
MORE ON TMH 1, 354. AN OLD ASSYRIAN DEBT-NOTE IN THE HILPRECHT COLLECTION IN JENA¹

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ABSTRACT

TMH 1, 354 is an Old Assyrian debt-note of silver from the kārūm of Kaneš kept in the Hilprecht Collection in Jena. This contribution offers a new copy and a photographic reproduction of the text. A dating to KEL 82 (Šarru-kēn 27) was also made possible by the recent edition of the tablets of the Kt o/k archive.

KEYWORDS

Old Assyrian, debt-note, loan contract, Hilprecht Collection, ḥamuštum.

ABSTRACT

TMH 1, 354 ist ein aus kārūm Kaneš stammender altassyrischer Verpflichtungsschein über Silber, der heute in der Hilprecht Sammlung in Jena aufbewahrt wird. Der folgende Aufsatz bietet eine neue Handkopie und eine fotografische Reproduktion des Textes. Eine Datierung auf das 82. Jahr der KEL (27. Jahr des Šarru-kēn) wurde aufgrund der letzter Veröffentlichung der Tafeln des Kt o/k Archivs möglich.

SCHLÜSSELWÖRTER

Altassyrisch, Verpflichtungsschein, Hilprecht Sammlung, ḥamuštum.

1. Introduction

1. 1. The text presented here is an Old Assyrian debt-note (also called loan contract) of silver from the *kārūm* of Kaneš kept in the Hilprecht Collection in Jena.² It forms part of one of the major lots of the collection, namely the so-called “Cappadocian tablets”, which Hermann V. Hilprecht acquired in Constantinople in the last decade of the 19th century, during his participation in the excavations at Nippur and clearly prior to the first systematic excavations at Kültepe in 1925.³ Its first publication dates back to 1930 (Eisser and Lewy 1930, 19), where it is named “Jena 354” and indexed among the “*Verpflichtungsscheine, die den Grund ihrer Ausstellung nicht erkennen lassen – Angabe nur der Fällig*” (Eisser and Lewy 1930: XI). A copy of the tablet was then offered in *TMH 1*, where the text and its case were assigned the number 354 A and B. The current collection number is HS 354 a. *TMH 1* also provides photos of both the sides of the case, HS 354 b (but not of the tablet), which bears seven seal-impressions of the three different seals mentioned on the case itself: *kunuk* Sukkaliya, *kunuk* Kazia and *kunuk* Aguza, i.e.

¹ It is a great honor and pleasure to dedicate this modest, brief contribution to Professor Liverani, whose classes at *Sapienza – Università di Roma* introduced me for the first time to the study of the Ancient Near East. His *Antico Oriente* will long remain among the most read books of generations of students and enthusiasts of the field, and I am no exception to this.

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² For a general study of this typology of text, see Rosen 1977.

³ This lot of 155 tablets and 13 envelopes is quite likely to have been purchased by Hilprecht himself (Hilprecht 1908: 58), although at that time he received several boxes of antiquities as a personal gift from His Imperial Majesty the Sultan (mostly late-babylonian tablets) (Hilprecht 1908: 41). For more details on the history of the collection see Oelsner 1985 and 1991.

the two witnesses (among them an eponym official) and the debtor. For a schematic reproduction of the seal impressions on the tablet-case, see Fig. 1.

1. 2. The aim of this contribution is to provide photos and a new copy of the text together with a new dating, made possible by the recent edition of the tablets of the Kt o/k archive (AKT IV). Transliteration and an English translation are also provided for the reader's convenience.

2. Text Apparatus

2. 1. Measures: 3 × 3,6 × 1,7 cm

2. 2. Transliteration

Obv.	1	$\frac{1}{3}$ MA.NA 5 GIN ₂ KU ₃ .BABBAR <i>ša-ru-pa₃-am</i> <i>i-še₂-er</i> <i>A-gu₅-za A-šur₃-^dUTU</i>
	5	<i>i-šu iš-tu₃</i> <i>ḥa-mu-uš-tim</i>
Lo.e.		<i>ša Su₂-ka₃-li-a</i>
Rev.		<i>u₃ Na-ab₂-Su₂-en₆</i>
		$\frac{2}{3}$ GIN ₂ 15 <ŠE>
	10	<i>i ITU 1.KAM</i> <i>u₂-ša-ab₂</i> <i>IGI Su₂-ka₃-li-a</i> <i>IGI Ka₃-zi-a</i>

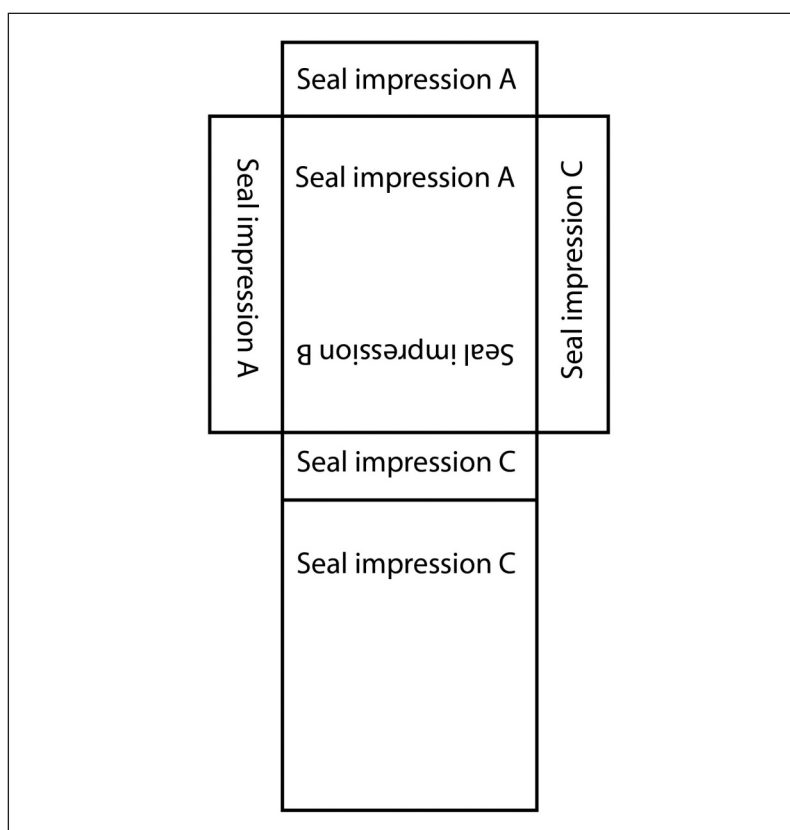


Fig. 1. Schematic reproduction of the seal impressions on the tablet-case.

2. 3. Translation

Aguza owes one third of a mine and five shekels of refined silver to Aššur-Šamšī. From the *ḥamuštum* of Sukkalliya and Nab-Su'en, he will add two-thirds of a shekel and 15 grains of monthly interest. Before Sukkalliya, before Kazia.

2. 4. Commentary

The structure of the document is among the simplest in its genre, since it does not present either a full date nor a term for the loan. All the scribe lets the reader know about the loan is the original amount of silver and the monthly interest rate -quite average- which one can easily figure out by doing the math. As additional minor remarks, one can notice a few erased wedges here and there, registered with thinner strokes on the copy, and a quite evident fingerprint on the right side of the last two lines.

2. 4. 1. Monthly interest rate: 3%

2. 4. 2. Structure of the contract

Amount due – *iššer* PN1 (debtor) – PN2 (creditor) *išu* – *ḥamuštum* clause – interest rate (amount/time) – *uṣṣab* – witnesses

2. 4. 3. Prosopographical Notes

4: Aguza is a scarcely attested name, probably of Anatolian origin. It may be written either *A-gu₅-za* or *A-gu-za*. In the case of one text, *RSM* 8, both of the variants are attested together (respectively rev. 2, 3 and obv. 2). One text (*KTK* 103 + *TCL* 4, 93) supplies information about a brother (*A-mur^dUTU*, obv. 1) and a son (*A-šur₃-GAL*, obv. 2) of Aguza. Other texts identify Aguza as the son of *Šu-A-nim* (e.g. *RSM* 6, obv. 7-8; *ICK* 1, 20a, obv. 7). On comparative grounds, seal impression A on the tablet-case may be attributed to the seal of Aguza, son of *Šu-Anim* (see Özgüç 2006: 222, CS 666, and Pl. 235/1).

Aššur-Šamšī is a quite well-attested name, especially in OA texts (176 records just in the OATP online database); the second part of the name may be written either completely syllabically (*Aššur-ša-am-ši*, *CAD* Š I: 337), or as a sumerogram together with a phonetic complement (*Aššur^dUTU^{š2}*), leaving no room for doubt about its interpretation (“Aššur is my sun”).

7: Both this and the following PN are well attested in Kaneš. In the case of Sukkalliya (“My sukkal”) Stamm (1939: 243) notes that “*weniger wahrscheinlich sind diese Namen* [both Sukkallī and Sukkalliya] *Hypokoristika zu Ili-sukkal(lum)*, weil dieser theophore Typus im Altassyrischen nicht vorkommt”. *Su₂-ka₃-li-a* seems to just be a less frequently attested variant of the more frequent *Su₂-ka₃-li₂(-a)* form⁴ (see Stephens 1928: 71-72).

8: Nab-Su'en, “The one named by Su'en”. Although this is the most well-attested form of this PN in Kaneš, *Na-bi-* occurs a few times (e.g. *ICK* 1, 23a, obv. 1 and *KKS* 32a, obv. 6), giving the possibility of *nabi-* as a bound form of the G verbal adjective of *nabā'um* (OB *nabûm*) “to name”. *Na-ab-* alternates with *Na-ab₂-*, *-Su₂-en₆* with *-Su₂-en*.

13: Kazia is probably a PN of Anatolian origin. It is attested in other debt-notes and letters in the decade after this text. It is possible, although not certain, that the same person had later become a *ḥamuštu* official (e.g. *KTS* 2, 42; *CCT* 1, 9b; *ICK* 2, 42). A few times a Kazia is recorded as son of Amriya (*CCT* 5, 43, obv. 28'; *ICK* 1, 191, le.e. 1; *ICK* 2, 130, rev. 11).

⁴ The spelling *Su₂-ka₃-li₂-a* is in fact used in both the occurrences of the tablet-case.

2. 5. Dating

2. 5. 1. *Ḫamuštum* (from now onwards *ḫ.*) is the shorter period of time in Assyrian contracts, especially in debt-notes like this one. Although references like “the second day of the *ḫ.*” or “the beginning of the month” are quite common, there is no record of a specific day of the month. *Ḫ.* has been defined as a period from five to ten days.⁵ The possible number of *ḫ.* to which a contract may refer may vary from one (in this case) to 50.

2. 5. 2. Lines 7-8 give the only indication of the dating of the document, as these two officials are the eponyms of the *ḫ.* Until recently, it was not possible to precisely date this short period of time. This debt-note was in fact the only occurrence of these two PNs together. Nevertheless, given that these two PNs are relatively well attested in other documents, this *ḫ.* would likely have been between KEL 72 and 90, i.e. sometime during the reign of Šarru-kēn. The publication of the archive Kt o/k made the precise dating of this document possible. AKT IV, 2 (Kt o/k 165) is in fact a more complete debt-note in which not only the same *ḫ.* officials are mentioned, but also the *limmum* official (Šudaya). This datum sets without a shadow of a doubt the two documents in the 82nd year of KEL, i.e. ŠK 27.

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⁵ For a relatively recent discussion of the term, see Veenhof 1996. Veenhof favors a 7-day *ḫ.*, completely refusing the etymological interpretation. One of the most convincing arguments is the mayor attestation of 4-*ḫ.* periods, i.e. one month. For a 10-day *ḫ.* see Brinkman 1963. The term was also lately discussed by Kryszat 2004: 160-62.

STEPHENS, F. J. 1928. *Personal Names of Cappadocia*. YOSR 13/1. New Haven.

VEENHOF, K. R. 1996. The Old Assyrian hamuštum Period: a Seven-day Week, *JEOL* 34, 5-26.

Abbreviations

AKDTYK	Atatürk Kültür, Dil ve Tarih Yüksek Kurumu.
AKT IV	İ. Albayrak, <i>Kültepe Tabletleri IV</i> . AKDTYK Türk Tarih Kurumu yayımları; VI. Dizi-Sa. 33 ^b . Ankara 2006.
CAD	A. L. Oppenheim / E. Reiner et al. (eds.), <i>The Assyrian Dictionary of the University of Chicago</i> . Chicago 1956 ff.
CCT 1	S. Smith, <i>Cuneiform Texts from Cappadocian Tablets in the British Museum 1</i> . London 1921.
CCT 5	S. Smith / D. J. Wiseman, <i>Cuneiform Texts from Cappadocian Tablets in the British Museum 5</i> . London 1956.
FAOS Bh.	Freiburger Altorientalische Studien, Beihefte: Altassyrische Texte und Untersuchungen. 1984 ff.
HS	Frau Professor Hilprecht-Sammlung Vorderasiatischer Altertümer im Eigentum der Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena.
ICK 1	B. Hrozný, <i>Inscriptions cunéiformes du Kultépé 1</i> (=Monografie Archívu Orientálního 14). Prag 1952.
ICK 2	L. Matouš, <i>Inscriptions cunéiformes du Kultépé 2</i> . Prag 1962.
JEOL	Jaarbericht van het Vooraziatisch-Egyptisch Gezelschap (from 1945:Genootschap) Ex Oriente Lux. Leiden 1933/37 ff.
KEL	Kültepe Eponym List.
KKS	L. Matouš / M. Matoušová-Rajmová, <i>Kappadokische Keilschrifttafeln mit Siegeln: aus den Sammlungen der Karlsuniversität in Prag</i> . Prag 1984.
Kt o/k	Kültepe-Texts of Turkish excavations in 1963.
KTK	N. B. Ânkovskaâ, <i>Klinopisnye teksty iz Kjul'-Tepe v sobraniâch SSSR. Pis'ma i dokumenty trgovogo ob'edineniâ v Maloj Azii XIX v. do n.é.</i> (=Pamâtniki pis'mennosti Vostoka 14). Moscow 1968.
KTS 2	V. Donbaz, <i>Keilschrifttexte in den Antiken-Museen zu Stambul. Die altassyrischen Texte vom Kültepe bei Kaisarije 2</i> (=FAOS Bh. 2). 1989.
MVAeG	Mitteilungen der Vorderasiatischen (from 1921: Vorderasiatisch-Ägyptischen) Gesellschaft. Berlin / Leipzig 1896 ff.
OA	Old Assyrian
OAAS	Old Assyrian Archives. Studies. Leiden 2003 ff.
OATP	Old Assyrian Text Project. http://oatp.ku.dk (last

OB	accessed on February 2015) Old Babylonian
Or.NS	Orientalia Nova Series. Rome 1932 ff.
RSM	S. Dalley, <i>A Catalogue of the Akkadian Cuneiform Tablets in the Collections of the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh</i> . Edinburgh 1979.
TCL 4	G. Contenau, <i>Tablettes cappadociennes, publiées avec inventaire et tables, Musée du Louvre, département des antiquités orientales, textes cunéiformes</i> . Paris 1920.
TMH 1	J. Lewy, <i>Die Keilschrifttexte aus Kleinasien. Texte und Materialien der Frau Professor Hilprecht Collection im Eigentum der Universität Jena 1</i> . Leipzig 1932.
YOSR	Yale Oriental Series. Researches. New Haven / London / Oxford 1912 ff.



Fig. 2. TMH 1, 354 A. Photo and graphic elaboration by the author. Scale 2:3