## CUNEIFORM TEXTS

FROM

# babylonian tablets, \&o., 

IN THE

## BRITISH MUSEUM.

PART XXVII.

(50 Plates.)

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Part XXVII of "Cuneiform Texts from Babylonian Tablets, etc." contains texts from fifty-nine tablets and fragments from the Kouyunjik Collections. The texts are augural in character, and are copied from tablets made by order of Ashur-bani-pal, King of Assyria from b.c. 668 to b.c. 626, for the Royal Library at Nineveh.

Augury plays an important part in Babylonian and Assyrian religion, and a large and organized body of the priesthood concerned itself with the interpretation of signs and portents, as foretellers of the course of future events. Almost every event of daily life had its significance to the trained expert, and it is natural that special importance should have been attached to any unusual phenomena attending both human and animal births. The texts published in this Part are portions of a large series of tablets on which the forecasts or omens connected with birth have been collected and classified by the Babylonian and Assyrian priests.

In early days an augur, when consulted as to a portent that had taken place, had, doubtless, to decide its meaning without reference to precedent ; but, in course of time, all extraordinary occurrences, and the results said to have followed them, were written down. Thus, the successful practitioner was obliged to undergo a prolonged study of the augural literature before he was in a position to pronounce on the significance of any particular event. The principal remains of this class of Babylonian literature that have come down to us occur on a large number of tablets from the Royal Library at Nineveh, of which several of the finest and best written texts are here published. It may be noted that while many of the birth portents enumerate abnormalities, which are of not infrequent occurrence in nature, others are of such a monstrous and impossible character that they may reasonably be regarded as referring to events in dreams, rather than to occurrences which might be expected to take place in everyday life.

The copies have been made by Mr. P. S. P. Handcock, B.A., and revised and corrected by Mr. L. W. King, M.A., F.S.A., Assistants in the Department.

\author{
E. A. WALLIS BUDGE.
}

\footnotetext{
Department of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities, British Museum.
}

May 26th, r9ro.

\title{
DESCRIPTION OF PLATES.
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\]

Many of the tablets belonging to this series can be arranged in order of sequence, either by means of their catch-lines, or by the scribe's notification of the number in the series to which the tablet in question belongs; in the case of others, which are without number or catch-line, it is sometimes possible to determine their position in the series by comparison with those whose place is already fixed. Many of the texts belonging to this series, while admitting of a general classification, are found to contain only extracts from one or more tablets. Often a note is appended stating the number of lines taken from the composition. In two or three cases the tablet is of the small oblong type, characteristic of those containing astrological reports. There are yet other tablets, and fragments of tablets, the contents of which, while apparently dealing with the same class of portents, do not present a sufficient degree of similarity with any already classified to justify our assigning them to any particular place in the series. It should be noted that, in the following plates, some of these tablets are, for the purpose of comparison, classified with the numbered tablets of the series and their duplicates. It is clear, from the extraordinary character of some of the births which form the subject of portents, that they are to be understood as relating to dreams rather than to actual occurrences.
plate.
Tablets I and II, Extracts from, etc.-KK. 258, 3672, 3688, 3939, 4005 : K. 3939, Obv., 11. 2-16, are duplicate of K. 258, Obv., 1l. 22-37; with K. 3939, Rev., 11. 4-24, cf. K. 2945 + K. 12553, Obv., 1l. 2-26; with K. 3688 , Obv., Il. 6 ff., cf. K. 3672 , ll. I ff. ; K. 4005 , 1l. 6 ff., are duplicate of K. 3688 , Rev., ll. 1 ff.; K. 3793, Obv., ll. I ff., are duplicate of K. 3939, Obv., ll. I4 ff. KK. \(2945+\) I2553, 3947, 7093, 8294, II860, Sm. IO23, 79-7-8, IO9: The catch-lines of K. 7093 and K. 258 correspond to K. I 31, Obv., I. I ; with K. 3947, cf. Sm. 1023 ; with K. 2945, Obv., 1l. 28 ff., cf. 79-7-8, IO9, Obv., 1l. I4 ff. Omens derived from births of children with the heads of a lion, dog, pig, serpent, etc, and from the births of twins, etc....
Tablets III AND IV, (i) Extracts from.--K. 2007, Obv., 1l. I ff., are duplicate of K. I3 I, Obv., ll. I ff, ; with the catch-lines of K. 2007 and K. 8806, cf. K. 8265, Obv., K. 8266, Obv., K. 3970, Obv., and K. 4132, Rev., I. I. (ii) Tablet IV. K. 8806. Omens derived from a child born with the ear of a lion, and from the ears of new-born children in general ; from the birth of a child with six fingers, three feet, etc. ...

\footnotetext{
16-19
}

Tablet V, etc. KK. 3970, \(4 \mathrm{I} 32,8265,8266\)-With K. 3970 , Obv., ll. 9 ff., cf. K. 4132, Obv., 11. I ff. Omens derived from births of lions; from sheep with two mouths, the head of a cow, a sheep, a fox, etc.
TABLET VI, ETC.-KK. 209, 388I, 3977, 4022, 10164 (pl. 30), 83-I-I8, 234 : With the catch-lines of K. 209, K. 3881, and K. 10164, cf. K. 3734, 1. 1; K. 3977, Obv., Il. so ff., and Rev., 11. 2 ff., are duplicate of K. 209, Obv., 11. I ff., and Rev., 1l. I2 ff.; K. 4022 is duplicate of K. 3977, Obv.; 83-I-18, 234, Obv., ll. I-3, are duplicate of K. 209, Obv., 1l. II f.; with \(83-\mathrm{I}-\mathrm{I} 8,234,1.4\), cf. K. 209, Obv., 1. 10 ; and \(83-\mathrm{I}-\mathrm{I} 8,234\), Obv., 1. 5, is duplicate of K. 3977, Rev., l. 3. Omens derived from births of twins with one head, one spine, two tails, four hearts, four, five, six or more feet, etc. ... ... ... ... ...
Tablet VII.-K. 3734, labelled "Tablet VII": Its catch-line corresponds to 11. I ff. of Sm. I 532 and Sm. i900, Obv., 1l. 2 f., Rev. ll. I ff. ; cf. also K. Ior64. Omens derived from births of children with the heads of lions, mares, asses, pigs, cows, foxes, jackals, etc.

Tablet VIII.-Sm. 1532 and Sm. 1900 possibly give part of the text of the eighth tablet. Omens derived from births of children with two heads, etc.

PLATE

Tablet, X, etc. KK. \(3865,8763,9517\).-The colophon-line of K. 9517 corresponds to K. 3998, Obv., l. I. Omens derived from births of children with one eye; from various peculiarities respecting their heads, nails, feet, etc.; also from the birth of a foal with the tail of a dog, etc. ...
Tablet XI, etc. KK. 216, 3998, 4048, 6658.-K. 3998 is labelled "Tablet XI." K. 4048, Obv., ll. I ff., and Rev., Il. I ff., are duplicate of or parallel to K. 3998, Obv., 1l. I ff., and Rev., 11. 25 ff.; the catch-lines of K. 4048 and K. 3998 correspond to K. 3697 , 1. I, and K. 3867 , Obv., I. II. Omens derived from the ears of new-born children, their position on the right or left side, etc. Tablet XII, ETC. KK. 3697, 3867, 3925, 4126, io244, Sm. 1906.—K. 3697, labelled "Tablet XII." The catch-lines of K. 3697 and K. Io244, correspond to
K. 4108, l. I. Omens derived from the face, mouth, tongue, nose, etc., of "Tablet XII." The catch-lines of K. 3697 and K. Io244, correspond to
K. 4108, 1. I. Omens derived from the face, mouth, tongue, nose, etc., of new-born children, from the birth of a child with two, three or four tongues; with two tails, eight feet, etc.
ablet XIII. K. 4108.-The catch-line of K. 4108 corresponds to K. 3I71, 1. I, and K. 4115 , 1. I

39-42
 \(4115,4129,7229,10242\), I2050, 12509, Rm. 2, 18r, 82-3-23, I38: The
catch-line of K. 317 I (Tablet XIV) corresponds to K. 4031, 1. I (Tablet XV); 4115, 4I29, 7229, 10242, I2050, 12509, Rm. 2, I8r, 82-3-23, I38: The
catch-line of K. 317 I (Tablet XIV) corresponds to K. 4031, 1. I (Tablet XV); with \(82-3-23\), I 38, cf. the Rev. of K. 53, which may belong to a parallel series; the catch-line of K. 53 corresponds with K. 12509, l. I. Omens derived from
the heart, feet etc., of new-born children; from the birth of a child with seven, the heart, feet etc., of new-born children; from the birth of a child with seven, eight or more feet, with six fingers, etc.; from the birth of twins; from the birth of foals, etc: K. 3669 contains omens derived from the birth of dogs, and
forms part of the twenty-fourth tablet of a series the title of which is wanting. forms part of the twenty-fourth tablet of a series the title of which is wanting. The small fragments KK. 3686, 6963, I2003, I2660, 12862 , 14173, 14213 , and 14215, contain short beginnings of lines only, and are duplicate of tablets already published. It may be noted that K. 3695 is labelled Tablet III, and is duplicate of K. I31, 11. I ff. The obverse of K. 10873 gives seven beginnings of lines, reading: \% reading \(-\boldsymbol{\sim}\)

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31, 32
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43-50
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\section*{CORRIGENDA.}
 read "Rev. (cont.)"; and for "Reverse" read "Obverse"; 1. 2I, for \(Y\) tread \(Y\) it; 1. 2, for
 the form





 A read Plates 9 and io, for "K. 2945 "read "K. \(2945+\) K. 12553." Pl. 9, 1. I7, for
 1. 28, for


 lines．Pl．ir，for＂Obverse＂read＂Reverse，＂and for＂Reverse＂read＂Obverse＂；Obv．，1．9，

 read

 the line on the edge represents an insertion by the scribe between 11． 6 and 7．Pl．16，Obv．，1．17， end，nothing wanting after ；Rev．，1．2，after read 1 ；1．3，beginning，read 䇣 ；
 i．e．，ina nak－kap－\(t i-\breve{s} u\) ．Pl．20，for＂Reverse＂read＂Obverse，＂and for＂Obverse＂read











 K．3734，etc．，Rev．，1．3，delete \(\neq\) ；last line，before catch－line，for \(2 \boldsymbol{y}\) read \(\boldsymbol{\sim}-\boldsymbol{y}\) ．Pl．3I， K． 9517 ，Obv．，1．13，delete 〈；Sm．1900，for＂Obverse＂read＂Reverse，＂and for＂Reverse＂
 \(\operatorname{read}\langle\boldsymbol{\gamma} \boldsymbol{y} \boldsymbol{y} \boldsymbol{y}\)－ i．e．，\(\breve{u} u\)－ut－tu－ka；1．13，after




 for＂Obverse＂read＂Reverse，＂and for＂Reverse＂read＂Obverse＂；1．2，for－个 S．1906，1． 8 f．，for \(-=\) read \(-\boldsymbol{Y}\) ；K．3925，Rev．，1．3，insert－before 〈 read \(\Rightarrow\) Y．Pl．40，K．3697，etc．，Obv．，1．I6，for－AY read rY；K．10244，1．2，for wisi restore灭，and for read

 －＜
 K．4115，11． 2 and 5，for－Y \(82-3^{-2} 3\), I 38 ，Obv．，the horizontal line indicates the insertion of the line on the edge between lines 5 and 6 of the text，and is short and not continuous；11．2－6，for 〈乏









 I． I ，a line is ruled on the clay，showing 1 ． I to be a colophon－line，and 1.2 the first line of a new


INDEX TO REGISTRATION NUMBERS.


\section*{Bu. \(89-4-26.238\).}



Bu. 89-4-26, 238.
Obverse.



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Y 䍀




Edge．\(\downarrow\) 过 My
\(\Longrightarrow\) 个澼


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Bu．91－5－9．790．
通 越



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\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS.}
K. 3939,

OBVERSE.


\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS.}
K. 3939.

OBV. (CONT.)


REVERSE.


\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS.}
K. 3939 ,

REVERSE (cont.).


\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS}

\section*{K. \(4005+\) K. \(6394+\) K. 8295.}


\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS.}

\section*{K. 3688,}

OBVERSE.


\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS.}
K. 3688,

REverse.


\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS.}



\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS.}

K. \(36 \% 2\)

1. The insertion on the left edge probably afterwards deleted by the scribe.

\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS.}


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(7) Written over an exasure.


\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS．}

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\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS.}

79, 7-8, 109, OBVERSE.


\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS.}
K. 258, OBVERSE.

1. Line erased by the scribe.

\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS.}

\section*{K. 258, REVERSE.}










\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS.}
K. 131, OBVERSE.
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K. 131, REVERSE.


\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS.}

\section*{K. 2007, OBVERSE.}


\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS.}
K. 2007.

\section*{REVERSE.}
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
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\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS.}


\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS.}

REVERSE.

\section*{K. 8286.}



\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS.}


\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS.}


\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS.}
K. 3881.


\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS．}

\section*{K．209，OBVERSE．}

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\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS.}

\section*{K. 209, REVERSE.}












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\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS}
K. 3977, OBYERSE













\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS.}


83, 1-18, 234, OBVERSE


\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS.}
obverse.


\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS.}
K. \(3734+\) K. 4002.

REVERSE.
Sm. 1532.


\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS.}
K. 9517, REVERSE.



\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS.}


OMENS FROM BIRTHS.


\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS.}
K. 8858 + Rm. 236.


\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS.}

\section*{K. 4048, OBVERSE.}


\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS.}

\section*{K. 3998, OBVERSE}


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\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS.}
K. \(3697+\) K. 4124.

OBVERSE.


\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS.}
K. \(3887+\) K. 4065.

OBVERSE.



\footnotetext{





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}

\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS.}

\section*{K. \(\mathbf{3 8 6 7}+\) K. 4065.}


\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS.}
K. 4108, OBVERSE.
K. 4108, REVERSE.


82, 3-23, 138, REVERSE.


\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS.}


\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS.}
K. 4129.
K. 4071.


\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS.}
K. 53, OBVERSE


\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS.}

\section*{K. 3171, REVERSE.}

K. 12500.


\section*{OMENS FROM BIRTHS.}
K. 3669.

OBVERSE.

Rm. 2.181.
OBVERSE.

K. 3669.

REVERSE.


Rim. 2.181.
REVERSE.


5


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\text { \& Prr } \alpha
\]

1. Or possibly

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