CUNEIFORM TEXTS
FROM
BABYLONIAN TABLETS, &c.,
IN THE
BRITISH MUSEUM.

PART XXXIII.

(50 Plates.)

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1912.
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Part XXXI of "Cuneiform Texts from Babylonian Tablets, etc.," contains texts from forty-nine clay tablets, five portions of clay planispheres, three stone mace-heads, and one stone duck-weight. All are here published for the first time, with the exception of four of the planisphere-fragments, of which portions have been previously published or discussed.

The most important text given herein is a Neo-Babylonian copy of an astronomical treatise made in the fifth century before Christ. It contains classified lists of the principal constellations and fixed stars known to the Babylonians, the times of their heliacal risings and settings, the times of their culminations in the south, etc. This text throws very important light upon the history of the study of astronomy among the Babylonians, and furnishes data for the identification of the principal fixed stars and constellations known to them. It suggests, moreover, that in the fifth century before Christ no mathematically accurate system of astronomical observations had been evolved. Supplementary astronomical texts here published include a Star-list and planispheres from the Library of Ashur-bani-pal at Nineveh.

The remaining texts consist of a collection of Assyrian tablets from the city of Ashur; a series of old Babylonian Letters and Legal Documents, about B.C. 2000; inscriptions from three mace-heads, one of which supplies the name of a new king, Abil-saré, who reigned at Ur and Larsa about B.C. 2000; and the text from a colossal duck-weight.

The copies and descriptions have been made by Mr. L. W. King, M.A., F.S.A., Assistant in the Department.

E. A. WALLIS BUDGE.
DESCRIPTION OF PLATES.

I. NEO-BABYLONIAN ASTRONOMICAL TEXT CONTAINING THE FIRST SECTION OF A TREATISE ON ASTRONOMY (PLATES 1-8).

This text, which is here published for the first time, is one of the most important astronomical inscriptions that has yet been recovered, for it throws considerable light on the astronomical knowledge of the Babylonians during the fifth century B.C., and it supplies valuable data for identifying the principal Babylonian fixed stars and constellations. The text forms the First Tablet of an astronomical treatise, termed ḫakkabānu Apin, from the opening word of the composition. It is inscribed in a minute hand on a small clay tablet, measuring 2½ in. in width, 3 in. in height, and ½ in. in thickness; and, although the closing lines of the colophon, which probably contained the date, are wanting, the forms of the characters suggest that it may be assigned to a period of about 500 B.C. This copy of the astronomical inscriptions that has yet been recovered, for it throws considerable light on the period of their heliacal risings and settings, the method of checking observations, etc. Incidentally the text suggests that the Babylonians of the fifth century had not yet evolved any accurate or scientific method of astronomical observation and record. The contents of the tablet may be summarized as follows:

(i) Classified and descriptive lists of 71 of the principal stars and constellations arranged under the three great divisions of the heavenly sphere—

(a) Thirty-three stars of Enlil (Col. I, l. 1-39);
(b) Twenty-three stars of Anu (Col. I, l. 40—Col. II, l. 18).
(c) Fifteen stars of Ea (Col. II, l. 19-35).

The principle of arrangement adopted in the lists is to give the name of the star or constellation first, and then the name of the deity with whom it was associated. Often a note follows the name of the star, stating its position in or near one of the great constellations, or its relative position to the star preceding it in the list; sometimes the name of the star is not given but only its position and the name of its associated deity. It should be noted that throughout the lists the sign ' is merely employed as a graphical symbol, denoting a fresh item in the list or merely marking the beginning of a line. It is not to be rendered as "one," since in some cases the item it marks contains the names of two stars counted separately in the total (e.g., Col. I, l. 27). Similarly, in Col. II, l. 12, it occurs as usual at the beginning of the line, but the names which follow are counted as three separate stars, not as a single item, in the summary; the scribe, having no explanation to add to each name, ran them together into one line. It is clear that the lists were not intended to be exhaustive; the size and importance of the stars appear to have been the determining factors in their selection. The names of the following stars may be restored in the broken portion of the text:—l. 1, [APIN]; l. 3, [SUKU]; l. 5, [MASTABA]-GALGAL; l. 6, [MASTABA]-TURTUR; l. 7, [ALLU]; l. 8, [URGU]-LA; l. 11, [SUPA]; and l. 15, [MARGID].

(ii) List of the dates of the heliacal risings of important stars throughout the year (Col. II, l. 36—Col. III, l. 12). In this, as in the preceding and following sections, the sign ' merely marks the beginning of a sentence. From the grouping of two, and sometimes of three, stars
together it is clear that the dates are merely approximate; moreover, the twenty dates enumerated fall on the 1st, 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, or 25th day of the month. The missing lines of text at the beginning of Col. III may be conjecturally restored from other data given by the text. They probably recorded the heliacal rising of Zibanitum, Lig-Bad, and Entena-Massig on the 15th Tisri, and of Girtab and Lik-ku, probably on the 1st Marcheswan. Moreover, in l. 4, the name of the star that was recorded to rise heliacally with Enun may be restored as GAB-GIRTAB. On one date, the 15th Tebet, in addition to the heliacal risings of three stars, the appearance of Kad-si-di in the evening is noted. An interesting indication of the practical character of the treatise may be seen in the fact that notes are given as to the payments made to the day and night watch respectively: during the six months, from the 15th Tammuz to the 15th Tebet, the day-watch was paid four manehs and the night-watch two (cf. Col. II, l. 42), but during the remainder of the year the payments were reversed, the night-watch receiving twice the pay of the day-watch (cf. Col. III, l. 9). The observers who were on duty during the longer and colder nights of winter and the long scorching days of the summer months were naturally more highly recompensed.

(iii) List of simultaneous heliacal risings and settings of 55 stars on fifteen occasions throughout the year. (Col. III, ll. 13–33). In this section dates are not given, and it is merely noted which stars rise and set together. As in the preceding section, two and sometimes three stars are grouped together.

(iv) List of intervals in days between the heliacal risings of 16 important stars throughout the year arranged in chronological order. (Col. III, ll. 34–48). It will be seen that the intervals agree with the dates given in Section (ii), if we assign thirty days to a month. The name of the star, which was recorded in l. 48 as rising twenty days after KAK-SI-DI, is to be restored as Ban or Lugal.

(v) Note on the length of time (four minutes) during which certain phenomena are noted in connexion with the stars at dawn and at twilight respectively (Col. III, ll. 49 and 50). The end of each line, containing the phenomena noted, is wanting.

(vi) List of 14 stars of Enlil to be used by the astronomer to check his observation of heliacal risings and settings (Col. IV, ll. 1–9). It may be noted that, with the exception of Lik-ku and Enun, the stars are enumerated in the same relative order as in Section (i). The star A-Edin, which is here included, was omitted from the earlier list, unless its name should be restored in place of that of Shupa.

(vii) List of heliacal risings with corresponding culminations in the South (Col. IV, ll. 10–30). It should be noted that the dates here given for some of the heliacal risings present discrepancies with those in Section (ii). Thus Ban in the month Ab and Dilgan in the month Sebat are both stated to rise ten days later; and Nunki is given as rising heliacally with Shupa on the 15th Elul, instead of with Uanaamu on the 10th of that month.

(viii) List of the stars and constellations in the path of the Moon (Col. IV, ll. 31–39). This section, though broken, is of great importance as it indicates the principle on which the lists in Section (i) are arranged, and also furnishes additional data for fixing the positions of ten of the stars mentioned in the lists and of others not there included.

(ix) Catch-line, Title, and Colophon (Col. IV, ll. 40 ff.). Little more than the Title, to which reference has already been made, is preserved. I hope to have the opportunity of publishing elsewhere my translation and discussion of the text.

II. Assyrian Astronomical Text from Ashur-bani-pal's Library at Nineveh (Plate 9).

This inscription (82-3-22, 512) is here included for the sake of the text upon the Reverse of the tablet, which contained a list of 36 selected stars and constellations, twelve from each of the three great divisions of heaven under the control respectively of Enlil, Anu, and Ea. On comparison with the longer classified lists upon No. 86378, Obv., Col. I, l. 1—Col. II, l. 35 (see above p. 4), the Assyrian list will be found to offer some variants, both in the stars it includes and in the order of their arrangement. Of the four stars of Enlil, whose titles are preserved, all are found in the Neo-Babylonian list and their relative order is the same. Of the twelve stars of Anu, nine occur upon No. 86378, and again their order is the same, as will be
The best preserved of the planispheres (K. 8538), which are included in this section, is here published in facsimile for the first time, though a transcript of the greater part of it, with a discussion and explanatory notes, was given by Sayce and Bosanquet in the *Monthly Notices of the Astronomical Society*, XL (1880), pp. 119 ff. The planisphere is circular in shape, with a slightly rounded Reverse, the Obverse being flat and surrounded with a raised edge or rim; it has been partly vitrified and some parts are missing. The flat portion of the Obverse, within the rim, is evidently intended for the heavenly sphere, and is divided into eight equal sections. The geometrical diagrams or figures within the sections apparently represent constellations, the lines in most cases joining or enclosing stars, their positions being indicated by large or small holes impressed in the surface of the clay; the triangular impressions possibly represent stars of a greater magnitude. Some of the notes, which have been added by the scribe, give the names of the stars or constellations; others evidently refer to particular portions of the sphere, and in one place give measurements in figures. The majority of the diagrams are purely geometrical, but one, which is partly preserved and is labelled K. 1900, gives the first star for the month TEBET under the form RAB. The stars are represented by the scribe (No. 103445, pl. 15), and another tablet with an excrescence, referring to the positions of various stars; the last line gives the name of the scribe as Shum-tilišša.

The largest of these, No. 103387, is part of a carefully written tablet, inscribed with lists of supplies or offerings consisting of various amounts of grain of different kinds, honey, oil, and also sheep and cattle; one section is headed NABIBU 3A PULNUR IŠAN, and another NABIBU 3A RIMKI, referring to the departments to which the supplies or offerings had been devoted. The tablet is evidently an account-tablet from one of the great Assyrian temples at Ashur. The other tablets include a note referring to the arrival of certain men in the city of Shadashé (No. 103445, pl. 14); an olive-shaped tablet recording a loan of grain (No. 103396, pl. 15); a tablet with an excrescence pierced for suspension, probably recording an agreement protected by a curse, dated and witnessed by the scribe (No. 103395, pl. 15); and four case-tablets recording loans of silver (Nos. 103391-4, pl. 16-19). Seven of the tablets are dated in the eponymies of NA-BI-Shar-Ušur (No. 103395) and the following year (No. 103394), of BULUT (No. 103393), of BĒL-IMURANI (No. 103392), of ASHUR-Shad-niššušu (No. 103443), of AMURRUMA-ILU (No. 103395), and of ASHUR-Shapâti(?)-BIRI (No. 103392).
V. OLD BABYLONIAN LETTERS OF THE PERIOD OF THE FIRST DYNASTY  
(Plates 8, 20-26).

These texts are in continuation of those published in Part XXIX.

VI. LEGAL DOCUMENTS OF THE PERIOD OF THE FIRST BABYLONIAN DYNASTY  
(Plates 26-49).

These documents are of the same class and period as those published in Parts II, IV, VI, and VIII. They include money-loans, corn-loans and receipts, the hire of land for cultivation, purchase of building-land, the hire or purchase of slaves, a marriage-contract and a deed of adoption; one of the texts records the supply of birds to the palace, and is in the nature of a dated receipt.

VII. SOME ROYAL INSCRIPTIONS FROM MACE HEADS, ETC. (PLATE 50).

The texts on this plate are taken from the following monuments: (a) Stone mace-head inscribed with a votive text recording its manufacture by an official named Arad-Shamash and dedicated to Nergal for his own life and that of Abil-saré, king of Ur and Larsa. This king, whose name is here recovered for the first time, is probably to be assigned to about the period of the First Babylonian Dynasty, if we may judge from the forms of the characters (No. 104838).

(b) Broken votive mace-head with opening lines of dedicatory inscription (No. 104721).

(c) Inscription from duck-weight of two talents, of Ur-Ningirsu, patesi of Lagash (No. 104721).

(d) Limestone mace-head from Nimrud inscribed with a text recording its dedication to Ishtar under the title "Queen of Kidmuri," by Ashur-nasir-pal, to secure long life and prosperity.
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PLATE 2.

NEO-BABYLONIAN ASTRONOMICAL TEXT.

88378,

OBVERSE, COLUMN I (CONTINUED).

1. The sign has here been erased by the scribe.

2. The spaces left blank at the beginnings of ll. 1, 5f, 9f, 28 and 39 occur where lines in Column I have run over into Column II.
PLATE 3.

NEO-BABYLONIAN ASTRONOMICAL TEXT.

86578,

OBVERSE, COLUMN II (CONTINUED).

15

20

25

30

35

1. See pl. 2, note 2.
NEO-BABYLONIAN ASTRONOMICAL TEXT.

86378,
REVERSE, COLUMN III (CONTINUED).
NEO-BABYLONIAN ASTRONOMICAL TEXT.
85378,
REVERSE, COLUMN III (CONTINUED).

REVERSE COLUMN IV.
PLATE 8.

NEO-BABYLONIAN ASTRONOMICAL TEXT, ETC.

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REVERSE, COLUMN IV (CONTINUED).

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1. The Reverse of the tablet is uninscribed.
2. Written over an erasure.
ASSYRIAN PLANISPHERES.

K. 8538,

[THE REVERSE OF THE PLANISPHERE IS UNINSCRIBED.]
ASSYRIAN PLANISPHERES.
ASSYRIAN PLANISPHERES.
K. 14943 + 81-7-27, 94.

[BROKEN SURFACE.]
ASSYRIAN TABLETS FROM SHERKÁT.

103387.

OBVERSE.
ASSYRIAN TABLETS FROM SHERKAT.

103306 EDGE.

[Two seal-impressions.]

103305 OBVERSE.

LOWER EDGE.

10  REVERSE.

15
ASSYRIAN TABLETS FROM SHERKÂT.

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EDGE.

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[TWO SEAL-IMPRESSIONS.]
ASSYRIAN TABLETS FROM SHERKAT.

CASE-TABLET. No. 103391.
OLD BABYLONIAN LETTERS OF THE FIRST DYNASTY.
OLD BABYLONIAN LETTERS OF THE FIRST DYNASTY.
OLD BABYLONIAN LETTERS OF THE FIRST DYNASTY.
OLD BABYLONIAN LETTERS OF THE FIRST DYNASTY.
OLD BABYLONIAN LETTERS OF THE FIRST DYNASTY.

07385,
OBVERSE.

108848,
OBVERSE AND EDGE.

REVERSE.

10
PLATE 27.

LEGAL DOCUMENTS OF THE FIRST BABYLONIAN DYNASTY.

78373,
(Bu. 88-5-12, 283.)

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<tr>
<th>Obverse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[Seal-Impression:]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Seal-Impression:]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reverse and Edge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[Seal-Impression of Ibik-Anunitum:]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Seal-Impression:]</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 15 |

| 20 |
LEGAL DOCUMENTS OF THE FIRST BABYLONIAN DYNASTY.

81019
(Bu. 91-5-9, 1157)

OBVERSE.

REVERSE AND EDGE.
PLATE 29.

LEGAL DOCUMENTS OF THE FIRST BABYLONIAN DYNASTY.

81087
(Bu. 91-5-9, 1224)

OBVERSE AND EDGE.

REVERSE AND EDGE.

LEFT SIDE.
LEGAL DOCUMENTS OF THE FIRST BABYLONIAN DYNASTY.

80298
(Bu. 91-5-9, 393)

OBVERSE.

EDGES.

REVERSE.
LEGAL DOCUMENTS OF THE FIRST BABYLONIAN DYNASTY.

80228
(Bu, 91.5-9, 359)

OBVERSE AND EDGE.

REVERSE AND EDGE.

[Seal-impression of Ilishu-ibni.]

[Seal-impression of Arad-Ilishu.]

[Seal-impressions of Ilishu-ibni.]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5</th>
<th>ON LEFT SIDE ABOVE SEAL-IMPRESSION.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Obverse and Edge**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Reverse and Edge**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>20</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
On the left-hand side, inscribed over Seal-Impressions:

1. [Text]
2. [Text]
3. [Text]
LEGAL DOCUMENTS OF THE FIRST BABYLONIAN DYNASTY.
LEGAL DOCUMENTS OF THE FIRST BABYLONIAN DYNASTY.
LEGAL DOCUMENTS OF THE FIRST BABYLONIAN DYNASTY.
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LEGAL DOCUMENTS OF THE FIRST BABYLONIAN DYNASTY.
LEGAL DOCUMENTS OF THE FIRST BABYLONIAN DYNASTY.
PLATE 41.

LEGAL DOCUMENTS OF THE FIRST BABYLONIAN DYNASTY.
LEGAL DOCUMENTS OF THE FIRST BABYLONIAN DYNASTY.

81000
(Bu. 91.5.b, 1138).

OBVERSE.

REVERSE.

EDGE.

EDGE.

LEFT HAND SIDE.
PLATE 43.

LEGAL DOCUMENTS OF THE FIRST BABYLONIAN DYNASTY.

81086
(B.6. 91.5-9. 1823.

OBVERSE AND EDGE.

REVERSE AND EDGE.

LEFT HAND SIDE.
PLATE 44.

LEGAL DOCUMENTS OF THE FIRST BABYLONIAN DYNASTY.

80727
(Bu. 91.5-9, 886).

OBVERSE.

80861
(Bu. 91.5-9, 1091).

OBVERSE.

REVERSE.

REVERSE.

EDGE.
LEGAL DOCUMENTS OF THE FIRST BABYLONIAN DYNASTY.

81070
( Bu 91.5-9, 1907).

OBVERSE AND EDGE.

REVERSE AND EDGE.

7. Erasure by the Scribe.

96738
(Bu. 91.5-9, 866).

OBVERSE.

REVERSE.
PLATE 47.

LEGAL DOCUMENTS OF THE FIRST BABYLONIAN DYNASTY.

80869
(Bu. 91-5-9, 506).

OBVERSE.

78704
(Bu. 88-5-12, 615).

OBVERSE AND EDGE.

EDGE

REVERSE.

ON LEFT HAND SIDE BESIDE SEAL-IMPRESSIONS.
LEGAL DOCUMENTS OF THE FIRST BABYLONIAN DYNASTY.

80900
(Bu. 915-9, 1040).

81017
(Bu. 915-9, 1155).
ROYAL INSCRIPTIONS FROM MACE-HEADS, ETC.

104838
[MACE-HEAD].

104721
[DUCK-WEIGHT].

23468
[MACE-HEAD]

104411
[MACE-HEAD]