

THE ROYAL INSCRIPTIONS OF THE NEO-BABYLONIAN EMPIRE  
VOLUME 1/1

The Royal Inscriptions of Nabopolassar  
(625–605 BC) and Nebuchadnezzar II  
(604–562 BC), Kings of Babylon, Part 1

JAMIE NOVOTNY and FRAUKE WEIERSHÄUSER

EISENBRAUNS  
University Park, Pennsylvania

# Contents

List of Figures . . . . .	xi
Contents of Scores . . . . .	xiii
Directors' Foreword . . . . .	xv
Foreword from the Director of the Vorderasiatisches Museum . . . . .	xvii
Preface . . . . .	xix
Editorial Notes . . . . .	xxi
Bibliographical Abbreviations . . . . .	xxiii
Other Abbreviations . . . . .	xxxiii
Object Signatures . . . . .	xxxv
Introduction . . . . .	1
<b>I. Nabopolassar</b>	
Babylon	
Cylinders	
No. 1 — Imgur-Enlil (Short Version) Inscription (C11/A) . . . . .	35
No. 2 — Imgur-Enlil (Short Version) Inscription (C11/B) . . . . .	37
No. 3 — Imgur-Enlil (Long Version) Inscription (C32) . . . . .	38
No. 4 — Nēmetti-Enlil Inscription (C23) . . . . .	42
No. 5 — VA Bab 636 . . . . .	44
No. 6 — Etemenanki Inscription (C31) . . . . .	45
No. 7 — é.PA.GÍN.ti.la Inscription (C12) . . . . .	51
Bricks	
Introduction to Npl. 8-12 . . . . .	55
No. 8 — Embankment Inscription, Version 1 (B1) . . . . .	55
No. 9 — Embankment Inscription, Version 2 (B3) . . . . .	58
No. 10 — Embankment Inscription, Version 3 (B5) . . . . .	60
No. 11 — Arahtu Inscription, Version 1 (B2) . . . . .	61
No. 12 — Arahtu Inscription, Version 2 (B4) . . . . .	64
No. 13 — Etemenanki Inscription (B6) . . . . .	65
Sippar	
Cylinders (and Bricks)	
No. 14 — Euphrates Inscription (C21/B7) . . . . .	67
No. 15 — E'edinna Inscription (C22) . . . . .	69
<b>II. Nebuchadnezzar II</b>	
Babylon	
Stone Stele	
No. 1 — Tower of Babel Stele / Babylon Stele . . . . .	71
Stone Tablets	
No. 2 — East India House Inscription / Stone Tablet Inscription . . . . .	77
Stone Blocks	
No. 3 — Ashlar Inscription 1 (SQ1) . . . . .	96

No. 4 — Limestone Block Inscription 3 (LBI 3) . . . . .	98
<b>Stone Paving Slabs</b>	
No. 5 — Limestone Block Inscription 2 (LBI 2) . . . . .	99
No. 6 — Limestone Block Inscription 1 (LBI 1) . . . . .	102
No. 7 — Breccia Flagstone Inscription 1 (BP1) . . . . .	103
No. 8 — Paving Stone Inscription 1 (PS1) . . . . .	105
No. 9 — Paving Stone Inscription 2 (PS2) . . . . .	107
No. 10 — Door Stone Inscription 1 (TS1) . . . . .	108
<b>Clay Prism</b>	
No. 11 — Hofkalender / Prism . . . . .	109
<b>Previously Published Clay Cylinders</b>	
Introduction to Nbk. 12–37 . . . . .	116
No. 12 — Cylinder II, 7 (C27) . . . . .	118
No. 13 — Cylinder II, 8 (C28) . . . . .	121
No. 14 — Cylinder II, U / Al-Rawi, ARRIM 9 (1991) p. 6 no. 4 (C213/C200) . . . . .	125
No. 15 — Cylinder II, 6 (C26) . . . . .	127
No. 16 — Cylinder II, 5 (C25) . . . . .	131
No. 17 — BM 67405 (C11) . . . . .	133
No. 18 — Cylinder II, 9 (C29) . . . . .	134
No. 19 — Cylinder III, 4 (C34) . . . . .	137
No. 20 — Cylinder fragment I, 1 (C011) . . . . .	143
No. 21 — Cylinder fragments I, 3 (C013), I, 6 (C016), and II, 5 (C025) / CTMMA 4 nos. 165 and 171 . . . . .	145
No. 22 — Cylinder fragment II, 4 (C024) . . . . .	150
No. 23 — Cylinder III, 5 (C35) . . . . .	154
No. 24 — Cylinder fragment I, 2 (C012) . . . . .	160
No. 25 — BM unnumbered (C017) . . . . .	162
No. 26 — BM 33427 (C026) . . . . .	163
No. 27 — Cylinder IV, 1 (C41) . . . . .	164
No. 28 — CTMMA no. 170 . . . . .	171
No. 29 — Cylinder II, 1 (C21) . . . . .	172
No. 30 — YBC 17069 (C39) . . . . .	175
No. 31 — Cylinder III, 3 (C33) . . . . .	178
No. 32 — Cylinder III, 6 (C36) . . . . .	184
No. 33 — IM 119 / 79-B-12 (C014) . . . . .	193
No. 34 — IM 95862 / IM 95864 / IM 95928 (C214) . . . . .	195
No. 35 — Cylinder II, 2 (C22) . . . . .	197
No. 36 — Cylinder fragment III, 1 (C031) . . . . .	199
No. 37 — BM 33334 + BM 55433 (C027) . . . . .	206
<b>Previously Unpublished Clay Cylinders</b>	
Introduction to Nbk. 38–56 . . . . .	208
No. 38 — VA Bab 608 (BE 20907) . . . . .	210
No. 39 — B 44 (BE 31343) . . . . .	211
No. 40 — B 36 (BE 25266) . . . . .	212
No. 41 — B 43 (BE 56903) . . . . .	213
No. 42 — B 5 (BE 65447) / VA Bab 607 (BE 30104) . . . . .	214
No. 43 — VA Bab 618 (BE 20912) . . . . .	217
No. 44 — BM 78954 . . . . .	218
No. 45 — VA Bab 623 (BE 17262) . . . . .	220

No. 46 — VA Bab 1922 (BE 14819) . . . . .	221
No. 47 — B 12 (BE 66814) . . . . .	223
No. 48 — B 32 (BE 66564) . . . . .	224
No. 49 — VA Bab (BE 43333) . . . . .	226
No. 50 — B 4 (BE 30907) . . . . .	228
No. 51 — EŞ 96x6 (BE 23530) / B 55 (BE 56221) . . . . .	229
No. 52 — VA Bab 621 (BE 18569) . . . . .	232
No. 53 — B 41 (BE 66106) . . . . .	233
No. 54 — B 21 (BE 12234) . . . . .	234
No. 55 — VA Bab 622 (BE 19070) . . . . .	235
No. 56 — B 18 (BE 23531) . . . . .	236
Minor Variants and Comments . . . . .	239
Index of Museum Numbers . . . . .	243
Index of Excavation Numbers . . . . .	249
Index of Names . . . . .	251
Concordances of Selected Publications . . . . .	255
Scores of Inscriptions (on Oracc) . . . . .	1-205
(a PDF of the scores is available at <a href="http://oracc.org/ribo/bab7scores/">http://oracc.org/ribo/bab7scores/</a> )	

# List of Figures

Figure 1. Obverse and reverse of the “Fall of Nineveh Chronicle” (BM 21901) . . . . .	3
Figure 2. Annotated plan of the ruins of the eastern half of the inner city of Babylon . . . . .	7
Figure 3. Map of Babylonia, including Babylon and Sippar, the two sites where the inscriptions of Nabopolassar and Nebuchadnezzar II edited in the present volume were found . . . . .	17
Figure 4. Bab ph 555, which shows five clay cylinder fragments, including those with Nbk. 21 ex. 3, Nbk. 36 exs. 3 and 7, and Nbk. 51 ex. 1 . . . . .	19
Figure 5. A plan of Babylon showing the general find spots of bricks and clay cylinders with inscriptions of Nabopolassar . . . . .	20
Figure 6. VA 5952 (BE 29363; Npl. 1 ex. 1), a single-column clay cylinder that is inscribed with a short Akkadian text stating that Nabopolassar rebuilt Babylon’s inner wall Imgur-Enlil . . . . .	36
Figure 7. YBC 2309 (Npl. 4), a two-column clay cylinder that was damaged as the result of extreme heat . . . . .	42
Figure 8. CBS 9090 (Npl. 6 ex. 1), a three-column clay cylinder of Nabopolassar bearing an inscription recording the rebuilding of Babylon’s ziggurat Etemenanki . . . . .	46
Figure 9. VA Bab 630 (BE 14940; Npl. 7 ex. 1), a single-column clay cylinder discovered in the ruins of Eḫursagtila bearing an inscription of Nabopolassar recording that he renovated that temple of the god Ninurta . . . . .	53
Figure 10. Annotated plan of the ruins of the Ninurta temple at Babylon showing the find spots of Npl. 7 exs. 1–3 . . . . .	54
Figure 11. VA Bab 4383 (Npl. 8 ex. 3), VA Bab 4081 (Npl. 11 ex. 8), and VA Bab 4384 (Npl. 12 ex. 12), three bricks of Nabopolassar mentioning his work on Babylon’s embankment walls . . . . .	56
Figure 12. Plan of Babylon, with a detailed view of a section of the embankment wall of the Araḫtu River (phases 1–3) north of the South Palace showing the find spots of sixteen inscribed, carved, and stamped bricks of Nabopolassar (Npl. 8 and 11–12) . . . . .	57
Figure 13. VA Bab 4055 (Npl. 9 ex. 5) and VA Bab 4382 (BE 58130; Npl. 10 ex. 1), two bricks of Nabopolassar recording his work on the embankment walls . . . . .	59
Figure 14. Bab ph 2480, which shows the embankment wall of the late channel (Kasr 2t) with an in-situ stamped brick (Npl. 11 ex. 7) . . . . .	63
Figure 15. The former Schøyen Collection MS 2063 (Nbk. 1), the so-called “Tower of Babel Stele,” a fragmentarily preserved stele of Nebuchadnezzar II with an image of the king standing before Etemenanki, the temple-tower of the god Marduk at Babylon . . . . .	75
Figure 16. Reverse face of BM 129397 (Nbk. 2 ex. 1), the so-called “East India House Tablet,” which is inscribed with a long Akkadian inscription recording Nebuchadnezzar II’s building activities at Babylon and Borsippa, including the construction of the North Palace . . . . .	81
Figure 17. BE 43218, BE 43323, and BE 43324 (Nbk. 3 exs. 1, 3–4), three inscribed stone blocks discovered in situ in the North Palace that are each inscribed with a short text of Nebuchadnezzar II . . . . .	97
Figure 18. BE 18465 (Nbk. 4), a large limestone block that is inscribed with an inscription recording the construction and decoration of the Iṣtar Gate at Babylon . . . . .	99

Figure 19. BE 7689, BE 7706, and BE 7707 (Nbk. 5 exs. 1, 5-6), stone blocks with a text recording Nebuchadnezzar II's work on Babylon's processional way . . . . .	100
Figure 20. VA Bab 4500 (Nbk. 8 ex. 3), a limestone paving stone with a two-line proprietary inscription of Nebuchadnezzar II . . . . .	106
Figure 21. Excavation photo (Bab ph 1216) of EŞ 7834 (Nbk. 11 ex. 1), the so-called "Hofkalender," an eight-sided clay prism discovered at Babylon that is inscribed with a text commemorating the rebuilding of the South Palace and a long list of the officials who aided in its construction . . . . .	112
Figure 22. A plan of Babylon showing the general find spots of the published clay cylinders and prisms with inscriptions of Nebuchadnezzar II . . . . .	117
Figure 23. VA 163, VA 279, and VA 280 (Nbk. 13 exs. 1-3), three casts of a two-column clay cylinder that is inscribed with a text stating that Nebuchadnezzar II constructed a new outer city wall surrounding Babylon . . . . .	123
Figure 24. BM 91142 (Nbk. 23 ex. 1), a three-column clay cylinder that is inscribed with a text commemorating Nebuchadnezzar II's construction of the so-called "Summer Palace" . . . . .	154
Figure 25. VA 2544 (Nbk. 29 ex. 4), a small, two-column clay cylinder that bears an inscription that records Nebuchadnezzar II's renovation of Emaḥ, the temple of the goddess Ninmaḥ at Babylon . . . . .	173
Figure 26. BM 85975 (Nbk. 32), a three-column clay cylinder that is inscribed with a long text that records Nebuchadnezzar's rebuilding of the temple of the god Mušibbasâ at Babylon . . . . .	185
Figure 27. Annotated plan of the Kasr, especially the South Palace, showing the general find spots of clay cylinders with previously unpublished inscriptions of Nebuchadnezzar II . . . . .	211
Figure 28. Bab ph 558, which shows fragments of ten clay cylinder, including those with Nbk. 18 ex. 1, Nbk. 21 ex. 7, Nbk. 30 ex. 3, Nbk. 41, Nbk. 54, and Nbk. 56 . . . . .	215