
Rosetta

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Review: Doris Prechel and Helmut Freydank, *Urkunden der königlichen Palastverwalter vom Ende des 2. Jt. Chr. Das "Archiv" Assur 21101 (M7 F)*. Studien zu den Assur-Texten 5, 2014. Pp. xii & 145. €50.00. ISBN 978-3-447-10184-4 (Hbk).

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Following the excellent copies presented by Prechel and Freydank in MARV 10 (2011), we may now welcome this supplemental volume by the same authors with transliterations and commentaries of these Middle Assyrian texts. The focus of the monograph under discussion is the so-called "Aššur 21101 archive" (M7 F), which is part of the larger and well-known M7 archive from Aššur, named by O. Pédersen 1985, *Archives and Libraries* (hereafter ALCA) and recently discussed by N. Postgate 2013, *Bronze Age Bureaucracy*, 147-176. Postgate referred to M7 as the steward archive, as its texts deal with materials belonging to the steward. The archive was found in a large building in the area between the Sîn-Šamaš and Ištar temples. It was evidently part of the palace archives, as texts deal with commodities that are often described as belonging to the palace. The content of the Aššur 21101 archive has also recently been discussed in the reviews of MARV 10: J. Llop, *AuOr* 30 (2012) 390-395; J. N. Postgate *Zeitschrift für altorientalische und biblische rechtsgeschichte* = (ZAR) 18 (2012) 379-382; J. J. de Ridder, *BiOr* 70 (2012) 139-144. Forthcoming is another review by de Ridder (*BiOr* 73, 2015) that will add several corrections and comments on individual texts. We will therefore concentrate on the larger scope of this archive.

A general overview of the history and provenance of the Aššur 21101 archive is offered in Chapter I.1, briefly discussing its position in ALCA and the affiliation between the presented monograph and MARV 10. This archive, named by Pédersen 1985, 68 the "Archive for official administration" consists of administrative documents

concerning a wide range of commodities, which is discussed in Chapter 1.2. The authors provide us with an overview of the content of the different texts of the archive, which consists mostly of notes, lists and transactions. There are only one or two letters and these are badly damaged. The authors devote a considerable part of the study (1.4) to a discussion of the archive's chronology, which has for a long time been the central point of many Middle Assyrian studies. Most edited Middle Assyrian archives date to the apex of this period: the reigns of Shalmaneser I and Tukultī-Ninurta I. The M7 archive is rather different and most texts date to a later period, concentrating on the period of Tiglath-Pileser I. The earliest text dates back to Aššur-nīrāri III/Enlil-kudurri-ušur; however, one should note no. 29, which actually mentions Tukultī-Ninurta I as an eponym. The archive is also unique in that it provides us with a small number of administrative documents that date to Aššur-bēl-kāla, the least well-documented Middle Assyrian king. Two texts from his reign are two lists of medical ingredients received by an incantation priest (^lMÁŠ.MÁŠ). These had already been edited by Farber/Freydank (AoF 5 1997, 255ff). After the reign of Aššur-bēl-kāla, the archives remain silent until the Neo Assyrian period. However, all dated documents appear to date to the eponym Ilī-iddina, which limits the attested activities during his reign. In light of the lack of palaeographic studies of Middle Assyrian texts from Aššur and Kār-Tukultī-Ninurta, it is unfortunate that no sign list similar to text editions such as Tell Ḥuwīra (VFMOS, 2 III) and Tell Šēḫ Ḥamad (BATSH 4) is provided.

The focus of this study is the text edition consisting of 93 texts, copies of which have been published in various places. A number of them can be found in the various volumes of the MARV series, but the earliest copies are already found in KAJ (1927). However, considering the date of the latter, it is fortunate that improved copies can be found in MARV 10. At the same time, some texts in MARV 10 do belong to the M4 rather than the M7 archive. For this reason, the reader should be aware that the numbering of texts in the present volume is not entirely consistent with MARV 10.

The texts themselves have been significantly damaged and the interpretation of their content often remains difficult. It is possible to reconstruct Middle Assyrian documents when the legal and stock formulas are available. However, these are unfortunately largely absent in the present volume and have been replaced with a significant number of technical terms that are poorly attested in Middle Assyrian or in

Akkadian in general. There are also no central persons present, as this archive is likely to have been part of the palace archive, even though it was found in a separate building. Despite the damaged character of the texts, they nonetheless provide us with some new Middle Assyrian grammatical features previously rarely or never attested. For example, *šunāšunu* (no. 3:8), the dative independent pronoun of the third person masculine plural. Another interesting point is the occurrence of Hittites and the toponym 'Ḫatti' in some texts, even though these are dated to the period following the fall of the traditional Hittite kingdom, which probably refer to the kingdom of Carchemish.

Several indices, including a glossary, an index of personal nouns and one of geographical terms, are presented. These make consulting the damaged texts easier and contribute to our knowledge of the Middle Assyrian glossary and onomasticon. Note that the noun 'steward' is always written logographically as ^(lú)AGRIG. While the glossary gives the Akkadian equivalent *abarakku/mašennu*, it has been demonstrated that *mašennu* is likely to have been the correct form (Jakob 2003, *Mittelassyrische Verwaltung und Sozialstruktur Untersuchungen*, 94 n175.)

In conclusion, this study is a welcome addition to the field of Middle Assyrian research. The authors, D. Prechel and H. Freydank, offer interesting text editions following their cuneiform copies presented in MARV 10, thereby shedding new light on a rather difficult archive.