ru-n[i]
    ma-a a-[s]a-par '[ū]-ba-lu-1 á[n[i]

Translation

(1-3) To the king my lord your servant Ashur-shallimanni. May it be well with the king.

(4-6) On the 26th (of the month) we effected an opening of the fortress. We acted jointly with the Turtan (and) we have made a report jointly.

(7-14) We reached to within the great gates (and) went on to inflict a defeat. Mukin-zēr is killed and his son Shum-ukin is killed. The city is taken. Let the king my lord be glad. Let the king my lord give audience to our messenger.

(15-18) Until our messenger shall come (back with different instructions), there is a royal garrison within the city. (19-21) Perhaps the king my lord will say: ‘They merely effected a defeat (going no further than) inside the great gates.’ (21-24) By the gods of the king my lord, they are entering into the midst of the city by cubit and span at a time. Let the king my lord make enquiries.

(25-28) Concerning the grain rations which the king my lord ordered for Merodach-baladan, when I saw the defeat, I sent a message that they should transport (them).

Notes

Virtually complete tablet, with only a small chip missing at top right of obv. Some abrasion, mostly insufficient to obscure the text. Almost half of rev. is uninscribed. NA script.

4) ni-ip-tu bi[r-ta]. Fales restores ni-ip-tu-ḫ[ur].

5) ni-te-[l]e-z[z]. Cf. GAG, p. 46*, paradigma 35, Perfekt ittitiz/s. The literal meaning ‘we stood with’ is the basis for the translation ‘we acted jointly with’.

9) ni-du-a[k]. Taken as Pres. for durative in the past (GAG §78e) and translated accordingly.

10, 11) de-e-ki. Although this could mean ‘is defeated’ rather than ‘is killed’, the latter meaning is adopted here, since it seems improbable that, in a report of the outcome of a particular battle, especially one in a single city, there would be separate mention of both the leader and his son having been defeated.

13-14) pa-an ... lid-din. For the sense of the idiom see AHw, 702b, nadānu(m) II 3c.

22-23) šum-ma ... [l]a e-[r]a-bu-ni. Positive oath; see GAG §185g.
ND 2350 (BSAI; Plate 8)

Transliteration

Obv. a-na šarrī be-li-ia
urad-ka maš-šur-šallim-a-ni
lu šulmu mu a-na šarrī be-li-ia
ina muh[hi][d][d][m][a][m]-ia-a-ba-[b]a
5 ša ša[r][ru] b[e-[l]]-[i] [š-pu]r-[a]-[n]-ni [Î][E][L][G][A][L]
x x x ... x x r[i]-?[-u]
a[h]-?/hi? [x]? ... x GA am-hur
AN x x ... x x bi x [x]?
a-[l][a]? ... [d][d][m]-am-ia-a-ba-[b]a
10 x x x ... x x x
x s[u]? x ... x ŠE.PAD.MEŠ š[a] mbe[l]-apla-iddina
[x] šar[ru] b[e-[l]]-[i] [š-p]ur-an-ni [m]-šal-li[m]-ś-marduk
... x GI[Š].M[Ä].MEŠ il-li-ku-ni
... x-ra-tu ILIMMU.KAM GIŠ.MÂ.MEŠ
15 ... x e-di-ti iq-fa-r-ba-a-ni
[x]? [m][m]-u-ša[l]-l-im-ś-marduk ás-s[a]-l [x]?
... ... x-s[i] ši-na GIŠ.M[Ä].MEŠ
... ... x ma-a š[e]?[l]-?[-š]??-b[u]? ... 
... ... x x ...

Translation

(1-3) To the king my lord your servant Ashur-shallimanni. May it be well with the king my lord.

(4-5) Concerning the town Dur-amia-ababa, about which the king my lord sent me a message, the palace (6-7) ... ... ... ... I received. (8-9) ... ... ... ... Dur-amia-ababa, (10-11) ... ... ... ... the grain rations of Bel-apla-iddina, (12) about which the king my lord sent me a message, Mushallim-Marduk (13) ... ships came (14) ... nine ships (15) ... ... they approached. (16) ... I have interrogated Mushallim-Marduk (17) ... ... ships (18) ... said thus, 'Make them be present!'. (19) ... ... ...

Notes
Tablet completely preserved at top, with loss of bottom end, piece from lower half of left side, and c. 30 × 17 mm from left half of obv., lines 6-12. Rev. uninscribed. Obv. almost flat longitudinally, rev. slightly convex. NA script.
2) maš-šur-šallim-a-ni. Also author of ND 2385, ND 2455 and ND 2602.
4, 9) d[d][d][m]-am-ia-a-ba-ba. For personal names beginning Am-ia-, see APN, 21, and for the onomastic element (a)ba see APN, 16, *A-hi-ia-ba-ba.
15) e-di-ti. So the copy. J.N. Postgate suggests marl-di-ti, which seems more probable. Collation is desirable.
17) s[i]. Spacing would admit the possibility of three verticals, but the form of the horizontals precludes the reading ta.
18) š[e]?[l]-?[-š]??-b[u]? Severe damage makes the restoration very dubious.
ND 2455 (BSAI; Plate 8)

**Transliteration**

**Obv.**

1  
\(a-na \, \text{sarr} \, \text{be-ll-la}\)  
\(\text{urad-ka} \, \text{maššur-šal-lim-an-ni}\)  
\(\text{lu-u} \, \text{šulmu}[u]\) \(a-na \, \text{sarr} \, \text{be-ll-la}\)  
\(\text{ša} \, \text{sarru} \, \text{be-il} \, \text{te-e-mu}\)

5  
\(iš-kun-na-ni-ni\)  
\(\text{ma-a} \, \text{a-li} \, \text{ki} \, \text{bir-ti}\)  
\([x]\) \(-\text{bi-tú} \, \text{sarru} \, \text{be-il}\)  
\([x] \, [x]\) \(xxxx\) [x] [x]?

**Rev.**

1  
\(\ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots \ldots\)

3  
\(\text{bi-la-ni} \, \text{ma-a} \, \text{ú-la-a}\)

3 cont.  
\(\text{be-li}\)

5  
\(\text{al-lak} \, \text{mi-nu}\)

\(\text{ša} \, \text{sarru} \, \text{be-il} \, \text{x?} \, \text{x?}\)

\(\text{i-qa-bu-u} \, \text{ni}\)

**Translation**

**Obv.**

(1-3) To the king my lord your servant Ashur-shallimanni. May it be well with the king my lord.

(4-7) Concerning the matter about which the king my lord sent me an instruction, saying, ‘Go! Take charge of the fortress’, the king my lord (8) should know that ...

**Rev.**

(2-3) ‘... ... ... bring!’ I say thus, if my lord (4-7) has gone away, I shall come into the palace. (I shall do) whatever the king my lord shall command.

**Notes**

Rather more than the upper half of a tablet. NA script.

Obv.

7) \([x]\) \(-\text{bi-tú}.\) A form from \text{ṣabātu}, perhaps Impv. Š. \text{ṣa-aš-bi-tu}, would seem to fit the context, but the final -\text{u} would be anomalous for the expected sg.

7) \text{be-il}. According to the copy made in 1954, the sign preceding -\text{il} was clearly \text{be}, but the tablet now shows other traces. It appears that the scribe, after beginning to write EN, infilled and overwrote it with BE; modern cleaning has removed the infill containing part of BE to expose the original incomplete EN.

Rev.

3) \text{ma-a} \, \text{ú-la-a}. It is assumed that \text{ú-la-a} introduces the alternative to a proposal of which only the Impv. \text{bi-la-ni} remains. For usage of \text{ú-la-a} in NA see GAG §117e.
6) x? x? If there was a word here, it may have been a prepositional phrase, such as 'to me' or an adverb such as 'quickly'. However, I see hints of erasure suggesting that the writer originally wrote iq-bu in the wrong tense on the end of line 6, and erased it to replace it with the correct form on line 7.

5-7) mi-nu ša šarru be-li-i qa-bu-u-ni. See Ylv., 21, n.1. One expects a verb epaš to follow, and although nothing is inscribed along the extant part of the top end, the verb could have been on the lost part. Alternatively the writer may have left the sense implied but unstated.

ND 2634 (= XCVI; IM 64086; Plate 9)

Transliteration

Obv.  a-na šarru be-li-i[a]
      urad-ka maaš-šur-šallim(SILIM)-a-ni
      lu-u šulmu[mu] a-na šarru be-li-i[a]
      ša a-na [ša]ri be-li-la āš-pu-ra-ni
      mu-uk la-am-mar-ku nišēmeš
      bi-it i-ba-dāš-[šu-n]i lu-pa-hi-ra
      a-na amēl-na-si-ka-ti āš-sa-al
      ma-a ištēn.en la re-e-hi ma-a
      an-nu-im-ma šu-nu
      10 an-nu-riq amēl-na-si-ka-a-ti
      il-[i-k]u-ni šar[ru] be-li
      liš-al x x? x A x AN-la
      ina lib-b[i m]ar?-d[i]-i-[i]? š[a] a-n[a]
      āškar-as-[šu]r il-la-ku-n[i]
      15 ina ir-[i-š][u]? e-[e-l]i-ia-a
      ša šarru b[e]-li īš-p[u-r]a-ni
      ma-a VI LIM amēlu-ub-tu
      ina pa-ni-ka ša-ki-il
      a-du ma-ti VI LIM
      a-mat tak-la-a-te šarr-e
      b[e]-li-ia AŠ MU [I]M? x
      Base [i]?-[sa]?-[ru] mu-uk Š[E.P]AD

Rev.  la-dāš-šū šarru [b]e-[l]i
      25 iq-ši-bi-ia-a ma-a
      lu-u ta-[h]u-r[a]-ni XL LIM
      Š[E.P]AD.[M]EŠ i[?]-i?-di-na-ka
      ŠE.PADi : la-dāš-šu-ni a-du ma-ti
      30 VI LIM : III LIM lid-di-nu-ni
      I'I[L]IM-ma ta-[na] m.dšamaš-būn(DU)-a-a
      lid-di-[na] an-ni-ū a-na šarri
      b[e]??-[l]i??-[l]a [l]i-ta-har ša šarru
      be-li īš-pu-ra-ni ma-a
35  amēl hu-ub-[t]u [a]r-ki-ia-û
    a-da-[n]a-šā-nu an-ni-ia-û
    is-[s]-e a lu-šā-an-ši-lu
    u[r]-k[i]-ia-û a-na-ku
    i-[s]-[s]-u-nu lu-šā-an-ši-il

40  i-su-ri šarru be-li i-qab-bi
    ma-la1 a-ke-e ina pān m.šamaš-bān(DÛ)-a-a
    ir-ru-bu ma-a a-na ma-ti
    kar-nu l ME L ālānīmeš

End  issu dūrānīmeš śa m.šamaš-bān(DÛ)-a-a

45  lā1-n[a] ḫarrap-ha ina lib-bi
    x lu-še-ri-bu

Translation
(1-3) To the king my lord your servant Ashur-shallimanni. May it be well with the king
my lord.

(4) Concerning the matter on which I sent a message to the king my lord, (5-6)
saying: ‘Let me delay; let me gather the people, as many as they are’, (7) I have
enquired of the chiefs. (8-9) They say: ‘Not one is left over; these are they.’ (10-12)
Now that the chiefs have come, let the king my lord make enquiries. PN is (13-14)
(somewhere) within the road which goes to Kar-Ashur. (15) I have gone up against
him/to meet him.

(16-22) On the matter on which the king my lord sent me a message, saying: ‘Feed
6,000 prisoners as your responsibility.’ How long (till the lives of) the 6,000 prisoners
come to an end? All the magnates on hearing the staunch words of the king my lord
(23-25) sent a message (about it). I said: ‘There is no grain ration.’ The king my lord
gave me an order. He said: (26-27) ‘You have indeed received (sufficient). He has
delivered to you 40,000 units of grain rations.’ (28-33) But surely the king knows that
there are not corn rations enough for 6,000 (prisoners). Let him deliver 3,000
(prisoners) to me (and) 3,000 to Shamash-bunaya. May this be fitting for the king my
lord. (33-39) As to the message the king my lord sent me, saying: ‘I will deliver
subsequent prisoners to them’, (rather) let them share these (present ones) with me,
(and) let me for my part share subsequent ones with them. (40-43) Perhaps the king
my lord will say: ‘How are they going to come into the presence of Shamash-bunaya?
How long will they be delayed?’ (43-46) There are 150 settlements from the fortresses
of Shamash-bunaya to the city of Arrapha. Let them make them go into (them).

Notes
Virtually complete. Surface abraded in parts, with some lines largely unreadable. NA
script.
5) lā-äm-ma-r-ku. I owe this interpretation of the four signs to J.N. Postgate.
12) A x AN-īa. The traces before AN could represent either ni or DÛ; the latter might
be part of a personal name.
20) lib-[l]?-û. Reading uncertain, as the traces of the second sign might alternatively be
read su, although lib-su-û would be an unknown form. The form read is taken as Pret. 3
pl. of AHw, 121a, belû(m) II, balû, ‘verlöschen, vergehen’.
Letters relating to Babylonia

21) tak-la-a-te. Taken as pl. of AHw, 1357a, tikiltu(m), takiltu ‘Zuverlässigkeit’.


25) iq-fi-bi-ia-a ma-a. Slight marks before ma-a (not represented in the present copy) are probably mere scratches.

33) [b][e]??-[l][f]??-[i]a. In the context these signs must represent bēliya, but the traces of the first sign look more like EN (contrary to the usage elsewhere in this letter). Virtually nothing remains of the second sign.

33) [l]i-ta-har. For the usage cf. CAD, M/1, 66a, mahāru 5d.

46) x? lu-še-ri-bu. The supposed traces of wedges before lu-še-ri-bu are not certain.

ND 2689 (IM 64119; Plate 10)

Transliteration

Obv.
1  [ara]d-ka m.dnambug-balāq-su-iq-bi
   [a]na di-na-an šarri be-li-la
   lul-lik dnambug u ṗmarduk a-na
   šarri be-li-la lik-ru-bu
5  um-ma-a a-na šarri be-li-la-[a]-ma
   aš-šū l[U],[ER][IM]mēš bi-ti
   šā [d]uš-šā-m.daliḥ(KASKAL.KUR)-a-a
   ša LUGAL be-li [[i]š-p]u-ra
   x ...... [M]EŠ [išša] šarri be-li-la
10 lu-ū šā-di-ū ki-i
    a-ra-šū-ki i-[d][u]-[u]1
    ši-b[u]-[t]e-šu lu i-[išša]am-mu-u
    il-la-[k[a]]/[k[u]]tal-la[k]-an-ni
    a-di a-šāp-[p]a-ru-ma
15 ina dūr-šā-m.dilla[r-a-a] [...]
   [Lines obv. 16 to rev. 5 retain nothing significant]

Rev.
6  šarri be-li-la a-[ša]pa-ra
    aš-šū ši-piš-ti mah-ri-ti
    šā šarru be-li ū-še-bi-lam-ma
    ga[b]-ra-šū a-na ekalli
10 la ū-še-bi-la ši-piš-ti
    i-na qāteš-ni a-mah-har i-tah-ha-ab-šu
    šumēš šā ni[šē]mēš šā ina [l]ib-bi
    šaṭ-ru ul nu-mi-is-si
    a-na muh-hi ul i-di
15 i-nu-ū a-na šarri be-li-[i]-a
    x x [išš]-p[u]-ra(-)šu-ū
    ...... x māṭtī gab-bi
    [a?-na?] šāyri be-li-la it-tan-nu
19 ... x a [l]iš-k i-ni[šē]mēš
End
   [an-n]u-ti la-pa-an
   [ša]rrri be-li-la [li]-hal-li-q[u]

51
Translation

Obv.

(1-4) Your servant Nabu-balassu-iqbi. I would go as substitute (in death) for the king my lord. May Nabu and Marduk bless the king my lord. (5) Say thus to the king my lord. (6) In the matter of the soldiers of the tribe (7) of Dur-sha-Balihaya (8) about which the king my lord sent a message, (9) [the officials] of the king my lord (10) indeed reveal that (11) they know their guilt. (12) They are hearing the evidence about it. (13) They will come (when) you come. (14) Until I send a message (15) [I shall remain] in Dur-sha-balihaya. [Lines obv. 16 to rev. 5 are very fragmentary.]

Rev.

(6) I will send a message to the king my lord.

(7) In the matter of the former message (8) which the king my lord sent to me, (9-10) I have not sent a reply to it to the Palace. (10-11) I am taking (the matter of) the message in hand. They [sc. the insurgents] have been vanquished. (12-13) We have not identified the names of the people inscribed within (your message); (14) nothing is known about it. (15-16) When [the officials/tribesmen] sent a message to the king my lord, he (17) ... they have delivered ... all lands (18) to the king my lord. (19-21) ... let them destroy these people before the king my lord.

Notes

Tablet largely complete except for bottom right corner. Considerable abrasion, sometimes making it difficult to decide whether a mark is damage or part of a wedge. NB script.

Obv.
1) m.dnabûs-balat-su-iq-bi. This person was also author of ND 2605 and ND 2478.
7) [d]ar-šâ-m.îdîbalîh(KASKAL.KUR)-a-a. See above, p. 36, ND 2363, 18.
11) a-ra-šû-nu. Taken as for aranšunu < arnu.

Rev.
11) i-na qātîni a-mah-har. Taken as a hitherto unattested idiom for 'to act'.
11) i-tah-ha-ab-šu. Appears to be Nîn of habâšu, although this verb is not elsewhere attested in Nîn. For the proposed meaning see AHw, 303a-b, habâšu(m) II 'niederschlagen'.
13) nu-mi-is-si. For the proposed meaning see AHb, 1497b, wussûm, mussû.
14) i-di. Taken as Stat.
16) [i]š-pu-ra(-)šû-u. šu-u is unlikely to be an anomalous form of 3 sg. m. pron. suf. to the verb. More probably it is the subject of a new clause of which the predicate is the lost first word in line 17.
18) it-tan-nu. See GAG §1021.

ND 2065 (BSAI; Plate 7)

Transliteration

Obv.
1) [arad-ka] m.dnabû-balat-su-iq-bi
[a-na di-n]a-an [š]arri be-ll-ia
Letters relating to Babylonia

[\textit{lul}-\textit{lik} \textit{dn}][ab\u{u} u \textit{dmarduk}
[a-na be-li-ia l]\textit{ik-ru-bu}
5 ... ... \textit{[a]-na šarri be-li-i\{a\}-m]a
... ... \textit{š[a]?} \textit{šul-mi(-)}[x]? ... ...
... ... \textit{[a]}-\textit{tap-ra}
... ... [\textit{[e]}]-\textit{em\u{u} ša bab\u{u}l}ki
\textit{[m\u{a}r šip]}?-\textit{rim\u{e}s} a-na bab\u{u}l\u{e}ki
10 ... ... \textit{x a-di-kan-ni}
... ... ... \textit{x-[n]}\u{i}
Rev.
1' ... ... ... \textit{x} \textit{x}
... ... ...-\textit{u}
... ... \textit{x šarri}
... ...-\textit{ni} \textit{š[a]}\u{a} qa-bal \u{a}lî
5' ... ... ... \textit{li}

Translation

Obv.
(1-3) Your servant Nabu-balassu-iqbi; may I go as substitute (in death) for the king my lord. (3-4) May Nabu and Marduk bless my lord. (5-7) I have sent \textit{a message of}
greeting to the king my lord.

(8-9) ... a report about Babylon. Messengers to Babylon (10) ... ... until now ...
Rev.
(3') ... ... ... the king (4') ... ... of the centre of the city ... ... ...

Notes

Fragment from upper right of a tablet, constituting rather more than a quarter of the whole. The exposed core shows neither coiling nor a layer of finer clay over the core. Curvature greater on rev. than on obv. Bears NB script bolder and less elegant than that on typical NB tablets amongst the Nimrud Letters. Final 33 mm of rev. uninscribed.

ND 2478 (BSAI; Plate 10)

Transliteration

Obv. \[ar\]-\textit{ka} m\textit{dnab\u{u}-bal}[-a_{1,3}s]\textit{u-iq-b}[-b\{i\}]
\textit{di-na-an šar\u{r}[ri]} be-li-i[a] [\textit{l}]\textit{ik}
d\textit{nab\u{u}} u \textit{dmard\u{u}uk a-n[a]} šar\u{r} be-li-ia \textit{l}\textit{ik-ru-bu}
\textit{um-ma a-na šarri be-li-ia-\{a\}-l}[-m]a
5 \textit{ṭup-pi a-na} \textit{šu\{f\}}-mi šar\{r\}i
\textit{be-li-ia} al-[a]-par šar\{r\u{u} be-li}
\{\textit{[i]}q-[-a]}?-[-b\{i\}]?\textit{m}a \textit{um-ma am\u{e}l}mar šip\u{r}-\textit{ka}
x x \textit{L[U]}? \textit{EN x ul-tu pa-ni-ia}
\textit{a[q]}/-\textit{ra}?[-\textit{b\{u u(m}\)}-ma mi-na[m]}-\textit{ma}
10 \textit{x x [\textit{[e]}]?-\textit{m}[-u]}? \textit{a-šap-pa-rak-kam-ma}
x \textit{x [x]}? \textit{x la} \textit{f}\textit{l}(-\textit{šib-bi\{l\}(-)}[-\textit{ma}]?

53
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

Translation

(1-6) Your servant Nabu-balassu-iqbi; may I go as substitute (in death) for the king my lord. May Nabu and Marduk bless the king my lord. (Say) thus to the king my lord: 'I have sent a tablet (asking) after the wellbeing of the king my lord.'

(6-10) The king my lord has said thus: 'Your messenger ...... from before me.' I said thus: 'Why ....?' I shall send a report to you.

(11-14) .. ... you shall not dispatch. ...... I do indeed send my communication(s) to the king my lord. (15-18) Someone has not allowed the royal messenger to get through quickly to the king (or) has sent him away. (18-21) As soon as the communication of the king came before me, I had an answer to it despatched to the king, as I wrote it. (22-24) If (the messenger) does not pass it on, the king should not set it to the fault of (me) his servant.

Notes

Almost complete tablet, with several cracks, abrasion passim, surface of obverse lost in parts of left half of lines 9-12, small chip lost from right of top edge and a larger piece from right half of bottom edge. The latter damage reveals that the tablet was composed of a surface layer of clay, here nearly 5 mm thick, over a core. Terra cotta in colour, with NB script. Tablet markedly convex on obv., slightly so on rev. Final 40 mm of rev. uninscribed.

11) [t[u]-ṣib-bi[l(-)][ma]]. 2 m. sg. Ș Pres. wabâlu; for corresponding forms see Ylv., 48.
13) šarrī-[m]a?. The traces after šarrī do not provide space for either be-li-ia or EN-ia. 15-17, 22) man-ma ...... u[l] ū-š[e-t]-i-iq; ū-sum-ia ul ū-š[e-t]-e eq-šú ///. The second phrase may indicate that man-ma is an incorrect reading for ū-sum-ma. The verb in line 17 is not restored to correspond exactly to the certain form in line 22, since in the former the distance from the beginning of šē to the beginning of IQ is 14.5 mm, against 19 mm in line 22, suggesting one sign less.
20) [t][al-li-ka gab-ra-šú ki-i [a]š-[t]-ur a-na šarrī ul-te-bil šum-ma ul ū-š[e-t]-e eq-šú /// šarru a-na hi-tu ša ardi-šú
la i-šak-kan

54
Relics of another wedge just before -šú suggest that the scribe had begun to write -šu and then substituted -šù.

**ND 2710 (IM 64127; Plate 11)**

**Transliteration**

**Obv.**

1. [arad]-ka ma-ahu-ia a-na di-na-an
   be-li-ia lul-lik um-ma-a a-na šarri
   be-li-ia-a-ma EN.NU[N] É.SAG.GIL
   ū babilīki ma-d[i]-iš [d]an-na-a[r]

5. ūm IV KAM* d-a-ri-qu [ū]!
   dDUMU.É ki-i it-bu-ū
   [u]m-ma šul-mu a-na T[IN].T[IR].K[1]
   [ū]? [BÁ]R.[S]I[B].[KI] ...

**Rev.**

1'. x x-tu it-[I]? ... ...
   [x]? x [L]Ü.TIN.TIR.KI.MEŠ ...
   [x]? x ma-ja-ri x ...
   [lu]-li-ku-ma n[a]? x x ...

5'. x? x?-[I]u?-ni ul i-man-g[u-w?r[u]] ...
   um-ma ki-i tah-tab-ta x x
   šá ina šeri šili(GIS.GIG) i-hab-ba-tu
   L[Ü.T][N].TIR.KI.MEŠ LÚ i-hab-ba-Ta-ni
   š[a] ina muhhi ma-ša-a x-x?-ri muh-hi [f]-mu

10'. x x-mu na ši t[im]? x? x MEŠ-šú
   ... x e ki-i sal-mu ši-nā
   ... x a nu-u ina lib-bi ekalli
   [a?-na] pa-an šarri [l-lu?-a-ak?]

End

15'. x? x [I]?-u ki-i um-m[a]
   ... x a-[a]-a mu[a]-i-šú-nu šal-m[a]

**Left Side**

1. .... x i-ba-[s]u-u ...
   .... x ul š[a]? x ...

**Translation**

**Obv.**

(1-2) Your servant Ahu-li-ia; may I go (to death) as surrogate for my lord.

(2-4) (1 say) thus to my lord: The watch of Esagila and Babylon is very strong.

(5-8) On the fourth day, the gods Ariqu and Dumu-e when they approached (said) thus: 'It is well with Babylon and Borsippa ...' ...

**Rev.**

(1') ... ... (2') Babylonians ... (3') ... Hamani ... (4') let them come and ...

(5') ... is/are unwilling (6') (and say(s)) thus: ‘When you plundered ...

(7') which they plunder in ... (8') the Babylonians plunder a man (9') who was
... against Basha ...’ Concerning the report (10’) ... ... ... (11’) ... ... if they (f.) are friendly (12’) ... ... in the midst of the palace (13’) he will come into the presence of the king (14’) ... to the [official] ... (15’) ... ... if thus: (16’) ... they are friendly to them.

Side

(1) ... ... they will be ... (2) ... ... not of ...

Notes

Top part (rather more than half) of tablet. The break reveals coiling of the clay. Top end is flat enough for tablet to stand on it. Obv. and rev. are almost equally convex top to base; rev. is more convex left to right. NB script. Obv.

1) mahu-li-ia. The badly broken letter ABL 270, obv. 5 mentions a person of this name as amêša pa-ni ekali in a Babylonian context.

3) mha-ma-ni. A person of this name occurs as an Aramaean leader alongside Marduk-apla-iddina in ABL 542, rev. 6.

6) DUMU.Ē. For a temple to this deity in Borsippa, see Langdon, NBK, Nr.15, col.iv, 49.

Rev.

5’) x?-[t]u?-ni. Although the second half of the doubtful tu might be ma, a restoration mha-[m]a-ni does not appear to be possible.

7’) ina šeri šilli(GIŠ.GIG). Lit. ‘in the open country, protection’ or ‘upon protection’, but the sense is unclear.

9’) x-x?-ri. Appears to read either tir-ri or še-e-ri, neither of which would make obvious sense in the context.

ND 2360 (= IV; IM 64009; Plate 9)

Transliteration

Face A

1’ ... x LIM x x x ...

[ilt]-[ta]-ka x x x ...

[1]q-bu-ú-ni ak...-

x? x ú-dí-ni? ma?-?[1]a? x x

am[mêš]ašê-[mêš].šú-nu issu ad?-du-x

[1]-du-ku [(a)]? ša(-)da-a-ni

[ú-š]ak-lišú-nu šú-nu-ú-ma

x-da-a[1] ú-te-mu

š[a] amêši-’-ta-mu

5’ mga-a-ma-nu L[Ú].GA[B]

[š][a] ina lib-bi ahhê-meš

... x x MA[H]? x ...

... x x ...... 

Face B

1’ ..... x ..... 

..... AN x .....

56
Letters relating to Babylonia

... g[ab-b]u l[i]?...  

x ... ...  

5'  

ina? diha-a[k]?... x ... 

ù amēšābēmeš [m][mukīn-z]ēr x ... 

issu [i]ib-bi diha-me-te x x  

it-[i]-ši-u ina pa-ni-ka  

i[i]-tal-ku-ū-ni i'? [i]?  

10'  

x x ŚID nišāmeš x x x  

[ū-ša]k-lu-ū-ni ina bār-sipāki  

... x x x x x

Translation

Face A

(3') they said ... ... (4') ... until ... (5') their troops after I pitched camp (6') they slaughtered ... ... (7') I had them detained. They are indeed (8') ... ... Report (9') of the Li'atamu people (10') Ga'amangu ... (11') who among the brothers (12'-13') [nothing intelligible]

Face B

(6') and the troops of [Mukin-z]er... (7'-9') came out from within Hamete. They went back before you ... (10') ... the people ... (11') whom I had detained, in Borsippa (12') [nothing intelligible]

Notes

Tablet with top and base missing. NA script.

Face A

4') ū-di-ni, 7. Taken as a variant spelling of NA udini, AHw, 1401b, 'bis dahin'.

5') ad?-du-x. In the absence of opportunity for collation, the probable vertical in the damage at the end of the last sign has been added to the copy on the basis of a photograph to make NIM. This as ni, a syllabic value apparently used in the previous line, would give a meaningful form if it here represented NA Subj. suffix. For a possible alternative interpretation of the whole group as mār m̲mukīn-zēr, see note on B 4'.

6') [la]ša(-a)-a-ni. The traces do not favour a reading URU for the first sign, and the following four signs do not make a known place-name. Could la ša da-a-ni, lit. 'not of judgement', be an idiom for 'without authority'?

Face B

4') x x? DU x x. This could be restored either DUMU DIŠ.DU.NUMUN = mār m̲mukīn-zēr or a[d]-du-n[i]7 '(when) I pitched camp'.

ND 2388 (IM 64022; Plate 8)

Transliteration

Obv. u[rad-k]a m̲x-x-x a-na di-na-na ekalli  

[l]ul-li[4]k [u][m-m[a]-a a-na um-ma-nu-ū [qi-bi]?  

[m]x-S̲E.A ma-a KUR ša šarru iq-bu-ū it-ti  

4 m̲DU.U amēšA.K[IN]-x ša mārāmeš m̲mukīn-zēri

57
[In the remainder, the only intelligible consecutive signs are:]

(5) a-na mu[hhi]
(7) a-du-ū šā
(8) šā šarru i[q]-bu-ū a-na?
(9) x x pa-ru kī x x x gab-bi
(10) it-ti-iq NIN
(11) šā ina su x

Partial Translation
(1-2a) Your servant PN₁. I would go as substitute (in death) for the Palace. (2b) Say thus to the Scholar: (3) 'PN₂ says: "The land of which the king spoke with (4) Kinu the messenger of the sons of Mukin-zer (5) concerning ..."

Notes
More than the upper half of a tablet. Obv. has suffered substantial damage. Extant part of rev. is uninscribed. NB script.
4) mDUʔ.Ū. The context requires that this is a personal name and not [a]-du-ū. DU.Ū could perhaps represent Kinu.

ND 2398 (IM 64024; Plate 11)

Transliteration
Obv.
1   arad-ka mha-ma-pi a-na di-na-an ša[rri]
   be-il-ia lul-lik um-ma-a a-na be-il-ia-a-ma
   amē[i]-i-pi šā mā[elamūtiši] šā ina bit x-[b]i-i
   ḫū-bu kī-i iš-pu-ra um-ma mi-nu-ū
5    te-e-mu šā ma-dak-ti šā tal-li-ka
    ar-ki-ššu al-tap-raš-ššu um-ma šar màlaš-šur
    ... x nu-tū it-ta!-n[a]? mu-du x u x
    ... x x x x x [bī]t a-muk-a-n[ī]?

Rev.
1'  ... x k[i]-[1] ...........
    a-na qatē[ll]-ka i[l]-lu-ū x x x x
    u x x x x su šā máti gab-bi-šū
    álšā-[p][l]-[l]a a-du-ū tap-ta-tar-šū
5'  ki-i pi-i šā-a-šū-[m]a? man-ni a-mat-ka
    it-ti-qu-u a-de-e-ka
    ū-šā-an-nu-ū a-na qatē[ll]-ka
    im-man-ni

Translation
Obv.
(1-2) Your servant Hamapi. I would go as substitute (in death) for the king my lord. Thus (I say) to my lord indeed. (3-4) When the Warden of Elam who dwells in my paternal area (4-5) sent a message saying, 'What is the report about the force which
came?', (6) I afterwards sent him back a message, thus, 'The king of Assyria ...' (7) ...
... one who knows ... (8) ... Bit-Amukkani ...

Rev.

(1') ... when ...
(2') it will come up as your responsibility ...
(3') ...
... of the whole land. (4') The city Shapia, now you have redeemed it, (5'-7') according to this order indeed, who will transgress your command (or) alter your oath-agreements? (7'-8') It is assigned to your responsibility.

Notes
Top of tablet. Close NB script, damaged passim.

Obv.
3) bit x-[b]i-ia: perhaps É [im-b]-i-ia (Bīt Imbiya is a fortress on the borders of Elam
and Assyria, cf. Parpola, NAT 83-4; Zadok, RGTC 8, 92).
5) śa tā-li-ka. Note Babylonian grammar, without the -ni postfix to Subj. normal in
NA.
7) it-ta!?-n[a]? This reading is very dubious. The final group suggests UD, but this
would leave no obvious reading for what precedes.
7) mu-du x u.x. The sign following du could be DUMU.

Rev.
4) a-du-u. Taken as an adverb, as in CAD, A/1, 131a, add b 2'.
5) [m]a? It is difficult to suggest a credible alternative reading. For the sense, see GAG
§123a.

ND 2421 (BSAI; Plate 8)

Transliteration
Obv.
1'   [l]u?-r ..........................
     [in]a mā?i-x ..........................
     [l]u?[s]u?-ū ..........................
     ina māša-x ..........................
5'   la f'[a] ..........................

Rev.
1    L[U].GAL.B[I.LUL] ..........................
    issu : amēl-e-mu-q[i] ..........................
    a-na-ku DIŠ NIGIN x ..........................
    issu : e-mu-qi x ..........................
5    i-sa-ha-[i-iš]
    nu-sa-ta-me-[eh]? ..........................
    ina pu-tu-[iš] ..........................
    x x x ..........................

Translation
Obv.
(2') in the land Ru-... ...
(3') ...
(4') in the land Sha-... ...
(5') ...

59
Rev.
(1) the rab-shakeh ... (2) with [his] forces ... (3) I ... ... (4) with [my] forces.
(5-6) We have joined together ... (7) in front of him ... 

Notes
Tablet lacking top and right side. More than half of surface of extant obv. lost. Remaining text is mostly bold and clear. NA script.
Obv.
2’) mār̬u-x. Possibly to be restored to one of the spellings of mār̬u-‘u-a.
Rev.
3) DIŠ NIGIN. The broken context leaves this unclear. Perhaps represents ana pahāri = ‘to assemble’.
5-6) Translation proposed by J.N. Postgate.

ND 2493 (IM 64067; Plate 12)

Transliteration
Face A
1’ ... x x ... x ... x ...
ú-sa-né-te-qu-šú la-áš-šú
amēl̥sābemeššú-nu la i-dü-nu
an-nu-rig a-na-ku pa-an ur-ki-ši-šu-nu
5’ a-da-gal šúm-ma i-na-áš-ši
amēl̥sābemeš i-da-nu-ú šú[m-m]a
la i-da-nu-ú-ni mi-x
te-en ša-nu-ú-ni a-ki-[i]
al-la-ka a-na šarri be-li-[ià]
10’ a-qab-bi te-mu ša x ...
ūm XXV KAM ša arahaddari AN x ...
it-[i]-bi mār m.ōnabū-našir ...
x x la-áš-šu a-na ...
......... x .......

Face B
1’ amēl̥sābemeš ... 
 ... it-tu-[u] ....
a-na pa-an šarri ....
te-mu ša amēl̥ša[bēmēš] ....
5’ arah um̥g̥mēš ina bit ....
kam-mu-sa-ak II ME x ... 
it-ta-an-nu-ú-ni ...
lā-áš-šī amēl̥sāb̥mēššú-nu x [x]?
la i-dü-nu-ú-ni
10’ te-mu ša amēl̥x-AN-a-a
īšēn ina li-šši amēl̥ša[bēmēš]šú-nu
x[x]?-[i]a?-na ..... x-[i]u-u-ni
......... x
Letters relating to Babylonia

Left Side
1 ... mi-nu te-mu-u-ni ša ūm V KA[M] ...
   ši-qab-bi

Translation
Face A
(2') they have continually passed him on. There is not one (left). (3') They will not deliver troops. (4'-5') Now I myself will wait for the sequel. (5'-6') If they bring (them), they will deliver troops. (6'-7') If they do not deliver, ...
(8'-10') (There is) a report of a second thing. As soon as I come, I will tell the king my lord.
(10') A report of ... (11') On the twenty-fifth day of Addar, the god ... (12') rose up. The son of Nabu-našir ... (13') ... there is not, to ...

Face B
(1') the troops ... ... (2') have come out ... ... (3') to the presence of the king (4') a report about the troops ... ... (5') a whole month in the house ... (6') I kneel, 200 ... (7'–8') they have delivered. There is not ... (8'–9') Their troops ... they did not deliver.
(10') Report about the ...-people. (11') One from amongst their troops (12'-13') [unintelligible]

Side
(1-2) He will tell what the report is about the fifth day.

Notes
Tablet with top (estimated at 5 mm), base (estimated at 20-25 mm) and part of right side missing. Good clear NA script. 2 lines on left side, written from top to bottom relative to Face A (bottom to top, relative to Face B). There appears to be no indication which face was obv.

Mention in A 12' of Nabu-našir, perhaps the king of Babylon, suggests a Babylonian connection. The only extant tribal or ethnic name, in line B 10', is illegible, but the general contents suggest a problem in obtaining troops from communities (perhaps tribes in Babylonia) who were responsible for delivering them.

Face A
2') ū-sa-né-te-qu-šú. Šš of etēqu; cf. ABL 480, rev. 8, ū-sa-né-taq-a-ni.
3') amēlšabēmēš-šu-nu. MES in this tablet comprises a vertical followed by two horizontals and then one or two large obliques; see lines A 6', B 1', 5', 8', 11'. This appears to preclude here a reading amēlšabēmēš MAN-šu-nu.
4') ur-ki-ti-šu-nu. Lit. ‘after them’; see AHw, 1469b, (w)arkitu(m), Assyrian urkitum.
12') m.dnabu-našir. Perhaps the king of Babylonia, 747-734 BC.

ND 2636 (= VII; IM 64087; Plate 15)

Transliteration
Face A
1' LU[GAL] b[e]-l[t1(-) ... ... 
   mi-nu ia x x x ...

61
Translation

Face A

(1') the king my lord ... (2') of my deceased ... (3') information before the king ... (4') and I received ... To the king ... (5') he will not come. Therefore (6') now let the king my lord remember (7') that Bit-Amukkani (8') wanted to be away from Mukin-zer. (9'-10') As for me, I have duly arranged settlement in the shadow of the king my lord. (10'-12') Now why are they chased off on the way? For four days I have not eaten food. (12'-14') The king my lord should not say, ‘Why did you not send ...?’ (15') all ... ... 

Face B

(1) I sent a message to the king ... (2) for him I arrested ... (3) report ... (4) (that) they did not say, they would not believe (5) the king my lord ... (6) ... ... of the king (7) in my presence ... (8a) before the land, he will not fear. (8b-9) Let him tell the king that LN is strong. (10) ... ... of Larak who come out (11) ... ... why before me (12) ... ... he knows that ... (13) ... ... I

62
Notes
Top half of tablet, with top right corner lost. NB script, almost chancery. Abrasion passim seriously impairs legibility.

Face A
4') TAR a-[h[u]-r[a], For idiomatic use of mahâru with sîqu see CAD, M/1, 52a. The meaning of sîqu here is taken as related to that in CAD, S, 406a, 2, 'a commercial technical term, referring to assets outstanding'.
7'ff.) This passage appears to indicate that the writer was a Chaldean chief able to bring Bit Amukkani into the Assyrian camp.
8') e-[m]u?'. The second sign is not zib to give e-zib. e-mu, if a correct reading, could be from either ma'â, AHw, 637a, or muâ' um, AHw, 665a, but the latter is improbable since it is otherwise attested only in OA.
10') a[*]-me-ni. J.N. Postgate suggests reading ERIM.ME-ni, which is possible, although the signs at the end of the line are not very distinct.
11') uk-ku-šú. For the suggested meaning see CAD, A/1, 265a, discussion.
14') x x x nam-ma. A possible reading for the first two signs, [GI]Š.MÁ, would not appear to fit the context.

Face B
3) DIŠ sî?-nu-u? ... Not a misreading of signs concealing mûkin!-zêr!
5) x x-[l]i??-mu?'. The traces might conceal a name, either mûkin-zêr or mûx-ah-iddin.
6) x [b]u?-ti. The traces would permit a restoration qur-bu-ti, but the preceding traces are against a restoration LÚ.
8) [l]a-pa-[a]n mati-ma. After lapan, mati-ma is unlikely to be a conjunction.
9) x hu KI. Assumed to conceal a city name.

ND 2681 (= LXXXIII; BSAI; Plate 13)

Transliteration
Obv. [a]rad-ka m.dnâbû-usammâqi [a]-na d[i]-na-a[n]
šarri be-li-ia lul-lik dâbû u û[mardu]k
a-na šarri be-li-ia lik-ru-bu
um-ma-a a-na šarri be-li-ia-a-ma
5 a-na muhhî û-[e-mu] šâ šarru
iš-pu-ra-an-ni i-na
la-mu-û-a dib-bu ib-ta-nu-û
en-na ha-an-fiš harr[âna] m.dnâbû-ba-ni
û V ME sis[še]
10 šarru liš-pu-ram-ma ša-nu be-lî
a-na dîb-bîr-sîb lil-li-ku
û amâmâr šîpri šâ šarri a-na
pa-an mìa-a-ki-ri amîlu-si-ku
DIŠ x x ...... [li][li]-kâm-ma
15 sâh[še] a-na d[i]-[l][i]-[k]
lid-ka-am-ma i-na dil-bâ[ki]
Rev. a-na pa-ni-ni li-lik-û-ni
min-de-e-ma e-ri-bi

63
**The Nimrud Letters, 1952**

*a-na bár-sibki*

20  i-ba-dāš-šī šar[ru] l[u] ú-dī-i
a-na amēl-e-mu-qu a-na
šarri a-na šā-pa-[r]i-ni
\(e^1\)-diš

**Translation**

(1-3) Your servant Nabu-udammiq. I would go as substitute (in death) for the king my lord. May Nabu and Marduk bless the king my lord.

(4) (Say) thus to the king my lord: (5-6) Concerning the instructions that the king sent me, (7) they devised an agreement before my (arrival). (8-10) Now let the king quickly send Nabu-bani and 500 horses on the way. (10-11) For a second (time) let my lord come to Borsippa, (12-13) and let the king’s messenger come into the presence of the chieftain Yakiri. (14) ... ... ... (15-16) Let him muster troops for mobilization and (16-17) let them come into Dilbat into my presence. (18-20) Perhaps there will be an entry into Borsippa. The king has indeed made (it) known (21-23) (that) for forces for the king (the procedure is) to send (them) to me alone.

**Notes**

Complete tablet with NB script. Obv. almost flat, rev. slightly convex. Text virtually complete except for loss of surface layer in part of lines 14 and 15. 35 mm of rev. uninscribed.

7) dib-bu. Taken as having its NB sense; see CAD, D, 134a, dibbu A 6.
10-11) be-lī ... lil-li-ku. Either bēlī is taken as an implicit pl., or the final vowel implies a question – ‘Secondly, will the king come to Borsippa?’
14) DIŠ x. The traces seem to suggest DIŠ.LÚ, which could be the beginning of a personal name, but a reading DIŠ KASKAL = ana harrāni cannot be excluded.
15) d[i]-li-[i]k. Taken as from di-ku ’mobilization’, CAD, D, 140b.
20) ú-dī-i. Taken as D theme of idū; for sense see CAD, I/J, 30a, 4, uddū.
22) šā-pa-[r]i-ni. Infin. used gerundially plus 1 sg. Dat. suf.

**ND 2700** (= III; IM 64124; Plate 12)

**Transliteration**

**Face A**

1'  ... x x x x ... 
  \(i\)-[d]a-ma-a a-sa-par bi-it ša x [x] x
  e-mu-ru ki-ma dul-li ug-da-mir
  la ú-[d]a-ma a-di bīt a-na šā-a-šā

5'  a-ma-ha-ā[r]-šī-i-ni an-nu-riq ka-ni-ku
  ša tu-šē-bi-la-an-ni ak-ta-na[k] ina muhhi šarri
  ú-[š][i]-bi-la issu muhhi LŪ.MAH ša mukin-zēr
  ša a-na šarri āš-pur-an-ni nu-ku EN.NUN-šū
  ú-da-in nu-ku šūm-mu ina qār[a] I-[u-'][u]

10'  i-ša-bb-tu-ni-šā ina muhhi šarri ú-[š][e-b][i]-la-šū
  \(m\)-a-di-[i][b]-i-\(l\)u šumii-šā ih-ti-liq [a]na muhhi

64
Letters relating to Babylonia

Translation

Face A

(2') thus, I sent a message. In the matter of what ... (3') he saw. When I finished my work (4') I did not know, until such time as (5a') I received it. (5b'-7a') Now (as to) the sealed document which you sent to me, I have placed it under seal (6'-7') and had it sent to the king.

(7b'-9a') Concerning the emissary of Mukin-zer about whom I wrote a message to the king, saying: 'I have strengthened his guard', (9b'-11a') and (also): 'they have truly caught him by the hands of the Itu'a, (and) I have sent him to the king; his name is Yadib-ilu', (11b'-13a') he has escaped (and) gone back to Mukin-zer. His clan (and) his people (are) in Hindana.

(13'-14') Now I have sent a message to my lord about Adad-apla-iddin. (15'-17')

Face B

(1'-2') [broken and unclear] (3'-4') ... now, let the king my lord have him brought and interrogate him.

(5'-7a') As to the work on the town Dur-tinuta (6') about which I sent a message to the king, I have laid the bricks [for] the king. (7b'-8') ... ... I will not make an approach inside.

(9'-10') ... you have sent me a message by the hands of the Qipu-official. (11') You sent [a question], saying: 'Why (12') did you kill your ... (13'-14') ...' I myself wrote an answer ... ... (15') ... ... ...
Notes
Lacks top and base and left side of one face is missing. Has several cracks. Clear and largely undamaged NA script.

Face A
9') šúm-mu. Taken as a variant, otherwise unattested, of CAD, Š/3, 274b, šumma, adverb.
15') ša-bu-tú. See CAD, Š, 167b-171a, šibútu A (šubútu, šabútu).

Face B
4') li-sa-ta-al-šú. Prec. formed from Perf. G of ša’ālu, with NA phonology; see GAG §81e.

ND 2779 (= IX; IM 64167; Plate 11)

Transliteration

Obv.1' ...... x [D]? x x ...
... [URU.K]A.DINGIR.RA.KI x ...
... [m]árduku-ápla-iddin₃ ma-a x ...
... [a-tan]-niš a-ka-ni-i : ni-iq-ti-ba-â-[š]-šú
5' ...... x bit-₃₇-sa-la-me ŠE.PAD.MEŠ
... lu₃-ni lišši-ù la i-ma-gúr
...... x ME la-sap-par ma-a
...... ša anēli₃.t₃-a-ta-mu
...... x PA(-)tu(.-)bi-ri
10' ...... x šu(.-)u-ri
...... it-ta-lak
...... [anēli₃t₃]a-ta-mu

Base
...... [amē₃la-r₃-mu
...... [I]D? eqli(A.ŠÁ)

Rev.
...... x [am]ē₃la₃-a-ra-nu
...... x LIM is-sab-tu
...... [š]a a₃qar-ra-di
...... x anēmalı₃(rí(NIMGIR)me₃(.-)x-Šú₃-nu a-na pa-ni-ša
20' [i]?-[a]-[a]?-[b]u?-ub ú-sa-áš-ki-in-šú₃-nu
[mu-uk₃]? [l]a₃[a]-pal-lah mu₃-uk si₃-a-ni
...... x pi ina lib₃-bi álā₃ni₃mek₃-ku₃-nu ši₃-ba
...... x x₃-ku₃-ni i-si₃-ni li₃-li₃-ku
...... ERIN.ME₃.MAN₃-ni : nu₃-sa₃-as₃-bi-it
25' ...... x x ... x x x ...

Translation

(2') ... Babylon ... (3') ... Merodach-baladan said: ‘... (4’) very much now.’ We said to him: (5’) ‘... Bit-salame, ... let them transport corn rations.’ (6’) ... he would not agree. (7’) ... ... I continually send messages, saying: (8’) ‘... of the Li’tamu tribe’ (9’-10’) [fragmentary] (11’) ... ... he came back. (12’) ... ... the Li’tamu tribe
Letters relating to Babylonia

(13') ... ... the Aramaean tribe (14'-15') [fragmentary]
(16') ... ... the Hagaranu tribe (17') ... ... they have seized (18') ... of the
town Qarradi. (19'-20') ... There were no heralds present. He spoke in my presence.
He put them in charge. (21) I said: 'Do not be afraid! Go out! (22') ... Dwell in the
midst of your towns! (23') Let your ... come with us.' (24') ... we have settled the
royal soldiers.

Notes
Both ends and left side lost. NA script.

(24') ERfN.MES .MAN-ni. For ERfN.MAN = šāb šārri see CAD, §, 1a and K.
Deller, Or.33 (1964), 90. The appended -ni here either is pron. suf. 1 pl. (thus 'our
royal soldiers') or indicates that ERfN.MAN represented some other Akkadian word
ending in ni. Cf. also ND 2715, 38, amēlšābanēš šárrī-šā-ru (below, p. 156).

(b) Other letters relating to Babylonia

Letters edited:
ND 2352, ND 2357, ND 2358, ND 2368, ND 2391, ND 2400, ND 2403, ND 2407,
ND 2411, ND 2797, ND 2412, ND 2419, ND 2435, ND 2456, ND 2470, ND 2484,
ND 2611, ND 2626, ND 2641, ND 2661, ND 2667, ND 2725 (possibly does not
belong in this chapter), ND 2783, ND 2786, ND 2795.

ND 2352 (IM 64006; Plate 13)

Transliteration
Obv. 1' ... x ....... ...
... [i] x DIS ...
...-[p]a?-'a LÙ x ...
... [iš?-p]u-ra-a[n-ni]? 5'
... x šā İR DIS x ...
... x-su šā m.dbē[l]-iddin(MU)
... mu-ša[r]-?-di?
... [L]U?? x x [x]
... [L]U.[IA] ...
10' ...
... DIȘ x ...
... x DUB? x ...
... x i[a] x [iiš-p]u?-r[u]? ...

Base ...
[S]AG?? šēpe III-[a] x ...
... x zi-ti SAL.x ...
15' ...
... x x-šā-na-mar SAL ...
... x x ... [i]a? qa? x ...
... x [G]A? x x a-na x ...
... e(-)[i][a]-a-ši i-na-x ...
... u-qa-ši LÙ.šā ZUR? DIINGIR x x
20' [m]dbē[l]-hu-ud már m.dbē[l]-iddin(MU)
... x amtu(GEME) DI[S]-x-ki-ša x M[U]?

67
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

aššat(DAM) m.d.marduk-šallim-an-ni
SAL-ia x x a-tu x amat(GĒME) š[ā] m.x x x
DIŠ x x x x x [ū]-a-ma[ŋt]

25' SA[L]? bi? x x x-tu? DIŠ ka-x-ru
x x m.d.mard[uk]-šallim-an-ni ...
[š]-i-hir šā m.d.x-KUR.A
... x x x x x

[No translation is offered. Obv. and rev. retain nothing significant except a personal
name in 5', and rev. is predominantly a list of personnel.]

Notes
Bottom half of what was presumably a letter. There is severe loss of surface on obv.
and some on rev. NB script.
17') e(- )i[a]-a-ši. See CAD, I/I, 327a-b, jaši.

ND 2357 (= LXXIII; BSAI; Plate 12)

Transliteration
Obv.
1  [a-na šarrī bēlt̠y̠a]
[urad-ka m[m]u-šē-z[ib]?-x-[x]?
[lu šulm][mu a-na šarrī [bēlt̠y̠a]
[ša šar]ru be-li iš-pur-an-n[ī]
5  [m]a-lə'[r] j-i-h-ti ŠE.PAD.MEŠ
la ta-kar-ra-ar a-du bi[r]
ma-l-bi-ha-rī il-lak-an-nī
lid-di-nak-ka ma-a ma-hu-u-nu
år-hiš līl-lī-k[a]-[an-nī]
10 pa-an ōmē[-tu]-t[ə]-a-[a-a]
an-nu-rig m[a-b[i-ha-rī]
ūm XX KAM UD.UD.MEŠ ...
šarrī be-lī-īa x ...
a-du bi[r] ma-l[-bi-ha-rī]
15 ... [r]u?/[t]a? ... ...
Rev.
1' [ūl-][r[a]?/d[a]?(-) ... ... 
a-na-ku a-... ... ...
at-ta-la[k] ... ... harrān[ā]
š[a]-[a] z-b[u]-u[s-s] u
5' š[a] pa-na-at šarrī [b]e-[i]-[i]a
la-aš-šū harrān[ā] š[a ša]rri b[e-li-ia]
la-mu[r ki-ma ma-bi-ha-r[ī]
it-tal-ka a-na-ku
a-[s]a-hu-[r[a] ŠE.PAD.MEŠ am-mar š[a]?
10' a-ma-da-di a-ma-har-šū

68
Letters relating to Babylonia

[li]-[li]-ka re-eš ŠE.PAD.M[EŠ]
... ... x ša-az-bu-u[s]-s[u]
... ... K[A].DINGIR.RAki
... ... li x ... 
15' ... ... xx ...

Translation

Obv.
(1-3) To the king my lord your servant Mushezib-DN. May it be well with the king my lord.
(4-8) About (the matter on which) the king my lord sent me a message, (5) saying, 'You are not to load the rest of the grain rations until Abi-hari comes. Let him make delivery to you. (8-10) Let Ahunu come to me quickly, (10) in front of (a contingent of) Itu'a troops', (11-14) Now Ab[ihari] on the 20th day ... ... of the king my lord ... until ... until A[bihari] (15) [fragmentary]

Rev.
(1') I will ... ... (2') I ... ... (3'-6a') I came back ... ... the route. There is no consignment of goods for the king my lord. (6b'-7a') Let me see the route of the king my lord. (7b'-9a') When Abi-hari has come, I myself will resume (my work). (9b'-11a') The grain rations, as much as I measure out, I will collect (from) him. Let him come. (11b'-12') The original amount of the grain rations ... ... the consignment of goods (13') ... ... Babylon ... (14'-15') [Nothing legible]

Notes

Major part of a tablet, with all corners lost and about 10 mm broken away across most of base. Has a deep crack down middle of obv. Surface is missing from most of right of lower half of obv. and from some of right of upper half of rev. Text remaining is mostly well preserved and clear. Obv. is almost flat, rev. slightly curved. NA script.
The broken ends reveal part of core, showing it to be composed of clay folded on itself. Over the core is a surface layer of clay of similar type, ranging in thickness from 2 mm in the centre of lines to 7 mm at the sides of the tablet.

Obv.
7) m[a]-bi-ha-ri. The a is written over a group which, although it appears to be a partially erased i, is probably an incomplete AD, the sign used in this name in rev. 7'.
12) UD.UD.MEŠ. Less of the MEŠ remains now than when I copied the tablet in 1954. The absence of URU is against relating this to the city-name Larak.

Rev.
4', 12') š[a]-[a]z-b[u]-u[s-s]u, ša-az-bu-u[s]-s[u]. Recognition of these forms is due to J.N. Postgate.

ND 2358 (IM 64008; Plate 9)

Transliteration

Face A
1' x .......... 
   x hu? x BE? x ......
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

[Retains only isolated intelligible signs. Not copied.]

[Insufficient remains of the text of this tablet to provide a plausible translation.]

Notes
Fragment from left side of middle of largish letter, badly broken and rejoined. NB script. Physical appearance suggests possibility of this fragment belonging to the same tablet as ND 2368 (below) or ND 2624 (p. 276).

ND 2368 (BSAI; Plate 14)

Transliteration
Face A (Obv.?)
1' [x] x x ...........
   as x ...........
   ul ...........
   SA[G]? ...........
5' šab? x x ...........
   ù x x ...........
   il-li-ku ...........
   ki-i iš-pu-[ra]? ...........
   ù išṭenem ha-x ...........
10' šá a-na šēr x ...........
   ū-su-ū ...........
   a-na Ė.GIŠ x ...........
   PAD.HI.A a-šá-mu ...........
   ù DIŠ MA x ...........
15' e-ri-šá u[l] ...........
   šā-ū šā-hi-šā ...........
   ù ina x ...........
   x ... x ...........
Flash B (Rev.?)
1' ... ?V? Íal? ...........

70
Letters relating to Babylonia

\[i-x \text{ a-na } x \ldots \ldots \]
\[\text{um-ma al-[e]}? \text{ } x \ldots \ldots \]
\[\text{ak-ka'-i } x \ldots \ldots \]

5' \[l[u]-\text{maš-šir-ma } \ldots \ldots \]
\[x \{l\}[u]-ú \text{ } x \ldots \ldots \]
\[š[d] \text{ šarrı } \text{be-li-la } x \ldots \ldots \]
\[i-dib-bu-ub \text{ } x \ldots \ldots \]
\[ú-sil-li \text{ } x \ldots \ldots \]

10' \[en-na \text{ a-na } x \ldots \ldots \]
\[\text{LUGAL } x \text{ } x \text{ } \ldots \ldots \]
\[šum?-[m]a? \ldots \ldots \]
\[\text{be-li-šú } x \ldots \ldots \]
\[i[l]-\ldots \ldots \]

Translation
[The only lines which retain text sufficiently unambiguous out of context to warrant a translation are:]

Face A
(7') they came ... ... (8') when he sent a message ... ...
(10') which/who to upon ... ... (11') they go forth ... ...
(13') I bought rations ...

Face B
(4') how/as soon as ... ... (5') let me release ... ... (7') of the king my lord ... ... (8') he has spoken ...

Notes
Piece from left side, with neither end preserved, and less than half the width of the tablet extant. Has physical similarities with ND 2358, but the two are not from the same tablet. This fragment might be from the same tablet as ND 2624, q.v. Face A (obv.?) is almost flat; Face B (rev.?) is curved. NB script.

ND 2391 (BSAI; Plate 10; Photo Plate I)

Transliteration

Obv.
1 \[a-na \text{ LÚ.DUB.S[AR É?.GAL?]} \]
\[\text{be-li-šú m.}[\text{mar[du][k]}]-x-x \]
\[šá \text{ be-li } iš-\text{pu-[r]}[a] \]
\[išṭen en \text{ UDU.NÍTA } pān \text{ } d[na][bū] \]

5 \[išṭen en \text{ UDU.NÍTA } pān \text{ } \text{DINGIR,}[\text{DN}] \]
\[\text{at-ta'-i}[d] \]
\[i-ta-ši-[tū]? \]
\[ù \text{ lib-bi D[UB.SAR]} \ldots \ldots \]
\[\text{[be][l]-i}[a] \text{ } \text{[lu } \text{ṭāb]} \]

Rev.
1' \[la \text{ } i[l]-x \ldots \ldots \]
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

\[\text{n}a\text{bû u DIN[GIR.DN]}\]
\[ak-ta-r[a]?... ...\]
\[\text{marduk u DI[NGIR.DN]} ... ...\]

\[a-na LÙ.DUB.S[AR] ... ...\]
\[be-\text{ll-ia lu-x} ......\]

Translation

Obv.
(1) To the Scribe of the Palace (2) his lord, Marduk-...
(3) About (the matter on which) my lord sent a message, (4) (that is,) one sheep before Nabu, (5) (and) one sheep before [DN], (6) I have attended (to the matter), (7) they have handed (them) over. (8) And the heart of the Scribe (9) [of the Palace] my lord, may it be content.

Rev.
[Insufficient remains for a translation.]

Notes
The greater part of a small tablet which has lost about its lower third. Obv. retains the greater part of 9 lines in a clear NB script, rev. retains the first half or less of six lines, with the final 16 mm uninscribed.

Obv.
1-2) The form of address is unusual.
1', rev. 5') The sign after LÙ in obv. 1 clearly has four verticals and in rev. 5' clearly only three, but the context indicates that the same sign (DUB) is intended in both instances. The sign in obv. 8 after \text{lib-bi} seems to be DUB with three verticals.
4, 5) UDU.NÍTA. See MSL VIII/1, p. 7, 7.
7) \text{it-ta-ši-ši?} In a letter in NB script and grammar (see Subj. \text{iš-pu-ra} in obv. 3), an ending \text{-iu} without crasis would be anomalous. However, although the script is Babylonian, it uses Assyrian forms of wedges and does not conform to the small elegant Babylonian script found in typical Babylonian letters in the Nimrud collection, and the scribe, perhaps more accustomed to writing in Assyrian, may here have supplied an Assyrian ending to a verb of which the phonology (\$ rather than ş) was otherwise Babylonian.
8) D[UB.SAR] [...]? There could just be room for a lost Ė.GAL after DUB.SAR.

ND 2400 (BSAI; Plate 14)

Transliteration

Obv.
1 [a-na šarri be-\text{ll}-\text{i}[\text{a}] urad-ka DIŠ [x] x x
[lu šulmu\text{mu} a-n][a] [ša]rri be-\text{ll-ia} [a\text{\text{1}}-d[an-ni]]š a-da[n-ni]š
[ša šarru] be-\text{li iš-p[\text{u]}-ra-an-ni
xxxx x e-rí du-\text{úlu}

5 XXXXX X šâ x [n]?-ša-bo[\text{\text{[r]}]} di-na-\text{d-š-šú
....... x x bi da x [a\text{\text{[r]-tu-ši-a
....... x a-sa? x x [a\text{\text{1}-\text{\text{[ś]}}ap-\text{\text{[r]}]}a-\text{d-š-šú

72
Letters relating to Babylonia

[x] x x x GAR?/[P]UR? x x x x R[1]? [E]N?? NI ni-il-lik
... is?-bat [n]? x x x ūma-meš-.[š]d?  
10 ... x ni [x]? x ma-a [a]-[na]? am[dl]b[č][l] [p]a-dhati
... x a ... i[fl][l][a]? x x x
... x a-na-k[u] l[al]-[š]ap-[r]-a-š[š]-šu
... ... x mu [a] l x šarri
... ... ha-ra-ma-ma
15 ... x x a-na álám-[me][š][n][r]
... ... x LU[GAL]?/RAB?
... ... x-ta-har
... ... ... x-ši
... ... ... x-te
... ... ...
Rev.
[Lines 1'-10' bear nothing legible and significant]
11' ... ... šar[šu] be-l[š] lu-šu-[š]-[da]
... ... x x x x šu?-šu am-mu-te
... ... x la a [a] iš-tu-šu-šu

Partial Translation

Obv.
(5) ... ... we have seized (6) ... ... ... I came out (7) (8) ... ... we went into the town ... (9) (10) (11) (12) ... ... ... I myself sent him a message (13) ... ... the king (14) ... ... ... thereupon (15) ... ... ... to the towns

Rev.
(11') ... ... the king my lord knows (12') ... ... ... those (13') ... ... I have ... not one.

Notes
Upper part (more than half on part of right side, about a quarter on left side) of tablet of fine pink colour, with the shape and the very small script characteristic of tablets from Babylon in this archive. However, this tablet was actually in NA script, but clearly by a Babylonian scribe, since some signs show the influence of Babylonian practice. Abrasion quite severe on obv. and very severe on rev. These Babylonian tablets are relatively soft. A test in 1954 on an uninscribed fragment of this type of Babylonian tablet showed that it contained a high proportion of calcium carbonate, probably powdered chalk added to the clay as degraissant, which has contributed to the relative softness of such tablets when baked.

Obv.
5') šu. This sign, undamaged when the tablet was first copied, is now so abraded that only the outline of the left side remains.
6') di-na-aš-šu. In form could be di nu with pron. suf., but not in NA letter dialect. Here the form can only be Impv. nadānu plus suf.
8') x x R[1]? [E]N?? The first two signs could be AŠ URU = ina ali, in which case the other two signs would constitute a place name.
9') is?-bat. is, although possible, is more dubious than it looks in the copy.

73
ND 2403 (IM 64026; Plate 14)

Transliteration
Face A (Obv.?)
1'  
\[
[m.d]samaš-[b]u?-[na?-a?-a?] \\
[ū] amlêbabili\k{|[meš]}\?
[a-n]a [d]i-na-an be-li-[ni]
[i ni-i-]l-lik 4\ nabû u 4[marduk]
5'  
[a-n]a [bēl]i?-\{b[e]-[l]\}?-ni lik-ru-bu \\  
[lu šulmu] [a1-na [b]e-[l]-[n]i-[m]a \\
[ina muhhi ša]? [iš-pur-an-na-ši \\
[ma-a] [a ta-pal-la-h[a] \\
... KI?-IB um-m[a]
10'  
........... x x x x \\
..... [e]-mu-qu \\
...........i-ni \\
...........-a-ni

Face B (Rev.?)
1'  
\[
[iš-pur-an-n[a-š]i \\
[k]i-ma x x mu a-ha-meš \\
[l]i-pu-ša ana ma-man-ma \\
la x x an-ha-az-zu
5'  
\{a1-[d]i [a1-na muh-h[i]-š]ú \\
x ERIM ša i-na ta-m[r]-ti \\
[āba]b[iki] [a1-]n[a x x] 1ū1 \\
IGI MU SAR x x x \\
x xxx x [k]i-i
10'  
GIŠ x hu i-na [r]a?-[mi]r?-ti \\
ša amēkal-du it-x...
šul-mu a-na ša[rr]i ... \\
ù a-na x ......

Translation
Face A (Obv.?)
(1'-2') Shamash-bunaya and the Babylonians: (3'-4') we would go as substitute (in death) for our lord. (4'-5') May Nabu and [Marduk] bless our lord. (6') [May it be well with] our lord indeed.

(7') [Concerning that on which] he sent a message to us (8') [saying]: 'You shall not fear' (9') ... ... thus, (10') [....] (11') ... ... forces (12'-14') [nothing intelligible]

Face B (Rev.?)
(1') He sent a message to us, (2'-4') thus: '... let them act together to whoever does not ...' ... (3') until to him (6'-7') [Any] soldier who in the territory of

74
Letters relating to Babylonia

Babylon to ... (8') ... ... ... (9') ... ... ... when/if (10') ... in the territory (11') of the land of Chaldaea ... (12') It is well with the king ... (13') and with ... ...

Notes
One end broken off, with loss of perhaps one line. Badly chipped in places, left side of Face A erased. Clear deep NB script.

Face A

1') [m.d]samaš-[b]u?-[-na?-a?-a?]. A highly speculative restoration. If correct, the letter would need to be moved to join ND 2663, ND 2630 and ND 2628 above (see p. 30).

4') [i ni-i]-lik. In this conventional greeting formula the only alternative to the 1 pl. form restored is 1 sg. lul-lik, but the broken sign definitely has two verticals, which eliminates lul- and favours -il-.

Face B

4') x x an-ha-az-zu. This does not correspond to any attested N form of akāzu.

8') MU SAR. This is not a misreading of ina TIN!.TIR!.KI] [KI].

ND 2407 (= LXXXIV; BSAI; Plate 16)

Transliteration

Obv. 4 x ... x x ...


10 ki-i rama-na-a a-n[a muh]hi ahi-ia a-mu-ur ki-i ahu-[l]-a1 a-na du-un-qš-ia ú a-na ba-ni-ti-ia qe-1e-pu m[a]nabā-da-iq išṭēn̄ī ūmimu a-di pa-ni-ia ahu-ū-ia

15 liš-par-am-ma it-ti šú lud-bu-ub-ma ṭe-ma-a ú [d]ib-bi āli

Base līl-qa-am-[m]a a-na ahi-ia liq-bi

Rev. tur-ti a-mat ša ahi-[l]-ia

20 lu-ūš-me-e-ma KAS[KAL][l] ša ahi-[l]-ia ina šēpē-li-ia iš[ak-k]a-na lul-liš ū mim-m[a š]ā ahu-ū-ia i-[q]a-ba-a a-pu-iš dš-š[u] mahi-dam-gi ša ahu-u-ia

25 iš-pu-ra mahi-dam-gi[a] a-na /// pa-ni-ia ul il-li-ka ki-ma a-na pan-ni-ia it-tal-ka KASKAL I1 a-na šēpē-šu ašak-kan ú na-aš-par-ti ša ahi-ia

30 iš-šal-lam ahu-ū-ia tup-p[i-š]ū
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

EG[IR]-šú te-en-šú U[GU]? ...
[n]u-šá-[b]il e-...
[x] x si-ma ......

Translation

(5) about which my brother sent [me] a message [saying]: (6) 'the day you see my tablet ... (7) come up before the king. Will you come?' (8) It is not my responsibility; it is wholly the responsibility of my brother. (9) He knows all lands. (10-11) I looked after my brother as though (it were) myself. (11-13) If my brother is entrusted with my good fortune and my wellbeing, (13-15) let my brother send Nabu-damiq to me for one day so that I may talk with him, (16-18) and let him take the information and city gossip and tell (it) to my brother.

(19-21) Let me hear the reply in my brother’s affair, so that my feet may be set on a journey to my brother. (22-23) Let me come, and anything that my brother says I will do.

(24-26) In the matter of Ahi-damqi, about whom my brother sent a message, Ahi-damqi has not come into my presence. (27-28) When he has come into my presence, I will set him on his journey, (29-30) and he will execute my brother’s commission.

(30-31) My brother, his tablet after him, his information ... ... (32) we brought ... ...

Notes

NB script. Two fragments rejoined to give a tablet which lacks only a small piece from top left corner and a larger triangular piece from top right corner. The joined surfaces correspond but are slightly misaligned; the alignment has been corrected in the copy. Except for surface loss on first five lines, and minor damage along the join line, legibility is mainly good, although where there are groups of parallel wedges, (e.g., obv. 3, mi. rev. 12, ʊ), the scribe has impressed all but one wedge very lightly, so that even slight abrasion affects legibility. Tablet is almost flat on obv., gently curved on rev.

The line numeration, which takes the first extant line as 4, is arrived at by measurement.

10-11) a-na muhhi ahi-ia a-mu-ur. For the idiom see CAD, A/2, 21a, 5b.
13) m.dnabû-da-iq. There is nothing to indicate whether or not this is the Nabu-damiq of ABL 331, 2; 813, 2, 814, 2; 815, obv. 1, rev. 17.
25) a-na //]. A small šú, which the context suggests was not intended as part of the letter in its final form, still shows under what seems to be an erasure.

ND 2411 (BSAI; Plate 15)

Transliteration

Obv.

1 a-na šarri be-ši-[l]a
[ur]ad-ka m.dnabû,-namir(ZÁLAG)jr
dnabû[ ]athroom(ma)rduk/a-l-[n]a [ša]rri
be-ši-la li[k-r]u-bu
5  únu II KÁM amēlēl bēl pāhati
ša māṭha-ban ina m[uh]hi
nāri iq-tar-b[a]
ki-ma e-tab-ra
ANŠE.M[EŠ] id-da-a[r]?-[r(80,696),(195,727)]-[ru]?
10  nu-n[al] m-ma-šá
x ... x x

Rev.
1'  ... x ... ...
... x x x ... ...
[a-][n][x x x] ? ... ...
x x x ša ni x ... ...
5'  i-n[a] ? U[GU] ? AŠ x
amēl [A1 š[i]-r[i] [a-š]ap-par ... ...
a-na-ku x x? a x x ...
in [p]a?-[a[n]]? [ša]ri be-li-[l][a] ... [n]-[p]-u-[s]a kasp a-di ša x x ...
10'  XVbilti-sū ú x x [x]? x ... isle-é'mes ša māṭha-su-a-r[i] pa-ni-u-[l][i]
ša māṭha-su-a-t[a] [a-r-[k]-i-ú-ti
ina pa-an amēl sar-tin-ni šiū-nu
aban kunukku ša amēl sar-tin-n[i]

Translation
Obv.
(1-4) To the king my lord your servant Nabu-namir. May Nabu and Marduk bless the
king my lord.
(5-9) On the second day the governor of Haban arrived at the river. When he
crossed, the asses ran off. (10) We are setting out (11) [without them.]

Rev.
(5') upon ... ... (6) I shall send a messenger. (7) I ... ... (8'-9') we did ... in
the presence of the king my lord. Until ... (10') fifteen (units of) his tribute ... ...
(11') The former documents of Hasuati (and) (12') the latter ones of Hasuati (13')
are in the presence of the Chief Judge. (14'-15') The Chief Judge's seal is on them.

Notes
Tablet lacking bottom left and right corners, bottom edge and small part of right side on
lower half of tablet. Tablet has white spots from chalk efflorescence. Slight abrasion
overall, with severe abrasion on much of upper half of rev. Lines rather more widely
spaced on obv. than on rev. Obv. flat, rev. slightly curved top to base. NA script.
Obv.
2) m₇ nabū₂ namir(ZÁLAG)_ir. The sign ZÁLAG is clear. The same name as author
occurs in ND 2797, 2, linking the two letters.
6) māṭha-ban. See ND 2783, rev. 22', [m₇bît-h[a]-ban and NAT 147, HAMBAN.
māṭha-ban was māṭhamban on the upper Diyala. The placing of ND 2411 and ND 2797
in this chapter assumes that the governor of Hamban was moving from his territory towards Babylonia, so that Nabu-namir was writing from within or near north Babylonia.

9) *id-da-ar*[-[ri]]-[ru]? The form restored would be N theme of *darāru* A, for which see CAD, D, 109a-b. Alternatively one might look for a form from *ṭebā*, and take it as a report of the asses being drowned. Herodotus, *Histories*, I, 189, mentions that a sacred horse of Cyrus was drowned in attempting to swim the Diyala, which between Baquba and Kurdistan can be fierce and treacherous. J.N. Postgate suggests restoring a form from *iddāt*, which is possible.

Rev.

8’) [*ja*-]*[n]? This is a guess. Abrasion is too severe here for a definitive reading.

14’) *aba* *kunukku ša* *amē* *sar-tin-n[i].* This text shows that some goods in transit had to bear the seal of the Sartinnu.

**ND 2797 (BSAI; Plate 13)**

**Transliteration**

**Obv.**

1 [a-n[a] [ša]ri bēlī-i[a]
   [urad]-ka m. ṣhabā-namir(ZÁLAG)i[\*]
   [lu]-lu1 šulmu[mu a-na šarri bēlī-i[a]
   [D]N u [marduk

5 a-na bēlī-ia lik-ru-bu
   [ša šar]ru iš-pur-an-n[i]
   ........... x x ........
   ........... x ........

**Rev.**

1’ ........ x ........
   ........ x x [u]? ........
   ...[i]?-ta-r[u]? ...
   ... [G]U,[J]N KÜ.BABBAR ...

5’ ........ [U]GU x ...
   ........ ka x ...

**L.e.**

........ x ........
   ........ x ...

**Translation**

**Obv.**

(1-3) To the king my lord your servant Nabu-namir. May it be well with the king my lord. (4-5) May [Nabu] and Marduk bless my lord.

(6) About the message the king sent to me (7-8) ...........

**Rev.**

(4’) ........ talents of silver ...

**Notes**

Fragment from top of a tablet, retaining neither side nor top nor bottom edge. NA script.
Obv.
2) m.d nabu-namir(ZÁLAG)\(^\text{[r]}\). For this name, see above, ND 2411, 2.

ND 2412 (BSAI; Plate 15)

Transliteration
Obv.
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{arad-k[\(\varepsilon\)] [m.dA]K?-ushall[im]lim} \\
a-n[a d/]i-na-an sukkalli rabi' \\
be-li-[\(\varepsilon\)]a lul-lik \\
un-ma a-na b[\(\varepsilon\)-]li-[\(\varepsilon\)]a-a-ma \\
ar-ki amel\text{mar [\(\varepsilon\)]pri ša šarrri} \\
mu-ša-piš d[\(\varepsilon\)-ul-\(\varepsilon\)]ša harrāna \\
a-na šepe₄₁-sušu ā-d₃-nam-ma \\
a-na pa-an šarri a[hi]-šu [\(\varepsilon\)]d-du \\
amel\text{šu-ur-ki ša d}[\(\varepsilon\)]KU.TU.A
\end{align*}
\]

5

10 UG[U]! x-[x]-\([r]\)a? x ĖRIN x \\
ša KAŠ? x mi-t[\(\varepsilon\)]-n[\(\varepsilon\)] \\
a-na x-mu-\(\varepsilon\)-lu?\(\varepsilon\)-ti \\
x x d[\(\varepsilon\)]\(\varepsilon\)?-\(\varepsilon\)-un x x

Rev. [uninscribed]

Translation
(1-3) Your servant Nabu-ushallim. I would go as substitute (in death) for the Great Minister my Lord.

(4-8) (I say) thus to my lord: after I had set a royal messenger on a journey, responsible for assigning the corvee-work, he neglected his duty to the king. (9-10) A temple servant of Kutha [sent a message] about [\(\varepsilon\)] ... (11-13) [unintelligible]

Notes
Tablet complete except for some surface damage. In some signs slight abrasion produces phantom wedges. The final four lines, which must have contained the gravamen of the letter, are rendered almost wholly illegible by more serious abrasion. Inscribed on one side only in NB script. Convex on both faces, rev. marginally more so. Both ends are so flat that the tablet will stand on them. Across the left half of lines 1-12 is a shallow flat excision 15 mm long and a maximum of 4 mm wide, made by some sharp tool, presumably during excavation; ND 2703 has a similar but larger area of damage. There is a small hole in the uninscribed rev.

6-7) harrāna a-na šepe₄₁-sušu ā-d₃-nam-ma. For the idiom see CAD, Ḫ, 109b, 2(c).
10) UG[U]! Has one horizontal wedge too many for the standard NB form of UGU.
11) mi-t[\(\varepsilon\)]-n[\(\varepsilon\)]. Examination under the microscope shows that several phantom diagonals and verticals over the middle sign are scratches; the only assured wedges are horizontals.
12, 13) Abrasion is so severe that the traces represented in the copy are not offered with confidence.
ND 2419 (BSAI; Plate 15)

Transliteration

Obv.1' ul-[t][u] [.........]
šá-pi-ir [.........]
nu-bu-x [.........]
i-na-ašt [ .......]
5' a-kan-na-ka
lu ši-ka-la
a-di bit ana-ku
8' a-na pa-an šarri bēli-la

Base
[a]-la-ka

Rev.
min-d[i]-e-ma šarru
11' i-qab-bi u[m]-ma
mi-nam-ma ul-tu
ina babitiški šš-ú
[k]u-ú-nu LÚ.A.KIN.ME[Š]-šú
15' a-n[a] x x ....... x RI
il-x [.........]
a-du [.........]
[f]l-x [.........]
x [.........]

Translation

(1') from/since ... ... (2') overseer ... ... (3-4') ... ... ... (5') there (6') I shall indeed hold back (7'-9') until I come into the presence of the king my lord. (10'-11') Perhaps the king will say thus: (12'-13'), 'Why, since he is in Babylon, (14') are his messengers remaining?' (15'-19') ... ... ...

Notes
Lower half of tablet joined to fragment from middle left side. Clear, bold, deeply-incised NB script, almost perfect on obv., damaged in parts on rev. Both faces slightly curved in vertical plane.

ND 2435 (IM 64040; Plate 16)

Transliteration

Obv. a-na m.[KUR.GAL-šum-iškun]n
qi-bi-ma um-ma šarru-um-ma
dīki-hu-dak-si mašsartuki
lu-u dan-na-at
5 m.[šar-apla-naširi]
a-na muhhi māraš-šurki
da-šur-ma ú-pal-lah-ma
la ta-pa-lah-ma n[i]-qu-ti
la ta-raš-šu a-na išdīt(ÜR)
10  x māti-ma pu-ut-ma
   na-šā-at a-du-ú
   amēl gu-du-da-nu
   šā amēl-rab BLUL! m.d.aššur-ētimr
   I ME sisēmeš

15 IIa  išnarkabātimes III ME all[pē]me[iš]
i[l]-[i-k]u-[m]a ina pa-ni-ki
   Rev. ... [ū]-šu-uz-zu
   [x] x [x] x šš-su-di
   x x [x]? [eb]ûru a-na

20  pa-ni-k[u]?[k[i]? al-tap-ru
   amēl-mār šiprumesš-a ša ul-tu
   al-du-um-ma-a[k]
   a-na pa-ni-ki i-lu-ni
   paq-du-nik-ku ū-sur-ma
   sisēmes šā amēl-qī-pu
   la i-šabl-ba-tu-šu-ny-ru
   harrān šā-lim-ti4 ana šēpēI-liš-šu-ny
   šu-kun-ma ina šu-lum-me-šū-ny
   a-na pa-ni-ia šup-raš-šu-ny-ru

25  ku-ri-pu ul ta-dūr ū
   XXX GUR šamaššammu ina qatēII
   m.d šamaš-ereššal-ute-bi-lak-ku

Translation
(1-4) To KUR.GAL-shum-ishkun say, thus says the king: ‘As to the town Kihudaksi,
let the watch be strong. (5-7) You are afraid of Mishar-apla-nasir on account of
Assyria and he causes fear. (8-9) You need not fear and you need have no anxiety.
(9-11) You bear the responsibility for the security of the land.
   (11-17) ‘Now then, the military detachments of the Rab-shakeh Ashur-etir, one
   hundred horses, two chariots, three hundred ... have come and they stand at your
   disposal. (18-20) I have sent ... reapers for the harvest at your disposal.
   (21-24) ‘My messengers who have come up from the city Dummal into your
   presence are entrusted to you; keep the watch. (25-29) The horses of the Warden are
   not to be commandeered; set a safe route for them and send them to me in good
   condition. (30a) You shall not fear the ... (30b-32) And I will have thirty kors of
   linseed brought to you by Shamash-eresh.’

Notes
Complete tablet in very good condition. Neat NB script.
This letter has strongly marked Babylonian features, such as a Babylonian form of
address, NB script, and NB features of grammar, vocabulary and syllabary usage. NB
grammatical forms include: (11) a-du-ú (GAG §121a), (20) al-tap-ra, (32)
ul-te-bi-lak-ku, (21) ul-tu for NA issu (GAG §114k). In vocabulary NB našū is used
rather than NA nasašu. In syllabary usage, qī, common in NB, less usual in NA, occurs;
and the divine name Aššur is written as 6HI rather than daš-šur.
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

1) m.dKUR.GAL-šum-šukun. The context suggests that he was a semi-independent ruler, perhaps a Chaldean chieftain.

2) ʾišti-hu-dak-si. Iraq 23 (1961), plate XXVIII, ND 2790, rev. 6’ has a town name, damaged in its two final signs, read op.cit., 53 as ʾišti-hu-ši-il and provisionally in NAT, 205 as ʾišti-hu-li-an; this may be the same town.

3) maššantu. Despite slight damage the final sign seems to be KI and not TU.

5) m.šar-apla-našir. The god-name is certainly not AMAR.UTU. For personal names compounded with the god-name Mišaru, not noted in APN, see AHw, 659b-60a and CAD, M/2, 118b-119a.

3) ma₃artuki. Despite slight damage the final sign seems to be KI and not TU.

5) m.dmi-sar-apla-našir. The god-name is certainly not AMAR.UTU. For personal names compounded with the god-name Mišaru, not noted in APN, see AHw, 659b-60a and CAD, M/2, 118b-119a.

7) ta-dûr-ma ṣ-pal-lah-ma. The implicit subject of the second verb must be the person named in line 5.

9) ṣidī(ŪR). The sign is clear, but has the two verticals appropriate to MB rather than NB.

10) x māti-ma. A note made at my last collation says ‘first sign is certainly not NUMUN and probably not ša’. Other readings rejected are KASKAL (with reference to the routes of the land), and DIN = balâtu (‘the life’ of the land). The sign could well be simply Aš (= ina) plus scratches deriving from attempts at cleaning the sign; this point could be settled by microscopic examination, which was not available to me at collation.


15) III ME. The three verticals of III are completely clear, but are preceded by a smaller fourth vertical, just over half size.

15) alpe²meš. The first sign shows a slight variation from the standard NB form of GU₄, but no other probable reading presents itself.

16, 23, perhaps 20) pa-ni-ki. Unless the third sign was an unusual writing for ku!, the form of the pronominal suffix would suggest a female correspondent, contrary to other indications. Could -ki be a writing for -ku, known as an alternative to -ka in spB (GAG §42j)?

22) ʾaldu-um-ma-alki. Allthough the second sign is slightly damaged, its reading as um seems assured. Could this be the correct reading of the place-name in ABL 849, rev. 6, read ʾalDU-um-ma-šak?-ka by Waterman, RCAA 849, rev. 6 and URU DU-UM-MA-AQ-QA in NAT, 107? For a possible siting of Dummašaqqqa on the Elamite side of Babylonia see Forrer, Provinz., 102.

30) ku-ri-pu. The reading is clear. This can hardly in the context denote the genius of that name.

ND 2456 (BSAI; Plate 16)

Transliteration
Obv.
1’ x x [i]? .... ....
issu šub-[i] .... ....
Letters relating to Babylonia

ma-a an-n[u]?-r[ig]? ... ...
ma-a māremes KÂ.DINGIR.R[AL.KI] ...

5'
ú-šab-bi-it ma-a ... ...
in muhhi Ša-sa i-sak-[a] ... ...
ú-[a]-aq DI-bi ... ...
a-na ahī-ťa ú-si-b[i-la] ...
māpla₂ mār m[i[a]?-... ...

10'
ma-a ina muhhi mμu-na-b[i ... ...
ma-a ina muhhi mza-li-at ... ...
ma-a ina muhhi ml-ba-x ... ...
ma-a ina muhhi m-bel-bani x ... ...
ma-a ina muhhi mzu-la-f[a] ... ...

15'
ma-a ina muhhi mšu-zu-b[i] ... ...
ma-a ina muhhi mš-a-a x ... ...
[ma]-f[a] ina muhhi m-bel-šab-[ś] ... ...
[ma]-ina ina muhhi mš[u]-x-x ... ...

Rev.
1'
... ... x ... ...
... ... ti x ... ...
šš[a]? [x] x KAM ma-a x ... ...
šš a šu-me-[ś[i] a-di x ... ...

5'
a-na qaq-qa-ri it-tu-r[a]? ... ...
māremes KÂ.DINGIR.RA.KI ib-x ... ...
iq-tu-lu [ē]-mu šš[a] DIŠ x ... ...
I₂[nab]-ahhe₂ mez-id[DIN] VI LIM I[D] ... ...
III MA.NA kaspi na-sa-ma x ...

10'
šš-[p]u la-āš-šū la ak-k[a]?-... ...
ú-x-lu la il-la-k[a]? ... ...
a-na ahī-ťa na-sa ū x ........
si-par-ri i-si-ip i-x ... ...
ina pa-ni-ša ak-ta-la-šu ... ...

15'
šš a-na ahī-ťa qa-b[i]-[ś] ... ...
tè-[μu šš [a[m]ē]-ša[me]ς

Side
... ū a-na-[ku] e-ti-qa a-na ekalli ... ...

Translation
Obv.

(2') from the midst ... ... (3') thus, now ... ... (4') thus, the Babylonians ... (5') he seized ... ... (6') upon them he placed ... ... (7') he made the matter favourable ... ... (8') I have transmitted to my brother ... ... (9') Apla son of ... ... (10') thus, concerning Mun a bi ... ... (11') thus, concerning Zaliat ... ... (12') concerning Laba- ... ... (13') concerning Bel-bani ... ... (14') concerning Sula ... ... (15') concerning Shuzubu ... ... (16') concerning Usha ... ... (17') concerning Bel-Shabshi ... ... (18') concerning Su- ... ...
Rev.

(4') of the left side until ... ... (5') he has returned to the plot of land ... ... (6') the Babylonians ... ... (7') they have heeded. The report of ... ... (8') Nabu-ahhe-iddin, 6,000 ... ... (9') 3 minas of gold were brought, thus ... ... (10') there is no container, I could not ... ... (11') he was unwilling, he would not come ... ... (12') he was brought to my brother and ... ... (13') he collected bronze ... ... (14') I then detained him in my presence ... ... (15') which I said to my brother ... (16') the report of the soldiers ... ...

Side

... and I continued to the palace ...

Notes

Fragment from middle of left side of a large letter, composed of three pieces rejoined. There is a marked distinction between almost flat obv. and significantly curved rev. The curvature indicates that the longest lines on rev. retain about half of the original line length, and the longest lines on obv. probably just under half. NA script.

ND 2470 (= XXXVII; IM 64055; Plate 13)

Transliteration

Obv.

1 ūuppī m.昜nūrta-ilā-a-a
   a-na āmēlšupšar₂  ekalli
   nišemēš-šū-nu ša
   māpi-qu-da-a-a

5 ša ina pa-ni-ia
   ša ina ekalli iq-bu-u-ni
   ma-a lu-bi-lu-ni-šū-nu
   XXIX LŪ x x x
   na-š[u]-ni x x x

10 an-ni-e x x x
   šu-nu NINDA.MEŠ-š[u-n]u?
   1ūl-šā-kal-šū-n[u]
   ....... x ...

Rev.

1' x x ...........
   li-im-n[u] .......
   bi-it nišēmeš[i] [...]
   lu-bi-lu lul-qi-x

5' išēmeš īssu lib-bi-šū-nu
   ina māṭbar-hal-zī
   šu-tū a-sap-ra
   ú-ti-lu-ni-šū
   a-sap-rak-ka ar-ḥiš

10' nišēmeš a-šur mu-hur
Translation
Obv.
(1-2) Letter of Enurta-ilaya to the Scribe of the Palace.
(3-4) The people of the Puqudu-land (5) who (are) at my disposal, (6-7) of whom they said in the Palace, 'Let them bring them', (8) twenty-nine ...-men (9) were brought ... (10) this ... (11-12) Those people, I have provided them with their food.
Rev.
(2') let them count ... (3') where/when the people ... (4') let them bring, let me take. (5'-7') I sent one from amongst them with a message to Bar-halzi. (8') They took him away. (9) I have sent you a message. (9'-10') Quickly check (and) receive the people.

Notes
Small piece at base of tablet missing. The final 10 mm of rev. is uninscribed. Text mostly legible, but wedges have largely lost sharpness. NA script.
Obv.
2) m.denurta-ilai-a-a. For another letter by a person of this name, see ND 2460. For the earliest recognition that dNIN.IB is to be read ḏenurta in Assyrian, see Sidney Smith, Early History of Assyria (1928), 391, note 3.
3) nišēmenš,šu-nu ša. Taken as periphrastic genitive.
8) LŪ x x x. The traces do not favour restoring a form of pu-qu-da-a-a. The first sign could be RU, giving a form of the tribal name ru'-u-a.
11) NINDA.MES-š[u-n]u?. NINDA = akalu or kusāpu, both 'food'.
Rev.
6') lut-qi-x. The final broken sign is not ū. J.N. Postgate proposes the restoration lip-qi-d[u], which would fit the traces.
8') ú-ti-lu-ni-šū. For the sense of elū in D see CAD, E, 126b-127a, 6a-b.
10') a-šur. Impv. sg. of ašānu A, CAD, A/2, 420b.

ND 2484 (IM 64061; Plate 17)

Transliteration
Obv.1' x x x ............x
šū-nu( )ma x x .......
šarri be-li-ia( )ma x x [lli]b?-bi
tar-di-ti ul-tu e-e-ni
5' a-na muh-šū-nu ul i-b[i]-ru-ni
[ ā-hu II][I]ša bāb bit-qa
[š][a]? hu-uš-ši-e-ti
[ū-ha][-a]š-ši-su
Rev. 1'f1-na lib-bi dš-bu
10' II LIM sišēmenš
ū XC išnarkabātmeš it-ti-šū-nu
ul i-na iš-qī-šū-nu ki-i
dš-bu ul-tu e-e-nu
ke!-e-ma šak-nu um-ma

85
15' pa-ni-ku-nu Ia am-mar šal-ta
x-ka en-na a-du-ū
[i]l]-ta-nap-pa-ru-niš-šú
x-AB i-na-ši-[m]a
i-na KA di-ke-e-ma
20' i-na-ši am-me-ne
xxxxxx...

L.End .......... xx ...

Translation

(3') the king my lord ...... (4') within the supplementary water from upstream (5') they will not cross to them. (6'-8') On the other side of Bab-bitqa they are cutting reeds for reed huts; (9') they live in them. (10'-12') 2,000 horses (11') and 90 chariots (are) with them; (they are) not in their land allocation, as (13') they dwell upstream. (14') (This is) how they are located. Thus (I say), (15') 'I shall not see your face'. Strife (16') ....... while (17') they keep sending messages to him (18') .......... (19') concerning mustering (20'-22') he will bring. Why ......? ...

Notes

Full length of tablet is preserved, but surface of top half of obv. is lost; rev. has only slight loss of text. One line on final end is represented only by minor traces. NB script. 4') tar-di-ti. See AHw, 1348a, telarditu(m), 'Hinzufügung, Zusatz; Verstärkung'. 6') bāb bit-qa. Town on the lower Euphrates; for other refs. see SAA, 1, p. 236, apud Bab-bitqi. 14') ke!-e-ma. There has been no opportunity for collation of the first sign, but the context seems to make KI the only possibility. The word is tentatively taken as a further variant of k'iam (CAD, K, 325b, AHw, 470a). 19') KA. One expects UGU, which was probably the intended reading.

ND 2611 (BSAI; Plate 17)

Transliteration

Face A
1' x.x.x.x [.....]
šá x-ta a-na [.....]
m₄.nab-a-ah-iddinan x [.....]
ù mku₄urru(NIG.DU) LÚ.M[U]? [.....]
5' šá amēlḫēl pāhāti šá 4x [.....]
GIS.MĀ.MEŠ a-di GAR x [.....]
ù XX ku₄.smaš-ki-[r]u [.....]
in a ERIM.MEŠ ma-a'-du-[r]u? [.....]
in a šá-lim-ti ki-i x [.....]
10' ap-te-qid-šú a-na L[U]? x [.....]
šá in a kāri(KAR) x x [.....]

Face B
1' gab-bi ERIM.MEŠ ā-x ......
Letters relating to Babylonia

a-na šarri ul a-qab-[bi] ..........  
it-tap-šū-ū man-nu x ..........  
i-na-dā-shi-u EN x ..........  

5' a-n[a] HI?-dī-ia a-sī ..........  
an-nū i bi x x ..........  
u NE x x x ..........  
num-ma [u]? x x ..........  
la te it ti ..........  

10' aš-šu tu qu šd? ..........  
x-ia tu lu? x ..........  
šarru i-x x x ..........  
GIS x x x ..........  
... x i-n[a] ..........  

15' ..........  

Translation

Face A

(5') of the governor of the city ... (6') ships together with ... ... (7') and twenty waterskins ... ... (8') in many troops ... ... (9') in security when ... ... (10') I appointed him as ...-official ... ... (11') who in the quay ... ... 

Face B

(1') All the troops ... ... (2') to the king I shall not say ... ... (3') were done; who ... ... (4') they will bear ... ...  

Notes

Fragment from left side of large tablet; text nowhere extends to the right beyond middle of lines, and in parts is less. NB script, mainly clear. Face A (taken as obv.) is markedly more curved in the horizontal plane than Face B. 

A 2', B 11' x-ta. The most probable reading of the unidentified sign is KIL. 

A 3') it-tap-šū-ū. Appears to be a rare N Pf. of epēšu; cf. GAG, parad.17. 

ND 2626 (IM 64082; Plate 17)

Transliteration

Obv.

1 [a-na šar]ri bēli-i-a  
[urad-ka] mMAN-dūri  
[lu šulmu]nu a-na šarrī bēli-a  
... x ša āλ.dšīn-šab-šī  

5 ...ti-ia  
[ina p]ān šarrī bēli-a  
[ūl]-si-ri-bi  
ma-la ina ekal ma-šar-ti  
ma-la ina āλni-nu-u-a  

10 [L]Ū.[b]ēl di-e-nī
Rev.
1’ [x] x la e-pu-[uš?] [x] x amēl-ur-ba-a-a [ša] [šar] ru bēliiq-bu-u-ni ...
[amēl]hi-in-da-na-a-a
5’ ...[h]a-an-ni-ii ú-si-bi-ra-šú-nu ...
šu la e-bi-ru-u-ni ...
... x am-me-te ina SAG!
... x-sur ina mu-da-bir ...
... x [n]u-me-e-ru
10’ ... [h]i-in-da-ni
Top ....... me-ia-ū

Translation
Obv.
(1-3) To the king my lord your servant Sharru-duri. May it be well with the king my lord.
(4) ... of the city Sin-shabshi. (5) ... ... ... (6-7) I have brought into the presence of the king my lord. (8-9) As much as (there is) in the arsenal, as much as (there is) in Nineveh, (10) the adversary in court ...
Rev.
(1’) ... he/they did not do (2’) ... the Arabs (3’) of whom the king my lord spoke, (4’-5’) I made ... the people of Hindanu cross this ... (6’) (when) they did not cross its ... (7’) ... that in the head (8’) ... ... in the wilderness (9’) ... ... ... (10’) the city Hindanu

Notes
Lacks base, top left corner, and much of left side. Bold NA script.

ND 2641 (BSAI; Plate 17)

Transliteration
Face A (Obv.)
1’ ...-šú-nu x x x
šá a-na a-[h]a-iti
i-ri-ši x x ú-ma
um-ma e-x ... x
5’ i-ni-ši x ...
... x x ú x ...
... x lu-du? en-na ul-[]u
Face B (Rev.)
1 mzēr-ibni [ana p]a-an šarri be-li-la [il]-lik ki-i x x a-ana mzēr-ibni x x ša

88
Letters relating to Babylonia

5 qăt? m.d.x.x-x
   a-na DIŠ MA x x ...
   ni-[q]?-[b]u-u ... x
   a-na a-ša-[b]i ...
   LŪ.x ... šā u[l]?-[l]u?

10 ... x ...

Side*

1 lib-bi šā šarri be-ši-ša lu-u ū[a][DŬ[G.GA]
   LŪ hu-ub-tū šā šarri ... x x
   ul-la dān(KAL) ebūrī-šū-n[u] ...

[The text is insufficiently preserved to provide a useful translation.]

Notes

Three fragments rejoined to give tablet with one end missing. Substantial losses around joins. Serious abrasion passim, especially on right half. 3 lines on left side. NB script.

Face A must be obv., since line 8' reads en-na ul-tu, which requires a continuation which the lines on the side do not supply.

Face A

3') i-ri-sī. Apparently 'he desired', but the ša in line 2' before a-na a-ha-ti demands a Subj. form, and ši cannot be a mis-reading for šu.

5') i-ni-ṣi. Apparently Pres. of nešā 'to tear out'.

Face B

1-2) mzer-ibni ... [p]a-an šarri be-ši-ša l[il]-lik. 'May Zer-ibni come into the presence of the king my lord.' [p]a, although damaged, is certain, and the traces of the penultimate sign conform to [il] but do not permit lu-l. The words after mzer-ibni cannot be the introductory formula a-na di-na-an šarri lu-l-lik.

6) DIŠ MA x. Could be I ma-na.

ND 2661 (BSAI; Plate 18; Photo Plate II)

Transliteration

Obv.

1 arad-ka m[x]-x-ha-ri
   a-na di-na-[a[n] šarri be-ši-ša lu-[l]i-lik
   um-ma-a a-na šarri be-ši-ša-a-ma
   ūp-pi a-na šulmuš šarri

5 be-ši-ša al-taq-[r[a]
   a-na-ku dul-lu₄ ...
   ū ki-[f] x-x-x-an-n[i]
   šarru AŠ R[U] x x x x
   x x x ... x ...

Rev. and Top End

1' x x x .......
   a-na šābēm[es] .......
   šā a-di ki-[f[i]?-x ...
Translation

Obv.

(1) Your servant ...-hari. (2) May I go as substitute (in death) for the king my lord.

(3) Thus (I say) to the king my lord: (4-5) I have sent a tablet for the welfare of the
king my lord. (6) I myself do the work ... (7) and if he ..., (8) the king ........ .

Rev. and Edge

(2') to the soldiers ... ... (3') which as far as ... ... (4') they will not return until
(5'-7') I have organized a hundred troops therein for the royal messenger organization.
(7'-11') The gods of the king my lord verily know that I and my father(s) are servants
of the king my lord, (12'-Side 1a) [that we have fought] battles for the king.

Side*

(1b) ... ... let the king acquire (2) ... ... what (3) [is the news of the wellbeing]
of the king my lord? Let me see a report.

Notes

Top half to two-thirds of tablet. Obv. flat, rev. curved in both planes. Significant
damage on obv. Four lines on left side, bottom to top. NB script.

Obv.

1) m[x]-x-ha-ri. Probably Abi-hari of ND 2357, obv. 7.

Rev. and Edge

4') i-tu-ru. The translation assumes that this is a defective writing for iturrii; otherwise
it should be 'they did not return' and the verb in line 7 should be transliterated
ul-ta-aš-bit and translated 'I organized'.

9'-10') ki-T[i] ... la. Taken as an example of ki instead of šumma in an oath for positive
assertion; see GAG §185j.

10') AD-la. In the context should represent a nominative. Unless a scribal error, this
writing is likely to represent plural abbē-la, a form which occurs for Nom. + 1 sg. pron.
suf. in later dialects.

11') be-[I]-la. The final -la is written on the side beyond the corner of the tablet, at
right-angles to what precedes.
Letters relating to Babylonia

12') qa[b]-le-[e]: If this is correctly taken in the sense 'battles', it is assumed that the clause was completed by a verb on the lost first half of Side 1. The traces taken as the word divider are on the very corner of the tablet.

Side

1) li-is-kil. CAD, S, 68b-69a, adduces sakālu A, characteristic vowel -i-, with the NB sense 'to acquire', which would be possible here.

ND 2667 (IM 64104; Plate 18)

Transliteration

Obv.

1  
ara[d]-ka anēšand[abakku] (GÙ-[EN-NA])  
a-na di-na-an ša[rr]i bēliya  
lul[l-i]k[dl]n(abû u d)mar[d]uk  
a-na šarrī be-li-[i][a] l[i][k-r]u-b[u]

5  
um-ma-a a-na šarrī be-li-[i]-ia qī-b[i]-ma  
šā bit aš-šu[r] r[i]-hi-it $[a] māti  
a-na balāt[DIN] napšātūmeš šā šarrī  
be-li-ia ul-te-bil ul-tu  
šarrī ina māti dīs-bu a-na irti

10  
šā šarr[ri] be-li-[i][a] LŪ.KA[L]?-x  
ū-še-bi ú-bal x ...

šarrī be-li-ia i?[l]?-[la]-[a]-[ra]-[ra]-[ra]?

xšem-ia u a-......

[ša]? Ia[l]-na d[a]-na-an ......

15  
... x ... x x ...

....... x ...

Rev.

1'  
... x x x x x .......

[k][l]-i pi-[i]-l[an-n][i]-i[l] ...

[q]-[l]-ma x x x?-[ma  
[u] l [l]-[l]k a-di x

5'  
[š][a] na-gu-ū Ia[l]-d[i]-[i][a]? x x?  
x x na šā na-šu-ū x bil  
Ia[l]-n[a]? x x? iš? en-na  
amat šarrī be-li-ia a-na x-[x]u?  
ux x šarrī be-li-ia

10'  
a-da[g]-gal

Translation

Obv.

(1-4) Your servant the Shandabakku-official. I would go as substitute (in death) for the king my lord. May Nabu and Marduk bless the king my lord.

(5) Say thus to the king my lord. (6-8) I have brought from the Ashur temple the offerings of the land for the sustenance of the king my lord. (8-11) Since the king dwells in the land, the Kal...-official produces (and) brings (food) in front of the king
my lord. He has [sent a message to] the king my lord. (13) My ... and ... ... (14)
[which] for strength ... ... (15-16) [nothing intelligible]
Rev.

(2'-3') Say according to this order ... ... (4') I did not go as far as ... (5') of the
enclave as far as ... (6') ... ... which were brought ... (7'-10') ... ... ... Now I shall
observe the command of the king my lord for the ... and ... of the king by lord.

Notes
Tablet, broken and rejoined, with small fragment at bottom missing. 20 mm at end of
rev. uninscribed. Substantial abrasion passim, but otherwise script is sound and clear.
NB script.
Obv.
11) ú-še-bi. Tentatively taken as Š Pres. from (w)apû(m), AHw, 1459a-b, Š 'hervor-
bringen', with voicing of the bilabial plosive.
11) ú-bal. The wedges constituting ú are indisputable, but faint apparent vestiges of
further horizontals and small obliques (as represented in the copy) are probably either
damage marks or remains of an incomplete erasure.

ND 2725 (= XXVI; IM 64137; Plate 6)

Transliteration
Obv. a-na šarrī bēli-ia
   urad-ka māš šur-mat-ka-tirra(GURra)
   lu-u šulmu₄₄ a-na šarrī bēli-ia
   šu-uh māri ar-ma-a-a
5 ša šarru iq-bu-₄₄ ni
   ma-a sinnišṭā₂mes
   lu-šá-hi-zu-šú-nu
   sinnišṭā₂mes ma-a ša
   [ni]-ta-mar
10 [ša]b₂mes ar-ma-a-a
   la i-ma-[gu-ru]
   la i-du-[nu]
   ma-a a-di k[as-p]u
   i-da-nu-na-ši
15 kas-pu li-di-nu-ni šú-nu
   šú-nu-ma li-hu-zu

Translation
(1-3) To the king my lord your servant Ashur-matka-tirra. May it be well with the king
my lord.
(4) In the matter of the Aramaeans (5) of whom the king gave orders, (6-7) saying,
‘Let them obtain women for them’, (8-9) the women say: ‘We have come to know that
(10) the Aramaean people (11-12) are not willing to make payment; (13-14) they say,
“(Not) until they give us silver.” (15-16) Let them themselves hand over silver, (and
then) they themselves may marry.’

92
Letters relating to Babylonia

Notes

Two pieces rejoined to give tablet complete except for small fragments from bottom corners left and right on obv. and top corner right on rev. Final 27 mm of rev. uninscribed. Clear NA script.

The exact sense depends upon who was speaking in lines 13-14. If the women were quoting what the men said, the Aramaean men were expecting silver to be provided (by the Government?) for the bride-price. If, however, the women were speaking for themselves in these two lines, they were refusing to marry until the men paid them silver. In either case, the women were saying in lines 15-16 that the men should at once pay from their own resources.

8-9) ma-a ša [ni]-ta-mar. For the translation of the verb, see CAD, A/2, 13a-b, amāru A 2d. Contrary to usage after ša, the verb is not Subj., which could suggest that ma-a ša is an erroneous reading for ma-a-da!, although the latter would be difficult to translate in the context.

13) k[as-p]a. A final horizontal at end of line precludes a restoration a-di-n[i].

ND 2783 (= LIX; IM 64170; Plate 19)

Transliteration

Obv.

1 [a-na ša]rri be-lǐ-[u]a
[urad-ka m.[1]D[N-P[AP]?(-)][a]?]
[lu šulm[u]m-a-n[a ša]rri be-li-a]
[a]-[da]-niš a-da[n-niš]

5 an-nu-ri[g] üMAHmes.ni ša [m][i][PN]
issu m.omarduk-iddinaa [l]-la-[k[u-u?-ni?]
I u-ruṣ-ša sis[i][m][es]
issētē [u]-[r]u-ša ANŠE.KU.DIN.MEŠ
 gab-bi dib-bi-sha-nu ina muhhi x x x

10 ina muhhi amel[ur]ad ek[all][i] ME[Š]? x x x x
aq-ṭi-ba-šu-nu mu-uk [a]-x-...
EN ta-hu-me-ku-nu mu-uk ...
x x bat-te-ba-te-ku-nu x ...
x x ta[l]-k[i]-li L[U]? SAG GI x ...

15 i-si-la [a]-a [k]i-nu ...
mu-u[k] e[k]-diš e-tam-ru m[a]-la x ...
mu-u[k] x a-si-me ma-a i-ba-...
amelur[ad] e[ki][m[es]] ina a[i][i] GU x ...
x x i s[u]-ri m[a]?-nu-ma x ...

20 x x x x x x a ...
... x x i [k]-i ... x ... x ...
Translation

Obv.

(1-4) To the king my lord your servant DN-nasir-... May it be very well with the king my lord.

(5-8) Now, the MAH-officials of the land PN are coming with Marduk-iddina (with) one team of horses (and) one team of mules. (9-10) All their business concerning ... I have passed on for the servants of the palace. (11-13) I said to them thus: ‘... the lord of your boundary; ... around you ... (14-17) ... when the SAG-official ... is not just with me ... ’ They said: ‘They met in furious encounter, as much as ... ’ I said: ‘... I heard, saying, ... (18-19) the servants of the palace of the town of PN ... at once ... ’ (20-23) [Nothing intelligible].

Rev.

(2') ... towns ... (3') ... ... (4') they did not know, his service ... (5') let horses come from within the villages, (6') I myself will provision (them) from the storage pile ... (7') the king my lord knows ... (8') are all overthrown. These villages, ... (9') as many as are at peace, they have taken. (10') I myself perform the service of the king my lord. (11') The entire tribute is measured out ... (12') horses for me ... (13'-14a) Now, they have taken these villages. (14b'-15a) I myself am
Letters relating to Babylonia

receiving horses ... (15b'-17a') If they take the villages, let them carry off the horses from me (and) take (them). (17b'-18') They brought near ... to the king my lord. (19'-21') [nothing significant is intelligible] (22') ... the land Bit-Haban

Side
(1) ... soon you made provision for ... (2) ... let the king come to the villages ... (3) ... may he see as much as is at peace.

Notes
Base broken away; much other damage at corners. Several extensive cracks. Some abrasion. Although much of the surface is damaged, most lines retain traces of most signs. The copy of obv. may possibly over-estimate the amount of lost surface to the right. Since collating the tablet in 1970 I have obtained some improved readings by studying photographs; study of the original tablet might well yield further improvements. NA script.

Obv.
12) EN. Taken as = bēl. J.N. Postgate suggests reading EN here with the value adi, when the translation would be 'as far as your boundary'.
18) m.dGU₄. Despite a crack, the sign seems certain. AMAR as part of AMAR.UTU is not possible. For dGU₄ = MenuStrip see ABZ, p. 124.

Rev.
6') ka[r]-me. See CAD, K, 200a-b, karammu (karmu), 'storage area, pile (of barley)'.
6') a-ha-[s]i-[n]i. Reading adopted from TCAE, ad loc.
8') ha-tu an-ru-te. ha-t could be Stat. of hatū(m) II, AHw, 336b, 'niederschlagen'. TCAE, ad loc., proposes ha-pi-la?-nu-te.
11') ma?-an-d[u?-d]a?-[a]? Uncertain, but if the reading is correct, this is 3 f. sg. St D of madādu, 'is measured out'.
22') MenuStrip In the Zagros foothills northeast of Babylonia; see RLA 4, 71-b, Hamban. See also ND 2411, 6.

ND 2786 (IM 64171; Plate 20)

Transliteration

Obv.  a-na LÚ.A.BA ekalli x ...
urad-ka w-na-hi-ši-x ...
XXV UDU.MEŠ a-na m.dmarduk-dpla-iddi[na][M[U]]
a-ti-din : ina ūmēme VII ū-si-ši-šū
5 na-ma-da-ti ša išdalātimēš
ū-sab-bi-ti a-na be-lī-ša
ū-si-bi-la ina muhhi bit SA.HI.A.ME
ša be-lī iš-pur-ra-ni ma-a
ki-i ša tal-tu-ku-ni
10 i-ta-nu-ni-ka-a
SA.HI.A ša a-di-gi-ri-na
a-na-ku ū-si-ri-b
bi-ii al-tu-ku-ni a-di-nu-ni
a-ki-i al-la-ka-ni

95
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

15  a-na be-ša a-qal-bi
    e-gir-tā ša ina muhhi lāAGRIG
    be-ša iš-pur-ra-ni
    ina muhhi qaqqir-rî //
19  š[a] îl-ne-du-ni
Rev.  i-ta-nax-[x]
21  ma-a a-na pa-an x x
    LÜŠÁM.MEŠ ina lib-bî
    lu-û ka-mu-su
    e-gir-tā ša ina muhhi
25  amēša muhhi ša be-šî
    ú-šē-bî-la-nî
    amēša muhhi ša ina mâlaš-šur
    i-tal-ka be-šî
    i-ši-šû lî-di-bu-ub
30  ina muhhi ri-sîb-tî ša be-šî
    iš-pur-ra-nî ma-â issî
    û-û-rî ri-sîb-tû
    ri-î-û ša la û-û-nî-nî-e
    ri-sîb-tû a-ra-ši-bî
35  XXX ti-ik-pî ak-ta-ra-ar
    lāAGRIG [rô]ma e-ta-har
    ma-a ši-in-da ra-me-a
    ma-a dul-lu dan šû-û

Translation
(1) To the Scribe of the Palace ... (2) your servant Nahishi- ...
   (3-4) I have delivered 25 sheep to Merodach-baladan. I sent him off on the seventh
day.
   (5-7) I have taken the measurements of the doors (and) have sent (them) to my lord.
   (7-8) Concerning the SA-house about which my lord sent me a message, saying,
   (9-10) ‘When you checked, did they hand (it) over to you?’, (11-12) I myself had the
SA of the town Digirina brought in. (13-14) As to what I checked (and) handed over, I
shall tell to my lord as soon as I come.
   (16-19) (As to) the letter which my lord sent me about the steward, concerning the
land which they are leaving fallow, (20-21) ... ... ... (22-23) bought people are
staying therein.
   (24-26) (About) the letter which my lord sent me concerning the Man over the City,
   (27-29) the Man over the City has come into the land of Assyria; let my lord speak
with him.
   (30-35) Concerning the construction about which my lord sent me a message,
saying, ‘Carry out the construction with uninu’, I am carrying out the construction
without uninu; I have laid 30 courses. (36-38) The steward has accepted a report. He
says: ‘Ease off (the stint) of brickwork; the work is hard.’
Letters relating to Babylonia

Notes

Complete tablet in good condition. NA script. Copied in Baghdad in 1954, but when asked for on a subsequent visit for collation, could not be found.

9, 13) tal-tu-ku-ni, al-tu-ku-ni. In both cases the tu is clear and undamaged; it is not a misreading for li. For latāku see CAD, L, 111a-112b.

9) ki-i šā. For usage see CAD, K, 320a, kš b, GAG §§116d, 178g.

10) i-ta-nu-ni-ka-a. 3 pl. Vent. Pf. nadānu, with 2 sg. pron. suf. in lengthened form, taken to denote question.

19) ’il-nē-ka-ni. Tentatively taken as an unusual spelling for inaddûni, from nadû.

20) i-ta-na-x-[x]. Could be restored i-ta-na-n[a-šī], ‘they have delivered (it) to us’.

32, 33) ā-ni-ni, ā-ni-ni-e. AHw, 1421a, unnīlēnu(m) I ‘Flehen, Gebet’ might be possible here. AHw, 1418a, unnīnu, auch ... unnīnu(m) II ‘eine Kiste für Kleider, Waffen usw’ appears less likely.

36) lūAGRIG. On doubts as to whether in NA this is to be read abarakku or mašennu (masennu), see H. Tadmor, Inschr. TP III, 183, note 13.

37) šī-in-da. See CAD, Ş, 197a, šindu A, 3.

ND 2795 (BSAI; Plate 20; Photo Plate II)

Transliteration

Obv.

1 a-na šarrī bēl-ia
  urad-ka maš-šur-GIS-ka-dan-in
  lu-u šulmun a-na šarrī bēl-ia
  4aš-šur 4nin-lil a-na šarru bēl-ia

5 lik-ru-šu ša šarru be-lī šē-puru-ni
  ma-a ana pa[n] amēlu te-te-li-a
  ... ma-a i-su-ri
  ... x e-te-bir
  ... ... x II ūngameš

10 ... ... x SAR.MEŠ

Rev.

1’ ... ... ... x x
  ... ... x-ma
  ... ... [am]i[mār [ši]pri-ma
  ... ... ![illegible]

5’ an[šE.PI]T.HAL.MEŠ [ma]r i-ba-šū-ni
  amēl a-ru-nu ma[r ši]u-tū-ni issu libbi āl 4adad
  a-di āl šā ú-qi-mu-ta-a-a EN.NUN.MEŠ
  ap-[i-q]-di a-n[a-k]u a-sa-hu-ru
  e-[e]-[bi] x x x M[E]Š? i-ba-šū-ni

10’ x ... DINGIR.MEŠ [š]a [ša]rru SUM-nu-ni-ni
  ... x-kā-na-āš
L.c.  ... x su-ha-a-a
     an-nu-ma dul-lu-šá

Left Side (bottom to top)
... [âdî? ša? ú-[q]î?/[k]u?-mu-ta-a-a

Translation
Obv.
(1-5) To the king my lord your servant Ashur-nirka-danin. May it be well with the king
my lord. May Ashur (and) Ninlil bless the king my lord.
   (5-6) About that on which the king my lord sent a message, saying ‘You shall go up
before the ...-official’, (7) (and) say: ‘Perhaps (8) ...’, ... he has crossed (9) ... ... 
two days (10) ... ... ...
Rev.
   (3') ... ... ... a messenger (4') [has come]. (5'-8') I have posted (as) guards
   cavalry as many as there are, (and) as many Aramaeans as there are from inside the
town of Adad (7'-8a') together with the town of the Uqimutaeans. (8b'-9') I myself
have crossed back again. There are ... (10') ... the gods which the king gave me (11')
... (he) will force (them) into submission. (12') ... the Suhaeans. (13') This is his
task.
Left Side
... ... [Uq]imutaeans.

Notes
Lacks all base and more than half of left half of tablet. A vertical fracture has, without
splitting the fragment apart, left the first and second halves of lines rev. 5'-8' out of
alignment. This has been corrected on the copy. NA script.
   Core shows coiling of the clay very clearly.

Obv.
2) ṣušur-ĠIŠ-ka-dan-in. Turtan, eponym in 720 BC. The same name may occur in
ABL 571, obv. 10, where Harper’s copy shows ṣušur-ĠIŠ-... (11) amē[ur]-tan. It is
possible that this officer was the Turtan (BH Tartan) of Isa.20: 1 and of 2 Kgs.18: 17.
5) is-puru-ni. For the value puru see Deller, Or.31, 19.
6) amēḫ. The sign after LŪ is completely lost except for the tails of two final parallel
horizontals, sufficient to show it is not MEŠ. DIŠ IGI cannot there be read I LIM,
which would require a plural sign after LŪ.

Rev.
4') [i]i /// ka ///+[ME]Š. Between [i]i and ka the surface is smoothed down in a manner
suggesting that there had been an erasure before ka was impressed. After ka there is
a further erasure, with faint traces of an unidentifiable sign, and the lower half of an
incompletely erased MEŠ. Presumably to be read [i]-[l]-i-ka or [li]-[l]-i-ka.
6') ma[r š]=tā-ti-ni. For syntax cf. CAD, A/2, 69a, 2'.
8'-9') a-sa-hu-ru e-[e]-[bi]r. Hendiadys. Does the first verb represent a sandhi form
for asahur u, or does the final vowel imply a question?
10') SUM-nu-ni-ni. Taken to represent ittannīnī.
11') *-kan-na-áš. Either Pres. D of kanāšu I (AHw, 435b, ‘sich unterwerfen’, characteristic vowel u or i), or, less probably in the context, from kanāšu II (AHw, 436b, ‘einsammeln’).
Chapter Three
Letters relating to the North

Letters edited:
ND 2070, ND 2359, ND 2367, ND 2380+2386, ND 2384, ND 2402, ND 2427, ND 2433, ND 2434, ND 2439, ND 2445, ND 2453, ND 2454, ND 2463, ND 2487, ND 2488, ND 2608, ND 2631, ND 2635, ND 2648, ND 2655, ND 2673, ND 2677, ND 2696, ND 2701, ND 2709, ND 2720, ND 2755, ND 2772, ND 2798, ND 2799.

ND 2070 (= LXXXV; IM 63396; Plate 21)
See notes by K. Deller, Or. 36 (1967), 81.

Transliteration
Obv. 'a-lu-na šarri bēl-[ia]
urad-ka m.dDN-x-x
[l]u šulmu[a] a-na šar[ri bēl-ia]
amērlab ālānmeš x x [x]?
5 II-šu amēlšab šarri i-s[i-ri?-qu?]
m[a]-lu [ml]x ...
urdu[ani]?meš š[a] m.d[P][A]-D[U]?-P[AP]
[amēlšel] pāhati š[a] āl be-li-ia
f[u]-sa-ha-li-qu-šū-nu
10 a-na āl-ū-pu-me
i-ša-šū-nu
a-di a-ša-lu-ni
ū-ši-šu-ni
ra-di-ū ir-ti-da-ni
15 ša a-na maššup-ri
harrāna II-šu šaknu[a]-ni a-ša-bat
a-na amēlēdī kib-si amēlmar šipri
a-ti-di-ni mu-ku
19 a-li k-mur x-[x]?-[h]u?-u
Base 
šu-ū ina pa-[a][n]
21 šarri la-qa-bi
Rev. ā-lu-a a-na-[k]a
lu-ul-a-šu
maššub-ri-a-a
25 issu pān amēlēdī kib-si
up-ta-zī-ri
ma-a amēlu-ma la-šū
ina pa-ni-lu urdu
ša 6nabū3-mukin-ahi2
Letters relating to the North

30  e-ta-at qa ma-a dul-lu
  šarru na-ṣa-ka ma-a
  x-du-nu ta-ta-[l]ak
  m[āššu]b-[r]-i-a-a
  ...  ... ...

35  amēl[a][b ә]lānim[es] x x AN
  ša ú-ša-ḥa-li-qu-šu-n[i]
  māšub-ri-a-a EN x x [x]?
  šu-ū ina muḥ[hi]
  bēlī-ia ú-x ...

40  šarru be-li ... ...
  a-ti[k]? ... ...
  ú-si-b[i]?-[la]?

Translation

(1-3) To the king my lord your servant PN. May it be well with the king my lord.

(4-11) The Town Commandants of ... have in two instances abducted royal personnel, Halu [and PN], servants of Nabu-mukin-ahi, the governor of a city of my lord. They helped them to escape and conveyed them to Upume. (12-16) While I was making enquiries and searches, a guide led me, whose course was set for the land of Shubri. I duly took action. (17-19) I assigned a messenger to the Redi-kibsi official, saying: ‘Go (and) look! Where is (20-23) he?’ (He said): ‘Am I to speak before the king (about it) or am I to search for him here?’ (24-32) The Shubrian (ruler) has hidden (him) from the Redi-kibsi official, saying: ‘The man in question is not in my presence.’ The servant of Nabu-mukin-ahi has crossed (and come) back. He says: ‘I perform the king’s service. You have come ...’ (33-39) The Shubrian ruler ... ... ... the Town Commandants ... who helped them to escape. The Subrian ruler is a malefactor. He has acted against my lord. (40) The king my lord ... ... (41) Go! ... ...

Notes

Two sections rejoined to form largely complete tablet. Lacks bottom right corner of rev.
and has significant damage in area of join and to top right of obv. NA script.

2) m.dN-x x. The god-name could, but need not, be represented by Dl.

4) x x [x]?

These signs, almost wholly lost, presumably contained a place-name.

5) i-[s]-[i]-[r]-[qu]?

Conjectural restoration.

7) m.id[P]-D[U]-P[AP]. The traces are wholly consistent with this restoration, and
the subject-matter shows that this must be the same name as in line 29.


13) ú-si-šu-ni. Taken as 1 sg. Pret. Subj. uṣṣuṣu, GAG §88h.


15) māṭṣub-ri. There is no damage after -ri to suggest the original presence of a final -a.
The land of Shupria lay between what is now Diyarbekr and Lake Van; see K. Kessler,
Untersuchungen, 108.

19-20) x-[x]?-[h]a?-[u] šu-ū. An alternative restoration a-[l]i is possible, but this would
leave the -u unexplained.
21, 23) *la-qa-bi, lu-ba-'a-šu. la-qa-bi* (as in ABL 633, rev. 9) is taken as 1 sg. Prec. for *laqbi*. The intervening ū-la-a suggests that the two verbs are to be taken in parallel. *a-na-ka lu-ba-'a-šu* 'Let me seek him here' can obviously not have been spoken by the writer of the letter, who knew that the fugitives had gone to Shubri. Both verbs are therefore taken as representing what the messenger is to say.

22) *a-na-[k]a*. Defective form of *annaka*, apparently not otherwise attested in NA.

27) *amēlu-ma. -ma* indicates emphasis.

29) *d nabûš-mukin-ahi₂*. The name *m.dMUATI.DU.PAP* has alternatively been read as *Nabû-kin(a)-uṣur* (APN, 152a; RLA, II, p. 426a); see also RLA II, 451b-452a).

34) This line was accidentally omitted in the original publication, and the minimal extant traces, insufficient to suggest any sign, are not shown in the present copy, which is a revised form of that originally published.

37) *EN x x [x]*. The context obviously requires a term for 'offender' or 'traitor'. Possibilities for the lost word include *hiṭi, arni*, and *gillati*, but the traces preclude the first.

**ND 2359** (= LXI; BSAI; Plate 19)

*Transliteration*

[About nine lines are lost at beginning.]

Obv. 1' ... ... [XXI sī[sūmeš]]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{pa-}[n]\text{-ū-te ū-si-b[i-la]} \\
\text{ina ša-lu-ši-ni ki an-n[i]} \\
\text{ku-pu-u i-di-[i]} & n \\
5' \\
\text{narātmeš i-dan-na amelšābmeš} & \\
\text{sīsmeš ša i-si-ia} & \\
\text{ina ku-pe-e [m]e-e-tū} & \\
\text{šu[m-m]a i[m V]} & \text{I KĀM} \\
\text{Rev. šum-ma ūm VII KĀM š[a] arahni[sanni]} & \\
10' \\
\text{ina pān šarrī be-li-la a-na-ku} & \\
\text{ša šarrū be-li iš-pur-an-ni} & \\
\text{ma-a amelšābmeš imērēmeš} & \\
\text{i-si-ka lil-li-k[u-n]} & \\
\text{[h]u-u[b-i]u a-da-k[a-an-ni]} & ?
\end{align*}
\]

[Up to twelve lines may be lost at end.]

*Translation*

(1'-2') ... I have brought the first [x hundred and] twenty horses. (3') In the year before last, like this one, (4') the cold was intense, (5') the rivers were high. Some horsemen (6') who were with me (7') are dead from the cold. (8') Either on the sixth (9') or on the seventh of Nisan (10') I shall be in the presence of the king my lord.

(11') About the matter on which the king my lord sent me instructions, (12') saying, 'Let the donkey-men (13') come with you', (14') the booty until now ...
Notes
Lower part (slightly less than half) of a tablet, brick red in colour. On obv. about half of original text remains, on rev. about one-third. There are some abrasions on obv. towards base, but text is otherwise largely clear. Core shows no indication of use of a different clay for surface. Obv. is markedly curved, rev. less so.
1') ... hXX1. The two oblique wedges represent either 20, or part of a group denoting 30, 40 or 50. Since the mention of casualties en route indicates that this was a large convoy, the group before hXX1 was probably a numeral denoting hundreds.
4', 5') i-di-[i] ... i-dan-na. Assyrian forms from danānu. Cf. ND 2700, A9', ú-da-in; ND 2777, 10, i-di-in.
5'-6') amēlšābēmēš sisēmēš. Against taking this as ‘troops (and) horses’ is the parallel amēlšābēmēš imērēmēš, which in the context can hardly mean ‘troops (and) donkeys’.
8') -m[a u[m]. Despite the abrasion, there can have been no further sign between these two.
9') arahni[əni]. The traces, although slight, admit no other reading.
11'-14') The writer, in addition to his duties in bringing a consignment of horses, had also received instructions to send booty by ass-caravan. This may have been an exceptional arrangement, necessitated by the bad weather.

ND 2367 (= LXII; IM 64013; Plate 21)
Re-edited SAA, 5, 74.

Transliteration
Obv. a-na šarrī be-li-ia
   urad-ka mnah-de-e
   lu-u sulmu*a-na šarrī bēl-ia

   kal-li-a ša ni-da-nu-ni
   amēlqur-[b]u-ti ša il-lak-[n-n]i
   ma-a [a]l-bat šarrī ši-i-ti
   ma-a a-di āši-bi-ri-šu
   lil-lik [AN]ŠE ša ina <pāni>-ia
   u[g-d]a-me-ra šarru be-li

10 ú-da a-di ā[n]-ša-bi-ri-šu
   ú-ru-u la ú-k[al-lu]
   ša il-la[k]-ú-n[u]
   la i-sa-hur-ū-ni

Base
   anē<šu>-ra-te-ia

15 [ga]m-nu-ra

Rev. šarru be-li lu ú-da
   ša á[li]kal-ha ú-ra[t]meš
   nu-še-taq GIŠ.GI[GIR]
   ú-ra-a-a amē[mu-[k][l] appā[te([kuš]P]A)mēš]

20 m.nabūs-u-a amē[l][q]ur-bu-ti
   a-di ā[n]-ša-bi-ri-šu
   i-tal-[ka Š]a ā[n]-ša-bi-ri-šu
   1/u-l-[e-ti-q]u šarru be-li
Translation

(1-3) To the king my lord your servant Mahde. May it be well with the king my lord.

(4) (As to) the communication system which we provide, (5) a royal bodyguard who comes to me (6-8) says it is an order of the king that he should go as far as Shabirishu. (8-9) (But) the asses which are at my disposal are used up. (9-11) The king my lord knows that I do not keep a team (to go) as far as Shabirishu. (12-13) Those (mounts) which go (there) do not return. (14-15) My mounts are used up. (16) The king my lord certainly knows this.

(17-22a) We are transferring teams belonging to the Calah (run), (namely) a chariot, my (own) team, (and) a charioteer; they went (with) Nabua the royal bodyguard as far as Shabirishu, (22-23) (but) (the people) of Shabirishu let them go on (further). Let the king my lord (24) make enquiries. Should he (now) send a message (25-28) saying, ‘Come!’ I shall (have to) come on foot without a chariot, without my team (and) without my charioteer.

Notes

Tablet substantially complete, lacking fragment just above bottom right corner and with crack from this point to centre. NA script.

The northern geographical setting of this letter, a complaint alleging misuse of riding animals of the imperial communication system, is fixed by mention in line 7 of Shabirishu, on the way to Guzana.

2) mmah-de-e. SAA, 5, p. 62, n, suggests this was the official who was Governor of Nineveh in 725 BC.

4) kal-li-ú. CAD, K, 84a, 2, takes kallu (kalliu) as meaning ‘messenger (as member of an organization with carried royal messages)’. But the term could equally well mean the organization itself, and where, as here, there is no determinative LU, this seems the better rendering.

4) ni-da-nu-ni. Contrary to a doubt expressed in Iraq 21, 173, collation shows this reading to be correct.

7, 10, 21, 22) ástá-bi-ri-šú. A site on the route to Guzana; On the localization see Kessler, Untersuchungen, 122-149, especially 145-149.

19) amēlμu-[kil] [appāte([kusP]A)me[š]]. SAA, 5, 74 restores -ia at end.

ND 2380+2396 (= LXXX+; BSAI; Plate 21)

Transliteration

Obv.

1 a-na ša[srri] be-li-[ṭa]
    urad-[k[a mišdi(SUHUŠ)-libbi-āl[i]
    lu-u šul[mu][u] a-na šarri be-li-ia
Letters relating to the North

5       x x x GIS.SAR ša älki-šir-[t]e
[... ] x x x x-[n]i?
[ma]-a issu pān man-ni
ta-la/q-q]i issu pān
m[a]-[š]u[r]-[m]a-šal-lim
m.₄/6 nergal₄-[m]-šaš-lim

10      ahhemēš a [bī]-ia a-[lq]-q[i
ad-d[i]-n] l[a]-?-[n]a? ni-bit anēṭBI.LUL
ina biṭ P[A]? ... x-ti
an-ni-[l]i? la k[i]-ti
ina l[l]-bi x p[a]-an

15      D[IS]? x x x ...
Rev.
1'      a-na DIS.H[A]?-x ... ...
UZU.SAG.DU.M[EŠ] ... ša älki-šir-te x x
šām-ma la ki-e-tú ši-i-[f]e

5'      [š]arru lu la i-qa-pāl-ni
kal-bu a-na-ku
šarru be-li a-[n]a ilānimeš. ni kit-te
e-tap-ša-ni
a-na-ku la ki-e-te

10'     [l]-[n]a šar[rī] be-li-la
[š]-[šu]-p[a]-ra
[ša]rru be-[l]l a-na mēšl-aha-ūsur
a-na mišdi-ahhēms[i]
liš-āl

15'     ma-a GIS.KI[R]₆ ... 
a-a-[l]ā ina li[b]-[b]?-[b]? ... 
[i] ... ...... ...
Side
1       issu x ...-[n]i a-na-ku [u]-...
inā libbi ... x te RI x ... 
x x ... [LU]GAL? i[q]-[b]-[n]i? 

Translation

Obv.
(1-3) To the king my lord your servant Ishdi-libbi-ali. May it be well with the king my
lord.
(4) [Concerning] the garden of the town Kisirte, (5) ... ... ... (6-7) He said:
‘From whom will you get (it)?’ (7-11a) I will get (it) from my paternal uncles,
Ashur-mushallim (and) Nergal-mushallim, (and) deliver. (11b) At the call of the butler
(12-15) [Unclear]
Rev.
(1') to [PN] ... (2') skulls ... (3') of the town Kisirtu ... (4') Indeed it is true. (5')
The king will certainly not believe me. (6') I am a dog. (7'-8') The king my lord has
wrought truth for the gods; (9'-11') would I send an untruthful message to the king my lord? (12'-14') Let the king my lord ask Bel-aha-usur (and) Ishdi-ahhe, (15'-16') saying: 'As to) the garden, has anyone within [it] ...?' Note
Side
(1) From ... ... I ... (2) within ... ... (3) ... [whatever] the king ordered.

Notes
Tablet lacking base and small piece of left side near top. Rejoined from four fragments. One of these fragments, ND 2396, providing the right three-quarters of lines obv. 1-5 and rev. 11'-16', has been joined since the original publication of ND 2380. NA script. Obv. 4') åki-šir-[t]e. Also in rev. 3’. AKA, 314, col.II, 58 locates this city in Zamua. Rev. 4') šúm-ma la. For use in positive oath see GAG §185g. 4', 7', 9') ki-e-tú, kit-te, ki-e-te. For kēštu as a late variant of kittu, kettu see AHw, 494a. The context requires the form in 9' to be in a question. 5') i qa-pá!-ni. The context requires this reading; i qa-bá-ni would not be appropriate here.

ND 2384 (= IM 64020; Plate 22)

Transliteration
Obv. [ana šarrī bēlīya]
[urad-ka inPN]
lu šul[l-mu]
a-na šarrī bē[l-ia]
5 a-dan-niš a-da[n-niš]
ša šarru be-li [š-p]ur-a[n-n]i
[m]a-a a-na am-me-ni
da-a-ka ina libbi m[tal-ta-a]
t[u]-bi-il
10 'a1-ke-e ša-la [p]l
a[l-]ak ana-ku x ...
[i(na)]? [ili]b?-[bi]-šā ú-q[a](·)...
..... Diš? T[U] Ü ...
14 ... ... x ...
Base ... [i]a a-na ...
16 ... [šar]ru be-[l] ... ...
Rev. ... [i]a? x ...
...... [l]i x ......
...... [a]?-na KUR É x ...
20 [i]l]-ta-lak : šu x ...
x x UD U x ra x
ina li{-}b[a] ša LUGAL
i[k???]-a-am-me
IV ášašamšit i-s[a]-rap

106
Letters relating to the North

25  u am[ēl]šahme massarātume
ša [ina ā]ānimes  i-du-ak
[I]I [M]E U[DU].HL.A.ME x ... x

Translation
[(1-2) To the king my lord your servant PN]. (3-5) May it be very very well with the king my lord.

(6) About (the matter on which) the king my lord sent me a message, (7-9) saying, 'Why did you scheme to kill Talta?', (10-11) how can I myself act without an order? ...
(12) I am waiting thereon. (13-15) [fragmentary] (16) ... the king my lord ... (17-18) [fragmentary] (19) ... to the land É-... (20) he has gone: ... (21) ... of day 12 ...
(22-23) He took captive within what belongs to the king. (24) He has burnt four towns, (25-26) and he is killing soldiers of the guard-posts who are in the towns. (27) 200 sheep ... ... (28) ... ... ...

Notes
Lacks top and fragments from each of the bottom corners. Surface cracked and burnt black in parts. Some abrasion. NA script.

7-9) a-na am-me-ni da-a-ka ina libbi mtal-ta-a t[u]-bi-il. The translation is based on usage in CAD, A/1, 21a-22a, abālu 5d. Talta (or Delta), king of Ellipi, brought tribute in 737 BC, later rebelled and afterwards became staunchly pro-Assyrian; see summary in A. Fuchs, Inschr. Sargons II (1994), 408f. The suggestion in this letter, that the writer had planned to kill Talta, seems to point to a time when commanders in the field doubted Talta’s loyalty, although the central authorities knew that his sympathies lay with Assyria. One possible period for this was in Sargon’s sixth palû, when Talta was invited to become suzerain of rebellious Harhar (see A. Fuchs, op.cit., 103f, §§96-96a). Circumstances may have permitted differing views on whether the burning of towns and the killings mentioned in 22-26 of the present letter were at the instigation of Talta or by rebels from Harhar against his orders.

21) x x UD U x ra x. The traces do not favour a restoration t[a]-tū-[a]1 'at my side’. A more probable reading is x ša UD XII.

23) i[k?-t]-a-am-me. The first sign is damaged beyond recognition. A possible alternative reading is u[r?-t]-a-am-me, ‘he left behind’.

ND 2402 (BSAI; Plate 22)

Transliteration
Obv.
1  a-na [ša]rri bēl-[i]a
   urad-ka mšulmu₅₅₅₅-bēl
   lu-u šulmu₅₅₅₅ a-na šarri bēl-i-a
   amēraḫ HAL.ŠUM₅₅₅₅ mārTILLA.KI-a-a
5  ša amē-bēl pāhati ša ālkal-hi
   na-ṣa-ni ina ālkarba-il šú-nu
   [k]i-ma-a lu-u ša-nu ina ālkal-hi

107
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

dil-ik-šu-nu me-nu ša šarru
... x [x] x x [n][i]

Rev.
1’ x x x x x x [š]a ša[rru] bē[li]
[i][q][a-b]u-ni

Translation
Obv.
(1-3) To the king my lord your servant Shulmu-bel. May it be well with the king my lord.
(4-6) The Chiefs of the fortresses of the land of the Urartians, whom the governor of Calah brought, are in Erbil. (7-8) As soon as they are (there), move them into Calah. (8-9) Whatever the king ...

Rev.
(1'-2') ...

Notes
Top half of tablet, in fair condition. Final 30 mm of rev. uninscribed. NA script.
This tablet indicates that the fortress-commanders on the Urartian frontier came under the governor of Calah, and were centred on Erbil.

Obv.
4) māTILLA.KI-a-a. Although forms with and without KI are conventionally distinguished as referring to Akkad and Uraštu respectively (cf. Borger, ABZ, no.359), the reference to border fortresses strongly suggests that here, even with KI, the reference must be to Uraštu.
8) di!-ik-šu-nu. Although the first sign is odd in form, only DI can be intended.

ND 2427 (BSAI; Plate 22)

Transliteration
Obv.
1 a-n[a šar]ri b[ēlī-ia]
urad-k[a] ...... x
lu šulmu₅₅ [a₁-n[a] šar[ri] bēlī-ia
šulmu₅₅ a-na mātī
5 a-[n]a na-g[i]-e
a-n[a] ma-[r]a-te
[gar]-[b][i]-[ši-u]n
[Three to five lines are lost on both obv. and rev.]

Rev.
1’ L[Ū] x x ...... x u?
āši-ni-na-h[a]-a-a
L[Ū].sab-ta ina mu[hhi] šarrī
bēlī-ia ú-si-bi-la
5’ šu-uh amēl[nakru
ša šarru bēlī iši]-mu-ni

108
Letters relating to the North

Translation

Obv.
(1-2) To the king my lord your servant [PN].
(3) May it be well with the king my lord. (4-7) It is well with the land, (and) with all the regions (and) lands.

Rev.
(2'-4') A man of the town Sininaha has brought a prisoner for the king my lord.
(5'-6') As to the enemy of whom the king my lord heard, (7'-8') it is the governor of the city Tasi.

Notes
Top (half or more) of tablet rejoined from 3 fragments. Has some damage, mainly at beginning of obv. Obv. is rather more curved in the vertical plane than rev. Deep clear NA script.

The two place-names (rev. 2', 8') both point to the Urartian sphere.

Rev.
2') asiswa-h[a]-a-a. König, Handbuch der Chaldischen Inschriften, 214, enters several Urartian place-names containing the sequence si-ni, although since in all cases these are at the end of a name and -ni is a postpositional morpheme, these are not necessarily relevant here. Note also that the group šini occurs in an Urartian god-name, op.cit., 213.

8') əl[a]-a-s[i]. A city on the Urartian frontier. See F.W. König, Handbuch der Chaldischen Inschriften (= AfO Beiheft 8, 1955-57), p. 132a, Inschrift 104 VIII, URU. Ta-a-še-e. Mentioned by Tiglath-Pileser III as one of the fortress of Urartu annexed to Assyria; see H. Tadmor, Inscr. TP III, p. 126, Summ.1: 34; p. 184, Summ.9: obv. 18'. See also SAA, 1, p. 239.

Side
2) x. This could be šú-tú with damage.

ND 2433 (= XCIX; IM 64038; Plate 23)

Transliteration

Obv.
1 a-na āmē[el] nagīr ek[a]lī bēli-ia
ura[d]-ka māš-šur-nat-ki! l[i]-u šulummu a-na bēli-ia
amēl bēli pāhati ša mašurartu(KUR.TILLA)-a-a
5 ina ãl[me][si] e-li-[a]
ina [muh]hi bir-te : x ša x …
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

10 ka-ra-x x ši-bu x ...
in a lib-bi amēl-bēl ālānimeš
ša ba-ta-ba-tu-šú x ...
[U]RU? AD? lu-ur-ma-a-a ...
"x a-na i[l]-ki ina māṭura[r][KUR.TIL[LA]] ša-..."

Translation

Obv.
(1-3) To the Herald of the Palace, my lord, your servant Ashur-natkil. May it be well with my lord.

(4-5) A governor of the Urartians came up into the city Mesi. (6-7) He stood against the fortress .......... (8-9a) At the order of the city ruler of Mesi

(9b-10) [badly damaged] (11-12) Amongst the city rulers of his region, (13) [doubtful reading] (14) [were conscripted] to feudal service in the land Urartu.

Rev.
(1'-5') [fragmentary] (6') against the people of the land Ukku, (7') against the boundary .......... (8'-10') battle. I said: ‘Why are you attacking [Mesi]?’ [He answered]:

110
(11'-13') 'It is my enemy.' I said to him: 'Bring booty.' (14'-17') To the people of the land Ukku [I said]: 'Why do you remain inactive? The Urartian is inside the border of the City Ruler. He is taking the fortress.' (18'-20') I said: 'Let him take with you the city rulers of the region around you. (21') With them he is ... Side* (22'-24') ... If the forces come, I will go with you (and) fight.'

Notes
Lacks bottom and most of right side. Although most of the text is legible, abrasion makes recognition of some signs difficult or impossible. There are 3 lines on left side, with beginning of lines nearest to beginning of rev. NA script.

Obv. 10) ka-ra-x x. One expects a form from karašu 'camp, expeditionary force', but the traces of the unidentified signs do not appear to yield anything appropriate.
13) [U]R U? AD? lu-ur-ma-a-a. One hesitates to read di-ad-lu-ur-ma-a-a, which would be based on an unknown and improbable place-name.

Rev. 6', 14') mātū-ka-a-a-a. The Ukkaeans were permanent clients neither of Urartu nor of Assyria (ABL 145, obv. 4-8), but according to circumstances were prepared to support Assyria (ABL 197, obv. 8-12) or to show friendship to Urartu (ABL 101, obv. 7-8). In the present letter the writer is attempting to induce a pro-Assyrian stance by the Ukkaeans, on the ground that Urartu had transgressed their boundaries and that if they resisted Assyria would aid them.
8', 11') ša-a-su, ša-si-ia. NA forms from šalta 'battle'.
10') ta-ka-ša-da x. The two wedges at the beginning of the unidentified group are not nu and probably not a word-divider.
21') na-hi-ši. This reading has been collated, and is beyond doubt. Is it a dialectical variant of na-hi-si, meaning 'he is in retreat', or, as J.N. Postgate kindly suggests, N Impv. of mahāšu?

ND 2434 (= XCVII; IM 64039; Plate 22)

Transliteration
Obv. a-na šarrī bēlī-[ia]
urad-ka m.dPA-x-[x]

lu-u šulmu₉ a-na be[i-i-ia]
6 nabā d마르duck a-na ša[rrri]
5 b[e][i-i-ia lik-ru-bu
ša bēlī té-e-mu
iš-ku-na-ni-ni šu-uh
māṭul-ša-ba-a-a
ša ina pa-an m.d.énurta-ila-a-a
10 [a]-sa-al ša aš-bu-[i]-ni]
x-r[i]-[i]-m? mu-tē-e-šū
[šulmu₉] a-dan-niš
Base [māṭul]-[i]-[b]a-a-a

111
14 [ina]? [u]m [X]XVII KA[M]
Rev. .... na x x
16 ...... III ME LIM
[ina] ḫal-zi šu-[u]-tu-n[l]
[am]ē-qe-mu-qi x x
x iq-[a]-šu-[ni]?
20 [x] x-[i]u? mar-idi-[a]-l[r]
[i]l-kal i-[ša[p-ra]?
[a]-na-ku mu-[š]-ši-x
e-ta-pa-dāš x [x]?
e-te-ti-[l][q]

Translation
(1-5) To the king my lord your servant Nabu... May it be well with my lord. May Nabu and Marduk bless the king my lord.

(6-10a) (On the matter on) which my lord sent me instruction, I have made enquiries concerning the Ullubaeans who are at the disposal of Enurta-ilaya. (10b) (As to that) which I was concerned with, (11) .... its deficiency. (12-14) (It is) very well. The Ullubaeans on the 27th day (15) ....... (16) ......... [The troops] 300,000 (of them), (17) are in Kalzu. (18) the forces ....... (19) which he said to him (20-21) ....... he controls the road stages, he has sent a message. (22-24) I myself have made a way out, I have passed through.

Notes
Tablet largely complete except for top right corner and some damage at bottom and at both sides of rev. Surface rather cracked. Last 1 cm of rev. uninscribed. Some flakes of surface have fallen off since the copy was made. NA script.
8-9) See Kessler, Untersuchungen, 174.
8, 13) matul-lu-ba-a-a. Since Tiglath-Pileser III conquered Ullubu and settled people there in 739 BC (H. Tadmor, Tiglath-Pileser III, p. 63, note on nn.19*: 12), this letter must be subsequent to that date.
11) x-r[i]-l[im]? The copy originally published was substantially correct; the transliteration proposed in Iraq 36, 204 is not possible.
16) III ME LIM. If this referred to troop numbers, it must have covered the major part of the Assyrian army.
17) [ina]. There is space in the break at the beginning of the line for ina, but not for ša ina.
17) ḫal-zi. A major marshalling point for troops going east, about 30 miles east of Calah. This, and the apparent mention of a huge army, suggests preparations for a major campaign, though whether against Urartu or southwards into Babylonia is not made clear.
22) mu-[š]-ši-x. See CAD, M/2, 268a, mušša A, 2, but a meaning ‘outlet canal’ does not appear appropriate in the context.
ND 2439 (= IM 64043; Plate 23)

Transliteration

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Obv.} & \quad \{a\}-na \, s[a\{rri \, bēlī-i\}a \, lu \, šulmu^m\nu \\
\text{} & \quad [u]r[a]d-[a] \, m\text{bag-te-šup} \\
\text{x} & \quad \ldots \, x \, a\hê-ú-a \\
\text{x} & \quad x \, pānî-ú \, x \, [E]N \\
5 & \quad [f]u(?-\{\cdot\}) \, s[a]? \, pā[n]? \, [s]a\{rri \, bēlī-la \\
\text{x} & \quad x \, x \, x \, \ldots \, x \\
\text{x} & \quad x \, \ldots \ldots \\
\text{\{f\}-s[a]?-r[t]}? \, x \, x \\
\text{i-x-x-a-a \, x} & \quad \ldots \, x \\
10 & \quad x \, x \, x \, [L]U\text{[G]}AL \, E[N] \, x \, l[i]?-l[i]?-k[a]? \\
\text{x} & \quad x \, x \, x \, x \, x \, x \, x \, x \, x \, x \, x \, x \, x \\
\text{x} & \quad x \, r[u]-ú\, ?-a \\
\text{EN} & \quad x \, x \, n \, x \, x \, K[U]?/K[I]? \, ? \\
\text{EN} & \quad x \, x \, x \, x \, x \\
15 & \quad p\, a-n[i]?-s[ā] \, \{f\}-s[a]-\{k\}an \\
\text{i-n[a]} & \quad pānî-\{i\}a \, x \, x \, x \, ME[\{š\}]? \\
\text{Rev.} & \quad s[a\{rru\}] \, bēlī \, ū-[\{d\}]a \, p\, a-\, n\, i-\, s[ā] \\
\text{ina} & \quad m\text{uhhi}-\{i[a]\} \, ū-ma-a \\
\text{tu-ra} & \quad \text{LU.\text{SA}}[G]?\, ? \, . \, \text{A} \, \text{i-ta-lak} \\
20 & \quad i\, h\, a\, b[p\, b\, p\, u\, r-a \, \text{al-la-ka} \\
\text{la} & \quad ū-r[a\{m\}]\, \text{-ma} \\
\text{ina} & \quad l\, i\, b\, b\, i\, \, \ddot{a}\, l\, \{r\, g\}\, u\, ?-\, e? \\
\text{x-hur} & \quad N\, I\, \text{-li \, al-la-ka} \\
\text{\textbf{sarru} \, dul-li \, i\, la\,'\, a-ni} \\
25 & \quad l\, i\, p\, u\, u\, š \\
\end{align*}
\]

Translation

(1-2) To [the king my lord]. May it be well. Your servant Bag-Teshup.

(3) ... ... my brother (4) ... front ... lord (5) verily in the presence of the king my lord (6-7) [nothing intelligible] (8) perhaps ... ... (9) ... ... ... (10) ... let the king my lord come ...

(11-14) [nothing intelligible] (15) he directed his course. (16) In my presence ... ... (17) The king my lord knows (this). His face (18) (is) against me. Now (19) again the ...-official has come back. (20) He will ... , I shall go. (21) I shall not ... and (22) within the city Argue (23) ... ... I shall go. (24) The king is capable of the task, (25) let him do (it).

Notes

Tablet complete, but with cracks. Obv. is so severely abraded as to be almost totally illegible, and since it is often difficult to distinguish between traces of wedge and damage marks, the copy here may be less reliable than usual. Last 30 mm of rev. uninscribed. The corners are square, and the base is so square that the tablet will stand on it. 16 lines of text on obv., 9 on rev.
1) *lu šulmu*mu. The position of this greeting is anomalous but it has a precedent in ABL 215, from a person with the same Urartian name. Bag-Teshup was apparently an Urartian acting as a spy for Assyria.

12) *x r[u]-i-[u]-?-[a]. This could be the ethnicon for one of the Aramaean groups, if the unidentified sign were LÚ.

20) *i-hab[p]-b[p]-ra*. The lexica list no verb *hab[p]aru* or *heb[p]ēru* with characteristic vowel -u-.

21) *ú-ra[m]-ma*. Could be from *rámu(m) II D (AHw, 952b)*; for *urabma* (see GAG §27c) from *rábu(m) I D (AHw, 936b)*; or Pret. Vent. from arū A (warū) (CAD, A/2, 313a-314b).

23) *x-hur*. Possible restorations include *am-hur* and *ah-hur*, but the traces of the first sign appear to exclude both *am* and *ah*.

23) NI-li. Neither the reading *ni-li* nor *sal-li* makes obvious sense here.

24) *i-la-'a-ni*. The ending -ni is anomalous for 3 m. sg. Indic., and J.N. Postgate proposes reading *dul-li i-la-'u-ni le-pu-uš*, 'let the king do the work he can'.

**ND 2445** (BSAI; Plate 23)

**Transliteration**

**Face A (Obv.?)**

1'  
\[
x x \ldots \ldots x \ldots \\
a-tu-r[i] x SI.MEŠ [ú-ta-gi-i]r \  
\]
\[
\text{a-sa-rap } \text{ŠE.x.MEŠ } a-ta-ta-ha \  
\]
\[
inu \text{ ti} x [a]k-ta-ra-ra \text{a} \  
\]

5'  
\[
\text{amēšā būt ku-d}i\text{nī i-ta-al} ka \text{ma-a} \  
\]
\[
\text{šal-[l]u-u-[l]a} \text{? ina } \text{māta} \text{-za-mu-u-a} \  
\]
\[
\text{lu-u } \text{tam/tū-rī-x ma-a } \text{mēbētā-a-a} \  
\]
\[
\text{ū-na-ma-aš a-sap-ra an-nu-ri[g]} \  
\]
\[
\text{ū-ra-du-u-ni ār-hi-i[x]} \  
\]

10'  
\[
[šarru]? [bē]li liš-p[uf]-ra lu-u-na-me-š[a]? \  
\]
\[
\ldots x x x \text{GAR.MEŠ x} \  
\]

Face B (Rev.?)

1'  
\[
x x n[a] \ldots \ldots \ldots \  
\]
\[
\text{a-na DIŠ,[DI]NGIR x } \ldots \ldots \ldots \  
\]
\[
\text{a-na DI[Š],[DI]NGIR x [a]k? du } \ldots \ldots \ldots \  
\]
\[
\text{a-}n[a] [DI][Š] x ba-di \ldots \ldots \ldots \  
\]

5'  
\[
\text{pa-d[n] x i x } \ldots \ldots \ldots \  
\]
\[
\text{a-[l]-a-har-u-ni } \ldots \ldots \ldots \  
\]
\[
x x x x [u] \text{DIŠ.DING[IR] x } \ldots \ldots \ldots \  
\]
\[
x x x [x]? ka-d[u]? x \ldots \ldots \ldots \  
\]

9'-11'  
[no certain sign]
Letters relating to the North

Translation
Obv.

(2'-3') ... ... I twisted, I burnt. I brought the ...-grain, I stored it in the town ... (5')
The Mule-Stable-Inspector came, saying: (6') '... ... in the land Mazamua, (7'-9') ... ... Tebetaya will set out. I have sent a message. Now they will come down quickly.'

(10') Let the king my lord send a message; let me (be the one to) set out.

Rev.

(2') To PN ... ... (3') to PN ... ... (4') to PN ... ... (5') in the presence of ... ... [which] (6') I received ...

Notes
Piece from largish tablet, with top and bottom missing. The text on the flatter side (Face A, Obv.? ) has 12 lines, most of them complete or nearly so. The text on the more curved side (Face B, Rev.? ) has 11 partial lines, with very little intelligible. Some of the wedges drawn in the copy are not easily recognizable with the naked eye, and were only recovered with the use of a binocular microscope. NA script.

Face A (Obv.?)
2') x SÌ.MES. The traces do not suggest, and scarcely permit, GIŠ.MÁ.MEŠ.
5') amēlṣā bīt ku-di-ni. See AHw, 499a. Although this means lit. 'man (in charge) of the mule-stable', by the time of Sargon II at least, this official was clearly a senior military administrator whose duties far surpassed the implications of the title; see, e.g., ABL 245 obv. 4, 312 rev. 9 (= SAA, 5, nos.79 and 200).
7') tam/tu-ri-x. One expects here a verb meaning approximately 'you shall deal with' or 'you have dealt with'.

Face B (Rev.?)
3') x [a]k? du ... The loss of a chip has now removed almost all of du, which was present when the tablet was first copied.

ND 2448 (= LXXV; BSAI; Plate 24)

Transliteration
Obv. [a-na ša]rri bēlī-ia
[ur]ad-ka [māš-šur-lēʾ] ā

amēlṣā bīt i-tal-ka
ina òa bir-du-nu
5

e-ta-ra-ba
amēl-e-mu-qī rapsūti[DAGAL]mēš///
am-mar i-pa-ar-šī-[d[u-ni]]
ū-di-nī a-na a-ha-[i][š]
la-a i-pa-hu-ru
10 [a]m-mar GAZ.MEŠni
[a]m-mar hab-tu-ā-ni
[b]a-tiq-tī la-a ni-šā-[me]
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

[am]ēmār ši̯̬̊p-ri ša šarri
[bēl]-ia

15 ... 1m₁.ēnurta-ila-a-a

Base [...]-[i]a-[k][i]/q[i]?
Rev. [...] ... x-[q]i?

20 ... x-[n]i?

Translation

(1-2) To the king my lord your servant Ashur-le'û.

(3-5) The majordomo has come and entered Birdunu. (6) The numerous troops, (7) as many as fled, (8-9) are not yet gathering together. (10) (As to) how many were killed, (11) (and) how many were taken prisoner, (12) we are not hearing. (13-14) The messenger of the king my lord, (15) Enurta-ilaya, (16-21) [too fragmentary for translation]

Notes

Lacks small piece at top left corner, bigger piece at bottom left corner, and part of right side. Extant text on obv. is very clear. Ends only of about five lines are extant on rev., of which at least the last 32 mm is uninscribed. NA script.

2) māš-šur-lē-u. This cannot be the person of this name who was a troublesome ruler of Karalla in the reign of Sargon; for refs. see A. Fuchs, Inschr. Sargons II., 407.

4) dihur-du-ru. See also p. 117, ND 2453, 6.

6) rapšūtimēš///. The erasure, over-written by MEš, shows traces of the end of a sign plus a partially erased MEš.

8) a-ha-[š]. Reading due to J.N. Postgate.

10, 11) [a]-m-mar. Lit. 'as many as', but translated ad sensum.

12) [b]a-tiq-tu la-a ni-ša-[me]. Thanks are due to J.N. Postgate for the restoration of the verb. batiqtu = 'accusation' is inappropriate here, where one expects some further reference to those just mentioned who had been killed or taken prisoner. The tentative translation assumes that batiqtu is f. of AHw, 115a, batiqu(m) I, 'abgerissen'.

15) 1m₁.ēnurta-ila-a-a. Name borne by the eponym for 736 BC, the governor of Naṣibina (RLA, II, 424-5 and 431), and by the eponym for 722 BC (RLA, II, 424-5).

ND 2453 (= XLVIII; BSAI; Plate 23)

Transliteration

Obv. [a-na šarri bēliya]
[urad-ka mPN]
[f]u š[ilmunma] [a-na] bēli-[i]a
ina dîir-ru-un aq-ši-rib
5 uš-šē ak-ra-ra
Translation
(1-3) To the king my lord your servant PN. May if be well with my lord.

(4-5) I approached Irrun; I laid the foundations. (6-7) I went into Birdunu; I laid the foundations. (8) I am moving on; I am going out.

(9-11) Perhaps the king my lord will say: 'What is the report about Urartu?' (13) Twice the Etinaeans have made an uprising against him (i.e., the king of Urartu). (14) They (i.e., the Etinaeans, lit. he) are causing him (the king of Urartu) military losses.

Notes
Tablet with top missing, otherwise complete, with clear script and little significant damage. Cleaning since publication of editio princeps has removed doubt from some signs, and a new copy is now offered. NA script.

This letters reports on security problems facing the ruler of Urartu.
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

4) \( \text{ālir-ru-un} \). Almost certainly thus, and not \( \text{āl} | \text{sa-ru-un} \) as in editio princeps, since the upper horizontal of the first sign of the name begins only minimally to the right of the beginning of the lower horizontal.

5, 7) \( \text{ak-ra-ra} \). Deller, op.cit., reads \( \text{aka-ra-ra} \), Pres. tense, and translates accordingly.

13) \( i\text{-zu-qu-pu} \). See CAD, Z, 55a, zaqāpu. The present passage, which shows that the action zaqāpu led to fighting, indicates that the verb could carry a nuance of more positive hostility that the 'to take up a position' proposed in CAD. Deller, op.cit., takes as 3 m. sg. Pf. with overhanging vowel, and argues that the subject in 17 (\( \text{mur-sa-a} \)) is also the subject of 12-13, so that it was Ursa who had attacked the Etinaeans.

16) \( \text{š} | \text{al-šu-} | | | \text{-ti-šū} \). Traces of two very small horizontals and part of a third wedge between \( \text{šu} \) and \( \text{ti} \) are probably the remains of an incompletely erased sign. For \( \text{šalšūtu} \) see AHw, 1150b.

16) \( \text{muh-hi-šū} \). The \( \text{šū} \), just into the edge from the bottom right corner of obv., was not evident in 1954 and is therefore lacking from the copy in editio princeps, but after cleaning is certain.

17) \( \text{[U]} | \text{R-su} \). K. Deller, op.cit., proposes to read \( \text{mDINGIR!-SU} = \text{mE-eriba} \), possibly the name of the sender of ND 2463. But this, although attractive, seems impossible, since although the first sign is slightly damaged I see it as undoubtely UR, and there is no space for anything preceding. The context suggests a verb here. The translation assumes \( \text{lk-šu = liksū} \), but this is tentative and very dubious since \( \text{kasū} \) normally requires an object. Alternatively UR might be an ideogram, with \( \text{su} \) either a phonetic complement or a 3 m. sg. pron. suf. phonetically changed after a verbal form ending in a dental. No appropriate ideogrammic value suggests itself.

19) \( \text{i[t]?-ta-si-ra!} \). Taken as \( \text{Gt} \) of \( \text{ešeru} \). The first sign is so badly damaged that it is difficult to decide between \( \text{it} \) and \( \text{ū} \), but the former seems more probable. The final sign does not prima facie correspond to any NA sign, and must have been written over an erasure made by smearing clay into the depression of an earlier sign, some wedges of which modern cleaning has revealed.

21) \( \text{[a]h?-[h]ur} \). See CAD, A/1, 186a; AHw359b, hurri, hur 'immer'.

26) \( \text{ša kil-li} \). The signs are certain. For the form, see CAD, K, 361b, \( \text{ša kili} \). Deller, op.cit., proposes \( \text{[lo]A!NIN!-li = Prinz, Kronprinz} \). J.N. Postgate proposes taking as a form from \( \text{ša ikkilli} \) 'reporter, informant'.

30) \( x x ? x x x x \). Traces wholly unintelligible. The proposed translation is a guess.

**ND 2454** (= C; IM 64047; Plate 24)

**Transliteration**

**Obv.**

1  [a-na \( \text{šarri bēl} [i-] | [a] | \]
\( \text{urad-k[a]} \) \( \text{[m]aš-šur-dan-an-ni} \)
\( \text{lu-u šulum[m]u | a-na | šarri bēlī-} | [a] | \)
\( \text{ša šarru bēlī ina muhhī ālbir-} | [a] | \)
\( \text{ti-šu} | [a] | \)
\( \text{ša āl} | [a] | \text{zab-zi-qi tē-mu} \)
\( \text{iš-kun-an-ni ku-pu-u} \)
\( \text{da'-a-na e-li a-du} \)
\( \text{āl-a-pu-nu nu a-šap-pa-r[a]} \)
Letters relating to the North

\[\text{amēl)pār-šā-mu-te i-lak-u-ni}\]
\[\text{i-si-šā-nu a-da-bu-bu}\]
\[\text{āl}zāb-zi-qa-\text{a-a ih-ti-s[u]}\]
\[\text{[m]bir-da-ri-dāš}\]
\[\text{[a-pi-n]u-na-a-a ā-maš-[šar]?}\]
\[\ldots \; \text{UN.M[ES]?} \; \ldots\]

Rev.
\[\ldots \; [\text{M}]\text{ES?} \; x \; \ldots \]
\[\ldots x-u-a x \; x[1]x\]
\[x \; x[2]? \; x \; x-u-ni\]
\[\text{ina mu[hhi ša]rri be[li]-ia \; [a1-]s[ap-ra}\]

Translation
Obv.
(1-3) To the king my lord your servant Ashur-dananni. May it be well with the king my lord.

(4-7) As to the matter of the fortress of Zabziq, about which the king my lord sent me instructions, the snow is severe. (7-10) I have come up as far as Apinunu. I shall send a message, (and) the elders will come and I will discuss things with them. (11) They have mistreated the people of Zabziq. (12-13) I shall set free Bir-bariash, the man of Apinunu.

Rev.
(4') I have sent a message to the king my lord.

Notes
Some loss at top, base entirely lost. 36 mm of rev. uninscribed. Text of obv. mainly legible, that of rev. abraded beyond recognition except in the final line. NA script.

Obv.
2) \text{lmrš-šur-dan-an-ni}. Eponym for 733 BC and governor of Mazamua; see RLA, II, 424-5, 431.
6) \text{kup-pu-\text{u}}. See AHw, 509a, kuppā II.
9) \text{amēl)pār-šā-mu-te}. Pl. of NA form of puršumu(m), AHw, 881b.
11) \text{ih-ti-s[u]}. See CAD, ḫ, 177b, hesū C.
13) \text{ā-maš-[šar]?}. Restoration and translation suppose a form from AHw, 1485a, 5, uššuru (a) 'straf)frei lassen'.

\text{ND 2463} (= XLVII; IM 64051; Plate 22)

Transliteration
Obv. \text{a-na šarri bēli-[ia]}
\text{urad-ka m.d...}
\text{amēl}rab-šāqē
\text{bit issu e-mu-qī}

119
5 e-ru-bu-ni
[5m][u]-r-sa-a i-tal-ka
ik-ta-ša-su
iššen issu lib-bi-šú-nu
la ú-ši-a

10 il-la-ka
ina muhhi ḫal-[l-š]u-mès
ša amēl-rab-šaqē
i-šak-kan

Rev. qa-ra-bu e-pa-āš

15 šar[ru ]-u-[u?-d]a x x x?
li-[p]u-uš

Translation

(1-2) To the king my lord your servant [PN].

(3-5) The Rab-shakeh, when he went in with armed forces, (6-9) Ursa came (and) defeated him. Not one of them got away. (10-13) He (Ursa) is coming on (and) is setting up camp against the fortresses of the Rab-shakeh. (14) He is going to do battle. (15-16) May the king know (and) take appropriate action.

Notes

Tablet complete and in good condition except for slight loss at top right corner. 58 mm of rev. is uninscribed. The base of the tablet is square enough for the tablet to stand on it. NA script.

This reports a major defeat of an Assyrian force by Rusa I, and a further threat.

2) m.d…. Deller, op.cit., restores m[GIR]-[SU?] after a supposed link with ABL 443, 3.

6) fm 1 [u]r-sa-a. Clearly the date of the archive requires this to be Rusa I, as taken by Deller, op.cit.

12) At end of line Deller, op.cit., supplies <pa-ni-ší>. Deller, op.cit., restores, possibly correctly, k[i š][a] i]-f-[a]-[u]-[m]i, ‘Der König möge handeln, wie ihm beliebt!’

ND 2487 (BSAI; Plate 25)

Transliteration

Obv.

1 a-na šarru be-[l][-][i]-[a][f]a
urad-[k]a m.ḫabu-ū-šal-[a]
lu šulmušu a-na šarru be-[l][-][i]-[a][f]a
ša šarru bēlī iš-pur-an-ni ma-a a-x [x]? [x]?

5 š[a] arbašabi libnāt̄meš ina alāṣhtar-[d][u]-[a]-[n][a]
šu-hu-tu ra-a-me ma-a maššata
amēli-da-a-li ina pa-ni pi-qid-di ma-a maššarta
ša libnāt̄meš li-iš-su-ru : ma-a at-tū-nu
ina al-[e]-liz-[k][i] tal-[a]-[a]k X umēš ša libnāt̄meš š[u]-uh-ṭa
Letters relating to the North

Translation

Obv.

(1-3) To the king my lord your servant Nabu-usallā. May it be well with the king my lord.

(4-9) (About the matter on) which the king my lord sent a message, saying, ‘[By a stated day] of the month Ab, prepare bricks in the city Ishtar-durani (and) make them available,’ and ‘(As to) the Ukaya, appoint an inspector over them, and let them keep guard over the bricks,’ and, ‘You shall go into the town Elizki; prepare bricks (there) for ten days,’ (10-12) (and): ‘When the Urartians come into Ishtar-durani for bricks ... let a prisoner come, let him tell you,’ (12-14) (and): ‘Push (the Urartians) out from Elizkun,’ I have dealt with these matters (lit. ‘them’). (15) I have sent an inspector as
messenger (and) he has seen (the situation). (16-19) Three provincial governors with their forces are set against us. Zabid ... will go out from within the city: the head of the land ... ... of the king within the city ...

Rev.

(3') within the city ... ... (4') the messenger of Sharru-kin ... ... (5') ... ... (6') the fifth day of the month Ab, upon ... ... (7') the whole of the fortress ... (8') ... ... which within Elizkun ... (9') Elizkun in the midst: city ... (10') ... ... in our midst we ... (11') the guards over us ... ... (12') of the town Harra: the watch is very ... (13') my messenger has kept watch on the Ukaya. (14') He was unwilling to go. (15') I sent ten overseers (and) one hundred troops. (16') They again ... fled. (17'-18') I sent my deputy messenger to say, 'Let 500 shield-bearing troops come.' (19'-22') So far my messenger is not coming. When he has come, ... I shall send our report to the king my lord.

Notes
Major part of quite a large tablet. Obv. is relatively flat, rev. markedly curved. The surface is crazed, with many cracks on both faces, and surface loss passim. There is significant abrasion on much of rev. At a few points appropriate laboratory treatment might improve legibility by removing dirt. Parts of the surface of rev. have begun to flake off, leaving some signs less clear than when I first copied the tablet. In view of the possibility of continuing deterioration, my notes on the appearance of the traces at final collation are rather fuller than usual.

The writer, in a fortress on the Urartian frontier, has been ordered to strengthen the defences. Three divisions of Urartian troops are facing him.

Obv.

5) dištar-d[ur]-a-n[a]. The final sign does not appear to be -ni.

6, 9) šu-hu-tu ra-a-me, š[u]-uh-ša. Despite some damage, all readings are certain. The contexts indicate that šu-hu-tu and šu-uh-ša are from the same verb, so that the š must be part of the root. The verbs are in some way connected with bricks. The only relevant verb in the lexica associated with bricks is CAD, Š/1, 85a, šahātu A (šahātu) 4 'to glaze bricks' (= AHw, 1130a, šahātu(m) IV, šahātu IV, G 4). But even on the occurrences listed in CAD this meaning is unacceptable, since ABL 1180: 15 indicates that what prevented the operation šahātu was lack of straw, and although in the ancient world straw was indispensable for the making of bricks (Exodus 5: 6-18), it played no part in glazing. Further, in a critical situation on the Urartian frontier, officials would hardly have bothered about whether or not their bricks were glazed. It might well, however, have been a matter of life and death to provide bricks to strengthen the fortifications, and this must be the sense here. No one who has seen bricks being made in a mould in rural Iraq can miss the semantic link between making a brick and smearing, and CAD, Š/1, 84a, accepts 'to smear' as a primary sense of šahātu A (šahātu). The sense of 'to prepare (bricks)' also fits the occurrences of šahātu left untranslated by Parpola in LAS 291, 15 (read 'let them prepare bricks on the far bank and build a quay') and in 283, r.7 (read 'the Akkadians are preparing bricks on the other bank and damming up [the canal]').
šu-uh-ta appears to be Impv. Vent. G theme. Except for its final -u, šu-ha-tu would be Impv.; either the final vowel has no significance (see GAG §§18e, 82e and below, p. 197 (ND 2449, 20) on lu-da-‘i-ni), or the form may be a sandhi writing for šuhuṣu u.

The final vowel of ra-a-me points to a root rmi, not a hollow verb. The writing of the internal vowel would prima facie suggest a Ptpc., but its use in conjunction with šuhuṣu(u) suggests that it is another Impv., perhaps an anomalous writing for NA D Impv. ramme. In the present context the sense ‘zur Verfügung stellen’ (AHw, 953b, ramū(m) III, D 10d) seems appropriate.

6) matu-ka-a-a. For other occurrences of these people, associated with Urartu, see NAT 365, UKKU.

9, 13) ašel-iz-k[i], ašel-iz-kun. Both the -ki and the -kun are beyond doubt. In the former spelling, this place name occurs also in ABL 101, 19, where RLA 2, 356b wrongly takes it as ašel-iz. The alternative spellings suggest that the native pronunciation of this non-Assyrian place name was ElizkV, where V represents a nasalized vowel heard as something near to ĭ.

9) tal-λ[a]-a]. Spacing and traces are against restoring the third sign as -ka.

11) x x [K]IN? LÚ.A.KIN would fit the limited traces, but possibly not the context.

12) ša ki-[l]. What might appear to be a second small oblique to the left of the first vertical is shown by microscopic examination to be mere damage. The second sign is certainly ki, not dul. For ša kil[i] see CAD, K, 361b; ND 2453, 26 (p. 117 above).

14) di’-[pa] ū3-. Before the restored ū- there is room for nothing longer than pa. The form restored is taken as Impv. da’āpu.

19) š[a]-a’ [L]UGAL. Although the writing ša-a is unusual in NA letters, the spacing demands another sign between ša and LUGAL, and the slight but certain traces of the heads of verticals seem to exclude any other restoration.

Rev.

2’, 4’, 5’, 7’, 8’, 10’) At some points in these lines it is difficult to distinguish between adventitious scratches and traces of signs, and the copy is offered with reservations.

2’) uš?-x-x. Alternatively ni-[h]-x.

4’) x x [š]a DIŠ.MAN.[D]U? In view of cracks, scratches, gouges and abrasions in this line, the copy and transliteration are offered with considerable reserve. The absence of a preceding LÚ is against reading the introductory signs as A.KIN. The reading of the sign after MAN as DU, to give the royal name Šarru-kin (Sargon), is far from assured.

5’) n[u] x x. The copy may not be wholly accurate here, since examination under the microscope shows that the angles and sides of some marks copied as wedges lack sharpness, casting doubt on whether they are wedges at all. Skilled cleaning to remove salts might add legibility to this line.

5’) UR [s]u[t]i[š]? UD. Could represent taslištu (AHw, 1337a) or a variant of teslištu (AHw, 1351b).

7’) [g]a?-mar. Even using a microscope I am unable to decide whether the final element of the first sign is two small obliques (as taken in my copy and transliteration) or one large one. The certain trace of a vertical immediately preceding the oblique(s) proves that this sign was not NA am-.

9’) lib-bi: UR[U] x. Comparison with line rev. 7’ indicates that the traces after lib-bi cannot derive from bir-te.
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

10') x [I]B? [K]?I?. IB is almost certain. The third sign could be a damaged tu in the fourth form listed in ABZ, no.58; the slope of the first partial wedge seems to exclude la.

11') x bu? There appears to be more than one wedge in the damaged first sign.

12') U[R]U.[H]AR?-ra. Embedded between the second and third signs is a small stone 3 mm from top to bottom, with its surface level with the present surface of the tablet.

13') [I]h-r[1d]I?. The traces of the first sign limit the possibility to SUD and UH, of which only the latter is likely here. The second sign prima facie appears to be sa, but it may have been distorted by being on the edge, and a form from harādu A (CAD, H, 88a-b) would seem to fit the context better than one from hesū C, 'to mistreat' (CAD, H, 177b).

14') [i]m-ma-gur. Pret. 3 sg. m. magāru for im-ma-gur; see AHw, 575b, II, 2c.

15') LŪ.DIN.[M]ES. For LŪ.DIN = hajjātu or hajātu 'inspector, overseer', see AHw, 309a, CAD, H, 1b-2a.

15') amēl[s]labēmē[3]. A crack has created a gap between the top and bottom of ÉRIN, and has put the end of the final horizontal of LŪ out of alignment.

16') am-mar ūme[3]-šū. See CAD, A/2, 68b, adducing ABL 1469 r.9.

18') 4a-ri-te. See AHw, 68b, arītu II, 1e and ABL 251 r.1.

20') X? x [x]? The certain broad oblique could be the beginning of some sign other than U = X.

ND 2488 (IM 64065; Plate 26)

Transliteration

Obv.
[Not copied; the surface of obv. is so severely abraded that, although traces of most signs remain on the first fourteen of its twenty three lines, very few signs are identifiable. The only signs certainly or probably identifiable were:]

1 LUGAL
2 [I]lu?
3 a-[n]a?
4 bu,-sa-a
5 n[I]?-ti?
6 lu, [m]u?, mu, na-a?-a?
7 LUGAL?, AŠ
8 sa, mu?
9 a?

Rev.
1' x x ...........
    ina pa-an x ...........
    x x x x x ........
    x ... [I]i ... a? x ........
5' ma-a III [L]IM L[U].x x-u-[a] ... amēl[ab] šā[qi] x x x ...
    ma-a li-x x x a i x
    m[a-a III ME LŪ.x x-xul-a-a še-bi-[la]}

124
Letters relating to the North

10’ a-sap-ra-šú ŋ[u]-[u]k ki-i an-ni-i

15’ i-su-ri šarru be-ši i-qa-ab-bi

20’ šùm-ma ‘al-[n[a] ha-[n[i]-e-šá la al-la-ka

Partial Translation

Rev.

(2’) in front of ... ... ... (3’-4’) [nothing intelligible remains] (5’) thus, three thousand ...-people (6’) the Rabshakeh ... ... (7’) thus, let him ... ... (8’) thus, ‘Send three hundred ...-people.’ (9’-10’) I myself have sent a message in these terms about them to the Rabshakeh. (10’-11’) I said: ‘Send a message in these terms to the people of Shubria. (12’-13’) Say: “An encampment of Itua troops would make me rejoice. (14’) Send a message to me. Let me come”’. (15’) Perhaps the king my lord will say, (16’) ‘Who is an enemy and who is not an enemy?’ (17’) The king has recognized the problem. He is very shrewd. (18’-19’) Let me come to the king my lord. Let me see the king my lord. (20’) If I do not come here, (21’) ... ... ... about which the king (22’) sent me a message, let me come, let me see the king my lord.

Notes

Tablet with top left corner and bottom lost. Surface of obv. much abraded. NA script.

Rev.

9’, 10’) ki-i an-ni-i. Lit. ‘according to this’.

12’) TUŠšu. For TUŠ = ėbūtu ‘encampment’, see CAD, Š3, 172a and 184a, 5.

13’) [l]-ri-šá-[n[i]-ni. Prec. D 3 pl. Vent. with 1 sg. Acc. suf. of riášu(m) (AHw, 979b-980b).

17’) ú-ta-kis. Taken as D3 of nakāsu ‘to cut’, assumed to be used idiomatically of cutting through a problem, as in ‘to cut the Gordian knot’.

20’) ‘al-[n[a] ha-[n[i]-e-šá. Taken as a form of ana anniš, for which see CAD, A/2, 133b.

ND 2608 (= IM 64073; XLVI; Plate 24)
Re-edited in: (1) K. Deller. ‘Ausgewählte neuassyrische Briefe’, Incunabula Graeca, LXXVIII, Rome, 1984, 101, 1.7; (2) SAA, 1, 32. See also G.B. Lanfranchi, Or.An. 22 (1983), 128.
Transliteration

Obv.

1  [ana šarri bēlīya urdu-k]a m.d...
[lu šulmu ana šarri] be-l-[a]
[šulmu ana māṭ]aš-šuru
[šulmu ana] [ī]l.KUR.MEŠte

5  [šulmu ana ālbi-ra-t]e šarri gab-bu
[libbu ša šarri a-dan]-niš lu-u ṭāb
...... [ś]a amid-tū-u-a-a
...... [ś]a issu lib-bi ālū-ta-hup
[ī?-šī]-ni ī-ma-a issu lib-bi

10  ... x ID-rat-ta ina muh-hi-ia na-ṣu-niš-ṣū
[ina muhhi māṭura]-ṭa-a a-sa-al-ṣū ma-a māṭurarṭa-a-a
...... x x KUR.PAB[ī]- bi-it il-[i]k-u-ni
[ma-a ī-ma-a]? issu pa-an šarri bēlī-ia pal-hu a-dan-niš
...... x SAL MEŠ i-ru-ū-[d[u]? i-qūl-lu

15  ... ālbi-rat ša šarri bēlī-ia me-me-e-ni
[lā]? ... x ma-a šul-mu a-dan-ni-iš
[fe-e]-mu ša māṭurarṭa-a-a
...... x x-e ša LŪ.[TŪ]L? [x] x
...... [L]U. MAH ša māṭman-na-a-a

20  ... [GU]D.HI.A.MEŠni UDU.HI.A.MEŠ x
...... x an-ni DUM[U]? LID ma-a x ... 
...... x a ina lib-b[i] x ...
...... x ....

Rev.

1'  ......... x ...
...... x x x ... 

...... x ma t[a]? x ...
...... x x ...

5'  ......... x 
...... x x ... x
...... x x x x x x
...... āl-te a x x x x
...... x x [KUR][ī]a-ū-da-a-a

10'  ... [ś]a x GAR ša LŪ.GAL.MU
...... x.MEŠ dan-nu-te
...... x bēl pāhāt māṭra-ṣap-pa
...... bēl pāhāt āltil-bar-si-ba
...... MEŠ.II-u-[e]

15'  ... lib-bi āl[a]-di-a

[Space for 6 lines uninscribed]
Letters relating to the North

Translation

Obv.
(1-6) [To the king my lord] your [servant] PN. [May it be well with the king] my lord. [It is well with] Assyria. [It is well with] the temples. [It is well with] all the fortresses of the king. [Let the heart of the king be] very glad.

(7) [In the matter] of the Itu‘aean person (8-10) ... who came out from inside the town Ishtaup, now they brought him to me from within ... ... (11) I asked him about the Urartians. He said: ‘Since the Urartians went to the land of the Cimmerians, (13) [now] they are very much afraid of the king my lord. (14) ... they tremble (and) remain inactive. (15-16) ...’ Nobody will attack the fortresses of the king my lord.' He said: ‘Things are very well.’ (17) This is the report about the Urartians.

(18) ... ... (19) ... the emissary of the Mannaeans (20) ... oxen and sheep (21-23) [Nothing intelligible]

Rev.
(1'-8') [Nothing intelligible] (9') ... ... the Iaudeans (10') ... of the ... of the chief cook (11') ... ... strong (12') ... the governor of Rasappa, (13') ... the governor of Til-barsip (14') ... ... ... (15') ... within the city Adia.

Notes

The right side of a largish tablet with small Assyrian script. The base is missing, and there is some damage to the surface on obv., and much on rev. Last 20 mm of rev. is uninscribed. Rev. is more convex than obv. NA script.

This is related in subject matter to ND 2488 (see ND 2608, obv. 19 and ND 2488, obv. 6), but there is no possibility of a join.

G.B. Lanfranchi, op.cit., 128-135, discusses the relationship of this letter to ABL 198 and ABL 197, giving arguments for its date as 715 BC.

Obv.
1) m.d.... Deller, op.cit., and SAA, 1, no.32 restore $md[30-PAB.MEŠ-SU] = Sin-ahhe-eriba.
8) $iš-ša-hup. SAA, 1, p. 237 takes this as a town in Kurdistan. L.D. Levine, RLA V, 208b, suggests equating it with Ishta’ippa in northwest Iran.
11) [ina muhhi]. Deller, op.cit., restores ṭe-e-mu ša, which is perhaps preferable.
12) KUR.PABIR. Established as equivalent to $māgamir by the alternation in ABL 197, rev. 10 and obv. 9, of this form and the writing $mar-ga-mir.
14) ŠAL MEŠ. Deller, op.cit. and SAA, 1, no.32 read MÍ.MEŠ, but the form could be šal-meš ‘in safety’.
14) i-ru-ū-d[u]. SAA, 1, no.32 reads $i1-ru-ul-ū-bu!, but almost certainly the fourth sign is not bu, since there are no initial obliques. $d[u] is not certain but seems more probable than bu; i-ru-ul-du could be a defective NA writing for iruddū, 3 pl. Pres. raddu ‘beben’, AHw, 941a-b.

Rev.
9') [KUR][i]a-ū-da-a-a-a. Although J.D. Hawkins, RLA, V, 273a, claims that Iaudeu ‘always denotes Judah’, the fact that every other geographical reference in this letter is to the Urartian region or north Syria suggests that the present reference is to a northern
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

state rather than to biblical Judah. The alternative but very speculative conclusion is that
the term in this very broken context may have denoted a contingent of troops from
Judah operating with the Assyrians.

10') x GAR. Although the traces of the lost sign seem to favour the restoration EN, this
would not give good sense here. LÚ.GAR seems more probable.


12') māra-šap-pa. For identification as in southern and eastern slopes of the Jebel
Sinjar see M. Liverani, SAAB, VI/1 (1992), 35-40.

ND 2631 (=LXXXIX; IM 64083; Plate 26)
Re-edited in TCAE, pp. 383-5, SAA, 5, no.215, and by J.N. Postgate in Iraq 62

Transliteration

Obv.  [ana šar]ri bēli-ia
   [urad-ka] m₄dad-itti-ia
   [lu šu]lmum a-na šarri bēli-ia
   [š]a šarri bēli tē-e-mu iš-ku-na-ni-ni
5  ma-a e-mu-qe ša mās₈a-mu-u-a
   a-šur šup-ra-[m]a X išnarkabātmes
   II išut-tar-a-te X ša sisemše
   X ša imērku-di-ni naphar XX imērú-ra-te
   XCVII imēr-pit-hal-lu XI amē₈₉₈₉₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈₈₉₈₈₈₈ـــــ
Translation

(1-3) To the king my lord your servant Adad-ittiya. May it be well with the king my lord.

(4-8) As to the order the king my lord sent me, saying: ‘Check the forces of Zamua and write to me,’ (they are):

20 chariots (and) 2 wagons; 10 (teams of) horses, 10 (teams of) mules, total 20 teams;
9-11 79 cavalry horses, 11 chariot drivers, 12 (chariot) 'third riders', ten messengers,
53 grooms, 20 team-commanders,

(12) TOTAL: 106 chariot personnel;

(13-14a) 161 cavalrymen, 130 grooms, 52 zunzurahis,

(14b-15a) TOTAL: 343 chariot personnel;

(15b-18a) 8 palace servants, 12 tailors, 20 stewards, 12 pastry-cooks, 7 bakers, 10 cooks,

(18b) TOTAL: 69 household staff;

(19-20) 8 craftsmen, 23 ass-drivers, 1 information officer, 80 axe-men;

(21) TOTAL: 630 Assyrians

(22) 360 Gurraeans, 440 Itu'aeans;

(23) GRAND TOTAL: 1,430 royal personnel, together with those formerly here, (and) those whom the bodyguard brought.

(26-29) Perhaps the king my lord will say: ‘Where are the rest of the forces?’ My major domo is delayed (but) is bringing up the rest of the forces.

Notes

Complete except for top left corner and worm hole in middle of obv. Has a crack for its whole length. The text is largely in good condition. 75 mm of rev. is uninscribed. NA script. I extend my warm thanks to J.N. Postgate for improvements supplied prior to publication of his re-edition of this letter.

2) m.šadad-itti-ia. Also author of ABL 342 and 529; see Iraq 28 (1966), 187. The same name occurs in ND 2495, 7 as one of two officials responsible for provisioning Abu-lishir.

7) II. So copy. SAA, 5, no.175 emends to XX, making the number of teams equal to the number of chariots.

7)  ša-tar-û-te. See AHw, 1493a, wattartu.

10) LÚ.A.SIG₃, Deller, op.cit., reads LÚ.A ši-pîr, against which Borger, ABZ, p. 199 gives references for alternation LÚ.A.SIG₃ and LÚ.A.SIG. Borger, op.cit., equates LÚ.A.SIG₃ with mār šipri, 'messenger'. Line 12 would suggest that these personnel were specifically military staff concerned with chariots.

14) amēlzu-un-zu-ra-he. Apparently a Hurrian loanword. See AHw, 1538a zunzurahu 'ein Wagenknecht?'. One might also consider a possible link with um/nzaru, on which see Deller, 'Assyrisch um/nzarhu und Hebraisch 'āzrah', ZA 74 (1984), 235-239.

15) amēlšā bitti šanē. See CAD, B, 296b.

19) amēlam-ma-ni. In the context appears to mean 'craftsmen' rather than 'scribes'.

20) amēlkala-ba-te. Transliteration after Deller, op.cit. See CAD, K, 66a-b, kalappu (kalabbu). A reading amēlkal-la-bu, linked to CAD, K, 77b, kallābu ‘member of the light troops’, is not possible.
22) amēl|gur-ru. A photograph supports this reading against amēl|gur-ra! of Deller, op.cit.
22) amēl|gur-ru IV ME XL māṭ(sic)īl-[r]ū. Deller, op.cit., suggests these are shortened for amēl|gur-ra!-a+a, amēl|īl-[r]ū-a-a+a, which are mentioned together in ABL 388: 6-7.
29) īl|ba-lu. Although the final sign is slightly damaged, it appears to be lu rather than the expected la, as read in SAA, 5, no.215.

ND 2635 (= XLIII; BSAI; Plate 27)

Transliteration

Obv.

a-na šarrī bēlī-[i][a]  
urad-ka m.a[nab]-qa-[a]-?-[l]a?  
lu šulmu[a] a-na šarr[i] bēlī-[i][a]  
issu muhhi mār ma-tu-a  
5  ša a-na šarrī bēlī-[i]a a-qā-b[i]-[l]u-[n]i  
mu-uk i-la-ka i-tū-[n]i-a i-su-ḥi[r]  
abi-[u] i-la-[k]a XL amēl|gur-[r]a-a-a  
ša issu šarrī bēlī-ia il-su-mu-u-ni  
issu libbi šatti ša ina āl|har-di  
10  i-[l]-ku-u-ni a-da-ka-a-ni  
la tú-ūš-mu-ū ma-a la ú-ṣi-u  
qa-ni me-eh-ri-šū-nu la i-[l]-ki-ku  
m[a]-tu-a ma-a la tal-la-ka  
ma-a amēl|urdēmeš-ia at-tu-nu  
15  ina muhhi ālān|mēš ša a-na ma-na-ba-a  
šarru be-li is-pur-a-ni  
la ú-sa-hi-ir la i-din
Base  mā-ša-ni-sa-a-a  
inā pān šarrī bēlī-ia šū-nu
20  šarr[r]u be-lī liš-al-šū-nu

Rev.

ma-a ra[a]-ma-ni-šu-nu ālān|mēš  
mū-a-ni-a-ra amēl|rēšu  
iš-la-hi i-mur-u-ni  
i-si-šu i-la-ka ki-i ina muhhi  
25  šarrī bēlī-ia a-la-ka-a-ni  
aq-ti-ba-a-šū mu-uk al-ka  
ni-lik am-maš-ālān|mēš ša šarru  
i-dān-a-ka-ni la-a-mur  
lā i-li-ka ú-ma-a a-du bi-it  
30  a-na-ku issu pān šarrī bēlī-ia  
as-hur-u-ni šu-ū i-la-ka  
amēl|rēšu ša šarru be-lī ina māša-mu-a  
ip-qi-du-u-ni la i-[l]-ka  
māṭ-su la e-mur me-nu ša ti-in-šū-u-ni  
35  lu e-pu-uš issu muhhi amēl[ē]šēmeš
Translation

(1-3) To the king my lord your servant Nabu-PAP-... May it be well with the king my lord.

(4-6) After I told the son of Atua, about whom I spoke to the king, that he should go, he duly set out (but) has returned. (7-8) His father is going. Forty Gurraeans who served with the king my lord as runners, (9-11) who within the (past) year went into Hardi, are disobedient until now (and) have not come out. (12) They would not go (from) their own territory. (13-14) Atua said: 'You shall not go. You are my servants.'

(15-16) Concerning the cities about which the king my lord sent a message to Naba, he did not hand them back. (18) The Manisaeans are in the presence of the king my lord; let the king my lord question them, (21) saying, 'Their own cities' [22-23] [See notes] (24) he shall go with him.' (24-25) When I was coming to the king my lord (26-28) I said to him, 'Come! Let us go. Let me see whatever cities the king has given to you.' (29-31) He did not go; however, as soon as I return from the presence of the king my lord, (then) he will go. (32-33) The Reshu-official whom the king my lord appointed in Zamua will not come. (34-35) I have not seen his land. Whatever news there is of him, I have certainly done.

(35-37) About the Reshu-officials on which the king my lord sent me instructions, I have spoken to them. (38-39) I said: 'Where are the ...-men who ... ... ' (40-41) They said: 'Now ... they are bringing ... ' (42-43) If, after the provincial governor has heard, he is unwilling to deliver, I myself will bring (them) to the palace. (44) Both of them are at his disposal.

Notes

Tablet in excellent condition, lacking only small fragment from top right corner. Cleaning in the BM after publication of the editio princeps clarified the reading of several signs. Very slightly convex on both faces, minimally more on rev. NA script.

4) m.a-tu-a. For atu as a possible Elamite element see APN 273a.
6) i-su-hu[r]. On the form (for issuhr) see GAG §96d.
7) amēl-gur-[r]a-a-a. For other references see NAT, 137. They were often associated with Ituaeans, normally loyal Aramaean auxiliaries.
8) il-su-mu-u-ni. On lasîmu ‘to run (for the king)’, see TCAE, p. 229.
10) a-da-ka-a-ni. Taken as representing adi ana akanni, for which see AHw, 28a, apud akanni. An alternative but unlikely interpretation is as NA form of 1 sg. Pres. Subj. Vent. from dekā, meaning ‘(whom) I would muster’.

11) tū-uš-mu-ū. Taken as a form of duššā(m), ‘Diener’ (AHw, 179a), perhaps related to teššā(m), taššā ‘Erhörung’ (AHw, 1352b).

12) qa-ni me-eh-ri-šu-nu. qa-ni is defective writing for qanni. For the phrase see AHw, 641a, meššāri(m) I, 5.

18) mà[a]-ni-sa-a-a. Not otherwise attested.

22) mà-u-a-a-ni-a-ra. The initial DIŠ is after cleaning beyond question, and the interpretation of the following form offered in Iraq 20 (1958), 195 cannot stand. The form can only be a personal name, apparently non-Assyrian, presumably of the Resh-official.

23) iš-la-hi. The first sign is unquestionably ṢŠ, not ša, and the non-attestation of a pirras formation in Akkadian appears to preclude a reading *mil-la-hi. iš-la-hi could be 3 m. sg. Pret. with overhanging -i from a verb šalāhu with characteristic vowel -a-

23) i-mar-u-ni. Might alternatively be read i-har-u-ni (defective for ih-har-u-ni from mahāru); cf. ABL 131, 10; 916, 16.

27) ni-līk. Taken as representing Cohortative with particle i omitted; see GAG §81g.

29) a-du bi-it. For sense see CAD, A/1, 114a, 7.

34-35) me-nu ša ti-in-ša-u-ni lu e-pu-uš. The reading is now beyond question; cf. me-nu ša te-en-šu-ni, ND 2759, 15 (p. 189 below). The restoration šadāl-di-in!-šu-u-ni lū labbūš!, offered in AHw, 1001b, apud šlūšāni, partly on the basis of faults in the first copy arising from incomplete cleaning, is not possible.

36-37) iš-ku[n]-a-ni-ni. An unusual instance of a verbal form split across two lines.

37) aq-ti-ba-šu-n[u]t. The apparent evidence for the final -nu is a vestige of the head of a horizontal on the very edge of the break.

ND 2648 (= LXXIV; BSAI; Plate 28; Photo Plate II)
Re-edited in TCAE, pp. 385-7; see also p. 183.

Transliteration

Obv.

1 a-na šarrī bēli-ia
urad-k[a] màšarru-emurra(IGI.LÁ)-a-ni
amēlšāni[u] [s[a] a[i]-sa-n[a]

šēnu-sa-hi ša [l][1]-ti-ma-lī

5 i-ša-šu-me ša mà[b]ar-[u-q]u
ša mà-bēl-bēl-asarēd(MAŠ) ša ni-na-sa-hu-ni
ù-ma-a mà-bēl-apla-iddina₃ amēlqe-pa-ni
uk-ta-ši-di
šarru bēli i-qa-bi ma-a LÚ.GUR.IGI.UĐ

10 la za-ku-ū ša ina lib[bi] un-qi šarrī
za-ku-ū ša A.SA[G].GA lu-kin
ša il-qu-ni šēnu-sa-hi-n[l] šu-nu
[l]a [l]1-ma-gūr x x x . . .
Letters relating to the North

Rev.
1’ x ... ... ... ... 
   x ... ... ... ... 
amēlbarakku ša bi šamēlmar šarrī
5’ x [U]D? a x x
   issu libbi! I LIM ŠE.NUMUN.MESŠ /// [DIŠ.EN].A.ÅS
   ša pāhar āli-sa-na
   a-rī-[š]u-ni II ME A.MESŠ ikkal(GU?)
   a-šap-pu a-na muh-hi-ia
10’ e-ra-ba mi-nu a-na-ku
   la-di-ni amēlmar šip-ri
   ša šarrī li-li-ka
   a[m-mar š][l]a šēnu-sa-hi-ni-ni lu-u-ši-ia-a
14’ x x x-za-u-a-a š[a] āl-x-x-x
Top a-ba[t] šarrī i-zak-kar
16’ ma-a za-ku-ka
   amēlqi-pu úm?-[l]?-r[i]?-b[i]!
Side*
18’ ... ... ni ša mšēpē[l]-aš-šur šēnu-sa-hi-ni šâ-nu
   ... ... [amēl]i?-[tú']-a ina libbi ú-se-ri-bi

Translation
Obv.
(1-3) To the king my lord your servant Sharru-emurrani, Deputy of Isana.
(4-8) (As to) the barley tax(es) which formerly we used to exact on Barruqu (and) Nergal-ashared, now Bel-apal-iddin has driven away the administrators.
(9-11) The king my lord may say: ‘The Qurbutu-official is not exempt (from taxation); (only) one who is within the royal decree is exempt.’ Let me establish who has received a field ... ...
Rev.
(3’-5’) an area of 40 homers of corn-land ... I have given in the presence of the steward of the house of the Crown Prince. (6’) Out of 1,000 units of corn-land of Bel-apal-iddina (7’-9’) which is in cultivation (in) the province of Isana, he enjoys 200 (units of) watered land. (9’-11’a’) The pack-animals are coming in to me. What am I to give them? (11b’-12’) Let a messenger of the king come. (13’) Let me take away (to feed the pack-animals) as much as is our barley tax. (14’) ... ... of the village ... (15’-16’) He refers to a royal command, (claiming) ‘I am exempt’. (17’) I have sent in an administrator ... (18’) ... ... of Shepe-Ashur are our barley tax. (19’) ... ... I have sent in the Itu’a troops.

Notes
Rather more than the top half of tablet. Obv. mostly well preserved; on rev. damage in some places seriously impairs legibility. At some points there are indications that the scribe was using a stylus with a split tip. Text on left side is written bottom to top. The core shows that the tablet blank was formed by coiling the clay. Bold NA script.
Obv.
3) [š]a ăli-sa-n[a]. This reading, from TCAE, op.cit., is confirmed by collation.
8) uk-ta-ši-dī. Possible meanings are 'he has driven away' (CAD, K, 280b, 4b), 'he has seized' (CAD, 281b, 5d), or 'he has sent' (CAD, K, 281b, 6).
9) LŪ.GUR.IG.LUD. IGI may be a scribal error, or a modern misreading, for bu, so that the reading should perhaps be amēl,quat-bul-tū.

Rev.
5') x [U]D? a x x. TCAE, ad loc., proposes [i]p-tū-a-ga!. But the final group in the line is clearly 3 small obliques, not the 2 required for ga. This group appears to be DIN in NB form; since other apparently NB forms occur in ŠA in rev. 6', probably in ŠA in rev. 7' and 14', and certainly in RA in rev. 10', it is a reasonable conclusion that the scribe, although competent in NA, was more accustomed to writing in NB. Since the group after a could be a damaged ta, the second half of this line might then be read a-[r]-a-din, a NB form instead of the standard NA it(t)idin.
6') libbi! As drawn in copy; the only reasonable reading is as a NB form of ŠA.
6') GU. Sign collated; correctly identified by TCAE, ad loc.
14') x-za-u-a-a. The u appears to have been written over an earlier vertical, which it largely conceals.
17') ā?-[s]i?-r[i]?-b[i]! Reading uncertain. All these signs appear to have suffered either from cleaning, or more probably from the crystallizing out of salts.

ND 2655 (= XLII; IM 64097; Plate 25)
Partly re-edited in TCAE, pp. 115-6. See also K. Deller, Or. 33 (1964), 92.

Transliteration
Face A
1' ........................x
   x x x x-xi? [l-t]ak-u-ni
   ina muhhi te-e-nu ša amēl-dal-ta-a issu būti la ú-ša-a
   ù me-me-ni ina pa-ni-šū la e-rab a-se-me
5' ma-a ri-ih-te ma-da-te ú-pa-har b[i]ar.[G(U)]N?]-su
   i-da-na amēl-mad-a-a ša pa-[u]-ru ša [i]na pān][i]-ia
   XXX sisēmēš a-ta-ša re-eh-te nišēmēš ina pān-ia
   ma-da-te ša ašak-ru-tū XL sisēmēš
   [at-t]a-har iq-ši-bi ú-ma-a re-eh-te
10' ... ni-da-an šarru bēlī a-na amēl GAL MEŠ
   ...-[q]lu?lib? ina muhhi ašku-lu-man KUR.x(-x)?
   ... x-lu-[šu]-nu da-al-hu a-na mātī-šu-nu
   ... e! la kit-tū ina muhhi šarrī b[e]-[r]-a
   ... x ma-a kit-ri ina lib-bi e-[pu-uš]?
Letters relating to the North

15’ …… [m]a-a man-nu šá-nu kit-ri …
…… x-a-a e māl-il-pi x x
…… MEŠ-šá-nu III IV LIM? x …
…… [i-n]a? muhhi e-tab-ku(-)[n]? …
…… [T]A? LUG[AL] …

20’ ……… x x …

Face B

1’ ……… x ku …
…… x mu ša x [x]?
…… [S][G₄] MEŠ ni-x(-)[x]?
…… [n]?([-)] [r]-ti-ši-pi x [x]?

5’ ……… x ma-a lat-li-k[a]
…… x-ta la-šá ma-a i-s[i]?-i[a]?
……-tal-lak šarru bēli liš?-x-x
……-ni-šá ul-lu ma-a III UR[U]_.M[EŠ]?
…… [š]ú-nu kit-ti ši-i a-na mi-i-n[i]

10’ [p] [š]-ku šú-ú na-a-da
[š]-a? [ša]ri bēli-a šám-mu [ši]-i[p]  çı-kú
[š] a ekalli pîl-kü ša me-me-ni i-ba-aš-šá-u-ni
ū L ti-ik-pi e-mid İp-še-ti an-ni-ti a-na ma-la ša m.dnergal-eṭir(KAR)š-i

Translation

Face A

(2’) … … (when) we/they come. (3’) Concerning the report about Dalta, he does not go out from home (4’) and no one comes in into his presence. I have heard (5’-6’) say, he will assemble the rest of the tribute (and) will pay his tax. (6’) (For) the Medes, who were to be released, who were in my presence, (7’) I have taken 30 horses. The rest of the people are in my presence. (8’-10’) As tribute of Zakrute, I have received 40 horses; he (the representative of Zakrute) said: ‘We shall deliver the rest subsequently.’ (10’-11’) … Let the king my lord [give orders] to the Resh-officials. (11’) Concerning the city Kuluman of the land … (12’) their … are disturbed. To their land (13’) … untruth concerning the king my lord (14’) … He said: ‘I provided military aid there.’ (15’) … … he said: ‘Who are they [who received] military aid?’ (16’) … … the land of Ellipi … (17’-19’) [fragmentary]

Face B

(1’-4’) [fragmentary, referring to building with bricks] (5’) … … he said: ‘Let me come, (6’-7a’) there is not … …’ He said: ‘You shall [not?] come with me.’ (7b’) Let
the king my lord enquire/send a message. (8') ... ... ... He said: ‘Three cities (9')
their ...’ Is it right? Why (10'-11') is that building sector neglected? (Is it for the
king my lord? (11'-13') Whether it is the palace sector or someone else’s sector, then put
fifty courses (of bricks) in place. (13'-14') This affair is typical of Nergal-etir.
(15'-17') They argued about Bit-Hunanu until they went in. Now they are arguing
about Kar-sharrukin. (18'-19') A day does not pass that they do not show quarrelling
(and) hostility (against) me. (19'-20') The royal Resh-officials who did the work here
(21'-22') [fragmentary]

Notes
Lacks top end (assuming that Face A is obv.) and large fragment running transversely
from about halfway down left side almost to right side at bottom. NA script.
Face A
3') mdal-ta-a. King of Ellipi. After insurrection, Dalta paid Sargon tribute in the ninth
regnal year of the latter (Fuchs, Inschr. Sargons II., 123, 192-194). This dates the
present letter either in that year, or possibly, since Dalta was still collecting the tribute he
intended to pay, a year earlier.
5') b[il]at(G[U.U]N?)-su. TCAE, p. 115, reads the traces as t-a-na m(x (x)-1-su.
6') pa-[u]-ru. Reading after TCAE, p. 115.
7') a-ta-ša. = attaša, 1 sg. Pf. G. of naš, NA variant of našu.
12') -lu?-šu-nu. In terms of appearance, x-šu could be luš, but if da-al-hu is correctly
read and taken as an adj., -šu-nu can only be a suffix to a noun.
Face B
10') [pj]l?-ku. For the proposed meaning see AHw, 863b, pilku(m) I, 5.
14') a-na ma-la. The translation of this line is based on CAD, M/1, 147a, 1. d.
18') ša-a-su. Taken as representing šassu, NA form of šaltu ‘quarrel’.
18') hi-in-sa-te. See AHw, 346b, him/nsatu, NA ‘Streit’.
19') i-ga-ra-ni-ni. 3 pl. (or sg.) Pres. Vent. Subj. plus 1 sg. pron. suf. from gerû, ‘to
be hostile’. For sense of the line see Deller, op.cit.

ND 2673 (= XLV = IM 64109; Plate 27)

Transliteration
Obv.
1 a-na šarri bêli-[a ur]ad-[k]a
[DIŠ].x-E[N]?--[x] lu šulmu₅㏋ a-[na šar]ri
[bêli-ia] a-dan-nîš a-dan-nîš

is[su]? [p]a-a-ni-ú šarru bêli a-na mûturarīti
2 êl-li aš-šur dšamaš [a]št-ru-ùš-pa-a
ina qêtell šarri bêli-ia til-sa-[a]-ku-n₅₇-su
šarru bêli harrâni-šù a-n[a] mûturarītî liš-kun
ašt-ru-ùš-pa-a li-ik-šu-du
šarru bêli šu-[u]-n₅₇-su a-na [d]a-ra-a-ti
5

10 liz-z[i-k]îr i-su-ri šarru bêli hur-ba-na-te
[3]a x x x û-sa-ha[r] i-da-na
abanun-[q]î šarri ša ina muh-hi-ia šarru

ašt-ru-ùš-pa-a li-ik-šu-du
šarru bêli šu-[u]-n₅₇-su a-na [d]a-ra-a-ti
5
Letter relating to the North

Letters relating to the North

bēli iš-pur-a-ni a-ta-al-ka
a-na m(p)a-ar-ni-al-de-e
15 a-sa-al m[a] šarru bēli š[a]? x-x ... 
šu-uh x x EN? x ša mātāš-šur ... 
ša x x x x [k]u?/šu? ... 
x x x x b[i]-x 
x x ... x E[N]? x-[ū]?-ni ia-u-te

Rev.
1' lml[p]a-a[r!-n]i-al-de-e LÚ.A.KIN.x 
š[a] m[a]-da-it[i] ni?-[b]-[i]? ši?-ra-a 
a-nu-ú-te LÚ.A.KIN.MEŠ ur-ki-ú-te 
šá-tú-nu LÚ.A.KIN.[ME]Š? ša a-na mātₜurarṭi
5' e-li-ú-ni LÚ.A.KIN.MEŠ ša mātₜurarṭi 
i-si-šū-nu i-tal-ku-ni i-na bit 
m[a]-f[a]-[a]-a amēlrab alānīmeš-šu 
i-si-tal-li-m[u] ina 6qa-la-a-te 
NINDA.MEŠ A.MEŠ ū-l-ta-nu-ni šú-nu a-di kit[r[i]
10' is-ha-ra-ni a-na māturarṭi e-lu-u-ni 
m(p)a-ar-ni-al-de-e amēlurad-ka 
i-da-bu-bu i-su-rī a-na-kū 
lē kit-tū ina pān šarru bēl-[l]a qa-li-bi 
šarru bēl[l]a a-na mātϕur-[r[i]-ia-a-e liš-pur
15' m[a]-[a]-na-al-de-e LÚ.x x E[N]? .MEŠ-šu 
l[u]-[ba]-la šarru bēl li-iš-al-šu 
... LUGAL EN.MEŠ ū-da-<ba>-bu-ni 
... x x issu LÚ.GAL.MEŠ-šu 
20' ša lml[a]-šur-bēl-uṣur i-sa-kan 

Translation

Obv.

(1-3) To the king my lord your servant PN. May it be very very well with the king my lord.

(4-5) When formerly the king my lord went up to Urartu, (5-6) Ashur (and) Shamash put the city of Turushpa into the hands of the king my lord. (7) Let the king my lord take the way to Urartu, (8) let them conquer Turushpa, (9-10) may the king my lord let his name be remembered for ever. (10-11) Perhaps the king my lord will again deliver the wastelands of ...

(12-13) (As to) the royal sealed document which the king my lord sent to me, I went back (14-15) (and) enquired of Parni-alde. He said: ‘The king my lord (15-19) [fragmentary]

Rev.

(1') Parni-alde the messengers (2') of Yada-ili, ... (3'-5a') these are the former messengers, the messengers who went up to Urartu. (5b'-9a') The messengers of

137
Urartu came back with them. In the house of Yataya the Chief of his Cities they made peace by the parched grain, food and water that they delivered. (9a'-10') They, together with (their) allies, withdrew (and) went up to Urartu. (11') Parni-alde (and) your servant are negotiating. (12'-13') Perhaps I have spoken untruth before the king my lord? (14') Let the king my lord send a message to the Shuprians (to find out). (15'-16') Let him bring ...-na-alde the ...-official. Let him enquire of him.

(17') (While) the king (and) the lords negotiate, (18'-20') he has set up [an agreement] with his lords [and an agreement] with the servants of Ashur-bel-usur. (21') They are talking about killing me. (22') May the king my lord know.

Notes
Tablet complete except for top left corner and fragments near bottom of right side and at bottom of obv. Over-baking has left the tablet brick-like with some warping of surface. It has cracks and abrasion, particularly near bottom of obv. NA script.

Obv.
10) liz-z[i-k]ir. Taken as 3 m. sg. Pret. N, for lizzakir.
14, rev. 1', rev. 11', rev. 15') The detailed interpretation of the tablet depends upon whether every name ending -alde is the mpa-ar-ni-al-de-e of obv. 14 and rev. 11'. The restoration of this name in rev. 1' is probable although not wholly assured. m.d[x]-n[a]-al-de-e of rev. 15' could but need not represent an alternative writing. For the etymology of the non-Assyrian name mpa-ar-ni-al-de-e – presumably the name of the leader of an Urartian delegation or army – see Iraq 20 (1958), 197.

It appears that although peace negotiations had taken place between Assyria and Urartu, the Assyrian official in charge recommended a renewed attack. The Urartians had apparently entered into a plot to murder the Assyrian official.

15) x-x-x .... The first unidentified sign is damaged but appears to have three horizontals, suggesting ša; otherwise it could be iš (the beginning of iš-pu-ra-ni?). A reading iq seems excluded.
16) EN?-x. Nothing remains to positively identify the lost sign, but NUN would just fit the space available. The stroke entered in the copy could be mere damage.

Rev.
1', 4') LÛ.A.KIN.x, LÛ.A.KIN.[ME]Š?. One expects LÛ.A.KIN.MEŠ as in 3' and 5', but the damaged final traces may represent u-ni rather than MEŠ. If so, this may be an alternative writing for the plural (LÛ.A.KINu-ni representing mār šiprāni).
7') mia-[a]-[a]-a amēlab ālānimēš-šú. Cf. ABL 252, obv. 7-9, with a reference presumably to the same person, mia-ta-ša amēlab ālānimēš-šú šā qa-ni ta-hu-me ša māturarţa-a-a.
15') LÛ.x x E[N]?.MEŠ-šú. This presumably conceals the title of the representative of the Shuprians. The traces cannot be read as LÛ.GAL.URU.MEŠ-šú. What is transcribed as x x might represent a single long sign, but if so it is not SAG in any standard form, nor, unless some apparent wedges are damage marks, SAR.
17') ū-da-<ba>-bu-ni. In the absence of a suitable verb from which to derive the form as written, there seems to be a scribal error.
20'-22') When last collated, the tablet had lost a further fragment, bearing the first signs on lines 20' and 22' and the first sign and a half of line 21'.
21') du-a-ki-[i[a] (I) da-bu-bu. There are clear traces of two signs between ki and da. ia seems beyond question; the only possible alternative to (I) is (I)ul, giving the meaning 'they are negotiating'.

ND 2677 (= XLIV = IM 64113; Plate 24) Re-edited in TCAE, pp. 389-90.

Transliteration
Obv. a-na šarrī bēlī-ia
  urad-ka <m>PAB.DU
  lu šulmuₙₙ ina šarrī bēlī-ia
  ina muhhi mātkar-la-a-a
5 šā šārru iš-pu-ra-ni-ni
  ūm XXII ina ākāl-zi
  e-tar-ba
  ūm XXIII ina ākāl-hi
  e-ra-ba
10 ma-da-tū-šu
  ina qātē-šu
Rev. i-su-ri
  bēlī i-qa-bi
  ma a-ta-a
15 amēlqur-bu-te
  la-a i-hi-ru-pu
  la-a e-ti-qa
  nārā ú-še-ba-ra
  har-ra-ma-ma
20 e-te-qa

Translation
(1-3) To the king my lord your servant Ahu-illaka (or Babba). May it be well with the king my lord.
(4-5) Concerning the ruler of Karalla about whom the king sent me a message, (6-11) on the twenty-second he entered Kalzi, on the twenty-third he will enter Calah, (with) his tribute in his hands. (12-13) Perhaps my lord will say: (14-17) 'Why did the Qurbutu not come on ahead?' (18-20) (It is because) he will (first) get him across the river, then he will come on.

Notes
Complete tablet. Surface almost perfect. Ends so square that the tablet will stand on them. Last 10 mm of rev. uninscribed. NA script.
2) <m>PAB.DU. Adopted from TCAE, ad loc., which tentatively takes it as representing Ahu-illaka. My copy (which I have been unable to collate since editio princeps) has PAB.BA = Babba.
3) šulmuₙₙ. Or Šul-mu, at all occurrences.
3) ina. Anomalous for ana.
4) mātkar-la-a-a. Abbreviated or erroneous form for mātkar-al-la-a-a. Karalla was a small land east of Kalzi and south of Lake Urmia.
10) ma-da-tū-šu. An apparent damaged trace after -šu was made accidentally and does not represent a lost nu.
16) i-hi-ru-pu. In hendiadys with the following verb, which shows it is not a pl. form. The final -u must therefore represent a lengthening in a question.

ND 2696 (= XV; BSAI; Plate 10)

Transliteration
Obv. [ana šar]ru bēli-[i[a]
       [urad-k]a m.ēnurta-il-a-[l(a)]
       amēbar-ta-nu
       1-sa-pa-ra

      ma-a šal-lu-tū
      ša ina pa-ni-ku-nu
      na-am-me-šā
      li-kal-ka

Rev. m[u]-ta-mu-ū
      10 a-di amēl,ēnez-es,šū
      i-si-niš
      il-la-ka-a

Translation
(1-2) To the king my lord your servant Enurta-ilaya. (3-4) The Tartan has sent a message, (5-8) saying, 'Set under way the booty which is at your disposal. Let it come.' (9-12) Shall Tutamu come together with his Resh-officials?

Notes
Small tablet lacking top left corner, part of left side, and small fragment from top right corner. The final 27 mm of rev. is uninscribed. The surface is blackish, although the inside of the tablet is of terracotta colour. There is no distinction between the clay of the core and the surface layer. Exceptionally bold and clear NA script. Neither obv. nor rev. is significantly convex.
2) m.ēnurta-il-a-[l(a)]. A person of this name, governor of Našibina, was eponym official in 736 BC.
9) m[u]-ta-mu-ū. Tutamu of Unki is mentioned in the annals of Tiglath-Pileser III (see H. Tadmor, Inscr. TP III, pp. 56-57, Ann.25, 5'-8') as having been conquered in 738 BC after refusing to pay tribute. See also K. Kessler, Untersuchungen, 207.
12) il-la-ka-a. For the ending as indicating the interrogative, see Fales, CLNA, p. 66.
ND 2701 (= LXXVII; BSAI; Plate 27)

Transliteration
Obv.
1. a-na šarri be-li-ia
    urad-ka ra₃₃ergal₃ₓ-x
    lu [š][ulmu₃₄] a-na šarri be-l-[i-ia]
    [šu]lmumu a-l₃₄na uruHAL₃U₃meš
5. gab-bu ša amelrab ka-ri
    ša šarru be-li iš-[p]uru-ni-ni
    sis₃meš a-ta-har
    a-ti-din šulmu₃₄
    a-na amelurd₃meš₃ni ša [ša]rrri
10. gab-bu ú-di-ni
    [r]i-il₃-[s][še₃meš₃]
    [i-na] lib-bi-[š]₃u-nu?  
    ... [a₁₃ma₃]-[ha-ru-ni]?

Rev.
1'. ali-š’u₃-nu ..... .....  
    ša ali₃meš₃ni dan₃[u-₃t]  
    ina næ₃-ti ša x [x]?  
    mà-ar-gi-ir-te illi₃k-u₃ni
5'. III ME LXX di-ik-[t]a-š₃₃u₃-nu  
    šarru be-l₃-li iš-[a₃]

Translation
Obv.
(1-3) To the king my lord your servant Nergal-... May it be well with the king my lord.
(4-6) It is well with all the fortress towns of the Quay Master about which the king
my lord sent me a message. (7-8) I have bought and sold horses. (8-10) It is well with
all the servants of the king. (10-12) Until I receive the rest of the horses amongst them
(sc. those bought)

Rev.
(1') their city ..... ..... (2') of strong cities (3') in (the district of) the river of ...
(4'-5') (When) Uargirte came, their casualties were 370. (6') May the king my lord
make enquiries.

Notes
Broken into several fragments and repaired. Lacks fragment from top right corner of
obv., bottom of tablet and lower part of right side. NA script, clear except in vicinity of
breaks. Final 24 mm of rev. uninscribed.

Obv.
6) iš-[p]uru-ni-ni. For the value of BUR see Deller, Or. 31 (1962), 19, 199. Usages
such as BUR for puru, KUN for kunu, or spellings such as ip-qi-di for ipqid imply that
BUR, KUN, DI were regarded as representing BURV, KUNV, DV (= Dₑ or D₋),
pointing to the influence of concepts derived from the use of the Aramaic alphabet.
12, 13) Since the tablet was first copied, a small fragment, the outline of which is indicated in the copy by a broken line, has disappeared, eliminating evidence for possible šú and MAH.

Rev.

4') múa-ar-gi-ir-te. Identifiable with múa-a-ki-ir-tu ša dîna-ap-pi, who is mentioned in Sargon, 8th. Camp., 44 as bringing tribute. The present letter, in which this chieftain had been hostile, must therefore ante-date 714 BC.

**ND 2709 (BSAI; Plate 28)**

**Transliteration**

**Obv.**

1 a-na šarri be-li-ia
    urad-ka múa-nabû-bêl-ukin
    lu šulmu ša a-na šarri
    be-li-ia a-dan-niš a-dan-niš

5 ša šarru be-li iš-pur-an-ni
    ma-a bit mar-di-â-ti
    ša sisêmeš-ka
    di-îp al-ka
    [ma]-r-d[i-te sisêmeš

10 ... ... ... [š]a? har-bu
    ... ... ... x

**Rev.**

1' x x x x? ZA?? KI?? x ...
    ba-x-te-šú-nu bi?-x ...
    x DUR-tu-n[i]??a?
    [t)a-a[d]-di-nu-ne-ni

5' ina pa-na-tú-u-a šak-nu!-ú
    x x x x x x x x
    DÎŠ x ma[r]-d[i-te]?? x x x
    na-x x x x x
    XL?/L? sisêmeš XC

10' ša mm[u]-še-si ina pân
    [m][aš-š]ur-dan-an-ni x-ME?

**Top End**

12' la-mur
    mārī-šū i-si-niš
    il-la-ka

**Side**

[There are traces of 8 or 9 signs, which have been almost completely erased, only the final two being partly legible, and perhaps to be read ti?-ti?. The fact that the erasure extends along the whole line and is restricted to that suggests that it may have been deliberate.]
Translation
Obv.
(1-4) To the king my lord your servant Nabu-bel-ukin. May it be very well with the king my lord.

(5) (On the matter on) which the king sent me a message, (6-8) ‘Look sharp and go on (from) the posting stage of your horses’, (9) the horse stage is (10-11) ... ... ...

Rev. and Top End
(4'-5') you delivered, they are set before me (6'-8') ... ... ... a posting stage ... ... ... (9'-12') let me see forty/fifty horses (and) ninety of Mushesi in the presence of Ashur-dananni ... (13'-14') His son will go at the same time.

Notes
Tablet lacks bottom, much of surface of lower third of obv., and a piece 8 x 8 mm gouged out of left side near middle of rev. Almost all wedges have lost their sharpness, often making assured identification difficult; part of rev. is so abraded as to be completely illegible. Obv. is almost flat, rev. slightly curved. NA script.

Obv.
6) bit mar-di-a-ti. See CAD, M/1, 278b.
8) di-lip. See CAD, D, 48a, 1b.
10) har-bu. The broken context leaves it uncertain whether ‘waste land’ or ‘early’ is appropriate here.

Rev.
1') ZA?? KI?? The apparent ZA could be part of GIR or UN, and the following sign could be DI.
2') ba-x-te-sū-nu. The damaged sign might be RU, but ba-ru-te-sū-nu does not seem probable in a context apparently concerned with movement of horses.
3') x DUR-tu-n[i]?-ra?-. Examination by microscope excludes KA as a possible reading of the first sign, which seems most likely to be URU, although the subsequent signs do not make the name of a known town.
5') šak-nu!-ū. The second sign contains, except for what seem to be phantom wedges resulting from abrasion, only a horizontal and an oblique, not in the correct relative position for a normal nu. However, as the horizontal is written at the extreme end of the line, and the oblique at a right-angle to it over the edge, there may have been displacement.
6') Severe abrasion makes definite identification impossible, except for the final a. For the second sign, NIN seems marginally the most likely restoration.
8') -si-ku-u is less assured for the three signs after na- than my copy might suggest.
11') iššu-[ur-dan-an-ni. At the period of these letters, this is likely to denote the governor of Mazumua, who was eponym official in 733 BC; see RLA II, 424-5, 431.
11') x-ME? For the former sign the traces suggest GUR, ZU or URU.

ND 2720 (XXIX; IM 64134; Plate 28)

Transliteration
Obv. [a-n]a šarri bēlī-i[a

[urad]-ka mētūr-šaššur

143
Translation

(1-2) To the king my lord your servant Dur-Ashur. (3-5) It is very well with the fortresses of the king my lord. (6-70 Let the heart of the king my lord be glad.
(8-10) Perhaps the king my lord will say: (11-14) ‘Why have you (as) Tartan not sent (a report) by the hands of a messenger?’ (15-16) The cold is very severe. (16-17) I did send scouts (but) (17-18) they turned back, saying: ‘Where shall we go?’ (19-20) When the cold outside has eased (21-22) (and) the cold weather has gone, (23) they will bring a report about the enemy.

Notes
Complete except for loss of fragment from top left corner. Some damage in middle of obv. and near bottom of rev. NA script.
Since the writer managed to get this letter through, although his scouts were held up, it seems that high ranking administrators had available to them specialist delivery personnel with the physique and skill to reach the king even when weather conditions were very adverse. The mention of the scouts also makes clear that in at least some cases representatives – well-informed if less agile – were sent to the capital to supplement a letter, by a full oral report about enemy activities.

2) mēn-e-aš-šur. Eponym for 728 BC; see RLA, II, 424-5 and 431.
18) ma a-a-ka ni-[l]-jak. For a-a-ka as NA form of ajiki' am ‘where?’, see CAD, A/1, 232a-233b. An alternative rendering, ma-a a-ka-ni [l]-jak, ‘saying, how could he go’, is perhaps possible, although a sg. verb in 18 would be awkward in view of the pl. verbs in 17 and 23 and the pl. amēl-da-a-a-li in 16.
20) ki-ma-ma. Taken as kimā ‘outside’ (CAD, K, 363a), plus enclitic -ma.
ND 2755 (BSAI; Plate 29)

Transliteration

Obv.
[Not copied. The few legible signs are shown in the following:]

2' ........ [ʃ][a]? x
......... x x [L]UGAL
......... x .... x ...

5' ........ x ...
......... x u x x-šu-u-ni
......... x x lu' x hu
......... x-šú-nu x x x
......... .... x

10' ........ x ....
Base
1 .... x ....
......... x x .... x ša x
......... [u]-ni [U]N?.MEŠ

Rev.
1 ........ x [u]-tú [u]-ta-šu
......... x [m]a-hi-ša-a-ni
......... iš-pur-[a]-ni
......... [p]a-an amēlēšši

5 .... x ma-hi-ši-šú ú-x(-)x?
......... x GIŠ DU NIR? ma-hi-š[a]-a-n[i]
......... x KAN [I]III? issu liš-b[i]-šú-nu
......... XL [a]x : i-mu-x-te?/ла?
......... du : a-kī-lī : a-ha-a-a-iš

10 .... x : ūm XX KAM [ʃ][a] arōh-nisanni
......... x-š[u]-šur issu ā[l][ʃ]-me-ra i-tū-[r][a]
......... a-[ʃ][a]k ār-hiš LI[U],UŠ.MEŠ
......... x-x-[ʃ]ī?-ha : dul-la-š[u-n]a?
ZA .... [U]GU? [L]UGAL lu-chrift...

15 .... x [G]IŠ.MÁ [ʃ][a] ā[l]-me-ra ta-
......... [A]Š? ā[l]-me-ra ta-
......... x [L][U] ... x [a]?/e? x ....

Partial Translation

Rev.

(1) .... he went forth (2) .... scouts (3) .... he sent a message (4) .... in front of
the Resh-official (5) .... his scout (6) .... scouts (7) .... from their midst
(8) .... .... (9) .... as soon as together (10) .... on the twentieth day of Nisan
(11) [PN] has returned from the town Simera, (12) .... go quickly, the dead people
(13) .... their work (14) .... upon the king may be .... (15) .... ship of the town
Simera (16) .... in the town Simera

145
Notes
Rejoined from at least eight fragments. Obv. has not been copied, since the face of its upper part is completely lost, and little remains of the surface of the remainder. More than half of most lines remain on base and rev. Except near cracks, signs are mostly sharp and clear. NA script.
Rev. 2, 5, 6) [m]a-hi-ṣa-a-ni, ma-hi-ṣi-šū, ma-hi-ṣ[a]-a-n[i]. For possible meanings see CAD, M/1, 101b-103a, māḥišānu, māḥišu 3.
6) NIR? The sign seems to have three small verticals over two (as drawn in the copy), but examination under the microscope suggests that four verticals over four were intended. The only other possibility seems to be a badly made UN.

ND 2772 (IM 64163; Plate 29)

Transliteration
Obv.
1 a-na ša[rrī] bē[lli]-i[a]
u[rad-k]a x x ...
x ... x ...
[u šulmu an a šarri bē]li-i[a]

5 Š[a] x x x mā[m]a-[z]a-m[i]-a
š[a] š[a]ru bēli i[š-pu]r-1[a]-n[i]
[m]a-1[a] x ... x x x
[t]e-mu i[na l]ib-bi
x x x ... x-šū-nu

[6 further lines on obv., 2 lines on base, and first 3 lines of rev. bear no certainly identifiable sign.]

Rev.
4 ........ x-[f]u-nu
5 ........ x x x
...... [t]e-hu-mu
x ... x [t]a?-x RI BE
x x x [U]RU? an?-n[i]-u
[u]a? māi[m]a-za-mu-a-1[a]

10 ú-še-[u]-u-n[i]
x x x ma RI B[E]?
x x x ... IG
x k[a]-a x x x

[3 further lines on rev. and 3 on end bear at most 3 identifiable signs.]

Side*
[i]na] x x x x l[i] ...

[Insufficient is legible to permit a translation. The only certain indication of subject-matter is the mention certainly once, possibly twice, of māi[m]a-za-mu-a-a.]
Notes
Virtually complete tablet with such severe abrasion and surface damage that much of the text is illegible. NA script.

**ND 2798 (= LV; BSAI; Plate 29)**

**Transliteration**

**Obv.**

1  
\[a-na \, \textit{\text{šarri}} \, [\textit{bēlīya}]\]
\[\text{urad-} \, \text{ka} \, \text{m.1d} \, \ldots \ldots \]
\[lu \, \textit{\text{šulmu}} \, \textit{m} \, \text{a-na} \, \text{šar} \, [\textit{ri} \, \textit{bēlīya}]\]
\[a-dan-niṣ \, a-dan-niṣ\]

5  
\[\textit{šulmu} \, \textit{m} \, \textit{a-na} \, \textit{mātbi-ra} \, \text{rat} \, \text{gab} \, \text{bu} \]
\[a-na \, \text{māt} \, \text{ša} \, \text{amēlbarakki} \, \textit{šulmu} \, \text{m} \]
\[\text{ina} \, \text{māt} \, \text{amēl} \, \text{rāb} \, \text{sā} \, \text{qī} \, \textit{šulmu} \, \text{m} \]
\[\text{du} \, \text{la-ni} \, \text{ša} \, \text{āl} \, \text{šaru} \, \text{ru-} \, [\textit{q-b} \, \text{i} \]
\[\text{s}[\text{s}] \, \text{a} \, \text{šarru} \, \text{tq-ba} \, \text{nī-i} \, [\text{p-p}] \, \text{a-āš} \]
\[tē \, \text{e} \, \text{mu} \, \text{ša} \, \text{māt} \, \text{ū-ra} \, \text{ar} \, \text{ṭī} \]
\[\text{qa} \, \text{t-ū-ma} \, \text{šu-u} \]
\[\text{UDU.MES} \, \text{ša} \, \text{āl-x} \, \text{x-x} \]
\[\text{am} \, [\text{ēl}] \, [\text{e}] \, ? \, [\text{r}] \, u \, ? \, \text{na-a-x} \, [\text{x}] \, ? \]
\[\ldots \ldots \text{x} \, [\text{e}] \, ? \, \text{a-na-a-x} \, [\text{x}] \, ? \]

10  
\[\ldots \ldots \text{i-ta-x} \, [\text{x}] \, ? \]
\[\ldots \ldots \text{x} \, x \, x \, \ldots \]

**Rev.**

1'  
\[\ldots \ldots \text{x} \, \text{x} \, \text{x} \, \text{x} \, \ldots \]
\[\ldots \ldots \text{i-du-ub-} \, [\text{bu-ub}] \]
\[? \, \text{ū} \, \text{x} \, \ldots \ldots \text{lu} \, : \, \text{āš-ri} \]
\[a \, \text{ka} \, [\text{n-n}] \, [\text{i} \, \text{s}] \, [\text{s} \, \text{u}] \, ? \, \text{LÚ} \, x \]

5'  
\[\text{ū-si-bi-la} \, \text{x} \, \text{x} \]
\[\text{šulmu} \, \text{m} \, \text{a-dan-niṣ} \, \text{du} \, \text{l} \, \text{n} \, [\text{i}] \]
\[\text{ni-pa-āš} \, \text{lib} \, \text{bu} \, \text{s}[\text{a}] \, \text{šarri} \]
\[bēlī-ia \, a-dan-niṣ \]
\[lu-ū \, \text{ṭāb} \]

**Translation**

**Obv.**

(1-4) To the king my lord your servant [PN]. May it be very very well with the king my lord.

(5-7) It is well with all the border fortresses; it is well with the land of the Steward; it is well with the land of the Rab Shakeh. (8-9) We do our duty in respect to the city Sharru-iqbi, which the king ordered.

(10-11) Report about Urartu: it is destroyed. (12) The sheep of the city ... (13) the people of Etuna have ... (14-16) [fragmentary]
Rev.
(1'-3') [fragmentary] (4'-5') Now since the ...-official has had ... brought, (6') it is very well. (6b'-9) We do our duty. Let the heart of the king my lord be very glad.

Notes
Top right corner and all base missing. Fragment at lower right of tablet has been broken off and rejoined. 28 mm of rev. uninscribed. NA script, mainly clear.

Obv.
5) miitbi-rat. The determinative URU is common with forms of birtu, KUR unusual. For the suggestion that this implies '(mountain) fortresses', '(border) forts', see Iraq 21 (1959), 166 and CAD, B, 262b, apud occurrence in AKA 181: 28.
8) dšarru-ī[i(q-b)i]. In the Mannaean border area; for other refs. see NAT 332.
8, 9) ša dšarru-ī[i(q-b)i] šarru iq-ba. Since grammatically the final verb should be Subj. (in NA iq-ba-ni), the phrase šarru iq-ba may have been a pun on the place-name.
12) UDU.MEŠ. UDU at this period could represent immeru or šu‘u; see CAD, Š/3, 417a.
13) am[el]e?-[-r]u?-na-a-a. If a correct reading, perhaps related to ETINI of NAT 126f.

ND 2799 (= XXVIII; IM 64176; Plate 24)

Transliteration
Obv. a-na šarrī bēlt-ia
    urad-ka mḏ[r]-aš-šur
    lu šulmu₇₄ a-na šarri
    bēlt-ia a-dan-niš
6  a-dan-niš
    ša šarru be-lī
    iš-pur-a-ni ma-a
    amēlrab bit-ka
    lil-li-ka a-nu-ri-ig
10  a[mēlša]₄₇ maš-ta
    a[m]ar i-ba-šu-ni
    ú-šā-ñ-bīt
    it-ti-qu-ni
    i-la-ku-u-ni

Translation
(1-5) To the king my lord your servant Dur-Ashur. May it be very very well with the king my lord.
(6-9) As to the message the king my lord sent me, saying 'Let your major domo come', (9-14) now then I have mustered my troops, as many as there are; they are setting out and coming.
Notes
Complete except for small piece gouged out of beginning of line 10, apparently with an excavating tool. Rev. uninscribed. NA script.

2) מיתו[[:r]]. Eponym for 728 BC, governor of the province of Tushkhan; see RLA, II, 431.
Chapter Four
Letters relating to the West and Northwest

(a) Palestine and Transjordan

Letters edited:
ND 2064, ND 2417, ND 2430, ND 2662, ND 2686, ND 2715, ND 2716, ND 2773, ND 2765, ND 2766, ND 2767.

ND 2064 (BSAI; Plate 30)

Transliteration

Obv.  ana šar[ri bēliya]
 urzęd-ka m.d[D]-[N]-x-[x]?
 mbi-na-a-[x]?
 msi-li-x-x

5 naphar II amēlṣīrānīmeš š[a]
 āla-qa-ru-na-a-a
 ša kaspa na-su-n[i]-n[i]
 VII?/IX? bilat X[XX]IV m[a]-n[a]
 ih-ti-a-[a](-[-][a]) x x

10 š[a] [U]RU? x x x [x]?
 k[i] x x x [x]? [x]?
 a-na x ... ... ...
 DIŠ x u ... ...

Base x x ... ...

15 ša D[IŠ] ... ... ...

Rev.  ālha-[za-ti] ...
 a-x d[i]? ... ...
 XII x x x ... ...
 at-tal-[ak] ...

Translation

(1-2) To the king my lord your servant PN.
(3-9) Ben-aya-... and Sili-..., a total of two chieftains of the Ekronites, who brought silver, have weighed out nine talents and thirty-four minas. (10) As to the town ...
(11-15) [fragmentary] (16) Gaza ... (17-18) [fragmentary] (19) I have come back ...

Notes

Two fragments rejoined to form tablet lacking top right corner and nearly one-third of right side of lower half. Final 53 mm of rev. is uninscribed. NA script.

3, 4) mbi-ni-a-a-[x](-[x])? msi-li-x-x. West Semitic names of emissaries from Ekron.
-a-a-[x](-[x])? might represent an onomastic element beginning in West Semitic with y-;
see also APN, 64, Bin-ia... For some west Semitic names to which msi-li-x-x might be related, see BDB, 699a.

6) ḥa-qa-ru-na-a-a. Consonantally the spelling corresponds with the Masoretic form and not with the usual Amqaruna.

9) ih-ti-a-[a][(-)a]. This is one of several cases in the Nimrud Letters of a verbal predicate ending in -a with a grammatical subject comprising two persons, suggesting that the dual form of verbs was still a living form in this dialect. The final (-)a here might indicate the long vowel of the dual ending. See also below, p. 299, on ND 2711, 13-14.

ND 2417 (BSAI, Plate 30)

Transliteration

Obv. 1' ....... x [......]

[x]? x ... x AŠ IGI A x [......]
īl-na mūša-mir-na [......]
ina KUR Ú : GAR BU x [......]

5' amēlmar šip-ri š[a] L[Ù] [......]
issu amēlšanu i-[r][a]-x [......]
bēl pi-qi-ti š[a] [......]
i-tal-ku GIŠ x [......]
ina āli pa-pa-ha [......]

10' ku-[i][a]-a[l]? [......]
xx ... [......]

Base šūm ... [......]
[i]-a?-ma?-l[a]? [......]

14' x x x [......]

Rev. ....... x [......]

16' .... x [......]

ma x x [......]
ša x x x [......]
URU x x ... [......]

20' i[l]?-m[e]? x [......]
a-na-ku x [......]

Left Side

...... a-te gab-bu-š[u]

Partial Translation

(3') to the land Samima ... ... (4') in the land ... ... (5') the messenger ... ... (6') with the second-in-command ... ... (7') the official who/of ... ... (8') came back ... ... ... (9') in the city a shrine ... ... (10') behind ... ... ...

Notes

Slightly more than left half of tablet, with top missing. Surface lost near right ends of lines on most of obv. Considerable abrasion on rev. NA script.
Obv. and rev. are so identified by the text continuing over the extant end from one face to another. Nothing in the very slight remains of the beginning of what is taken to be rev. contains any element of an introductory formula. Obv. is almost flat top to bottom, rev. slightly curved.

This letter, of which the text is only fragmentarily preserved, records that an official had been to Samirna (= Samaria) and there seen a shrine, presumably of Yahweh and striking enough to warrant mention.

3') mātsa-mir-na. = Samaria. For other occurrences see SAA, 1, p. 238.

6') i-ra-x. The slight traces of the third sign would accord with bu, but i-ra-bu would be anomalous for ir(r)uba 'they enter'.

3'-9') mātsa-mir-na ... pa-pa-ha. Presumably this letter gave further details of the shrine of Samaria at the time the Assyrians conquered the region, but regrettably nothing else of significance remains and no join has been identified.

11') x. The uncertain traces of the first sign suggest il but might be TA* = issu.

19') URU x x .... The very slight traces would not oppose a restoration ǎlsa-mir-[na].

ND 2430 (= XXI; IM 64037; Plate 30)

Transliteration
Obv.
1' ... x x ... ...
   [x] x e tap? x ... ...
   mna-te-en-ni ... ...
   a-na ǎlda-na-n[i] ... ...
5' kas-pu ša šarrī ni-x ... ...
   ma-a ki-i a-bu-tū x ... ...
   ahi-šū iš-pu-ra x x ... ...
   ša šarrī it-tal-ka ma-a ... ...
   di-na šu-ǔ issu ǎlda-na-ni ... ...
10' [m]a-a ma-da-at-tu di-na x ... ...
   [ameš]gi-du-na-a-a am-mar x ... ...
   [i][l]-li-ku-ni-ni issu x ... ...
   [x] ina muh-hi-ia lil-li-ku? ... ...
   [x-s]-i-iq a-na šarrī la ... ...
15' [ameš]qi-pu ma-a ki-i ... ...
   [dš]-mu-u-ni ma-a a-na x ... ...
   ma-a issu ma-da-at-[u] ... ...
   x ma x ... ...

Rev.
1' ... i x ... i ... ...
   ma-a ŠE.NUMUN-šù-nu a-[i-iš] ... ...
   GIS.KIRI₂.MEŠ-šù-nu [u]?/[k][u]? ... ...
   mgi-ri-ba'--[i] ... ...
5' III amēš šarrāni[š] ša K[UR]? ... ...
   ma-da-[a]t-ti ... ...

152
Letters relating to the West and Northwest

Translation

Obv.

(3') Matenni ... (4') to the city Danani... (5') the silver of the king we ... (6') thus, according to the order [of the king] (7') he sent his brother ... [A messenger of] (8') the king came (and) said: '... (9') deliver!' That person [came] from the city Danani. (10') He said: 'Deliver tribute! ... (11') The Sidonians as many as ... (12') came to me from ... (13') let them come against me ... (14') ... to the king not ... (15') the Warden says: 'When ... ...' (16') I heard, saying, 'To ... ...' (17') thus, 'From the tribute ... ...'

Rev.

(2') He said: 'Cultivate their cornland! ... (3') their orchards ... ...' (4') Giru-ba'al ... (5') three chieftains of the land ... (6') tribute ... ...

Notes

Fragment from left half or more of a quite large tablet. Shows surface layer of clay over a core. NA script.

Although line-spacing, clay type, core form, and curvatures of obv. and rev. might suggest that ND 2430 belonged to the same tablet as ND 2456 and ND 2723, this is precluded by differences of subject matter, and by a line of text down the side of ND 2456 which is not represented on the side of ND 2430.

To judge by the curvature of obv. the extant part of the longest remaining line (obv. 9') represents not more than two-thirds of the complete line, perhaps less.

The correct placing of quotation marks is open to doubt, since the broken state of the text makes it difficult to decide where oratio directa ends.

Obv.

3') mma-te-en-ni. See APN 138, Mitenna, king of Tyre.

14') [x-s]i-iq. The lost sign, which must have been a short one, may have been i or is but was probably not ú.

Rev.

4') mgi-ri-ba'-li. Cf. personal name Giri-ba'al (ADD 775, 7) and place name Gur-ba'al (2 Chron.26: 7).

ND 2662 (IM 64100; Plate 19)

Transliteration

Obv. [ana šarri b]ēli-ia urad-ka mqr-di-aš-šur- [lāmur]

...-da-a ina muh-hi-ia i-sa-par
... xāqa-da-[r]u-a āli-i-du
[x]? x-ḍi-du šarri ina libbi a-de-e a-s[a-k]an
5 x(-)UD-ma a-na [ša]rri at-ta-ha-ra
... x x x x x x...

153
Translation
(1) To the king my lord your servant Qurdi-ashur-[lamur]. (2) ... he sent a message for/about me. (3) ... the city of Qedar (and) the city of Lidu (4) ... of the king I have set within the vassal-treaty (5) ... I have duly delivered to the king.

Notes
Top of large tablet, lacking left side. Bears one line of address on turn of top end, and four almost complete lines and two vestigial lines on obv. The extant 18 mm of end of rev. is uninscribed. NA script.
This text mentions Qedar.
1) mqur-di-aš-[šur]-[lāmūr]. The name here, which occurs in the same form in ND 2716, 2 and ND 2773, 2, is assumed to be a shortened form of the name in ND 2686, 2 and ND 2715, 2. All these letters are concerned with Palestine or Transjordan.
3) dīqa-da-r[u]-a. See NAT, 285, apud Qedar.
3) dī[i]-i-du. Cf. ND 2366, 10' (= Iraq 21 (1959), 171, LX, 10'), māṭti-[d]-[r]-[u]-a.

ND 2686 (= XIII; IM 64118; Plate 30)

Transliteration
Obv. [ana šar]ri bēl-li [a] mqr-di-aš-[šur]-lāmūr (IGI)
ka-ni-ku an-ni-tū māṭar-mī-tū
m.[$nb]uš-šē-zib [is]su šu-bi dūš-[ur]-ri
5 [ma-[a] ma-a ina ekallī
[a][l]šur [šu][l][mu] ina ekallī
[lib]bi dūš-šē
menergal-iddin : e-qu
ša būt ilān[i]-meš-šū
10 ša rēš dū-du-u-ni
[i]-ti-[k]īs : ma-a a-n[a] dūš-[ur]-ri
la-an-tū-uh a-s[a]-par
ū-s[a]-ak-li-ū-[sū
14 e-qu : ša i-ki-[s[u]-u-ni
Base ina šēpē šadē[e
16 ha-ni-qī
Rev. ma[na][bš]-šē-zib i-b[a]?....
... x-[r]u?-mu ...
...... MEŠ-shū i-tū-[']a?-a?-a?
20 AN ....... x an-nu-tū
x .... u-si-ši
hu-[l][u-[s[a]-na dū-[m]-mī-[l]-ha
il-la-ka-a-ni : lu-nam-mi-sā
lil-li-ka ŠE.NUMUN.MEŠ-shū-nu
25 a-ri-iš ina muhhi
in-gal-li-šū-nu
lil-li-ku-ū-ni

154
Translation

(1-2) To the king my lord your servant Qurdi-Ashur-lamur.

(3-5) I sent this Aramaic document by Nabu-shezib from inside Tyre. (5-6) It is well in the palace of Tyre. (6-11) In the palace inside Ushshe, Nergal-iddin has cut down the cult-object of the house of its gods which are at the head of Sidon. (11-12) He said: 'I shall move it to Tyre.' I have sent a message (and) (13) made him stop it. (14-16) The cult-object which he cut down is secured at the foot of the mountains. (17) Nabu-shezib ... (18-20a) [uncertain] ... (20b-21) I made this one ... go out. (22-24) I shall set under way the booty which is going to Immiha; it may go. (24-25) Their com is sown. (25-27) Let them come for their ...

Notes

Slight damage at top left corner of obv., at bottom right corner, and fairly extensive damage near beginning of rev. left to middle. The surface is a little chipped passim but tablet on the whole is in good condition, very solid, with clear script. 25 mm of rev. is uninscribed. NA script.

3) ka-ni-ku an-ni-tu māt-ar-mi-tu. Clearly the present letter was introductory to a fuller account of events in Aramaic, brought by Nabu-shezib.

7) душ-š-e. Either a part of Tyre or an area adjoining it; see Forrer, Provinz., 66, and Streck, Assurbanipal, II, 80, col.IX, 115.

8, 14) e-qu. An unidentified cult-object; see CAD, E, 253b and AHw, 232a-b.

15) šadēe. The copy shows further traces, which may be mere damage or the remains of MEŠ.

16) ha-ni-qi. The proposed translation is based on the context, which seems to require mention of some restriction on further movement of the equ. CAD, Ḫ, 77a gives hanāgu (2) 'to constrict, compress'; similarly AHw, 320a.

22) ḫim-mi-li-ha. There are certainly traces, almost certainly representing i, between the end of mi and subsequent verticals.


26) in-gal-li-ša-nu. The reading is beyond doubt, and the proposal in Iraq 17 (1955), 131 to read LŪ instead of IN is invalid. ingallu is not listed in CAD, and the meaning offered in AHw, 382a, 'eine Holztafel', seems inappropriate here. Is it perhaps a form of niggallu 'sickle' (see SAA 5, no.295, r.24)?

ND 2715 (= XII; IM 64130; Plate 31)
Re-edited in TCAE, pp. 390-3 and Fales, CLNA, pp. 90-95, 128-132, II.2.

Transliteration

Obv. a-na šarri bēl-i-ia
  urad-ka $qur-di-aš-šur-lāmuu(IGI)
  issu muhhi dišur-a-a ša šarru iq-bu-u-ni
  ma-a : INIM.INIM : itti(KI)-šu lu tāb
5  ka-ra-a-ni-meš gab-bu ra-mu-ni-ša
  urdāni-meš ša ki-i lib-bi-ša-nu bīt KAR.RA-ni
  e-ru-bu ʾu-šu-u i-du-nu i-ma-ha-ru-ni
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

Translation
(1-2) To the king my lord your servant Qurdi-Ashur-lamur.

Translation

(1-2) To the king my lord your servant Qurdi-Ashur-lamur.
(3) Concerning the ruler of Tyre, about whom the king said: (4) ‘Talk nicely to him’, (5) all the wharves are at their disposal. (6-7) His subjects enter and leave the warehouses at will, and trade. (8-9) The Lebanon range is accessible to him; they go up and down at will and bring lumber down. (10-11) On the lumber they bring down I impose a tax. (11-14a) I have appointed tax inspectors over the customs (houses) of the entire Lebanon range, (and) they keep the watch on the harbour. (14b-18a) I appointed a tax-inspector (for those who) were going down into the custom houses which are in Sidon, (but) the Sidonians chased him away. (18b-19) Thereupon I sent the Itu’a contingent into the Lebanon range. (20) They terrified the people, (21-22) (so that) afterwards they sent a message and fetched the Tax Inspector (and) brought (him) into Sidon. (23) I spoke to them in these terms: (24-27) ‘Bring down lumber, do your work on it, (but) do not deliver it to the Egyptians or Palestinians, (28-29) or I shall not let you go up to the mountains.’

(30) Concerning the people of the town of Kaspuna about which the king said to me: (31) ‘Why did you act so hastily (and) hand them over?’, (32) (it was) because while they were not sending a message from the palace, (33) I took matters in hand (and) did the work. (33-34) Afterwards when they send me a sealed document, it did not get to me.

(35) In addition, a further matter. (36-38) I am dealing with (or I have taken away) the defence-towers. I wanted to build the great gate of the inner quarter, (but) I have withdrawn (and) left (it). (38-40) I took twenty of the royal soldiers; they have come with me; I have appointed an officer (as) Garrison Commander over them. (40-42) I brought 30 Shiyanaean soldiers inside; they are keeping guard; (42-43) soldiers will relieve them thirty at a time. (43-45) About what the king said: ‘Bring ten households of the Iasubaeans within Kaspuna’, (46) the water therein is dangerous and people fall ill. (47) When they have organized their water (supply) from Immiu, (48-49) I will bring them together into Kaspuna.

Notes
Broken into pieces and rejoined. Except for damage in the vicinity of joins, the text is almost perfect, with beautifully clear and deep script. 15 mm of rev. uninscribed. NA script.

4) INIM.INIM : itti (K1)-šu lu ḫab(DUG.GA). Lit. ‘Let your speech with it be good.’ INIM.INIM is taken to represent abat-ka rather than pl. abāši.

5) ra-mu-ni-šu. For the proposed translated cf. K. Deller, Or. 30 (1961), 351, rammû ‘zur verfügen stellen’.

6) ki-i. Not ša as read in CAD, K, 238b.

10-18, 21-22) See transliteration and translation in TCAE, p. 131.

13) [k]ārē(KAR)^e. CLNA, p. 92, proposes išadl-del-e, but the penultimate sign ends in a vertical followed by two superimposed verticals and can certainly not be de.

15) b[t]. CLNA, p. 92, proposes [UG]U. The sign is almost completely lost except for the slightest trace of an inconclusive initial wedge.

16) u-ra-du-ni-ni. 3 m. pl. Assyrian Subj. of Vent.

20) ú-sa-ga-ri-ru. See CAD, G, 49a-b, garāru B, 2 šuguru.

22) i-ta-šu. In form could be G^t of either aššu or naššû, but the context suggests the latter.
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

28-29) la ú-ra-ma-ku-nu ... la te-le-a. Lit. ‘I shall not release you ... you shall not go up’.

31) tu-har-ri-di. Fales, CLNA, p. 93, ‘Perché hai tardato (tanto) a fornirli?’, with supporting note on pp. 130-131. Although this makes good sense, haradu IV (AHw, 322b) = ‘wachen, bewachen’, D ‘als Wache einsetzen’ (= CAD, ḫ, 88a, harādu A, ‘to wake up, to be alert’) suggests the concept of alertness rather than delay. Hence the tentative translation above, although prima facie this would appear to be less suitable to the context.

34) il-laka-ni. CLNA, ad loc., il-lak<→>ni.

36) i-si-ta-te. See CAD, A/2, 332b-333a, asitu.

36) a-ta-ād?/ma?-ha. On doubts about the third sign see TCAE, p. 393, and CLNA, pp. 94, 132; both read a-ta-ād-ha (from CAD, N/2, 1a, nasāhu (našāhu) ‘to remove’). Since the horizontals certainly extend to the right of the vertical, the reading ād seems preferable, but with regard to defence-towers, a-ta-ma-ha ‘I am fixing’ would seem to fit the context better than a-ta-ād-ha ‘I have taken away’, even though the writer goes on to say that he has had to leave off building the great gate.

37) biṭānīni.meš. See CAD, B, 274b, biṭānu.

41) [māq]-i-ia-na-a-ā. The emendation in NAT 187 to [KUR]a-u₂-na-a-ā is invalid.

ND 2716 (IM 64131; Plate 32)

Transliteration

[For the meaning in this transliteration of the symbols < >, see notes below]

Obv.

1  [a-na] šarri be-īl-ia
    [urad-k]a mqr-dî-ās-šur
    [l[u šulm]ušm u-na šarri be-īl-[\{a\]
    [ša šarr]u be-li a-n[a] x ip-qi-da-ni-ni
5  ...<a>-l[1] ū-x ...x<\{a\> ip-taq-du
     ...<a-aši i-na LŪ? x-ša> an-a-a
     ...<x ni> x muhhi š[a]tš dš-pu-ra-šū-ni
     ......ālhu-ul-b[u-n][a
     ...........x x x-mal?-gūr
10 ...........x RI x
         ...........x
         ...........x x
[Lines 13-15 were already completely lost in 1954]
16  ...x ... [iq]-ṭil-ba-ni ma-a
    x x x muh-hi la ša x x x
    x x x i[n][n]? [n]? ni si? x ... LUGAL
    ........x x x x ... x
20  ........x x x ...
     ........x x ...
Rev.

1'  <\{\} x x x ma-a x x ...
    <\{ŠE\}>GİŞ.KIRI₆.MEŠ ša ālāni:me:ni ālīh[u-u][l-bu-[na]
Letters relating to the West and Northwest

<me-ni a-da-ni šūm-mu SIG₃ MEŠ
<šūm-mu a>-na hur-bi-te i-tu-ra šarru ìna qātēl₁-[a]

5'...x x ú ma-a šūm-mu ú-sa-ni'-u
...me-me-ni i-[s]-i-a ip-ši-te
...x x š[a]?? x x ... x ú-da
.........x x LUGAL
.........x x tur-ta-nu

10'...x x x šūm-mu

Partial Translation
[Insufficient remains for a full translation. Obv. 1-2 shows that this was a letter to the king from Qurdi-Ashur-[lamur], author of ND 2662, ND 2686, ND 2715, and ND 2773, who was concerned with events in Sidon and district. Gilhu-ul-bu-na of obv. 8 and rev. 2' may be Helbon of Ezek.27: 18, a city in the Syrian orbit associated by trade with Tyre.]

Obv. (1-3) To the king my lord your servant Qurdi-Ashur-(lamur). May it be well with the king my lord.

(4) (About the matter) which the king my lord appointed to me, (5) ... ... they have appointed (6) [doubtful] (7) ... ... which I sent him a message about (8) ... the city of Helbon (9) ... ... he will [not] agree (10-15) [fragmentary or lost] (16) they said: (17-18) [fragmentary]

Rev. (2') [the grain of] the gardens of the cities of Helbon, (3') to whom shall they give it/them? Whether they are successful, (4') or whether it returns to wasteland, let the king ... in my hands. (5') ... He says: 'Whether they have done again/changed (6') ... somebody with me has opened ...' (7'-21') [very fragmentary]

Notes
When copied in 1954 this tablet lacked most of left side and the equivalent of probably one or two lines at bottom, with substantial surface loss; there were parts of 18 lines on obv., with 7 or 8 half or more preserved, and parts of 21 lines on rev., with 9 half or more preserved. NA script. Final 15 mm of rev. was uninscribed. Tiny detached fragments in the tablet box indicated that the tablet was beginning to disintegrate. By 1965, when an attempt was made at collation, the tablet was in several pieces, and by
1970 the text of obv. was totally lost, and extant text of rev. was substantially reduced. A quick provisional transliteration which C.J. Gadd, presumably concerned about the physical condition of this tablet, made and passed to me within a few days of its excavation in 1952, provides some signs additional to my copy; these are included in the transliteration, identified by the symbols < >.

Obv.
9-12) Gadd’s copy also made no sense of these traces.

Rev.
4') hur-bi-te. Taken as from CAD, ḫ, 251a huribu; otherwise perhaps har-bi-te from CAD, 100b, haribu, although this is attested only from Mari.
12') <[i]b-ba>-a-a-ši. This is Gadd’s reading; my proposed restoration is [a]-na a-a-ši ‘to me’.
14’-16’) A tiny unattached fragment in the tablet box bore traces which could have been the first half of the first sign on each of these lines.

**ND 2773 (= XIV; IM 64164; Plate 31)**

**Transliteration**

Obv. [a-n]a šarri be-ši-ia
urad-ka māqr-dī-as-šur
lu šulme₂₃ a-na šarri be-ši-ia
amēlmār šiāri ša m.d-a-nu[r][i]
5 mārt-a-ab-lā-a-a
me-zu šumi-šu ka-ni-ku
ina qān₂₁šu a-na ekalli
ú-ba-la dib-bi
ša ina libbi ka-ni-ki-šu
10 i-na muh₂₁ša₂₁-a-ba-a-a
šu-nu ša māgi-di-ra-a-a
a-na mārtavya₁₋₂₁-a-b[a-a-a]
Base e-ti-qu-u-n[r][i]
14 i[il]-li-ku-u-ni
Rev. dikti(GAZ)-šū i-du-ku-u-ni
16 i-na muh₂₁ši šu-tu₂₁
ú-ma-a an-nu-rig
a-na qātra₁ amēlmār ši₃₃[respect to]-ia
ap-ti-qi-su
20 a-na ekalli ú-ba-la-šū
i-na ūm XXIX KĀM
ša a-raḫša₂₁bāti(ZĪZ) ṭa₁!-šu-ni

**Translation**

(1-3) To the king my lord your servant Qurdi-Ashur(-lamur). May it be well with the king my lord.
Letters relating to the West and Northwest

(4-8) The messenger of Aya-nuri, the Tabilite, Ezazu by name, is bringing a sealed document in his hands to the palace. (8-11) The matters within his sealed document are with reference to the Moabites, (11-15) when the Gidirites crossed over to Moab (and) came (and) inflicted a defeat on it (sc. Moab). (16-19) Concerning that matter, now then I have entrusted it (sc. the report) into the hands of my messenger. (20) He will bring it to the palace. (21-22) They are setting out on the 29th of Shabat.

Notes
Virtually complete except for small fragment missing from top right corner. Text mostly very clear. NA script. Final 20 mm of rev. uninscribed.

2) mqr-di-aṣ-šur. Since this letter, like ND 2715, relates to events in the Lebanon-Palestine region, the writer’s name is taken as a shortened form of mqr-di-aṣ-šur-lāmur, the name of the author of ND 2715.

4) m. a.-nu-r[i]. A West Semitic name. For related parallels see Iraq 17 (1955), 132, and Friedrich, Tell Halaf, 64, 112 vs.4, mahu-nūri.

5) mātla-ab-i-la-a-a. Cf. Isa.7: 6. For the ‘son of Tab’el’ as a prince of Judah from the land of Tab’el in northeast Palestine or southeast Syria see W.F. Albright, BASOR 140 (1955), 35. For a possible alternative reading see Iraq 17 (1955), 132.

6) me-xa-zu. A West Semitic name, equivalent to Hebrew ‘āzāz of 1 Chron.5: 8.

11) mā‘gi-di-ra-a-a. For possible identifications see Iraq 17 (1955), 133; CLNA, p. 132-133; NAT, 285-286, apud QEDAR.

22) lāl-šu-ni. Although the first sign in its damaged state strongly resembles i, as read in editio princeps, it must be u with only minimal traces remaining of its second and third verticals. The pl. implies that the named messenger Ezazu was accompanied.

ND 2766 (= LXX; BSAI; Plate 33)

Transliteration

Obv.

1  a-na šarri be-li-ia
   urad-ka m.Šamaš-aha₂-id din₃
   LŪ.GAL [S]AG ina pā[ni]-i-[a] ina ālra-[a]-l-[e]-e
   ú-si-rí-ba-a-ní

5  b[i]-ir-ti én[a].mēk-ia
   ina muhhi mašṣarī ša ālra-ab-[l]-[e]-e
   un-ta-di-id ma-a
   [m]eš-li imēra-sap-pi
   ina ālra-ab-le-e

10  li-ru-ub ma-a meš-[l]-ma
    ins ālqi-di-si [l]-ru-ub
    ma-i-ni-li i-ta-la[k]
    amēl-tur-ta-nu i-t[a]-x
    amēl-mār šip-ri š[a] x ... e-gir-tú

15  ša amēl-[u]-[r]-ta-n[i] x ......
   issu [a]lra-a-[b]-l[e]-e ...-a-ní
   na-x ......
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

Rev.

1' [g] [.............]
meš-li x [........]
xmeš,ni meš-x...
a-li? meš-li(-)ma(-)x

5' šum-ma šarru be-li i-[qa(b)-bi]
ma-a ša ra-me-ni-š[ú-n]u
lil-qi-ú li-ku-ú
lil-qi-ú li-ku-ú
šarru be-li lu ú-da

10' šarru be-li ú-da ša álāniš
ša imēr-ša-pu ina lib-bi
ù-se-ri-bu-u-ni
qa-b[a]-si mu-da-bi-ri
šú-nu šum-ma a-na maššarti

15' [š]a imēr-ša-pu man-nu
li-zi-iz šum-ma
a-na maššarti ina pa-ní-a
man-nu li-zi-iz
maššarti ša d[la]-ra-ab-[l(e)-e

20' uš-[š]-rat šarri
Top
be-li lu ú-da
šum-ma šarru be-li
i-qa-b-bi

Side*
1 [ma-a] x MEŠ šarri lu-ra-me a-na-ku ina išnarkabûti x
... š[a] šarru ip-qi-da-ni x x x x

Translation

Obv.
(1-2) To the king my lord your servant Shamash-aha-iddin.
(3-4) They sent the General into my presence into Rabie. (5-7) He made things clear
to me about the guard of Rabie, saying: (8-11) 'Let half the pack-animals go into Rabie,
and half into Qadesh.'
(12) Aini-ili has come back. (13) The Tartan has ... (14) The messenger of ... ... the letter (15a) of the Tartan (15b-17) [lost or fragmentary]

Rev.
(1'-4') [fragmentary]. (5') If the king my lord should say: (6'-7') 'Let them take
(and) eat for themselves', (8') (then) let them take (and) eat. (9') The king my lord
certainly knows (best). (10'-12') The king my lord knows that the villages into which
they have introduced the pack-animals (13'-14') are in the midst of the desert.
(14'-16') Whether someone should take position for the watch of the pack-animals,
(16'-18') or whether someone should take position for the watch in my presence,
(19'-20') the watch of Rabie is (in either case) organized. (20'-21') The king my lord
should know (this). (22'-23') If the king my lord should say:
Letters relating to the West and Northwest

Side*

(1) 'I myself will release the royal ...', in the chariot ... (2) ... which the king appointed ... ...

Notes

Tablet of terracotta colour with bottom missing. Obv. very slightly convex top to bottom, rev. more markedly so. Surface mainly in good condition, except on right side of last six extant lines on obv. The text is in the main sharp, but in some places wedges are either abnormally shallow, as with BI at the beginning of obv. 5 and the second and third verticals of TA in obv. 12, or completely invisible, as with most of the second vertical of URU in obv. 3 and the bottom of the probable vertical(s) in \( l[i]? \) in rev. 4' (left unstippled as there is no obvious abrasion). The tablet would appear to have been originally covered with a skim coating of finer clay which has been lost, taking with it the upper layer of some wedges and in a few instances the whole wedge, without leaving overt indication of abrasion.

Obv.
3) LÚ.GAL [S]AG. The general slight abrasion makes it difficult to see the double vertical in SAG.
6) āra-ab-[e]-e = Riblah, just to the north of Palestine (2 Kings 23: 33).
12) m\( a \)-i-ni-ili. See Iraq 25 (1963), 80, note to obv. 12.

Rev.
3') \( x^{mēš}.nī \). The traces of the unidentified sign rather suggest ERIM, but the upper diagonal appears to be absent, and the phonetic complement \( nī \) would not be appropriate.
12') qa-b[a]-si. NA for qa-bal-ti.

Side
1) \( iñarkabātī \ x \). The unidentified sign does not appear to be \( ma \) or \( šu \). \( tu \) would be possible, but as phonetic complement this would not be appropriate for the noun after \( ina \).

ND 2767 (IM 64160; Plate 31)

Transliteration

Obv.
1'  
\( x \) ...........
\( x \) ...........
\( DIS \ x x x \) ........
\( it-tal-k[a] \) ........

5'  
\( i-qab-bi-ma-[a] \) ........
\( a-x e-gir?piš?-x \) ........
\( ra-qu-bi-šū-n[u]? \) ...
\( x muhhi anšē\text{KUR.RA} \) ...
\( AS \ T[A]? \ x x x \) ...

10'  
\( ina UR[U]? \ x x x \)
\( a-x x x \) ........
\( pa-an \ x x \) ........
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

Ina - xxx ....
i-qab-bu ma-[a] ....

15' ... xxx ....

.... x ......

Rev.

1' LÚ.A.K[IN]? ........

ki-la-[l[?] ....
i-du-k[u]-[ū] ....
ú-ša-as-b[i]-[iti/tu]? ....

5' ma-a la LÚ.xxx ....
UDU.MES-[e]-a ih-bu-[tu]? ....

ma-a ālara-za- ....
ih-ta-a[b]?-[tu]? ....
šarru be-li u-[da]? ....

10' a-di LÚ.e-x ...
la(-)a[g/k/q]-ru-u?? ....

[Remainder of rev. is uninscribed]

[Since there is no complete line, and readings of the extant text are at many places doubtful, no translation is offered.]

Notes

Fragment from left side, lacking top and bottom. NA script.

Rev. 7') ālara-za-a. For other occurrences see NAT, 37. The connection elsewhere of

this town with nahal muṣur suggests a link with south Palestine. The apparent

reference in rev. 6' to the plundering of sheep may point to a clash with Arab raiders in

this area.

(b) Syria

Letters edited:

ND 2370, ND 2737, ND 2381, ND 2437, ND 2399, ND 2415 (not a letter), ND

2495, ND 2644, ND 2668, ND 2671, ND 2676, ND 2680, ND 2733, ND 2762 (also

related to Palestine).

ND 2370 (= LXIX; BSAI; Plate 32; Photo Plate I)

Transliteration

Obv.

1 [a]-na šarru bēlī-ia
urad-ka māqur-di-ili-lāmur(IGI)
māti-ū-na-a-i tal-ku-ni
qa-ra-bu ina ālū-si-x

5 ina ālha-ri-ṣu-ū ina āl[?]
ú-tap-pi-ṣu ša x x x? ...
[i]-tal-ka a-na ālī ša šārri

164
Letters relating to the West and Northwest

[amēl]šāhūmeš zak-ku-ū ina B[ÂD]??
[ś]a-bit a-ta-[i]-lak mi-[m]-[ni]?
10 [l]i?-iš-ši-ū a-di-[i] e-[m]-[u]-[qi]?
[x] x-x-ni ina lib-bi GIŠ.MÂ.MEŠ
... ... qab-li-ta bar-ti
... ... x š[a] x ḫ[u]?-a.M[EŠ]?

Rev.
1' ... x x ... ...
 x x a ri ša KUR x x? ... šu x x k[i]-ma-a x x ÀŠ ...
e-lu-ni x x x a-x-[x]
5' a-ra-x-x amēlī-tū-'a-[a-a]
e-x-x ina? [p]âni?-ia amēlī-tū-'[a-a]
x x x-[n]i ina lib-bi lu-šê-ši-[bu]?

Translation
Obv.
(1-2) To the king my lord your servant Qurdí-ilï-lamur.
(3) The people of the land Iauna came. (4-6) They have done battle in the cities Usi, Hărûšû and ... ... (7) He (sc. the ruler of Iauna?) has come to the king’s city. (8) The soldiers are free of tax obligations. (8-9) He is detained in ... (9) I have come back. Let no one (10) ... ... until the forces (11) [arrive] in the ships. (12) ... ... in the middle of a rebellion (13) ... ... ...
Rev.
(4’) they came up ... ... (5’) ... ... the Itu’a (troops) (6’) ... into my presence. (6’-7’) Let them [bring] the Itu’a (troops) (and) make them go inside.

Notes
The base, the lower part of the left side and most of the right side are missing. 18-30 mm of surface is lost from the upper part of extant rev. The remaining text is mainly clearly legible on obv., less so on rev. NA script. The clay contains some minute stones, of about 1 mm diameter; one such is visible in the sign before LÛ in rev. 5’, where its presence immediately below the surface has contributed to the wedge impressed above it flaking away.

Obv.
2) mqr-di-ilï-lâmûr. Cleaning (not by me) reveals that that the divine element is AN, not âš-[š[u]r] as read in the editio princeps.
3) mārîa-ù-na-a-a. See note in Iraq 25 (1963), 77f., and further refs. in NAT 186f, apud JAWAN. The attribution of the report to the people of Iauna rather than to an Assyrian official suggests that Iauna was part of a vassal land rather than fully subject territory.
6) ša x x x? The traces favour ša AN[ŠE].KUR.R[A] rather than ša LÛ x x?. The verb in line 7 gives no guidance on which restoration is appropriate.
Rev.
6') e-x-x. e-r[a-b]u would be a possible restoration, but would leave unexplained the following horizontal taken as ina.

ND 2737 (BSAI; Plate 33)

Transliteration
Obv.1' ... [...] [...] ...
... ina le-bi UR[U] ...
... x.MES-[s]u ša ina x ...
l[i]-lu [l]A*? T[U]?? UD? RI AN x ...
5' hi-ri-[s]u a-na ba-at-ti [x]?
ša [š]al-hi-[e]1 i-ha-ru-[š][u]
a[m-m]u-te x x RU ŠÁ ME [x]?
ši-h[i]-l x [x] I úl âli-...
LÚ ša EN.NUN e-ta-m[ar]?
10' k[i]l? il-q[i]l? it-taš-[š][i]?-[x]?
[n]i-ir-ti-di-ip-[š][u-n][u]
a-na šadē ša ku-pe-[e]1
i-šab-tu pa-ni-ša-nu
issu le-bi âli-â-â-na
15' issu le-bi âli-x-su-ri
[n]i-[š][a]-[t]a II ME amēššāmē[š]
pu-na amēlu[r-t]a-ni
ú-si-b[l]-ma ina ekalli
Rev.
l[i]-bi-lu XXIV amēššāmē[š]
20' an-na-ka US
i-ba-ši ša issu amēššamu
ú-[š][a]-bi-tu-u-ni i-su-[r]i
šarru be-li i-qa-bi [m]a a-a-ka
hi-ri-šu i-ha-ru-šu
25' šal-hi-[š] i-ta-aš-m[l]-di
hi-[r][r]-i-ši ug-da-[m-e-ru-n][i]
a-na ba-at-ti an-[ni-te] ........
hi-ri-šu ša-ni-u x ........
šal-hi-[š] bir-ti ......
30' šum-mu BE x x x ....
š[a] x x x ....

Translation
(2') ... within the town ... (3') ... ... which in ... (4') indeed from ... ... ... (5-6') they are digging a moat around the [outside] of the outer wall. (7') Those (people), the ... [made] an attack [on/from] the town I[au]na. (9') The guard saw [them] (10') as he took ... ... (11) We pursued them. (12'-13') They took to the snow mountain(s) in front of them. (14'-16') We took (people) from inside the town of Iau[na (and) from inside the town ...-suri; (16') we sent 200 people into the presence of the Turtan. Shall
I bring (them) into the palace? (19'-22') 24 people here are dead, whom they seized from the ...-people.

(22'-27') Perhaps the king my lord will say: ‘Where are they digging the moat?’ It is joined to the outer wall. They have completed the moat. To this side ... ... (28') a second moat ... ... (29') the outer wall of the fortress ... ...

Notes
Tablet comprising several fragments rejoined. Lacks several lines at top end, small fragment running from near middle of top downwards to left side, and large fragment running from top down to lower half of right side. Considerable loss of surface on rev. NA script.

7') RU ŠÁ ME. Assumed to be part of an unidentified proper name identifying attackers.

8') ši-hi-it. See AHw, 1209b, šē/ihtu(m) I.

14') ašia-ú-na. See NAT, 186f., JAWAN.

19') [u]-bi-tu. Taken as Prec. 1 sg. G. of (w)abālu, with final u to denote a question.

25') it-ta-aš- mái]-di. This seems to be the only credible reading, although immediately before mái there are remains of wedges which do not appear to be part of aš.

ND 2381 (XIX; IM 64018; Plate 33)
Re-edited in SAA, 1, no.175.

Transliteration
Obv.  a-na [š]arrī bēlī-[i[a]
    urad-ka m[u]-ha-ti
    [l][u] šulmu₄₄ [a]-[n]a [šar]ri [b]ēlī-ia
    [mā]r [m]a₁-[n]-ri
    5  ina lib-bi [III ME] imēr-a-na-qa-te
    ú-za-ta-ki ma-a ina muhhi
    om[ē][h]u-ub-te ša i[s][u]
    di₄₄-[i]-maš-q[i] [a₁]-[n]a mār[a]-š-šur
    [a₁]-[ś]e-ta-g[u]-ú-ni
    10  [mā]-[a₁] [ina m]uh-hi a-ma-gu-u[r]
        [a]-[a]?-na? [muhi] mbēl-[i[g]-bi]?[/a-sa]
        [ra]-[a]-[n]-ni a-hi-ši ina ira[r]
        [amē][h]u-ub-te ni-ta-lak
    15  [e-ta-ma]r-na-a-[śi
        [a]-na [śu]b-[u] ina ku-ta-li-ni

Base [uš]-šē-[śi]b
    [ni-it]-t[a]-ha-śa
    19  [I LI]M V ME UDU.HLI[A₁]

Rev.  [hu-ub-t]e issu aš[i]-[z]-[a]-[z] [a]
    21  ... x [L]IM VI ME UDU ... ...
    ... x x x ... x
       URU x-[x]-t[u]?
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

Translation

(1-2) To the king my lord your servant Uhati. (3) May it be well with the king my lord.

(4-10) The son of Amiri with three hundred she-camels got himself ready (and) said: 'I will fall upon the booty which they are sending on from Damascus to Assyria.'

(11-12) I sent a message to Bel-iqbi; he came. (13-14) We went together to meet the booty. (15) He (sc. the son of Amiri) saw us. (16-17) He set up an ambush behind us. (18) We had a fight. (19-20) 1,500 sheep, booty from the town Huzaza, (21) (and) 1,500 sheep (22-29) [nothing significant intelligible] (30) We returned. (31) ... we gave chase. (32-33) We ... got as far as inside the land Ilabani, (34) (but) we did not catch him. (35-37) It was difficult; it was not (terrain) for horses or chariots. (38-39) [unintelligible].

Notes

Tablet with damage to left side, and fragments missing from bottom left corner and middle of right side. Clay contains many small stones.

2) mu-ha-ti. SAA, 1, no.175 reads m10-ha-ti = Adda-hati, but since the name occurs four times (here and ABL 224, 2; 225, 2; 414, rev. 3) without the divine determinative before U, it seems more likely that this name is Uhati and of non-Assyrian origin.

4) [māl] mlām-ri. ABL 414, which is linked to ND 2381 by this term in rev. 10, by the name m1u-ha-ti in rev. 3 and possibly by identity of the name mbēl-liq-bi in obv. 2 with mbēl-[lq-bi]? in ND 2381, 11, in rev. 10 names mār mā-me-ri as mā-mi-li-li-ti. For the latter name see also H. Tadmor, Inscr. TP III, p. 233. On date of ABL 414 (and 224-225) see I. Eph'al, The Ancient Arabs, 96f. For re-edition of ABL 414 see Fales, CLNA, pp. 96-99, 133-135, II.4.

6) ū-za-ta-ki. Taken as Dī of zakū, for *uztakī.

13) lā-[n]-i-nī a-hi-šī. The sign before a-hi-šī is certainly ni, making impossible the restoration in SAA, 1, no.175, [i-s]a-a-hi-šī.

23) URU x-[x]-[t[u]]. It is just possible that the final sign is li, but the indications of a second vertical may result from damage.
31) … x x-šu. The traces of the penultimate sign preclude the reading tu, contra SAA, 1, no.175, which tentatively restores i-da-tu-šu.

**ND 2437** (= XX; IM 64042; Plate 34)
Re-edited in SAA, 1, no.176. See also TCAE, pp. 183, 382.

**Transliteration**

**Obv.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Transliteration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>a-na šarri bēl-ia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>urad-ka mšu-ha-ti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>lu šulmušu a-na šarri bēl-ia[a]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>b[i]-? Ša LŪ.GAR.K(U)ša amēliš GAL.URU.MEŠe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>š[a in]a muhhi nišēmē šati ú-sa-di-na</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>II [G]UN XVIII MA.NA kaspi ina ma-né-[i]e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>š[a dškar-gšša miš BAR Gš[N] hurāši</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>II[I] [x x].x.MEŠ III šukšša (GADA)meš i-s[i]-niš</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>ina (gāṭēlš amēlimār šipri-ša a-na šar)ri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>b(e-[l]-)ša ša-ši-bi-[ša]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>[ša] ru be-ši i-di-[n[u-n?]i]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>II L(IM) II[I] M[E] šābēme ita-[n[a]]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>ša-[š][š]a-na-a I LIM IX ME L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>i-[š]-a-[n[a]] IV ša[š]ašabēme um-[š]-a-fši</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>ša GA[Z].M[EŠ] x x a-n[a] x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>ša-al-mu : ut-r[u] …</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>[a]d?-[-d]-u i-…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>x x a la x ……</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>[x] RI x ……</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Base**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Transliteration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>x-[š]-a-[r]-…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>x x š-d?-…</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Rev.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Transliteration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>ša alša-[š]-nu x ……</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>e-ši-di I LIM šE.NU[MUN.MEŠ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>ša alša-ba-a-šu ut-[š]u</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>ina muhhi-ša-nu e-ši-di ú-ma-a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>šarru be-ši nišēmeš māša-šur-a-a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>amēli-tu-[š]-a-[a] li-di-na</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>ina mad-bar lu-[š]-a-[š]-ba-ti la-a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>amēlša muhhi āli la-a LŪ.L.DU₂ MEŠ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>[m]šašš-šur-a-a ina alšu-pi-te</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>[ša] šarru be-ši iq-bu-ā-ni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>ma-a issu m[u]hi ti-la-a-ši : lu-ri-du-u-ni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>ina ŠAB-ša l[I]-ir-ši-pu i-tu-ur-du-u-ni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>X alāmiš šit stubi ina mad-bar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>ha-nu-te lu-ri-du-u-né-e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>mi-i-nu ša šarru : i-qa-bu-u-ni</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

40  [ka]-a-a-ma-nu gi-ru-tú
Top  i[na]  mad-bar  EN.NUN.NA
     [i]a  a-ši-ta-[i]a

Translation

(1-3) To the king my lord your servant Uhati. May it be well with the king my lord.

(4-5) I have effected the delivery of the tribute of the Prefects (and) of the Chief(s) of Cities (5) who (are) over the people of the land, (6-7a) (amounting to) 2 talents 18 minas of silver by the Carchemish standard. (7b-10) Together (with it) I have sent to the king my lord half a shekel of gold, three woollen garments (and) three linen garments by the hands of my messenger.

(11-12) As to what the king my lord gave me, he delivered 2,350 soldiers. (13-14) Now Dana has delivered 1,950. (Thus) he has left (the number) short by 400 soldiers ... (15) of those killed ... to ... (16) are/is well. ... to ... (17-20) [fragmentary and unintelligible] (21) from the city Ar-... (22) ... the city Di-... (23) ... as to ... ... (24) I have settled them ... (25-26) I harvested the corn-land of the city Hi-... (27-28) I harvested for them in addition 1,000 units of corn-land of the city Laba'u. (28b-31) Now let the king my lord supply people, Assyrians (or) Itu'aeans, (and) let me settle (them) in the steppe. (31b-33) There is no Assyrian Officer-over-the-City nor Assyrian guards in the city Supite. (34-36) As to what the king my lord commanded, saying: 'Let them abandon (their positions) upon the mounds, let them construct ... ', they have abandoned (them). (37-38). Should they (also) abandon these ten fortified villages in the steppe? (39) Whatever the king commands, (let it be done). (40) (There is) continual hostility (41-42) (but) in the steppe I am not neglectful of the watch.

Notes

Pillow-shaped tablet in good condition, except for bottom right corner and two marks (made by excavators' tools?) on obv.

2) mu-ha-ti. The correspondent's name links this letter to ND 2381. SAA, 1, no.176 reads m10-ha-ti = Adda-hati.

4) [bil]?-tú. SAA, 1, no.176 reads K[UG].UD, 'the silver dues'. A hole in the tablet makes positive identification of the first sign impossible.

4) LÚ.GAR.K[UG]e. The reading LÚ*.GAR-nu!!-te proposed in SAA, 1, no.176 is impossible, since between GAR and te there is certainly only one sign, which has two verticals but no horizontals after the second part of MEŠ and no oblique for nu. AHw, 139b takes LÚ.GAR.KU as šakin šemī, but the determinative te opposes this reading here.

4) amēl.GAL.URU.MEŠe. The determinative indicates that this cannot represent rab ālānī here; it might represent rabūtē ālānī.

5) ú-sa-di-na. Taken as NA defective form of Št of nadānu, with sense of causative of G theme. SAA, 1, no.176 reads ú-sa-di-rr[u], a possible alternative; I have had no opportunity to collate since seeing this proposal. If the reading proposed in SAA, 1, no.176 is correct, the translation requires corresponding modification.

8) II[I]? [x].x.MEŠ. SAA, 1, no.176 restores 2 [TŪG.šā]-šinî.MEŠ. DIN is possible, but the traces of the preceding sign appear not to permit the restoration šā.
12) II [IM] II [I] ME L. SAA, 1, no.176 restores the sign following LIM as IV, but this is impossible in any normal form, since the group is certainly not three verticals over one; there are at least two, probably three, full length verticals.


22) ñdi?... The traces neither preclude nor suggest the restoration URU.š[šu-te?] of SAA, 1, no.176.

23) x(-)bi-x. The restoration in SAA, 1, no.176, [lu]-bi-li, is possible.

24) x(-)IGI(-)šu-nu. The sign before šu might be ba. SAA, 1, no.176 reads ina IGI-šu?šu-nu.

27) ñla-ba'-a-u. Lebo-Hamath, between Hamath and Aram; see H. Tadmor, Inscr. TP III, p. 149, note on Summ.5 II; 25.

36) ñsu-pi-te. Biblical Zobah, in Beqa’a Valley; see SAA, 1, p. 238.

36) ñsu-pi-te. The final wedge of pu is so much elongated vertically and reduced horizontally that the sign would prima facie be taken for te.

36) i-tu-ur-du-uni. G1 of arardu see CAD, A/2, 217a-b (e).

36) ina ŠAB-ša. SAA, 1, no.176, fn., tentatively suggests a reading ‘URU.HAL.ŠU or the like’, but the signs are clear, except for a possibility that the number of horizontals in the final element of ŠAB might be three rather than two. J.N. Postgate suggests that the form is an ancient scribal error for ina šap<ši>-šu, which would make good sense in the context.

36) ñsu-pi-te. The final wedge of pu is so much elongated vertically and reduced horizontally that the sign would prima facie be taken for te.

36) i-tu-ur-du-uni. G1 of arardu; cf. ABL 506, r.6.

41) i[na] mad-bar EN.NUN.NA. SAA, 1, no.176 restores [ina UGU EN.NUN.NA], but UGU is not a possible reading.

42) il[a a-si-ia-{a}. The reading {a} takes a mark under the middle horizontal as the head of a further horizontal. Should the mark be mere damage, the sign would be m[a], and the line would read la-a pâni-ia-m[a], with 41-42 having the sense ‘in the steppe the watch is not my responsibility’.

ND 2399 (BSAI; Plate 32)
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

Edge [is]su lib-bi
11' ÚŠ

Translation
(2'-4') One hundred horses, which came to me from Kulu[nia], (5'-8') have arrived with me, (coming) from Calah as far as Dur-bel-ilaya. (9'-11') 25 horses among them have died.

Notes
Small tablet with top missing. The NA script is bold and legible but is not the work of an expert scribe. 8 lines on obv. and 2 lines on bottom edge are largely preserved, with some abrasion. The top 10 mm and bottom 25 mm of rev. are uninscribed; from 11-20 mm there are marks which to the naked eye look like remains of unidentifiable signs, but which microscopic examination suggests may be adventitious. 2') [M]E. Despite damage, the spacing precludes LIM as an alternative reading. 3') al[kul-ni-a]. A value kulu has been proposed for NUMUN (ABZ, p. 252a); did it also have the value kula, so that the reading here should be al[kula-ni-a]? On the name Kullani(a)/Kulnia, and the region concerned (= Unqi/Pattin), see J.D. Hawkins, Iraq 36 (1974), 83. 5') [i]ssu. Despite damage, this is certain. 6') al[dur-bel-ila-]a1-i[la1]. See NAT, 109. 9') [X]X[V]? 25 seems to be the more probable reading, but 26 is not impossible. 11') ÚŠ. Presumably represented mîtû or mêtû.

ND 2415 (BSAI; Plate 1)

Transliteration
Obv. [U]RU? man-nu-dan-il[i]
   x x AN x KUR? ME[Š]
   [q]at m[SILIM][u]-? x-x-[A]N?
   x ú x
5 [q]at hal-li-n[i]?-iš
   [q]at ga[i]?-[a]?-bu
   U[RU] x-[a]1?-[b]u
   U[RU] e?-[s]i?-[e]?-bu
   alâni[mes] [n]i
10 ša amē[hal-ba-a-a]
   i-si-niš
   alu ša ep?-ri ma-te-[šu]
   [q]at m[UR-x-ili]
   [ša] [mîr]hal-[z][i-m?]

Translation
(1) The town Mannu-dan-ili (2-4) (in) the hand of PN (belongs with) (5-8) the towns of Halliniš, Gallabu, ...-abu, (and) Te/sibu (9-11) (which are) together towns of the
man of Aleppo. (12) (It is) a town of the territory of his land. (13) (It is in) the hand of ...-UR-...-ili, (14) (of) the land of Halzi.

Notes
Tablet complete except for loss of bottom left corner. Inscribed on one face only. Surface damaged passim, with some blistering from salt deposits, and some signs illegible. Deeply inscribed with bold NA script.

The absence of a regular form of address suggests that this is a list of towns rather than a letter.

1-4) Very doubtful. Restorations are conjectural and offered with hesitation.
1) [U]RU? The traces are illegible. A possible alternative reading, IM m, seems improbable, since line 2 lacks a formula naming an addressee.
2) x x. It seems impossible to read a-na DIŠ.
3) SILIM?m[u]?, Or di-nu!.
4) ep? x x. The traces would permit but do not compel the reading di-ur.
12) ep? ri. Although the first sign suggests lu rather than ep, ep-ri makes better sense.

ND 2495 (= LXXXVIII; IM 64068; Plate 34)
Re-edited in TCAE, pp. 381-3 and SAA, 1, no.172. See also K. Deller, Or. 36 (1967), 81.

Transliteration
Obv. a-na [šarri bēliya]

| urad-k[a PN] | šarri be-lī [tē-mu is-sa-kan] |
| ma-a amēbēlē pāh[ātimēš] x x ... |
| 5 NINDA.MEŠ k[i]-su-tū is[su] m.l[i]g[UTU?].P[AP?].AŠ? |
| i-si-ku-nu li-in-tū-hu |
| ma-a madād-itti-ia mēbēl-lišir(GIŠ) |
| a-na abi-lišir(GIŠ) lu-šā-ki-lu |
| la-a (i-l)ma-GŪR la-a i-šā-mi-ū |
| 10 a-ta-a in-nu-te ma-a ālānmeš[n]i |
| ina mad-bar Ša amēbēlē pāhātimēš[5] ga[b-b]i-šū-nu |
| ālānmeš ina libbi a-hi ši x-ne-šu |
| šarru be-lī liš-pu-ra alānm[5]-šā-nu |
| ša mad-bar liš-f[u-ri]u |
| 15 issu bit [im]ēr-a-ša-pu šarri be-lī |
| issu màṭha-ma-te is-hu-[u]-ni |

Base a-na-ku a-na-[k][u-ma]

| šu-ū šu-nu-ū-m[a šu-nu] |
| 19 i-ši-ri šarru [be-lī] |

Rev. (i-l)ma-[a]-[a]-[a]-ni [ma-][a]

| la e-pi-šū-tū at-tū-nu |
| an-ni-ū [N]NINDA.MEŠ ki-su-tū |
| ša 1 arhi [i]ME IV\ imēr k[i-z]u-tū |
| I ME XXII[I]? imēr NINDA.MEŠ naphar II ME XXVI[II]? imēr |

173
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

Translation

(1) To (the king my lord) your servant [PN].

(2-3) The king my lord [gave orders] (4) saying: 'Let the governors ... ... (5-6) transport bread and animal fodder from Shamash-aha-iddina and from you, (and) (7-8) let Adad-ittiya (and) Bel-lishir provide food for Abu-lishir.' (9) They will not hear (of the idea), (10) (but say): 'Why (is the responsibility) ours? (10b-11) The villages in the steppe belong to all the governors, (12) (but) the villages within that side [are separate].' (13) Let the king my lord send a message; (13b-14) let them make a written record of their villages which are (in the) steppe.

(15-18) Since the king my lord took away the pack animals from Hamath, I am by myself, they are by themselves. (19-21) Tomorrow the king my lord may say: 'You are do-nothings', (22-23a) (but against this conclusion) this is the bread and animal fodder (we have arranged) for one month (as follows):

(23b-25a) 105 homers of animal fodder, 123 homers of bread, total 228 homers Shamash-aha-iddina;

(25b-26) 75 homers of animal fodder, 15 homers of bread, total 90 homers Abu-lishir;

(27-28) 600 (homers of bread) of 2,000 zakku-men of the land of Kummuh;

(29) (grand) total 918 homers for one month, (from) this estate.

(30b) The king my lord knows that (31) within the road stages, we ourselves are responsible for transport for three stages, they are responsible for transport for two stages each. (34-36) Now the king my lord certainly knows, that they are rebellious (while) we [are obedient].

Notes

Tablet lacks surface at top right corner of obv.; some abrasion passim, script otherwise in quite good condition. NA script.

2) [PN]. SAA, 1, no.172 restores mEN-BĀD, but the name is entirely lost on the tablet.

3) [rē-mu iš-sa-kan]. Restoration adopted from SAA, 1, no.172. TCAE, ad loc., proposes [iš-pu-ra-ni].

4) x x .... SAA, 1, no.172 restores gab-bu.

5) m.šamaš-ū-iddina, LXXV imēr k[i]-su-tā

Translation

(1) To (the king my lord) your servant [PN].

(2-3) The king my lord [gave orders] (4) saying: 'Let the governors ... ... (5-6) transport bread and animal fodder from Shamash-aha-iddina and from you, (and) (7-8) let Adad-ittiya (and) Bel-lishir provide food for Abu-lishir.' (9) They will not hear (of the idea), (10) (but say): 'Why (is the responsibility) ours? (10b-11) The villages in the steppe belong to all the governors, (12) (but) the villages within that side [are separate].' (13) Let the king my lord send a message; (13b-14) let them make a written record of their villages which are (in the) steppe.

(15-18) Since the king my lord took away the pack animals from Hamath, I am by myself, they are by themselves. (19-21) Tomorrow the king my lord may say: 'You are do-nothings', (22-23a) (but against this conclusion) this is the bread and animal fodder (we have arranged) for one month (as follows):

(23b-25a) 105 homers of animal fodder, 123 homers of bread, total 228 homers Shamash-aha-iddina;

(25b-26) 75 homers of animal fodder, 15 homers of bread, total 90 homers Abu-lishir;

(27-28) 600 (homers of bread) of 2,000 zakku-men of the land of Kummuh;

(29) (grand) total 918 homers for one month, (from) this estate.

(30b) The king my lord knows that (31) within the road stages, we ourselves are responsible for transport for three stages, they are responsible for transport for two stages each. (34-36) Now the king my lord certainly knows, that they are rebellious (while) we [are obedient].

Notes

Tablet lacks surface at top right corner of obv.; some abrasion passim, script otherwise in quite good condition. NA script.

2) [PN]. SAA, 1, no.172 restores mEN-BĀD, but the name is entirely lost on the tablet.

3) [rē-mu iš-sa-kan]. Restoration adopted from SAA, 1, no.172. TCAE, ad loc., proposes [iš-pu-ra-ni].

4) x x .... SAA, 1, no.172 restores gab-bu.

5) m.šamaš-ū-iddina, LXXV imēr k[i]-su-tā

Translation

(1) To (the king my lord) your servant [PN].

(2-3) The king my lord [gave orders] (4) saying: 'Let the governors ... ... (5-6) transport bread and animal fodder from Shamash-aha-iddina and from you, (and) (7-8) let Adad-ittiya (and) Bel-lishir provide food for Abu-lishir.' (9) They will not hear (of the idea), (10) (but say): 'Why (is the responsibility) ours? (10b-11) The villages in the steppe belong to all the governors, (12) (but) the villages within that side [are separate].' (13) Let the king my lord send a message; (13b-14) let them make a written record of their villages which are (in the) steppe.

(15-18) Since the king my lord took away the pack animals from Hamath, I am by myself, they are by themselves. (19-21) Tomorrow the king my lord may say: 'You are do-nothings', (22-23a) (but against this conclusion) this is the bread and animal fodder (we have arranged) for one month (as follows):

(23b-25a) 105 homers of animal fodder, 123 homers of bread, total 228 homers Shamash-aha-iddina;

(25b-26) 75 homers of animal fodder, 15 homers of bread, total 90 homers Abu-lishir;

(27-28) 600 (homers of bread) of 2,000 zakku-men of the land of Kummuh;

(29) (grand) total 918 homers for one month, (from) this estate.

(30b) The king my lord knows that (31) within the road stages, we ourselves are responsible for transport for three stages, they are responsible for transport for two stages each. (34-36) Now the king my lord certainly knows, that they are rebellious (while) we [are obedient].
Letters relating to the West and Northwest

7) *mẖēl-šīr* (GIŠ). TCAE, 382, suggests this person may be identical with the author of ND 2625.

9) *la-a* Šīl-ma-GUR la-a i-šā-mi-ū. I adopt the final -ū (lacking from my copy) from TCAE, op.cit. If this is correct, Šīl-ma-GUR will represent 3 pl. i-ma-gur. The two verbs are taken as in hendiadys.

10) *in-nu-te*. See GAG, Ergänzungsheft, §44c.

12) *iš-a-ma-GUR* iš-a. I adopt the final -u (lacking from my copy) from TCAE, op.cit. If this is correct, Šīl-ma-GUR will represent 3 pl. i-ma-guru. The two verbs are taken as in hendiadys.

14) *in-nu-ši*. See GAG, Ergänzungsheft, §44c.

16) *māš[a]-ma-te*. This mention of Hamath is the basis for placing this letter in this section. It might alternatively be argued that Šāma-ku-e ša maḫku-su-ḫa-a-a of lines 27f. favours a placement in section (c), but this appears to refer to personnel who had been moved.

16) *is-hu-[l]-ni*. Taken as an anomalous or erroneous writing for *is-su-hu-u-ni* < *nasāhu*, an interpretation suggested in TCAE, ad loc. and followed by SAA, 1, no.172.

18) *šu-ū* šu-nu-ū-m[a šī-nu]. Restoration after SAA, 1, no.172.

20) *iš-[q]-a-[l]-ni*. The alternative restorations of TCAE, ad loc., i-[d]-ba1-ni, and of SAA, 1, no.172, i-[d]-ka-a-ni, do not fit the traces.

21) *la e-pi-šū-tú*. See CAD, E, 245b.

23) *ME*. SAA, 1, no.172 transcribes as [U]D.ME. The traces might permit this, but it would produce a total of 818, instead of the 918 given in line 29.

23-29) Some of the numerals are damaged and doubtful, but the transcriptions now given add up to the correct totals.

32) *an-nē-[n]. For suggestion that this is a form of 1 pl. personal pron., accepted in CAD, Š/3, 302a, see note in *Iraq* 28 (1966), 185.

33) *šu-na-a-a*. See CAD, Š/3, 302a, šūnāja.

ND 2644 (XXIII; IM 64092; Plate 35)

Transliteration

Obv.

1  a-bat šar[rí]
   a-na m.dalla(ALLA)-uṣur
   ANŠE.KUR.RA!.MEŠ am-mar
   ša amēltur-[a]-nu

5  e-da-na-kan-ni a-šur mu-hur ga[b-b]i-š[u-nu]
   muzu-di-[i]-ili ina pa-ni-ka
   pi-qi-da-[šu] lib-bi māti
   li-ir-’u-ū
   an-nu-rig amēlār-ba-a-a an-nu-ṭi

10  amēltur-[a]-nu it-[a-h]a-za

175
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

maṣṣarti-ku-nu [k]i-i š[a] ti-ma-[l]i
šal-šī ūmēme [m]ānu-[d][a-b]ir
[lu]-[l]i x-[d]-at
U[DU]?.?[NIT]A?.MEŠ-ku-nu

Rev.
(B) [r]u?-lā?-ra li-ir-i-u
a-du x-ši-x

(C) harrānu ša āita-ab-na-x-x

20
ki-i ša bir-te ḏl-x ...
[bir-t]e āši?-i-u

(D) bir-te ḏl[g]-i-di-si
bi[r]-te x x ...

(E) [parallel to long axis]

25 ma-a ŠE.NUMUN an-ni-ū ša a-ri-šā-u-ni
ma-a a-na x x x u ša ta-[a]-l-kan-ni
ki-i issu ḏl-[m]-maš-qi il-la-ku-ni-ni
la a-ra-an-tu a-na KIN-šā-nu
DIŠ ME XL ŠE.[G]IG.MEŠ XX ŠE.PAD.MEŠ

Translation

(1-2) Royal decree to Alla-usur. (3-5) Check (and) receive all the horses, as many as the Turtan delivers to you. (6-8) (As to) Zudi'-ili, appoint him as responsible to you. Let him shepherd the midst of the land. (9-10) Now, the Turtan has seized these Arabs. (11-13) Let your watch over the desert as in the recent past be vigilant. (14-17) (B) Let them again shepherd your sheep [which are in] the desert [which is] in the midst of the land. (B) (18) until/as far as ... (C) (19) the road of Tabna-... (20) ... ... ... (21) When (those) of the fortress ... (22) the fortress Niu, (D) (23) the fortress Qadesh, (24) the fortress ... ... (E) (25) thus, this corn which I sowed, (26) to ... when you came to me (27) when they come from Damascus, (28) [see notes] (29) 140 (units of) wheat, 20 (units of) provisions.

Notes

Tablet lacking small fragment from lower left corner and part of top end. The reverse is inscribed in an unusual way, with four separate sections of writing, the first directly following obv., the second separated by a substantial gap, the third separately at the bottom of the face, and the fourth parallel to the long axis and mainly but not wholly on the left side; see diagram in Iraq 17 (1955), 143. Bold NA script.

5) a-šur. Impv. sg. of aššara A, CAD, A/2, 420b.
18) x-ši-x. The (almost complete) traces of the final sign rather suggest ū, with the oblique missing. Another possibility is an unusual form of TUG.
20) ú-šah. The signs are certain. In the context one might expect an Impv. J.N. Postgate suggests reading the line as ú-šah-ka-m[u], 'they explained', although the mu is not certain.
22) āni?-u. The sign read ni looks suspect; it could equally be ir.
28) a-ra-an-tū. For a word perhaps relevant here see AHw, 64b, arantu I, 'eine Grasart'.
28) KIN-šū-nu. URUDU.KIN = niggallu 'sickle' (CAD, N/2, 213a) might be considered here, with the line meaning 'no grass for their sickle'.

**ND 2668** (IM 64105; Plate 35)

**Transliteration**

**Obv.**

1 [a'-]na šarrī bēliya
  ur[ad]-k[a] ... x ... x
  a-n[u-r][ij x ... x x A RA
  ... x x x x x
5 x x IGI URU? x x x x
  x ša LUG[AL]?? XX MA.NA KÛ.BABBAR
  x x x RA VIII M[A.N]A K[Ú]BABBAR
  x GUR x x? [ś]a x ...
  naphar(PAP) ma [X]XX? MA.N[A] [KÛ.BABBAR]
10 ku-u[m] KÛ.BABBAR x ... ...
  ina bit x ...........
13 [A]? RA ...........

**Rev.**

1' ........ x [...]
  a-nu-rig x [...]  
  a-de?-e-šū-nu issu [...]  
  āl-di-maš-qī ih-x[-] [...]?
5' ina mà′ha-ma-te i-lu-k[u
  issu lib-bi HI UZ
  ina rēš ālqi-di-si ú-ša-bī-[tu
  a-nu-rig ina ekalli
  ú-sti-bi-la-šū-nu
10' amēlma-hi-ša-ni SIG.MEŠ šū-nu

**Translation**

**Obv.**

[The only lines retaining substantial meaningful text are:] (6) ... ... 20 minas of silver (7) ... ... 8 minas of silver (8) ... kors ... of ... (9) total: 30 minas of silver (10) in place of the silver ... ...

**Rev.**

(2') Now ... ... (3') their treaty-agreement from ... (4') they ... Damascus (5') they will go into Hamath (6') from the midst ... (7') they seized in the upper part of Qadesh. (8'-9') Now they have brought them into the palace. (10') [see note]
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

Notes
This tablet may have lost a line or two at the bottom. It lacks a small fragment from bottom left corner and a large fragment running from middle of base to almost halfway up right side. The surface of the first five lines of obv. is so badly abraded that only five signs and one damaged word are identifiable. The final 22 mm of rev. are uninscribed. Obv. is gently convex top to base, rev. only very slightly convex. NA script.

Rev.
3') a-de?-e-šu-nu. At my final collation I concluded that the second sign was not DI, but no better reading suggests itself.
6') HI UZ. Or HI ŠE.HU.
7') reš. The tentative translation assumes a meaning in the semantic range offered by AHw, 974b, reši(m) B.
10') I am unable to offer any credible translation of this line. J.N. Postgate very tentatively suggests ‘They are poor archers’.

ND 2671 (= LXXIX; BSAI; Plate 36)

Transliteration
Obv. a-na šarrī bē[li-i]a
urad-ka m.[PN]
lu šulmu a-na šarrī bē[li-i]a
amē[ta]-nu ma-a
5 DIŠ LIM : ŠE.NUMUN.MEŠ a-ru-uš
šattu šum-kut-ma
la-mu-qa-a-a DIŠ LIM Š[NU]MUN.[M]EŠ
la a-ra-āš
a-di a-ša-pa-[u-n]i
10 išepinnātimēš : š[a]
mābar-hal-zi šu[m]-qu-[t]-[t]u
si-mi-in ŠE.NUMUN.MEŠ
e-ti-iq a-sa-pa-ar
issu libbi [a]l ka[p]-ri
15 ša pa-an d[u]-lar-pa-da
alpēmēš ē-bal-uni
išepinnātimēš GU₄.NĪTA.MEŠ
a-na a-ha-meš ē₁-[r]a-rab
am-mar e-mu-qa-[a]-la₁-ni
20 ŠE.NUMUN.MEŠ[Š] a-ra-āš

Translation
(1-3) To the king my lord your servant PN. May it be well with the king my lord.
(4-5) The Tartan said: ‘Cultivate a thousand units of corn-land.’ (6) (This) year there is a shortfall; (7-9) I am not able to cultivate a thousand units of corn-land until I have given (appropriate) orders. (10-12) The ploughs of Bar-halzi were insufficient at the time proper for the corn-land. (13) I went over and gave orders. (14-16) They
brought oxen from within the village opposite Arpad. (17-18) I have come in together with the ploughs and oxen. (19-20) I shall cultivate as much cornland as is in my power.

Notes
Tablet complete except for top right corner missing on obv. Over half of rev. is uninscribed. The surface is in good condition except for local damage. Obv. is slightly convex, rev. completely flat. Two bottom corners are completely square; the top left corner has been pinched so that it protrudes slightly. NA script.

6, 11) šum-kut-ma, šu[m]-qu[z]-[t]a. The meaning offered is deduced from the context; there is an obvious semantic link with the meanings proposed for šumqutu in CAD, M/1, 251a, 9a and 9b. One might expect the NA St. to be šamkut. J.N. Postgate proposes reading taq-qi, etc.

9) a-di a-šá-pa-[r][u-n]i. For the use of Pres. see GAG §173f.

11) máthar-hal-si. On the area concerned, see Iraq 27 (1965), 27.

12) si-mi-in. Taken as a form of AHw, 1044b, Assyrian simānu.

ND 2676 (BSAI; Plate 36)

Transliteration

Obv. 1’ ... ... ... ... x
... ... ... ... x
... ... ... ... x
... x x ... x x-si
5’ ... e-q[u]?-i[u]?, x x
... kib x x M[U].AN.NA
ma-a ina lib[i] UR[U].ŠE ša šal-la-[t][e]?
9’ [x]-x-[m]u?-ku-nu
Base
X x s[a] x x ...
11’ [I]? M[E]? X[X]/X[X]?, Z[I.D]A.M[EŠ]
[k]u-u-[m] x x? ... [a]?-[n][a]?
Rev. āli ša šarri
i-na-sī
15’ a-na-ku issi ā-gu-za-na
XL DUG.ŠA[B].MEŠ iš-i Śi-bi-i[I]
x X A AŠ KÜ.BABBAR la-[q]i
UR[U]? x [b]? ša MUNUS É.GAL
20’ [ā]-pa-[a]q-ru-u-ni
[x] x-u-ni : a-na-ku
... ... a-qa-ri-ib
... ... [g]-pi-i
... ... x x x x
25’ ... ša L[U] ...
... ... a-bat šar[r]i ...

179
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

Side*
1’   xxx x x x
   x x x x

Translation
(6’) ... ... year (7’) after the city was in submission, (8’) I say thus, from the midst of the city ... booty (9’-10’) [nothing intelligible] (11’) one hundred and twenty/thirty measures of meal (12’) in place of ... ... (12’-14’) he will bring to the king’s city. (15’-17’) I have had thirty measures of meal, fifty sheep, (and) forty shappu-containers brought from Guzana. (18’) ... ... silver is taken. (19’-20’) the town which the Lady of the Palace is concerned about (21’-22’) I myself shall approach ... ... [Remainder is very fragmentary.]

Notes
Major part of tablet, lacking both upper corners, greater part of left side, and more than half surface of obv. Abrasion and pitting passim, severe in places, making many readings conjectural, especially on obv. Rev. is almost flat, obv. slightly convex. The surface clay contains a large number of tiny stones, mostly of diameter of \frac{1}{2} mm or less. NA script.

Appears to be a report on tribute after the conquest of a certain city or cities.

4’) x x-si. Traces are against reading penultimate sign as us.
8’) UR[U] x x. Presumably a place name.
17’) DUG.ŠA[B].MEŠ. See A. Salonen, Hausgeräte II, 124 and CAD, Š/1, 479a, šappu.
19’) MUNUS É.GAL. For a proposed reading as šēgalu (rather than simnišat ekalli), taken as the origin of BH loan-word šēgal, see S. Parpola, SAAB, II/1 (1988), 73-76.
19’) x [b]i?. Alternatively, this could be û followed by word divider.
20’) [û]-pa-[a]q-qu-u-ni. See AHw, 879b, puqqu(m).

ND 2680 (= XXII; BSAI; Plate 35)

Transliteration
Obv.1’  1a1-н[a] ... x x ... ME[š]
      ina libbi amēhu-up-te ur-a[r-ṭa-a-a]?
      ša issu libbi aṭil-bar-[sip]
      šarru be-li : i-di-na-n[i]
5’    mu-uk lu-u-da x ... 
      i-ba-ši ina lib.bi l[a]-aš-šú 
      m̄ha-ra-am-mu LŪ.NAR ana pāni 
      ša a[lman-šu-a-te ina muhhi-[i]a 
      i-tal-ka V mārēmeš.šú
10’   ... x ša-am-x-x
Base ... te nišēmeš
      ... šū-tū x x ...
Rev. ... x MEŠ ina? p[ān]? x ...
Letters relating to the West and Northwest

15'  
| na-n[a] me-eh-ri ... x    |  
| mu-uk la-ap-für-šú-nu      |  
| lu-ša-aš-bi-su-nu napharmeššú-nu |  
| la i-ma-gùr : ma-a amēššāmmešš |  
| pa-ri-šu-te šu-nu           |  
| ma-a i-tab-bi-ú i-hal-[i-q]u |  

20'  
| ma-a a-na du-a-ki i-d[u]-u[k-k]u |  
| a-na mi-ni amēššāmmešš |  
| ... x [š][u]-nu x ... |  

Translation

(1') to ... ... (2'-4') among the Urartian prisoners whom the king my lord gave me from within Til-Barsip, (5') I say: 'I certainly know there is ... There is nothing there.' (7'-9') Harammu the musician came to me in front of Mansuate. Five of his sons (10'-13') [fragmentary]

(14') to the front ... (15'-16') I said: 'Let me ransom them (and) let me settle all of them.' (17'-19') He would not agree. He said: 'They are unreliable soldiers. They would set off and run away. (20') They should put (them) to death. (21'-22') Why are the soldiers ... ...?'

Notes

Small tablet lacking top, upper half of right side and small fragments at bottom left and right corners. Except immediately adjacent to damage, text is clear throughout. NA script.

2') ur-á[r-ta-a-a]? The restoration is uncertain. The form could alternatively be ur-k[i-u-te] 'latter'.

7') LÜ.NAR. Or LÜ.LUL. See Deller, Or. 30 (1961), 254 and Kessler, Untersuchungen, 153-4. J.N. Postgate tentatively suggests reading, instead of LÜ.NAR ana pāni, LÜ.GAL! I LIM, a title otherwise found only in NB; see CAD, L, 198a, līmu B in rab līmi.

18') pa-ri-šu-te. See AHw, 834b, parrišu.

ND 2733 (BSAI; Plate 41)

Transliteration

Face A (Obv.)

1'  
[lu? sulmum[u] .......  
an[a] pān LÜ x .......  
x ma an x .........  

5'  
ni-ra-sip x .......  
nu-uk da-me-.......  
ni-ha-ra-ša muh[hi] ....  
ša ḫdi-маš-q[a] .....  
amēšrab hamsā(L) ša m[a]-...  

10'  
inu muhhi-ia ih-[u]-[ša]?
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

[ana]? muhhi šarri bē[li-ia]? ...

...xx......

Face B

1'  x ............  
x ... x [a] x ...  
is[su]? ... x te li x x  
[I]-x-x $[E.P]$AD.MEŠ

5'  issu pān šarri₂ x [x]? a-n[a] x  
a-da-na-šu ......  
liš-pu-ra ......  
U[R] PA x .........  
ša ina UR[U] .........

10'  LU[GAL] EN-........  
... ME .........

Translation

Face A

(2') may it be well ... ... (3') in the presence of the ...-official (4') ... ... ...  
(5') we shall destroy/pile up ... ... (6') (we said) as follows ... ... (7') we shall make  
clear about ... ... (8') of Damascus ... ... (9') the platoon officer of ... ... (10') he  
made clear for me (11') for the king my lord (12') ... ... ...  
Face B

(4') ... ... corn rations (5') from the presence of the king ... to ... (6') I will give to  
him ... ... (7') let him send a message ... ... (8') ... ... ... (9') which in the town  
... ... (10') the king [my] lord ... ... ...

Notes

Fragment with both ends missing. Retains left side, but approaches completeness from  
left to right only in Face A lines 8'-11' and Face B lines 3'-4'; all other lines retain half  
or less of their original surface. Shows no distinction between core and surface clay.  
NA script.

Is placed in this section because of ḍi-maš-q[a] in A 8'.

Face A

2') [l]u? šulmu[m]. If, as seems probable, this is part of the introductory greeting  
formula, Face A is obv.

6') da-me-. Since ‘blood’ is not obviously appropriate after nu-uk, these two syllables  
may be the beginning of a longer word.

9') amēl-rob hamšā(L). Lit. ‘chief of a pentecostys’.

Face B

8') PA x. The unidentified damaged sign was either RAB or LUGAL.

ND 2762 (= L; BSAI; Plate 34)  

Transliteration

Obv. a-na šarri be-[li-ia] [u]rad-k[a]
Letters relating to the West and Northwest

Translation
(1-3) To the king my lord your servant Ululaya. May it be very well with the king my lord.

(4-8) It is well with the land of Assyria, it is well with the temples, it is well with all the fortresses of the king. Let the heart of the king my lord be very glad.

(9-13) The emissaries of the land of Kummuh, of ...-asu, of Marqasi, of Samal, of Ashdod, (and) of Moab have come. (13-17) They have gone past Til-Barsip (and) Gozan without my authority. I have sent a message (and) they have detained them in Kubana ... (18-19) [unintelligible] (20) I have sent a message to ..., saying: (21) ‘The emissaries are not to go on. (22) They have left (and) crossed (the river) (23) (and) are now settled in Kubana.’ (24-26a) I sent a second emissary of the land ... (with) letters into Kubana. (26b-29) The matters they sent messages about, when those letters are brought, I will transmit [to the king] my lord. (30-32a) As soon as the king sets out,
let them send a message (and) let me come. Let me see the king my lord, (32b-33) (let me have) a reply (telling) of the wellbeing of the king my lord.

Notes
Virtually complete tablet, with only a piece c. 10 x 8 mm missing from bottom right corner, and another smaller piece from near top of right side. Some surface damage, more marked on rev. Both faces slightly convex. NA script.

11) matma[r-q]a-s[a]-a-a. For Marqasa as capital of Gurgum, near Maras, see SAA, 1, p. 238.

14) ultiur-bi-si-ba. This and other variant spellings (cf. SAA, 1, p. 239) suggests that the form Til-Barsip is a folk etymology.

16) d[l]ku-ba-na ... In the province of Guzana. For a possible restoration see SAA, 1, no. 233 (= CT 53, 2), rev. 2.

20) L[Ú]? ... x. Kessler, Untersuchungen, 204, restores L[UGAL be-li-y]a, which is possible, although extant traces are insufficient to confirm this reading.

24) amelširu. Kessler, Untersuchungen, 204, reads 16MAH-[a]-n[r].

26) x[a]??[a?]-sa-p?-ru-ni. Speculative restoration.

32) na-pa-su. Taken as a NA form from nāpaltu, ‘answer’ (CAD, N/1, 272b; AHw, 733b). Less probably it might represent nāpasi, Nom. with 1 sg. suf., a NA form from napaštu (napištu), and with line 33 might mean ‘my life (is only there for) for the wellbeing of the king my lord’.

(c) The Northwest

Letters edited:
ND 2610, ND 2656, ND 2713, ND 2759.

ND 2610 (BSAI; Plate 37)

Transliteration
Face A
1' ... x x ... 
... [b]i-r[i]? ... 
... x aš x ... 
... [l]ih-bi KUR q[u-e] ... 
5' ... [s]išēme[s] x ... 
... s[u-s]-a-[n]i ... 
... amelšēmeš šarri i-x ... 
...-[r][a]?-me-šū-ru [n]i? ... 
... x ši-i x ... 
10' ... [n]i u x x ... 
...-x-an-ni x ... 
... x [D]UR? šá x 
... x [K]IB-la ma-la₁ 
... x e x x 
15' ... matma-[g]i-u
Letters relating to the West and Northwest

... ... xx
... ... [n]a?-[k]u
... ... MU.AN.NA
... ... xx

Face B
[Measurement from the extant top right corner indicates that two lines are lost before the first extant traces of inscription.]
3 ... x ... ... n'i
... x MAN? x ... ...
5 ... ši-bu ... x x-šu-nu
... [š]a-sur-šá-nu sah-har!??-ru-[r]u
... x x x ina lib-bi ú-[s]i-šib-š[š]-nu
... x-[š]ú-nu bitānmeššá-nu
... x-šá-nu i-da-gu-lu₄
10 ... x liš-pu-ra bit
[pa-n]a-at šarri be-ši-ia
[i-d]a-ga-lu-ni lid-gu-lu₄
... xmeš amešlu-ub-tu
... xmeš šá-nu alpmesšá-nu
15 ... x-šá-nu i-st-sú-nu
... [p]a-an matna-gi-u x ...
... e??-[i]?-ni lu-PA-te ...
... [i]n gu ri ...
... x nu ni ...
20 ... xx ... ...
[There may have been a further two lines of text.]

Translation
Face A
... ... ... (4') the midst of the land Qu[e] ... (5') horses ... ... (6') ... vessels
... ... (7') ... troops of the king ... (13'-14') [nothing intelligible] (15') ... ... district
(16'-17') [nothing intelligible] (18') ... ... year ... ... ...

Face B
(3-5) [nothing intelligible] (6) ... to safeguard them. The lesser people (7) ... ... I
settled them there (8) ... their ... (and) their houses (9) their ... will be subject (10) ...
... Let him send a message to the effect that (11-12) they will be subject to the king my
lord. Let them be subject. (13) ... ... prisoner(s)-of-war (14-16) [let them bring] with
them their [flocks], their cattle (15) their ... (16-17) I will open the front of the province
(for them) (18-20) [nothing intelligible]

Notes
Tablet lacks whole of left side, part of right side, three corners, and substantial parts of
surface. Part of one end remains, and only a few mm are lacking at the other end. Extant
signs are mostly quite legible. Tablet has slight convexity on both faces. In Face A 5'
there is a fragment of stone, at least 5 mm by 4 mm, below the surface after the extant
text. NA script.
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

Face A

4') KUR q[u]? ... Possibly mātqu-e.
13') [K]IB-la. Possibly linked to k/qapālu(m) (AHw, 442a, CAD, K, 174a) and kip/blu (AHw, 482b, CAD, K, 397a).

Face B

6) sah-har(?)-ru-[i]u. The second sign could not be DI, KI or LAGAB, and har is very doubtful. The form restored is very dubious, since although it might be linked to sihhirutu (CAD, S, 174b), the doubled -r- of sahharrutu would be contrary to normal NA practice.
10) liš-pu-ra bit. On sense of bit see CAD, B, 273a, c 2'.
17) lu-PA-te. In form could represent either lupattı 'let me open' or luhattı 'let me smite', but the context, which seems to concern resettlement of conquered people, seems to favour the former.

ND 2656 (= XL; BSAI; Plate 27)
See TCAE, pp. 123-4.

Transliteration

Obv. [ana šarri bēliya? urad-ka?]

DIŠ,[x] ... ... x
amē[liš]āpir(µA) x-x-ma-ni
amēširānכים.ni
5 mātqu-a-a
DIŠ liš-pi-nu-tú
III imērku-din
III amēšābāmēs

Rev. rif-si-šū-nu
10 ina arahaddari ṭumu XXX.KAM
nāra e-tab-ru-ni
ina dškar.m,šulmānu-nu.ašarīd
bi'-du
a-na šulmumu
15 ina ekallī
... x x x ...

Translation

(1) [To the king my lord your servant] (2) PN, (3) governor of ...-mani.

(4-5) The emissaries of Que, (6-11) (with) one ipinutu, three mules and three soldiers with them, crossed the river (Euphrates) on the thirtieth of Addar. 12-13) They are spending the night in Kar-Shalmaneser. (14-16) [They are coming] to the palace for peace.

Notes

Almost complete tablet, with surface lost for most of first two lines and part of third, and most of final line. Very square, and will stand on either side or on base. Both faces flat. Bold clear NA script.

186
Letters relating to the West and Northwest

The first line is wholly lost and there is substantial loss of surface from lines 2 and 3 and final line. Otherwise the script is deep, clear-cut and mostly undamaged.

1-2) The initial DIS of line 2 suggests that the writer’s name began here, without the customary urad-ka preceding on the same line. The brevity of subsequent lines suggests that only one of beliya and ardu-ka was on line 1 after ana šarrri.

3) x-x-ma-ni. A restoration KUR (or URU) bit-za-ma-ni is impossible, and KUR za-ma-ni, although not utterly impossible, seems very improbable, although it might be geographically acceptable (for the tribal territory of Bit-zamani see K. Kessler, Untersuchungen, 97f., 159ff.). The official’s territory must have been within reasonable reach of Kar-Shalmaneser (= Til Barsip), mentioned in line 12.

4) amēliširānimēs,ni. TCAE, op.cit., points out that this term is used only of foreigners, and was roughly the equivalent of LÜ.GAL.MEŠ, reserved for Assyrians.

6) ši-pi-nu-tu. Reading certain. Is this linked to epinnu ‘plough’?

14) a-na šulmu[m]. Taken to mean that the emissaries were bringing assurance of peace from Que. Alternately ‘to (give) greetings’.

ND 2713 (BSAI; Plate 36)

Transliteration

Obv. [a-na] šarr[i] b[e]-l[i]-[a] [urad-ka] DIS.x-[x]-aš-šur-[x] ... x ... x x [š]a? matta-[b]-l[ia] 5 x x qu x x x x? [š]a ina [e-k]alli iš-puru-n[i]-[i] [d]aš-šur dbe[i] l[da][b] ina pan šar[ri] li[i]-l[i]-[k]u [a]-[d]u-u ša[rr][i]? b[ēṭ]-i?-ša-n[u]?

10 ina dišur-[u]-du-[a]-a [a]-ka-ra-[g]-[u]-l[mi] [b]-[r]-[a]-[m]eš ša-nu ina x x [l]na pā[n] ša[rr]i? ina m strategically ša

15 [š]a muhhi amēlihu-ub-ti [ša] dāli a-na x-[a]-me E.GAL x x x ... Rev. ... x im x x ... qa-r[i]-t[u]? MIN x 20 ... x-b[u]-[i]-li-[l]-[k]u ... x x [N]AM? ŠID ... x x MEŠ A.MEŠ ... x x ša-nu

[Lines 24 to end retain insignificant traces only.]

Translation

(1-3) To the king my lord your servant ...-ashur-... ...
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

(4) of the land Tabal (5) ... ... ... (6) who in the Palace sent me a message.
(7-8) Let the gods Ashur, Bel, Nabu come into the presence of the king. (9-11) They
will impose the vassal-treaty terms of the king their lord on the people of the town
Urrudutu. (12-14) They shall ... ... their fortresses in ... before the king in the land
Assyria. (15) The person in charge of the prisoners (16) [of] the town ... (17) the
Palace ... ... (18) ... ... ... (19) granary ... ... (20) ... let them come.
(21-end) [fragmentary]

Notes
Tablet has lost most of its left side, and has some loss of surface from the middle of
lines 2-5 on obv. and from approximately the left quarter of all rev. Abrasion is
considerable on obv. and so severe on rev. that little can be restored. The surface
contains many small white efflorescences, presumably of calcium salts, and also some
tiny particles of stone. The tablet is equally convex on both faces. NA script.
3) It is difficult here to identify the expected lu šulmu ana šarri bēliya.
4) matta-[b]-a-li. This restoration requires acceptance of an unusually wide spacing
between signs.
10) āl-ur-[r]-du-t[al]-a-a. āl-ur-ru-du-tu is taken as an alternative spelling of āl-ur-du-tu,
mentioned in connection with the land of Tabal in Iraq 9, 151, 31f.
11) iš-[ka-ra-ra]-r[u]-l[u]-n[i]. What might appear to be the head of a vertical at the
beginning of the line is shown by examination under the microscope to be nothing but a
small hole.
22) x x MEŠ. Above the end of MEŠ is a tiny fragment of stone with a hole to its right,
which in a photograph might suggest an oblique wedge.

ND 2759 (= XXXIX = IM 64156; Plate 38)
Re-edited J.N. Postgate, Iraq 35 (1973), 21-33 and S. Parpola, SAA, 1, no.1. See also
K. Deller, Or. 33 (1964), 92; G.B. Lanfranchi, ‘Sargon’s Letter to Aššur-šarru-ūṣur: an

Transliteration
Obv. [ila-[b]-at šarri a-na [m]-aš-šur-šarr[a]-aš[ur š]ulmu ia-[l]-ši
šulmu-[a]-na m[aš]-šur[a]-ka li-[b-bu-ka]-tu šabb[a]-ka
šala taš-pur-an-ni ma-a amē/mār šip-ri-[ša] me-[a-k]-a
me[t]-mu[š]-[k]-a-a ina muh-hi-iia it-[al]-ka ma-a XIV sābē[maš]
me[t]-qu-u-a-la [š]a mu-[m]-a-te
a-na ma[u]-rari[š]-u-[š]-e-bi/[š]-[u]-ni ma-a ina muh-hi-iia na-[ša]
ta-ri-[š]-a-da[n]-uš an-nu-rig aš-šur [š]-[š]-aš bēl
a-na sa-al-mi-ni it-tu-ar ša taš-pur-an-ni
ma-a ba-lat šarri be-l[a]-i amē/mār šip-ri-iia ina muhhi
me[t]-muš-[ka]-a-a la ašap-par ú-[š]-a-an-nu-rig
a-sap-rak ka amē/mār šip-ri-ka issu pa-an maš-[naš]-ka-a-[š]
lu [š]-a ib-bat-taq dib-bi ša[b]-aš-aš-[š]-a
15 ka-a-ma-nu mi-i-nu ša tē-en-ša-ni ši-[l]-mi a-du bi-it a-tal-ka-ni
Letters relating to the West and Northwest

ša taš-pur-an-ni ma-a ki-i ša šu-ú urdânišša ša šar[ri] be-li-ia
ú-še-bi-il-an-ni ma-a ana-[k|u] urdânišša-ni. šú lu-še-bi-la-[š]-ša-ú
šé-bi-la-dš-šú ba-si lib-bu-šú is-[š]-ni ip-p[a]-šar lu I M[E] ann[š]a-bénišša-u lu
lu X
k[i]-i1 an-n[i šu]p-ra-šú ma-a šábémeš máṭqu-u-a-a ša t[u]-še-bi-il-an-ni
m[a]-l[1] (na)? [muḥ?] šar[ri] bé-li-ia as-sap-par ma-a šarru be-li
ih-tu-du a-dan-niš ma-a ú-[š]-a[h]-i-[r] ... ... ina muh-ša-ia is-sap-ra ma-a máṭmuš-k[a-a-a ša]
ina pa-ni-ka-ni ištišen[le] la tā-kall-la ma-a [dā-hiš a-n]a
meš-[a]-ša-še-bi-il-an-ni su-an-[nu]-t[e]
inu makh hi pi-e ša šarru be-li-ia ú-[š]-bi-lak-ka
ša taš-pur-an-ni ma-a amēlmar šiš-ri ša m[u]r-bal-a
issu amēlmar šiš-ri máṭmuš-ka-a-a na šulmešme ina muh-hi-ia
it-ta-la šiš-šur uššaš šel u ounabu3
liq-bi u šarranšši ha-an-nu-ti gab-b[i]-šú-nu ina libbi ziq-ni-šú-nu
30 Kūš.Dā.E.SIR-ka lu-sak-ki-lu
ša taš-pər ur-an-ni ma-a mki-la-ar IV na-gi-l[1]-ni
[e-rī ša-ā]-ni ma-a lid-di-nu-ni ki-ma IV na-gi-an-ni
[a-nu-t]e l[1]-[n]a m[ki-la-ar ta-[a]-ti-din
la a-na mi-ih-r[i]-k[a-a i-[u]-a r]
at-ta-ma ina muhhi mi-i-ni amēl-pa-ha-tu-[š]-[t]u-u[p]-pa-āš
ki-i an-ni i qi-ba-dāš-šu ma-a ina ti-[m]a-li šal-ši ūmēn[e]
[is]su [p]ān máṭmuš-ka-a-a šal-ha-ka ma-a ū-ma-a
[m]šiššu-ka-a-a is-si-ni is-si-lim
[ma]-a at-ta issu pān mi-i-ni [pa]-l-ha-ka
40 mēška-a-ši-ti ma-aabilité ku lu [l]āb-ka
ma-a ni-kit-ta-ka issu pa-an máṭmuš-[š]-ka-a-a lu-la-dāš-šu
ša taš-pur-an-ni ma-a mūr-bal-a ina muh[hi š]a [ṯ]-a-tū-[n]-[a-l]-l[1]-la
āši-ta-an-da-a-a il-lik-ū-ni [ā]-āšūnomen
ša bit mpa-ru-ta i-pu-[g]-[u]-[r]-[n]-[n] [x] x ...
45 i[šu muh[i] šar[ri] be-li-ia ... x an-nu-riq
māṭmuš-[uš]-ka-a-a-[i]-s-si-ni is-si-[im [i]-ti-ia SILIM-m[a]
šarranšši ša máṭta-ba-li gāb-[b[u mi]-i-nu ah-hur
ep-pu-šu at-ta issu na-ka máṭmuš-[š]-ka-a-a issu ma-[k]a
50 tu-ma-zā-a-šu-nu ba-si at-ta e-b[i]-k[a-ka ina lib-bi-šu-nu
ta-rak-kan-an-nu riq as-šur uššaš šel u ounabu3
ta-at-tak-ba-aš ki-i lib-bi-ka du-ū-lu
55 [dš]-ri ú-li-ma a-du bi-it ana-ku al-[a]-l[k]-an-ni
dul lu k[i]-i [x] x-x-ni ad-da-na-kan-ni
ina muhhi mb[a]- ... [š]a [aš-pur-an-ni] dib-bi-šu gab-bu a-s[e-m]e
ūmušnu ša e-gir-tū an-n[i-tu ta-a]m-[m]ar-ḏ[u]-ni márš-šu ku-m[u]-šu
ina muhhi jābēnišša šiš-pi-qid niššišši šú lu kan-nu-šu lu kām-mu-su
60 šum-ma lib-bu-šu šadâni lušša-bal-ka la luše-šīb-šu-nu

189
Translation
(1-2) Command of the king to Ashur-sharra-usur. I am well. It is well with the land of Assyria. May your heart be glad.

(3-7) Concerning the message you sent me, saying: ‘A messenger of Mita the Mushkaean has come to me, bringing to me fourteen people of Que whom Urik has send as a mission to Urartu’, (that) is very proper. (7-10) Now Ashur, Shamash, Bel and Nabu, my gods, know that in the midst of battle … the Mushkaean has given us his word (and) has become our ally.

(10-14) Concerning the message you sent me, saying: ‘Without (the permission of) the king my lord I shall not send my messenger to the Mushkaean’, now in fact your messenger should certainly not be cut off from the presence of the Mushkaean. Send him with a message of friendly words. (15) Constantly listen to news about him (sc. the Mushkaean ruler) until I come.

(16) Concerning the message you sent me, saying: ‘Just as he sent over subjects of the king my lord, shall I send his subjects to him?’, (18) do send (them) to him! Soon his heart will become favourably disposed to us. Whether (it is a matter of) a hundred people or ten, (19-25) sent him a message. Say: ‘The people of Que whom you sent to me, I have sent a message (about them) to the king my lord. The king my lord was very pleased and in return he sent a message to me saying: “You shall not hold back a single Mushkaean who is in your presence, but [quickly] send (them) to Mita.” I send you these people at the order of the king my lord.’

(26-30) Concerning the message you sent me, saying: ‘A messenger of Urbala came to me with the Mushkaean messenger for an audience’, let him come, and let Ashur, Shamash, Bel and Nabu speak, that all these kings may wipe your sandals with their beards.

(31-34) Concerning the message you sent me, saying: ‘Kilar [has requested] from me four districts, (saying), “Let them give (them) to me”’ – when you have given these four districts to Kilar, will he not become your equal? (35) Over what would you yourself exercise the governorship then? (36-41) Speak to him in these terms, saying: ‘In the past you were afraid of the Mushkaean. The Mushkaean has now made peace with us, so what are you afraid of? Now eat your food and drink your water in the shadow of the king my lord. Let your heart be glad. (42) There is indeed no reason for anxiety on account of the Mushkaean.’
Concerning the message you sent me, saying: ‘Urbala [may withdraw] from the king my lord because the people of Atuna and Istuanda came (and) took by force towns of Bit-Paruta...’, now the Mushkaean has made peace with us. There is certainly peace with me. All the kings of Tabal, what can they do in the future? You from this side, the Mushkaean from that side, will squeeze them. You will quickly bind your rope on them. Now Ashur, Shamash, Bel and Nabu have acted, (and) this land will in consequence be trodden down under your feet. Go about as you wish. Do whatever is your duty. Cut off the long, raise the humble, until I myself come. (56) I will give you duties according as...

(57-59) Concerning Ba..., I have heard his whole story. On the day you see this letter, appoint his son in his place over his men. Let his people assemble and be present. (60-61a) If it is his wish, let him take (them) into the mountains (and) settle them there, or let them live here. (61a-66) As for him, let one of your riders collect him promptly (and) let him come to me; I want to speak kindly with him (and) encourage him. (As) soon (as) I send a message (about those of) his people whom they have brought back here, he may go and enter his estate.

(66-71) (As for) Apla-iddina, let your messenger bring him to me with his people, whether men of Babylon, of Borsippa, of Kish, of Nippur, of Erech, of Der or (wherever).

Notes
Largely complete tablet, composed of several fragments rejoined. Some loss of surface around joins. Abrasion passim. NA script.

I have benefited considerably from the new editions by Postgate, op.cit., and Parpola in SAA, 1, no.1.

4) XIV šábmeš. Clearly so, pace Postgate, op.cit., p. 22.
8) e-d[u]-lú1. For the traces after e, editio princeps proposed e-d[u?-m]a?. Postgate, op.cit., p. 22, proposed e-tap?-š[ú l]a?, which SAA, 1, no.1, adopted with no indication of doubt. For the traces immediately after e, e-du or e-tap-šú seem equally possible, but the final sign cannot be ma or la, since there is certainly the tail of one horizontal, and probably the tails of two, following the vertical. In the context this points to the final sign being ú, and the whole word e-du-ú, despite the certain e-tap-šú in line 52.
8) x(-x)m[e]-ni. Editio princeps ...-ni; Postgate, op.cit., p. 22 [(x) x] x-me-ni, suggesting (p. 24) a sense ‘our enemy’; SAA, 1, no.1 [la ina ŠA m]e-me-ni, taken to mean ‘or anything’. Contra the last restoration, there is certainly insufficient space for four signs between qa-ra-bi and -m[e]-ni, possibly insufficient for three.
14) lu [la] ib-bat-taq. So editio princeps and Postgate, op.cit., p. 22. SAA, 1, no.1 reads lu [(a t]a]bat-taq, which, since the third sign is slightly damaged, is not impossible.
15) a-tal-ka-ni. Postgate, op.cit., p. 22, a-ri-qa-an-ni, followed by SAA, 1, no.1. But the supposed qa-an is probably ka with some wedges slightly misaligned, as can happen with signs written, as here, on the curve running into the right side.
22) [ša]. Space is insufficient for the am-mar supplied by SAA, 1, no.1.
23) [ár-hiš]. After SAA, 1, no.1. Space permits this restoration.
29) ina libbi. So also Postgate, op.cit., p. 22. SAA, 1, no.1 reads TA*.
30) lu-sak-ki-lu. See CAD, S/3, 219a-b, šukkulu.

45) i-pu-g[u]-[ú]-[ni]. So editio princeps and Postgate, op.cit., p. 24. The traces disallow i-pu-gu-[šú]-ni proposed by SAA, 1, no.1.

46) [ssu? muhh]??. This reading is after Postgate, op.cit., p. 24 and SAA, 1, no.1, but the traces are too slight to admit certainty.

46) …x-[a]??. Postgate, op.cit., p. 24 [x x x (x)-]di-a?; SAA, 1, no.1, [x x x] di x).

47) SILIM-m[a]. Taken to represent šulum-ma; cf. GAG §126e. The scribe appears to have first written SILIMmu, since there remain (as shown in the copy) traces of an incompletely erased mu.

55) áša [š]-ri ú-li-ma. ú-li-ma is taken as defective writing of Impv. D elā with enclitic -ma. SAA, 1, no.1 proposes [ku-r]l-ú Ile-!e]-[rik], but the -e!- is very suspect.

57) mba-…, SAA, 1, no.1 tentatively restores mba-la-su. For a possible basis for this see Postgate, op.cit., p. 26, note to line 57.

59) lu kan-nu-ša lu kám-mu-su. For the first verb see AHw, 436b, kanašu II D ‘einsammeln’. The second verb is taken as AHw, 431b, kamāsu(m) II ‘sich beugen, knien’.

62) amēliššu(III.U3)-ka. Lit. ‘your “third-rider”’.

65) nišašša ša ha-na-ka ú-sa-har-u-ni. Postgate’s translation, op.cit., p. 25, ‘his people who are delaying here’, is attractive, but it is difficult to justify this sense for D theme of sahišu. SAA, 1, no.1 ‘I will … have his people (being kept) here returned’ requires ú-sa-har-u-ni to be 1 c. sg., although after ša it can only be 3 pl. Subj.

66) mpla-iddi[na]?(SU[M]?). Postgate, op.cit., p. 24, suggests mDUMU.UŠ-šia1, but (p. 29) accepts doubt about the reading of the final sign.
Chapter Five

Letters relating to the Assyrian homeland

In this chapter the letters edited are grouped primarily by topic, and by excavation number within the topic.

(a) Wellbeing of the Land

Letters edited:
ND 2355, ND 2372, ND 2409, ND 2449, ND 2462, ND 2617, ND 2697, ND 2719, ND 2731, ND 2736, ND 2757, ND 2784, ND 2792.

**ND 2355** (LII; BSAI; Plate 38)

Transliteration

Obv. \[a-na \, šar\,ri \, [bēliya] \]
\[urad-k\,a \, m.\,d_{x}\ldots\]
\[lu \, šulmu_{mu} \, a-na \, šarr\,ri \, bē\,[li-ia]\]
\[šulmu_{mu} \, a-na \, māt\,i \, ša \, ša[rri]\]
5 \[ma\,-\,u\,-\,ta\,-\,[t]\,i\]
\[ša \, šarr\,ru \, ka\,-\,nu\,-\,šā\]
\[ma\,-\,hi\,-\,ru \, i\,-\,na \, māt\,i\]
\[damiq\,i\,q \, a\,-\,dan\,-\,nī\,š\]
I ANŠE \, ŠE.\,PAD.\,MEŠ
10 \[ša \, I \, MA.\,NA \, er_{imes}\]
\[ina \, dī\,ni\,-\,nu\,-\,a \, tal\,-\,lak\]
I ANŠE \, BANIA \, ina \, māti\,ša\,-\,lā\,-\,hi
II ANŠE \, ina \, mā\,mu\,-\,da\,-\,bi\,-\,ri
XX[X]? \, MA.\,NA \, šī\,pā\,i_{imes}\]
15 \[\,a \, I \, MA.\,NA \, er_{imes}\]

Translation

1-3 To the king my lord your servant Ashur-DN. May it be well with the king my lord.

4-5 It is well with the land of the king. (5-6) The ma uttu fields of the king are harvested. (7–8) The price level in the land is extremely favourable. (9–13) One homer of grain goes for one mina of copper in Nineveh; (you get) one and a half homers in the land Halahhi (and) two homers in the steppe-land. (14–15) ... minas of wool (go for) one mina of copper.
Notes
Tablet lacks top and top right and left corners. Except where corners are lacking, text is almost wholly preserved on obv., and clear. Surface of whole of rev. is lost, except for unidentifiable traces on rev. 1, and the final sign or part of a sign at the ends of lines 7 (MEŠ), 9 (-te), 10 (-te), 12 (perhaps mu). The base is extant and uninscribed. NA script.
2) m.d.x-... Or possibly maš-šu[r]-x [...].
5) ma'-u-ta-a-[i]. See CAD, M/2, 321b, mu'uuntu (ma'uttu) ‘(a type of field)’.
11) tal-lak. Deller, op.cit., proposes reading the first sign as ill?, and since the preceding -a is followed by slight damage, with possible remains of a horizontal, this deserves consideration. But the possible further horizontal is markedly shallower than other wedges in the line and may be adventitious; and since what I take as tal certainly has only one horizontal, one oblique and three verticals, even with an additional preceding horizontal it could not be emended into il in any normal form. The space and traces are insufficient for the reading it-tal-lak.
12-13) On these prices see Postgate, JESHO 17, p. 238.
13) mānu-da-bi-ri. Since the price of grain in this region was half that in Nineveh, mudabiru (madbaru, AHw, 572a) must have meant the corn-growing plain rather than specifically desert, or may have become, as Deller, op.cit., suggests, a toponym.

ND 2372 (LIII; IM 64015; Plate 29)

Transliteration
Obv.\[a-na šar]\ri b[e-]l-[i][a]
\[urad]-ka \[m\]x.x-a-a
\[l]\u šulmu\[m\]u
a-na šarri be-li-ia
5 a-dan-niš
šulmu\[m\]u a-na māš-šurki
šulmu\[m\]u a-na ekurrāti(E.KUR) meš
šulmu\[m\]u tal-na bi-ra-ti
9 \[š]a [māš] ga[b-b]u
Rev.\[libbu ša šarri\]
11 b[e-li-ia] lu fāb

Translation
(1-5) To the king my lord your servant [PN]. May it be very well with the king my lord. (6) It is well with the land of Ashur, (7) it is well with the temples, (8-9) it is well with all the fortresses of the king. (10-11) Let the heart of the king my lord be glad.

Notes
Virtually complete with significant cracks. Text on obv. is mainly in good condition, the 2 lines on rev. are in poor condition. Nearly 50 mm of rev. is uninscribed. This is a report on the wellbeing of the land, in simplest form. NA script.
Letters relating to the Assyrian Homeland

ND 2409 (LI; BSAI; Plate 38)

Transliteration

Obv. [a-na š]arri be-li-[ia]
   u[rad-k]a m.arahulula-a-[a]
   lu-u šulmu₅₉ a-na šar[ri]
   be-ll-ia a-dan-niš

5 šulmu₅₉ a-na māṭaš-šu
   šulmu₅₉ a-na ekurratu₅₉
   šulmu₅₉ a-na hal-šume₅₉
   ša [ša] ṭarri gab-b[u]
   lib-bu ša šar[ri] be-ill-[i]a

10 a-dan-niš lu-u ṭaḥ
   XX ma-garru-tu
   [ša bit amelj]ur-t[a-n]i

Rev. XL : ša am[el]i₉... 
   XXX [ša am[el]ra]b B.LUL

15 naphar XC m[a-garr-r]u-tu
   ša ku-up-[p]i-e
   a-na šarri be-ill-ia
   ú-si-bi-[a]
   ūm III.KAM ša arahayari

20 m[ašiš]ku-[r]u ú-[a-f]-š₁₉₁

Translation

(1-4) To the king my lord your servant Ululaya. May it be very well with the king my lord.

(5-8) It is well with the land of Assyria. It is well with the temples. It is well with all
   the fortresses of the king.

(9-10) Let the heart of the king my lord be very glad.

(11-12) 20 wagon-loads of the household of the Turtan, (13-14) 40 of the
   ...official, 30 of the Rab-shakeh, (15-18) total, 90 wagon-loads of reeds I have had
   brought to the king my lord. (19-20) On the third of Ayyar I brought the raft up.

Notes

Tablet largely complete except for small losses at top left and right corners and bottom
   right corner. Has cracks and some surface loss passim. Final 19 mm of rev.
   uninscribed. There are unusually wide spaces (c. 3 mm) between lines of script. NA
   script.

2) m.arahulula-a-[a]. This person was also the author of ND 2762 (above) and ND
   2792 (below).

16) ku-up-[p]i-e. Taken as from CAD, K, 555b, kupu ‘canebrake’, rather than from
   op.cit., 551b, kuppu ‘snow, ice’; this is confirmed by the writing ku-pi-e in ND 2792, 8,
   by the same author. These reeds, like those of ND 2792, may have been for the building
   of Dur-Sharrukin, on which see below, p. 214.
20) û-{[a]-[l]î-}[a]. See CAD, E, 125b, 5.-127a, ullû. Here “to bring up” seems likelier than “remove” in the ventive.

**ND 2449** (XXIV; BSAI; Plate 39)
Re-edited in TCAE, pp. 375-6.

**Transliteration**

Obv. 

\[\text{[a]-na šarri bēli-ia} \]
\[\text{urad-ka \text{maš-šur-ıśme(HAL)-a-ni}} \]
\[\text{šu-uh amēlikkarı̱meš} \]
\[\text{ša \text{maš-šur-ı̱-ir-ka-unassı̱r}} \]
\[5 \]
\[\text{ša šarru i-hu-ru-ni} \]
\[\text{ma-a ŠE.NUMUN.ME[Š]-ni ra-hi-ı̱ş} \]
\[\text{ú-ma-a ebı̱rı̱-šu-nu} \]
\[\text{damı̱q : a-dan-ı̱ş} \]
\[\text{šarru : lih-da} \]
\[10 \]
\[\text{ina šatti X AN[ŠE]} \]
\[\text{ŠE.NUMUN.MEŠ x ... ...} \]
\[\text{x x x ... ...} \]

Base

\[\text{[b]ıt ŠE.[NUMUN]} ? ... ... \]
14
\[\text{i-x ... ... ...} \]

Rev.

\[\text{X ANŠE ŠE ... ...} \]
16
\[\text{Ӧ[1]-ta-x ... ...} \]
\[\text{x x : ma a[h] ? ... ...} \]
\[\text{[x] x-tu : e-x} \]
\[\text{x x maşšartı̱-šu-nu} \]
20
\[\text{I[u]-da-i-ni} \]
\[\text{šu-nu ma-a ŠE.NUMU[N].M[EŠ]} \]
\[\text{ša ra-ma-ni-ni šı̱} \]
\[\text{ú-ma-a : e-ı̱-ı̱-de} \]
\[\text{ina muhı̱ ma-ı̱-u-te} \]
25
\[\text{a-ka-ra-ar} \]
\[\text{šum-a : ma-ı̱} \]
\[\text{ana-kı̱ ú-ı̱-[a]-lам} \]

Top

\[\text{bit I ME ŠE.NUMUN.M[EŠ]} \]
\[\text{[d]ıt-ri-i-[a]} ? \]
30
\[\text{bit I ME XL eqlı̱} \]
\[\text{i-ša-bat} \]

**Translation**

(1-2) To the king my lord your servant Ashur-ıshmeani.

(3-9) Concerning the farmers of Ashur-nirka-unaşsır who approached the king, saying ‘Our corn-land has been flooded’, the fact is, their harvest is very good. Let the king be glad. (10-11) In a year, ten homers of corn-land [should produce …] (12-16) [nothing significant intelligible] (17-18) [see notes below] (19-20) I will strengthen … their watch [or the watch on them]. (21-22) They say: ‘The corn-land is ours.’ (23-25)
Now I shall place harvesters upon the mu’untu-land; (26-27) if it is little, I myself will make up the shortfall. (28-30) He has taken possession of an area of 100 units of corn-land of the settlement Bit-eria, and 150 fields.

Notes
Tablet complete except for bottom right corner. Beginning of lines 16-20 on rev. obliterated, otherwise surface mainly sound and legibility good. NA script.
2) māš-šur-išme(HAL)-a-ni. A person of this name was governor of Kalzu and eponym official for 724 BC; see RLA, II, 443b. For another occurrence of the name see ND 2464.
4) m.ŠIŠ-ŠUR-NI-IR-KA-UNAŠŠIR. The copy published in Iraq 18 (1956), plate IX, no.XXIV, was correct at this point, but in my transliteration I wrongly emended it. Cf. Borger, Asarh., p. 107, Gbr.II IV 34, for a place-name transliterated as uru-as-šur-ni-ir-ka-rap-pl[iš]; could the final two signs of the latter be misreadings for URU = UNAŠŠIR?
9) lih-da. TCAE, op.cit., reads lu!-u-da.
10) X AN[SE]. TCAE, op.cit., restores a[n?-ni-te?].
16-17) TCAE, ad loc. restores, perhaps correctly, È ma-[u-tā-u-ni (?)ina lib]-bi-ma : e-tar-[bu], ‘wherever there is watered land(?) they have gone into it’, and continues (19-20) ‘(but) I have established a stronger guard against(?) them’.
20) [l]u-da-'-ni. For the form cf. GAG §98d. Since the final -i has no morphological justification, I suggest that in such instances the sign NI is used quasi-alphabetically to represent -n with appropriate vocalisation, rather than syllabic -ni.
24) ma-’u-te. See CAD, M/2, 321b, mu’untu ‘(a type of field)’.
26-27) The writer makes the point that he is so sure of a good harvest that he is willing to accept personal responsibility if there is any shortfall.
27) ana-ku ú-š[a]-lam. Lit. ‘I myself will compensate’.

ND 2462 (LVI; BSAI; Plate 39)
Re-edited in TCAE, pp. 380-1.

Transliteration
Obv.1' ........... x ...
[ina m]ūši ša ēm XXVII[.K]AM
1'-di na-me-ra-ni
ina ēm XXVII[.K]AM ēmu[m]u gab-bi-šu
5' ina mūši ša ēm XXVIII.KAM
mūši gab-bi-šu
1' A'[.A]N.MEŠ ma-a’-da
[a-da]n-niš i-zu-nu-nu
[zu-u]n-nu mēmes
10' [ma-a]’-da a-dan-niš
[i]k-ta-ra-ra ni-bu
[š]a? mēmes ma-a’-da
13' [a]-dan-niš [eb]ūru
Base [dam]iqṭ a-dan- niš
Rev.  [š]i-qu i-tal-š[a]

16' Ė.SAM.MEŠ  Ė ŠE.NU[MUN]? x-[d]?
i-si-qi  ki-i
ina  di-larba-ili in pan  šarri  bēlī-a
a-na-ku-ni  ma-la  i-si-qi

20' ū-ma-a  ú-sa-ni-‘a
šá-nu-te-šá  i-s[i-q]i
māš-šur-nāšir  mām-x?-ti-i
mēš-apkal(NUN.ME)-ilāniššū naphar III  amēš.mu-šar-ki-[š][a-n]ī
šā  šarru  bēlī-iš-pu-ra-ni

25' [m]a-a  ālāniššū ni  ša  mēš-apla-iddin
[i]-ru-bu  e-tar-bu
...  x  ...  x  PAP.MEŠ

Side  [š]l-[m]a-a  ina  muhhi  šarri  bēlī-a ...
....  LUGAL ...

Translation

(2'-3') in the night of the twenty-seventh until dawn broke, (4') for the whole of the twenty-seventh day, (5'-6') (and) during the night of the twenty-eighth for the whole night, (7'-8') very much rain kept pouring down. (9'-11a') The rain set down very much water. (11b'-14') The rising of the water is very considerable. The harvest is very favourable. (15') Watering has arrived. (16'-17') It (sc. the rain) has watered the pasturage region and the region of ... corn-land. (17'-21') When I (was) in Erbil in the presence of the king my lord, it did the watering once, and now it has repeated it (and) done the watering a second time.

(22'-26') (As to) Ashur-nasir, Am-...-ti (and) Bel-apkal-ilani, a total of three musharkis-officials about whom the king sent a message, saying: ‘Let them enter the villages of Bel-apla-iddin’, they have entered. (27') . . . . . . Side, (28') thus, concerning the king my lord . . . . (29') . . . . the king...

Notes

Lacks top and fragment from left side. Has several cracks, one full-length from top to bottom. Except in immediate vicinity of the cracks, surface is in good condition, with large clear NA script.

2'-8') The letter reports a continuous rainfall covering about 36 hours, one night and day and a further night. The order in which the periods are listed indicates that the full day (i.e. twenty-four hour period) was, as in Judaism, reckoned to begin at sunset.

11') ni-bu. See AHw, 786a, nib/p'u(m), nibum, NA nibu II, ‘das Aufsteigen’.

15') [š]i-qu. The sign before qu, although damaged, is certainly ši, and there is no possibility of a preceding sign. For the noun see AHw, p. 1248a-b, šiqi I.

16') x-[d]?. TCAE, ad loc. reads šib-t[š], but the first sign, which clearly has one small oblique over three, cannot be šib in normal form, although it could be še. še-tšt, if a correct reading, could be a writing for šišitu, implying ‘the remaining corn-land’.

17', 19', 21') i-si-qi. Taken as 3 sg. m. G3 from šaqā B (CAD, Š/2, 24b. TCAE, ad loc., derives these occurrences from leqā, but against this is the certain [š]i-qu in 15'.

For a parallel to the -i- of the second syllable, cf. op.cit, 25a, ta-si-qi-šū-nu.
Letters relating to the Assyrian Homeland

19') ma-la. See CAD, M/1, p. 147a, 2d.

ND 2617 (CIII; IM 64077; Plate 39)

Transliteration
Obv.  a-na ša[rri] bêlî-ia
[ur]ad-ka ma??-[i]-[?]a?[-pa-a??
lu-u šulmu[a] u-na ša[rri b]êlî-ia
5  a-na šarri bêlî-ia lik-ru-bu
    amêl qu-ru-tû ša šarru
    bêlî iš-pur-an-ni
    ma-a e-ra-bi-û
    du-ku mar i-ba-ša-ni
10  ni-su-qu-su
     šêebûrâ me-me-nî
     la il-pu-ut
     me-me-nî ša šarri bêlî-ia
14  [u]h-tal-li-qu-su
Rev.  šêebûrânîmeš.nî
16  ina mâti ša šarri bêlî-ia
     [g]a[b]-bi šulmu[a] a-dan-nîš

Translation
(1-5) To the king my lord your servant Ashipa. May it be well with the king my lord. May Nabu (and) Marduk bless the king my lord.

(6-10) (As to) the Qurbu-ôicial whom the king sent with a message, saying: 'Kill the locusts!', we have destroyed them, as many as there are. (11-12) None has touched the harvest. (13-14) Anyone belonging to the king my lord has destroyed them. (15-17) The harvests in the whole land of the king my lord are very good.

Notes
Complete tablet with slight abrasion passim. 53 mm of rev. uninscribed. NA script.
2) ma??-[i]-[?]a?[-pa-a??]. This is the obvious restoration, although the traces do not favour a for either the first or last sign of the name.
8) e-ra-bi-û. Either a NA pl. of erbu 'locust', CAD, E, 256b, or, since it is referred to in lines 10 and 14 by a 3 sg. suf., a related sg. meaning 'locust swarm'.
10) ni-su-qu-su. Taken as representing *niltuqutšu from laqātu (courtesy of J.N. Postgate). Fales, CLNA, p. 116, reads ni-su-qu-su-nu, but there is no -nu and the surface is undamaged.
13) bêlî-ia. Fales, CLNA, p. 116, adds la, but I see no evidence for this.
17) [ga]b?-bi. See Fales, CLNA, p. 116. [b]-bi would seem to fit the traces better, but the syntax would not be clear. Not impossible is [D]U.'A1.BI = kalama.
ND 2697 (XXX; IM 64123; Plate 24)

Transliteration
Obv.  a-na šarrī be-lī-ia
urad-ka māšaš-ila-ša-l-a
lu-u šulmuš a-na šarrī
be-lī-ia
5  a-dan-niš
šulmuš ina māți-li-ka
šulmuš a-na nišemēš
māți-li-ka
laš-sur u dšamaš
10  [a]-na šarrī
Rev.  be-lī-ia
lik-ru-bu

Translation
(1-5) To the king my lord your servant Shamash-ilaya. May it be very well with the king my lord. (6-8) It is well with your land. It is well with the people of your land. (9-12) May Ashur and Shamash bless the king my lord.

Notes
Complete except for small chip off bottom left corner of obv. Obv. is partly covered with a black deposit. Rev. bears only 2 lines; remaining 46 mm is uninscribed. The two faces are equally convex left to right; obv. is more convex than rev. top to base. NA script.

ND 2719 (BSAI; Plate 38)

Transliteration
Obv.  a-na šar[ri bēliya]
urad-ka DIŠ .... ....
lu šulmuš a-na [a šarri bēliya]
šul-mu a-na mat aš-šur[ki]
5  šu[l-mu] a-na [a]šur-rā(diš.KUR)meš[š]
šul-mu a-na [a]šur-rā(d)šarr-ra ([š]a šar[ri] gab-b[u]
lib-bu ša šar[ri] bēli-ia a-ad[an]-niš [u ta]b
xxx x [U]RU x x x[-ša-laš]
10  [ša šarru bēli š-pur-a[n-n]i
xxxxxxx x?  ina muhhi x x x [s]i x x ....
U x x x?  AŠ š[a] x ....
issu bit MUNUS ekalli GIŠ x ....
15  ú-si-e-bi-[ša] ....
NIŠ x x x [x] x SI? ....
.... .... x x ....
Translation

(1-7) To the king my lord your servant [PN]. May it be well with [the king my lord]. It is well with the land of Ashur. It is well with the temples. It is well with all the fortresses of the king. May the heart of the king my lord be very glad.

(8-9) Concerning the directive about the smashing/building of the ... of the people of the town ... (10) about which the king my lord sent me a message, (11-13) [almost totally illegible] (14) from the house of the Lady of the Palace ... (15) I have had brought (16) twenty ... ... ...

Notes
Two halves joined. Tablet has a gap at the join, lacks a few mm at the base, the right side of the lower half, and some surface at top right. There are cracks and some abrasion. Rev. uninscribed. Obv. is curved in the longitudinal plane and rev. is flat. NA script.

8) [s]a ra-ša-pi. Infin. of either rasāḫ/pu(m), rašābu, '(er)schlagen', AHw, 958b, or rasāpu, AHw, 960b, a by-form of rašāpu ' (Bauten) aufführen', AHw, 959b.

9) [U]RU x x x-[l]-l-[l]. A nišbe form from a place name.

13, 16) U, NIŠ. Presumably the numerals X and XX in an inventory.

14) MUNUS E.GAL. For S. Parpola’s proposed reading as šēgallu (rather than sinnisat ekallā), see above, p. 180, on ND 2676, 19’.

ND 2731 (IM 64141; Plate 39)

Transliteration
Face A

1’ .... x x x x x 
   [āš]-šū šarru be-li iš-p[ur-an-ni] 
   [m]a me-nu ša te-en x x 
   hur-ša šup-ra ina māti-šu šū-u 

5’ dul-lu-šū e-pa-āš māt-su gab-bu 
   ni-ha-at dul-la-šū-nu e-pu-šu 
   amēš-aššēmēš šā ina ālhal-šu 
   d[ul-]-l-š[u-n]u e-pu-šu

Face B

1 ......... bē[li]-[-a] .... 
   x x šar[r]i E[N]?-[-a] i-x-x 
   [m]a-[a]1 ......... x [LU]GAL? 
   x ....... x šarrī bē[li]-[-a] 

5’ āl-ra x 
   KU[R]? x x x i-sa-par 
   x x x x x-xa 
   [..... ....] x šarru b[e]-li
Translation

Face A

(2') In the matter about which the king my lord sent me a message, (3'-4a') saying, ‘What is the report about ...? Send a clear message!’ (4b') He is in his land. (5') He does his duty. His whole land (6') is quiet. They do their duty. (7') The soldiers in the fortress (8') do their duty.

Face B

[Insufficient remains to offer a translation.]

Notes

About half, probably the lower part, of a tablet. Face B, which is more likely to be obs., is in poor condition, with a worm hole through. NA script.

ND 2736 (IM 64144; Plate 30)

Transliteration

Obv.  a-na [šarri bēl]-ia
    urad-ka m₄[nabû₃-šum-iš]-kun
    lu-u šulum[u]
    ana šarri bēl-ia
    5 a-dan-niš II
    šulum[u] a-na
    ḫ[HAL,ŠU,ME][EŠ]
    [šulum[u] x ...

Translation

(1-5) To the king my lord your servant Nabu-shum-lishkun. May it be very very well with the king my lord. (6-7) It is well with the fortresses. [It is well with] ...

Notes

More than top half of small tablet. Top edge damaged. NA script, clear and sharp. Extant part of rev. uninscribed.

5) II. Ditto sign, used to indicate that adanniš was to be repeated.

ND 2757 (IM 64154; Plate 40)

Transliteration

Obv.  l₄[n]a [a²m]ētupšar₃ ekal[li]
    bēl-[i]a
    urad-ka m₄[bēl]-abu-u-a
    lu-u šulum[u] a-na bēl-[i]a
    5 šulum[u] ina biš a-dan-niš
    šulum[u] ina ḫ[l]ibi-ālim
    ina biš-ka nu-sa-kil
    amēl[G][R.N]ĪTA₃meš gab-bu
    er-re-ša

202
Letters relating to the Assyrian Homeland

10  a-na bēlī-ia
    iq-[i]l-[i]-bu
    tū[gl]i-p[ir-a-ti]
Base  x be-[l]i ...?
    x x u-[n]-[i] ...?
15  x x ta x [x]?
Rev.  x r[?]-a-[?][a]? x
    ša(-)l[pt]-e lib-bi
    ša bēlī-ia ba-šū
    tū[gl]i-[p]-r[a-ti]
20  x-ra-te ina libbi BAR m[a]?-na-a-a
    kaspa l-du-nu
    ša hur-bi-te am-mi-te
    ú-di-ni im-da-na-ni
    la-a ni-ša-bat
25  DIS x-al-la-a-a
    ...-x-na-ka

Translation
(1-2) To the Scribe of the Palace my lord, (3) your servant Bel-abua. (4) May it be well with my lord. (5) It is very well in the House. (6) It is well in the citadel (Ashur). (7) We have provided food in your House. (8-11) All the governors have promised farmers for my lord.
(12-16) [fragmentary]
(17-18) ... therein (18) belongs to my lord. (19) textiles (20-21) [See notes]
(22-24) As to that waste land, we have not yet taken possession of our ... (25-26) [unclear]

Notes
Virtually complete tablet. Signs mainly extant but in some cases so lacking in sharpness that identification is difficult. There is a space equivalent to one line uninscribed at end of rev. NA script.
17) ša(-)l[pt]-e. The signs seem certain, but not the interpretation. ša l[pt]-e could contain lipptu A, CAD, L, 200b-202b, or less probably ša-l[pt]-e could be šālipptu (a scoop or similar utensil), CAD, 51, 247a.
20) x-ra-te. The traces of the first sign most suggest kam*, but mu might be possible.
20) BAR m[a]?-na-a-a. Prima facie, this looks like mba-na-a-a with the first horizontal of supposed ba written over the DIS. To read ma requires the assumption of a third horizontal very lightly inscribed above the two certain near-horizontals of the second sign.
19-21) J.N. Postgate proposes translating ‘they sell (these textiles) for half a mina of silver each’.
23) im-da-na-ni. Appears to be object of the verb in 24; could this be an otherwise unattested pl. of indu, in sense of CAD, I/J, 110b, 2(b)?
24) ni-ša-bat. G1 of šabātu.
ND 2784 (XLIX; BSAI; Plate 18)

Transliteration
Obv.
1  a-na šarri bêlî-ia
    urad-ka mîdûr-aš-šur
    lu šulmu₄ a-na šarri
    bêlî-ia a-dan-niš
5  šulmu₄ a-na āb[i-rat]
    a-na māti š[a] šar[ri]
    lib-[u] ša šarri
    a-da[n]-niš lu [tâb]
    mₓ .......

Rev.
1'  ...xxxx ...

Translation
(1-2) To the king my lord your servant Dur-Ashur. (3-4) May it be very well with the king my lord.
(5-6) It is well with the fortresses (and) with the land of the king. (7-8) May the heart of the king be very glad.

Notes
Approximately top half of tablet. Text is clear although surface is slightly abraded and has cracks. Final 38 mm of rev. is uninscribed. NA script.

ND 2792 (XXXI; IM 64173; Plate 5)

Transliteration
Obv.  a-na šarri be-il-ia
    urad-ka m.arahulîla-a-a
    lu-u šulmu₄ a-na šarri be-il-[i-a]
    a-dan-niš šulmu₄ a-na mālaš-šu[r]
5  šulmu₄ a-na ekurrâzmeš
    šulmu₄ a-na HAL.ŠU.MEŠ ša šarri gab-bu
    lib-bu ša šarri be-il-la a-dan-niš lu ūb
    XXXVI ma-gar-ra-a-ti ša ku-pi-e
    a-na-ku qātā-a-a ina mu[h]ki nāri
10  at-tu-rid ina pa-ni-ia
    ih-taš-lu e-ta-ÂŠ-BU
    ina qātē mišdi-nergal amēlqur-bu-ti
    a-na šarri be-li-ia ū-si-bi-la

Translation
(1-4) To the king my lord your servant Ululaya. May it be very well with the king my lord.
(4-7) It is well with the land of Assyria, it is well with the temples, it is well with all the fortresses of the king. Let the heart of the king my lord be very glad.

(8-10) By my own hands I personally brought down 36 wagon-loads of reeds on the river. (11) They prepared and left (them). (12-13) I have sent them to the king my lord by the hands of Ishdi-Nergal the bodyguard.

Notes
Tablet complete except for small piece of bottom right corner. 7 mm of obv. and all of rev. are uninscribed. NA script.

8) XXXVI ma-gar-ra-a-ti ša ku-pi-e. These reeds may well have been for the building of Dur-Sharrukin, on which see below, p. 214.

8) ku-pi-e. J.N. Postgate, *Fifty Neo-Assyrian Legal Documents*, p. 69, §6.3.5, takes this term to mean 'snow, ice', but see above, p. 195, note on ND 2409, 16.

11) ih-taš-lu e-ta-ÂŞ-BU. The first verb can only be Perf. 3 pl. of haššalu, but the meaning 'they smashed' is inappropriate; the verb must refer either to some aspect of delivery (see *Iraq* 18 (1956), p. 47) or to some process to which reeds were subject before sending on further; for the basis of the latter possibility cf. M. Jastrow, *A Dictionary of the Targumim*, 511a, Aram. haššal 2 'to peel' and 441b, Aram. hūššā 1 'pounded grain', 2 'peeled barley'. e-ta-ÂŞ-BU could represent e-ta-az-bu, Perf. 3 pl. of ezēbu.

(b) Land administration

Letters edited:
ND 2486, ND 2649, ND 2660, ND 2734+2416+2457, ND 2769.

**ND 2486 (LXVIII; BSAI; Plate 40)**

Transliteration
Obv.
1' ... x [U]RU [LUG]AL? [E]N?--[a]?
... x-ú-ni
... [M]EŠ a-ki ša šarru bēlī
[iq-b]a-u-ni nu-za-'i-za-šā-nu
5' [am]ēlurad ekali ina pa-ni-šū-nu
ap-iti-qi-di m tar-di-[t-āš-šur]
u[p]-ta-šū a-bat šarrī
i-za-kar ma-a A.SÂ.GA.ME[Š]
šarrū ia-a-šī ú-za-ki
10’ ... x x A.SÂ.GA.MEŠ
... ... ... x x ...

Rev.
1’ ... x š[a] LU[GAL]? ... ... ... ... ... 
in a pān šarrī bēlī-a a-x
šarrū bēlī līš-al-šā-nu
šūm-mu A.SÂ.MEŠ šarrū bēlī

205
5'  ú-za-ki  a-na  mター-di-i[l]-aš-šur
    i-ti-din  pu-tu-hu
    A.ŠA.GA.MEŠ  ša  x  x
    issu  A.ŠA.GA.MEŠ  ša  a-lik-š[u]?
    [l]u-ra-me

Translation
Obv.
(1') ... the city of the king my lord (2') ... ... (3'-4') ... We distributed them
as the king my lord ordered. (5'-6') I appointed a palace servant at their disposal. (As
to) Tardit-Ashur, (7') I dismissed him. (7'-9') He is quoting a royal order, claiming,
‘the king freed the fields for me’. (10') ... the fields (11') ... ... ...
Rev.
(1') ... of the king ... (2') I ... before the king my lord. (3'-6a') Let the king my
lord ask them whether the king my lord freed the fields (and) then gave (them) to
Tardit-Ashur. (6b'-9') (As to) the responsibility which [he bears] for the fields, let
him occupy (them as though they are) from the fields of his fief.

Notes
Tablet with top, bottom and upper left corner missing. Condition mostly good, with
very clear NA script. Last 16 mm of extant rev. uninscribed. Both faces flat.
Obv.
6', rev. 5') mター-di-it-aš-šur. For a person of this name, a chieftain of the Itu’a, see
ABL 419, obv. 19.
Rev.
7') ša  x  ...  u  x. The translation ‘which [he bears]’ assumes that the lost word was
i-na-ši-u-ni or some variant; this seems possible, if the traces on the side after pu-tu-hu
in line 6' represent the final sign ni of line 7'. For the NA idiom putu(h)nu našū, see
AHw, 885a.
8') a-lik-š[u]. From alku, a form of ilku, cf. CAD, A/1, 350b.

ND 2649 (XXXIII; IM 64095; Plate 20)

Transliteration
Obv.  a-na  šarri
    be-lī-ia
    urad-ka  m₄-nabū-ēṣīrīr
    ₀nabū ₀mard[uk]
5  a-na  šarri  be-[I]-la
    lik-r[u]-bu
    an-nu-rig
    nišameš
    ū-sa-ni-q[u]-ni
10  ū-pa-[I]-r[u]
    a-na-ku  ina  muh[hi]
Base  šarr[i be]-[I]-[Ia]
Letters relating to the Assyrian Homeland

15

ki-li an-ni-i
i-q-ṭi-bi-a ma-a
nišemēš ir-ri-[š]u-[m]a?
am-mar ina pa-ni-[š[u]u]n?-ni
ma-a išṭēnēn la a-kal-la

20

ma-a gab-bu
u-še-e-ṣa
a-na šarri be-li-ia
a-danān

Translation

(1-3) To the king my lord your servant Nabu-etir. (4-6) May Nabu and Marduk bless the king my lord.

(7-10) Now they have transferred and dispersed the people. (11-14) I myself sent a message for the king my lord to the governor. (15-16) In this manner he replied to me, saying: ‘The people will cultivate as much as is at their disposal. (19) I will not hold one back. (20-23) I will send everyone out (and) will deliver to the king my lord.’

Notes
Complete tablet. No significant loss of text, but abrasion make readings uncertain in several places. NA script.
3) m.d.nabū-etīr r. KAR = etīr appears to lack two of its usual verticals.
9-10) u-ša-ni-q[u]-ni u-pa-r[i-r]u. Since both verbs are D forms, they presumably have an active sense, and in the context the grammatical object for both is likely to be nīšē. The subject would then be indefinite 3 pl., and the translation ‘they have transferred and dispersed the people’ would refer to a resettlement.
18) pa-ni-[š[u]u]n?-ni. For the affixed -ni in a nominal clause, see GAG §123f.

ND 2660 (CII; IM 64099; Plate 40)

Transliteration

Obv.  a-na šarri bēlī-i[a]
      urad-ka m.d.nergal₂-būn(DU)-......
      šarru : ṭe-mu : i-sa-kal[a]-na pānī-li[a]
      [m]a bītī-ku-nu
      5 [ina d₃]hu-NUMUN?-na : ša-ba-ta
      bīta ar-te-ši-bi
      nišemēš-ia amēl[u]rdēmeš,ia
      [ina li]b-bi ū-si-ri-bi
      [ina] M[U].IM.MA : a-ni-n[i]?
      10 [am]-mar : šarru : [f]ē-mu
      [iš-k]unu-na-ši-ni
      ....... x x x x
      Base ....... ‘Ē? x ...
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

14 .......... x
Rev. .......... x x
16 .......... [i?-m]a?-gûr?
 .......... -u-ni
 .......... x [m]ûr? m[u]-bi-i
 .......... x x x ina û [h]u-[-MU]-na
20  ûa-b[a-t]a : la i-ma-g[û]-ru
 a-na ûa-ba-te
 am-mar bit abî-ša
 ina lib-bi-ni la i-ma-gûr
 a-na ûa-ba-ti
25 [û]a [î][n][a] ti-ma-li : šá-šu-û-m[e]
 bitâ[t]î me[û] ina lib-bi ú-û-[a]-[û]ip-u-ni
Top la i-ma-gûr-ru
 la ú-še-ra-bu-ša-nu
Side .......... kar-ši-îa
30 .......... RI x x?-qu

Translation
(1-2) To the king my lord your servant Nergal-bun[aya].

(3-5) The king has sent an instruction to me, saying: 'Take possession of your estate in Hu-NUMUN-na.' (6-8) I have erected the house; I have brought my people and my servants inside. (9) Last year, as to us, (10-11) as much as the king gave us instructions, (12-17) [illegible or uncertain] (18) .... ... the son of Mubi (19-20) 'Take possession of ... in Hu-MU-na'; they will not agree. (21-23) He will not agree to taking possession among us (even for) as much as his paternal estate. (24-28) They who in the recent past built houses therein, are unwilling to take possession and will not bring them (sc. their families) in.

(29-30) Let the king not listen to slander against me ... ...

Notes
Lacks almost all top end, upper part of left side, and some surface on both faces near these areas. NA script.
5, 19) û[hu-NUMUN]-na, û[hu-][MU]-na. Since the same place must be indicated in both occurrences, one transcription must be erroneous. ûhu-NUMUN-na would be Huzirina near Harran, see NAT 171. ûhu-mu-na would be unknown.
9) [î][n] M[U].IM.MA = šaddagdiš. Thanks are due to J.N. Postgate for recognition here of the form.
9) a-nî-n[i]? This reading is assumed in the translation, although the damaged traces of the final sign suggest šá.

ND 2734+2416+2457 (XLI; IM 64029; Plate 41)

Transliteration
Obv. a-na šarri bēlī-ia

208
Base: Letters relating to the Assyrian Homeland

[ura]d-ka m.4nergal-ú-bal-liṭ
[lu šum]u[a-n[a šarri bēlī-ia
[ša] šarr[u bēlī iš-p[ur-an-n]i

5 ma-a eqlāti(A.ŠÂ.GA)mēš ša pāhat
ālur-zi-hi-na gab-bu ū-šur-a
ma-a at-tu-nu eqlāti(A.ŠÂ.GA)mēš
ša mēl-apla-iddina : ta-pu-ga
a-ia-ū šu-ū eql-šū ša mēl-apla-iddina

10 ša ina šānāti[mēš amēl]pāhatu-tū ina ālur-zi-hi-na
šarru be-li ip-ta-aq-da-an-ni
ina ma-ti-me-ni la a-mur mēl-apla-iddina
šēpeIl-šū ina lib-bi eql-um-me-il-a-e
la um-mi-di : šarru be-li ú-da
eqlu ša bit amēlśukallī eqlu(A.ŠÂ.GA)
ša bit amēlśar-ti-ni nār-ra-dā-nu
la e-bir harrān šarri ša a-na

20 āl-za-ri i-la-ku-u-ni
ta-hu-mu-šū-nu : a-ki ia-ə-[i]
šarru a-na mō-qu-um-e ū-bi-la-ni-ni
nišmekš mātī ti-pa-sū
A.ŠÂ.G[A] ... x x [u] UR[U]? x x
urdān[meš].ni ša mēl-bal-apla-iddina ĐIŠ!?×EN la-a(-)[š]a-[n]u
[la i]-l-lik la hu-ra-du
x ... x 1-ba-ši ina [p]ni-ni

25 ... ta-hu-mu e-ta-ba-r[u]-nī
Base: kapra(URU.ŠE) ina lib-bi i-ša-ab-tū
Rev. ā-ma-a a-ki šarru be-li

31 ina muthi LŪ.LUL.MES iš-pur-an-ni-ni
ina lib-bi a-ta-lak a-ta-ha
ēnlmekš.i a kapra(URU.ŠE) a-ta-mar
LŪ.AB.BA.MES ša mātī mār na-gi-la-e

35 urdān[meš].ni ša šarri II III ina pānī-ia i-za-zu
a-sa-al-šā-nu nu-uk a-[k]e-e x
a-na mēl-apla-iddina i-dīn x x
amēlurdān[meš].ni LŪ.AB.BA.MES ša mātī
ma-a ahhēmekš.ī ip-ta-su eqli-šū-nu

40 ra-mu ma-a i-tu-rū-du
ša mēl-apla-iddina ša da-ani kapra(URU.ŠE) š[ū]-tū
ina lib-bi i-ša-ab-tū ū-ma-a
LŪ.AB.BA.MES ša mātī mār na-gi-la-e
II III i-ba-šī li-li-ku-u-ni

45 issu urdān[meš].ni ša mēl-apla-iddina ina pān šarri bēlī-ia
lu-u-ki-nu eqlu ša ma-ni šu-tu-ur-m[u-n]i
a-na di-ib-bi la ša-mu-ti ina pān šarri bēlī-ia

209
i-da-bu-bu: eqlu(A.ŠÀ.GA) ša pāhat ùr-zu-hi-na
šum-ma ra-mu ša la bēli e-šu-ù

50
man-nu ša eqlu(A.ŠÀ.GA) ša-hi-tú-u-ni i-bat-taq
i-na pān x x lal-ri šarri be-li
i-šá x ... x urdānĩmeš.ni-ia
ip/b ........... [x]u x
x ........... x ina lib-bi

55
xxxxxx[ ]béli-ia
x ma-a eqlānĩmeš is-xxxx
[?]-in? : la šu-tú XIX LIM eqli
x ùr-zu-hi-na [ša LUGAL be-li[ -ia]]?

Top [šarr]u? be-li ma-a na-kam-tú šu-u

60
... [z]i-zi a-ди bit tal-li[ ] a-na-šù-nì

Translation

(1-3) To the king my lord your servant Nergal-uballit. May it be well with the king my lord.

(4) About the matter on which the king my lord sent me a message, (5-8) saying,‘Surrender all the lands in the province of Urzuhina; you have usurped the lands of Bel-apla-iddina,’ (9-11) what is this land of Bel-apla-iddina of which they told the king my lord, ‘The land is ours’? (11-13) For the ten years that the king my lord has appointed me to the governorship in Urzuhina, (14-16) I have not at any time seen (anything of this). Bel-apla-iddina has not set his feet within that land. (16-21) The king my lord knows that the land of the estate of the Sukkallu-official (and) the land of the estate of the Chief Judge do not cross the Radanu river. The royal road which goes to Azari is their boundary. (21-23) When the king sent me in person to the land of Que, the people of the land had gone off. (24) [unintelligible] (25-27) There (were) no servants of Bel-apla-iddina. None came. There was not even a watchman in our presence. (28) (When) they had crossed the boundary, they seized a village therein. (30-31) Now when the king my lord sent me a message concerning the lawbreakers, (32) I went therein (and) took the matter up, (33) I saw the village with my own eyes. (34) The elders of the land, natives of the district, (35) (and) two or three royal servants, were standing in my presence. (36) I interrogated them saying, ‘How is it he gave (it) (37) to Bel-apla-iddina? ... (38) The servants (and) elders of the land (answered): (39) ‘Our brothers went off. Their land (40) is abandoned; they have left (it).’ (41-42a) They were acting on an idea of Bel-apla-iddina, who is president (or one) of the village judges.’

(42b-44) Now elders of the land, natives of the province – two or three do exist – let them come along. (45-46) Let them give evidence, along with the servants of Bel-apla-iddina, in the presence of the king my lord, (as to) whose land it is (and) who abandoned it. (47-48) They will give testimony in the presence of the king against unreliable gossip. (48-49) If land of the province of Urzuhina is abandoned, there will be confusion without (an appropriate decision by) my lord. (50) Whoever desires a field, he should cut off (a piece from unused land). (51-57a) [fragmentary] (57b) 19,000 (units of) land (58) of Urzuhina belongs to the king my lord. (59) The king my lord (will say): ‘It is nakkamtu-(land) (60) (which) ... I shall take over until ...
Notes

Complete tablet composed of three excavation entries rejoined; the major part is ND 2734, the top ND 2416 and the bottom ND 2457. Bears a beautifully legible NA script in very good condition almost everywhere except in the vicinity of joins.

6) ú-šur-a. See CAD, N/2, 60b, našaru A, but in the present context the sense required appears to be ‘surrender’ rather than ‘expropriate’.

8) mēl-apla-iddina. See also ND 2648, 8 and ND 2461, 24. On his extensive estates see TCAE, p. 137, i.8.

16) um-mi-di. See AHw, 212b, emēdu(m) D 3.

23, 39) ip-ta-šu. See AHw, 840a, pasāšu.

25) Dīš?EN. A note made at collation subsequent to original publication says: ‘definitely EN, not Dīš×EN’, and this reading is represented in the cuneiform copy. Despite this, a reading iš[tēn]en – ‘There (were) no servants of Bel-apla-iddina’ – seems to give better sense than EN and is adopted in the translation.

25) la-al[-]ša-[n]u. la-al1 [ša][-n]u may give the better sense.

31) LÜ.LUL.MEŠ. = parrišē or sarrûtē; see Iraq 20 (1958), 190 and Deller, Or. 30 (1961), 249-57.

40) i-tu-ru-du. 3 pl. Pf. urādu, for NA i-tu-ur-du.

41) ša da-a-ni. Either the equivalent of ša pān dajānī ‘president of the court’, for which see CAD, D, 33b, or ‘among the judges’.

42) ina lib-bi i-ša-ab-tū. For the sense assumed in the translation, see CAD, Š, 24a, šabātu 7c.

44) i-ba-ši. I am indebted to J.N. Postgate for pointing out that this, rather than i-na-ši of the editio princeps, is the probable reading.

47-48) a-na di-[b]i ... i-da-bu-bu. The presence of a-na indicates that this is not the idiom dibbi dabābu ‘to talk gossip’, and the writer would certainly not have proposed that witnesses should appear before the king for such a purpose.

50) ša-hi-tā-u-ni. K. Deller, Or. 33 (1964), 90, shows that this is Stat. of a second šahātu ‘to desire’.

58) [ša LUGAL be-lī]-[i]-a?. After ša with apparently no succeeding relevant verb, one expects the oblique case; a final -ia may have been omitted from the copy, but there has been no opportunity to collate the tablet to check this.

59) na-kam-tū. In NA a class of land; see CAD, N/1, 184a, nakkantu 2b, c; AHw, 722a, nakkantu(m) 4, 6.

60) a-di bit tal-li. Perhaps ‘for partition, distribution’; see AHw, 1311a, tallu(m) I etwa ‘Trennlinie’.

ND 2769 (CIV; IM 64161; Plate 42)

Transliteration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Obv.</th>
<th>a-na šar[ri] bēlī-ia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>urad-ka</td>
<td>m.šēnurta-bel-ūsur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l[a]-u šulmu[mu] a-na šarri bēlī-[l[a]</td>
<td>ša šarru be-li iš-pur-a-ni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ma-a alpēmeš ša ekalli</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Translation

(1-3) To the king my lord your servant Enurta-bel-usur. May it be well with the king my lord.

(4-7) Concerning the matter on which the king my lord sent me a message, saying: 'Provide for the cattle of the palace which are your responsibility', what cattle (do you mean?).

(8-12) (Any) responsibility of the palace is always very acceptable to me, (but) I say to the king my lord, I have no pasturage areas. (13-14) He has designated the town of Gilgime for me; (but) (15) my pasturage areas (16) are very limited.

(17) [fragmentary] (18) To Bel-harran-shar-usur (19-21a) [fragmentary] (21b-23) Now the king my lord (knows that) pasturage areas are designated to Bel-harran-shar-usur. (24) Let him send a message. Grazing ground - (that is), pasturage areas - are at their disposal; let them provide for the cattle of the king my lord. These belonging to the king my lord which are my responsibility do indeed belong to the king my lord.

Notes

Tablet broken and rejoined. Lacks piece from lower half of left side, otherwise almost complete. NA script, mainly clear, with some abrasion, mainly on left half of rev.

The writer is unable, through lack of pasturage, to provide for cattle entrusted to him, and suggests that they should go to other officials who are better equipped in this respect.
Letters relating to the Assyrian Homeland

10) [i-t]a-na-har. 3 sg. Gtn of mahāru. For the sense assumed, cf. CAD, M/1, 64b-65a, 2'.
12, 15, 25) fEl ŠAM.MEŠ. Although Š is damaged at each occurrence, the reading is certain. ŠSAM is taken to represent bit šammi 'pasturage area'.
16) The extant signs are very limited, and the translation is a guess based on the apparent context.
19) a-na-n[i]. The final sign, inscribed on the edge, is distorted.
22) be-[l]. The implicit ū-da, assumed in the tentative translation, is not represented in the text.
23) it-taš-k[u?-n]u?. The form assumed in this tentative restoration is 3 pl. Ntn of šakānu, with NA vowel harmony in penultimate syllable (GAG §10e).

(c) Building operations

Letters edited:
ND 2408, ND 2481 (perhaps not a letter), ND 2666, ND 2765, ND 2770.

ND 2408 (XXXII; IM 64027; Plate 20)
Re-edited SAA, 1, no.26 and Fales, CLNA, pp. 154-155, 177, III.1.

Transliteration
Obv. a-bat šarrī a-na anē[G x]
VII ME tāšma-gar-rat ša tiṃī[šE.IN.NU]
VII ME ša ṭīappar[āti](AM[BAR])nē[l]
ša ištēt e-bi-is-sī
5 imēru(ANŠ.E.NĪTA) la e-mu-qa-šū-u-n[i]
la i-mat-ta-hu-u-nī
Base üm I KAM ša arahkīslīmi
Rev. ina [d]īdūr-šarru-kīn
lu qu-[r-b]u
10 ištēn ūm(m[u] [e]-ti-irq
ta-[m[u]-at

Translation
(1) Royal decree to the Head of ...
(2) 700 loads of straw, (3) 700 sheaves of reeds, (4-6) of (such a size that) a donkey is incapable of carrying a single one, (7-9) let them be present in Dur-Sharrukin on the first day of Kislev. (10-11) (If) one day passes, you shall die.

Notes
Royal letter, virtually complete except at three corners. Inscribed parallel to long axis. At end of rev. there is a space equivalent to one line. Rev. is more convex than obv. NA script.

Line 8 of the present letter indicates that the material was for the building of Dur-Sharrukin, as were probably also the large quantities of bricks and reeds mentioned in ND 2481. This must also have applied to ND 2666, which, since line 9 mentions a new
great gate, and lines 31ff. concern the garrison, was certainly related to the building or rebuilding of a city, almost certainly Dur-Sharrukin. ND 2765, which mentions the erection of colossi, is also likely to be linked to the building of that city, since the mention of emissaries from Egypt and places in south Palestine favours a date for this letter in the reign of Sargon. The badly broken ND 2770 (pp. 221-2) also probably refers to Dur-Sharrukin, since it mentions (rev. 6) building the royal house. On the possible relationship of ND 2409 and ND 2792 to the building of Dur-Sharrukin see above, pp. 195 and 205. Possibly the reference in ND 2637 to bringing silver into the New Palace (see below, p. 227) is a further allusion to Dur-Sharrukin. There is little positively to link ND 2669 (see below, pp. 230-1) to the building of Sargon’s new capital, but a connection seems possible.

1) *amēlŠA[G x]. The restoration proposed in SAA, 1, no.26 (LÛ*.ša[k]-[nî], ‘the governor’) is open to the objection that a governor is unlikely to have been threatened with death in connection with delivery of straw and reeds.

3, 4) e-bi-is-su, e-bi-is-si. See AHw, 183a, *ebiltu, linked to *eblu ‘cord’. The sense ‘sheaf’ fits both etymology and the parallelism with ‘loads of straw’. See also J.N. Postgate, Fifty Neo-Assyrian Legal Documents, p. 69, §6.3.5.

ND 2481 (IM 64059; Plate 42)

Transliteration

Obv.1' x ............

ša ..........
DIŠ LIM DIŠ LIM x x ........
libittu(SIG₂) iškaru(ES.GÂR) ša IV I[TI]?:MEŠ

5' ina šatti(MU.AN.NA) šâ-ni-ti
ki-i AN x ma i-šah-hu-f[u]-n[i]?
naphar II LIM LIM V[I]?: ME L IV LIM VI ME
libittu(SIG₂) iškaru(ES.GÂR) ša II šanātī(MU.AN.NA.MEŠ)
XL LIM ma-gâr-rat tibni(ŠE.IN.NU)

10' [M]ÂŠ? qa tibni(ŠE.IN.NU) ša DIŠ libittu
IV qa a-na ši-in-dî šâ [x]?
VI LIM II ME LX ma-gâr-rat GLx
VII KŪŠ r[u]-tu BAR KŪŠ XX
issēt ma-gâr-rat-tū

15' VII LIM GL.SAR.'A
Base BAR KŪŠ XX GÎ.DA
Rev. [x KŪŠ] XX-m[a]?
naphar TUR?.KAL KŪŠ A[R]?:PAD.DA

Tentative Translation

(3') 1,000 (times) 1,000 ... ... (4') brick(s), the delivery of four months, (5’) in the second year, (6’) when they ... and make (the bricks). (7’) Total: 2,654,600 (8’) brick(s), delivery of two years. (9’) 40,000 loads of straw; (190’), half a qa of straw for one brick; (11’) four qa for the brickwork of [...]? (12’) 6,250 loads of ...-reeds.
(13') 7 cubits ... half a royal cubit. (14') One load, (15') 7,000 SAR’U reeds.
(16'-18') Half a royal cubit is the length, ... royal cubits is the ..., total ... cubits of ...

Notes
Tablet with perhaps one line, at most two lines, lost from top, otherwise in good condition. More than three-quarters of extant rev. is uninscribed. Tablet is a report about brick production. It is possibly not a letter, although it has the physical appearance of a letter, and the broken beginning of line 1' could be $l_{a1-[n]}a$ as part of the address. NA script. I acknowledge considerable help from J.N. Postgate with lines 13' to 18' of this text.

3') DIŠ LIM DIŠ LIM. Presumably a writing for ‘one million’.
4') iškar[u]. Translated in sense of CAD, I/J, p. 247b, 3f.
4') [I]TI]I?.MEŠ. The former sign is too damaged for certain reading, but the traces would permit ITI, as suggested by J.N. Postgate.
6') i-šah-hu-[f][u]-n[?]?/?. On the meaning see above, ND 2487, note on lines 6, 9. After $k$ one expects Subj. affix ni at end of verb, and there may be a trace of a wedge in the damaged area after [f][u].
18') KUŠ A[R]??PAD.DA. Could this be ‘cubit of Arpad’? Alternatively, read G[I]?PAD.DA; ešemtu is sometimes used as a linear measure in Neo-Assyrian, and a variant writing of the logogram with .DA is attested in Ashurbanipal’s inscriptions.

ND 2666 (LXVII; BSAI; Plate 41)

Transliteration
Obv. a-na šarrī bēlī-ia
[u]rad-ka $m_{dūr-aššur}$
[ṣ]u-uh dul-[u] ša šarru
bēlī [iš-p]ur-an-ni dūrī ga-mur
5
na-ṭu x sa x-ā-tu
GiŠ.MEŠ na-š[a]-ri ra-h[i]-ṣi
ši-bir ni-qi-[u] pa-dāš-šā
XXVIII 1em[a-h]-ri šak-nu
išdaltu [ṣ]a-abullī šak-na-at
10
up-pu si-KU-tū ep-šū
bi-bi [k]a?-sa-[l][u]? ku-up-ru
šak-na-a[l] x-[r]?-teʔi̯? ša bīt nap-ṭar-[l][e]
ra-šip ga-mur ṣa-lu-lu
15
[E].Š[U.I] š[a]? x x a-ra-šip
[u]-ga-[m]ar e-bi[r]-tū
Base
xxxxxxx
[k][u]-up-ru a-ka-par
bīt qaṭi(E.ŠU.II.MEŠ) a-na ša bir-[l][e]
20
[r][a]-aṣ-pa ga-m[u-r]a
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

Rev. [úl-[r]a-a-te i-si-ru
[BI-sa-na-te i-sá-kù-nu
tar-ba-sa-te i-ka-si-r[u]
ia-ar-hu ša gi-da-ni
25 damiq(SIG) ad-dan-niš ša bi-ta-ni
mamešša šá-sa-qa šá nàridiqlat(HALH)HAL
ù-bà(DUG.GA) šar[r]u bêli illak(DU)ak e-mar
K[Á] x x? GI[Š]?.MEŠ šum-mi
ùhar-bi Šu-gu-ri
30 qu-ru ha-mar-tú bu-ú-[lu₄]
a-na maššarti u-še-rab a-sá-kan
amelšâmēš ša ēbīr-te
[Il]-li-ku-nu li-ru-bu
x MEŠ man-nu i-ma-ta-ha x x ri
35 šarru b]e-lī šiš-pu-ra
[amelša] bit ku-din ša šarrri
... x MEŠ e-ta-mar
Top [x ME] LXII amelšâmēš
39 [issu libbi] āl-ra-ša-pī āl-š-x-h[?]
Side* āl-ar-zu-hi-nu ša amelšaknum(LUGAR)nu.meš śa āl[gu]-za-ni
41 ša āl-arrap-ha šá amēšrab šaq(BILUL) amelšabameš-šù-nu
[al-]hi šu-šu-[u]-[i] [lu]-u illak(DU)ak

Translation

(1-2) To the king my lord your servant Dur-ashur.

(3-5) Concerning the task about which the king my lord sent me a message, the wall is
finished (and) ready. ... (6-7) The protective timbers are reliable. The broken
(and) demolished parts are cleared away. (8) 28 mahiru are set in place. (9) The door
of the great gate is set in place. (10) The narrow pipes are made. (11-12) The drainage
openings of the baulk-wall are smeared with bitumen. (12-13) The ...-dariki is set in
place. (13) the ... of the napartu house (14a) is ready (and) complete. (14b-16a) I
shall prepare (and) complete the canopy of the ... house. (16b-17) The staircase ... ... ... (18) I shall smear with bitumen. (19-20) The wing for the garrison official is
prepared (and) complete. (21) They have plastered the roofs. (22) They are setting the
kassanate in place. (23) They are paving [or plastering] the courtyards. (24-27) The pond
on the outside is very satisfactory. For the inside, the irrigation waters of the
Tigris are good. The king my lord will come (and) he will see. (28) the gate ... timbers
... (29-31) I shall bring in ploughs, spears, bitumen, ... (and) cattle for the guard (and)
set (them) in place. (32-33) Let the troops of the fortress come (and) enter. (34) Who
will transport the ... ...? (35) Let [the king] my [lord] send a message. (36) [The man
over] the royal mule stable (37) has seen the ... (38-42) (There are) [x hundred and]
sixty two soldiers (39) [of the town of Rasappu, the town of ...-hi, (40) (and) the
town of Arzuhi. (As to) the governors of the town Gu[zana] (and) Arrapha (and)
the Rab-shakeh, their troops will come to (their) assistance.

216
Letters relating to the Assyrian Homeland

Notes

Tablet complete except for fragment missing from surface layer of final 17 mm of left corner of end of rev.; distinction between core and surface layer can be clearly seen here. Obv. almost flat, rev. slightly convex. Some signs, mainly on obv., are badly abraded. In places legibility is significantly reduced by encrusted dirt, which, from respect to the teaching of my mentor Sidney Smith, I have not attempted to remove for fear of damaging the tablet. Careful laboratory treatment might improve some readings.

NA script.

5) x sa x-ú-tu. The first unidentified sign might be ka. The traces after sa might conceal two signs. B.J. Parker, *Iraq* 59, p. 79, reads f x¹ KA₂ E₂-SUHU₂? without translating.

6) ra-h[i]-š. B.J. Parker, *Iraq* 59, p. 79, proposes [ma]-[h]₁-[š].

6-7) GIŠ.MEŠ na-[a]-rī ra-h[i]-š ši-bir ni-qī-[r[u] pa-dāš-šū. CAD, Q, 271a, takes the penultimate word as qī-ru and translates GIŠ.MEŠ ... qī-[r[u] pa-dāš-šū as 'the beams are smeared with bitumen'. B.J. Parker, *Iraq* 59, p. 79, reads ši-bir-ni qī-ru pa-dāš-šū, and translates 'the šibiri[n]'s have been smeared with hot tar' without explaining šibiri[n].

In my translation ši-bir is taken as constr. of šibru ‘broken piece’ (CAD, Š, 382b, šibru B; AHw, 1207a, šebru). ni-qī-[r[u] is from naqāru ‘to demolish’; AHw, 792b, offers niqru(m) ‘Abbruch-Holz’. pa-dāš-šū could be derived from pasāsu(m), NA pasāš(m) ‘annullieren’ (AHw, 838a-b, 843b).

6) [m-[a]-h]-rī. Here must represent some building feature.

8) i₃[a-h]-[r]u? The first sign is damaged beyond recognition; it could be u as proposed by B.J. Parker in *Iraq* 59, p. 79. ri, read by B.J. Parker, is almost certain, but there is a further sign, which examination under the microscope proves to be more probably UD than te (as given in editio princeps). If uritu is the correct reading, cf. perhaps AHw, 1431a, hypothetical form uritu I ‘Stute’, although this sense hardly fits the context.

10) up-pu si-KU-tū. The first word is taken as uppu(m) I ‘Rohre’ (AHw, 1424a-b). Despite slight damage, the reading of the second word is assured; it is not si-ku-ru, as emended in editio princeps and accepted tentatively in AHw, 1042b, apud sikkuru(m), and in *Iraq* 59, p. 79. si-KU-tū, (m. pl. adj.), is unlikely to be sikātu from sāku; more likely is si-qā-tu, pl. of sīqu I ‘eng, schmal’ (AHw, 1049b).


11) [k]a-[śa]-[l]u? Examination under the microscope makes it certain that the first sign is not kī, as read in *Iraq* 59, p. 79; ka is almost certain. The third sign is probably not ta, as proposed in editio princeps, but lu, as read in *Iraq* 59, p. 79. [k]a-sa-lu is perhaps linked to kaslu II, kasal (AHw, 454a).

13) x-[r]u?-te?/tū? The first sign is damaged beyond recognition; it could be ú as proposed by B.J. Parker in *Iraq* 59, p. 79. ri, read by B.J. Parker, is almost certain, but there is a further sign, which examination under the microscope proves to be more probably UD than te (as given in editio princeps). If uritu is the correct reading, cf. perhaps AHw, 1431a, hypothetical form uritu I ‘Stute’, although this sense hardly fits the context.

13) bit nap-ṭa-ṭe[e] The copy in the editio princeps was correct, the transliteration erroneous. For a closely related term bit napṭari cf. CAD, N/1, 325a, apud napṭaru in bit napṭari, ‘a type of residence for ... persons of napṭaru status’. B.J. Parker, *Iraq* 59, p. 80, translates ‘barracks’.

14) ša-lu-lu. Taken as NA spelling of šululu A of CAD, Š, 242a, but B.J. Parker could be correct in taking it as St. D of šululu A of CAD, Š, 239a in the sense ‘is roofed’, parallel to the two preceding verbs.

15) EF₁[Š][U]₁[I]₁ ș[a]? x x. Tentatively adopted from B.J. Parker, *Iraq* 59, p. 80, but it should be noted that the lowest of the four horizontals of supposed ŠU is level with the other three, so that the correct reading might be E š[a] x-x-x.
16) e-bi[r]-tú. Taken as representing *ebertu* 'staircase step' (CAD, E, 10a, *ebertu* B, 2; AHw, 182a, *ebertu* II).

17-20) Line 17 is on the turn from obv. to base, and line 20 on the turn from base to rev.

17) This line retains nothing legible. B.J. Parker proposes to read the final three signs as *ki-sa-lu?*, but for each sign the minimal traces are opposed to this restoration.

18) *a-ka-par*. In the final sign, on the bottom right corner of the tablet, the vertical is inscribed slightly lower than normal.

19) The rendering of this line is after CAD, Q, 198b-9a.

21) *ul-[r]-a-te*. Pl. of *uru(m)* I 'Dach', AHw, 1434b.

21) *i-si-ru*. From *seru(m)*, Assyrian *se*āru(m) 'bestreichen', AHw, 1038a. The translation of line 21 approximates to that of B.J. Parker, *Iraq* 59, p. 80.

22) *i4BI-sa-na-te*. The context indicates that this was some building feature. B.J. Parker, *Iraq* 59, p. 80, reads GIS.bi - sa-na-te and relates the word to *pisannu*, for which see AHw, 867b-868a, *piš/sannu(m)* I. J.N. Postgate (private communication) translates 'gutters'. Possibly, however, an otherwise unknown *iškas-sa-na-te*.


24) *gi-da-ni*. Taken as a spelling of *kidāni*.

26) *șa-qa*. In *Iraq* 59, p. 80 restored as *i-pat-te*, but despite slight damage to the first sign, an introductory broad oblique seems very unlikely, whilst the second sign certainly consists only of one horizontal, one small oblique and one vertical, not of several small obliques and one vertical.

27) šar[ru] bēli. So the text; [LU₂*SAG₁], proposed in *Iraq* 59, p. 80, is not a possible reading.

28) *šum-mi*. In the context, this must be a verbal form, presumably St., but no verb appropriate to the context suggests itself, unless one considers the possibility that it is from *šammu* (CAD, S/3, 280b) with the meaning 'is to be considered'. B.J. Parker, *Iraq* 59, p. 80 reads TAG-u-ni, but since there are certainly not two small verticals in the final element, a reading *ni* seems precluded.

29) *šu-gu-ri*. Taken as a variant spelling of CAD, Š/3, 233b, *šukuru* 'spear'.

30) *qi-ru ha-mar-tú*. CAD, Q, 270-271a, apud *qiru*, proposes *qi-ru ha-mar* 'the bitumen is dried up', but in the context *tú* must belong with *ha-mar*.

30) *bu-ū-[lu₄].* Although the second sign has four (perhaps even five) verticals, it must be an anomalous *ū* rather than *Ē*.

34) *xx ri*. A restoration *i-su-ri* is possible.

38) [x ME] LXII. The statement by B.J. Parker, *Iraq* 59, p. 85 that 'there is enough room in the break to restore *x-lim x-me* 'is questionable. The actual space is equal to that occupied by *ku-din* in line 36; only by a form of writing more condensed than elsewhere on this tablet could this space have held 4 signs.

42) [a]-hi. For prepositional use of *ahi*, cf. CAD, A/1, 208a-b, *ahu* B, 3b.

42) [a]-hi *ri-šu-[i]-r[i] [lu-ū illak(DU)ak]. B.J. Parker, *Iraq* 59, p. 80, reads hi-ri-ṣū *[E₂E₁] u-ra?-ak, but this does not accord with the traces and signs present.

42) *[lu-ū illak(DU)ak*. The second wedge in the lower part of DU looks like a small vertical, but examination under the microscope proves it to be a horizontal elongated downwards by a scratch.
Letters relating to the Assyrian Homeland

ND 2765 (XVI; IM 64159; Plate 43)
Re-edited in SAA, 1, no.110. See also TCAE, pp. 117-8.

Transliteration

Obv. [a-na šarri b]ēli-[i[a]
[urad-ka [m,d]x-x-LID
[lu šulmu] 1a1-na šarri bēlī-[i]a
[i?-sin?-n]u-[e-pi-[i]]
5 d[x ina šu]1-me it-tu-[s][j]-[a]1
e-ta-rab d[na]b[u] u d[mardu
a-na šarri lik-ru-bu
ina muhhi d4ALAD-4LAMMA
ša šarru be-[l]-ī iš-pur-an-ni
ú-ta-si-iq ina muhhi bā[ba][r]i? meš,ie
ša amēl-rabūte(GAL) meš, ak-ta-ra-ar
i-bat-tu-qu dALAD-4LAMMA
bat-qu-te ina pān biti la-ap-du-ni
ni-šak-kan lamassāti(LAMMA) meš,tu i-bat-tu-qu
15 ina mahri bāb qa-na-ū-te ni-šak-kan
ina muhhi [L]Ū?.A?.GĀR?.MEŠ ša a-na šarri bēlī-ia
aq-bu-u-ni ú-pa-al-šū-nu
a-na dALAD-4LAMMA ú-ta-ru-šū-nu
ina mahre bāb qabāli(MURUB4) ni-šak-kan
20 i-su-ri šarru be-[l]-ī l1-q(ab-b)i
ma-a dul-lu dan-[n][u] ... 

dul-lu pa-ha-x ...
ki-i-tu DIS KUŠ r[u]-x ...
4ALAD-4LAMMA x ...
25 x[x la? n?] ili[r]? ...
xxxxxx ...

Base ... x ... ...
... ŠID x ... ...

Rev. ša a-na šarri bēlī-ia a[q-bu-u-ni]?
31 li-e-ši-ru lu-[š][e-bi-lu]
li-ziq-pu ina pi-il ...
XLV sišēmeš ša ... at-ta-har
amēl-širānīmeš mā[du]-nu-sur-a-a
35 māšt-za-ta-a-a māštia-ū-da-a-a
māštma-a-ba-a-a māstär-an-am-ma-na-a-a
ūm XII.KĀM* ina āškal-hi e-tar-bu-u-ni
m[a]-da-na-[f]-šū-nu ina qatē[l]-šū-nu
XXV sišēmeš
40 ša māšt-za-ta-a-a ina qatē[l]-šū
māšt-du-mu-a-a māšt[a]-du-da-a-a
māšan-[q]a-ru-na-a-a x x x

219
...-x-[u²n]? LÚ.[M]AH...-x-a-a

[issu]?...xx:ú-ša-a

45 [a-na a]zab-ban il-la-ka

...x [š]a? amēₐtar-ta-ni itti-šá

Translation

1-3) To the king my lord your servant Nabu-ballit. May it be well with the king my lord. (4) The festival has been performed. (5) The god [DN] has gone out (6-7) and come in. May Nabu and Marduk bless the king. (8-9) Concerning the colossi about which the king my lord sent me a message, (10-11) I have incised the outlines, I have set (them) in position at the gates of the nobles. (12-13) The roughhewn colossi in front of the house were damaged; we are fixing them. (14-15) They are roughhewing the lamassu-colossi (and) we shall fix them (the colossi) in front of the exterior parts. (16-18) Concerning the hired men of which I spoke to the king my lord, I will make them responsible (and) return them to (work on) the colossi. (19) We shall fix them (sc. the colossi) in front of the middle gate.

(20-21a) Perhaps the king my lord will say: ‘The heavy work ...’ (22) the work ... (23) truly one cubit ... (24) the colossi ...26-28) [fragmentary] (29-31) Let them draw and send the sketch of ... which I spoke of to the king my lord. (32) Saplings in ...

(33) I have received 45 horses of ... (34-38) The emissaries of Egypt, of Gaza, of Judah, of Moab, of the Ammonites, entered Calah on the twelfth (with) their tribute in their hands. (39-40) Twenty-five horses of the people of Gaza (are) in his hand. (41-42) The Edomites, the Ashdodites, the Ekronites ... ... (43) ... ... ... (44) He set out [from ...] (45) (and) is going to Zabban. [An official] of the Turtan (is) with him.

Notes

Largely complete tablet lacking fragments from top left and right corners, right bottom of obv. and left bottom of rev. Abrasion leaves several areas of doubt. Final third of rev. is uninscribed. NA script.

2) [m.d]x-x-LID. TCAE, op.cit., p. 118, followed by SAA, 1, no.110, restores m.dSID(SAA, MES!)-rem!-{an(SAA, a)}-ni, but dMES does not appear to be a possible reading of the traces. Another possible but uncertain restoration is m.d[n]abā₂-[bal]-liš, for which name see ABL 577, obv. 15.

4) [i?-sin?-n]u? e-pi-[iš]. An almost wholly conjectural restoration, after SAA, 1, no.110.

5) d[x ina šu]-me. Adopted from SAA, 1, no.110.

8, 12) dALAD-₄LAMMA. CAD, A/1, 287b suggests reading šedu lamassu rather than aladlammû. In 13 bat-qa-te implies a pl., and LAMMA₄meš₄u in 14 points to a distinction between dALAD and dLAMMA, which supports the view of CAD. The term has been translated 'colossi', to include those of both šedu and lamassu type.

10) ú-ta-si-iq. Taken as D₃ of esēqu, CAD, E, 331b, 'to incise a relief' (= AHw, 249a), although the verb appears to be not otherwise attested in D theme in this sense.

10) bā[bāti]₄meš₄te. This is not certain but seems to be the most probable interpretation of the traces.
Letters relating to the Assyrian Homeland

11) amēl-rabūte(GAL)meš. Reading certain. (É.GAL!..MEŠ of SAA, 1, no.110 is impossible.

13) la-ap-du-ni. Taken as 3 pl. St. lapātu, related in technical sense to verbal adj. laptu(m) I c (AHw, 537a). SAA, 1, no.110 reads la DU.DU-ni, which seems improbable since the second and third signs have significantly different outlines.

15) qa-na-ū-te. The third sign is clearly ū, not sī! as proposed by SAA, 1, no.110. Taken as a defectively written pl. from CAD, Q, 81b-82b, qannu A 2 'outside'.

16) [L]Ú??...A??...GAR.MEŠ. With considerable diffidence it is suggested that this, if a correct transcription, may be an otherwise unattested writing for amēl-agrūt̄meš; cf. CAD, A/1, 151b LÚ.A.GAR (sic, not GAR) = agru. Alternatively, one wonders if what I have very tentatively read as LÚ.A could have been intended for a form of ALAD. SAA, 1, no.110, reads [NA₄?..AM!].MEŠ, but a photograph appears to preclude NA₄ and certainly precludes AM. There are insufficient wedges for ALAM.MEŠ, suggested by J.N. Postgate.


17b-18) Translation after CAD, A/2, 165a, 7.

42) x x x. TCAE, ad loc., [a?-n]a? [MURUB]₄.

43) ...-x-[u]-[n]? TCAE, ad loc., restores [e-tar-b]u-u-ni.

44) ... x x. TCAE, ad loc., restores U]R[Ukal-hi.

ND 2770 (IM 64162; Plate 44)

Transliteration
Obv.
1' ...... x x ...
...... ina m[uh]-hi ...
...... x x x x
...... (a)-l[ik ma-a pa-ri-š[u](-)i'u?]-[ū]?
5' ... É? NU PA RI LI? x UD?
......-ha-iä i-si-šū-nu
...... x pa-ri-šu šu-ū
...... PA? RI BE
...... ŠEŠ.MEŠ-šū

10' ......-u-ni
...... [a-n]a pān

Base
1 ...... x ...
...... x ......

Rev.
1 šām-[a šar]ru i-qa-bi
x x š[a] pa-ri-šu-te
nu-šal-lim : šu-uh ni-bu
ša gušurē(GIŠ.UR) ša šarru iš-pur-an-ni

5 II ME XXVI gušurē(GIŠ.UR) dannūtu(KALAG)meš
ša bīt šarri

221
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

10 [ana]? ekallā ša ḫīl...-a-te
[šu?-u]h? āmēlšaḫēmuš...(-)x-[i[a]
[x] x bit-a-nu tu-š[a]-...
[x]? x MEŠ ū-ša-bi-[tu-ni]?

...xxx...

Translation

Obv.
[Nothing significant is certain except:] (4') ... thus, 'Criminal(s)', (6') ... ... with them, (7') ... he is a criminal, and (9') ... his brothers.

Base
[Nothing intelligible]

Rev.
(1) If the king should say: (2-3a) 'Take action!', we shall requite those guilty of crime.
(3b) Concerning the quantity (4) of beams about which the king sent me a message, (5-6) (there are) 226 massive beams of the royal house, (7) one hundred thereof for the storehouses, (8) ... for the tower, (9) x39 beams (10) for the palace of the city ...-ate.

(11) Concerning the people of the land ..., (12) for the bitanu-building you shall ...
(13) they ...

Notes
Lower three-quarters or more of tablet. The extant script ranges from deep and clear to abraded beyond recognition. On left side, beginning nearest to start of rev., are parts of signs (not copied, since none are complete or restorable) showing the original presence of two lines there. NA script.

Obv.
5') É? NU PA RI LI? x UD?. The five verticals together before NU give the impression of all belonging to the same sign, and were probably part of É written anomalously. J.N. Postgate points out the attestation of bit nu-pa-ri in MA. The remainder of the line is very dubious. The undoubted final horizontal in LI? might be a mistake, making the intended sign šī.

Rev.
2) x x One would normally expect ma-a after i-qa-bi, but the very damaged traces do not appear to support this.
7) bit qa-ta-tu. Must denote some particular building; see CAD, Q, 198b, qātī in bit qātī. Tentatively taken as a pl. of the latter form.
12) bit-a-nu. See CAD, B, 275a, bitānu 2.
(d) Other letters relating to the Assyrian homeland

Letters edited:
ND 2410, ND 2616, ND 2625, ND 2637, ND 2645, ND 2669, ND 2703, ND 2742.

ND 2410 (= CV; IM 64028; Plate 44)
Re-edited in K. Kessler, Untersuchungen, 152-5.

Transliteration
Obv. 1' [………..] x
  [m]\[ldl] [………..] x
  mMU-xxBAD
  naphar II urdānimeš.ni
5' ša amēlīraš saq'l
  ša ān[a]-dāš-me-di
  mādad-ki-tni
  māri-ša
  naphar II urdānimeš.ni
10' ša amēlsangi ša āldür-dBE
  mta-투-t[u]
  ša URU.SE mUba-ni
Rev. [ur]du ša mambati-i
  amēlušar-kiš
15' máha-iddina[a]
  [ša ālsi-in-ga-ar
  urdu ša rab saqī
  naphar VI lULmeš
  ālašənashir(NIGIN)-bel
20' ik-tal-du

Translation
(2'-3') PN₁ (and) PN₂, (4'-6') a total of 2 servants of the Rab Shakeh, from Nashmedi;
(7'-8') Adad-kilani (and) his son, (9'-10') a total of 2 servants of the priest of Dur-BE;
(11'-14') Tatu of the village Ilu-bani, servant of Ambati the Musharkis official
(15'-17') (and) Aha-iddina of Singar, servant of the Rab Shakeh;
(18-20') a total of 6 attendants have reached the town Sha-Nashir-Bel.

Notes
Virtually complete tablet, with probably only one line, at most two, of the address totally lost. Except in lines 1'-4', face is only slightly damaged. Clear deep-cut NA script. In 1954 some crumbling was occurring from crystallization of salts.

ND 2410 is placed in the chapter relating to the Assyrian homeland, as it concerned Sinjar and a major city in the province of the rab šaqī.
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

10') ělüt-rā-šE. On the unresolved question of whether in NA this is to be read Dür-Bēl or Dūr-Ellil see Kessler, Untersuchungen, 150, n.508.


13') nam-ba-ti-i. For this name see below, p. 301, ND 2718, B 4', 8'.

18') ǘšUL meš. Or ǘšNAR meš. On possible equivalents (zammārē, parrīṣūtē or sarrūtē, sāqē) see Kessler, op.cit., 153-4. As a designation of six people who had arrived, three of them specifically described as servants of the rab sāqē, ‘singers’ or ‘criminals’ would seem less appropriate than ‘attendants’.

19') ělša-ša-nashir(NIGIN)-bēl. Or ěla sa mashir(NIGIN)-bēl, ‘the town belonging to Nashir-Bel.

ND 2616 (BSAI; Plate 37)

Transliteration

Obv.1' ....... x x x x ......

ina [q]āta-a-la 1-ta-na-[x]
[a] mu-[q]a-a-a la a-ha-śi-i[n]
in[a] (b)u-bu-te i-mu-tū

5') [sā]bē?meš ša šarru be-ši
lī-di-na-an-ni
...[n]išameš māti
...x-ta-m[a]-ni ša qātēl amēlabaraki

Rev.
[a]-[n]a amēlkit-ki-te-e x x x

10' ug-da-mir a-[n]a? x x
1 emār ŠE.PAD.MEŠ ba-ti-x x
amēlpāhatu ša ěl̥arba-ši am-m[a]r š[u-u-ni
šarru be-li ú-da
māthi-in-dar-a-a

15' [amēl/māt?] [h]a-dal-la-a-a
[......] x x la x [x]?

Translation

(1'-3') It is not within my power to make provision [for those people whom] he has given into my hands. (4') They will die of famine. (5'-6') The soldiers which the king my lord gave me (7') ... the people of the land ((8'-9') ... who (by) the hand of the chief steward [were delivered] to the military engineer, (10') I have dealt with in full. ... (11') 1 emar of corn rations ... (12') the governor of Erbil, as much as there is. (13') The king my lord knows (14'-15') the people of Hindaru, the people of Hadallu (16') ... .... ...

Notes

The lower half of a tablet in fair condition, both faces slightly curved. NA script.

2') i-ta-na-[x]? Cf. GAG §102i.

3') [a] mu-[q]a-a-a la a-ha-śi-i[n]. Note hendiadys.

5') [sā]bē?meš. The traces permit but do not require this reading.

7') [n]išameš māti. Note the semantic parallel to the biblical ‘ām ha’āres.
Letters relating to the Assyrian Homeland

9') amēl-ki-te-e. For kitkittu in NA as 'engineer (as a category of soldier)' see CAD, K, 454b, kiškatuš 3.

ND 2625 (LXXXVII; IM 64081; Plate 45)
See notes by K. Deller, Or. 36 (1967), 81, and TCAE, p. 126.

Transliteration
Obv.

1  [a-na š]arri bēl-ia
   urad-ka mēl-lišiš(GIŠ)
   [lu šul]mušu a-na šarri bēl-ia
   [f]na ekalli a-na šul-me
5  [a]-l-ta-al-ka i-da-tú-u-a
     māš-tú-a-a-a ša ina pāhati
  [š]u-ka-lu-uni
  [f]e-šu-nu ina na-ge-e
  i-ta-ba-lu UDUMEŠ
10  ša ina na-ge-e i-ra'-u-uni
     [i]na GIM sa-ar-te [h]-tab-tú
    ... šu-ka-lu
    .... ni te-e-mu
    .... x-uni
15  .... ša māti
     .... x ša šarri
     .... .... ni
     .... .... x
     .... .... x
Rev.

1' ..... .... x
     .... x ....
    ... [š]a? H[AR]?(-) [x]?(-)-nu ...
    ... bēl-uni ú-x [e]?-pu-[š][u]?
5'  [ina] [n]a-gi-ú ša pāhati ākur-b[a-il]
    [mar] [š]-tú-a-a-a
    [lib-b]u š-u-ka-lu-uni
    [š]u-na-a amēna-si-ka-ni
    [i]na ekalli i-tal-lu-uni
10' šarru bēl-uni liš-al-ša-uni
    a-di niš-ša-nes a-ka-bu-su-ni
    [i]li-bu ša māti a-ka-bu-su-ni
    [h]a-ra-ma-ma a-sa-pa-ra
    [a]lānišuš ni ša māti-tú-a-a-a
15' ga-bi-ša ih-ti-ti-ú
    ina libbi UDU.MEŠ MUNUS Ė.GAL
    ša pāhati ša LÜ.GAL.MEŠ
    [š]a ina pāhati i-ra'-u-uni

225
Translation

Obv.

(1-3) To the king my lord your servant Bel-lishir. May it be well with the king my lord.

(4-5) I came to the Palace for audience. During my absence, (6-11) the Itu’a troops who have control in the province have brought with them into the region the sheep which they pasture in the region. They have treacherously plundered (them) (12-19) [Very fragmentary]

Rev.

(4’) ... my lord ... they did (5’) in the district of the province of the city of Kurbail, (6’-7’) the Itu’a people have control therein. (8’-10’) Now when the tribal leaders come up into the palace, let the king our lord question them. (11’-13’) As long as I am subjecting the people, and the midst of the land, I have duly sent information. (14’-15’) All the villages of the Itu’a have been negligent. (16’-18’) Amongst the sheep of the Lady of the Palace of the province (and) of the dignitaries who pasture in the province (19’-Side 3) [Nothing significant is retained.]

Notes

Major part of letter. Top left corner, all base and part of left side are lost. Obv. and rev. are both almost flat. Text is very sharp and clear except in the vicinity of damage. NA script.

Obv.

2) mēl-līšir(GIŠ). This name occurs as that of an army commander in ND 2366, 11’ (p. 242).

5) i-da-tu-u-a. Taken as from ittu(m) I, idatu, AHw, 405b, lit. ‘in my circumstances’. Translation above follows Deller, op.cit. J.N. Postgate suggests taking from dāt, dāti, dātu-, AHw, 165b, which seems equally possible.

6-11) Although the passage could be translated to give an allegation of treachery against the Itu’a, one does not expect this sense, since the Itu’a were normally Aramaean tribesmen conspicuously loyal to Assyria. The allegation of treachery (sartu) in 11 is therefore taken as directed not against the Itu’a but against the local inhabitants. This interpretation is not, however, beyond question, since rev. 14’-15’ indicates that the writer held the Itu’a villages culpable for at least negligence, although this could have been an accusation unrelated to, and less significant than, the earlier mention of sartu.

11) [i]na GIM. The transcription adopts the reading of Deller, op.cit., who reads ina GIM, taken to stand for ina kūm, although the sign after ina appears to be GIRM rather than GIM in normal form. An alternative transcription might take GIRM = šēpu in the sense of ‘approach’ (CAD, Š/2, 303b-305a, 3).
Rev.

5') $\text{alkur-b[ai]}$. Restoration after Deller, op.cit., city in Assyria; SAA, 1, 237 proposes identification with a site south of Dohuk.

7', 12') $\text{lib-bu}$. In neither occurrence is there space for a further sign before $\text{lib}$.

15') $\text{ga-bi-šu}$. Must agree with $\text{ālāni}$ despite the singular suffix.

16') $\text{MUNUS Ė.GAL}$. For the probable reading, see above, p. 179, on ND 2676, 19'.

**ND 2637** (XCIV; IM 64088; Plate 25)

Re-edited in Fales, CLNA, pp. 154-155, 177-178, III.2.

**Transliteration**

Obv. $\text{a-na šarri bēlī-ia}$

\begin{align*}
\text{urad-ka} & m\text{man-nu-ki-4nergal} \\
\text{ina} & \text{ùm XXII KAM ša āraḥarḥamsanni(APIN)} \\
\text{kas-pu} & \text{ina ekalli ešši}
\end{align*}

5 $\text{ū-si-ri-bi}$

\begin{align*}
in[a] & u[n?-q]? e-re-ni
\end{align*}

Base $\text{a-sa-kan}$

Rev. $\text{šulmu\textsuperscript{mu} a-na un-qi}$

$\text{a-na ma-a-te}$

**Translation**

(1-2) To the king my lord your servant Mannu-ki-Nergal.

(3-5) On the 22nd day of Arahamsamna I brought the silver into the New Palace. (6-7)

I put (it) in the cedar sealed treasury.

(8-9) It is well with the sealed treasury (and) with the land.

**Notes**

Virtually complete tablet in good condition. Inscribed parallel to long axis, unusually for letters of this period, other than astrological reports. Two-thirds of rev. is uninscribed.

NA script.

4) $\text{ekalli ešši}$. May refer to one of Sargon’s buildings at Dur-šarrukin.

6) $u[n?-q]?$. This restoration, after Fales, CLNA, p. 154, seems more probable than $\text{IÉl}$, as guessed by K. Deller, Or. 36 (1967), 82.

8) $\text{un-qi}$. Taken as ‘treasury safeguarded with a seal’; see Iraq 28 (1966), 191.

9) $\text{ma-a-te}$. K. Deller, Or. 36 (1967), 82, suggests emending to $\text{ma-<ṣar>-a-te}$ ‘the guards’.

**ND 2645** (XVIII; IM 64093; Plate 42)

Re-edited in SAA, 1, no.171.

**Transliteration**

Obv. $\text{a-na šarri bēlī-ia}$

\begin{align*}
\text{urad-ka} & m\text{bēl-dār[i]} \\
\text{mīlu-mu-še-zib} & 16\text{NINDA} \\
\text{ša} & m\text{bēl-ēmur(IGI)-an-ni}
\end{align*}

227
5  šarru ina [صلاة]ha-ta-ri-ka
ú-[s[e-st]b-[šu] : a-ki
šarru [i-te]-qu-ni m.דKU?...-ереeš
ša ú-[de-e]-šú
10  ša ka[l-zí] [ni]šameš-[šú]
šu-ú-tú ... x x ... x-šú
liš-ú-lu [L]Ü 1:1
lu-sa-hfr-u-ni a-ki D[Iš]??x x-nu
15  a-na-k[an]-ni : ālu-bi'-di
am[el] [š]ab [k]i-sir x x
...... qatellia
Rev. ....... sisâ
i-du-ka
20  sisâ ku-mu-šú
ana-ku ú-sa-lim-me
ma-a KÛ.BABBAR SUM-ka
mālu-bi'-di : māt(UŠ)
sinnisat-šú : LÜ H[AR]-du : mār-u-ta
25  ta-ta-h[az] [ina L]U*.M[U].MEŠ
amēlu : 'il-[x]-ia : i-du-la
a-k[î] ša[rru] [bēl]i e-ti-qu-ni
ša ka[l]-z[i]? : i-tal-ku-ni
amēl : 'ūl-[s]a-ah-li-qu
30  DIŠ.x.x : šumu-šú
a-่น[ma-mu-a-a
[šl] al-na ša kal-zí
šarru be-li liš'-a-la
šumu la amēlurdu
35  šu-tu-ni
Side m.דnabû-še-sib amēlMAR(A) [ši]pri
ina pān maš-šur-erešeš : šarru be-li
lu-še-bîl-šú

Translation
(1-2) To the king my lord your servant(s) Bel-duri.
(3-6) The king settled Ilu-mushezib, a baker of Bel-emuranni, in Hatarikka. (6b-7)
After the king went on, (8) Kubaba-eresh (9) ... ... (10-13) Let them ask the
people of Kalzi ... ... (and) let them return the man to me.
(14) When [PN]? (15) was here, Ilu-bi’di, (16) a cohort commander ... (17)
[under] my control, (18-19) ... killed a horse. (20-21) I myself paid for a horse in its
place. (22) He said: ‘I will pay you silver (in recompense).’ (23) Ilu-bi’di is (now)
dead. (24-25a) His wife has taken the sonship (for) a posthumous child. (25b-26) The
man (concerned) goes about with me amongst the bakers. (27) When the king my lord
had gone on, (28) the people of Kalzi came, (29) (and) let the man escape; (30) his
Letters relating to the Assyrian Homeland

name is [PN]. (31-33) Let the king my lord enquire of Kimumaya and the people of Kalzi. (34-35) If he is a slave, (36-38) may the king my lord cause Nabu-shezib the messenger to bring him into the presence of Ashur-eresh.

Notes

Tablet formed of several fragments rejoined. Complete in outline except for small fragment of left half of base, but has major surface loss in a hole in middle of obv. and in vicinity of breaks on both obv. and rev. NA script.


8) m.dKU?...ērēšēš. SAA, 1, no.171 restores m[K]A-APIN-eš = Kubaba-eresh, perhaps correctly, but the sign after DINGIR could be XIV1, and the PN perhaps Ishtar-shum-eresh.

9, 10, 28, 32) ša. In each of these lines SAA, 1, no.171 reads kal-zi after ša. This reading is very probable in 10 and 28, and certain in 32, but impossible in 9, where, as a photograph clearly confirms, the sign after ša is ú. In 9, there is space for two signs between ú and the final -šū, for which a possible conjectural restoration is ú-de-e-šū 'him alone'.

11) ... x x ... x-šū. SAA, 1, no.171 restores [ú-s]a-[š]a-h-l-[š]-q]u?, but the final sign is certainly šū, not damaged qu.

12) [L]U? t-[š]. After SAA, 1, no.171.

14) D[IS]?x.x-nu. DIŠ is possible but dubious. SAA, 1, no.171 restores [mu-t]a-nu, but for the first sign the very slight traces seem to preclude a reading mu, and the following traces can hardly be part of ta.

15) a-na-[k]-ni. Adopted from SAA, 1, no.171.

16) am[t]-š[ir]. Restoration after SAA, 1, no.171.

24) LÚ H[AR]-du. The sign before -du certainly begins with the group HI, which precludes the reading [š]a-du, as proposed by SAA, 1, no.171. Taken as CAD, ḫ, 250a, hurdu B 'posthumous child', although this is not otherwise attested in NA.

27) mar(DUMU)-u-ta. Not DUMU: QĀL, as SAA, 1, no.171.

25) ta-ta-[h]-[a]z. After SAA, 1, no.171.


26) i-du-la. The apparent vertical (or slender šū) following this is almost certainly a mere scratch.

30) DIŠ.x-x. SAA, 1, no.171 proposes the reading m[LAL]-[š]u?, but the sign after DIŠ appears to have heads of two verticals, which would preclude the reading LAL.

34) šu[m]-mu la. GAG §§121a, 185g.

ND 2669 (IM 64106; Plate 46)

Transliteration

Obv. [a]-[n]a šarri bē[ši-ia]
ura[d-ka] maš-šur-ila-[a]-a
[u ša] lmumu a-na šarri [b]ēši-ia
šulmu[mu] a-na a-[š]a [š]arri [m]ēš-ia
5 x x x ša šar[ri] bēši-ia
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

Translation

(1-3) To the king my lord your servant Ashur-ilaya. May it be well with the king my lord.
Letters relating to the Assyrian Homeland

(4-5) It is well with the fortress (and) ... of the king my lord. (6) About that on which the king my lord sent a message, saying: 'The guard (7) ... of ... the gods of the king my lord (8) ...' Let the heart of the king my lord (9) be glad. Bur-ili of the city Gu- ... (10) the servant of Anu- ... (11-12a) has sent him/it ... to the king my lord.

(12b) A report about the city ... (13) When the king my lord gave orders to me, saying: (14) 'They shall deliver ... shekels of silver', (15) in the month ... (16) one container ... ... (17) one container ... therein 12 shekels (18) ... ... they shall deliver 3 shekels of silver therein. (19) 500 shekels of silver are delivered (for) one ox. (20) ... ... ... (21) of ploughs; 30 oxen ... (22) ... ... ... (23) ... cavalry horses (24) ... ... within ... (25) the month Aralsamna of ... ... ... (26) ... ... ... (27-28) I shall bear when they deliver in my presence. (28-29) ... ... ... you go out (30) for the second time. ... ... (31) ... ... you go out (32) to the great gate of ... ... (33) ... ... ... (34) ... ... ... (35) ... ... ... (36) ... ... ... (37) ... ... he will strengthen. (38) You shall build up all of it massively, (39) from within the great gate of Dahinu (40) to the entry point of the waters (41) which go into the midst of the city.

(42-43) Outside the city wall they have dug a moat, (44) five cubits wide (and) seven cubits deep. (45) According to this ... he gave me a command. (46) I have duly sent a message for the king my lord.

Notes

Virtually complete tablet with some areas of loss of surface, and extensive abrasion which renders many readings uncertain. Most of surface of obv. had flaked off, but has been refixed. Final 6 mm of rev. is uninscribed. NA script.

15) ITI.x-x-A? The unidentified signs do not appear to make APIN.DU₈.A. They could be KIN.A.A, but ITI.KIN.A.A = ululaia, though based on a month name, is normally a personal name.

15, 20) ša(-)-ma-a-ri?. In each occurrence, damage between the first and second verticals of the final sign puts the reading in question.

16) A wide horizontal split in the face begins at the end of the third sign and continues till the end of the line, leaving all signs after the third in doubt.

17) DIS.DUG.ZISI?-EA(-);(-)NI.MEŠ. This writer uses word-dividers so liberally that the certain word-divider between RA and NI does not necessarily indicate that NI.MEŠ is a separate word.

21-27, 30-37) These badly damaged lines (and, indeed, the tablet as a whole) would repay a fresh collation when access and cleaning are again possible.

26) x-li-mu UD. The position relative to the beginning of the line indicates that the first sign is not simply a, to give the rare word a-li-mu. The traces could be the remains of kal, to give kal-li-mu (CAD, K, 82b), or the plural kal-li-mu-tü, although this is otherwise only attested in OB.

26, 28) ŠE?-TAB. Less probably KAM*-TAB.

29) ? Alternatively this could be the remains of another sign.

32) ša x x x x. The traces appear to read ma ni pi e, but the context seems to require URU plus place-name.

40) ne-ru-bu. For nērabu with vowel harmony; see GAG §10e.
40) x A.MEŠ. It is possible that there is no lost sign between ša and A, so that the meaning is ‘of the waters’, with reference to the point where the river joined the city’s defences.

42) a-na qa-an-ni. See CAD, Q, 82b, qannu A, 2a.

43) hi-ri-šu : ih-†[u]-ša. Cf. CAD, IJ, 103b, apud harīšu ‘moat’.

44) ru-qu. Normally means ‘distant’ with reference to length, but since a moat only seven cubits (about 2.8 metres or 9 feet) long outside the city wall would be ludicrous, the term here must surely refer to depth.

ND 2703 (LXXXI; BSAI; Plate 44)

Transliteration

Obv. a-na šarri bēl-ia
urad-ka ma-ši-pa-a
lu-u šulmuštu a-na šarri
bēl-ia
5 amēšaknu ša salša-kîn-te
i-tal-ka : iq-tî-bî-a
ma-a šattu
štup-ni-nu
ka-nu-nu ūa-sa-lu erî
10 ša ekalli : ša-ar-qu
ina kas-pī ta-da-nu

Rev. a-sa-ap-[r[a]
bi-it : ka-nu-nu-ni
ina kas-pī ta-di-nu-nu
15 i-ša-ab-tú
amēba-te-qu
ana muhhi šarri
[bēl]-[i]-ia a-sa-ap-ra
[šarru bê]-[l]ī liš-‘-al-šú

Translation

(1-4) To the king my lord your servant Ashipa. May it be well with the king my lord.
(5-6) The administrator of the Harem Manageress has come. He told me: (7-11) ‘A sceptre, a brazier and a copper vessel of the Palace have been stolen to sell for silver.’
(12) I have made (my) report. (13-15) They arrested someone when the brazier was sold for silver. (16-18) I have sent the accuser to the king my lord. (19) Let the king my lord question him.

Notes
Tablet has a minor chip missing from bottom right of rev., and a hole c. 20 x 25 mm on left half of rev.; a clean cut for 15 mm of its length suggests that this hole was gouged out during excavation. Final 21 mm of rev. is uninscribed. The wedges are beautifully sharp. The top end is so flat that the tablet easily stands on it. NA script.
My copy of 1954, published in *Iraq* 27 (1965), plate VII, was essentially accurate but too formalised to give any indication of the scribal ductus. I therefore offer a new copy to redress this omission.

5) amēšaknu, ša-kīn-ša. For meanings, see CAD, Š/1, 190b, 4 and 165a-b.

6, 10, 12) As shown in the copy, the form of the word divider is different at each occurrence. In 10, the scribe has impressed the lowest wedge so close to the middle one that it almost overlaps, so that without close scrutiny one might assume there were only two wedges.

**ND 2742** (XCIII; IM 64146; Plate 31)

**Transliteration**

Obv. 1’ ............ x x
x ........ x a-n[ a]  
šarri bēlī-ia-a-[ l]e  
in[a] muhhi na-d[(a-a)]n
5’ ša ŠE.PAD.MEŠ
ša šarru  
iš-pur-a-ni  
ma-a’-da
9’ ŠE.PA[D].MEŠ
Rev.  lu-bi-lu-ni  
11’ ina li-bi  
[l]-di-bu-ku

**Translation**

(2’-3’) to the king my lord. (4’-5’) Concerning the delivery of grain rations (6’-7’) about which the king sent a message, (8’) (there is) much. (9’-12’) They will transport corn rations and pour (them) out therefrom.

**Notes**

Lacks top. Has square end. Inscribed with very large, clumsy, rather shallow NA script. 37 mm of rev. uninscribed.

3’) bēlī-ia-a-[ l]e. The final damaged sign is not ma.


12’) [l]-di-bu-ku. Represents *litbuku*. The spelling combines with the clumsiness of the script to indicate the inexpertness of the scribe.
Chapter Six
Letters of uncertain provenance

Letters (and two or three non-letters) edited:
ND 2052, ND 2062, ND 2067, ND 2087 (not copied), ND 2351, ND 2614, ND 2353 (not copied), ND 2356, ND 2361, ND 2362, ND 2366, ND 2369, ND 2373, ND 2376 (not copied), ND 2379, ND 2387, ND 2392, ND 2394, ND 2801, ND 2395, ND 2401, ND 2404, ND 2405, ND 2413, ND 2420, ND 2422, ND 2423, ND 2425, ND 2426, ND 2428 (perhaps not a letter), ND 2429, ND 2432 (not copied), ND 2436, ND 2459, ND 2472, ND 2460, ND 2464, ND 2467, ND 2468, ND 2469, ND 2747, ND 2473, ND 2474, ND 2477, ND 2604, ND 2605 (not a letter), ND 2613, ND 2615 (not a letter), ND 2624, ND 2627, ND 2639, ND 2642, ND 2643, ND 2647, ND 2654, ND 2658, ND 2665, ND 2675, ND 2682, ND 2683, ND 2685, ND 2690, ND 2698+2702, ND 2708, ND 2711, ND 2718, ND 2724, ND 2735, ND 2740, ND 2743, ND 2746, ND 2749, ND 2752, ND 2756, ND 2760 (not a letter), ND 2763, ND 2771, ND 2775, ND 2777, ND 2780, ND 2793, ND 2794, ND 2800, ND 2802.

Letters not copied but noted:
ND 2479, ND 2688, ND 2704, ND 2753.

ND 2052 (XXXVIII; IM 63393; Plate 47)

Transliteration
Obv.  ṭuppi bēlet-tā-ta-a
      a-na mšum-iddin ahi-šū
      d.šal-nin-li l u dištar babılıği
      šu-lum máti ša ahi-ia
  5  li[q-b][a-'r][a] ūmu₃₃u₃₃-us-su
    l[d][s]al-nin-li l u dištar babılıği
    a-na balāši ṭapšar mēṣ ša ahi-la
    ū-ul-šal-[l][a] am-me-ni ma-la
    a-ga-a ūmu₃₃u₃₃ amēl₃₃ar šip-ri-ka
  10  la a[m][u]r en-na ki-i
    bal-ṭa-a-tu, i-da-ti-ka
    mi-[e]-ti [u]-ram-ma
    lu-ur-qud sa[lag]-ga-ga-a
    mi-ta-at u ahi-ku
  15  da-li-iḥ
Base  al-kam-ma
Rev.  ki-i na-kut-ti
      al-tap-rak-ka ha-an-ṭiš
Letters of uncertain provenance

20  
  kul-du  
  u  
  x-x-da-'a  
  k[l]-i  
  it-ti  
  du-lu-uh-ti-a

25  
  [n]i-pi-ih  
  la  
  mšul?-x  
  ša  
  išā-al

Translation

(1-5) Tablet of Belet-tuta to Shum-iddin his brother. May Ninlil and Ishtar of Babylon decree the wellbeing of my brother’s land. (5-8) Daily I pray to Ninlil and Ishtar of Babylon for the life of my brother’s soul.

(8-10a) Why have I not seen your messenger up to this day? (10b-) Now if/that you are well, let me .. .... ... (to) your side and dance for joy.

(13-15) The lady Gaga is dead and your brother is sad. (16-17) Come and see him. (18-19) I have written to you out of concern. (20-26) Quickly approach Ninlil and Ishtar of Babylon ... that daily you have not established an inward foreboding with concern about me.

(27) [A named man] asks after the welfare of Shum-iddin his brother.

Notes

Complete tablet in good condition. NB script. The NB script of this document, one of the few apparently private letters in the archive, could link it to Babylonia, but there is no conclusive evidence as to its place of origin.

4) 44 su-lum māti. Could be read su-lum-mat, but this would not give an appropriate sense here. su-lum-mu! is not a possible reading. Reference to ‘the land of my brother’ suggests that the Shum-iddin addressed was a high provincial official, but the name is not uncommon and no identification suggests itself. The similar formula in lines 27-29 gives only su-lum.

10-13) en-na ki-i bal-ta-a-tu₄ i-da-ti-ka mi-te-e-ti l[u]-ram-ma lu-ur-qud. The rendering of CAD, M/2, 147b, ‘now let me (lit. my humble self) acknowledge(?) that you are well and I will dance (for joy)’ depends upon reading the first verb as lu-bil-ma, but I see the second sign of this verb as certainly ram, not bil. Prima facie l[u]-ram-ma could derive from ṛāmu, and l[u]-ram-ma lu-ur-qud might be hendiadys for ‘I would like to dance (for joy)’, although no parallel can be offered. Accepting i-da-ti-ka mi-te-e-ti as interpreted in CAD, op.cit., one might render the whole sentence ‘now that you are well, I, my humble self, would like to dance (for joy)’, but since this rests upon unproved assumptions on the sense of several words it is uncertain.


25) [n]i-pi-ih lib-bi-ka. Restoration from CAD, D, 179a.

24-26) Restoration based on CAD, D, op.cit.; translation modified.
ND 2062 (BSAI; Plate 8)

Transliteration
Obv.
1  a-na šarrī [bēliya]
   ura[d]-ka [PN]
   lu-ū šulmuₐₙu [ana šarrī bēliya]
   i-n[a] BÀ[D]? .... ....
5  ś[a] an n[a]? .... ....
   pi? x .... .... ....
   x x .... ....

Rev. [not copied]
1'  x x .... .... ....

[No translation is offered. Nothing is legible except part of the greeting formula in lines 1-3, and possibly ‘in the fortress’ in line 4.]

Notes
Upper half of small tablet, with right half of surface of obv. completely lost. Surface of lower half of rev. is largely preserved, but is uninscribed except for one line with traces of the first two signs, damaged beyond recognition. Probably originally bore 12 lines of text on obv. and 6 on rev. NA script. The broken end shows coiling of the clay, making clear how the tablet was formed; see pp. 2-3.

Obv. 6) pi? x. It is just possible that further marks, which I take to be adventitious, could be traces of a further vertical. In that case, the reading might be uₐ-mē.

ND 2067 (IM, for study; Plate 40)

Transliteration
Obv. [Retains no complete line. The first three lines may be restored:]
1  [a-na] šarri be-li-[ia]
   [ura]d-ka x .... ....
   [lu šulmu] a-na šarru be-li-ia
[Remainder of obv. contains some legible signs in almost all lines, but insufficient to give consecutive sense.]
[Rev. is in significantly worse condition than obv. and was not copied.]

Notes
Major part of tablet, with base and both sides lost. Some of obv. remains legible, but very little of rev. NA script.
**ND 2087** (IM 63403)

**Notes**
Complete small tablet, tapering at ends. Signs were very indistinct through abrasion, and the copy made in 1954 is inadequate. The tablet could not be found when it was sought for collation and possible re-copying in 1970.

**ND 2351** (BSAI; Plate 26)

**Transliteration**

**Face A**

1' \[AŠ]\? Š[Â]\? x ........
\[ş]\a munñi URU DI[ş]\ TE x ........
\[ş]\a šarru iš-pur-an-ni ma-a a x x ......
p-i-x-t-ı-ı(-)ma L[U.ÉR]IN.MEŠ x x x ......

5' mûmaaš a-na šatì-šá-nu \[l][a]\? x [x] x x x x x x x x x x
ša ni-ra-šî-pu-ni ta-RI x? a fu\?'? \[n]\? x x ti-ma
ý.GAL\[im\] šum₄₄ ma \[dib\]-[ş]e UR[U]\? x [x]-a-te
ni-ra-šî pàn amel\[š]\a mašaartu ina \[l][b]-bi
x x x iméra-sap-pi \[š]\a L[Ü]\? E[N]\? x[M]EŠ

10' ........ \[š]\a-li-ū-[n]\? ša LUG[AL] ....
........ x x x am? ....
........ x x ....

**Face B** [Not copied. The only legible or possibly legible signs are:]

1' (end)-\[n\]

2' (end)-\[r]\[a]\?

6' (beginning) \[x]\[l]-[\[s]\?/b]\[a]\?-\[dš\]

7' (beginning) \[u]\[l]-[\[n]\?a LÜ.GAR

8' (beginning) x-[\[h]\?a? \[l]\?y\]

**Translation**

**Face A**

(2') concerning the city ... (3') of which the king sent me a message, saying ...

(4') my ... the soldiers (5') there is not water for their drinking .... (6') which we shall erect .... (7') of the palace; if the fortress ... (8') we shall erect in front of the troops. The watch in the midst (9') ... the pack animals of the ... (10') ... which they ask. That which of the king ...

**Notes**

Full width fragment from a large tablet, lacking top and bottom. Curvature on the two faces is almost equal. Core shows traces of use of a surface layer of clay over the core. NA script.

On Face A 12 lines are preserved, some only minimally; on Face B there are minimal traces of 8 lines. There is slight damage at sides, with abrasion on right side of Face A. Almost all of Face B is lost from severe abrasion.
The dimensions and the similarity of the cores admit the possibility that this and the fragmentary ND 2614 come from the same tablet.

The fragmentary intelligible sections of this letter suggest that the writer was in charge of a military force which was under attack and suffering water shortage, but give no indication of the place of origin.

Face A

4') \( pi-x-ti-la \). Some of the wedges drawn for \(-x\) may be damage marks. The certain wedges tend to suggest KAN, but this would give a non-form.

7') \( UR[U]? \) The other possible reading, GUR, is less probable.

**ND 2614 (BSAI; Plate 47)**

**Transliteration**

Obv. 1' [...].

2' \( [pa-n]i-šū IGI \( msi-\prime-a-[u-r]i \) [...]

3' [...] \( x ša būt \) DINGIR [...]

4 [...] VI-\( ma \) \( ša\? būt \) [...]

5' [...] XXIV G[II]? [...].

6' [...] \( \text{K}[U]? \) BABBAR \( x \) [...]

7' [...] \( \text{[s]a}\? m[a]\? \) IV \( x x \) \( ka \) [...]

8' [...] \( \text{hi} x x \) UD \( [m]a-hi-ir x x [...]

Base 9' [...] IV-\( ma \) \( ša \) būt \( 4nabūs \) ina \( pa-ni-šū \) [...]

10' [...] \( x x \) SUM? VI-\( VII-ma \) \( K[U]? \) BABBAR \( x x [...]

11' [...] \( x x \) III \( ma \) \( s[u] \)? DIŠ.DINGIR NU \( x [...]

12' [...] \( x x \) III ME XLV \( x x [...]

Rev. 13' [...] \( x x \) \( K[U]? \) BABBAR \( \text{[s]a} \) bī\( t[r] \) DINGIR.x [...]

14' [...] \( x x \) \( s[a-s]u x x [...]

15' [...] VIII-\( ma \) \( \text{[s]a} \) bī\( t x [...]

16' [...] \( ša \) bī\( t \) DINGIR x [...]

17' [...] \( x x x x būt \) DINGIR x [...]

18' [...] XXIX-\( ma \) VI UR \( x x [u]a [...]

19' [...] XXVIII \( x \) UR IV \( x x [...]

20' [...] \( x ú x [...]

[Insufficient is legible to warrant a translation.]

**Notes**

Fragment from middle bottom of large tablet. No line retains more than a half of the original text. NA script. The existence of three drawn horizontal lines, and the contents so far as intelligible, suggest that this may be from an economic or administrative document rather than a letter. Cleaning might improve the legibility of some signs. See above, ND 2351 (p. 237), to which this tablet may be linked.

2') \( msi-\prime-a-[u-r]i \). See APN, 195a.
ND 2353 (BSAI)

Notes
Description as seen in 1954: Fragment of a very large letter, about 120 mm long × 70 mm wide × 30 mm thick. Bears parts of 17 lines on one face and parts of perhaps 10 lines of the other. The script is small and the surface either badly abraded or filled with a dirt as hard as the clay of the tablet. In 1954 only three lines on Face A and 2 lines on Face B bore definitely identifiable signs, sufficient to show this was a letter to the king. Not copied. Subsequent cleaning may have improved legibility.

ND 2356 (LXXXVI; IM 64007; Plate 43)
Re-edited in TCAE, p. 370.

Transliteration
Obv. [a-bat šarrī]
[a-na m.][i][a]-šur-bēl-L[Ā]?
amēlim-ma-nu ša ekalli
lu-u amēlim[š-šu]r-i-a-l-a
5 lu-u a[mēlim][r-m]a-a-a
ša a-na KUR.TILLA
a-na māti-ka il-li-ku-ni-ni
LÚ.A.KIN.MESnu-k[a]
ina na-gi-u ga[b]-bu
10 ši-tap-par bi-it šá-nu-u-ni
bab-bi-šá-nu [p]ah-hi-ra
ina muh-hi-ia še-bi-la-dāš-šu-ru
[p]it-hal-lu₄ amēlim-t₄-a
[i]₄-si-šu-nu pi-gid
15 [š][a] l₄-n[a][i][d][d₄]r.-mēlim-ila-a-a
[i]₄-lš-e-t[a]-qu-ni-šá-nu-u-ni
Rev. [lu?-]r[u-?] [t]u-u-da-la₁
... ša [E]Š.GAR e-ma-du
i[q-t]ar-ba-a-ni

Translation
(1-2) [Royal order to] Ashur-Bel-ταqqin.
(3-5) (As to any) scribe of the palace, whether Assyrian or Aramaean, (5-7) who came to your land, to KUR.TILLA, (8-10) send a message into all districts wherever they are, (11-12) (and) gather them all up (and) send them to me. (13-14) Appoint cavalry (and) Itu’a troops with them, (15-16) who will get them through to Dur-Bel-ilaya. (17-19) Know that [the time] for imposing the Ishkaru-tax is approaching.

Notes
Lacks top left and bottom left corners. 70 mm of rev. uninscribed. NA script.
1) Identification of this letter as an abat šarrī is due to K. Deller, Or. 36 (1967), 81.
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

3) [m].rd 1 -sur-bé-L[Ā]. Adopted after TCAE, op.cit., although for the final sign my copy suggests LA₂ rather than LĀ.

6) KUR.TILLA. There is no case for equating this with Tille, east of Naṣibina (Kessler, Untersuchungen, 9-15, 21), which never occurs with this spelling and almost always has the determinative URU (NAT, 356f.). Could this be an anomalous writing for KUR.TILLA = māturartu? In view of the doubt about identification, this letter is placed in Chapter 6.

8) LŪ.A.KIN.MESni-[k[a]. The phonetic complement indicates that LŪ.A.KIN.MES here represented an Assyrian form ending in ni, perhaps mār šiprānī.


15) [dā][r]-mēl-ila-a-a. See NAT, 109, apud DŪR-BĒL-ILĀYA, which elsewhere is mentioned alongside sites in eastern Assyria.

17) [t]u?-u?-? [t]u-u-da-f-[a]. Against this restoration is GAG §81c, but see CAD, L, 225a, 4’, b’.

19) [q-t]ar-ba-a-ni. TCAE, op.cit., offers the alternative restoration [e-t]ar-ba-a-ni.

ND 2361 (BSAI; Plate 37)

Transliteration

Obv. [tuppi]? [PN₁ amēli]ur-[a]-n[i][a]
[ana]? PN₂? ...
[bi]-[r]a-[i]-a[a]
x x x sis[ī]mēl-ia
[x]-mu-u a-na UD.MEŠ-ia amēl-rabī-ia

Rev. [Nothing remains but parts of three wedges in the middle of three successive lines.]

Translation

(1) Tablet of PN₁ the Commander-in-Chief (2) to PN₂, ... my fortresses (3) ... ... my horses (4-5) ... For my two days (of absence), you are in my place as my deputy commandant. (6) You are responsible for my watch. (7) I have handed over. Keep the watch! (8) ... ... day ... ... (9) ... ... house ... ...

Notes

Major part of a small tablet, with loss of left side, right bottom corner, and lower edge, and some surface of obv. There is one broad crack and many hair-line cracks on obv., and several cracks on rev. Rev. may originally have borne up to five lines of text; surface of final 35 mm of rev. is uninscribed. NA script.

1) [tuppi]? [PN₁]. Although commoner in Babylonia than Assyria, the restored form of address is attested from Assyria in exchanges between officials. The space available is too short for the restoration ana šarrī bēliya PN, and in any case both this and a
Letters of uncertain provenance

restoration abat šarrī ana PN are precluded by the reference in lines 5-7 to the writer handing over his duties to the recipient.

6-7) [ana]? [qa]-[t]a-ka ... [lu]?-[u]?-[m]e-[l]a. The restoration assumes the idiom noted in CAD, M/1, 187a, malā 9c.

9) [E]? x. Or ib u4-m[u].

ND 2362 (IM 64010; Plate 35)

Transliteration

Obv.

1  ṭuppi m.[l][LU]GAL-x x
   a-na LÚ.A.[B]A ekalli
   lu šulmu mu a-na mārī-ia
   m.dnabā-nadin-ahhēmeš

5  ina muhhi mārī-ia
   a-sa-par
   [p]a?-[a]q?-da-a-ti

Rev.

1'  x ..........
   an-ni-[t(e)]
   amēl-x-a-a
   li-pu-šū

Translation

Obv.

(1-2) Tablet of Lugal-... to the scribe of the palace. (3) May it be well with my son. (4-6) I have sent Nabu-nadin-ahhe with a message for my son. (7) Things entrusted

Rev.

(1'-4') this .... .... .... let the ... people do.

Notes

About two-thirds of a short letter, in reasonable condition. 23 mm of rev. is uninscribed. NA script.

ND 2366 (LX; IM 64012; Plate 48)

Transliteration

Obv.1' x ... x .......

x x x .......

[i]'-[na? muh]hi-šū-nu-m[a]? [ú]-š[a]?

...-[m]a i-[(l)ku-u-ni a-d[i]?

5'  x ... [M]E AN[ŠE.KU]R.[R]A.MEŠ ú-t[a-x]
   [š]a x ú-si-ši-a-šū-nu
   i-ta-ta-ku-ú-ni
   XIX amēl šābēmeš [:] XIX ANŠE.NĪTA.[K]AM? x
   XIII šābēmeš, šū : DIS imēribilē(A.AB.BA)[m]ēš

241
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

Translation

(3') he/they came out against them. (4') ... they came together with (5') x00 horses ... (6') ... he caused them to come forth (7') they have come back;
(8') 19 soldiers, 19 ... -equids;
(9') 13 of his soldiers, 60 dromedaries;
(10') 3 (soldiers), 3 (mounts) : the Lidaneans;
(11') 81 (soldiers), 81 (mounts) : Bel-lishir;
(12') 18 (soldiers), 18 (mounts) : the Ituaeans;
(13') 15 (soldiers), 15 (mounts) the Hamaranaeans;
(14') 59 (soldiers), 59 (mounts) : 60 dromedaries (15') by the hands of Shamash-ibni.
(16'-21') Total: I have sent 198 soldiers, 195 equids, 120 dromedaries at the hand of PN my messenger ... (22') [text lost]

Notes

Lower two-thirds of tablet. Most of right edge is missing. Deeply inscribed NA script, very clear except where there is abrasion. Letter enumerates troops and mounts.

6') [3]a x. Collation suggests that LUGAL is improbable as the reading of the second sign.

7') i-ta-ta-ku-ú-ni. For a verb ataku see AHw, 86A; contra CAD, A/2, 481a. But form may be anomalous Gt Perf. of alakku; see Iraq 21 (1959), 171.


8'-14') The numbers given for men and equids in these lines add up to the totals given in lines 16'-17'.

9'), 14', 18') DIŠ imēribilē(A.AB.BA) [m]ēs, DIŠ imērib[i]lē(A.AB.BA) [m]ēs, DIŠ.DIŠ imēribilē(A.AB.BA) [m]ēs. Since the lowest number of equids listed is 3, and the totals of men and equids are both nearly 200, DIŠ seems more likely here to represent LX than I.

10'-14') The word-divider signs appear to be used here virtually as ditto signs.

12') mātā-te-tu-u-a-l. Sic, not mātā-te-tu-u-a-l. Variant of forms from amēitu'u; cf. NAT, 179-181.
Letters of uncertain provenance

ND 2369 (IM 64014; Plate 48)

Transliteration

Obv.  x . . . . . . . . .
LÚ.SAG? ša x x x
bel pi-qí-te
ša eleppátemeš.te
5  issu eleppátemeš.te
i-la-ka
ina bit šarri i[r-r]u-bu-u-ní
IV elip[pâ]temeš.te
ša šarru iq-b[u]-ni
10 [m]a-a k[í]-í1 . . . .
Base  x x x . . . .
[an-ní-te šu-lú]-[tá]? ...
Rev.  x x x . . . . .
[x]? gu-ra-t[u]?
15  x ša DIŠ TI SI?
[š]a [í]q-bí-u-ní
xxx x [š]u-u-tú
a x x x x-sí-[š]á?
[m][í]?-[x]? šú?-nu?? x bat-te-šú
20  x x x x x-a-šú
me-me š[u]?-ú x x a-[ík]
pa-ti x x x
23  x x x x ina lib-bi
Side*  24  ... [í]?-[í]e [í]-i-n-[í]ú-hú ...
25  ... x x x [ú]-ga-mu-[ru]

Translation

(1) . . . . . . . . . (2) the chief of . . . . . . . . . (3) responsibility (4) for the ships. (5-6)
After the ships come, (7) when they enter the royal domain, (8-9) four ships of which
the king spoke, (10) saying, . . . . . . . . (11-15) [nothing significant intelligible]
(16) which they said (16-22) [nothing significant intelligible]
(23) . . . . . within (24) . . . . . let them transport . . . (25) . . . . . they will complete.

Notes

Tablet complete except for c. 10 mm at top and small fragments missing from both
bottom corners. Much of rev. is badly abraded. NA script.
14) gu-ra-t[u]? The final sign could well be taken as li, but this would give no obvious
sense. For a possible gu-ra-tu see AHw, 299a, gurrate, agurrate.
15) SI?. What appears to be a horizontal at the end does not look like damage, and is
wrongly placed to be a continuation of the introductory horizontal.

243
ND 2373 (BSAI; Plate 49)

Transliteration
Obv.
1  a-n[a] šar[ri] bê[i-i]a
    urad-ka m.d[nab-u]"ef[iir]
    lu šulmu[mu a-na šar[ri bê]li-la
    ina muhhi [a]ša-da-a-a-li
5  ša m[b[i-b]i-ia-e
    š[a ša]rru bêili
    [iš?-pur?]a[n]?/a?=-ni
    [ma?-a? ......-d]a-a-a

Rev.
1'  ....... x x
    ûl-si-bi-la-šú
    III ME ŠE.NUMUN.MEŠ
    ša ālu-ba-na
5'  a-ri-îš
    ri-ih-tú
    a-ra-dš
    šu-uh : ŠE.MEŠni ša ālu-ba-na
    ša šar[ru] bêili
10'  [i]q-b[a]-lu-n[i]

Translation
Obv.
(1-3) To the king my lord your servant Nabu-eîr. May it be well with the king my lord.
(4-8) Concerning the scout of Bibiae, about whom the king sent me a message, he
has gone to the ... people.

Rev.
(1') ... ... ... (2') I have had it brought. (3'-7') I have sown 300 units of the
corn(land) of Hubana. The remainder I shall sow. (8'-10') This is in connection with
the corn(land) of Hubana, about which the king my lord spoke to me.

Notes
Small tablet with base lost and small chip missing from top right corner. Large clear NA
script.
Obv.
2) m.d[nab-u]"etîr. A common name; see APN 149. In ND 2632, a person of this name is
concerned in the Mukin-zer rebellion.
5) m[b[i-b]i-ia-e. For the personal name Bi-bi-ia see APN 63.
8) -d]a-a-a. Presumably a gentilic.
4', 8') ālu-ba-na. No place of this name is known. One might be tempted to assume
mistaken readings for the well-attested ālu-ba-ba (NAT 165-6), but whereas the ba of
one scribe may be very similar to the na of another, on the present tablet the second and
Letters of uncertain provenance

third signs of the name are distinctively different in both occurrences. There are no
grounds for equating the name with alhubahna of NAT, 166.

ND 2376 (BSAI)

Transliteration
Obv.  [a]-na šarri bē[li-ia]
  urad-ka m₅ ...  lu šu[lmu₅] a-na šarri ...
  ša šarru iš-pur-...
  5 [m]-a-a a-ta-a ki...
  [am]ē[l₅]sābē₅me₅ ...  ša sābē₅me₅ ...

Notes
Top left corner of quite large tablet. NA script. Parts of 7 lines on obv.; rev.
uninscribed. Not copied, since the only intelligible section is part of the address.
6) [am]ē[l₅]sābē₅me₅. Or LUGAL UD.MEŠ.

ND 2379 (LXXVIII; BSAI; Plate 11)

Transliteration
Obv.

1 a-na šarri bēli-a
  urad-k[a] m₅s-šur-ila-a-a
  lu šu[lmu₅] [a]-na šarri bēli-ia
  ša šar[ru] bēli iš-pu[r]-a-ni

5 [m]-a-a KASKAL.MEŠ₅ni
  ša-bo[r] [u] a-di
  .... x x-[n]i-ni
  .... x x [k]i?-e-n[u]?
  .... x ...

Rev.

1' [x] x MEŠ .......
  x x me-ni
  ina ir-ti : šarri
  bēli-a : illikū₅nu-ni

5' lu-ra-me-šū-nu-u
  nāra li-BIR-ne-e
  ú-la-a : al-la-šū-nu
  me-nu : šā tē-mu-ni
  šarru bēli liš-pu-ra

245
Translation

Obv.

(1-3) To the king my lord your servant Ashur-ilaya. May it be well with the king my lord.

(4-6) (As to the matter about) which the king my lord sent me a message, saying, 'Take the road and [go] as far as (7-9) [fragmentary]

Rev.

(2'-4') ... why did they come into the presence of the king my lord? (5') Shall I release them? (6') Are they to cross the river, (7') or something else? (8') Whatever the instructions are, let the king my lord send a message.

Notes

Tablet with base missing and significant related surface damage on obv. NA script.

Obv.
6) a-di. Despite slight damage is certain. The group is markedly distinct from ÍD = nāra in rev. 6'.

7) x-[n]i-ni. The traces would permit, but do not require, the reading of the traces of the lost sign as BIR.

Rev.

5') lu-ra-me-šú-nu-u. The final lengthened -ū is taken to denote an interrogative. For the meaning cf. SAA, 5, no.78 (= ABL 246), rev. 8.

6') li-BIR-ne-e. BIR is presumably to be vocalised -birū; see Deller, Or.31 (1962), 7ff. The lengthened -nē is taken as marking a pausal form to denote an interrogative.

7') al-la-šú-nu. See AHw, 36b, alla. The first sign is definitely not ak! to give ak-la-šú-nu 'should I detain them?'

ND 2387 (LXXII; BSAI; Plate 49; Photo Plate I)

Transliteration

Obv.

1 a-n[a šarri be-lí-ia
u[rad-k]a mnu-še-zib-ili
l[u]-u šulmu[u a-na šarri bēlī-ia ūmu III K[ĀM]
amel-lu-la-a-a a-na alarrap-ha

5 a-na-ku ina harrān[ī]t at-ta-an-ha-az
a-dan-niš mar-ša-ku la [i]-la-ka[a]!
a-du pa-an šarri be-lí-ia la [i]-[lm]-[am]-ka[a]?
an-nu-rag ina lib-bi ali ša L[U] [i]?-... ina muih nār[ī]za-ban lib-bi ... x ...

10 Diš x x x Gil[Š.T]UKUL ša LŪ x ...
a-du amel̂nāgirēme[ē] šarr[u]l be-lí-[i]a? ...
...-nu ša na-шу-uni a-n[a]?
... šum-ma a-sa-tar [a]?: ...
[i-su-ri šarr]u be-lí i-qab-bi m[a-a] ...

15 ... šī ša a-na Diš x ...
... [i]š-pur-u-ni šar[r]u ...

246
Letters of uncertain provenance

...ú-tu i-š[al]-... ...
... ]š-šá-k-u-nu x .......
... x UD IG I ...-ma-r[u]
20 ... x x x ....

Rev. [about two lines are lost]

1' ... ... x š[u] [i]?/L[U]? x ...
... xмеš.sú-nu i-ša-x-x?
... x x ... ig-ga-[m]a-ru
... x q[a]? ... x š[u]-nu ina lib-bi x

5' [x]-x-na-n[i]? ... x [k]-i ša x x [x]?
\[x]-pu-uš x x x x x-ir i-ša[p]-[pa-?]-ra?]
ú-tab-x ... nu ma-a DIŠ MU ...
\(\alpha\-[n]a \[dúr-ku-r]i-gal-zí la ...
... x x ... [š]um-ma x [x] x ...

10' x x x [k]u?/[k]i? LU[GAL]? x x ... x x ma-a T[A]? ši šú ... x x x-[k]u ša amé-lhi-tu(-)m[a]?
... [l]u-bi-lu-u-ni šarru be-li liš-al-šú k[i] ...
\(\[i]-tal-ka x x \[b]? \) a? ma ...

15' \[d][úr-[k]u-ri-gal-zi x x ...
... x [š]um? x at-tal-ka ID x ...
... x x x ša dš-mu-ni x a x ...
... x x [L]U GAL LÚ.A.KIN i-da-tul-u-a a-na m[u]hhi]?
... x x-hi ri i-sap-ra ma-a al-ka

20' \(\[i]n[a]? \[d][úr-[k]-u]i-gal-zí lu-šé-rib-ka
Top \(\[lal]-\)a?/-ma-gur \(\[lal]-\)a al-lak
... aš-[b]i?-ke -i-na-š[a]-ru-n[i]
... \(\[l\])u-ú-sí-št-šú

Translation

Obv.

(1-3) To the king my lord your servant Mushezib-ili. May it be well with the king my lord.

(3-4) On the third day the Ibula man/men [came] to Arrapha. (5-6a) I have been taken ill on the way; I am very sick; – [Comment by the scribe]: He cannot go. (7) He cannot come to the presence of the king my lord. –

(8) Now, within the city of the Ibula emissary, (9) concerning the Zab river within ...
... (10) ... the weapon of ...... (11) together with the heralds of the king my lord ...
... (12) ... which were brought to ... (13) ... if I did not write to [my lord], (14) perhaps the king my lord would say: ' ... ' (15-20) [fragmentary]

Rev.

(3') ... ... are brought to an end. (4') ... ... they in the midst (5') ... ... ... (6') he did ... he will send a message (7') ... ... ... (8') to Dur-Kurigalzu ... (9'-11') ...
... (12'-13') Let them bring the offender, (and) let the king question him ...
(14') he has come ... (15) Dur-Kurigalzu ... (16) ... I came back ... (17') ... which they heard ... (18'-20') The messenger at my side has sent a message
concerning the ... He said: 'Come! Let me bring you into Dur-Kurigalzi.' (21) I was not willing to come. (22') ... are guarding the fortress. (23') Let them make the ... go out.

Notes
Substantially complete tablet, rejoined from five pieces. Has lost base, about one-third of surface at left of lower half, and right ends of all lines on obv. except the first five, and of all lines of rev. except the third extant line and the last four. Legibility is impaired along joins, and most of the surface is lost from left half of upper part of rev. NA script. The tablet clearly shows use of a layer of different clay, 3-6 mm thick, over a core.

In this letter the writer has been taken ill on the way to Arrapha.

Obv.
4) amēli-ju-la-a-a. Cf. A. Fuchs, *Inschr. Sargons II.* 147, §§285-6 for āli-bu-li as a city of Puqudu. Prima facie this could be taken to link this letter with Babylonia, but there is nothing further to place it in that area.
5) at-ta-an-ha-az. Lit. 'I have been seized (with disease)'.
6) [i]l-la-k[a]? The final sign is distorted because written over the edge of the tablet. In the context one might expect al for the first sign, but it is certainly il; the possibility of confusion between AL and IL in monumental script of an earlier period (Syll., no.160) is not relevant here. The solution must be that, since the nominal correspondent was sick, the scribe here wrote in the 3rd person, with reference to his incapacitated master.
8 et passim) ša has an unusual form throughout.
8) an-nu-rāq. Either an error for an-nu-rāg, or an anomalous spelling representing pronunciation an-nu-reg.
8) L[Ú] if?!-... If, as seems likely, the damaged sign is i, the whole group might be am[i]-bu-la-a-a.
19) ...-ma-r[u]. Probably to be restored either im-ma-ru or (see rev. 3') ig-ga-ma-ru.

Rev.
5') [x]-x-na-n[í]? The second sign could be ba or a badly made an.
9') Microscopic examination of the traces of the first sign suggests that it was more probably la than i.
13', 14') Since the tablet was last collated, a further chip has disappeared, removing the initial traces of the first sign on each line.

ND 2392 (BSAI; Plate 42)

Transliteration
Obv.
1 a-na šarri bēlī-ia
   urad-ka m.du₂₃-ab₃-ētir-a[n]-ni
   lu šulmu₃₃ a-na šarri
   bēlī-ia
5 ........... x x

Rev.
1' x ... x x x
   at-l[a?-]-a[l]-k[a?-]-n[i]
Letters of uncertain provenance

x x x? d[a]??/š[a]?? [l]?? biš šarri₂
4' ša x x x
Edge x x x x [l]??
6' lil-li-ku-u-ni

Side* 1 ........ [e]n?-da-te
........ r[u] x

Translation
Obv. (1-4) To the king my lord your servant Nabu-etiranni. May it be well with the king my lord.
Rev. and Edge (2') (when) I came back (3') ... the house of the king (4'-5') ... ... ... (6') let them come
Side [nothing translatable]

Notes
Top (probably less than half) of a tablet, with obv. retaining only the address, and severe abrasion leaving only one line and two other signs definitely legible on rev. and edge. NA script. The break shows no distinction between the core and surface clay.
Rev. 2') at-t[a??-a]??-k[a??-n]i. Abrasion leaves this restoration very doubtful; no evidence is visible of the second sign having had three verticals, and the fourth sign could well be SAG rather than KA.

ND 2394 (BSAI; Plate 53)

Transliteration
Face A 1' ........ x m[u]?? ...
........ x x x x ...
........ n[a]?? ni a n[a]?? si-li-i[q] ?? ...
........ [p]a-na-tu-ú-a la ina Š[Å](-)[bi]?
5' .... la ú-ša x x x x ...
........-te-e-a at-tu-ši ...
........ x x mμu-še-zib-Š[DN]
........ [M]ES ina li-b-f[r] x ni ...
........ x x x la ME ...
10' ........ I[D]?/D[U]?? ...
........ x ...

[The few isolated words are insufficient for a translation.]
Notes
A fragment probably from beginning of rev., with both sides and both ends lost, although the core appears to extend to the right side. One face retains parts (in some lines only minimal traces) of 11 lines; the other face is entirely lost. NA script. Shows use of a thin layer of finer clay over the core.

The left broken edge of this fragment appears at first sight to come close to making a physical join with the upper right broken edge of ND 2801, and the epigraphy in both fragments is very similar. ND 2394 and ND 2801 were originally taken as being fragments of the same tablet, but two points suggest that this is not so. The two fragments differ very slightly in the distance from line to line, and the extant face of ND 2394 is almost completely flat whereas the main extant face of ND 2801 has a very slight curvature left to right. Also, a thin layer of finer clay over the core, clear in ND 2394, is not apparent in ND 2801, although this difference could result from the two fragments having been baked under different conditions.

ND 2801 (BSAI; Plate 53)

Transliteration
Face A
1’ x ................
   x ................
   x ................
   x ú-ram-...... ...
5’ iq-ti-bi ma-lat ....
   ú-bil-ma ku-..... ...
   ma-a šu-ma ki-t-te x.....
   [a]p-qi-id(-)ka x ....
   ma-a šu-ma ki?-te ka ..... 10’ ma-a kit-tú-u ma-a x ......
   [r]?-a-hu [š]a LUGAL ...
   ......x x .......
   ......x ......

Face B
1’ x ................
   x ................
   ku x ...........
   [š]ul-x ...........
5’ GIS.GIGIR [ ...........
   x ................

Translation
Face A
(5’) he said thus: ... ... (6’) I/He brought ... ... (7’) thus he said: ‘... ... ... (8’) I appointed you ... ... 9’) Thus he said: ‘... ... ...’ (10’) thus: ‘justice’, thus ‘... ...’ (11’) ... which/of the king

250
Letters of uncertain provenance

Face B
(5') chariot ... ...

Notes
Fragment from the left side of a large tablet with neither top nor bottom preserved. NA script. Placed here because of physical similarity with ND 2394, q.v.

Face A
10') kit-tū-u. J.N. Postgate suggests that this is a question, ‘is it true?’.

ND 2395 (IM, for study; Plate 43)

Transliteration
Obv.  a-na [sarri bēliya]
     urad-k[a DIŠ.PN]  
     lu-u [sulm]ušušu-ta-[na bēliya]

     kaspš [ša]šϕrru]
5  be-li i-di-nu-n[i]
   ma-a x x x
   [a]-na am[el]lx-[x]-m[a]?-a-a  
   x i x x
9  ... amēlš[a][b][em]š
Base  [i?]-n[a]? lib-bi-šu-n[u]
Rev.  ... x ú-sa-h[i]-[r]a-š[u]
12  ... am[elš[a]h[b][em]š
     [r]i-e-hu
     issu x x ri-bi-te
15  ina muh[hi] šarri
     bēli-ia
     a-[a]-p[a-r]a

Translation
(1-3) To [the king my lord] your servant [PN]. May it be well [with my lord].
(4-5) The silver which [the king] my lord delivered, (6) saying, ['Pass it on'] (7) to
the ... people' (8) ... ... (9-11) I have taken it round [to] ... the soldiers (10)
in their midst. (12) [To] the soldiers, the remainder (14) from ... the (town) square.
(15-17) I have made a report to the king my lord.

Notes
A large fragment is lost from top right corner, extending one-third of way down tablet, and a small fragment from left bottom corner. The tablet is cracked and a piece has been gouged out from the middle of obv. Final 10 mm of rev. uninscribed. NA script.

ND 2401 (IM 64025; Plate 46)

Transliteration
Obv.  [a-na ša]rri bēli-ia

251
[ura]d-[a] *[m.][d]*DN-bēl-usur*
[lu šulmum*][a] [a-l-n[a] šarri bēl-i-a

[ina muhhi] ša šarri be-li iš-pur-a-ni
5 ... [s]a I LIM pīt-hal-[l]i aq?-bi-ū-ni
[l(?)-]la-ka-ni ma-a iškar(ÉŠ.GÂR) sisâ̱mex
[ina]? [M]U?.AN.NA an-ni-te ša a-na amēl âmekârâ(DAM.GÂR)mex
[x] ša?-ni ina pâni-ia ta-sa-ri
...(−)ha-ni-ı issu ḫi-bi-ka
10 ........ x x x x-ni

Rev. [Uninscribed]

Translation

(1-3) To the king my lord your servant DN-bel-usur. May it be well with the king my lord.

(4) (In the matter of that) [about] which the king my lord sent me a message, (5) ... 1,000 cavalry (of which) I/he spoke, (6) they have come. They say: 'The ishkaru-tax due on the horses, (7) this year which to the merchants (8) ... ... you have brought in before me' (9-10) [fragmentary]

Notes

Lacks left side and lower part. NA script, mainly very clear. Extant part of rev. uninscribed.

5) aq?-bi-ū-ni. The first sign suggests aq, but a small oblique immediately before bi makes it possible that iq was intended.

7) [ina]? [M]U?.AN.NA. Thanks are due to J.N. Postgate for the proposed restoration of the first two signs.

ND 2404 (BSAI; Plate 35)

Transliteration

Obv. [a-bat] šarri
a-na mšadā(KUR)-a-a
ūm I KAM ša arah.dumuzi
at-ta a-du
5 XXX imér̂pēt-ha[l]-li-um
x ... x zu-x-ba
ina [pa-n]a-tú-u-a
[lu] u ... x-ta
DiŠ E[N]? ... x m[u]?
10 x ........ x

Rev. [l]u-u x .........
ki-i [u]-... ...
[a]-ša[p]-x x x
x x x at
15 l[a]. x x [l]a?-ka
Letters of uncertain provenance

ina [s]u-a-te
lu am-ma-ra[k]-ku

Translation
(1-5) Royal decree to Shadaya. On the first of the month Tammuz you, together with 30 cavalry horses, (6-8) shall indeed come into my presence ... ... (9-12) [insufficient remains for translation]
(13) I will send [you a message]. (14-15) ... ... ... (16-17) For this reason I will indeed see you.

Notes
Small tablet, rejoined. Lacks small piece at top left corner and has a hole 20 mm x 10 mm max. in lower left of obv. Some signs on rev. are damaged or completely lost from abrasion. Final 10 mm of rev. is uninscribed. The NA script was somewhat clumsy, so that this abat šarrī is not a credit to the Assyrian Civil Service.
6) zu-x-ba. The first sign cannot be URU, unless badly inscribed. The second sign resembles hi with an additional horizontal.
17) lu am-ma-ra[k]-ku. J.N. Postgate suggests, perhaps correctly, that this is a form from namarkú, = 'I am indeed delayed'.

ND 2405 (IM, for study; Plate 46)

Transliteration
Obv.
1  [a-na šar]ri be-li-ia
   [arad-ka man-n]u-ki-i-šaš-šur
   [l]u-šulmušaššu-Γa šarrī be-li-ia
   x x x ... x-a-ni šá šarru be-li
5  [iš-pu-ru]? um-ma a-du-Γa
      ....... x a-na pa-ni-k[a]
      ....... x-ma KUL NIM[M]? LA?
Rev.
1'  ....... x x
     ....... nu-ú en-na
     ....... su-nu-ti-ma
     ....... [k]i a-na-ku a-du-u
5'  AS? x ... EN.NUN-ia
    [Γa]-uz-zu-ak-a
Top  [x]? [E]N.NUN-a : a-na-aš-šar

Translation
Obv.
(1-2) To the king my lord your servant Mannu-ki-Ashur. (3) May it be well with the king my lord.
(4) [In the matter of the] ... about which the king my lord (5) [sent a message], saying, 'Until (6) ... ... to your presence' (7) ... ... ...

253
Rev. and End
(2') ....... now (3') ...... them (4') ...... I until (5'-6') ...... I stand (ready) for my watch. (7') I shall keep my watch.

Notes
Top of a tablet. Largish clear script which is basically NB, but which in the penultimate sign of obv. 3 has NI in an essentially Assyrian form, with an almost horizontal top wedge.
Obv.
7) KUL. The preceding traces do not favour reading this as the end of m\textit{muk\textprime{}n-zêr}.
7) NI[M]? LA?. The second sign does not appear to be MA, and there is no KI to make NIM.MA.KI = \textit{Elamtu\textsuperscript{k}}.
Rev.
6') \{\textit{\textsuperscript{\textdegree}{[a\textsuperscript{\textdegree}]-\textsuperscript{\textdegree}]}\}-uz-za-ak-a. St. 1 c. of \textit{izuzzu}.

\textbf{ND 2413} (IM 64179; Plate 50)

\textit{Transliteration}

\textbf{Face A (Obv.)}
1' \hspace{1cm} x x x x x .......
    \textit{iš-pu-[r]a-ni .......}
    \textit{x x ME[\textit{š}] ú-x-x \ldots...}
    \textit{[I]a-šu \textit{ina} \textit{libbi} \textit{la} ú-x-[x]}
5' \hspace{1cm} \textit{ina} \textit{mu}[hhi \textit{am}][\textit{e}][n][agi\textit{ri} TU[R]? \textit{š[a ša]}rri}
    \textit{bēlī \textit{i[q]}-bu-ú-ni x x-ni}
    \textit{lu-n[a]-i-d[a]?/d[u]? x \textit{š[a]?} \ldots...}
    \textit{DIŠ x x DINGIR.MAŠ x \ldots...}
    \textit{'[a]\textsuperscript{(1)}-[a]?/[p]\textsuperscript{a}r]? x x \ldots...}
10' \hspace{1cm} x x x ..........
    \textit{x x \ldots...}
    \textit{x \ldots......}

\textbf{Face B (Rev.)}
1 \hspace{1cm} \{\textit{\textsuperscript{\textdegree}LU}?;SAG.MEŠ \textit{ša} pa-hi-\ldots...}
    \textit{ina \{\textit{\textsuperscript{\textdegree}li\textsuperscript{a}}\}b\textit{i} \textit{šarru liš-pur lu-x \ldots...}
    \textit{istēn\textsuperscript{e}n} \textit{la-šu} \textit{[šar]-ru}? \textit{[iš]?}?-[p]ur?? x x \ldots...}
    \textit{amēl\textsuperscript{a}mār ūpri \textit{ša} \textit{ina} \textit{muḫ[hi]} x \ldots...}
5 \hspace{1cm} \textit{aš-pa-ru-ni} \textit{ina? x x x x}
    \textit{ša} \textit{m\textsuperscript{x}-LAL-aš-šur} \textit{x x LU[GAL]? E[N]??}
    \textit{iq-bu-ú-ni \textit{XXXII} x x? MEŠ}
    \textit{[a]-[r]\textsuperscript{a}mar am-mu-ti x-[x]?-ti}
    \textit{m\textsuperscript{d}nabā-\{k\}i-la-ni} \textit{L[\textsuperscript{\textdegree}U]} \ldots...}
10 \hspace{1cm} \{\textit{\textsuperscript{\textdegree}a} \textit{m\textsuperscript{mu}-x-aš-šur} \textit{x x \ldots...}
    \textit{x x x x ME[\textit{š}] \textit{š[a]} x \ldots...}
    \textit{x x x-ni MAN \ldots...}

\textit{Side\textsuperscript{*}} [from bottom to top if Face A is obv.]
1 \hspace{1cm} \textit{ša \textit{ina} \textit{libbi} \{\textit{\textdegree}{[a\textsuperscript{\textdegree}]-\textsuperscript{\textdegree}]}\}-x x x x x}
    \textit{ta-hu-mu \{\textit{\textdegree}r[a]?-[a]?-\textit{kal?}}
Partial Translation
Face A (Obv.?)
(2') sent me a message ... (3') ... (4') there is not. In the midst hell did not ... (5') Concerning the junior herald about whom the king (6') my lord gave an order ... (7') let me/them praise ... ...
Face B (Rev.?)
(1) the rešu-officials of ... (2) Let the king send a message thereon ... (3) there is not one. Let the king send a message ... (4) The messenger whom concerning ... (5) I sent with a message. ... (6) Of ...-LAL-Ashur (about) which the king my lord (7-8) gave an order, I have seen 32 ... (8) Those ... (9) Nabu-kilani the ...-official (10) of Mu-...-ashur ... ...
Side*
(1) which within the city ... (2) you have enjoyed (the benefit of) the border.

Notes
Tablet lacking one end (top?) and right corner at other end (base?). Few signs are completely lost but many are so badly damaged that definitive identification is difficult or impossible. NA script.
Face A
5') TU[R]?. Reading virtually certain, presumably representing sehru. Nagīru sehru ('junior herald') is not otherwise attested, although nagīru rabū, common in NA, could be taken to imply the existence of such an office.
7') lu-n[a]-i-d[a]?/d[u]?/da?. du appears to be more probable than da. For possible forms see CAD, N/1, 103a-b, ni' udu.
Face B
6) mx-LAL-aš-šur. The unidentified sign might be IGI, an element in IGI.LAL = amāru, in which case the name could be Emur-Ashur, Otherwise LAL presumably represents a form from tarāsu.
6) -aš-šur x x. The sign after -šur might be ša, if the single horizontal with which it seems to begin is mere damage.
Side
2) [t]a-t[a]'-kal?'. For the translation offered above, cf. CAD, A/1, 252b, akālu 2b. 'You have ravaged the border' (cf. CAD, A/1, 256b, 8, and AHw, 27a, G1') would be very dubious, since (1) other instances of akālu G1 as 'to ravage' all imply a reflexive sense, which is excluded here, (2) it would be an odd comment at the end of a letter.

ND 2420 (IM 64031; Plate 50)

Transliteration
Face A
1' ... x ... x ...
..... x a-na x x ...
... x-du-ni-ni i-mut?-x
..... x mu-di-šu issu nišemeš-šu
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

5' ....-x-ti-iq ú-šab
...... a-šap-pa-ru-u-ni
...... [2]a?/a?'-na UD ni? Šú? is?-=ša?-ni
...... x UZ[U]? a-na mār šip-ri-ia
...... x [m]a-a an-nu-rig

10' ........... xxx ni

Face B
1' ........... xxx
...... [m]a-a [SA]R? āš x ni-na
...... x L[Ú].GAL.x
...... MEŠ-šú ina pa-an
5' ....'ldšamaš amēlpēl pāhati
[a-n]a šarri a-sa-pa-ra-āš-šú
...... ....... x ...

[Insufficient remains for a useful translation.]

Notes
Fragment from middle of a tablet, which is more rounded in cross-section than most NA letters. Extant to full width, except for c. 2 mm to left. NA script.

Face A
7') ni? Šú? Could be a misreading of Šu.
7') is?=-ša?-ni. If a correct reading, could be Impv. pl. of *našš (AHw, 757b; cf. CAD, N/2, 80a-b, našš A). is?=-ša? could be a misreading of un.

Face B
5') ....'ldšamaš. Part of the name of a provincial governor.

ND 2422 (IM 64032; Plate 36)

Transliteration
Obv.1' .... [u]?-ru-d[у]?-[n]i?
......-[k]a la iq-bi-[a]1
...... [p]u?-lu šu-nu
[a-na]? šarri ú-si-bi-la
5' ....-[n]i-šu-ma ši-i-ti
[ša]? [ú-š]a-zi-bi-lu-u-ni

Base
...... x mi-i-nu ša šarri

Rev.
[li?-p]u-ša li-pit šárri
...... ina muhi [a]-h[a]-iš
10' .... [l]-na šarri

Translation
(1') ... ... they come down (2') ... ... he did not say. (3') They are ... ... (4') he had (it) brought [to] the king. (5') It is his ... indeed (6') [which] they caused to be
Letters of uncertain provenance

transported. (7’) ... what of the king (8’) let him perform the king’s handiwork (9’) ... concerning each other (10’) ... to the king.

Notes

Lower fragment of tablet, with small loss (corresponding perhaps in the most complete lines to not more than one sign) from left side. Rev. bears only three lines of inscription. Clear NA script.

Since the tablet was first copied in 1954, a substantial fragment has been lost across the middle of lines 3’ to 5’, damaging lu in 3’, almost totally removing si in 4’, and damaging i in 5’. The upper horizontal in pit in 8’ has also been lost. This recent damage is not shown in the copy.

6’) [u-S]a-zi-bi-lu-u-ni. For ušazbilûni, see Ylv. §9.

ND 2423 (BSAI; Plate 47)

Transliteration

Obv.

1  a-n[alu] ša[rrri bēlī-i]a
    urad-ka D[IŠ] ...-[n]i?
    ina d[i]ur-mu-na bi- it šarru
    ip-qi-da-ni-ni šulmu-mu
5  a-dan-niš mātu : ka-ab-[s]a-at
    ŠE.NUMUN.MEŠ e-ru-uš
    ú-rī : i-si-r[u]
    x x KI DĪŠ.EN NI x [a]r[?]/x-ma?
    [x] x amēl-pa-rī-[s][u]-tū
10 ... x x x [b]r?-i?-
      ......... x
      ......... x

Rev.

1’ ....... x x x [a]l x ...
      ....... x x gi ...  
      ....... x ta dū x x  
      ....... x x me-me-ni
5’ [la?-d]r?-[s]ū l[a] x-ši-ia-u

Partial Translation

Obv.

(1-2) To the king [my lord] your servant [PN]. (3-5) In the town Turmuna, where the king appointed me, it is very well. (5) The land is subjugated. (6) I have sown the grain. (7) [see notes] (8) [unclear] (9) ... liars.

Rev.

(4’-5’) There is not anyone, they are not ...
Notes
Tablet with bottom broken away, two-thirds of surface of first two lines lost, and slight damage passim. Last 35 mm of rev. uninscribed. NA script.
Obv.
7) ú-ri : i-si-[u]. Apparently 'they have plastered the roofs', but with no relevant context could perhaps represent 'they have enclosed the stables', with ú-ri from uru(m) I 'Stalls', AHw, 1435a and the verb from esērū(m) II, 'einschließen', AHw, 249b.
8) x x KI DIŠ.EN. Line could begin [a]-[a]-ki, 'where?'. DIŠ.EN could represent istēn or be the beginning of a personal name.
Rev.
3') x ta daš. In the unidentified sign, examination under the microscope suggests that the apparent third vertical may be a scratch.
4') x me-me-ni. The unidentified sign might be UL.
5') x-ši-ia-u. Severe blurring of the wedges of the first sign makes conclusive identification impossible, but it appears to be either ra or iš.

ND 2425 (IM 64034; Plate 50)

Transliteration
Obv.1' .......xxx
[a]h-x-su
[1] manū erpmeš
da-tu ina ta-la-ki
5' [a]-ta-na-[a]š-su ///
[k]u?-ra-a-ia-a
[al]-na x [x]? a[l]-lik
.....xxx
9' .....xxx......
Base
xxx [x]-[i]a
Rev. [DI][Š]? x x MEŠ
12' ana harrāni šu-u-nu
[k]-lu: ka-x-x
šu-u-tū
15' ku?-ra-a-a ///
i-x-dam?
[1]-p[a]-la-ia ha pa-da-ni
x aš-ba-su
.....xxx
Side*? [base to top, if obv. and rev. are correctly identified]
.....x [l]u lu ti x ...
.....[b]i x ra ...

Translation
(2') I ... it (3') 1 mina of copper. (4') Afterwards in due course (5') I shall keep bringing it along. (6') Kuraia, (7') I went to ... (8'-11') [nothing intelligible] (12') they are for the journey.
(13'-14') He is ... ... ... (15'-17') Kuraia ... ... ... is afraid. (17'-18') I have started (on) the way. (19'-) [Nothing significant remains in rev. 19' and the two lines on the side.]

Notes

Bottom(?) half of a largish tablet, with large, bold, deep-cut NA script. Mainly in good condition, with some damage near the base.

In 1979 the tablet was found to be marked in ink with the false number ND 2485, in addition to its correct IM number in Arabic.

4') ta-la-ki. Taken as a defective writing from tallakku (cf. AHw, 1310b, tallakku 2, ‘nA ... statt tallaktu 3’).


6', 15') [k]u?-ra-a-ia-a, ku?-ra-a-a. These appear to represent the same term, which, since an ethnicon is excluded in the context, must be a personal name. Unless ku? is an anomalous combination of Diš+ma, there is no determinative.

13') k[a]-lu. The doubtful sign could be lil, but lillu ‘fool’ would not make sense here. Kallu (CAD, K, 83b; AHw, 426a) seems more appropriate.

13') ka-x-x. The traces seem to suggest ka-li-mu.

16') i-x-dam?. The final element could be pin, but this reading would leave a problematic preceding element. The sign may have been written over an incomplete erasure.

18') x as-ba-su. The unidentified sign does not seem to be lu. The verb is taken as 1 sg. Pret. šabatu with assimilated suffix šu.

ND 2426 (IM 64035; Plate 51)

Transliteration

Face A

1'  xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
   š[a]? [a] x ........
   a-na x x ū-te ....
   m[a]?-[a] x x x x
5'  pi-ni-[i] x .... x [ū]?
   ša maš-šur x x x x-[B]U
   ša di-x x x x-ū-te
   ap-ti-qi-di x [x]? x x
   amērē u x x x ina mu[hi] pāhati
10' š[a]Š[k]a-am-x x x x
    bir-ti ūnē[me]-šū [u-ma-di-du]
    issu ša x x a x ....
    L[U] x x x .........

Face B

1' ū1-ma-a x ........
   li-[k]-ta-am- .... x ....
   [a]-[n]a diarrap-[h]a it-[a]-l[ak] [...]? šarru be-[l] ū1-na imitti(ZAG) u šume[l](KA[B])

259
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

5’ i-ša-pa-[r]a-an-ni
me-me-ni in ku-tal-li-ia la-dš-šú
anēmār šip-ri ša šarri be-li-ia
li-lī-ka ina muhhi dul-la-a-ni
ša šarri bir-ti ēnē1(me)[s]-šú

10’ [l[u]-ma-di-du dul-l[u]-šú
{l[i]-p[u-u]}š

Translation
Face A
(5’) Appoint! ... ... (6’ of Ashur-... (7’) of the city Ki-... ... (8’) I appointed ... ... (9’) the shepherd ... over/concerning the province (10’) of Kam-... ... ... (11’) let them make clear to him (12’) from of ... ... ...

Face B
(3’) he has gone back to Arrapha. (4’-5’) The king my lord keeps sending me messages right and left. (6’) There is no one as a replacement for me. (7’-11’) Let the messenger of the king my lord come. Let them make clear to him about duties for the king, (and) let him perform his duty.

Notes
Fragment of tablet with top and bottom missing. Since the final c. 10 mm of Face B is uninscribed, this must be rev. NA script.

The correspondent requests a replacement.

Face A

4’) m[a]?-l[a]? Or possibly š[a].

9’) pāhāti. For the probable spelling in NA see AHw, 862a, pīhātu(m) I.

10’) [a]l[k[a]-am-x x. The obvious restoration would be the known town name Kammanu, but the traces do not favour taking the first x as ma or man; the reading might be si, or what is read as am might be part of ne to give [a]l[k[a]-ne.

11’, B 9’) bir-ti ēnēII(me)[s]. See AHw, 129b, bi/erti, birtu- III e, NA bir-tiše ēnē maddudu = 'jmdm. klarmachen', and CAD, M/1, 8b (d).

Face B

8’) dul-la-a-ni. NA pl., not sg. with suf.

ND 2428 (BSAI; Plate 37)

Transliteration
Obv.

1’ [x] x ki x ...
[x]? ša šē[pe]II
DIŠ? ĖRI? ki-rib
š[a] GIŠ? MU x

5’ naph[ar] IV DIŠ m[a]? x
DIŠ [Ē]RI? ki-rib
[a]?-n[a]? šēpē[II]
... ... [k]i-rib

260
Letters of uncertain provenance

Rev.
1  m.داد-ی-د[د]ا?
   issu  m-دو-1م šی؟-ن[ع]؟
   ...x? ...x? ...
   [x]-شی [3]ا شیپ[II]
5  ... ... 1م[ع]-شه-زیب-[دDN]؟

[Insufficient remains for a meaningful translation.]

Notes
Five pieces joined to form most of a tablet with large clumsy NA script. Top edge, part of base and left side are lost, and a sizeable fragment is missing from right side. 8 lines are extant on obv. Rev. begins with an uninscribed section of c. 15 mm, followed by 2 lines, then a further uninscribed space of c. 12 mm, then 2 lines, with possibly one further line wholly lost. Both faces are almost flat. Curvature at the ends indicates that virtually the full length of the tablet is retained. NA script.

It is not certain that this is a letter. The preserved text gives no indication of its provenance.

Obv.
3', 6', 8') These lines may all have borne the sequence دیش یریki rib, which would suggest a personal name, but although kirib does appear as an onomastic element (see CAD, K, 404b, kirbu), an Akkadian name ماراد-کیرب would be inexplicable.
5') m[أ]? x. The traces following possible ma could be the remains of ni or di.

Rev.
2) m-دو-1م-شی؟-ن[ع]؟؟ The supposed oblique of nu could be a damage mark, and the horizontal an extension of the horizontal of IM.
After 2, before 3) The slight marks shown in the copy are taken as damage, not remains of a line of text.

ND 2429 (IM 64036; Plate 38)

Transliteration
Obv.  [پن-شکیرری bi-ی-یا]
   [ماد-کا m... ] x دی ... 
   [ی] شنیم[a-n]ا شری b[ئی-یا]
   ima muhhi AD-ra-ی a ša A? [x] [x]?
5  iš-pur-an-ni ma-a hu-ی-د[a]
   lib-bi AD-ra-ی a šá pi-te
   narāمسک ša a-na lib-bi [x]?
   qa[q-qu-ru aš-ti-th-h[ئی-ئی-نی؟]
   la-aš-شی la il-la[k] ... 
10  x-x-lئی-ی-نی x ... ...

Translation
(1-3) [To the] king my lord [your servant PN. May it be] well with the king [my lord].
(4-6a) Concerning the *adra‘* of [PN], he sent a message, saying: 'Rejoice at heart! (6b-9) There is no *adra‘* of the opening of the canals which I ... to/for the midst of the ground, it does not go.'

Notes

Left half or more of upper part of letter. Rev. uninscribed. NA script. The formulae in lines 1-3 show that the loss from the right ends of any of the lines 1-7 probably does not exceed one or two signs.

This letter seems to concern some technical device applied to canals.

4, 6) AD-ra‘-a. Reading certain. The noun is hardly *adru* ‘threshing floor’, since although the cognate occurs in Aramaic as *‘adr*‘, it normally has no glottal stop in NA, and it would not give an appropriate sense in the context of canals.

4) ša A? ... One expects a personal name here, but the vertical immediately after ša seems to be part of A and not an independent DIS.

8) aš-ti-ih-[hi?-tu?-ni?]. The infixed -ti- indicates a root with characteristic vowel i. A verb meeting this criterion is *sahafu(m)* I, AHw, 1130a (= *sahātu* A, CAD, S/1, 88a) which at ibid., 1c adduces the sense ‘überspringen’ with reference to a canal, possibly relevant here. Alternatively, J.N. Postgate suggests the earlier part of the form may conceal *ina ti-ih* ‘adjacent to’.

ND 2432 (BSAI)

Transliteration

Obv.

1' .... .... ....
   ta a
   RI ŠID MEŠ ma
   *ina* É.GAL

5' .... .... .... ni
   *ina* UGU DIŚ EN
   .... ....-a-a
   .... .... *ina* UGU
   .... .... ....

10' .... .... ša
   XX LIM?
   x li? x qa
   .... ša e-pu-
   x LÚ.GAL

15' *ina* lib-bi ANŠE?.KUR
   .... .... ....

Base .... .... ....

Rev.

1' AN
   i-nam-....
   *ina* lib? ....
   x-du-u-ni

262
Letters of uncertain provenance

5' [š]ap?-rak-ka

[Too fragmentary to warrant a translation.]

Notes

Both ends and both sides lost. Surface badly crazed, chipped and in places abraded. Has at some time been covered with a film of plastic (now largely removed), presumably to save further loss of surface. Laboratory treatment might improve legibility. Neither face is significantly curved top to bottom. There are traces of 16 lines on what is taken as obv. and of 8 lines on what is taken as rev.; remainder of rev. appears to have been uninscribed. Not copied.

In physical appearance this tablet resembles a letter rather than a contract.

ND 2436 (IM 64041; Plate 48)

Transliteration

Obv. [a₁-n[a ša]rri bēl[i]-a
[ur][a₂]-k[a] mah-d[i]-lē₁
[lu šulmu]ₘu [a₁]-[n]a [šarrī] be-l[i]-a

... x ..... ...
5  ... x ........
   ina mu[hhī] ...... ...

.... x .......
.... x .......
10  DIŠ x x ........
   [LU]GAL? a-na pa-[an] ...
   ... x-nu-ni
   ... x-x atr-[t]ē?
   ........ x x x
15  ... [k]a?-a-a
   ... x-īi-īu
   ........-hi-ru-ni
Base  .........-nu-ni
19  ......... x(-)ša

Rev. ...-šū-nu-nu šarrī bēlī-ia
21  ...-li-e-du-ka
   ... ū ina ūš[ap]-lu-šu
   ... x x U[B]? [k]u?-li
   [šarru b][e-l]i x-{l}u-ū(-)da!
25  [ša]ru be-[l]ī liš-pur šip-ṭu
   [l]₉?-[k][n]-nu-ni šu-nu
   ... x x x x x x x

263
Partial Translation

[Nothing significant remains except:] (1-3) To the king my lord your servant Mahde. May it be well with the king my lord.

(25) let the king my lord send a message, the punishment

(35-36) ... the letter, he will agree, he will do ...

Notes

Tablet rejoined from a large number of fragments. Much of the surface is missing. Bears parts of 17 lines on obv., 2 on base, 15 on rev., 2 on top end. Traces of part of one sign indicate that there was originally a line (or two lines) inscribed down the side. NA script.

35, 36) \( \text{rei}-[\text{g}] \text{-ir-}[\text{u}] \text{-ma-g[\text{\textdagger}}]r \).

Since this tablet was first read, crumbling has reduced the legibility of some of these signs.

ND 2459 (BSAI; Plate 45)

Transliteration

Obv. 1' ... x E \( \text{ŠEŠ.MEŠ.-f\text{\textdagger}[\text{a}}] \)

... \( \text{[s]}a \text{ ni[\text{še}]me\text{š-e-a}} \)

... \( [\text{a}]?-[\text{n}]a? \text{ qāte\text{\textdagger}[\text{a-a ir-rab}} \)

4' ... x pānī-a ad-dan

Rev. ... \( [\text{ki}]?-[\text{fi}] a-kan-ni-i \)

6' ... x-an-ni a-sa-par

[x] \( \text{šEŠ-šu il-la-ka ina pa-an} \)

... \( [x].\text{MEŠ MAN-e-šā iz-za-az} \)

... x šarri be-li-li

10' ... ... \( [\text{šar}]ru \text{ be-li-li} \)

Translation

(1') ... the house of my brothers (2') ... of my people (3') ... will come into my hands (4') ... before me I will give (5') ... that now (6') ... ... I have sent a message (7') ... his brother will come in front of (8') ... his royal ... will stand (9') ... ... of the king my lord (10') ... ... ... the king my lord
Letters of uncertain provenance

Notes
Rather less than the lower half of a tablet, with some loss of surface on left of both obv. and rev. There is a hairline crack down the middle of rev., and slight abrasion passim. Obv. is flat, rev. is slightly convex, NA script.

The NA script has a distinctive ductus, and ND 2472 was apparently written by the same scribe, who either used a different stylus from the usual Assyrian one or wielded it differently; many of the wedges on both tablets, instead of appearing as a triangular head sloping into a tail, give the impression more of an elongated triangle with one side almost straight. I have attempted to reproduce this in my copies.

ND 2459 and ND 2472 are very similar in other respects than ductus. The clay is of identical type, and reverse faces of both have the same curvature. On both tablets base and sides meet at a sharp angle, almost a right-angle, produced by finger pressure, actual fingerprints being clearly visible to the naked eye at the two extant corners of ND 2472 and to the microscope at the single extant corner of ND 2459, with what appears to be a nail mark adjacent on the bottom edge.

ND 2472 (BSAI; Plate 45)

Transliteration
Obv. mu-uk x ... ...
   ū-nam-mu-[ś[u x ]]
   gīš-elepātīmeš-ku-nu
   hu-ut-ta la i-[ma-g[u-ru
5' šarru be-[l] [q-b][a]-aš-[šū
Rev. liš-pu-ra gīš-elepātīmeš-[šū
   li-ih-tu-tu

Translation
   (1') I said: ‘... ... (2’-4’) ... ... ... put your ships in order.’ They were not cooperative. (5’) Let the king my lord give him a command. Let them put his ships in order.

Notes
Bottom half of tablet. 2 partial and 3 complete lines on obv., 2 complete lines on rev., remainder of rev. (22 mm extant) uninscribed. Cracked, but with minimal loss of surface along crack; adhesive visible on core shows it has been rejoined. NA script.
2') ū-nam-mu-[ś[u]. Apparently 3 pl. ‘they dispatch’, but unclear.
4', 7') hu-ut-ta, li-ih-tu-tu. No meaning proposed for hatātu in CAD, H, 152b-153a or AHw, 336b-337a seems appropriate here. Post-biblical Hebrew has ḫṭ, Pi‘ēl ‘to pick (things out of holes)’, which could provide a semantic link with ‘to caulk’, a sense appropriate in connection with ships, although one would expect any necessary caulking to have been carried out by the shipmen without instructions from an administrator. It therefore seems more probable that hatātu referred to some unidentified administrative procedure.
5') li[q-b]a-aš-šú. A small damaged area on right edge could originally have borne -nu, curving upwards above -aš-šú. But this is unlikely, since one would expect the same pronominal suffix here as at the end of 6', where there is no such possibility.

ND 2460 (XXXIV; IM 64050; Plate 47)

Transliteration

Obv.
1  a-na šarri be-li-[a]
   urad-ka m.enurta-il[a-a-a
   lu šulmušu a-na šarri [b]e-li-[l]a
   amēl-qa[tu pa-ni-ú
   [š]a a-na ekall ú-šē-bi-[(a-ni]
   iq-ti-bi-a ma-a XX šābe[mes]
   uk-ta-ši-du-ú-ni
   a-di qa-an-ni ìma...
   ina kal-la-ma-ri im-ma...
10  sisēmēs i-da-tu-š[u]-[nu]?
    a-sa-par l[(a]?
    la ik-šu-d[u]?l[a]?n[i]
    it-tal-ku-[l]-ni]?
    ina Ê .........
   x ...........

Rev.
1' x ...........
      ša x ...........
      man ebū[ri]-š[ni]u ...........
      ša amēl-nagir ekall[li […]?
5'  alpēmēš la-aš-šú AN x […]?
    ša m.nergal-ú-bal-[i]x ...
    an-na-ka liq-bu-ni-šú
    alpēmēš.šú-nu li-lī-šu-n[i]
    man ebūri-šú-nu lu du-ri-[u]?
10' li-in-tu-hu ina libbi ā[l]i
     lu-še-ri-bu
     LÚ.EN.NUN.MEŠ-šú-nu ina IGI.ŠE.x
     un-zu alpēmēš
     ina panī-šú-nu la-áš-šú

Translation

Obv.
(1-3) To the king my lord your servant Enurta-ilaya. May it be well with the king my lord.

(4-9) The former fugitive whom I sent to the Palace has said: 'Twenty soldiers have raided (and) by dawn reached as far as the environs of the city Ma-…, (with) (10)
horses with them.’ (11) I have (therefore) sent a message. ... (12) They did not conquer (it), (13) they have gone back. (14) In the palace ... ...

Rev.

(4') of the Herald of the Palace (5') there are no cattle ... ... (6') of Nergal-uballit ... (7') here let them say to him: (8') ‘Let their cattle go; (9') they whose harvest is still standing, (10'-11') let them transport (it and) bring it into the city.’ (12'-14') Their guards have at their disposal no corn for the hunger of the cattle.

Notes

Tablet largely complete, except for a missing fragment from right side of final four extant lines on obv. and first four on rev. At least one line has been lost at base, leaving only unrecognizable traces of beginning of first sign. Surface mostly in good condition, with large clear NA script.

The following is a tentative interpretation of the contents. An attack had been made on an Assyrian outpost and reported to the district governor by a survivor who was sent on to the king. The governor investigated, and now makes a fuller report on the circumstances and the steps he had taken, which included bringing into the city any grain harvest still standing.

Obv.

2) m.₇enurta-il-a-a-a. Five eponyms bore this name, including those for 736 and 722 BC.

9) im-ma-... Perhaps im-ma-ru, ‘they see’.

Rev.

6'') m.₇nergal-₇-bal-li₇t x ... The eponym for 731 BC, the governor of Ahi-zuhina, bore this name.

9') du-ri-i₇u². Taken as St.3 pl. of adj. di₇ru, ‘continuity’ (CAD, D, 197b, di₇ru B).

12') SE.x. The sign appears to me as in the copy; I do not see the group as SE.BAR, but in the context it must represent some kind of grain.

13') un-zu. See AHw, 1418a, um₇u I, um₇u ‘Hunger’. J.N. Postgate suggests reading iz-za-zu.

ND 2464 (BSAI; Plate 49)

Transliteration

Obv. [a]-na šarri bēli-ia

urad-ka m₇a₇₃šur-i₇mea(HAL)-ni

îna muhhi ni₇šme₇š
ša šarru be-li

5 i₇š-pu-ra-an-ni

m₇ri-mu-te-[a]hi-$u$u

m₇a₇₃m₇a₇₃ša₇₃-bi-ru-MU

a-na pa-ni-ia ša-nu

10 m₇a₇₃nabu-₇ar-hi-il₇ni₇me₇š

[x] NIN? ša x

Rev. ... ...

267
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

Translation

(1-2) To the king my lord your servant Ashur-ishmeani.

(3-9) Concerning the people about whom the king my lord sent me a message, Rimute-ahishu the son of Nabu-reshi (and) Shamash-biru-iddin are in my presence.

(10-14) Nabu-sharhi-ilani the son of PN₁ (and) PN₂ the son of PN₃ are not in my presence.

Notes

Almost complete tablet with slight damage at top left corner and both bottom corners. One whole line and part of a second line are lost from surface damage at beginning of rev. Otherwise in sound condition. NA script.

2) maš-šur-išmea(HAL)-ni. The same name occurs in ND 2449, q.v. It is certainly the same person in both instances, since not only do these two letters have common elements in that in both the customary greeting is omitted and the writer is concerned with disposition of personnel, but also the calligraphy on both tablets is identical, both have a horizontal line after the address, and both are of the same type of clay, of the same thickness, and with corners and top and bottom edges of very similar form.

6) ri-mu-te-[a]hi-šū. Alternatively ri-mu-[a]hi-su ‘Rimute his brother’. Both readings present problems. Against the first interpretation is the fact that Rimute is a well-known name, whereas the longer form would be unknown and difficult to explain. Against the second interpretation is the singular mār and the absence of any indication of whose brother.

8) m.dašamaš-bi-ru-MU. Examination under the microscope confirms that the vertical was omitted in the DINGIR determinative.

ND 2467 (BSAI; Plate 53)

Transliteration

Obv.

1' x ra pi šá x ...
   ... ta a ti ina l[b]? ...
   ... x ra ra 'a x ...
   ... a-nam-bi d[u]? ...
5' ḫ[a]-[a]-ba-ak amēlšāb[e][m]ēš
   ina lib-bi ú-si-ri-bi
   issu lib-bi ina lib-bi ál x
   ina ál-me-x-ga álání mêš [KAL]A?:MEŠ
   š[a] maš-šur-× x A ŠID

Rev.

1  bit la ha-ru-da-a-ni
   ú-ha-ra-da ŠE.PAD.MEŠ
   a-[z]a-bi-il ina lib-bi
   ḫ[a]-la-ba-ak amēlšābēmēš ina lib-bi

268
Translation
Obv.
(5'-6') I drove away. I brought soldiers inside. (7') From therein into the midst of the town ... (8') (and) into the town Me...ga, (8-9) strong towns of Ashur-... ...

Rev.
(1) Wherever they are not on the alert, (2-3) I will alert (them). I will transport corn rations, (3-4) I will then bring (it) inside. (4-5) I will bring the people inside. (5-6) I shall transfer the district to the charge of Bel-iddina. [Remainder too damaged to read.]

Notes
Lower three-quarters of a badly damaged tablet. Extant script is in fair condition. NA script.

Obv.
8') di(me-x-ga. The unidentified sign might be su or tu.

Rev.
1, 2) la ha-ru-da-a-ni, ú-ha-ra-da. Both verbs are taken to be from harādu A (CAD, Ḥ, 88a-b, harādu IV (AHw, 322b). If this derivation is correct, the first verb is D St., NA form written defectively, 3 pl. The second is D Pres., 1 sg.

ND 2468 (IM 64054; Plate 52)

Transliteration
Obv.1' x .......
  x x x? .......
  ri-ih-t[u] ... 
  ma-a AŠ GIŠ.BAR ...
 5'  iqi-t-bu-l[u]?
  ma-a XXII ANŠ[E] [x]? 
  nu-ša-kal ma-a x [x]?
  nu-ša-kal ma-a x [x]?
 9'
  [u]-ku ša μu-x-x
Base
[šu]m-mu šarru be-l lí
11'
  i-qaq-bí
Rev.
  la-di-in lu-ša-ki-lu₄
  ábir-tu ina bit karānimēš
  la-āš-šú a/-ka-an-ni x
 15'
  ina li-bí lu-šá-x-[x]
  li-izl-bí-[u] ...
  lu-ša-ki[i]?--[u₄]?

269
Translation

(3') the remainder ... (4') thus ... (5') they said: (6'-7a) 'We shall provide twenty two homers as food.' (7b'-8a') (They) said: 'We shall provide ... as food.' (8b'-9') (They) said: '... the land-revenue of Tu-...' (10'-12') If the king my lord orders (it), let me assign it, (and) let them provide food. (13'-14') There is no fortress in the wine area; now ... let them ... therein, (16') let them transport ... (17') let them provide food.

Notes
Tablet with top and upper part of right side missing. Clear NA script.

4') GIS.BAR. = sutu. The signs are undamaged; this is not a misreading of pa-an.

12') lu-sa-ki-lu. For u as first vowel of 3 pl. Š Prec. in NA, see GAG §81c.

14') al-ka-an-ni. a is undamaged but has an unwarranted horizontal.

16') li-iz!-bi-[u]. The second sign, which is undamaged, is unrecognizable as it stands, but in view of the misformed a in 14’, the possibility of a supernumerary wedge may be considered. The sign could then be either qa with an additional horizontal below, or GIS with an additional oblique above. Since li-qi!-bi-[u] would not make a recognizable word, it is proposed to read the verb as li-iz!-bi-[u].

ND 2469 (BSAI; Plate 7)

Transliteration

Obv. a-na ša[rrri bēliya]
    urad-ka ........
    lu šulmu[n[u] ....
                   a-dan-niš [a]-[dan-niš]
    5 lu šulmu>[mu] [a]-[dan-niš]
    a-na bitti [š[a]] [bēliya?] 
   amēlurdānimēs ....
      ša ba-ta-b[a-te] ...
      x x x ... x ...

Translation

(1) To the king [my lord] (2) your servant [PN]. (3-4) May it be very, very well with [the king my lord]. (5-6) May it be [very] well with the house of [my lord]. (7) The servants ... ... (8) who are around ... 

Notes
Top left corner, in good condition. Rev. uninscribed. The top end is so flat that the fragment will stand on it. NA script.

Could be part of same tablet as ND 2747, below, although there is no physical join.
ND 2747 (BSAI; Plate 9)

Transliteration
Obv. ..........x š[a] x
................x-ka-š/ziblp
................x SIG₄ ĔŠ.GÂR
........... UD.MEŠ
5 ........... IXXX?II LIM IV ME

[Insufficient remains to warrant a translation.]

Notes
Small fragment from right side. Rev. uninscribed. NA script. Epigraphy, size, curvature, and form and colour of clay would all allow this fragment to belong to the same tablet as ND 2469, q.v. above.

ND 2473 (IM 64056; Plate 15)

Transliteration
Obv. 1 a-na šárrî bêlî-ia [urad-ka PN libbu ša šárrî lu ūb]
       ma-‘a- da š[ar]ru i-du [………]
       ša maššur-ila-a- a ša x [………]
       te-li at-ri-šû-nu la-[âš-šu]? [………]
5 me-me-ni-ma ina lib-b[i] [………]
       xxx xx [………]
Rev. 1’ xxx x [………]

Translation
(1) To the king my lord (your servant PN. May the heart of the king be) very (glad).
The king knows ...... (3) of Ashur-ilaya of ... (4) the crop return, there is no additional amount of theirs ... (5) whoever therein ... ...

Notes
Top left corner of small tablet, probably half of original tablet left to right, perhaps a third top to bottom. There are traces of one line on rev., which has not been copied, since all signs are damaged and unintelligible; remainder of rev. is uninscribed. NA script is similar to that of ND 2478 (p. 54), but the two fragments do not make a join.
The address in this letter uses MAN instead of LUGAL, the usual logogram in addresses in this archive.

ND 2474 (BSAI; Plate 15)

Transliteration
Obv. a-na šarri bê[i-ia]
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

Translation

(1-5) To the king my lord your servant PN. May it be well with the king my lord. May Nabu and [Marduk] bless the king. (6-8) Concerning the ...-official about whom the king my lord [sent me a message], ... ... ...

Notes
Top left portion of a tablet which, judging by the curvature and the brevity of restorable lines, must have been less than twice as wide and little more than twice as long as this fragment. Extant part of rev. is uninscribed. Core shows no coiling of clay. NA script.
3) [šarr]. The shortness of the other lines, so far as they can be assuredly restored, and the occurrence of LUGAL by itself in line 5, are against a following bēl-ia here.
5) li[k-ru-bu]. The traces do not permit a restoration bēl-ia.

ND 2477 (XCVIII; IM 64057; Plate 44)

Transliteration

Obv. a-na šarri be-[i-ia]
urd-ka mqr-di-x
lu šulmu[mu a-na šarri
be-l-ia
5 mša-la-a-a mpu-ru-a-x-x
mba-bi-e-SUM.KI
mũ-a-ru
nap[har] IV ma-aq-tú-te
[ana mu][hhi šarri b[e-l-i]a
10 [ý-si]-bi-la
Base ........... x

Translation

(1-4) To the king my lord your servant Qurdi-x. May it be well with the king my lord.
(5-7) Šalaya, Purua-x-x, Babe-SUM.KI, (and) Uaru, (8) a total of four fugitives,
(9-10) I have sent to the king my lord.

Notes
Tablet with slight damage at base. Rev. uninscribed. NA script.
6) mba-bi-e-SUM.KI. For a possible reading see Iraq 36 (1974), 206.
ND 2604 (BSAI; Plate 44)

Transliteration
Obv.
1  [ana šarri bēl]-i[a]  
[urad-ka m.dD]N-bēl-ūṣur  
[lu Šulmu]u] a-na šarri bēl-ia  
[inamuh]iša šarru be-lī  
5  [iš-pur]-a-ni ma-a XX LIM  
... ... x ina muh-hi-ka  
... ... [P]A?-ma-te ta-ma-ta-ha  
... ... x ME LXVI ANŠE  
... ... am-[a-a]-t-ha  
10  ... ... x di x ... ... x  
... ... x ... ...  
Rev.  
1’ ... ... x ...  
... ... PA-ma-[e]  
[a?-ma?]-[i]a-ha

Translation
Obv.
(1-3) To the king my lord your servant DN-bel-usur. May it be well with the king my lord.
(4-5) In the matter about which the king my lord sent me a message, saying, ‘20,000 ...  
(6) ... ... are your responsibility. (7) You shall transport PAmate’, (8-9) I have transported x hundred and sixty six homer of ...  
Rev.  
(2-3) I shall transport PAmate

Notes
Piece from near top of right side of tablet. Insufficient is left to estimate original length, but it was certainly more than twice the length of this fragment. The longest line on obv. seems to be of about half the original width. The greater part of extant rev. is uninscribed. NA script.
Obv. 7, rev. 2’) Traces favour PA-ma-te in both places, but I can suggest no plausible noun.

ND 2605 (BSAI; Plate 54)
Already published by B. Parker, Iraq 23 (1961), pl.XIX and 36f.

Transliteration
Face A  
1’ x ............  
mku-ti-a x x x x x  
it-ti-di-[n]-šú-nu
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

Translation

Face A

(1') ... ... ... (2') Kutia ... ... ... (3') has delivered them.

(4'–5'a') [PN] the governor of Bit-shate was sold for silver. (5b'–6') Kuddaya has ransomed him from the town of Kannuh.

(7'–9') Ishdi-aplu, the governor of Melid, his mother delivered him for silver to Kuddaya.

(10'–13') Bel-lishir (and) Nergal-etir, two servants of Sin-iddina (and) Enurta-bel-nasir, Mayor of the Lady of the Palace, (14'–15') were delivered for silver to Kuddaya.

Face B

(1–2) [PN] the gardener, servant of Shar-ishtar, X-shu, (3) servant of Shumma-Ashur, Mayor of the Lady of the House of the Tartan, (5) Kuddaya has received for twelve minas of silver (6) for his ... together with his father.

(7) ...-ia the gardener from ... (8) Bel-Aya, the governor of the Lady of the palace (9) Kuddaya has received. (10) Adad-... ... ... (11) ... ... ...
Notes
This is not a letter and has already been published, but was allocated to me by an oversight. I have republished it to take account of some minor improved readings.

Two joining fragments constitute a tablet with one end missing, but otherwise complete except for some abrasion and small areas of surface loss; some further surface has been lost since I first copied this tablet. Neither face is markedly curved. NA script.

Face A
4') [aš] ša-te-e. The traces of the sign before bit are incomplete, but it seems necessary to supply the determinative URU, since an official would hardly be identified as 'governor of the drinking house'.

Face B
6) III!?-šú. Or ša-a-šú.
9) i-si-[q]i. G-Assyrian form from leqā.

ND 2613 (IM 64076; Plate 18)

Transliteration
Obv. [a-na šar]ri bēlī-ia
[ur]ad-ka m₄.x x x x
hu-ub-tū ša [ša]rrī bēlī
[i]u iq-ta-b[i]??
5 x ŠE.x ME x x
[...s i?-zik-xxxx]
[......]x x x

[Insufficient remains for a translation.]

Notes
Less than the top half of tablet. Obv. is in bad condition, extant part of rev. is uninscribed. NA script. Appears to concern booty or prisoners-of-war (3, hu-ub-tū).

ND 2615 (BSAI; Plate 54)

Transliteration
Obv.
1 ..... ZA? A E EN
...... x DUG₄.GA.A.NI
...... x x x BI E GA
...... x x NI? SA KA dEN.LIL
5 ...... x ŠE? KI a-na bu-ut-tuq lil-li-ka
...... x dGU.LA
...... x bal-lit-su
...... x BU

Rev.
1' ..... KA ... x
...... x dEN.LIL

275
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

... x is?-bat-ma
... x(-)ši-im ú-kal-lam-ka
5' ... x ME ME DIŠ EN.LIL.KI ID HA? N[I]? x
... x LA E SUD? AD TI LA NAM ŠA
... UD II eš-šú il-tak-an
... x GA EN EN LU? LU

Notes
Not a letter. Is inscribed parallel to long axis. Script on rev. is smaller and more shallowly impressed than that on obv., and could be by a different hand. Obv. is almost flat, rev. is pillow-shaped (i.e., curved on both axes).

ND 2624 (IM 64080; Plate 55)

Transliteration
Obv.
1 [tutti PN a-n]a šarru be-li-[ia]
[.........] [i]k-ta-li
[.........] [b]e?-li-la paq-du
[.........] x ma-la i-mu-ru
5 [.........] i-qab-bi
[.........] šá a-na li-me-ti-la áš-bu
[.........] x-hu e-pu-uš
[.........] [a]-ki-i šá én[II]
[.........] x a-na šarru a-qab-bi
10 [.........] [n]j-i-f [k]i-f i-zer-ra-an-ni-ma
[.........] x na a at-ta
[.........] x x [M]AH? šá aš-ba-tu
[.........] x x a lu-us-bat
[.........] x x šá ma-la LÚ.MU
15 [.........] x-ú a-na muh[hi] šarru-ú-tu
[.........] x šá LUGAL la qāt[II] [LU]GAL
[.........] LÚ.AŠGAB KI x
[.........] x-ta al-tap-r[a]?
[.........] -ni ZI.MES šá šarri x x x
20 [.........] iq?-i[a]-bi um-ma šá a-na šarri
[.........] x i in DIŠ LIM RU m[i]-fi-ti
[.........] a-n[a] šarru be-li-a šap-pa-ra[k]?-ma
[.........] x am-mar

Rev.
1' [.........] x x x x ...
[.........] x UGU en-na
[.........] x BE? k[i]?/d[i]? LUG[AL]? X-ta-bat
[.........] x šá šarri-la x-in?
5' [.........] mu? x x ... [i]u?
[.........] x x a i ... x

276
Letters of uncertain provenance

10' [......] x ga? a-na šeri ul uš-ši
[......] x §a-na a-ni-tu it-ta-ši
[......] x ù-maš-šir-an-ma
11 [a]?/e?/-ri-š
[......] [§a]ri be-ll-ia i-pu-šu
[......] x i-di-bu-bu
[......] x a-hi-ár lib-bi
[......] x KAL
[......] [šarr|i be-l-l-ia
[......] [š]b-bi àš-k[un]?

Partial Translation

Obv.
(1) [Tablet of PN to] the king my lord. (2) ... ... he has detained (3) ... [who] is appointed [for the king] my lord. (4-5) ... he will tell [the king my lord] as much as he saw. (6) ... ... who dwell on my border (7) ... ... he did (8-9) ... ... I will tell the king my lord according to what [my] eyes (9) [have seen]. (10) ... ... if he hates me (11) ... ... you (12) ... ... which/whom I seized (13) ... ... let me seize (14) ... ... (15) ... ... concerning kingship (16) ... ... of the king, not the hands of the king (17) ... ... (18) ... ... I have sent a message (19) ... ... the life of the king (20) ... he said thus: 'He who [tells lies] to the king ... (is) dead.' (22) ... I will send a message to the king my lord (23) ... ... I shall see/as much as

Rev.
[Nothing significant remains until line 10'] (10') ... ... he will not go out to the plain (11') ... ... for this he has brought (12') ... ... he did not release me (13') ... ... (14') ... [which] he did [for] the king my lord (15') ... ... they discuss (16') ... ... I will get ready the midst (17') ... ... (18') ... ... [to] the king my lord (19') ... ... I set in the midst

Notes

Substantial fragment, but less than half, from the right of a tablet. The base is partly extant. Obv. is more convex than rev. NB script. Physical similarity suggests that this might be from the same tablet as ND 2358, although the curvature and maximum thickness of the two fragments require that if they are directly related, a fragment is missing between them. The only assistance the very fragmentary extant text of ND 2358 may offer in restoration is the possibility that its line A 5' may be completed by ND 2624, obv. 5. [Note the slight possibility that ND 2358 may also belong with ND 2368 (pp. 70-1).]

Obv.
4-5) Translation is in part tentatively restored from ND 2358 (p. 70), obv. 5'.
14) ma-la. Either 'as much as' or 'once'.
14) LÜ.MU. = amēluhatimmu, 'cook'.
17) LÜ.AŠGAB. = amēluškāpu, 'leatherworker'.

277
19) ZI.MEŠ. Assumed to represent napišamiš.
Rev.
16') a-hi-ár. 1 sg. Pres. of háru B, CAD, ḃ, 120a.

ND 2627 (BSAI; Plate 57)

Transliteration
Obv.
1' ...... ...... x x
    ANŠE.KUR.R[Ä].ME[Š] [x] x [U]RU? x-su-nu
    lil-lik-ú-n[i] [ANŠ]E.KUR.RA.MEŠ TI-ú
    E[Š].GÂR ša šá-dag-diš [D]IN-x-DU GAR-nu-ni
5' I GUN KÜ.BABBAR AS x x ina libbi XXX
    ANŠE.KUR.RA.MEŠ[Š] DIŠ.DINGIR.[DN]-x-DU[MU] a-te-x
    a-te-din XX M[A] [N]A [x] a? LAL.DI
    XX MA.NA a-na DIŠ.[H]I?-[x]-[A] Zu nadinin
    XI na-sa IX LAL.E[1] [x] x na a-[n]a
10' DIŠ.SU.PAP.MEŠ x [x] [X]? na-š[a]
    XIII LAL.E x ....... x-si
    a-[t]e-din x x ........ x
    L[U].ERI[N].MEŠ GIŠ? x ...... ...
    š[a] u-x x .......
15' am-nu-[t] x x .... ...
    EŠ.GÂR ša GIŠ.[K]I[RI]o x ...... ...
    IV [G]UN KÜ.BABBAR x ...... ...
Base x DIŠ XX x KAN? x ///
    [I]?-s[a]-n[u] [a]-ki x ...
Rev.
1 I[V]? GUN KÜ.BABBAR x nu
    īm[k][u-n]a-a-a ṁ[x]-bi-Z[Ä](-)x
    ahh₆₂₃ša PAP [V]I GUN KÜ.BABBAR
    š[a] [a'-sap-p] i ina libbi II ME sis[šem]
5 [G]U e k[u]??[u]?[š][u]?(-)BE-su-nu u a-a
    issu lib[bi] LÜ.GIŠ.TUKUL.MEŠ LÜ.ma-a-s[u]
    ū-kal-lu-ni SUM-šu-nu š[a] x
    a-[n][a] ka-a-ri e-lu-[u]?-[ni]? [I]u
    eql₁₆₂₃šiškirmat₆₂₃ši [a]-l-[x] [š]-ša?-a[s]-lil?
10 lu amē₁₄₆₂₃šimā₆₂₃šem x x IGI ŞU[II]
    [I]u?-[a]-ab a-kan-ni [x] ka III ME sis[šem]
    š[a] [ša]ru be-lî [iq]-bu-ni lu ša-tûr
    ... x x x MEŠ šum-ma issu
    libbi ak[i]-x-x-a-a šarru be-lî
15 libbi ak[i]-x-x-a-a šarru be-lî
    [I]-di-na ... [I]?-me?-x x
    ... ... x x si
    ... ... x x LUGAL

278
Translation

Obv.

(2'-3') Let the horses come (with) their ... (3') The horses are in good condition.

(4'-7a') I have received (and) delivered the ishkaru-tax of last year ... which was deposited (to the value of) 1 talent of silver, ... within which (total) were thirty horses of DN-x-apla. (7b'-8') Twenty minas of [silver] are owing (and) twenty minas have been delivered to ...-x-asu. (9'-10a') Eleven (minas) were brought (and) nine are owing ... to Eriba-ahhe. (10b'-11') nine (minas) were brought (and) thirteen are owing to [PN]. ... (12') I have delivered ... (13') The troops ... (14'-15') [nothing significant is intelligible] (16') the ishkaru-tax of the garden(s) (17') four talents of silver ... ...

Rev.

(1) four talents of silver ... (2) Kunnaya, ...-biZA-... (3-4) his brothers. Total; seven talents of silver of the horse column, within (which total are) 200 horses. (5) [unintelligible] (6-7a) they held back from amongst the armed men (and) the grooms. (7b-8) Their delivery of ... came up to the quay. (9) I have left the fields, the garden (and) the ... undisturbed. (10-11a) As to the merchants ... ..., you shall put (things) right (for them). (11b-12) Now as to the 300 horses about which the king spoke, let a written record be made, (13-16a) (as to) ... whether the king my lord would wish to give (them) from (14) the citizens of the town Ka-... or from the citizens of the town U-... (16b-20) [fragmentary]

Notes

Five fragments rejoined, terra cotta in colour. Core at broken end clearly shows that this tablet was formed by coiling the clay. Top and most of lower right quarter of obv. missing. Some abrasion. Surface loss around joins. NA script.

My copy of obv. correctly presents the lines of script as rising from left to right.

Obv.

3') TI-ú. Reading clear; ina paníl-ú is not a possible reading unless there was a scribal error. Cannot be an adj., which in the context would require -uti ending. Could represent St. balitu, 'are in good condition'.

4') É[S].GAR. On iskaru see Postgate, TCAE, 94-110, especially 102-3 in relation to horses.

6') a-te-x. The traces of the final sign suggest din, but it is unlikely that a-te-din was written twice in sequence.

7', 9', 11') LAL.DI, LAL.E. Taken as representing forms from matu ‘to be deficient’; DI may be the phonetic complement ji.

9', 10') na-ša. For other occurrences in NA see ABL 173, obv. 7; 198, rev. 19; 396, obv. 10; 532, obv. 7; 760, obv. 7; 1035, rev. 11.

Rev.

2) m[x]-bi-Z[A](-)x. The final sign is not nu, but apparently SAL or some sign beginning with the SAL group.
3) [V]I. Rejoining across a break has put the beginning and end of the sign out of alignment.

6) LŪ ma-a-a-s[u]. ma-a-a-su is NA spelling of majāltu, CAD, M/1, 116b-117b, 3 in sense ‘stable’.

10) IGI ŠT[I]. Cannot be read IGI-ia!

11) t[u]-t[a]-ab. The only other likely reading of the first sign, ma, would give a non-form.

15) diū-x-a-a-a. Restoration as diū-ka-a-a (cf. ND 2487, obv. 6, mātū-ka-a-a) would require the lost ka to have been excessively long.

ND 2639 (BSAI; Plate 54)

Transliteration

Obv. [a-na šarri bēliya]  
[a-na šarri bēliya]  
lu šul[mu]m[u]  
ša ša(rru bēši)  
m[a]-x-x-a-a  
a-na x x x x x

Rev. [l]u??-l[u]??  
[a]š-pa-an ša(rru)  
ša(rru)?-li-ka-a  
[a]-n[a]  
x x x

Translation

(1-3) To the king my lord your servant PN. May it be well with the king my lord.

(4-6) About the matter on which the king my lord sent me instructions, saying, ‘... they came. (7) bread ... ... take (8) before the king my lord ... they said (9) to ... ... (10) to ... ... their ... (11) they will go forth ... ... seed corn (12) for therein 100 (units) of his seed corn. (13-14) I have delivered in full their corn store (that is,) their seed corn.

(15) ... I have given rations (16) ... his stored corn (17) upon their ... (18) ... they keep going round (19) to ... ... their troops (20) ... ... to (21) ... ... let him ask. (22-25) [nothing intelligible]
Notes
Tablet almost complete except for a small piece broken away at top left corner and a larger piece at top right corner. Surface is badly abraded, and only the last three lines of obv. are complete. Some of the traces tentatively shown on the copy represent a sub-surface impression where the original surface is lost; in the absence of a context restoration in such instances can be little more than guesswork. NA script.

12) AS $\{S\}$Α? $\{M\}E\? \ ΣΕ.ΝΥΜisableu. The context suggests a reference to some measure; perhaps in a libbi 100 ...
18) $\text{la?}/\text{i}?$-$\text{sa}-\text{na}-[\text{h}]i-[-r]u$. On a possible D$\text{in}$ of sahâru see AHw, 1007b, and for G$\text{in}$ forms op. cit., 1006b.
21) liš-a-al. There is a further stroke (not shown in the copy) in the first sign, but examination under the microscope suggests that this was a faulty wedge deliberately overwritten by the scribe. The sign cannot be read as UD.

ND 2642 (XCI; IM 64090; Plate 47)

Transliteration
Obv. [ana šarrī bēlīya]
[urad-ka PN]
\textit{x \ldots \ldots}
\textit{issu \ldots x x \ldots}
5 amēlšabēmeš šārrī am-mar $\tilde{s}[u-n]u\{-u\}n[i]$\break
\textit{ú-ta-si-q[i]}
a-na amēlra[bi][E]1[GAL]
ap-ti-qi-di[i]
úm XX KĀM ša arakhšimā[n]i(S[I][G]4)
10 ú-ta-mi-šu
\textit{it-ta-ta-ku

Translation
(1-2) [To the king my lord your servant PN.] (3-4) [lost] (5-8) The royal troops, as many as there are, ... I selected (and) appointed to the Major Domo. (9-11) On the twentieth of the month Sivan they got under way and went off.

Notes
Top missing. Reverse uninscribed. Bold clear NA script in good condition. When copied in 1954 the tablet was still unbaked.
6) ú-ta-si-q[i]. 1 sg. D$\text{t}$ of CAD, N/2, 21a, nasāqu A.
11) it-ta-ta-ku. Irregular form from alāku; for other examples see SAA, 5, no.18, 7; no.19, rev. 7'; no.32, 11; no.36, 4'; no.163, rev. 14; no.217, 9.

ND 2643 (XXV; IM 64091; Plate 49)
Re-edited in Fales, CLNA, pp. 36-39, 68-69, I.5. See also K. Deller, Or. 33 (1964), 92.
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

Transliteration

Obv. a-na šarrī bēlī-ia
    urad-ka [m]aš-šur-māt-ka-GUR
    lu šulmu[mu] a-na šarrī
    bēlī-ia

5  ina muhī amēlābēmeš
    mātīr-ma-a-a
    ša šarru be-lī
    iš-pur-an-ni
    ma-a šā-aš-bi-su-nu

10 ma a-na harrānī

Base
    il-lu-ku
    e-ṣi-di-su-nu

Rev.
    ṣubāša-ṣa-a-gu
    mašakhi-in-tū

15 mašakšēni(E.SIR)
    šammīmeš a-da-na-ṣā-nu
    emārēmeš-ia
    la-āš-ṣū
    issu ma-ṣi-en

20 emārēmeš-ia
    i-ba-ṣi-u-ni
    gēšqr-ṣi-ia-ma
    a-na harrānī

Top
    la-am-tu-u[h]

Translation

(1-4) To the king my lord your servant Ashur-matka-GUR. May it be well with the king my lord.

(5-8) Concerning the Aramaean people about whom the king my lord sent a message, (9-11) saying: ‘Get them ready!, they are going on a journey’; (12-16) I am giving them their travel provisions, cloth, waterskins, sandals and oil. (17-18) I have no asses (at present). (19-21) As soon as my asses are there, I will put my wagons on the road.

Notes

Complete tablet in almost perfect condition. Large clear NA script.

This letter concerns preparations for deportation of Aramaeans.

2) [m]aš-šur-māt-ka-GUR. GUR presumably represents a form from tāru, either tīr or utāra (so Fales, CLNA, p. 37).

9) šā-aš-bi-su-nu. On the sense see Deller, op.cit.

12) e-ṣi-di-su-nu. Apparently represents *eṣidīt-šunu (< eṣēdu ‘to harvest’), but the required sense is from ṣidītu ‘travel provisions’; on the form see Iraq 18 (1956), 42.

13) ṣubaša-ṣa-a-gu. See Fales, CLNA, p. 68.

14) mašakhi-in-tū. See CAD, ḫ, 192b-193a, himtu (hindu, hintu) ‘a leather bag, waterskin’.

282
Letters of uncertain provenance

15) mašaksēni. Fales, CLNA, p. 68, questions this reading for kūšE.SIR in NA.
19) issu ma-ši-en. See AHw, 620a, maši 1, and CAD, M/1, 331b-332a, maši b 2'.
22) šiqir-si-ia-ma. So CAD, Q, 269b-270a, from qirṣu B, probably 'a vehicle drawn
   by draft animals'. But perhaps a variant (kirsū? or kirsu?), under West Semitic
   influence, of kussū (A. Salonen, Landfahrzeuge, 77, ‘Tragsessel, Reisefahrzeuge’).

ND 2647 (XVII; BSAI; Plate 50)

Transliteration
Obv.  a-na šarri be-li-ia
    urad-ka m.f²habu-iš-qur-ni
    lu-u šulmu₄₄
    a-na šarri be-jj-li-ia-ma
5     ina muhhi a-ša-pi
     ša mášu-ha-a-a
     ša šarru be-li
     iš-pur-a-ni
     a-ta-šar
   10    VI ₂narkabā'imeš
Base I ₂ši-tar-tū
   XI ú-rat
   ša sis'imeš
   III ú-rat
   15    ša ku-dini
   I ME XX imērēmeš
   LX ibilēmeš
   amēlābēmeš la am-nu
   ina pu-tu-u-a
   20    amēlābēmeš
   IV ME i-ba-ši
e-te-bir
   Top  ug-da-ta-mir

Translation
(1-4) To the king my lord your servant Nabu-ishiqrmi. May it be well with the king my
lord.

(5-9) Concerning the pack-animals of the Suhaeans about which the king my lord
sent me a message, I have made a muster. (10-17) (There are) six chariots, one wagon,
eleven teams of horses, three teams of mules, one hundred and twenty donkeys, (and)
sixty camels. (18-20) I have not numbered the soldiers. In my presence (are) four
hundred soldiers. They have completed crossing (the river).
Notes
Complete tablet in good condition, with only minor abrasion at each end. Both faces are almost flat, obv. minimally less so. The tablet has square corners, and both ends are so flat that the tablet will stand vertically on them. NA script.

2) m\textsuperscript{d}nab\textsuperscript{u}-is-qr-ni. -is-qr extends on to rev. CLNA, I, p. 90 reads m\textsuperscript{d}PA-da!-in?!<-alan-ni?->.

4) be-\textsc{lf}-li-ia-ma. The scribe first wrote EN, some wedges of which remain clearly visible, as shown in the copy, and then over-wrote it with BE.

6) m\textsuperscript{d}su-ha-a-a. Tribesmen on the middle Euphrates, but this term does not by itself link this letter to Babylonia, or require it to be placed in chapter 2 with letters related to Babylonia.

11) i\textsuperscript{u}-tar-tu. See CLNA, I, p. 128.

12, 14) ú-rat. Deller, Or.36 (1967), 81 reads ú-rata.

21) i-ba-ši. Correctly restored by CLNA, I, p. 90.

23) ug-da-ta-mir. For the form see GAG §93e and AHw, 278a.

ND 2654 (BSAI; Plate 53; Photo Plate II)

Transliteration
Face A (Obv.)
1' ...... x x x
...... šu UGU
[x?-]i-šu la bi-[n]i-ši
...... PAP-u a-ti-d[an]
5' ... \textit{i\textsuperscript{a}}-[n]a kaspi
...... x ŠE.PAD.MEŠ
...... x UN.ME[Š]
...... ME U[DU]?-x-[M]EŠ
...... x x-[M]EŠ
10' ...... x x x -MEŠ

Face B (Rev.)
1' ...... x ......
...... x sa[l]-i[a]?/[h][a]?-x
...... [m\textsuperscript{a}]rat([DU]MU.MUNUS) \textit{mišdī}(SUHUŠ.I)
...... IV nar\textit{ā}i(MUNUS,NAR)\textit{meš}
5' X URUDU ME LI KAM URUD[U]
...... [x]? [D]U? URUDU ME x x x
...... x-ia-ú gab-b[u]
...... \textit{[p]}a-an \textit{md}marduk-našir(ŠEŠ)[\textit{d}r]
...... x UGU ZI x x
10' [x] x a-[r]a-na-šú
...... x x x x

284
**Letters of uncertain provenance**

**Partial Translation**

**Face A**

(3') ... unseemly (4') ... I gave (5') ... for silver (6') ... corn rations (7') ... people (8') ... hundred sheep

**Face B**

(2') ... the lady Ris/ha... (3') daughter of Ishdi, (4') four lady musicians (5'-7') [unclear; concerns copper] (8'-10') I shall deliver it in the presence of Marduk-nasir ... ... ...

**Notes**

Tablet with top and base and surface of left side missing. One damaged end and the left side clearly show a layer of surface clay over a core. Face A is flat, Face B slightly curved left to right. NA script.

**Face A**

3') la bi-[n]i-ti. Perhaps a variant of *la banītu*, 'unseemly', CAD, B, 80b.

**Face B**

5') KAM. Could be ÚTUL = *dīqāru*, with reference to a copper bowl or bowls.

**ND 2658** (BSAl; Plate 55)

**Transliteration**

**Obv.**

1'  *xx...x x [r]a-[d]a-[n]i*

    *amēlqi-pa-n[i] ša še₄-nu-*<sa>-hi i-su-[u]-[n]i

    *bal-tu [š]arru bēli liš'-al*

    *amēlra [h]u[natimmu] l{1}-sa-pa-ra*

5'  *a-na muhhi UR[U]? x [x]? ni x [x]?

    *ma-a amēlqi-p[a-ni] [x] x ...*

    *uk-ta-x ... ...*

**Base**

*ā[l][i]- ... ...*

9'  *ša qa-ni ... ... *

11'  *[i]s[si] É.NAM x ... ...*

    *ta-bi-tú-ni še₄-nu-[sa-hí]*

    *ú-ma-a DIŠ.KA.K[A]?-... ...*

    *i-tal-ka amēlqi-p[l]*

15'  *issi libbi L amēlq[i-p][a-ní]? ...*

    *... x x ... *

**Side**

*naphar II ālānīmēs ... ... *

*amēl-[mu-gí]? ... ... *

**Translation**

(1') ... to deliver. (2') The Qipu-officials who exacted the barley tax (3') are safe and sound. Let the king my lord make enquiry. (4') The Chief Baker has sent a message (5') concerning the town ... , (6'-7') He says: 'The Qipu-officials ... ... have ... ... (8') the town Li-... (9') of the region ... ...' (10') Let them cause to ...

285
... ... (11') from the house of ... ... (12’) seize the barley tax. Now PN has come back. (14’) The Qipu-official ... (15’) from among the Qipu-officials (16’) ... ... ... (17’) altogether three towns ... ... (18’) the forces ... ... ...

Notes

Two pieces rejoined to form most of the lower part of a tablet, which lacks the right halves of the last two lines of obv., the right half of a line on base, and the surface of the right third of rev. NA script. The broken end reveals that the tablet was formed with about 3.5 mm of surface clay over a core.

3’) bal-tu. Taken as St. pl.

13’) DIS.KA.K[A]?... Apparently a personal name, possibly beginning Amat-ka, although no such NA name appears to be attested.

ND 2665 (XXVII; IM 64103; Plate 25)

Transliteration

Obv. a-na šarri [bēlīya]
  urad-ka [PN]
  lu-u šulmu₃₄ a-n[a šar]ri [bē]lī-ta
  dan-niš a-da[n]-niš
  5 ka-ni-ku ša šarri bēlī-[f[a]
  ina muh[hi-f]a ta-tal-ka
    ma-a ṭiškir-si
    ša ṭišdu-un x ¡ ť ť
    NI-tu mu-sa-ša-bi-ra
  10 [i]š.-š-e ka-mu-t[u]?(-)x?

  ma-a ṭišna-ši-[h]a??
  x(-)ta-ma-ta
  k[i]-ša šarru be-li
  iq-bu-ú-ni-[n]i [m]a am-m[ar]??
  ... MES ṭiš-gi-lu-tu-tu-ni
  [a]-[n]a zitti(HA.LA)-k[u-n]u
  uk-tab-bir a-x-x
  amētšāb₃₃₃₃[3] ... ...
  19 x x x ......

Rev. ............ ...
  21 ........ [ru]?-ku-u[b]
  ........ ṭu-n[i]

Partial Translation

[The only lines which are beyond doubt are 1-6, 13-14, and part of 15-17. For remainder see notes.] (1-7) To the king my lord your servant [PN]. May it be very very well with the king my lord. The sealed document of the king my lord has come to me, .... ...

... ... (13-14) As the king my lord ordered me, saying: ‘As much (15-17) ... as Giluni has made heavy for your share I have ...’
Notes
Largely complete tablet, with major cracks, patches of surface loss and abrasion. In some cases there is doubt as to whether or not marks in damage at the end of the line are vestigial remains of a sign. Rev. is inscribed with only three lines of text, the first of which is wholly lost. NA script.

7) iššir-si. See Iraq 18 (1956), 44 and above, ND 2643 (p. 283), note 22.
8) išdu-un x hi x x. The traces after un seem to represent [m]a. They cannot be read as na, nu or ni. The traces after hi suggest i, although a[i] cannot be excluded: š[i] is unlikely. The final traces might be [p]i. A tentative reading of the whole is išdu-un-[m]a hi-i-[p]i, ‘the dun indeed is broken’. For išdunnu see A. Salonen, Landfahrzeuge, 35, n.3, and W. von Soden, ZA 43, 241, line 190, where the term is linked to ma-a-a-al-tú ‘bed’. See also Iraq 18 (1956), 44.

9) NI-tu mu-sa-sa-bi-ra. The first word could be šal-tu. The remainder of the line could be Ptcp. St of one of the two verbs šabāru, for musašbira with additional -a-.
10) tiʔ-si-e. The first sign might alternatively be taken as [k]an.
15) mgi-lu-tū-li-ni. For the name see Iraq 18 (1956), p. 44.
15, 16, 17) A fragment, bearing the major part of lu on line 15, the beginning of ku on line 16, and a plus traces on both sides on line 17, has disappeared since the original copy was made.

17) a-x-x. Perhaps a-[l[a]-[k]a, but in the context one expects some such sense as ‘I have authorised’ or ‘I have approved’.
19) x x x. The first sign is not pa; it could be [l]a. AN is a dubious reading of the second sign.

ND 2675 (IM 64112; Plate 56)

Tentative Transliteration
Face A
1' ....... x ......
....... x x ......
....... x x ma ah-ha-za
3' [x]-a bu-ú-e x la si
[k]a?-[r]-du HI MAH? Š[U] x [r]u
x x e [m]a?(-)ak-su ŠĒ gab-bu
ŠE.LIL.MEŠ i x? ŠA x UD
a-na-ku x x x ... ma
10' I ANŠE ŠE.GIŠ.NI a-na liš-x x x ra x
DIŠ ŠAB? x x : di[bi[r-t]e x ... x [r][a] x
[x z] ]? x r i x IR? ZA-a-a x x x r[a]?
x ... a x ú a-na TAB? IM?.ME[Ś]?
V[I] x SIG 4 : V[I] x x ma-a-[e]
15' X SIG 4 x šá i x ... te
X SIG 4 ša pa-an x a x x x
XX A A MAŠ Ú x AŠ BI x x [š]i-qa
i-st-tu : qa-ri-ib ... MAŠ? x
VI MAŠ Û TA [N]A AN x ... NE? a-na

20'  
issu mûhhi x x x x RI SUM NU x
a-x-ga-šû a ... x ma-a x

22'-26' [very fragmentary]
Face B

1'-5' [very fragmentary]

6'  
XXII a x Û x x x x na
X x x x x x ME[Š] x x
XX x x x x x x x x
x x x T[E]!/D[I]? šû? x x bi šâ ru x

10'  
šâ KUR x x r[a]? x x ú-šé-bi-[l][u]?
TA É x x a-n[a]? : an-na-a-te
maš-r[i]? x x x : LÚ x x x x
ŠA x-šû-nu x ŠA x-š[i]-nu L[Ú]? x x [A]
a-x x-šâ-nu x x x x x x x x

15'  
KUR.mu-x-fa-l-a† : ina muhhi x x x
e-pu-x x x ŠAB x x-fûl-ma
ma-a-ri x x EN x md-x-x
x x x ú x : [LU]GAL EN [f]e-e-mu
liš?-ku[n]? x x x x x x x x

20'  
MU.AN.N[A] x liš-x x SUM x x
x x x x x MEŠ x ... 
x x x x x KUR.m[u]-x ...
x ... x x ...

Side

1  
... URU.x x x DIŠ ŠAB IGI PAD x x x lu-na ...

... LUGAL EN liš-a-la : x x [û] x x ri ...
... na issu dîl[bbi]-dîl : x x x [â][a][r]-b[a-ili]
] ... x ha te ti x x šâ ... x x ... 

Notes

Major part of a tablet, cracked, scored and badly abraded. Top and bottom are both damaged, but total loss lengthwise is probably less than 10 mm. In addition to text on obv. and rev., tablet bears four lines on left side. LUGAL EN occurs in line 3' (perhaps actual 3 or 4) of Face A, but as it is not in a context proving it to be part of the address, this does not prove that Face A is obv. NA script.

Substantial parts of the surface are lost. In addition, a note made when the tablet was first copied in 1954 recorded that it much needed laboratory cleaning, and although this had to some extent been undertaken when it was collated in 1979, still only a minority of signs were certainly identifiable. A new collation after additional cleaning might further improve readings. The transliteration is very tentative and no translation is offered.

288
Letters of uncertain provenance

**ND 2682** (IM 64115; Plate 52)

Transliteration

**Obv.**

1  
\[
\begin{align*}
[\text{tu}p]p\text{i } & m\text{aš-šu}r-\text{GIŠ-ka-dan-in} \\
a-n\text{a } & m,d\text{a-nabû-na-mir }ah\text{[i-i]}a \\
l[u]-u & šulmu[m][u]\text{ [a1]-[n]}a \text{ahi-[i]}a [a-d]an-niš \\
šu-ut & x x tu-u x : a-ki-i
\end{align*}
\]

5  
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{qin-ni } & s[a \ldots s]\text{a } amē\text{[i]}t\text{ar-ta-ni} \\
\text{ša } & pa-[n]\text{[m]}\text{[a1]}\text{[d]}\text{a-\text{iā}n([D]LKD)-}^{4}\text{a-\text{dadj ina }ā\text{d\text{h}ir-ti}} \\
i-qi-b[a\ldots] & t\text{u1-ni : ma-\text{a }šu[m]-ma} \\
\text{ina } & pa-ni-ka : la nu-te-ra-šū \\
im\text{a }ā\text{d\text{a}sa-p[u]-u-a i-qi-ba-an-ni}
\end{align*}
\]

10  
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{u-ma-a } [s]\text{u-ū : bī-t-su} \\
\text{ša } & m\text{da-\text{iān(DLKUD)}-}^{4}\text{a-\text{dadj śa ina pa-[n]}i-ia} \\
\text{ālāni} & \text{meš, nī śa šarrī am-[m]ar} \\
\text{šā } & šā-nu-u-ni [l[i]-\text{x-x(−)}x \\
sisēmē & ša \ldots \ldots \\
\end{align*}
\]

15  
\[
\text{ṣī-e-[ni]} \ldots \ldots \\
\]

Base  
\[
i-\text{ṣam : ANŠE.K[UR?, RA?, MEŠ?] am-mar } \ldots \ldots \\
\ldots x \ldots \ldots \\
\]

Rev. and End

1’  
\[
\begin{align*}
 & x \ldots \ldots \ldots \\
 & ša x x \ldots \ldots \\
 & šum-ma x \ldots \ldots \\
 & šum-ma x x \ldots \ldots \\
\end{align*}
\]

5’  
\[
\begin{align*}
 & la ū-da ū-nu : x x \ldots \\
 & šum-ma i-ta-ār-ṣa-ka \\
 & ina pa-an šarri : qī-bi \\
 & šum-ma ina ūmēme XXV śa \text{arahta[šrīti]}?([DUL]?)) \\
 & šum-ma ina ūmēme ūm I KAM śa \text{araḫṭēbēti}(AB)
\end{align*}
\]

10’  
\[
\begin{align*}
 & lu-u-rī-da a-ki-i \\
 & ša i-ta-ra-ṣu-ū-ni \\
 & ina pa-an ah\text{[i]-ia a-mur šu-ра} \text{ra} \\
 & šu-tū ahu-u-a-a : [l[u]? x x x [ME]Š \\
 & amēl-pa-hu-tu a[n]-[n\text{]i}? \ldots \\
\end{align*}
\]

15’  
\[
\begin{align*}
 & x a x : \text{issu } m\text{da}[/iān(DLKUD)-}^{4}\text{a-\text{dadj }[\ldots]}? \\
 & ma-a bī DĪS.x-x-x \ldots \\
\end{align*}
\]

Top  
\[
\begin{align*}
 & [s\text{]}m\text{da-\text{iān(DLKUD)}-}^{4}\text{a-\text{dadj a-ki-i }s\text{[a]}} \\
 & [x] \text{e-pa-šu-u-ni : li-pu-u[s]} \\
 & x x a : e-da-n[a]
\end{align*}
\]

Side*  
\[
\begin{align*}
 & šu-ra : bi-r[a\ldots]-ti : ša ū-ra-da-a-ni
\end{align*}
\]

289
Translation
Obv. and Base
(1-3) Tablet of Ashur-nirka-danin to Nabu-namir his brother. May it be very well with my brother.

(4-5) As to the family of ... of the Turtan (6) who in the presence of Dayan-Adad in the fortress (7-8) said: (7-8) 'We shall certainly return him into your presence', (9-11) in Sapua he told me: 'Now he is of the household of Dayan-Adad who is in my presence.' (12-13) The cities of the king, as many as they are, let him ... ... (14) horses of ... ... (15) sheep of ... ... (16) he shall sell.

Rev. and Top
(3'-4') Whether ... ... or ... ... (5') I do not know them. ... (6'-7') If things have gone well for you, say so in the presence of the king. (8'-10a') I shall come down, either in the days (from) the 25th of the month Ta[shrit] or in the days (from) the first of Tebet. (10b'-12') According to how (things) work out, visit my brother (and) send a message. (13') He is my brother; ... (14') provincial governor ... ... (15') ... from Dayan-Adad ... (16') [sense unclear] (17'-18') About Dayan-Adad, let him act just as he acts. (18') I shall give ...

Side
Send a message (about any) fortresses which they abandon.

Notes
When first copied the tablet lacked the right bottom corner and a fragment from the right top of rev.; it has subsequently lost further fragments, including the whole of the right top corner. There is a large split down the middle of obv. NA script.

Obv.
1) māš-šur-Gīš-ka-dan-in. Eponym for 720 BC; see RLA, 2, 424-5.
2) ... (et al.) mādiān(DL.KUD).d.adad. The name recurs from the next century in SAA, 10 (= ABL 43), 18.
3) i-qi-b[a]-i-u-ni. The u, although damaged, is certain. The form is uncontracted Pret. Subj. 3 sg. m. of qabū.
4) ḍaṣa-p[u]-a. The phantom further ḍa suggested in the copy between u and a must be adventitious, due to damage. If this place name could be shown to be a variant writing for the city Sapua, this letter would need to be transferred to chapter 2, with letters related to Babylonia.
5) bit-su. < *biṭ-su, pronounced bissu.

Rev.
6) arahta[šrit](D[UL]?). Uncertain reading, supported only by the apparent initial large oblique, which seems to exclude GAN = kislimi.
7) li-pu-u[ś]. The final two signs have been lost since the tablet was copied.

Side
1) u-ra-da-a-ni. For the sense proposed see CAD, A/2, 217a-b, arādu 1, 2' e.

ND 2683 (LXIV; BSAI; Plate 57)

Transliteration
Obv. [a-na šar]ri bēl-ia
Translation

(1-3) To the king my lord your servant Enurta-bel-usur. May it be well with the king my lord.

(4-9) Concerning Enurta-apla-iddin, about whom my lord sent a message saying ‘(About) the horses, cattle (and) sheep which were brought from the land of Tabal, when he put a town at your disposal, why did you not send a message?’, (10-11) as much as twice I have sent a message to my lord. (11-19a) 46 horses, 165 cattle, 4,635 sheep are in my charge. 43 horses, 135 cattle are in the charge of Ashur-nasir. I have set
down instructions for him; I made use of a sealed tablet. He has hastened (to perform) his service for my lord.

(19b-24) Aya-niri transported (and) put in place for me 16 beams which came from Bel-ibni. I myself took delivery. (24-26) Yesterday (and) the day before Atar—... for the ... ... ... (27) [which?] they are putting in place ... (28) they have placed (them) inside. (29) [They sent a message] (30-31) saying: ‘Let them deliver. Bring (it/them) across into this region.’ (32-33) The king my lord knows it is not our feudal duty.

(34-38) It is very well with the land of my lord. We ourselves are rendering our service. Let the heart of the king my lord be very glad.

Notes
Two fragments rejoined to form a tablet complete except for the loss of the top left corner. The text is mainly well preserved except in the vicinity of breaks, but in some areas abrasion and shallowly impressed wedges leave a few signs doubtful. Final 10 mm of rev. is uninscribed. NA script.

9) māta-ba-li. The context does not suggest either that this letter originated in Tabal, or that it was primarily concerned with events there.

10) ma-ši. Lit. ‘enough’.

17) a-ša-ba₂. G₂ form.

18) a-KID-ši. The middle sign is clearly KID. The translation assumes that this writing was a scribal error for a-lik-ši, from alkú for ilku, as elsewhere in NA.

19) i-ta-ta-ka. From etāku, AHw, 260a.


24, 25) it-ti-ma-li ina šalšē ūmēme. See GAG §72b.

26) šap-x. A possible restoration is šap-ti.

30) li[?]-h[a]-[r]a?-ni. Badly damaged. If the reading is correct, it is taken as an Assyrian form for lihhurūni (< limfurûnî).

30-31) [b]a-te. In the final sign the first four wedges are on the rev. proper, where, relative to the rest of the text on rev., they appear as horizontals, giving la. But the vertical is just over the edge and crooked, and relative to this the first four wedges are the small obliques of te. Thanks are due to J.N. Postgate for recognition of the reading ba-te rather than ba-la.

32-33) Postgate, TCAE, 66, reasonably suggests that the writer is protesting that the task of transporting beams which have been delivered to him does not fall within his duties.

37) lib-bi. The second sign is certainly bi, not bu.

ND 2685 (CI; IM 64117; Plate 57)

Transliteration

Obv. [ana šarri bēliya] [urad-ka PN] [li]-[u šulmumu] a-na _ANY be-[l]i-[l]a

5 ... x da-i-qu x ... 'al-[n]a bi-[l]-a-ni tal-[l]-a-ka

292
Letters of uncertain provenance

an-[n]i-ú a-di ni-ir-[ra-bu-ni]
amēššābāmes ma-a-da : ...
an-ni-ú ša ni-kar-[ra-ru-ni]?
amēššābāmes ma-a-da : x ...
[i-l]-si-niš li[q]-qu-rū x ...
[lu-nap]??-p[i]??-lu b[i] ka-ra-[ni]
....., [i]-sa-rū-hu

Base
..... ni-ik-ru-r[u-ni]
15.....[a?]-da)n?-niš

Rev.
.....-šú
.....,[u]*-[r]u-?[d]u-ni
.....,xšems.e-ni
ša[rru lu]-ú-da ...

20

Translation
(1-4) [To the king my lord your servant PN.] May [it be well with] the king my lord.

(5) ... are favourable ... (6) You shall come to the inner quarter of the palace. (7)
(In both) this one, until we enter, (8) soldiers are numerous ... (9) (and also in) this
(other) one, which we are setting in order, (10a) soldiers are numerous. (10b-12a)
Together let them demolish (and) dismantle ... (12b-13) They are destroying the
customhouses. (14) ... (when) we set in order, (15) ... very much (16) ... ...
... (17) ... (when) they come down (18) ... ... (19) May the king know ...
... (20) in the fortresses ... (21) of the fortresses ... (22) the soldiers of ...
... (23) the king my lord ... ... (24) ... ...

Side
(n+25) May the king know these matters.

Notes
When copied in 1954 this tablet was as represented in the copy. Although it was already
crumbling, with damage at top, left bottom and along all the right side except at the base,
the extant script was on the whole clear. When collated in 1970, the tablet was
disintegrating, and represented by two fragments and crumbs in the box; everything
above the line AA' and to the left of lines BB' and CC' had disappeared. NA script.
The gaps make the sense obscure, but the letter possibly relates to an attack upon an
enemy stronghold; some of the text may be quoting royal instructions.

12) [lu-nap]??-p[i]??-lu. This tentative restoration assumes D Prec. of napālu in the
sense of CAD, N/1, 275a-b, A 4b.
12) bi[...] ka-ra-[ni]. Either pl. of biš kāri, for biš karrāni (see CAD, K, 237b kāru A in biš kāri), or ‘vineyard(s)’ from bit karāni (CAD, K, 206b).

13) If-ša-ra-hu. Possibly ‘are destroying’, from AHw, 1028a, sarāhu(m), ‘zerstören’, but gaps in the context leave the sense obscure.

**ND 2690 (LVII; BSAI; Plate 48)**

**Transliteration**

Obv. 1’ 

\[\text{[ina mu]h-hi-ia ma-a[h]-x(-)[x]}?\] 
\[\text{ša la šili(GIŠ.MI)}\]

III IV \[\text{imēr-ú-rat d\textsuperscript{[i]}en-lil}\]

5’ \[\text{ù amēššēbēmēš la-š[ú-n]u}\]

Base \[\text{i[d]-ma-a ina muhhi}\]

\[\text{[š]išēmēš}\]

\[\text{ša na-kan-te}\]

Rev. \[\text{ša a-na ahi-[a]}\]

10’ \[\text{a-qa-bu-u-ni}\]

\[\text{ma-a li-be-lu ...}\]

\[\text{issu m[uh-h][i-[a]}\]

\[\text{......... x}\]

Side* 1

\[\text{ina muhhi gab-.........}\]

\[\text{x ú-me x ..........}\]

\[\text{[x š][a id-x .........}\]

**Translation**

(2’) against/former ... (3’) without protection. (4’) (There are) three or four teams of horses of Enlil (5’) and there are no soldiers. (6’-8’) Now concerning the horses of the storehouse (9’-10’) about which I speak to my brother, (11’) saying, ‘Let them take possession ... (12’) from me (13’) ... ... ...

Side

[Retains nothing significant]

**Notes**


2’) ma-a[h]-x(-)[x]? The traces after a[h] would be compatible with either rat or ri. 3’) GIŠ.MI. There are no traces of any further sign on this line.

4’) d\textsuperscript{[i]}en-lil. The sign after rat can hardly in the context be other than DINGIR, although the second horizontal is not visible. What might be taken as further traces after lil is probably the remains of an unidentified sign on rev. (end of line 13’).
Letters of uncertain provenance

ND 2698+2702 (BSAI; Plate 58)

Transliteration
Obv. a-na LÚ.GAL.SAG bēl-li-a
 urad-ka ma-ha-[l-a-mu]r

lu šul-mu
a-na bēl-li-a a-dan-niš

5 amēl-rab ka-ri
ūm XXII KAM ša arahulūli
nar-tu il-ta-pa-su
išṭēn̄nu īmu x ... a-da-gal
ia ā-[r]ami-šu

10 a-n[a] U[D]? [II] uraʔ, K[AM]?
 a-da-ga[l]-[ma]?
la ā-ra-mi-š[u]
ha-ra-mi-[m]a
amēl-mar šip-[r]ī

15 ina muhhi bēl-li-[f]a

Base
a-sap-ra
bēl-li šum-mu

Rev.
inə ekallī i-taq-bi
li-iq-bi

20 ū-la-a bēl-li
 a [x] x[x]-x-ni
 x .......... x x
 ma x .... .... ....
la g[a]? x x x ...

25 bēl-li ali-bat šar[ri]
ina muhhi m différentes KAL.AN
liš-pa-ra ri-ih-te
ma-da-tu
li-š-bat pu-tu-hu

30 ma-da-tu liš-ši

Translation
(1-4) To the chief Reshu-official my lord, your servant Aha-lamur. May it be very well with my lord.

(5-7) The quay-master, on the 22nd day of Ulul the river seized him. (8-9) I was looking (for him) for a whole day (but) I did not recover him. (10-12) I kept looking for a second day, (but) I did not recover him. (13-16) Thereupon I sent a message to my lord. (17-19) If it is mentioned in the Palace, let my lord speak, (20) or let my lord

(21-24) [nothing translatable]

(25-27) Let my lord send a royal command for Nergal-KAL.AN. (27-30) Let him levy the rest of the tribute; let him bear the responsibility for the tribute.

295
Notes
Complete tablet constituted from rejoining two fragments, originally separately catalogued. The top two-thirds was ND 2702 and the bottom third ND 2698. There are major cracks on both faces, with substantial surface loss on both faces in the vicinity of the cracks and the join. In the surface between lines 21 and 22 is a fragment of stone, 3.5 mm × 3 mm. NA script.

2) -[a-mu]-r. Despite abrasion, an assured outline makes this the only credible reading for these signs.

8) ūmu x ... a-da-gal. The trace of a wedge after ūmu could not be part of KAM (as postulated for the final sign in line 10) even if syntax permitted. The space available seems insufficient for gab-bu. ma would fit the traces, the space, and (as an enclitic) the sense.

25) al-bat. Microscopic examination confirms the form represented in the copy, which must incorporate either an uncorrected scribal slip or an incomplete erasure.

25-27) Since the addressee was not the king, this shows that an abat (Babylonian amat) šarri was a particular type of command, not necessarily a directive from the king in person.

26) m.dnergal₄-KAL.AN. Possibly a shortening for (or a modern mis-reading of) m.dnergal₄-dannin-an-ni.

ND 2708 (IM 64126; Plate 51)

Transliteration
Face A
1' ............. x
............. x
............. x lib-bi
............. x isleppatim es š[u-n]u?
5' x ... is-pur-an-n[i]-m[a]?
xxx? l[i]?-nam-mi-[š[a]]?
xxa ši x x x x?
ma-a am-mar x iq-b[u]?-n[i]?
x x ši-na x ra
10' ........ isleppatime [š]-š[u-n]u?
........ x š[i]!/i[a]?! AN x x
........ x-a-ni-[m]a?
........ ME[š]? Ḫ? ...
........ x RI ha ...
15' ........ x...
Face B
1' ........ x x x mu
........ x x dāš-[šu
........ x x x x
........ x x ...
5' ........ x x x x ...
xx Ť x [š]a? KUR.x x-ša-p-a?

296
Letters of uncertain provenance

x ša mātür-zu-hi-n[a] ...
x x na ki it x ...
x hi-in-ti uṭṭāti(Š.E.B.A.R)meš.šú-n[u]?

10' [in]a lib-bi ú-ram-mu-lú?
[i-m]a-tah-u-ni ...
... x x x ki ri x x?
... x [i]š?-[p]ur?-a[n]?-[ni]?

Translation
Face A
[Nothing significant is extant except two mentions of ships.]

Face B
[The only intelligible section is:] (7') ... of the land Urzuhina ... (8') ... ... ... (9'-10') They will leave ... ... their barley there. (11') They will transport ...

Notes
Both ends and upper and lower parts of left side are lost. One face is flat top to bottom, the other slightly convex; both faces are slightly convex left to right. No complete line is preserved on Face A. NA script.

Face B
9') hi-in-ti. The lexic a offer no word him/ntu obviously apposite in juxtaposition to uṭṭāti; could this be a loan-word from Aramaic hinţin ‘wheat’ with modified dental? Him/ntu ‘leather bag’ does not appear to be attested with reference to grain.

ND 2711 (IM 64128; Plate 60)

Transliteration
Obv. [a1-n[a] šarrī bēl-[i]a
urad-ka māš-šur-dānnin(KAL)-an-ni
lu-u šulmu a-na šarrī bēl-ia
[a1-n[a] šarrī bēl-ia a-ta-ha-ra
5 [n]u-uk la-āš-šū ([l]a i-šā-mu-û-ni
šūm-mu hi-ṭa-a pa-an šarrī bēl-ia
šarrū bēlī li-du-kan-ni
a-ta-a an-nu-ti i-du-ku-u-ni
šarrū bēlī té-mu i-sa-ak-na-an-ni
10 ma-a KUR.RA.MEŠ ka-a-am-ku-te mu-[h]u-ru
a-na μa-di-i di-in ma-a KUR.RA
ša šarrī mu-hu-ru amēlēbēl āli šā ḫik-sa-śi
ma-da'-a-tū : na-ša : amēl-mu-šar-ki-sa-a-ni
in a ṣān?-[i]a? e-ra-ba amēl-taššēlu(III.U) la a-sap-ra-šū-nu it-tal-ka
15 in a-pa-ni-ia ši-bi ma-da'-a-tū i[r-š]u
ni-hu-ru [n]u-uk šūm-mu ina pa-ni-ka
la-li-k[a] [l]u-u ši-bi ma-da'-a-tū
ni-hu-ru šu-u i-sap-ra ma-a ma-da'-a-tū
ša šarrī a-ta mu-hu-ru

297
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

20  ma-a a-na-ku ka-a-a-ma-nu-te
   [u]-na ta-a-a-dr-te a-la-q[u]-ut
   [u]-ma-ha-ra [u]-[m]-a-a DUMU-šú? ...
   x x x x x ia ...  
Base  .................. x x ...

25  .................. a-ta...
      ........... [r]-a? bi-tev?
      ........ x GIG?-šú ...
      ........ x x x x
   x-x-mu-u-n[u] i-la-q[u]-u[u]l[u]

30  [u]-rk[i](EGIR) NÁ i-za-bi-lu-šú amēl[mär]meššú
   ina pa-na-tú-u-a i-šá-par ka-a-a-ma-n[u]-e
   ša šarri ki i-ma-hu-[r]u a-na amē[r]ab [a]-l[án]meššú
   tē-mu i-ša-kan ma-a lub-bi-šú? x x
   la ta-ma-qu-ta [u]-[s]a-p-[r]-a-šú

35  nu-uk amērabb ma-da-a-ti li-li-ka
   la-dš-'a-la ma-a la amē[urad]ka
   šu-u ma-a a-ta-a ina pa-ni-ka i-l-ká
   ú-ma-a šu-ut-ma ih-tú-ru-pu
   ina muhhi kar-ši-ia ina muhhi šarri bēli-ia

40  i-sap-ra a-ki ma-a x x x
   iš-pur-an-ni-ni dul-li-n[i i-n]a
   pa-an šarri bēli-ia ni-la-[ak-m]a
   šu-u ūn[el] ina lib-bi ūn[el] ša[rr]i bēli-ia
   ni-da-bu-bu ina muhhi KU[R] ... x

45  SIGŠ,MEŠša ša nakri ša a-ma-har-u-ni
   šu-u ki-i nakri i-si-ia i-kir
   [i]na muhhi qa-a' ih-tú-ru-pu
   [k]ar-ši-ia i-kal KUR.RA.MEŠ x x
   [u]-[n]a pa-an šarri bēli-ia ú-b[a]-la

50  ........ x GAL bat-te ša šarri-ma
Top  ........ RI i-ma-har
     [ana šarri bē]lī-ia ú-ba-la
     ........ x x bēl[ī]-ni
     ........ EN i-x ...

Side*

55  ... tē-[m]u i-sa-ak-na-ni ma-a ka-bi-su
     [ma]-la1 šūm-mu la a-dan-niš ú-ka-ba-[a]-[s-su]

Translation

(1) To the king my lord (2) your servant Ashur-danninanni. (3) May it be well with
the king my lord.

(4) I have approached the king my lord (5) to say, there is no one who is not
obedient. (6) If (I am guilty of) an offence before the king my lord, (7) let the king my
lord kill me. (8) (But) why should these (people) kill me?
Letters of uncertain provenance

(9) The king my lord sent me an instruction, (10) saying: ‘Get trustworthy horses (11) (and) deliver (them) to Dadi.’ He said: (11-12) ‘Receive royal horse(s).’ The lord of the city Kisasi (13-14a) brought tribute. The (two) commissaries are coming into my presence. (14b) [see notes] (15) There are witness of the tribute in my presence. (16-18) We have received (it). I say, (even) if I may not come into your presence, we have indeed got witnesses of the tribute.

(18-19) That man sent a message saying: ‘You yourself collect the royal tribute!’ (20-22a) He says: ‘I will take trustworthy (mounts) for the return journey. I will get (them).’ (22b-28) [fragmentary only] (29) ... they will take away.

(30-31) After they deliver the bed to him, he will send his sons into my presence. (31-34a) When they receive the royal mounts, they will make a report to the Supervisor of the Cities, saying: ‘In it ... you shall not ...’ (34b-37) I sent a message to him saying: ‘Let the Tribute Inspector come, let me carry out an enquiry.’ He said: ‘He is not your servant; why should he come into your presence?’

(38-41a) Now that man has indeed been quick to send a message of calumny against me to the king my lord, when he said ... (that) he sent me a message. (41b-44a) We do our duty to the king my lord. Let that man (and I) argue it out eye to eye with the king.

(44b-46) Concerning the land ..., (despite) the favourable things which I gather about the enemy, that man was hostile to me as though to an enemy. (47-48) For envy he was quick to denounce me. (48-49) I will bring horses into the presence of the king my lord. (50) ... around the king. (End) (51-52) ... he will receive, I shall bring [to the king] my lord. (53) ... our lord. (54) ... [the king] my lord will ... (Side) (55) ... he has sent me instructions, saying: ‘Crush (them)!’ (56) I swear I will crush them (lit. it) harshly.

Notes

Large almost complete tablet, with slight damage at ends and some cracks. Legibility good except in vicinity of damage. 3 lines on left side, beginning near first sign on rev. Both faces convex. NA script.

This letter, although well preserved, is obscure from absence of background. The writer had been entrusted with collecting horses for the king, but after the delivery of tribute in the form of horses, another official had taken them away and had denounced the writer to the king. The writer hints that his rival had perhaps suborned other officials, who would have been able to support the writer's account of events. The writer promises that despite this setback, he will bring horses for the king.

10) KUR.RA.MES. For this writing for 'horses', without ANSE, see ABL 61, line 11. 10, 20, 31) ka-a-a-ma-nu-te. In the first occurrence qualifies KUR.RA.MES, in the others is independent, indicating that it is used as the equivalent of a noun for 'mounts'. 13, 17, 18) ma-da-'a-ti. Taken as a variant spelling of maddattu 'tribute'.

13) amēlmu-šar-ki-sa-a-ni. This pl. form governs e-ra-ba in 14, which, since it is not sg. in form and cannot be pl., must be a dual form. On other indications that the verbal dual form still occurred in NA, see above, p. 151, on ND 2064, obv. 9.

14) Interpretation of this line is problematic. amēltaššu(III,U), lit. 'third rider (in a chariot)', here appears to be used of someone with some specific function in the administration. In the signs read a-sap-ra-šu-nu, an alternative reading of the second
half of the group taken as sap (to include a small oblique taken as adventitious and not shown in the copy) would admit the alternative reading a-pa-ta-ra-shu-nu.
30) [a]rki(EGIR) NÁ i-za-bi-lu-ššu. The mention of a bed in the context is obscure.  
33) lib-bi-ššu x x. The traces after lib-bi could represent k[i-m]a x.
34) la ta-ma-qu-ta. The damaged context leaves it uncertain whether this means 'You shall not fall', 'You shall not suffer a defeat', or 'You shall not attack'.
40) x x x. Since the first unidentified sign has three introductory horizontals, it cannot be É. TA seems possible.
48) KUR.RA.MEŠ x x. The traces after MEŠ strongly suggest ša, although the absence of Subj._-ni postfix in the subsequent verb is an objection.
56) šám-mu la. Introducing positive oath; see GAG §185i.
56) ú-ka-ba-a-[x]-s[u]. Since in this text ba and na are very similar, the true reading could be ú-ka-na-a-[x]-s[u], 'I will force it into submission.'

ND 2718 (IM 64133; Plate 59)

Transliteration

Face A

1' x ... [l]u?-u .........
LÜ.KUR.MEŠ GIR.II x [G]U? .........
VI BAR KUŠ li-x-x ..........
XIV ka-da-am-me x ...........
5' ša ša-da[-a]-ni x .......
išra-pa-a-ni [š]a te-pa-šu-u-ni .......
ša išnarkabi lu ka-bu-ru ša pa-nat x x .......
ma'-a-da išdu-ni ma-hi-ši ina šap-[i?-e?] ...
IV ME aba-pu-la-a-ni ša III ša IV BAR KUŠ x da x ...
10' i-ma-tah-u-ni muhhi išdu-ni ma-hi-ši i-ka-ra-[u-ni]
ba-ši šá-a-ru lu qu-r-bu issù ša qabal ali ma'-a-[du]
ta-šar-ri-me sšal-q[ā]-ru i-ra-piš ka-bu-u lu x ...
[I]V pa-ka-tú-a-ti tel-pa-dāš IIʷ̃ imitti IIʷ̃ šumēši ša x [x]?
x x x y [š]a gi-in-da-[d][i x x x x a]n? -ni
15' a-na d[ul-l]-i ka e-pu-ūš MAN x .......
te-pa-d[š] x x ina libbī dārī ša qa-ni-ia ...
inā libbī dārī ša qabal ālī ta-šak-kān III x ....
GĪD.DA.MEŠ hu-[š]i-me-su tū-mal-la PA.MEŠ ša x
lu-ša-mar-āš-šu BUR ša išri-sit-ti lu-ša-x
20' i-enš ka-ru-[š]-l[n] a-na SA[L]š? [x]-na-a-[š][i] ina qabal ālī ....
tū-ššā-[š]-a-[d][a] ta-šak-ka[n] du]-[š]-a-ti ša GĀ[N] ...
k[i]-[i] ha-ni-ma ina qabal ālī ina [d][ū]ri šap-li-e ... 
pu-la-a-n[i] ki-i ku-bi-ri īšu dūr[i] x ...
tu-ššā-[š]-a-[d][a] ta-šak-kān x .......

Face B

1' x ............
ša x ............
mi-i-nu ša x ........
Letters of uncertain provenance

5' ina muhhi ali il-la-k[a] .......
pu-tu-hu ša qabal ali f[a]-n[a]-dš-šš[ ] .......
issu amelrab bir-šš ina dūri šap-[i-e] .......
ša a-na mam-ba-ti-i i-š[ak]-kan-n[u]-ni f[a] x ....
i-ku-mu-šu ú-sš-ba pu-tu-hu ša qab[al ū]li ....

10' uš-š[ ] ša e-si-ti ša pu-tu ad-ri ki ša x ....
ix-ra-ru-u-ni la ú-ga-me-ru-u-ni libnātimēš ....
tal-pa-pa gama-ra-šš ina muhhi V ti-ik-pi hu-ur-x ....
tú-ra-ka-sa AM.SI ina BAR ammati pi-[i]-a-a ina muh-hi t[a]....
DAGAL GÎD.DA ša e-si-ti pa-ni-ti DAGAL GÎD.DA š[a] ....

15' [i]na muh-hi ú-ra-du-u-ni ta-ma-da-da ...-šš x ... x ū? m[u]-lu-u ša šal-he-e ú1-da[n]-n[a-an]
ki-i ša ál-da-hi-na x x .......
ša ma-za-li-ti(-)š[u]? x x x .......
uš lu n[a]-mēli-da-gi-[i-u] .........

20' te-p[a-amš ša .....
[k][e]?-i ša KUR .........
ša ina šal-he-[e] .........
IV ammatu .........
a-na x .........

25' ú-x .........
t[e]-..........
x ..........

Translation
Face A
(2') enemies, feet ... ... (3') six and a half ells let him/them ... ... (4') 14 kadammu-structures ... ... (5') of the šada’nu ... ... (6'-7') the rapani which you make ... let the ... of the chariot be strongly made. Of the front of ... ... (8') much/many, the wooden foundation of the structure beneath ... ... (9'-10') They shall transport 400 limestone blocks of (from) three (to) four and a half ells (in size); they shall put them in place upon the wooden foundation of the structure.

(11'-12') There are winds, they are imminent. The trees of the inner city are numerous; you shall trim them. (12') The ššal-q[a]-ru is broad ... ... (13') You shall make 4 trimmed tree trunks, two to the right (and) two to the left of ... (14') ... ... (15') do as your work. ... ... (16') you shall do ... within the fortress of my district ... (17') you shall set up within the fortress of the inner city, three ... (18') you shall fill the lengths (with) ...-trees (18'-19') I shall ... the fronds of the ... ....

(19') I shall [provide] a vessel for irrigation. (20'-21') You shall carefully set up one karuni for ... in the inner city. The foundations of the ... (22') ... ... in the inner city in the lower wall ... (23') limestone blocks according to thickness from the wall ... (24') you shall take care and set in place ... ...

Face B
(3') whatever ... ... (4') Ambati ... ... (5') he will come against the city ... ... (6') he will bear responsibility for the inner city ... (7') from the Fortress
Commander in the lower wall ... ... (8') which he will arrange for Ambati ... (9') he will dwell in his place; [he shall bear] responsibility for the inner city. (10'-11') They shall lay the foundation of the tower at the front of the threshing floor (11'-12') (If) they have not completed (it), you shall use ... sun-dried bricks. (Only do) finish it! (12'-13') Upon (it) you shall fix five courses of ... tiles. (13') Ivory, upon half an ell (of) the stone blocks you shall [fix it]. (14') The breadth (and) length of the front tower [shall equal] the breadth (and) length of [the other tower]. (15') (If) they decrease (the dimensions), you shall measure [and correct] it. (16') ... I shall reinforce the height of the outer wall ... (17') according to that of the city Dahina ... (18') of its drainage channel ... (19') verily not an eye-witness ... ... (20') you shall do, of ... ... (21') ... ... (22') which in the outer wall ... ... (23') four eells ... ... (24'-27') [fragmentary]

Notes
Major part of the largest of the Nimrud Letters. Lacks top and bottom. The four longest lines of each face are probably almost complete. NA script.
Face A
4') ka-da-am-me. AHw, 419a very tentatively proposes 'Kerker'.
5') ša-da-'a-ni. Conceivably in a building context a form of šadānu = 'hematite' (CAD, $1/36b; AHw, 1123a).
6') GIŠ ra-pa-a-ni. Perhaps a form of AHw, 956b rappu(m) 'Stock, Block', although the latter is not otherwise attested with single p, with pl. ending ānu, or with det. GIŠ. See also rapā'um, rapūm, AHw 956a.
8', 10') šīdu-ni. Cf. CAD, D, 185b, dunnu A 5.
8', 10') ma-hi-ši. Cannot in the context be the noun māhišu of CAD, M/1, 102a. Could represent mahiš, St. of mahāšu 'to hit', with idiomatic meaning, perhaps 'is knocked into place'.
9') abanpu-la-a-ni. Cf. AHw, 864a, pīlu I, pīlu 'Kalkstein (block)'
11') ba-ši. For usage as equivalent of ibas ši see GAG §78b.
12') sñāl-q[a]-ru. Or munūq[a]-ru.
13') pa-ka-tú-a-ti. The context indicates that this was something to be made and erected, in pairs on the right and left. Perhaps a pl. of AHw, 812a, pakuttu (Sumerian loanword) 'ein Baumstamm ohne Zweige?'.
13') tel-pa-āš. The first sign is clearly te, but has indications of two supernumerary verticals, presumably from an incomplete erasure.
14') gi-in-da-[d]i. Is this a form of AHw, 926a, quuddu II, quddadu, terms which in MSL V, 98f., 67-78 are listed with forms denoting trees or shoots from trees?
18') hu-[l]i-me-su. See A. Salonen, Möbel (1963), 220, CAD, ḫ, 227b, hulamēšu, tentatively 'a tree and its fruit'.
18') PA.MES. The earlier references to trees suggests that PA here denotes aru '(palm) frond'.
19') lu-ša-mar-āš-šu. Would appear to be either from D theme of šamāru written defectively or from S theme of amāru, but no verb of either spelling is obviously appropriate here.
19') BUR. Perhaps = pīru I, AHw, 881b, '(Stein-) Schale'.
Letters of uncertain provenance

19') 炆ri-sit-ti lu-ša-x. The signs from ri to ša show several superfluous parts of wedges, suggesting an imperfect erasure.

19') 炆ri-sit-ten. Cf. AHw, 988b-989a, risittu, rišittu, ‘Tränkung’. It is suggested that BUR ša 炆ri-sit-ten denoted some kind of irrigation equipment; or tal-lak-tu?.

20') Ten. Or KAB.

21') tú-šá-[']a-[d]a. Š Pres. of na’ādu, AHw, 693b or D Pres. of šū’udu, CAD, Š/3, 417b-418a.

21') [du]n[t-a-ti. If a correct restoration, may be defective writing of plural of dunnu, CAD, D, 184a-185b.

22') ki(-)(-)ha-ni-ma. Could be ki-i ha-ni-ma or ki i-ha-ni-ma; handû(m) and hanûnum are attested as verbs in AHw 321b and 320a.

Face B

4', 8') ynıam-ba-ti-i. For the name see above, ND 2410, 13'.

6', 9') pu-tu-hu. See AHw, 885a, putu(h)hu in NA p. našû, ‘die Verantwortung tragen’.

9') i-ku-mu-šu. For NA ikkûm representing ina kûm see AHw, 505a, ABL 620, 6 and 1264, rev. 5.

10') e-si-ti. See CAD, A/2, 332b-333a, asîtu (isîtu) ‘tower (as part of a city wall)’.

12') ti-ik-pi. See AHw, 1354b, tibku(m), Assyrian auch tikpu II, 4) ‘Ziegelschicht’.

13') AM.SI. For ZÚ.AM.SI = šinni pîri ‘ivory’.

13') pi-[l]a-a. Taken, on the basis of apparent context, as a plural from AHw, 864a, pilu I, ‘Kalkstein(block)’.

15) ta-ma-da-da ...-šú. Since the space is too long to be filled by the restoration ta-ma-da-da-aš-šú, a second verb was probably present.

15') ...-šú. It is possible, but not certain, that šú marks the end of the line.

18') ma-za-li-ti-[šišú]?. Taken as linked to AHw, 637b, mazzaltu II, CAD, M/1, 230b, manzaltu B.

ND 2724 (BSAI; Plate 55)

Transliteration

Obv.

1  [a1-[n]a [šarr]i b[ēli-i]a
[ara]d-ka DIŠ.DIN[GIR].U[TU]?-ZA-x-x
l[u š]alnumu a-n[a šarr]i b(e)l[li]-[i]a
[l[u? [šul]mu? x x]

5  ma-a x ... x x x
š[a] x x x x x x
II x x x x x x
x x x x x x x x
x x x x x x x x x
[šu] x x x x x x

10 ... x x x x x x x x x x
... x x ...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
..

Rev.

1'  x x x x x x x x x ...
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

x x x x x x x x
x x x r[a] ...
x-ku-nu-ni B[U]? [L]UL? BI x x ...
5' ú-di-ni x x x x
[!]a ú-k[a]?-x-[p]a?

[Nothing significant is translatable except part of the introductory formula and udini = ‘until’ in rev. 5’.]

Notes
Top half or more of small tablet. NA script. Very severe abrasion has left only a few isolated signs recognizable on obv., and this has been copied only for completeness. Rather more, but nothing of significance, is legible on rev. Final 13 mm of rev. is uninscribed.

ND 2735 (IM 64143; Plate 62)

Transliteration
Obv.
1 a-bat šarri
   a-na aššur-rim-an-ni
   a-na m.dnabû-bêl-ahhê₂meš-šû [L]Ú.A.BA
   hu-ub-tu am-mar a-di na-ṣa-ni
5 tu-šá-aṣ-bit-u-ni
   amèłpâhati-ka ši
   [GU₄.ME]Š-ka UDU.MEŠ-ka ina pâni-ka
   [ana šá-a]š-bu-ta-ka
   ... x HAR issu ekalli
10 ... ri-iš
   ... am-mar issu ūmême
   ...-BAL-kan-ni
   ... ... [!]na [b]at-ti
   ... ... ina lib-bi
15 ... -ba-su-nu
   ... ... muh-hi-šû-nu
   ... ... x
   ... ... x
[Probably not more than one line is missing between obv. 18 and rev. 1’]
Rev.
1’ ... x issu ekalli[li]
   ... a-na amèlhu-ub-ti
   ...-ka issu lib-bi
   ... x-ka UDU.MEŠ-ka
5’ ... [!]a ta-da-an
   a-na amèlhu-ub-ti ša-aṣ-bu-ti
   a-di VII-šû [!]a ta-ši-a-ta

304
Letters of uncertain provenance

10' ša ú-še-ba-[l]-a-kan-ni
issu lib-bi tal-[k]-di lib-bi ma-de-e
i-ba-ši i-ma-ta-hu-ú-ni

15' [[u]-l-ud ames\(\) amel-tú-'a-\(\)a-a
... x x ku-\(\)zip-pi-šá-nu lu-u ša-ni-ú
........ x x SIPA?.MEŠ
.............. [ Lýa ZAG.MEŠ

Side*
1 ........ x ti ša amél\(\)za-ku-ú [l]-x(\(\)x\(\)x\(\)x\(\)

Translation

Obv.

(1-3) Royal Command to Ashur-rimanni (and) to Nabu-bel-ahhesu the Scribe.

(4-6) The prisoners, until you have brought and settled (them), are your responsibility. (7-8) Your [cattle] and sheep (are) at your disposal for you to settle. (9-18) [fragmentary only]

Rev.

(1') ... ... from the palace (2') ... ... to the prisoners (3') ... ... from within (4') your [cattle] (and) your sheep (5'-6') you shall deliver ... to make the prisoners settle.

(7') Seven times over you shall not be careless; (8') for that you would die. (9') If there is anyone sick amongst the prisoners (10') whom they bring to you, (11'-12') you shall gather (them) together from amongst (the group). However many there are, they shall transport (them), (13') (and) place them in your presence (14') until they are fit.

(14'-16') The cloaks for the soldiers are indeed good. The Itu’a troops, their cloaks are different. (Rev. 17'-18' and Side*) [fragmentary]

Notes

Obv.

3) m\(nab\(u\)₂-bēl-ahhë₂-meš.šú [ Lý.A.BA. For possible identification see APN, 146b.

Rev.

7') a-di VII-šú. See CAD, S, 204b, sebššu b.

11') tal-[k]-di. Root taken as byform of laqâtu ‘einsammeln’; see AHw, 537b, 529a, and cf. Heb. and Aram. lqt.

11') ma-de-e. See CAD, M/1, 20a, ma’dû A, c. A possible alternative reading is ma-ti-e ‘is missing’ (CAD, M/1, 431a, 6’), but the sense here would be difficult.

14') ti-la-u-ni. Taken as from adj. tele’û, AHw, 1344b, ‘überaus tüchtig, fähig’, in St. 3. pl.; see GAG §77b; or TII.A-u-ni = balṭûn?.

14', 16') ku-zip-pi, ku-zip-pi-šá-nu. This appears to indicate that at least some units of Assyrian troops wore military uniform.

18') This line is inscribed on the turn from rev. to top end.

305
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

Side

1) *amēl₂za-ku-u*. See CAD, Z, 22b-23a, *zakkā* 'a member of a class of feudatories'.

ND 2740 (IM 64145; Plate 59)

Transliteration

Obv.

1  
……… [a-na šarri be]lí-ia
[urad-ka maDN]-ila-a-a
[lù-a šulmu a-na ša]rrí belli-ia
[………] x ša šarru be-lí
5  
[………-n]i MUNUS : SIG₅
[………] x [i?/k]am?-su
[………] x x
[………] x ú-ša-aš-bat šu-nu
[………] x la-aš-šu
10  
[………] x iš-pur-a-ni
[………] x x

Rev.

1'  
[………] x x x ś[a]?
[………] XXX *amēl₂zu-ki*
[………] iš]-pur-a-ni

[Insufficient remains to warrant a translation.]

Notes

Top right corner of tablet. NA script. 25mm of rev. is uninscribed.

ND 2743 (BSAI; Plate 56)

Transliteration

Face A

1'  
……… x […]?
……… x […]?
………… x […]?
………… x ša šarru be-lí
5'  
…………-[n]i an-nu-iי KÚ.BABBAR
………… gab-bu up-ta-hi-i[r]
………… x ma-i DIS GIŠ x […]?
………… ina MUH(-)x x …

Face B

1'  
……… x x …
………… x ra? nišmeš lu x …
………… x x MEŠ È x x MEŠ x …
………… x lu-ú-ma ú-su-uk […]?
5'  
qâte DIS.i-[b]a?-a ú x x […]?

306
Letters of uncertain provenance

\[x \text{pa-a[n]} \times \times \times \times \ldots\]

[Insufficient remains to warrant a translation]

Notes
A fragment with neither ends nor sides extant. NA script.

**ND 2746** (IM 64149; Plate 49)

**Transliteration**

**Face A**

1' \[\text{[a1-n[a] x x x ...} \]

   Ú-ku-ta-ti-šu

   ma-a li-qi-ba qab-l[i] [\ldots]?

   i-\text{-zi bi-i-[l[i]}

5' \[i-ti-bu lu(-)ka-ni(-)[x]?\]

   a[i]?-ra-a lu ta x ...

   \[\text{[P][IŠ?? x du x ...} \]

   i-ti-u \text{DIŠ DI[NGIR] \ldots...} 

   AN[\text{[SE]?? x x \ldots...} 

**Face B**

1' \[\text{DIŠ DI[NGIR] \ldots...} \]

   i ih x \ldots...

   i-ti-x(-)x \ldots...

   \[\text{[L]} \text{Ü.ERI[M].[M]EŠ ki-\ldots...} \]

5' \[\text{[k]}? i m[a]? x \ldots\]

   x x \ldots...

   x x x \ldots...

**Side (top to bottom of Face A)**

1 \[\ldots x x ma x x x \ldots\]

\[\ldots x x \text{EN x ...} \]

[Insufficient remains to warrant a translation.]

Notes
Fragment from left side of tablet. Large deep NA script.

**Face A**

2') \[\text{Ú-ku-ta-ti-šu}. \text{The signs are clear and beyond question. Possibilities are (i)}\]

   \[\text{ú-ku-ta-ti-šu}, \text{a form from a NA spelling of akūtu ‘Verkrüpfelung’ (AHw, 30b), or (ii)}\]

   \[\text{šam-ku-ta-ti-šu}, \text{an otherwise unattested form of type GAG §§56i, 21b from makā(m) III (AHw, 591a).}\]

3, 5') \[\text{li-qi-ba, i-ti-bu}. \text{Respectively for liqba and itbā (from tebā(m), AHw, 1342a); see GAG §18d.}\]

4') \[i-ti-zi bi-i-[l[i]. \text{Probably ‘Stand! Bring!’}, \text{Impvs. 2 m. sg. of uzuzzu and abālu respectively, with ‘überhängende’ i (GAG §18e).}\]

307
ND 2749 (BSAI; Plate 43)

Transliteration
Obv. a-na šarri bēl-l-ia
 urad-ka mḫēl-dūri
 lu-u šulmu[u] a-na šarri bēl-l-[i][a]
 VI LIM VI ME LXVI ANŠE XLVI QA [ŠE?.PAD?] 5
 a-na m.dēnuṭa-šār-usur a{-i-din]
 [I]II [IJ]IM III ME XXXIII ANŠE Á[Š] ...
 [a-n]a aš-šur-rīm-a-ni ...
 ... x [Ș]E.PAD ......
 ....... x ......

Translation
(1-3) To the king my lord your servant Bel-duri. May it be well with the king my lord.
(4-7) 6,666 homers 46 qa [of grain rations] I have delivered to Enurta-shar-usur.
3,333 homes [54 qa of grain rations] [I have delivered] to Ashur-rimani. (8) ... corn
rations ... ...

Notes
Top left corner of tablet, with first three lines almost complete. Up to half the tablet is
extant vertically. Extant signs are clear. Final 20 mm of rev. is extant in part and
uninscribed. NA script.
2) mḫēl-dūri. See APN 55.
5) m.dēnuṭa-šār-usur. For a rab kišir of this name see APN 176.
6) Á[Ș] = 3 sūtu = 30 qū. It is assumed that lost signs represented additional qū to
make the total of the two deliveries exactly 10,000 homers.

ND 2752 (IM 64153; Plate 12)

Transliteration
1' ... x duga-ga-[nu] ...
 ... BA KÛ.BABBAR LUH DIŠ x ...
 ... x GAR KI AN DU x ...
 ... [ANŠ]E.KUR.RA.MEŠ UD MEŠ x ...
5' ... x [E]?/A? BA U MEŠ te x ...
 ....... x x x x ...

[Insufficient remains to warrant a translation.]

Notes
Fragment from middle of tablet. One face totally lost. Extant face is completely flat, with
clear deep NA script.

308
Letters of uncertain provenance

ND 2756 (BSAI)

Tentative Transliteration

Obv.
1’ [...] ……
 [...] ………
 [...] a? ma? ………
 LUGAL? x x x x

5’ ... ta? za? x …
 x x MEŠ ša x [...] 
 x x ni a BĀD? [...] 
 [...] x UR PA? x [...] 

Rev.
1 TA? UGU? bi?-ra?-te? …
 a? x x x …
 AŠ KUR? x MEŠ?/ME? a x …
 x x KUR.i?-x-x-a-a

5 x x x a-ni 
 [...] x x u? x
 [...] x ar? x
 [...] x x x a
 [...] x x x

10 [...] x
 [...] x?

Notes

Lower half of small tablet, formed of three fragments, two major and one very small, rejoined. C.J. Gadd catalogued it in 1952 as ‘in poor condition and unimportant’, and so little was legible in 1954 that I did not then copy it. It bore 8 lines of (largely illegible) NA script on obv. and 10 or 11 on rev. 

Rev. 4) KUR.i?-x-x-a-a. The traces do not suggest the restoration KUR.i-tu’-a-a.

ND 2760 (BSAI; Plate 61)

Transliteration

[Lines shown in the transliteration as inset without preceding damage are so placed on the tablet.]

Face A

[The extant core indicates the loss of about four lines before the first extant traces.]

1’ x …… x x ……
 [...] [k-][a-a-][l]-[a] a-ña x ……
 x DA an DA ha m[u]? ……
 x bi ma ina pi(KA)-šu kusāpu(PAD) x ……

5’ [i]k?-tal-da ina pi(KA) LÙ x ……
 [...] iq-ti-ba-a ša ……
 [...] x x g[i]-ri-e KIMIN x ……
...x? ub-bu ... ...

[d]a-ra-a-ti-šu KIN I[M] ... ...

10’

ishunnatu(GIŠ.KIN.GEŠTING) x ... ...

[x] kussu ša pisanni(GIŠ.PISAN) A[N]?/T[I]? ... ...

lu as ... ...

[a]r?-t[ū]?-nu be-li im-x ... ...

[a]š?-[n]a? ... ...

15’

[a]t-[r]-i-ti ba-ni-[r]e? [a]š-x ... ...

ID D[I]? ... ...

[am]ēla-gi-[r] x x ... ...

[L]U ... ... ...

[There may have been three further lines of text.]

Face B

1 [in]a ba-n[r]-ti i-x ... ...

ubanātimēš ša lu x ... ...

i-ra-[x]a-a lu i-rat x ... ...

lu a-ri-tu x ... ...

5 la [r]a-šab ina si-li ... ...

[br]u-d[u] ... ...

... x pa ka a-d[i]? ... ...

... ZA ma ka S[I] ... ...

[ū]-[r]-[r]u? ina im-me me ka x ... ...

10 [ū]-[r]-[r]u? in[a] me x ka eqlu x ... ...

ū-lu ina? bal?-ti ša ahi-šú ... ...

ū-lu ina me-šā-ri-e x ... ...

ina an-ni-ma lib-bi i-ra ... ...

SID t[i]? ... ...

15 t[i]-x x [a]n-ni-[t] ... ...

... x x ... ...

[The core indicates that there may have been up to ten further lines of text.]

Translation

Face A

2’ he arrived to ...

... ... ...

... in his mouth a morsel of food ... ...

5’ he arrived. In the mouth of the man ... ...

... he said that ... ...

... ditto ... ...

... ... ...

... his eternity ... ...

10’ a cluster of grapes ... ...

... a chair of pisannu wood ... ...

... ... ...

you, my lord, ... ...
Letters of uncertain provenance

15’ propitious posterity ... ...
the herald ... ...

Face B
in favour ... ...
the fingers of ... ...
her chest is verily the chest of ... ...
verily a shield ... ...
whether in the daytime ... ...
whether in your ... a field ...
whether in the dignity of his brother ...
whether in justice ...
in this within ...

Notes
Large tablet, with core virtually complete except for two corners; nearly half the surface is lost on the right side of both faces, some from left side, and all from final 17 mm of Face A and final 45 mm of Face B. There are no complete lines, and only six lines retain more than half their original text. Preserved signs are exceptionally sharp and clear and mostly beyond doubt except when adjacent to surface loss. On Face A, the lines of script slope slightly upwards. NA script.

Although this tablet has the characteristic letter shape, the contents of the extant text do not conform to the usual topoi of letters from the Nimrud archive. Since in addition the insetting of some lines is uncharacteristic, I conclude that this is not an administrative letter. Possibly it is an omen report.

Face A
7’) [g]i-ri-e. For possible meanings see CAD, G, 96b, 97a, girā A and B.
10’, 12’, 14’, 16’) Each of these lines has sufficient undamaged surface between the damaged margin and the first sign drawn, to prove that they were inset. In A 8’, the apparent traces before ub- could be mere scratches, in which case this line would also be inset.

Face B
10) me x ka. The traces preceding ka suggest KUR rather than mu.
11) ina? bal?-ti. The first horizontal is deeply impressed, partly obscuring other horizontals and leaving doubt about the reading.

ND 2763 (BSAI; Plate 12)

Transliteration
Obv.
1 a-na šarri bēl-ia urad-ka
DIŠ.x.MAN.PAP lu-u šulmušš a-na š[arri]
[bēl-ia] la-dan-niš lu-u š[lulmušš]

311
Rev.
1' [liš]-al-šu

Translation
Obv.
(1-3) To the king my lord your servant ...-shar-usur. May it be very well with the king my lord. May it be [well with]
Rev.
(1') Let him ask him.

Notes
Fragment from top of tablet. Retains one complete and two incomplete lines on obv., and part of the final line on rev. 10 mm of rev. is uninscribed. The break shows a layer of better quality clay over core. NA script.
Rev. 1') [liš]-al-šu. 4 mm of undamaged and uninscribed surface after šu indicates that this was the final sign.

ND 2771 (LXXI; BSAI; Plate 58)

Transliteration
Obv. [a-n]a šarru bêli-ia
[ura]d-ka maz-š[u]-šID-x-x
[p]i-iq-ta-[e]
šarru be-li a-ša-pu
5 ú-še-ba-[l][a]
la-[m]u-qa-a-a
a-ša-pu la a-ha-ši-ni
[n]ša-[m]es šarrī i-[r[a]-ba-ni
[x] ME a-ka-li-šu-nu
10 [x] ME ŠE.NU[MUN]-šú-nu i-ba-ši
[i]a-na šarrī i-sa-lu-ni
i-mu-ta
te-li[r] ad-ri ga-bi-šu-ma
14 [a]-s[a]-da-ra
Base x x UD a-[s[a]-d[a]-r[a]
Rev. [m]-a-a amyšušarru(A.BA)
17 [ina qār]ell mbel-bûn(DU)-a-a
[u]-si-bi-la
šarru b(e-l)î i-qā-bi
20 [ma a-[a]-a ta-[r]ad-di
[a-ta]-la taš-p[u-r]a
[l]a-dî ãr-ki
[ra?-sap?](-ra šarru be-lî
... [i] a e-pa-šû-ni
25 [h]-pu-šu
[a]-s[a]-pu [a]-mu-qa-a-a
la a-ha-ši-ni

312
Translation

(1-2) To the king my lord your servant Ashur-...
(3-5) (About) duties; the king my lord is sending me pack-animals. (But) I cannot possibly take care of pack-animals. (8) The royal personnel are coming in, (9-10) (and) their food (requirements) will be ... hundreds (and) their corn (requirements) ... hundreds. (11-12) (There is a saying): 'He who answered the king back died', (13-14) (so) I shall set out the whole of the produce of the threshing-floor. (15) I shall set out the...; (16-18) PN the scribe has sent (it) by the hands of Bel-bunaya. (19) The king my lord may say: (20) 'Why do you go on? (21) [Why] did you not send a message? (22-25) [You have not] sent a message until afterwards.' Let the king my lord do what he will do; (26-27) I cannot possibly take care of the pack-animals.

Notes
Tablet almost complete, except for two small areas of damage on obv. and loss of most of left side, with up to 11 mm of surface loss at left of rev. The damage on rev. clearly reveals a core overlaid by a thin layer of surface clay. Final 9 mm of rev. uninscribed. Both faces are almost flat. NA script.
3, 4) [pi]-iq-ta-[i-e], šarru. There is not space for a lost ša (or other sign) at the beginning of either line.
4) a-ša-pu. The final sign, although slightly damaged, is certainly pu, not pi.
8) i-[r]-ba-ni. A possible alternative reading, i-tar-ba-ni, would be difficult to explain in NA. J.N. Postgate suggests i-tar-ba-ni, but I have had no subsequent opportunity for collation to see if this would fit the traces.
14) [a]-[x]-a-da-ra. Considerations of space, as well as the first syllable of what appears to be the same verb in the next line, make it unlikely that the first sign was ū, to give D Pres., written defectively.
15) x x UD. The traces are consistent with ša-ku-tú, perhaps an anomalous spelling of CAD, Š3/3, 230a, šākultu (šākultu, šākussu) ‘fodder’.
20) ta-[r]ad-di. In the second sign, traces of the damaged initial horizontal are scarcely visible. The translation assumes an idiomatic usage from redā ‘to pursue’.
22) [la a]-di. There is a space requiring another sign before a-di, and la seems to be the only probability.

ND 2775 (IM 64165; Plate 51)

Transliteration

Obv.
1 [a-na š]arri b[e-l]i-ia
   [urad-k]a m[x-x-a-a]
   [l][u šāl-m]u i[a]-[n]a ša[rr]i-bēl-ia
   m.dšamaš-našir x x Ė?
5 ša m[aš-šur-D[U] x x-ia
   i-tal-ka-n[i] III álánímeš.ni
   alū?/la?-ku-x-x-an-ni

313
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

Translation

Obv.

(1-3) To the king my lord your servant PN. May it be well with the king my lord.

(4-6a) Shamash-nasir, the major domo of Ashur-DU-x my ..., has come to me.

(6b-11a) He has demanded three villages, UtTa-ku-x-x-anni, Mila (and) Ma-a-x (9-11a). He says: 'Get your people out; let me bring my people in.' (11b-14) I would not agree to give up the villages. I said: 'How should I make a land grant of that which I look after? I cultivate (those) villages.' (15-16) The king knows that the land Imria is not waste land. (17-18) Water is abundant therein; it is pasturage. (18-19) Pig and deer are abundant there.
Rev.

(1) horses ... (2) therein ... (3) ... ... ... (4) the land Quttu ... ... (5) the land Kusu ... ... (6-7) I continually cultivate corn in the land Imria. (8-9) These villages are not near his own villages. (10) The villages belonging to Hashdat (11) and to the Governor of Arpad (12) are closed off ... (13) If he has made a mistake about the villages, (14) I have cultivated a thousand units of cornland therein, (15) (so) let him undertake the harvest. Let the horse(s) (16) eat from the ... (17-19) I myself, with the horse(s) which are at my disposal, where should I take (them)?

Notes

Left corner missing and base damaged. Broken and rejoined down the middle parallel to long axis. Some surface is wholly lost, and the state of the extant text varies from deep and clear to severely damaged at some points in the vicinity of the break. NA script. Final 10 mm of rev. uninscribed.

This letter has not been given a specific placement, since although it contains place names which might appear to be identifiable, they give contrary indications of the region concerned.

Obv.

14) u-ra-adš. The reading appears to be certain, although only one instance is hitherto attested of erēšu in D theme.

15, rev. 6) [māx]-r[i]-ia-a, māṭ-[r[i]-ia-a. These are presumably the same name, in which case the first sign in the second name, although copied as pi, is likely to be a mis-reading of a damaged im; I have had no opportunity of collation to check this.

Rev.

4) māqut-ti. If this were linked to ḫlu-ut-ta of Sargon, 8th. Camp., line 304, this letter would need to be placed in chapter 3. But the mention in rev. 5 of māṭku-su (in the northwest?) and in rev. 11 of the governor of Arpad both tell against this. The places mentioned appear to have been under direct Assyrian administration.

5) māṭku-su. See NAT, 218f, entries apud KUSU, which appears to be linked to the northern Muṣru.

10) mha-adš-da-at. The determinative seems to identify this as a masculine personal name, despite its feminine form, and if a correct reading, it might be the name of the official complained of.

12) bi-x x x. Possibly bi-rit or a related form, plus a noun (perhaps KUR.ni = šadāni), defining the type of boundary.

13) sum-mu ḫ[ān]?m [eš][ni] i-ti-ši. The verb is tentatively taken as Gt from AHw, 259b, ešū(m) V 'verwirren'. The translation assumes that the writer suggests that since the official of whom he complains may have made a mistake in identifying his villages, he should be allowed to harvest their crops.

15, 17) ANŠE.KUR.RA. In both places the text is clear and unbroken, and in neither case is this group followed by MEŠ. Is the sg. form in these occurrences used for the pl?
ND 2777 (LXIII; BSAI; Plate 58)

Transliteration
Obv.
1  a-na šarrī be-lī-la
   urad-ka m_{d} nabū_{3} be[l-u] ki'n[v]
   lu šulmu_{mu} a-na šarrī be-lī-la
   a-dan-niš a-dan-niš
5  ša šarru be-lī 1š-pur-an-ni
   ma-a ūm I KĀM ša аrah_{n} isanni (BĀR)
   a-na 1ḏ kal-ha ir-ba
   hu-la-a-ni ni-pat-tu
   i-šāk-kan ku-pu-u ū-ma-la
10  ku-pu-u i-dí-in a-dan-niš
      .......... [ūm] III KĀM ša аraẖ šabă̱ti (ZĪZ)
      .......... qu-ul
      .......... x x

Rev.
1'  [i] ...........
    DUMU x ...........
    la-a[l-lik]? ....... x [d]i
    ina pa-ni-šá-nu ma[a]-l{1} a x x a
5'  du-ku-ni sisēmeš
    ni-la-q att nu-bal kal-lī-ū
    ša măš-sūr-dan-an-ni ša-aš-bu-ut
    ša alâr-zu-hi-na-a-a
    lu-ti-qī

Translation
Obv.
(1-4) To the king my lord your servant Nabu-bel-ukin. May it be very very well with
the king my lord.
(5-7) About the matter on which the king my lord sent me a message: ‘Go into Calah
on the first of Nisan’, (8) we are opening the roads (9) (but) snow is setting in; it fills
the roads). (10) The snow is very severe. (11) .... On the third day of Shabat (12)
.... .......

Rev.
(4') in front of them, (they) say: (5'-7') ‘Kill!’ We shall take the horses and bring
(them). Ashur-danani’s courier service is organized. (8'-9') I will avoid that of the
people of Arzuhina ...

Notes
Upper portion, rather more than half, of tablet in fine condition. 15 mm of rev.
uninscribed. NA script.
Letters of uncertain provenance

Obv.
2) m.\textit{dnabu}_3-bē[l-u]kīn\[\text{\textit{[n]}\}. For other letters to the king by an official of this name see ABL 168-172, and possibly 173.
9, 10) ku-pu-u. Cf. CAD, K, 551b, \textit{kuppā} A, AHw, 509a, \textit{kuppā} II.
11) [\textit{ūm}] III KĀM ša \textit{araḫšabāḫi}(ZĪZ). Since Shabat was two months before Nisan, the writer was presumably reporting that the bad weather had started a month or more before.

Rev.
6') \textit{kal-\textit{li-ū}}. CAD, K, 83b, 2. ‘messenger (as member of an organization which carried royal messages)’\textsuperscript{,} AHw, 426a-b, ‘Eil-, Schnellbote’. See also \textit{Iraq} 21 (1959), 173. The term appears to mean not only the messenger, for which the normal term was \textit{amēl}mār šipri, but also the whole organization associated with the messenger. The contexts in which the term occurs appear to distinguish between \textit{amēl}kal-li-\textit{u} (the messenger himself) and \textit{kal-li-\textit{u}} (the whole organization behind the messenger).
7') \textit{mas-sur-dan-an-ni}. Eponym in 733 BC, when he was governor of Mazamua.
9') \textit{lu-ti-q{. Prec. 1 sg. \textit{etēqu}} with overhanging -\textit{i}, here apparently used transitively. Precise sense unclear in the absence of background knowledge of the situation.

\textbf{ND 2780} (LVIII; IM 64168; Plate 58)

\textbf{Transliteration}
\begin{verbatim}
Obv. [a-\textit{n}]a [ša[rri bēl]-[\textit{i}a]
[\textit{urad}-k]a \textit{mēl}-x-[x]
[\textit{lu}] šulmu\textit{mu} a-na b[ēl]-[\textit{i}]-\textit{a}
[m\textit{.dnabu}_3-\textit{etēr}-\textit{an}\textit{-ni}
5 \textit{amēl}ša bēl [a]\textit{škāp}i/[\textit{A}šGAB]
[m\textit{.d}]iṣṣar(XV)-\textit{ṣum-ēreš}(KAM)
[am\textit{ēr}a[k]-su ša \textit{amēr}ab u-rat
ū-rurray ša sisē\textit{mēs}
mǔ/mu-\textit{šur}-a-a
10 ina mu[\textit{h}-\textit{h}]-i-\textit{a} na-\textit{ṣa}
ma\textit{-}\textit{f-a}1 (a\textit{\textbf{-}}bat šarrri
ši-i ma-a sisū
ina URU x ........
Rev. .... x .........
15 .... m\textit{u}? .........
[ši]\textit{m-ma a-bat ša[rri]
[š]\textit{i-i ahu}_2-u-a
[līṣ]-\textit{pu-ra}
[\textit{u}]1-ru-u la-mur-r
\end{verbatim}

\textbf{Translation}
(1-3) To the king my lord your servant Bel-... May it be well with my lord.
(4-11) Nabu-\textit{etiranni} the chief saddler, and \textit{Ishtar-shum-eresh}, the groom of the chief of the horse-team, have brought me a team of Egyptian horses. They say, ‘It is a royal

317
order.’ (11b-15) They say: ‘A horse in the town ... ... ... ’ (16-19) If it is a royal order, let my brother send a message. Do let me see the horse team.

Notes
Small tablet with clear script. Damaged at both ends and left side; final 30+ mm of rev. lost. NA script.
5) amēša bēl [a][škāpu][A][ŠGAB]. AŠGAB = aškāpu ‘leatherworker’ is linked to horses through the making of saddles, horse-armour and chariot parts (CAD, A/2, 443a, aškāpu c-e).
7) [am]elra[k]-su. The slightly damaged sign before -su prima facie suggests ši, but this would give an unknown title. Thanks are due to J.N. Postgate for the reading offered.
19) la-[mu]-ru. Taken as a pausal form implying emphasis; ra does not appear to be a possible reading for the last sign.

ND 2793 (IM 64174; Plate 45)

Transliteration
Obv. 1' ... x x .......
[3]a mŠilli-bēl ... a-na LÜ.A.BA x x [x]?
GIŠ KUR DU i-[šak-k][an]?
5' amēlum-ma-ni urdānim īli
ša mšilli-bēl š[a] x [x]?
LÜ.A.BA IQ-ta-...
Base [ti-mu] ti x ...
[g]a? li .......
10' x x x .......
Rev. ri-hu-ti .......
ih-tal-[u] .......
niš[am][š]ú-nu a-[n][a] ...
i-ta-at-ku x ...
15' LUG[AL lu]-šē-bi-[l][a]?
x x x x ....... 

[Insufficient remains to offer a consecutive translation.]

Notes
Bottom left corner of tablet. The left edge is sound; in parts the fragment extends almost to the right edge. Surface rough. The NA script is bold and mainly clear.

ND 2794 (BSAI; Plate 52)

Transliteration
Obv.
1' [...] x x x?
Letters of uncertain provenance

lu-u a-tu-nu ...
[Š]a bēl ši-il-[ti]

5’ [a-n[i]-nu [a-n-[n]a-kam-ma] a-n[i]-nu
[a-n-[n][a]-ka šū-nu
x ma ME[ME[Š]]? x-šu-te-ma š[u]-nu
x amēlšar-ti-ni

10’ [i]-tal-ku-ū-n[i?-m]a?
... x x .......

Rev.
1’ .... x x ....
... i-si-šū-nu i[l-l]ak
x x qī-te-e-a
i-si-šū-nu a-šap-par

5’ a-di qelētimēš i-na-šū-n[i-n]?

Translation
Obv.
(2’) from here ... (3’) verily you ... (4’) of the adversary at law (5’) we here. We
(6’) (people) of our lord, all (7’) are here. (8’) ... ... they (9’) within the Chief
Judge (10’) have come

Rev.
(2’) ... he will come with them (3’) ... ... (4’) I will send a message with
them (5’) as soon as they hand over the fields.

Notes
Lacks top and base, and fragments from upper right side, from lower left side and lower
right side. Some abrasion. Final 11 mm of extant rev. is uninscribed. NA script.
Appears to concern a problem of land tenure.

Obv.
2’, 5’, 7’) ha-na-ka[m-ma], [a-n-[n]a-kam-ma], [a-n-[n][a]-ka. Taken as variants of one
form.
4’) bēl ši-il-[ti]. See CAD, Š, 88b-89a, šalṭu in bēl šalṭi.
8’) x-šu-te-ma. None of the likely readings of the unidentified sign (KID, Ū, UN or
KAL) appears to produce a word meaningful in the apparent context.

ND 2800 (XCV; IM 64177; Plate 48)

Transliteration
Obv. [a-n]a šarrī bēlī-ia
urad-ka mš[x]-ka-pa-hi-ir
lu-u šulumma a-na šarrī bēlī-ia
issu muhhi qelētimēš
5 ša amēl bēlī pāhati ša āgu-zu-na
i-pu-gni ša šarru bēlī
iš-pur-an-ni ma-a

319
**The Nimrud Letters, 1952**

*Translation*

(1-3) To the king my lord your servant ...-ka-pahir. May it be well with the king my lord.

(4-6a) Concerning the fields that the Governor of Guzana took away by force, (6b-7) about which the king my lord sent a message asking: (8-9) 'Were the fields taken in the past? ...'

*Notes*

Top half (or slightly more) of small tablet. Extant part of rev. uninscribed.


5) iligu-za-na. City and province immediately west of Naṣibina, under direct rule since the time of Adad-nirari III.

9) ina pa-ni-te-e. After K. Deller, *Or.* 36 (1967), 82, the lengthened -te-e is taken to denote a question.

*ND 2802* (IM 64178; Plate 37)

[Insufficient is intelligible to warrant a transliteration and translation.]

*Notes*

A small tablet, largely complete except for part of left side, with text too severely abraded to give consecutive sense, although there is evidence for the introductory formula in lines 1-4, and the phrase šarrī bēlī-ia occurs at least twice later. About half of rev. is uninscribed.

*ND 2479* (BSAI)

*Notes*

Tablet with very rough surface, inscribed in NB script parallel to long axis and probably not a letter. 7 lines on obv., 3 on rev., of which very little is legible. Not copied.

*ND 2688* (BSAI)

*Notes*

Most of upper part of tablet. Obv. bears 8 complete and 4 partial lines, rev. 6 partial and 1 complete line, plus 25 mm uninscribed. Legible section of obv. reads:

Obv. [a]-na šarrī be-l[i-[i-ia]  
[u]rad-ka m... ...  
lu šulmu[a] a-na ša[rr]i  
be-lî-ia

5 ina muhhi ŠE ...  
ša šarru be-lî
Letters of uncertain provenance

iš-pur-an-ni

... MEŠ

Remainder of obv. and rev. illegible. Not copied.

**ND 2704 (BSAI)**

*Notes*
Top half of small tablet. 7 lines on obv., 3 lines on rev., all almost illegible. Not copied.

**ND 2753 (BSAI)**

*Notes*

Complete tablet. Obv. bears traces of 12 or 13 lines, of which the only legible signs are LÚ.GAL in line 3. Rev. bears 6 lines, then a space of 30 mm, then 1 line, then a space of 10 mm, suggesting that this may not be a letter. Rev. is in part legible but insufficient to give significant information. Not copied.
### Index of ND numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ND</th>
<th>p.</th>
<th>Plate</th>
<th>Also edited</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2052</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>NL XXXVIII <em>Iraq</em> 18, 53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2062</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2064</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2065</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2067</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2070</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>NL LXXXV <em>Iraq</em> 28, 178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2087</td>
<td>237</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2350</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2351</td>
<td>237</td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2352</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2353</td>
<td>239</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2355</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>NL LII <em>Iraq</em> 21, 162; CLNA, I, II.14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2356</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>NL LXXXVI <em>Iraq</em> 28, 181; TCAE, p. 370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2357</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>NL LXXIII <em>Iraq</em> 27, 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2358</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2359</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>NL LXI <em>Iraq</em> 21, 172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2360</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>NL IV <em>Iraq</em> 17, 32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2361</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>37</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2362</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2363</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2365</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>NL XI <em>Iraq</em> 17, 43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2366</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>NL LX <em>Iraq</em> 21, 171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2367</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>NL LXII <em>Iraq</em> 21, 172; SAA, 5, no.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2368</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2369</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>48</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2370</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>32; 1</td>
<td>NL LXIX <em>Iraq</em> 25, 76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2372</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>NL LIII <em>Iraq</em> 21, 163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2373</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>49</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2376</td>
<td>245</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2379</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>NL LXXVIII <em>Iraq</em> 27, 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2380+</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>NL LXXX <em>Iraq</em> 27, 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2381</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>NL XIX <em>Iraq</em> 17, 138; SAA, 1, no.175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2382</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>NL XC <em>Iraq</em> 28, 187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2384</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2385</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>NL LXV <em>Iraq</em> 25, 71; CLNA, I, I.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2387</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>49; 1</td>
<td>NL LXXII <em>Iraq</em> 27, 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2388</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2389</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2390</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2391</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>10; 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2392</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>42</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2394</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>53</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2395</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>43</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2396</td>
<td>see 2380+</td>
<td></td>
<td>NL XCI <em>Iraq</em> 28, 188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2398</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2399</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>32</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2400</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2401</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>46</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2402</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2403</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Indices**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ND</th>
<th>p.</th>
<th>Plate</th>
<th>Also edited</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2404</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>NL LXXXIV <em>Iraq</em> 27, 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2405</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>NL XXXII <em>Iraq</em> 18, 48; CLNA, I, III.1; SAA, 1, no.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2407</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>NL LI <em>Iraq</em> 21, 160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2408</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>NL CV <em>Iraq</em> 36, 218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2409</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>38</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2410</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>44</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2411</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2412</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2413</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2415</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2416</td>
<td>see 2734+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2417</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2418</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2419</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2420</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2421</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2422</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>36</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2423</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>47</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2425</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2426</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>51</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2427</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2428</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>37</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2429</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>38</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2430</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2432</td>
<td>262</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2433</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2434</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2435</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2436</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>48</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2437</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>34</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2438</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2439</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2444</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>7; II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2445</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2448</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2449</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>39</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2452</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2453</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2454</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2455</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2457</td>
<td>see 2734+</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2459</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2460</td>
<td>266</td>
<td>47</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2462</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>39</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2463</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2464</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>49</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2465</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>53</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2466</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>52</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2468</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2469</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2470</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

232
The Nimrud Letters, 1952

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Column 1</th>
<th>Column 2</th>
<th>Column 3</th>
<th>Column 4</th>
<th>Column 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2473</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2474</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td>2656</td>
<td>186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2477</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>44</td>
<td></td>
<td>2658</td>
<td>285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2478</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>2660</td>
<td>207</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2479</td>
<td>320</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2661</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2481</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>42</td>
<td></td>
<td>2662</td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2484</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
<td>2663</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2486</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
<td>2665</td>
<td>286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2487</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td>2666</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2488</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
<td>2667</td>
<td>265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2493</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td>2668</td>
<td>177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2494</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>2669</td>
<td>229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2495</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>34</td>
<td></td>
<td>2671</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2602</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>2677</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2603</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>2680</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2604</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>44</td>
<td></td>
<td>2681</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2605</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>54</td>
<td></td>
<td>2682</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2608</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
<td>2683</td>
<td>289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2610</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>37</td>
<td></td>
<td>2684</td>
<td>290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2611</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
<td>2685</td>
<td>292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2613</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>18</td>
<td></td>
<td>2686</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2614</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>47</td>
<td></td>
<td>2688</td>
<td>320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2615</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>54</td>
<td></td>
<td>2689</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2616</td>
<td>224</td>
<td>37</td>
<td></td>
<td>2690</td>
<td>294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2617</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>39</td>
<td></td>
<td>2695</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2623</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>2696</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2624</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>55</td>
<td></td>
<td>2697</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2625</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>45</td>
<td></td>
<td>2698</td>
<td>295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2626</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
<td>2700</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2627</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>57</td>
<td></td>
<td>2701</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2628</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>2702</td>
<td>see 2698+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2630</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>2703</td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2631</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
<td>2704</td>
<td>321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2632</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>2705</td>
<td>296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2634</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td>2706</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2635</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>27</td>
<td></td>
<td>2707</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2636</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td>2711</td>
<td>297</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2637</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td>2712</td>
<td>187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2639</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>54</td>
<td></td>
<td>2715</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2641</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
<td>2716</td>
<td>158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2642</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>47</td>
<td></td>
<td>2717</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2643</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>49</td>
<td></td>
<td>2718</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2644</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
<td>2719</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2645</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>42</td>
<td></td>
<td>2720</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2647</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>50</td>
<td></td>
<td>2722</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2648</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>28; II</td>
<td></td>
<td>2724</td>
<td>303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2649</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td>2725</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2654</td>
<td>284</td>
<td>53; II</td>
<td></td>
<td>2730</td>
<td>304</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Column 1</th>
<th>Column 2</th>
<th>Column 3</th>
<th>Column 4</th>
<th>Column 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2655</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2658</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>55</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2661</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>18; II</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2663</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2666</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>41</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2668</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2671</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>36</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2674</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2676</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>36</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2677</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2680</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2681</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2682</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>52</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2683</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2684</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>57</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2685</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2686</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2689</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2695</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2696</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2697</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2698+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2700</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2704</td>
<td>321</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2706</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>51</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2707</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2708</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2709</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2711</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>60</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2713</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>36</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2715</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2717</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2719</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>38</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2722</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2723</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2724</td>
<td>303</td>
<td>55</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2726</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2731</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>39</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2733</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>41</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2734+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2735</td>
<td>304</td>
<td>62</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2736</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5 NL XLII Iraq 20, 191
26 NL XL Iraq 20, 187
1 NL CII Iraq 36, 212
2 NL AV Iraq 20, 196
3 NL VI Iraq 17, 35
4 NL LXX Iraq 27, 73
5 NL VIII Iraq 17, 39
6 NL XLI Iraq 20, 196
7 NL XXII Iraq 17, 141
8 NL XLI Iraq 20, 195
9 TCAE, p. 389-90
10 NL XV Iraq 17, 133
11 CLNA, I, I.3
12 NL XXX Iraq 18, 46
Indices

2737 166 33  XII  ND 2715 Iraq 17, 127
2740 306 59  XIII  ND 2686 Iraq 17, 130
2742 233 31  NLCXIII Iraq 28, 190  XIV  ND 2773 Iraq 17, 131
2743 306 56  XV  ND 2696 Iraq 17, 133
2746 307 49  XVI  ND 2765 Iraq 17, 134
2747 271 9  XVII  ND 2647 Iraq 17, 136
2749 308 43  XVIII  ND 2645 Iraq 17, 137
2752 308 12  XIX  ND 2381 Iraq 17, 138
2753 321  20  XX  ND 2437 Iraq 17, 139
2755 145 29  XXI  ND 2430 Iraq 17, 141
2756 309  30  XXII  ND 2680 Iraq 17, 141
2757 202 40  XXIII  ND 2644 Iraq 17, 142
2759 188 38  NL XXXIX Iraq 20, 182; SAA, 1, no.1  XXIV  ND 2449 Iraq 18, 40
2760 309 61  XXV  ND 2643 Iraq 18, 41
2761 41 7  XXVI  ND 2725 Iraq 18, 42
2762 182 34  NL L Iraq 21, 159  XXVII  ND 2665 Iraq 18, 43
2763 311 12  XXXVIII  ND 2799 Iraq 18, 45
2765 219 43  XXXIX  ND 2720 Iraq 18, 45
2766 161 33  XXX  ND 2697 Iraq 18, 46
2769 211 42  XXXI  ND 2792 Iraq 18, 47
2770 221 44  XXXII  ND 2408 Iraq 18, 48
2771 312 58  XXXIII  ND 2649 Iraq 18, 48
2772 146 29  XXXIV  ND 2460 Iraq 18, 49
2773 160 31  XXXV  ND 2452 Iraq 18, 50
2775 313 51  XXXVI  ND 2623 Iraq 18, 51
2777 316 58  XXXVII  ND 2470 Iraq 18, 52
2779 66 11  XXXVIII  ND 2052 Iraq 18, 53
2780 317 58  XXXIX  ND 2759 Iraq 20, 182
2783 93 19  XL  ND 2656 Iraq 20, 187
2784 204 18  XLI  ND 2734 Iraq 20, 187
2786 95 20  XLII  ND 2655 Iraq 20, 191
2792 204 5  XLIII  ND 2635 Iraq 20, 193
2793 318 45  XLIV  ND 2677 Iraq 20, 195
2794 318 52  XLV  ND 2673 Iraq 20, 196
2795 97; II 20  XLVI  ND 2608 Iraq 20, 198
2797 78 13  XLVII  ND 2463 Iraq 20, 200
2798 147 29  XLVIII  ND 2453 Iraq 20, 200
2799 148 24  L  ND 2784 Iraq 21, 158
2800 319 48  LII  ND 2762 Iraq 21, 159
2801 250 53  LI  ND 2409 Iraq 21, 160
2802 320 37  LII  ND 2355 Iraq 21, 162

Index of "Nimrud Letters"
(edited in Iraq Vols. 17-36)

I  ND 2632 Iraq 17, 23
II  ND 2717 Iraq 17, 26
III  ND 2700 Iraq 17, 30
IV  ND 2360 Iraq 17, 32
V  ND 2603 Iraq 17, 32
VI  ND 2674 Iraq 17, 33
VII  ND 2636 Iraq 17, 37
VIII  ND 2663 Iraq 17, 39
IX  ND 2779 Iraq 17, 40
X  ND 2602 Iraq 17, 42
XI  ND 2365 Iraq 17, 43

325
### The Nimrud Letters, 1952

| LXXV   | ND 2448 | Iraq 27, 23 |
| LXXVI  | ND 2628 | Iraq 27, 23 |
| LXXVII | ND 2701 | Iraq 27, 24 |
| LXXVIII| ND 2379 | Iraq 27, 25 |
| LXXIX  | ND 2671 | Iraq 27, 26 |
| LXXX   | ND 2380 | Iraq 27, 27 |
| LXXXI  | ND 2703 | Iraq 27, 28 |
| LXXXII | ND 2478 | Iraq 27, 29 |
| LXXXIII| ND 2681 | Iraq 27, 30 |
| LXXXIV | ND 2407 | Iraq 27, 31 |
| LXXXV  | ND 2070 | Iraq 28, 178 |
| LXXXVI | ND 2356 | Iraq 28, 181 |
| LXXXVII| ND 2625 | Iraq 28, 182 |
| LXXXVIII| ND 2495 | Iraq 28, 183 |
| LXXXIX | ND 2631 | Iraq 28, 185 |
| XC     | ND 2382 | Iraq 28, 187 |
| XCI    | ND 2418 | Iraq 28, 188 |
| XCII   | ND 2642 | Iraq 28, 189 |
| XCV    | ND 2742 | Iraq 28, 190 |
| XCVI   | ND 2637 | Iraq 28, 190 |
| XCVII  | ND 2800 | Iraq 28, 191 |
| XCVIII | ND 2634 | Iraq 28, 191 |
| XCIX   | ND 2434 | Iraq 36, 204 |
| C      | ND 2477 | Iraq 36, 206 |
| CII    | ND 2433 | Iraq 36, 206 |
| CIII   | ND 2685 | Iraq 36, 210 |
| CIV    | ND 2070 | Iraq 36, 210 |
| CV     | ND 2660 | Iraq 36, 212 |
| CLNA, I, I.3 | ND 2696 |
| CLNA, I, I.4 | ND 2385 |
| CLNA, I, I.5 | ND 2643 |
| CLNA, I, I.8 | ND 2463 |
| CLNA, I, II.1 | ND 2647 |
| CLNA, I, II.2 | ND 2715 |
| CLNA, I, II.3 | ND 2773 |
| CLNA, I, II.13 | ND 2617 |
| CLNA, I, II.14 | ND 2355 |
| CLNA, I, III.1 | ND 2408 |
| CLNA, I, III.2 | ND 2637 |
| SAA, 1, no.1 | ND 2759 |
| SAA, 1, no.26 | ND 2408 |
| SAA, 1, no.32 | ND 2608 |
| SAA, 1, no.110 | ND 2765 |
| SAA, 1, no.171 | ND 2645 |
| SAA, 1, no.172 | ND 2495 |
| SAA, 1, no.175 | ND 2381 |
| SAA, 1, no.176 | ND 2437 |
| TCAE, p. 370 | ND 2356 |
| TCAE, p. 375 | ND 2449 |
| TCAE, p. 380 | ND 2462 |
| TCAE, p. 381-3 | ND 2495 |
| TCAE, p. 383-385 | ND 2631 |
| TCAE, p. 385-7 | ND 2648 |
| TCAE, p. 389-90 | ND 2677 |
| TCAE, p. 390-3 | ND 2715 |
| TCAE, p. 395-7 | ND 2783 |

### Index of Iraq Museum numbers

| IM 63393 | ND 2052 |
| IM 63396 | ND 2070 |
| IM 63403 | ND 2087 |
| IM 64006 | ND 2352 |
| IM 64007 | ND 2356 |
| IM 64008 | ND 2358 |
| IM 64009 | ND 2360 |
| IM 64010 | ND 2362 |
| IM 64011 | ND 2365 |
| IM 64012 | ND 2366 |
| IM 64013 | ND 2367 |
| IM 64014 | ND 2369 |
| IM 64015 | ND 2372 |
| IM 64018 | ND 2381 |
| IM 64019 | ND 2382 |
| IM 64020 | ND 2384 |
| IM 64022 | ND 2388 |
| IM 64023 | ND 2389 |
| IM 64024 | ND 2398 |
| IM 64025 | ND 2401 |
| IM 64026 | ND 2403 |
| IM 64027 | ND 2408 |
| IM 64028 | ND 2410 |
| IM 64029 | ND 2734+2416+2457 |
| IM 64030 | ND 2418 |
| IM 64031 | ND 2420 |
| IM 64032 | ND 2422 |
| IM 64034 | ND 2425 |
| IM 64035 | ND 2426 |
| IM 64036 | ND 2429 |
| IM 64037 | ND 2430 |
| IM 64038 | ND 2433 |
| IM 64039 | ND 2434 |
| IM 64040 | ND 2435 |
| IM 64041 | ND 2436 |
| IM 64042 | ND 2437 |
| IM 64043 | ND 2439 |
| IM 64046 | ND 2452 |

### Index of editions in other publications

<p>| CLNA, I, I.3 | ND 2696 |
| CLNA, I, I.4 | ND 2385 |
| CLNA, I, I.5 | ND 2643 |
| CLNA, I, I.8 | ND 2463 |
| CLNA, I, II.1 | ND 2647 |
| CLNA, I, II.2 | ND 2715 |
| CLNA, I, II.3 | ND 2773 |
| CLNA, I, II.13 | ND 2617 |
| CLNA, I, II.14 | ND 2355 |
| CLNA, I, III.1 | ND 2408 |
| CLNA, I, III.2 | ND 2637 |
| SAA, 1, no.1 | ND 2759 |
| SAA, 1, no.26 | ND 2408 |
| SAA, 1, no.32 | ND 2608 |
| SAA, 1, no.110 | ND 2765 |
| SAA, 1, no.171 | ND 2645 |
| SAA, 1, no.172 | ND 2495 |
| SAA, 1, no.175 | ND 2381 |
| SAA, 1, no.176 | ND 2437 |
| SAA, 5, no.74 | ND 2367 |
| SAA, 5, no.215 | ND 2631 |
| TCAE, p. 370 | ND 2356 |
| TCAE, p. 375 | ND 2449 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indices</th>
<th>ND</th>
<th>Indices</th>
<th>ND</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IM 64047</td>
<td>ND 2454</td>
<td>IM 64123</td>
<td>ND 2697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64050</td>
<td>ND 2460</td>
<td>IM 64124</td>
<td>ND 2700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64051</td>
<td>ND 2463</td>
<td>IM 64126</td>
<td>ND 2708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64054</td>
<td>ND 2468</td>
<td>IM 64127</td>
<td>ND 2710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64055</td>
<td>ND 2470</td>
<td>IM 64128</td>
<td>ND 2711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64056</td>
<td>ND 2473</td>
<td>IM 64130</td>
<td>ND 2715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64057</td>
<td>ND 2477</td>
<td>IM 64131</td>
<td>ND 2716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64059</td>
<td>ND 2481</td>
<td>IM 64132</td>
<td>ND 2717</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64061</td>
<td>ND 2484</td>
<td>IM 64133</td>
<td>ND 2718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64065</td>
<td>ND 2488</td>
<td>IM 64134</td>
<td>ND 2720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64067</td>
<td>ND 2493</td>
<td>IM 64137</td>
<td>ND 2725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64068</td>
<td>ND 2495</td>
<td>IM 64141</td>
<td>ND 2731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64071</td>
<td>ND 2603</td>
<td>IM 64143</td>
<td>ND 2735</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64073</td>
<td>ND 2608</td>
<td>IM 64144</td>
<td>ND 2736</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64076</td>
<td>ND 2613</td>
<td>IM 64145</td>
<td>ND 2740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64077</td>
<td>ND 2617</td>
<td>IM 64146</td>
<td>ND 2742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64080</td>
<td>ND 2624</td>
<td>IM 64149</td>
<td>ND 2746</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64081</td>
<td>ND 2625</td>
<td>IM 64153</td>
<td>ND 2752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64082</td>
<td>ND 2626</td>
<td>IM 64154</td>
<td>ND 2757</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64083</td>
<td>ND 2631</td>
<td>IM 64156</td>
<td>ND 2759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64084</td>
<td>ND 2632</td>
<td>IM 64157</td>
<td>ND 2761</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64086</td>
<td>ND 2634</td>
<td>IM 64159</td>
<td>ND 2765</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64087</td>
<td>ND 2636</td>
<td>IM 64160</td>
<td>ND 2767</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64088</td>
<td>ND 2637</td>
<td>IM 64161</td>
<td>ND 2769</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64090</td>
<td>ND 2642</td>
<td>IM 64162</td>
<td>ND 2770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64091</td>
<td>ND 2643</td>
<td>IM 64163</td>
<td>ND 2772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64092</td>
<td>ND 2644</td>
<td>IM 64164</td>
<td>ND 2773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64093</td>
<td>ND 2645</td>
<td>IM 64165</td>
<td>ND 2775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64095</td>
<td>ND 2649</td>
<td>IM 64167</td>
<td>ND 2779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64097</td>
<td>ND 2655</td>
<td>IM 64168</td>
<td>ND 2780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64099</td>
<td>ND 2660</td>
<td>IM 64170</td>
<td>ND 2783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64100</td>
<td>ND 2662</td>
<td>IM 64171</td>
<td>ND 2786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64101</td>
<td>ND 2663</td>
<td>IM 64173</td>
<td>ND 2792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64103</td>
<td>ND 2665</td>
<td>IM 64174</td>
<td>ND 2793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64104</td>
<td>ND 2667</td>
<td>IM 64176</td>
<td>ND 2799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64105</td>
<td>ND 2668</td>
<td>IM 64177</td>
<td>ND 2800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64106</td>
<td>ND 2669</td>
<td>IM 64178</td>
<td>ND 2802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64109</td>
<td>ND 2673</td>
<td>IM 64179</td>
<td>ND 2413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64111</td>
<td>ND 2674</td>
<td>IM, for study</td>
<td>ND 2390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64112</td>
<td>ND 2675</td>
<td>IM, for study</td>
<td>ND 2067</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64113</td>
<td>ND 2677</td>
<td>IM, for study</td>
<td>ND 2395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64115</td>
<td>ND 2682</td>
<td>IM, for study</td>
<td>ND 2405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64117</td>
<td>ND 2685</td>
<td>IM, for study</td>
<td>ND 2405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64118</td>
<td>ND 2686</td>
<td>IM, for study</td>
<td>ND 2405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64119</td>
<td>ND 2689</td>
<td>IM, for study</td>
<td>ND 2405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM 64122</td>
<td>ND 2695</td>
<td>IM, for study</td>
<td>ND 2405</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

327
Views of selected tablet cores