

A Seleucid Tablet in the Redpath Museum

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The text published here is one of some sixteen tablets and clay cones in the collections of the Anthropology/Ethnology Division of the Redpath Museum of McGill University in Montreal sent to the R.I.M. Project for study and publication.* It measures 9.0 × 8.0 cm. and bears no museum accession number.

The tablet is dated on or after 16/6/143 of the Seleucid Era† (cf. line 7) in the reign of Antiochos IV Epiphanes—the date mentioned being the earliest cuneiform attestation of the sole rule of Antiochos IV after the ending of the co-regency. The text is a memorandum from Anu-mukin-apli, the city prefect of Uruk, to the otherwise unknown Anu-mara-ittannu giving an account of a legal claim argued in the presence of the city prefect and contains several interesting Aramaicisms.

Transliteration

- 1 T[A mu]h-*hi* md60-GIN-A LÚ GAL LÚ SAG URU-a] šá
UNUG^{KI} a-n[a]
2 md60-DUMU-MU-nu šeš-ia x x x x šá ri-*har*(?)-ra
ina bi-rit
3 mri-*hat*-d60 A šá mBÁRA(?)^{d60(?)} à a-na mNU.TÉŠ
u m^{ina}-E-d60
4 A^{MEŠ} šá md60-^ΓŠEŠ^{MEŠ}-MU A mBÁRA-d60 a-na muh-*hi*
GIŠ.ŠUB.BA
5 LÚ TU-É-ú-tú u LÚ MUŠ.GÍR-ú-tú šá AN-e ina ri-*šap*(?)
la(?)^{-nu}(?)¹
6 šá riM(?)^{d60}.DUB(?)¹ áš(!)-ta-*tár-ka* áš-šú šá ti-du-ú
7 UD 16^{KÁM} šá^{ITI} KIN šá MU 14(?)³KÁM m^{an-ti}-i-ku-su
LUGAL
8 ina a-šá-ab šá md60-GIN-^ΓA LÚ GAL¹ <LÚ SAG> URU-a
šá UNUG^{KI} A šá mNU.TÉŠ A m^{hun}-zu-ú
9 šá DU-^Γra¹ ina bi-rit mri-*hat*-d60 u a-na mNU.TÉŠ u
[^m]-ina-E-d60 A^{MEŠ}

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† 2nd October 169 B.C. according to R.A. Parker and W.H. Dubberstein, *Babylonian Chronology* 626 B.C. – A.D. 75, p. 41.

- 10 šá md[60]-^ΓŠEŠ^{MEŠ}-MU ana muh-*hi* sa-ma-nu-ú ina
GIŠ.ŠUB.BA LÚ TU-É-ú-tú
11 u LÚ¹ M[UŠ.GÍ]R-[ú-t]ú šá AN-e šá ina UD 16^{KÁM} UD
1[9]^{KÁM} šá^{ITI} KIN
12 šá š[ul(?)-l]u(?)^{-m}[at(?)] ina MU šá
m^ΓNÍG.SUM¹.MU-d60 a šá md60-AD-^ÚRU ina šU^{II}
13 md[60-DI]N(?)^{-su} A šá mGAL-d60 A m^é-kur-za-kir
14 [M]U 130^{ITI} AB UD 29^{KÁM} šá i-tam-mu-ú mri-*hat*-
[d60]
15 [a]-^Γna UGU(?)¹ šá GIŠ.ŠUB.BA an-nu-tú-^Γma¹ i-du-
ú šá mBÁRA-d60 AD]
16 AD-k[a i]m-*hur*-šú-nu-tú ina šU^{II} mGAL-d60 A šá
md^{na-na-a}-M[U]
17 u il-^Γta¹-kan-nu MU DINGIR^{MEŠ} mri-*hat*-d60 a-ga-a
18 lib(?)^{-bu}-ú mim-ma šá DU-^Γra¹ u mim-ma dib-bi
^ΓDI¹.KU⁵ u ra-ga-mu
19 šá mNU.TÉŠ u m^{ina}-E-d60 A^{MEŠ} šá m[d60-šEŠ^{MEŠ}]-MU
KI
20 mri-*hat*-d60 a-na muh-*hi* [GIŠ.ŠUB.BA šuati] a-na
u^a-mu ša-a-tú
21 ia-a-nu
22 [...]d60 UNUG^{KI}
23 [...] UD 16^{KÁM} ^ΓMU¹ 1 ME 10[+ x]^{KÁM} m^Γan¹-
ti²-^Γi-ku-su LUGAL¹

Translation

(1) From Anu-mukin-apli, the noble, the city prefect of Uruk, to Anu-mara-ittannu, my brother. (Concerning) that which was disputed(?) between Riḫat-Anu, son of Kidin-anu(?) and Labaši and Ina-qibit-Anu, sons of Anu-aḫḫe-iddin, son of Kidin-Anu, concerning the prebend of the temple-enterer and the engraver(?) of the baldachin—I have written you below on the tablet so that you might know.

(7) Day 16 of Elul of year 143, Antiochos, king. In the presence of Anu-mukin-apli, the noble, (the city prefect) of Uruk, son of Labaši, descendant of Ḫunzu:

(9) That which was disputed(?) between Riḫat-Anu and Labaši and Ina-qibit-Anu, sons of Anu-aḫḫe-iddin, concerning the one-eighth in the prebend of the temple-enterer and the engraver(?) of the baldachin, which is in day 16 and day 19 of Elul, which is completely transferred to the name of Nidintu-Anu, son of Anu-aba-ušur, from Anu-uballissu(?), son of Rabi-Anu, descendant of Ekur-zakir.

(14)Year 130, month Tebet, day 29: That which Riḫat-Anu swore concerning(?) these prebends: 'They know that Kidin-Anu, your grandfather, purchased them from Rabi-Anu, son of Nana-iddin.'

(17)And they made that Riḫat-Anu swear and oath according to everything that was disputed(?).

(18b)And Labaši and Ina-qibit-Anu, sons of Anu-aḫḫe-iddin, have no claim, case, or suit with Riḫat-Anu concerning these prebends for perpetuity.

(22)(PN, scribe, son of x)-Anu. Uruk, (month x), day 16, year 110(+ x), Antiochos, king.

Commentary

1 Anu-mukin-apli, the city prefect, is also found in OECT 9,63,33, dated to year 163+ of the Seleucid Era, where the name is to be restored according to the present occurrence. Among the Aramaicisms in the text are the introductory *ultu muḫḫi* PN corresponding to *mīn* PN, the use of the Aramaic determinative marker (^{LU}SAG URU-a), and the phrase *ina birit* PN₁ *u ana* PN₂ in lines 2f. corresponding to the Aramaic *bēn* PN₁ (u) PN₂, cf. M. Jastrow, *Dictionary of the Targumim*, p. 163.

2 The phrase *šá ḡi-ḫar(?)l-ra* (or *ḡi-tu(?)l-ra*) corresponds to *šá DU-ra* in lines 9 and 18. The meaning seems assured by context, but the verb is not. Based on meaning the verb suggested here is the Aramaic *arāra*, 'to claim, contest', which occurs in Akkadian as a loanword—usually in a nominal form, though occasionally as a verb (OECT 9, 38, 20). The form *DU-ra* would presumably be a logogram with phonetic complement. Needless to say no certainty is claimed for this suggestion.

5 The form ^{LU}MUŠ.GÍR-ú-tú (= **muššarūtu*) presumably arises from phonetic confusion with **muššarūtu* < ^{LU}MU.SAR, rendered by CAD M/2 p. 279b as 'craft of the engraver'. The pair here, *ērib bītūtu* + **muššarūtu* seems to be comparable to the *ērib bīt pirištūtu* + *kutimmūtu* 'enterer into the secret house and goldsmith' found in similar texts, cf. FAOS 4 pp. 81ff. The ^{LU}MU.SAR occurs in lexical lists together with the ^{LU}*kabšarru* 'stone-cutter', the latter being closely connected in turn with the ^{LU}*kutimmu*. The *šamū* 'baldachin' is common to both prebend types.

12 For the proposed restoration cf. BRM 2, 31, 11 as read by Krückmann, BRVU p. 80 n. 2.

15-16 The statement sworn by Riḫat-Anu is unclear, but it obviously had the effect of establishing his case since his two opponents subsequently issued a quitclaim in his favour.

