OLD BABYLONIAN CONTRACTS
FROM NIPPU'R

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Selected Texts from the University Museum
University of Pennsylvania

Catalogue by
Elizabeth C. Stone

Photos by
Paul E. Zimansky
FOREWORD

The traditional way of publishing cuneiform texts is in the form of handcopies. This system requires, on the one hand, long hours of painstaking work by an experienced cuneiformist, and, on the other hand, a modicum of artistic talent, not necessarily associated with scholarly abilities. The results are often unsightly, and worse, they may fail to give a trustworthy representation of the original, misleading the reader and creating the need for collations of the tablet. While the superiority of the photographic reproduction is generally accepted, technical and, above all, economic considerations have prevented its use on a large scale. The microfiche format seems a practical and economical solution to the problem of publishing an extensive corpus of cuneiform texts. As a bonus, since the task can be carried out by any competent photographer with a minimum of special training, the cuneiformist will have more time to devote to his specific scholarly tasks.

If the microfiche system is accepted as a useful tool by our colleagues, the present collection of Old Babylonian contracts from Philadelphia will be followed by collections of the Old Babylonian contracts found at Nippur in the postwar excavations, of the lexical sources used in Materials for the Sumerian Lexicon, and of other large bodies of texts.

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ABBREVIATIONS


INTRODUCTION

The Old Babylonian contracts found at Nippur during the 1888-1901 excavations of the University of Pennsylvania Expedition are presently housed in the Archeological Museum in Istanbul, in the Hilprecht Collection in Jena, and in the University Museum in Philadelphia. The Istanbul texts were published by Çığ, Kizilyay, and Kraus (ARN), and an edition of the Jena texts is currently being prepared by Oelsner. The texts from the University Museum have been published by Poebel (BE 6/2) and Chiera (PBS 8/1-2). A few, however, were consciously or inadvertently omitted by Chiera, and many had not yet been accessioned when he published PBS 8/2 in 1922. The present microfiche contains a series of 70 unpublished contracts in the Philadelphia collection. A second microfiche will include the rest of the Philadelphia contracts and some related legal texts.

The catalogue gives first the dated texts (Nos. 1-32) in chronological order. These are followed by the undated tablets and fragments arranged roughly according to the contents. In the dates the year is given first, followed by the month and the day, if preserved. The years whose sequence is unknown are designated either by lowercase letters or, if new, by X.

I have included here only a brief description of the subject matter of each tablet and the names of the principal parties. For an index of personal names, see my forthcoming Ph.D. dissertation on the social and economic organization of Old Babylonian Nippur, which includes a complete prosopography of all parties in the contracts, along with indexes of field names, temples, professions, and the like, as well as a systematic inventory of all documents.

I wish to thank the Director of the University Museum and the Curator of the Tablet Collection, Prof. Åke W. Sjöberg, for permission to publish these texts, and especially the latter, for his kind help made the task of cataloguing and photographing the tablets easier.

Elizabeth C. Stone


3. **A3–4. UM 29-16-98 (tablet), N 1234 (case).** Sale: Lugal-ά−zi-da sells 3 sar of courtyard1 to U-bar-ru-um and Ši-lē-štar for \( \frac{1}{2} \) mana and \( \frac{1}{2} \) gin of silver. Enlil-bani X/10. Date: mu đEn-lil-ba-ni lugal-e / erin2 dumu I-si-inkl-na / šu in-ne-bar.


5. **A6. N 1064.** Field sale or rental: from đSin-še-mi (from seal) to [X]. Iter-piša a/5.


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1. "Courtyard" is used here to translate kislah(Ki.UD) since this is obviously its more frequent meaning; however, in some texts, such as Nos. 3 and 13, a translation "(adjacent) vacant lot" is possibly preferable.
12. B5–6. N 1236 (tablet), N 1094 + N 1171 (case). Exchange of courtyards: Ė-kur-an-dūl and I-din-šin-urta exchange $\frac{2}{3}$ sar and $3\frac{1}{2}$ gīn of courtyard for $\frac{1}{2}$ sar of courtyard plus 2 gīn of silver. Hammurabi 42.


22. D1–2. UM 29-16-622 (tablet), N 1147 + N 1165a (case). Field sale: Ḍa-mu-i-din-nam buys 4$\frac{1}{2}$ iku in the field ki-tur from I-na-e-kur-ra-bi for 4$\frac{1}{2}$ gīn of silver. Samsuiluna 12/7.


2. It is possible that Ni 9244 is a fragment of a duplicate rather than a join.


38. E6. UM 29-16-673. Field sale or rental: 𒆠Nin-urt-a-ma-an-sum buys, or rents, 10 iku in the field gibil, from ḫp-qu-er-šē-tim.


* Tablets marked by an asterisk have only one side preserved.


44. F2. N 1165b, small fragment. Slave sale: the price is 6 gin of silver.

45. F3. CBS 2230. Redemption (or exchange?): offices and fields are exchanged; one of the parties is dNin-urt-a-ra-ḥi-im-[ṣe-ri-im].


48. F4. CBS 7001. Field redemption: dDa-mu-i-din-nam buys land in the field a-gār-a from Ni-in-nu-tum and his brother Nu-ūr-šamaš; this land had been sold previously to Zi-ia-tum by dNin-līl-zi-mu.


50. F5. N 1467. Field rental: Be-el-ta-ni rents 6 iku in the field gān-da from E-x-[ . . . ].


55. G1. N 1859. Partition: Nu-ūr-[ . . . ] and his brother(s) divide an estate.

56. G1. N 1168. Loan: to be repaid in wool if possible, otherwise in silver.

57. G2. N 2936. Loan: grain to be repaid with interest.


60. G3. CBS 7156. Gift?: Lu-\textsuperscript{d}nin-urta gives two loaves(?) of bread to \textsuperscript{d}En-lil-me-\textsuperscript{ša}. Akkadian.


63. G4. CBS 2269, fragment. Court case: Arad-\textsuperscript{d}en-lil-lá must give some land to A-ba-lugal-mu.


65. G5. UM 29-13-407a, fragment. Disinheritance document?: mu šà-ga-ni n[u]-dùg-[ . . . ], ibila-a-ni nu-ak-[ . . . ], a níg-ba of I-li-ia-tum, son of Še-rum-\textsuperscript{d}adad (written Šar-rum-\textsuperscript{d}adad on the seal) is mentioned.


68. G7. N 2160, fragmentary case. House exchange: Kù-\textsuperscript{d}inanna makes an extra payment of 10 gin of silver to \textsuperscript{d}Nanna-ma-an-sum.

