

ÖSTERREICHISCHE AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN
PHILOSOPHISCH-HISTORISCHE KLASSE
DENKSCHRIFTEN. 299. BAND

ASTRONOMICAL
DIARIES AND RELATED TEXTS
FROM BABYLONIA

Volume V

Lunar and Planetary Texts

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VERLAG DER ÖSTERREICHISCHEN AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN
WIEN 2001

Table of Eclipses

Text	Tablet	Lines	Date	Type	Record	Comments
1	BM 41985	Obv. 2	-746 Feb 6	Lunar	Observation	
		Obv. 3-4	-746 Aug 2	Lunar	Observation	
		Obv. 5	-745 Jan 26	Lunar	Observation	
		Obv. 6	-745 Jul 22	Lunar	Observation	
		Obv. 7	-744 Jan 15	Lunar	Prediction	
		Obv. 8	-744 Jul 10	Lunar	Prediction	

No. 1

BM 41985 (= 81-6-25. 607)

Copy: LBAT 1413

Photo: Pl. 1

Oby.:

- 0 *ina a-mat* ^dEN u ^dGAŠAN-*ia liš-lim*
 1 1.40 MU SAG NAM-LUGAL-LA [x x x]
 2 ŠE 5 ITU 14 U₄-ZAL GAR *ád* 'x' [x x]
 3 2.10 MU-1 KIN [1]'5'¹ GAR *ina* SI SAR [x (x)]
 4 [x] ULÙ 'GIN' *ád* ŠÚ KIN D[IR]
 5 [ZÍZ 1]4 GAR 1.40 *ana* ZÁLAG T[AG₄']
 6 [MU-2 IZ]1 14 TIL GAR
 7 [ZÍZ] DIB
 8 [MU-3 IZI DI]B KIN DIR
 9 [x x x x] TIL 'x'
 10 [....] 'x' [....]

Comments

- 1: The significance of the number 1.40, as well as of 2,10 in line 3, is unknown to me: for a suggestion of J. Steele, see p. 392. A similar number occurs in No. 2 I 1'.
- 2: the sign after *ád* is certainly not ŠÚ. I translate GAR here by "it (i.e. the moon) made", assuming a form of *šakānu* like *iškun* or *iltakan*. In later, more detailed eclipse reports, a time interval is given with GAR, and a translation "onset", i.e. the first part of the eclipse, is appropriate in these cases.
- 3: 2.10 is written on the edge.
- 9: The almost completely broken sign at the end of the line has an upper horizontal wedge and so cannot be GAR.

No. 1

Obv.:

- 0 At the command of Bel and Beltija may it go well.
 1 1.40. Accession year [of]
 2 Month XII. (after) 5 months, the 14th, morning watch, it made (an eclipse)^t [....]
 3 2.10. Year 1. Month VI. [the 1]^t5th^t, it made (an eclipse)^t. It began in the north [....]
 4 [....] the south wind blew. It set eclipsed. Month VI was in[tercalary.]
 5 [Month XI. the 1]4th, it made (an eclipse)^t. 1.40^o re[mained^t] to clearing.
 6 [Year 2. Month] V. the 14th, it made a total (eclipse).
 7 [Month XI.] omitted.
 8 [Year 3. Month V. omitt]ed. Month VI was intercalary.
 9 [....] total^t [....]
 10 [....] [....]

Date (J. M. Steele)

This tablet contains four observations of successive lunar eclipses observed in the accession. 1st and 2nd years of an unknown reign. They are followed by two predictions for years 2 and 3. In LBAT this tablet was dated to the reign of Nabonassar; however, there are problems with this date. For example, the fourth eclipse, which would be on -745 July 21, probably rose after the end of totality and so it is doubtful if the total phase could have been seen. Between -850 and -310 (after which accession years were not used), the only other possible date for this tablet would be for the series of eclipses starting with -800 January 4. However, this would lead to an implausibly early date for the beginning of the year, and so I am forced to tentatively follow LBAT in accepting the eclipse series beginning with -746 February 6.