

A New Assurbanipal Brick Inscription from Nippur

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UM 84-26-12, an inscribed brick, was discovered in the basements of the University Museum during an inventory of bricks from Nippur and Ur.¹ It is a well-head brick presumed to have come from Nippur.² The brick measures 360/200 × 235 × 75 mm. and contains a 16 line inscription of Assurbanipal on its outer edge. The text is in Sumerian and is written in an archaic script. It is the third inscription of Assurbanipal found at Nippur.³

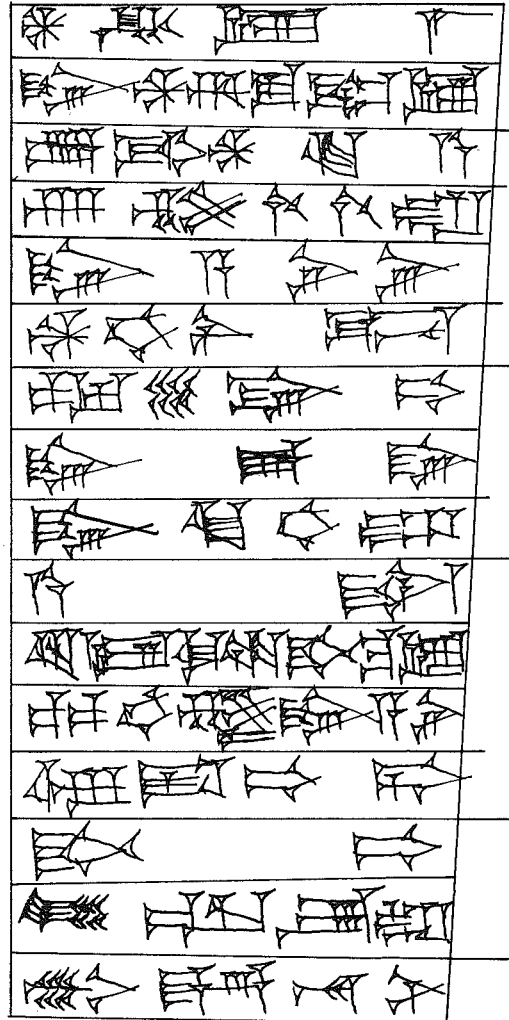
Transliteration

- 1 ^den-lil₂-la₂
- 2 lugal dingir-re-e-ne-ke₄
- 3 nir-gal₂ an-ki-a
- 4 nun nam-tar-tar-ra
- 5 lugal-a-ni-ir
- 6 AN.ŠAR₂-DU₃-DUMU x UŠ
- 7 sipa še-ga-bi
- 8 lugal kalag-ga
- 9 lugal ki-sar₂-ra
- 10 a-pil₂
- 11 ša₃ e₂-hur-sag-galam-ma-ke₄
- 12 pa-pa-ḫi nam-lugal-a-ni
- 13 libir-ra-bi-ta!
- 14 galam-bi
- 15 sig₄-al-ur₃-ra
- 16 mu-un-na-du₃

Translation

For Enlil, king of the gods, hero of heaven and earth, prince of destiny, his king Assurbanipal, his

obedient shepherd, the strong king, king of the world, heir⁴ within the Eḫursaggalamma, has artfully built his royal cella of old of baked brick.



¹ Behrens, *JCS* 37 (1985) 240 no. 55.

² The inscription is partially parallel to the brick inscription CBS 8644 (*PBS* 15 74) known to have come from Nippur, also inscribed. Lines 10–11 of our inscription would also seem to indicate that it came from Nippur; the Eḫursaggalamma is a name for the ziggurat at Nippur (cf. *RLA* 2 304 and *TCS* 3 50), which Assurbanipal is known to have restored (Hilprecht, *Explorations in Bible Lands* [Philadelphia: 1903] 312, 352, 370–1, 375, 376, 460–2 and Peters, *Nippur II* [London: 1897] 126–7, 152, 157).

Neither Hilprecht nor Peters mentions any well-head or trapezoidal bricks found at Nippur though they do mention stamped/inscribed bricks of Assurbanipal (Hilprecht, *op.cit.* 312, 371; Peters, *op.cit.* 126–7, 152, 157).

³ The other two inscriptions are CBS 8632 pub. in Walker, *CBI* no. 80 with duplicates and CBS 8644 pub. in *PBS* 15 74.

⁴ This line is the only word of the inscription written in Akkadian. The epithet *apil libbi eḫursaggalamma* is unique among the epithets of Assurbanipal; but similar is the epithet *mār šarri rabū ša bīt redūti* (Streck, *Asb.* Ai2; Aynard, *Asb.* il and cf. Seux, *Épithètes* 160. For other epithets of the type *māru TN* see Tallqvist, *Götterepitheta* 121.