Miscellaneous Tablets and Fragments Found at Kültepe in 2012 and 2013

Cécile Michel[1]

The excavations at Kültepe, the ancient Kaneš, in Central Anatolia, which started in 1948 under the direction of Tahsin Özgüç, assisted by Kutlu Emre from 1955 on, have yielded up to now 17760 cuneiform clay tablets, envelopes and fragments written in the Old Assyrian dialect.[2] Every year, until 2005, archaeologists use to explore one, two or three houses in the lower town, some housing an archive, other none. In 1948, 1950, 1962 and 1994, the annual mission produced between 1,500 and more than 2,000 tablets.[3] An international team of Assyriologists is working on the publication of these tablets, each scholar being in charge of one or more archives. Since 1990 and the first book of the series Ankara Kültepe Tabletleri, ten volumes of Kültepe Old Assyrian tablets have been published, others are in press.[4] Scholars are especially working on the archives excavated between 1987 and 1994, a period of eight years which produced almost 6,000 tablets.

After the death of Tahsin Özgüç in October 2005, Fikri Kulakoğlu took over Kültepe excavations in 2006, helped by Kutlu Emre until 2013.[5] The efforts of the excavation team are concentrated since then on the mound, with the discovery of an Early Bronze Age monumental building in 2009 which is still being explored.[6] Punctual operations have been carried in the lower town, like those in the areas XLVIII-LIV/110-114, LXVI-LXIX/135-137 and LXXII-LXXV/136-139 where

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[1] CNRS, Archéologies et Sciences de l'Antiquité, Maison Archéologie et Ethnologie, Nanterre, and member of the Kültepe archaeological team; cecile.michel@mae.cnrs.fr.

[2] Before the official excavations, I could list 4867 tablets which were unearthed by illicit diggers and by B. Hrozný (1925). In the whole, at least 22 627 tablets and fragments were found at Kültepe. For the publication of the Old Assyrian texts, see Michel 2003, 2006, 2011 and 2016.

[3] 1948 (Kt a/k): 1497; 1950 (Kt c/k): 1608; 1962 (Kt n/k): 2158 and 1994 (Kt 94/k): 1532.

[4] AKT 1–5, AKT 6a, 6b, 6c and 7a, as well as TPAK 1.

[5] Kutlu Emre died in December 2014 and the proceedings of the 1st Kültepe International Meeting was dedicated to her memory, Kulakoğlu and Michel 2015.

[6] Ezer 2014; Kulakoğlu 2015; Kulakoğlu and Öztürk 2015.

intramural graves dated to level Ia/Ib have been unearthed.[7] During such operations and during the cleaning of parts of the lower town, few tablets and fragments have been found. Some of these were deciphered by Murat Çayır,[8] and I had the chance to read others during the excavations in 2013, 2014 and 2015.[9]

This contribution contains the edition of 10 tablet and envelope fragments excavated in 2012 and 2013.[10] These tablets are, most of the time, very fragmentary, and they were not found *in situ*. However, it is important to publish all the fragments, whatever their size, because they may help one day to reconstruct complete pieces. It is my pleasure to offer this modest contribution to Stefan Zawadzki who tirelessly has been tracing in the British Museum large collection of clay tablets all those dealing with his current studies and with whom I share an interest on ancient textiles.

Tablets and envelopes unearthed in 2012

1. Kt 12/k 92

Fragment of a thick tablet inscribed on one side, presumably a *memorandum*. It has been found during surface cleaning in the lower town.

Dimensions: 4 × 3,4 × 1,3 cm. It is not possible to estimate its original size. Colour: light red.



(broken)
[… *a*?]-*wi-lu ša ṣé/t*[*im* …]
2’ (empty line)
[x *ma-n*]*a*? 6 ¼ gín k[ù-babbar …]
4’ [… *t*]*a*?-*a* dumu *E*-[…]
[x *ma*]-*na* kù-babbar : *Šu*-^{d}e[n-líl …]
6’ [x *ma-n*]*a* 10 gín kù-[babbar …]
[*X-x-A-š*]*ùr* dumu *X*[…]
8’ […] x […] (broken)

[7] Üstündağ 2014.

[8] See for example Çayır 2015.

[9] I wish to thank Fikri Kulakoğlu, Director of Kültepe excavations, who kindly gave me the permission to publish these tablets and fragments.

[10] The photos of the objects are reproduced here at a scale ×1.5.

Translation:

1'[...] the men? [...]. 3'[x min]a 6 ¼ shekels of s[ilver...:] 4'[X-x-t]aya, son of E-[x-x-x]. 5'[x mi]nas of silver: Šū-E[nlil]. 6'[x min]as 10 shekels of sil[ver...]. 7'[X-x]-Aššur, son of [PN]

Comments:

L. 1': The reading [*a*]-*wi-lu* is not certain. The last sign before the break can be either *tim* or *ši/ṣé*.

L. 5': The personal name could as well be read *Šu-*^{d}en-zu.

2. Kt 12/k 95

Top left part of an envelope with one clear sealing and two other very fragmentary sealings. It has been found during surface cleaning in the lower town.

Dimensions: 2 × 2,9 × 0,9 cm. Colour: Beige red.



According to A. W. Lassen, this seal belonged to Damiq-pī-Aššur, son of Warad-ilišu; it is well-attested in the archive of Šalim-Aššur's family excavated in 1994 and published by T. Larsen.[11] Damiq-pī-Aššur sent several letters to the two sons of Šalim-Aššur.

3. Kt 12/k 98

Top left part of the envelope of a private summon with a seal imprint. It has been found during surface cleaning in the lower town.

Dimensions: 3,4 × 5,1 × 0,7 cm. Colour: Beige yellow.

[11] Lassen personal communication; Lassen forthcoming. M. T. Larsen already published three volumes containing part of this archive: AKT 6a (2010), AKT 6b (2013) and AKT 6c (2014).



Rev. kišib *I-ku-pá-ša*
2 (seal imprint)
dumu *Pu-šu-ke-en*$_6$
4 [*a-n*]*a* : *a-wa-tim*
(...)
l.e. [...]-*ni*

Translation:
[1–3]Seal of Ikuppaša, son of Pūšu-kēn. [4][For (this)] affair [...]

It is very tempting to suggest that the imprint corresponds to the seal of Ikuppaša; however, it does not match with any of the imprints on the verdict ATHE 24 which was sealed, among others, by the sons of Pūšu-kēn.[12] This observation implies that other persons have sealed this envelope and their names should appear on the other side, which then presumably is the obverse.

4. Kt 12/k 106
Top part of the obverse of a letter addressed to Šalim-ahum by Aššur-massu'i. This fragment has been found during surface cleaning in the lower town. Dimensions: 2.5 × 4 × 0,5 cm. Colour: Beige light red.



Ob. [*a-na Šál*]-*mì-hi-im qí-bi-ma*
2 [*um-ma*] *A-šùr-ma-sú-i-ma*
[*a-na m*]*a-lá na-áš-pè-ra-tí-k*[*à*]
4 [*ša A*]-*mur*-^{d}utu$^{?}$: *ú-šé-bi-lá*-[*ni-ma*]
[x x (x)]-*ni-ni* : *ší*$^{?}$-*ma-am* [...]
6 [x x]-*na* kù-babbar^{pi}-*kà* [...]

[12] The sealings on the envelope ATHE 24 are reproduced by Teissier 1994: nos. 27b, 109, 205, 305, 344, 347, 351, 487, 554, 611, 613, 615, 621, 623, 634, 649.

Translation:

[1-2]Say [to Šal]im-ahum: [thus (says)] Aššur-massu'i. [3-4][Accor]ding to your message which you had [A]mur-Šamaš bring to [me and ...] [5]the price [...] [6][for/in] your silver [...]

Comments:

There is no other known letter exchanged between Šalim-ahum and Aššur-massu'i.

L. 4: Amur-Šamaš is well-known name in the Old Assyrian texts.

5. Kt 12/k 106bis

Bottom right corner of a tablet, it was packed together with the previous one, but it is not clear whether it belongs or not to the same tablet. It has been found during surface cleaning in the lower town.

Dimensions: 1,4 × 1,6 × 1,1 cm. Colour: Beige.



	]x
2'	]-*da-tim*
	]-*šu*
edge	] kù-[x]
	]-*tim*

6. Kt 12/k 109

Right part of a very small tablet, no more than four lines on each side. It has been found during surface cleaning in the lower town.

Dimensions: 1,8 × 2,8 × 1 cm. Colour: Beige.

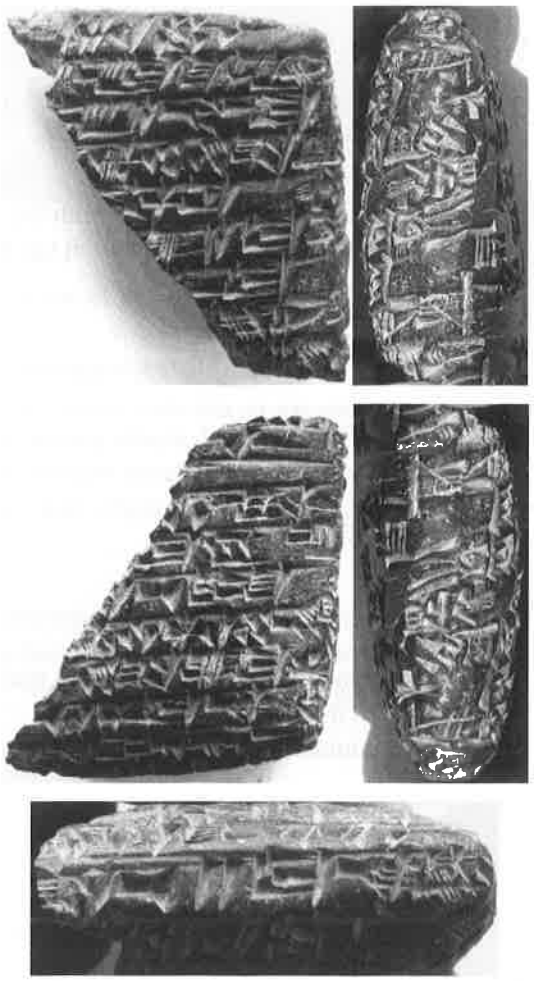




Ob.	]x
Rev.	]-*áš-lu*
2'	]-*in-šu*
	]-*na*

7. Kt 12/k 564

Right half part of a letter addressed to Tarhala from Šukni and X-x-Aššur. It deals with a debt in silver. This fragment was found during the digging of an evacuation for the toilets built for tourists at the entrance of the lower town.
Dimensions: 3,8 × 3,3 × 1,6 cm. Colour: Black.



Ob. [*a-na Ta*]-*ar-ha-lá*
2 [*qí-bi-ma*] : *um-ma Šu-uk-ni*
[*ù En*?]-*um-A-šùr-ma*
4 […] *ih-tí-li-iq*
[…] *i-ba-ší*
6 […] *ú a-ma-tum*
[… *m*]*ì-ma*
8 [… *l*]*am-ni-iš*

-Aššur. It deals
f an evacuation

[...*a/i*]-*ṣé-er*
(2–3 lines lost)
Rev. [...] *x x*
2' [...]-*lim*
[...] *lá*
4' [...]*x* : *lá ku-wa-/um*
[... *a*]-*ma-kam*
6' [.. *i-n*]*a pì-i-šu*
[... k]ù-babbar *hu-bu-li-ki*
8' [...*I-l*]*á-li-ú-ma-an*
[...] x : 1 ½ *ma-na*
10' [kù-babbar] *a-na* dumu *Nu-nu-lá*
u.e. [*x-l*]*i-bi*$_4$ 2 *ma-na* kù-babbar
le.e. [...]

Translation:
[1–3][Say to T]arhala: thus (say) Šukni [and X-x-x]um-Aššur. [4][...] has just got lost [...] [5][...] is available. [6][...] and the *amtum*-wives [7][...] all [8][...b]adly
(lacuna)
[4'][...] not yours [5'][...over] there [6'][...a]t his request [7'][...the s]ilver of your (fem.) debt [8'-9'][...Il]aliuman. [9'-11']1 ½ minas [of silver] to the son of Nunula from the 2 minas of silver [...]

Comments:
L. 1: Tarhala is a woman (see l. 7') attested in the unpublished female slave contract Kt d/k 49 where she appears as co-seller together with two other Anatolians; she impressed her seal on the envelope.
L. 2: Šukni is not attested up to now by the Old Assyrian texts.
L. 8': The proper name Ilaliuman is mentioned several times in the Old Assyrian texts, in a list of names (Kt 73/k 14:19), as involved with tin (KTH 37:17), as an Anatolian official (Kt 94/k 1504:3) or as the priest of the god Adad (Kt c/k 1340:15-16).

8. Kt 12/k 596
Right part of one face of a small tablet dealing with quantities of lapis lazuli. It has been found during surface cleaning in the lower town.
Dimensions: 5,2 × 4,6 × 0,9 cm. Colour: Beige light red.



[…] *ú* : 9 *m*[*a*?-*na*…]
2' [… na4]-za-gìn *ù* 5 tú[g x]
[x x] *mu-ṣí-im* : *i-š*[*i-im*?]
4' [x x] : *hu-sà-ri* 5 *ma-na* /
10 g[ín]
[*i*]-*na ša šé-ep*
6' [*N*]*a-áb-sú-in* :
2 ⅓ *ma-na* na4-za-gìn
8' *ù-šé-bi-il*5*-šu-um*
[x x]x 11 ½ *ma-na* 3 gín
10'[n]a4-za-gìn : *i-li-*[*bi* PN]
[*ší*]-*im* 1 gú u[rudu x x x]
12'[x x] *A-bu-ša-lim* [x x x x]
[x x x x] *at* [x x x x x]

Translation:
1'[…] and 9 m[inas?...] 2'[… l]apis lazuli and 5 texti[les …] 3'–4'[…] the minister of export, in the pr[ice? of …] lapis lazuli, 5 minas 10 shekels 5'–6'in the transport of Nab-Suen 7'–8'I sent him 2 ⅓ minas of lapis lazuli. 9'–10'[…] 11 ½ minas 3 shekels of lapis lazuli are ow[ned by PN. 11'The pr]ice of 1 talent of co[pper…] 12'[…] Abu-šalim […]

Comments:
This fragment concerns quantities of lapis lazuli noted alternatively with the logogram na4-za-gìn and with the word *husārum*. The two personal names mentioned in this text, Nab-Suen and Abu-šalim are quite common.

L. 1', 4', 7', 9': The quantities of lapis lazuli range between [x]+2 ⅓ minas and 11 ½ minas 3 shekels; this is more than the quantities regularly attested in the published texts.[13]
L. 3': The official *mūṣium* is also attested in Aššur where he is involved in the levy of the export tax.[14] He is one of the three high officials of the city of Hahhum who signed the treaty Kt 00/k 10 concluded with the Assyrians.[15]

[13] Michel 2001: 347–348.
[14] According to Dercksen 2004: 72, n. 236, in Anatolia, the *mūṣi'um* was involved in checking/purchasing iron from Assyrians.
[15] See Veenhof 2013 for a recent study of this treaty, with previous bibliography.

Tablet unearthed in 2013

9. Kt 13/k 114

Complete burnt tablet. It is damaged on its obverse; a piece of the tablet was already lost when photographed. Letter to Nimar-Šerua from Adaduwa concerning the sale of a donkey. The tablet was found in the grave M 16, dated to the Ib level in square LVI/135.

Dimensions: 3.9 × 4 × 1.6 cm. Colour: Dark grey.



Ob. *a-na* [*Ni*]-*mar-šé*-[*r*]*u-a*
2 *qí*-[*bi-ma um-ma A*]-*da-du-wa-ma ki*-[x x x x]-*im*
4 an[še *x-x-x iš-t*]*í*? *A-šùr*-du$_{10}$: *al-qé*
6 *u*$_4$!-*ma-am ki-a-am i-na* ^{d}utu^{ši}
8 *na-áš-pè-er-tí*
lo.e. *ta-ša-me-a-ni*



rev. anše *a-na A-šùr*-du$_{10}$
dí-in šu-ma anše
12 *lá ta-tí-dí-šu-um*
[1/]3 *ma-na* kù-babbar *ší-im* anše
14 [*dí-in*] *ki-ma*! *A-hu*-du$_{10}$ *A-šùr*-du$_{10}$
16 *li-zi-iz-ma*
[x x]

Translation:
[1–2]Sa[y] to [Ni]mar-Šerua: [thus (say) A]daduwama.
[3][…] [4–5]donk[ey …] I received [fro]m Aššur-ṭāb. [6–9]Now, in that way, as soon as you hear my letter, [10–12]give the donkey to Aššur-ṭāb. [11–12]If you have not given the donkey to him, [13–14][pay] ⅓ mina of silver, the price of the donkey. [14–16]Let Aššur-ṭāb stand instead of Ahu-ṭāb and […]

Comments:
The house in which the grave was dug was excavated in 2003, and about fifty tablets were discovered there, dated to level Ib. This archive will be published by C. Günbattı. According to the archaeologist, the tablet has presumably fallen from the room under which the grave has been dug and was found in the grave by accident.[16]
L. 1: The goddess Šerua is not yet attested in the Old Assyrian sources.
L. 2: Adaduwa written *A-du-du-wa* is attested as the father of Aššur-malik in the text Kt n/k 4:7, which is as well a Ib tablet.
L. 14–16: The other way round: "Let Ahu-ṭāb stand instead of Aššur-ṭāb" would make more sense.

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[16] O. Pedersén discussed the case of the Middle Assyrian archive of Babu-aha-iddina which was found in Aššur, in the grave 45, and he suggested as well that the tablets were there by accident, see Pedersén 1992.

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Awīlum ša la mašê – man who cannot be forgotten

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Presented on the Occasion of his 70th Birthday

Edited by
Rafał Koliński
Jan Prostko-Prostyński
Witold Tyborowski

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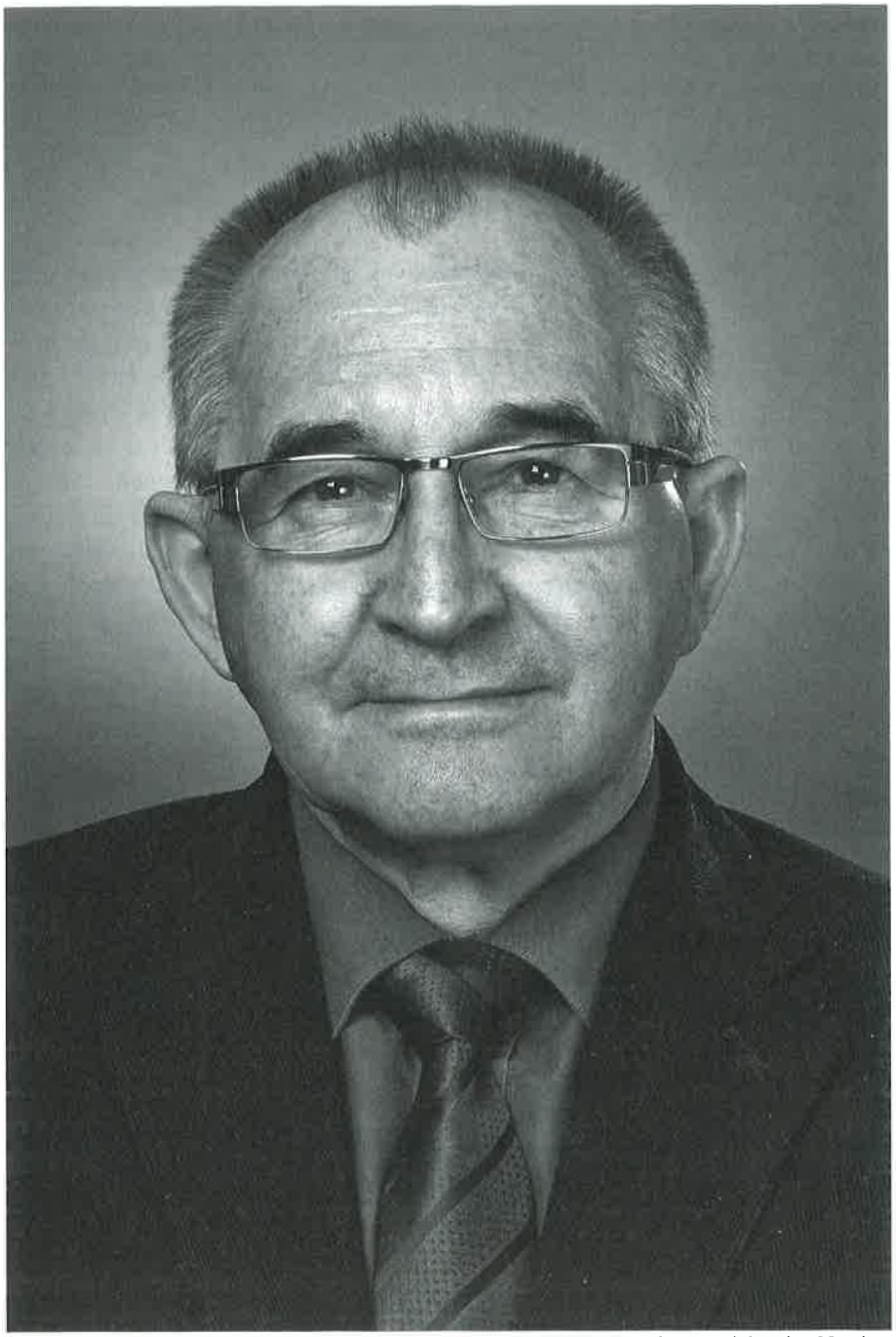
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Professor Stefan Zawadzki

Foreword

To honor a man of merit is an obligation for those who profit from his achievements and learning. Professor Stefan Zawadzki is a distinguished scholar who brought studies in history, society and economy of the Ancient Near East in Poland, and especially in Poznań on a new level. He may be called the founder of an oriental school in this city which became renown for this reason. Professor Zawadzki is finishing his work at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań soon, but his studies will be continued by his pupils and students who will always imitate his detailed analyzes and deep understanding of sources. This volume was prepared and is presented to the Reader to honor the 70th birthday and the retirement of professor Stefan Zawadzki who remains our preeminent master, wonderful colleague and lenient boss. The editors would like to thank all the Contributors who were so kind to send their surveys for their positive answer as well as their will to collaborate in the completion of this volume.

RAFAŁ KOLIŃSKI
JAN PROSTKO-PROSTYŃSKI
WITOLD TYBOROWSKI

Poznań
September 25, 2017

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