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Preface

A little more than a century has passed since the discovery of the Amarna letters. At first virtually unique and so extraordinary that even their genuineness was seriously questioned, these letters over the years have gradually acquired context and perspective. As subsequent discoveries made clear, the Amarna letters reflect a cosmopolitan culture, a "cuneiform culture," that throughout most of the second millennium B.C. extended from the mountains to the east of Assyria and Babylonia, across the Fertile Crescent, over into Asia Minor.

Though seen now as only part of a much larger picture, the Amarna letters still remain documents of the highest importance and still form, as one cuneiformist once put it so enthusiastically, "une des collections les plus précieuses du monde." This importance derives mainly from the rich evidence they provide for the social and political history of Syria and Palestine in the fourteenth century B.C. They may, therefore, be read as a kind of preface to biblical history, and it is for this reason, above all, that they have been, and continue to be, the subject of the most diligent inquiry and reflection. Indeed, one can safely predict that as long as the Bible retains in our culture its unique importance, the Amarna letters will command the serious attention of historian and exegete.

Over the years, too, there has been great progress in our understanding of these letters. Collations of the originals by various scholars have yielded a more accurate reading of the text. Grammatical and lexical studies have vastly extended our grasp of the language of the letters. Unfortunately, however, since J. A. Knudtzon's magisterial edition, in 1907-15, of the letters known at that time, the results of all this progress have remained scattered in dictionaries, monographs, dissertations, anthologies, articles, and footnotes. Except to the narrow specialist, they have been practically inaccessible.

A long-standing desideratum, therefore, and one with ever-increasing urgency, has been a translation of the entire corpus that reflects the advances of the last seventy-five years. It was to meet this demand that the present work was undertaken.

A translation: that is my main objective, and, I might almost say, my only objective. The Introduction aims principally at tracing in

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broad outline the form and the content of the translations that follow. Of the notes accompanying the translations, the primary, if not exclusive, purpose is to indicate the reading of the cuneiform text on which the translation is based and to offer the arguments—grammatical, lexical, and contextual—that support the translation. I regret that considerations of space often made it impossible to give in these notes due recognition to counterarguments and divergent views.

The translation is, in general, what is called literal, with the lack of felicity the term usually implies. It might be added, however, that here *traduttore traditore* seldom, if ever, applies. For the most part, the prose of the Amarna letters is, at best, pedestrian. Where the translation is not literal is in its grammatical correctness, a virtue that conceals the solecisms and barbarisms of the language of so much of the original text. I have also taken a certain liberty in the translation of some particles, often replacing a more literal, paratactic version with a subordinate clause. Those who have confronted the translation of *hinnu* in the Hebrew Bible will recognize the option and perhaps sympathize with the inconsistency.

With the support of the American Council of Learned Societies and of Harvard University, which I gratefully acknowledge, I was able in 1973–74 to collate almost all of the letters. Besides those that had disappeared many years before, there were thirteen that eluded me; at the time, they were either destroyed, lost, misplaced, or on loan. My time being limited, the collations were at times not sign by sign, but recognized difficulty by recognized difficulty. This limitation was compensated for to some extent through the generosity of Albert E. Glock, at the time the Director of the Albright Institute in Jerusalem, who very kindly made available to me the results of the collations by the late Edmund I. Gordon of most of the letters housed in London and Cairo. As will become evident to the reader, Gordon's contribution is not a small one.

For granting me access to the Amarna letters, and for all their kind assistance and courtesy, I heartily thank the authorities of the Arkeoloji Müzeleci (Istanbul), the Ashmolean Museum (Oxford), the British Museum (London), the Egyptian Museum (Cairo), the Louvre (Paris), the Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York), the Musée royal d'Art and d'Histoire (Brussels), the Oriental Museum (Chicago), and the Vorderasiatisches Museum (Berlin). I am most grateful, too, to my colleagues Volkert Haas and Gernot Wilhelm for their contributing, re-

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spectively, the translations of the letters written in the Hittite and Hurrian languages.

The present work is a revision of an earlier one that appeared in French, *Les Lettres d'El-Amarna* (Paris, 1987). It tries to bring the latter up to date; it also not infrequently corrects and expands. Since the earlier publication three scholars—Shlomo Izre'el, Nadav Na'aman, and Anson Rainey—have put me particularly in their debt, both by their published work and by their unpublished manuscripts they very generously placed at my disposal. As a result, the translation that follows often represents a considerable improvement of my earlier effort. I thank them.

Finally, I am grateful to the Johns Hopkins University Press for making my work available in English and to the editorial staff for their painstaking labors on my behalf. I must mention by name Carolyn I. Mosey, my copyeditor. I do not try to describe her contribution, which was enormous, but I do thank her, and most warmly.

Introduction

1. Discoveries and publications

The Amarna tablets take their name from el-'Amarna, a plain on the east bank of the Nile about 190 miles south of Cairo. This was the site of Akhetaten, the capital of ancient Egypt for a brief period in the fourteenth century B.C. Akhetaten was founded by Amenophis IV, also known as Akhenaten, one of the most famous of Egyptian kings, most renowned as a religious reformer, often called the "heretic king" and "first monotheist." It was here, among the ancient ruins, that, probably in 1887, natives came upon clay tablets with some writing on them and began clandestine diggings.¹ There are conflicting accounts of the discovery, and we will never know how many tablets may have been found and later lost or destroyed,² nor all the ways, perhaps many and devious, by which more than 300 tablets came into the possession of antiquities dealers and private collectors. Eventually, by purchase, gift, or confiscation, most of the tablets made their way to museums; the Vorderasiatisches Museum in Berlin (at first about 160, eventually 202 or 203, besides 3 fragments belonging with British Museum tablets and other unnumbered fragments); the Cairo museum (at first 31, eventually 49 or 50, plus a fragment belonging with a British Museum tablet); the British Museum (at first 81, plus a fragment belonging with a Berlin tablet, eventually 95); the Louvre (1, eventually 7).³ Remaining in private hands, at least for a while, were the four tablets of the

1. On the various versions of the discovery and dispersal of the tablets, see J. A. Knudtzon, *VAB 22*, pp. 1E, 2/2, p. 1384. For the corrections of A. H. Sayce mentioned by Knudtzon, see the former's account in *AJSL* 33 (1916-17) pp. 80f. Sayce says that the tablets were found in 1886-87. For the history of the publications, see Anson E. Rainey, *AOAT* 8*, pp. 5f.

2. Sayce, *AJSL* 33 (1916-17) p. 90, estimated the loss at 150-200 tablets, but the evidence for this high number, which is not supported by other arguments, comes from reports of questionable accuracy.

3. Most of the Berlin and Cairo collections, the Louvre tablet, and the Golenischeff tablet (see below) were published in the uniform copies of Ludwig Ahl by Hugo Winckler in 1889-90 (WA). The uniform copies of the British Museum tablets appeared in 1892 (BB). On the uncertainty as to the eventual numbers in the Berlin and Cairo museums, see n. 12.

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merchant Rostovitz Bey;⁴ the three of the Russian Egyptologist Vladimir Golenscheff;⁵ the one of the American missionary Chauncey Murch,⁶ and the one of the French Assyriologist Jules Oppert.⁷ In 1896, in their first comprehensive edition, all the known tablets, together with a letter that had been found at Tell el-Hesi in Palestine, were transliterated and translated by Hugo Winckler.⁸

When the location of the ruins where the tablets had been discovered was determined, Egyptian authorities explored the site but failed to find more tablets. More fortunate was Sir Flinders Petrie, who found 22 fragments in 1891-92; these went to the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford.⁹ In 1903, M. Chassinat, director of l'Institut français d'archéologie orientale du Caire, acquired two more tablets.¹⁰ By 1907, 358 inscribed tablets were known, and in that year—a landmark in the history of Amarna studies—the Norwegian Assyriologist J. A. Knudtzon published the first volume of his magisterial *Die El-Amarna-Tafeln*.¹¹ Based on painstaking collations of all except the Murch and Chassinat tablets and on an unrivaled knowledge of almost every aspect of the corpus, his readings and translations excelled by far those of all his predecessors, and even today his work remains of fundamental importance.

4. In the British Museum since May 1903 (information from museum authorities); see below, EA 28, 82, 230, 292, on the cuneiform copies.

5. Perhaps given to the museum in Moscow in 1911 (Köhler, p. 2, n. 8); see below, EA 70, 137, 160.

6. Now in the Oriental Institute in Chicago, after earlier steps in the Art Institute of Chicago in 1894, then on to the Haskell Oriental Museum at the University of Chicago in 1915 (Luckenbill and Allen, *AJOL* 33 [1916-17] pp. 11); see below, EA 26, of which it is a fragment.

7. A cuneiform copy of this tablet, which seems to have been lost and will probably never be found, was never published; see below, EA 260.

8. *Die Tontafeln aus Tell-el-Amarna*, in E. Schrader et al., eds., *Keilschriftliche Bibliothek*, 5 (Berlin, 1896); English trans. by J. Mesself, *The Tell-el-Amarna Letters* (New York, 1896). The Tell el-Hesi tablet is in the Istanbul Arkeoloji Müzesi; on the cuneiform copy, see below, EA 333.

9. Of these, only seven are relevant here; see below, EA 14, 43, 61, 135, 184, 190, 236. Cuneiform copies by Sayce in *Tell el-Amarna*; see VAB 2/4, pp. 15, 99-6. One of the fragments was uninscribed; another part of EA 14. Four (EA 135, 341, 344, 351) have been lost or destroyed.

10. Now in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York (L. Bull, *Bulletin of the Metropolitan Museum of Art* 21 [1926] pp. 165-76); on the cuneiform copies, see below, EA 15, 153.

11. *VAB* 2/1. The second volume of commentary by O. Weber and glossaries by E. Ebeling, with additional remarks by Knudtzon, appeared in 1915. *VAB* 2/2-2 (reprint, Assen, 1964). Knudtzon's numbering of the tablets became standard.

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Since 1907 an additional 24 tablets have come to light, one as recently as 1979. Four more have turned up in the Berlin collection, to which two were added by the excavations of the Deutsche Orient-Gesellschaft in 1911-14.¹² The Egyptian Exploration Society discovered one tablet in its excavations of 1921-24,¹³ and eight more in the excavations of 1926-37.¹⁴ The most recent to appear perhaps goes back to the explorations under Petrie in 1891-92,¹⁵ and the rest, which eventually were made available to museums,¹⁶ to the first clandestine diggings of the fellahin. With the exception of EA 380-82, the "post-Knudtzon" tablets were ably edited by Anson B. Rainey in 1970.¹⁷

2. *The Archive*

Of the 382 tablets, only 32 are not letters or inventories attached to letters. The content of this small group is quite diverse.¹⁸ Some belong in the Mesopotamian scribal tradition: myths and epics (EA 340?; 356-59, 375?), syllabaries (EA 348, 350, 379), lexical texts (EA

12. Two were published by O. Schroeder, *V3* 11, 179 (now EA 366) and *OLZ*, 1917, col. 105f. (now EA 361). On 1914-45 Schroeder published new cuneiform copies of the Berlin collection in *V3* 11-12. The tablets discovered in 1911-14 are *V3* 12, 193 (now EA 359) and *V3* 12, 190 (now EA 379); on this number, see P. Arca, *Or. n.s.* 36 (1967) p. 432. EA 359 now belongs to the Cairo collection; the location of EA 379 I do not know. Finally, H. Klengel, *OLZ*, 1974, col. 269, called attention to VAT 378 (already noted by Schroeder, *OLZ*, 1917, col. 105f) and added the "Summe/nunumer" VAT 9525 (almost entirely illegible fragments). To these two numbers J.-G. Heintz, *Index Documentaire d'Assyrie*, I.D.E.A., 1 (Wiesbaden, 1982), p. xvii, n. 25, has given the code numbers EA 380 and 381. Hence the number 382 for the most recent discovery (see n. 15).

13. The numbering EA 359f., based on Knudtzon's EA 1-358, was introduced by C. Gordon, *Or. n.s.* 16 (1947) pp. 16.

14. S. Smith and C. Geld, *JEA* 11 (1923) pp. 230ff.; now in the Ashmolean Museum, EA 368 (see E. Edel, *GM* 15 [1975] pp. 11ff.).

15. C. Gordon, *Or. n.s.* 16 (1947) pp. 16; now in the British Museum, EA 370-72.

16. C. B. E. Walker, *JCS* 31 (1973) p. 249; now in the British Museum. See below, EA 382.

17. The Louvre (see below, EA 362-67); Musée Conquerrantais, Brussels (see below, EA 369); and the British Museum (see below, EA 378).

18. *AOAT* 8; 2d rev. ed., 1978. An earlier edition by S. A. B. Meron of the tablets then known (EA 1-367, 369), *The Tell El-Amarna Tablets*, 2 vols. (Oxford, 1939), was not successful and is mentioned here as a matter of historical record. For a survey of the Amarna archive, certain characteristic features, and outstanding problems, see D. O. Edvard, in *Biblical Archaeology Today*, Proceedings of the International Congress on Biblical Archaeology, Jerusalem 1964 (Jerusalem, 1968), pp. 69-83.

19. See *HKL* 1, pp. 162, 239f., 478, 493; 2, pp. 88, 232, 258, 264; P. Arca, in K. R. Veenhof, ed., *Cuneiform Archives and Libraries* (Leuven, 1986), pp. 210-12.

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351–54, 373), a god-list (EA 374). On one is a tale of Hurrian origin (EA 341); on another (EA 368), an unparalleled list of Egyptian words written in syllabic cuneiform with equivalents in Babylonian written either syllabically or logographically.¹⁹ One tablet is perhaps an amulet (EA 355). The genres of the other 14 (EA 342–47, 349, 360–61, 372, 376–77, 380–81), which are often very fragmentary, remain to be determined.

Of the 350 letters and inventories (EA 13–14, 22, 25, 120), not only concern in this volume, it seems that all except one were found in the same place.²⁰ This was identified by inscriptions as “The Place of the Letters of the Pharaoh.” The name, however, may refer to a larger complex, the more extensive part of which was devoted to affairs of state conducted in the Egyptian language; the smaller (the actual find-spot), to those conducted in foreign languages.²¹

In *Die El-Amarna-Tafeln* Knudtzon divided the correspondence into two parts. The first concerns foreign powers that dealt with Egypt more or less on a basis of equality. On a map, the arrangement moves counterclockwise: Babylonia (EA 1–14), Assyria (EA 15–16), Mittani (EA 17, 19–30),²² Arzawa (EA 31–32), Alalâ (EA 33–40), and Hatti (EA 41–44). The other and by far the larger part concerns Syro-Palestine and its various local rulers, most of whom were Egyptian vassals. The arrangement of these letters begins in the north, in central Syria, and moves down, ending in southern Palestine. Knudtzon’s assignments, often only on grounds of clay texture and paleography, were remarkably successful, and only occasionally have been proved wrong.²³ Furthermore, throughout, in each dossier (for example, that of Baby-

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lonia or Jerusalem), Knudtzon also attempted to order the letters chronologically. Here the task was more difficult and the results less firm.

Most of the archive consists of letters received, but a small number were written in Egypt.²⁴ Two letters (EA 1, 5), plus one inventory (EA 14), were directed to Babylonia, one to Arzawa (EA 31), and the rest to vassals (EA 99, 162–63, 190, 367, 369–70). Their presence in the archive probably has more than one explanation. If one may assume that, in general, copies were made only of those letters that bore on matters of considerable importance and required more than some sort of simple record or notation, one would judge that, with the exception of EA 162, the letters to vassals are not copies and, probably because of oversight, were not sent.²⁵ Indeed, letters to vassals seem to have been somewhat infrequent, and even less often such as to demand copies. Hence we should not expect to find many in the archive.²⁶

Correspondence with major powers, however, was quite another matter. This was, at times at least, rather regular and often, if not always, dealt with serious issues—for example, marriage negotiations. If Egyptian practice was to make copies of such letters, we must ask why there are so few in the archives.²⁷ Perhaps the explanation is that usually the letters were first written in Egyptian, and then a translation was prepared.²⁸ It was the latter that was sent off, though perhaps occasionally the Egyptian messenger may have also carried a copy of the original.²⁹ The original, if important enough to be saved, would be filed, but in the Egyptian, not the foreign, language section. If so, and

19. Perhaps to import (Kühne, p. 139). Despite the Babylonian dactyls of EA 356–58 (Kühne, pp. 138f.), these tablets were hardly written in Babylonia (so Knudtzon, *VAB 2/1*, p. 25), for a Babylonian scribe is not likely to have introduced peripheral features (many plain-writings, syllabary, lexicon); note also the absence of poetic line divisions. This is not to deny that they may also be imports. F. Arna, in H. J. Niessen and J. Renger, eds., *Mesopotamien und seine Nachbarländer Palästina und Kanaan als Kulturkreise im Altertum* (Münster 1984), p. 17, maintained that they were written in Egypt.

20. EA 371 was discovered in “clerk house no. 43,” the find-spot also of EA 368. According to Petrie, most of the tablets he found (part of EA 18, EA 83, 61, 125, 184, 190, 236, 342, 353, 355) were in “two dirty rubbish-pits” under the building where the other tablets were found and therefore antedating them. For strong reasons to doubt this earlier level, see Kühne, p. 70, n. 345.

21. See Kühne, pp. 21, n. 12.

22. On EA 18, see the note to the letter.

23. See EA 63–65, 260, 293, 317–18.

24. On EA 12, see the letter, n. 1.

25. See F. Petrie, *DA 11* (1872) p. 126, n. 145.

26. See M. Liverani, *GA 10* (1971) pp. 231ff., reproduced in *Three Amorite States*, Monographs on the Ancient Near East, 1/5 (Malibu, 1979), pp. 3ff.

27. On roughly contemporary practice at Nippur, see F. Knaus, *JCS 1* (1947) p. 112, and R. Biggs, *JCS 19* (1963) p. 90 and n. 13. At Boghazköy, see *KUB 3*, 24 + 1, KBo 1, 10 and 12. At Ugarit, see *PRU 3*, pp. 41, 42; *PRU 4*, p. 294 (probably not a copy); *Ugarit 3*, 60a, 21, 24, 28, 32, 36, 36. At Mari, in the Old Babylonian period, copies of letters are common, especially in “the ministry of foreign affairs”; see A. Finet, *Canaanite Archives and Libraries* (see n. 18), pp. 155, 157.

28. Cf. the “originals” in Hurrian from Mittani (EA 24), in Hittite at Boghazköy (H. Otten, *A/D 19* [1959–60] p. 39; *A/W. Beihft 12*, pp. 64f.), and perhaps in Ugaritic at Ugarit (*PRU 5*, no. 8). The Egyptians were certainly familiar with the practice, and they seem to have called the translations “copies”; thus, EA 27 is a “copy” of a Hurrian original (Kühne, pp. 44f., n. 209).

29. Cf. EA 24. A messenger carrying an interpreter might prefer to have the Egyptian version available.

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assuming that they too were not victims of oversight and simply not sent, then we must consider EA 7, 5, 14, and 31 exceptional, being drafts or copies of the translations and filed accordingly in the foreign language section.

3. *Language and Writing*

The Amarna letters are manifestations of the "cuneiform culture" that was shared in the fourteenth century B.C. throughout the ancient Near East. As it appears in these letters it is largely a provincial and, in many respects, a very heterogeneous culture, the product of a long, complex history, of which we know but a very small part.

In some sense this history begins at least a thousand years before the Amarna period. By the middle of the third millennium B.C. not only had cuneiform writing been introduced into Syria, but already at that early date, as the celebrated discoveries at ancient Ebla have shown, it was being used in a breadth of application and with a sophistication rivaling those of the great centers in Sumer and Akkad.³⁰ By the first quarter of the second millennium B.C. knowledge of cuneiform writing had spread far and wide, and Babylonian had become the principal language of a cosmopolitan culture.³¹ It was the language of international relations, but often, too, of local affairs, both legal and administrative. It was also a language of learning.

In Upper Mesopotamia and the west there developed a regional dialect, a kind of *hittite*, which was also introduced into Anatolia, thus laying the foundations of the Hittite cuneiform tradition.³² A regional syllabary appeared and took root in Syria. Also discernible are the influences of other traditions and other languages.³³ These were mainly

30. For a general introduction, see P. Machiuc, *Un impero ritrovato* (Clarin, 1977), in English as *Ebla: An Empire Rediscovered*, trans. Christopher Holme (Garden City, N.J., 1981); G. Poletto, *Ebla: Un impero nuovo nell'antichità* (Milan, 1979); translated as *The Archais of Ebla: An Empire Interred in Clay* (Garden City, N.J., 1982). On the local language and its place within the Semitic family, see L. Cagni, ed., *La lingua di Ebla* (Naples, 1984).

31. See the survey of R. Labat, *Syria 39* (1962) pp. 1ff.
32. See K. Balkan, *Letter of King Amon-hotep of Thebes to King Warhama of Kadesh* (Ankara, 1957), p. 27; E. von Schuler, in M. Liverot, ed., *La Siria nel Terzo Millennio* (Rome, 1969), pp. 113f.

33. As the main archives continue to be published, we find sporadic examples of deviations from the standard language that in the Amarna period are common or even the rule: gender of nouns (*alana*, "117," feminine, AEM 1/2, no. 316.14; no. 358, note g); confusion of pronouns (*inanna* and *namun*, AEM 1/2, no. 535, note d; *marrazim* and *inannu*,

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West Semitic and Hurrian, the very forces that would be mainly responsible for the language and writing that we find in the Amarna letters centuries later.³⁴

With the exception of EA 15 (Assyrian), EA 24 (Hurrian), and EA 31-32 (Hittite),³⁵ the language of the Amarna letters is Babylonian, but for the most part it is a Babylonian profoundly different from that of the previous international age. It reflects many of the developments that one finds in the "good" Middle Babylonian language of the letters from Babylonia itself (EA 2-4, 6-11).³⁶ But if the cuneiform culture of the provinces was to some extent up-to-date, it was not infrequently, as is usually the way with provinces, also behind the times. This is true of the writing: a logogram that had been replaced by another logogram centuries before in the scribal schools of Babylonia survives in the provincial culture;³⁷ an exercise once part of the scribal training but long abandoned in Babylonia is still part of the provincial curriculum;³⁸ old orthographies are retained, sometimes mixed together with the modern ones;³⁹ and so on. In the language, too, one finds a similar quaint and archaic quality. The provincial scribes, perhaps at times because of analogies in their own native language, may use old common or dialectal forms that had otherwise disappeared centuries be-

34. 402, note c; morpheme analysis (*anna i-ur-ri-in* "like me," AEM 1/2, no. 314, note e); thematic vowels (*gal-bi-qa, bal*, AEM 1/2, no. 391, note p); lexicon (*inanna*, "bar," introducing object clause, AEM 1/2, no. 323, note k; *araba*, "to be a sinner/criminal," AEM 1/4, no. 35, note 1; 1/2, no. 312, note d; *ubakido*, "to serve," AEM 1/1, no. 148, note b; 1/2, no. 377, note b; see JAOS 107 (1987) p. 1350). One can speak of "les lettres barbares" (AEM 1/2, pp. 51f.).

35. The only evidence of the Hurrian influence in the syllabary, for which see Labat, *Syria 39* (1962) pp. 14f. In the letters of Aklabadda of Carchemish (ARMT 5, 5-1) confusion of gender, often a sign of Hurrian influence, is fairly frequent, especially in ARMT 5, 7.

36. On the Hurrian letter, see n. 28. The Amarna scribe, probably because of incompetence in any form of Babylonian, expressly requests that the correspondence be carried on in Hittite (EA 32.21f.). Whether Ašnun-balli's use of Assyrian (EA 15) and Hurro-Akkadian (EA 16) reflects a conscious avoidance of conservative Babylonian is not clear. (On the term "Hurro-Akkadian," see the text below and n. 44.)

37. The modernization of western Old Babylonian, which is not to be understood as a direct development, in an unbroken tradition, is more evident in the north, in the Hurro-Akkadian tradition, just as archaisms of language are more common in the south (see below).

38. See B. Landsberger and H. Gertelbock, *AJO* 12 (1937-39) pp. 35ff.; A. Falkenstein, *ZA* 55 (1965) p. 74, discussion of line 107; Gertelbock, *Festschrift Heinrich Otten* (Wiesbaden, 1975), pp. 71ff.; W. Moran, *Acta Sumerologica* 5 (1983) pp. 175f.

39. See Nougayrol, *AS* 16, pp. 29ff., on EA 350 and parallels at Ugarit.

39. E.g., in EA 38 the old writing *a-ku-ia* along with later *a-ku-ia*.

fore.⁴⁰ Their lexicon is full of words that by the fourteenth century a.c. had either disappeared completely from the Babylonian language or lived on only in the elevated language reserved for the solemnities of myth, epic, hymns, and prayers.⁴¹ It is this combination of the old and the new that is so typically provincial and so distinctive of the Amarna cuneiform culture.

Equally distinctive, however, are many features that are specifically peripheral and are not found in normal written Babylonian, either in its contemporary or earlier forms.⁴² Some few are shared across the entire area;⁴³ more commonly, one must distinguish two general traditions, northern and southern, within both of which further distinctions are necessary. They divide along a line, roughly, from Šumur on the coast to Qatna inland.

The northern tradition, which is the more widely diffused, is generally called Hurro-Akkadian.⁴⁴ The name indicates the dominant influence of the Hurrians in the formation and the diffusion of both the language and the graphic system in which it was written. It is Hurro-Akkadian that we find in one letter from Assyria (EA 16);⁴⁵ in the letters from Mittani (EA 17, 19–23, 25–30), Hatti (EA 41–44), Ugarit (EA 45–49), Nuḫaše (EA 51), and Qatna (EA 52–55); and in many of the letters from Amurru (EA 156–61, 164–71). Nevertheless, the lan-

guage also differs considerably from site to site,⁴⁶ especially so far as the immediate influence of the Hurrian language is concerned.⁴⁷ A measure of the complexity of dialectal developments and relationships is, for example, the fact that at the same site the language of the letters may differ considerably from that of the legal documents.⁴⁸

Also belonging to the northern tradition are the letters that are southernmost in origin, the letters from Egypt. The language and writing of these letters are quite unlike what we find just to the northeast along the Egyptian border, in Palestine, and on the Phoenician coast. Their closest ties are farther north, especially in the writing system and, above all, in the sign forms. Many of the latter are typically Hittite, and the relationship can only be one of direct dependence on or derivation from a common source.⁴⁹ The language itself, however, lacks many of the more common Hurro-Akkadian features, and so the borrowing must have occurred at a relatively early date.

In the southern tradition the transformation of the Babylonian language and the resulting deviation from normal usage were far more radical than in most forms of Hurro-Akkadian. Indeed, so radical is the transformation that one may ask whether the language of this tradition, even when qualified as "extremely babylonized," should be called Babylonian at all. It is a pidgin in which the Babylonian component is mainly lexical, whereas the grammar is profoundly West-Semitic, most no-

40. E.g., dual forms of the pronoun (BASOR 211 [1973] pp. 50ff) and *is* preformative in third masculine plural forms of the verb, which is first attested in a language perhaps related to earlier Eblaitic (H. Lamon, *Syria* 53 [1975] pp. 37ff., esp. p. 48; J.-M. Durand, *MARI* 1 [1982] pp. 87ff., locs. 21–24; I. Gelb, *Syria-Mesopotamian Studies* 4/1 [1977] pp. 96; D. O. Edzard, *Mesopotamian Babylonica*, Mélanges M. B. Ror (Paris, 1983), pp. 85f.). In the latter instance, however, because the preformative is found in later West Semitic languages (Ugaritic), its origins need not go back to the early second millennium B.C. For the Amarna evidence, see S. Izzi, *UF* 19 (1987) pp. 79ff.

41. E.g., *amānu* "man," as a designation of the ruler of a city; *qasqada* "head," in the sense of "self, person"; various adverbs (*amanna*, *appadulmo*, *atanna*, *patanna*); and the prepositional phrase *ana šir* "towards." Note also dialectal *giz-pa* "root-wood," at Mari, Chigi, Beza, Kamidit (EA 195), and Qatna.

42. See the survey by Kühn, pp. 5ff.

43. The north seems to influence the south.

44. The Nuzi dialect of the eastern highlands is also Hurro-Akkadian; see G. Wilhelm, *Untersuchungen zum Hurro-Akkadischen von Nuzi*, AOAT 9. As a designation of the language as used in the west, Huebner, *Akkadian*, p. 20 and n. 34, prefers "Syro-Akkadian," the influence of Hurrian being at times inconsiderable (see below).

45. This suggests that Hurro-Akkadian was socially acceptable even in milieu where one might expect a certain contempt for its provincial character.

46. In the Amarna corpus, Hurrian influence is most evident in the letters from Mari and Qatna; on the former, see Kühn, p. 9, n. 40, and H.-P. Adler, AOAT 204, pp. 105ff.

47. At Boghazköy A. Kammenhuber, *Or.* n.s. 45 (1976) p. 137, sees two traditions, Hurrian and Hittite, plus the influence of direct imports from Babylon, as formative of Boghazköy-Akkadian. At ancient Emar, D. Arnaud, *RAO* 25 (1976) pp. 87ff., finds both a Syrian and a Syro-Hittite tradition.

48. This is the case at Ugarit; see Huebner, *Akkadian*, pp. 220ff., with reference to T. Finley, "Word Order in the Clause Structure of Syrian Akkadian" (Ph.D. diss., University of California at Los Angeles, 1970). There is also in the legal texts evidence of an Old Babylonian, North Syrian background; see J. Greenfield, in M. Ellis, ed., *Essays on the Ancient Near East in Memory of Jacob Joel Finkelstein* (Hamden, Conn., 1977), pp. 87ff.

49. This was shown by K. Riemschneider in a paper delivered before the 186th annual meeting of the American Oriental Society, March 16, 1976; see also G. Beckman, *JCS* 35 (1983) pp. 112f., and G. Wilhelm, *Studien zur Akkadischen Kultur* 11 (1984) pp. 643ff. Note, however, that in the Amarna archive the Egyptian material includes two letters in non-Hittite diction, EA 1 and 369, the former of which manifests a strong preference for verb-subject-object word order, as is the rule in Egyptian and was noted long ago by Börs, *Sprache*, p. 78. On EA 369, see below EA 369, n. 1.

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ably in the word *oides* and, most important of all, in the verbal system.⁵⁰ The language can only be described as an entirely new code, only vaguely intelligible (if at all) to the West Semite because of the lexicon, and to the Babylonian because of the grammar.

It is regrettable that translations either cannot or do not reflect the diversity of language and writing within the corpus itself and the distance of the several dialects from the normative language of Babylonia. They should be read with an awareness of this limitation, correcting so far as possible the impression of a colorless uniformity and grammatical propriety.

4. *The International Correspondence*

The form of the letters is pretty much the same everywhere, though the letters from Alasia (EA 33-40) have certain peculiarities.⁵¹ In the usual form, the address, which is directed to the scribe who will read the letter, is usually of the type "Say to PN. Thus PN₂."⁵² This form was inherited from the Old Babylonian period, and neither then nor as used here did it carry any implications of the relative social status of the correspondents. Another form, however, "Thus PN: Say to PN₁," appears in two letters from Egypt (EA 5 and 31) and in one from Boghazköy (EA 41). This is a different usage according to which the sender, if he is the superior or the equal of the addressee, names himself first, and therefore, in this system, the first and more common form

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noted above ("Say to PN . . .") is employed only by an inferior writing to a superior.⁵³

A salutation—which as such was an innovation of the Old Babylonian period—follows, and it consists of two parts. The first is a report on one's own well-being: "For me all goes well." Since it is omitted in the Assyrian letters (EA 15-16), it seems to have been optional. The second part, never omitted and therefore probably not optional, is an expression of good wishes for the addressee, usually beginning with "May all go well with you," which is then elaborated and extended to the household, to wives and children, courtiers and troops, even horses and chariots.⁵⁴

The body of the letter is, naturally, much less stereotyped, and formal conventions are few and variable. Two types of letters, especially in combined form, dominate the international correspondence. These are what Jean Nougayrol called *lettre d'envoi* and *lettre d'injonction*.⁵⁵ Under the first we should place EA 2-3, 5, 21, 31, and 41; they characteristically end with "I (herewith) send . . ."⁵⁶ *Lettres d'injonction* are EA 4, 7, 28, and 38-39, and they usually end with one or more injunctives.⁵⁷ As I already mentioned, however, most common of all are combinations, which we find in EA 6, 8-9, 15-17, 19-20, 23, 26-27, 29, 33-35, 40, and 44.

Occasionally, there is either a double letter (EA 12)—i.e., the same person is addressed but by a third party—or a postscript (EA 32)—i.e., the writer sends a message to a third party, who in the case in question was the addressee's scribe and whose services, therefore, were needed in

50. This is a subject with a long history of inquiry; see the outline by Kühne, pp. 8f., n. 36, II p-III, and add the work of A. Rainey and his students, most notably S. Izre'el. Rainey has shown that regularly the (preformative) verb base, with no additional marker (6-dominative, 2-injunctive), so *mnin* (wh. "send" (*šaras, šāras, qas*)), if a statement of fact, has past-tense reference UGS 1 (1971) pp. 48ff.; UF 7 (1973) pp. 395ff.). The same usage is found in a letter from Tyre a century later; see D. Atinani, *Syria* 59 (1982) p. 104. Within the southern corpus there are two somewhat exotic blocks, the letters from Jerusalem and those from Abi Milku of Tyre. On the former, see *Jerusalem Strike*; on the latter, a dissertation by Cecilia Greco, to be presented to the University of Lund, is in progress (see OA 19 (1980) pp. 255ff.; UF 12 (1980) pp. 224ff.; *Or* n.s. 33 (1982) pp. 161ff.).

51. For the various forms of address and greeting in Akkadian letters, see the survey of E. Salonen, *NÖF* 38, esp. pp. 61ff. on the Amarna letters.

52. In the international correspondence, we retain the conventional translation of *anna* by "thus," except in EA 19:3 and 29:2, where it seems that *anna* was understood in the sense of "word, message" (Rainey, *B&O* 37 (1980) p. 95). The latter meaning seems to have been the rule in the Sino-Palmyran area (see EA 144, n. 3), as first noted by W. F. Albright (*BAO* 47 (1942) p. 23, n. 7), and it was not unknown to Hittite scribes (A. Goetze, *JCS* 2 (1948) p. 224; see also F. Berger, *UF* 1 (1969) p. 218; Izre'el, *AO* 8 (1978) p. 68; Huthneregard, *Akkadian*, p. 144, n. 112; M. Kassmann, *JEDL* 30 (1987-88) pp. 38ff.).

53. See Nougayrol, *Ugar* 5, pp. 66f. Though "say" (*šdr*-*šuo*) is absent in EA 34, this letter probably reflects the same usage. This seems more likely than a survival of the form of the Old Akkadian-Ur III periods (cf. E. Sollberger, *TCS* 1, pp. 21f.).

54. W. von Soden, *AfO* 18 (1958) p. 369, saw in this type of salutation a feature of an official as opposed to a private letter. Characteristic of the Egyptian letters is the addition of a parallel report on one's own household, etc. It seems that, in general, inferiors did not report on the state of their own person (cf. EA 12), though this is hardly the explanation of EA 15-16. Nougayrol, *Ugar* 5, p. 67, has noted that the Hittite king and other high-ranking courtiers report only on themselves and do not wish well to their inferiors. (In *Ugar* 5, no. 33:3', *šad gubtu dā(u)-u/š' idnu.*) Cf. the conclusions of Egyptian letters from the king to vassals (see below, sect. 5). Note that in Hittite usage (cf. EA 31:4) *ANDU* *šua* *BA* *šad* may contrast with *šud* *ANDU* and *meta*, not "horses," but "chariot-fighters" (see A. Kammenhuber, *Die Arme im Vorderen Orient* [Heidelberg, 1968], p. 22, n. 30a).

55. *Ugar* 5, pp. 67f.

56. EA 2, 10v, 9(7); 2:34; 3:18; 21:38; 31:28; 41:43.

57. EA 4:10ff.; 7:80ff.; 28:29ff.; 39:10ff.

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communicating and perhaps explaining the message of the letter to his master.⁵⁸

The prevalence of the combination of *emsa* and *injonction* reflects the complex social, economic, and political relationships of the correspondents, and the customs and ideology associated with them. According to the conceptions of the time, the most basic political relationship between the rulers was an alliance of "brotherhood," which made them brothers and members of the same family and household. They were thus united by the bond of love and friendship that befits brothers,⁵⁹ and the visible expression of this bond was the exchange of gifts.⁶⁰ "From the time my ancestors and your ancestors made a mutual declaration of friendship, they sent beautiful greeting-gifts to each other, and refused no request for anything beautiful" (EA 97-10). "Send me much gold, and you, for your part, whatever you want from my country; write me so that it may be taken to you" (EA 9:16-18). "If your purpose is graciously one of friendship, send me much gold. And this is your house. Write me so what you need may be fetched" (EA 16:32-34).⁶¹ Acknowledgment of gifts received, praise of the gifts or

58. In EA 42:27f. perhaps the scribe sends a brief message either to the addressee of the letter or to a third party. In the usual correspondence, too, there are postscripts, all to the Egyptian scribe who will read the letters (EA 286-89, 3:6). In EA 170:36ff. both the addressee and the addressee are different from those in the first part of the letter. EA 128 is probably a double letter. On these additions to letters, see A. Leo Oppenheim, *AS*, 16, pp. 233ff. and Nougayrol, *Ugarit*, 5, p. 67, with references to earlier literature. Other double letters: RS 34:234, *Ugarit*, 7, pl. XV-XVI; (the following references from J. Huebner) PRU 6, no. 7, RS 34:251, *Ugarit*, 7, pl. XL; RS 34:171, *Ugarit*, 7, pl. LII; *Emsa* 6/3:263-64 are double letters; 266 is extraordinary, being four complete letters from the same correspondent. *Emsa* 6/3:261 is also unusual; it is sent by two correspondents who, after the greeting, send individual messages, the first being introduced by *emsa* (line 10), the second by the logogram INIM, "word" (see above, n. 52).

59. By the Amarna period "love" (*ḥmwl* and derivatives) had become part of the terminology of international relations; see V. Kisson, *Mathematical relations in Egyptian hieroglyphs in the Amarna period* (International relations according to cuneiform reports from the Tell el-Amarna and Heret Stages Archive) (Ljubljana, 1950), p. 340 (English summary, p. 393). It is a favorite term of Tutankhamun (EA 17ff.), passim, when he speaks of the relationship between equals, but elsewhere in the Amarna letters it is also used of the relationship between sovereign and vassal (EA 33:41, 114:56f., 121:61, 123:23; 138:11f.; see *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 23 (1963) pp. 77ff.). On "friendship" (*ḥmwl*) and related terms, see M. Weinfield, *JNES* 93 (1973) pp. 100ff., and below, EA 136, n. 5.

60. See C. Zaccagnini, *La tomba dei due re di Siva durante i secoli XV-XIII* (Rome, 1973), which was inspired by Liverani, *OA* 11 (1972) pp. 297ff. (translated in *Thron Amarna Essays* [see n. 26], pp. 215f.).

61. This also belongs to the formal language of treaties: "We are all sons of Šap-

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en a frank expression of disappointment, expression of the motivation behind the exchange of gifts, petition of counter-gifts to respond to the gifts now being dispatched—these and related topics dominate much of the international correspondence.

One of the related topics is marriage, for marriage not only binds the correspondents even closer together, but it also involves the exchange of goods.⁶² If in the gifts customarily exchanged the economic value was not always great and symbolic values were often as important, in the case of marriage the economic value was considerable, even staggering.⁶³

Apart from declarations of friendship, the discussions of gifts associated with this friendship, proposals of marriage, and lists of goods exchanged at the time of marriage, there is little else in the international correspondence. Tūšratta of Mitanni tells of the difficulties attending his accession to the throne and makes a passing reference to the Hittites, but he says nothing more about the larger political scene.⁶⁴ Burna-Buriš of Babylonia tells how a predecessor refused to support a coalition of Canaanite kings against Egypt, reveals the dangers of international trade, and implies growing Assyrian turbulence and aspirations.⁶⁵ In the mention of Mayati, the daughter of Amētophis IV, there

philuḫimā and our house is one" (E. F. Weidner, *Politische Dokumente aus Kleinasien: Die Staatserträge in akkadischer Sprache aus dem Archiv von Boghazköi*, Boghazköi-Studien 8 [Leipzig, 1923; reprint, Hildesheim and New York, 1970], p. 86:8f.). The language goes back at least to the Old Babylonian period. Uruk and Babylon are "one house" (A. Falkenstein, *Bogazköi Mitteilungen* 2 (1963) p. 56:11 ff.), as are other kings (ibid., p. 58:25); Lugal and Eshnunna are also "one house" (TAM 1, 1:6:16; see also A. Ziegen, *Abdulkishin Briefe des Iraq-Museum* [n.p., 1964], p. 72) Iḫḫi-Addu of Qatne writes to Ene-Dagan of Assyria, "This house is your house. What is missing in your house? Does not a brother give a brother (his) request?" (ARMT 5, 20:25-28). Hammurabi of Babylon is quoted as declaring, "From long ago and even after the city Mari and Babylon have been one house and one finger that cannot be separated (*bu-ab² lu-gi-ab²*)" (AEM 112, no. 449:15f.; see also ARMT 1, 21:3). In the papyrus papyrus, see *AEB*, 8:27; ibid., 11, 152:22 ("my house is your house and my papyrus your papyrus"); ARMT 30, 78:27; and Kraus, *BOR* 22 (1965) p. 389 and n. 8. Cf. also "one man" (EA 20:7).

62. See Pinore, *Matrimonio*, esp. pp. 195f. On dynastic marriages, see also W. Röllig, *RLA* 4, pp. 282ff.; P. Michalowski, *JNES* 95 (1975) pp. 716ff.; A. Schalman, *JNES* 38 (1979) pp. 277ff.; F. Arzi, in J. M. Darand, ed., *Le fammi dans la Proche Orient Antique* (Paris, 1957) pp. 23ff.

63. According to EA 14:13-14, over a half a ton of gold was used on the gifts listed in the previous lines, and according to 11:78, about an eighth of a ton of silver. On EA 14 as a list of marriage gifts, see Kiltane, pp. 70f.

64. EA 711-20, 30-31.

65. EA 773-82; 813-42; 919-35.

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is an opaque reflection of events at the Egyptian court.⁶⁶ But all this adds up to little information, and there is not a hint of the religious reforms that make the Amarna period so notable in Egyptian history.⁶⁷

5. *The Vassal Correspondence*

The vassal correspondence⁶⁸ reflects the Egyptian administration of its territories in Syria and Palestine.⁶⁹ At the time of the Amarna letters, the area was divided into two or three provinces, each under an Egyptian official, who is, in the Amarna letters, without specific title.⁷⁰ Probably always a member of the military, he resided in a garrison city, one of a network, and from there he looked after Egyptian interests in the city-states and crown-lands within his territory. One was stationed in Gaza, and his province took in most of Palestine, the Phoenician coast, and, if there were only two provinces, Amurru. If there was a

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third province, its administrative centre was Sumru and its principal territory Amurru, the borders of which remain ill-defined.⁷¹ Another official was in Kamidu, and he administered an area from Qadeš in southern Syria down to Hazor in northern Palestine, over to the Damascus and down into northern Transjordan.⁷²

Subject to these officials, besides Egyptian underlings, were the native local rulers, who are usually referred to as "mayors" (*basanni*) but are also called "rulers" (*awilis*, lit. "man") or "kings" (*isarna*) or, by the Egyptian term, "princes" (*wsr*, lit. "great one").⁷³ Among their obligations, which may not have been the same in each province, were the payment of tribute, meeting other exactions of goods and personnel, furnishing corvée labor on crown-lands, supplying Egyptian troops in transit and reinforcing them, and protecting caravans.

Six or seven letters in the vassal correspondence are from the Pharaoh (EA 99, 162-63, 190f, 367, 369-70; see above, sect. 2). With the exception of EA 162, as preserved they are formally very similar. The address, obviously ignoring any implications of social status, always names the inferior first (see above, sect. 4), and would appear to go back to an old tradition.⁷⁴ There follows an introduction to the message proper that is peculiar to the Pharaoh's letters to vassals, and it seems to be based on Egyptian models: "He (I?) hereby sends (send?) this tablet

66. EA 71 rev. 26-27.
 67. On the alleged request of the Akkadian king that the Egyptians form no alliances with the Hittites or Babylonians, see EA 35, n. 10.
 68. The term *vassal* is used loosely of any ruler subordinate to the Egyptian king, whether or not he was bound by oath and a vassal in the strict sense. It thus includes, for example, Adul-nimni of Nubia (EA 51), Aziru of Amurru (EA 156ff.), and the rulers of Ugarit (EA 25, 49; see A. Altman, *Bibl-Hav* 13 (1974) ff., English summary on pp. 11-13).
 69. Albrigh, *CAH* 2/2, pp. 102ff.; A. Alt, *Klein Schöpfung*, 3 (Münich, 1959), pp. 107ff.; M. Drower, *CAH* 2/1, pp. 467ff.; P. Frandsen, in Mogens Trolle Larsen, ed., *Power and Propaganda, Mesopotamia*, 7 (Copenhagen, 1979), pp. 167ff.; R. Haschmann, *ZDPV* 98 (1982) pp. 17ff.; W. Helck, *MDOG* 92 (1966) pp. 1ff.; idem, *Beisohungen*, pp. 246ff.; K. Kitchen, in Liverani, ed., *La Siria nel Tardo Bronzo* (vol. 2, 3), pp. 80ff.; Liverani, *RA* 61 (1967) pp. 2ff.; M. Abd al-Kader Mohamad, *Annuaire de Service des Antiquités de l'Égypte* 56 (1959) pp. 158ff.; N. Nebem, *Political Disposition*, esp. ch. 7-8, idem, *HEJ* 31 (1981) pp. 172ff.; M. Sevel, *FEQ* 104 (1972) pp. 123ff.; R. de Vaux, *Histoire ancienne d'Iraël, des origines à l'Établissement en Canaan* (Paris, 1971), pp. 96ff.; J. Weinstein, *BASOR* 241 (1981) pp. 15. Against the once common view that the Amarna letters reflect Egypt's neglect of its territories and the absorption of Amenophis IV in internal matters, especially his religious reforms, see especially Liverani and Sevel, see also the text below on military operations.
 70. Nebem, *Political Disposition*, pp. 156ff. (cf. *HEJ* 31 (1981) pp. 183f.), argues for only two provinces, whereas Helck (see n. 60), whose views have gained some currency, defends three. The crux is the status of Sumru. Donald B. Redford, *Akkadian, the Hittite King* (Princeton, 1984), p. 26, proposes four provinces. The highest official was usually called "commissioner" (*isarna*), but occasionally so were other Egyptian officials of lesser rank; see the survey of D. O. Edvard and E. A. M. Wiggermann, *RA* 7/5-6, pp. 449ff., esp. 425. All of these officials also shared the designation "mayor" (*basni*) see O. Wicker, *VAB* 2/2, p. 1188, and cf. EA 1, n. 31. In EA 256/2 and 362 69, *isarna* is glossed by *is-ak-su* and *is-ak-su*, respectively, West Semitic *isāhin* (Hebrew *šāhin*), in my opinion "one who provides" (cf. below *akassu* in the letters from Jerusalem), whereas J.-M. Durand, *Miscellanea Babylonica* (see n. 40), p. 82, n. 10, proposes "Resident," from a West Semitic verb "to dwell" (see *AEM* 1/1, no. 168, note j; *AEM* 1/2, no. 316/15; and note b; no. 519, note d).

71. The province probably extended from Byblos to an area south of Ugarit, and inland to about the Orontes River.
 72. According to Haschmann, *ZDPV* 98 (1982) pp. 18f., the Egyptian official displaced the native ruler, see also *Archéologie au Liban: Recueil à la mémoire de Roger Saidah*, Collection de la Maison de l'Orient méditerranéen, no. 12, 161e archéol. 9 (Lyon and Paris, 1982), pp. 132ff.
 73. As used in the western periphery in the fifteenth to thirteenth centuries B.C., the *basanni* was usually a royal appointee, and the term as used of the local rulers implied their incorporation within the administration as "fonctionnaires périphériques" (Liverani, in P. Garelli, ed., *Le Palais et le Royaume* (Paris, 1974), pp. 346ff., on the *basanni* of Boghazköy; see E. Picchioni, *Ori* 14 (1975) pp. 93ff.). However, if the place of rule was indicated, one usually did not use *basanni* but *awilis*, a usage that goes back to the Syrian *basni* of Old Babylonian times (see *CAD*, A/2, p. 57b). *isarna* was the mesopotamian, non-Egyptian term the city-state rulers used of themselves (Nebem, *DF* 20 (1988) pp. 182-83, n. 18). Egyptian *wsr*, which is used in EA only by Abi-Milcu of Tyre (EA 149:50; 151:29), was applied by the Egyptians to all foreign rulers, not just to vassals; see D. Lorenz, *The Juridical Terminology of International Relations in Egyptian Texts through Dynasty XVIII* (Baltimore, 1974), pp. 64ff.
 74. The use of *awilis* to designate the local ruler suggests the Old Babylonian period (see n. 73). These and the following remarks apply also to the king's letters discovered at Kamidu, see D. O. Edvard, *Schriftförmigkeit aus Kamid el-Laz, Sumerischer Beiträge zur Altorientkunde* 7 (1970) p. 55f. (Kamidü 1-2).

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to you, saying to you . . ." (EA 99, 367, 369-70).⁷⁵ Three times (EA 99, 367, 370), twice ruled off and included in the introductory section (EA 367, 370), the message begins with the command to be on one's guard and to guard "the place of the king where you are" (lit. "which is by/your you"), and again there are underlying Egyptian models.⁷⁶ The command may be repeated (EA 369:14), and along with more specific orders the vassal may be urged to obey without fault or negligence, two injunctions also with close Egyptian parallels.⁷⁷ He may also be promised to hear, if he is obedient, an expression of the Pharaoh's approval, "this is good" (EA 99:17; 369:21). Finally, all letters end in virtually the same words, following a longer or shorter form, by informing the inferior of the king's prosperity and power.⁷⁸

From these letters, confirmed by letters of the vassals to the king, one sees that the main purpose of the king's writing was to acquire personnel and other goods, to introduce Egyptian officials and secure obedience to their orders, and to arrange for supplies for his troops.

The rest of the vassal correspondence is concerned almost exclu-

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sively with letters from subordinate rulers or vassals to the king or high Egyptian officials.⁷⁹ Formally, they are very similar, though regional differences are observable. In the address, the vast majority begin either "Say to the king/PN . . . ; Message of PN₂₉," or simply "To the king . . ."⁸⁰ The exceptions are confined almost entirely to the letters of Rib-Hadda of Byblos, where we also find "Rib-Hadda speaks [17 times]/writes [9 times] to the king . . ."; comparable are EA 260 and 317-18.⁸¹ Another unusual form is found in EA 126, 129(?), 137(?), and 362. EA 100 is unique. The king is almost never addressed by name, only by title, to which are usually added various honorifics.⁸² To the identification of himself the vassal regularly adds various expressions of self-abasement.

Salutations are rare. Only once does an inferior report on his own well-being (EA 145, to an Egyptian official; see above, sec. 4), and only rarely does he wish his superior well (EA 44-45, 49, 59).⁸³ Again, the letters from Byblos are a notable exception. In letters addressed to the king the desire is expressed that the goddess, the Lady of Byblos, grant power to the king, and in letters to Egyptian officials it is hoped that Aman or the Lady of Byblos, or both, give the addressee honor in the king's sight.⁸⁴

The prostration formula, which in the Byblos letters always precedes the salutation of an official, but always follows the salutation of the king, is omitted only once in a letter to the king (EA 44) and once

75. Cf. in the same position, after the address and immediately before the message, "This letter is brought to you to the following effect" (R. Caminos, *Late-Egyptian Miscellanea* [Londre, 1954], pp. 4, 7, 13-14), rendering Egyptian *in.tu wš šf pš w šf šf šf*, followed by injunctions virtually identical with those containing EA 99, 367, and 370. The king usually speaks of himself in the third person (EA 99:81, 11, 17-19, 22; 162:passim, 367:8, 10-11, 16, 28, 30, 22ff.; 369:5, 102, 370:7), but at Knosis (the first person is also attested "and me", Kuntida 15; 20), and some of the passages here taken as third person are ambiguous and could be in the first person. It seems likely that *qabī* (EA 99, 367, 370; Kuntida 1-2) or *anw qabī* (EA 369), lit. "to speak," is meant to correspond to Egyptian *šf šf*, lit. "with saying," and therefore to introduce direct quotation. (For the infinitive expressing purpose without *anw*, J. Hasenberger points to PRU 4, p. 1936ff.; KBo 1, 33:8f.) "My saying/speech" (Edzard) accords with neither EA 369 nor the Egyptian parallel. On EA 369 as *extra chrona*, see EA 369, n. 1.

76. As first recognized by Liverani, *OA* 10 (1971) p. 258, n. 36, and p. 262, n. 53 (translating in *Three Achaemenid Essays* [see n. 26], pp. 7, 9), who also established on the basis of Egyptian parallels the meaning of "which is by/your you." See also Liverani, *Visioni Greche* 2 (1979) p. 66, n. 4.

77. Cf. "let the long find fault [i.e. a crime] in you" (EA 367:10f.) and "do not let yourself be found fault with" (Caminos, *Late-Egyptian Miscellanea*, pp. 5, 198), "do not become negligent" (EA 367:14) and "slack not" (Caminos, *Late-Egyptian Miscellanea*, p. 7), "he not remiss" (ibid., 198).

78. For the shorter form, see EA 99, 367; for the long form, EA 162 and 370, and Kuntida 1-2. The conclusion of EA 369 is without parallel. For a brief analysis of the two forms, see J. Wieseler, *UF* 15 (1985) p. 313. Liverani, *Longing over Words*, pp. 341ff., studies the form and the background of EA 99, 367, and 369-70, which he calls "Egyptian spring letters," in his opinion examples of a standard annual procedure. For difficulties with this view, see EA 367, n. 1.

79. Exceptions: female correspondents (EA 48, 50; cf. EA 12, 26, and see also 73-74); Egyptian general to vassal (EA 96, a copy sent to central archives). Those sending the letters may be a group of vassals (EA 200, cf. 30), the (senior) citizens of a city (EA 59, 100), or a vassal's *harem/temple* (EA 169f.). Letters to Egyptian officials and courtiers: EA 60, 71 (cf. 40), 73, 75, 82, 86f., 93, 95, 98, 102, 145, 148, 164, 166f., 169f., 178, 210f., 238, 251(?), 256, 333). On postscripts, etc., see the text above at n. 58.

80. On *anw*, "message," see n. 52.

81. Liverani, *Longing over Words*, p. 344, n. 16, points to the same form in letters written in Egyptian. On *špšit* as examples of *Kanaanitisch*, see W. Mayer, *Ura- und Kanaanitisch* (Leipzig, 1910) p. 100. Cf. also Liverani, *Ura- und Kanaanitisch* (Rome, 1976), pp. 195f., cf. *spšh* in EA 59:5.

82. The king's name appears in EA 532; 554. It may be doubted that EA 210 was addressed to king [. . . *mi-ib-šw-ri-ia*] (Amenophis IV? Tutanchemun? see below, n. 137), since he would be named without title (see VAB 201, p. 745, note f) or the homage of prokyneta (see the text below).

83. EA 44 is from an independent Hitite prince, 45 and 49 from probably independent rulers of Ugarit, and 59 from the city of Tunip.

84. EA 71, 73, 77, 86-87, 95, 102, cf. also 113:2f. in the body of the letter, and, in Kuntida, as a concluding formula (Edzard, *ZA* 66 [1976] p. 64:18-20, with "the gods" as subject; in lines 7, 13, BB is a logogram for *špšh*, as frequently in EA).

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in a letter to an official (EA 166; also 167?). In letters to officials one simply declares the prostration, but in letters to the king this is usually said to be performed "seven times and seven times," which in Palestinian letters is made even more explicit, with the addition of "(both) on the belly and on the back."⁸⁵

The body of the vassal letters, in both form and content, is quite varied.⁸⁶ Most vassals, it seems, wrote neither regularly nor on their own initiative, but rather only in reply to a letter from the king,⁸⁷ and very many of the letters begin by acknowledging in different ways that the king's letter has been received: "I have heard,"⁸⁸ "as to the king's writing/saying,"⁸⁹ "you have written";⁹⁰ "the king . . . wrote";⁹¹ "the word(s) . . .";⁹² "everything/whatever. . ."⁹³

The king's letters are often cited. His command to be on one's guard or to guard oneself,⁹⁴ and to guard the place of the king where the vassal is (see above), is frequently quoted⁹⁵ and even more frequently alluded to.⁹⁶ Associated with this command is at times another, either cited directly⁹⁷ or alluded to,⁹⁸ to guard (pay close atten-

85. See J. Pritchard, *The Ancient Near East in Pictures* (Princeton, 1953), 68, 9, for the representation of Syrian vassals in both positions. "Seven times" means "over and over." On Egyptian proskynesis, see H. Fischer, *Bulletin University Museum* 20 (1950) pp. 21ff.; *ibid.*, 21 (1951) pp. 55ff.; A. Hezeman, *Zeitschrift für Ägyptische Sprache* 90 (1963) pp. 52f.

86. On the quality of composition and the general poverty of lexicon, see Edzard, in *Biblical Archaeology Today* (see n. 17), pp. 252f.

87. Campbell, *Chronology*, p. 34.

88. EA 141, 194, 206, 213, 216-18, 220f., 243, 246, 253f., 269, 293, 303-5, 364f. cf. also 301f., 321, 328f.

89. EA 119, 121f., 125f., 130, 224, 224, 254, 306; also EA 77 and 95, to Egyptian officials. On epistolary *inimica*, see EA 1, n. 9.

90. EA 201-6.

91. EA 191, 243, 253, 283, 337; cf. also 65, 233, 247.

92. EA 287, 275-77; cf. also 65, 223, 239.

93. EA 223, 251, 297f.

94. See above n. 76.

95. EA 10014f.; 11239; 11784; 119 9; 12139; 12210; 12330f.; 1259f.; 12631f.; 13010ff.; 13111f.; 13212f.; 1349f. For Liverani, *Lingering over Words*, pp. 342ff., to more instances reference to protection indicates a "Syro-Palestinian spring letter," a vassal's reply to an "Egyptian spring letter" (see n. 70).

96. EA 690f.; 14211f.; 20211f.; 22735f.; 24310ff.; 30419ff.; 30918ff.; 30713f.; 34111f.; 31610f.; 32016f.; 32113ff.; 32510ff.; 3269ff.; 327 1ff.; 36414f.

97. EA 29220; 2948f.; 31721.

98. EA 21612f.; 22011, 23098f.; 30319ff.; 31915ff.; 32115ff., 32217ff.; 32821ff.

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tion to?) or listen to the king's commissioner. This may refer to the vassal's general duties, but at times at least it certainly looks to specific missions (cf. EA 367, 369; see above).

The command to be on one's guard, etc., was probably never isolated (cf. EA 367, 370). There were also orders, for example, "to prepare" (EA 99:10ff.), and the best-attested preparations are those of supplies for Egyptian troops in transit (EA 367:15ff.).⁹⁹ The vassal occasionally cites the actual order (EA 141:21-22; 337:8-11), but always, in one way or another, he states his compliance.¹⁰⁰

The vassals reply to other commands and charges, some cited verbatim,¹⁰¹ others easily inferred from context, and they do so not always with an unquestioning submissiveness. Thus, it is clear that the king has not succeeded in his attempt to have Azbu rebuild Sumur or to get him to come to Egypt (EA 256ff.). Lab'aya does not hesitate to make known his displeasure at certain orders of the king (EA 252), and in two other letters (EA 253-54) he emphatically denies the serious charges brought against him by others and repeated by the king (cf. also EA 256). But the most unusual correspondence as well as by far the longest is that between the king and Rib-Hadda of Byblos, for it goes far beyond the routines that we find in most of the EA archive.¹⁰² Rib-Hadda writes and writes. If he is told to guard himself and the city where he is, he does not reply that he will do so; he insists that it is

99. On the background of these preparations, see the text below and nn. 117-18.

100. EA 65, 141f., 144, 191, 195, 201, 203-6, 213, 216, 227, 302, 324f., 337; see also 225 and 29220ff. One is to prepare "before the arrival" (*ana jarrat*) of the Egyptian troops. Cf. Caminos, *Neo-Egyptian Hieroglyphs* (see n. 75), p. 198, where the order is to have things ready before the arrival of the Pharaoh; see also p. 199 and p. 202, note. The use of *ana jarrat* may reflect Egyptian *ḥ-ḥt* (Pharaoh, AO 11 [1972] p. 129, n. 158; Liverani, *Vicino Oriente* 2 [1970] p. 69), but it need not, for in Old Babylonian *ana jarrat* has the same temporal meaning; see, for example, M. Stol, *AOB* 9, 6311; 983; 11751; 13739; 1446', and note too *ana jarrat* in F. Kraus, *ABR* 7, 56f.6, and the remarks of Daressi, *ARMT* 21, p. 413, n. 82. In view of EA 5215-17, its survival in the periphery seems quite probable. The troops in question were the regular army units, "archers" to the literal translation that I have followed, to be distinguished from auxiliaries (*alliazim*) and garrison troops (*maḥḥarim*); see Rainey, *AOMT*, 8*, p. 87.

101. EA 10215f.; 11242f.; 14933; 15010ff.; 16331f.; 2838f.

102. See especially Liverani, *GA* 10 (1971) pp. 253ff. (translated in *Three Amarna Essays* (see n. 26), pp. 3ff.). For the narrative context and the self-perception in Rib-Hadda's correspondence, see also Liverani, *Altorientalische Forschungen* 1 (1974) pp. 174ff., and for my criticisms and a somewhat different analysis, see A. Kort and S. Merschhausen, eds., *Biblical and Related Studies Presented to Samuel E. Loewy* (Winona Lake, Ind., 1983), pp. 173ff.

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impossible.¹⁰³ And he does so not once; to a single letter of the king he sends, it seems, nine letters in reply. Told, too, to send a certain wood, he replies that this also is impossible.¹⁰⁴ The impression that one gets of a tireless and boring correspondent, endlessly reiterating his requests and his complaints, was also shared by the king (the foreign office), who complained that Rib-Hadda wrote to him more than any local ruler.¹⁰⁵ This, of course, gave Rib-Hadda the occasion to insist that he alone was loyal and suffering for his lord.

Some vassals, however, did not simply reply to the various demands of the king. They also reported on their own situation and on anything they thought of possible interest to the crown, frequently on their own initiative, as they were at times urged to do.¹⁰⁶ Such reports are often introduced by "may the king, my lord, know (*idû*) that . . .," and they tell of the city as "safe and sound,"¹⁰⁷ or threatened,¹⁰⁸ of lost territory,¹⁰⁹ or of other dangers.¹¹⁰ Letters also end this way, calling attention to something in particular or summing up the letter as a whole.¹¹¹

Unlike the international correspondence, the letters to and from vassals often refer to political events, too often indeed for even the barest summary here. In the north, politics were dominated by two

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major developments—first, the emergence of a new state, Amurru, and second, the appearance of a new threat to Egyptian power, the resurgent Hittites. The emergence of Amurru—which was achieved by a certain 'Abdi-Asira, partly through exploitation of social unrest and disaffection, and then solidified by his able son and successor, Azaru¹¹²—was the object of unceasing protest by Rib-Hadda of Byblos, who never tired of accusing the rulers of Amurru of disloyalty and treason. Orchi shared this view of Azaru. As the Hittite threat became evident,¹¹³ Azaru, along with Aitragana of Qades, was charged with being a Hittite ally and, with Hittite support, a despoiler of Egyptian territory.¹¹⁴ Needless to say, in his own letters someone quite different is portrayed.¹¹⁵

The vassal correspondence in the south is more insular in its interests and less reflective of international tensions. This correspondence presents a scene of constant rivalries, shifting coalitions, and attacks and counterattacks among the small city-states.¹¹⁶ A probable exception to the isolation of the south from events to the north and the Hittite threat is seen in those letters that speak of preparations by the vassals before the arrival of Egyptian troops.¹¹⁷ These preparations seem to reflect plans for a single campaign and the dispatch of Egyptian troops through Palestine to Syria, there to confront the Hittites and former Egyptian vassals supporting them.¹¹⁸

103. EA 11210ff.; 11784ff.; 11910ff.; 12110ff.; 12211ff.; 123130f.; 12511f.; 12633f.; 130130f.

104. EA 1264ff.; see also 777ff.

105. EA 124135ff.; see also 106135ff.; 1176ff.

106. EA 14524ff.; 14934ff.; 15150f.

107. EA 689ff.; 745ff.; 756ff.; 14436ff.; 2166ff.; 2688ff.; see also 10028ff.; 2578ff.; 3309ff. Since the writer may go on to describe the precarious situation of the city (that it is "safe and sound" (*idû*)), the meaning must have shifted from the original one of "well-being." EA 267135ff. and 3309ff., where "safe and sound" is said of "the place of the king, my lord, where I am," and of "the city of the king where I am," respectively, clearly allude to the vassal's duty to guard the place of the king where he is (see the text above) and suggest that "safe and sound" means that the place remains under the loyal protection of the vassal; cf. also EA 2302-22. Already in the Old Babylonian period we find occasional declarations of a city's well-being followed immediately by a report on the strength of the security forces (AB 5, 158-4ff.; ARMT 2, 88-6ff.; 3, 126ff.).

108. EA 7211ff. (2); 767ff.; 816ff.; 1146ff.; 1165ff.

109. EA 272110ff.; 2738ff.; 2799ff.

110. EA 1046ff.; 2448ff.; 2493ff.; 3202ff.; cf. also 215, 270, 297.

111. EA 14773ff.; 14988ff.; 23022ff.; 24548ff.; 27323ff. A verbal synonym of *idû* is *ludû*, "to learn, become informed," and though used much less frequently, it is otherwise indistinguishable; see EA 544ff.; 648ff.; 797ff.; 903ff.; 14336ff.; 23819ff.; 264123ff.; 265134ff.; 274175; 28136ff.; 282215ff.; 302121ff.; 308 rev. 2ff.; 30926ff.; cf. 28759. The letters referred to in the next fall, in part at least, under what Neugebauer, *Ugarit* 5, p. 68, called "letters of information." For Liverani, *Lingering over Words*, pp. 345ff., they

are mostly "late-summer letters," sent, in his theory, at the time an Egyptian official came to collect the annual tribute. Be it noted, here without comment, that for Liverani the vassal correspondence is shot through with extensive and constant misunderstandings, both linguistic and political; see especially RA 61 (1967) 1ff.; *Beryta* 31 (1983) 41ff.; *Lingering over Words*, pp. 343f.

112. On the rise of Amurru and the appeal to the disaffected, see Klengel, *MIO* 10 (1964) pp. 57ff.; Liverani, *Rivista storica italiana* 77 (1965) pp. 315ff.; idem, *RSO* 40 (1965) pp. 267ff. (translated in *Three Amarna Essays* [see n. 26], pp. 14ff.); Ahimani, *Bar-Ilan Departmental Researches: Bar-Ilan Studies in History* (1978) pp. 1ff.

113. See below, sect. 6.

114. EA 55224, 38-43, 45; 5021-18; 9833-20, 14018-22; 14766, 14935ff.; 15139-64; see also 5311ff., 35ff., 36ff.; 274-76; 19731ff.

115. EA 156ff.

116. See n. 69, especially Albright and Neuman.

117. Neuman, *Lingering over Words*, pp. 397ff., defines the group by their references to subjects mentioned in the Egyptian letter of command (EA 367) and/or references to preparations before the arrival of Egyptian troops; EA 55, 65, 141-42, 144, 147, 255, 199, 193, 195, 201-6, 216-18, 227, 292, 324-25, 337.

118. This is the more common opinion, most recently defended by Neuman (see n. 117). Liverani, *OA* 10 (1971) p. 259, n. 41 (*Three Amarna Essays* [see n. 26], p. 7), and *Lingering over Words*, pp. 341ff., sees in the preparation for the troops simply reference to an

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6. Chronology

Despite a long history of inquiry, the chronology of the Amarna letters, both relative and absolute, presents many problems, some of bewildering complexity, that still elude definitive solution. Consensus obtains only about what is obvious, certain established facts, and these provide only a broad framework within which many and often quite different reconstructions of the course of events reflected in the Amarna letters are possible and have been defended.¹¹⁹

The Amarna archive, it is now generally agreed, spans at most about thirty years, perhaps only fifteen or so. The extremes depend on the number of years, if any, one assigns to the co-regencies of Amenophis IV with Amenophis III, and of Smenkhkare with Amenophis IV. The longer the co-regencies, the shorter the period.

The archive begins about the thirtieth year of Amenophis III and extends no later than the first year of so of Tutankhamun, at which time the court abandoned the site of Akhetaten.¹²⁰ The upper limit is suggested, first of all, by the hieratic docket on EA 23, which dates the reception of this letter in the thirty-sixth year of Amenophis III. Then, by inference from internal evidence, EA 17, 19-21, and 24-25 fit into the previous five years or so. The Babylonian correspondence with Amenophis III also fits well into his last years, and in general, nothing in the archive argues clearly for an earlier date.¹²¹

annual procedure according to which Egyptian troops accompanied an Egyptian official in the late summer in his role of vassal chief to collect tribute. See also Pinote, *OA* 11 (1972) pp. 114ff., 136, and *OA* 12 (1973) pp. 190ff., esp. p. 311.

119. See K. Kitchen, *Suppililiuma and the Amarna Pharaohs: A Study in Relative Chronology* (Liverpool, 1962); Campbell, *Chronology*; E. Hornung, *Untersuchungen zur Chronologie und Geschichte der Neuen Reichs*, *Ägyptologische Abhandlungen*, Band 11 (Wiesbaden, 1964), pp. 63ff.; D. Redford, *History and Chronology of the Eighteenth Dynasty of Egypt* (Toronto, 1967), pp. 186ff.; Helck, *Beiträge*, pp. 168ff.; Kühne, *Das Ende der Amarnas: Beiträge zur Geschichte und Chronologie des Neuen Reichs*, *Hilfswort Ägyptologische Beiträge* (Hildesheim, 1978); William J. Murnane, *The Road to Kadish*, *Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization*, no. 42 (Chicago, 1978), pp. 6; G. Wilhelm and J. Böse, in Paul Aström, ed., *High, Middle, or Low? Act of an International Colloquium on Amarna Chronology Held at the University of Göteborg, 20th-22nd August 1982*, Part 1, *Studia in Mediterranea Archaeologia et Literatura*, Pocket Book 56 (Göteborg, 1987), pp. 74ff., and see the bibliography, pp. 110ff.

120. On EA 16, see n. 123.
121. The arguments for an earlier date of the Accawa correspondence have been refuted by E. Starke, *ZÄ* 71 (1982) pp. 221ff. (See, however, EA 31, n. 2.) Even if one sees in EA 31:25-27 reference to events in Hitite history far back in the reign of Amenophis III, this does not imply a date for the writing of the letter; see Wilhelm and Böse, *High, Middle, or Low?* (see n. 119), pp. 103ff.

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Within this framework we may locate some of the international correspondence a little more precisely:

Babylonian—the last years of Amenophis III until late in the reign of Amenophis IV, perhaps even as late as the first year or so of Tutankhamun;¹²²

Assyrian—late in the reign of Amenophis IV, if not later;¹²³

Mittanian—ca. year 30 of Amenophis III until year 4-5 (very short co-regency or no co-regency) or year 14-15 (co-regency of ca. 10 years) of Amenophis IV;

Accawa—Amenophis III.¹²⁴

Of the Hitite letters, EA 41 is addressed to Huriya, who, according to one's reconstruction of Hitite history, is either Amenophis IV, Tutankhamun, or Smenkhkare.¹²⁵ The other letters (EA 42-44), *non liquet*. The Alasia letters (EA 33-40): *again non liquet*.¹²⁶

Since, with few exceptions, the vassals never address the king by name, we lack this valuable evidence for establishing the relative chronology of their letters. The correspondence of the northern vassals, however, presents a fairly clear if rather general sequence of three periods: an earlier and a later Rib-Hadda of Byblos, and one post-Rib-Hadda. To the first are to be assigned EA 68-95; in this period 'Abdi-Asirta of Amurru (EA 60-62) was Rib-Hadda's main enemy, and probably Amenophis III was king.¹²⁷ In the second period, EA 101-38 and

122. The possibility of the later date depends on the identity of the recipient of EA 9, see n. 137 and EA 9, n. 3.

123. EA 15 and 16 were probably separated by a five year interval, since the latter implies, it seems, several exchanges of envoys, any one of which could explain EA 931-35. If the addressee of EA 16 was Aya, the successor of Tutankhamun (see EA 16, n. 1), one can only guess how this letter made its way to the abandoned capital.

124. See n. 121.

125. See n. 128 and EA 41, n. 1.

126. On the chronology of the international correspondence and for a critical review of earlier opinions, see Kühne.

127. The arguments for placing EA 68-70 in the second Rib-Hadda period (Campbell, *Chronology*, pp. 80, 82f.) depend on questionable translations and readings. The assignment of EA 83-86 is also not without difficulties (Campbell, *Chronology*, pp. 93ff.). Putting the latter early period in the reign of Amenophis III is not universally accepted; see Campbell, *ibid.*; Kitchen, *Suppililiuma and the Amarna Pharaohs* (see n. 119), pp. 40ff; Wilhelm and Böse, *High, Middle, or Low?* (see n. 119), p. 86, would assign all vassal letters, or at least the vast majority, to the reign of Amenophis IV. If, however, Rib-Hadda's letters fall in this period, it is very difficult, if not impossible, to explain why the Byblos

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362 were written, and Amenophis IV was on the throne. The last period, beginning with the exile and, probably not long afterwards, the death of Rib-Hadda (EA 162:7ff.), introduces new protagonists, notably Abi-Milku of Tyre (EA 146-55) and Aitagama of Qades (EA 189), and new synchronisms.¹²⁸ Just when this period begins in the reign of Amenophis IV, and whether within it some letters are addressed to his successors, are unresolved issues.¹²⁹

The correspondence of the southern vassals has certain clear sequences and correlations, but its time span is more difficult to determine. One point of reference is the figure of Lab'ayu (EA 252-54), who clearly belongs to the earliest level of this correspondence. His death provides a *terminus ante* and *post quem* for a good number of letters. He is

ruler, when writing in the Aziru period, recalls (EA 108, 117, 131, 132, 362) the success the present king's father, certainly Amenophis III, had in an earlier action against 'Abdi-Aširtu, but when writing in the 'Abdi-Aširtu period, he does not refer to it even once. Why, when Aziru is the enemy, is Amenophis IV urged to do as his father did to 'Abdi-Aširtu, but when the enemy is 'Abdi-Aširtu, and therefore the example of his father even more pertinent, he bears not a word about his father? Different scribes with different arguments are not the explanation; scribes span the two periods (Campbell, *Chronology*, p. 84). Besides, Rib-Hadda did not leave the composition of his letters without his own contribution (Campbell, *Chronology*, p. 85). Had he known at the time of the early letters of a previous defeat and capture of his arch-enemy, how could he have failed to insist on their being mentioned and mentioned often?

¹²⁸B. Among the contemporaries of Abi-Milku were Zamredda of Sidon (EA 144f., see 146:15, 147:26f; 149:24f, 57, 66, etc.), Biryawasa of Apu (Upu), EA 154-57; see 151:62), Aitagama of Qades (EA 151:59), Aziru (passim), and Niqmaddu of Ugarit (EA 159), as may be inferred from the fact that Abi-Milku wrote EA 151:35ff. after the fire in the palace of Ugarit (Livornet, *La ville de Ugarit*, *South Semitic 6* (Rome, 1962), pp. 270ff.). Aitagama was a contemporary of Akizzi of Qitina (EA 52-53; see 53:4R), Tawari of Lappana (EA 153; see 53:35ff.), Anawaya of Rubjina (EA 191-92; see 53:35ff.), and two kings of Nubia and Niri (see EA 53:40ff.), who undoubtedly were Addu-Nirari (EA 51) and Aki-Tešup, respectively (see Nougayrol, *PRU* 4, pp. 32ff., cf. EA 59:15, 18), in the time of Amenophis IV (EA 531; see 115:147, 363).

¹²⁹Rib-Hadda's correspondence with Amenophis IV covered a period of at least five years (Campbell, *Chronology*, p. 88). There is, however, a hiatus in Rib-Hadda's letters during which 'Abdi-Aširtu is captured and eventually dies or is killed. The length of this period is unknown. If Amenophis IV had a long co-regency with his father, Rib-Hadda died about the same time as his master, and the post-Rib-Hadda period would have to be assigned mainly to the reign of Smerktahre and Tutmosehamun. (Following Krauss, *Das Ende der Amarnazeit* [1962], p. 112), one would put his reign as Amenophis IV's daughter, Mutitaten [Maya], before Smerktahre; see the table at the end of the Introduction.) Some letters have been placed in these later reigns on other grounds, apart from the question of co-regency (EA 147 and 135, according to Redford, *History and Chronology* (see n. 119), p. 220, EA 139, 160, 171, according to Ph. H. J. ten Cate, *BDO 22* (1963) pp. 275f., etc.); on EA 210, see above, n. 82, but see Krauss, *Das Ende der Amarnazeit*, pp. 275f., etc.; 10

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also a contemporary of Surata of Akka (EA 232; see EA 245) and of Milkilu of Gazru (EA 267-71), to whom a letter was addressed very probably by Amenophis III.¹³⁰ He was dead before Rib-Hadda, for EA 287 and 289 speak only of Lab'ayu's sons at a time when Pawuru (EA 287:45), whom Rib-Hadda survived (EA 131, 362), is still alive.

Another correlation between the northern and southern correspondences is probably found in the warnings to a number of vassals, both northern and southern, to make preparations before the arrival of Egyptian troops.¹³¹ If these warnings were all issued at virtually the same time, inspired by the same plans for a Syrian campaign, then not only are the two correspondences linked and a number of synchronisms established, but the relative date is also clear—i.e., shortly after Rib-Hadda's exile and before his death (EA 142:15-31).¹³²

The major clues are several. One is the reading of the hieratic docket on EA 254, a letter from Lab'ayu: "year 12" or "year 32"? If the first, then it must refer to Amenophis IV and would require a very late date for the entire southern corpus.¹³³ If the second, then it could refer only to Amenophis III and would put the earliest level of the southern correspondence with comparable levels of the northern and international correspondences, late in this Pharaoh's reign.¹³⁴

Another and, depending on one's interpretation of the letter, a possibly even more serious *crux* concerns the reading of the hieratic docket on EA 27: "[yea] 2" or "[year] 12"? It raises, on one reading of the letter, the vexing and still unsettled question of the co-regency of Amenophis IV with his father. The letter is addressed to the former, and probably not long after the latter's death. If so, and if the first reading is correct, then a short co-regency remains a possibility, but it would have to be established, not from the Amarna letters, but from

¹³⁰In EA 369 the king attributes his power to Amun, not to the Aten.

¹³¹See the text above at nos. 317-48.

¹³²There seem to be few if any southern letters after this time. If the more recent northern correspondence was left behind at Akhetaten, it is perhaps to be explained by the fact that, whereas the southern letters were still relevant for the administration, the profoundly altered situation in the north made letters written there of no practical value.

¹³³See Campbell, *Chronology*, pp. 66f. "Year 22" is another possibility, epigraphically, but suffers from the same difficulties as the alleged early date of EA 51 (see above, n. 121).

¹³⁴It would also bring down the date of Rib-Hadda's correspondence.

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other evidence. But if the second is right, then a co-regency, and a long one of ten years or so, seems inescapable.¹³⁵

A tissue of problems is the correlation of the data of the Amarna letters with the history of the Hittites and their expansion into Syria. Unfortunately, with the exception of EA 170, the Amarna letters speak in rather general terms of Hittite activities, allowing therefore conflicting interpretations, which are only encouraged by the uncertainties afflicting contemporary Hittite history.

Basic to the discussion of the Amarna data is the date of the accession of Šuppiluliumaš to the Hittite throne, for it was under him that the Hittites moved onto the larger political scene and through their ambitions came into conflict with Egypt. Most scholars have put Šuppiluliumaš on the throne ca. 1380 B.C. This would be late in the reign of Amenophis III and provide a broad chronological framework for references to Hittite aggression. This high date, however, has been challenged, with strong arguments assembled in favor of a much later date, ca. 1343 B.C., well into the reign of Amenophis IV. In this view, the Amarna framework collapses to a decade, and the period of possibly relevant Hittite activities is greatly reduced.¹³⁶

Another and urgent problem is whether the Amarna data reflect the six-year Hurri war that Šuppiluliumaš waged in Syria late in his reign. On one reading of the evidence no reflection is possible, for it dates an early stage of the war at the time of the death of Tutankhamun; this would be many years after the abandonment of the site of Akhetaten and well out of the Amarna framework.¹³⁷ But other readings are

135. See Kühnle, pp. 45f.; William J. Moran, *Ancient Egyptian Correspondence, Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilizations*, no. 40 (Chicago, 1977), pp. 124f. Marinus accepts the reading '11' but denies its bearing on the co-regency problem. The way, however, friendship is requested and promised in EA 279-82, 37-40, 74-78, strongly suggests a period of tension when friendship must be reestablished. Nor does it seem likely at all that after twelve years or more, Tutankhamun would still be urging that a promise made by Amenophis III be kept now by his son.

136. For the arguments supporting this much later accession date, see Wilhelm and Boese, *High, Middle, or Low?* (see n. 119). This would also make during the reference to the Hittites in EA 75-35ff. more problematic than ever.

137. Early in the war Šuppiluliumaš learned of the death of the Egyptian king Bihhorunnaš (variant: Nibhorunnaš) and received the widow's extraordinary request for a Hittite prince to replace him (H. Güterbock, *JCS* 10 (1956) p. 94; A. Goetze, *ANET*, p. 349). As it stands, the name looks like Nibhorunnaš (Tutankhamun) rather than Nibhorunnaš (Amenophis IV) or Bihhorunnaš (Barnetelena). If, however, as seems virtually certain, the Hurri war is reflected in the Amarna letters, then one either postulates confusion in the Hittite tradition (Albright, *JEA* 23 (1937) p. 194; Redford, *History and Chronology* (see n.

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also possible, and indeed more probable. The dead king, whose identity is so important, is in one reading Amenophis IV, in another, Smenkhkare. In either one the Amarna data are most certainly relevant and part of the history of the six-year war.¹³⁸

Absolute dates of kings reigning in the Amarna period cannot be fixed with certainty. The following reflect most recent studies:¹³⁹

Kingdom	King	Dates of reign
Assyria	Aššur-uballit	1353-1318
Babylonia	Kadašman-Enlil I	(1364)-1350
	Burna-Boriāš II	1349-1323
Egypt	Amenophis III	May 1386-1349 (1390-1352)
	Amenophis IV	1350-1334 (1352-1336)
	(* <i>nḥ</i> , <i>t. t. t. w-r</i>)	(1336-1335)
	Smenkhkare	1336-1334 (1335-1332)
	Tutankhamun	1324-1325 (1332-1323/22)
	Aya	1324-1321 (1323/22-1319/18) or 1324-1319
Hittite	Šuppiluliumaš	1380-1340 (1343-1323/22 or 1319/18) ¹⁴⁰

139. pp. 45ff.; Wilhelm and Boese, *High, Middle, or Low?* (see n. 119), pp. 106ff.) or argues that Nibhorunnaš was by a development in the Egyptian language a possible form of the person of Amenophis IV (Krauss, *Das Ende der Amarnazeit* (see n. 119), pp. 99ff.).

138. Krauss, *Das Ende der Amarnazeit* (see n. 119), pp. 54ff., offers an extensive reconstruction of the history, including the Amarna data, on the assumption that the dead king (see n. 137) was Amenophis IV. For criticisms of this view and a reconstruction that assumes the dead king was Smenkhkare, see Wilhelm and Boese, *High, Middle, or Low?* (see n. 119), esp. pp. 96ff.

139. The Assyrian and Babylonian dates are those of J. A. Brinkman, *Materials and Studies for Kassite History: A Catalogue of Cuneiform Sources Pertaining to Specific Monarchs of the Kassite Dynasty*, vol. 1 (Chicago, 1976), p. 31, but lowered by ten years, according to the 'low chronology' (see E. Wente and G. Van Sclen, *Studies in Honor of George R. Hughes, Studies in Ancient Civilization*, no. 39 (Chicago, 1976), p. 249; J. Boese and G. Wilhelm, *WZKM* 71 [1977] pp. 10ff.). The Babylonian dates have a margin error of ± 5 years. The Egyptian chronologies, which are also 'low', are those of Wente and Van Sclen, p. 218, and, in parentheses, of Krauss, *Das Ende der Amarnazeit* (see n. 119), p. 202.

140. For the lower dates, see Wente and Van Sclen, *Studies* (see n. 139), pp. 249f.; Wilhelm and Boese, *High, Middle, or Low?* (see n. 119), pp. 107f. Note that, if Aya is addressed in EA 16, only the low Assyrian chronology is compatible with the Egyptian chronologies presented here.

Editorial Apparatus

The following symbols are used in the translations and transcriptions:

[]	restored text
[...]	missing text
...	obscure or greatly damaged text
{ }	omission by scribe
{ { }	sign(s) repeated by error
* *	sign(s) partially illegible
()	word(s) supplied by editor to clarify text

In addition, the following appear in the text:

boldface numbers	line numbers (also in the notes)
paragraph indent	indication of a line of separation traced across the surface of the tablet (a usage that was especially widespread in the North)
<i>italic</i>	translation doubtful (for italics in notes, see below)
centered colon	indication of a gloss (the gloss is translated only if it has a different meaning from the word glossed; glosses in Akkadian are not indicated)

For the transliteration of Sumerian-Akkadian passages the following conventions apply:

Sumerian	roman type
Sumerogram	small caps
Akkadian	reading certain: italics reading dubious: roman

As always, proper names present problems. I have tried to resolve these in what seemed the simplest, if not always the most consistent, fashion. In general, syllabic writings have been kept; thus, for example, Yapaštu, and not Yapaš'u. Whenever a logogram has been employed, however, I have given a more exact transcription—for instance, IR = 'Abdu, ²IM = Baš'u. With the exception of several well-known geographic names (Egypt, not Mištu; Jerusalem, not Urusalim; etc.), I have retained the ancient forms, and although we know that geographic names are generally in the genitive (the country/the city of + geographic name), the (dipodic) form of the text has usually been kept. In addition, throughout these letters the short form "Šumar" has been used rather than the long form "Šumuru."

Abbreviations and Short Titles

AAAS	<i>Annales archéologiques arabes syriennes</i> (Damascus)
ABB	<i>Altbabylonische Briefe</i> (Leiden)
Adler	Hans-Peter Adler, <i>Das Akkadische des Königs Tishdara von Miskanni</i> , AOAT 201 (1976)
AEM	<i>Archives épistolaires de Mari</i> (Paris)
AfO	<i>Archiv für Orientforschung</i> (Berlin, then Graz)
AHw	W. von Soden, <i>Akkadisches Handwörterbuch</i> , vols. 1–3 (Wiesbaden, 1965–81)
AIPHOS	<i>Annuaire de l'Institut de Philologie et d'Histoire Orientales et Slaves</i> (Brussels)
AJSL	<i>American Journal of Semitic Language</i> (Chicago)
ANET	J. Pritchard, <i>Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament</i> , 3d ed. (Oxford, 1969)
AO	<i>Antiquités orientales</i> (the Louvre)
AOAT(S)	Alter Orient und Altes Testament (Sonderreihe) (Kevelaer and Neukirchen-Vluyn)
AoF	<i>Afrikanische Forschungen</i> (Berlin)
Arch Awz	<i>Archäologischer Anzeiger</i> (Berlin)
ARM(T)	<i>Archives royales de Mari; Transcriptions et traductions</i> (Paris)
ArOr	<i>Archiv Orientalni</i> (Prague)
AS	<i>Assyriological Studies, The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago</i> (Chicago)
Ash	Ashmolean Museum (Oxford)
ATAY	H. Gressmann, ed., <i>Akkanische Texte zum Alten Testament</i> , 2d ed. (Berlin and Leipzig, 1929)
BAM	P. Kötter, <i>Die hethitisch-assyrische Medizin in Texten und Untersuchungen</i> , 6 vols. (Berlin and New York, 1963–80)
Barrett, <i>Illustrations</i>	R. Barnett, <i>Illustrations of Old Testament History</i> , 2d ed. (Bristol and London, 1977)
BASOR	<i>Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research</i> (Baltimore, then Cambridge, Mass., then Philadelphia, now Baltimore)
BB	C. Bezold and E. W. Budge, <i>The Tell of Amarna Tablets in the British Museum</i> (London, 1892)
BE	<i>The Babylonian Expedition of the University of Pennsylvania, Series A, Cuneiform Texts</i> , vol. 1: H. V. Hilprecht, <i>Old Babylonian Inscriptions Chiefly from Nippur</i> , pt. 2 (Philadelphia, 1896)
Bi	<i>Biblica</i> (Rome)

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<i>Bôr</i>	<i>Bibliothèque Orientalis</i> (Leiden)
<i>BJPES</i>	<i>Bulletin of the Jewish Palestine Exploration Society</i> (Jerusalem)
<i>BM</i>	British Museum
<i>Böhl, Sprache</i>	Franz M. Th. Böhl, <i>Die Sprache der Amarna-Briefe</i> , Leipzig, 1909
<i>Bottéro, Habiru</i>	J. Bottéro, <i>Le Problème des Habiru à la 4^e Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale</i> , Cahiers de la Société Asiatique, XII (Paris, 1954)
<i>BSOAS</i>	<i>Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies</i> (London)
<i>C</i>	Cairo (Egyptian Museum)
<i>CAD</i>	<i>The Assyrian Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago</i> (Chicago and Glückstadt)
<i>CAH</i>	<i>The Cambridge Ancient History</i> , 3d ed., vols. 1-2 (Cambridge, 1970-75)
<i>Campbell, Chronology</i>	E. F. Campbell, <i>The Chronology of the Amarna Letters</i> (Baltimore, 1964)
<i>Campbell, Shechem</i>	E. F. Campbell, "Shechem in the Amarna Archive," in G. Ernest Wright, <i>Shechem: The Biography of a Biblical City</i> (New York and Toronto, 1965), pp. 191-207
<i>EA</i>	<i>El Amarna</i> (refers to the numbering of the letters in VAB 211 and Kainey, AOAT 82)
<i>Ebeling</i>	E. Ebeling, in <i>AAT</i> (9, 9)
<i>Edel, Brief</i>	Elmas Edéi, <i>Der Brief des ägyptischen Weiser Païyasa an den Hetätorikönig Chattatili und verwandte Keilschriftbriefe</i> , Nachrichten der Akademie der Wissenschaften in Göttingen, I, Philologisch-historische Klasse, No. 4 (Göttingen, 1978), pp. 117-58 = [1-42]
<i>Emar</i>	Daniel Arnaud, <i>Recherches au pays d'Amara, Emar 6.1-4</i> (Paris, 1985-87)
<i>GAG</i>	W. von Soden, <i>Grundriss der akkadischen Grammatik</i> , <i>Analeta Orientalia</i> 33 (Rome, 1952), and <i>Ergänzungshoft, Analeta Orientalia</i> 47 (Rome, 1965)
<i>GM</i>	Göttinger Mitteilungen, Beiträge zur ägyptologischen Diskussion (Göttingen)
<i>Gordon</i>	Unpublished notes on EA tablets in London and Cairo (see Preface)
<i>Greenberg, Habiru</i>	Moshe Greenberg, <i>The Habiru</i> , American Oriental Series, 39 (New Haven, 1955)
<i>Helck, Beziehungen</i>	W. Helck, <i>Die Beziehungen Ägyptens zu Vorderasien im 3. und 2. Jahrtausend v. Chr.</i> , <i>Ägyptologische Abhandlungen</i> , 2d ed., vol. 5 (Wiesbaden, 1971)
<i>HKL</i>	R. Borger, <i>Handbuch der Keilschriftliteratur</i> , vols. 1-3 (Berlin, 1967-75)
<i>xliv</i>	

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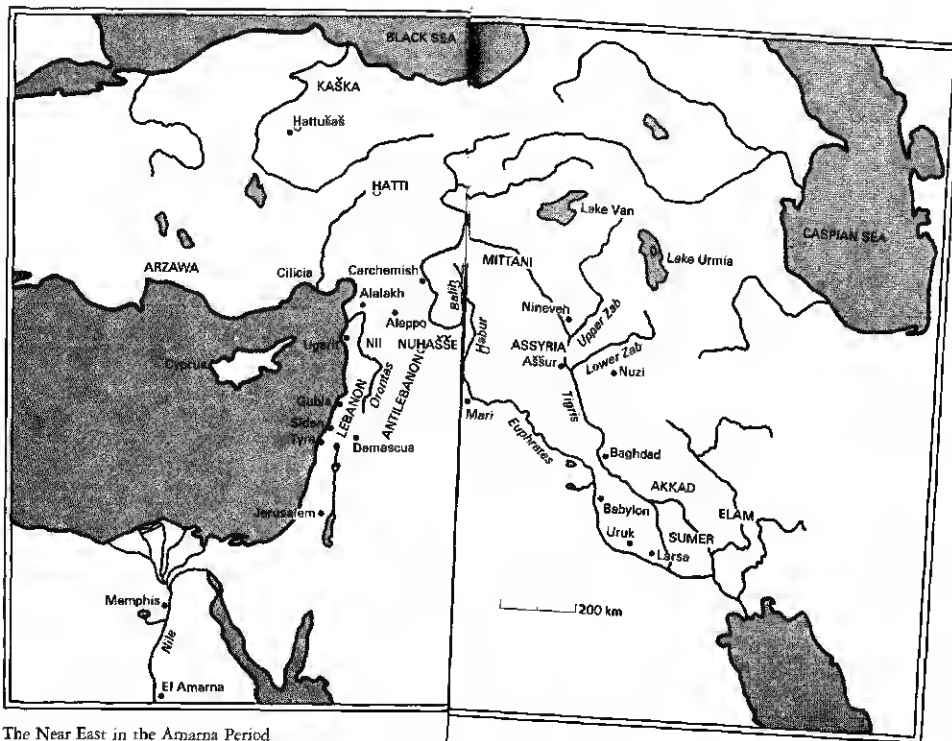
<i>HSS</i>	Harvard Semitic Series/Studies (Cambridge, Mass.)
<i>Huehnergard, Akkadian</i>	J. Huehnergard, <i>The Akkadian of Ugarit</i> , HSS 34 (Atlanta, 1989)
<i>Huehnergard, Ugaritic Vocabulary</i>	J. Huehnergard, <i>Ugaritic Vocabulary in Syllabic Transcription</i> , HSS 32 (Atlanta, 1987)
<i>Huffman, APNMT</i>	Herbert B. Huffman, <i>Amarna Personal Names in the Mari Texts: A Structural and Lexical Study</i> (Baltimore, 1965)
<i>IJF</i>	<i>Israel Exploration Journal</i> (Jerusalem)
<i>IOS</i>	<i>Israel Oriental Studies</i> (Tel Aviv)
<i>Irzée'l, Amarna</i>	Shimón Irzée'l, <i>Amarna Akkadien: A Linguistic Study</i> , HSS 41 (Atlanta, 1991)
<i>JANES</i>	<i>Journal of the Ancient Near Eastern Society of Columbia University</i> (New York)
<i>JAOS</i>	<i>Journal of the American Oriental Society</i> (New Haven, now Ann Arbor)
<i>JCS</i>	<i>Journal of Cuneiform Studies</i> (New Haven, then Philadelphia, now Baltimore)
<i>JEA</i>	<i>Journal of Egyptian Archaeology</i> (London)
<i>JEOL</i>	<i>Jaarbericht van het Vooraziatisch-Egyptisch Genootschap, Ex Oriente Lux</i> (Leiden)
<i>Jerusalem Scribe</i>	W. L. Moran, "The Syrian Scribe of the Jerusalem Amarna Letters," in H. Goedicke and J. Roberts, eds., <i>Unity and Diversity</i> (Baltimore and London, 1973), pp. 746-66
<i>JNES</i>	<i>Journal of Near Eastern Studies</i> (Chicago)
<i>JQR</i>	<i>Jewish Quarterly Review</i> (Philadelphia)
<i>JSOR</i>	<i>Journal of the Society of Oriental Research</i> (Toronto)
<i>JSS</i>	<i>Journal of Semitic Studies</i> (Manchester)
<i>KB</i>	H. Winckler, <i>Die Thontafeln von Tell-el-Amarna</i> , vol. 5, E. Schrader et al., Keilschriftliche Bibliothek (Berlin, 1896)
<i>KBo</i>	<i>Keilschrifttexte aus Boghazköi</i> (Leipzig)
<i>Knudtzon</i>	See VAB
<i>KUB</i>	<i>Keilschrifturkunden aus Boghazköi</i> , Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Vorderasiatisches Abteilung (Berlin)
<i>Kühne</i>	Cord Kühne, <i>Die Chronologie der internationalen Korrespondenz von El-Amarna</i> , AOAT 17 (1973)
<i>Lingering over Words</i>	T. Abusch, J. Huehnergard, and P. Steinkeller, eds., <i>Lingering over Words: Studies in Ancient Near Eastern Literature in Honor of William L. Moran</i> , HSS 37 (Atlanta, 1990)
<i>LTBA</i>	L. Matouš and W. von Soden, <i>Die lexikalischen Tafeln der Babylonier und Assyrer in den Berliner Museen</i> , 2 vols. (Berlin, 1933)
<i>MARI</i>	<i>Mari: Annales de Recherches Interdisciplinaires</i> (Paris)

ABBREVIATIONS AND SHORT TITLES

MDOG	<i>Mitteilungen der Deutschen Orient-Gesellschaft zu Berlin</i> (Berlin)
MHO	<i>Mitteilungen des Instituts für Orientforschung</i> (Berlin)
MSL	<i>Materialien zum semitischen Lexikon</i> (Rome)
MUSJ	<i>Memorie de l'Université Saint-Joseph</i> (Beirut)
Nā'aman, <i>Political Disposition</i>	Nadav Nā'aman, "The Political Disposition and Historical Development of Eretz-Israel according to the Amarna Letters," pgs. 1-2 (Ph.D. diss., Tel-Aviv University, 1973; in Hebrew)
NABU	<i>Nouvelles assyriologiques brèves et utilitaires</i> (Paris)
OA	<i>Oriens Antiqui</i> (Rome)
OLZ	<i>Orientalische Literaturzeitung</i> (Leipzig, then Berlin)
Oppenheim, LFM	A. Leo Oppenheim, <i>Letters from Mesopotamia</i> (Chicago and London, 1967)
Or. n.s.	<i>Orientalia, nova series</i> (Rome)
PBS	<i>Publications of the Babylonian Section, University Museum, University of Pennsylvania</i> (Philadelphia)
PEQ	<i>Palæstina Exploration Quarterly</i> (London)
PJB	<i>Pfälzisches Jahrbuch</i> (Berlin)
Pinoteo, <i>Matrimonio</i>	Francisco Pinoteo, <i>Il matrimonio interdinastico nel Vicino Oriente durante i secoli XV-XIII</i> , <i>Oriens Antiqui Collectio XIV</i> (Rome, 1978)
PN	personal name
FRU	<i>Le Palais royal d'Ugarit</i> , vols. 2-6, Mission de Ras Shamra VI, VII, IX, XI (Paris, 1957-70)
RA	<i>Revue d'assyriologie et d'archéologie orientale</i> (Paris)
Rainey, <i>El Amarna Tablets</i>	Anson F. Rainey, <i>El Amarna Tablets 359-370</i> , AOAT 8, 2d ed. (Kevelser and Neukirchen, 1978)
Rainey, <i>Particles</i>	Anson F. Rainey, <i>Consonants in the Amarna Tablets: Morphosyntactic Analysis of the Particles and Adverbs</i> (forthcoming)
RB	<i>Revue biblique</i> (Paris)
RHA	<i>Revue hittite et assyriologique</i> (Paris)
RLA	<i>Reallexikon der Assyriologie und Vorderasiatischen Archäologie</i> (Berlin and Leipzig, then Berlin and New York)
RN	royal name
RS	Ras Shamra
RSO	<i>Rivista degli studi orientali</i> (Rome)
Sayce, <i>Tell el Amarna</i>	W. M. F. Petrie, <i>Tell el Amarna</i> (London, 1894), cuneiform copies by A. H. Sayce, pls. XXXI-XXXIII
Scheil, <i>Mémoires</i>	V. Scheil, O. P., "Tablettes d'el-Amarna de la collection Rostovica," in <i>Mémoires publiés par les membres de la Mission archéologique française au Caire</i> , 6 (Paris, 1892), pp. 297-312

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Seux, <i>Textes de l'Égypte</i>	Jacques Seux and Marie-Joseph Seux, <i>Textes de l'Égypte ancienne et histoire d'Israël</i> (Paris, 1977)
von Soden	W. von Soden, "Zu den Amarna-Briefen aus Babylon und Assur," <i>Or. n.s.</i> 21 (1952), pp. 426-34
SMEA	<i>Studi Mesen of Egeo-Anatolia</i> (Rome)
SSDB	W. L. Moran, "A Syntactical Study of the Dialect of Byblos as Reflected in the Amarna Tablets" (Ph.D. diss., Johns Hopkins University, 1950)
StBt	<i>Studia zu den Boghazköy-Texten</i> (Wiesbaden)
StOr	<i>Studia Orientalia</i> (Helsinki)
TCS	<i>Texts from Canaanite Sources</i> (Locust Valley, N.Y.)
THrb	<i>Texte der Hethiter</i> (Eisenberg)
TM	<i>Text in the Iraq Museum</i> (Baghdad)
UF	<i>Ugarit-Forschungen</i> (Neukirchen-Vluyn)
Ugor.	<i>Ugaritica</i> , vol. 3, J. Nougayrou et al., Mission de Ras Shamra XVI (Paris, 1968); vol. 7, A. al-Ouche et al., Mission de Ras Shamra XVIII (Paris, 1978)
VAB	<i>Vorderasiatische Bibliothek</i> , vol. 2, J. A. Knudtzon, <i>Die El-Amarna-Tabletten</i> , Anmerkungen und Register bearbeitet von O. Weber und E. Ebeling, 1-2 (Leipzig, 1907-15; rpt., Aalen, 1964)
VAT	<i>Vorderasiatische Teil</i> (des Staatlichen Museums, Berlin)
VBt	A. Götz, <i>Verbrannte Boghazköy-Texte</i> (Marburg, 1930)
VS	O. Schroeder, <i>Vorderasiatische Schriftdenkmäler der Königl. Museen zu Berlin</i> , Hefte 11-12 (Berlin, 1915)
WA	H. Winckler und L. Abel, <i>Der Thontafelfund von El-Amarna</i> , in <i>Mitteilungen aus dem Orientalischen Sammlungen, Königl. Museen zu Berlin</i> , Hefte 1-3 (Berlin, 1889-90)
WZKM	<i>Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes</i> (Vienna)
YOS	Yale Oriental Series, Babylonian Texts (New Haven)
Youngblood, <i>Amarna Correspondence</i>	Ronald F. Youngblood, "The Amarna Correspondence of Rib-Haddi, Prince of Byblos" (Ph.D. diss., Dropsie College, 1961)
ZA	<i>Zeitschrift für Assyriologie und verwandte Gebiete</i> ; since 1939: <i>Zeitschrift für Assyriologie und Vorderasiatische Archäologie</i> (Berlin)
ZAW	<i>Zeitschrift für die altorientalische Wissenschaft</i> (Berlin, then Berlin and New York)
ZDPV	<i>Zeitschrift des Deutschen Palästina-Vereins</i> (Stuttgart)



The Near East in the Amarna Period

EA 1

The Pharaoh complains to the Babylonian king

TEXT: BM 29784.

COPY: BB 1.

PHOTOGRAPH: F. G. Giles, *Ukbaton: Legend and History*
(London, 1970), pl. XI (reverse only).

Say (r)jo Kadašman-Enlil,¹ the king of Kardun[īše, my brother: Thus Nibmurea, Great King,² the king of Egypt, your brother. For me all goes well. For you may all go well. For your household, for your wives, for your sons, for your magnates,³ your horses, your chariots, for your rountries, may all go very well. For me all goes well. For my household, for my wives, for my sons, for my magnates, my horses, the numerous troops, all goes well, and in my countries all goes very well. 10-17 I have just heard what you wrote me about, saying, "Here you ate asking for my daughter in marriage, but my sister whom my father gave you was (already) there with you, and no one has seen her (so as to know) if now she is alive or if she is dead." These are your words that you sent me on your tablet. Did you, however, ever send here a dignitary of yours⁴ who knows your sister, who could speak with her and identify her?⁵ 17-21 Suppose he spoke with her. The men whom you sent here are nobodies.⁶ One was the [...] of Zaqara, [*the wife*], an assheider [*from*] [...] There has been no one among them [*knows her, who*] was an intimate of your father, and *who could identify her*.⁷ 21-25 Moreover, the messengers [*who*]⁸ 26-32 And as for your writing me,⁹ "You addressed my messengers as your wives were standing gathered in your presence, saying, 'Here is your mistress who stands before you.' But my messengers did not know her, (whether) it was my sister who *was at your side*¹⁰—about whom you yourself have now written me, "My messengers did not know her," and (still) you say, "Who is to identify her?"— 32-36 Why don't you send me a dignitary of yours who can tell you the truth, the well-being¹¹ of your sister who is here, and then you can believe the one who enters to see her quarters and her relationship with the king¹² 36-42 And as for your writing me, "Perhaps the one my messengers saw was the daughter of some poor man, or of some Ka(š)kean,¹³ or the daughter of some Hanigalbatean, or perhaps someone from Ugarit.¹⁴ Who can believe them? *The one who was at your side . . . , she did not open* her mouth.¹⁵ One cannot believe them ar

9. Epistolary *inimma* introduces a clause that states the fact of communication, with or without following direct quotation (see also lines 36, 52, 78, 88, 95), and is especially frequent at the beginning of the body of a letter (see above, Introduction, o. 89); cf. epistolary *quod scribit*, *ki* is also used this way: *ki aḫḫa taḫḫa ma . . .* "As to my brother's having written me, saying. . ." Cf. perhaps in Ugaritic *uk, rgn, tḫ' l mlh, rḫ ḫly* (PRU 2, 18:16; see also PRU 5, 65 l. 7). Deictic *ki* probably also explains the use of *inimma*; see Or n.s. 29 (1966) p. 17, o. 1, and Rainey, *Paricles*.

10. *ša ki(iri)-ka ša ananna* interpretation very difficult (see also lines 41, 56, 91), but the existence of *šika* (AHU p. 478, "thus," "she is thus, like this"; CAD, K, p. 351, "like her") is very dubious (so EA 138:66, see below), and *ša* cannot be the feminine pronominal suffix, which always appears as *-še* in this letter. The assumption of a logographic writing of *iti* is very difficult, though in line 91 "the country where you are" (*anāi la itika*) would be very reminiscent of the stock phrase "the place of the king where you are" in the vassal correspondence (*anāi šarri ša itika*; see Introduction, sect. 5).

11. Since the main question raised by the Babylonian king concerned his sister's welfare, *šalmāni* (for correct *šalmāna*) seems best taken as "well-being," a meaning well-attested in the Western Periphery (see AHU p. 1268).

12. *ša-qa-ūp* (cf. AHU p. 919) the assumption of a short form of *šaqaḫḫi* (also lines 40, 42), proposed by Kühne, p. 10, n. 42, does not seem necessary, *a-na ša-ma-ra*, for *a-na a-ma-ra* (cf. the common expression *šm x amira*), with CAD, N1, p. 219; otherwise, AHU p. 726.

13. *šaga-(a)ḫ-ia*; see E. von Schuler, *Die Keilschrift* (Berlin, 1965), p. 81. Cf. EA 31:25-27.

14. The sign *afiu* is uncertain: *ki* (Knudtzon), very doubtful; *šai* (see Knudtzon's other proposal), impossible (Gordon).

15. If *ša a(n)-ni* (Knudtzon) is correct, "as to what belongs to an answer?" According to Gordon, there is room only for *š-ū*.

16. *m(n)-ra-ur-še*.
17. [In-š i-de], end of line 45; end of 46, perhaps *a* [ša-ak-ka bul-ta-ur], "[your] sister is alive"; end of 47, [. . . aš-ku-ur-še], "[. . . I have made her] a mistress of the household"; line 50, "more than the wives [of neighboring kings] . . ."

18. On our understanding of *ša ki-ka*, one would expect something like *šapnāi*, "is poor," *šabḫai*, "is in need," or the like; space is small.

19. [š-me]-(š)-[š], quite probable, was proposed by Kühne, p. 51, o. 257, and also by Gordon.

20. *ša-ia-ū*: the reading is virtually certain (also Gordon). Perhaps the language is more correct than assumed and the adjectives are attributive rather than predicative; if so, "as to the rich (and) mighty kings. . ."

21. If LU-*ta* (so Gordon), then either *na-ḫi-ia-ia*, "the lucky ones" (cf. AHU p. 961; ". . . you give your daughters to . . ."), or *ḫi-ia*, "(to acquire) good thing(s)" (Gordon, though, has "to acquire friendship," also possible). However, I could not see the top horizontal that Knudtzon copied (VAS 201, p. 1004, no. 6), and UR seemed more likely, and therefore *ḫi-ka* (CAD, L, p. 206). This was also Artz's reading (see CAD), but more recently he has favored *na-ḫi-ia-ia* (*La femme*

[see Introduction, u. 62], p. 25, n. 15). The venality implied by *ḫi-ka* seems more to the point in context.

22. Also possible: "As for you writing me (that) I have gone back on [lit. abandoned] the words of my father, you do not cite. . ." However, with very few exceptions, the word order is verb-object. Moreover, instead of the expected *šḫiḫ* one must assume a virtual object-clause. The interjection *abi* seems preferable, even though otherwise unknown in the periphery.

23. [š la] *el-še-ge*.

24. ¹⁰AME(MA)/BA,) H1.A. *naḫḫa*, probably a cloak or mantle of some sort ("golden garb" is a gloss); add this passage and PRU 3, p. 183:10, to the dictionaries.

25. 71 [UGU ša i-n]a KIUR *La-ur-ii*. Long-established custom required the king to welcome royal envoys to his table as often as their rank demanded, to furnish board and lodging, and to give them gifts; see ARMT 21, pp. 506ff., and AEM 1/2, pp. 142f.

26. *a-na a*-[bi-ka] (Gordon)

27. Perhaps the abstract *šarḫū* (AHU p. 1031), but in line 87 *ša-ra-ii* (*šarḫū*) favors the alternative interpretation, masculine plural adjective.

28. The [2]a "may well be scratches; therefore (*anānišimāni*-[2]) is possible (and no *ša-ru-ii*)" (Gordon). If so, perhaps '1'. [š]b-*du-bu*.

29. *š-ai ad-š*-[10] *a-na m(n)-ki-še-ur*.

30. On "they gave" (indefinite plural), "that was given."

31. *šp*-*na-ē-ē*, is a possible reading (Gordon).

32. Either *ud-š-ur-ur* (CAD, UJ, p. 308) or *ur-ur-ur* (*ur*, "to find, discover") is possible.

33. The feminine gender of the suffix is difficult (the things or words said? confusion of gender?). Perhaps better: "do not listen to (any) evil man (*lem na*)."

34. On the dual suffix, see BASOR 211 (1973) pp. 52f.

35. *šamma* is understood as introducing a negative assertory oath.

36. Lines 88ff. are very obscure. I assume that in the Babylonian king's complaint, he speaks of the Pharaoh in both the third and second person. Line 91, *na-ia, šp-ū-ia-ma*.

37. *ana* *na-ur-ri-ka* (for correct *na-ur-ri-ka*; see West Semitic); following Pintore, *Matriomonis*, p. 158, o. 38, which I take to imply that the Pharaoh refers to a request by the Babylonian king for an Egyptian girl whom he wishes to have anointed (cf. EA 111:17ff.); otherwise, Pintore, *Matriomonis*, p. 27; p. 169, n. 348.

38. Against NI = *šamū* is the writing NI.H1.A in lines 70 and 96, and the impossibility of making any sense of the following *Za-ūš*. For the assumed first person plural (*nīšū*), cf. *nūšazzi* in line 45. Perhaps "we are distressed"; on this meaning of *nīšū*, see Veenhof, JEGOL 24 (1975-76) pp. 107ff.

3. MUNUS = *anistu* or *inistu*? See CAD, A/2, p. 47b, and S, p. 292 (discussion).
4. *h3-m'a'* [a]h3'a': Gordon saw all the signs "quite clearly."
5. On lines 9–12 see von Soden, p. 427.
6. Following AHU p. 227, and CAD, E, p. 196. Other versions: "of the quality of silver" (Kühne, p. 54), "worked with (KI = *irt*) silver" (Landsberger in Gordon). Egyptian gold had a high percentage of silver, giving it a grayish cast (A. Lucas, *Ancient Egyptian Materials and Industries*³ [London, 1948], pp. 257ff.).
7. *lakti* "2' *isi* (Gordon).
8. *Isimani*, "my (greeting-)gift": following Kühne, p. 54, n. 252. The festival was undoubtedly one of three *isi*-festivals celebrated by Amenophis III in his thirteenth, thirty-fourth, and thirty-seventh years (Kühne, p. 254).
9. *in-3i-hi-lal*: following von Soden, p. 427.
10. *Te[?]al-ma-si* *isat* *o-em* M.D.T. [KAM ad-di-na-ak-ku ul ma-si]-r: free restoration.
11. [š eš]-*ka*: cf. EA 5:13, 19. Von Soden, p. 427, proposed [a-nu-un-ma h3]ka, but there is not enough room for this restoration, and *anunnu* is not used in Middle Babylonian. At the end of the line *inu šibbi* lies the traces very well.
12. 26 [i-na-an-na]. End of line 25, free restoration: *šam[ri-ma] [ša-du-š]*.
13. 27 [š a-ri] *akamma šitiya* 28 [a-ku-*u*] [š'] (head of final vertical visible, Gordon) *in*.
14. [ul ep-pu-*u*] *š*š.
15. *a-š[']-ib* *naš[']-pini*-*ib*: a phonetic spelling, *a-m[']-li*, does not seem likely.
16. [a-na] *in-u-ba-š*]: cf. Kühne, p. 55, n. 259.
17. "Wheeled chariots" (also EA 9:37; 19:84) were perhaps the light two-wheeled battle chariot, as opposed to the heavier four-wheeled wagons that were used for transport and were reinforced with metal fittings; cf. the same distinction in Egyptian and Edel's remarks in Manfred Götz, ed., *Fontes Aegyptiaci: Eine Festschrift für Hellmut Brunner*, Ägypten und Altes Testament 5 (Wiesbaden, 1983), pp. 104f.

EA 4

Royal deceit and threats

TEXT: VAT 1657.

COPIES: WA 3; VS 11, 2.

1–3 ...

4–22 [*Morose*]¹ you, my brother, when I wrote [to you]² about marrying your daughter, in accordance with your practice of not gi[ving]⁴ (a daughter), [I wrote to me], saying, "From time immemorial no daughter of the king of Egy[pt] is given to anyone." Why *š[er]*?³ You are a king; you d[ic]e as you please. Were you to give (a daughter),

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who would s[ay] anything? Since I was told of this message, I wrote as follows [to my brother], saying, "[*Someone*]⁵ grown daughters, beautiful women, must be available. Send me a beautiful woman as if she were [you] daughter.⁷ Who is going to say, 'She is no daughter of the king?'" But holding to your decision, you have not sent me anyone. Did not you yourself seek brotherhood and amity, and so wrote me about marriage that we might come closer to each other, and did (not) I, for my part, write you about marriage for this very same reason, i.e., brotherhood and amity, that we might come closer to each other?⁸ Why, then, did my brother not send me just one woman? Should I, perhaps, since you did not send me a woman, refuse you a woman, just as you did to me, and *š[er send ber]*?⁹ But my daughters being available, I will not refuse [*one*] to y[ou].¹⁰

23–35 Perhaps, too, when I [*wrote you*] about marriage, [*and*] when I wrote you about the animals, ... [...] Now, you *need* not ac[cept]¹¹ the offspring¹² of my daughter whom I shall s[en]d to you, but s[en]d me any animals requested of you.

36–50 And as to the gold I wrote you about, send me *whatever* i[s] on hand, (as) much (as possible), before your messenger [*comes*] to me, right now, in all haste, this summer, either in the month of Tammuz or in the month of Ab,¹³ so I can finish the work that I am engaged on. If during this summer, in the months of Tammuz or Ab, you send¹⁴ the gold I wrote you about, I will give you my daughter. So please¹⁵ send me the gold you [*sent*] prompted [to]. But if in the months of Tammuz or Ab you do not send me the gold and (with it) I do not finish the work I am engaged on, what would be the point of your being pleased to send me (gold)? Once I have finished the work I am engaged on, what need will I have of gold? Then you could send me 3,000 talents of gold, and I would not accept it.¹⁶ I would send it back to you, and I would not gi[ve] my daughter in marriage.¹⁷

NOTES

1. The greeting and perhaps several more lines are completely destroyed; lines 1–3 are too fragmentary for translation. That EA 4 belongs to the Amenophis III-Kadashman-Enlil correspondence is not completely certain; see Kühne, p. 56.

2. [ap-pu-na-*u*]: [a-nu-un-*ma*] (Knudtzon) is not used in Middle Babylonian; see EA 3, n. 11.

3. *š[er]* *ša-ak-ku* *na-š[er]* *na-š[er]*: first word, with Ungnad, OZ 2, 1916, col. 181, and von Soden, p. 428. However, since temporal clauses regularly precede, or, as here, are inserted within, the main clause (GAG §169b), the main verb must have followed.

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4. *hi iā-na-ā-le-ni-m-mā*: following Knudtzon and Aro, *StOr* 20, p. 135; otherwise, von Soden, p. 428.
 5. *am-mi-ni* *hi* *innadint*: beginning of a horizontal wedge visible, and beneath it, a hole, not writing.
 6. GAL.MES is *ma-am-ma*; MES not collated (cf. copy VS 11).
 7. *ka-ʾiʾ* D[UMU MUNUS-ŠAR: following von Soden, p. 428, except for *hi* ...], for which there is not enough room.
 8. Because of the preterite (*ʾaʾpanekka*, line 18), lines 17f. must be taken as a question; see Aro, *StOr* 20, p. 81. Eubler *ad* (line 15) is still felt and understood in this clause, or, as seems more likely, we should read *š a-na ka (ad)* ... That *ad* is used rather than *iā* is undoubtedly due to the fact that lines 15–18 are rhetorical questions. On the grammar of rhetorical questions, see also EA 11, n. 18.
 9. *ka ulebūšū*: following von Soden, p. 428.
 10. *ka-ʾiʾ-ka-ʾiʾ-ka-ʾiʾ-ka-ʾiʾ*: following *ibid.*
 11. *ka-ʾiʾ-ka-ʾiʾ-ka-ʾiʾ*: cf. *ibid.*
 12. Literally, "seed"; for a woman's seed, cf. *zōr māriya*, "my daughter's seed" (*KB* 1, 8:31).
 13. The fourth (June–July) and fifth (July–August) months of the Babylonian calendar.
 14. *uḫḫūšū*: following von Soden, p. 428.
 15. *ina pēbi*: following Ungnad, *OLZ*, 1916, col. 182. Piotrow, *Matrimonium*, p. 155, n. 121, sees in the expression as used in line 46 reference to a gift that has not been requested, but the distinction is hard to reconcile with the expression in line 43.
 16. Three thousand talents is a huge amount of gold, roughly 100 tons.
 17. After a space of three lines, traces suggest additional writing, probably a list of gifts; see VAB 2/1, p. 74.

EA 5

Gifts of Egyptian furniture for the Babylonian palace

TEXT: BM 29787 + C (12193),
 COPIES: BB 4 + WA 17.

[Thus Nibmarleya, Great King, the king of Egypt. Say to Ka(dāšman-Enlil, the king of Kardulhiya],^a my brother: For me all goes (well). For you may all go well. For you[r] [household, your] wives, [your sons, your] [magnates], yo[ur] troops, [yo]ur [horses], your [chariots], and [in your countries, may all go] well. [For me all] goes well. For my household, [my] wives, [my sons], my magnates, my ma[n]y troops, my [horses], my chariots, and in [my] [countries] all goes very, very well.

13–33 I have [just]^b heard that you have built some [new] quarters.^c I am sending herewith some furnishings for your house. Indeed I shall be preparing everything *possible*^d before the arrival of your messenger who is bringing your daughter. When^e your messenger returns, I will send (them) to [you]. I herewith send you, in the charge of Šuti, a greeting-gift of things for the new houses: 1 bed^f of ebony, overlaid with ivory and gold; 3 beds of ebony, overlaid with gold; 1 *ureššu* of ebony, overlaid with gold; 1 [ar]ge chair [of] ebony, overlaid with gold; 5 chairs of [ebony, overlaid with gold]; 4 chairs of ebo[ny], overlaid with gold.^g These things, the weight of all the gold: 7 minas, 9 shekels, of gold. The weight of the silver: 1 [mi]na, 8½ shekels, of silver.^h (In addition), 10 footrests of ebony; [...] of ebony, overlaid with gold; [...] footrests of ivory, overlaid with gold; [...] of gold. [Totalⁱ x] minas, 10 and 7 shekels, of gold.

NOTES

- [...]-i[š]a ... (Gordon). Note the form of address (see sect. 4 of the Introduction).
- Probably not enough room for LUGAL GAI, "Great King," at the beginning of line 3; see Senz, *Épîtres royales akkadiennes et sumériennes* (Paris, 1967), p. 296, n. 162.
- Restore either *inanna* or *ananna* (cf. EA 1:10).
- E 𒀭 A GIBIL; in line 19, E GIBIL is certain, and the traces here fit GIBIL perfectly.
- mimma ma-a-ʾa*: last sign possibly *ad* (so Knudtzon, VAB 2/1, p. 76, note n, denied by Gordon) or even *ka*; if *mala*, normal orthography. Note the stock expression *šūšara ana pāni*, "to prepare before the arrival," so common in the vassal letters (see the Introduction, sect. 5, and n. 100) CAD, E, p. 358a, followed by Durand, *ARMT* 21, p. 456, n. 16: "but now, I will prepare whatever your messenger selects." This gives *ana pāni* a meaning for which I know no parallel. CAD, M/1, p. 145a–b, confuses *šūšara* and *wūšara*, "to release."
- Note the use of *summa* as a temporal conjunction, as at Boghazköy, in a letter characterized by the Hittite dactyl and the Hittite form of address.
- The join with the Cairo fragment begins here.
- Lines 24–25 are collated to the WA copy.
- This is the first reference to silver.
- [ŠU.NEŠIN ...]

EA 6

An offer of friendship

TEXT: VAT 149.

COPIES: WA 4; VS 11, 3.

Say t[o] Nimanuasia,¹ the k[ing of Egypt], my brother: Thus Burra-Buriyaš, the king of [Karaduniyaš], your brother. For me all goes well. For you, your household, your wives, [your] sons, your country, your magnates, [yo]ur horses, your chariots, may all go well.

8-12 Just as previously you and m[y] father were friendl[y] to one another,² you and I [should] now [be friendly] t[o] one another.³ Between us, anything⁴ else whatsoever is not even to be mentioned.⁵

13-17 Write me for what you want from my country so that it may be taken to you, and I will write you for what I want from your country so that it may be taken [to me].⁶

17-19 [...] [I] will trust yo[u] ... Write me so that it may be taken to you.

20-22 And as [your] greeting-gift [...] and I [...] I s[e]n[d] you.

NOTES

1. *mi-mu-a-wa-ur-re-si-a*; alternative readings; see Kühne, p. 129, n. 642.
2. At the end of line 9, delete *k*, following von Soden, p. 428.
3. At the end of line 10, add [...] *in ta-ha-mu*; von Soden, *ibid.*; cf. EA 8, rtf. It must have been written at least partly on the reverse, or perhaps on the line below.
4. *a-mo-tu-uf-mi*: a rare instance of mimation; cf. EA 312; 424f; Aro, *SOr* 20, p. 52. *amatum lantam-mu*, perhaps "a hostile word" (*AHu*, p. 1134).
5. *ig-iga-ab-bi*: following von Soden, p. 428; see also Schroeder, *OLZ*, 1917, col. 105.
6. *llqā-tu*; following von Soden, p. 428.

EA 7

A lesson in geography

TEXT: VAT 150 (not collated).

COPIES: WA 7; VS 11, 4.

TRANSLATION: Oppenheim, *LPM*, pp. 113ff.

[Say to Naphu]rureya,¹ Great King, king of Egy[pt], my brother:² Thus Burra-Buriyaš, Great King, kin[g] of Karaduniyaš, [your] brot[her]. For

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EA 7

m[e] and my household, for my horses and [m]y ch[ariots], for my magnates and my country all goes ver[y] well.

6-7 For my brother and his household, for his horses and [his] ch[ariots], for his magnates and his country may all go ver[y] well.

8-13 From the time the messenger of my brother ar[ri]ved here,³ I have not been well, and so on no occasion⁴ has his messenger eaten food and [drunk] spirits [in my com]pany. If you ask [...] your messenger, he will [tell you that] I have not been well and that, as for as my recovery is concerned,⁵ I am [still] bly no means re[st]ored to health.⁶

14-25 [Furthermore], since I was not well and my brother [showed me no] concern,⁷ I for my part became an[gr]y⁸ with my brother, saying, "Has my brother not hea[r]d that I am ill? Why has he sho[w]n me no concern? Why has he sent no messenger here and s[is]t[er]ed me?"⁹ My brother's messenger addressed me, [saying], "(It) is not a place close by so your brother can hear (about you) and send you greetings. The country is far away. Who is going to tell your brother so he can immediately send you greetings? Would your brother hear that you are ill and still not send you his messenger?"

26-32 I for my part addressed him as follows, saying, "For my brother, a Great King, is there really a far-away country and a close-by one?" He for his part addressed me [as] follows, saying, "Ask your own messenger whether the country is far away and as a result your brother did not hear (about you) and did not send (anyone) to greet you."¹⁰ Now, since I asked my own messenger and he said to me that the journey is far, I was not angry (any longer), I said no [more].¹¹

33-41 Furthermore, as I am told, in my brother's country everything is available and my brother needs absolutely nothing. Furthermore, in my country everything too is available and I for my part need[d] absolutely nothing. We have (however) inherited good relations of long standing from (earlier) kings, and so we should sen[d] greetings to each other. It is these same relations that shall be lasting between us. My [greeting]s [I will send t]o yo[u], and your greet[ings] you shall send to me.

42-48 [...] M[y] greet[ings] [...] and your greet[ings] [...] 49-62 You no[w, before w]ar[ting] (from on his way),¹² have detain[ed] my messenger for two [years].¹³ I informed your messenger and sent him (on his way). Inform my messenger immediately so he may co[m]e to me.¹⁴ Furthermore, as I am also told, the journey is difficul[t],¹⁵ water cut off, and the weather hot. I am not sending many beautiful greeting-gifts. I send to my brother 4 minas of beautiful lapis lazuli as a routine¹⁶ greeting-gift. In addition, I send my brother 5 teams of horses. As soon as the weather improves, my next

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between EA 7176 (personal name) and 162174 (title). Is *ki-ri-ri* a mistake for *ki-ri-ri*, "the prefect in your country, the country of Egypt"? An even greater enormity, right under the Pharaoh's nose!

25. [im-ti] ... i-[da-an]: following von Soden, p. 430.
26. *id-[bu-bu]*: following von Soden, *ibid.* Line 80: *id-[bu-ub]*.
27. *[i-na]-am-na*: following von Soden, *ibid.*
28. See n. 26.
29. *id-[i]-a-na*: following von Soden, *ibid.*

EA 8

Merchants murdered, vengeance demanded

TEXT: VAT 152.

COPIES: WA 8; VS 11, 5.

TRANSLATION: Ebeling, pp. 371f.

Safy to] Naphture[ya], the king of Egypt, my brother: Thus Butra-Buriyas, the king of Kan[duciya], your brother. For me all goes well. For you, your country, your household, your wives, yo[u] sons, your magnates, your horses, your chariots, may all go very well.

8-21 My brother and I made a mutual declaration of friendship, and this is what we said: "Just as our fathers were friends¹ with one another, so will we be friends with one another." Now, my merchants² who were on their way with Aju-tabu, were detained in Canaan for business matters. After Aju-tabu went on to my brother, in Hinnatuna of Canaan, Sum-Adda, the son of Belumme, and Sutarna, the son of Saratum³ of Akka, having sent their men,⁴ killed my merchants and took away [th]eir money. 22-33 [I send [...]] ro y[ol]u pou[ba]te.⁵ Inquire [from him so] he can inform yo[u]. Canaan is your country, and [its] king[s] are your servants. In your country I have been spoiled. Bring [them] to account⁶ and make compensa[ti]on for the money that they took away. Put to death the men who put my servants [to] death,⁷ and so avenge their blood. And if you do not put these men to death, they are going to kill again, be it a caravan of mine or your own messengers, and so messengers between us will thereby be cut off. 34-42 And if they try to deny this to you,⁸ Sum-Adda, having blocked the passage of one man of mine,⁹ retained him in his company, and another man, having been forced into service¹⁰ by Sutarna of Akka, is still serving him. These men sh[ould be] brought to you so you can investigate, inquire [whether they are de]ad,¹¹ and thus become informed. 43-47 [As a greet]ing-gift I send you 1 mina of lapis lazuli.

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EA 8

Se[nd off] my [mess]enger immediately so I may kno[w] my brother's [dec]ision.¹² Do not dera[is]n my [mess]enger. Let him be off [to me imm]ediately.¹³

NOTES

1. End of line 11, written on reverse, *ta-a-bu*; see Schroeder, *OLZ*, 1915, col. 175.
2. The implications of the king's calling them "my merchants" are not clear; see Brinkman, in Garelli, ed., *Le Palais et la Royauté* (Paris, 1974), p. 400, n. 34.
3. The scribe, or his informant, interchanged the vowels in the first syllable of the names of the two rulers.
4. *DD.MES = amēti* (also lines 28, 30, 40); cf. von Soden, p. 430.
5. 22 [x-(x)]-x-a-na pa [ni-ki]a ki-i [i]a-al-li-e; at the beginning of the line the very clear [...]-bu of VS is misleading; see Schroeder, *OLZ*, 1917, col. 165. The assumption that nothing followed *ki-i* in the rather large broken space at the end of the line is supported by neither the previous nor the following lines, and the resulting sense, "As soon as I send ... I inquire ..." (von Soden, p. 430; Ato, *SOr* 20, p. 148), does not seem satisfactory. It seems unlikely that the Babylonian king would put off to some future date sending the messenger who was to provide the Pharaoh with additional information. It is the bearer of the present letter who should have such a role. Cf. *kt hallē* in the Babylonian letters EA 100:38 and 11, rev. 18.
6. *su-mi-ig-[U]e-nu-ri-ma*; following von Soden, p. 430.
7. *i-[lu]-ki*; following von Soden, *ibid.*
8. Following Ungnad, *OLZ*, 1916, col. 182; von Soden, p. 430; CAD, N/1, p. 165b. Denial can be refuted by two witnesses to the crime who are still available. Ato, *SOr* 20, pp. 144f., postulates a contamination from *Summa-Summa* ("so they will treat you hospitably").
9. Following CAD, N/1, p. 179b; cf. *Maam nakhami* in ARMT 4, 38:7¹, 14, 86:27. If the Babylonian's feet had been literally cut off, it would have been an extraordinary indignity and hardly mentioned so casually.
10. *ina rēti ki-udaiar*; following Aho, p. 974¹.
11. *ki-i mi-tu*; von Soden, p. 433, proposed *amēla ša3-er*, but, as he admits, the form of the pronoun is otherwise untreated in the Middle Babylonian period. Besides, one expects a plural—"these men"—not a singular.
12. 44 ... *ki-lul-ri-da-ri-ia* 45 [i]-a-ma; following von Soden, *ibid.* (but not *i-i-ma*; cf. EA 751, 52; 9:32; 11, rev. 18).
13. *ki-ri-ri-a-ki*; following von Soden, *ibid.*

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TRANSLATION: Ebeling, pp. 371f.

Safy to] Naphture[ya], the king of Egypt, my brother: Thus Butra-Buriyas, the king of Kan[duciya], your brother. For me all goes well. For you, your country, your household, your wives, yo[u]r sons, your magnates, your horses, your chariots, may all go very well.

8-21 My brother and I made a mutual declaration of friendship, and this is what we said: "Just as our fathers were friends¹ with one another, so will we be friends with one another." Now, my merchants² who were on their way with Abu-tabu, were detained in Canaan for business matters. After Abu-tabu went on to my brother, in Hinnatuna of Canaan, Sum-Adda, the son of Belumme, and Sutarna, the son of Saratum³ of Akka, having sent their men,⁴ killed my merchants and took away [th]eir money. 22-33 [I] send [...] ro y[o]u [ba]te.⁵ Inquire [from him so] he can inform yo[u]. Canaan is your country, and [is] king[s] are your servants. In your country I have been spoiled. Bring [them] to account⁶ and make compensa[ti]on for the money that they took away. Put to death the men who put my servants [to] death,⁷ and so avenge their blood. And if you do not put these men to death, they are going to kill again, be it a caravan of mine or your own messengers, and so messengers between us will thereby be cut off. 34-42 And if they try to deny this to you,⁸ Sum-Adda, having blocked the passage of one man of mine,⁹ retained him in his company, and another man, having been forced into service¹⁰ by Sutarna of Akka, is still serving him. These men sh[ould be] brought to you so you can investigate, inquire [whether they are de]ad,¹¹ and thus become informed. 43-47 [As a greet]ing-gift I send you 1 mina of lapis lazuli.

16

EA 8

Se[nd off] my [mess]enger immediately so I may kno[w] my brother's [dec]ision.¹² Do not dera[is]n my [mess]enger. Let him be off [to me imm]ediately.¹³

NOTES

1. End of line 11, written on reverse, *ta-a-bu*; see Schroeder, *OLZ*, 1915, col. 175.
2. The implications of the king's calling them "my merchants" are not clear; see Brinkman, in Garelli, ed., *Le Palais et la Royauté* (Paris, 1974), p. 400, n. 34.
3. The scribe, or his informant, interchanged the vowels in the first syllable of the names of the two rulers.
4. *DD.MES = amēti* (also lines 28, 30, 40); cf. von Soden, p. 430.
5. 22 [x-(x)]-x-a-na pa [ni-ki]a-ki-i [i-a-al-li-e]; at the beginning of the line the very clear [...] of VS is misleading; see Schroeder, *OLZ*, 1917, col. 165. The assumption that nothing followed *ki-i* in the rather large broken space at the end of the line is supported by neither the previous nor the following lines, and the resulting sense, "As soon as I send [...] to inquire ..." (von Soden, p. 430; Ato, *SOr* 20, p. 148), does not seem satisfactory. It seems unlikely that the Babylonian king would put off to some future date sending the messenger who was to provide the Pharaoh with additional information. It is the bearer of the present letter who should have such a role. Cf. *kt hallē* in the Babylonian letters EA 100:38 and 11, rev. 18.
6. *su-mi-ig-[tu-nu-ri-ma]*: following von Soden, p. 430.
7. *i-[tu-ki]*: following von Soden, *ibid.*
8. Following Ungnad, *OLZ*, 1916, col. 182; von Soden, p. 430; CAD, N/1, p. 165b. Denial can be refuted by two witnesses to the crime who are still available. Ato, *SOr* 20, pp. 144f., postulates a contamination from *Summa-Summa* ("so they will treat you hospitably").
9. Following CAD, N/1, p. 179b; cf. *Maam nakhami* in ARMT 4, 38:7¹, 14, 86:27. If the Babylonian's feet had been literally cut off, it would have been an extraordinary indignity and hardly mentioned so casually.
10. *ina rēti ki-udaiar*: following Ato, p. 974f.
11. *ki-i mi-tu*: von Soden, p. 433, proposed (amēla 83:09, but, as he admits, the form of the pronoun is otherwise untreated in the Middle Babylonian period. Besides, one expects a plural—"these men"—not a singular.
12. 44 ... *ki-lul-ri-da-ia* 45 [i-a]-ma: following von Soden, *ibid.* (but not *ki-a-ma*; cf. EA 751, 52; 9:32; 11, rev. 18).
13. *ki-ri-ri-ri-ka*: following von Soden, *ibid.*

17

EA 12

A letter from a princess

TEXT: VAT 1605.

COPIES: WA 188; VS 11, 7 (tablet now in two pieces).

TRANSLATION: Pintore, *Matrimonio*, p. 61.

Say to my lord: Thus the princess.¹ For you, your chariots, the m[e]n and you[r] [...], may all go well. 6-11 May the gods of Burna-Buriyaš accompany you. March in safety, and safely push on so you will see your house (again). 12-22 In the presence of my lord's thus [do I praise myself],² saying, "From ... [...] my messenger brings (you) colored cloth. For your cities and your household may all go (well). Do not [...] w[...], or you will have made me sad."³

23-26 Your servant, Kidin-Adad, ... I would give my life for you.⁴

NOTES

1. The script is Babylonian, not Egyptian, and so the letter was probably written in Babylonian and sent by a Babylonian princess (lit. "daughter of the king"), perhaps one destined for the Pharaoh's harem. For other views, see Kühne, p. 50, n. 232. Landsberger in Gordon, instead of "to my lord" (*ana bi-li-ia*), proposed "to Biniya."

2. *i-ma pu-(ni bi-li-ia) 13 a-ba-an-na ul-ta-ki-in*: Knudtzon could see what looked like u[...], no longer visible. For other and bolder restorations and corrections of the text, see Pintore, *Matrimonio*, p. 167, n. 308.

3. *u-hu-ia) itandanni* following von Soden, p. 433, but suggesting that the perfect be taken as future perfect (cf. GAG, Erg. §80e). The tone of the letter argues against a statement of fact.

4. The second letter (see the Introduction, sect. 4) was added perhaps by the scribe. In line 24, *i ta aG NI* remains unexplained, how it can mean "has decided" (Pintore, without comment) is not clear.

EA 13

Inventory of a dowry

TEXT: VAT 1717.

COPIES: WA 216; VS 12, 197.¹

[... date]-stone² of carnelian (with?) *ximizu*-shaped bead(s).
[... and] ...³ of gold.

[...] "eye-stones" of genu[ine] *paḫḫardilu*-stone.⁴
[...] "eye-stones" of *muḫḫaru*-stone.⁵

24

EA 13

- 5 [...] ... an alabaster⁶ of [genu]ne [lapis lazuli].
[...] ... and ... [of gold].
[...] small *ximizu*-shaped bead(s) of lapis lazuli (and) *muḫḫaru*-stone.
[...] ...⁷ and g[old].
[...] ...⁸ "lenu" (stones)⁹ of lapis lazuli and *muḫḫaru*-stone.
10 [...] ... and g[old].
[...] ... of lapis lazuli, *muḫḫaru*-stone¹⁰ and g[old].
[...] *kaḫḫusu*-stone, lapis lazuli and *muḫḫaru*-stone.
[...] ... and g[old].
[...] gold leaf¹¹ genuine lapis lazuli and [muḫḫaru-stone].
15 [...] ... and g[old].
[...] gold leaf genuine lapis lazuli and [gold].
[...] ... lapis lazuli, genuine *muḫḫaru*-stone.
[...] ... and gold; in [the] center, leaf [gold].
[...] genuine [lapis] lazuli; mounting and ... of gold.
20 A large [...] of gold.
A small [...].
[...] inlay.
[...] inlay.
[...]
[...]
25 [...] ... of gold.
A large [...].
[...] clasp(s)¹², ivory, of which 1 clasp is of ebony.¹³
[...] of gold.
[...]
30 [...] ...; mounting of g[old].
[...] and ...
[...] and *alḫaḫa* stone.¹⁴
[...] ... [...]
[...]

Reverse

- [...] *hammiḫḫu*-bed.¹⁵
[...] side-boards ... [...].
[*hammiḫḫu*]-bed ... [...].
[...] side-boards along with clasp-feet.
5 [...] ... *hammiḫḫu*-bed.
[...] ... supports and ... (with) [claw-feet] of silver.
[...] of gold.

25

- 10 [...] . . . , of gold, of the princes.³
 [...] , of glass.⁴
 [...] , inlaid.
 [...] , of gold, (with) "lentil" (stones)⁵ inlaid.
 [...] , for the neck,⁶ of gold, (called) *masuya*.
 15 [...] , set with⁷ stones, (called) *uizua*.
 [...] , for the neck, of gold, set with stones.
 [...] , of gold.
 [...] . . . , of gold, inlaid.
 20 [...] their [...] .
 [...] , of gold, inlaid.
 (22-3), broken)
 [x *kukubu*-containers, of gold],⁸ filled with "[sw]er-[oil]",⁹
 (called) *namta*.
 [...] , of gold, inlaid, (called) *kuba*.
 [...] , of gold, inlaid, (called) . . .
 35 [...] , of gold, inlaid.
 [...] , of gold, inlaid, (called) *andya*.
 [...] , of copper.
 [...] , for the hand, of gold, inlaid, (called) *šuzata*.
 [...] , of gold, inlaid; in their center, silver and gold.
 40 [...] , of gold, and 1 small *kukub[ub]*-container.
 [...] a *pajil*,¹⁰ of gold.
 [...] roggile pins¹¹ [...] .
 [...] . . . , large, (called) *našši*.
 [...] , of gold.
 45 [...] , of gold, and 1 small one.
 [...] , of gold, (called) *rašda*.
 [...] . . . [. . .] for bathing.
 [...] , of gold [and of silver, set with gold, (called) *dušši*].
 [x goblets of silver (and) gold] . . . , their [...] , inlaid, (called)
šaragabaš,¹²
 50-54 [...] . . .¹³
 55 2 female figurines . . . [. . .], inlaid, *šobib* . . . [. . .].
 15 containers of oil, [of gold], inlaid.
 1 "cucumber" [*šaiš* i] an oil-container,¹⁴ of gold, inlaid.
 1 *šubarna*-container [. . .], of gold.
 (with) a female figurine [. . .] . . . , silver, standing.
 60 1 *šubun[na]*-container, of gold.

- 1 small *cou[ain]er* (of aromatics), of gold,
 (with) 1 *ibel[x]* lying in its center.¹⁵
 8 goblets [. . .] . . . , of gold, (called) *šaragabaš*,
 [and] 1 (small one),¹⁶
 65 [. . .] . . . , of gold, and 1 small one.
 [x] pails, of gold, and 1 small one.
 [. . .], of silver and gold, *entivily*; *nam[š]ja* is its name.
 [. . .] . . . , which is *studded*¹⁷ with gold and copper in its middle;
šimin is its name.
 [1] small *kukubu*-container, for bath[ing], of gold.
 70 [x] small *tallu*-jar, of gold.
 [1] container for eye-paint,¹⁸ of gold, inlaid; *dabaš[un]* is its name.
 [x] large *finger-rings*, of gold.
 [x] *finger-rings* with gold *plating*.¹⁹
 [x] hand-bracelets, of gold, with inlays; *puati* is its name.²⁰
 75 19 gold rings for the finger.
 3 (pairs of) gold *sandals*.²¹
 10 very wide hand-bracelets that are strung with stones; *mašda* is
 their name.
 3 pairs of foot-bracelets, of gold, strung with stones.
 [x] razors, of gold.
 80 [x] razors, of bronze; their handles, of silver and gold.
- 11
 13 gold bowls;²² *šillabja* is its name.
 9 necklace-plaques, of gold and . . . -stone.
 7 gold tubes,²³ full of eye-paint,
 and 3 tubes with gold *plating*.
 5 1 gold box of *šippar(e)šuw*-cosmetics.
 1 tube for eye-paint,²⁴ with *šibbu*-ornaments of polished gold,
 (called) *šimin*.
 6 knives,²⁵ of gold, with pomegranates on their top.
 1 small container (of aromatics), of gold,
 and a stopper of lapis lazuli in the middle.
 10 4 ladies with *claws*, of gold.²⁶
 1 large sennere that is overlaid with gold, of the king,²⁷
 and its *pedestal*²⁸ is overlaid with silver.
 1 female figurine, overlaid with gold, of the king's wife.
 1 female figurine, overlaid with gold, of the king's daughter.
 15 2 chariots, of *šulšige*-wood,²⁹ overlaid with gold.

- 2 chariots, of *iwššga*-wood, overlaid with gold.
 1 ship, of cedar, overlaid with gold, along with all its gear,
 and 6 small ships that one rows.²⁹
 1 bed, overlaid with gold; female figurines for its feet.
 20 1 bed, overlaid with gold, 1 headrest, overlaid with gold.
 5 thrones, overlaid with gold.
 1 throne, overlaid with gold and *šdppu*.
 2 chairs, overlaid with gold.
 1 chair ... [...].
 25 [...] ... of Canaan.
 [x hand-bracelets], of "sun"-stone; *puati* is its name.³¹
 [hand-bracelets], their [...], of gold; *puati* is its name.
 [...] overlaid with gold.
 30 [...] ...
 [...] overlaid with gold, delicate work.³²
 [...] ...
 [to]ta[all of all the gold]:
 1200 mi[nas, x] shekels of gold.
 35 1 {large} measuring-ves[sel, of silver].
 3 {large} washing-bowls, of silver.
 1 {large} *matru*, [of] silver.³³
 1 (vessel called) "large," of silver, its [han]dles of [...].³⁴
 10 goblets, of silver ... [...].
 40 1 lar[ge] pot, [of] silver.
 1 *kukubu*-container, for [...], of silver, [al]ong with its cover.
 3 s[mal]l measuring-vessels, of silver; *tumer* is its name.
 1 *banagabai*, of silver.
 1 *pa*l, of silver.
 45 1 sieve, of silver.
 1 small *talla*-jar, of silver, for a brazier.
 1 "pomegranate," of silver.
 1 (female) monkey, with its daughter on its lap, of silver.³⁵
 1 oblong pot, for a brazier, of silver.
 50 23 *kukubu*-containers, of silver, full of "sweet-oil"; *namtu* is its
 name.
 6 *hubunnu*-containers, [and] 1 large *hubunnu*-container, also of silver.
 1 upright chest, of silver, inlaid.
 1 ladle, of silver, for an oil-container; *wadpu* is its name.
 11 bowls, of silver, *šillabtu* (is its name).
- 55 29 ladles, of silver, handles of *baaxwood* and ebony,
 with which one curls the hair.³⁶
 1 box, of pure silver.³⁷
 3 (pairs of) *sandals*, of silver.
 1 *kukubu*-container, of silver; its spout, of gold.
 60 [1 box of] *šippar*/*šātu* cosmetics, overlaid with silver and gold.
 [x lad]les, for a barber, of silver.
 [...] ... , of silver and gold.
 3 [beds, of pure silver]; 1 head[re]st, of pure silver.
 1 [throne], overlaid [with silver and gold].
 65 1 mi[tr]o[r], of silver, set with [stone];³⁸
 1 mi[tr]o[r], of silver and g[old].
 18 st[ones ...], their [in]louth, of gold,
 and [...] ...³⁹
 1 small *cos*(tainer (of aromatics), of silver),
 and a *šappu* in the center, of silver.
 70 The to[ta]l of all the silver:
 292 [minas], and 3 shekels [of silver].
 The tota[all of all the silver and gold]:
 1500 (+ x) minas and 46½ shekels.
 75 20 mi[tr]ors, of bronze.
 12 large mi[tr]ors, of bronze.
 The to[ta]l: [x]2 mirrors.
 80 mi[tr]ors ...
 90 mi[tr]ors ... , of bronze.
 80 5 ... [...] ... , *band* [...]; *namtu* is its name.
 5 ... [...] ... , of bronze.
 3 ... [...] ... , of bronze; *banima* is its name.
 5 very long ... [...] ... , of bronze.
 3 {lar}ge oblong *pl*ots, of bronze, fo[r] a brazier.
 85 2 tall *pl*ots, [of] bronze.
 3 small ... [...], for bathing, of bronze.
 2 [...] ... , for a brazier, of bronze; *kudu* is its name.
 20 [...], of bronze, fo[r] ...

III

- 2 ... [...].
 6 *pl*ots ... , of bronze, ... [...].
 12 ... [...] ... mounth, horses.
 16 r[azors, ... of bronze]; their [hand]les, of silver.

- 5 57 raze[rs, of] bron[ze].
 41 ladles, for a bar[ber], of bronze.
 51 ladles, of bronze; their bar[ber], of ebony.
 The total of the [obj]ects of [bron]ze, all together:
 300 [(+ x)] objects. The weight of the bronze:
 10 8[60 m]inas, 20 sh[eke]ls.
-
- 1 double-sized (piece of) [fine] linen cloth for a festive-garment,
 byssos (quality).⁴¹
 20 (pieces of) [fine] linen cloth; byssos (quality).
 20 [slim] [ll] (pieces of) [fine] linen cloth, byssos (quality).
 40 [large] (pieces of) [fine] linen cloth, by[ssos] (quality).
 15 35 thin ma[n]les, by[ssos] (quality).
 3 (pieces of) fine linen cloth, *idru* (quality), in size (equal to) 6
 (pieces of) [fine] li[nen] cloth.
 1 (piece of) fine linen cloth, *idru* (quality), in size (equal to) 2
 (pieces of) [fine] linen c[loth].
 15 thin mantles, *idru* (quality).
 100 large (pieces of) [fine] linen cloth, (for) shawl(s).
 20 150 (pieces of) fine li[nen] cloth, [ada]ba (quality).
 100 small (pieces of) fine linen cloth, *ada*ba (quality).
 250 thin mantles, [ada]ba (quality).
 250 thin girdles, [ada]ba (quality).⁴²
 120 [nun]u-cloaks.⁴³
 25 5 large [nu]nu-cloaks, for the king's bed.
 [] linen cloth, for the front of the body, decorated with borders.⁴⁴
 [. . .] . . . of a robe, *tabarru*-red, not *ami*-red.⁴⁵
 [gol]d, all set with stones.
 [x] (pieces of) fine linen cloth, for the front of the body, decorated with
 borders, colored *ami*-red.⁴⁶
 30 6 (pieces of) fine linen cloth, *tabarru*-red.
 6½ half *ulu*-cloths(?), of linen cloth,
 for their length(wise strips?), *tabarru*-red, *paqa* (quality).⁴⁷
 The total of the linen cloth: 1092, and 6½ half (*ulu*)-cloths(?);
 1 stone *butru*-jar, full of "sweet oil," (called) *azida*.
 35 19 stone jars, full of "sweet oil"; *kubu* is its name.
 20 stone jars, (called) *akunu*, which are full of "sweet oil."
 9 *kukkubu*-containers, of stone, full of "sweet oil"; *namta* is its
 name.
 1 "cucumbet," of stone, full of "sweet oil."

- 6 large stone vessels, full of "sweet oil."
 40 [x] *kukkubu*-containers, of stone, full of "sweet oil"; *maziqa* is its
 name.
 [x] jugs, of stone, full of "sweet oil"; *kuba* is its name.
 [x] *kukkubu*-containers, of stone, full of "sweet oil"; *kuba-pusana*
 is its name.
 [x] *kukkubu*-containers, of stone, full of "sweet oil"; *kuiyku* is its
 name.
 [x] jars,⁴⁸ full of "sweet oil"; *alla* is its name.
 45 [The total of the stone vessels full of "sweet oil";
 [x] 1000 and 7 vessels.
-
- [x] empty] boxes, of stone, [. . .].
 [] *kukkubu*-container, of stone; *mafta* is its name, [and] 1 small one
 just li[ke] it.
 [x] onagers, of stone, [and] 1 sm[all] one just like it.
 50 [x] *galdu*, of stone; . . . is its name.
 [. . . and x sm[all] ones just like them; 35 *baragaba*, of stone.
 A large . . .] . . . of stone; . . . is its name,
 [and x sm[all] ones, of stone; vessels . . . and 2 . . .
 [. . . along with] their stands; *sabmakli* is its name.⁴⁹
 55 [. . .]; *kuiyku* is its name.
 [. . .], of stone.
 [. . .]; . . . is its name,
 and 1 sm[all] one just like it].
 21 female figatines, of stone, . . . [. . .].
 60 1 cupple, of stone, with a jar in his hand.⁵⁰
 1 *kukkubu*-container, of stone; *kuiba* is its name.⁵¹
 3 jars, of stone; 2 large goblets, of *hina*-stone.
 3 pails, of stone; 1 sieve, of stone.
 1 tall *banduru*-vessel, of stone.
 65 2 *ugannu*-bowls, of stone; 38 *uqillatu*-vessels, of stone.
 1 container of oil; *wadba* is its name.
 3 *kukkubu*-containers, of stone; *namta* is its name.
 2 headrests, of stone.
 1 headrest, of *dut*-stone.
 70 1 bowl, of white stone; *nillabta* is its name.
 9 containers of oil, of white stone; *usidba* is its name.
 The total of empty stone-vessels:
 160 and 3.

31. Cf. 74.
32. *da-ri-ia qia-at-ua* = *dutlu sig* (also iii 75-76, iv 1); see CAD, D, p. 176b.
33. *mabell*, a West-Semitic form of *nabell*, a type of vessel? Cf. *mabalu* for *mabalu* in EA 359-9, a letter from Egypt.
34. Assuming, with ARMT 7, p. 308, no mistake in gender concord, and therefore taking *tabé* as a substantive. However, such a mistake seems probable in iii 6a.
35. Perhaps a vessel in the shape of a donkey; for the motif, characteristic of Egyptian art, see Sully Dunham, ZA 75 (1985) pp. 259-60.
36. For the reading of this entry, see CAD, K, p. 316. The identification of ³⁶TASKARIN as boxwood is still not universally accepted; see Ugarit 5, p. 349; E. Boige, *Akkadische Zeichenliste*, AOAT 6, p. 88, no. 526. On the identification of *tau* as this period as Ethiopian ebony; see van Leebergie, in *Sred, On Trees, Mountains, and Millstones in the Ancient Near East* (Leiden, 1979), pp. 34f. J.-M. Durand, ARMT 21, p. 439, in the final clause emends the text to *ia-fer* (Durand: *fer-ia* *tasjiru* in *libitana*, which he understands to the sense that the handles are attached by a strip of cloth. He justifies the correction of DA to DU on the mistaken assumption that EA 14 comes from Miteani; see *ibid.*, n. 106.
37. *tap-xi-uu* (also iii 47, 75; iv 11); see ARMT 9, p. 325, n. 2; von Soden, ZA 67 (1977) p. 238; Edel, *Brief*, p. 128, n. 1.
38. *na-[ma]-er-pa-ni-ia KU.BABBAR NA, (HI.A) H[am]-[ma]-[pa]*, and in the following line, *na-[ma]-er-pa-ni-ia KU.BABBAR K(U.G)I*; cf. ii 75, 77. The reading assumes signs that Knudtzon could see but are now no longer visible. NA₁ with Gordon.
39. KALU = *ku* (also iii 3), as at Boghazköy, Ugarit (*Ugarit*, p. 277), and Emar (As read, *Emar 64*, 783 passim, for example). Here perhaps "round" means "setting" (for stool); cf. AHw p. 874b. In line 68, 'a' with VS 12 rather than 14 (Knudtzon).
40. *5 G[...]-x Dn*, with VS 12.
41. For the reading and interpretation of lines 11-23, see Edel, *Studien zur Altägyptischen Kultur* 1 (1974) pp. 176-25, 138-46, 295.
42. Reading ⁴²GA₁, DÜ-a (*Jakattu*). AHw p. 1139, reads GADA instead of DÜ, and it is followed by Edel, *Studien zur Altägyptischen Kultur* 1 (1974) p. 159. M. Birot, ARMT 9, p. 307, suggested an undergarment; Durand, ARMT 21, p. 418, a belt. See now *gada-ša-ga-šu* = *ku-ša-ša-ga-da* = *ni-ša-ša* (*Emar 64*, 556-56).
43. *1 ME 2[...]-[...]-[...]*, and in the next line, *5 [...]-[...]-[...]*. On the *tanu*, see Waerholdt, *RLA 6/1-3*, p. 234; cf. also *tanu* (AHw, p. 1375); M. Green, *JCS* 50 (1978) p. 150.
44. Reading with Edel, *Studien zur Altägyptischen Kultur* 1 (1974) p. 125 (cf. AHw, p. 1308). . . . *ia-pa-ri-SU GAR lā-ma-ua-zi-e*. CAD, M/2, p. 246, sees here a colored decoration called *ia-pa-ri* but offers no explanation of the inserted KUŠ.NIG NA, (so CAD).
45. *ia a'-mi'* (cf. iii 29).
46. For *ant tabé*, see Edel, *Studien zur Altägyptischen Kultur* 1 (1974) pp. 124-25.

47. That is, "(of) fine (threads)"; see Edel, *Brief*, p. 156. *miša*: gloss to 1/2?
48. [*x* ⁴⁸ *ā*]: *iro-ri-ia* (AHw, p. 484b).
49. [*l* . . . *lā-ān-dā-ri-ia-nu* (cf. iii 6a); on the reading *sohāki*, see Rainey, AOAT 8^a, p. 88.
50. CAD, K, p. 409a, sees in the "cripple" the bowlegged god Bes. This seems very plausible, since he was extremely popular at this time, his representation serving to ward off various evils; see D. Beyer, *Musellanus Babylonica* (see Introduction, n. 40), pp. 42-43.
51. On *libān*, see Rainey, AOAT 8^a, p. 95.
52. See above, n. 32. All the uses of SIG as predicator of fabrics in EA 14 should be added to CAD, Q, p. 174; note, too, *Emar 64*, 176:13, *tabān* SFC.
53. The writing of *na-er* here and in iv 8, so much smaller than the other signs, is noteworthy and unexplained. It was, according to Lambdin, *Or* n. 22 (1953) p. 368, a small vessel; according to Edel, *Brief*, p. 128, n. 1, a type of container.
54. ⁵⁴HAŠHUR (Gordon) = *halšaru*, "apple (tree)," on which see Å. Sjöberg, *JCS* 40 (1988) p. 174, with reference to earlier literature, and M. Civil, in Rochberg-Halton, ed., *Language, Literature, and History* (see above, n. 11), p. 45, n. 13.
55. ⁵⁵GA RIG = *mušummu*, "comb"; on the Sumerogram, see Civil, AOAT 25, p. 94.
56. On the Egyptian term, besides Lambdin, *Or* n. 22 (1953) p. 368, see Edel, *Brief*, p. 128, n. 1.
57. Assuming *da-ša-ku* is an error for *da-ša-ku*; cf. 1.62, iv 62.

EA 15

Assyria joins the international scene

TEXT: Metropolitan Museum of Art 24.2.11.

COPIES: Scheil, *Bulletin de l'Institut français d'archéologie orientale du Caire* 2 (1902) p. 114; I. Spar, ed., *Cuneiform Texts in the Metropolitan Museum of Art: Tablets, Cones, and Bricks of the Third and Second Millennia B.C.*, vol. 1 (New York, 1988), pls. 112-13.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Bull, *Bulletin of the Metropolitan Museum of Art* 21 (1926) p. 170, fig. 1 (obverse); W. C. Hayes, *The Scepter of Egypt*, 2 (Cambridge, Mass., 1959), p. 296, fig. 182 (obverse).

TRANSLITERATIONS AND TRANSLATIONS: Arzú, *Bar-Ilan Departmental Researches: Bar-Ilan Studies in History* (1978), pp. 27f.; Moran, in I. Spar, ed., *Cuneiform Texts* (see above), pp. 149f.

TRANSLATION: A. K. Grayson, *Assyrian Royal Inscriptions*, 1 (Wiesbaden, 1972), pp. 47f.

Say to the king of E[gypt]:¹ Thus Aššur-uballit, the king of As[syria].² For you, your household, for your [chariots],³ for your chariots and your troops, may all go well. 7-15 I send my messenger to you to visit you and to visit your country.⁴ Up to now,⁵ my predecessors⁶ have not written; today I write to you. [I send you a beautiful chariot, 2 horses, [and] 1 date-stone of genuine lapis lazuli,⁸ as your greeting-gift. 16-22 Do [not] delay⁹ the messenger whom I send to you for a visit. He should visit and then leave for here. He should see what you are like and what your country is like, and then leave for here.

NOTES

1. Perhaps *m[ḫ] i[ḫ]-[a]-[a]*; cf. EA 16.2, unless the spelling is tied to the language (Hurro-Akkadian).
2. For the restoration, cf. EA 16.3; on the emergence of the title 'king of Assyria,' see R. Borger, *Einführung in die assyrischen Königsinschriften*, 1 (Leiden, 1961), p. 26.
3. [KUR] most likely (so Arzi, *Bar-Ilan Studies* (see EA 15 headline)); cf. EA 16.5.
4. If interpreted correctly, the unusual word order probably lays stress on the fact of sending a messenger.
5. *adl amittu*; see *Or* n.s. 53 (1984) p. 298.
6. *ab-baš-ka*; following von Soden, p. 433.
7. *u. u. ma*; following Knudtzon and Arzi (see n. 3), since there is no basis in this letter for assuming the possibility of the peripheral writing of *awanna*.
8. See A. Sachs, *AFO* 12 (1937-39) p. 374, n. 1. On beads in the shape of (untrue) dates, see Arzi, p. 32, n. 15, and J. Borcero, *RA* 43 (1949) pp. 14f. On the alleged connection between this bead and one found in Egypt bearing a cuneiform inscription, see Borger, *Einführung* (see n. 2), pp. 20ff.
9. [*ḫa m*]-*ka-a-ti*; following CAD, K, p. 295b, with Arzi and Grayson, *Assyrian Royal Inscriptions* (see EA 15 headline). This reading is confirmed by Spar's copy (*Cuneiform Texts* (see headline above)).

EA 16

The profit motive

TEXT: C 4746 (J2209).

COPY: WA 9.

TRANSLATION: Grayson, *Assyrian Royal Inscriptions*, 1, pp. 48f.

S[ay] to . . . [. . . , Great King], king of Egypt, my brother: Thus Aššur-uballit, king of [Assyria], Great King, your brother.
 5 For you, your household and your country may all go well.

38

6-8 When I saw your [me]ss[en]gers, I was very happy. Certainly your messengers shall reside with me as objects of great sol[ic]itude.⁹

9-12 I send as your greeting-gift a beautiful royal chariot on [fir]ed for me, and 2 white horses⁸ also [outfitted for me, a chariot not outfitted, and 1 seal of genuine lapis lazuli].⁷

13-18 Is such a present that of a Great King? Gold in your country is dirt, one simply gathers it up.⁶ Why are you so sparing of it? I am engaged in building a new palace.⁵ Send me as much gold as is needed for its adornment.

19-21 When Aššur-nadin-ahhe, my ancestor, wrote to Egypt, 20 talents of gold were sent to him.⁹

22-25 [W]hen the king of Hani[galbat] [w]rote to your father in Egy[pt], [h]e sent 20 talents of gold to him.¹⁰

26-31 [Now] I am the [equal] of the king of Hani[galbat], but you sent me [. . .] of gold, and it is not enough [for the pay] of my messengers on the journey to and back.

32-34 If your purpose is graciously one of friendship, send me much gold. And this is your house. Write me so what you need may be fetched.

35-36 We are countries far apart. Are our messengers to be always on the march with [only] such results?¹¹

37-42 As to your messengers having been delayed in reaching you, Suteans had been their *partners* (and) they were in mortal danger. [I] det[er]min[ed] them until I could write and the *persuing* Suteans be taken for me. Surely my messengers are not to be delayed in reaching me.

43-55 Why should messengers be made to stay constantly out in the sun and so die in the sun? If staying out in the sun means profit for the king, then let him (a messenger) stay out and let him die right there in the sun, (but) for the king himself there must be a profit.¹² Or other[wise], why should they [d]ie in the sun? As to the messengers we have *exchanged*? . . . do they *keep* [my] messengers *alive*?¹³ They are made to die in the sun!

NOTES

1. The reading of the name is uncertain. Instead of *m[ḫ] i[ḫ]-[a]-[a]* (Knudtzon, and generally accepted), Gordon read *m[ḫ] i[ḫ]-[a]-[a]* (see x. I thought the last sign might be 'a,' replacing y as glide. If Gordon's reading of the beginning of the name is correct, then only *ḫi-ḫi-ḫi*, the presentomen of Aya, seems comparable.

2. *ḫi-ḫi* is virtually certain. Reference is to the care and honors shown messengers (see EA 1, n. 25), concrete expressions of, and implied by, the happi-

39

my lord, gave him into my hand, and I defeated him. There was {n}ot one of them who {return[ed]} to his own country.

36-38 I herewith send you 1 chariot, 2 horses, 1 male attendant, 1 female attendant,⁷ from the booty from the land of Hatti.

39-40 As the greeting-gift of my brother, I send you 5 chariots, 5 teams of horses.

41-45 And as the greeting-gift of Kulu-Heba, my sister, I send her 1 set of gold toggle-pins, 1 set of gold (ear) rings,⁸ 1 gold *mašhu*-ring,⁹ and a scent container that is full of "sweet oil."

46-50 I herewith send Keliya, my chief minister, and Tunip-ibiti. May my brother let them go promptly so they can report back to me promptly, and I hear the greeting of my brother and rejoice.

51-54 May my brother seek friendship with me, and may my brother send his messengers to me that they may bring my brother's greetings to me and I hear them.

NOTES

1. The exact implications of "young"—legally a minor or something less precise—are not clear; see Kühne, p. 19, n. 84, and cf. RS 34.429:3-7 (*Ugarit* 7, pl. XI): "Now, there by you the king, your lord, is young (*šehar*), he knows nothing (*šimma la šah*)," and so the correspondent writes to an official instead. On this letter, see M. Dietrich and O. Loretz, *UF* 10 (1978) pp. 53ff., and Lehmann, *UF* 11 (1979) pp. 48ff.

2. On "love," see the Introduction, sect. 4, n. 59.

3. Literally, "everything belonging to them," but the verb "to kill" argues for primary reference to persons (families and households of the traitors).

4. [*ša ki-i-ka-a-la*, following Kühne, p. 18, n. 78. At the end of the previous line, *ša-mu-šil* (Knudtzon) is certain (against Adler).

5. [*i-ni-ja-ti* (for MU-TI, *halā*)-*ma*; [*nu-ka-š*]-*si-me* (Adler) is not supported by the traces.

6. 31 "ki-l" (BB 9; Adler, despite VAB 2/1, p. 133, more *g*) is excluded.

7. On *šahāru* and *šahāru*, see Ugar. 5, p. 135, n. 3; A. Finet, in D. O. Edvard, ed., *Geschichtsfabrikanten im Aisne-Zustromland und in den angrenzenden Gebieten*, Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Phil.-hist. Klasse, NF 75 (Münch., 1972), pp. 65ff.

8. The exact implications of "set" (*pašt*?) are not clear; see Farber, in Rochberg-Halton, ed., *Language, Literature, and History* (see EA 15, n. 22), pp. 97-98.

9. According to Adler, *mašhu* is a Kassite loanword, "god," here a representation of a god. However, the restriction of the term to a Hurrian milieu (Mittani, Alalakh, Qatna) argues against such a derivation.

EA 18

A lost message

TEXT: VAT 1880 (+) VAT 1879.

COPIES: VS 11, 8 (cf. WA 217 [+]) 230 = 226.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Adler, pp. 126-27.

Too fragmentary for translation.¹

NOTE

1. The two fragments may not belong to the same letter (Michel Arca, private communication; cf., however, VAB 2/1, p. 134, note b), and neither fragment has the same lay as the other Mitanni letters (letters of Allan Dobel, Dec. 10, 1974; cf. A. Dobel, F. Asaro, and H. V. Michel, *Or* n.s. 46 [1977] pp. 275ff., and *AJO* 25 [1974-77] p. 259). It is questionable, therefore, whether they belong to the Mitanni archive.

EA 19

Love and gold

TEXT: BM 29791.

COPY: BB 8.

PHOTOGRAPHS: E. Budge and L. King, *A Guide to the Babylonian and Assyrian Antiquities* (London, 1900), pl. XXVI; in 2d ed. (1908), pl. XXXIX (obverse).

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Adler, pp. 128-35.

Say to Nimmureya, Great King, the king of Egypt, [my] brother, my son-in-law, who loves me, and whom I love: 'Message' of Tušatta, Great King, [your] father-in-law, who loves you, the king of Mitanni, your brother. For me all goes well. For you may all go well. For your household, for my sister, for the rest of your wives, for your sons, for your chariots, for your horses, for your warriors,² for your country, and for whatever else belongs to you, may all go very, very well.

9-16 As far back as the time of your ancestors, they always showed love to my ancestors.³ You yourself went even further and showed very great love to my father. Now, in keeping with our constant and mutual love,⁴ you have made it ten times greater than the love shown my father. May the gods grant it, and may Teššup, my lord, and Aman make *šur[uh]*⁵ for evermore, just as it is now, this mutual love of ours.

17-24 When my brother sent Mane, his messenger, saying, "Send your daughter here to be my wife and the mistress of Egypt," I caused

my brother no distress and *immediately*⁶ I said, "Of course!" The one whom my brother requested I showed to Mane, and he saw her. When he saw her, he praised her greatly. I will *fla* her⁷ in safety to my brother's country. May Šauška and Aman make her the image of my brother's desire.⁸

25-29 Keliya, my messenger, *brou*(*ghi*)⁹ my brother's words to me, and when I heard (them), they were very pleasing, and I rejoiced very, very much, saying, "Certainly there is this between us: we love each other." Now, with such words let us love (each other) forevermore.

30-33 When I wrote to my brother, I said, "Let us love (each other) very, very much, and between us let there be friendship." I also said to my brother, "May my brother treat me ten times better than he did my father."

34-38 I also asked my brother for much gold, saying, "May my brother grant me more than he did to my father and send it to me. You sent my father much gold. You sent him large gold jars and gold jugs.¹⁰ You se[nt him] gold bricks as if they were (just) the equivalent of copper."¹¹

39-42 When I sent Keliya to my brother, I asked for (much) gold, saying, "May my brother treat me (ten times) better than he did my father, and may he send much gold that has not been worked."¹²

43-48 May my brother send me much more than he did to my father. Thus did I say to my brother: "I am going to build a *mausoleum* for my grandfather."¹³ I also said, "In accordance with a favorable answer,¹⁴ I am going to make the paraphernalia." And thus did I also say: "The gold that my brother sends me may he send for the bride-price as well."¹⁵

49-53 Now my brother has sent the gold. I say, "It may be little or nor, not a little but much. Still, it has been worked. But though it has been worked, I rejoiced over it much, and whatever it was my brother sent, I am happy about it."¹⁶

54-58 I now hereby write to my brother, and may my brother show me much more love than he did to my father. I hereby ask for gold from my brother, and the gold that I ask for from my brother is meant for a double purpose: one, for the *mausoleum*, and the other, for the bride-price.

59-70 May my brother send me in very great quantities gold that has not been worked, and may my brother send me much more gold than he did to my father. In my brother's country, gold is as plentiful as dirt. May the gods grant that, just as now gold is plentiful in my

brother's country, he¹⁷ make it even ten times more plentiful than now. May the gold that I ask for not become a source of distress to my brother, and may my brother not cause me distress. May my brother send me in very large quantities gold that has not been worked. Whatever my brother needs for his house, let him write and take (it). I will give ten times more than what my brother asks for. This country is my brother's country, and this house is my brother's house.

71-79 I herewith send my messenger, Keliya, to my brother, and may my brother not detain him. May he let him go promptly so that he may be on his way and I hear my brother's greeting and rejoice exceedingly. Forevermore may I constantly hear the greeting of my brother. May TšŠup, my lord, and Aman grant that these words that we shall be constantly writing achieve their purpose, and may they be, as long as they exist,¹⁸ just as they are now. Just as we love (each other) now, exactly as now, so may we love (each other) forevermore.

80-85 I herewith send as my brother's greeting-gift: 1 gold goblet, with inlays of genuine lapis lazuli in its handle;¹⁹ 1 *maninnu*-necklace, with a counterweight, 20 pieces of genuine lapis lazuli, and 19 pieces of gold, its centerpiece²⁰ being of genuine lapis lazuli set in gold; 1 *maninnu*-necklace, with a counterweight, 42 genuine *hulala*-stones, and 40 pieces of gold shaped like *artalu*-stones,²¹ its centerpiece being of genuine *hulala*-stone set in gold; 10 teams of horses; 10 wooden-chairs²² along with everything belonging to them; and 30 women (and) men.²³

NOTES

1. On *amma*, "message," see Introduction, n. 5a.
2. ERIN.GAL.MEŠ, EA 20:6; logogram for *hurūdu* (CAD, S, p. 50a)?
3. On lines 9-13, see A. Poebel, AS 9, pp. 29-30.
4. *inanna-atta ki ša ša-š(a) a-ša-meš ur-tana'amma*: if the suffix is retained, the syntax is extremely difficult; besides, in the Amarna letters *ahimš* is never used independently (except EA 29:48), but only with a preposition: *ana* (EA 4, 7, and 9, all Babylonian); *ni* (EA 6, 8-10, Babylonian; 16a, Egyptian; 19:28, a line closely parallel to 19:13).
5. *Isab-šip-šū* [Ru]: against the reading *šū šū šū šū* (Knaflitzon, followed by Adler) are the implicit assumption of an uncontracted form (an Assyrianism? cf. EA 25 ii 41) and the meaning of *šūšū*, which, except perhaps at Emar, does not mean "to proclaim," but "to lament." *šūšū*, "to broaden, expand," seems plausible.
6. *ina pāndim ma*, lit. "among the very first things"; hardly "previously, on an earlier occasion" (Adler), which ill accords with the context; cf. EA 29:22. On the particle *-maku* (*anni-maku*), here and elsewhere in EA, I follow Kühne, p. 24, n. 111.

ketstein, *JAOIS* 90 (1970) p. 253, n. 48); otherwise, Adler and G. Driver, *JSS* 12 (1967) p. 306.
17. ⁸PEŠ.SAG.KUL (*šal iškūr*), with Adler, correct *CAD*, K, p. 56b.

EA 21

A necklace for 100,000 years

TEXT: VAT 190.

COPIES: WA 21; VS 11, 10.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Adler, pp. 144–47.

Say to Nimmureya, Great King, king of Egypt, my brother, my son-in-law, whom I love and who loves me: Thus Tušratta, Great King, the king of Mittani, your brother, your father-in-law, and one who loves you. For me all goes well. For my brother and my son-in-law, may all go well. For your household, for your wives, for your sons, for your men, for your chariots, for your horses, for your country, and for whatever else belongs to you, may all go very well.

13–23 I have given him my daughter to be the wife of my brother, whom I love. May Šimige and Šauška go before her. May they m[ake] her the image of my brother's desire. May my brother rejoice on i[šat] day. May Šimige and Šauška grant my brother a g[eat] blessing, exquisi[te] joy. *May they bless him* and may you, my brother, *live* forever.¹

24–32 Mane, [my brother's] messenger, and Hane, my brother's interpreter, I have *exalted* like gods. I have given [them] many presents and treated them very kindly, for their report was excellent. In everything about them, I have never seen men with such an appearance. May my gods and the gods of my brother protect them.

33–41 I herewith dispatch to my brother Nahemašši 10 carry-ots . . .² and I send t *manisnu*-necklace of genuine lapis lazuli and gold as the greeting-gift of my brother. May it rest on the neck of my brother for 100,000 years.

NOTES

- 21 . . . [š]e-ru-bu-šu 22 . . . lu-š hab-š[š]u.
- 34 *ša ša am ru*: Kühnle, p. 31, n. 143, emended the text to read *šu-š[š]-ru-ru* «(š-ru) x-x) *ana q[š]t[š]*, "whom you have sent to me, I have sent to my brother to do (x x)." Did the jargon of diplomacy develop in the periphery a word *šatenu*, "personal report," from frequently used (for introductory) *ša šatenu*, "what I saw (was . . .)?" Cf. the use of *amru* in EA 15, Edel, *JNES* 7 (1948) p. 24, has questioned the personal name; rather, "I *šatnu* (made of) *šatnu*."

50

EA 22

Inventory of gifts from Tušratta

TEXT: VAT 395.

COPIES: WA 26; VS 12, 199.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Adler, pp. 148–69.

I

4 beautiful horses *ihai tun* (swiftly).

2–3 1 chariot, its *tulumu*, its *šengy*, its covering, all of gold.¹ It is 320 shekels of gold that have been used on it (the chariot).

4–6 1 whip of *pilatiš*, overlaid with gold; its *parattina*, of genuine *halalu*-stone; 1 seal of genuine *halalu*-stone is strung on it. 5 shekels of gold have been used on it.

7–8 2 *ša burši*, overlaid with gold. 6 shekels of gold and 4 shekels of silver have been used on them.

9–11 2 (leather) *ahšatni*, overlaid with gold and silver; their center is made of lapis lazuli. 10 shekels of gold and 20 shekels of silver have been used on them.

12–14 2 *manisnu*-necklaces, for horses; genuine *halalu*-stone mounted on gold; 88 (stones) per string. It is 44 shekels that have been used on them.

15–20 1 set of bridles; their *bišinkers*,² of *gilamu*-ivory; their "horns,"³ of gold; and . . . [. . .] of alabaster; [. . .] their *kušappani*; [. . .] . . . [. . .] of *gilamu*-ivory; and their [. . .], of gold with a reddish tinge.

21–22 2 leather *matullu*,⁴ which are variegated like a wild dove.

23 1 set of torques, of bronze.

24–30 1 (set of) reins; its base and *šerapi*, overlaid with silver; the *našši*,⁵ of gold with a reddish tinge; its entire upper part is a gold figure [. . .] . . . ; the opening . . . its surface . . . [. . .]; it is studded with *dardarab*-ornaments of gold; and the "house" . . . is studded with *dardarab*-ornaments, also of gold. 60 shekels (of gold) were used on it.

31 1d good, sharp⁶ arrows.

32–35 [1] dagger, the blade of which is of i[š]on?⁷ its guard,⁸ of gold, with designs; its haft,⁹ of ebony with calf figurines; overlaid with gold; its [pommel] is of . . . stone; its [. . .] . . . overlaid with gold, with designs. 6 shekels of go[ld] have been used on it.

36–37 [1] *šau*,¹⁰ of the *apitannu*-type [. . .], overlaid with gold. It is 4 shekels of silver that have been used on it.

51

38 1 mace, of iron, overlaid with gold. 15 shekels of gold have been used on it.

39-40 1 *zallere*-knife, of bronze; its [ha]ft, overlaid with gold. 3 shekels of gold have been used on it.

41 1 *addu*-throwstick, of *pitaiš*, overlaid with gold. 2 shekels of gold have been used on it.

42-43 1 *šilpānu*-bow, of *zamiri*;¹¹ 4 times overlaid with gold. 6 shekels of gold have been used on it.

44 2 multicolored *širts*.¹²

45 1 set of snaffles, of silver; [5]30 shekels in weight.

46 1 pair of *gloves* that are trimmed with red wool.¹³

47 1 shield . . . of silver, 10 shekels in weight.

48-54 1 leather *baltes*, its "flint-blade"¹⁴ of genuine *bulalu*-stone; its inlay, of genuine lapis lazuli; the *talli*, (*with*) inlay of genuine lapis lazuli. Its centerpiece is set with *hiliša*-stone, and (*this*) centerpiece of *hiliša*-stone is mounted on genuine lapis lazuli, 2 genuine *bulalu*-stones, mounted [on gold], which are strung on its *straps*, 1 seal of genuine lapis lazuli, mounted on gold. 1 *bulalu*-stone, a *counterweight*, which is strung on its rear. 10 shekels of gold have been used on it.

55-57 1 bottle, horse-shaped, of *amutu*-metal, with eagles of gold as inlay; and (*also*) its inlay, genuine lapis lazuli. 300 shekels in weight.

58-59 1 fly whisk, of gold, along with its linen cloth, 3 shekels in weight.

60 [1] *counterweight*, 10 shekels in weight.

61 [1] *šifaw*,¹⁵ of gold, 20 shekels in weight.

62-66 [. . .], of stone; its top, of *muššaru*-stone; [. . .] its haft, overlaid with gold; 2 times [. . .]; its [. . .] . . . , of *pendu*-stone¹⁶ [. . .]; [. . .], of gold, . . . [. . . x] shekels of gold have been [used] on it.

II

7-2 1 ha[ncl]-bracelet, of i[ro]n, [overlaid with gold]; its *metukbu*-birds (have) an inlay of genuine lapis lazuli. 6 shekels of gold have been used on it.

3-4 1 hand-bracelet, of iron, overlaid with gold; its *muššku*-birds (have) an inlay of genuine lapis lazuli. 5 shekels of gold have been used on it.

5 1 foot-bracelet, of gold, inlaid. 5 shekels of gold have been used on it.

6-8 1 *maimnu*-necklace, cnt from 35 genuine lapis lazuli stones,

35 *hiliša*-stones; in the center, a genuine *bulalu* stone, mounted on gold with a reddish tinge.

9-10 1 set for the hand, beads of genuine lapis lazuli, 6 per string, mounted on gold. 6 shekels of gold have been used on it.

11 1 set of *karatnannu*, of gold, 2 shekels in weight.

12-13 1 head-binding, of gold, twisted like a torque, 14 shekels in weight.

14-15 1 set of *asapsama*, 6 *iduzwarra*, of gold with a reddish tinge 12 shekels in weight.

16-19 1 dagger, the blade of which is of iron, the haft has an inlay of . . . -stone, overlaid with gold; its pommel, of . . . -stone; its . . . , mounted on gold; its *mafru*, (with) variegated trim of blue-purple wool, 2 times overlaid with gold. 14 shekels have been used on it.

20-22 1 *zallu*, its *retu* overlaid with *hiliša*-stones and genuine lapis lazuli; the handle, the figure of a woman, of alabaster; the inlay, of genuine lapis lazuli.

23-26 1 pair of shoes, of *dušu*-color (leather), and crudded with *dardarab*-ornaments of gold; their buttons, of *hiliša*-stone, with *karatnannalla*-ornaments, of genuine lapis lazuli, set here and (there), 13 shekels of gold have been used on them. 1 pair of leggings, of *šaggy wool*.¹⁷

27-28 1 pair of *biatu*-shoes, richly provided with *dardarab*-ornaments of gold. 6 shekels of gold have been used on them.

29-32 1 pair of shoes, of blue-purple wool; their . . . [. . .]¹⁸ and their . . . [. . .], of gold; their buttons, of *hiliša*-stone; the center, an inlay of genuine lapis lazuli. 4 shekels of gold have been used on them. 1 pair of leggings, of *šaggy wool*.

33-34 1 pair of shoes, of colored linen, which have *iduzwarri*. 1 pair of leggings, of *šaggy wool*.

35 1 pair of shoes, of colored linen. 1 pair of leggings, of *šaggy wool*.

36 1 garment of blue-purple wool. 1 pair of shirts, Hurrian-style, [for] the city.¹⁹

37-38 1 city-shirt, Tukriš-style.²⁰ 1 pair of s[as]hes, of red wool, adorned.²¹

39-40 1 linen garment, *alšanni*-type. 1 pair of shirts, Hurrian-style, of linen. 1 city-shirt, of linen. 1 robe,²² of linen.

41-42 1 garment, Hazor-style. 1 pair of shirts, Hurrian-style, of linen. 1 pair of city-shirts, 1 robe and 1 cap, of blue-purple wool.

43-47 1 fly-whisk.²³ Its *retu* (has) an in[lay] of genuine lapis

lazuli . . . *hiliha*-stone. [Its] haft, [overlaid with gold, 3 times; its inlay of genuine lapis lazuli; its base, of [genuine] lapis lazuli]. Its *clash streamers* (held by) wire [. . .] 25 shekels of gold have been used on it.
48-50 A *nummulus* scraper, of . . .²⁴ and it is studded [with *dardaru*-ornaments] of gold. Its haft, of ebony [. . .]. 6 shekels of gold have been used on it.

51 1 wash-basin, of silver, 140 shekels in weight.
52 1 stone . . ., (with) *gilamu*-ivory, 70 shekels in weight.
53 1 silver tube, (with) *gilamu*-ivory, 77½ shekels in weight.
54-56 2 *bous* . . .²⁵ their astragal-ornaments overlaid with gold, and on 1 of them is the gold-*of[er]lay* double. 10 shekels of gold have been used on them.

57-58 1 spear, of bronze, with a double overlay of gold. 6 shekels of gold have been used on it.
59-60 1 *makkasu*-axe,²⁶ of bronze, its handle 2 times overlaid with gold. 3 shekels of silver have been used on it.

61 10 large combs, of (various) stones.
62-64 1 bottle, of stone. 1 helmet-container,²⁷ of alabaster, (with) an inlay of genuine lapis lazuli, the rim of which is overlaid with gold. 3 shekels of gold have been used on it.

65-66 1 helmet-container, of *malachite*, overlaid with gold. 4 [shekels] of gold have been used on it.

67-68 [. . .] of *marballu*-stone. 1 *kuninu*-bowl, of *marballu*-stone. [. . .], of *hulatu*-stone. 1 *counterweight*, of stone.

69-73 [. . .], of ebony; its center and [its] rings,²⁸ [overlaid with gold, above] and below [. . .], and ivory [mounted on] gold [. . .].

III

1 [. . .] . . .
2-4 . . . [. . .] their rings [overlaid with] gold, [above and] below²⁹ overlaid with silver. 60 shekels of gold, 40 shekels of silver, have been used on them.

5-6 1 plaque with winged disks and Deluge monster(s), of ebony, overlaid with gold.³⁰ 30 shekels of gold have been used on it.

7-9 1 dagger, the blade, of iron; its guard, of gold, with designs; its haft, of . . .; an inlay of genuine lapis lazuli; its pommel, of *hiliha*-stone, 5 shekels of gold have been used on it.

10 1 set of salt (containers, in the form) of bull-calves and lions, of *hiliha*-stone.

11 1 *tr(a)*,³¹ overlaid with silver. 60 shekels of silver have been used on it.

12 1 small trough,³² overlaid with silver. 40 shekels of silver have been used on it.

13-15 1 bowl, of gold, 10 shekels in weight, 10 bowls, of gold; 1 bowl, of silver, 10 shekels in weight, 1 small trough of silver, 10 shekels in weight.

16-17 1 bread shovel; its *retu*, of . . .-stone; its hilt, overlaid with gold, its pommel, a *menkhu*-bird, of . . .-stone. 2 shekels of gold have been used on it.

18 1 bread shovel, of gold, 5 shekels in weight. 1 bread shovel, of silver, [x shekels] in weight.

19-20 1 bread shovel, of ebony; 1 bread shovel, of ivory. 1 bread shovel, of *boxwood*. 1 *swatamulufa*, of ivory.

21 1 *braxiu*, of silver, 66 shekels in weight.

22-23 1 *cheat*, without a cover, of ebony, with a winged disk, overlaid with gold and silver. It is 2 shekels of gold, 40 shekels of silver, that have been used on it.

24-25 10 bright garments; 10 pairs of shirts, Hurrian-style; 10 pairs of *city* shirts, 10 robes, 10 pairs of boots.

26 10 pairs of *leggings*; 10 pairs of *batatu*-shoes.

27 1 loincloth, of colored material. 1 *luruppu*-cloth, of linen, trimmed with colored cloth.³³

28 1 *luruppu*-cloth, trimmed with colored cloth.

29-35 1 scent container, with myrrh-scented oil. 1 scent container with *ihili*-oil.³⁴ 1 scent container with *karattu*-oil. 1 scent container with myrrh oil. 1 scent container with *kanakku*-oil. 1 scent container with *elder*-oil. 1 scent container with *styxax*-oil.³⁵ 1 scent container with *peranti*-oil. 1 scent container . . . 1 scent container with a *mixture* (of various oils).

36 10 *hiru*-pots, full of "sweet oil."

37-41 1 cuirass set, of bronze. 1 helmet, of bronze, [for] a man. 1 cuirass set, of leather, 1 helmet, [of bronze, for the *sarku*-soldiers,³⁶ 1 cuirass set, of leather, for horses, set with *ilap* of bronze.³⁷ 2 helmets, of bronze, [for horses].

42-43 1 shield, its *urukmannu* overlaid with silver. 10 shekels of silver have been used on it.

44 9 shields, their *urukmannu*, of bronze.

45-46 100 *bous*, of the *apisannu*-type, of gold . . . [. . .]

- 47 1000 arrows, sharp. 2000 arrows [...]
 48 3000 arrows [...].
 49 10 javelins, with ir[on] tips.
 50 10 javelins, with [bronze] tips.
 51 20 arrows ... [...].³⁸
 52 20 arrows, with "thor[us]" ...³⁹
 53 20 arrows, *ṭakar[du]-type*.⁴⁰
 54 20 arrows (to be shot) flaming. 20 arrows [...].
 55 10 maces of [...].
 56 10 *zallaw*-knives, of b[ronze].
 57-59 to "bull-roes," *ḥawad together*,⁴¹ of b[ronze], and 1 bojw 2
 times overlaid with silver. It is 2 shekels of silver that have been used on
 it.
 60 10 spears [...].

IV

- 1 [...] of ... [...].
 2-3 [x] small [...] of [...] ... [...].
 4-5 [...] a man; its *ḥattinnu*, of gold [...] ... 8 shekels in
 weight.
 6 1 spoon, of *slammaku*-wood. 1 *ṭankiru*, of jasper.
 7-8 1 set of *ṭelawu*, of alabaster. 5 dogs, of gold, 5 shekels in
 weight.
 9 5 dogs, of silver, 5 shekels in weight.
 10 6 *ṭarna*, of alabaster.
 11 1 (fabric) with *ḥanding* above and below.⁴²
 12 3 large blankets.⁴³
 13 1 long spread,⁴⁴ for beds.
 14 1 short spread, of which the trimmings are many-colored,⁴⁵ for
 a bed.
 15 1 blanket, for the head 1 blanket, for the foot.
 16 1 bronze helmet as a *brazier*. 1 set of [...], of wood.⁴⁶
 17 1 ewer, together with its cover, of bronze.
 18 1 kettle, of bronze. 1 water-dipper, of bronze.
 19 10 jars, of bronze, 10 stands, of bronze.
 20 1 brazier, of bronze. 10 *ustnu*, of bronze.
 21 10 "spears,"⁴⁷ of bronze. 10 bowls, of bronze.
 22 10 washbasins, of bronze. 10 braziers, of bronze.
 23 2 bolts, of bronze 30 *ṭakku*,⁴⁸ of bronze.
 24 10 kettles,⁴⁹ of bronze. 10 sets of *angurinnu*, of bronze.

- 25 [...], of bronze. 10 *appawannu*, of bronze.
 26 [x] [...], of bronze. 5 sprinklers, of bronze.
 27 1 washing-bowl, of bronze. 1 *ḥallutu*,⁵⁰ of bronze.
 28 [...] ...-vessels, of bronze, along with a brazier, of bronze.
 29 [...] ...-vessels, of bronze. 1 incense bowl.
 30 [...] ...-vessels, of bronze. 1 pot-stand, of bronze.
 31 [...] ...-vessels, of bronze. 1 chest, of bronze.
 32 10 [...], of bronze. 6 *gangabu*, overlaid with bronze.
 33 For 10 teams: [x] coverings of a chariot.⁵¹
 34 4 small troughs of *slammaku*-wood, 1 small trough of *ḥawad*.
 35 5 spoons.⁵² 500 large *gante memtu*.
 36 5000 small *gante memtu* *ḥṭon the ṭḥawury*.
 37 10 *chariot-poles*. 10 *chariot-frames*.⁵³
 38 [x] yokes⁵⁴ [for a chariot, ... the chariot-platform,⁵⁵
 39 along with their [...]. 12 yokes [...].
 40 10 teams [...] [...] [...].
 41 10 teams [...] [...] of *ḥithanu*-wood.
 42 400 [...] [...] [...].

43-49 It is all of these *wedding gifts*,⁵⁶ of every sort, that Tuṣratta,
 the king of Mitanni, gave to Nimmureya, the king of Egypt, his
 brother and his son-in-law. He gave them at the same time that he gave
 Tadu-Ḥeba, his daughter, to Egypt and to Nimmureya to be his wife.

NOTES

1. On *ṭilpu* as "covering," see CAD, S, p. 239.
2. 1 ŠU ¹⁰³KA.TAB.ANŠE (*kašappi*) *naš* 'ṭa-šá'-[a] *ti-ṭu nu*. The reading of the logogram, the standard form at Boghazköy and attested in an Old Babylonian forerunner to HAR-ru (CAD, K, p. 303a), follows *AHu*, p. 465; and CAD, G, p. 71. The reading ¹⁰³KA.TAB KU[NGI] (CAD, K, p. 303, followed by Adler), "bridles for mules," must assume an unparalleled ¹⁰³KA.TAB and at least one, probably two, mistakes in the writing of RUNG[] (Š) + NAB (rather than MU). If my reading is correct, it would suggest that the blinkers were in some way attached to the bridle, or perhaps the meaning here is an extended one, applied to a part of the bridle.
3. *ḥu-ḥu-šá-ḥu-ṭu nu* (*AHu*, p. 890).
4. Perhaps related to the *na-ḥu-ḥu* in a letter found at Kumdu; see G. Wilhelm, *ZA* 63 (1973) p. 39, line 19; see also M. Gürg, *ZA* 76 (1986) p. 303.
5. On a possible earlier form of *ṭakku* (*ṭi-ṭu-ḥu*), see M. Civil, in L. Cagni, ed., *Ebla*, 1975-1985 (Naples, 1987), p. 156.
6. *ṭarna*, "cut," but probably to be understood of sharpening the tips.
7. On *ḥabalkinnu*, see M. Hoffner, *JCS* 22 (1968) pp. 42-43; J. Postgate, *BOSAS* 34 (1971) pp. 13ff. In EA 22 and 25, AN BAR is perhaps to be read *ḥabalkinnu*, not *parallu*.

8. On *gmwru*, "guard," see Salonen, *SiO* 33, p. 57.
9. KIN = *laku*, as lang established by Knudtzon, *VAB* 2/1, p. 158, note f, and now made explicit by HAR-ra forename; *Emar* 6/4, p. 77: 437ff: kin = *la-ak-ru*, kin-gie = *la-ak-ru-pa-ai-ri*, etc. How *laku* (Middle Assyrian, Mittani, Emar) differs from *ritu* (AHu), p. 590b, with which it is also found (lines ii 21, 44; iii 16; EA 25 ii 43; etc.), is not clear. Is the *ritu* the lower part of the handle that fits into the palm? Cf. at Ebla, Sumerian *su-8a*, "inside of the hand" = *la-8a-iam* (abarum) (G. Pettinato, *Materiali epigrafici di Ebla* [Naples, 1982], p. 256-516).
10. BAN (no) ¹⁰BAN; also lines ii 54; iii 45, 48) = *qaltu* (CAD, A/2, p. 770b).
11. On the *šipšau*-bow see B. Gronenberg, *RA* 81 (1987) pp. 113-24. On p. 117, n. 21, Gronenberg speculates that here the bow may be a musical instrument.
12. *šá-di-in-ru*; see also EA 266:32.
13. *šú-pi-ri-in-ka-ah* ¹⁰ŠHÉ.ME.TA *šá-ug-pa-ru*. On the logogram, see Goetze, *JCS* 10 (1956) p. 34, n. 19, and Landsberger, *JCS* 21 (1967) p. 168, on the reading *tabarru* rather than *nabáru*, see CAD, N/1, p. 220. *piinkak*, "glove" (AHu, p. 866), though doubtful, seems more likely, in view of the trimming, than a part of the snaffle (Adler, following A. Salonen, *Die Landfabricage der Alten Mesopotamier* [Helsinki, 1956], p. 57).
14. Assuming ¹⁰GIR.ZU = ¹⁰GIR.ZU.GAL, *šuru*; cf. ¹⁰ZU = *šuru*? (EA 13:17).
15. *šú-á-šú* *šú-á-šú* (AHu, p. 625; CAD, M/1, p. 365).
16. Assuming ¹⁰ŠI.TIR = ¹⁰ŠE.TIR. See *PRU* 3, p. 184:21 and note; AHu, p. 854b, which also refers tentatively to *šú-á-šú* (but cf. *MSL* 10, p. 13:330).
17. *kaballu* (*šú-i-šú*) (cf. lines ii 32, 34-35), the last term taken as *šú* = ¹⁰ŠIC.ZA; see iv 12. Durand, *ARMT* 21, p. 423, sees in *kaballu* a special fabric for sandals or leggings.
18. CAD, K, p. 3759, proposes *kū-in-šú* *šú-ru*, "their leggings."
19. *šú-á-šú* *šú-á-šú* (see ¹⁰ŠI.TIR) (also lines ii 39, 41, and iii 24 in this inventory; EA 27:110; and see ¹⁰ŠI.TIR in the next line) is an abbreviated ¹⁰ŠI.TIR.ZA, *nabáru* (cf. EA 14 ii 15, 18, 22). The same abbreviation is found at Huzikuk, and the Huzikuk-style *nabáru* is known from roughly contemporary documents from Alabak, Boghazköy, and perhaps Ugarit; see Goetze, *Corolla Linguistica* (Wiesbaden, 1964), pp. 52ff., CAD, N/1, p. 130b; *ARMT* 21, p. 402; S. Dalley et al., *The Old Babylonian Tablets from Tell al Rimah*, British School of Archaeology in Iraq (Clarendon, Eng., 1976), pp. 59f. If the qualification is to be understood as *šú* = *šú*, "for the city" (longer? fuller? more elaborate?), this garment is perhaps opposed to the type of shirt worn by the military (Wiesbaden, *RLA* 6/1-2, p. 25b). The article of apparel called *šú* (*šú*), if a mural crown (*PRU* 3, p. 184, note on line 4; *ARMT* 7, p. 309; Hoffner, *IBJ* 19 (1969) pp. 178ff.), hardly appears here. *šú*, a type of jewelry (*ARMT* 18, p. 169; *ARMT* 21, p. 256, n. 10), also seems excluded.
20. ¹⁰ŠI.TIR.ZU (also ii 40, 41; iii 24; and EA 27:110) = *nabáru* *šú*? (See

previous line.) *Tukilš* (also EA 25 iv 25) was in Luistán and gave his name in metal objects and garments (see *tukilš*, AHu, p. 1367).

21. *šú-á-šú* (B) *šú-á-šú*... *šú-á-šú* "fill" recalls the contrast in Hittite texts of "full-empty," presumably "ornamented, non-ornamented"; see Goetze, *Corolla Linguistica*, p. 48, n. 2; cf. also ii 27.

22. ¹⁰ŠI.TIR.ZU = *šú-á-šú* (also ii 42; iii 25; EA 25 iv 48), which is to be added to the references in AHu and CAD (CAD, K, p. 485b, misreads ii 42 as ¹⁰ŠI.TIR.ZU; cf. ¹⁰ŠI.TIR.ZU, *Practical Vocabulary of Assur* 237f, [Landsberger and Gurney, *AU* 18 (1957-58) p. 330], cited CAD, K, p. 585).

23. *šú-á-šú* *šú-á-šú* (AHu, p. 461a; CAD, Z, p. 156a) is not an instrument for catching flies (Knudtzon, *Adler*). The difference between this whisk (also EA 25 iii 52) and *šú-á-šú* (i 58) is not clear.

24. *šú-á-šú* (also EA 25 i 27; AHu, p. 855); the qualification seems paralleled at Mari by *šú-á-šú* *šú-á-šú*, which Durand, *AEM* 1/1, p. 120, interprets as "having a mouse" (*šú-á-šú*, i.e., a part for gnawing, teasing).

25. The garment *šú-á-šú* (EA 120:21) does not seem likely in this context; cf. *PRU* 3, p. 183, note to line 11.

26. The reference to a handle favors taking *nabáru* as a cutting instrument (AHu, p. 869, "an axe"; Adler) rather than as a bowl (CAD, M/1, p. 132). Note also 2 GIR *šú-á-šú* (*ARMT* 21, no. 219 31), which indicates a knife-like *nabáru* as well as an axe (*TUN*).

27. "Helmet" is more probably a designation of shape (also ii 65; iv 16) than a display helmet; see Wilcke, *RLA* 4/4-5, p. 312.

28. *šú-á-šú* (also iii 2); see CAD, K, p. 357a.

29. On *šú*, "on, around," not "firm," see N. Illingworth, *Inag* 50 (1988) p. 103.

30. On ALAM as "winged disk" here, in line iii 22, and perhaps in line i 26, see Dalley, *Inag* 48 (1986) pp. 94f.

31. *šú-á-šú* (*šú-á-šú*), following Adler, since *šuru*, "pole," is never found in a gift list.

32. ¹⁰ŠI.TIR.ZU (*šú-á-šú* *šú-á-šú*): the difference between BUGIN (LAGABXA) and ¹⁰ŠI.TIR.ZU (LAGABXNINDA) is that the former was used for liquids, the latter for kneading dough; see CAD, B, pp. 306ff., and H. Güterbock, *Oriens* 19 (1966), p. 37, p. 80.

33. On *šú-á-šú*, originally a cloth for wiping and later (as here) a kind of undergarment worn around the hips; see K. Deller and K. Wauanabe, *ZA* 70 (1981) pp. 218f., and M. Mallat, *BIB* 43 (1986) p. 29, n. 61.

34. Perhaps *šú*, *šú*, *šú* (EA 25 iv 52) is a phonetic writing of *šú*, *šú*, *šú* ("sesame") oil. On these oils as cosmetics and their containers, see Helek, *Beziehungen*, pp. 399ff.

35. Contrary to CAD, B, p. 64, neither here nor in EA 25 iv 51 is the reading *šú*; here it is *šú* (*šú*), and in the latter, *šú* (*šú*).

36. On the *šú*, see *Ugarit* 5, p. 98, n. 1, and I. Singer, *Tel Aviv* 10 (1983) p. 8, n. 11.

37. On *šú*, "helmet," see Timothy Kendall, in M. A. Morrison and

D. T. Owen, eds., *Studies on the Civilization and Culture of Nuzi and the Hurrians* (Winona Lake, Ind., 1981), pp. 201ff. On leather coussins for horses, see Edel, *Brief*, pp. 15ff.

38. There is not enough room for **li-hu*-*u*-*tu* (CAD, H, p. 264a, followed by Adler). Lines 51-54 seem to list special types of arrows.

39. *tu-nu*: **da*'*lu* (cf. i 6b).

40. *tu-hu* = [*du*] (Gordin).

41. TO ŠU.SI (*ubānānu*) *ka-si-tu* & GUD.MEŠ obscure (see AHW, p. 1309a). Context seems to argue against interpreting ŠU.SI as *šit* and rendering "600 goblets (in the form of) oven."

42. *tu-sa-u*, see also EA 25 iv 48, and cf. **GADA tu-sa-u* (RS 34134: Ugarit, Pl. XV-XVII).

43. **MEŠ-TUNAMBA* (SIG, ZA, *Fla*), MEŠ (omitted by Adler): on the fabric as hairy or shaggy and the logogram in peripheral texts, see Watsoldt, *RLA* 6/1-2, pp. 21 f.; Dalley, *Inq* 42 (1980) p. 73. The *Fla* was highly esteemed (Durand, *ARMT* 21, p. 407, n. 3).

44. TUG.GID.DA: reading uncertain, but if TUG = *uhānu*, then GID.DA = *arbu* (not *arhu*, Adler). Similarly, in the next line, GUD.(PU) DA = *kurū*, not *harhu*. Cf. perhaps *ARMT* 22, no. 64 i. 2-3, 1 TUG.GUZ.ZA BULA, and see comments of J. Kupper, *ARMT* 22/2, p. 614.

45. AHW, p. 367, and CAD, U, p. 46, agree in reading UGUN (U + GUN) *šūtu* (a kind of special (rimming) ware used in EA 25 iv 50 (cf. iv 43ff.)). As noted, however, by Knudtzon (*VAB* 2/1, p. 163, note k), the same sign is found in II 8, 35; 55; and III 27, and it is GUN.A, usually *šurru*, "strigated." On *šūtu*, "hem, rim," see Landsberger, *JCS* 21 (1967) p. 660, n. 103; Dalley, *Inq* 42 (1980) p. 72; Moran, *RA* 77 (1983) pp. 93f.

46. *tu GIS* (not *izt* [Adler]).

47. Among so many household objects, "spears" must be a kind of poker.

48. Cf. *šakku* II (AHW, p. 1042); CAD, S, p. 78 (perhaps *šakku*). Adler interprets ZA.AG.GI as a phonetic writing of SAG.GI = *šipin*, "lock," but though SAG.GI = *šipin*, "to stop up, block," it is never a logogram for *šipin*, and *šipin* is not a lock.

49. 10 'ŠEN' (*šūqu?* *šann?*) also Gordin).

50. The form (*šurru*) and the reduplication in the corresponding Sumerian term (*du-šur-šur*) indicates a vessel with many "breaches," that is, with a smaller or aerie attachment (cf. Adler).

51. Line 33 seems out of place and looks like a heading for 37ff.

52. **ŠUDGIN.TUR* (see n. 32) and *šūru*, "spoon," are joined here, as in EA 25 iv 63-64, and the correspondence of the numbers suggests that for each **ŠUDGIN.TUR* there was one *šūru*.

53. 10 NIG.GID.DA (*malakku* AHW, p. 622; CAD, M/1, p. 351; nig.gid-da *apin* = *ma-sa-sa-du*, *Emar* 6/4, p. 70; 166) 10 [Š]hu-ka-[š]u, GIGIR: there is no reason to read [*]F (Knudtzon, CAD, B, p. 302; Adler) for the determinative, note especially the Akkadogram at Boghazköy, **ŠU-BU-TU/TT*. On *šūru* as the main beam on either side of the chariot, not the axle, see CIVIL, JAOIS 88 (1968) p. 60. Cf. also the plural *šūritin*, along with poles, for a cart (*ABB* 5, 73-7).

54. If [š]imittu is the correct reading, it would refer to a part of the chariot,

and it is not clear how it should be distinguished from *šim* in the following line. On the difficulty in general of distinguishing the two, see CIVIL, JAOIS 88 (1968) pp. 9f.

55. x y z [w] KI.KAL.GIGIR = *šūru* (AHW, p. 1032; CAD, S, p. 195).

56. The reading of NIG.BA.MEŠ.SAL.US.MEŠ remains uncertain, and *šūritin* in the sense of "dowry" (Knudtzon, tentatively; Fincore, *Marrinon*, p. 249, n. 53) seems excluded by the logogram and the almost exclusively masculine character of the gifts; see Kühne, pp. 34f. Were these gifts originally the bride-price or part of it and then returned to the Egyptian king as a kind of indirect dowry? Or the indirect dowry in the Hittite milieu of Nuzi, see Katarzyna Grosz, in Morison and Owen, eds., *Studies on the Civilization and Culture of Nuzi and the Hurrians* (see n. 37), pp. 170f.

EA 23

A goddess travels to Egypt

TEXT: BM 29793.

COPY: BB 10.

PHOTOGRAPHS: BB, pl. 23; L. Waterman, *Royal Correspondence of the Assyrian Empire*, vol. 4 (Ann Arbor, 1930), pl. 4, no. 11; H. Saggs, *The Greatness That Was Babylon* (paperback, New York and Toronto, 1968), illus. 30 (reverse only).

TRANSLATION AND TRANSLATION: Adler, pp. 170-73.

TRANSLATION: Ebeling, pp. 372-73.

Say to Nūnmureya, the king of Egypt, my brother, my son-in-law, whom I love and who loves me: Thus Tūšatta, the king of Mitanni, who loves you, your father-in-law. For me all goes well. For you may all go well. For your household, for Tadu-Heba, my daughter, your wife, whom you love, may all go well. For your wives, for your sons, for your magnates, for your chariots, for your horses, for your troops, for your country and for whatever else belongs to you, may all go very, very well.

13-17 Thus Šauška of Nineveh, mistress of all lands: "I wish to go to Egypt, a country that I love, and then return." Now I herewith send her, and she is on her way.

18-25 Now, in the time, too, of my father . . . went to this country, and just as earlier she dwelt there and they honored her, may my brother now honor her to times more than before. May my brother honor her, (then) at (his) pleasure let her go so that she may come back.

26-30 May Šauška, the mistress of heaven, protect us, my brother!

and me, 100,000 years, and may our mistress³ grant both of us great joy. And let us act as friends.

31–32 Is Šauška for me alone my god(less), and for my brother not his god(less)?⁶

NOTES

1. *Is-uf-lik-ma-me* (Adler, also Gordon).
2. The statue sent by Tutankhamun need not have been the statue worshipped in the temple in Nirevoh; see Kühne, p. 37, nn. 176–77.
One explanation of the goddess's visit is that she was to heal the aged and ailing Egyptian king, but this explanation rests purely on analogy and finds no support in this letter, contrary to what Ilse Wegner, *Götter und Kult der Unter-Sauwabe in Kleinasien*, AOAT 36 (1981) p. 65, declares. More likely, it seems, is a connection with the solemnities associated with the marriage of Tutankhamun's daughter; cf. the previous visit mentioned in lines 18f., perhaps on the occasion of the marriage of Keturah (see EA 1910), and note, too, Šauška's role, along with Aman, of making Tadu-Heba answer to the king's desires (EA 19124, 20:25ff.; 21:16).
3. A reading *is-nu nu tu*, "the first time" (Adler; cf. EA 1712), would make perfect sense, but it is not supported by collation, either Gordon's or my own. *is-y BE/nu* (possible, against Knudtzon) is *x = DINGIR? y = IS?*
4. *Is-ma-ur-mu* (Gordon).
5. NIN-ŠZ (Adler).
6. These lines are hardly an affirmation (so Knudtzon; cf. Weber, VAB 212, p. 1050; Adler, p. 173, n. 1) to support Tutankhamun's request that the statue be returned. It may be doubted that Tutankhamun would say anything so obvious, or that, if he did, he would say it here and not five lines earlier when the return of the statue is mentioned (lines 24f.). The writing *is-š-ma-a* indicates a question, and the implied negative answer explains why the Pharaoh may expect to share with Tutankhamun the protection and blessings of the goddess. She is "our mistress" (line 28) and, therefore, our goddess.
Following lines 31f., there are three lines of Egyptian, written in black ink and the hieratic script, the reading of part of which remains uncertain. This much seems clear: "Year 36, 4th month of winter, day 1. One (the king) was in the southern villa (of) the House of Rejoicing." See Kühne, p. 37, n. 178. It is uncertain whether this letter is referred to as a "copy" (Egyptian *myt*), on the implications of the term, see EA 27, n. 20.

A letter in Hurrian about marriage and friendship

TEXT: VAT 422.

COPIES: WA 27; VS 12, 200.

TRANSLITERATION: J. Friedrich, *Kleinasiatische Sprachdenkmäler* (Berlin, 1932), pp. 8–32; improved readings, Otten in Farber, *Or n.s.* 40 (1971) pp. 65–66.

§1

1–2 [Say to Nimmureya, the king of Egypt, my brother, my son-in-law], wh[om I love (and) who loves me: 3 Thus (speaks) Tušata[ra], the ki[ng of the land of Mitanni, your father-in-law, 4 who loves you, your brother]. All goes well with me. 5 [May all] go well [with you]. For [my son-in-law, your wives, 6 (your children, your] magnates, your [horses, your war chariots, 7 your troops], your land and your [pos]sessions, may all go very well.

§§2–4

(badly damaged)

§5

47 ... my father Šuttarna's daughter ... 48 ... from the ... of my grandfather ... 49 ... two ... my brother 50 ... he sent to me 51 ... And give me your daughter as my wife! 52 ... Aššuremiwaya. And I did not express 53 ... to Mane, your envoy, 54 ... of the (genitive plural) ... of my brother ... which 55 ... graciously 56 ... everything [ve]ry, very 57 ... all that 58 ... I did graciously.

§6

59 ... Mane, your envoy, 60 ... fine oil(?) for his head, good ... 61 ... fine oil(?) for his head; 62 my brother's [wife], the mistress of the land of Egypt 63–64 (destroyed or unintelligible).

§7

65 ... now my brother has sent. And earlier 66 ... and my entire ... 67 my brother so(?) very, very 68 ... totally, my entire land very, very 69 ... and I did all that totally 70 ... very, very graciously, 71 with my [...] (and) with those whom I love, Mane, 72 your envoy, 73 saw all the things that I did.

§8

74 As now my brother loves me, 75 as now I love my brother, 76 so may Teššup, Šauška, Amana, 77 Šimige, Ea-šarti and all 78 the gods love us in their hearts very, very much. 79 For long years may [w]e(!) with great joy very, very much 80 rejoice. And the things that we wish for ourselves, 81 may one for the other, between us, generously, 82 most graciously do.

§9

83 And Keliya, my(!) envoy, delivered ... message. 84 and he reported as follows: "Your brother Nimmureya, 85 the lord of Egypt, made a ... gift. 86 And from Iḫibe, the city of Šimige, he had it come, 87 and to Šimige, his god, his father, he conducted (it). 88 And all the gifts of his forefathers 89 were very, very *delightful*, and the pieces of booty left your brother's 90 country *amazed*. So the gift went off, 91 and your brother *himself*, in consideration of the gift, was 92 *amazed*." And Keliya *expressly announced* the gift's departure, 93 and he reported as follows: "He has ... 10,000 ... the way 94 ... So he has ... that of Šimige ... 95 ... I ... very much." Thus 96 ... did he speak. The ... 97 ... of the land of my brother, 98 which are made *for him*, the 99 ... objects that my brother 100 made for the gift, these may 101 Šimige and Aman and Ea-šarti 102 for my brother and his land ... in a favourable way, 103 ... 104 The things that my brother in connection with the gift 105 did for Šimige, his god, 106 his father, these will Šimige give to my brother, 107 and all the things that my brother 108 wishes in (his) heart, 109 he will make. So shall it be (lit., so they are).

§10

110 And may my brother not distress himself about that matter. 111 My brother's envoys whom 112 I allowed to depart(?) (and whom) I sent, those ... 113 ..., and may my brother hear them ... 114 Keliya, my envoy, and Mane, your envoy, I have allowed to depart, and they are coming to my brother.

II 1-2 (destroyed) 3 ... 4 And my brother has ... them 5 ... very correctly. And when about all I had not done 6 for my brother's wife 7 I heard from Keliya and Mane, when they left, 8 I was/did ... and ... 9 to the dowry for my brother's wife ... 10 very, very much, in a way according to my brother's heart 11 ... we might ... from our ...

§11

12 And I want just (lit., one thing) to say something to my brother, and may my brother 13 heed it. And Mane, my brother's 14 envoy, comes. When a dowry is *brought(?)*, 15-16 and when earlier Mane *br[ought(?)]* what my brother had dispatched [as] my gift, 17 I assembled my entire land 18 and my nobles, as many as there are ... And I addressed 19 Mane: "All ... that my brother 20 dispatched, all 21 ... that my brother 22 dispatched are ... 23 ... they may all ..., 24 they may ..., they may be *satisfactory* ...

§12

25 And he did ... them very much, in ... fashion 26 ... and I addressed (them): "My land 27 will ... me; my nobles will ... me. 28-33 (badly damaged)

§13

34-49 (badly damaged) 50 ... And my brother will inform me ... 51 ..., 52 may the gods not ordain ... distressed ... 53-54 If ... my brother will dispatch a shipment of gold as my gift, and over that 55 I would rejoice in my heart exceedingly, totally. 56 And so I have said (them) (these words) now to my brother. Know (this)!

§14

57-58 And now may my brother send Mane, my brother's envoy. If the ... 59 four ..., two ... of ivory, ... 60 golden ... Just as I 61 ... over the one large dowry ... 62 rejoiced exceedingly, [I will] in view of 63 what my brother dispatches, 64 [rejoice] exceedingly.

§15

65 And the things which in our midst Teššup and Amana 66 ... have done, ... *just as* ... 67 loves, so shall we together [in our] midst ... 68 and we, between us, are one, the Hurrian land 69 and the land of Egypt. From *that* ... they 70 among them are also of one mind. 71 I am the k[ing] of the land of Egypt, 72 and my brother is the k[ing] of the Hurrian land (sic). 73 And what both these lands do not want ..., 74 and we together do not want ..., 75 if those great things ... 76 in our *marriage alliance* our gods ... 77 and(?) we(!) do not(!) guide well the ... of our gods, of Teššup (and) Amana. 78-79 Whosoever did not carry on a relationship full of love in the manner of my forefathers (and) my own (manner), another matter that ... 80 all things for us ... 81 So shall it be (lit., so they are). ... Land ... 82 For us may they ... 83 all ... other lands, which my

brother 84-85 . . . in view of his/hers/his matter, I will have with my brother a relationship full of love. So shall it be (lit., so am I).

§16

86 May my brother send off Mane. If 87 . . . I have properly given, the other 88 lands, all envoys are present. 89 and all other lands, my servants, are present. 90 If I to my head . . . if 91 Mane is not, . . . 92 the others that I make, *where are they?* So 93 may my brother carry on with me a relationship full of love. . . . 94 all lands . . .

§17

95 Mane, your envoy, is very good; there does not exist 96 a man(!) like [him] in all the world . . . 97 Thus my brother in my land . . . 98 . . . that I saw . . . 99 . . . in my land . . . that he made . . . does not exist. 100 My brother did . . . Mane . . . From this . . . 101 . . . does not exist. The word that 102 Mane will communicate to my brother is gracious and 103 true. And may my brother . . . it. It is not evil 104 (and) *hostile* towards my brother; 105 Towards his affairs it is not hostile, and he tells me (*that*) my affairs . . . 106 . . .

§18

107-8 But now [my] brother [*has*] sent, and it is [M]ane [my bro]ther has sent. And guards has [my] brother . . . 109 sent . . . 110 And he has come . . . and my brother . . . him . . . 111 And Mane . . . my bro[ther . . .] land . . . 112 exceedingly . . . 113-15 (badly damaged)

§19

116 The other . . . of my brother, who come with Mane, 117 have . . . in a brilliant way very much . . . 118-24 (badly damaged)
125 Just as . . .

111 : And my brother wanted a wife . . . 2 and now I have given her, and she has gone [to my] brother[er]. 3 Just as that entire . . . is pleasant, . . . 4 that entire . . . 5 So shall it be (lit., so it is). What the 6 Hurrian land does not want at all, what the 7 land of Egypt does not want at all, all that my brother's wife *sbaus* 8 to my brother, is not . . . 9 . . . sees . . . not. So 10 shall it be (lit., so it is), . . . so shall it be (lit., so it is).

§20

11 And now I have given my brother's wife, and she has gone 12 to my brother. When she comes, 13 my brother will see her . . . And she comes 14 to my brother, she is *pleasing*, according to my brother's

heart. 15 And again my brother will see a dowry 16 . . . We . . . from our . . . 17 and we are not . . . 18 (The things) that I have dispatched to my brother I have dispatched, and my brother will see them. 19 They come 20 to my brother, and they are . . . and they are . . .

§21

21 And now when the wife of my brother comes, 22 when she shows herself to my brother, 23 may my . . . belonging to me, . . . and my . . . 24 they may show. And the entire land *may* my brother 25 assemble, and may all other lands 26 and the nobles (and) all envoys be present. 27 And they may show his dowry to my brother, 28 and they may spread out everything in the view of my brother. 29 If it is spread out in the view of my brother, 30 *out* from the earth may . . . And may my brother take 31 all the nobles and all the envoys 32 and all other lands and the war charioteers 33 whom my brother desires, and may my brother go. 34 And may he spread out the dowry and may it be *pleasing*.

§22

35 And there is . . . my father's daughter, my sister. 36 And the tablet of her dowry is available. 37 And there is . . . my grandfather's daughter, my father's sister. 38 And the tablet of her dowry . . . 39 again is available. May my brother have their tablets given to him 40 and may he hear (the words of) both their (tablets). And the tablet(!) 41 of the dowry from me, which I gave, may he have given to him, 42 and may my brother hear that the dowry is very extensive, 43 that it is splendid, that it is befitting my brother.

§23

44 If . . . the tablets of the dowries of my marriage alliance (through sister and father's sister) are not available, 45—my brother 46 . . . *in view of that* not(!?), and there is nobody who does not know it. 47 And my brother knows *in their regard* 48 that they exist(ed), *which* the kings (also) know.

§24

49 I just (lit., one thing) want to say something to my brother, and may my brother heed it. 50 I have . . . my brother much more than my forefathers. . . . 51 *in great love*, and so I have . . . And I wish to say: 52-53 The things that Arratama, my grandfather, did for your father are . . . 54 And with just a single dispatch of mine I have done

ten times as much. 55-57 Similarly, the things that my father did for you, (well,) with just a single dispatch of mine I have done ten times as much. The gifts that 58-59 my grandfather (and) father dispatched to your father (and) to you, thus they are Go and they . . . , in comparison with mine they are not equivalent. 61 And now my brother is going to see (the things) that I 62-63 have dispatched to my brother. Thus I will dispatch to my brother (gifts). So shall it be (lit., so am I). 64 Thus will I deal loyally with my brother, thus 65 will I be most loving. So shall it be (lit., so am I).

§25

66-67 And for the horses my brother did not reward me with gold the way my forefathers (were rewarded). The golden . . . that your father to my grandfather 68 earlier dispatched—what you to my father 69 earlier dispatched was much more than that of your father. 70 And my brother has not given to me the equivalent 71 of what he dispatched to my father. And may my brother 72 make me rich in respect to the kings, my vassals(?) 73 (and) the other lands. With much gold 74 may my brother have me provided. And I And may my brother 75 also . . . carry out my business. And my heart 76 may he not distress. Of my sister, the wife of my brother, 77-78 may my brother erect a molten gold image . . . 79-85 (badly damaged) And may he not distress my heart! And may my brother give, 86 in the manner desired, accord[ing to] my heart, pleasing (things). 87 And my brother has . . . me much, much more than my forefathers. 88 And may my brother make me rich in respect to my land. 89 And may my brother not distress my heart! For that . . . 90-92 I have requested from my brother a molten gold image of my daughter. I know that my brother loves me exceedingly, from the heart, 93 but I also know that for my brother, in his land, gold . . . 94 much. And in respect to my brother . . . And may my brother 95 not . . . ; may he not distress my heart! And in the measure in which it appears, 96 . . . may my brother give pleasing (things). And next, 97 may my brother give an ivory image. As 98-99 I shall speak to my goddess, Šauška of Nineveh, that a gold image for me might 100 . . . So shall it be (lit., so it is), Before earth 101 (and) before the heavens are the words spoken. As 102 they should be spoken, so shall it be (lit., so they are): "This 103 molten gold image is 'adu-Ījeba, the daughter of Tušatta, 104 the lord of Mittani, whom he gave as wife of Immuteya, 105 the lord of Egypt. 106 And Immuteya made a molten gold image, 107 and full of love dispatched it to Tušatta."

68

§26

108 And because of all this we both are of one mind and love one another . . . 109 exceedingly. And in our lands 110 peace prevails. If only an enemy of my brother 111 did not exist! But should in the future an enemy 112 invade my brother's land, (then) my brother writes 113 to me, and the Hittian land, armor, arms, 114 . . . and everything concerning the enemy of my brother 115 will be at his disposition. But should, on the other hand, there be for me an ene[my] 116—if only he did not exist!—I will write to my brother, 117-18 and my brother will dispatch to the land of Egypt, armor, arms, . . . and everything concerning my(?) enemy. 119-24 (unintelligible)

§27

IV 1 And I want to say something (lit., one thing) more to my brother: 2 In my brother's presence there are not many evil words spoken. 3 Those do not come into the presence of the Great . . . lord/king. 4 An evil word . . . to my brother. 5 And for the satisfaction of my person he has spoken to me, 6-7 and with satisfaction have I again heard him. That my brother has made the . . . my brother has . . . to the great . . . 8 And for (or: among) the people of Awar he has made provision, and he has . . . 9 I heard this and I rejoiced. If, however, 10 my brother had not done them this way, then I would be very distressed. 11 And now again . . . has reported 12 and Pararu . . . informs me(?). My brother is brotherly (minded). 13 That word comes, that . . . has thus 14 been actually expressed. This word is in . . . way spoken, and may my brother 15 . . . it before his land regarding the great . . . 16-18 . . . they could . . . And evil words are not spoken to my brother. And an evil word that anyone may say about me (or) about my land, 19—may my brother 20 not hear those words if Mane and Keliya 21 do not say them. But the (words) that Mane and Keliya say 22 about me (or) about my land, 23 they are true and right, and may my brother hear them. 24-25 That too that anyone might express to me about my brother (or) about his land, 26-27 those (words) I will not hear if Keliya and Mane do not say them. But what Keliya and Mane will say 28-29 about my brother (or) about his land, they (the words) are true and right, and I will hear them.

§28

30 And now, all the things 31 that my brother has named (and) wants, these 32-33 have I done tenfold. And with not a single word have I distressed my brother's heart. My brother's wife 34 I have

69

given, who is *pleasing* to my brother's heart. 35-39 I have sent off Mane, my brother's envoy, most magnificently. Now, too, (I have sent off) Keliya and Ar-Teššup and Asali, my envoys—Keliya is a magnate, and Asali is . . . as my clay-tablet scribe—to my brother, and my brother will see them.

§29

40 And may my brother not detain my envoys, may he not . . . (them). 41 And may my brother not . . . me. And my envoys 42 may my brother let go as fast as possible. And I would . . . for a word. 43 And I would like to hear (about the) well-being (and the) *favorable situation* of my brother, 44 and I will rejoice very much over the well-being of my brother.

§30

45 My brother may say: "You *yourself* have also detained my envoys." 46 No, I have not detained them. And you . . . me. 47 to the dowry for the wife of my brother, and my brother will see. 48 what I have given as the dowry for the wife of my brother. 49 It is . . . It is . . . And it (the dowry) is coming. 50 In the view of my brother may it be *satisfactory*.

§31

51 May my brother let my envoys go as soon as possible 52 so they can leave. And may my brother send Mane along, 53 so he can leave together with my envoy! Any other envoy 54 may my brother not send. May he send only Mane. If 55 my brother does not send Mane and sends someone else, 56 I do not want him, and my brother should know it. 57 No! May my brother send Mane!

§32

58 And this wife of my brother whom I have given, this (woman) is *pure* (a virgin?). 59 And may my brother know it. If she . . . 60 . . . she will speak. And she is *pure*. 61 And . . . are available, and as my . . . she my . . . 62 both of them, and my mother has . . . both of them. 63 . . . And I have . . . them . . . And . . . threefold 64 . . . And may my gods know, 65 and may the gods of my brother know! If 66-68 (unintelligible)

§§33-34

(badly damaged)

107 to my [brother] it is . . . And that is the thing 108 that has [been demanded]. And may my brother know it. As 109 . . . speaks in some

other way, 110 may [my brother] not hear the (things) that (in reality) are not [said].

§35

111 In my heart I wish to be on the best of terms with my brother 112 and to love one another. And *may* my brother keep faith 113 perfectly. And we wish to be friendly (to each other), and in our hearts *we wish to love one another* 114-15 (destroyed or unintelligible) As by Seti 116 (and) your god our life (and) our fate *are determined*, 117 may the gods guide both of us together, 118 Teššup and Amanu, our lords, our fathers. 119 And may we be protected. So shall it be (lit., so we are). And may we . . . , 120 and may we . . . Thus . . . us. And between us 121 we wish to love one another in brotherly fashion and *close attachment*. As 122 man loves Šimige on seeing him, so do we want, between us, 123 to love one another. And in our relationship one will wish for 124 the *good fate(?)* of the other. And all the lands that 125 exist on the earth, that Šimige *shines upon*, 126 . . . all for us . . . And so . . . they 127 . . . Tūratia is the Hurrian king, 128 . . . Imureya is the Egyptian king, and if they . . . 129 . . . between them . . . they 130 love . . . one another exceedingly.

NOTE

[The translation and note for EA 24 are by Genot Wilhelm.—WLM]

1. The "Mitrani letter" is the only document in the Amarna archives written in the Hurrian language, and since this language is quite inadequately understood, the translation must be provisional and tentative. The content is often obscure even where the text is not damaged. The Staatliche Museen zu Berlin very generously made photos available, and these were consulted in numerous instances. The interpretation of the text is associated especially with the names of Messerschmidt, Friedlich, Goetze, Späher, and Bush; the relevant literature may be found in the extensive bibliography in the appendix to the latest comprehensive grammar of Hurrian, F. W. Bush, "A Grammar of the Hurrian Language" (Ph.D. diss., Brandeis University, 1964). For the grammar also to be noted are I. M. Diakonoff, *Hurrisch und Uraräisch* (Munich, 1971), and H. J. Thiel, *Phonematik und grammatische Struktur des Hurrischen*, in V. Haas, H. J. Thiel et al., *Das Hurritologische Archiv . . . des Altorientalischen Seminars der Freien Universität Berlin* (Berlin, [1975]), pp. 98-239. E. Laroche has published a lexicon, *Glossaire de la langue hurritaine*, *RHA* 34 (1976) and 35 (1977), reprinted as a monograph in the series *Études et Commentaires*, 93 (1980). For a new interpretation of several passages, see G. Wilhelm, *ZA* 73 (1981) pp. 96-113; idem, *SMIA* 24 (1984) pp. 215-221; idem, *Or* 11.4, 54 (1985) pp. 487-505; and C. Gribal, *ZA* 98 (1988) pp. 122-36. The Hurrian-Hittite bilinguals discovered at Boghazköy (see H. Otten, *Archäologischer Anzeiger* [1984] pp. 372-75) have been used for this preliminary translation only to the extent that parts of them have been discussed in various articles of H. Otten and E. Neu prior to July 1990.

Inventory of gifts from Tušratta

TEXT: VAT 340 (+) fragments 2191 a-c, no. 2.
 COPIES: WA 25 (without fragments); VS 12, 201.
 TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Adler, pp. 174-205.

i

- 1-15 [...] . . .¹
 16 1 set [of earrings, of gold]; their [cones] of genuine lapis lazuli, and their *kukkuḫu* of genuine *ḫulalu*-stone.
 17 1 set of earrings, of gold; their [cones] of genuine *ḫulalu*-stone, and their *kukkuḫu* of genuine lapis lazuli.
 18-19 1 set of earrings, of gold; their cones of genuine lapis lazuli, 4 on each; their *kukkuḫu* of genuine *ḫulalu*-stone.
 20-21 1 set of earrings, of gold; their c[on]es of genuine lapis lazuli, . . .²; their *kukkuḫu* of genuine *ḫulalu*-stone.
 22 1 set of toggle pins, (with) inlay;³ their inlay of genuine lapis lazuli; their top of genuine *ḫiliba*-stone.
 23 1 set of toggle pins, (with) inlay; their inlay of genuine lapis lazuli; their top of genuine *ḫulalu*-stone.
 24 1 set of toggle pins, (with) inlay; their inlay of genuine lapis lazuli; their top of genuine *ḫulalu*-stone.
 25 1 set of toggle pins, (with) inlay; their inlay of genuine lapis lazuli; their top of genuine *ḫulalu*-stone.
 26 1 set of toggle pins, (with) inlay; their inlay of genuine lapis lazuli; their top of *ḫiliba*-stone.
 27 1 set of toggle pins, of gold with a reddish ring (and) of . . . ; their top of *ḫiliba*-stone.
 28 1 set of toggle pins, of genuine *ḫulalu*-stone; their top of genuine *ḫulalu*-stone.
 29 1 set of toggle pins, of genuine *ḫulalu*-stone; their top of *ḫiliba*-stone.
 30 [1 set] of toggle pins, of genuine [. . .]; their top of *ḫiliba*-stone.
 31 1 set of toggle pins, of solid gold; their top of genuine lapis lazuli.
 32 [1 set] of toggle pins, of solid gold; their top of genuine *ḫulalu*-stone.
 33-34 1 "weave": 6 genuine lapis lazuli stones, 7 *ḫiliba*-stones, 14

bikru-gems of gold, 72 strings of genuine lapis lazuli and gold, 40 strings of gold.

35-36 1 "weave": 9 genuine lapis lazuli stones, 10 *ḫiliba*-stones, 20 *bikru*-gems of gold, [x] strings of lapis lazuli, 38 strings of gold.

37 [1 "weave," of gold: 1 *ḫiliba*-stone, 4 genuine lapis lazuli stones, 4 . . . of gold.

38 [1 *manimnu*-necklace, of seal-shaped stones of lapis lazuli; 13 per string, mounted on gold.

39 [1 *manimnu*-necklace, of seal-shaped stones; 13 seal-shaped stones of genuine lapis lazuli, mounted on gold; 2 seal-shaped stones of genuine *ḫulalu*-stone, mounted on gold.

40 [1 *manimnu*-necklace (with) a *conisywaghi*: 28 genuine lapis lazuli stones, 28 *ḫiliba*-stones; the centerpiece a genuine *ḫulalu*-stone mounted on gold.

41 [1 *manimnu*-necklace, cut: 25 genuine lapis lazuli stones, 25 *ḫiliba*-stones; the centerpiece a genuine lapis lazuli stone mounted on gold.

42 [1 *manimnu*-necklace, cut: 26 genuine lapis lazuli stones, 26 *ḫiliba*-stones; the centerpiece a genuine lapis lazuli stone mounted on gold.

43 [1 *manimnu*-necklace, cut: 37 genuine lapis lazuli stones, 39 (pieces of) gold leaf;⁴ the centerpiece a genuine *ḫulalu*-stone mounted on gold.

44 1 *manimnu*-necklace, cut: 38 genuine lapis lazuli stones, 38 (pieces of) gold leaf; the centerpiece a genuine *ḫulalu*-stone mounted on gold.

45 1 *manimnu*-necklace, cut: 26 genuine lapis lazuli stones, 28 *ḫiliba*-stones; the centerpiece a genuine lapis lazuli stone mounted on gold.

46 [1 *manimnu*-necklace, cut: 38 [genuine lapis lazuli stones], 38 (pieces of) gold; its centerpiece a genuine *ḫulalu*-stone mounted on gold.

47 [1 *manimnu*-necklace, cut: 43 [genuine lapis lazuli stones], x *ḫiliba*-stones; [the centerpiece] a *senkallu*-stone mounted on gold.

48 1 *manimnu*-necklace, cut: 32 [genuine lapis lazuli stones, x *ḫiliba*-stones; the centerpiece a genuine *ḫulalu*-stone mounted on gold.

49 [1 *manimnu*-necklace, cut: 30 genuine lapis lazuli stones, 28 *ḫiliba*-stones; the centerpiece a [. . .-stone] mounted on gold.

50 1 *manimnu*-necklace, cut: 34 genuine *ḫulalu*-stones, 35 [. . .]-stones; the center[piece] a genuine *ḫulalu*-stone mounted on gold.

51 1 *maninu*-necklace, cut; 17 genuine lapis lazuli stones, 16 *sankallu*-stones, 35 (*pieces of*) gold; the centerpiece a *sankallu*-stone mounted on gold.

52-53 1 *maninu*-necklace, cut; 23 genuine lapis lazuli stones, 25 *Marhafi*-stones; 48 (*pieces of*) gold *leaf*; the centerpiece a genuine lapis lazuli stone mounted on gold.

54 1 *maninu*-necklace, cut; 34 obsidian stones; 33 (*pieces of*) gold; the centerpiece a genuine lapis lazuli stone mounted on gold.

55-56 1 *maninu*-necklace (*with*) *counterweights*; 14 genuine lapis lazuli stones, 25 genuine *bulalu*-stones, 17 *hitiba*-stones; [the centerpiece] a genuine lapis lazuli stone mounted on gold.

57-58 [1 *mani*] *nanu*-necklace (*with*) *counterweights*; 14 genuine lapis lazuli stones, 16 genuine *bulalu*-stones; 30 (*pieces of*) gold (*leaf*); the centerpiece a . . . stone mounted on gold.

59-60 [1 *maninu*-necklace . . .] genuine *bulalu*-stones; 24 (*pieces of*) gold *leaf*; [the centerpiece, a . . . stone] mounted on gold.

61 [. . .] genuine *bulalu*-stone; 26 gold *h(ama)ru*; the centerpiece a genuine *bulalu*-stone mounted on gold.

62 [. . .] 24 gold *kamaru*; the centerpiece a genuine lapis lazuli stone mounted on gold.

63-64 [. . .] genuine lapis lazuli stones; 24 genuine *bulalu*-stones; [. . . the centerpiece] a genuine lapis lazuli stone mounted on gold.

65-66 [. . .] *sankallu*-stones, 16 carnelian stones; [. . . the centerpiece a genuine [. . . stone] mounted on gold.

67-68 [. . .], mounted on gold.

69 [. . . "crickets," of [genuine] [lapis lazuli]; 10 "crickets" of *hitiba*-stone.

70 [. . .] . . .

71-72 [. . .], along with their [covers, of gold; their tops [. . .] of genuine lapis lazuli; [. . .] are string [on] gold wire.

ii

1-2 [x a] *širuthu*-vessels, along with their covers [. . .] gazelle [. . .].

3-4 [x] *stappa*? 60 genuine lapis lazuli stones, 63 genuine *bulalu* stones, 8 *bulalu*-stones . . . (x +) 5 "worms" of gold, 10 pomegranates of carnelian, 5 pomegranates of *sankallu*-stone.

5-6 [. . .] . . . 122 genuine lapis lazuli stones, [x +] 6 *bulalu*-stones, 180 "worms" of genuine *bulalu*-stone, a thin (*hand*) overlaid with

gold, 3 seal-shaped stones of genuine *bulalu*-stone, mounted on gold.

7-8 [. . .] new-moon crescents of genuine *bulalu*-stone, 13 per string, of gold *tinged with red* [. . .] . . . 14 seal-shaped stones of genuine *bulalu*-stone, mounted on gold.

9-10 [x] large [. . .] . . . of gold *tinged with red*, 11 per string, set [in] genuine [lapis lazuli], 12 *bikru*-gems and a seal-shaped stone of genuine *bulalu*-stone.

11-12 [. . .] . . . 7 new-moon crescent of [genuine] *bulalu*-stone, mounted on gold; 2 new-moon crescents of genuine lapis lazuli, mounted on gold [. . .] 3 genuine *bulalu*-stones (*for a*) *counterweights*; 4 . . . (mounted) on gold.

13-14 1 set of large *agarbu*-jewels, of genuine lapis lazuli, genuine *bulalu*-stone, genuine obsidian, *mašaru*-stone; the centerpiece a genuine lapis lazuli stone mounted on gold; their *ulluru* of *hitiba*-stone, not mounted.

15-17 3 sets of small *agarbu*-jewels, of genuine lapis lazuli, genuine *bulalu*-stone, genuine obsidian, *mašaru*-stone; their centerpiece a genuine *bulalu*-stone mounted on gold; 1 *ulluru* of *hitiba*-stone, not mounted; 4 *bikru*-gems of gold.

18 2 "eye"-stones, of genuine *bulalu*-stone, mounted on gold, for the hand.⁵

19 13 "eye"-stones, of *mašaru*-stone, mounted on gold, for the hand.

20 219 "crickets," of genuine lapis lazuli, not mounted, for the hand.

21-23 3 finger-rings, of genuine *bulalu*-stone; 2 finger-rings, of genuine lapis lazuli; 2 finger-rings, of *hitiba*-stone; 1 finger-ring, of *malabitu*; 2 finger-rings, (with) inlay; 3 finger-rings, of *irton*; 5 finger-rings, of solid gold.

24-25 14 hand-bracelets, of solid gold; 2 foot-bracelets, of solid gold, 390 shekels in weight.

26-27 2 hand-bracelets, of gold, one attached to the other, (with) *menekku*-bits; the *mesukku*-bits (have) an inlay of genuine lapis lazuli, 30 shekels in weight.

28 10 thin bracelets, of iron, overlaid with gold; 30 shekels of gold [have been used] on them.

29-31 1 small torque, for a seal-shaped stone, of gold, 1 seal-shaped stone of genuine lapis lazuli mounted on gold, 1 . . . stone mounted on gold, 1 seal-shaped stone of *pendu* mounted on gold, 2

- 35 25 *hfrn-rhytons*²¹ . . . overlaid with gold. 12 shekels of [gold have been used on them].
- 36 [x *horn-rhytons* . . .] overlaid [with gold]. 12 shekels of [gold have been used on] them].
- 37-38 [. . .] overlaid [with gold]d . . . [. . .] . . . [have been used on] them].
- 39-40 3 horn-rhytons . . . [. . .] overlaid [with gold]. 18 [shekels] of gold [have been used on them]. Among [which] 1 [. . .].
- 41 5 small horn-rhytons, of ivory [. . .] their [. . .] overlaid with gold. 16 shekels [of gold have been used on them].
- 42 1 aurochs horn-rhyton, overlaid with gold 3 times; inlay, [. . .]; its *retu* of [. . .]-stone.
- 43 1 aurochs horn-rhyton, overlaid with gold 2 times; inlay of [genuine] lapis lazuli; its *retu* of [. . .]-stone.
- 44 1 mountain-ox horn-rhyton, overlaid with gold, and [its *stand*²⁶ is set here and there with . . .].
- 45 1 aurochs horn-rhyton, overlaid with gold 3 times; inlay and [its *retu*] of alabaster.
- 46 1 *lutu* (animal) horn-rhyton, overlaid with gold; its *retu* of ebony. It [is set] here and [there] with genuine lapis lazuli [. . .].
- 47 1 *lutu* (animal) horn-rhyton, overlaid with gold, its *retu* of ivory. [It is set] here and there with lapis lazuli (and) . . .-stone [. . .].
- 48 90 shekels of gold have been used on them.
- 49-50 20 *ayigallahu* (animals) horn-rhytons, overlaid with gold; their *retu* of ivory; on one of which the *retu* is of ebony; 35 shekels of gold [have been used] on them.
- 51 14 giant aurochs horn-rhytons, overlaid with gold; their *retu* of ivory. 42 shekels of gold [have been used] on [them].
- 52-54 1 fly whisk, overlaid with gold; its *retu* and its handle . . . [. . .] its [*paratiatnu*, of *hitha*-stone, strung on a wire of gold; and its wire strung with genuine *bulala*-stones, genuine lapis lazuli stones, carnelian stones. 30 shekels of gold [have been used] on [them].
- 55-58 2 sets of *hapisuhhu*-ornaments, of gold. 2 sets of earrings, of gold; their cones, of *hitha*-stone; their *kukkubu*, of *bulala*-stone. 2 sets of toggle pins, of gold; their top of lapis lazuli. 2 "weaves," [of . . .] and *hitha*-stone . . . 9 *maninu*-necklaces, of lapis lazuli, with a gold knob.²⁷ 12 hand-bracelets, of gold. 8 foot-bracelets, of gold. This jewelry is for the 2 principal ladies-in-waiting.²⁸ 313 [shekels of gold].
- 59-62 2 sets of earrings, of gold; their cones of *hitha*-stone; their . . . of *bulala*-stone. 2 [sets of toggle pins], of gold; their top of *bulala*-

- stone. 2 "weaves," of lapis lazuli and *hitha*-stone. . . . [. . . x *maninu*-necklaces], of lapis lazuli, with a gold knob. 12 hand-bracelets, of gold, 8 foot-bracelets, of gold. [This jewelry] is for the 2 principal ladies-in-waiting. It is 208 shekels of gold that [have been used] on [them].
- 63 10 hand-bracelets, of gold. 10 foot-bracelets, of gold, for 10 pages.²⁹ 74 shekels in weight].
- 64-67 4 [. . .] foot-bracelets, of silver, for women. 100 sets of toggle pins, of silver, their top [. . .], for 100 dowry-women.³⁰ 1440 shekels of silver [have been used] on [them]. 30 sets of earrings, of gold; their cones of lapis-lazuli, for 30 [dowry]-women. 60 shekels of silver have been used on them. 30 hand-bracelets, of gold, for 30 [me]n.³¹ 40 shekels of silver have been used on them].
- 68 [1 plaque], with *haziru*-figures, of gold and silver.³² 10 shekels of gold [have been used] on them.
- 69 [1 plaque], with *haziru*-figures, of gold and silver. 36 shekels of silver have been used [on them].
- 70-72 [x spindles, of gold], 8 shekels in weight. 26 spindles, of silver, 10 shekels in weight. [x spindles, of . . .] 10 spindles, of lapis lazuli. 16 spindles, of al[abas]ter. [x spindles, of . . .] . . . 11 spindles, of . . . [. . .]-stone. 33 spindles, of horn.
- 73-75 [1 . . . with figures of] *apsau*-animals,³³ [overlaid with gold]d]. 100 shekels of gold have been used on it. [. . .] 15 [shekels] have been used on it. . . .] of blue-purple wool
- 76-77 [. . .] goblets [. . .], of gold 47 [. . .].
- iv
- 1-3 [. . .], of *dulu*-stone, overlaid with [sil]ver. [. . .] . . . overlaid with gold and silver. 15 shekels of gold, 38 shekels of silver, [have been used on it]them]. 1 *lutu* garment, of blue-purple wool.
- 4-5 [1 plaque, with figure]s of Deluge-monsters, overlaid with gold and silver. [x shekels of gold, x shekels of silver], have been used on it.
- 6 [. . .] *tallu* jars, overlaid with gold. 15 shekels of gold have been used on them.
- 7 [. . .] shekels of gold.
- 8 [. . .].
- 9 [. . .] 6 shekels of [sil]ver [. . .].
- 10-11 [. . .] shekels of . . . in] weight. [x shekels of . . .] have been used on them].
- 12-13 [. . .] . . . is set. Its front [. . . x shekels of . . .] have been used on them.

14-16 [...] with figures of deer³⁴ [...] with figures of lions
[... x shekels of [...] have been used [on them].

17 [...] overlaid with gold. 2 shekels [of gold] hav[e been used
o]n them.

18-20 [...] its side-board³⁵ [...] [...].

21-22 [...] lapis lazuli, its side-board [...] of lapis lazuli, overlaid
with gold and silver. 6 shekels of gold, 26 shekels of silver, [have
been used o]n [it].

23-24 [...] of boxwood, overlaid with gold and silver. 12 shekels
of gold, 30 shekels of silver, have been used on them. [A figure], of
ivory.

25-26 [...] of boxwood, overlaid with silver. 16 shekels of silver
have been used on them. [A figure], of ivory.

27 [...] of [it]ter, 380 shekels in weight.

28-31 [x chests, of [...]; their f[ig]ures, of ivory [... x c]he[st]s, of
elbony; [their] b[e]l[ts] [...] overlaid with gold. [x] c[he]st[s]
[...] of elammakku-wood, overlaid with gold and silver. [...] 3 shekels
of gold, 64 [shekels of silver], have been used [on] it.

32-44 [...] [...].³⁶

45 4 [sh]irt[s], of many-colored cloth.³⁷ 1 garment, Tukriš-style,
of many-colored cloth.

46 [...] [...] of many-colored cloth. [1]o šušimnu-garments, of
many-colored cloth.³⁸

47 40 [...] [...] garments, of many-colored cloth, for women.

48 41 [r]obes. [1]o [fab]rics, with cording above and below.³⁹

49 30 large blankets. 4 long spreads, for a bed.

50 2 sh[or]t spreads, of which the trimmings are many-colored,
for a bed. 4 blankets, for the feet. 4 blankets, for the head.⁴⁰

51 1 scent container, with myrrh-scented oil. 1 scent container,
with kamathu-oil.⁴¹

52 2 scent containers, with stêf-oil. 1 scent container, with elder-
oil.

53 2 scent containers, with myrrle oil. 1 scent container, with
peršantu-oil.

54 1 scent container, with elder-oil. 1 [scent container], with myr-
tle oil.

55 10 kurru-pots that are full of "sweet oil."

56 1 ewer, of bronze. [1] kettle, of bronze.

57 [x] large [jar]s, of bronze. [x] small [jar]s, of br[on]ze.

58 [...] [...] of bronze. [...] pots [...].

59 [...] [...] of bronze. [...].

60 [...] [...] of bronze. 10 wash[basin]s, of bronze.⁴²

61 [10] bra[ss]iers, of bronze. 10 sets of angurim[en], of bronze.

62 [1] water dipper, of bronze.⁴³ 1⁴⁴ container for alkali, of bronze.
20 knives, [of bronze].

63 [x] small troughts, of boxwood. 20 small troughts, of elammakku-
wood.

64 [20 + x 3]poons,⁴⁵ of elammakku-wood. 270 women, 30 men,
are the dowry-personnel.⁴⁶

65-67 It is all these [obj]ects (and) dowry-personnel [har
T]šerata, the king of Mittani, [...] b[er] [...] g[ave] [...].⁴⁷ [...]

NOTES

1. Lines 1-5 are broken; 6-15 have only ends of lines, probably mostly
floating earrings.

2. *ša-za-tu*; probably the same as *ša-za-za-tu* in line iii 57 (Adler, p.
327), and *ša-za-tu*, iii 60. With the second, Landsberger in Gordon re-
latively compared *šamšān*, "disks."

3. One expects here, as in i 27-32, identification of the material. *Was*
šamšān also the name of a material? See below, ii 21-25.

4. See EA 13114 and note.

5. Knudtzon read *šam-ša-šim*, the last sign becoming *š* for Adler. Against
maršahu, however, are the absence of doubling and the apparent geminate; contrast
maršahu (EA 22 ii 67, row e) and *maršahu* (below, i 49), which is also the
regular writing elsewhere. For stones and other objects from the country *Maršān*,
see CAD, M/1, p. 281, and note *mar-ša-tu* at Ugarit rather than the usual *maršahu*.

6. *ša-ma-za* (also i 62) is found at Mari (first pointed out to me by S. J.
Lieberman) as a kind of ornamentation on a necklace(?), a chair, and a vase; see the
discussion of Durand, ARMT 21, pp. 241-42, and Limet, ARMT 25, p. 279 on
230, and p. 283 on 445.

7. See Civil, *Ebla*, 1975-1985 (see EA 22, n. 5), p. 149.

8. According to Landsberger in Gordon, *ša qātān*, "in the hand," means
"loose, unattached."

9. See note 3 above.

10. *šim-šim-šim-šim* (Gordon), CAD, S, p. 242, retains Knudtzon's *šim-šim-šim-šim* (EA 22 ii 67, row e) and *šim-šim-šim-šim* (below, i 49), which is also the
regular writing elsewhere. For stones and other objects from the country *Maršān*,
see CAD, M/1, p. 281, and note *mar-ša-tu* at Ugarit rather than the usual *maršahu*.

11. *ša-šim-šim-šim* (Landsberger in Gordon). From iii 59, 67, however,
one would expect a designation of personnel, not of function.

12. The assumption of an uncontracted form, *kuš-dip-pi-a-na* (AHU, p.
499, followed by Salonen, *Die Festschrift für den Altan Mesopotamien* [Helsinki,
1969], p. 61, and Adler), is difficult (an Assyrianism?), and there is no other
evidence that *kušdappi* derives from contraction. I follow CAD, K, p. 494
(reading *kušū* or *qušappu*; relation to *kušdappi* unclear).

13. *pi(ū)-it-zi-na-tu-na* (Gordon); cf. EA 22 ii 24, 30.

Pintore, *Matrons*, p. 118, maintains, *that is*, like later Aramaic *neḥiq* in pre- and early-Talmudic times (B. Levine, *JAO* 88 [1968] pp. 271ff.), was already at this period distinguished as that part of the dowry over which the wife retained some control.

EA 26

To the Queen Mother: some missing gold statues

TEXT: BM 29794 (+) A 9356 (Oriental Institute).
COPIES: BB 11 (+) Luckenbill, *AJSL* 33 (1916) pp. 7f. Earlier copies of A 9356: Abel, *ZA* 7 (1892) p. 118; Scheil, *Mémoires*, p. 310.
PHOTOGRAPHS: BB, pl. 9 (BM 29794); E. Chiera, *They Wrote on Clay* (Chicago, 1938), p. 203 (A 9356).
TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Adler, pp. 206–11.

[Say] t[ō] Tey[ē], the mistress of Egy[pt]: T[hus] Tū[ḥ]ar[ra], the king of [M]it[an]. For me[] all goes well. For you may all go well. For your household, for your son, may all go well. For T[ach]-Ḥ[eba], [my daughter], your daughter-in-law, may all go well. For your countries, for your troops, and for whatever else belongs to you, may all go very, very well].

7–18 You are the one that knows that I [myself] always showed love [to] Mimmureya, your husband, and that Mimmureya, [your] husband, on the other hand, always showed love to me. [And the things] that I would write and say [to] Mimmureya, your husband, and the things that Mimmureya, your husband, [on the other hand, would] always write and say to me, you, [Keliya, and Mane know. But you are the one, on the other hand, who knows much better than all others the things [that] we said [to one another]. No one [else] knows them [as well].

19–29 [And] now, you yourself [said] to Keliya, "Say to your lord: 'Mimmureya, my husband, always showed love to you[r] father, and maintained [it] for you; he did not forge[c] his love for your father, and he did not cut off [it]' the embassies that he had been accustomed to sending, one after the other. And now you are the one that must not forget you [love] for Mimmureya, your brother. Increase [it] for Naphurreya and maintain [it] for him. You must keep on send[ing] embassies of joy, one after the other. Do not cut [them] off.'"

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30–48 I will [not] forget¹ the love for Mimmureya, your husband. More than ever before² at this very moment, I show to times—much, much—more love to Naphurreya, your son. [You are the one who knows] the words of Mimmureya, [your] husband, you did not [send] all of my greeting-gift³ that [your husband ordered] to [be sent]. I had asked⁴ [your husband] for [statues] of solid cast [gold], saying, "[May my brother send me] a [my greeting-gift,] statues of solid cast gold and . . . of gold and genuine lapis lazuli." But now Naphurreya, your son, has placed [statues] of wood. With gold being the dirt [in your son's country, why] have they been a source of such distress to your son that he has not given them to me?⁵ Furthermore, I asked . . . to give [it].⁶ Is this love? I had said, "Naphurreya, my brother, is going to treat me to times better than his father did." But now he has not [given me] even what his father was accustomed to give.

49–57 Why] have you [not] exposed before Naphurreya] the words [that you yourself, and with your own mouth, said to me]? If [you] do not expose them before him, and you keep silent,⁶ can anyone [tell] me know? Let [Naphurreya] give me statues of solid gold! He must cause me no distress whatsoever, not [. . .]. Let him treat me 10 times better [than his father did, with] love and evidence of esteem].

58–64 May your own messengers go regularly with the messengers of Naphurreya, with 5 [to] Yuni, my wife, and may the messengers of Yuni, my wife, go regularly to [you].

64–66 I [herewith] send] as your greeting-gift [x] scent containers⁷ [filled] with "sweet oil," [and] 1 set of stones [in gold].

NOTES

1. A 9356 begins here (line 21) and would join BM 29794 down through line 53.

2. *ii-ta-sa-ar-ki*: so Kautzoun, and correctly; Adler has *-ki*. As the immediately preceding *akkāla* makes clear, the verbal suffix is dative case, not accusative, and therefore the verb in this instance does not mean "to protect"; similarly, *ajer* in line 27, and here note that *raḥḥ*, "increase," also has no direct object expressed. Arzi, in Durand, *La femme dans le Proche-Orient antique* (see Introduction, n. 62), p. 24, is of a different opinion.

3. *im-ḥil*: so Kautzoun, and correctly; Adler has *-ḥil*.

4. *ii-ḥi-ai*: so Kautzoun, and correctly; Adler has *-ḥi-ai*.

5. *ḥa-a-ḥi-ai-ḥi*: the small oblique wedge suggesting *ḥi* or *-ḥi* may be only a scratch (also Gordon).

6. Arzi, in Durand, *La femme dans le Proche-Orient antique*, p. 26, sees in the (literally) "journey of joy" reference to the royal procession conducting a bride to Egypt. In context, however, where there is no reference to marriage, this seems

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most unlikely. The joy that qualifies the journey refers to the pleasure at hearing the brother's greeting and at seeing the gifts that accompany it; cf. EA 27:7-8.

7. *ta-pa-ur-ni-ur-ur-ur-ur* (Kühne, p. 39, n. 195), reads *ta-pa-ur-ni-ur-ur-ur* and rejects Knudtzon's *ta-pa-ur-ni-ur-ur-ur* on the grounds that the form should be ad masculine singular—which it is: *ta-pa-ur-ni-ur-ur-ur* + suffix referring to *Isarrana* (line 28, feminine). There is room for at least one more sign; simple *ta-pa-ur-ni-ur-ur-ur* (Adler) is certainly wrong.

8. *ur-ur-nu-ur-ur-ur-ur* 32 *ur-ur-nu-ur-ur-ur-ur*: *ur*, "not likely" (Gordon). If there is not enough room for *ur*, then we must assume a rhetorical question. In line 31, *ur-ur-ur-nu-ur-ur-ur-ur* (Knudtzon, retained by Adler) is certainly wrong; the correct reading was given by Winckler, KB 5, p. 66.

9. Read *pa-ur-ni-ur-ur-ur-ur* or *pa-ur-ni-ur-ur-ur-ur* (Gordon).

10. If the subject is second feminine singular, *ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur*; if plural, *ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur*; cf. Kühne, p. 39, n. 190.

11. *Isarrana*, "my gift" (Kühne, *ibid.*), but consisting of more than one piece, as *milhārit* shows; cf. EA 27:41f.

12. *ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur*.

13. *ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur* (line 39; line 38 is free restoration).

14. *ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur* 23 *ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur*. On the end of line 42, see Kühne, p. 39, n. 192; *ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur*, see EA 19:64f.; 27:50f.; 29:139.

15. *ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur* (Adler; not *ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur*) (Gordon). 44 . . . x l . . . l y : x, not *ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur* (so Knudtzon); y, probably not *ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur* (Gordon).

16. *ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur* only a guess, but not *ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-ur* (Gordon).

17. The number is uncertain, but certainly more than 1: the head of vertical just visible is to the right both of the broken-away [s] above in line 64, and of the "1" just below in line 66 (Gordon: 3 or 5?).

Following line 66 are probably two lines of Egyptian, written in hieratic, and another line continued on the left edge, from the upper edge downwards. The end of the line reads "(...) the wife of the king of Upper Egypt."

EA 27

The missing gold statues again

TEXT: VAT 233 (+) 2197, no. 1; 2193.

COPIES: WA 23 (only VAT 233); VS 11, 11.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Adler, pp. 212-25;

Pinore, *Mawimmia*, p. 21 (lines 13-31).

[Say to Naphureya, the king of Egypt, my brother, my son-in-law, whom I love and who loves me: Thus Tjusrata, Great King, the king of Mitanni, your father-in-law, who loves you, your brother]. For me all goes well. For you may all go well. For Tjeye, your mother, for your [house]hold, may all go [well]. For Tadu-Heba, [m]y daughter, your wife, for the rest of your wives, for [your] sons, [for] your [mag]nates,

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EA 27

for your chariots, [for] your [hor]ses, [for] your troops, for your country, and] for [whatever else belongs to you], may all go [well]; very well.

7-8 [Malne, my brother's messenger, came and] I heard the [gr]eeting of [my brother] and I [re]joiced greatly. I saw the goods that my brother [sent] and I [re]joiced greatly.

9-12 My brother said this: "Ju[st] as you always showed love to my father, Mimmureya, so now show love [to me." Af]ter my brother is desirous of my love, shall I not be desirous of my brother's [love]?⁵ At this very moment I show you 10 times more [love] than I did to your father!

13-18 And your father, Mimmureya, [said] this on his tablet. When Mane brought the bride-price, thus spo[k]e my brother, Mimmureya: "These goods⁴ that I have now sent are nothing, and my brother is not to complain. I have sent nothing. These goods that I have now sent to you, I have sent to you with this understanding⁵ that, when my brother hands over my wife whom I have asked for, and they bring her here and I see her, then I will send you 10 times more than this."

19-27 I also asked your father, Mimmureya, for statues of solid cast gold, one of myself and a second statue, a statue of Tadu-Heba, my daughter,⁶ and your father said, "Don't talk⁷ of giving statues just of solid cast gold. I will give you ones made also of lapis lazuli. I will give you, 100, along with the statues, much additional gold and (other) goods beyond measure." Every one of my messengers that were staying in Egypt saw the gold for the statues with their own eyes. Your father himself recast the statues [in] the presence of my messengers, and he made them entirely of pure gold.⁸ [My messengers saw with their own eyes that they were recast, and they saw with their own eyes that they were entirely of pure gold.

28-31 He showed much additional gold, which was beyond measure and which he was send[ing] to me. He said to my messengers, "See with your own eyes, here the statues, there much gold and goods beyond measure, which I am sending to my brother." And my messengers did see with their own eyes!

32-34 But my brother has not sent the solid (gold) statues that your father was going to send. You have sent plated ones of wood. Nor have you sent me the goods that your father was going to send me, but you have reduced (them) greatly.⁹

35-36 Yet there is nothing I know of in which I have failed my brother. Any day that I hear the greetings of my brother, that day I make a festive occasion.

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37-40 When [H]aamašši, my brother's messenger, came to me, reported my brother's words, and I heard them, I spoke as follows: "Just as I always showed love to Mimmureya, your father, I will now show to times—much—more love to Naphtureya." Thus did I speak to Haaamašši, your messenger.¹⁰

41-42 But now my brother has not sent me the statues of solid gold, nor has my brother sent all the additional goods that your father ordered.

43-44 May my brother now give me the statues of solid gold that I asked your father for, and may he not hold them back.

45-51 ... And [with gold being the dirt] in [my] brother's country, [why] have [the statues] been a source of such distress to my brother? that he has not [given them to me ...]

52-54 ...

55-58 [I sent Haaamašši] post[al] [to Mimmureya, my brother, and within 3 months] he sent back [Haaamašši] post[al]. (Your father) sent me [much gold]; there were four sacks [full of gold that he sent me]. May my brother ask [Haaamašši, his messenger].¹²

59-62, 63-68 ...¹³

69-73 [The words that I used to speak to your father], and that [your father used to speak to me], no one [knows. Teyu, your mother], K[el]i[ya], [and Maan know them, [but] no one else knows [them. My brother's] mother [knows everything], how your father [would speak] with me [and did not forget his love [for my father], and how I] would speak with your father and [maintained] the love that he had from my father].¹⁴

74-78 [And now my brother has said]: "Just as you [always showed love] to my father, so show love to me." My brother will see that [all] [his] [love] to my brother. I have said, "My brother must ask [his mother [...]] ... He will see that [...]."

79-82 [Ma]ne, my brother's [messenger, ...] ... [I heard] my [brother's] words and I rejoiced greatly].

83-88 ...¹⁶

89-92 I herewith [send post] Pitišši and Talubi, with a small escort, and have told them to hurry. May [my] brother not [detrain them, [but] relate them so] they can report back to me, [I may hear [my brother's] greeting], and rejoice].¹⁷

93-98 [May] my brother's [messengers] come to me [with] Pirišši, [according] to the custom [of kings],¹⁸ post[al] ... I ... [the messengers of each] one will [in] ba[ck]. Accordingly, I will let [Ma]ne,

my [brother's] [messenger], go, and [my] messengers [my brother shall let go]. Gladly shall I send Ma[ne] to ... [...] of my brother.

99-103 [W]h[en] my brother's [messengers] [active] along with [Pirišši ... I shall invite them] to celebrate a great feast, the *kimru*-feast, [So] may they arrive [...], and if they do so [arrive] for ... , then how will I treat them! ... the feast.¹⁹

104-109 May my brother send me much gold. [As] the *kimru*-feast, ... [...] with many goods [may my] brother [honor me]. In my brother's [country] gold is as plentiful as dirt. [May] my brother [cause me no distress. May he send me] much [gold in order that my brother, [with the gold and many] goods, may honor me. [May] my [brother] [...] more than his father did. May they bring back to me [much] gold].

110-111 [Herewith, as your greeting gift: 1] shirt, Hurrian-style, 1 [clay]-shirt; 1 [c]ob; 1 [...] stone, [...] pair[s] of [the hand], "eye-stones" of genuine *bulatu*-stone, 5 pet string, mounted on gold.

112 [1 scent container] filled with "sweet oil"; 1 set of stones mounted on gold—for Teyu, your mother.

113 I send [1 scent container] filled [with "sweet oil"]; 1 set of stones [mounted] on gold—[for] Tadu-Ḫeba, [my daughter, your wife].²⁰

NOTES

1. Following Knudtzon, because of considerations of space, I do not restore LUGAL GAL, "Great King," and in the omission see no implications of hostility (see EA 1, n. 2); Adler argues otherwise.

2. *U-tal-ka-š*; following Kühne, p. 39, n. 191.

3. Or: "[A]t my brother is desirous of friendship with me, shall I not be desirous of friendship with my brother?"

4. *an-m-ū š-m-š-a'* (also line 6); in view of *mala ammi*, "as much as this" (line 18), *ammi* seems to be the demonstrative pronoun rather than an interjection or adverb, as Kühne, *ibid.*, has suggested.

5. On the division of clauses, see Ungnad, *OLZ* 1916, col. 183, followed by Kühne, p. 39, n. 191; and Adler. For a different opinion see Knudtzon, followed by Zaccagnini, *La scultura dei doni durante i secoli XV-XIII* (BA 19, n. 12), p. 24, n. 56, and Pintore, *Matrimonio*, p. 21. Against the latter, *Ḫebdu* does not mean "to send back."

6. Both statues were for Tušratta's possession (cf. the plated one in lines 32ff.), and therefore *ana iyāli* hardly means "for me." If the second statue were for Tadu-Ḫeba, the scribe would hardly have written *ana iyāli Tadu-Ḫeba*. Cf. EA 14 ii 11-15; EA 24, §25 (end).

7. On *malter*, II. "let go," see Kühne, p. 38, n. 181.

8. See AHw p. 277a, and CAD, Z, pp. 24b, 31b. Pintore, *Matrimonio*, p.

success with (lit. "before") the other. The notion, however, of easy access to each other (through one's messengers), with its implication of the quick dismissal and return of the messengers, perhaps fits the context better.

9. *n-ḥt-šd[m-ḥt]* (Gordon).

10. [...]. *ḥw-mḥt-šd[m-ḥt]*: Adler's reading, *ḥw-m-ḥt*, following Scheil's copy, is disproved by collation.

11. *n-ḥt[m-ḥt]* (Gordon).

EA 29

A long review of Mittanian-Egyptian relations

TEXT: VAT 271 + fragments: I600, I618–20, 2195–96 nos. 3–4, 2197 nos. 3–5, and two unnumbered.

COPIES: WA 24 (without the fragments); VS 11, 12.

PHOTOGRAPH: WA, pl. 2 (obverse).

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Adler, pp. 230–51.

[Say to Naphureya, the king of Egypt, my [brother], my son-in-law, whom I [love and who loves me: Message of Tutnata], Great [King], king of Mittani], your brother, your father-in-law, who loves you. For me all goes well. For you may all go well. For Teye may all go well. For Tadu-Ḥeba, [my daughter, may all go well. For the rest [of your wives] may all go well. For your sons, for your magnates, for your chariots, for [your] horses, for your troops, for your [country], and for whatever else belongs to you, may all go very, very well.

6–10 [From the beginning] of my [king]ship on,³ as long as Nimmureya, your father, went on writing to me, [he wrote over and over] about peace. There was nothing el[se]: whatsoever that he wrote about over and over to me. Tey[is], the principal [and favorite] wife of Nimmureya, your father, knows all the words of Nimmureya, your father, that [he would write (to) me over and (over).⁴ It is Teye, your mother, whom you must ask about all of them: [what] your father [would write over and over],⁵ the words that he would speak with me over and over.

11–15 [My love for] my [brother]⁶ is no rimes greater than what we always had with Nimmureya, your father. [But wherever] Nimmureya, your father, would constantly discuss with me, in absolutely not[thing] did he ever cause me distress. Whatever I might say, on that very day [he did] it. I, too, in absolutely nothing did I ever cause him distress, and whatever he might say to me, on that very day I did [it].

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16–27 When [...],⁸ the father of Nimmureya, wrote to Anatama, my grandfather, he asked for the daughter of [my grandfather, the sister] of my father. He wrote 5, 6 times, but he did not give her. When he wrote my grandfather 7 times, then only under such pressure did he g[iv]e her. When Nimmureya, your father, [wrote to Šur-clarna], my father, and asked for my father's daughter, my own sister, he wrote 3, 4 times, but [he did not give] her. When he wrote 5, 6 times, only under such pressure did he g[iv]e [her].⁹ When Nimmureya, [yo]ur [fa]ther, wrote to me and asked for my daughter, I did [not] say n[ot].¹⁰ The [very] first [time] I said [to] his messenger, "Of course I will give her." [When] your messenger came the second time,¹¹ oil [was poured [on] her head, and when I received her bride-price, I g[av]e her.¹² And the bride-price that Nimmureya, your [father, sent], was beyond measure, it [fall]ing in height heaven and earth. I did not [say], "I will [not] give her." I sent posthaste Ḥaamašš[er], my brother's [...] to Nimmureya, [and within] 3 months, [with extreme promptness, [he sent] [him] back. He sent along] 4 sacks¹³ full [of] gold, not to me [but] the jewelry [...] . . . , which he sent separately.

28–54 [When I gave my [daughter] and she was brought¹⁴ and Nimmureya, your father, saw her, [he] rejoiced. [Was there anything]¹⁵ he did [not] rejoice about? He rejoiced v[er]y, very much! My brother spoke as follows: "[My brother] gave [his daughter] in perfect faith."¹⁶ He made that day a festive occasion along, too, with his country. Because of my messenger (32–37) [. . .] Just as when one sees [his] pee[ple], he shows him respect, so Nimmureya showed respect to [my messengers as] pleers and as [f]rie[n]ds.¹⁷ He sent back all my messengers that were in residence in [the] quarters that [were established] for Tadu-Ḥeba, and there was not [a single one] among them who went in and [to whom he did not give] [something].¹⁸ He gave Keliya's [in]g[ot] of gold weighing 1000 shekels, and Nimmureya gave [. . .] sacks full [of] gold to Tadu-Ḥeba.¹⁹ Tadu-Ḥeba [sent] them [all] out [before] my [messengers]. At [the] at [my] [messengers] [were concerned], Nimmureya showed them respect with love [and evidence of esteem].²⁰ (37–44) [Nimmureya sent] Niyu, his messenger, [. . .], which belonged to me, and he brought them posthaste.²¹ Before me [he laid out] 7 sacks [full of] gold, [and] 1 [in]g[ot]²² of gold [weighing] 1000 shekels for Keliya. And thus²³ [Nimmureya, your father], made [. . .] . . . exceed, [out of] love. Before my messengers [. . .] he had that brought to me posthaste [. . .] and he instructed [him], "Like [. . .] you shall eat."²⁴ Because he sent him posthaste, he did not have [the natural] brought to me, but every[thing]

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else, *whatever* he did have brought, was limitless. And thus [Nimmureya, your father, did not permit that in any matter, *even once*, distress be caused. (45–50) [And with regard to] all [the things] that I say, I call no one [else] as witness. It is Teye—she is your [mother]—that I call. Inquire carefully of Teye, your [mother], if in the things that I say there is [ev]en a single word of [un]truth; if there is a word that is not that of Nimmureya, your father; if [Nimmureya, your father, together with me, did not make [mutual love/friendship];³⁵ if Nimmureya, your father, [did not] say: “When I see to it that there is sufficient [Egyptian gold in Haniqalbat, I *certainly* will not send [...]” (50–54) I asked for [2] statues of solid chased gold from Nimmureya, your [father], and Nimmureya, [your] father, said: “What are statues of just gold with nothing else [that] my [brother] has asked for? Don’t talk of just gold! Ooes! I will make o’nes with genuine lapis lazuli (roo), and send them to you.”³⁶ [And] thus Nimmureya, your [father], in no matter whatsoever, ever rejected what I said, [or] in any matter whatsoever caused me distress.

55–60 When [my] brother, Nimmureya, went to his fare it was reported, [When I heard] what was reported, [nothing] was allowed to be cooked in a pot.³⁷ On that day I myself wept, [and I] sat [...]. On that day I [took] neither food nor water. I grieved, [saying], “Let evjen me [be dead],³⁸ or let 10,000 be dead in my country, and in my [brother’s] [country] 10,000 as well, [but] let [my brother, whom I love] and who loves me, be alive as long as heaven and earth.” [That] we love [...] that [love] was in our hearts, [and] we indeed did make [it] last.

61–64 [But when they said, “Najp[hurey], the oldest son of Nimmureya and Teye, his [principal] wife, is exercising the [kingship [in his place]], then I spoke as follows: “Nimmureya, [my brother], is not dead. [Naphureya], his oldest son, [now exercises the kingship] in his place. Not[thing whatsoever] is going to be cha[n]ged³⁹ from the way it was before.”

65–68 [Now I went on] reflecting, thinking. “Naphureya is my brother. That we love, [that] is in our hearts. It is going to become 10 times ge[ar]ter [than what there was with Nimmureya, his father, for Teye, his mother, the [prin]cipal and favorite wife of [Nimmureya], is alive, and she will expose before Naphureya, [the son of Nimmureya, her husband, the fact that we always loved (each other) very, very much.”

69–79 [But at the time] when [my brother] first wrote [to me], when he let Keliya go and [my brother] sent Mane, my brother sent me statues

(made) of wood. [When I saw] the gold [that Nimmureya himself [had promised],⁴⁰ that it was not gold and that it was not solid, that [...] . . . , then I u[st] in] even greater [faith]⁴¹ than before[re]. [...] Moreover, [the goods] that Nimmureya, my brother, gave me, my brother [greatly] [rejoiced]. So I became angry, [as] was [only] right. I became extremely hostile. [...] At to what was from Naphureya, my [brother], he added [nothing] more to [it]. [...] [(He caused] me [distress]. [...] Before Mane came, [I caused] [you] no distress [whatsoever].

80–90 [...] [I addressed] my o[ur]nates as [follows]: “With my brother, in perfect [faith, . . .]. My [ancestors, moreover, [always showed great love] to his ancestors.” [...] The presents that my brother sent to me and [...] we rejoiced greatly and we indeed made the day a festive occasion. [...] He was delaying, and I rejoiced on that day [...] with the foreign guests.⁴² Mane, too, my brother’s messenger, [greatly] rejoiced. Let him tell [you] [about it].

91–99, 100–107 . . .⁴³

108–118 [...] . . . And right now [inquire carefully of your mother about] the words that your mother [spoke] to Keliya. I asked for [statues] of solid chased gold, and the objects of my desire [that I asked your father for, you have not sent. Should I be confident? My brother has not let my messengers go, and [he] has not [...]. He has not sent him back, and he has not informed me. The statues of solid chased gold that I asked Nimmureya for, I have now asked [you] for, but you have not given them. And the objects of [my desire] . . . you have not [informed] me. My messengers, since 4 years ago, . . .

119–135 . . .⁴⁴ One must not change another’s words. [Whatever be the things that I say], my brother [should] do, and whatever the things be that my brother [says, I will do]. One [shall not cause] distress to the o[th]er in anything whatsoever. [...] We [must] love and we must rejoice as long as we live. It will make [our] [countries] happier [than all other countries], and they will say, “How [the king of Haniqalbat and Egypt] [love one another].” If in this way [it makes our countries to very] much [more happy] than all other countries, all other countries [will see this, and] they will speak of [you].

136–147 [...] . . . [Statues of solid chased gold I asked for from Nimmureya, your father, and I most urgently asked for much [gold] that had [not] been work[ed]. Now, may my brother give me the statues of solid chased [gold]; [may] my brother [give me] promptly much gold that has not been [work]ed. Your father himself [granted me statues of gold. [Why] is it for [you] a source of distress,⁴⁵ and [why]

has he not *inquired* if [I did not ask (your father) and if, moreover, your father did not grant them to me. [...] . . . They (the words?) are not at all *of you*. If not, (say that) your father also gave me the statues I asked for and now [I] have asked (my brother for other ones). Would my brother not make other ones? Would he not give them to me? Would he cause me distress? [...] . . . of the entire matter. (143-147) Teye is your mother, and it is of Teye, your mother, that you must *inquire*, (if I did not ask for [statues of gold] [and] much other [gold] from (your) father, and if your father did not grant them to me. May my brother give me [statues of] solid [ch]ased [gold] and [much] other gold, and may my brother not cause me dis[tre]ss. In my brother's country gold is as plentiful as [dir]t, and I have not caused [my brother dis]tre]ss. If I cannot build a *masoleum* [for my ancestors], what can I do for them?

148-154 (I *reflect*).⁴¹ "Keliya should return to my brother. Shall I cause (my) brother distress? I will send Keliya back to him!" (I *spoke to my brother* as follows: "My brother, I would like to send back [your] messengers promptly, but as long as my brother [has detained] my messengers, I have detained these men her[e].") I also *s[ai]d*:⁴² "As soon as he lets my messengers go, [...] . . . and present their report to me, I will let Ma[ne] go and [I will send] Keliya [back to my brother as before. As long as my brother detains m[y] messengers like *something forgotten*, I [will do] as I have planned." Furthermore, the *affair* of my brother has now become a matter for some kind of *denunciation*.⁴³ For what reason [that] my brother's [. . .]. He is a man, and he has taken his seat on the throne of his father *not to become a god*. Let my brother do as he pleases.

155-161 I (*hereth*) declare: "My brother has indeed not let my messengers go, and he indeed detains them a long time. I certainly *denounce* [them],⁴⁴ my brother, I indeed *denounce* [them]. [I sent] Masi-badli, my messenger, (who is) also Keliya's uncle, to (my) brother, and I sent him (to) my (brother with friendly intentions. My brother must not complain that I have not sent Keliya, or have not *sent* him [with friendly intentions]. That other messenger of mine whom I sent to my brother is the brother of Keliya, son of the same mother, [...] and I sent him posthaste to my brother. Because my brother has not let him go promptly so he might return here, and because my brother has given me no information [with regard to the re]quests that I have made, for this reason I have not sent Keliya. [Nor is my brother] to *sur*(a) into a matter of complaint or anything else.

162-165 [Masi]badli, whom I sent to my brother, is Keliya's uncle. [May my brother give] the statues of solid [ch]ased gold, and may my brother give me much gold that has not been worked for the *masoleum*, as I have requested of my brother. May [my brother not cause me [dis]tre]ss and not hold back, for in my [bro]ther's country go[ld] is as plentiful as dirt. [Nor will I myself] cause my brother [dis]tre]ss.

166-172 May (my brother) treat me with 10 times greater love and brotherliness than his father did, and we will al[ways] show very, very much love (to) my [brother]. May my brother let (my) [mes]sengers go promptly, and may he send Mane along with my messengers so that they may co[me] If my brother grants this, then I will send Keliya to my [brother], (and) I will *provide*⁴⁵ a large expedition (to) my [brother]. I will do absolutely [everything] that my brother says. [...] . . . I will do [and] they are done. I have not written as before. It is like this (now) *so I can write* and my brother *understand* me. My brother is not to complain. [I will send] a lar[ge] mission. [I will send] Keliya, and I will send a large mission to my [brother].

173-181 (My brother) spoke *about* Arr[is]uba and Asali, declaring, "They broke the law in your brother's country." They were brought in [before] their [. . .], and the rest of my servants who had been living in Egypt were brought in. Ma[ne], too, entered my presence, and they were convicted in (my) presence. Ma[ne] spoke [of their reputation], and I said in their presence, "Why [. . .] your reputation?" (My brother, ask [Mane] how I treated them. I put them in chains and [for]t[er];⁴⁶ I had [both of] them, one alongside the other, transported to a town of mine on the border. But [my brother had said nothing] more, and for this reason I did not execute them. My brother, *how was I to know* [their crime? Since] my [brother] did not say, [I, for my part], did not ask. Now, may my brother estab[lish] the nature of their crime,⁴⁷ and I will treat [them] just as my brother wants them treated.

182-185 (A) [My brother's] greeting-gift: 1 gold comb, inlaid with . . . with the head of a yak, 1 *huppulu*-mace⁴⁸ [. . .]; [. . .] lapis lazuli [. . .], 1 pair for the hands, of *zade(nu)*-stone; 1 . . .⁴⁹ overlaid with gold; 3 garments; 3 pairs of [. . .]-garments; [. . .] city-shirts; [2] bows; 3 quivers overlaid with gold; 9 [ar]rows of bronze;⁵⁰ . . . [. . .]; [. . .] fine [. . .]; 3 *mas[es]*—I [herewith] send [as] my brother's greeting gift.

186-187 [. . .] of gold; 1 pair for the hands, of *zade(nu)*-stone; [1 pair] of earrings of [. . .] stone; [. . .], 2 garments—[I herewith] send as the greeting-gift of Teye, your mother.

EA 30

A passport

TEXT: BM 29841.

COPY: BB 58.

PHOTOGRAPH: BB, pl. 15.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Adler, pp. 252–53.

TRANSLITERATION: Artzi, *Acta* (see EA 28, n. 6), p. 7.TRANSLATION: Oppenheim, *LFM*, p. 134.

To the kings of Canaan, servants of my brother: Thus the king.¹ I herewith send Akiya, my messenger, to speed posthaste to the king of Egypt, my brother. No one is to hold him up. Provide him with safe entry into Egypt and hand (him) over² to the fortress commander of Egypt.³ Let [him] go on⁴ immediately, and as far as his pre(sent) are concerned,⁵ he is to owe nothing.

NOTES

1. The "brother" is the Egyptian king, and the "king" is almost certainly the ruler of Mittani, probably Tusrata. Similar passports, though directed to one place, are EA 39–40; PRU 3, pp. 12–13, 15–16; PRU 4, pp. 193, 196–97.

2. *id. nra-x* (Gordon): x is certainly not *in*, perhaps *ni*.

3. G. del Monte, *Oriente* 22 (1983) p. 309, thinks that *halsaphu*, "fortress commander," refers to the highest Egyptian official, usually called *nabihw* (see Introduction, n. 70), but Elmar Edel, *Festschrift Alt: Geschichte und Altes Testament Beiträge zur historischen Theologie* (Tübingen, 1953), p. 51, is certainly right in identifying him with the "fortress commander of Siltu" (Egyptian *ms gim n st*), at the Egyptian frontier.

4. *lš-ib-l'-'-l'jšk* (also Gordon).

5. *lšd-(n)šd* for the confusion of *šd* and *šw* in Mittani letters, see Kühne, p. 48, n. 126. For the sense, cf. the request for freedom from various taxes and tolls in ARM 5, 11; EA 39–40; PRU 3, pp. 15–16; PRU 4, pp. 196–97; *Ugarit* 5, no. 26. That "hand" should be written *gāt* (so Oppenheim and Artzi) does not seem likely. Gordon thought that the first sign might be *šw-ib* rather than *šd*, the next sign possibly erased or *ms(l)*. *šw-ib-šd* = *šibin*?

On the seal impression on this tablet, see E. Porada, *AJO* 25 (1974–77) pp. 132ff.

EA 31

Marriage negotiations, in Hittite

TEXT: C 4741 (12208).

COPIES: WA 10; VBAI, no. 1; J. Friedrich, *Hebräisches Keilschriftbuch*, pt. 1 (Heidelberg, 1960), no. 7a.TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: L. Rossi, *MIO* 4 (1956) pp. 334ff.

Nimwa(1)eya,¹ Great King, king of Egypt, (speaks) as follows: Say to Tathundaradu, the king of Arzawa:² By me all is well. For my houses, my wives, my children, my magnates, my troops, my chariot-fighters, all my property³ in my countries, all is well. . .

7–10 By you (too) may all be well. For your houses, your wives, your children, your magnates, your troops, your chariot-fighters, your property in your countries, may all be very well.

11–16 Behold, I have sent to you Itšappa,⁴ my messenger, (with the instruction): "Let us see the daughter whom they will offer to my majesty in marriage." And he will pour oil on her head.⁵ Behold, I have sent to you a *sack*⁶ of gold, it is (of) excellent (quality).

17–21 As to the things to be done that you wrote me about (with the words), "Send it here to me!"—now, I will send it (soon) to you, (but) later. (First) send back quickly your messenger and the messenger from me, and they must come.

22–26 Then they will come (back) to you (and) bring along the bride-price for the daughter. My messenger and your messenger who came, who . . .⁷ And send to me too . . . people of the country Kaška. I have heard that everything is finished,

27–38 and that the country Haruša is shattered.⁸ And behold, I have sent to you as a greeting-gift a consignment in the charge of my messenger, Itšappa:⁹ a *sack* of gold, weighing 20 minas of gold; 3 light linen garments; 3 light linen (ma)rules;¹⁰ 3 linen *huzzi*; 8 linen *kutiri*; 100 linen *šaušga*; 100 linen *happ[ša]*. . .; 100 linen *mutalliyatā*;¹¹ 4 large *kukkuwa* containers of "sweet oil"; 6 [small] *kukkuwa*-containers of "sweet oil"; 3 chairs of ebony overlaid with beautiful *šarpa* [sand gal];¹² 10 chairs of ebony [inlaid] with ivory; 100 (beams of) ebony, as a greeting-gift.

NOTES

[The translations and notes for EA 31–32 are by Volkert Haas. — WLM]

1. Reading *ni-mu-uu (r)š-šd*, with Albright, *JEA* 23 (1937) p. 195, n. 1.

EA 33

An alliance in the making

TEXT: VAT 1654.

COPIES: WA 15; VS 11, 13.

PHOTOGRAPH: L. Hellbing, *Alasia Problems*, Studies in Mediterranean Archaeology 57 (Göteborg, 1979), p. 100 (obverse only).

To the king of Egypt, my brother: Message of the king of Alasiya, your brother.¹ For me all goes well. For you may all go well. For your household, your wives, your sons, your horses, your chariots,² and in your country, may all go [ve]ry well.

9-18 [More]over, I have heard [that] you are seated on [the th]rone of your father's house. (You said), "[Let us have] transported [back and forth] [gifts] of peace."³ [I have heard] the greeting [of] my [brother], and I ... [. . .] ... [You w]rote, "[Have transported to me] 200 [talents] of copper."⁴ [and I [herein] have] transported to you ... [. . .] ... 10 talents [of fine copper].⁵

19-26 [The me]ssenger [that your father used to send to] [me] I [let go immediately].⁶ So write to me, and [may my [bro]ther not delay] my [m]an that ... [. . .] ...⁷ Let him g[o] [im]mediately.

27-32 [A]nd year by year let my messenger go [into your presence], and, on your part, year by year, your messenger should come from [your] presence into my presence.⁸

NOTES

1. The king addressed was probably Amenophis IV, but neither Smenkhkare nor Tutankhamun may be excluded; see Kühne, p. 86. Perhaps, too, the entire Alasia correspondence is to be put in the reign of Amenophis IV, over a period of about a decade or so; for opinions, see Hellbing, *Alasia Problems* (see headnote), p. 47, n. 19, and EA 34, n. 15.

2. There is no plural marker with "chariots" or the three preceding nouns (also EA 37:6; 39:6), but plurals are the rule in the various forms of the formulaic greeting, and the unmarked logogram is also used for the plural in EA 34:44-45; 39:10-20; 40:16-18; perhaps 37:39 and 38:25.

3. In lines 9-8 the left margin moves inward, to the right (see photo), whereas Knudtzon's restorations [d]-n-ta, and [a]-u-ta-ma at the beginning of lines 9-10, respectively, assume the margin of line 8. On the other hand, the assumption of a broken sign seems inescapable. In line 10 [e]-a-u-ma seems preferable (Kühne, p. 86, n. 427).

4. A change of rulers required allies to restore their expressions of friend-

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ship, cf. EA 6:8ff.; 8:8ff.; 9:7ff.; 17:5ff.; 41:7ff. See also Goeze, *Kleinasiens* (Munich, 1957), p. 98; Orten, *AfO*, Beiheft 12, p. 65.

The following restoration of lines 12-13 is most uncertain: [nu-u]b-i-i-bi-ir-ni 13 [NIG.BA] [la-la-mi]. The first word, as it from *ebtu* (also line 17), is regularly used of crossing bodies of water and would be appropriate in a letter from an island; for overhanging i-vowel, cf. *h-h-h*, lines 29, 32; for the form, probably S-perfect, cf. *alablablon*, EA 35:10; -ni is a mark of direct quotation.

5. End of line 16: [ta-by-a-(mi)]. The measure is also absent in EA 35:10; 36:6, 40:7, 13; understood "talents" or perhaps "bars, ingots" (Kühne, p. 86, n. 422). On the Cypriot talent of 38.2 kg or 35.25 kg, roughly the same weight of the ingots found at Cyprus, see Arnaud, *RA* 61 (1967) p. 168. Neither the gift requested nor the one sent is necessarily a committal gift (Redford, *History and Chronology of the Eighteenth Dynasty of Egypt* [see Introduction, n. 119], p. 126).

6. Line 17: [d] u-b-i-i-nu-ku x [x] x]. What was actually sent seems to have been less than what was asked for, but the difference was perhaps compensated for by adding (line 18), [x] x] AM 10 G.G.UN [URUDU] DUG; cf. EA 40:13.

7. Lines 19-22: [DUMU] [i-p-i-i] 20 [ša AD-ka] [i]š-ša-ni-pa-ar 21 [a]-na-ma-ir [ia ki-ma] 22 [a]-ir-i [i]š-ša-ni-pa-ar. Comparison of previous relations with the addressee's predecessor is frequent; cf. EA 8:8ff.; 9:6ff.; 10:8ff.; 15:7ff.; 17:11ff.; 27-29 passim.

8. Line 25: [i] u-b-i-i-nu-ku; with the exception of EA 30:48, the D-conjugation of *hals* (Knudtzon) is unattested in EA.

9. On the apparent *la* of the copy, see Schroeder, *OLZ*, 1917, col. 105.

10. [i]-p-i-a-ni-ka; cf. *i-pa-ni-ia* in the following line. That *ni(a)* should mean both "from" and "to" in the same sentence, in the same expression, is not very likely. [i]-p(a)-ka], "from your territory"?

EA 34

The Pharaoh's reproach answered

TEXT: BM 29789.

COPY: BB 6.

PHOTOGRAPH: Hellbing, *Alasia Problems*, p. 100 (obverse only, illegible).

Message of the king of Alasiya to the king of Egypt, my brother: Be informed that I prosper and my country prospers. And as to your own prosperity, may your prosperity and the prosperity of your household, your sons, your wives, your horses, your chariots, your country, be very great. 7-15 Look, yo(u) are my brother. As to your having written me, "Why did you not send your messenger to me?", the fact is that I had not heard that you were going to perform a sacrifice.¹ Do not think this at all seriously.² Since I have (now) heard (about it), I herewith send my messenger to you. 16-25 And behold, I (also) send to you with

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my messen[ge]r 100 talents of copper. Moreover, may your messengers now bring some goods: 1 ebony bed, gold-*(rimmed)*, . . .⁴ and a chariot, *šuhru*,⁵ with gold; 2 horses; 2 pieces of linen; 50 linen *shawk*;⁶ 2 linen robes; 14 (beams of) ebony;⁷ 17 *habannatu*-jars of "sweet oil." [*And*] as to byssos,⁸ 4 pieces and 4 *shawls*. 26-31 [*And as*] to goods that are not available [*in your country*], I am sending [*in the charge of*] my [mess]enger a donkey-hide [. . .] of a bed, and [*habannatu*] jars that are not available [. . .] 32-41 . . .⁹ 42-49 So an alliance should [be made] between the two of us, and my messen[ge]r should go to you and your messengers should come to me. Moreover, why have you not sent me oil and linen? *As far as I am [concerned]*,¹⁰ what you yourself request I will give. 50-53 I herewith send a *habannatu*-jar [*that*] is full of "sweet oil" to be poured on your head, seeing that you have sat down on your royal throne.¹¹

NOTES

1. On the writer's referring to himself first, see the Introduction, n. 53.
2. The festival cannot be identified (Campbell, *Chronology*, p. 42); for possibilities within the reign of Amenophis IV, see Kühne, pp. 86f. Cf. the coronation referred to in lines 50-53.
3. The reading *š-š'-kdu* is certain. The expression (*šimma*) *ino labi lakamu* occurs also in EA 35:12, 15, 35 (all passives); 38:30; 170:7f.
4. *šw-w'* is either *šj* (BB), but rejected in VAB 2:1, p. 281, note d), nor *šw* (Ungnad, *OLZ*, 1916, col. 183); a over an erasure (*ax na*, Gordon) is possible, *šw'u*, "provided with mattress(es)?" Cf. *H'u la efi*; on the disagreement in gender, cf. *Latin* in line 4.
5. Mayer, *UF* 8 (1976) pp. 212f., compares Nuzi *šuhru*, a type of chariot.
6. *šw-w'* (also line 25), to be added to *kilidu* (CAD, K, p. 449b, "scarf worn around the neck"; *AHU*, p. 450c, "Holstuch").
7. See EA 31:38, where Edel, *Brief*, p. 152, assumes (G18), "(beams)," but perhaps repetition of logogram/determinative avoided.
8. See EA 14:11 c1.
9. At the end of line 39, *šw-w'* (Gordon), lines 39-40: "... my merchants and 100 merchants of yours" (P 20, Gordon).
10. *šw-w'* (Cf. on the enclitic, see Krahmalkov, *JSS* 14 (1966) pp. 203f.; for the construction *šw-w'* . . . *šw-w'* (line 49), cf. EA 35:21-22, 50-52. The assumption of a West Semiticism is especially plausible in this letter. Among the Alalakh letters it is the most strongly influenced by the West Semitized language found elsewhere in the Amarna letters from southern Syria and further south; see Kühne, p. 11, n. 47. To his observations add the use of the Akkadian subjunctive as West Semitic indicative: *šimma* (line 12), *šw-w'* (line 48), *šw-w'* (line 49) (line 49), *šw-w'* (line 49). Note, too, the anomalous form of the dual pronominal suffix in *šw-w'* (line 48), paralleled only by *šw-w'* in EA 113:18 and 116:33, both letters from Byblos (see EA 113, n. 5).

11. In a different context, "when you sit . . ." would also be possible. The language seems to imply a *šw-w'* environment, and in both this and the arrangement for the exchange of messengers (lines 42-46) this letter is much like EA 33. It may be doubted that two such letters would be sent to the same king.

EA 35

The hand of Nergal

TEXT: BM 29788.

COPY: BB 5.

PHOTOGRAPH: Hellbing, *Alalakh Problems*, p. 100 (obverse only, illegible).TRANSLATION: Oppenheim, *LPM*, pp. 122f.

S[ay] to the k[ing] of Egypt, my brother: {Message} of the king of Alalakh, your brother. [F]or me all goes well. For my household, my wives,¹ my sons, my magnates, my horses, my chariots, and in my country, all goes very well. For my brother

6-9 may all go well. For your household, your wives, your sons, your magnates, your horses, your chariots, and in your country, may all go very well. My brother, I herewith send my messenger with your messenger to Egypt.

10-15 I herewith send to you 500 (*talents*) of copper.² As my brother's greeting-gift I send it to you. My brother, do not be concerned that the amount of copper is small. Behold, the hand of Nergal³ is now in my country; he has slain all the men of my country, and there is not a (single) copper-woker.⁴ So, my brother, do not be concerned.

16-18 Send your messenger with my messenger immediately, and I will send you whatever copper you, my brother, request.

19-22 You are my brother. May he send me silver in very great quantities. My brother, give me the *very best* silver, and then I will send you, my brother, whatever you, my brother, request.

23-26 Moreover, my brother, give me the ox that my messenger requests,⁵ my brother, and send me, my brother, 2 *kukkubu* containers of "sweet oil," my brother, and send me one of the experts in vulture augury.⁶

27-29 Moreover, my brother, men of my country keep speaking with m[e] about my timber that the king of Egypt receives from me. My brother, [*give me*] the payment due.⁷

30-34 Moreover, here is the situation: a man from [Alalakh] has

died in Egypt, and [his] thing[s] are in your country, though his son and wife are with me. So, my brother, *hō[ak-ia]*⁵ the things of the Alasiya people and hand them over, my brother, to the charge of my messenger.

35-39 My brother, do not be concerned that your messenger has stayed 3 years in my country, for the hand of Neigal is in my country and in my own house. There was a young wife of mine that now, my brother, is dead.⁶

40-42 Send your messenger immediately along with my messenger, with safe passage, and then I will send my brother's greeting-gift to you.

43-48 Moreover, may my brother send to me in very great quantities the silver that I have asked you for. Send, my brother, the things that I asked you for. My brother should do quite everything, and then whatever things you say I will do.

49-53 You have not been put (on the same level) with the king of Hatti or the king of Sanjar.⁷ Whatever greeting-gift he (my brother) sends me, I for my part send back to you double.

54-55 May your messenger come to me as of old, and [my messenger go to you as of old].⁸

NOTES

1. On the absence of the plural marker, see EA 33, n. 2.
2. *minna*, as if *minnata* (cf. EA 38:10; 40:12; and see the comments of Huebner, *Akkadian*, pp. 196f.). To apologize for sending only 500 talents (?—see EA 33, n. 5), the largest amount mentioned in the entire correspondence, is somewhat curious. Oppenheim ("pounds," "minns" understood?) reduces the amount, but consistency is required, and this solution alleviates only somewhat the difficulty. Georgiou, *Lectures* 11 (1979) p. 96, thinks of irony and (more plausibly) suggests a prior request from the Pharaoh for much more. The amount would support the claim of lines 49-53. On Egyptian-Asian trade relations in this period, see Y. Holmes, *AOAT* 22, pp. 96ff.
3. Whether *MAŠ.MAŠ is here to be read Neigal, or West Semitic Rašpu (Resheph, see EA 31, n. 4), or even the name of a native Cypriote god of pestilence, remains uncertain; see Hellbing, pp. 21ff. On *šamma*, "behold," see JCS 7 (1953) pp. 79ff.; also *AHB* 9, 253:13 and comment. Rautava, *Parichia*, rejects this meaning of *šamma*, pointing to parallels where *šamma* replaces *šamma*. Note also in line 37 *šallim*. It does not follow, however, that *šamma* means "since, because," which would otherwise be without parallel and without explanation. As a deictic particle reflecting West Semitic *šamma*, *šamma* stresses the here-and-nowness of the situation.
4. Whether the "worker" (*špēš*) is here to be understood as merely mining the copper (*AHB*, p. 227), "sculptor", or also refining, etc., is not clear; cf. EA 36:5, 12, 14.

5. *hō-ak-ia*, mistake for *hō-ia* (*VAB* 2/1, p. 283). The *ak* is probably an ox-shaped object or figurine; live bovines are unattested among the gifts of this period.

6. Or "eagle-augury." The sudden request for a very specialized diviner, along with an ox and "sweet oil," is surprising, the more so since nothing is known of such a form of divination in Egypt (Brunner, *GM*, 25 [1977] pp. 45f.). Ornithomancy, as Artzi, *BOR* 41 (1984) p. 212 has stressed, is of western origin; for the Mari evidence, see Durand, *AEM* 1/1, pp. 38, 386f. McEwan, *ZA* 70 (1980) p. 62, n. 29, has suggested that *ak* refers here to the Neophron peregrinator (Egyptian vulture), which flies over Cyprus (Alatia) on migrations to and from Egypt. He sees the request as reflecting the cosmopolitan character of the Egyptian court, not as evidence of a native tradition.

7. ŠAM.MEŠ (*šamma*), rather than ŠAM, as not infrequently in Middle Assyrian and in Ugaritic (*AHB*, p. 1240; Huebner, *Akkadian*, p. 373, no. 178a).

8. Certainly MAŠ(IM), but the reading is uncertain.

9. This interpretation assumes *mti* for correct *mitat*; cf. EA 34, n. 4. The alternative, "a son or child has died," has other grammatical difficulties.

10. I agree with Vincenzelli, *RSO* 46 (1973) pp. 143ff., that the usual version of these lines, "Do not make an alliance with . . ." does not fit the context, and that such a request, if made, would require explanation. However, her own version, "Do not compare (me) with . . ." has its own difficulties. *šallakim* is in form passive, and the alleged object—the crucial word—is unexpressed. Cf. *šallakim* (line 12) alternating with stative *šallakim* (lines 15, 35).

11. *qad-mi-šil* (line 54), *qad-mi-šil* (line 55); ŠU-mi-e-šil (Kousseron) is extremely doubtful, because for *š* there is no trace of a second vertical, and *šallakim* favors only one sign. Interpretation is also extremely doubtful (Maynard, *JSOR* 8 [1924] p. 76). For *šallakim* as intransitive, cf. the intransitive use of the Š-perfect (*šallakim*, line 20), Š-perfective (*šallakim*, line 44), and N-perfective (*šallakim*, line 12).

EA 36

More about copper

TEXT: C 4750 (12187).

COPY: WA 19 + WA 20.

PHOTOGRAPH: Hellbing, *Alasia Problems*, p. 100.

Too fragmentary for translation.¹

NOTE

1. EA 36 is the middle of a rather large tablet concerned with the exchange of goods. There are several references to "doing" copper (lines 47, 5, 12, 14; see EA 35, n. 4). Line 6: "[Now] I am sending (sent?) to my brother 120 (+ x'), Gidon (talents) [of copper]; 70 (talents) remain . . ." Lines 9-10: "[. . .] what I sent you was little. Now I have looked for (more) [and] I will send you [as much as]

your heart desires. [And what I ask (y)u for (s-r)-ia-(k) send me." In line 6 (end), AS GÜ.UNI, 'I [tell]c'; the conventional use of the horizontal wedge for the numbers 1-9 with *hita* is also found in EA 37:9. In line 15, pl: *pa-ti*, while paleographically possible, is questionable because of considerations of syllabary and perhaps history (Na'aman, *Political Diplomacy*, p. 28, n. 19). Also dubious: *ki-na-ti* = Cresson.

EA 37

More about silver

TEXT: BM 29790.

COPY: BB 7.

PHOTOGRAPH: Hellbing, *Alasia Problems*, p. 100 (obverse only, illegible).

[S]oly [t]o the k[In]g [of Egypt], m[y] brothe[r]: Message [of the king] of Alasiya,¹ you [bro]ther. For me all goes well. [F]or my brother may all go well. For his household, for his wives, [f]or his sons, for the horses, his chariots,² and in his country, may all go ve[ry]³ well. 8-12 [I have b]eyond the greeting of my brother. [T]he greet[ing] gift for my brother is 5 talents (of copper), 5 teams of horses.⁴ I (herewith) promptly dispatch the messenger of my brother. 13-20 Now may my brother promptly let my . . . go;⁵ let me inquire about [my] bro[the]r's health,⁶ and whatever [yo]u n[ee]d⁷ put down on a tablet so I can send [it] to you.⁸ Send me pure silver. May my brother dispatch my messenger without delay.⁹ 21-29 Pa-x-tan-x-ti, Ku-ni-e-a, E-sal-lu-na may [the ci]ty[ty] expel, and then may my brother let go x-ut-bar-ra (and) [B]e-[e]l-x-y-z, wh[o] with . . .¹⁰

NOTES

1. Written *a-la-ia-ia*.
2. On the absence of the plural marker, see EA 33, n. 2.
3. *dan* (cover an erasure)-(*nt*).
4. If the 5 talents are of copper, then of course the gift is for the Egyptian king, not from him. A gift of 5 talents of gold or silver (Weber, VAB 2/2, p. 1083; Georgiou, *Livani* 11 [1979] p. 97) seems out of the question, and if horses are also part of the gift—the reading cannot be confirmed—then this also argues against the gift's coming from Egypt; see Zaccagnini, *Lo scambio dei doni durante i secoli XV-XIII* (see Introduction, n. 60), p. 122, n. 3.
5. *SES-ia x-y-ia* (Gordon). Note that SES is over used alone in this letter.
6. *Yahmina te'ala = Yahma te'ala*.
7. *ba-dit'-ha-ta* (also Gordon); see VAB 2/1, p. 294, note g.
8. *lu-ia-bi'-ab-ha'* (Gordon).

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9. *li ikalla it-ii-pur* (completely visible), hendiadys (cf. CAD, K, p. 102b).
10. The names in lines 24ff. have been studied to determine the ethnic composition of Alasiya, but with little evident awareness of the epigraphic difficulties; see Astour, *JAOI* 84 (1964) pp. 240ff.; Caruba, *Studi classici e orientali* 17 (1968) pp. 25ff. Line 21, probably on personal name determinative; second sign, *pa* more likely than *at*; fourth sign, *ni* more likely than *me*. Line 23: last sign, *na* unlikely, UR[U] more likely (?—possible?). Line 24: 'li-ia-nd'am-na (Gordon); if correct and not an archaism, *paradu* must at this period mean "drive off, expel." Line 25: x-ut-bar-ra; x may be a personal name determinative; Gordon has Ku-ut-pa-ra-ra. Line 26: B'el-x = *Is* or *Is*; the next two signs are illegible.

EA 38

A brotherly quarrel

TEXT: VAT 153.

COPIES: WA 11; VS 11, 14.

PHOTOGRAPH: Hellbing, *Alasia Problems*, p. 100 (obverse only).

Say to the king of Egypt, my brother: Message of the king of Alasiya, your brother. For me all goes well, and for you may all go well. For your household, your chief wives,¹ your sons, your horses, your chariots, among your numerous troops, in your country, among your magnates, may all go very well.

7-12 Why, my brother, do you say such a thing to me, "Does my brother not know this?" As far as I am concerned, I have done nothing of the sort. Indeed,² men of Lukki, year by year, seize villages in my own country.

13-18 My brother, you say to me, "Men from your country were with them." My brother, I myself do not know that they were with them. If men from my country were (with them), send (them back) and I will act as I see fit.

19-22 You yourself do not know men from my country. They would not do such a thing.³ But if men from my country did do this, then you yourself do as you see fit.

23-26 Now, my brother, since you have not sent back my messenger, for this tablet it is the king's brother (as messenger). [L]et him write. Your messengers must tell me what I am to do.⁴

27-30 Furthermore, which ancestors of yours did such a thing(g) to my ancestors? So no, my brother, do not be concerned.

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NOTES

1. NIHLAM (SAL US), distinguished from DAM (*aišara*) in EA 39:6-7 and also at Atalakh (Goetze, *JCS* 13 [1959] p. 98); see also PRU 3, p. 47; *ibid.*, p. 56; PRU 4, p. 232:11 (—cf. EA 19:857); *Ugar.* 5, no. 214, and no. 247. The reading is *šrtu* or *šaršitu* (CAD, *Mt*, p. 283; *šarštu* (CAD, S, pp. 216f.) seems less likely. See also EA 49, n. 2.
2. *enima* for *anama*; see EA 35, n. 2.
3. Against copy, read *lo-a p-pu-ai* (Schroeder, *OLZ*, 1917, col. 105). The context favors understanding the subject as the accused Alaians. A singular verb with a plural subject is not without parallel (EA 17:23; *Ugar.* 5, p. 128, n. 1).
4. The writing is so inept in this paragraph that any version is only one of several possibilities.

EA 39

Duty-free

TEXT: C 4748 (12206).

COPY: WA 12.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Hellbing, *Alasia Problems*, p. 101; catalogue of the exhibition, "Toutankhamoun et son temps," in the Petit Palais (reference from Kühne, p. 87, n. 436).

Say to the king of Egypt, my [broth]er: Message of the king of Alaišiya, your brother. For me all goes well, and for you may all go well. For your household, your chief wives, your sons, your wives, your chariots, your many horses, and in Egypt, your country, may all go very well.

10-13 My brother, let my messengers go promptly and safely so that I may hear my brother's greeting.

14-20 These men are my merchants. My brother, let them go safely and promptly. No one making a claim in your name is to approach my merchants or my ship.²

NOTES

1. On the absence of a plural marker, see EA 35, n. 2, and on the plurals in lines 10ff. see VAB 2/1, p. 295, note 4.
2. For the request of safe passage and exemption from import, cf. EA 30. On the reverse, in hieratic script, "letters of the prince of Alasa." On Egyptian use "prince," as a designation of foreign rulers, see the Introduction, n. 73.

EA 40

Duty-free, governor to governor

TEXT: C 4749 (12190).

COPY: WA 13 + 14.

PHOTOGRAPH: Hellbing, *Alasia Problems*, p. 101.

Say [to the go]v[er]nor of Egypt, my brother: Messa[ge of the go]v[er]nor of Alaišiya, your brother.¹ For . . . [. . .]² all goes well, and fo[re] [you] may all go well.

6-11 My brother, before the at[ri]val of Šu[miti],³ I sent [to him] 9 [talents] of copper, 2 pieces of [ivory], 1 beam for [a ship], but [he] gave⁴ [no]thing to me, and y[ou] se[nt] 5 [only some] [ivory], my brother.

12-15 I herewith⁵ send as your greeting: gift 5 [talents] of copper, 3 talents of fine copper, 1 piece of ivory, 1 [beam] of boxwood, 1 [beam] for a ship.

16-20 [Mo]roover, my brother, these men⁶ [and] this ship belong to the king, my lord. So send [me] [back] the ship [of the king, my lord], promptly and [saf]ely.

21-23 [And as for y]ou, my brother, [wh]atever you ask for according to [your fancy], I will give it to y[ou].

24-28 These men are servants of the king, [my] lord, and no one making a claim in your name is to approach them. My brother, send [them back] to me safely and promptly.

NOTES

1. This letter was written by the same scribe as that of EA 39, probably one after the other, and probably delivered at the same time, perhaps by the same messenger. (On messengers carrying several letters, see Edel, *Brief*, pp. 145f.) MAŠKIM (*šakīa*), as here said of the Egyptian official, probably refers to the high office of vizier (Helck, *Besetzung*, p. 248), and as probably said of the Alasian official it is to be compared with LU.MAŠKIM.GAL, the title of the official in Alasia who sent *Ugar.* 5, no. 22, perhaps native *šakīa* (Steiner, *Kadmos* 1 [1963] pp. 130f.; Orten, *MDOG* 94 [1963] p. 15; *Ugar.* 5, p. 341, n. 2).
2. Traces fit neither *šyšš* nor *šakīš* nor UGU-ia. In the next line, *ana* (UGU-ia); cf. EA 39:5.
3. Reading *ana* [p]u-ni (Kaudern), but perhaps *ana* [m]aš-ri (Gordon). The name, which is not Egyptian, is restored on the basis of EA 37:13; cf. also *Ugar.* 5, no. 20:2.
4. *šakīa* [ka] seems the most likely reading (Gordon).
5. [a]š-šu-*na-ana* (Gordon).
6. See EA 35, n. 2 (read *še-šu-ma*).
7. On the plural, see EA 33, n. 2, and VAB 2/1, p. 297, note ***.

THE AMARNA LETTERS

am the[light of as] a [co]r[ps]. [I have writ]ten [the names ...] ... but your name [...] I will b[e]at out.⁵ [...] [...] Do not [...] [...].

NOTES

1. The Hittite provenience of EA 42 is virtually certain; see the remarks of Knudtzon, *VAB 2/2*, p. 1093f. Note, too, KUR URU before geographical names (KUR URU *bu-ri-ri*, line 20), typical of Hittite scribes. If the restoration in line 2 is correct, it is possible we should render by "chariot-fighters" rather than "horses"; see the Introduction, n. 54.
2. The addressee is asked, it seems, to recall the history of the two countries, going back to the time of their grandfathers. Perhaps a defense is offered of Hittite attacks on "Hatti-country" (line 10), i.e., Mittani.
3. This is usually understood of the form of the introduction to letters between equals or from superior to inferior, according to which the addressee names himself first (introduction, sect. 4); thus *VAB 2/2*, p. 1094; Edel, *Jahrbuch für kleinasiatische Forschung* 2 (1952-53) p. 265; Helck, *Beziehungen*, p. 475, n. 3. If this interpretation is correct, we must assume an addressee quite unfamiliar with standard Hittite practice. Perhaps we should think rather of a list of names in hierarchical order; cf. the list of names at the end and the possible threat not to put the Hittite on the list at all.
4. Cf. EA 27, n. 18.
5. 19 ŠEŠ-ša-ai-šum-ma šu-šum-me-e [ša-na i-a-ši] 20 ta-a[?]pe-u-na-a à šum-ma [ŠEŠ-ia šu-ia šum-ka] 21 am-mi-nim tu-ša-ab-bi à a-ša-ku ki-ma 22 [?]a-bu-ut-tim ki-a-am ha-as-[ša-ku šu-mi ša] 23 [m(x)]-š-SAR "ru-mi-m-x [...] 24 [š]-tar à šum-ha [...] 25 [w-pe-a]š-š-š-š-š [...] Lines 2-12, perhaps better: "I am like a corpse (and) thus am I thought of."
6. (šum-ma)-a. If correct, a message from the scribe of EA 42.

EA 43

Of malice and murder

TEXT: Ash 1207.
COPY: Sayce, *Tell el Amarna*, pl. XXXI (obverse only).
PHOTOGRAPH: P. S. Moorey, *Archaeology, Artifacts, and the Bible* (Oxford, 1969), p. 43 (obverse only; erroneously identified as a letter from Byblos).

Too fragmentary for translation.¹

NOTE

1. The correspondents are of equal rank ("brothers"), probably kings, and Hittite provenience of the letter is virtually certain because of the sign-forms of NI, UŠ, DAM, LA, AZ; see also *VAB 2/2*, p. 1094. The letter refers to malicious men and someone's murder.

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EA 44

EA 44

From a Hittite prince

TEXT: VAT 1656.
COPIES: WA 29; VS 11, 16.

Say to the lord, the king of Egypt, my father: Thus Zi[ri]a, the king's son, your son.¹

5-6 May all go well with the lord, my father.

7-13 On an earlier embassy of any of your messengers, they came to Hatti, and when they went back to you, then it was I that sent greetings to you and had a present brought to you.

14-17 ...²

18-24 [...] Herewith [I send on] to you your messengers (coming) [from] Hatti,³ and I also send to my father my own messengers along with your messengers, and I send as your greeting-gift a present of 16 men.

25-29 I myself am desirous of gold. [My] father, send me gold. Whatever you, the lord, my father, are desirous of, write me so I can send it to you.

NOTES

1. If the title "father" implies difference of age, Amenophis III would be the addressee of this letter (Kühne, p. 102, n. 508). The writer seems not to have been in the Hittite capital at the time of writing, but his scribe was either trained there or under its influence (cf. forms of AK, AZ, and, to some extent, ND).
2. Perhaps Zi[ri]a wrote in this paragraph about his new station.
3. New paragraph uncertain.
4. On lines 18-20, see Kühne, p. 103, n. 512.

EA 45

Friendly Ugarit

TEXT: 1692 (smaller of two fragments not collated).
COPIES: WA 177; VS 11, 17.

[Say to the king], the Sun,¹ [my lord: Message of Amm]istam[ru, your servant.² I fall at] you [feet] 7 times [and 7 times. May all go well f]or the king, the Sun, my lord, for your household, your chief wife, for you [other] wives, for your sons, for your archers, [for whatever else belongs to the king, the Sun, my lord], m[ay] all go very, very well.³

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8-21 [...] *And* I myself [*said a*]s follows:⁴ "These men are [*Egyptians*]. Why should I [*hand them over to you?*"] I shall [*prepare*] [...] and he will acquire [...]. I hand them over [*to the Sun, my lord*], and [*I send*] my messenger to the Sun, my lord, [*promptly*]. I now [*hand them over to the Sun, my lord*]."

22-29 Moreover, the king of [...] wrote: "Why [...] and] do you seize [...]. A second time he wrote [*to me*], and thus he sp[oke]: " [...] and to Egypt [...]. If you sen[de] [...], I will [...] Indeed, I am a servant] to the So[un, my lord]."

30-35 Moreover, heaven for[th]at [*the Sun, my lord*], turn against me. [*May he send me*] the life of [*my spirit, and*] may [*his mouth*] speak the life of [*my*] spirit.⁵ [*And*] may [*the Sun, my lord*], know (this): if [...] to Ugarit [...] ...⁶

NOTES

1. EA 45 and 49, and almost certainly 46-48, are from Ugarit (Albright, *RASOR* 95 [1944] pp. 30ff; the king addressed in EA 45 is probably Amenophis III (H. Klengel, *Geschichte Syriens*, p. 2, p. 340; M. Drower, *CAH*, 2/2, p. 153). On Ugarit's relationship with Egypt, see A. Altman, *Bar Ilan*, Annual of Bar Ilan University, Judaica and Humanities Series, 13 (1976) pp. 1ff. (in Hebrew; English summary, p. 17). Egyptian and, through borrowing, Hittite kings were called, literally, "My Sun," as the embodiments of royalty, which was also symbolized by the winged sun-disk (L. Winter, *Insp* 38 [1976] p. 4f.).

2. 2 *lu-ni-ma wa-lam-ni-ii-tan-iri IR-hi* (Nougayrol, *PRU* 3, p. xxviii).

3. 3 *lu-na GIR.MES-ha 7 lu 7 am-qi 4 lu-a lu-ma a-na* UG(U ...)

6 (ERIN.MES *pi-ia-ia* [ka ...] (cf. EA 49:6). 7 [...] *lu-a* ...)

4. [i] (a-k) *lu-ma-na-na* (perhaps *ma*) *a-na-hi* [uq-bi]; cf. *ku-na-na-am-ma* in EA 46:5 and (d) *ku-ma-na-na* in Bagdasarian, *CAH*, p. 262.

5. Whether this was the Hittite king, as is usually held, remains uncertain (Klengel, *Geschichte Syriens*, p. 2, p. 340 and p. 480, n. 6).

6. *lu-ia-hi-lal* [...] (Huehnergard, *Akkadian*, p. 254, n. 199).

7. *ar-ur-ri me-lma* [...] (ibid., p. 195).

8. Fre restorations; on the life-giving breath and speech of the king, cf. EA 100:36ff.; 157:7ff.; 141 passim; 144:6ff.; 145:20; 146-47 passim; etc.

9. More than 10 lines missing, with traces of a few signs.

EA 46

Ongoing loyalty

TEXT: VAT 1694.

COPIES: WA 179; VS 11, 18.

Too fragmentary for translation.¹

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NOTE

1. References to "my ancestors" (lines 1, 9, 23; read *ab-ba-e-ia*, and cf. EA 47) and declarations of loyalty equal to theirs (lines 22-26).

EA 47

Loyalty unrewarded

TEXT: VAT 1693.

COPIES: WA 176; VS 11, 19.

[...] ... My ancestors¹ did service [for] your [ancestor]s, [*and*] now I am truly a servant too to the king, the Sun, [my] lord.²

12-21 [Moreover, I sen]t³ my messenger to my lord, but my lord did not question him. [*And* to all] the messengers of [*other*]⁴ kings [you give your tablet. You send (them), [but] your own messenger(s) [you (also) sen]d to them.⁵ To me, however, [*and* to] my messenger(s) [you have not given] your tablet, and your own messenger you have not sent [*to me*]. [*Am I treated in accordance*] with the loyal[ty] of my heart?⁶

22-30 [Moreover, w]hy do you listen [to all the words of] [i]a[ya]ya?⁷ [...] ... Ask someone able⁸ [...] ...

NOTES

1. In view of EA 46:1, 9, 23, probably AB.BA.MES = *abba?* (all cases, Assyrianism).

2. On this clause see Huehnergard, *Akkadian*, p. 203; in the enclitic of *ardim-ma*, however, I see the meaning "also" rather than a marker of the predicate (ibid., p. 203).

3. Line 13: [*at-ta-p*]ar (ibid., p. 218, n. 31) Line 15: *tanandin*, not *tanandin* (Knudtzon).

4. [i]e-nu-*ti*: enough room? Huehnergard, ibid., p. 219, [IR.MES-ka], "your servants," has the same problem.

5. Since we must read *ia* in line 20 (see copy), and very probably [*lu-ia*], *ittana* probably means, not "with them" (the messengers), but "to them" (the kings). This West Semitism, attested elsewhere (see EA 167:31), is otherwise unknown at Ugarit.

6. [*ep-ke-ku-ki*] *ma hi-ia* (cf. ... Huehnergard, ibid., p. 95 and n. 216, sees the short form *hi* as a possible option).

7. [*lu-ba*] *at-ta-p* MES, following Huehnergard, ibid., p. 219.

8. [...] *x lu-al lu-a*, certainly not *lu-al*, the preformative *y* being unknown at Ugarit.

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EA 48

A jar of balsam for my lady

TEXT: VAT 1690.

COPIES: WA 181; VS 11, 20.

[To . . .], my mistress. [Message of . . . H]eba, your maidservant. I fall
[at the feet of] my [mist]ress. [Fo]r my mistress may all go well.

5-8 You have given [your maidservant . . .]. [I he]rewish [send]o
my mistress [. . . and] a jar of aromatics: *ḫe-ur-us* (balsam).²

NOTES

1. Probably from the queen of Ugarit to the queen of Egypt. Liveanu, *Storia di Ugarit* (see Introduction, n. 129), pp. 53f., has proposed to identify the former as the Pudu-ḫeba (*Pdḫb*) who wrote to king Niqmadda of Ugarit, thereby implying that this letter belongs in the time of Niqmadda II.

2. On the form of the gloss, see Huebnergard, *Ugaritic*, pp. 13 ff.; on the meaning, see M. Srol, *On Trees, Mountains, and Mountains in the Ancient Near East*, (Leiden, 1979), pp. 50ff.

EA 49

A request for a physician

TEXT: C 4783 (12238).

COPIES: WA 204 + 180.

To the king, the Sun, my lord. Message of Niqm-Adda,¹ your servant: I
fall at the feet of the king, the Sun, my lord. May all go well for the
king, the Sun, my lord, [his house]old, his ch[ief] wife,² for his
(other) wives, for [his sons, . . . the archers, for *everything else belonging to
the king*],³ the Sun, my lord. [. . .] 17-26 [. . .]. . . Previously [he gave
. . . to] my [fa]ther's house. May my lord give me 2 attendant[s], palace
(attendants)⁴ from Cush. Give me, too, a palace attendant that is a
physician.⁵ Here there is no physician. Look, ask [H]aramasa.⁶ And
here[with] (I send)⁷ as your greeting-[gift . . .] and one-hundred [. . .].

NOTES

1. *nig-ma-ḫm*, following Albright, *BASOR* 95 (1944) pp. 31f. Undoubtedly, Niqm-Adda II, the successor of Ammisamru I (EA 45), writing probably to Amenophis IV (Klengel, *Geschichte Syriens*, p. 2, p. 344).

2. *ḫal-uš-ḫe*: K[UR.MEŠ] (Kaudron) is excluded, since *ḫ* is occurs at all in the greeting, it does so towards the end; cf. EA 38. Note that in the other

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EA 50

letters of the kings of Ugarit in which they wish well to the correspondent's wives, NITLAM (see EA 38, n. 1), never DAM, is used; cf. *PRU* 3, p. 47f.; *Ugar* 5, no. 2169f.; no. 248f.; no. 287f.; no. 295f.; note also *PRU* 3, p. 57f. This seems to be a later practice; cf. Huebnergard, *Akkadian*, p. 329.

3. *ḫb-bi min-nm ḫ* *LUḪAL*; see the letters referred to in n. 2.

4. *2 DUMU ḫ-ḫe-tri 20* *ḫḫ(DUMU) ḫ GAL* (cf. line 23) at the beginning of line 20, the head of one horizontal is visible, and this is not comparable with *DUMU* (*AHU*, p. 616a).

5. On the fame of Egyptian medicine, see Edel, *Ägyptische Ärzte und ägyptische Medizin am hethitischen Königshof: Neue Funde von Keilschriftbräufen Ramses' II aus Bogazköy* (Opladen, 1976). According to Homer (*Odyssey* IV 23 ff.), Egypt was so rich in medicines that everyone was a physician, wise above all others.

6. *ḫhe-ur-us*: in line 26, *sa-ḫi-ḫi* (*ḫi*) is not confined to direct discourse, see Huebnergard, *Akkadian*, p. 210, or simply *sa-ḫi* (according to Gordon, probably only erases follow), "ask" (on the confusion of sibilants, see Huebnergard, *ibid.*, pp. 11 ff.). This fits the context—i.e., a statement about the local situation, then an appeal to reciprocity (cf. EA 69:28f.; 89:11f.; 256:16ff.; 264:11f.; etc.). It follows, almost necessarily, that *ḫhe-ur-us* is a personal name; assuming the confusion of sibilants again, cf. the Egyptian messenger in EA 20:39f.

7. The scribe seems to have erased the verb, probably to correct an error, and then to have forgotten to restore it; cf. VAB 2/4, p. 518, note a.

EA 50

Maidservant to her mistress

TEXT: VAT 1594.

COPIES: WA 191; VS 11, 21.

[Say] to . . . [. . .], my mistress: Message of the daughter of [. . .], your
maidservant, (I) fall at the feet [of] my mistress 7 times and 7 tim[es].
[. . .] . . . my mistress.

NOTE

1. Perhaps the queen, *ḫi-ḫe-mu-un-ḫi*, "The King's Wife", on this title and its appearance in cuneiform, see Federa, *JCS* 14 (1960) p. 35. The provenience of the tablet is unknown. If *ḫi-ḫe-mu* (Kaudron) in line 7 is correct, note its use, with the exception of EA 34:16, 50, only at Byblos and farther south.

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Loyalty tempted and preserved

TEXT: VAT 559.

COPIES: WA 30; VS 11, 22.

[T]o the Sun, the king, my lord, the king of Egypt: Message of Addu-nirani, your servant. I fall at the feet of my lord, [No]l[el] (that) when Manalpiya, the king of Egypt, your ancestor,¹ made [T]a[ku], my ancestor, a king in Nuḥaše, he put oil on his head and [s]poke as follows: "Whom the king of Egypt has made a king, [and on whose head] he has put [oil], [no] one [shall . . .]. He gave . . . [. . .]. Now, [. . .]."

Rev. 1-6 And [. . .] Taku, [my] ances[tor . . .]. And now, my lord, [. . .]. And the king of Hatti [wrote to me about an alliance].² My lord, [I rejected] (the offer of) tablets of treaty oblig[ations],³ and [I am (still) a servant of] the king of Egypt, [my lord].

7-17 And now, [may] our lord⁴ [come forth] (to us), and into [h]is power [we will] [indeed restore the lands], and indeed [. . .] . . . to our lord. [And] may our lord come forth⁵ (this) year.⁶ Do not be negligent. You will see that they are loyal to the service of the king, my lord. And if my lord is not [w]illing to come forth himself, may my lord send one of his advisors⁶ [together with his troops and chariots. [. . .].

NOTES

1. Since Thutmose III (Manalpiya) was not the grandfather of any of the kings possibly addressed in this letter, Akkadian *ab(ū) abī*, "grandfather," must have here a more general meaning, undoubtedly through the influence of Hurrian *awwari*, "grandfather, ancestor" (Laroche, *RHA* 34 [1976] p. 47); see EA 50:11 and Campbell, *Chronology*, pp. 68f. Neugebauer, *PRU* 4, p. 35, n. 1, held to "grandfather."

2. *nupāte u ri-ik-ka-te . . .*: cf. *nuppi rikātrikēli*, etc., at Alalakh, Boghazköy, and Ugarit (*AHU* pp. 98f.); in view of the plural, probably *rikātra*. The Hittite king (Šuppiluliumaš) hardly sent the tablets (so Altmann, *Senneter, Annual for Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Studies*, 2 [1977] p. 30); he would have done so only as a final formality of the alliance, perhaps as a reward for demonstrated loyalty (*PRU* 4, p. 375f.). The rest of the restorations in this paragraph are free.

3. The shift to the first plural, "our lord," is perhaps because the writer thinks of his allies. Cf. below: "they are loyal."

4. *ri-ik-ka-ma*: cf. rev. 13, *ama a-ri-ka-im*, but note *ri*, not *it*.

5. I assume *awwari* or *awwari*.

6. Perhaps "advisor" (*awwari*) refers to one of the commissioners (*awwari*) of Syro-Palestine; cf. EA 13:15, where "commissioners" is glossed by *awwari*. MBS.

The loyalty of Qatna

TEXT: C 4759 (12197, with join to former VAT 1596).

COPY: WA 196 (before join; no published copy of join).

Say¹ to the king of Egypt: Message of Akizzi, your servant. I fall at the feet of my lord, my Storm-god,² 7 times.

5-7 Inspect, my lord, his tablets.³ [He/you will find] the houses of Qatna belong to my lord *al/one*.⁴

8-26, 27-31, 32-35 . . .⁵

36-41 [E]ver 3 years,⁶ my lord, when I wanted [to set out] for my lord, the messengers did not know of a caravan (going to Egypt). They did not know of: *aw-mu-li(?)* . . . to my [lo]rd. Let them come in [your] caravan.

42-43 Come, my [. . .] has abandoned me. : *pu-ru x nu lo-aš-ti-na-an*.

44-46 I will [certainly] not rebel again[st] the . . . of my lord or against Bi[el]u[az].⁸

NOTES

1. *gi-af-ma*, at the end of line 1, is omitted in the copy and overlooked by Koudron.

2. *IM*: reading certain, and cf. *IM-IM*, also written *Aš-di-IM*, "My Addu is Addu" (D. Charpin, *AEM* 1/2, no. 303, note b). In this instance we perhaps have an adaptation, in local terms, of the usual title or epithet "My Sun" (EA 45, n. 1); cf. EA 53:6.

3. An unusually abrupt shift from second to third person in addressing the Pharaoh.

4. Interpreting the *u* as "resumptive" after direct object; see Wilhelm, *AOAT* 9 pp. 54ff. In § Hf.A the plural marker is probably obsolete, and "house" is to be understood of the ruling dynasty; cf. EA 74:10; 89:48. End of line 6: [. . .] *im/ka-an-maš*.

5. At the end of line 31, *šir-šimma*, "he stole them," is probably a charge against the Hittite king (cf. EA 55:53ff.).

6. [š] *ka-m-3-MU*?

7. *al-ka-ma-m-3-MU-13*: instead of *at*, *ka* or *ka-m* is also possible (Gordon). In the rest of the paragraph, the language is most obscure. Glosses are Hurrian; word division is uncertain.

8. *48 [illegible] li ipašar* (Gordon).



Vassal Cities and Egyptian Administrative Centers

Of the villain Airukama

TEXT: BM 29820.
COPY: BB 37.

To N[am]h[urya], so[n] of the Sun, my lord: Me[ssa]ge of [A]k[iz]z[il], your servant, I fall [a]r the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and [7] times).

4-10 {My} lo[r]d, [...] has survived, and I will not de[ce]r[er].¹ {I belong} to my lo[r]d.² {And y[ou], my lo[r]d, of my lo[r]d alone I am t[he] servant in the place, the hand of } T[er]s[ap]. [...] now {w[as]} the place of the god [...] And now, the king of H[ati] [has] [sent] Airukama out [against] me, and he seeks [my] li[fe].

11-16 And now [Airukama] has written me and said, "[Come] with me to the king of H[ati]." I said, "How could I go to the king of H[ati]? I am [a servant] of the king, my lord, the king of Egypt." I wrote and [...] to the king of H[ati].

17-23 ... May my lord send him (it?) [...] that he (it?) may come against Airukama so that my lord [...] he may fear your presence.

24-34 ... My lord, Airukama came and [the son U]p[pu], the land of [my] lo[r]d, [up] in flames. He took the [ruler's] house [...], and he took 200 d[is]ks [...], and he took 3 d[is]ks [...], and he took 1 d[is]k [...] from the house of [B]irwaza.

35-39 My [lo]rd, Teu[w]atti of L[apa]na and [A]rsawaya of Ruhizzi place themselves at the disposition of Airukama, and he sends [U]p[pu], the land of my lord, up in flames.

40-44 My lord, just as I love the king, my lord, so too the king of Nu[ba]se, the king of Ni[ri], the king of Z[ir]zar, and the king of Tunanab; all of these kings are my lord's servants.

45-51 As far as the king, my lord, can, he co[m]es forth. But it is being said, "The king, my lord, will not come forth." [And so] may the king, my lord, send archers [that] they may come to this country. [Since, my lord, these kings are ones who love] him, let a magnate of the king, my lord, just name their gifts so they can give them.

52-53 My lord, if he makes this land a matter of concern to my lord, then may my lord send archers that they may come here. (Only) messengers of my lord have arrived here.

56-62 My lord, if Arsawaya of Ruhizzi and Teuwatti of Lapana

remain in Upu, and Tašša remains in the Am[qi], my lord should also know about them that Upu will not belong to my lord. Daily they write to Aitukama and say as follows: "Come, tak[er] Upu in its entirety."

63-70 My lord, just as Dimāki in Upu : *ha-di-ji (falls) at your feet, so may Qatna : ha-di-ju-li-er (fall) at your feet.*¹ My lord, one asks for life before my messenger.² I do not fear [at all]³ in the presence of the archers of my lord, since the archers belong to my lord. If he sends (them) to me, they will en[ter] Qatna.

NOTES

1. *ha-di-ju-li-er (me)*: cf. EA 55:6. If Knudtzon's "not dead" is correct, a syllabic writing is unlikely; read, rather, *ha-di-ju-li-er* UG₂ [(?) mi-ri].

The obverse of this tablet is extremely difficult, the traces are very faint, and therefore the translations are often extremely dubious.

2. (a na ku) *a-na* [*tu ba-li-ka*]: cf. EA 55:9.

3. (i)-[e]-[er]-[er]: the West Semitic preformative is not used in this dialect, and therefore *y(i)-[er]-[er]* (Knudtzon) is excluded; besides, the form would be *yawil* (see BA 362:30).

4. *hi-i a-ta-ku ul-le-ak* ...

5. On the Hittite glosses, see Goetze, *RHA* 3 (1939) pp. 109f., and Friedrich, *WZKM* 47 (1954) p. 213.

6. Obscure: perhaps "life" is the favorable reply of the king, declared in the messenger's presence or leading him, as it were, back to Qatna.

7. [mi-nu-mle-].

EA 54

More about Aitukama

TEXT: VAT 1868 + 1869 + 1721.

COPIES: WA 229 + 232 + 233; VS 11, 23.

Too badly preserved for translation.¹

NOTE

1. This letter is over 50 lines but, except for the greeting, very poorly preserved. Akkadi seems to repeat the charges of EA 53 against Aitukama and his allies, Teuwata and Arsuwaya. In line 54, perhaps *Carchemish* is mentioned.

EA 55

A plea for troops

TEXT: BM 29819.

COPY: BB 36.

Say to Namburya,¹ the son of the Snn, my lord: Message of Akizzi, your servant. I fall at the feet of my lord 7 times.

4-6 My lord, I am your servant in this place. I seek the path to my lord. I do not desert my lord.

7-9 From the time my ancestors were your servants, this country has been your country, Qatna has been your city, (and) I belong to my lord.

10-15 My lord, when the troops and chariots of my lord have come here, food, strong drink, oxen, sheep, and goats,² honey and oil, were produced for the troops and chariots of my lord. Look, there are my lord's magnates; my lord should ask them.

16-24 My lord, the whole country is in fear³ of your troops and chariots. If my lord would take this country for his own country, then let my lord send this year his troops and his chariots so that they may come out here and all of Nuḫaše belong to my lord. If, my lord, the troops [come] [out], stay for 6 days in ... [...], then they would certainly take Aziru.⁴

25-27 If the troops and chariots of my lord do not come forth this year and do not [fight],⁵ it (the country) will be in fear of Aziru.

28-37 ...

38-43 My lord knows it. My lord [...] his ancestors [...]. But now the king of Hatti has sent them up in flames. The king of Hatti has taken his gods and the fighting men of Qatna.⁶

44-52 My lord, Aziru took men of Qatna, my servants, and has [led] them away⁷ out of the country of my lord. They now dwell⁸ outside of the country of my lord. If it pleases⁹ him, may my lord send [(the ransom money)] for the men of Qatna, and may my lord ransom them. ... [...], my lord, the money for their ransom, as much as it may be, so I can hand over the money.

53-66 My lord, your ancestors made (a statue of) Šimigi, the god of my father, and because of him became famous.¹⁰ Now the king of Hatti has taken¹¹ (the statue of) Šimigi, the god of my father. My lord knows what the fashioning of divine statues is like. Now that Šimigi, the god of my father, has been reconciled to me, if, my lord, it pleases

him, may he give (me) a *sack* of gold,¹⁰ just as much as is needed," for (the statue of) Šimigi, the god of my father, so they can fashion it for me. Then my lord will become, because of Šimigi, *more* famous than before.

NOTES

1. Despite the form (more like EN 316), *nom* must be the sign intended.
2. Read UZ; so also, independently, Gordon and Na'aman, *Political Disputations*, p. 54ⁿ, n. 47. Since it regularly follows "oxen" (GUD.MES; see EA 174:50; 125:20; 161:21; 324:14; 325:16), it seems to be a replacement of "sheep and goats" (UDU MES = *šnu*; cf. EA 193:20). In comparable Egyptian texts the sequence is oxen, goats, sheep, with an alternative "sheep and goats" ("Kleinovizh"; see Eidel, *Geschichte und Aime Testament* (see EA 30, n. 3), p. 52, n. 1).
3. *i pa-ia-hé*.
4. The reading in the break is most uncertain. The context seems to require that here there be a promise of victory over Aziru, followed in the next paragraph by a threat of the consequences if troops are not forthcoming. If so, then the construction is under Hittite influence, *štuqa* understood as passive, the subject Aziru, with the suffix *-tana* expressive of negative; see Kiltner, *JAOI* 94 (1974) p. 179; cf. lines 53ff.
5. *ip-(te-i-ib)*.
6. Perhaps "the god" (otiose MES), since the next paragraphs seem to take up, in reverse order, the missing men and the missing god.
7. *ip-pa-ia-nu* from *špā*, "to distinguish"?
8. On the syntax of the passage, see above, n. 4.
9. *il-to-šp-tu-(nu)* (influence of line 43).
10. KUS? Cf. EA 26:26.
11. Von Soden, *OLZ*, 1968, col. 458, reads *ša-ay šj im nu*, "like the very sand," but the *nu*- is certain and *šj* *mas(femina)* is well attested (*CAD*, *M*1, p. 347a).

EA 56

A declaration of trust

TEXT: VAT 1714.
COPIES: WA 173; VS 11, 24 (corrections in Schroeder, *OLZ*, 1917, col. 105).

[Say to the king, my lord: Message of . . . , your servant. I fall at the feet of] my [lord].¹

4-8 [Look, the end]my has . . . [Did I not write] *šb[š]*? to my lord, the king of [Egypt. And] my [lord] said, "You did not write [to me] about [their] *num[bers]*,"² and my [lord] did not come forth.

9-13 I am your servant, and, my lord, you must not let [me] go

(from) your hand. I, for my part, will not [desert] my lord. I have put my trust [in] my lord, his troops, [and in] his chariots.

14-22, 23-28, 29-35 . . .⁴

36-42 My lord's messenger came to me and said as follows: "I [journeyed about] in Mittani, and there were 3 or 4 kings who were host[ile to] the king of [Harri], all [of whom] were [at] my disposal."

43-51 . . .⁵

NOTES

1. Provenience unknown, but lines 36-42 = EA 54:38-43, and therefore EA 56 must be closely associated with the Akizzi correspondence; see VAB 2/2, p. 112.
2. *an-ni-ta*, *i* [a 28-pu].
3. *i-nu* [mi-ai]: traces of possible *mi*, visible to Knudtzon, have disappeared.
4. References to Tāšša (line 17; cf. EA 53:56), Atakkama (?—lines 23, 27), and the town Rubiāzi (line 26).
5. Reference to [Harri-land (line 44)].

EA 57

Of kings and Tunip

TEXT: VAT 1738.
COPY: VS 11, 25.

Too fragmentary for translation.¹

NOTE

1. Only the ends of lines are preserved. There are references to 'Akizzi, king of Qatna' (line 2), 'the king of Ba[al]a' (line 3), Pajuru (line 10), Sumiera (line 15), and the city Tunip (line 12; rev. 1). See Klengel, *Or* n.s. 32 (1963) p. 45, n. 3.

EA 58

Of the king of Mittani

TEXT: VAT 1716.
COPIES: WA 214; VS 11, 26.

Sally to the *Griyat* [King],¹ my lord: [Message of] Teḫu-Teššup,² [your] *šar[ru]*: I fall [at] the feet of my lord.

4-10 [Moreover, be informed that] the king of Mittani came forth together [with chariots] and together with an expedition[ary force],³ and we heard, "At the waters⁴ [. . .] . . ."

NOTES

1. Perhaps addressed to an official ("magnate"; cf. EA 95, 238), but the "Great King" is more likely (VAB 2/1, p. 341, note b). Besides the script and the clay, this would indicate a northern provenience, for only EA 160-61 (Amarna), 260, and 317-48 (see below) begin with this title.
2. For Kinsirou's Qetihakpa, which rests partly on a misunderstanding of the glosses in EA 57:64-65, there is not sufficient space.
3. ERIN.MEŠ KASKAL +? [BAD?]; see EA 106, n. 10.
4. *a-na-mi* (*mi* is a marker of direct discourse) *me-s* l. . . .
5. Rev. 3: reference to 'Abdi-Asirta or his son. Line 6; perhaps [q-b]li ḥa-ḥi-mi la x, "he (the king) said, 'Alive . . .'" (Na'aman, *Political Disposition*, p. 17*, n. 49).

EA 59

From the citizens of Tunip

TEXT: BM 29824.

COPY: BB 41.

To the king of Egypt, our lord: Message of the citizens of Tunip, your servant.¹ For you may all go well. And we fall at the feet of my lord.

5-8 My lord, thus says Innip, your servant: Tunip—who ruled it in the past!² Did not Marahpirya : *am-ma-ti-ḥu-ni* (your ancestor) rule it?³

9-12 The gods and the . . . : *na-ab-ri-ḥi-lu-an* (?)* of the king of Egypt, our lord, dwell in Tunip, and he should inquire of his ancients : *am-ma-ti* (ancient) when we did not belong to our lord, the king of Egypt.

13-17 And now, for 20 years,⁴ we have gone on writing to the king, our lord, but our messengers have stayed on with the king, our lord. And now, our lord, we ask for the son of Aki-Teššup from the king, our lord.⁵ May our lord give him.

18-20 My lord, if the king of Egypt has given the son of Aki-Teššup, why does the king, our lord, call him back from the journey?

21-24 And now Aziru is going to hear that in Hittite territory a hostile fate has overtaken your servant, a ruler (and) your gardener.⁶

25-28 Should his (the king's) troops and his chariots be delayed, Aziru will do to us just as he did to Nii.

29-33 If we ourselves are negligent and the king of Egypt does nothing about these things that Aziru is doing, then he will surely direct his hand against our lord.

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34-38 When Aziru entered Šumru, he did to them as he pleased, in the house of the king, our lord. But our lord did nothing about the(s)e things.

39-42 And now Tunip, your city weeps, and its tears flow, and there is no grasping of our hand.

43-46 We have gone on writing to the king, our lord, the king of Egypt, for 20 years, and not a single word of our lord has reached us.⁸

NOTES

1. Probably, just as the city Iqana and its elders wrote to the king because their own king had been killed (EA 100; 75:25f.), so too Tunip (see lines 13-20). If one may speak of its "republican" organization (Landsberger, JCS 8 [1954] p. 61, n. 134), the temporary character of this arrangement should also be recognized.
2. The verb is not clear; it is taken here as *alḥu*, "to sit, dwell," but as said of kings, with the implication of occupying as sovereign, as in Northwest Semitic languages (O'Connor, BASOR 226 [1977] p. 23) and in the Old Syrian *ḥim* (ARMT 13, 144:5 and note; 14, 69:25 and note).
3. Thutmose III (see EA 51:2) took Tunip in his forty-second year.
4. The Hittian gloss is unexplained; the word glossed is equally uncertain.
5. The 20 years here and in line 44 are round numbers meaning nothing more than "a long/considerable time" (Liverani, QA to 11971 p. 254, n. 2, also in *Three Amarna Essays*, p. 3; Wilhelm and Boese, *High, Middle, or Low?* pp. 90f.).
6. Aki-Teššup, probably the last king of Tunip, now dead, whose son had been taken to the Egyptian court for the training given to vassal princes; see Helck, *Beziehungen*, p. 155.
7. 24 NAM (*ḥim*) *ḥa-ḥi-lu* : apparently a reference to a recent Egyptian defeat. What follows is very obscure. Ruler and gardener, high and low? one and all?
8. Note the framing of the complaint, "20 years . . . 20 years" (lines 13, 44), after the declaration of loyalty (lines 5-12). Lines 13-46 encompass four sections, each introduced by *a inanna*: the complaint (13-14); the request (15-20); the grounds for the request, the danger of Aziru (21-38); the complaint (39-46).

EA 60

Loyal 'Abdi-Asirta

TEXT: VAT 343.

COPIES: WA 93; VS 11, 27.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Izre'el, *Amarna*, pp. 7ff.

[T]o the king, the Sun, my lord: [Message of 'Abdi-Asirta,] your [ser]vant, the dirt under your feet. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord,

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7 times and 7 times. 6-9 As I am a servant of the king and a dog of his house, I guard all Amurru for the king, my lord.⁴ 10-13 I have repeatedly said to Paḫanate, my commissioner, "Take auxiliary forces to guard the [land] of the king."⁵ 13-19 Indeed, all the [king's] under the king of the Hurri forces seek to wrest the lands from my [..] and ... [..] the king, [my] lord, [but I] guard th[em]. 19-29 [Look],⁶ there is [Paḫanate, [my] commissioner. May the king, the [Su], ask him if I do not guard Šumur and Ullassa. When my commissioner is on a mission of the king, the Sun, then I am the one who guards the harvest of the grain of Šumur and all the lands for the king, my Snn, my lord.⁷ 30-32 May the king, [my] lord, know me and entrust [me] to the charge of Paḫanate, my commissioner.⁸

NOTES

1. The name of the goddess appears more frequently as Aširta; for a comparable fluctuation in the Old Babylonian period, see Köppler, *Étymologie de dieux Amarna dans la sphère babylonienne* (Bruxelles, 1961), p. 62, n. 1. In *Ugarit*, no. 920, read *mlr-s-šr, šl*. Note, too, the fluctuation in the same letter (EA 137).

2. With Izre'el, *Amarna*, "seeo-forms" (see the Introduction, n. 50) are not taken as preterites, though context does not rule out such an interpretation (Rainey, *UF* 7 [1975] p. 410f.).

3. The quotation may extend into the following lines.

4. The king of Mitanni, on the expression, see Carruba, *Or n.s.* 40 (1971) pp. 222f.

5. ŠTU (gnt)-ša at the beginning of line 17 is impossible; space requires one large or two small signs. At the end of line 16, traces of "Rb"-[bi]? Restore ð at the end of line 18? According to *AHu*, p. 1557, not *pa-ha-lim*, but *pa-ha-lī* = *baḫiḫi*, Izre'el, *Amarna*, compares *baḫal* in *Babyl* 18:16.

6. [*an-ke-ša-er*]-[*ca-mu*]-a-mu): following Rainey, *UF* 7 (1975) p. 411, n. 133.

7. Since logograms of verbs are extremely rare in EA, it is better to read the logogram as noun (inanimate) *epid*, and therefore as object (CAD, E, p. 348; Rainey, *UF* 7 [1975] p. 411). Despite the singular suffix on the verb, "all the lands" is perhaps also the object of the verb. The temporal clause "when my commissioner ..." Izre'el, *Amarna*, joins with what precedes.

8. "Knowing" here and in similar passages implies taking cognizance of, showing concern for, someone, much as gods know their clients (CAD, B, pp. 27f., sects. 16 and 2a 2'; Dalley et al., *The Old Babylonian Tablets from Tell Al Romān* (see EA 22, n. 19), no. 18:11, "the god who knows the house of your father"; see also Whiting, *Old Babylonian Letters from Tell Amur* (see EA 14, n. 60), no. 21:54 and commentary p. 51; in Old Assyrian, cf. Veenhof, *JCS* 30 [1978] p. 188). For a different view, according to which "to know" means "to acknowledge as a vassal," see Campbell, in Frank Moore Cross et al., eds., *The Mighty Acts of God: In Memoriam G. Ernest Wright* (Garden City, 1976), p. 50, and the literature cited

there. On the Hittite evidence, see Goetze, *JCS* 22 (1968) pp. 7f. With the request to be turned over to a commissioner, cf. EA 253:32ff.; it is perhaps a formulaic expression of loyalty, a renunciation of autonomy.

EA 61

A lost message

TEXT: Ash 1893.1-4:410.

COPY: Sayce, *Tell el Amarna*, no. 3.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Izre'el, *Amarna*, pp. 9f.

[To the k]ing, the Sun, my lord: [Mes]sage of 'Abdi-Aširta, [your] ser[van]t, and the mnd under your f[ee], a do[lg] of the house of the king, my lord. A[...]

NOTE

1. One more line of illegible traces on obverse, and nine fragmentary lines on the reverse. Reference to Ullassa (?-URU ul]-la-zi¹⁰, rev. 3), Šumuru, and Amurru; request for a reply (8-9, end of letter?).

EA 62

'Abdi-Aširta to the rescue

TEXT: VAT 1680.

COPIES: WA 158; VS 11, 28.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Izre'el, *Amarna*, pp. 10ff.

[To Paḫanate, [my] lord: Message of 'Abd]-Aširta, [your] ser[van]t. I fall at the f[ee]t of my lord. 4-10 [Wh]at do your words, [my lord, that you speak, man? ... [..] my lord, [you speak] [like this]: "You are an enemy of Egypt, [and] you [committed a crime against Egyptians]." [May my lord listen. There were no] men in Šumur [to guard it [as he had ord]ered," 10-20 and [Šnm]ut [was afraid of] the t[ro]ops of Š[eh]al; there were no m[en] in it to [guard] it. [So] I myself [has]tened to the rescue from Irqat, and I myself [came [before] Šumme' and ... your [..] from the hand of the troops of Š[eh]al. If I had not been staying in [Irqat], if I had been staying where life was peaceful, then the troops of Š[eh]al [would certainly] have s[ent] Šumur and the palace np in [flam]es.⁵ 21-34 When I myself hastened to the rescue from Irqat and arrived in Šumur, there were no men that had stayed on in the palace. Here are the

(only) ones that had stayed on in the palace: Šab-Ilu, Bištanu, Mays, Arsawa.⁶ There were (only) 4 men that had stayed on in the palace, and they said to me, "Save us from the hand of the troops of Šeḫlal." And so I sav[ed] them from the hand of the troops of Šeḫlal. [Of 4 per]sons I saved the lives.⁷ 25 (was the number of those) whom [the troops of Šeḫlal] killed. 34-36 And when . . . [. . .] 37-45 [I]hey [β]ed⁸ from Šumur. I did not expel (them) [. . .]⁹ the mayors lie to you, [and y]ou keep on listening to them? [And Y]armaya,¹⁰ when he writes [. . .], lies [to] you, and you keep on listening [to] his [word]s. 45-55 *As for Yarmaya, (the troops) of Šeḫlal [come] with him. [They come] to seize [Šumur]. He took . . . to seize the city itself. . . .*¹¹

NOTES

- Free restoration: [01-1]a-[mi LÚ.KUR] 7 [ša KUR mi]-i-[i] 10-[pa-n] lum-na] 8 [a-na LÚ] MES . . . (cf. EA 106:32).
- [i]-š-me] 9 [be-š-ia] na . . . 10 [a-na na-ri-i] ki-ma qa-be-ša. Cf. *kima qabi šarri* (EA 144:21, etc.); *kima qabāha* (193:22); *kima ša qabūu* (302:18; 329:20).
- [pa-ša-at] (beginning of line 12).
- [i]a-šan-ni-m]a (BAN clear to Knudtzon); cf. *šanū* (AHw, p. 822). An image of 'Abdi-Ašira placing himself between the troops of Šeḫlal and the besieged city? For a different reading and interpretation, see Izzi et al., *Amaru*.
- na] [I]ZL-ša.MES: contrary to Knudtzon (VAB 4/2, p. 351, note c), *i-na* fits the traces very well (see like the *na* at the end of line 50 and on line 52), but the writing of *išši* is unparalleled.
- Reading of the first two names uncertain.
- š-wi-lu-a?)-i-m*: following Izzi et al., *Amaru*.
- [x-k in-na]-be-š-[u-ma].
- Beginning of line 40: traces do not favor [mi-n]im.
- [i] 10-]a-na-ia (Albright, JNES 5 [1946] p. 13, no. 15). In line 45, collation is not decisive, but I could not see the vertical nor the heads of all three horizontals, all of which are so clear in V5 11 and would confirm Knudtzon's TUR.
- Lines 50-55: very poorly preserved, with several very obscure forms.

EA 63

Orders obeyed

TEXT: BM 29817.

COPY: BB 34.

PHOTOGRAPH: BB, pl. 15.

Say [to] the king, my lord: Message of 'Abdi-Ašira (t)ci, servant of the king. I fall at the feet of my king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times. I fall

at the feet of the king, my lord.² 7-9 The king, [the lo]rd, has given orders [to] me, and I heed the [oi]rders of the king, [my] lord. 10-16 [I] heed (them), and so [may] the k[ing, my] l[ord], heed my [word]s, [for the wa]r again[st me] is (ev)ere. *May the k[ing] [be] [in]form[ed].*

NOTES

- Nu'aman, *UF* 11 (1979) pp. 676f., has demonstrated that EA 63-65 and 335 were all sent by 'Abdi-Ašira, and all from the same place where Suwardata resided. Schroeder, *OLZ*, 1915, cols. 293f., linked EA 65 and 335, and Nu'aman shows the common social background of EA 63-65, 282-84, and 335: cf. V5 12, p. 74. Note also the form of TU in EA 283:24 as well as 65 and 335; the form of GIK in 63-65 and 283; the writing *ša-na-ur* in 63:12, 64:30, 283:22, 31 (elsewhere: 144:23, 178:9, 277:10); the writing 1 GIK.MES in 63:5, 64 3; 65-4. Nu'aman makes 'Abdi-Ašira the successor of Suwardata.
- a-na GIR.MES 'ša' 10 LUG[AL] EN-ša . . .*

EA 64

Women for the king

TEXT: BM 29816.

COPY: BB 33

PHOTOGRAPH: BB, pl. 11.

Say to the king, my lord: Message of 'Abdi-Ašira, servant of the king. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times «[the feet of the king, my lord]» and 7 times, *here and now*,¹ both on the stomach and on the back. 8-13 May the king, my lord, be informed that the war against me is severe, and may it seem good to the king, my lord, to send a magnate to protect me. 14-23 Moreover, the king, my lord, has sent orders to me and I am heeding (them). I heed all the orders of the king, my lord. I herewith : *ša-ša-aq-i* (send on) 10 women . . .²

NOTES

- The meaning of *mila* (*mili*, *milanna*—*a mila anna?*), which with only two exceptions (EA 22:6; 330:7) is confined to EA 64-65, 282-84, is proposed on the basis of 283:15.

- Things requested by the king, as the ten women seem to have been, are either readied (*šāru*: EA 96, 316, 325), brought (*šābu*: EA 327), sent (*šāru*: EA 314), or given (*qudāru*: EA 242, 301), and hence the meaning assigned to *šāpaqī* (Krahmalkov, JNES 30 [1971] pp. 22f.; idem, BASOR 223 [1976] pp. 78f.; Rainey, *UF* 6 [1974] p. 300). The meaning of *mi-ki-ia* remains obscure, if

an adjective, then it should refer to some favourable quality of the women (Loretz and Mayer, *UF* 6 [1974] pp. 493f.), but the gloss market in front of it may simply be an indication of a turnover line (cf. the market before EN at the end of line 16). Read *mmur-ur-mur-Ki-ia?*

EA 65

Preparations for Egyptian troops

TEXT: VAT 1685.

COPIES: WA 175; VS 11, 29.

[Sa]ly [to the king, my lord]: Message of 'Abidi-Aštarti,¹ your set-va[nt]. I fall at the feet of my lord 7 times and 7 times, *here and now*, both on the stomach and on the back, at the feet of the king, my lord. 7-10 Since the king, my lord, has sent me orders, I am heeding (them). All the orders of [my] king I h[ea]r. The cities of the king by (me) I guard. 11-15 and (I) prepare before the arrival of the arch[ers] of the king, my lord, [...].²

NOTES

1. Whatever the explanation of the writing, the sender of the letter must be the 'Abidi-Aštarti of EA 63-64. Instead of *'ajd-[il]-INANNA, m'ab'-[d]i + 'INANNA; for the assumed ligature of *di* and *dingir*, cf. the extraordinary ligature of IUGAL + *ir* in line 6.

2. Only one line missing. Line 11: (i)-lu-ir-m, a well-attested form, rather than an otherwise unattested infinitive *ir-ir-m* (VAB 3/2, p. 1383). Line 12: [a]-na pa-mi ... (see Introduction, n. 100).

EA 66

A lost message

TEXT: VAT 1702.

COPY: VS 11, 30.

Too fragmentary for translation.¹

NOTE

1. Reference to [Jaya (line 4).

EA 67

A plea for a reckoning

TEXT: VAT 1591.

COPIES: WA 186; VS 11, 31.

1-6 ... 6-13 [...]. He resides in [n.Šamur along with] his [troops] (and) along with [his] [warriors]. Now may the Sun call [to account] [Š]umur, [the city] of the Su[na], my lord, [and] may the [Š]un [know] (the facts).¹ *Is it pleasing? A[?] the E[gyptians] who had resided in Šumur, the city of the Su[na], my lord, came out and are residing in my land, [my] [lord].* 13-18 He made a [tr]eaty² [with the ruler of Gubla and with the ruler of ... and] all the fortress commanders of your land ... [...] became friendly³ with him, my lord. Now he is [like] the 'Apiru, a runaway dog, and he has seized [Š]umur, the city of the Sun, my lord ...⁴

NOTES

1. Free restoration. Line 8: [š i-na-ur-ra 'UTU-š i-š] *al-mi*.

2. The subject of the verb is not clear; it could even be first person. Most likely, it seems, is Aziru of Amurru; then the ruler of Byblos would be the perfidious brother of Rib-Hadda (cf. EA 137-38; see VAB 3/2, pp. 1344 ff.; Greenberg, *Babylon*, p. 43). The identity of the writer of the letter cannot be determined. The designation *pal/šabla*, 'fortress commander,' and the epithet '(my) Sun,' written 'UTU-š' (elsewhere in EA, only in letters from Ugarit, EA 45, 46, 49) and from Nuzi, EA 51; regularly at Boghazköy), give the language and writing a northern cast.

3. DUG-GA-*šim* = *šabnu* (see Introduction, n. 59).

4. Of the obverse there are preserved only three fragmentary lines; the entire reverse, except for a few signs and traces, is completely lost.

EA 68

Byblos under attack

TEXT: VAT 1239.

COPIES: WA 80; VS 11, 32.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Youngblood, *Amarna**Correspondence*, pp. 1ff.

TRANSLATION: Ebeling, p. 373.

[Rib-Hadda] s[ays] to his lord, [king] of all countries, Great King: May the Lady of Gubla grant power to the king, my lord. 7-11 I fall at the feet of my lord, my Sun, 7 times and 7 times. May the king, my lord, know that Gubla, the loyal maid-servant of the king, is safe and

sound. 12-18 The war, however, [o]f the 'Apiru forces [aga]nst me is extremely severe, and so may the king, my lord, not [neg]lect Šumur lest ever[y]one be joined to the 'Apiru forces. 19-26 Through the king's commissioner who is in Šumur, Gubla is alive. Paḫa[anna]ta, the commissioner of the king who is in Šumur, knows the straits: *ma-na-as* (?)³ that Gubla is in. 27-32 It is from the land of Yatimuta that we have acquired provisions. The w[ar] [aga]nst us is extremely severe, and so may the king not [neg]lect his [d]uties.

NOTES

1. [wv]; *ib-ḫu-nd-š[?]*: last sign, *š[?]* possible, but not *š[?]*. On *ib-ḫu*, see EA 74, n. 1.
2. *la-a* (*l[?]-a-ḫ[?]-me*, a written over an erased *i*).
3. Gloss (read *ma-na-r[?]*?) unexplained (cf. ARMT 7, p. 320); the first sign is more like *l2* than in the copy of VS. Youngblood, p. 37, proposes West Semitic *n[?]* < *ma'nat* ('n'), "trouble," which leaves the bound form before *ḫu* unexplained.

EA 69

Report to an official

TEXT: BM 29856.

COPY: BB 73.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Youngblood, *Amararna Correspondence*, pp. 41ff.

[Say to . . . : Message of Rib-Hadda, I fall at your feet. *May the Lady of Gubla, the goddess of the king, my lord, establish your honor in the presence of the king, my lord, my god, my Sun.* . . . 10-14 [I] said repeatedly, "They have a[ll] arg[um]ent among themselves against [me]."¹ Moreover, look, they have now attacked day and night in the war against [me]. 15-18 Moreover, you yourself know that my towns are threatening me,² [and] I have [not] been able to make [pe]ace w[ith] the[m].³ 19-24 [M]ore[over]: [. . .] . . . [of] Magdalu, and the forces of Kusbat are at war with me, and there is no one who can rescue me from them. 24-30 Moreover, on Appiḫa's re[ac]hing me, there was an outcry against me, and, as for all my gates, the bronze: *nu-ḫu-ut-tu, was taken.*⁴ Appiḫa about the w[hole] affair. 30-39 Moreover, urge with loud cries⁵ the king, [your] lord, and [if] archers come out [this year]: [. . .] . . . [I will be able to make] pe[ac]e.

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NOTES

1. Addressed to an Egyptian official.
2. *ḫ[?]-ḫu-ut-tu* (cf. *ib-ḫu-nd-š[?]*, cf. EA 82:32; 102:25; 106:49; 114:14. For the expression *wasita ḫ[?]*, see EA 115:5).
3. *ḫ[?]-ḫu-ut-tu*, perhaps "are stronger than I," or "are too strong for me."
4. *ḫ[?]-ḫu-ut-tu* [SIG.]-[?]: cf. line 39. If this is the correct reading, then the context argues that *ḫ[?]-ḫu-ut-tu* (ḫ[?]) is "to make friendship"; cf. *ḫ[?]-ḫu-ut-tu*, "friendly relations," and *ḫ[?]-ḫu-ut-tu*, "friend" (as political terms, see JNES 22 [1965] p. 175; Wenfield, JAO 93 [1973] pp. 191ff.).
5. Syntax obscure; reading *ḫ[?]-ḫu-ut-tu*, cf. as third singular feminine passive (gender from *ḫ[?]-ḫu-ut-tu*, since the context suggests no other singular subject, and note also *ḫ[?]-ḫu-ut-tu*, nominative case.
6. See EA 87:23 and note.
7. See EA 129:40-42.

EA 70

Request for Nubian troops

TEXT: Golenisheff (see Introduction, sect. 1).

COPY: WA 67.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Youngblood, *Amararna Correspondence*, pp. 61ff.

. . .¹ 17-23 [And] send me [x] Egyptians and [x] men from Meluhja,² [and] as [you did to] the kings [to] w[ar] you [and] [the] archers,³ so they can go [and] [until] the coming] forth of the archers. 24-31 [And] may the king, my lord, know [that] the land of Amurru long⁴ day and [night] for the coming forth of the archers. [The] day the [arch]ers arrive, the land of Am[urru] will [certainly] be [joined] . . . to the king, [my lord]. . .⁵

NOTES

1. Lines 1-7 (greening): only a few signs preserved. Lines 8-16: reference to Magdalu (?—line 9), "to his son [. . .] . . . between the two of us" (15f.; *ḫ[?]-ḫu-ut-tu*, see EA 113:28).
2. "Meluhja" designated Nubia, and Nubians and Nubian troops are mentioned frequently as part of the Egyptian army (EA 95:39f.; 108:57; 112:20; 117:31ff.; 122:56). They are also called men or troops of Kaš (Cush), and Meluhja is probably identified as Kaš (EA 127:36; 132:56; 133:17). On the evidence of the Amarna letters, see Pintore, OA 11 (1972) p. 103; for other evidence on Nubians in the Egyptian army, see Schulman, *Military Rank, Title, and Organization in the Egyptian New Kingdom*, Münchener ägyptologische Studien 6 (Berlin, 1964), pp. 22ff., 127ff.

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3. 20 [ki-i] me LUGAL MES 21 [ša nu-a]d-ne ta ⁸[GIGIR MES]; cf. Ne'aman, *Political Disposition*, p. 22*, n. 100, "wood" (GIB, *ip*) hardly stood above GIGIR MES at the beginning of the next line, *nakkabāt-šū-nā*).
4. *ir-ku* (*u*) would be more in accord with established usage (Rainey, *UF* 6 [1974] p. 322).
5. One line rest of tablet lost.

EA 71

To a wise man

TEXT: VAT 1632.
 COPIES: WA 72; VS 11, 33.
 TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Youngblood, *Amarna Correspondence*, pp. 78ff.

[To] Ḫaya, the *sizi(er)*:¹ Message of Rib-Hadda. I fal[li] at your feet. May Aman, the god of the king, [y]our lord, establish² your honor in the presence of the king, your lord. 7-16 You are a wise man; the king knows (this) and because of you wis(d)om³ he sent you as commissioner. Why have you been negligent, not speaking to the king so he will send archers to take Šumur?⁴ 16-22 What is 'Abdi-Asirta, servant and dog, that he takes the land of the king for himself? What is his auxiliary force that it is strong? Through the 'Apiru his auxiliary force is strong!⁵ 23-27 So send me 50 pairs of horses and 200 infantry⁶ that I may resist him in Šigata until the coming forth of the archers. 28-35 Let him not gather together all the 'Apiru so he can take Šigat[al] and Ampt, and [seize . . .] . . .⁶ What shall I be able to d[ic]o? There will be no place where [men] can enter against [him].⁷

NOTES

1. *pa-ši-er* (a reading MAŠ[RIM] (Kesestem in Kühne, p. 145) is excluded, unless one assumes an aberrant form that also differs from MASKIM as written in line 10). The traces of *te* as described in *VAB* 2/2, p. 366, note c, are still visible, the VS 11 copy notwithstanding. For the title, see Albright, *JNES* 5 (1946) p. 12.
2. On *ir-di-nu* as plural (*iddinū*), see *JCS* 5 (1951) p. 35; *Biblica* 45 (1965) pp. 80f.
3. *im-gū-ri-ku* following Albright, *JNES* 5 (1946) p. 12, n. 8.
4. Lines 20-22, with Ebeling, *VAB* 2/2, p. 159f.
5. *IRIN.MES GIR.MES* the expression is also found in *EA* 149:62; 170:22; at Bugnasköy (*AHus* p. 1072b); in an Old Babylonian letter (*ABB* 10, 150:11) and

- in unpublished Neo-Assyrian copy of an Old Babylonian *lamtu* (ND A401; courtesy W. G. Lambert).
6. See *EA* 76:25 and note.
7. *ma-ḫi-šu LU.MES*; cf. *EA* 76:22.

EA 72

Message lost

TEXT: VAT 1712.
 COPY: VS 11, 34.
 TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Youngblood, *Amarna Correspondence*, pp. 100f.

Too fragmentary for translation.¹

NOTE

1. A letter to the king, perhaps repeating the request of *EA* 71 to Ḫaya (Pintore, *GA* 11 [1972] p. 102, n. 10). Lines 14 (obv.) and 6 (rev.) are fragmentary, with references to Iqrata(?), Ardana(?), Gubla, Ampt, Šumur, and 'Apiru.

EA 73

Of ambivalent Amurru

TEXT: BM 29798.
 COPY: BB 15.
 TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Youngblood, *Amarna Correspondence*, pp. 106ff.

To Amanappa, my father: Message of Rib-Hadda, your son. I fall at the feet of my father. May the Lady of Gubla establish your honor in the presence of the king, your lord. 6-11 Why have you been negligent, not speaking to the king, your lord, so that you may come out together with archers and fall upon the land of Amurru?¹ 11-16 If they hear of archers coming out, they will abandon their cities and desert. Do not you yourself know that the land of Amurru follows the stronger party?² 17-25 Look, they are not now being friendly to 'Abdi-Asirta. What will he do to them? (And so) they are longing³ day and night for the coming out of the archers, and (they say), "Let us join them!" All the mayors long for this to be done to 'Abdi-Asirta,³ 26-33 since he sent a message to the men of Ammiya, "Kill your lord and join the 'Apiru."⁴ Accordingly, the mayors say, "He will do the same thing to

3. Or "whether the ruler in Gubla has not been a loyal servant."
4. *Imma*; see EA 35, n. 3.
5. *qa-du-su*, meaning uncertain. If the preposition *qad*, then it occurs only here in EA with a pronominal suffix (D. O. Edzard, in B. Hruška and G. Komoróczy, eds., *Festschrift L. Mazon* [Budapest, 1978], p. 86, n. 17); perhaps "together with some of our number" (the older generation; cf. Weber, *VAB 2/2*, p. 1159, "fellow-citizens"? In the parallel passages (EA 75:12; 81:39; 85:12; 90:37), the sequence is sons-daughters-wood (furnishings) of houses. Is *qa-du* the corresponding Canaanite word? S. Smith's idiosyncratic version of EA 74:23-47 (*The Statue of Idrim*) [London, 1949], p. 34) is, as the parallels make perfectly clear, wrong. ARMT 22, 143:2, perhaps attests to a noun *qadu* (S-mi-EG qa-dí-šd), but its meaning is quite unclear.
6. On this growth (also EA 75:15-17; 81:37E; 90:42E), with Mesopotamian and other parallels, see D. Marcus, *JANES* 5 (1973) pp. 281ff.; see also Lieberman, *Hebrew Union College Annual* 58 (1987) p. 162, nn. 20-21. On "plowing the field" in Sumerian literature see Sjöberg, *JCS* 29 (1977) p. 24, and on *šm*, "seed-plow," as a metaphor for father see Lambert, *KA* 76 (1982) p. 84. Later, in Greece, the metaphor belonged not only to literature (J. M. Edmonds, *Elegy and Iambus*, vol. 1, Loeb Classical Library, p. 427) but also to legal language (see the dictionaries under *aristos*, *ariston*, *spiroi*).
7. The use of *šlu*, "(young, adult) male," if it is the correct reading (EIN *Šu-ku-ur?*), is without parallel in related or similar passages. It appears elsewhere in EA letters only in 29:134, probably as a distinction of age (cf. Ugaritic *šabšaru* = *šlu*, *Ugarit* 5, no. 157 ii 24'), for the reading, see Baroy, *IEJ* 19 (1969) p. 107, and Blau and Greenfield, *BASOR* 200 (1970) p. 17. Undoubtedly there is reference here to the murder of the ruler of Ammiya, who in EA 75:27 and 75:34 is called *šlu*, "lord" (BNE, cf. also EA 81:12), and, probably, in 140:11 is called *šaru*, "king." Unless, therefore, *šlu* implies here a certain sarcasm ("your young fellow"), it is probably meant to suggest authority. There is no evidence that the term could be used as a collective ("princes," Knudtzon; "chiefs," Greenberg, *Hahšpira*, p. 34, and Liverani, *Revista Storica Italiana* 57 (1965) p. 324; "seigneurs" [also of EA 75:27; 81:12], Livetani, in Garelli, ed., *Le Palais et la Royauté*, p. 354).
8. With the possible exception of EA 67:16f., "like us" in 'Abdi-Asira's speech, does not occur elsewhere. It is the narrative version of "like us" in 'Abdi-Asira's speech, and it implies that, for Rib-Hadda, the followers of 'Abdi-Asira and the 'Apiru were virtually indistinguishable (Greenberg, *Hahšpira*, p. 34).
9. On lines 30-41, see G. Mendenhall, *JNES* 5 (1947) pp. 123f.; see also *JCS* 7 (1953) p. 78, n. 4.
10. The absence of URU (*šru*), "city, town," before É NIN.URTA, or of the determinative KI after it, argues against a place-name BI-NIN.URTA (cf. EA 290:16). The temple was presumably the scene of the oath mentioned in line 42. The Canaanite god referred to by Sumero-Akkadian NIN.URTA is not known; at Ugarit, Ninurta = Gašaru (*JCS* 31 (1979) p. 72, n. 23).
11. See n. 4.
12. *š* [k]i-šr šr-šr (ni-pu-šr)-ša, "and let an alliance be made (for all the lands)": Albright in Mendenhall (see n. 9).

13. Lit. "placed an oath," NAM.RU, *māmitu*, "oath" (*JCS* 7 (1953) p. 78, n. 5), but perhaps not a mistake for NAM (NE).RU; cf. NAM.RU.MA., *PBS* 1/2, 72:25; Nougayrol, *JCS* 1 (1947) p. 334, n. 28; Falkenstein, *Das Sumerische Lexikon*, 1964, p. 26, 4.b; Krecheti, *AOAT* 1, pp. 193f.
14. *a*-[na ka-ra]; following Rainey, *UF* 7 (1975) p. 414. Note that *ad* in the meaning "along with" occurs elsewhere in EA only in the Jerusalem letters (but see EA 92:42 and note).
15. *šr-šr-šr* LUGAL 58 [KUR]; *šr š* [šr-šr]. cf. EA 85,61f.; 116,62f. The form *šr-šr-šr* (Knudtzon) may not serve as an injunctive, which would be *šr-šr-šr* or *šr-šr-šr*.

Political chaos

TEXT: C 4757 (12191).

COPY: WA 79.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Youngblood, *Amarna Correspondence*, pp. 155ff.

Rib-Hadda [says to] his lord, k[ing of all countries]: May the lady of [Gubla] grant power [to my lord]. I fall at the feet of my lord, my Sun, [7] times and 7 times. 6-14 [May] the king, my lord, know th[at] Gubla, the maidserv[ant] of the king [from ancient times, is safe and sound. The war, however, of the 'Apiru aga[inst] me is severe. (Our) sons and daughters and the furnishings of the houses are gone, since they have been sold [in] the land of Yarimuta for our provisions to keep us alive. 15-21 "For the lack of a cultivator, my field is like a woman without a husband." I have written repeatedly to the palace because of the illness¹ afflicting me, [but there is no one] who has looked at the words that [keep arriving].² [May the king] give heed [to] the words of [his] servant. 22-25 . . . 25-29 The 'Apiru killed³ Adluna, the king] of Irqata, but there was no one who (s)aid⁴ anything to 'Abdi-Asira, and so they go on tak[ing] (territory for themselves).⁵ 30-34 Miya, the ruler of Anšai, seized Ar[d]jata, and just now the men of Ammiya) have killed the (i) lord. I am afraid. 35-48 May the king be informed that the king of Hatti has seized all the countries that were vassals⁶ of the king of Mitta(ni).⁷ Behold, [he] is king of Na[hi]ma [and] the land of the Gra[ati] Kings, [and] 'Abdi-Asira, [the servant] and dog, is tak[ing] the land of the king]. Send ar[ri]bers. Severe is . . . 49-50 [and send] a man to [Gubla] that I may [t. . .] . . . bu word[s].

NOTES

1. *amqū* (l₂-š): following Youngblood, *Amararna Correspondence*, p. 160; Rainey, *UF* 5 (1973) p. 24f, n. 41.
2. Perhaps "the distress": cf. *maris* (*ama*) *iyāli* (EA 103:7; 362:59), *marāku* (EA 106:23), and EA 95, n. 4.
3. 19 [ia-uu]; 20 [i-ik-šū]-de-nz. Cf. *kašāde* said of words (EA 59:46; 136:22; 221:14), of requests (EA 82:16), of the breath of the king (EA 100:40; 145:19; 146:12), and of tablets (EA 100:24; 153:55?).
4. [L]U.MEŠ GA Z(?)ZM(?)ME[Š] (cf. EA 67:17); i du-ku-[u], last sign either *is* or *na*, but a preterite is expected (cf. VAB 2/1, p. 1519).
5. *šab-qa-š*.
6. *š-š*-qfš-olē: cf. EA 90:15; 104:22, 25, 32; 126:13; 117:64; 131:17.
7. The context requires that the lands be associated in some way with Mitanni(?); cf. Goetze, *CAH* 2/2, p. 8, "all the lands affiliated(?) with the king of the Mitanni land." Very hesitantly, it is proposed that KU.TU.TI is a syllabic writing for GÜ.(UN).DI, D₆, *ablat bilik*, lit. "bearers of tribute."
8. If KUR *mi-ū-ta* refers to Mitanni, note not only the omission of (*na*) or (*ni*), but also the writing with double *t*, unparalleled in nine other writings of the name in the Byblos letters. See Wilhelm, *ZA* 63 (1973) p. 71, line 16, KUR *me-ta*. KJL and commentary pp. 73f; Görg, *ZA* 76 (1986) p. 308.

EA 76

Of ambition and arrogance

TEXT: VAT 324.

COPIES: WA 74; VS 11, 35.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Youngblood, *Amararna Correspondence*, pp. 168ff.

Rib-Hadda says to the king of all countries, Great King, King of Battle: May the Lady of Gubla grant power to the king, my lord. I fall at the feet of my lord, my Sun, 7 times and 7 times. 7-16 May the king, my lord, know that the war of 'Abdi-Asirta against me is severe. [H]e wants to take [f]or himself¹ the two cities that have remained to me. [M]oreover, what is 'Abdi-Asirta [the dog, that he strives to (re)take all the cities of the king, the Sun, (for) himself? Is he the king of Mitanni, or the king of Kaššu, that [h]e strives to take the land of the king for himself? 17-29 He has just gathered together all the 'Apiru against Šigara [and] Ampā, and [h]e himself has taken these two cities. [I]f I said, "There is no place where [me]n² can enter against him. He has seized [...] . . .³ [so] send me [a garrison] of 4000 men and x pairs of horses [with all speed].⁴ [I]f I [thus] keep writing to the palace, but [you do not reply] [to me].⁴ 30-37 [...] . . . For years archers would come

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out to inspect [the coun]try, and yet now that the land of the king and Sumur, your³ garrison-city, have been joined to the 'Apiru, you have done nothing. 38-46 Send a large force of archers that I⁴ may drive out the king's enemies and all lands be joined to the king. Moreover, you are a great lord. You must not neglect this message.

NOTES

1. [a-na ša-a-šu]: contrary to Knudsen (VAB 2/1, p. 380, note h) and Schroeder's copy, I could see no certain traces of signs that exclude this obvious restoration (lines 14, 16; EA 71:19; 74:24; 81:9; etc.).
2. [L]U.MEŠ-*na*: for this writing see EA 106:39.
3. [š]AG : šē P₁-x Za : x = BAR, not at all certain. Is this the name of a hill or mountain (HUR.S)AG the capture of which has made 'Abdi-Asirta inaccessible? Cf. also EA 71:31f.
4. [ki-ma ar-hi-š-a-š]e-me [ki-a-ma] 28 [š-š-ūp-ū-a-a-na] 'E'. [GA]L₂ [la-n] 29 [ū-š-ū-ū-n]a [š]-wa[š]u[UD]-[la, a-na] [š]-[š]e for the restorations, see the following: *šema aršit*—EA 73:45; 88:25; 112:22f.; etc.; *amennu* . . . *ana šakli*—EA 74:49f.; 85:6; 89:7f.; 118:8f.; 122:53f.; 132:51; *u la tūrruma* . . . —EA 81:22f.; 82:7f., 47f. See also Youngblood, *Amararna Correspondence*, pp. 174f.
5. The pronominal suffix is *š-š-ū*, probably a plural of majesty.
6. I assume that ERIN.MEŠ *pašš* is the subject, construed as third feminine singular (cf. EA 103:55f.; 127:38f.; 120:33ff.; 131:40; see also JCS 6 (1952) p. 78), with a shift from masculine singular (*rašā*, line 39; cf. also EA 77:27). Also possible is "that you may drive out," the writer shifting between second and third person in addressing the king.

EA 77

A rebellious peasantry

TEXT: VAT 1635 + 1700.

COPIES: WA 81 (only 1635); VS 11, 36.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Youngblood, *Amararna Correspondence*, pp. 178f.

To *Ana[nappa, my father]*: Message of (Rib-Hadda, your son). I fall [at your feet]. May [Aman, the god of the king], your lord, and [the Lady of Gubla] establi[sh] you hon[or] in the presence of the king, [you] lord. As to 7-15 you writing me [for] copper and for *šinnu*,² may the Lady of Gubla be witness:³ there is no copper or *šinnu* of [cop]per available to me or [to] her unjustly treated ones.⁴ *Milkyays* overlaid one with . . . [. . .], but I gave his *šinnu* to [the ruler] of Tyre [for] [my] provisions, 15-25 [Y]ou yourself [should] know [the straits I am in]! . . . Why have you been neglig[ent]? . . . who [re]joice [against] the country. You do not

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spe[ak] to you lord so he will send you at the head of the archers to drive off the 'Apiru from the (m)ayors. 26-37 If t[hi]s year no [ar]chers come out, then all lands will be join[ed] to the 'Apiru. If [the king, my lord, is negligent] and there are no [archers], then let a ship [fetch] the men (of Gubla), you (my), (and) the g[ods] (to bring them) all the way to you so I can abandon Gubla. Look! I am afraid the peasa[nt]ry will strike m[e] down.

NOTES

1. 3 *amap* *di-ama-na DIMGAR* ša LUGAL. 4 EN-ša u NIN in URU gub[la] [la] 5 ša-di (ni) mi: cf. EA 712f.; 8715f.; 9534f. The clear *gub-la* of Schroeder's copy agrees neither with Knudtzon's collation nor with mine.
2. *simu*, despite *simu* in lines 10 and 13, is hardly ivory (SSDB, p. 154; Or n.s. 29 [1960] p. 17; Youngblood, p. 183, followed by Rainey, *UF* 5 [1973] p. 243, n. 49). Ivory was readily available in Egypt from the south and was not likely to have been the object of a special request. Besides, if at the end of line 11 the correct reading is [UR]UDU (*ard*), "copper," then ivory is excluded. For *simu*, see *AHM*; p. 1048.
3. *x* (U)-*ṣ*-*de* *x*, not *mi* (see VAB 2/1, p. 585, note d), and not *ul* (Rainey, *UF* 5 [1973] p. 243; besides, the negatise *al* is always written *al* in the Byblos letters); *lu*2 (LJ), for *lu* *ṣ*idat?
4. [š-*ra*] *gub*. *T*-*ṣ*-*ke*: the residents of Byblos? reference to Milkayu?
5. [ḫi-*ni*-*ka*-*ṣ*ṣ] *x*-*ni*-*ma*-*ṣ*ṣ?
6. [ḫi-*ni*-*ka*-*ṣ*ṣ] *ni*: cf. EA 68:24f.; 74:52.
7. *ṣ*-*aq*-*ṣ*idat: see Or n.s. 29 [1960] p. 10, n. 3.
8. 21 *b* *ṣ*-*ni* [šRIN.MES p[ri]-[ṣ]-[ṣ] 32 *ṣ*-*ḫ*LA LÚ.M[un] URU gub[la] 33 [ṣ] MÉS-*ka* DIN[GR.MES i]-[ṣ]-[ṣ] 34 *ṣ*-*di* *ma*-[ṣ]-*ka* ḫ *ṣ*-*ṣ*-*ṣ*-[ṣ] 35 URU [gub-la a-mu]: cf. EA 82:42f.; 83:45ff.; 84:51ff.; 129:49ff.; 132:53ff.

EA 79

Request for a garrison

TEXT: VAT 1282.

COPIES: WA 84; VS 11, 37.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Youngblood, *Amararna Correspondence*, pp. 191ff.

[Rib]-Hadda says [to] his lord, king of all countries, [Great] [King]: May the Lady of [Gubla] grant power to [the king, my lord], my [Sun]. I fall [at] the feet of [my] lord, my Sun, 7 times and 7 times. 7-16 [M]y the king, my lord, know [that] the was of [Ab]-di-Aširta against m[e] is severe, [and he has tak]en all [my] cit[ies]. N]ow only two towns remain [to] me, and even these he s[tr]ikes to [tak]e. Like a

bird in a trap, so am [I] in Gub[la]. 17-19 May my lord heed the words of] his [servant]. I have just b[e]l[en] in Batruna. 20-27 ... 'my ...] send me [im]mediately. 37-41 and [send] a g[ar]rison, 3 [o] pairs of horses [i]n the cha[ge] of] ...?

NOTES

1. In line 30, probably a reference to *ḫanḫa*, "emmer," written ša.27.ḫ.ḫ.ḫ. and the only mention of emmer in EA.
2. 3 [o] *ra-pu*] 40 [ANŠE KUR] 'RA'. [M]EŠ [I]-*na* *ga*-[at ...]: cf. EA 83:21f.; 83:20; 103:43; 112:21; 119:12f.
3. Six to ten lines missing.

EA 79

At the brink

TEXT: VAT 1634.

COPIES: WA 75; VS 11, 38.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Youngblood, *Amararna Correspondence*, pp. 197ff.

[Ri]-Hadda says [to] his [lord], king of all countries, Great King, [King of Ba]lrite: May the Lady [of] Gubla grant [power] to the king, my lord. 6-12 I fall [at] the feet of my lord, my Sun, 7 times and 7 times. Be informed that since Amanappa reached me, all the 'Apiru have at the urging of 'Abdi-Aširta turned against me. 13-17 May my lord heed the words of his servant. Send me a garrison [to] guard the city of the king un[til] the archers [co]me out. 18-26 [I] there are no archers], then al[l] [t]owns will be joined to the ['A]piru. Listen! [S]ince Bi-A[š]ir[ta] was seized [at] the urging of 'Abdi-Aširta, they have as a result been striving to [tak]e over' Gubla and Batruna, and thus all lands would be join[ed] to the 'Apiru. 27-33 There are two towns that remain to [me], and they want to take th[em] from the king. May my lord sen[d] a garrison to his two towns until the archers come out, and may something be given² to me for their food. 34-47 I have nothing at all. Like a bird in a trap: *ḫi-ṣi-bi* (cage), so am I in Gubla. Moreover, [I] [the king] is unable to save me fr[om] his enemies, [then al]l lands will be [j]oined [to] 'Abdi-Aširta. [What is he], the dog, that he tak[es] the lands of the king for [him]self?

NOTES

1. Whatever the meaning of the expression "to do/make a city" elsewhere, here "to fortify" seems clearly excluded.

2. *yū-da-na-ni*: Canaanite Qal passive *yaddan* + injunctive *ē* + pro. suff. [*nī*]; cf. *yaddana* in EA 83:34, 37; 86:32, 47; and see *SSDB*, p. 155, and Rainey, *UF* 7 (1975) p. 404.

3. *yi-šīl-qū*: cf. EA 71:16ff.; 75:41f.; 91:4; and the corresponding plural *šigina* in EA 104:17ff.

EA 80

A lost message

TEXT: VAT 1711.

COPY: VS 11, 39.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Youngblood, *Amararna Correspondence*, pp. 205ff.

Too fragmentary for translation.

EA 81

An attempted assassination

TEXT: VAT 1318.

COPIES: WA 89; VS 11, 40.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Youngblood, *Amararna Correspondence*, pp. 210ff.

[Rib-Hadda says] to [hia] lord, [king of all countries, Great King, King of Battle: May the Lady of Gubla grant power [to the king, [my lord], I [a]]] [u the feet] of my lord, my [Sun], 7 times and 7 times. 6-13 [May] the king, my lord, know that the war of 'Abdi-Aširta is [se]vere, [and] he has taken all my cities [for] himself. Gubla and Ba(ru)na remain to me, and he strives to take the two towns. He said to the men [of Gub]la, ' "[K]] your lord and be joined] to the 'Apu like Amm[ia].'" 14-24 [And so] they became train[ers] to me. A man with a bronze dagger: 'pat' [r] [a]tacked m[en],¹ but I ki[[ed] him. A *Yiradanu* [wh]om I knowe glot away [to 'Abdi-Aširta].² At his order was this [de]ed done! I have stayed [like šī] [in] my city and done nothing. I am unable to go out [into the countryside,³ and] I have written to the palace, [but you do not re]ply [to me]. I was stuck [9 times.⁴ 25-33 [Accordingly], I [fear for] my life.⁵ [And I have written repeatedly to the palace], "Do not [be negligent. Why are you negligent of] the distress afflicting me?" [I] within these two months there

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EA 81

are no archers, then [...] My he not fall [upon] my [city] and take me. I [have written to the palace.⁶ What (am I to say)⁷ to my pen[san-try]? 34-41 Like a bird in a [c]ap: *ki-lu-bi* (cage), so are they in [Gub]la. "[Fo] [ac]k of a cultivator: *thei* [field] is [like] a woman without a husband." [Their sons, their] dau[gh]ters, [the furnishings of their houses are gone, [since they have been sold [in] the land of [Y]rimura [for] provisions to keep them alive. 41-47 [I] was the one [wh]o said to them, "My god [is send]ing" archers." Since they (now) kno[we] [that] there are none, they have [armed against] (us). If within two months ardies do not come ou[er], then ['Ab]di-Aširta will certainly come up and take the two [towns]. 48-51 Previously Šummu and [us] men were [st]rong, and there was a [gar]rison with us. Wh[at] can I [do] by my[sel]f? 52-59 ...

NOTES

1. Paleographically, [URU gub-la] is the more probable reading; see Knudson's remarks, *VAB* 2/1, p. 395, note d). Certainly the "lord" to be killed is Rib-Hadda; cf. EA 74:26 and n. 7.

2. *ar* (*ar*), or perhaps an abbreviation (CAD, A/2, p. 299). For *ar*, "traitor, criminal," cf. *LU-lu ar-su* (EA 138:104), *ar* (*ar*)? LUGAL (EA 138:21), and *ar* (*ar*)? LUGAL (EA 139:40). The translation follows Rainey, *UF* 5 (1973) p. 252.

3. For the confusion of ideograms and the somewhat obscure syntax, cf. EA 82:37ff., and see JCS 2 (1948) pp. 247f. Read GIR: 'pat'-[r]a.

4. 17 [š]a-a š-še p[ā]r-š[ar] a-n[ā] ma-šar . ša-a instead of ša occurs sporadically; see *VAB* 2/2, p. 1506.

5. *te-na* EDIN MEŠ; cf. EA 88:20f.

6. See EA 82:39. The expression "9 times" means "over and over" or "once and for all": Naram-Sin fights nine battles in one year (YOS 1, 10, and duplicates); nine times he was wared against, nine times he defeated and freed his enemies, only at the tenth attack inflicting final defeat (VS 17, 42, see also *Sumer* 32 [1976] pp. 63ff.); nine times Sargon captures men and animals (TIM 9, 48 rev. 114f.; see also JCS 2 [1948] p. 248). Note, too, the nine peoples that divide the world and the nine chambers on each level of Ur-napisim's ark; see J. Glassner, *Akkadica* 40 (1984) p. 19.

7. [*šī*-na-an-šar] cf. EA 90:53, with Youngblood, *Amararna Correspondence*, p. 210.

8. Free restoration: [š]a-ša-pe-š[ar] à-š[ar]-ni 27 [š-na E.GAL] š-aš-š[ar]-[ar]-ni 28 [š-na mi-nim qā]-š[ar]-š[ar] at [šum mu-šil] 29 LUGU-in [š]m-ma. Cf. EA 75:17f.

9. [š] tap-par š-na].

10. [š-na-š[ar]-na].

11. [š]a-š[ar]-ni: enough space?

12. *šī*-[ar]-[ar]: cf. EA 105:36.

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EA 82

A threat to abandon Byblos

TEXT: BM 37648.

COPY: Siheil, *Mémoires*, p. 306.TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: JCS 2 (1948) pp. 241f.; Youngblood, *Amarna Correspondence*, pp. 224ff.

Say to Am[un]nappa, my father: Message of Rib-Hadda, your son. I fall at the feet of my father. 5-13 I have said to you again and again, "Are you unable to rescue me from 'Abdi-Asirta? All the 'Apiru are on his side, and as soon as the mayors hear anything, they write to him. Accordingly, he is strong." 14-22 You ordered me again and again, "Send youn man to me at the palace, and as soon as the request arrives, I will send him along with an auxiliary force, until the scribes come out, to protect you life." But I told you, "I am unable to send (him). 23-30 Let not 'Abdi-Asirta hear about it, or who would rescue me (from him)?" You said to me, "Do not fear!" You ordered me again and again, "Send a ship to the land of Yarimuta so silver and clothing can get out to you from them." 31-41 All the men whom you gave me have run off. The (legal) violence done to me is your responsibility,¹ if you neglect me. Now I have obeyed. Is it not a fact that I sent my man to the palace, and he gave orders to a man and he attacked me with a bronze dagger. I was stabbed 9 times!² He is strong through this crime, and from another time what could rescue me? 41-46 If within two months there are no archers, then I will abandon the city, go off, and my life will be safe while I do what I want to do. 47-52 Moreover, do not you yourself know that the land of Amuru longs day and night for the archers? Has it not been distressed³: *na-aq-ša-bu* (have they not been angry)? So tell the king, "Come with all haste."

NOTES

1. On the form *ya-if-ma*, see Or n.s. 29 (1960) p. 41 n. 4.
2. Perhaps *ta-aq-ša*, "you keep saying to me."
3. Otherwise, JCS 2 (1948) p. 247.
4. *hahallu aika* is very reminiscent of Sarah's reproach to Abraham, *hamaif 'āhāhā* (Gen. 16:5), of which it could be the literal translation. Perhaps Rib-Hadda used an expression of contemporary customary law.
5. See EA 81:24. Rib-Hadda thinks that it is self-evident that 'Abdi-Asirta is the villain; cf. EA 85:8 and n. 1.
6. The reading *ū-ai ta-ta-ai* must be retained, and *ū-ai ta-ta-ai* (CAD, A/2, p. 424b) rejected for three reasons: (1) there is not a single instance of the first

syllable in polysyllabic words written VVC in the Byblos letters; (2) there are only two quite dubious examples of *ū > it* in the Byblos letters (EA 92:39; 130:41); (3) if *maī amaru* is singular, then it is feminine and the form would be *ta-ai ta-ta-ai*.

EA 83

Pleas and threats

TEXT: BM 29797.

COPY: BB 14.

PHOTOGRAPH: BB, pl. 13.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Youngblood, *Amarna Correspondence*, pp. 257ff.

TRANSLATION: Ebeling, pp. 373f.

[R]ib-[H]adda says to his [lord], king of all countries, Great King: May the [L]ady of Gubla grant [f]ore to the king, my lord. I fall at the feet of my lord, my Sun, 7 times and 7 times. 7-14 Why do you not send back word to me that I may know what I should do? I sent a man of mine to my lord, and both his horses were taken. A second man—a man of his—was taken, [and] a tablet of the king was not put [in my man's hand. Listen to me! 15-20 Why] are you negligent so that your land is being taken? Let it not be said in the days of the commissioners, "The 'Apiru have taken the entire country!" Not so shall it be said in the days (of the commissioners), or you will not be able to take it back. 21-29 Moreover, I have written for a garrison and horses, but they are not given. Send back word to me, or like Yapah-Hadda and Zimredda I will make an alliance with 'Abdi-Asirta and stay alive. Moreover, now that over and above everything else *Šamir* and Bit-Aija have defected, 30-37 may [you] put me in Yanhamu's charge so he will give me grain to eat [that] I may guard for him the king's city. May the king also give the oxen and release my man. His family are very upset with me, (saying) day and night, "You gave our son to the king." So release him, especially him. 38-42 (The other is a citizen of Ibita.) He is, I assure you, in Yanhamu's house. Moreover, tell Ya(n)hamu, "I declare Rib-Hadda to be in your charge and whoever [that] happens to him to be your responsibility." 43-51 May the troops on campaign not fall upon me. And so I write, "If you do not tell him this, I will abandon the city and go off. Moreover, if you do not send word back to me, I will abandon the city and go off, together with the men who are loyal to me." 51-57 Also for your information:

Ummahnu (along with Milkuru, her husband), the maidservant of the Lady [of] Gubla, . . . *plow[er]ful [pry]*: [to] the *Lady of Gubla for the king, my lord*.⁹

NOTES

1. Perhaps the quotation begins with "in the days of the commissioners" (Kaudzion; Greenberg, *Habitiru*, p. 36). The context seems to require that with the second "in the days" we supply "of the commissioners" (lost by vertical haplography?) or perhaps "in (their) days." There is no evidence that the phrase of itself might mean "in (future) days" (Kaudzion, followed by Greenberg). Line 20c: *ḫi*, "as in line 24; *ḫi-ḫi-ḫi*, second singular (Kaudzion), not third plural (*Gr n.s.* 29 [1960] p. 4, 38 ff. *ḫi-ḫi-ḫi*).

2. [ḫi, *ḫi-ḫi-ḫi*: very probable reading; certainly not [ḫi (*Gr n.s.* 29 [1960] p. 6, n. 3). Considerations of form (cf. *ḫi-ḫi-ḫi*, EA 91:17) and the Byblos syllabary rule out [ḫi].

3. Read *ana a-ḫa-ḫi-ḫi* Ši (beginning of a partially written *ḫi*): cf. the pronominal suffixes in EA 79:33; 105:85; 109:41; 125:18, 26, 30.

4. *ḫi* emphasizes the pronominal suffix of *ḫi-ḫi-ḫi* (SSDB, p. 22). Perhaps "release him, too," for if I understand the following lines, reference is to the man whose detention is mentioned in line 12 and who has made his way to Yanhamu's house.

5. *ḫi-ḫi-ḫi* (and variant forms) must begin a sentence or be preceded only by *ḫi*, "and." On this particle see Rainey, *UF* 20 (1988) pp. 214ff. For a possible occurrence in Old Babylonian, see Dusard, *RA* 82 (1988) p. 106:10 *ḫi-ḫi*, "certain."

6. (*ḫi*) *ḫi-ḫi-ḫi*: following Rainey, *UF* 5 (1973) p. 252.

7. *ana ḫi-ḫi*, at the end of line 44, is written slightly smaller and higher than the rest of the line. It was probably inserted later where it could fit, and not at the end of line 45, where it belongs and alone makes sense. Reference is back to lines 39–40, "Say to Yanhamu."

8. *ḫi*: "who love me."

9. Ummahnu, who also appears in the next three letters, is always identified as the maidservant of the goddess and was probably a priestess. This is the basis for my very tentative reconstruction of her activities in this and the following letters. In line 55 I assume some form of *ḫi-ḫi-ḫi*, "to pray" ([ḫi-ḫi-ḫi] *ḫi-ḫi-ḫi*).

EA 84

Outrage upon outrage

TEXT: VAT 1633.

COPIES: WA 73; VS 11, 41.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Youngblood, *Amararna Correspondence*, pp. 264ff.

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EA 84

[S]ay [to] the king, my lord, Sun of all countries: Message of Rib-Hadda, your servant, [fo]rtress for you! fee, I fall at the feet of the Sun, my lord, 7 times and 7 times! Furthermore, is the activity of 'Abdi-Asira, the dog, with the result that the lands of the king are joined to him, pleasing in the sight of the king, my lord, and so he has done nothing for his lands?¹ 11–21 Now, indeed, Šumai, my lord's court and [h]is bedchamber, has been joined to h[im]. He has slept in the bedchamber of my [lord],² and opened the *treasure* room of my [lord], and yet he (the king) has done nothing. Who is he, the *traitor* and dog, [that he is s]trong? Moreover, as to men's [say]ing in the *presence of my [lord]*, "Gubla [has been seiz]ed; [its ruler is disre]garded,"³ 21–31 my lord⁴ should know (that) they have [not seiz]ed Gubla. *These in authority have gone off* . . . I and the situation of the lands of my lord is *very* bad? Moreover, may the king, (my) lord, send his commissioner, who is strong, *al[ong with troops]*,⁵ to guard the city of my lord so that I for my part may (re)build the *brickwork* and serve my lord, the Sun of all countries. 31–38 May my lord send men to take the possessions of my Adonis⁶ to the king, my lord, lest that dog take the possessions of your god.⁷ [Or] would it be pleasing that he had seized Gubla? [Loo]l, Gubla is like [H]ukuptah to my lord!⁸ 38–44 Moreover, as 'Abdi-NINURTA, the man I sent⁹ with Puheya, is . . . Send him (back) to yo[ur] servant. [Moreover], Ummahnu, the maidservant of [the Lady of Gubla, and] her husband, Milkuru¹⁰ . . .¹¹ send . . .

NOTES

1. "All countries," written KUR.KI.DIDU.ŠA.A, KUR.ŠI.DIDLI occurs elsewhere only in EA 106. Note also: (1) *gišappu*, "footstool," in the Byblos letters only in EA 84 and 106; (2) the only precative forms of *šilšu* in these letters, *la-uu-šilši-ni-am*, in EA 84:26, 31; 106:26, 36, 42; (3) *idi* with precative force, in these letters only in EA 84:21 and 106:47.

2. KUR.KUR.KI-ḫi; following Youngblood, *Amararna Correspondence* p. 257; for the writing, see EA 123, n. 4.

3. É[di]p-ni-š[il] be: see following Youngblood, *ib. n. 4*, also PRU 4, p. 109:5; Nougayrol, "maison privée." The sleeping quarters and the treasury were areas reserved to those most intimate and/or most trusted.

4. LU.LUL remains the most likely reading. LU.LUL = *šaru* (AHU, p. 1030; CAD, S, p. 180), which at Byblos (also EA 185–86) seems to be replaced by *šaru*. Perhaps LU.LUL = *narru*; cf. *narru* = *šaru*, and EA 94:60, 63.

5. 20 [ḫi-ḫi-ḫi]-*ḫi-ḫi* (cf. line 36); 21 [LU-ŠU] *ḫi-ḫi-ḫi* (cf. EA 106:15).

6. *be-ḫi-ḫi*.

7. [ḫi-ḫi-ḫi] *ḫi-ḫi-ḫi*; cf. *ḫi-ḫi* = *ḫi-ḫi* at Boghazköy (AHU, p. 922). The authorities would be the Egyptian officials in Šumai. End of line 24:

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ms. 11-15: *ms-gal* following Youngblood (cf. EA 95:41, 103:7; 114:50; 116:54).

8. *qr-df* (URIN.MEŠ), following Youngblood.

9. SIG, (*šibitu*)?

10. The pronominal suffix (my Adonis) perhaps reflects Byblan 'adnāi (suggestion of Frank M. Cross).

11. DINGIR.MEŠ very often has a singular referent and here seems best referred to Adonis.

12. This may be a saying (also EA 139:8) going back to much earlier times when Byblos was a very important port for the Egyptians and Memphis was the capital of Egypt.

13. *at-šip* *šl*.

14. **mit-šar* [u].

15. X SAR *šr-ut*, "... of wine?"

EA 85

Nothing to eat

TEXT: VAT 1626.

COPIES: WA 48; VS 11, 42.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Youngblood, *Amarna Correspondence*, pp. 264ff.

Safy to the king, my lord, the Sun: (Mes)sage of Rib-Hadda, your servant. I fit[!] at the feet of my lord 7 times and 7 times. May [the Lady of Gubla grant (pow)er to the king, my lord. 6-15] Though I keep writing like this to the king, my lord, he does not heed my words. Since he has attacked me¹ 3 times this year, and for two years I have been repeatedly robbed of my grain, we have no grain to eat. What can I say to my peasantry? Their sons, their daughters, the furnishings of their houses are gone, since they have been sold in the land of Yarimuta for provisions to keep us alive. 16-22 May the king, my lord, heed the words of his loyal servant, and may he send grain in ships in order to keep his servant and his city alive.² May he grant 400 men and 30 pair(s) of horses, as were given to Su[?]e[?]a,³ so that they may guard the city for you. 22-32 As to Yanhamu's having said, "I [ga]ve grain to Rib-Hadda, [and I would] give [...] : *hu-ta-ri-ma* (?) [...] *g[ra]n* for 40 men." What did he give m(e)? I deposited the payment for them with Yapah-Hadda. Look, P[uh]leya is with you; ask him to tell the whole story in your presence. 33-39 May it be pleasing in the sight of the king, my lord, and may he give grain that is produced in the land of Yarimuta. What used to be given in Šumur, may it now be [g]iven in Gubla, [so that] we may have provisions until you give thought⁴ to your

city. 39-50 Moreover, [as the king], my lord, [lives], truly my men are loyal to me.⁵ 'Abdi-Asirta and the 'Apiru have gone to Yapah-Hadda in [Byblus] so [an alliance] might be formed.⁶ [As] there is no one in [your] city, send a garrison [to protect] [your] land, lest your [city] be seized. Listen to me. [I]ll Yanhamu to [ask] the money [...] for the people of [Gu]bla in the land of Yarimuta. 51-63 Moreover, the king of [Mi]tana came out as far as Sumur, and though wanting to mar[?] as far as Gubla, he returned to [his] own land, as there wa[s] no water for him to drink. I keep writing like this [to] the palace for what [I] need. [W]hy do you not reply, "What my servant [re]quests is available," or "is not avail[able],"⁷ so I may know [wh]at I should do [un]til the king ar[ri]ves and visits his loyal servant? 63-74 Who is 'Abdi-Asirta, the servant and dog, that they [men]tion his name in the presence of the king, my lord? Just let there be one man⁸ whose heart is one with my heart, and I would drive 'Abdi-Asirta from the land of Amuru. Moreover, since your father's return from Sidon, from that time the lands have been joined to the 'Apiru. Accordingly, I have nothing. 75-87 May the king heed the words of his servant; may he [g]ive men to guard his [city], lest he gather together all the 'Apiru and they seize [the city]. At [his] time send a [large]⁹ force that they may drive him [from the land of Amur]u. When the commissioner of the king was with us, it was to hi[m] that [we used to write]; we cannot write [to hi]m (now). Umma[anu]—along with her [hus]band Milkura—the maidservant of the La[dy] of Gub[la], as truly as the king [lives, if] [...] from the hand of the magna[te, the] La[dy] [...].

NOTES

1. The subject is, of course, 'Abdi-Asirta; see EA 84:37 and n. 5.
2. Instead of *ia-šu šu URU-šu*, Knudtzon's reading, which makes sense and is followed here, the copy of VS 11 offers *IR-šu a-šu ia-šu*, which makes no sense. Not collated.
3. Undoubtedly the ruler of Akka; see EA 232 and cf. EA 88:46ff.
4. Rainey, *UF* 20 (1988) p. 213, proposes *ina* (*qur-ad*), but an underlying Byblan *hi* of proximity or accompaniment ("using the services of") could explain the use of *ina*.
5. On it (also EA 114:46; 130:24) as an abbreviation of *iti*, not a reflex of Northwest Semitic *'it*, see Huebner, *Ugaritic Vocabulary*, p. 111.
6. *m-m-lk-klu* (Knudtzon) is without parallel (cf. EA 94:12; 104:16; 114:28), and for *ti-m-lk-klu* (VAB 2/2, p. 159) there probably is not enough room. Read *ti-š[ur]-klu*, "you inquire (about)?" (cf. EA 89:40.)
7. It is doubtful that Rib-Hadda would admit that those he identifies as "my men" are all loyal to 'Abdi-Asirta (so Knudtzon); cf. EA 83:50f., 137-46f.

Hence *na-ḥi-mu-ni-ia*. On *adi*, "truly," see AHw, p. 134, and ARMT 13, p. 165, commentary on 448.

8. Very tentatively, 41 ... LÜ.MEŠ G[AZ al-ku] 42 [a-na ma-ḥa] *ma-ḥa-ḥa-ḥa* 43 [URU be-mi]-*tu ḥi-tu-pa-tu* [ki-tu]; cf. EA 83:24.

9. *la-mu-ma*; end of line, URU[ka ū].

10. 57 [a-na mi-ni] [a-a] *ḥi-tu-ru* 58 [a-wa-ia] *ḥi-tu-ru ḥi-tu-ru* [a], in view of parallels (EA 81:23; 83:7; 45f.), despite Knudtzon's legitimate doubts. If the traces (missing in V3 11 copy, but still visible) described by Knudtzon are not *ḥi-tu* and do not belong to the end of line 58, I cannot explain them.

11. Probably in the sense of "ruler"; cf. EA 74:12.

12. Room for only one (fairly large) sign: cf. EA 76:39.

EA 86

Complaint to an official

TEXT: BM 29804.

COPY: BB 21.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Youngblood, *Amarna Correspondence*, pp. 283ff.

{*Say to*} Ama[nappa]: Message of Rib-Had[da]. I fall [at your feet]. May Aman, [the god of the king], your lord, establish yo[ur] honor [in the presence] of the king, your lord. Listen to m[e]! The war¹ 6–12 is severe, and so come w[ith] archers that you may take the land of Amuru. Day and night it has *ḥi-tu*² to you [and they] s[lay] (that) what is taken [from] them to Mittan[ša] is very much. 13–17 [S]o now you [yourself] must not [*say*], "Why should ... [] come out?"³ You have said [*and*] said, "Yanhamu sent yo[ur] grain."⁴ Have you not heard? A servant ... [] 17–22 ...⁵ 23–30 [And be informed that Um]mah[nu—along with her husband, Milkun]—the ma[idservant of the Lady] of Gub[la ...] ... [S]o speak to the king [*that*] it may be presented to the Lady.⁶ Do [not] hold an[anything] back. 31–40 Moreover, speak to [*the king*] so that [grain], the product of the land of Yamuta, be given [to his servant], just as it was [formerly] given to Sumu, so we may keep alive until the king *gives thought* to his city. For 3 years I have been constantly p[ro]vided of our grain; there is no[thing] to pay for [horses].⁷ 41–50 Why should the king *gives* 30 pairs of [horses] and you *yourself* take to pairs? If you [*take*],⁸ take all [of them], but from the land of Yamuta let grain be given for [at] to eat. [*Or*] send *ships* so I myself can get [out].

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EA 87

NOTES

1. *ḥi-tu*: following Youngblood, *Amarna Correspondence*, p. 287.
2. [a-ti-ḥi-tu-ru], as if from *ḥi-tu*; if from *ḥi-tu* (Knudtzon), the final vowel is a difficulty, as is the unparalleled use of *ana* (cf. EA 82:50; 83:23; 93:4; 122:49). Perhaps also to be considered is [a-ti-ḥi-tu-ru] (haplography), "it has lifted (its) face to you (in hope)."
 3. *ḥi-tu-ru* [a-ti-ḥi-tu] 14 [a-ti-ru] *a-mi-ni-tu-ru-ru* x []: perhaps not enough room for *ḥi-tu*, x is not ER[IN] (as copied in BB).
 4. Knudtzon's suggestion that in *ḥi-tu-ru* the first *ḥi* anticipates the second one seems the most plausible explanation (VAB 2/1, p. 413, note m).
 5. Line 19: [KUŠ] *ma-ḥi-ḥa*, "hide?"
 6. [] *ḥi-tu-ru*: "that the/you may be presented..."
 7. *ana madani ana* A[INŠE.KUR.RA]: following Youngblood, p. 292. An exact parallel is EA 107:37f., and note the following lines.
 8. *ḥi-tu-ru* [] *ḥi-tu-ru*.

EA 87

Broken promises

TEXT: BM 29805.

COPY: BB 22.

PHOTOGRAPH: BB, pl. 5.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Youngblood, *Amarna Correspondence*, pp. 294ff.

[To] Amanappa, my []: Message of Rib-Hadda, your servant. I fall at the feet of my lord. May Aman and the Lady of Gubla establish your honor in the presence of the king, your lord. 8–14 Why did you lead me astray, saying, "Send your messenger here to me before the king so he may give you troops and chariots as a help to you to guard the city?" 15–24 So I listened to your words, and I sent [him],¹ and he came out empty-handed. Then he heard that there were no troops with him, and as a result Baruna was [] to him. He has stationed the *ḥi-tu* and chariots there, and they have not moved [] from the entrance of the gate of Gub[la]. 25–31 [] *ḥi-tu*, urge the king, my lord, with loud cries! Let an elite force, [] chariots, [] with you that I may ... [] the *ḥi-tu* from it (the gate). [] come out, but be on your guard,² for if you die, [] must die.

NOTES

1. *ḥi-tu* []: SSDB, p. 159, perhaps, with Youngblood, *Amarna Correspondence*, p. 298. *ḥi* is to be added. On lines 15–24, see Rainey, *UF* 7 (1975) pp. 424f.

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2. *e-nu* 6: following Albright in SSDB, p. 159.
3. *lul* following Albright, *ibid.*; cf. *Or* n. 1, 29 (1960) p. 17, n. 2.
4. The reading *ku-mu-ud* (JNES 8 [1949] p. 124) is wrong, and Knudtzon's *gi-mu-ud* (also EA 69:20) is right. For the reading, cf. *qardū*, "one who shouts, is noisy," and see the remarks of Civil, JNES 43 (1984) pp. 294f.
5. *Lu-ur-um* (JNES 8 [1949] p. 125) is almost certainly wrong.
6. Not enough room for *qur ramātha*, "guard yourself," but the following lines favor such a meaning here; cf. Youngblood, p. 304.

EA 88

Blockaded

TEXT: BM 29800.

COPY: BB 17.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Youngblood, *Amararna Correspondence*, pp. 305f.

[Ri]b-Had[da] stays to his lord. Before the king of all countries, [Great King],¹ a[1] the feet of my lord, my Sun, I fall [7] times and 7 times. I have w[rit]ten 5-12 repeatedly to y[ou], "The *usur* is against! Atdat, against Inqat, and against . . . and Am(m)y[ia] and Siga[ra], loyal [cities of the king], [but the king], my lord, [has done nothing]. Moreover, what is the, [Ab]di-A[ra]i, the servant (and) dog, that he has acted as he pleased in the lands of my lord, [and yet] the king, my lord, has done nothing for [his] servant? 13-21 [Moreover], I sent my messenger (each time) that the [co]nk my cities and moved up against me.² [Now he has taken Ba]una, and he has moved up against me. [Behold the city! He has . . . the entrance of the gate of Gubla.³ How long has he not moved from the gate, and so we are unable to go out into the countryside.⁴ 21-28 Moreover, look,⁵ he strives to seize Gubla!⁶ And [. . . and] may the king, my lord, give heed [to the words of] his [se]rvant, and [may] he hasten⁷ [with] all speed chariots and [troops]⁸ that they may guard⁹ the city of the king, my lord, and [. . . until] the arrival of the king, [my] lord. 28-39 For my part,¹⁰ I will [not] neglect the word of [my] lord. But if [the king], my lord, does [not give heed] to the words of [his] servant, then Gubla will be joined to him, and all the lands of the king, as far as Egypt, will be joined to the 'Apiru. Moreover, should my lord not have word brought to his [se]rvant¹¹ by table, with all speed, then . . . the city to him and I will request a town from him to stay in, and so I will stay at [iv],¹² 40-51 [Moreover], may the king, my lord, hasten the

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troops (and) chariots that they may guard⁹ the city of the king, my lord. Look, Gubla is not like the [other] cities; Gubla is a loyal city of the king, [my] lord, from most ancient times. Still, the messenger of the king of Akka is honored more than [my] messenger, [for] they furnished [him] with a horse. [May he furnish] him [my messenger] . . . with 2 horses. May he not come out [empty-handed].¹⁴

NOTES

1. LUGAL KUR. [KI HI] A LUGAL GAI: cf. KUR KI HI in line 11, and see Youngblood, *Amararna Correspondence*, p. 310. Knudtzon's restoration assumes a form of greeting found in no Byblite letter.
2. Lines 13-21: see Rainey, *UF* 7 (1975) p. 425, line 14: [l-yl], following Youngblood, p. 312; cf. line 16.
3. [a]-mur URU UD (virtually certain) *š x p* (Rainey) KÁ.GAL; x, possibly KAH (Knudtzon), ID? *ka-r-i*, "the city has kept away from the entrance of the city-gate" (*Uru, AHU*, p. 1221)?
4. *na-ni* UD.KÁM.MES *il la yi-na-mu-ni* (*Or* n.s., 29 [1966] p. 17, n. 2) . . . 21 *a-ša-am a-na* EDIN.MES (KA 69 [1975] pp. 156f.)
5. There can hardly be any doubt that 'Abdi-Ašira wishes to capture Byblos, and hence *tamma*, "look, behold" (see EA 35, n. 3).
6. Departing from normal word order and from the object Byblos, Rib-Hadda stresses that now his very own city is under attack.
7. [š] *š*-*ša*-*ur*: following Rainey, *UF* 7 (1975) p. 415, but perhaps *š*-*š* rather than *ur* (cf. *š*-*ur*-*š* in EA 102:29); also line 40.
8. [ERIN.MES], without *š*-*š*, as in line 41. Furthermore, archers are never requested for purposes of defense; see Pintore, OA 11 (1972) pp. 106ff.
9. *il-yl-ur* (also line 41): as required by the rules of modal sequence; see also Rainey, *UF* 7 (1975) p. 425.
10. On the use of *anāku*, which sets up a contrast with "the king, my lord" and who is expected of him (lines 25ff.), see Agostinini Giusto, *Word Order Variation in the Akkadian of Byblos*, Souda Pohl 15 (Rome, 1990), p. 85. The following sequence of object-verb emphasizes Rib-Hadda's fidelity to the word of his master, *š*-*š*: injunctive? zero = preterite? (See Introduction, n. 50).
11. *e-nu* URU-*il*: a reading that Knudtzon rejected (*MAB* 2/1, p. 420, note b), but note (1) the ligature of the alleged *il-ur*; (2) that the postulated *il* is identical with the last sign of EA 87:28 (Knudtzon, 28), and (3) sense. The construction, however, that is assumed here—an unmarked protasis of a conditional sentence—is without certain parallel in the Byblos corpus.
12. *š* *bal*-*il*-*il*: cf. EA 82:45; 83:27; 123:35; *š*, "and," lines 10, 22; 84:32; non-Byblos occurrences in EA 62, 260, 317, and 337. Lines 34-39 seem to be a threat, especially comparable to EA 83:47ff., so that "him" must refer to 'Abdi-Ašira and *š* *na-ni* x 41 the end of line 36 must be an expression for surrendering Byblos, perhaps first plural (i.e., a common action of Rib-Hadda and fellow citizens; cf. line 20, "we are not able"); x = *š* *il* or *š* *na-ni*-*ur*, "we will distance ourselves from the city for him" (*š*-*il*?)
13. See n. 9.

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14. 49 [ia-d]i-na ... 50 [x xi π ... 51 [ū ni-ū]i-ia; cf. EA 87:17. Kühnle, p. 107, n. 535, offers a different interpretation. Rib-Hadda's messenger was deprived of two horses.

EA 89

Events in Tyre

TEXT: VAT 1627.

COPIES: WA 49; VS 11, 43.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: JCS 4 (1950) pp. 164f.; Youngblood, *Amararna Correspondence*, pp. 322ff.

[Rib]-Hadda says to his lord, k[ing] of all countries, G[re]f[ar] King: [May the Lady] of Gubla [grant power to] the king, [my] lord. I fall [at the feet] of my lord, [my] S[un], 7 times and 7 times. 7-14 [Though] I keep writing like this [to the palace], my words are not [taken to heart], and they go utterly un[he]ard. Look at the deed in Tyre. On this account I am afraid. Even now the king makes no inquiry about his mayor, my brother. May the king heed my words. Their words are not true. 15-29 "If the king makes inquiry, we will devote ourselves to your service." I made connubium with Tyre; they were on good terms with me. (But now) they have, I assure you, killed their mayor,¹ together with my sister and her sons. My sister's daughters I had sent to Tyre, away from 'Abdi-A[š]irra. They killed him along with my sister ... 30-39 [If] the king [makes inquiry about my brother], then all lands [will be joined to the king, my lord. But] if the king does [not] make inquiry about [my] brother, [then] ... He wrote again and again to the king, [but his words went unheeded. And so he died. I know it! 39-47 But if you make inquiry about my brother, then the city will say, "This man is not the mayor! Inquire, O king, about him! We are unable to do anything." They are afraid. Will the king not make inquiry about the mayor of Tyre? For his property is as great as the sea. I know it! 48-57 Look, there is no mayor's residence like that of the residence in Tyre. It is like the residence in Ugarit. Exceedingly [great] is the wealth [in] it. May the king heed [the words] of [his] servant. May he send [...] that he may stay [in the land and be concerned] for the mayors. 58-67 May [no] property be handed [over to] them.² Give thought to the commissioner of the king. He³ is [taking from] the king [all] the lands [of the king]. I know [it]! Does the king like it [that 'Abdi-A]š[irra] has taken the sea [in] front of them, and so they are at

peace? May the king [terrify] them! Do I not continue to write of [the] crime to the king?

NOTES

1. After the asseverative particle *allā*, the word order, object-verb, stresses the object and underscores the enormity of the crime.
2. Lines 58-67 follow Knudtzon's restorations with one exception and these additions: 59 [qū-ti-šū-ur] (he rebels in Tyre); 60 i-[le-ū]i; 61 [š-tu] ... k[ā-i]; 64 ... x-ia-š[ā] š[ā]; 65 [š-m]; 66 [yū-yi-pi-ī-šū-ur]; 67 ar-na-(šū-ur). Rib-Hadda seems to say that 'Abdi-Aširra controls the sea around the island town of Tyre, thus rendering the rebels secure. For a discussion and commentary on the entire letter, see JCS 4 (1950) pp. 165ff.
3. Probably 'Abdi-Aširra.

EA 90

Alone and unheeded

TEXT: VAT 1661.

COPIES: WA 53; VS 11, 44.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Youngblood, *Amararna Correspondence*, pp. 337ff.

[S]ay [to the king, my lord: Message of Rib-Hadda, [your] se[rvant]. I fall at the feet of my lord, [my] S[un], 7 times and 7 times). Be informed [that] the war aga[inst me] is severe. [He has taken] all my cities; [Gubla] alone rem[ains] 8-12 to me. I was in Šigata and I w[rote] to [you], "Give thought to [your] city lest 'Abdi-Aširra take it." 13-19 [But] you did not listen to me. Then from Barnana I w[rote] to you, "Send men to take the city for you." [My] words went un[heeded], and they were [not] taken to heart. Now they have [taken] my cities. 19-28 Moreover, that [dog] is [in] Mitrana, but his eye is on [Gubla]. What can I do by myself? You yourself have been [negligent of your cities so that the 'Apiru] takes them.¹ It is to you that I have t[urned].² Moreover, all the [mayors] are at peace with 'Abdi-A[š]irra. 29-35 ... 36-47 [Our] sons, [our] daughters, the furnishings of the houses are gone, since they have been sold in the land of Yarmuta [(to)] for provisions to keep [us] alive. Like [a bird] in a trap, so am I in [Gubla]. "For lack of a cultivator my field is [like] a woman without a [husband]." Moreover, [...] and send [men and 30 pairs of] [horses] that [I] may guard the city for you.³ 48-56 [And] your messengers send ..., and if you do not

send a garrison, [then] . . . I am afraid [d] for my life. [And] all [l] messengers [that] were [to] and have been [re]lat[ed].⁹ . . . 57-62 Do not be negligent. Send archers [that] they may take the land of [Amurru].¹⁰ Day and night [everyone awaits the coming forth of the archers].¹¹ I have been plundered of [my gain, and] it is [to you] that I have [ur]ged.¹²

NOTES

- [l] q[é]: cf. EA 91:19ff., an exact parallel to EA 90:6ff.
- ti-[l]-q[é] or ti-[l]-ti-q[é]: according to the rule of modal sequence.
- Probably room only for *h*; I could not see traces corresponding to Knudtzon's [h-q].
- [UR.K]U: cf. esp. *Kallu šit* (EA 84:35).
- If plural, then *ti-šit-ti-qé-šu-ur*, "when the 'Apiru took . . ." In EA 91:5, however, LU.GAZ.MES UR.KU is singular, and it also suggests the restoration 26 [UR.KU], hence *ti-šit-ti-qé-šu-ur*, with Knudtzon (*ti-šit-ti-qé*, also EA 109:17, 39), but singular, not plural (Knudtzon, followed by Ebeling, *VAB* 2/2, p. 1453).
- 27 [ti-šit-ti-qé] see *VAB* 2/2, p. 159f.
- The restoration of *šit šit*, "lord(s) of the cities," on the basis of EA 102:23, is, as usually, less probable than some reference to the mayors (cf. esp. EA 114:14, 126:11), and also, it would seem, less likely in a context speaking of many cities; hence *ti-šit-ur*. Perhaps *šit-ur* (*AHU*, p. 1014), not *šit-ur*.
- The reading *ti-šit-ti-qé* at the end of line 44 (Youngblood, *Amararna Correspondence*, p. 346, followed by Rainey, *UF* 7 [1975] p. 414) seems excluded, though the sign is not clearly *at* as in the copy of VS 11. On *šit-ur* in line 45 as plural of "majesty," and *ti-šit-ti-qé* in line 47 (collated), see Youngblood, p. 346.
- 54 . . . [gib]-[ba ša] 55 [ti-šit-ti-qé-šu-ur]: readings dubious and context unclear.
- 61 [ti-šit-ti-qé] KUR [a-mar-ti]: cf. EA 91:38, 45; 94:11; 107:30; 121:48, 123:42.
- 62 [ti-šit-ti-qé] p[ti-šit-ti-qé] a-na a-š[ir] ERIN.MES p[ti-šit-ti-qé]: cf. EA 91:39-41.
- Cf. EA 85:9f.; 86:35f.; 90:26f.; 91:16.

EA 91

A plea for a payoff

TEXT: VAT 931.
COPIES: WA 56; VS II, 45.
TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Youngblood, *Amararna Correspondence*, pp. 351ff.

[Rib-Hadda says to] h[is] lord: I fall [at] the feet of my lord 7 times and 7 times. I wrote to you, "Why have you sat idly by [and] done nothing, so that the 'Apiru do not take your cities?" 6-13 [When] he took Sumu, [I wrote] to you, "Why do you [do nothing]?" (Then B[er]t[elme] was taken.) [When] he saw [that] there was no one [to] that said anything [to] him about Sumu, his intentions were [forced], so that he strives to take Gubla. 14-23 He has attacked me' (and) my orchards, [and] my own [me]n have become hostile. I have been plundered of my [grain]. [May] you pay a thousand (shekels of) silver and 100 (shekels of) gold, so he will go away [from] me. He has taken [all] my cities; Gubla alone remains [to] me, and he strives to take it. 23-30 I have just heard (that) he has gathered together [all] the 'Apiru [to] attack me. What can I [do] by myself? I go on writing like this for archers and an auxiliary force, but my words go unheeded. 31-36 [Moreover], give [thought your] [to] you lands? [. . .] . . . Moreover, [listen to me, and if] there are no [archers] and auxiliary force, [then there will be no . . .] for Gubla, [and it will be] joined [to] the 'Apiru. 36-41 O king, [listen to me, and send archers] to take the land of Amurru, [Now indeed] everyone awaits day and night [the coming forth of the archers], 42-49 [And may] the king, my lord, [. . .] . . .

NOTES

- The forms of the verbs, *ti-šit-ti-qé* (line 4) and *ti-šit-ti-qé* (line 6), are singular, and therefore LU.GAZ.MES is also singular (Knudtzon; Greenberg, *Ugaritic*, p. 38).
- ti-šit-ti-qé*: following Greenberg, *ibid.*, though the sign seems a little larger than *da*. *šit* (Knudtzon) is certainly wrong.
- am-me-qé-ur*: contamination by *ammatap* (line 16)? The grammar of line 14 is obscure.
- Unless emphasis is intended through gross exaggeration, the numbers hardly refer to minas (Knudtzon; Helck, *Beziehungen*, pp. 382, 384).
- me-šit-ti-qé* [a-na] KUR.MES-ur: cf. EA 133:2.
- Free restoration: 33 [ti-šit-ti-qé] a-na šit-ti-qé-šu-ur 34 [ERIN.MES p[ti-šit-ti-qé] a-na] 35 [ti-šit-ti-qé] a-na URU gub-la 36 [ti-šit-ti-qé] a-na LU.MES.GAZ.MES [ti-šit-ti-qé] LU.GAZ 37 [ti-šit-ti-qé] a-na [ti-šit-ti-qé] ERIN.MES 38 [ti-šit-ti-qé] KUR a-mar-ti 39 [ti-šit-ti-qé] a-na [ti-šit-ti-qé] pa-nu-ka-ti 40 [ti-šit-ti-qé] a-na 41 [ti-šit-ti-qé] ERIN.MES p[ti-šit-ti-qé].

EA 92

Some help from the Pharaoh

TEXT: VAT 868.

COPIES: WA 50; VS 11, 46.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Youngblood, *Amarna Correspondence*, pp. 360ff.

Rib-Hadda says to the king, his lord, the Sun of [all countries]: I fall at the feet of my lord, [my] S[un], 7 times and 7 times. May the Lady of Gub[ila] grant power to the king, my lord, [my] Sun. 7-15 [Moreover], 'Abdi-A[širai] . . . If he had made inquiry . . . [. . .], he would [no] have taken up residence in them.' A[širai] now an evil war has been waged against [me], and I sent my tabler and [my] messenger to the king, my lord, but the k[ing] paid no attention to the words of my tabler and [my] messenger. So what am I to do? 16-24 I sent my messenger to the king, [my] lord, [in regard to] my cities that 'Abdi-A[širai] had taken. 'Abdi-A[širai] heard that my man had arrived from the king, my lord, and he heard that there was nothing [with him]. Since there was no auxiliary force that [came] out to me, he has [now] *msd* against me. 25-29 . . . 29-40 And what could I say? Moreover, it was a gracious deed of the king, my lord, that the king [wrote] to the king of Beirut, to the king of Sidon, and to the king of Tyre, *lalyrng*.⁴ "Rib-Hadda will be writing to you for an auxiliary force, and all of [y]ou are to go."⁵ This pleased me,⁶ [and so] I sent my messenger, but they have [no] come, and they [have] not sent their messenger(s) to greet us.⁷ 41-48 Moreover, who⁸ is he, that he [has taken] the men together with the oxen with sb[er]! What did he give for [them]? As the three of us are brothers, I wrote to them for help.¹¹ May it seem right in the sight of the king, my lord, that [they should send] soldiers of an expeditionary force¹² . . . 48-57 . . .¹⁴

NOTES

1. Reference to 'Abdi-Aširai's occupation of cities?
2. *š*: sign extended because of continuation on edge.
3. *h*-*ri*-*el*-*l*: [l]: cf. EA 81:46; 88:14, 17.
4. [u]m-'ma'-*mi*: if the correct reading, it would reflect Egyptian usage (EA 1:26, 37). VS 11, 46: [al]-[u]-*mi*.
5. *š*'*a*'-[*la*]-*ku* *gub-ba* [k]u *nu*. Rib-Hadda alludes to this order in line 39.
6. *l*l[ig] [GA] (*š*š) 38 *š*š[ig].
7. *a-na šp-al š[un]-[mi]-mi: sulma llatla'ala* as in EA 96:5f.; 97 3.
8. *mi-'ia'-mi*: following Youngblood, *Amarna Correspondence*, p. 370.

r66

EA 93

9. *š* (q6): cf. line 17 and EA 88:14, 16; 91:19.
10. *a*-[d]i GUD.M[ēš] *in-ri-š*(*u*-*mi*): *adi*, following a private communication of N. Na'aman; see also EA 74:56 and n. 15.
11. One expects "the four of us." The sign gives evidence of hesitation or correction; see Knudtzon's note.
12. The singular injunctive is incompatible with the "indicative" marker, and therefore the form is plural. Read [*im-ua*]-*š*-*ri*-*l*u]; also possible but less likely is [*im-ua*]-*š*-*ri*-*l*u] (see EA 84, n. 1).
13. *š*ri[un] *mēš* *kāl* *ba'd* *kaskat* + ?; see EA 109, n. 30.
14. Lines 52-53: perhaps "If the king, my lord, does not send troops . . . , I will abandon the city of my lord." Cf. EA 82:43; 83:46, 49.

EA 93

An angry vassal

TEXT: VAT 1663.

COPIES: WA 55; VS 11, 47.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Youngblood, *Amarna Correspondence*, pp. 372ff.

[To Am]anappa: [Message of Rib]ib-Hadda I fall [at] your [feet]. [Look, I] was distressed: *na-šq-ša-ap-ti* (angry) [all] your words, "I am [on my] way to y[olu]." 8-18 You are always writing [like] this to me! Listen to me. Tell the king to give you 300 men so we can visit the city and regain [it] [for the king]. Do not the [commissioners] [bring] for the coming out of the archers? He is stronger than the king! 19-28 Moreover, if we are able to [seize] Ba[run] for you, then the men will abandon 'Abdi-Aširai. Things are [not] as they were previously. [If] this year there are no archers, [then] he will be strong forever.

NOTES

1. *šp-ur a*-*ta* *ia-ai*: following Youngblood, p. 375. On [*u*]-*na-ša-ai* (CAD, A/2, p. 422), see EA 82, n. 6.
2. Perhaps "to visit" (*šp-ur*, "to look at") is used to suggest that a mere show of power will suffice to regain Ba[run].
3. *ti*-*b*-*a*-*u*-*na*: *ti* is quite probable.
4. Perhaps this is to be understood as a quotation citing the commissioners' fees.
5. On the confusion in lines 18-21 of *Iamita* and *u*, see Youngblood, p. 376.

r67

EA 94

Treachery everywhere

TEXT: C 4756.

COPY: WA 78.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Youngblood, *Amarna Correspondence*, pp. 377ff.

Rib-Hadda [writes] to the king, [the kin]g of [all countries],² the kin[*g*, *bi*] lord, his [god]: I fall at the feet of my lord 7 times and 7 times. 4-8 Why has my lord not heeded the word of his servant? My lord should know that there is no evil in the words of his servant. I do not speak any treacherous word to the king, my [lord]. The king, my lord, has examined the words and has heard³ the words! I said to the king, my lord, "Send archers to take 'Abdi-Asirta." Who would advise, "He would resist (successfully) the archers of the king, my lord"? ... Treacherous men say [treach]erous [things] r[*o*] the king], my lord. [...] archers [...] 19-58 [...] 59-64 ...⁵ 65-78 he has brought them water,⁶ and he is the one who has given them provisions. Since I am the one who checked the 'Apiru,⁷ there are hostilities against me. He is the one who has given them provisions, and so may the king give thought (to) his servant. May the king send his commissioner. [L]et him advise on the spot itself. That fellow is [no]t to make a raid. [Ear]lier the king ordered [with regard] to the asses⁸ that they be g[ive]n to [his loyal] servant [...].

NOTES

1. [i]f. (i)h-har: cf. EA 10831; 11611; 11931; 12311; form of *h*, slightly aberrant.
2. [LUG]AL [KU]R. 'KUR.KI': cf. the parallel passages cited in n. 1.
3. *h-hi* [(i)h]: perhaps unrecorded beginning of *iq bilbu*, but hardly an attempt to reproduce a form of *h* (VAB 21a, p. 159a).
4. *h-hi* [(i)h]: quite clear and as expected (Dr n.s. 29 [1960] p. 12, n. 1). Kaudern's *q* is undoubtedly a misprint.
5. LÚ *na-a-ue* (line 60; also 63?), "treacherous person" (cf. EA 84, n. 4). Reference to a "singer" (*nāra*) does not seem likely.
6. A *mi-a*: perhaps *am* red (cloth) should not be ruled out, see EA 14, n. 46. End of line 64: *is* *na* = *sanna*, "kettle"?
7. LÚ.MEŠ GAZ: reading virtually certain; cf. GAZ in EA 179:22.
8. Cf. EA 96?

EA 95

Men from Meluhha

TEXT: VAT 1668.

COPIES: WA 70; VS 11, 48.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Youngblood, *Amarna Correspondence*, pp. 388ff.

Say [to] the magnate: [M]essage of Rib-Hadda. I fall at [your] feet. May Aman and the Lady of Gubla establish your honor in the presence of the king, your lord. 7-26 (A)g to your w[ri]t[ing] me, ... 27-33 ... The king of Mitta[ni] visited the land of Amurru itself, and he said, "How great is this land! Your land is extensive." May the [kin]g of Egypt [sen]d me his commissioner that he may take it for him. 34-43 [M]oreover, come yourself with all speed, and [take] everything. Then return to get the archer[s] later on. [M]oreover, get [...] (and) get, too, 200 [men] of Meluhha [...] 'Abdi-Asirta is very ill.⁴ [W]ho knows, when he dies, [w]har ... 44-53 ...⁵

NOTES

1. The dubious (VAB 21a, p. 99b) *yjh* before *h-hi* *de* in line 17 must be an incomplete *h* ([S]1 + (L)U) Line 20: 'a'-[i]g-'*ra*-*h*'-*ha*, "I will get you into the land of Amuru"; cf. *rah*, "he entered," in line 25.
2. *yjh-hi* [i]-[i]: there is no reason to read *-ra* (see copy of VS 11, which is accurate), and strong reasons against it, see EA 92, n. 12.
3. Since Nubian troops, with the single exception of EA 133:16f., always appear in conjunction with Egyptians (EA 70:18f.; 108:67; 112:19f.), or simply with soldiers (EA 127:36; 121:11ff.; 132:36), or finally with a garrison (EA 117:8ff.; see Pinoteau, *Od* 11 [1972] p. 105), we should undoubtedly restore 39 [s. 11].MES. Since they are also regularly associated with protection, at the end of line 40 we should probably restore something like *lanayari(ay)lanayara ala*, "that Ithty may guard the city."
4. Of the eight other occurrences of *maru/maru* in the letters from Byblos, not one clearly refers to physical illness, and several clearly refer to distress caused by enemies and the political situation (EA 103:17, 15, 49; 114:50; 116:54; 131:26; 362:59). Of the four occurrences of *maru*, two clearly refer to physical illness (EA 137:29, 32), two not clearly at all (EA 75:18; 116:58; see EA 75, n. 2). Therefore, 'Abdi-Asirta may simply be under severe distress, especially since it is not clear who is the subject of BA. 08, *maru*, "to die," in the next line.
5. Line 44, after *Siḡana*, probably URU [am-p], cf. EA 71:30f.; 76:19; 98:11f., 40f.

EA 96

The king's asses

TEXT: VAT 1238.

COPIES: WA 82; VS 11, 49.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Youngblood, *EASOR* 168 (1962) pp. 24ff. c.

Say to Rib-Hadda, my son: Message of the general, your father. May (your personal) god show concern for you and your household. As to your saying, "I will not permit men from Šumur to enter my city. There is a pestilence in Šumur,"¹ 12–27 is it a pestilence affect[ing] men or one affect[ing] asses? What pestilence affects asses so that they cannot walk?² But *watch* [out]!³ Do the asses belong to the king or not? Properties of the king are not lost; indeed, their owner seeks them out. If the king is the owner of the asses, then look for the king's asses. Why do you act so towards servants of the king? 28–33 Send men [to] guard the city. [And] at the same time I am writing [to] the king about you. He is to [re]ply to me by tablet about the whole affair.

NOTES

1. *i-nu-ma* (tot: G18).
2. *is-le-ku* [no]: the writer seems to anticipate Rib-Hadda's claiming that the asses are unable to leave Byblos because they can no longer walk, or (cf. lines 20ff.) that they are lost.
3. *n* š[ú]-ur: see EA 87, n. 6.

EA 97

A bad reputation

TEXT: VAT 1598.

COPIES: WA 183; VS 11, 50.

To Šumru-Haddi (. . .): Mes[sage] of Yappu[th]-Hadda. May (your personal) god show concern for you. [I] know that your reputation with the king is [b]ad, and so you cannot leave Egypt. 9–11 You did [n]ot cause the loss of [the king's] lands; 'Abdi-Asirta caused the loss.¹ 12–21 . . .

NOTE

1. so [mškt] š[ur] [n] 'n' bal-ii-ig 11 [m]R a-š: in-m . . .]. Cf. line 24, which mentions 'Abdi-Asirta or perhaps "the son of 'Abdi-Asirta." In EA, *šalluqa* always

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EA 98

has a place as object, and "destruction" is not necessarily physical, but rather (Egyptian) loss of political control. And the same is true of *šalapa* with a place as subject; see Greenberg, *Hebrews*, p. 44.

EA 98

Losses from Byblos to Ugarit

TEXT: VAT 1675.

COPIES: WA 128; VS 11, 15.

{Š}ay [to] Yanhamu: Message of Yappu-Hadda. Why have you been neglectful of Šumur so that all lands from Gubla to Ugarit have become enemies in the service of Aziru?¹ 10–18 Šigata and Ampi are enemies. He has now [stationed] ships of Arwad[ia] [in] Ampi and in Šigata so grain cannot be brought into Šumur. 19–26 Nor are we able to enter Šumur, and so what can we ourselves do? Write to the palace about this [matter]. It is good [that] you are inform[ed].²

NOTES

1. [URU] or *me-šur*: so also Ne'aman, *Political Diplomacy*, p. 65*, n. 7.
2. *šur-šur-da-ur*: following AHU, p. 53*, but perhaps better *šur*, in view of the widespread use of *šurru* as stative/perfect in EA. We should probably also allow for *šur*, (LIM).

EA 99

From the Pharaoh to a vassal

TEXT: C 4742 (12196).

COPY: WA 202.

TRANSLATION: Oppenheim, *LFM*, p. 120.

{Š}ay [to . . .] . . . [the ruler of . . .] . . .? Thus the king. He herewith sends this tablet to you, saying to you: Be on your guard. You are to guard the place of the king where you are.¹ 10–20 Prepare your daughter for the king, your lord, and prepare the contributions:² [2]0 first-class slaves, silver,³ chariots, first-class horses. And so let the king, your lord, say to you, "This is excellent,"⁴ what you have given as contributions to the king to accompany your daughter. 21–26 And know that the king is hale like the Sun in the sky. For his troops and chariots in multitude all goes very well.⁵

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NOTES

1. What Knudtzon read as *ma* in line 1 may not be a sign at all; indeed, it is not certain that there was anything inscribed on this "line." On this hypothesis, Gordon considered reading line 2 as line 1, and thus: [a-na "zi-[]] "d'am' sa 'af-da' (cf. EA 234:11). The traces, however, are extremely faint, and this reading would leave the addressee without indication of his place of residence, which would be unparalleled in the letters to vassals.
2. *af-ir-ri-ka-ka* following Thureau-Dangin, *RA* 19 (1921) p. 100.
3. *af-ir-ri-ka-ka* 8 *ma-ia-ma-ia*; see Introduction, sect. 5.
4. On the girl as being given in marriage, and the translation of *ššir* and *šamšū*, see Pinneer, *Matrilineität*, p. 146, o. 21.
5. Nui "silver-coated chains" (Oppenheim).
6. *š-ia-ti-ka-an-ti* as in EA 360:21.
7. Formulaic short form (see Introduction, sect. 5). *ma-a-du* (line 26, and regularly in both long and short forms) is probably not a predicate; cf. *maid* (EA 119) and perhaps *maidu* (EA 5:10), both from Egypt; *ma-a-du* ERIN.MES-ka (EA 38:5) and *ma-a-du* ANŠE KUR.RA.MES-ka (EA 39:7), both from Asia; and indeclinable *ma-a-ad* (EA 367:16f., also from Egypt).

EA 100

The city of Irqata to the king

TEXT: BM 29825.

COPY: BB 42.

PHOTOGRAPH: BB, pl. 4.

This tablet is a tablet from Irqata. To the king, our lord: Message from Irqata and its el(d)ers.¹ We fall at the feet of the king, our lord, 7 times and 7 times. To our lord, the Sun: Message from Irqata. May the heart of the king, (our) lord, know² that we guard Irqata for him. 11-19 When the (king, our) lord, sent D[UMU]-Bi-ša-a, he said to [y]s, "Message of the king: Guard Irqata!"³ The sons of the traitor to the king seek our harm;⁴ Irqata see[es] loyalty to the king. 20-32 As to [šibw] having been given to Š[ubaru] along with 50 horses and chariots, may you know the mind of Irqata. When a tablet from the king arrived (saying) to [šad] the land that the 'A[piru] had taken [from] the king, they war[red] with us against the enemy of our lord, the man whom you plac[ed] over us.⁶ Truly we are guarding the [land].⁷ May the king, our lord, heed the words of his loyal servants. 33-44 May he grant a gift to his servant(s) so our enemies will see this and eat dirt.⁸ May the breath of the king not depart from us.⁹ We shall keep the city gate barred until the breath of the king reaches us. Severe is the war against us—terribly, terribly!

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NOTES

1. *š-ia-ti-ka-an-ti*; following Albright, *JNES* 5 (1946) p. 23.
2. At the beginning of a letter, where *šš* *šš* is so common, *šš* probably has the force of a preterite, as occasionally elsewhere (EA 84:21, 106:47, 137:307; 144:18; etc.).
3. *af-ir-ri-ka-ka*, though an anomalous form, must be the imperative of *mašāra*. The king's order to guard the city was standard in letters to vassals (Introduction, sect. 5). Moreover, the writers here have just assured the king that they are guarding the city, and they go on to assert their loyalty, which their *šš* *šš* prove.
4. For *šš* *šš*, "to seek someone," in the sense of seeking his harm, cf. EA 125:18. Perhaps, however, we should not exclude *šš* *šš* *šš* *šš* NU.(KUR), "In the king's regard, they are intent upon war, (but) Irqata is intent upon loyalty." This yields betterer parallelism.
5. *š-ia-ti-ka-an-ti*, since this letter has the same verbal system as the Byblos letters.
6. I understand this very difficult passage as follows: the loyalty of Irqata had been questioned by the king, who had learned of the city's giving gifts to Mitanni. The writers defend themselves by pointing out that Mitanni had cooperated in the war against 'Abdi-Asirta and his 'Apiru followers, the very ones responsible for killing their own king whom the Pharaoh had placed over them (cf. EA 75:26f.; 139:15; 140:10). In other words, the gifts were only right and proper. Readings: Line 25: *ana šš* [ša-a] (*šš* *šš*), "to side," fairly common in EA. Lines 26f.: ERIN.MES (EA 2, 15-18). Line 27: LUBAL-*šš* (enough room in 26f). Line 28: KUR] is virtually certain. Line 29: "our lord" is not the Egyptian king, but the Irqata king who had been killed; cf. *šš* *šš* (*šš*) in EA, *šš* *šš* *šš* *šš*, which Knudtzon restores here, means only "to write about"; *šš* *šš* *šš* *šš*, said of royal appointments, see EA 101:30. If my understanding of this passage is at all correct, then the attack on Amarna may have contributed to the capture of 'Abdi-Asirta (cf. EA 108:28ff.; 117:24ff.).
7. Instead of KUR] (*šš*), "land," perhaps KUR] (*šš*), "place"; cf. the frequent expression *šš* *šš* *šš* *šš* *šš* *šš*.
8. "To eat dirt" means "to be defeated" (CAD, A/1, p. 256).
9. On the "breath" (*šš*) of the king, which is his message and gives life to his vassal, see esp. EA 141, 143-45, and also the same use of the synonymous *šš* *šš* in the letters of Abi-Milku (EA 146-55). On the Egyptian background, see Lorenz, *The Juridical Terminology of International Relations in Egyptian Texts through Dynasty XVIII* (see Introduction, n. 4), pp. 136ff. Though the conception as it appears in EA is undoubtedly of Egyptian origin, the influence of the West Semitic substratum is probably to be seen in the feminine gender agreement (EA 100:37; 141:15; 297:18; cf. Hebrew *šš* *šš*, "breath," fem.).

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EA 101

The death of 'Abdi-Asirta

TEXT: BM 29827.
COPY: BB 44.

Moreover, why¹ is there war [against] the king? Is it not Haya? [No]! the ships of the army are not to enter the land of Amuru, for they have killed 'Abdi-Asirta,² since they had no wool and he had no garments of lapis lazuli or MAR stone color: *ha-bu-mar(?)* to give as tribute³ to the land of Mirana. 11-18 Moreover, whose ships have attacked me? Is it not the men of Arwada? Indeed, they are now with you. Seize the ships of the men of Arwada that are with you in Egypt. 18-25 Moreover, though Haya [says, "I...]. If we [do] not [give] (ii) to the land of Amuru, then [the men] of Tyre⁴ and the men of Sidon and the men of Beirut will finish (ii)."⁵ 25-31 to whom do these cities belong? Is it not to the king? Put a man in each city and let him not allow a ship from the land of Amuru (to enter), for they have killed 'Abdi-Asirta.⁶ It was the king that placed him over them, not they! 32-38 Let the king tell the 3 cities and the ships of the army not to go to the land of Amuru. If a servant seize a *ba[al]*,⁷ let him give it to you. Be informed of the affairs of your loyal servant.

NOTES

1. This is the second of a two-tablet letter, like EA 113, 245, 251, and Wilhelm, ZA 63 (1973) pp. 69ff. It is almost certainly addressed to the king, and very probably by Rib-Hadda; see Eretz Israel 9 (1969) p. 94, n. 1; Altman, UF 9 (1977) p. 8.

2. *minu*, "why" as in EA 126:14, 19, 138:138.

3. Perhaps Haya is here absolved of responsibility, so that this should be read, "Not (because of) Haya" (Na'aman, *Political Disposition*, p. 63*, n. 33). If, however, I understand the thrust of lines 18E, Haya is criticized for the advice he gives the king, and therefore I assume that he is also criticized here.

4. For another interpretation of these lines ("When the ships of the army do not enter... then they will kill...") and its implications, see Altman, UF 9 (1977) pp. 16.

5. GU UN; see RA 69 (1975) p. 158; so also, independently, Na'aman, *Political Disposition*, p. 10.

6. [na-ad-nu] 'ni'-na: for the future, cf. na-ad-na (EA 89:16).

7. [URU su-e] following Na'aman, *ibid.*, p. 63*, n. 33.

8. See n. 4.

9. The reading MR. a-(š)-ir-šja (Or. n.s. 29 [1966] p. 11, n. 3) is quite wrong, and Knudtzon's description (VAB 2/1, pp. 454f., notes c and d) is exact. The last sign could not possibly be [ja], as the space is much too small, and of

course we may not assume a writing of the name with one sign omitted and an unparalleled [ja. Very tentatively, a *yabāt* (for the use of the infinitive, see JCS 4 [1950] pp. 169ff.)¹⁰ (for the determinative with common nouns, see Böhl, *Synchr.*, pp. 9f.) a-ni-[ja, (cf. a-na-ya, EA 245:28; Hebrew *niyyā*). Any Amurru ship intercepted is to be turned over to the king.

EA 102

An empty house

TEXT: BM 29806.
COPY: BB 23.

[Say (to . . .) . . .].¹ Message of Rib-Hadda. I fall at your feet. May the Lady of Gbla, the goddess of the king, my lord, establish your honor in the presence of the king, your lord, the Sun of all countries. 8-19 Moreover, you know that, though informed, you have delayed coming out. Why did you write?² Now you are going to come into an empty house.³ Everything is gone. I am utterly ruined. Moreover, as to your writing me, "Go, stay in Šumut until I arrive," know⁴ that the war against me is very severe and I have been unable to go. 20-28 Now Ampi is at war with me. Know (that) the magnate and the lords⁵ of the city are at peace with the sons of 'Abdi-Asirta, and accordingly I am unable to go. Know that all are traitors, and you must not inquire about me from my enemies. Now, because of the situation, I am afraid. 28-38 Moreover, listen to me. Hasten your arrival with all speed, and go in there. Know that they are traitors. Moreover, do not [del]ay your arrival, [and send] archers [to capture the city of the king], your [lord. G]o in. Do not be afraid. [As soon as you enter] the city, it is from there that you must write [me].

NOTES

1. Perhaps addressed to ["na-an-ya]-m(?) (Knudtzon).

2. The analysis of *malapparia* and the even more difficult *ii-ii-na-n* (line 13) remains uncertain; see Rainey, UF 5 (1973) pp. 257f. The same letter is referred to in lines 14ff.

3. An "empty house" seems to have been a popular image of destruction and desolation; cf. EA 316:16ff.: "you left me in an empty house" (Old Assyrian; K. Balkan, *Letter of King Anam-hirti of Assur to King Warhama of Kanak* [Ankara, 1957], p. 16, n. 20); "I am desolate in an empty house" (El-Amarna Letters, no. 2:6, trans. of Albert E. Glock, *Berytus* 31 [1983] p. 60, n. 27); "I have entered an empty house, an empty ruin" (A. 818, cited by AEM 1/1, no. 234, note a).

4. In this and the following lines *ii-di* seems best taken as an injunctive.

5. The property owners (also EA 138:49). Cf. the similar use of *ba'al* in

Hebrew and Ugaritic (*š'š'bb*, "the lords of Halls," *Ugarit* 7, p. 143); see Reviv, *IEJ* 16 (1966) pp. 252f.

6. Free restoration.

7. [š'š'bb] *š'š'bb* for the word order, with the adverbial phrase fronted, stresses where the letter should be written.

EA 103

Critical days for Šumur

TEXT: VAT 1208.

COPY: WA 77; VS 11, 52.

[T]o the king, my lord, my Sun: Message of Rib-Hadda, your servant. I fall at the feet of my lord, my Sun, 7 times and 7 times. 5-19 May the king, my lord, heed the words of his loyal servant. My situation is very difficult. The war of the sons of 'Abdi-Asirta against me is severe. They have occupied the land of Amurru, and the entire country is theirs. Šumur and Iqata remain to the magnate. I have now been in Šumur because the magnate is in difficulty due to the war. I left Gubla, but Zimredda and Yapeh-Hadda were not with me.² 20-29 So the magnate keeps writing [t]o them, but they pay n[o] attention to him. May the king, my lord, heed the [w]ords of his loyal servant. [S]end an auxiliary force with all speed to Šumru in order to guard [t]e [un]til the arrival of the archers of the king, the Sun. 30-39 May the king, the Sun, expel the traitors from his land. Moreover, may the king, my lord, heed the words of his loyal servant. Send a garrison to Šumur and to Iqata. As the entire garrison has fled from Šumru, 40-49 may it seem right in the s[ig]h[t] of the lord, the Sun of all countries, and give me 20 pairs of horses, and send an auxiliary force with all speed to Šumur in order to guard it. Whatever is left of the garrison is in difficulty.³ 50-57 and few people are still in the city. If you do not [(not)] se[n]d archers, then there will not be a city remaining to you. But if arch[er]s are on hand, we will take all the lands for the king.

NOTES

1. Perhaps "I am now in Šumru," and therefore EA 103 would have been written from there. The siege of Šumur, which begins to be mentioned in EA 104, had apparently not yet begun.

2. *š'š'bb*, "were not with me," i.e., did not assist? Cf. VAB 2/2, p. 1204, n. 1.

3. Probably *ma-ur-ša-lat*: following Rainey, *UF* 3 (1973) p. 256; see EA 114, R. 5.

EA 104

Ullassa taken

TEXT: C 4751 (not collated).

COPY: WA 60.

Say to the king, my lord, my Sun: Message of Rib-Hadda, your servant. I fall at the feet of my lord, my Sun 7 times and 7 times. 6-13 May the king, my lord, know that Pu-Bahla, the son of 'Abdi-Asirta, has occupied Ullassa. There are Adata, Wahliya, Ampu, Šigata. All the cities are theirs. 14-26 So may the king send an auxiliary force to Šumur until the king gives thought to his land. Who are the sons of 'Abdi-Asirta, the servant and dog? Are they the king of Kaššu or the king of Mitanni that they take the land of the king for themselves? Previously, they would [take] cities of your mayors, and you did nothing. 27-39 Now they have driv[en] out your commissioner and have taken his cities for themselves. They have taken Ullassa. If in these circumstances you do nothing, then they are certainly going to take Šumur and kill the commissioner and the auxiliary force in Šumur. What am I to do? I cannot go personally to Šumur. 40-48 the cities of Ampu, Šigata, Ullassa, Erwada,² are at war with me. Should they [(they)] hear that I was entering Šumur, there would be these cities with ships, and the sons of 'Abdi-Asirta in the countryside.⁴ 49-54 They would attack (me), and I would be unable to get out, and Gubla would be joined [t]o the 'Apiru. They have gone to Ibirta, and an agreement has been made with the 'Apiru.⁵

NOTES

1. ERIN MES BU-ka-š: either *bu* = *bu*, or probably simply a mistake for *bu* (BE). The phrase is more probably the object of *idikkusu*, "they will kill" (so also Ebeling, VAB 2/2, p. 1402; Greenberg, *Hadhrim*, p. 38) than the subject of *š'š'bb*, "what will the auxiliary forces do?" (Kanderson, followed by Liverani, *ASJ* 1 [1974] p. 185). Against the latter view are several considerations: (1) the assumed position of the interrogative pronoun (unparalleled in the Byblos letters); (2) attested usage, *š'š'bb*, 10 times first person, never third (on EA 119:18, see below); (3) *mine š'š'bb*, "what shall I do?", is a stock phrase of the Byblos letters. See also Izzi'el, *UF* 19 (1987) pp. 79ff.

2. URU er, *ur-ša*, or perhaps simply a mistake, but certainly Erwada is the city in question; see RA 69 (1975) p. 157, n. 4.

3. *š'š'bb*, third plural feminine; so also *izziz* (line 49), *alht* (line 52), perhaps *emph* (line 52), agreement with "cities" understood, *š'š'bb* being regularly construed as feminine in Canaanite EA. See SSDB, p. 164; Greenberg, *Hadhrim*, p. 38.

4. See RA 69 (1975) p. 157.
 5. So CAD, E, p. 216. Less likely from the viewpoint of attested usage, though perhaps yielding better sense, in "and (where (no) (the city) has gone over to the 'Apiru" (Greenberg, *Hadipiru*, p. 38; cf. Bottéro, *Hadiru*, p. 92). *pa-š* = Canaanite *š*, "here, in this place" (Böhl, *Sprache*, p. 71); *tu-ni-ib-lu-ka*).

EA 105

Šumur under siege

TEXT: VAT 1628.
 COPIES: WA 51; VS 11, 53

Rib-Hadda says to [his] lord, Great King, king of all countries, the King of Ba[ty]le: May the Lady of Gubla grant power to the king, my lord. I fall at the feet of my lord, my Sun, 7 times and 7 times. 6-13 Moreover, may the king give thought to Šumut. Look at Šumut! Like a bird in a trap: *ku-lu-ki* (cage), so is Šumut; the sons of 'Abdi-Asirta by land, the people of Arwada by sea, are against it] day and night. 14-21 I se(n)k 3 [ships to Yanhamu, (that ships) of the people of Arwada were (there) to intercept [Mes], and out they came! Consider the case of the people of Arwada. When the archers came out, all the proper[ty] of 'Abdi-Asirta in their possession was not taken away, and their ships, by an agreement, left Egypt. 21-33 Accordingly, they are not afraid. Now they have taken Ullassa, and they strive to take Šumut. Everything belonging to 'Abdi-Asirta they gave to the [sons], and so now they are strong. They have taken the army ships together with everything belonging to them, and I am unable to go to the aid of Šumut. Yapah-Hadda is at war with me because of [my] property in his possession. 33-45 Let us put the case before Aman... and DUMU-BI-ŠU-S and before Yanhamu, for they are the ones that know what is my due concerning I...]. Because my property in his possession is considerable, he has accordingly waged war against me. When I heard of the *cal[pi]res* of Ullassa, I wrote *repeatedly* [...] to him, but he [did not] [...] and took [...]. He has waged war against me. 46-78 [...] 79-88 [May he send [...] that we may put the case before them.] May [my] property of mine in his possession be taken for the king, and let the faithful servant live for the king. The Egyptians that got out of Ullassa are now with me, but there is no [gain] for them to eat. Yapah-Hadda does not let my ships [in] to Yacimuta, and I cannot send them to Šumut because of the ships of Arwada. Look, he says, "Rib-[Hadda] is]ok [at, and] to he is against me[...]."

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NOTES

1. See EA 118, n. 1.
 2. *ša-bu*.
 3. "Repeatedly," if with Knudtzon one reads *at-[š]e-pa-lu*, otherwise, *at-lu-pa-lu* (cf. EA 74:49; 75:17; 132:12), and simply "I wrote."
 4. Line 76, end: [... *ni*]; *im-ni-ia* (cf. lines 52, 38, 81); in the last sign, the wedges are very compressed.
 5. *ina* (*pa-ni-lu-wa*).

EA 106

Šumur holding out

TEXT: VAT 344.
 COPIES: WA 43; VS 11, 52.

Rib-Hadda says (to his lord, Great King), the king of all countries: I fall at the feet [of my lord, the king], 7 times and 7 times. Gubla is [from] ancient times the loyal city of my lord, the Sun of all countries, and I am a footstool for the feet of the king, my lord, and his loyal servant. 8-13 Now as for Šumut, the war against it is severe, and it is severe against me. Šumut is now raided up to its city gate. They have been able to raid it, but they have not been able to capture it. 13-22 Moreover, "Why does Rib-Hadda keep sending a tablet this way to the palace?" He is more *distraught* than his brothers about Šumut. Look, in my case, there has been war against me for 5 years. Accordingly, I keep writing to my lord. Look, I am not like Yapah-Hadda, and I am not like Zimredda. All brothers have deserted me. There is war against Šumut, and now its commissioner is dead. 23-29 Indeed, I myself am now in distress. I was in [Šumut], and all its people fled. May my lord [send a commissioner and troops] with him with all speed that he may guard it. I myself *cannot* get out! [Let him] move in between the two of them [that are against it]. 30-40 How can the king say, "Why does Rib-Hadda keep sending a tablet to his lord?" Because of the evil that was done before, and especially so nothing like this will be done to me now! Moreover, may it seem right in the sight of [my] lord, and may he send Yanhamu as its commissioner, Yanhamu the parasol-bearer of the king, my lord. I have heard it reported that he is a wise man and (that) everyone loves him. 41-49 Moreover, may it seem right to my lord, and may he send 20 pairs of first-class horses to his servant—there are many men on my side—so that I can march against the enemies of the king, my lord.

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Moreover, as for all my cities that I have reported on to the king, my lord, as my lord is witness, they have not returned. The day the troops of my lord's expeditionary force¹⁰ left, all became enemies.

NOTES

1. LUGAL-ri: the apparent NUN, which would be unparalleled, is a carelessly formed *ri*; cf. LUGAL-ri KUR.KUR.KI in EA 1233. Line 2: ... GIL.M(EŠ) BE-ia LUGAL-ri.

2. This seems to be a quotation from a letter of the king, as in lines 30ff. The king found Rib-Hadda an excessively diligent correspondent (see the Introduction, sect. 5).

3. *ma-ri-ge*: following Thureau-Dangin, RA 19 (1922) p. 92, n. 3; see also Rainey, AOAT¹⁷, p. 80. I. Kozłowski, *UF* 20 (1988) pp. 123ff., 121 gives in favor of a Northwest Semitic root *mgg*, "to wait, to fight."

4. For the syntax, see Giusto, *Word Order Variation in the Akkadian of Byblos* (see EA 88, n. 10), p. 51.

5. [U-ri]-[ri]-[ri]: as in EA 84:28 (on the scribe of EA 84 and 106, see EA, n. 1), though [(š) yi-ri]-[ri]-[ri] is possible. In any case, an injunctive is required.

6. *u (š) ū/um*: the form is unattested.

7. *bi-ri-šu-ni* [ša UGU-ši]: the dual pronominal suffix (BASOR 211 (1973) pp. 50ff.; see also Na'aman, *Political Disposition*, p. 39*, n. 6) probably refers to the forces, sea and land, that surround Šumur (EA 104:46ff.; 105:11ff.).

8. *ri-ri-šu-[ri]*.
9. Following Helck, *Beziehungen*, p. 249, who sees here a reflection of Egyptian *hhu h(š)*. Allright, *JNES* 5 (1946) p. 13, 'fan-bearer,' follows Ranke in Weber, *VAB* 2/2, p. 1173, and he is followed by AHw, p. 1110, and CAD, S, p. 240.

10. ERIN.MEŠ KI.KAL.KASKAL + ?BAD: cf. ERIN.MEŠ KAL.KASKAL + ?[BAD?] (EA 58, n. 3) and KAL.BAD.KASKAL + ? (EA 92, n. 13). I interpret the logograms as variants and the equivalent of KI.KAL.BAD/KALKAD, *hamān*, "camp, expeditionary force"; cf. ERIN.MEŠ *ku-ru-ri* (EA 83:43) and [ERIN.MEŠ] *ku-ru-ri* (EA 134:39). The unidentified sign, given the likely meaning, is probably named with KASKAL. P. Srenkellei suggests KASŠUDUN ('private communication').

EA 107

Charioteers but no horses

TEXT: VAT 346.

COPIES: WA 41; VS 11, 55.

Rib-Hadda says to (his) lord, king of all countries, Great King, King of Battle: May the Lady of Gubla grant power to the king, my lord, I fall at the feet of my lord, my Sun, 7 times and 7 times. Being a loyal servant of the king, the Sun, 10-19 with my mouth I speak words to

the king that are nothing but the truth. May the king, my lord, heed the words of his loyal servant. May the archer-commander¹ stay in Šumur, but fetch Ḫa'ip to yourself, examine him, and find out about [his] affair[s]. 20-28 Then if it pleas[es] you, appoint as its commissioner someone respected by the king[s] mayors.² May my lord heed my words. Seeing that Azin, the son of 'Abdi-Asirta, is in Damascus along with his brothers, 29-36 send archers that they might take him, and the land of the king be at peace. If things go as they are now, Šumur will not stand. Moreover, may the king, my lord, heed the words of his loyal servant. 37-48 There is no money to pay for horses; everything is gone so that we might stay alive. So give me 30 pairs of horses along with chariots. I have charioteers [;] *ma-ri-ri-nu-ma*,³ but I do not have a horse to march against the enemies of the king. Accordingly, I am afraid, and accordingly, I have not gone to Šumur.

NOTES

1. *mi-ri-ri-ri*: Egyptian *my-phet*, with Albright, *JNES* 5 (1946) p. 14.

2. Read *ḫan ina rēbi-ri-ri DUGUD (kaba) ina ...*; see RA 69 (1975) pp. 153f., and cf. also EA 129, 151f.

3. The sign(s) at the end of line 42 are still unidentified; see EA 108, n. 2. On the gloss, with its Canaanite plural formation, see Schroeder, *OLZ*, 1918, cols. 125ff., and Helck, *Beziehungen*, p. 483.

EA 108

Unheard-of deeds

TEXT: VAT 345.

COPIES: WA 42; VS 11, 56.

Rib-Hadda writes to his lord, king of all countries, Great King, King of Battle: May the Lady of Gubla grant power to the king, my lord. 6-17 I fall at the feet of my lord, my Sun, 7 times and 7 times. Moreover, is it pleasing in the sight of the king, who is like Baal and Šamaš in the sky,¹ that the sons of 'Abdi-Asirta do as they please? They have taken the king's horses and chariots, and they have sold into captivity charioteers: *ri-x-š(?)* and soldiers to ((to)) the land of Su(ba)tn.² 18-25 In whose lifetime has such a deed been done? False words are now being spoken in the presence of the king, the Sun. I am your loyal servant, and whatever I know or have heard I write to the king, my lord. 25-33 'Who are they, the dogs, that they could re[is]t the archers of the king, the Sun? I wrote t[ri]o ((to)) your father, and he

he[ded] my wo[ld]s, and he sen[a]ch[ers]. Did he not take 'Abdi-Asirta for [himself]?¹ 34-45 Moreover, since the mayors have not oppo[se]d th[em], they are stron[g].² The army furnishes whatever they ne[ed], and so they are not afra[id] of the magnate. Because they have taken the hors[es], they are bold.³ Because we know that they are strong, we have so[ld] the king, "They are strong."⁴ Truly, they will not prevail. 46-58 When I sent 2 messengers to Sumur, I retained this man in order to report to the king. Moreover, why do you listen to other men? The king's messengers must bring (news) by night and bring (it) back by night because of the dog. If the king, the Sun, desires, they will be taken in a day.⁵ 59-69 Moreover, has he (n[o]t) plott[ed] evils upon evils a[gainst] you,⁶ and res[ist]ed? And as for the man of [my] god, 'Apiru came from Sumur to take him prisoner, but I did not give him up. May the [king] he[ed] the words of his servant. Send me [2]o men from Meluhha and 20 men from Egypt to guard the city for the king, the Sun, my lord. (I am) your loyal se[rva]nt.

NOTES

1. The storm god (perhaps Haddu rather than Baal) and the sun god; cf. EA 147:14.
2. The same logogram as EA 107:42; the gloss (second and third signs *ni* *iz* *ba* *na*, respectively) remains unexplained. The reading of the logogram as *KEŠDA* and the explanation of the gloss as identification of the sign (*ŠR*; so *SSDB*, p. 166) are to be rejected.
3. Cf. EA 109:40.
4. *iz-zu-na*.
5. *iz-šū*: perhaps, with Rainey, *UF* 7 (1975) p. 400, n. 56, "was not 'Abdi-Asirta taken to him?" Rib-Hadda returns to this event (EA 117:27f.; 192:16ff.; 198:33f.; 362:20).
6. On lines 34-38, see *JCS* 7 (1953) p. 79.
7. KALAG.GA (*šamtu*) *nu šūšimtu*, lit. "they are strong in their face," reflects Canaanite idiom; cf. *Proverbs* 7:13, *š'šed panāhā*, "she strengthens her face," i.e., "she acts boldly"; 21:20, *š'šā 'iz nāšā š'panāhā*, "a wicked man 'shows strong' in his face; *Qohélet* 8:1, *'ez pānim*; *Dariuswavy* 28:50, *'ez panim*.
8. If *ni-iz-(ba)*, then the enclitic in KALAG.GA (*šamtu*)-*nu* marks direct quotation.
9. On UD.KAM.MEŠ as singular, see EA 109:16ff. Total victory in a single day, which is also promised in EA 109:16ff., 117:60ff., and 132:110ff. (cf. 70:27ff.), was of course a display of power and something to boast about; see the texts cited by Stuart, *BASOR* 211 (1976) pp. 16ff., and Sollberger-Kupper, *Inscriptions royales sumériennes et akkadiennes* (Paris, 1971), pp. 157f., III A3b-c; *RLA* 5, p. 6b.
10. *ni-iz-šū* 60 *šam-ni* [šam-ni-šū] *ni-iz-šū* [ni-iz-šū] UGU-*ke* 61 *iz-šū* [iz-šū] 2-11 DINGIR [ni] cf. *šamtu šamtu-nu šūšimtu* in EA 113:113f. (with *ana*) and 116:41f. (with UGU, *šimūšū*); after *šūšimtu*, possibly traces of *šūšimtu*.

EA 109

Then and now

TEXT: VAT 1629.

COPIES: WA 52; VS 11, 57.

Rib-Hadda [says] to his lord, king of all lands, [Great] King: May the Lady of Gubla grant power to the king, my lord. I fall at the feet of my lord, my Sun, 7 times and 7 times. In times past, 6-14 whenever the [king] of Mitana was at war with your ancestors, your ancestors did not desert [my] ance[stors]. Now the sons of 'Abdi-Asirta, the [servant] and dog, have [taken] the cities of the king and the [cities] of his mayor, just as they please; they are the ones that [took] A[rdafsa] for themselves. And you did nothing [about] their [actions] when you heard [of] them. 15-25 (And so) they have taken [U]l[assa]. For my part, I keep saying, "[I]f the king gives heed for a [day], in (that) day the king will take them. [And] if he gives heed for a night, in (that) night he will take them."¹ Accordingly, I am [firm] in my resolve. They have taken [the treasures] of your mayors, and [they have taken] the [chariots], your chariots, and soldiers, [but] you have done nothing. Accordingly, they are [firm] in their [resolve], and they intend crime upon cr[ime]. 25-29 [Being at war] with me, they seized [12 men of mine];² they bound (th)em,³ (and) they are in prison.⁴ The ransom [price] between us they have set as 50 (shekels of) silver,⁵ and [...] 30-34 ... 35-46 They go about and [...]. They are the ones who have *kid-nappad*,⁶ and [...] Yanhamu knows. The king [...] a man. They put him in [...] : *ni-iz-šū* (?), and they sold a soldier into captivity in Subau for their food. Look, I am a loyal servant of the king, [and] the king has no servant like me. Previously, on seeing a man from Egypt, the kings of Canaan fled bef[ore] him. 47-55 but] now the sons of 'Abdi-Asirta make men from Egypt prow[]l about [like dogs].⁷ Death would be sweet to me.⁸ Let them [not] be arrogant towards my lord and [towards] my [li]fe.⁹ As all our gods [and the Lady of] Gubla live, (truly)¹⁰ [he] is a man that intends evil fo[r] his [lord]. (But) note well,¹¹ it is power, only power, that I intend fo[r] my lord. 56-69 Moreover, I am unabl[e] to [let] this man of yours into Šumur. All my towns are at war with me, on the side of the sons of 'Abdi-Asirta. Accordingly, they are strong. The mayors are not just to me. [W]hen H[aiya] and A[manap]pa departed fro[m] Šumur, along with the copper [and] his [...] they said (that) I [was] your loyal servant].

NOTES

1. In URU *ni-lu-ia*.
2. 65 [nu-ma UD K]AM.MEŠ *yimū tarru* 17 [š UD].KAM.MEŠ *yi-lū n-gū-lu-nu*. The parallelism with the singular *mūtu*, "night," in the following lines, and the absence of MEŠ in the roughly parallel EA 117:63 (*ina* UD KAM), favor taking the logogram as singular and another example of otiose MEŠ.
3. [ka-]ja₆-*na-ku*, and in line 23, *ka-ilo₆-nu*: the assumed syllabary (*ka₆*) and the absence of parallels make these readings very tentative.
4. [NIG.G]A (*maškūru*): *maškūru* is otherwise unattested in the Middle Babylonian periphery, with the possible exception of EA 158:106.
5. See n. 3.
6. [12 I]C.MEŠ-*ia*: cf. EA 114:8; if not enough room, then probably the number was omitted.
7. *ro-ak-lu-ša-nu*.
8. É [ki-ii]: *hi kili* is well attested in the Western Periphery.
9. A ransom price of 50 minas (Knaudtson: CAD, B], p. 172), even if the ransom of all twelve men, would come to 250 shekels a person, an improbably high price. In EA 292, 100 shekels are considered outrageously high. Therefore, 50 shekels per person; cf. EA 91, n. 4.
10. *ša-ru-qi-ua*: interpreted as Canaanite perfect and translated according to context, but perhaps better *šaršiqū-ma*, "they are thieves" (AHu, p. 1188; Rainey, AOAT¹⁵, p. 93).
11. *māi mi-lu-ū ki-mā* 49 [UR].KU.MEŠ: the verb must be *dalla* (also EA 114:65, and perhaps 110:54), the assumption of scribal error both here and in EA 114 (CAD, D, p. 59b) is most implausible. The meaning is clearly transitive, and therefore we must assume either a confusion of the G and D conjugations, or another example of the sporadic replacement of *štu*-person marker by *iti*. Perhaps *dalla* contrasts with the proper orderly advance of troops; it is an action typical of dogs (see the dictionaries). AEM 1/2, no. 391:50-52 suggests hesitant or evasive action ("reverser"); see note k), which would also fit here and in EA 114.
12. *šemiq mātū a-ina ia-l-i*: against [29].TURUL.MEŠ (*kakki*) *ša-mi iq-ma-dā*, "they laid hold of weapons of blood" (AHu, p. 896), apart from the unusually vivid language, are the following: (1) G1Š is too small a sign for the space (as Koussion already noted in VAB 2/1, p. 484, note b); (2) *kakki* is attested only once in EA, and then in a literary text (EA 359:24; on 20:86, see above, EA 20, n. 17), and is extremely rare in the Middle Babylonian western periphery (CAD, K, lists under *kakku* three occurrences, deleting reference to EA 20:86; and under *šā kakki* three occurrences at Alalakh, plus its use as a Sumero-Akkadianogram at Boghazköp); (3) the value *dā* is not expected in the Byblos syllabary; and (4) the verb is extremely rare and the sense otherwise unattested.
13. [la-ij]-*il-ma-ša*: the assumption of *ša₂* is difficult; cf. the Old Assyrian meaning of the verb, "to act independently?" (AHu, p. 1153b).
14. 53 [T]L.LA (a)-*d(i) šu-u*): for the assumed *liblānu*, cf. TI (*liblān*), EA 74:15; *liblū tarru*, EA 85:39, 86; 256:10f; 289:37; for (a)*d(i)*, cf. *adi* introducing the object of an oath in EA 85:40, 86 (see n. 7) and its use elsewhere as an asseverative particle.
15. *šumma*: see EA 35, n. 3.

The army's ships

TEXT: VAT 1666.

COPIES: WA 64 (a.e.b.c.), VS 11, 58.

... 48-54 [N]o ship of the [ar]my [is] to [be] [sent] Can[aan].¹ {Why does he not give me} (some of) the royal [prop]erty that the ships of the army [re]spond,² and then³ the mayors [and ...] [re]spond⁴ to [Aziru]. 55-end ...

NOTES

1. Letter to the king; references to Aziru... 40 [... m]i-lu-na la-a šu-šū, "Why does he not come out?"
2. XUR 'ki'-n[ša]-ni: so also Na'aman, *Political Disposition*, p. 1^a, n. 14; cf. EA 101:3f.
3. *ša-ba-lu-ma*: cf. EA 108:39, and below, line 54; also EA 111:23.
4. 52 ... I]C.MEŠ *mā-šū ū*.
5. [ru-ba]-*lu-na*.

Army activities

TEXT: VAT 1631.

COPIES: WA 68; VS 11, 59.

... 17-24 [If] this [year] there [are] no archers, then all lands [will] be joined to "the [Ap]iru. Look, members of the ar[my] have en[ter]ed Akka [in] order to re[spo]nd: ... [...] [now] [did] by the king. 25-end ...

NOTES

1. Letter to the king, which probably began by recalling how often Rib-Hadda had written in vain for a grant and then renewing the request. At the beginning of line 17: *ka-lu*, or does the *Glasenfeld* indicate a turnover line? *tu*: *ka-lu*?
2. 22 [r-ru]-*lu*: perhaps, following Na'aman, *Political Disposition*, p. 48.
3. [š]-*šum a*-*ku* *š-x* (...): cf. *šibbā abalu*, EA 108:39. Na'aman, *ibid.*, proposes *šum ba-lu-š* [š], *šūš* being either stative or a noun and variant of *balānu*, "provisions."

EA 112

Questions for the king

TEXT: VAT 1664.
COPIES: WA 57; VS 11, 61.

Rib-Hadda says to his lord, king of all lands, Great [K]ing: [I] fall at the feet of [my] lord, my Sun, 7 times and 7 times. Why does the king, my lord, write to me. 9-14 "Guard! Be on your guard!" With what shall I guard? With my enemies, or with my peasantry? Who would guard me? If the king guards his servant, [then I will survive]. 16-24 [But if] the [k]ing does not [gn]ard me, who will guard me? If the king sends men from Egypt and Meluhha, and horses in the charge of this man of mine, with all speed, then I will survive to serve the king, my lord. 25-39 [Not]e well,¹ I have nothing with which to acquire horses. Every[thing of] mine [is gone] through being sold in the land of Yatimuta for provisions to keep me alive. If the king wants his servant and his city to survive, then send a [g]arrison to guard your city and your servant until the king is [really] concerned for his lands, sends his archers, and brings peace to his lands. 40-50 Thus was it pleasing in the sight of the king when you wrote to [your ser]vant, "Get Haya into Sumur." I paid 13 (shekels of) silver and a pair of mantles as the hire of the Apiru when he bro[ugh]t the tablet into Sumur.² Look, ask Haya. Truly it was by night that he got (him) into [into] Sumur. 50-56 Previously, provisions from the king were at [my] disposal, and we could pay the hire of a man whom we sent. But Ilojok, now there are no provisions from the king, [and there is no garri]son [at my disposal]. . . . 57-59 . . .

NOTES

1. Or "with whom." Though *ihu*, "from," rather than the much rarer equivalent of *ini*, here yields good sense, this is not true in parallel passages, which do not refer to the enemies and peasantry. It is quite clear, in general, from Rib-Hadda's letters from whom or what he must protect himself and the king's city. In EA 123:31, note the sequence: the need of the three men to guard the city (lines 23-28), then the question to the king's order to guard himself, and finally back to the need of the three men; here "from whom" makes little sense. In EA 123:12ff., Rib-Hadda shifts immediately from the question of from whom or with whom to guard himself, to the absence of manpower; again, "with whom" obviously makes better sense. Cf. also in EA 119:9ff. and 122:10ff. the transition from the king's command to the absence of manpower. In EA 126:33, *utu manni* is replaced by *it*, "how." We must, therefore, take the question "With my enemies,

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or with my peasantry" as ironical. On *ihu* = *ini*, see EA 145:6, 166, n. 1; 170:5, 15; *Jerusalem Scripta*, p. 165, n. 68.

2. *Sumu*: see EA 35, n. 3.

3. *agutu*. On shekels rather than minas, see EA 109, n. 9; here again, even though the word order (initial position) stresses the size of the pay, minas would yield an excessively high figure.

4. Getting the tablet in and getting Haya in, who should probably be thought of as bearing a tablet with the king's orders, were probably the same thing. That Rib-Hadda is himself in Sumur is not clear; otherwise, Greenberg, *Hathor*, p. 39.

EA 113

War and peace

TEXT: C 4753.
COPY: WA 63.

Moreover,¹ [. . .] . . . 4-10 Inquire from² another may[or]. Is he not [always] [committing] or plotting a crime? Look, Yapaḥ-Hadda has committed a crime. Be informed! [What] has the king done to him? 11-18 Moreover, what have I done to [o] Yapaḥ-Hadda that he plot[es] evil upon evil against me? As he has plundered two of my ships and my sheep and goats so that the amount of my property in his possession is very large, may the king [se]nd his commissioner [to decide] between the two of us.³ 19-28 [Everything] that [is taken] from him [may be] (the king) take.⁴ Concerning [my] property [that] is in [his] possession [he should inquire of] my [men] . . . [. . .] Jam Rib-Hadda [and] for the Apiru has [all of it] he [acquired],⁵ but there is no one that [can take] anything belonging to him from my [hand]. 28-35 Why am [I] not able like my associates to send a man to the palace? Their cities are theirs, [and] they are at peace. May the Sun establish [my] honor in your presence so that you bring peace to [your servant],⁶ and then he will never leave your side. 36-48 Tell Amanmaṣṣa to stay with me so he can bring [my] tablet to you. For once he goes off, there will be no one to bring [my] tablet to you. So may the [king be concerned] about Amanmaṣṣa [so] he stays with me . . . and Yapaḥ-Hadda . . . [so send] provisions for the cities [that have not] turned against you.

NOTES

1. EA 113 is a two-tablet letter; cf. EA 101. The addressee is not clear, but the king seems likely.

2. Occasionally *istum* means "from" in EA (VAB 2/2, p. 1985), and this

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sense seems to fit the context better than "about, with regard to." Rib-Hadda says that, on inquiry, any other ruler will confirm the criminal activities of Yapah-Hadda.

3. *yā-pu-ū*: as required by the parallelism with the indicative *yāḫḫu*.
4. See EA 35, n. 2.
5. Not "the two of you" (BASOR 211 [1973] p. 52), which is forced. Note, however, that, when the litigants are three, then *ina berinu* replaces *ina berikunu* (cf. EA 117:64ff.). Whatever then the explanation, *{berin}* is first person dual pronominal suffix. Cf. also EA 34:33; 116:33.
6. The beginning of lines 19-21. [Ea-H]: *lyi-ūl-ēdū lyi-ūl-ēdū*. For the restorations, cf. EA 116:34ff., 117:57ff. Contrary to Knudtzon (VAB 21), p. 494, note b), there is ample room for *yā-ūl* or *yā-ūl* at the beginning of line 20; elsewhere on the tablet the space corresponds to three or four signs.
7. Free restoration: 22 [ša-a] *šā-šā-šū* [yā-šā-a] 23 [ša-na] LÜ MES. 24
8. Free restoration: *ip-ū-ū* 26 [šb-ba].
9. The question was probably asked by the addressee, whom Rib-Hadda now quotes; cf. EA 106, n. 2. The other mayors, here called "associates" (cf. EA 120:45), are "friends" in EA 126:16. Both terms seem to imply equality of rank, rights, and obligations.
10. The use here of the expression *halla naddim* is unusual.

EA 114

Loyalty and its rewards

TEXT: BM 29796.
COPY: BB 13.

[Rib-Hadda says] to [his] lord, [king of all countries, Great King, King of Battle: May the Lady of] (Gul)bla grant power to the king, my lord, I fall at the feet of my lord, my Sun, 7 times and 7 times. May the king, my lord, know 7-17 that Aziru is at war with me. He has seized 72 men of mine, and the ransom price between us he has set at 50 (shekels of) silver.¹ It was the men whom I sent to Šumur that he has seized.² In Wabliya are the ships of the rulers³ of Tyre, Beirut, and Sidon. Everyone in the land of Amurru is at peace with them; I am the enemy. As Yapah-Hadda is now on the side of Aziru against me, he has, I assure you, seized a ship of mine, 18-26 and he has, I assure you, for this very reason been going to sea to seize my ships. May the king give thought to his city and his servant; my peas(an)try long only to desert. If you are unable to rescue m[e] from my enemies, then send back word so I can know what action I am to take. 26-34 Look, I (must) keep writing like (this) to you about Šumur.⁴ Look, I did go and I strongly urged the troops to [guard] it, but now they have abandoned it, [and]

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EA 114

the garrison [has deserted].⁵ And [for this reason I keep writing.] I have sent [...] a messenger of mine time and again. 35-43 How often did I send him and he was unable to get into Šumur! They have blocked all the roads against him.⁶ That fellow looks with pleasure on the war against me and against Šumur. For 2 months he has been encamped against me. For what reason is your loyal servant so treated? For service to you! 44-50 If you are unable to fetch you[r] servant, then send archers to fetch me. It would be good to be with you.⁷ The enemies of the king are at war with me, as are his mayors, to whom he gives thought.⁸ For this reason my situation is extremely grave. 51-59 Look, ask the other Amanmaša if it was not (from) Alašiya that I sent him to you.⁹ Give thought to your loyal servant. Previously, my peasantry got provisions from the land of Yarimuta, but now, now Yapah-Hadda does not let them go. 59-69 W[hy are you not] [gentle]¹⁰ [The king must] send a garrison [to protect] you[r] loyal servant. [...] the enemies of the king, for they make a mayor who serves you with loyalty proud about.¹¹ Moreover, give thought to me. Who will be loyal were I to die? Look, Yapah-Hadda is on the side of Aziru.

NOTES

1. See EA 109, n. 9.
2. The unusual absence of coordinating conjunctions and clause-makers in lines 10ff., along with our ignorance of the location of Wabliya, makes the division of clauses and the interpretation of these lines quite difficult. I reject Knudtzon's version, according to which the ships of the three cities capture the men sent to Šumur, for this results in a construction without parallel in the Byblos corpus (feminine plural subject, masculine singular verb; in EA 103:20f. the same subject, "ships" [*šappānu*], has a third feminine plural verb, *atādu*). I take *u...* *šab(b)at* as an explanatory clause, with inversion of word order stressing the identity of the men who were seized, though it might refer to another crime. Perhaps "in Wabliya" belongs with this clause, but whether ships might as a result be at peace with the people of Amurru is not clear. Of course, if Wabliya was not on the coast, then it could not serve as a port. I take the remark on the ships as intended to show the friendship of the three cities to Aziru, who now holds Wabliya (EA 104:11).
3. On "men" in the sense of "rulers," see Introduction, nn. 73-74.
4. *li-qa-le*; cf. EA 79:40; 82:7.
5. *ki-(a)-ma*, rather than *ki-ma*, for the following reasons: (1) *ama* as a conjunction occurs only once in the Byblos corpus (EA 127:31), whereas *anamma ki-ama* followed by *šapānu*, usually in the indicative, is quite common (EA 74:49; 85:6; 35; 89:7; 91:27; 104:20; 118:8; 119:10f.; 122:53f.; 132:51); (2) *anamma* never introduces a subordinate clause; (3) *anamma* ... *anamma* not infrequently introduces coordinate clauses (EA 78:1ff.; 83:6ff.; 90:18ff.; 106:8ff.; 362:21ff.). Occasionally, and perhaps here, *ki-ama*, usually "thus, like this," shades over into

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the illative, "so, this being the case" (cf. EA 9:27; 103:20, "in these circumstances" [Knsutsoo]; 119:11).

6. Except for the curious *marṣa* (EA 103:49), (ÉRIN.MEŠ.LÚ.MEŠ) *mašartu* is in all clear cases construed *ad sensum* as masculine plural: cf. EA 79:30 / 125:14 (referred to by plural pronominal suffix in lines 33/18, respectively), 103:37, 49, 112:34; 130:37 (*mašartu* subject, verbs in the plural). In EA 126:25, the agreement with ERIN.MEŠ *mašartu* is probably therefore plural (*ulṣarḫu*), though feminine singular (*ulṣaru*) is also possible; see EA 116, n. 7. Cf. also LÚ.MEŠ *mašarū*, also referred to by plural pronominal suffix (EA 117:79, 81); on 117:50, see below. Therefore, the subject of *lṣrḫ* (line 30) is not *mašartu*, and it can only be ERIN.MEŠ (*šān*) understood; cf. ERIN.MEŠ as masculine singular in EA 76:38f.; 117:24, 27; 124:12; 126:40. Both *šān* and *mašartu* must refer to the same troops; cf. EA 126:25, where ERIN.MEŠ is immediately followed by ERIN.MEŠ *mašartu* as synonymous. Line 31: [š p-sr-n] cf. the sequence *cašbu-patara* in EA 73:14f.; 82:42f.; 83:46f., 49f.; 108:34f.; perhaps [š e-n-sr-n] (cf. EA 103:37).

7. [ki-na-na B-11ap]-w: cf. EA 106:17f.
8. Probably a personal name in the break.
9. Perhaps "to it" (*šumai*).
10. Cf. EA 74:62f.
11. Cf. line 54. "Give thought to your loyal servant." The king is concerned for those who are disloyal to him, while he is unconcerned for the loyal Rib-Hadda.
12. The word order puts stress on the place, but how it why Rib-Hadda should send anyone from or via Alalā remains obscure. The translation of lines 52f. by Smith in G. E. Hill, *History of Cyprus*, vol. 1 (Cambridge, 1940), p. 43, n. 2, has Rib-Hadda freeing Alalā.
13. *a-ṣal* 60 [ra-ni qa-lla-ṣa: the space seems too large to be filled by *eihe* *he* ((ba-lu-ṣa/ṣ) or 71 (TL.LA-ṣ). Besides, why "provision for the garrison," since at this time there was no longer a garrison at Byblos, in contrast, as Rib-Hadda notes so often, to earlier and better days?
14. Free restoration: 61 [LUGAL-ru yū-ṣa-ṣ-ru-na 6a [a-na an-ṣa-ai 1R ki-]i-ka]... Cf. EA 117:76f. On *ṣ-ṣ-ru-na* (line 65), see EA 109, n. 11.

EA 116

Message lost

TEXT: VAT 1630.
COPIES: WA 69; VS II, 60.

Too fragmentary for translation.¹

NOTE

1. A letter to the king of which 14 lines on the obverse and 9 on the reverse, all of them fragmentary, are preserved. There are references to Aziru, Šumur, Amnun, and perhaps the difficulties of rescuing Šumur. Lines 5, 7–9: 5 [...

1]-na 16-[d], "in the countryside" (cf. EA 104:48) 7 [... 5ṣ]-na 1-ṣa-na 3a-a1 8 [a-ṣe-zi-bu URU i-na qa-ṣi-ṣn ṣ] 9 [ki-na-na i-na-ṣ] *ṣ-ṣ-ru-na* URU ṣu-mu-ri, "Note well, there is no one that can save the city from him, and so Šumur is disheartened."

EA 116

Who do they think they are?

TEXT: C 4752 (not collated).
COPY: WA 61.

[Rib-Hadda writes [to his lord], Great [King], king of all countries, King of [Ba]etle' May the Lady of Gub[la] grant power to the king, my [lord]. I fall at the feet of [my] lord, the Sun, [7 times] and 7 times. 6–6 May the king, my lord, know that the war [against] us is very severe. As to its being told to you, "Šumur belongs to the king," may the [king] know that *there was an attack on our garrison*,¹ and the sons of 'Abdi-Ašir² seized it. And so there has been no one to carry word [to the king. But give thought to the fact that I am your loyal servant, and whatever I hear I write to [my] lord. 17–24 Moreover, give thought to Šum[ur]. It is like a bird in a [trap] : *ki-lu-ṣi* [cage]. [The war] is very severe, and the messengers that [came] from the palace were [un]able [to get] [to] Šumur. It was by nig[ht] that I got them in. 25–33 And here is how Yapah-Hadda is not just in my regard: when my man arrived, he bound him.³ *May what is due to me [be given]*;⁴ it is very much.⁵ Now as the king is going to send the royal commissioners, may the king tell them to decide between us. 34–44 If the king gives [the property] to his servant, well and good! Or, on the other hand, let the king take everything for himself.⁶ Moreover, all my towns have been joined to the 'Ap[ir]u, and all of them *are extremely hostile* to me, for [Yapah-Hadda keeps devising]⁷ evil upon evil against me. They have nothing, having paid ransom money, some twice, some three times.⁸ 44–55 May the king heed the words of his loyal servant and give provisions to his servant and his maidservant, Gubla. Moreover, it would please me were I with you and so at peace. Look, Aziru and Yapah-Hadda have made an agreement against me,⁹ and I am unable [to do] anything. Their actions *are hostile*¹⁰ to me. Accordingly, my situation is [ex]tremely grave]. 55–69 Moreover, note that we have been loyal servants of the king from ancient times. Moreover, note that I am [your] loyal servant, but I have nothing but *dismiss*.¹¹ Note [the] matter. Note that I am the dirt at your feet, O king! Note: did not you

other hand, let the king take from the mayors anything of mine for himself. Moreover, the war [against] me is severe, and so there are no provisions [for] the peasantry. 24-33 Look, [they] have [gone off] to the sons of 'Abdi-Asirta, to Si(do)n and Beirut. As the sons of 'Abdi-Asirta are hostile to the king, and Sidon a(n)d Beirut do not belong (any longer) to the king, send the commissioner to take them, 34-44 lest I abandon the city and go off to you.³ Look, if the peasantry goes off, the 'Apiru will seize the city.⁴ Seeing that my only purpose is to serve the king in accordance with the practice of my ancestors, may the king send archers and pacify them. 45-56 As for the mayors,⁵ since the cities are theirs and they are at peace, they do not keep writing to the king. It is against me and against Yanhamu that there is war. Look,⁶ previously the commissioner at Sumu would [decide] between us, but now no mayor listens to hi[m]. The king has no servant like Yanhamu—a loyal servant!

NOTES

1. The usual meanings of *kittu*, "justice, loyalty, truth," do not fit this passage; see also EA 116.29. Context requires "right" (Knudtzon), "vindication," or, even more concretely, "due." Cf. Hebrew *šedq* and *š'diqā*, both of similar semantic range.

2. If [p]a-[š]-[a] is the correct reading, then we must understand the diction to have been only partial; cf. lines 39ff.

3. Against the reading *š'ut* (Knudtzon) are the position of the numeral and the considerations that support our version: as the sequence *š'ut* *pašaru* is used in the Byblos letters, the subject is first person and *pašaru* means "to go away"; cf. EA 82.43f.; 83.46f., 49f.; perhaps 114.30f. The difference between *pašaru* in the other passages and *pašaru* here is the explicit marking for mode in the latter.

4. Lines 36-39; see JCS 4 (1950) pp. 169f.

5. As the clear parallels in EA 124.35ff. (39) and 125.34f. make evident, either we must delete *ana* at the beginning of line 45 (omission of *ana* at the beginning of line 46 and failure to erase?), which seems preferable, both because of EA 125.34f. and because of the unusual type of error in the use of case endings (*ana* *huzānūtu*), or we must take *ana* in the sense of "as to, concerning" (VAB 2/2, p. 1374f.).

6. *a-(ne)-[w]* for: cf. EA 122.11; 130.21.

7. [y]d-[pa-ri]-[a]: taking the form as singular, despite MASKIM.MBŠ, for the passage is concerned with customary action in the past, and the expected plural form would be *pašarušūna*. Cf. *tiqūna*, EA 104.25; *mballūna*, 114.56, and *špūna*, 131.31.

EA 119

Recalling past kindnesses

TEXT: VAT 349.

COPIES: WA 44; VS 11, 64.

Rib-Hadda writes to his lord, Great King, King of Baṭṭ(ie): May the Lady of Gubla grant power to the king, my lord. 6-13 I fall at the feet of my lord, my Sun, 7 times and 7 times. As to the king, my lord's having written me, "Guard yourself," [what is to guard me? Indeed, I keep writing like this to the palace (to) a [glar]i]son and for horses in order that I may guard] his [city]. 14-21 What am I to do? While alive I shall guard the king's city for him, but if I die, what can I (do)? As to its having been said to the king, "Rib-Hadda has caused the death of (some) royal archers,"¹ 21-32 since the commissioners are alive, let me tell about all their deeds so the king will know that I am a loyal servant of his. May the king pay [n]o attention to the standers against his loyal [servant] that [a treacherous man] may use[re] before [the king, my] [lord]. . . . 33-42 Rib-Hadda, is[ol]ated, is a servant of the king. [There is n]o one that has report[ed] my loyalty before the king, my lord. He knows my loyalty! The king knows how often he has done some kindness to me because I am without duplicity. 43-52 My only purpose is to serve the king, my lord. Now this case is a case concerning my loyalty, which I have declared.² Everything (belonging to me)—may the king, my lord, take [all of it] for himself. [O] my lord may give the small(er) [things] to 'Abdi-Ha[dda].³ O! 53-59 *ibi* may not be acceptable.⁴ What more shall I say? There is still a second tablet, and it is this that will lay before the king all my things that are in Yaṭah-Hadda's possession.

NOTES

1. [š-]d[š]-[a]-[ra]: according to the rule of modal sequence; perhaps trace of *ra* as in copy of VS 11.

2. The grounds of the charge are not clear; see EA 124.51ff. Nor, in my opinion, is there evident a connection between EA 119 and 122-24 (Pinrore, OA 12 [1973] p. 304, n. 29). The following clause does not make much sense if included in the charge (Knudtzon, Or n.s. 29 [1960] p. 15). The clause is understood here as the reason why Rib-Hadda is prepared to attack his accusers: the commissioners (?) (officials? officers?) associated with the events in question are alive and would support Rib-Hadda's version of what actually happened.

3. *ibi* [1]-[a]-[a]-[a] (bi): a verb of speaking seems required, but no form of *qabš* is compatible with the traces; cf. *adabšš* in line 24.

an unparalleled writing of 9000; for "90-100," see EA 132, n. 6. Until lines 22ff. are better understood, we must allow for "90-100 maidservants; of maidservants there are none."

13. Lines 22-25 are extremely difficult, perhaps on line 23 a remark on the beauty of the females (UR [bāšēa]-š-ola). The woman with whom lines 28ff. are concerned must have been named at the end of line 26. The powerful man of line 29 I assume was Yapah-Hadda, and if his sister was to be fetched by emissaries of the king, and if she has "things," it would seem that she was to become part of the royal harem (cf. EA 99). If so, Yapah-Hadda had still not sent either her or the "things." All of this remains quite obscure. See the discussion of Weber, *VAB* 2/2, pp. 1220f.

14. Who the partner—that is, fellow mayor—was is not clear. The charge would seem to be that he directs his good deeds, not to the crown, but to others, from whom of course he will demand much in return. Instead of *š-da-ma-š-g* (Knudtzon), *š da-ma-š-g*, "but he is kindly?"

EA 121

Past and present

TEXT: VAT 1665.

COPIES: WA 59; VS 11, 66.

Rib-Hadda writes to his lord, king of all countries, Great King; May the Lady of Gubla grant power to the king, my lord. I fall at the feet of my lord, my Sun, [7] times and 7 times. As to the king, my lord's, writing me. 8-17 "Guard yourself," what is to g[ua]t[d] [me]? Consider that with my ancestors there was a garrison of [the king], and provisions from the king were at their disposal, but in my case, (there are no provisions) (or) garrison of the king for me. 18-25 And as the war against (me) is very severe, the sons of 'Abdi-Aširta have said to the 'Apiru and the men who have [jo]ined them, "What is there [with] Rib-Hadda?" (So give sbau[gh]t [to] you) your [serv]ant and let me tell my [lord] 26-40 . . . 41-49 (I write) to [the king, my lord, "Send [archers], Did they [not] take [in a day] the lands for the king, your father? Now, may the king [send] the words of [his] serv[ant] and send archers to [the king] the land of the king for the king. 50-53 that you may give [place] in the lands to the [king's] mayors. 54-59 Have they not been [killed] like [do]s, and you have done nothing? 60-64 [Send] . . . [. . .] If [the king, my lord], love[s] his servant, [then may he fetch his servant] to himself [. . .]."

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NOTES

1. *š-da-ma-š-g* [š-š-g] 16 [š-š-g-š-g]; cf. EA 122:28ff. If (*š-da-ma*) (Knudtzon) were used, we should have the accusative *šalaja*; see JCS 2 (1948) p. 248.

2. [š-na UD.KAM]; see EA 108, n. 9. If archers are requested, then the subject of *šau[gh]* is indefinite third plural; cf. n. 3.

3. ERIN.MES *š-š-š-š* (š-š-š-š); see EA 90, n. 10. Among the parallels note especially EA 107:30 and the sequence there of *š-š-š-š*. Haplography explains the omission of *š*. All the parallels have *š-š-š-š*, but the conjunction seems optional in general. Of course, one could partly avoid the difficulty and translate "Let it take . . ."

4. KUR.KUR.MES: following Thureau-Dangin, *RA* 29 (1922) p. 93, n. 1.

5. *š-š-š-š* [š-š-š-š] 53 *š-š-š-š* [UR.K]: for the passive *šalaja*, cf. EA 131:28, 132:50.

6. Cf. EA 74:60ff.; 74:245ff.; 129:50f. * *

EA 122

An enormity

TEXT: VAT 1625.

COPIES: WA 47; VS 11, 67.

Rib-Hadda writes to his lord, king of all countries, [Great] King, King of Battle; May the Lady of Gubla grant power to the king, my lord, I fall at the feet of my lord 7 times and 7 times. 9-19 As to the king's saying, "Guard yourself," consider that previously, in the days of my ancestors, there was a garrison of the king with them and property of the king was at their disposal, but as far as I am concerned, there are no provisions from the king at my disposal, and there is no garrison of the king with me. 19-31 I must g[ua]t[d] myself by myself. . . . There is a garr[ison] . . . of the king with him, and there are provisions from the king at his disposal, but for me there is neither garrison nor provisions from the king. 31-39 Papura has committed an enormity against me. He sent Suteans and they killed *širānu*-people. 3 And he brought 3 men into Egypt. 4 How long has the city been enraged at me! 40-49 And indeed the city keeps saying, "A deed that has not been done since time immemorial has been done to us!" So may the king heed the words of his servant and send (back) the men, lest the city revolt. What am I to do? 50-55 Listen to me (I). For (my) sake, do not refuse! [But whether] the men are at court or not, listen to me. I keep writing like this to the palace, but (my) words are (not) heeded.

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4. *št-[ik-ti/ka-a]* though *štku* occurs only once in peripheral Akkadian (S. Lackenbacher, *RA* 76 [1982] p. 143:37), still the proposed restoration seems worthy of consideration, seeing that the verb *štku*, "to kill," is used of both 'Abdi-Asirta and Pawuru; see *EA* 101:5, 29; 191:22; 362:69; cf. 132:45.

5. Another possibility: "If at the death of 'Abdi-Asirta and Pawuru the king did not come out, he will not come out now." Cf. *Or* n.s. 29 (1960) pp. 14f.

6. 47 . . . [na-ak-ra] 48 LÜ.MEŠ *ša-mi-in ša-ša* (LUGAL); cf. *EA* 113:49.

7. *š-nd* GUD.MEŠ 50 *š la-š* UZ.MEŠ: on the writing of *š*, see *EA* 118, n. 3, and note the absence of "one" before UZ.MEŠ (*EA* 55, n. 2).

8. As the text stands, Rib-Hadda asks why the king sent *šaristaru* (and/or?) archers, as if they could not be expected to be successful (Weber, *VAB* 2/2, p. 1206), and they were not. These archers could then be connected with those for whose death Rib-Hadda has been accused of being responsible (*EA* 119:18ff.; Pintore, *GA* 12 [1973] pp. 304f., n. 29). There are, however, no other clear links between *EA* 119 and *EA* 122-24, and in an unemended text there seems to be no grammatically and stylistically acceptable way of reading lines 54ff. that also makes sense.

9. I assume a shift of persons in referring to the king in lines 53-55. Also possible: "He will not be able . . . , and then . . ."

10. 53 . . . *la-š* (mi) 56 [11-]g]š-š: probably not enough room for [y1-ll-g]š-š.

11. 57 . . . *na* (na) š[š-a] URU-š[š] 58 [š]l-*na* . . . cf. *EA* 127:26-29. A garrison (line 59) is not used for offensive purposes, and hence *ana* (*š[š]š*) is excluded.

12. Another reference to the three Byblos citizens detained in Egypt; see *EA* 122f.

EA 125

A study in contrasts

TEXT: BM 29802.

COPY: BB 19.

TRANSLATION: Oppenheim, *LFM*, pp. 130f.

To the king, [my] lord: Message of Rib-Hadda, [your] ser[van]t. I fall at the feet of my lord, my š[un], 7 times and 7 times. 5-13 May the Lady of Gubla grant power to the king, my lord. As to the king, my lord's, saying, "Guard yourself and guard the city of the king where you are," with what shall I guard myself and the city of [the king]? 14-24 Previously, there was a garrison of the king with me, and the king was accustomed to give grain for their food from the land of Yamuta. But now Aziru has repeatedly raided me. I have neither oxen nor sheep and goats.¹ Aziru has taken everything. 25-32 And there is no grain for my food, and the peasantry has gone off to towns where

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there is grain for their food. Moreover, why does the king compare² me with the (other) mayors? 33-40 The mayors have their towns, and their pea[san]try³ is in their control. But Aziru has my cities, and he seeks my life.⁴ Why shall I make an alliance with him? 40-45 What are the dogs, the sons of 'Abdi-Asirta, that (that) they do as they please and set fire to the cities of the king?

NOTES

1. *ka šitika*; see Introduction, sect. 5.

2. See *EA* 55, n. 2.

3. *yīšak(š)šim-ri*: durative, not punctive (Oppenheim), and *šakina/šakana šim* means "to compare"; see Liverani, *RA* 61 (1967) p. 8, n. 1; *OA* 10 (1971) p. 264, n. 61 (also in *Three Amarna Essays*, p. 11).

4. The first sign seems to be *še* rather than *ri*, for the damage is such that, were the sign *ri*, one would expect to see some trace of the missing vertical. A reference here to the peasantry of the other mayors would also yield a more complete contrast with Rib-Hadda's plight; see Lines 27ff. Against the alternative reading *šakana* (Knutzon; Liverani, *ibid.*) is also the fact that *šim* as the designation of a person does not appear in *EA*. Oppenheim's version, "The regents of the other towns, however, belong from head to toe to them (i.e., the tribe of 'Abdi-Asirta)," is without foundation in either grammar or context. See also *EA* 113:50f.; 118:45f.; 124:59.

5. Cf. *EA* 100, n. 4.

EA 126

Rejection of Byblos or Rib-Hadda?

TEXT: VAT 1183.

COPIES: WA 76; VS 11, 68.

Rib-Eddi.¹ Say to the king, my lord: I fall beneath the feet of my lord 7 times and 7 times. As for my lord's having written for *š[š]š*,² it is taken from the lands of Salhi and from Ugarit. 7-13 I am unable to send my ships there, since Aziru is at war with me, and all the mayors are at peace³ with him. Their ships go about as they please, and they get what they need. 14-23 Moreover, why does the king give the mayors, my friends,⁴ every sort of provision, but to me not give anything? Previously, money and everything for the (r) provisions were sent from the palace to my ancestors, and my lord would send troops to them. 23-33 But now I write for troops, but a garrison is not sent,⁵ and nothing at all is given (to me). As for the king, my lord's, [having said], "Guard yourself] and [the city of the king where you are]," how am I to guard myself?⁶ 34-42 I wrote (to the king, my lord), "They

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have taken all my cities; the son of 'Abdi-Asirta is their [master]. Gublla is the only city I have." I have [indeed sent] my mes[sen]ger [to the king], my [lo]rd, but troops are not sent [to me], and [my] messenger you do not allow to come out. 43-52 So send him along with rescue forces. If the king hates his city, then let him abandon it; but if me, then let him dismiss me. 7 Send a man of yours to guard it. Why is nothing given to me from the palace? ...⁸ the Hittite troops and they have set fire to the country. 53-60 I have written repeatedly, but no word comes back to me. They have seized all the lands of the king, my lord, but my lord has done nothing to them.⁹ Now they are mobilizing¹⁰ the troops of the Hittite countries to seize Gubla. 61-66 So give thought to [your] city. And may the [king] pay no atten[ti]on to the men of the army.¹¹ They give all the silver and gold of the king to the sons of 'Abdi-Asirta, and the sons of 'Abdi-Asirta give this to the strong king,¹² and accordingly they are strong.

NOTES

1. A number of distinctive features associate EA 126, 129, 137^C, and 362, indicating that they were written by the same scribe, about the same time: (1) the greeting formula of EA 126 and 362, identical and unparalleled except perhaps in EA 129; (2) the writing *am-epu* in EA, only 126:3, 362:4, and possibly 128:23 (*is-epu*); (3) fluctuation between *šimā* and *šam* only in EA 126 and 362 (EA 126 *in-šim-ša-na* in lines 58-59, but *in-šim-šam* in lines 61-65; EA 362 *in-šim-šam* in lines 17 and 23, but *in-šim-šam* in line 21; see also lines 24, 35, 44, and n. 12 below); (4) Hittites referred to as a threat only in EA 73:33ff., 126:50ff., and probably 129:76ff.; (5) *šim-šam-šam* only in EA 129 and 362, perhaps 93:15, instead of normal *in-šim-šam*; (6) *šim-šam*, "lies," only in EA 129:37 and 362:53, besides 138:119; (7) EA 129:32f. = 362:25f., and 129:29 = 362:14; (8) *šim-šam*, "to send (troops) quickly," only in EA 129:78 and 362:7, besides 102:29 (see also EA 88, n. 7); (9) the Egyptian official, whose name is written in several ways, appearing as *šim-šam* only in EA 129, 131, and 362.

2. In view of *in-šim-šam* in line 6, the logogram is to be read as feminine singular or common plural. The latter seems more likely ("beams," being understood). If the correct reading is *šim-šam*, the force of the enclitic escapes me.

3. See EA 90, n. 7.
4. See EA 113, n. 9.
5. *in-šim-šam* or *in-šim-šam*; see EA 114, n. 6, and cf. *šim-šam* line 40.
6. *in-šim-šam* or *in-šim-šam*; see EA 129, n. 1.
7. I read *in-šim-šam* ("old man"), though Knudtzon's *šim-šam*, "old man," is possible. Nothing requires it, however, and the parallelism of the two sentences favors the introduction of both apostrophes by *u*. In support of taking *in-šim-šam* in the sense of "(then) I will abandon it," EA 82:41ff. and 83:45ff. have been cited as parallels, and it has also been argued that the king would not be asked to send a replacement

if he were being told to abandon Byblos (Livrea, *RA* 61 (1967) p. 13, n. 4). The latter argument ignores the fact that the replacement is called for only under the second condition. My interpretation, in which, depending on whether the king rejects the city itself or its ruler, the king has two possible courses of action, seems clearer and more forceful. Note, too, how frequently, if one hates, one also fires (*in-šim-šam*) or abandons (*in-šim-šam*); see the passages cited in CAD, Z, pp. 97f.

8. Knudtzon's description of the sign(?) is exact; *ak-ša* is excluded. *la(?)*, "Are there not the Hittite troops ...?"

9. *šim-šam-šam*.

10. See M. Lichtenstein, *JANES* 2 (1970) p. 100, n. 49.

11. See EA 101, n. 4.

12. In *in-šim-šam* I take *šim* as a free variant of *šim* and a peculiarity of this scribe. *šim*, *UP* 16 (1987) p. 91, n. 37, has challenged this view and would translate the forms with *šim* as preterites. In EA 362:21-25, however, the nine reference of *šim-šam* and *šim-šam* is almost certainly the same; note also the parallelism of *šim-šam* and *šim-šam*. Decisive, however, is the fact that in the strictly parallel passages EA 129:32-33 = 362:25-26, the *šim-šam* of the first is replaced in the latter by *šim-šam*.

The "strong king" was probably the Hittite ruler (Murnane, *The Road to Kadesh* [see Introduction, n. 119], p. 206) rather than the king of Mitanni (G. Bunnens, *AIPHOS* 20 (1968-72) p. 150).

EA 127

Alone against the world

TEXT: VAT 1687.

COPIES: WA 184; VS 11, 69.

... 12-22 Let the arch[er] come out [land] ferch us.¹ Cry out, "Oh to Gubla!"² For who—seeing that everyone is against me—who is to rescue me? [I assure you] upon the raking of Gubla there will be no men from Egypt [who] will get in here. Should Gubla be [jo]ined [to] the [Ap]lita, then there will be no [soldiers from Ka]ša who will get in. 23-29 [Certain]ly, Yanhamn being [with you], the king should inquire from him [about the st]andard.³ Gubla is a loyal city. If it is the desire of the king, my lord, to guard his city, then may my lord give a garrison of ... [to] it, and it will be guarded. 30-41 And now I declare, my lord: when⁴ previously 'Abdi-Asirta used to come up against me, I was strong, but now there has been a controversy among my men, and it is different.⁵ I am being hard-pressed: [I am besieged].⁶ May my lord grant 100 men and 100 soldiers from Kašš, and 30 chariots, that I may guard the land of my lord until a large force of archers comes out, [and]

my lord [ta]kes the land of Amurru [(to) himself, [and it h]as peace.
[...]

NOTES

1. Line 8: \dot{a} *q̄-bi-ir qa-aš*, "and he was barred. [The king] did nothing." Line 12: [... \dot{m} *ab-ni-šim* (Haddu/Ba'al).
2. If ERIN.MES *šijiti* is the subject of both verbs, *ušsi* and *šilq* are expected; cf. the feminine singular adjective *šubūti* in line 39.
3. "(Let us set) our faces upon Gubla," (*nadīnu*) \dot{p} a-*ni-m* *šihmūhi* U(R)U *gub-la*.
4. [a]-[u]-*ni* *la-qi*: infinitive (rather than stative *laqat*; for the construction, with loss of voice distinction, see JCS 4 (1955) pp. 105ff.
5. (i-*ni-š*) *ša-mi* *li*: "let Gubla be joined" (*šaqmā*); cf., however, EA 8873 (i-*ni-š*) *ša- \dot{a} ti*).
6. [a-na] *ka-aš-š*: cf. EA 119:26; perhaps "the slanders against Gubla, the loyal city."
7. *šūna*, "when," is without parallel in the Byblos corpus.
8. If Durand's analysis of *šijtu* in AEM 1/1, pp. 181ff., is correct, and if it is pertinent here, then the context suggests that the controversy or palace concerned their loyalty to Rib-Hadda. *šani*, "another" (palaver)?
9. I read *šū-šū- \dot{q}* ' *šū-ir-š*; Akkadian *šūqu*, "to become narrow, straitened" = Canaanite *šūr*, "to confine, besiege." The Akkadian form seems to be an erroneous perfect, *šūq*(for *šūq*) + {u} of Canaanite dative.
10. Five lines, with a reference to the 'Apiru. Last words: "[then I will] die."

EA 128

Message lost

TEXT: VAT 1873 (not collated).
COPIES: WA 227; VS 11, 71.

Too fragmentary for translation; addressed to the king.¹

NOTE

1. A few signs preserved on the obverse, and 13 very fragmentary lines on the reverse. Lines 2ff. may contain a postscript of the future ruler of Byblos (cf. EA 140), written by the same scribe as that of EA 126: 21 [un-ma] *ni-š*-*ni- \dot{c}* [p̄-*ib*] 22 [a-na] *KI*.TA *GI*R *MES* *DUGAL* *E[N- \dot{a}]* 23 [y] \dot{u} 7 *am*-*qa \dot{a} -ma*, "Message of [the] *raḥiḥ* [I]ll 7 times and 7 times beneath the feet of the king, my lord. And may the king, my lord, hear about the deed of [the] criminal..." On postscripts, see Introduction, sect. 4.

EA 129

A long review of the situation

TEXT: VAT 1637 + 1638.
COPIES: WA 86 + WA 87; VS 11, 70.

(Rib)-Add[*i*. Say (to) the (king), [my] lord: [I fall beneath the feet] (of my lord) 7 times and 7 [times].¹ 4-12 May the king, my lord, in(qui)re² about the (situa)tion of 'Abdi-Asita[*a*, [for] they *d*(o)]³ as they please. Who are they, the dogs⁴ [...] that they should acquire for themselves anything? They have piled up prop[erty of] the lands of the king in [their own] han[d].⁵ The mayors of the king [...] soldiers and [...] 13-21 Now what they took has been in the charge of]⁶ the commissioners of the king, [my] lord, and the (late) commissioner (was) a w[is]e man who was highly respected,⁷ [but they have killed him].⁸ All my cities belong to (them).⁹ Baṛuna remain[s to me],¹⁰ and they strive to talk] it. On its being (talken [Gubla (itself)] they will [take].¹¹ 22-25 [...] 26-34 greatly. Truly, they have long[er] s[er]ved,¹² they are intent on committing [a crime].¹³ If there are no archers, [then] their aim will be to seize [Gubla]. They say, "If w[is]e seize Gubla,¹⁴ what will the archers do?" 34-54 [Look],¹⁵ as to the king, my lord's, having written, "Troops have indeed come out, you spo[ke] lies: ka-ma-ni(?)".¹⁶ There are no archers; they do not come out. And they are stronger¹⁷ than we are. [Look],¹⁸ unless archers come out within this year, they will [take]¹⁹ Gubla. If Gubla [is taken, then they will be strong].²¹ What will the troops do [for your servant], Rib-Hadda? For my ancestors, earlier kings guard[ed]²² Gubla, and you yourself must not abandon it. If there are no archers this year, then send ships to fetch me, along with (my) living god,²³ to my lord. May the king, my lord, not say, "Surely it cannot be seized. It is at peace."²⁴ And now [...] 55-74 [...] 75-89 the king of [...] and] the king of the Hurite countries,²⁶ so that [the lands of the king belong] to the sons of 'Abdi-Asita, servants (and) dogs.²⁷ Accordingly, may the king hasten the sending of the archers so he may take them, and the lands be joined to the king, my [lord]. Who are they, the dogs? If Biryawaza is afraid (of) the king, my lord, he has not taken them.²⁸ If the king, my lord, keeps telling the magnate of [...] and] the magnate of Kumido, "Take (them),"²⁹ they have not taken them. [They have committed] a crime.³¹ They are against me; they have won [the lands] for the 'Apiru.

90-94 . . . 94-98 Since there are n[*o*] archers, *they are strong*.²² They took Pwuru (u and ki) killed him. *They are [against me]; they took the territory* of Šumuru for themselves,²³ and *they killed the commissioner of the king*, Pwuru. If *[the king]* is not going to listen to *his servant, then may he send ships*.

NOTES

1. [m; i]-(š)-ad-š[ī] q[ī]-bil-l[ē]-am[ī] 2. [a] n[ī]a [LUG]AL ba-ū [ša a-na KI.TA] 3. [G]IR[.MES] 7 n 7' [an-qa-mē]; cf. EA 126:1-3; 362:1-4, and see EA 126, n. 1, on the scribe of EA 129.
2. 'y'-(š)-ad-š[ī] cf. EA 124:23. The reading and interpretation of lines 4-28²⁴ are extremely difficult, and so the translation is here often extremely tentative.
3. [š]-[pa]-š[ū]-na[ī]; cf. *š-e-š-pa-šū* in line 88.
4. UR.MEŠ-ka'-b[ā]; as in line 81, for *ša-UR.MEŠ-bu* (*kašbū*), which is comparable to KUR-*nu* (originally for *nakuru*, *passim*), TĒŠ-*ba* (for *šūba*, EA 102:7), and perhaps [SA]G-*q[ī]š*-*dī* (for *qaqqadī*, EA 209:16). Better, *ka-(af)-šū?*
5. 8 *šūbašū a šū šū-šū-*nu** 9 *[m]a-am-*ma* šū-*nu* *mi*-š[ū]-*ma* šū* 10 [KUR.MEŠ LUGAL a-na UZ[U.MEŠ qa-[š]-šū-*na*]; *hammīrū* (*šūmīru*, "to pile up"), *šū-šū-*nu**, *puššū*, etc.; *mi-am-*ma**, as elsewhere in the Byblos letters (VAB 2/2, p. 1469).
6. [a]-[n]a [qa-*at*].
7. LÚ e[š]-[m]-[g]n šū-*u* 16 *ša šū-šū-*at* mo-*gal**; cf. EA 106:39 and 107:23, assuming here a sporadic Assyrianism (*kašbat*).
8. [š] [ša-*ku*-šū]; cf. line 96 and EA 362:69.
9. *ama* (ša)-šū-*nu*.
10. *iršū*(*a-na* šū-šū); enough room?
11. [URU KI gub-šū]; enough room?
12. *šū-šū-*nu* a-na*; *šūšū*, "to desire, long for," is otherwise unattested in the periphery.
13. *šū-šū-*nu* a-na* 28 [šū-šū]; the king's silence shows indifference and encourages the rebels.
14. *šū-šū-*nu* a-na*; EA 129:29 = 362:25.
15. *šū-šū-*nu* a-na*; EA 129:32 = 362:27; see JCS 4 (1950) p. 170. In EA 129 and 362, the MEŠ to URU(KI).MEŠ is either onose or carries with it the connotation of "all-greater Gubla" (or the like); see also Thureau-Dangin's translation, RA 19 (1922) pp. 91ff. Cf. URU.KI in line 31, but here URU.KI.MEŠ; similarly, EA 362:26 has URU.MEŠ, but 362:28 URU.KI. That Byblos, and not the outlying villages, is intended throughout is also required by context. Only the city of Batruna remains, and the prize sought by the enemy and feared by Rib-Hadda is the capture of Byblos itself (EA 362:12f.). Note, too, that in EA 129:53, where the hope is expressed that the king will not dismiss the threats expressed by Rib-Hadda, only one city is referred to.
16. Cf. *amur-*mi** in EA 362:27, which follows immediately after the sentence beginning, "If we seize . . ."
17. Arzi, *Bat-Hon* 1 (1963) pp. 38f., explains the gloss as Akkadian

*šūšū-*nu**, "thus," whereby the scribe emphasises that it is right to call what the king wrote lies. I do not accept the alleged parallel in PRU 3, p. 48:16.

18. Perhaps better: "(If) there are no archers (and) they do not come out, they will be stronger. . . ." Cf. EA 362:27 and line 44 below.
19. [a-*mu*-*mi*]; cf. EA 362:27, and see n. 26 above.
20. [šū-šū-*nu*].
21. *šū-šū-*nu* . . .* 45 [a-na IR-šū-*nu*] *rib-hadda*; cf. *u šūšū* in EA 362:28. Knudtzon's restoration is grammatically unacceptable (*šūšū* required). In line 45, the parallel in line 34 suggests a restoration of [šū-šū-*nu*], which would also fit the break perfectly. But this would leave the personal name hanging in the air. Perhaps Rib-Hadda refers to himself by name because he is implicitly citing the words of his enemy.
22. *šū-šū-*nu* a-na*.
23. If the ships were to fetch "me alive" (Knudtzon), we should expect *halšū*, not *halšī*, and right after *šūšū*; see Or. n. s. 29 (1960) p. 4, n. 3. The "living god" is very likely the same god that is mentioned in EA 84:35.
24. *mi-dī la šū-šū-*nu* pu-šū-šū-*at**; see JCS 31 (1979) p. 94, n. 46.
25. *mi-šū-šū-*nu* a-na*, "your messengers are being seized?"
26. Perhaps, 74ff., "Who are they? the king of Mitanni? the king of Kaššu? the king of Hittite countries?" Cf. EA 116:70f.
27. See n. 4.
28. *šū-šū-*nu* a-na* LUGAL BE-*šū*; cf. Hebrew *šūšū* *šūšū*. If *šūšū* was afraid of the king (as the king says he is), he is not showing it and attacking the king's enemies.
29. The most likely reading seems to be URU.KI šū-šū-*nu* (1), Gaza; see Na'aman, *Political Disposition*, p. 170; Heick, *Bezebungon*, p. 249.
30. *šū-šū-*nu* a-na*; again (see n. 28) Rib-Hadda seems to refer to a letter from the king.
31. a[š]-*na* 87 [šū-šū]; despite Knudtzon's objections, VAB 2/1, p. 552, note 2.
32. 'dan'-*nu*.
33. The scribe of EA 126, 129, and 362 never introduces a city simply by URU, but by URU.MEŠ or URU.KI.MEŠ, and so it is unlikely that URU [šū-šū-*nu*] is correct. I propose *šū-šū-*nu* a-na* URU (logogram reversed) *šū-šū-*nu* a-na*; cf. *šūšū*, "territory," which is attested in Alalakh, Aleppo, and Boghazköy (Susašora treaty).

EA 130

Life among the 'Apiru

TEXT: VAT 1624.

COPIES: WA 46; VS 11, 72.

Say [to the king, my lord: Message of Rib-Hadda, your servant] May the Lady of Gubla grant power to the king, my lord. I fall at the feet of

the king, my lord, my Sun, 7 times and 7 times. 9-14 As to the king's having written to me, "Irimayašša is coming to you," he has not come to me. 14-20 As to the king's having written me, "Guard yourself and guard the city of the king where you are," who can guard me? 21-31 Look, formerly my ancestors [were strong]. There was war against the(m, but) a garrison [of the king] was with them. There were provisions from the king at their disposal. (Though the war against me) is severe, I have [n]o [provision]s [from the king or ga]t[er]son of the king). What shall I do? 32-42 As for the mayors, [they are the ones who strike] our city. They are like dogs, and there is no one who wants to serve them. What am I, who live among 'Apiru, to do? If now there are no provisions from the king for me, my peasantry is going to fight (against me).¹ 43-52 A(l) lands are at war against me. If the desire of the king is to guard his city and his servant, send a garrison to guard the city. [I] will guard it while I am [a]live. When [I] die, who is going to [guard] it?

NOTES

1. *šl dū-hw-(na) šu-wu.*
2. If the verb in question is *šamnu*, perhaps "will become hostile"; see Liverani, in Garelli, ed., *Le Palais et la Royauté* (see Introduction, n. 73), p. 188, n. 111, who notes the parallelism in Ugaritic of *šky* and *šn*.

EA 131

A commissioner killed

TEXT: BM 29807.
COPY: BB 24.

[...] 6-14 My lord [w]as to send a garr[is]on to Gubla. Šumur has now been seized; troops from Gubla have been killed. If the desire of the king, my lord, is (to guard) Gubla, then may my lord send 300 soldiers, 30 chariots, and 100 men from Kašī, that they may guard Gubla, the city of my lord. 15-20 If the king does not send the summer-grain,² should troops a[ddre]ss[ed] on Gubla, they will surely take it, and m[is]s [your servant],³ they will kill. . . . 21-30 They have attacked? commissioners : *ma-lik. meš* (counselors) of the king. When Pewuru, the king's counselor, was killed, he was placed in . . . We are servants of the king, and it is distressing for us to see that w[er]e are going to be taken.⁵ I myself am afraid I will be killed. The corpse [is] cast away; if I had no one for fun[erary] offic[er].⁸ 30-40 (Form)erly,⁹ this is the way they

acted: the king, (your) faith[er], did [not] send a small archer force, and he [took] everything. Paḫamata would not listen to me, and he went on with his treacherous activities. Now his son has planned [to]! Šumur. If [the king] heeds the words of his servant and [sends] a large archer force, he (the king) will take everything.¹² 41-47 As to its being said¹³ be[fore] the king, "There is no grain (or) food [for] the archers to eat," wherever are all the cities of the king food and grain [may be found]. . . . 48-56 [. . .] 57-62 [. . . arch]ers and auxiliary forces [. . .]¹⁴ He must not neglect [his city].¹⁵ If he does not send (them) [to Gubla], they will take it, and [. . .]. The lands of Canaan will not belong to the king. (May the king ask) Yaḫamu about th[ese] ma[te]rs.¹⁶

NOTES

1. *[yā-š]i-ru* cf. *yā-šī-na* (line 12) and *yā-šī-ru* (line 15); *[ūš-š]i-ru* (Knaide 201) must assume an extremely rare plural of majesty.
2. The difficulties with *ŠE.MEŠ qā-šī* are (1) *ŠE* is not completely certain; (a) *qā* (*Gā*) is otherwise unknown in the Byblos corpus; and (3) the subject of supplies is introduced suddenly and in an unparalleled manner.
3. **[yā-š]i-ru* (*[h]a-šī, a-na URU KI gub-šī* KASKAI) (*[h]arāna*): if *yāšabata* is the correct reading, note the change in number in *šigimati*, which is perhaps to be taken as an indefinite plural. The final *[q]* is probably a fossilized verb, not modal. Also possible (Knaidean): "If . . . , then troops will advance . . ."
4. *šā-šā-šī-šā-šā* cf. line 38. The tablet is badly damaged or eroded here, and the interpretation of traces is extremely difficult and subjective.
5. The context suggests that *qirūtu*, "to approach," here implies hostility; cf. *qirūtu* and *taqrūtu*, Hebrew *qirāb*.
6. *mī-(u) na-lā-qā*: very tentatively taken as passive of *laqā* (*nūlaqqu* or *nūlqu* expected); *alāqā* = *hālāqū*, "to perish".
7. *šā-šā-šā-šā*: the reading is almost certain; on the syntax, see *Or* n.s. 29 (1960) p. 14.
8. 28 . . . *adāš* (LÜ U)š 29 *yā-šī-na* LÜ KI (šē GA)-šī 30 *šā-šā-šā-šā* (LÜ . . .): quite conjectural. Reference to Pewuru's body? Another possibility: "Should a corpse be laid to rest, there is no one . . ."
9. 30 . . . *ana šā-šā-šā pa-naš-na-ma*: elsewhere in the Byblos corpus, *pāšāna*, not *pāšānamma*.
10. Unless this passage contradicts EA 117:23ff., either a negative is to be restored or the sentence must be read as a question; note, too, the request for a large force in lines 38ff. Beginning of line 32: read probably *yā-šī-ru* or *yā-(u) šī*; see VAB 2/2, p. 1594. End of line 32: if *ab-šī-šā* is the correct reading, the doubling must be ignored. Read *AD-šī-šā* = *adāšā*?
11. Na'aman, *Political Disposition*, pp. 166f., proposes *yā-šī-šī-šī-šī*, but it is questionable whether there is enough room.
12. In view of *yāšmu* (line 38), probably *[yā-šī-ru]* (line 39) and *yā-šī-šī-šī* (line 40).

13. *yé-ga-hu*: following Iarécl, UF 19 (1987) p. 86.
14. If archers are mentioned in line 57, then a form of *masānu*, "to guard," is not to be restored in the break; see EA 88, n. 8. Parallels (EA 112:33ff.; 132:56ff.) suggest a form of *pašānu* (*u pašānu šl gubla*, "then Gubla will be at peace?").
15. *lāni* [l-m]a-ak[ki]-ki 59 lāna URU KI-Šu
16. 62 [y]i-ša-ol m[ia-an-pa-ma a-na a-(wa)-u.MES an-(tu-ta); cf. EA 132:129ff.

EA 132

The hope for peace

TEXT: BM 29801.
COPY: BB 18.

[S]ay [to] the king, my lord, m[y] Sun: Message of Rib-Hadda, your [se]rvant. May the Lady of Gubla grant power to the king, my lord. I fall at the feet of my lord 7 times and 7 times. 8-18 Moreover, give thought to Gubla, your loyal city. Earlier, 'Abdi-Asirta attacked me, and I wrote to your father, "Send the royal archers, and the entire land will be taken in a day." Did he not take¹ for himself 'Abdi-Asirta, together with his possessions? 19-23 Now Aziru has gathered all the 'Apiru and has said to them, "If Gubla is not ... [..]"² 24-28 [..] ... 29-37 [L]ook, Yanhamu being with you, ask him if I did not say to him, "If you make an alliance ... [..] with the sons of 'Abdi-Asirta, they will take you prisoner."³ He listened [to me], and he guarded the [cities] of the king, his lord. 37-50 I said the same thing to Pawaru so he would not listen to the words of Hā'i[pa], whose father turned the [cities] into enemies.⁴ Now Hā'ip has hand[ed over] Sinur. May the king not neglect this deed, since a commissioner was killed. If now you are negligent, then Piḫura will not stay in Kumidu, and all your [ma]jors will be killed. 51-59 I keep [wri]ting like this to the *pa[tri]arch*, [but] no attention is paid [to] me. Send ships to fetch the Lady's property and me. [Sen]d 50-100 men and 50-100 m[en] fr[om] [Me]luḫḫa, 50 chariots, [to g]uard [the city] for you.⁵ Se[nd] archers and bring peace to the land.

NOTES

1. On the oriose MES in UD.KAM.MES, see EA 109, n. 2.
2. On *lāni*, see EA 108, n. 5.
3. Perhaps *ni-x-[š]* (line 23); the third vertical of *ir* (Knudtzon, BB) is not clear. "If we do not ... Gubla, then ...?"

4. *a-pa-šl x [x-x] at-ia ki-ta is [at DUMU M]EŠ m[ia-an-pa-ma a-na lā-ri] see JCS 4 (1950) p. 170; Or n. 3. 29 (1960) p. 10, n. 1. In my opinion, MES definitely belongs on line 33, on line 32, the vertical after šl in BB is certain, but a plausible restoration escapes me.*
5. On lines 37ff., see Or n. 3. 29 (1960) p. 10, n. 1 for a somewhat different version, see Na'aman, *Political Diplomacy*, p. 167.
6. Line 57: [6] *šl-ša-šl-šl-šl*. If there is not enough room for the conjunction, the construction is asyndetic, for which see EA 121, n. 3. Rules of modal sequence exclude *anaššuru* (Knudtzon). On the reading of the numbers, see Pinotore, *OA 11 (1972) p. 103, n. 9.*

EA 133

Some advice for the king

TEXT: VAT 1667 (not collated).
COPIES: WA 66; VS 11, 74.

[... the kin]g, [my] lord. [... *Moroni*]; give thought you [self to] your servant and to Gubla. ... [..] 5-11 Šumut [...]. The sons of 'Abdi-Asirta have taken all [yout] cities. They [at]e at wat w[ith me]. Aja Hā'ip is [with you], ask him. And [may it seem right] in your sight, and then 12-19 send a [garrison] to your cities with all [sp]eed. [I keep] writing like [this] to the king, my lord: [Se(n)]d me 10 [men from Meluḫḫa] : ka-šl that I may guard [...]

NOTE

1. On the gloss, see Pinotore, *OA 11 (1973) p. 105, n. 24.*

EA 134

Departure of the gods

TEXT: C 4754 (12189).
COPY: WA 83.

[Sen]d [troops to G]ubla,¹ lest Aziru take it. From time im[memorial] the gods have not gone out[er] from Gubla. 7-14 [N]ow Aziru has sen[t] troops [to se]ize it, so that we must give up² our gods, and they have gone for[th]. And there being no [troops i]n the city to smite [the servants], the w[ar] dog,⁴ 15-22 they can[not] return. [W]hat am I to do [b]y myself? [The people w]ho were i[n] the city have deserted i[n order to get provisions for th[emselves] ... 23-29 [and he] sends a [garrison

to [his] city]. {I} and Gubla, the king's loyal city [...]. As I have sent a man of mine to the palace, why has the ki[ng] not written? 29-38 ... and I wrote. N[ow] the war against me is severe, and I am afraid. He has, I ass[ure you], taken Šumur. Who has said anything to him? *This being true, he has turned again[st Gub]la ... 38-41 [...]*

NOTES

1. [uš-ši-na]-wi IÉRIN.MEŠ]; cf. EA 82:15; 90:15; 94:16; 132:13.
2. If read correctly, lit. "have not gone up" (*šib*). To their heavenly dwellings, abandoning their earthly ones in Byblus?
3. *nadišun*; taken as first plural (cf. *nadišun* in EA 89:16); perhaps *nadišun*, "have been given up."
4. [R] 'LÜ' UR. R1 (*kulbi*)? In the break there is room for an average-size sign, followed by a somewhat oblique wedge, under which traces of a horizontal, possibly crossed by two or three verticals; then the closure. Cf. LÜ UR.KU (EA 84:35; 320:22; 322:17), UR (*hulbu*, EA 129:7, 77, 81; 137:26), and UR KI, genitive of UR.KU (EA 138:96).

EA 135

Message lost

TEXT: Ash 1893, 1-41: 409.

COPY: Sayce, *Tell el Amarna*, no. 2.

Too fragmentary for translation.¹

NOTE

1. This tablet no longer exists; see Introduction, n. 9.

EA 136

Rib-Hadda from Beirut

TEXT: BM 297599.

COPY: BB 16.

PHOTOGRAPH: BB, pl. 20.

[T]o the king, my lord: Message of Rib-Hadda, your servant, the dirt at your feet. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times. 6-15 May the king, my lord, heed the words of his servant. Men of Gubia, my own household, and my wife, kept saying to me,

"Ally yourself with the son of 'Abdi-Aširta so we can make peace' between us." But I refused.² I did not listen to them.

16-23 Moreover, I repeatedly wrote to the king, my lord, "Send *immediately*³ a garrison to your servant that they may guard the city for the king, (my) lord." No word, however, from the king, my lord, has reached his servant.

24-36 Moreover, when I was *hard pressed*,⁴ I thought to myself, "Come! I must mak(e) an alliance of friendship : TU.KA⁵ with Ammura." So I went to his house in order to make an alliance of friendship between (us). Then I returned to my own house, but he battered the house against me.⁶ May the king, my lord, give thought to his servant.

37-46 I am now awaiting day and night the archers of the king, my lord. May the king, my lord, give thought to his servant. If the king, my lord, does not have a change of heart, then I will die.⁷ May the king, my lord, give life to his servant. Moreover, they have given two of my sons and two of my wives to the rebel against the king.

NOTES

1. *šalma qūšu*, for *šalima qūšu* (AHU p. 1149b), or perhaps *šal-ma qūšu*.
2. Cf. *mā'ā*, "to push away, repel" (AHU pp. 637, 1574; von Soden, *OLZ* 76 [1971] cols. 246f.); see also EA 122, n. 5.
3. *bilu* *šamūtu*, "to burn," confused with *šamūtu*, "to hasten"? *ušša* *šamūtu* (imperative), *hendiaštu*? Cf. EA 137:79.
4. Following CAD, S, p. 124.
5. DUG.GA : TU KA; the gloss is a syllabic writing of the Sumerogram DUG.GA. The Akkadian equivalent—if there was one and the expression was not simply "to make *tuha*"—was probably *tabutu* (JNES 22 [1963] pp. 173ff.; AHU p. 1378); see also EA 302, n. 2, and Introduction, n. 59.
6. The form *šal-ma* is more easily explained as active; the unnamed subject would be Rib-Hadda's brother (cf. EA 137:14ff. and EA 82, n. 5). If it is passive (CAD, E, p. 266), *šal-ma*, an Assyrianism? Locked out of his own house and driven from his city (EA 137:24f.), Rib-Hadda writes this letter and EA 137-38 from Beirut. The format (crude paragrappings) and some features of the language (e.g., *šamūtu* and *endūtu*) in line 24; *ušša* *ša* PN in line 29) distinguish EA 136 from the letters written at Byblus.
7. Perhaps better: "Look, there is no divided loyalty. For the king, my lord, I would die." On *šumma*, "look," see EA 35, n. 3; on *šibbu šumma*, "divided loyalty," lit. "another heart," cf. EA 139:42; 169, n. 2; 371:18; and "another face" in EA 253:27.

EA 137

An old man in exile

TEXT: Golénischeff (see Introduction, sect. 1).

COPY: WA 71.

TRANSLATIONS: Oppenheim, *LFM*, pp. 132ff.; Albright, *ANET*, pp. 483f.; Seux, *Textes du Proche Orient*, pp. 48ff.

Rb̄-Ad[di says]¹ to the king, [his] lord, [the Sun of all countries]: [I fall] beneath the feet [of the king, my lord], 7 times and 7 tim[es]. 5-14 I wrote repeatedly fo[r a garrison], but it was not granted, [and] the king, my lord, did [not] heed the word[s of his servant]. I sent a mess[enger of mine] to the palace, but he r[eturned] empty-handed; he had no garr[ison]. The men of my [house] saw that no money had been given, and so, like the mayors, my brothers, they *did me injustice*² and despised me. 14-26 Moreover, when I had gone to Hammuniri, my younger brother turned Gubla into an enemy in order to give the city to the sons of 'Abdi-Asirta. When my brother saw that my mess[enger] had come not empty-handed and that there was no garrison with him, he despised me. Accordingly, he committed a crime and drove me from the city. May the king, my lord, not neglect the deed of this dog. 27-35 I personally am unable to enter the land of Egypt. I am old and there is a serious illness in my body. The king, my lord, knows that the gods of Gubla are *loky*, and the pains are severe,³ for I *com[mitted] sins* against the gods.⁴ Accordingly, I shall not enter the presence of the king, my lord. 36-51 So I herewith send my own son,⁵ a servant of the king, my lord, into the presence of the king, my lord. May the king heed the word[s of his servant], and may the king, my lord, grant archers so they may se[ize] Gubla, and traitor[ous] troops and the sons of 'Ab[di]-Asirta not [enter it],⁶ and the archers of the king, my lord, be too few⁸ to take it. As there are many that are loyal to me in the city (and) few the traitors in it, when the archers come forth and they hear (of it),⁹ as soon as they arrive, the city will return to the king, my lord. 52-58 The king, my lord, knows that I will die for him. When I was in the city, I guarded it for my lord, and I was dedicated to the king, my lord. I did not give the city to the sons of 'Abdi-Asirta.¹⁰ Accordingly, my brother turned the city into an enemy in order to give it to the sons of 'Abdi-Asirta. 59-65 May the king, my lord, not neglect the city. Note, there is much silver and gold in it, and much is the property belonging to its temples.¹¹ If the king, my lord, seizes it,

let him do to his servant as he will, but may he give(e) Butusilum for me to live in.¹² 65-77 I am now with Hammuniri. When the cities became hostile, Butusilum became hostile, being in fear of the sons of 'Abdi-Asirta.¹³ When I came to Hammuniri because of the sons of 'Abdi-Asirta, seeing they were stronger than I and there was no breath from the mouth of the king for me, I said to my lord, "If Gubla becomes their city,¹⁴ there is much property of the king in it, possessions of our ancestors in the past. If the king neglects the city, of all the cities of Canaan not one will be his. May the king not neglect this matter." 78-89 I herewith send your servant, my son, to the king, my lord, and may the king send him quickly along with troops that they may take the city. If the king, my lord, shows me favor and returns me to the city, then I will guard it¹⁵ . . . as before for the king, my lord. If the king, my lord, [does not return me] to it, then [. . .] the city from B[et]an[im]. May the king, my lord, do as he will [to his servant, but let him not abandon me. I am with] Hammuniri . . . How long am I to stay with him? 90-104 May [the king, my lord], heed [the words] of his servant . . . [. . .], and may he send troops quickly to take the city. May the king, my lord, not neglect this painful deed that has been done to the lands of the king, [my lord]. May the king, [my] lord, rush¹⁶ archers to seize the city as quickly as possible. Should it be said to the king about the city, "It is a strong city," it will not be strong before the troops of the king, my lord.

NOTES

1. Perhaps *my-ib-ad-di qe-bi-mal-mi*, "Rib-Adki. Say . . ."; see EA 126 and n. 1.

2. *li-ii-la-u*; *lali'u* (AHU, p. 1147; only Old Assyrian)? Knudtzon and Ebeling translate as "weigh against"; Oppenheim, *LFM*, pp. 132ff., as "insult," and Albright, *ANET*, pp. 483f., as "to ridicule," all apparently only from context; no etymology is proposed.

3. *mal-ia-ii* (cf. *mal-ia-ii*, EA 7516B) *magal*; since *magal* elsewhere never serves as an adjective, perhaps better, *ma-ya-na GAL* (*shilshu*), "the pain/pain, too/2, is/are great." Albright, "the illness is severe"; Oppenheim, "my disease has become chronic" (1st free).

4. *ep-(ia)-ii*; cf. EA 8917; 113:11. Against the reading *ep-ii*, "I confessed" (Knudtzon; Oppenheim, *LFM*, pp. 132ff.; AHU, p. 860b) is that neither Akkadian *pehu* nor the related root *peh* in West Semitic languages ever means "to confess." The attested meaning of "to reveal" does not fit the context; Rib-Hadda's sins were presumably no secret to the gods. Furthermore, unless one assumes either a parenthetical remark or an unparalleled construction (Oppenheim: "although I confessed . . ."), the clause enunciates one more reason why Rib-Hadda cannot go to Egypt, and this can hardly be because he confessed his sins.

Mutatis mutandis, *q-dī*, "I have redeemed (by a vow)" (Albright), suffers from the same difficulties: the assumed meaning is without parallel in Akkadian or West Semitic. It could explain Rib-Hadda's not going to Egypt only on the assumption that he had vowed not to go.

šīta qešū: Standard Babylonian, Ugaritic, Egyptian (EA 162:9). *šīta qešū*: Boghazköy. On a causal clause introduced by *ni*, cf. EA 101:3ff., 29f.; 104:36ff., 105:36f.; 139:11f. The word order (object-verb) stresses the object: Rib-Hadda *šīta* against the gods.

5. The word order (object-verb) emphasizes the fact that Rib-Hadda is sending his own son, a measure of the gravity of the whole situation.

6. *sa-ša-lāa-ai*: third feminine singular required in view of *šītašī* in line 44 (see n. 8) and *ana šimī hatādi-ši*, "on *it* [feminine] arrival." The plural *šītašī* in line 98 is probably due to confusion with simple *šītašī*, which is treated as plural in lines 42(?) , 80, and 93.

7. If *šī-ri-ša-mi* (Kandzson) is correct, then the apparent accusative *šimī* should probably be *ša-na-šimī*.

8. The generally accepted reading *šī-šī-šī-šī-šī* (Kandzson) suffers from several difficulties: (1) the wrong thematic vowel in Babylonian; (2) an over-banking vowel, and (3) an interpretation (unidentified object, Kandzson; passive sense, Oppenheim; unparallelled sense, with key words supplied, Albright). The reading *šī-šī-šī-šī-šī*, which fits well with what Kandzson seems to have seen, makes sense and is unobjectionable. The assumed leveling through of the perfect for all functions of the volitive has many parallels (*šēšū*, *šēšū*, *šēšū*, etc.), and for *šī* see *šē-šī* in line 33. Rib-Hadda's advice to the king is to send forces now to take the city from his brother before the Amarru forces occupy it, for then, the troops that the king might be expected to send would be too few to capture the city.

9. *šimī*, "when the archers come out, then they will hear (of it)."

10. *šimīnaš*, "accordingly," in line 57 indicates that lines 53-56 are the explanation of the perfidious brother's activity, which is more likely, it seems, to lie in the past (Kandzson, Oppenheim) than in the future (Albright).

11. On *šimīnaš* in this sentence, see EA 35, n. 3. It does not introduce an oath (Oppenheim). Perhaps there is reference to only one temple.

12. In line 62, *šī-šī-šī-šī-šī* is always interpreted as plural, "If they take it, . . ." but against this is the fact that the plural throughout this letter has the {} preformative (*šimīnaš*, line 6; *šimīnaš*, 11; *šimīnaš*, 12; *šimīnaš*, 14; *šimīnaš*, 80, 93; *šimīnaš*, 98; *šimīnaš*, 42?). Moreover, when *šimīnaš* and/or *šimīnaš* function as subject of the verb, they always appear right after the verb (lines 7, 26, 31, 38, 39, 52, 58, 75, 77, 84, 90, 94, 97), with only two exceptions (80-81), neither of them comparable to the word order assumed here. For *šimīnaš* with the indicative, see lines 81f.

Rib-Hadda does not assume he will be restored to his city (cf. 81ff.), and he expresses his willingness to accept any decision of the king, only adding a request to be allowed to live in a place apparently dear to him.

13. Lines 69f. are extremely difficult. I follow Oppenheim, except that I take *šimīnaš* as feminine singular participle, not as first singular "ative" (so also Albright) because I doubt the evidence of the {-ita}-ending (see EA 138, n. 28). We must thus take NA.KUR.RU, originally no doubt a writing of *nakuru*, as

simply logographic for any form of *nakuru*, here *nakuru*. In line 67, perhaps NA.KUR.RU (*nakuru*). Instead of a singular verb with plural subject (EA 85:72f.?, 129:80?), perhaps the plural marker DIDL should be ignored. The city, of course, would be Byblos. Albright renders this, "since there is left but one city, namely, Byblos," reading *ša-šī-na-ai* URUKI 1 URU . . .; see BASOR 95 (1944) p. 31, n. 4. The writing hardly reflects assumed Canaanite *na'aratu*, the numeral would not be written with a horizontal wedge, and Kandzson saw two wedges (DIDL).

14. The assumed feminine plural pronominal suffix is very difficult. If it refers to the sons of 'Abdi-Aširta, then Rib-Hadda could not have said that they actually held the city (Kandzson, Oppenheim). "Behold our city Byblos" (Albright) takes the *na* of the suffix as first plural (cf. *kašpa-na*, EA 138:38) and ignores the *š*.

15. *a-na-šī-šī-šī*: cf. *a-na-šī-šī-šī* (EA 147:61, 151:6; 153:15); see also EA 235, n. 2, and von Soden-Röllig, *Das akkadische Syllabar*, *Analectae Orientalia* 42 (Rome, 1967), p. 50, no. 295; idem, *Ergänzungsbüchlein zum akkadischen Syllabar*, *Analectae Orientalia* 42A (Rome, 1976), p. 7*; Gelb, *Or. o. s. 39* (1970) p. 536, *amatara*: volitive, following Rainey, *UF* 5 (1973) p. 413.

16. Or, "may he get the troops moving" (*AHM*, p. 943). On *šimīnaš* (line 98), see n. 6.

EA 138

De profundis

TEXT: VAT 351.

COPIES: WA 58; VS II, 73.

To the king, [my] lord, [the Su]n of all countries: Message of Rib-Ad[el], your [ser]vant. I fall beneath the feet of the king, [my] lord, 7 times and 7 times. 5-18 As to its being said to the king, "He (should be) in Yapu. He is ex[ist]ant, he should get strong and be like [the]n." I have no [go]lde to Ap[er].¹ Just now people from Gubla have written me, "Do not leave Beirut since we . . . and we will come in to you."² Look at their treacherous [word] . . . 19-25 for my entrance into [. . .].³ After the [re]vol[ut]e of my territory,⁴ [A]šir [2]2 months ago, have I not lived in Beirut? . . . I sent a tablet [to] the [pal]ace of the king. Now [. . .] has come out to me [since] 4 months ago. Thus does my lord [. . .] for his servant. I am a servant of the king. 26-38 The king has no royal mayoi [like] me who will die [for] my [lo]rd. When 'Abdi-Ašrat seized Sumur, I guarded the city by (my)self.⁵ There was no garrison with (me), and so I wrote to the king, my lord. Troops came out [and] took Šumur and [Abdi-Aš]irri.⁶ Now Aziru has [be]n [Šum]ur, and when the people of Gubla saw this, (they said), "How long shall we contain

the son of 'Abdi-Ašitti. *Our*⁸ money is completely gone for the war."³⁹ 39–50 Then they moved against me, but I killed them. They said, "How long can you go on killing us? Where will you get people to live³⁹ in the city?" So I wrote to the palace for troops, but no troops were given (to) me. Then the city said, "Abandon him.³⁹ Let's join Aziru!" I said, "How could I join him and abandon the king, my lord?" Then my brother spoke and *swore*⁴⁰ to the city. They had a discussion *about*⁴¹ the lords of the city [were] joined to the sons of 'Abdi-Aširati.⁴² 51–70 I myself [went] to Beirut for a discussion with Hammunabi, and we made an alliance so that Hammunabi, when . . . [. . .], then [. . .] . . . We went, [. . .] and I, (to the city). They did not permit me to enter. The rebel *against the king* had taken [troops]⁴³ of Aziru; he had stationed (them) in the city, and the city saw⁴⁴ that there were foreign troops in the city. So the residents favored my entering the city, and they said to him, "(You say), 'Behold, our lord is dead.' How can you say, 'Rib-Addi is dead, and so we are out of his control?' Let him not write to Egypt or he will take us and our children." So they drove the troops of Aziru from the city.⁴⁵ 71–80 Half of the city is on the side of the sons of 'Abdi-Aširi, and half of it is on the side of my lord, and just as is done to a ruler that resides in his own city should be done to me.⁴⁶ Though I sent my son to the palace of the king seconds after⁴⁷ I arrived in Beirut, he has not had an audience with the king for four months. My man reports, "I have reached him at Tahda." 80–93 Why is my man whom I sent *to the palace of the king* detained?⁴⁸ For my part, I keep saying to [. . .] Why do you [. . .] the lands of Yapu? Why do you . . . to me, since *you know that Gubla has been* a loyal city? And . . . [. . .] Though I am living in [Beirut], there has been no man of the king who *has come*. The city has said, "Look, [Rib-Addi] is living in Beirut. Where is a man who has come to him from Egypt?"⁴⁹ And so they are being joined to Aziru. 94–109 Previously I would write to the king; he would not heed my word. Now I am living in Beirut like a dog,⁵⁰ and my word is (still) unheeded. If the king listened to his servant and troops were given to me, the city *would return*⁵¹ to the king. So *may the king give troops* that we may seize the city. Let *neither* the troops of the sons of 'Abdi-Aširati *take it*⁵² for [themselves] and its people revolt.⁵³ He is a rebel. In order to give (it)⁵⁴ to (to) Aziru, he committed a [great] crime; he took the *treasures*⁵⁵ and then drove [me] away, and *he has shown contempt* for [A] *pi along with* . . .]⁵⁶ 109–21 May the king, my lord, not neglect his city so that the city says, "Rib-Addi is dead, and *he is out of* his control. *Let's be joined* to Aziru."⁵⁷ . . . [. . .]

Against (the men) he [acted] treache[rously]. At the urging of the sons of 'Abdi-Aširi he committed *that* (to) me. Moreover, look, I myself *did* [neither] *to* the king, my lord. Fearful [. . .] . . . 122–30 Look, the people of Gubla keep writing, "Where are the days when the king, your lord, used to write to you? Where are the troops of the days [when] they were sent to you?" A nice thing: *for me* (desirable) that was sent from the king, (my) lord, has not been given to me. Gra[nt] for my city is held back: *for* . . . 131–38 And what is Hammunabi going to slay? How long I have stayed with him! May the king give troops lest the sons of ('Abdi-Aširi) eat the city. Should they seize Beirut, then the king, my lord, will have no lands. Moreover, is this the sort of treatment that is to be given to [me] whom the king, my lord, should be concerned about? And why should we . . . another man? When I am dead⁵⁸ but my sons, servants of the king, are alive, they will write to the king, "Please, restore us to our city." Why has my lord neglected me?

NOTES

1. Line 7: *gi-a-mi* (to) *hu* *de-am-ne*, assuming that apparent traces before *de* may be ignored. It seems that one view at issue was that Rib-Hadda should leave Beirut and go to Joppa, there to regain his strength and also to meet Aḫi, apparently an Egyptian official. Rib-Hadda does not agree, and he points to a loyal faction in Byblos that shares his view. Cf. Na'aman, *Political Disposition*, p. 71ⁿ, n. 40.
2. To join forces with him? It would make even better sense if we could render "we will get you in (to Gubla)"—that is, restore him to his throne—but usage does not support such a rendering. The treachery mentioned in the next line is presumably that of a different faction, the one against Rib-Hadda (see lines 71ff.).
3. URU.KI] x [. . .] seems a possible reading, and the city, of course, is Byblos, which is frequently so designated in this letter.
4. *hi-ia-ri* *ki-i-ia* for *hivi ašipa* (*šipa*, "against me"?), H.G.A.R. being pronounced and declined (cf. n. 20 and EA 75, n. 7)? Very dubious.
5. *id-ri-ia* more likely than an unattested use of *id*, "arm, strength"; with *am* in EA 91:26.
6. For the restoration, see *Errez Israel* 9 (1969) p. 98. The questionable sign is almost certainly *ni* rather than *it* but note *ge-mi-ni* for *ganir* in line 38.
7. *hi-qi-qa*.
8. If a pronominal suffix is intended, then *ne* is certainly a mistake for *ni*; cf. lines 41, 65, 68f., and 138, as regularly in the southern tradition. Perhaps better, KU.BABBAR-*pu* («na»), simply a mistake prompted perhaps by the following *a-na*.
9. The vertical after *a-la-ḫi* in line 41 is perhaps the increased beginning of an *at*; note *a-na* at the beginning of the next line.

10. Imperative rather than indicative, following Rainey, *UF* 5 (1973) p. 254.
11. *šlī-ic-mi*: following Rainey, *ibid.*
12. Discussion, with perhaps the connotation of plotting (Rainey, *ibid.*), or formal declaration (see EA 8:12); see also line 52. On the lords of the city, see EA 102, n. 5. Line 50: *lī-šl-ku-ša-mi*.
13. LUGAL ERIN.MEŠ: the first sign may be LÚ (Na'aman, *Political Disposition*, pp. 186ff.).
14. The translation assumes that city is construed *ad sensum* as plural; cf. *tiqbā*, line 95 (but here an *in-situ* is quite possible—"the city [feminine] keeps saying"), and contrast *tiqbā* in line 111. Perhaps better: "They saw (the situation in) the city, (namely), that there were foreign troops in the city."
15. Lines 62-70 are very difficult. In view of the lines that immediately follow, it seems likely that Rib-Hadda in lines 62-70 gives evidence of the loyalty he is about to claim. Line 62: *alšān*, "residents," perhaps of inferior status, in contrast with "the lords of the city" who have sided with Rib-Hadda's brother; cf. CAD, *A/2*, p. 461b. The "death" of Rib-Hadda is probably the legal one of loss of office and royal support. The answer to this false claim is that he need only write to the king and he would have the support to capture all of them; for the construction, cf. EA 362:22f.
16. *awīn* seems better taken as "ruler" rather than simply "man" (Introduction, pp. 73-74).
17. *šl-ku* to *šr-šl* (*šl-šl*), lit. "after 10 grains." The reference is to a clock, probably a water-clock (Akkadian *šābāšān*; see Thureau-Dangin, *RA* 30 [1933] pp. 51f.; O. Neugebauer, *ISH* 37 [1947] pp. 37ff.) rather than a sand-clock (Akkadian *malabān*). In the Babylonian system of weights (180 grains = 1 shekel, 60 shekels = 1 mina), if 1 mina = 4 hours (see dictionaries, also Neugebauer), then 10 grains is little more than 10 seconds. Reckoning according to the lighter Syrian mina (50 shekels) would mean only a slight modification. The expression seems idiomatic for "immediately."
18. *šr-šl-ri*, also the gloss in line 130; probably *šariri*; see VAB 2/2, p. 1476; and cf. Hebrew *šāran*, "to confine, stay, restrain." The final vowel is probably simply a question of writing; cf. *šr-ki*, EA 131:25.
19. Rauber then assumes an omission here, *maš-(ri)-šā*, and in line 124, *maš-(ri)-ka* (perhaps also EA 140:23), I take MAH as a logogram for *šim*, assuming confusion of virtual homonyms, *šim*, "high," and *šim*, "back" (as used in prepositional phrases). In view of the durative in line 93, probably better, "The city keeps saying . . . they keep being joined . . ."
20. *šr UR.KI*: logogram UR.KU, properly UR.GI, to be explained either as a declension of the logogram, UR.KI being genitive, or syllabic writing, UR.GI.
21. [š] *šr-šl-ri*: cf. EA 137:5f.
22. In view of ERIN.MEŠ as feminine singular in lines 98 and 125, *lī-a-ri-šl-qi-ri*.
23. *lī-bal-ki-ta*.
24. *a-na-na-da-((na))-n(i)-a-na* ((*šr-na*)).
25. (NIG) GA.MEŠ (*makšāri*): cf. EA 109:21 and n. 4. A reference to the

measures of Byblus (cf. EA 137:60ff. 74f.) fits the context better than *šen* (GUD MEŠ, Knudtzon).

26. *šl* [i]š-*šl-ri*: as preserved, the dubious sign looks more like *šl* (Knudtzon). In line 8, *šl-šl*; here *šl-šl* or *šl-šl-šl* and a different person.

27. *šl-na* 113 *ma-zi-ri* [šl-šl-pu-š . . .] cf. line 45.

28. Disjunctive of EA 137-38 and the letters from Hasi, EA 185-86, are forms of *erbu* with *i* as thematic vowel, which appears elsewhere in EA only in 127:19; see EA 137:34, 42; 138:12, 134; 185:20, 36, 40; 186:26, 50, 57. It may not be simply a provincial abbreviation; note [i-šl-ri-šl] in Whiting, *Letters from Tell Amarna*, AS 22, no. 23b.

29. The value *šl* is so rare in EA (never occurring in a letter from Byblus or Beirut), and the other evidence for *šl* so uncertain (*šl-šl-ri*, EA 129:82; 137:68; 138:120), that we must consider *šl-šl-ri* simply a mistake, or possibly an unfinished *ri*.

EA 139

A new voice, an old story

TEXT: BM 29828.

COPY: BB 45.

PHOTOGRAPH: BB, pl. 4.

To the king, [my] lord, [my Sun]: Message of Ili-rišipih, your servant; message of Gu(b)la,¹ [your] maldservant. I fall at the feet of the lord, the Sun, 7 times and [7 times]. 5-12 Do not neglect [r] Gu(b)la, your city and the city of [your] ancestor[s] from most ancient times. Moreover, behold Gu(b)la! Just as Hilkupah, so is Gu(b)la to the king, my lord.² Do not neglect the *delict* of a *servus(ni)*,³ for he acted as he pleased in the lands of the king. 12-17 Here is the crime that Aziru . . .⁴ against the king: [he killed the king of Ammiya, and [the king of E]ldata, and the king of Ir(qata), [and a commissioner of the king, my lord.⁵ He also broke into Šumut.

18-29 [And indeed] he is now intent on [committing] a *crim(e)* against the king.⁶ Moreover, . . . 29-40 May the king, (my) lord, know [I] am his loyal servant. And so let him send a garrison to his city—30 to 50 men—as far as Gubla. The king is to take (n) account of⁸ whatever Aziru sends him. Where were the things that he sends covered?⁹ It is property belonging to a royal mayor whom he has killed that he sends to you.¹⁰ Look, Aziru is a reb(ell) against the king, my lord.

NOTES

1. The writing *gn-ha* is so frequent that it should probably be considered a conscious abbreviation. Line 34, conventional DRU *gn-ha*.
2. See EA 84, n. 12.
3. *a-na-mi* is very tentative; cf. *a-na-mi* in EA 1976, and see *urru* (AFH p. 1063; CAD, S, p. 413, but no longer attested only in Old Assyrian; see *AEM* 1/2, 436:43). Apart from the unlikelyhood of "one that sits on the bark of a servant" (Knutson), note that the value *ib* is not attested in the southern tradition.
4. Between *a* and *st* undeciphered traces but certainly not *pa* (*ghaf*, "committed").
5. Aziru is charged with his father's crimes, cf. EA 75:23ff. Ekija is the same as Ardata (cf. EA 1401:2), and the commissioner is undoubtedly Pawura (cf. EA 129:95ff., 362:69).
6. 19 [1-15-3] *ar* (ai/na); cf. lines 22 and 40.
7. Line 23: *yi-ih*. Line 27: probably *ja-mi-igil* (cf. EA 109:36).
8. *ibha labāna* does not mean here "to encourage," as in Akkadian, but "to consider, pay attention" (cf. Hebrew *ibh*). The king is to disregard Aziru's payments of tribute as expressions of apparent fealty, for it is all stolen goods.
9. *a-iaq-ri* like *ayya-mi*. On the enclitic, see EA 34, n. 10.
10. We see here a general charge rather than a reference to an unnamed mayor (Weber, *VAB* 2/2, p. 124).

EA 140

Again the crimes of Aziru

TEXT: VAT 1639.

COPIES: WA 91; VS 11, 75.

[To] the king, the lord, my Sun: Message of Gnbla, your maidservant; message of Ili-rapih, your servant. I fall at the feet of my lord, the Sun, 7 times and 7 times. 5-16 The king, my lord, shall not neglect Gubla, his maidservant, a city of the king from most ancient times. Moreover, why did the king *communicate through* Aziru? He does as he pleases. Aziru killed Aduna, the king of Iqqara; he killed the king of Ammiya, the king of Ardata, and a magnate.¹ He took their cities. To him belongs Šumur; to him belong the cities of the king. 16-33 Gnbla alone is a . . . of the king. Moreover, he broke into Šummi and Ullassa. Moreover, Aziru even [committed] a crime [when he was brought] to you. The crime [was against] us. He sent [his] men [to] Iakkama [and] he smote all the lands of Amqu, lands of the king. Now he has sent his men to seize the lands of Amqu and [their] territories. Moreover, is not the king of Hattu active, and the king of Naitima and?

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NOTES

1. Cf. EA 139:14ff. The commissioner of EA 139 is here called a *magratu* (Introduction, n. 70).
2. *ana ib* see EA 138, p. 19. Nu'aman, *Political Deposition*, p. 82*, n. 15, proposes 25 [6-2a]-*mag*, "he conspired with."
3. The letter breaks off here, probably to be resumed on a second tablet. On *yi-pa-ri* as singular, see Jaze'el, *UF* 19 (1987) p. 82. That the sentence is interrogative is not certain.

EA 141

Ammunira of Beirut

TEXT: BM 29809.

COPY: BB 26.

PHOTOGRAPH: BB, pl. 23.

Say to the king, my lord, my Sun, my god, the breath of my life: Message of Ammunira, the inlet of Beirut, your servant and the dirt: *a-pa-ri*¹ at your feet.

6-17 I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, my Sun, my god, the breath of my life, 7 times and 7 times. Moreover, I have heard the words of the tablet of the king, my lord, my Sun, my god, the breath of my life, and the heart of your servant and the dirt at the feet of the king, my lord, my Sun and my god, the breath of (my) life, has rejoiced very, very much that the breath of the king, my lord, my Sun, my god, has come forth to his servant and the dirt at his feet.

18-35 Moreover, as to the king, my lord, my Sun's, having written to his servant and the dirt at his feet, "Make preparations before the arrival of the archers of the king, your lord," I listened very, very carefully, and I have indeed made preparations,² including my horses and my chariots and everything of mine that is available to the servant of the king, my lord, before the arrival of the archers of the king, (my) lord. And may the arch(er)is of the king, my lord, my Sun, my god, smash the heads of his enemies, and may the eyes of your servant look with pleasure⁴ on life from the king, my lord.

36-48 Moreover, may the . . . of the king, my lord, my Sun, my god, the breath of my life, avenge his servant.³ I am indeed a servant of the king, (my) lord, and a footstool for his feet. I will indeed guard the city of the king, my lord, my Sun, the breath of my life, and its wall: *bu-mi-tu*, until I see⁵ the eyes of the archers of the king, my lord, and . . . the servant of the king . . .

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NOTES

1. Read SAHAR-RA, a frozen context form ("in the dust"), rather than SAHAR-ra (*open*), an erroneous accusative; cf. *CAD*, A/2, p. 166. On the breath of the king, see EA 100, n. 9.

2. *šāḥa-ku*, with no object expressed, corresponds to the absolute use of the impensive in line 21, and it has other parallels in the absolute use of the 'infinitive (*and šāḥa*, 8a) and of first singular durative (*šāḥa*, EA 65:11 and 216:10; *šāḥa*, 329:19). These parallels, especially the latter, argue against "I am (prepared and) ready" (*CAD*, A/2, pp. 132a, 148a; see also EA 144, n. 1). This version is also rejected by Pinone, *OAI* 11 (1972) p. 119, n. 97.

3. *šā-ku-ša-as*: *šāḥa*; see *AHW*, p. 959.

4. *amāru ina*, "to look upon," with the connotation of pleasure, is a West Semitism; cf. Hebrew *nāṭāp*.

5. In the context of the immediately preceding lines and lines 45ff., Ammurān probably states a wish rather than a fact (Knaudtson, tentatively). The subject, a *ḤAR* or A-ḤAR, remains unexplained. Or should we read *a-mur*, "behold," and assume that the subject has been omitted?

6. Note "until the eyes see the archers" (Knaudtson), which would require *šimurān*; cf. *šā ṣimurā* in line 34. For "to see the eyes," see EA 237:16.

EA 142

News about Byblos

TEXT: BM 29810.

COPY: BB 27.

PHOTOGRAPH: BB, pl. 2.

[To the king, my lord, the breath] of my life: [Message of Ammurān], your servant [and the dirt] at your feet. [I fall at the feet] of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times. Moreover,¹

6-10 [I have heard] the words of the tablet that the king, my lord, sent *(šbr)ḥaḥb* [*ḥam*],² and when I [he]ard the words of the tablet of the king, my lord, my heart rejoiced and my eyes [sh]one brightly.

11-14 Moreover, I am indeed very much on my guard, and I shall guard Beirut for the king, my lord, until the arrival of the archers of the king, my lord.

15-24 Moreover, as to the ruler of Gubla, who is here with me, I shall indeed guard him until the king gives thought to his servant. Moreover, may the king, my lord, be informed of the deed of his brother, who is in Gubla, (namely) that he has [g]iv[en] the sons of Rab-Hadda, wh[om] is here with me, to the rebel[s] again[st] the king who are in A[mu]r[ra].³

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25-31 Moreover, I have indeed made preparations, including my horses and ((and)) chariots and everything that is available to me, before the arrival of the archers of the king, my lord.

32-33 Moreover, I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, [7] times and 7 times.

NOTES

1. Misplaced; intended to introduce the following paragraph: cf. lines 11, 15, 25, 32.

2. *šā-ḥa-ku* (i-na) *šū* (*ḡā*) 7 [*ḡā* 6] cf. EA 145:11.

3. KUR a [*mu*]r[ra]: reading certain.

EA 143

Egyptian ships in Beirut

TEXT: VAT 1584 (+) C 4764.

COPIES: WA 211; VS 11, 79 (see VS 12, p. 95) (+) WA 203.

[Say] to the king, my lord, the br[ea]th of my life: [Mes]sage of Ammurān, your servant and the dirt at [your] feet. [I fall at the feet] of the king, [my] [lord, 7 times and 7 times. . . the breath] of my [lif].

10-17 The king, my lord, [wrote] to his servant and to the dirt: *ḥa-ḡa-ru* at his feet. As to his order, wherever what was ordered by the king, my lord, the breath of my life, as, I shall search it out and then send it on to the king, my lord, the breath of my life.

18-31 [M]ore[ove]r, note how, as soon as ships of the king, my lord, [th]at have been sailed² into Beirut, come in, I relea[s]e [them].³ As to the maidservant of the king, my lord, just as . . . ,⁴ so is Beirut for the king, my lord. And I am like a *warmer*⁵ of the horses of the king, my lord, [. . .] . . . to the king, my lord.

32-35 [. . .] . . . [in *šb*[*ḡ*] of the king], my lord, I ha[ve] sent.

36-38 Moreover, may [the king, my lord], be inform[ed] that the [. . .] of the king, my lord, are used [up . . .].

39-41 Moreover, may [the king, my lord], be inform[ed] that *powerful*⁶ are the [. . .] of his servant.

NOTES

1. See EA 141, n. 1.

2. *šb-ḡa-ru* following *ARMT* 3, p. 115; see also *CAD*, S, p. 73b.

3. Perhaps we should not exclude another version: "as soon as the ships . . . that are under sail for Beirut come in, I will send (to) that is, what has been searched out and is ready for delivery.

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4. Lines 23f. remain hopelessly obscure. Line 23, instead of *ih* (Knaudsson), perhaps *Di*. Line 24: *za-za*, also possible.
 5. *za-a[?]-[?]-[?]* following AHU; p. 1337.
 6. Cf. *da-ai-mu* = *gar-ra-[da]* (CAD, D, p. 122). The relevance of EZEN *da-aD-na-ti*, "feast of the . . ." (Emar 61, 369.48), is unclear.

EA 144

Zimreddi of Sidon

TEXT: VAT 323.

COPIES: WA 90; VS 11, 76.

TRANSLATION: Oppenheim, *LPM*, pp. 126f.

Say to the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, the breath of my life: Thus! Zimreddi, the mayor of Sidon. 6-12 I fall at the feet of my lord, god, Sun, breath of my life, (at the feet of my lord, my god, my Sun, the breath of my life) 7 times and 7 times. May the king, my lord, know that Sidon, the maid-servant of the king, my lord, which he put in my charge, is safe and sound. 13-21 And when I heard the words of the king, my lord, when he wrote to his servant, then my heart rejoiced, and my head went [h]igh, and my eyes shone, at hearing the words of the king, my lord. May the king know that I have made preparations¹ before the arrival of the archers of the king, my lord. I have prepared everything in accordance with the command of the king, my lord. 22-30 May the king, my lord, know that the war against me is very severe. All the cities that the king put in [m]y charge, have been joined to the Ap[ri]ti. May the king put me in the charge of a man that will lead the archers of the king to call to account the cities that have been joined to the Ap[ri]ti, so you can restore² them to my charge that I may be able to serve the king, my lord, as our ancestors (did) before.

NOTES

1. As the following *mu-za-mu* (nominative) indicates, *mu* here probably does not mean "message of"; similarly, EA 252.3; 253.2/254.3; 255.3 (note *ijitu* in line 5); 366.6 (*muqaratu*). See R. Marcus, *JCS* 2 (1948) p. 223; as a gloss, however, *mu-za* in EA 147.4 proves nothing; cf. *ana SAHAR RA : hu-za-ra* in EA 145.11.
 2. Oppenheim, "I am in readiness"; line 21, "I am ready." See EA 147, n. 2.
 3. Reading *za-ai-ri-ri-ri-ri*: cf. *ri-ri-ri-ri-ri-ri*, EA 145.10; *ri-ri-ri-ri-ri*, 145.26. The alternative, *ri-ri-ri-ri-ri-ri*, understood of the king or the leader of the troops, lacks the expected [5a], and in context first person is not likely. In my reading, third feminine, agreement with ERIN.MES *ri-ri-ri-ri* is possible, but, in my

opinion, less likely than second masculine. Form. D of *idru*, *idur* + epenthetic vowel (sporadic and typical feature of the periphery; see Kühne, *UF* 3 (1971) p. 370, n. 14) + pronominal suffix.

EA 145

Word on Amurru

TEXT: VAT 1695.

COPIES: WA 182; VS 11, 77.

[Saly (to . . .) . . .] [my lord: Message of Zimreddi], I fall (at (your) feet). [May]¹ you know that I am safe and sound, and with your greeting from the presence of the king, my lord, you yourself brought back to me the breath of his mouth.² 11-22 I have heard your words that you sent me through . . . [. . .]. The war is very severe. [. . .]. The king, our lord, has indeed been *wa(rustly ad)ressed*³ from his lands, but the breath of his mouth does not reach his servants that are in the hinterlands.⁴ 22-29 Moreover, as to your ordering with regard to the lands of Amurru, "The word you hear from there" you must report to me,⁵ "everyone [has] heard (that) [. . .] . . . : *ia-qa-uu-uu-ka* (he awaits you)." [. . .]

NOTES

1. Someone other than the king. This is the only letter in which a vassal reports in the introduction of his letter on his own well-being; see Introduction, n. 54. The message referred to in lines 6ff. seems to have implied an exception would be in place.
 2. [*wa-ri*] *ri-ri-ri*: cf. EA 144.10: *ia-ide enima Yahweh . . .* *mu* in the Byblos letters; *ia-ide inima . . .*, EA 333.4.
 3. On *wa*, "with," see EA 112, n. 1, ¹⁰⁰⁰KA : *gi-ia* (text, *ka*) the messenger brought the breath of the king back to the vassal (see esp. EA 147.17ff.), and the only breath that is of any importance and is ever mentioned elsewhere is the breath of the king, "the breath of his mouth" (line 20), "the breath of the mouth of the king" (EA 137.7). The assumed error might easily have been occasioned by the logogram KA just before.
 4. The addressee, in person or by letter, brought along with his own greeting word from the king. The conjunction probably does not introduce a second clause dependent on *inima*, but, rather, a virtual causal clause in which the pronoun *ana* emphasizes the contribution of the addressee: "I am well, for it was you who . . ."
 5. *u[?]-ri-ri-ri-ri-ri* *gi* up, less clear than in VS 11 copy; *pa[?]* (AHU; p. 809; cf. *muqaratu*).
 6. Despite EA 334.3, hardly a place-name. Read *ri-ri-ri-ri* (*ri-ri-ri*), West-Semitic "back" (cf. *ri-ri-ri* in the greeting-formula)? Are the "back-lands" simply the provinces?

6. In favor of the direct quotation are the enclitic, which is regularly attached to the first word of a direct quotation (*auat-mi*), and the parallels in EA 142:55ff., 151:49ff.; cf. also the conclusion of a letter in Ugaritic, *mamam rgn. d. sin' sma. usf. d. qe. 'ay. 'And whatever word you hear there, put in a letter to me'* (A. Herdani, *Corpus des tablettes en caractères alphabétiques découvertes à Ras-Shamra-Ugarit de 1929 à 1939*, Mission de Ras Shamra 10 (Paris, 1965), no. 53). Rainey, *Partials*, cites *a awata mimma la telme 'itu al'itamm 'upram 'itya*, "whatever word that you have heard from there put in writing to me" (Ishbach Letter 115-18).

7. *iaqun + u(r) + ka*: Akkadian *qu^uka*, Hebrew *qhomu^u*?

EA 146

Abi-Milku of Tyre

TEXT: VAT 1871.

COPIES: WA 231; VS 11, 78 (see VS 12, p. 95).

[To the king, my]lord, my Sun: Message of A]bi-Milku, your servant. I fall at the feet [of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times. I am the dirt under the feet (and) sandals of the king, my lord. 6-13 You [are the Eternal Sun]. The sweet breath [of life belongs to] my lord, [my Sun, and I], your servant, am guard[ing Tyre], the city of the king, [my] lord, and [waiting for] the breath of [the king, for me] [there is to be hostility] until [the breath] of the king com[es] to me with power. 14-22 [No]n, indeed, the ruler of [Sidon, Z]imredda, is [hostile to me]. Da[sh] he does not [per]mit [me to fetch water: m]i-ma.² [I cry] out.³ . . . [. . .] take me [. . .] . . . [There is no] water: m[]-m[]a [for] them [to drink].⁴ . . . [. . .] 'Apitu . . . [. . .].⁵

NOTE

- [i-qa-(am)]-ma.
- i-na a-mi-bi-ma la-qa* 17 [A¹: m]i-ma la-a i-[n]e-[din-m]; cf. EA 148:24; 154:13ff.
- [a-sha-er]-of: enough room?
- . . . *mima* [in m] 21 [a-m] i-[]-m[]-m[]-a; cf. EA 148:13; 154:18.
- More than 30 lines missing.

EA 147

A hymn to the Pharaoh

TEXT: BM 29812.

COPY: BB, pl. 11.

TRANSLATIONS: Oppenheim, *LFM*, pp. 123ff.; Albright, *ANET*, p. 484.

To the king, my lord, my god, my Sun: Message of Abi-Milku, your servant. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times. I am the dirt under the sandals of the king, my lord. My lord is the Sun who comes forth over all lands day by day,¹ according to the way (of being) of the Sun, his gracious father, 9-15 who gives life by his sweet breath and returns with his north wind;² who establishes the entire land in peace, by the power of his arm: *ba-ap-i*; who gives forth his cry in the sky like Baat,³ and all the land is frightened⁴ at his cry. 16-21 The servant herewith writes to his lord that he heard the gracious messenger of the king who came to his servant, and the sweet breath that came forth from the mouth of the king, my lord, to his servant—his breath came back! 22-28 Before the arrival of the messenger of the king, my lord, breath had not come back; my nose was blocked.⁵ Now that the breath of the king has come forth to me, I am very happy and: *a-ra-u* (he is satisfied), day by day.⁶ 29-38 Because I am happy, does the earth not rejoice?⁷ When I heard the gracious messenger from my lord, all the land was in fear of my lord, when I heard the sweet breath and the gracious messenger who came to me. When the king, my lord, said: *ku-na* ("Prepare") before the arrival of a large army,⁸ then the servant said to his lord: *ia-a-ba-lu* ("Yes, yes, yes!")⁹ 39-51 On my front and on: *la-i-i* (my back) I carry the word of the king, my lord. Whoever gives heed to the king, his lord, and serves him in his place, the Sun com[es] forth over him, and the sweet breath comes back from the mouth of his lord. If he does not heed the word of the king, his lord, his city is destroyed, his house is destroyed, never (again) does his name exist in all the land. (But) look at the servant who gives heed to (to) his lord. His city prospers, his house prospers, his name exists forever. 52-60 You are the Sun who comes forth over me, and a brazen wall set up for him,¹⁰ and because of the powerful arm: *nu-ub-i* (I am at rest): *ba-b-i-i* (I am confident). I indeed said to the Sun, the father of the king, my lord, "When shall I see the face of the king, my lord?" 61-71 I am indeed guarding Tyre, the principal city,¹¹ for the king, my

lord, until the powerful arm of the king comes forth over me, to give me water to drink and wood to warm myself. Moreover, Zimredda, the king of Sidon, writes daily to the rebel Aziru, the son of 'Abdi-Asratu, about every word he has heard from Egypt. I herewith write to my lord, and it is good that he knows.¹²

NOTES

1. According to Assmann, *Liturgische Lesart an den Sonnengott: Untersuchungen zur altägyptischen Hymnik*, vol. 1 (Berlin, 1969), p. 119, n. 22, "day by day" reflects Egyptian *nb* and implies the days of all creation. On the hymn in lines 5-15 and its Egyptian background, see Albright, *JEA* 23 (1937) pp. 197ff.
2. See G. Green, *Or n.s.* 51 (1982) p. 161ff.
3. See EA 108, n. 1. On *ḥpḥ* as the designation of a part of the body rather than the name of a weapon, see Knudtzon's note, *VAB* 2/1, p. 608, note d, which is still relevant; Peterson, *BRO* (1966) p. 151a; and Lipiński, *RSO* 44 (1969) pp. 89f. For a different view, see Dumand, *ARMT* 21, p. 344.
4. *ḥpḥ*-*ḥp*, *nb*: following de Moor, *UF* 1 (1969) p. 188; cf. also the personal name *yḥḥḥ* (*Ugar.* 7, p. 6, RS 24.24616).
5. An Egyptianism meaning "I was distressed," as demonstrated by Grive, *OÄ* 19 (1980) pp. 205ff., in a discussion of lines 16-27. Read *i-ḥ ḥr* KA.MES *sp. ḥf-ḥ*.
6. On the Egyptian gloss, see Albright, *JEA* 23 (1937) p. 197, n. 3. According to N. Adams, *Lingering over Words*, pp. 401ff., the source of the writer's joy is not simply his receiving a message from the king, but the content of the message—namely, that the king is coming at the head of his troops. Similarly, in EA 143:8ff., 142:5ff.; 144:13ff.; 193:16ff.; 227:5ff.; 292:8ff., he thinks the writers rejoice because *troops* of the king himself (EA 227) are soon to arrive. See also the Introduction, nn. 17-18.
7. *ḥ-ḥr* from *ḥr*? Perhaps better, with N. Adams, *Lingering over Words*, p. 402: "Did not the (entire) land prosper? (*ḥ-ḥr*) since it has heard of the gracious messenger from my lord?"
8. Since one of the most frequent orders of the king in the EA correspondence is to make preparations before the arrival (*ana pnt*) of the Egyptian army (Introduction, sect. 3), cf. Hebrew **kmm*, Niphal, "prepare (transitive), be ready" Hiphil, "prepare (transitive), make ready." So also, independently, N. Adams, *Lingering over Words*, p. 402, n. 25, *ḥm*: imperative singular + *-ḥ* as in Hebrew *ḥm*, etc. See also EA 154, n. 1. For other versions, see Albright and Oppenheim.
9. See Albright, *JEA* 23 (1937) p. 197.
10. See Alt, *ZDMG* 86 (1933) pp. 33ff.; Auellette, *RB* 80 (1973) pp. 321ff. Here, as so often in this letter, the author speaks of himself in both the first and the third person.
11. As opposed to mainland Tyre, the city of Usu; cf. *ḥdḥm* "capital," in a Tell el Rimah inscription (Wälker, *Ins* 32 (1970) pp. 27ff., who compares EA 147:62).

12. Eyré, *JEA* 62 (1976) pp. 183f., considers *a damig intāna* another Egyptianism.

EA 148

The need for mainland Tyre

TEXT: C 4765.

COPY: WA 99.

To the king, my lord, [m]y god, my Sun: Message of Abi-Milku, your servant. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times 4-17 The king, my lord, has written for glass. I give to the king, my lord, what I have on hand—100 (units) in weight. May the king, my lord, give his attention to his servant and give Usu to his servant so he can drink a jug; *a-ku-ni* of: *ni-ma* (water). May the king, my lord, give 10 *palace attendants* to guard his city in order that I may enter and see the face of the king, my lord. 18-26 My presence will be as pleasing to the king, my lord, as when the king, my lord, charged me with the guarding of his city. I write to the king, my lord, because every day the king of Sidon has captured a *palace attendant* of mine. 26-34 May the king give attention to his servant, and may he charge his commissioner to give Usu to his servant for water, for fetching wood, for straw, for clay. 34-40 Since he has acted hostilely, has he not violated the oath? There is not another *palace attendant*. The one who raid[s] the land of the king is the king of Sidon. 41-47 The king of Hysuta has abandoned his house and has aligned himself with the Apiru. May the king be concerned about the *palace attendants*. These are treacherous fellows.³ He has taken over the land of the king for the Apiru. May the king ask his commissioner, who is familiar with Canaan.

NOTES

1. LUGIR (also lines 26, 38, 44; and EA 149:8, 83; 151:6c) is probably not the same as ERINIMES. GIR(MES) (EA 149:62). Very tentatively, I take it as a logogram for *giraqū*. Albright, *JEA* 23 (1937) p. 202, n. 2, thought it meant simply "man, person."
2. Albright, *ibid.*: "Though (he) has made war (against me) he has not returned the oath of peace (*i.e.*, he is still nominally at peace)."
3. The kings of Sidon and Hysuta.

EA 149

Neither water nor wood

TEXT: BM 29811.

COPY: BB 28.

PHOTOGRAPH: BB, pl. 14.

To the king, my lord, my Sun, my god: Message of Abi-Milku, [yo]u servant. I fall at the feet of the king, [my] lord, 7 times and 7 times. I am like dirt under the feet and sandals of the king, my lord. 6–20 O king, my lord, you are like the Sun, like Baal,¹ in the sky. May the king give thought to his servant. The king, my lord, charged me with guarding Tyre, the maidservant of the king, but after I wrote an express tablet to the king, my lord, he has not replied to him. I am a commissioner of the king, my lord, and I am one that brings good news and also bad (news) to the king, my lord. May the king send 20 palace attendants to guard his city in order that I may go in to the king, my lord, and see his face. 21–27 What is the life of a palace attendant when breach does not come forth from the mouth of the king, his lord? But he lives if the king writes [to] his servant, and he lives [for]ever. 28–40 For my part, [since] last year [my intention has been] to go in [and behold] the face of the king, my lord, [but Zimredda, the] prince, [heard about me]. He made [my caravan] turn back [from] the king, my lord, [saying, “Who can get you in [to the king’s]?” Haal? my lord! Aziru, [the son of] Abdi-Asratu, [the rebel] against the king, [has taken possession of] Sumur. . . .] [I] gave Sumur [to] Aziru. 40–54 May the king not neglect [his] city and his land. When I hear the name of the king and the name of his army, they will be very afraid, and all the land will be afraid, that is, he who does not follow the king, my lord. The king knows whether you installed me as commissioner in Tyre. (Still), Zimredda seized Usu from [his] servant. I abandoned it, and so we have neither water nor wood. Not is there a place where we can put the dead. So may the king, my lord, give thought to his servant. 54–63 The king, my lord, wrote to me on a tablet, “Write whatever you hear to the king.” Zimredda of Sidon, the rebel against the king, and the men of Arwada have exchanged oaths among themselves, and they have assembled their ships, chariots, and infantry,⁴ to capture Tyre, the maidservant of the king. 64–73 If the powerful hand of the king comes, it will defeat them. They will not be able to capture Tyre. They captured Sumur through the instructions of Zimredda, who

brings the word of the king to Aziru. I sent a tablet to the king, my lord, but he has not replied to his servant. 74–84 [Since] last year there has been war against me. There is no water, [there] is no wood. May he send a tablet to his servant so he may go in and see his face. May the king [give thought] to his servant and to his city, and may he not [abandon] his city and his land. Why should [a commissioner of] the king, our lord, move away from the land? [Zimredda] knows, and the *ishtar* knows, that the arm⁵ of the king is absent. Now a palace attendant [is bringing] my tablet to the king, the Sun, [my] lord, and may the king reply to his servant.

NOTES

1. See EA 108, n. 1.
2. 28 [pa-mu-ta (cf. EA 151:8ff.)] a-na i-ti-bi 29 [a-na da] ga hi pa-ni LUGAL ba-hi-ia (cf. EA 150:11ff.; 152:13ff.) 30 [pa-im-re-du] pa-um-ta 31 [is-te-mi-ri] is-tu-um 32 [pa-mi-ka] LUGAL ba-hi-ia 33 [is-ak-nu-mi] [?]. [a-na] ba-ka 34 [a-na] UGU hi LUGAL hi ma hi-li 35 [is-ak-ur] su-mu-ur . . . On the restoration of line 30, see the remarks of Kraus, *Das Ende der Amarnaszeit* (see Introduction, n. 119), p. 59, n. 2, on “prince,” see the Introduction, n. 73.
3. *is-tu-(mu)-ni* following Grave, *DA* 19 (1980) p. 207, n. 16.
4. See EA 71, n. 5.
5. Here *A* (TD) rather than *ZAG* (EA 147:12); cf. EA 147, n. 3.

EA 150

Needed: just one soldier

TEXT: C 4766.

COPY: WA 98.

[To] the king, [my] lord, my god, my Sun: Mes[sage] of Abi-Milku, your servant. I fall at the feet of the king, [my] lord, 7 times and 7 times. 4–13 The king gave his attention to his servant and gave soldiers [to] guard the city of the king, [my] lord. I am like [the] soldier [to] guard the city of the king, my lord, then I would go in to behold the face of the king, my lord. 14–21 May the king give his attention [to] his servant and give him Usu that he may live and [the] work [will] be done. 22–32 . . . 32–37 [They are waiting for] the soldier that I should give them wood. The king, my lord, [is extending] grain. [You] gave [to] my fathers . . .

NOTE

¹ Since Abi-Milku usually laments the absence of the Egyptian military, he probably refers here to support given to his predecessor. He says he is like him and also needs such support. Pintore, *GA* 11 (1972) p. 102, n. 5, maintains that Abi-Milku here calls himself a soldier, but Pintore does not translate the passage.

EA 151

A report on Canaan

TEXT: BM 29813.

COPY: BB 30.

PHOTOGRAPH: BB, pl. 13.

To the king, my Sun, my god, my gods: Message of Abi-Milku, your servant. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times. 4-11 I am the dirt under the sandals of the king, my lord. I am indeed guarding carefully the city of the king that he put in my charge. My intention has been to go to see the face of the king, my lord, but I have not been able, due to Zimredda of Sidon. 12-24 He heard that I was going to Egypt, and so he has waged war against me. May the king, my lord, give me 20 men to guard the city of the king, my lord, so I can enter before the king, my lord, to behold his gracious face. I have devoted myself to the service: *á-bu-áti*¹ of the ki[ng], my lord. May the ki[ng], my lord, ask his commissioner whether I have devoted myself to the king, my lord. 25-34 I herewith send my messenger to the ki[ng], my lord, and may [the king], my lord, send [his messenger and] his [re]b[el]t [to me], so I may enter before the king, my lord. [I] have devoted myself *á-tatly*² to [the king], [to seeing] the face of the king, [my] lord. 35-48 May [the king, my lord], not abandon his servant. May the king, my lord, give [his] attention and gi[ve] water for *á-wi*³ drink and wood to his servant. The king, my lord, knows that we are situated on the sea; we have neither water nor wood. I herewith send Iltumiku as messenger to the king, my lord, and I give 5 talents of bronze, *ma[ll]tu*, and 1 whip.³ 49-58 The king, my lord, wrote to me, "Write to me what you have heard in Canaan." The king of Danuna died; his brother became king after his death, and his land is at peace. Fire destroyed the palace at Ugarit; (rather), it destroyed half of it and so hal[f] of it has disappeared.⁴ 59-70 There are no Hittite troops about. Etakkama, the prince of Qidša, and Aziru are at war; the war is with Birisawaza.⁵ I have experienced the injustices of Zimredda, for he

assembled troops and ships from the cities of Aziru against me. Is it good that a *palace attendant* of my lord should become fright[ened]? All have become frightened. May the king give his attention to his servant and return: *ya-ia* (come forth)

NOTES

1. With Grave, *Or* n.s. 51 (1982) p. 166, n. 32, the gloss is taken as referring West Semitic *'hd*. The preceding *á-bu-áti* remains obscure: *á-bu-áti* (á)-*bu-áti*? Cf. *EA* 147:42; 155:27f.

2. *ma-[gal raš-gal]*.

3. *á-wi*-(q)-*á-wi* = *á-wi* = *á-wi* (AHw, p. 922; CAD, Q, p. 256).

4. É LUGAL: as already confirmed by Gadd in Schaeffer, *Syria* 17 (1936) pp. 146f.

5. Lit. "there is not hal[f] of it," but the repetition is curious, and one wonders whether the meaning is not, rather, that half was destroyed, half not.

6. For Etakkama's title, see the Introduction, n. 75. For the various interpretations of lines 55-63, see Liverani, *Storia di Ugarit* (see Introduction, n. 128), pp. 286f., and Redford, *History and Chronology of the Eighteenth Dynasty of Egypt* (see Introduction, n. 119), p. 222, n. 17.

EA 152

A demand for recognition

TEXT: VAT 1719.

COPY: VS II, 80.

[T]o the k[ing], my lord, [my] g[od], my Sun: Message of Abi-Milku, yo[ur] servant, [the dirt under] the sandals on the feet of [my] lo[rd]. I fall at the feet of the king, my [or]d, my god, [my] Sun, [7] times and 7 times. 5-8 May the king, [my] lord, [my] god, my Sun, take cognizance of his city, [his] maidservant. At Zimredda, the ruler of [Sidon, it at war] with me. 9-46 . . . [. . .] 47-57 [and] may he give me 80 [soldiers] to guard [it] . . . [for] the war again[st] me in [the] war. In addition to the [soldiers], [where] are the . . . [. . .], and so may he give provisions. May the king, the Sun, my lord, know that Abi-Milku is a servant [. . .] . . . and he has devoted him[se]lf to: *á-bu-áti* [the service] of the king, his lord, and the ki[ng], the Sun, my [or]d [. . .] 58-66 [. . .] . . .

NOTES

1. *á-bu-áti*: probably a designation of Tyre; see also *EA* 295, n. 7, and Nis'amu, *UF* 11 (1979) pp. 674f.

2. *a i-aq* Zu-x-[x-x]: *ajpa*, however, is otherwise arrested in EA only at Byblus.
3. See EA 155, n. 1.

EA 153

Ships on hold

TEXT: Metropolitan Museum of Art 24.2.12.

COPIES: Scheil, *Bulletin de l'Institut français d'archéologie orientale du Caire* 2 (1902) p. 116; I. Spar, ed., *Cuneiform Texts* (see EA 15), pls. 114-15.PHOTOGRAPHS: Bull, *Bulletin of the Metropolitan Museum of Art* 21 (1926) p. 170, fig. 2 (obverse); Pritchard, *The Ancient Near East in Pictures* (see Introduction, n. 85), no. 245 (obverse).TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Moran, in Spar, ed., *Cuneiform Texts*, pp. 150f.

{T₀} the king, my lord: {Mes}sa^ge of Abi-Milku, your servant. I fall at your feet 7 times and 7 times. 4-11 I have carried out what the king, my lord, ordered. The entire land is afraid of the troops of the king, my lord. I have had my men hold ships at the disposition of the troops of the king, my lord. 12-20 Whoever has disobeyed has no family, has nothing alive. Since I guard the city of the king, {my} lo[re], {my} safety is the king's responsibility. {May he take cognizance} of his servant who is on his side.²

NOTES

1. Wiñen *ia-bi* LUGAL, perhaps reflecting a glide between the *a*-vowels (*wa-ma a-bi > ya-bi*).
2. 17 [ù] šu-uli mi[ti] 18 [nu]u-š_i LUGAL 11-de, 19 a-na 1r-š_i 20 š_i-š_i š_i. Cf. EA 154:27-29 and n. 2.

EA 154

Orders carried out

TEXT: VAT 1718.

COPIES: WA 162; VS 11, 81.

To the king, my lord: Message of Abi-Milku, {your} servant. I fall at the feet of the king, {my} lo[re], 7 times and 7 times. I am the d[er]er un{det} the sandals of the king, my lord. 5-10 I have heard what the

king wrote to his servant, "Let my forces : {ia-k}u-(un) {be prepared} again[st] Yauu." What the king ordered, that I have carried out with the greatest joy. 11-20 Moreover, since the departure of the troops of the king, my lord, from me, the ruler of Sidon does not allow me or my people to go to land to fetch wood or to fetch water for drinking. He has killed one man, and he has capt[ured] another. 21-29 [...] May the king take cognizance of his servant.²

NOTES

1. See EA 147, n. 8. For another reading see Dossin, *RA* 30 (1933) pp. 89f.
2. 27 šu-š_i-mi [...] 28 š_i-š_i-de, LUGAL a-na 29 1r-š_i.

EA 155

Servant of Mayati

TEXT: BM 29814 (+) VAT 1872.

COPIES: BB 31 (+) WA 228; VS 11, 82.

To the king, {the Sun, my lord}: Message of Abi-M[ilku], your servant. I fall at the feet of the k[ing], my lord, 7 times and 7 times. I am the d[er]er under the sandals of the k[ing], my lord, and the king is the Etern[al] Sun. 7-17 The king ordered that the breath (of life) be given to his servant and to the servant of Mayati, and water : *mi-ma* be (given) for his drink, but they have not acted in accordance with the command of the king, my lord; they have not given (these things). So may the king give thought to the servant of Mayati, that water be given so he may live. 17-23 Moreover, O king, my lord, since there is no wofod, n[on] water, no straw, no supplies, no *bariak* for the de[er], may the king, my lord, take cognizance of the servant of Mayati, that life be g[iv]e[n] to him. 24-39 Should the king, my lord, give water to drink to the servant of Mayati, then I will devote myself to his service (and that of) Mayati, my mistress,² night and day. Should I en[ter] before the king, {my} lo[re], I would be afraid : *ir-x*-[x] (?), [and] unable [to speak], since the king, the Sun, looked on. But the commissioner has not done [what] the king [commanded]. He does [not] give [water, s] the k[ing] commanded. 40-47 So may the king take cognizance of his servant and of Tyre, the city of Mayati, for whatever command has issued from the mouth of the king to his servant, that he has done. The word of the king [g]oes : *pa-ri-ma* (before him).³ 47-54 The king is the Etern[al] Sun, and I am the loyal servant of the king, {my} lord.

The king charged me with gna[ding] the ci[ty] of [M]h[ly]ati, my mistress.⁴ . . . [. . .]. Moreover, my lord, [since the departure] of the troops from me, I can[not] [go] to land. 55–64 Should a ta[h]er [of] the king, my lord, arrive, then I will appo[in]t [ch] the land. May the king, my lord, know the sentiments of the eno[ph]ic land. May the king gi[ve] attention to [his] ser[van]t and to Tyre, the city of Maya[ti], so [wood and] water are given that [he] might h[av]e. 65–71 Moreover, [my] lord [. . .] the king should inquire from his commissioner whether Šumur is [set]tled. As the ruler of Beir[ut] has done service with one ship, and the ruler of Sido[n] is doing service with two ships, I will do service with all yo[ur] ships. So may the king give thought to his servant [and] protect the ships of the king with all my city.⁵

NOTES

1. *š-mu*, lit. "placing," under West Semitic influence (cf. Hebrew *šm*)²
2. *BE-ti-ia* (*bētriyai*): following Na'aman, *UF* 11 (1979) p. 675.
3. For the various possible interpretations, see Alonighi, *JEA* 23 (1937) p. 637, n. 2.
4. See n. 2.
5. Following Gordon's recognition that *gāh-bi URU-ia* is placed with *Ghassenkil* at the end of line 70 because of insufficient room at the end of line 71.

EA 156

Aziru of Amurru

TEXT: VAT 337.

COPIES: WA 34; VS 11, 83.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Izre'el, *Amurru*,

pp. 15f.

To the king, my lord, my god, my [Š]un: Message of Aziru, your servant. I fall at the feet of my lord 7 times and 7 times.

4–8 Now as to a(ny) request that the Sun, my lord, makes, I am [yo]ur servant forever, and my sons are your servants.

9–14 I herewith give [my] sons as 2 at[te]ndants,¹ and they are to do what the k[ing, my lord], orders. But let him leave [me] in Amurru.²

NOTES

1. LG.TUR.(MES) following Knudtzon; on the meaning, see EA 17, n. 7. On the historical background of the Aziru correspondence, see most recently S. Izre'el and I. Singer, *The General's Letter from Ugarit: A Linguistic and Historical Evaluation of RS 20.33*, *Ugaritica* V, no. 20 (Tel Aviv, 1990), pp. 128ff.
2. Cf. the request of Aziru as reported by the Pharaoh in EA 162:42–54.

EA 157

Eager to serve

TEXT: VAT 624.

COPIES: WA 36; VS 11, 84.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Izre'el, *Amurru*, pp. 17ff.

[Š]a[ly] to the king, [my] lo[rd], my god, and my Sun: Message of Aziru, your servant. I f[all] at [the feet of my lord] 7 times and 7 times.

6–8 Now may the king, my lord, know that I am [your] servant forever. I do not deviate from the orders of my lord.

9–16 My lord, from the very first I have wanted (to enter) the service of the king, my lord,¹ but the magaats of Šumur² do not permit me. Now, of dereliction of duty or the slightest thing against the king I am innocent.³ The king, my lord, knows (who the real) rebels (are).

17–19 And whatever the request of the king, my lord, I will gr[an]t (it).

20–24 . . .

25–33 And thus [. . .] . . . If the king of H[ā]t[ti] [*aduwana*] for war against me, the king, my lord, should give me [. . .] troops and chariots [to] help me, and I will guard the land of the king, my lord.

34–36 Moreover, in all haste send me my messengers, and [I will] [. . .].

37–41 And whatever the mayors have given, I too will give to the king, my lord, my god and my Sun. I will give forever.

NOTES

1. On LG.TUR.(MES), *ardānu*, "service," see *Or* n.s. 55 (1984) pp. 298f.; so also Izre'el, *Amurru*.
2. Egyptian high officials residing in, or in charge of, Šumur, not the city's elders (Kitchen, *Sappululama and the Amarna Pharaohs* [see Introduction, n. 119], p. 17). In EA 371, Yanhamu is mentioned as one of these magnates.
3. Lit. "I have not committed," and reading, with Izre'el, *Amurru*, *la-a bi-ut-ta*, not *la-a bi-ut-ta*. The expression *bi-ut-ta* as used in EA 27:35 (failure to show messengers due honors) and 162:9 (failure to denounce) suggests that *bi-ut* refers to negligence, a dereliction of duty. This would explain why the nouns *bi-ut* and *bi-ut-ta* and the verb *bi-ut* are so rarely used in the Amarna correspondence, even though it is filled with denunciations; the acts denounced are those of commission (*šumu*). Perfect innocence is to be guilty of neither (EA 253:16E; 254:11ff.). The

distinction of "L'arnu faute délictuelle et le *hftu* faute contractuelle" (Kestemont, in Garelli, ed., *Le Palais et le Royaume* [see Introduction, n. 73], p. 482), whether or not it obtains elsewhere, does not seem to explain adequately the Amarna evidence. Note, for example, that at the time of EA 157 Aziru, as he himself laments, is not formally an Egyptian vassal, and he is therefore under no contract. The basis for Kestemont's claim (ibid., n. 46) that the case of Aziru shows how the same act could be, before a pact, *arnu*, and after a pact, *hftu*, is not clear. The contrast I postulate between *arnu* and *hftu*, etc., goes back to the Old Babylonian period, cf. *awthm* in *arnu* in *hftu* in *u* *hftu* in *u* 17a, "This man has (committed) neither sin nor fault" (AEM 1/2, no. 312:11, "péch^e" and "faute").

EA 158

Father and son

TEXT: C 4758 (12205).

COPY: WA 40.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Izre'el, *Amurru*, pp. 20ff.

T[*o*] Tutu, my lord, [m*y*] father: Message of Aziru, your son, your servant.¹ I fall at the feet of my father. For my father may all go well.

5-9 Tutu, I herewith grant² the request of the king, may [f*o*]r [and] whatever may be the request [o]f the king, my lord, he should write and I will grant it.

10-13 Moreover, a[s] you in that place are my father, whatever may be the request of Tutu, my [f*a*]ther, just write and I will grant it.³

14-19 [A]s you are my father and my lord, [and] I am your son, the land of Amurru is your [lan]d, and my house is your house. [W]rite me any request at all of yours, and I will grant you [m*y*] request.

20-26 [And] you are in the personal service [of the king], my [lord]. Heaven forbid⁴ that treacherous men have spoken maliciously [against] me⁵ in the presence of the king, my lord. And you should not permit them.

27-31 [And a]s you are⁶ in the personal service [of the king, my] lord, representing me,⁶ you should not permit malicious talk [against] me.

32-35 I am the servant of the king, my lord, and I will [n]ot deviate from the orders of the king, my lord, or from the orders of Tutu, my father, forever.

36-38 [But] if the king, my lord, does not love me and rejects me, then what s[*m*] I to s[*a*]y?

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EA 159

NOTES

1. *ard-i-ha-lma*: as in all of Aziru's letters; Gordon saw possible traces of *na*.
2. [a]l-[i]a-d³a (Gordon). Line 7: certainly *ardu* "I³".
3. Neither *i* nor *ad d³in*: so also Gordon.
4. [g³b-b³]: almost certainly not [g³-mu]; so also Gordon. Cf. EA 160:9.
5. *lar-Aur³-[r³]*: the Amurru form of ZUR-*u*gn is quite clear, and the spelling as elsewhere in Aziru's letters (EA 165:20, 166:23; 167:25).
6. [a-mu UGU-g³]-[ar]: so also Landsberger in Gordon; cf. line 31.
7. *ar-b³da*, *ku*: dubious (Gordon).
8. [ki-i-ma a³-[a]-fr. Landsberger in Gordon, *is* dubious (Gordon); lu. "in my place, instead of me."

EA 159

Nothing but the truth

TEXT: VAT 1658.

COPIES: WA 35, VS 11, 85.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Izre'el, *Amurru*, pp. 24ff.

[T*o*] the king, my lord, my Sun: [Mess]age of Aziru, your servant. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, [m*y*] [g]od and my Sun, 7 times and 7 times.

5-10 I do not deviate [f]rom the order[s] of the king, my lord, my god [and] my Sun. [A]s you are like Ba'al and you are like the Sun, [h]ow could (any) [serv]ants live? to my lord, [m*y*] god?

11-16 [L]ow, I am going to build Šumui. No[w . . .] . . .

17-28, 29-38 . . .²

39-42 [And as f³u] as the mayo[s] are concerned, [I de]clate: they are all [r]atros of my lord. [Do not t]rust them.³

43-46 [M]y lord, right now, [in] all haste, I am going to build Šumui. [N]ow, may he trust me [th]at I am going to build Šumui. [(. . .)].

NOTES

1. *a-b³a-az-z³i-[bu-nim]*: following Neugebauer, *Ugarit* 5, p. 49, in deriving the verb from *akazzaba*. If 10 [a-ma]-[e]-MES (Neugebauer), then *akazzi-[be]*, "how could I tell like . . ." I also read 9 [i] *ki-i* rather than [ki-i]-[ki]-[i] (Neugebauer). See also EA 108, n. 1.

2. Line 26: *l³-mu-*sa**, "vessels, gear" (gifts for the king?). Lines 33ff.: preparation (line 38, *si* [be-ke-*er*]) of (additional?) gifts for the king(?): *cu* [s.]. *mu* [s.]. "ouls" or *Imu* [s.]. (Izre'el); meaning disputed, either "sesame" or "linseed"; line

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32) [x ma] *na at-11 mi-...*, "[x ma] *na at-11 mi-...*" (line 34, *na at-11 mi-...* as at Boghazkoy?); [x kuš.meš] *šūn.meš*, "[x kuš.meš] *šūn.meš*" (line 36).

3. *EN-ša-ma [ša-ša]* 42 *[ša-ša-š]p-ša-ša*: cf. line 45. The use of the preterite form instead of the correct present-future *taqāp* is, in this dialect, not a difficulty.

EA 160

Ships and lumber for the king

TEXT: Golenischeff (Introduction, sect. 1).

COPY: WA 34a.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Izre'el, *Amaru*, pp. 28ff.

[To] the Great King, [my] [lord, my god, my Sun: Messa]ge of Aziru, [your] serv[an]t, I fall [] at the feet of my lord, my god and my Sun, 7 times and 7 times.

5-8 My lord, my god, my Sun, I am your servant, and my sons and my brothers are servants of the king, my lord, forever.

9-13 I am indeed preparing all the requests of the king, my lord, and whatever came forth from the mouth of the king, my lord, I am preparing.

14-19 I am indeed, in very truth, now [preparing] 8 ships, *baš[wa]d* logs, and large logs of [. . .] . . . , everything that ca[me] forth from the mo[uth] of the king, [my] lord, [my god, my Sun].

20-32 [And], O king, [my lord, as to Šumar, about which] he say[s, "Why have] you [not] built Šumar?" [. . .] . . . of [my] lo[rd], [. . .], and the kings of Nuḫa[šše] have been at war with [me], and so I have not built Šumar. This year I will bui[ld] Šumar. My lord, I am your servant forever. O king, do not listen to the treacherous men that [de]nounce me be[for]e the king, my lord.

33-37 May the king, my lord, my god and my Sun, send me his mes[sen]ger so he can fet[ch] everythi[ng] that the kin[ing, my lord], orde[r]s.

38-40 My lord, no[w you are going to hear t]hat I am bui[ld]ing the city of the king, my lord, my god, [my Sun].

41-44 [And, O king, my] lord, send me [your messenger a]long with [my] messenger [in] all haste, [and] then he can brin[g] the tribute of the king, my lord.

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NOTE

1. [EN-ša-šam URU šu-mu-ri] 21 [ša] *i-qa-a[š-ši] am-mi-(i)-na* 22 [ša *ša-ša-ša-š[am] URU šu-mu-ri*]: cf. EA 161:35-40.

EA 161

An absence explained

TEXT: BM 29818.

COPY: BB 35.

PHOTOGRAPH: BB, pl. 22.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Izre'el, *Amaru*, pp. 31ff.

To the Great King, my lord, my god, [my Sun]: Message of Aziru, your servant. I fall at the feet of my lord, [my] god, my Sun, 7 times and 7 times.

4-10 My lord, I am your servant, and on my arrival in the presence of the king, my lord, I spoke¹ of all my affairs in the presence of the king, my lord. My lord, do not listen to the treacherous men that denounce me in the presence of the king, my lord. I am your servant forever.

11-22 The king, my lord, has spoken about Hjan'i. My lord, I was residing in Tunip, and so I did not know that he had arrived. As soon as I heard, I went up after him, but I did not overtake him. May Hjan'i arrive safe and sound so that the king, my lord, can ask him how I provided for him. My brothers and Bet-ili were at his service; they gave oxen, sheep and goats,² and birds,³ his food and his strong drink.⁴

23-34 I gave horses and asses [f]or his journey. May the king, my lord, hear my words. [W]hen I come to the king, my lord, Hjan'i will go before me; like a mother and like a father he will provide for me. And no[w] my lord says, "You hid yourself from Hjan'i." May your gods and the Sun be witnesses: (I swear) I was residing in Tunip.

35-40 The king, my lord, has spoken about the building of Šumar. The kings of Nuḫašše have been at war with me and have taken my cities at the instruction of Hjatip. So I have not built it. Now, in all haste, I am going to build it.

41-46 And may my lord know that Hjatip has taken half of the things that the king, my lord, gave (me). All the gold and silver that the king, my lord, gave me, Hjatip has taken. May my lord know (this).

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47-53 Moreover, the king, my lord, also said, "Why did you provide for the messenger of the king of Hatti, but did not provide for my messenger?" But this is the land of my lord, and the king, my lord, made me one of the mayors!⁶

54-56 Let my lord's messenger come to me so I can give all that I promised in the presence of the king, my lord. I will give food supplies, ships, oil, logs of *boxwood* and (other) woods.

NOTES

1. Following Iḫr'e'l, *Amarna*. Airtu refers to this occasion again at the very end of the letter, giving his message a kind of *trifecta*. It was on this occasion, too, that he was probably installed formally as a mayor; see lines 47-53.
2. See EA 55, n. 2.
3. Probably fowl; see Kraus, *ABB* 10, 124, note 1 of the translation.
4. Or "bread and beer."
5. KU.BABBAR.ḫe following Iḫr'e'l, *Amarna*.
6. One of the more notable *ignominious demerits* in the Amarna letters.

EA 162

A letter from the Pharaoh:
threats and promises

TEXT: VAT 347.

COPIES: WA 92; VS 11, 86.

Say [to Aziru], ruler of Amurru: [This] is the king, your lord, saying:¹ The ruler of Gubla, whose brother had cast him away at the gate, [said] to you, "[T]ake me and get me into my city. [There is much silver], and I will give it to you. Indeed, there is an abundance of everything, [but] not with me."² Thus did the ruler speak to you.

7-11 Do you [not] write to the king, my lord, [saying], "I am your servant like all the previous mayors in his city"? Yet you acted delin- quently by taking the mayor whose brother had cast him away at the gate, from his city.³

12-14 He was residing in Sidon and, following your own judg- ment, you gave him to (some) mayors. Were you ignorant of the treach- erousness of the men?

15-18 If you really are the king's servant, why did you not de- nounce him⁴ before the king, your lord, saying, "This mayor has writ- ten me, saying, 'Take me to yourself and get me into my city'?"

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EA 162

19-21 And if you did act loyally, still all the things you wrote were not true. In fact, the king has reflected on them as follows, "Every- thing you have said is not friendly."

22-29 Now the king has heard as follows, "You are at peace with the ruler of Qidša.⁵ The two of you take food and strong drink to- gether."⁶ And it is true. Why do you act so? Why are you at peace with a ruler with whom the king is fighting? And even if you did act loyally, you considered your own judgment, and his judgment did not count. You have paid no attention to the things that you did earlier.⁷ What happened to you among them that you are not on the side of the king, your lord?⁸

30-32 Consider the people that are [rejoicing] you for their own advantage. They want to throw you into the fire. *They burn lit (the fire)*, and (still) you love everything so very much!

33-38 But if you perform your service for the king, your lord, what is there that the king will not do for you? If for any reason whatsoever you prefer to do evil,⁹ and if you plot evil, treacherous things, then you, together with your entire family, shall die by the axe of the king.

39-41 So perform your service for the king, your lord, and you will live. You yourself know that the king *does not fail* when he rages *against* all of Canaan.¹⁰

42-54 And when you wrote, saying, "May the king, my lord, give me leave this year, and then I will go next year to the king, [my] lord. If this is impossible, I [will send] my son [in my] [place]"¹¹—the king, your lord, let you off this year, in accordance with what you said. [Come] yourself, or send your son, and you will see the king at whose sight all lan[ds] live. You are not to say, "May he give me this year, too." If it is impossible to go to the king, your lord, send your son to the king, your lord, in your place. If it is impossible, he is to come.

55-67 Now the king, your lord, has heard that you wrote to the king, saying, "May the king, my lord, send Hanni, the messenger of the king, once more, so I can have the enemies of the king delivered into his charge." He herewith goes off to you, in accordance with what you said. So have them delivered, omitting no one. The king, your lord, hereby sends you the names of the king's ene(m)ies on [this] tablet given to Hanni, the messenger of the king. Have the(m) delivered to the king, your lord, omitting no one. Copper fetters are to be put on their *ankles*. Here are the men whom you are to have delivered to the king, your lord:

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- 68 Šarru along with all his sons;
Tuya;
70 Leya along with all his sons;
Pišyari along with all his sons;
72 the son-in-law of Manya, along with his sons,
along with his wives;¹²
74 the commissioner, who is expert in sacrifice,
that fellow (wbn) has mocked a resident alien;¹³
76 Daašarci; Baaluma;
Nimmaye—he is a brigand in Amurru.¹⁴

78–81 And know that the king is hale like the Sun in the sky. For his troops and his chariots in multitude, from the Upper Land to the Lower Land, the rising of the sun to the setting of the sun, all goes very well.¹⁵

NOTES

- [un-ma-(a)-m]ḫ: *unma-nd* is attested in EA 126, 37 (Egypt). Whatever the correct restoration may be, it is clear that no conventional form of introduction was used. With the exception of the conclusion (lines 78ff.), EA 163 is in form as well as content quite unlike the Pharaoh's letters to inferiors (see Introduction, sect. 5).
- 5 [ma-ad KU.BAN]BAR . . . 6 [u] i-ia-nu: free restorations; note the writing *i-ia-nu* in line 27 and *i-ia-nu-sun-na* in line 52. It is not clear that "take" means "take as a vassal," as proposed by K. McCarter, *QA* 12 (1973) p. 17.
- This is a delinquency because upon receiving Rib-Hadda's communication, Aziru should have immediately denounced him to the king (lines 15ff.); see EA 157, o. 3.
- ta-w-hu-ul-har-ḫi-ḫi*: following McCarter, *ibid.*, pp. 15ff. The reading is confirmed by collation; the copy is inexact, and there is a ligature of TE and A. The denunciation would also have required handing over the vassal to Egyptian authorities; cf. EA 245:1ff., and see Kühne, *Achäus Unthorsky Summary Studien* 1 (1963) pp. 71ff. and Keserouan, in Gastell, ed., *Le Palais et la Royauté* (see Introduction, o. 73), p. 477. Aziru was, therefore, doubly delinquent.
- Eratkamu.
- See EA 161, n. 4. Meals sealed alliances and were shared only by allies and friends.
- This is probably a reference to Aziru's having become a vassal-mayor.
- This seems to be a reference to an initial contact with the Hittites, which is alluded to elsewhere, before Aziru's final capitulation as a Hittite vassal; see Klengel, *MIO* 10 (1964) pp. 72ff.
- Instead of *i-mu-ut-ti* here and in the following line, Gordon and GAD, S, p. 183a, propose *am-mu-ut-ti*, "these things"; see *ammi*, CAD, A/2, p. 125, and comparable forms at Alalakh and Boghazköy.
- The language is somewhat obscure and other versions are possible.

Nalman, *Lingering over Words*, p. 405, proposes: "And you know that the king does not want (to go) to the entire land of Canaan when he is angry."

- a-ḫap-pa-ra ki-muḫ-ḫi*: quite doubtful.
- DAM.MEŠ *i-ḫi aḫ-ḫi-ḫi*: following Knudtzon and recognizing the Hittite-Egyptian ducal of DAM, not NIN, as proposed by Ries, *RLA* 6, p. 183b, followed by Moran, *Or* n.s. 53 (1984) p. 297.
- "Commissioner": following Albright, *JNES* 5 (1946) p. 18; perhaps an additional identification of "the son-in-law of Manya." Instead of "commissioner," Jeffrey Zorn, *JNES* 50 (1991) pp. 129ff., argues well in favor of "the soldier." We then read: *ta-ḫa-an-ni-pa i-di, a-ti-ū* 75 *ta-ḫi (ta) a-bi-a-ra i-i-na-na-ai (unnaḫi)*. The charge seems to refer to a serious breach of international law involving a foreign dignitary.
- ḫu-ḫi-ḫi (ḫubḫūn, "robber")*: following AHU, p. 304.
- Long form: see the Introduction, sect. 5, and EA 99, n. 7.

EA 163

Message lost

TEXT: VAT 1885.
COPY: VS 11, 87.

Too fragmentary for translation.¹

NOTE

- A letter from the Pharaoh, with the same conclusion as EA 162:78ff.

EA 164

Coming—on condition

TEXT: VAT 249.
COPIES: 38; VS 11, 88.
TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Izre'el, *Amurru*, pp. 36ff.

To Turu, my lord, my father: Message of Aziru, your servant. I fall at the feet of my lord.

4–17 Ḫarip has come and brought the gracious and sweet words of the king, my lord, and I am quite overjoyed. My land and my brothers, the servants of the king, my lord, and the servants of Turu, my lord, are overjoyed when the breath of the king, my lord, comes. I do not deviate from the orders of my lord, my god, my Sun, and from the orders of Turu, my lord.

18-26 My lord, since Hatip is staying with me, he and I will make the journey. My lord, the king of Hatti has come to Nuḥašše and I cannot go. Just let the king of Hatti depart and straightaway I will make the journey with Hatip.

27-34 May the king, my lord, heed my words. My lord, I am afraid of the king, my lord, and of Tutu. Here are my gods and my messenger. Tutu and the magnates of the king, my lord, I would put under oath and then I will make the journey.

35-42 And thus Tutu, the king, my lord, and the magnates: "(We swear) we will not *devise* anything regarding Aziru that is not good." Thus are you to be put under oath to my gods and to Aman.³ Indeed, Hatip and I are servants of the gracious king.

43-44 Tutu, know (that) I will come to you.

NOTES

1. *la-šá-ta₃*, [-a]m-ni following Izre'el, *Amaru*.
2. AHU, p. 1179, proposes *ni-il-qi-uq*, a Canaanite loanword, "to rush upon," but this leaves *mimna* . . . *la la damiq* without adequate explanation. I propose a derivation from *lakāku*, "to string together," using "devise" from context. Izre'el, *Amaru*, following Winckler's comparison with the problematic *lak* in *Jeremiah* 5:27, is in essential agreement and renders by "plot."³
3. Witten ³A; see Schroeder, *OLZ*, 1915, cols. 326f.

EA 165

Tunip threatened

TEXT: VAT 325.

COPIES: WA 33; VS II, 89.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Izre'el, *Amaru*, pp. 40f.

[T]o the king, my lord, my god, my Sun: Message of [Aziru, your servant]. [I] fall at the feet of my lord 7 times and 7 (times).

4-9 My lord, m[y] god, [my Sun], what m[ore] do I seek? I seek [to see] the gracious face of the king, m[y] lord, (my Sun), forever. Baaluya and [I] are [yo]ur [servants].

10-13 I am guarding the land of the king, my lord, and I am devoted to the service of the king, my lord. Safe and sound,² I would [let] the gracious [f]ac[e] of the king, my lord.

14-17 My lord, Hatip and I are coming, and may my lord know that I will [be] there in all ha[st]e

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18-21 The king of Hatti is staying [in Nuḥašše], and I am afraid [of him]. Heaven forb[ids] that he come into Amuru and the land [of the king, my lord].

22-27 Because of [these] things I have been staying on. Just let him d[epart] and return [to his own land, and straightaway] I will make [the journey] with Hatip. [I] am a [servant of the ve[ry], ve[ry] gracious king.¹

28-41 [My lord, do not worry at all. I will be [th]ere! [My only concern has been] the king of Hatti, [baš u]š[us] I shall be there to see the face of [my] Sun, [my] lord. My lord, [baš u]š[us] I was staying [in . . . , the king] of H[atti] came into Amuru, the land of the king, [my] lord, because the king, my lord, did not let me stay to guard his land. And now he is staying in Nuḥašše. It is [only] two day marches to Tunip, and so I am afraid of his attacking Tunip. May he depart.

42-45 Mof[er]ver, my lord, do not listen to the [wicked] men. I, [my brothers], and my sons are [servants of the king, my lord], foreve[r].

NOTES

1. See EA 157, n. 1.
2. *ina šalmi* lit. "in a state of well-being," said of arrivals (EA 161:18; 167:18; 168:5, 9, and cf. line 11), and even also implied here. Cf. the sequence in EA 167:18ff. of arrival *ina šalmi* followed by seeing the face of the king. In Old Babylonian, *ina šalmi* was fairly common; see AHU, p. 1148, and add ARM 10, 1:9; 17:7.
3. *šá-šá-šá* wr: cf. line 47; EA 164:24; 167:12ff., 24; also 166:29.
4. *baš u* is said of the king's face, which is grammatically singular (EA 164:1) or plural (EA 167:7; 168:7; 167:19), of his words (EA 164:6), and of the king himself (EA 166:11). In its usage in EA 166:11, "all my brothers are servants *ša šarri šá-šá-šá*," the form is clearly genitive singular agreeing with *šarri*, and there is not the slightest reason to refer it to the brothers. Hence here, too, *baš u* refers to the king, not to Aziru.
5. *šá-šá-šá*.

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EA 166

Coming—but not yet

TEXT: VAT 250.

COPIES: WA 31; VS 11, 90.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Izre'el, *Amarna*.

pp. 43f.

[T]o Haa, my brother: Message of Aziru, your brother. For you may all go well, and for the archers of the king, my lord, may all go very well.

6-11 What more do I seek? I seek the gracious face of the king, my lord. I, my sons, and my brothers are all servants of the gracious king, my lord.

12-16 Hhatip and I are indeed coming, right now, in all haste. Haa, may you be convinced that I will be there.

17-20 I do not deviate [f]rom the orders of my lord, and from your orders (I do not deviate). I am the servant of my lord.

21-29 The king of Hatti is staying in Nuḫašše, and I am afraid of him. Heaven forbid that he come into Amarna. If he attacks Tunip, then it is (only) two day-marches to where he is staying. So I am afraid of him, and for this reason I have been staying on until he departs.

30-32 And (then) straightaway I will come with Hhatip.

NOTE

1. That the greeting should come from the archers (so Koussios, *VAB* 2/2, p. 159f) would be without parallel; for *šbu*, "with," see EA 112, n. 1.

EA 167

The constant Hittite menace

TEXT: VAT 326.

COPIES: WA 32; VS 11, 91.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Izre'el, *Amarna*.

pp. 46f.

[...]

5-7 [I do not deviate [from the orders of my lord, and from your orders I do not deviate [forever].

8-10 [And what more do I seek? I seek] the gracious face of the king [in]g. [...]. [...].

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EA 168

11-15 [The king] of Hatti is [staying in Nuḫašše. Just let him depart], and straightaway [...] H[hatip] and I will come [in all haste].
16-19 Do not be [worried at all. I [will be] there, safe and sound, and I would see the gracious face of [my] lord.

20-24 The king of Hatti is staying [in Nuḫašše, and I am afraid of [him]. It is (only) two day-marches from] Tunip to where he is staying, and so I am afraid. Just let him depart and straightaway I will be there.

25-27 He[aven] forbid that he come [into Amarna, the land of my lord. I am afraid for the land of my lord.

28-34 'Tutu, now as my heart and my words are [in accordance with whatever is in your] intentions, [I will be reaching] Tunip, [my] lord. [My lord], may you be happy [since] I will [indeed] be there, safe and sound, to see the face of the king, [my] lord.

NOTES

1. This is probably a vocative (cf. EA 164:43), which would make Tutu the recipient of this letter.

2. [a]ḫ-[u]ḫ-[a]': a highly probable reading.

3. [a-ka]-[a]-[ša]-[a] it-ri-ri-ri-ri: Izre'el, *Amarna*, accepts my interpretation of *iri*, but considers, and rightly, West Semitized Akkadian in this dialect intrusive and improbable. That the use of *iri* is of West Semitic origin only partly alleviates the difficulty; cf. EA 35:34f.; 47:16; 82:15; 87:10. His own interpretation, according to which Aziru's heart and words have reached (*kaldu*) Tutu, seems somewhat obscure.

4. [i-ri-ma]: following Izre'el, *Amarna*.

EA 168

Royal cargo

TEXT: VAT 1659.

COPIES: WA 37; VS 11, 92.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Izre'el, *Amarna*.

pp. 49f.

[T]o the king, my lord, [my] god, [my] Sun: Message of Aziru, your servant. I fall at the feet of [my lord, my god], my Sun, 7 times and 7 times.

4-12 O Sun, my lord, my god, I [will be] there, safe and sound, to see the face of the king, my lord, and [...] and Hhatip will arrive, safe and sound. The things, too, [for the king], my lord, [my

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god, will be there [i]n ships, [un]belymed, in the land of the king, and
 ...

Reverse

1-16 [...] ...

EA 169

Aziru in Egypt

TEXT: VAT 1660.

COPIES: WA 39; V5 11, 93.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Izre'el, *Amarna*, pp. 51ff.

[... may all go well.¹

4-15 [In me] there is no [dup]licity.² [...] ... [Y]ou may keep me alive [and] you may put me to death. To you alone do I look, and you alone are my lord. So may my lord heed his servants. Do not delay Aziru, your servant, there [any longer]. Send him here immediately so he may guard the countries of the king, our lord.

16-39 Moreover, to Tutu, my lord:³ Hear the words of the kings of Nuḫṣe. They said to me: "You sold your father [to the king of Egypt for gold, and w]he]n will he let him go from Egypt?" All the country and all the Sutean forces said to me, also to that point, "Aziru is not going to get out of Egypt." And now the Suteans are deserting⁴ the country [and I am] repeatedly informed, "Your father is staying [i]n Egypt. [and so] we are going to wage war against you." [...] ... Listen, [my lord. Tutu, my lord, [let] Aziru go [immediately. ...] ... Nuḫṣe ... 40-47 [...] ... Let him stay on, [and then we will wage] war against you." [Now indeed everyone is deserting.

NOTES

1. The sender of the letter is Aziru's son, perhaps DU-Tešup, the father of Aziru's successor, as Klengel, *MFO* 10 (1964) p. 75, n. 102, has proposed; see also Klengel, *Geschichte Syriens* (see Introduction, n. 127), Tell 2, p. 281. Izre'el, *Amarna*, suggests Bir-ili. If, following Izre'el, *ibid.*, in lines 16ff. we see Tutu being addressed, then he is hardly the addressee of the preceding message. The latter must be another high Egyptian official.

2. [a-na ia-ši ŠA]: cf. EA 136, n. 7. For objections against this restoration, see Izre'el, *Amarna*.

3. See n. 2.

4. *ṣ-pa-ta-ru-um*: following AHU, p. 850, but the reading of the third sign is most uncertain.

EA 170

To Aziru in Egypt

TEXT: VAT 327.

COPIES: WA 143; V5 11, 94.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: M. Dietrich and O. Lorez, in Stiehl and Stier, eds., *Beiträge zur Alten Geschichte und deren Nachleben*, Band 1 (Berlin, 1969), pp. 16ff.; Izre'el, *Amarna*, pp. 55ff.

To the king, our lord:¹ Message of Baaluya and message of Bet-ili. We fall at the feet of our lord. For our lord may all go well. Here with² the lands of our lord all goes very well.

7-13 Our lord, do not worry at all. Do not trouble yourself. Our lord, as soon as you can, *meet with*³ them : *zu-zi-la-ma-an(?)* so they will not delay you there [any longer].

14-18 Moreover, troops of Hatti under Inpakku have captured cities of Amqu, and with⁴ the cities they captured Aaddumt. May our lord know (this).

19-35 Moreover, we have heard the following: Zitana has come and there are 90,000 infantrymen that have come with him. We have, however, not confirmed⁵ the report, whether they are really there and have arrived in Nuḫṣe, and so I am sending Bet-ili to him. As soon as we *meet with* them, I will immediately send my messenger so he can report to you whether or not it is so.

36-44 To Rab(=)In and 'Abdi-URAS, to Bin-Ana and Rabi-šidqi: Message of Amur-Ba'la. For you may all go well. Do not trouble yourselves, and do not worry at all. Here with your families all goes very well. Wish Anatu well.

NOTES

1. The king is Aziru, during his stay in Egypt, and this letter seems to have been written by the same scribe as that of EA 169, with which it was probably delivered; see Klengel, *MFO* 10 (1964) pp. 76f., and Dietrich and Lorez, *Beiträge* (see headnote), pp. 14f.

2. See EA 112, n. 1.

3. In lines 30-31, *šūf jalūtu* is achieved by a journey (what Bet-ili does, Baaluya in effect does too) and provides the necessary check on the report; there-

EA 174

A joint report on Amqu (1)

TEXT: VAT 1585.

COPIES: WA 160; VS 11, 98.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: M. Weippert, in Kuschke and Kutsch, eds., *Archäologie und Altes Testament* (Tübingen, 1970), pp. 268f.

Say to the king, [my] lord, [my god, my Sun]: Message of Bieii, [your servant], the ruler of Ḫalabu. I fall down in the dirt under the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times. 8-17 Look, we are in Amqu, (in) cities of the king, my lord, and E[ta]kka[ma], (the ruler) of Kinsa, assisted the troops of Ḫa[ti] and s[e]t [the cities] of the king, my lord, on fire. 18-26 May the king, my lord, take cognizance, and may the king, my lord, give archers that we may (re)gain the cit[ies] of the king, my lord, and dwell in the cities of the king, my lord, my god, my Sun.

NOTES

1. "We" refers to his fellow mayors, who send exactly the same report to the king in EA 175-176 and 163.

2. *ana pani alaku* has here been taken to mean to go "towards, to" (Knaulzon, *Thureau-Dangin, RA* 19 [1921] p. 92), which has been followed by Kitchen, *Siphalimus and the Amarna Pharaohs* (see EA 157, n. 2), p. 14, n. 4, and cf. Greenberg, *Ḫabiru*, p. 25, on EA 195, or "at the head of" (Rainey, AOAT 87, p. 25; Weippert; cf. also Battisti, *Ḫabiru*, p. 104, on EA 195). Neither meaning seems satisfactory. It does not seem likely that Egyptian vassals would be ordered to march at the head of Egyptian troops (cf. EA 191:15f., and 202:8f.), and it is not clear why the vassal should go to meet the Egyptian troops. Having made preparations for their arrival, he would rather wait for, and then join, them, adding his forces to theirs and proceeding on the march. Furthermore, "(to be) *ana pani* the troops wherever they go" (EA 203:13f.; 204:15f.; 205:13f.) seems to be virtually synonymous with *ana pani alaku*. Therefore, *ana pani*, "for, at the disposition of"; cf. Hebrew *balak lipni*, "to serve," and see M. Weinfeld, *Maariv* 3/1 (1982) p. 31, n. 76.

EA 175

A joint report on Amqu (2)

TEXT: VAT 1588.

COPIES: WA 163; VS 11, 99.

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EA 176

[Say] to the king, my lord, [my] god, my Sun: Message of 'Ildayyi, [your] servant, the ruler of Ḫasi. I fall down in the dirt under the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times. 7-13 Look, we are in Amqu, (in) cities of the king, my lord, and E[ta]kka[ma], the ruler of Kinsa, assisted the troops of Ḫa[ti] and s[e]t [the cities] of the king, my lord, on fire. 14-20 May the king, my lord, take cognizance, and may the king, my lord, give archers that we may (re)gain the cit[ies] of the ki[ng], my lord, and [dwell] in (the cities) of the ki[ng], my lord.

NOTE

1. The analysis of this name as West Semitic is uncertain; for other possibilities, see Na'aman, *UF* 20 (1988) p. 188, n. 41.

EA 176

A joint report on Amqu (3)

TEXT: BM 29829.

COPY: BB 46.

[Say to the king, my lord, my god, my Sun: Message of . . . , your servant, the ruler of . . .]. I fall [down in the dirt] under the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times. 7-13 Look, we are in Amqu, (in) cities of the ki[ng], my [lord], and E[ta]kka[ma], the ruler of Kinsa, assisted the [troops] of Ḫa[ti] and s[e]t [the cities] of the ki[ng], my [lord, [o]n [f]ire. 14-20 [May the king, my lord, take cognizance, and may the king, my lord, give] archers that we may (re)gain [the cit[ies] of the king, my lord, my god, [my Sun], and dwell in the cities of the king, my lord.

EA 177

A broken message

TEXT: VAT 1684.

COPIES: WA 170; VS 11, 101.

To the king, my lord, my god, my Sun: Message of Yamuta, the ruler of Guddāna, the servant of the king, my lord. I fall down in the dirt under the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times. May the ki[ng], my [lord], take cognizance of his lands and the men . . . [. . .]

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EA 178

On grain supplies

TEXT: VAT 1677.

COPIES: WA 146; VS 11, 100.

[To the magnate, my lord. [Message of Ijibiya, your servant. I fall at the feet of my lord. 4-11 We have now moved up into the land(s) of Yatamu. We will [guard it [un]till] the arrival of the magnate, my lord, but the war against the cities of the magnate, my lord, is severe. 12-19 Moreover, I have heeded the order, in accordance with the *com)mand* (of the king, my lord). [...] . . . 20-26 [He *came* down from Amuru and kept saying to me, "There will be plenty of grain in [Amur]u [until] the magnate [arrives] (from the king), my lord."

EA 179

A treacherous brother

TEXT: VAT 1703.

COPIES: WA 171; VS 11, 103.

... 11-18 May (the king, my lord), my [god, my Sun, send back word. And *br)atibe* on me],¹ the servant of the king, my lord, (my Sun). Look, my brother who is in Tubihu,² is a . . . ,³ and he goes about taking over cities of the king, my lord, my god, (my) Sun. 19-29 [He *has made*] Amuru an *enemy* territory, [and] has turned over⁴ all the men in the cities of the king, my lord, (my) god, (my) Sun, to the 'Apiru. And *now*⁵ the god of the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, has permitted (it) and he has seized Tubihu. And so I *would* curse⁶ my brother and guard Tubihu for the king, my lord, my god, (my) Sun, for, consider, Tubihu is my ancestral city.

NOTES

1. *sp-ṯ(a n m la-šū)*; *naphā'u* is not used elsewhere in EA except perhaps in EA 19:16 and 29:48, but the association of the king's message with his breath is quite frequent; see EA 100, n. 9.
2. Whether a member of his family or a fellow vassal is meant is not clear.
3. See CAD, S, p. 415. As used here, *šbrn* seems a pejorative.
4. *lū-ga-mi-ir*: there is not enough room for *š*, which was probably at the end of the previous line.
5. Following Rainey, *UF* 7 (1975) p. 415.

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6. Person and mood of *š-ga-ur* are not certain. The curse seems in context to imply banishment.

EA 180

An audience with the king requested

TEXT: C 4788 (12233).

COPY: WA 198.

[. . . And behold, I] am a loyal servant of the king, my [lord, my] god, [my Sun], in thi[s] place. I send (even) my own son [to] the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, and may the king, my lord, my [god, my] Sun, send chariots along with my son, that they may guard the cities of the king, my lord, my god, my Sun. 10-20 Send chariots, O king, my lord, my god, my Sun, that they may take me to the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, and I may enter into the presence of the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, and tell what has been done against the lands. As a loyal servant of the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, I am of course slandered¹ before the king, my lord, my god, my Sun. 21-24 Send chariots [that] they may take me to [the king, my] [lord], my god, [my] Sun

NOTES

1. Cf. EA 187:9-11. In line 1, [. . . *š-ga-ur* . . .] (Gordon). Gordon also suggested that EA 180 may be the continuation of EA 183.
2. *š-ir* (text *m)ir*: (1) cf. *š-ir* in EA 252:14 (*š-ir-ir*) and 286:6-7, 21 (cf. also 24); (2) *š-ir* (*š-ir*) is very rare in EA, its use as a predicate unattested, and *š-ir* = *š-ir* is extremely rare except as a writing of 1000 or in frozen phonetic complements.

EA 181

A broken message

TEXT: VAT 1623.

COPY: VS 11, 102.

[. . .] . . . [the king, my lord, my god], my Sun, [. . .] his [m]en [. . .] Send, O king, my lord, my [god], my Sun, [. . .] that we may protect [the cities of the king, my lord], my god, [my] Sun . . .

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NOTE

1. Lines 11–26 contain formulaic references to the king, plus other signs impossible to interpret.

EA 182

Request for a garrison

TEXT: VAT 1615.

COPIES: WA 130; VS 11, 104.

[To the king], m[yl] lord, [my god], my Sun: Message of Šurarna, [your] serv[an], the ruler of Mušūna. I fall down in the dirt at the feet of the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, 7 times and 7 times. 6–15 May the king, my lord, take cognizance of his lands, and may the king, my lord, send a garrison that we may *baš(d)*¹ the cities of the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, until the king, m[yl] lord, takes cognizance of his lands.

NOTE

1. *ni-baš* (*qē*): 1 durative of *baš*, very rare in EA (Alašia, Babylonia, Egypt, Mitanni, Jerusalem; on EA 109:53, see *ibid.* n. 14), and the meaning "to hold," which seems required by context—garrison troops were not an offensive force—is also unparalleled. Note the erasure that follows.

EA 183

A lost message

TEXT: VAT 1595.

COPIES: WA 130; VS 11, 105.

Say to the king, m[yl] lord, [my god], my Sun: Message of Šurarna, [the ruler] of Mušūna, the servant of the king, my lord [...]. [I fall down] below, in the dirt under the feet of the king, my lord, [...] ...

NOTE

1. See EA 180, n. 1.

EA 184

A lost message

TEXT: Ash 1893, 1–41: 426.

COPY: Sayce, *Tell el Amarna*, no. 18 bis.Too fragmentary for translation.¹

NOTE

1. From Šurarna to the king; part of prostration formula preserved.

EA 185

An Egyptian traitor

TEXT: VAT 1725.

COPIES: WA 189; VS 11, 106.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Bottéro, *Habiru*, pp. 97ff. (lines 9–63); Greenberg, *Habiru*, pp. 41f. (lines 1–64).

Say to the king, my lord, my god, [my] Sun: Message of [M]šwarzana, the ruler of Hasi, your servant, the dirt under the feet of the k[ing], my lord, my god, m[yl] Sun, the ground [h]e t[ies] on. I fall at the feet [of the king, m[yl] lord, [7 times] and 7 times.

9–15 M[ay] the king, my lord, [m]y [g]o[d], my S[un], know of the d[ire]c[t] that Amanḥatpe, the ruler of Tūšutu, committed against the [c]ities of the king, my lord, when the 'Apiru forces [w]a[re]d war against me and captured the cities of the king, my lord, my god, my Sun.

16–20 The 'Apiru captured Maḥzibtu, a city of the k[ing], my lord, and plundered [it] and sent [it] up in flames, and then the 'Apiru took refuge¹ with Amanḥatpe.

21–27 And the 'Apiru captured Gilunu, a city of the king, my lord, plundered it, sent it up in flames, and hardly one family escaped from Gilunu. Then the 'Apiru t[ook] refuge with Amanḥatpe.

28–36 And the 'Apiru cap[tur]ed [M]ag[da]lu, a [c]ity of the king, my lord, my god, m[yl] Sun, plundered it, se[n]t it up in flames, and h[is] family escaped from Mag[da]lu. Then the 'Apiru took refuge with Amanḥatpe.

37–41 And Uštu, a [c]ity of the king, my lord, the 'Apiru captured, plundered [it], and sent it up in flames. Then the 'Apiru took refuge with Amanḥatpe.

42-75 And then the 'Apiru having raided Hasi, a [city] of the king, my lord, we did battle with the 'Apiru, and we defeated them. Then 40 'Apiru w[ere] [to Aman]harpe, and Amanharpe welcomed whoever had escaped. [And] they were gathered [together] [in] the city.⁹ [Aman]harpe is an 'Apiru.¹⁰ We he[ar]d [that] the 'Apiru were with Amanharpe, so [my] brother[s] and my son[s], your servants, d[er]o[ne]d a chariot to [the] Amanharpe. My [bro]thers sa[id] to Amanharpe, "Hand ov[er] the 'Apiru, traitors to the king, our lord, so we can [de]mand a reckoning of those 'Apiru that have taken refuge⁷ with you, [for] having captured cities of the king, my lord, and burning them down." He [ag]re[ed] to hand over the 'Apiru, but he took them in the night⁸ and fled to the 'Apiru. Amanharpe being a traitor, may the king, my lord, demand a reckoning of him. He has fled from him. May the king, my lord, not be negligent, with no *sch[er]zing*⁹ demanded of Amanharpe. (As to another ruler, traitors are not to be [al]lowed into the loyal land of the king, my lord.)¹⁰ When [the king], my lord, has demanded a reckoning of Amanharpe, the traitor, *he will make [him] fl[ee]* from him.¹¹ [And so we] (always) obey. And note: I am a loyal servant of the king, my lord.

NOTES

- [i] l[il]-[i] d[e.]: cf. EA 24843; 24839; 2578, etc., for the writing, but the reading is doubtful because the horizontal at the beginning of the last sign is certain. Perhaps it was meant to be read.
- [i] p[ro]-[i] m[er]: virtually certain.
- Li, "entered." Characteristic of EA 185-86 is *i* as thematic vowel in forms of *erebu*; see EA 185:20, 26, 36, 40; 186:26, 50, 87. The only parallels are EA 127:19; 137:34, 42; 138:12, 134. These forms may not be provincial aberrations; note Old Babylonian [i]-[e]-[a]-[i], R. Whiting, Jr., *Old Babylonian Letters from Tell Amarna* (see EA 14, n. 9), no. 2.6.
- [i] i-na URU pa-*dy*-(ru)-mi: there is no reference in the parallel passage (EA 186:50-52) to a place called Pabum, which is otherwise unknown, and in context it is hard to see what role the place might have played. The scribe omitted a sign in lines 26, 28, 31, 69, and possibly 60 (*i*-[i]-na-pa-mi-[i]-na). Throughout the letter *-mi* is regularly attached to the verb (27 times).
- δ L.L.S.A.GA [2. ma-mu-a]e-ba-at-pi: almost certainly not enough room for GA[Z. M]B . . .
- [i] i-na-mi: following Laodsberger in Bottéro, *Habiru*, p. 98.
- [i] i-na-mi: once it is recognized that *erebu mi* can mean "to enter into (the presence)," the restoration seems virtually certain; see esp. EA 283:11; 286:10.
- a-na-mu-i* ((ir)): assuming the *ir* should have been erased like the preceding *Waschelbaken*.

- ba-la 'a'-a-si*: the alleged *ba-la* is actually written much closer than in the copies, making *ba* very probable.
- A parenthetical remark referring to Amanharpe's replacement?
- Synaux ("converted perfect?") and meaning (banishment?) unclear.

EA 186

Another report on the Egyptian traitor

TEXT: VAT 1724.

COPIES: WA 193; VS 11, 107.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Bottéro, *Habiru*, pp. 100ff. (lines 12-69).

[To the king, my lord, my god, my Sun: Message of Mayazana, the ruler of Hasi, your servant, the dirt beneath your feet. I fall] [at the feet of the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, [7 times and 7 times. As I am] a loyal] servant of [the king], my lord, [my god], my Sun, I serve the [king], [my lord, my god], my [Sun], together with (my) brothers and [my] sons, loyal servants of the king, my lord, my god, my Sun. [No]ne that [we would] die beneath the feet of the king, [my] lord, my [Sun], my god.

12-27 A[s for] [Am]anharpe, the ruler of Tušulru, when the 'Apiru captured (*Maqzibisa*,² a loyal city of the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, plundered it, and) burned it down, they [with] [to] [Aman]harpe, the ruler of Tušulru, and Amanharpe, the ruler of Tušulru, [kept giving food along with . . . to] the 'Apiru. *Gilana*, a loyal city of the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, the 'Apiru captured, plundered it, burned it down, and then took refuge [with] [Aman]harpe, the ruler of Tušulru, and [Aman]harpe, the ruler of Tušulru, kept giving food along with . . . to the 'Apiru.

28-34 [*Magd*]a[ra],³ too, a loyal] city of the king, [my] lord, my god, [my Sun], the 'Apiru captured, plundered it, [burned it down], and then they took refuge with [Aman]harpe, the ruler of [Tušulru], and [Aman]harpe, the ruler of [Tušulru], kept giving food along with . . . to the 'Apiru.

35-42 . . .⁴

43-85 And there was [Hasi, a loyal city of the king, my lord]. The 'Apiru [raided Hasi, a loyal city] of the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, [and] the loyal servants of [the king], my lord, my god, my Sun, [and] the loyal servants of the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, personally [conquered]⁵ the 'Apiru. But 40 'Apiru [the 'Apiru] took

refuge with Amanharpe, the ruler of Tušultu. We be[and] th[er]e the 40 'Ap[ir]u were [with Amanharpe, the ruler of Tušultu], and [my] brother[s] and [my] [son]s, servants of the king, my lord, [my] god, my Sun, [their] chariots and entered] the presence of Amanharpe, the ruler of Tušultu. They said to Amanharpe, "[Hand over] the 'Ap[ir]u, the traitors to the king, [my] lo[rd], [my] god, my Sun, so we can demand a reckoning of th[em] fo[r] having cap[tured] cities of the king, my lo[rd], [my] god, my Sun, and fo[r] having raided [His], [a city of the kin]g, my lord, my god, my Sun." (64-85) [He ag[ree]d to hand over the 'Ap[ir]u. I was going to r[emove] the 'Apiru, but he to[ok] his [servants] and [went off] to the 'Apiru. . . .] . . . from his city. [And] I knew his crime, but he went [off] to] the 'Ap[ir]u. [What] can I do? . . .] I have sent [. . . to the king, my lord, my] god, [my] S[un], . . .] . . . Like . . . [. . .] he raised [ag]ain[st] the king, my lord, my god, [my] Sun, [and] again[st] his lo[yal] land. But we listen [to the words] of the king, my lord, my [god], [my] Sun [. . . And] as to his having said [to the king, my lord], my god, my Sun, [. . .] . . .

NOTES

1. [2a]m-ma BA.UG. [ni-mu-ni] *Gistekkal* before *nimū*? Cf. EA 362111.
2. URU.KI [ma-ah-26-ib]-i²⁶: cf. EA 185:17, Against URU [i-u-30-ai]-i³⁰ (Knaulzon, followed by Bottero): (1) it does not fill the break; (2) it seems highly unlikely that the 'Apiru destroyed Amanharpe's own city and still gained his support; (3) after their forays they seem to retreat to Tušultu (Greenberg, *Hahipiru*, p. 42, n. 13). Against my reading is the fact that nowhere else in EA 185-86 is a city name preceded by URU.KI. I assume influence of the immediately following URU.KI *kiki*.
3. URU [ma-ag-ā]-[i]: cf. EA 185:29. Note, however, the absence of determinative ki at the end.
4. Filling of another city, presumably Urtu: cf. EA 185:37-41.
5. [-(du-ki)-u-mi: *adks* without an object? (. . . MB') 46 i-[pu-3]u-mi, "they waged war"? (Cf. EA 185:44-45.)
6. [i-ka-3a-2u]da.
7. 2i-[2a-26-3]u-mi: cf. EA 185:52 and n. 6.
8. [a-la]-4a-at.
9. [mi-na] i-pu-3a-aa: cf. EA 74:63; 90:22; 91:25f.; 104:26f.; etc.

EA 187

A daughter sent to the Pharaoh

TEXT: BM 29860.
COPY: BB 77.

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Saly to the kin]g, my lord, [my god, my Sun; Mess]age of Šaciya, the ruler of [Eni]šasi, yon[er] [ser]vant, the dirt and [et] the f]eet of the king, my lord. I [fall] [a]t the feet of the king, [my] lord, my god, my Sun, 7 times and 7 times.

9-16 As I am the loya[al] servant of the king, my lord, my god, [my Sun], in this place, and Enišasi¹ is a city of the king, my lord, [my] god, my [Sun], I am guarding [the p]lace² of the king, [my] lo[rd], my god, my Sun, *where I am*. t6-21 [. . .] 22 And I herew[ith] send my daughter to the [pa]lace, [to] the king, my lord, [my] god, my Sun.

NOTES

1. URU *o-mi-ša-30-3-2*; see Rainey, *Tel Aviv* 2 (1975) p. 15; Ničman, *UF* 20 (1988) pp. 188f.
2. Reading not certain; t6 [ša-ic-ia . . .] (see Introduction, sect. 5).

EA 188

Message lost

TEXT: C 4793 (12237).
COPY: WA 208.

[. . . I fall at the fee]t of the king, my [god], my] Sun, [7 times] and 7 times [A]s I am . . . [. . .], and as I [2]m a [loyal] servant of the ki[ng], my] god, my Sun, and [. . .] . . . [. . .]

NOTES

1. Sign more like DINGIR than EN (Gordon).
2. The sign in line 8 is not *a*, as it begins with two horizontals (Gordon).

EA 189

Etrakkama of Qadesh

TEXT: VAT 336.
COPIES: WA 142; VS 11, 108.

To the king, my lord: Message of Etrakkama, your servant. I fall at the feet of my lord, my Sun, 7 times plus 7. My lord, I am your servant, but the wicked Biryawaza has gone on defaming me in your sight, my lord, and when he was defaming me in your sight, *then* he took my entire paternal estate along with¹ the land of Qudu, and sent my cities up in flames. 13-20 But, I assure you, the commissioners of the king, my

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lord, and his magnates know my loyalty, since I said to the magnate Pu-juutu, "May the magnate Pujuuro know that [. . .] ."

Reverse

1-8 [. . .] . . Biryawaza. Thus do I serve you along with all my brothers, and wherever there is war against the king, I go, together with my troops, together with my chariots, and together with all my brothers. 9-18 Since Biryawaza had allowed all of the cities of the king, my lord, to go over to the 'Apiru in Tahsi and Upu, I went, and with your gods² and your Sun leading me, I restored from the 'Apiru the cities to the king, my lord, for his service, and I disbanded the 'Apiru. 19-27 May the king, my lord, rejoice at Enakkama, his servant, for I serve the king, my lord, together with all my brothers. I serve the king, my lord, but Biryawaza caused the loss of all [your] lands.³ His intention⁴ is solely injustice, but I am [your servant] forever.

NOTES

1. See EA 122, n. 1. Or did Biryawaza cut off the paternal estate from the land?
2. Perhaps "your god."
3. On the verb, see EA 97, n. 1.
4. [pa-ua-šal].

EA 190

A letter from Egypt

TEXT: Ash 1893, 1-41: 411

COPY: Sayce, *Tell el Amarna*, no. 4.

[. . . *Guard*] the land of the king, [your] lord, [and guard] Pujuuro, [your] . . . [. . . Be on your guard, and guard *Qud* šu, and guard . . .],² the garrison city [of the king].

6-12 . . .³

NOTES

1. Sign forms and formulaic expressions indicate the Egyptian origin of EA 190, which was sent either by the king or by a high Egyptian official. Restorations: us-jur (lines 1-2, not usjur-mi! see Rainey, *UF* 6 (1974) p. 306, on lines 3-4) and [wa-š na-šal] na-ša (line 3), following Na'aman, *Political Disposition*, p. 73ⁿ, n. 63.
2. Na'aman, *ibid.*, proposes [URU ša-mi]-di.

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EA 191

3. No connected sense: *šf-pa*, "crust" (line 9); H(UR SAG), "magnate" (?) (line 10); L . . .] *šw-šw* (line 10); L . . .] *šw-šw* (line 12).

EA 191

Preparations for war

TEXT: C 4760 (12192).

COPY: WA 125.

To the king, my lord: Message of Arswaya, the ruler of Rubizza. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord. The king, my lord, wrote to me to make preparations before the arrival of the archers of the king, my lord, and before the arrival of his many commissioners.¹

9-10 And could I think of not serving the king, my lord?

11-21 May I join up² with the archers of the king and his commissioners so that, having everything prepared, I might follow them wherever they are at war against the king, my lord, and we capture them (and) give his enemies into the hand of the king, our lord.

NOTES

1. As used here, high officials and military commanders.
2. Against Knudtzon, *Lebaldan-ose* is first person, not third, and singular, not plural.

EA 192

Message received

TEXT: VAT 1674.

COPIES: WA 126; VS 11, 109.

[Se]y (1) to the king, my lord, both Sun and my god: Message of [A]rswaya, the loyal servant [of] the king, my lord, [and the di]er at the feet of the king, my lord. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, both Sun and my god, 7 times and 7 times.

10-17 [I have] heard the words [of the king], my lord and my god, [and here]with [. . .] . . . [the king], (my) lord. And the king, [my] lord, must [not] neglect his country.

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EA 193

On the alert

TEXT: VAT 1608.
COPIES: WA 161; VS 11, 110.

To the king, my lord: Message of Tiwati. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times plus 7 times.

5-24 I am indeed in the city; I am very much on my guard. My horses and [my] troops (and my chariots) are for the service of the king, my lord, and (when) the archers (come forth),¹ I will accompany them. (The ruler (who) does not serve the king curses.)² I have indeed oxen and sheep and goats ready, in accordance with your command on the tablet to me.

NOTES

1. If there was writing on the edge; see VAB 2/1, p. 718, note b, and copy.
2. "x-[sa-ut]: the assumed asyndetic construction is found on lines 17-18.
3. Or, "will curse", perhaps not "rule," but simply "man."

EA 194

A tradition of service

TEXT: VAT 1705.
COPY: VS 11, 112.

To the king, my lord: Message of Biryawaza, yo[ur] servant. I fall[] at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times. 6-16 Behold, we are servants (who) have served the king from time immemorial. Like Šuarna, my father, like . . . [. . .] . . ., [my] grandfather, . . . 17-27 . . . [. . .] to gu[ar]d the cities. And the expedition¹ that you sent to Naḥūma . . . [. . .] 28-32 [. . .] is very afraid.² [I] herewith [s]end[] my brother [t]o you.

NOTES

1. Collation shows only the horizontal of the fairly clear TAR of copy; Na'amao, *Political Disposition*, p. 74*, n. 65, "ba[ra]k[is]-ian Na'amao, UF 20 (1988) p. 180, sees here the beginning of Biryawaza's defense against charges by the king, perhaps of robbing a Babylonian caravan (cf. EA 7:75).
2. KASKAL-*na* (written *ia*). Instead of "expedition," perhaps "caravan"; see n. 1.

3. The gender (feminine) suggests that the subject is a city.
4. [o-*se*]-*al-*ka**.

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EA 195

Waiting for the Pharaoh's words

TEXT: C 4761 (I2230)
COPY: WA 96.

Say to the king, my lord: Message of Biryawaza, your servant, the dirt at your feet and the ground you tread on, the chair you sit on and the footstool at your feet. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, the Sun of the dawn (over): *li-me-ma* (peoples),¹ 7 times plus 7 times. 16-23 My lord is the Sun in the sky, and like the coming forth of the Sun in the sky (you) servants await the coming forth of the words from the mouth of their lord. 24-32 I am indeed, together with my troops and chariots, together with my brothers, my Apiru and my Suteans, at the disposition² of the archers, wheresoever the king, my lord, shall order (me to go).

NOTES

1. GĪŠ.GIR.GĪB : *gīš-gir-gi*.
2. That the same scribe wrote EA 195 and 201-6 (so also Goolbsy; cf. Knudtzon, VAB 2/2, p. 1294, n. 2) is indicated by (1) a constellation of unusual sign-forms (note esp. *li*, *ni*, *bi*, *wa*, *li*, *se*); (2) the presence only in these letters (not in EA 202) of *7-ia a-na pa-ri 7-ia-*am*-ni*; and (3) the appearance only in these letters of *a-na-ma a-na-bi ga-du ERIN.MES-in 2 (ga-du) GĪŠ.GIR.MES-in*. Therefore, *4UTU li-ni-ma* in EA 203:6 rules out *li-*se*-ma* and makes *li-me-ma* certain. Following Rainey, *Parallels*, chapter 2, read KIN as an abbreviation of KIN (NIM) *li-ni* MES, "dawn(s)." The West Semitic plural formation *lim + ima* argues for *li(*ni*)-ma*. The following lines elaborate the image of the rising sun. Cf. the hymns celebrating the sun breaking over the horizon, giving life to men and rousing them from deathlike sleep and torpor (John A. Wilson, ANET, p. 368, Amenophis III; *ibid.*, pp. 370a-371a, Amenophis IV).
3. See EA 174, n. 2.

EA 196

Unheard-of deeds

TEXT: VAT 1592 + 1710.
COPIES: WA 159 (+) 143; VS 11, 111.

[Š]aly to the king, my lord: Message of Biryawaza, [you] servant. I fall [at] the feet of the k[ing], (my) [lord], 7 times pl[us] 7 times. 5-12 I obeyed when the k[ing], my lord, sent [. . .] *šayra*, [I am] on my [guard],¹ and [I serve] [the k[ing], my lord], *šay* *šay* [*šay*].² May [I

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larg[*i*] [force] of the king, my lord, co[n]e [immediately]⁴ aga[inst the king of H]at[ti].⁵ The garrison of the king, my lord, has left (and).⁶ 12–19 I [am the servant of] the king [that has] [ordered the (city)] for [the troops, but] the king, my lord, [should know that] [all] the servants of the king [have gone (run off)]⁷ (to) H]at[ti], and all the commissione[rs of the king], my [lo]rd, who came [forth].⁸ 20–26 (...) . . . 27–33 (...) my wives [and] my [daughters-in-law],⁹ and [be put] in [his] lap!¹⁰ (anyone) [present].¹¹ Now [the king], [my] lord, has been informed of this affair. No one has ever done such a th[ing].¹² 33–43 Moreover, may the king, [my] lord, send me 200 men to guard [(to guard)] the cities of the king, [my] lord, [no]t [I] see the archers [of the king], my lord. The king, my lord, must not neglect this deed that Biridašwa [has] committed, for he has moved the land of [the king], my lord, and [his] cities to rebellion.

NOTES

- [m]a-(i)-(a-k)at cf. EA 14201; 1937; 23010.
- i-n[*a* iš-t] am-mi cf. EA 5524; 1803; 18711; 28611. A vertical wedge is visible before *am-mi* (cf. *am-mi*, line 40).
- [a]i-bi-š EMIN GAJ: cf. EA 11726; 33710; 17, 22.
- See note 3, and cf. EA 8252; 9335; 10230; 36719.
- a-na m[*a* i]r . . .
- ma-šar [LUGAL-EN-in-šar-pa] cf. *šar-šar* in EA 19719. For a quite different reading of lines 30–31, see Na'aman, *UF* 20 (1988) p. 187, n. 33.
- [p]a-(u)-šar-šar if *šar* is the correct reading, then the context requires something like this; (p)-šar-šar, "the blocked (road)?"
- [i]š-šar-šar-šar from *abāta (abāta?)* is rare but attested (EA 145120).
- [d]y-(n-n) following Maynard, *JSOR* 9 (1925) p. 130.
- [š] G.G.A. cf. E.G.A. = *hallatu* (Mitani, Ugarit; CAD, K, p. 80).
- UR : sn-n] : šu] this seems to have been the gloss, before the erasure. Appropriation(?) of wives and daughter-in-law, and/or violation of the available women, would be unusual changes.
- [ba]š-šar.

EA 197

Biryawaza's plight

TEXT: BM 29826.

COPY: BB 43.

PHOTOGRAPH: BB, pl. 3.

[. . . he] said [to me when] you servants were in A[*dama*]. . . They gave his horses and his chariot to the A[*piru*], and they did not [give them] to the king, my lord. 5–12 And who am I? My (only) purpose is to be a servant. Everything belongs to the king. Biridašwa saw this deed and moved Yamamma to rebellion against me. Having barred the city gate against me, he took chariots from A[*šartu*] but gave both of them to the A[*piru*] and did not give both of them to the king, my lord. 13–23 When the king of Bušūna and the king of H[*alunnu*] saw (his), they waged war with Biridašwa against me, constantly saying, "Come, let's kill Biryawaza, and we must not let him go [. . .]. . . .⁵ But I got away from them and stayed in [. . .] Dimašqa, for [by myself] how can I serve the king, my lord?" 23–31 (They) keep saying, "We are servants of the king of H[*attu*]," and I keep saying, "I am a servant of the king of Egypt." A[*šawaya*] went to K[*issa*], took (some of) A[*šutu*'s] troops, and captured Šaddu. He gave it to the A[*piru*] and did not give it to the king, my lord. 31–42 Now, since Itarkama has caused the loss⁶ of the land of K[*issa*], and since A[*šawaya*] along with Biridašwa is causing the loss of A[*pu*], may the king look carefully to his land lest the enemies take it. Since my brothers are at war with me, I am guarding K[*innin*], the city of the king, my lord. May the king indeed be at one⁷ with his servant. [May] the king [not] abandon his servant, [and may] the kings of [. . . (and)] the kings of A[*pu*] see what I have seen the archers.

NOTES

- See Na'aman, *UF* 20 (1988) p. 183.
- 1G1.2¹ despite the possible dual marker *pa-na*.
- yi-(ma) : na-mu-šar following Rainey, *UF* 6 (1974) p. 306. On the subject of the verb, see Kühne, p. 7, n. 34 (end).
- On the pronominal suffix, see *BASOR* 213 (1973) p. 53. The implication that Biridašwa took only two chariots is somewhat surprising and perhaps not right (mistaken use of the dual suffix).
- [š]-šar of the second sign only one oblique wedge is visible; against this is its distance from the area that is Biryawaza's present concern, as noted by Na'aman, *UF* 20 (1988) p. 183, n. 23.
- Perhaps "made a stand"; cf. Na'aman, *ibid.*, p. 184.
- 23 LUGAL-EN-in-šar-šar : cf. line 16, *šar-šar* (line 36) and *šar-šar* (line 41).
- See EA 97, n. 1.
- šar-šar (UD) šar-šar, or perhaps šar-šar (šar)-šar-šar.

NOTES

1. On the scribe of EA 201-6, see EA 195, n. 2. Probably all seven letters were written about the same time and perhaps in the same place. Another possibility is that Biryawaza sent his scribe from town to town; but see EA 204, n. 1.
2. *hadbu ilšr* (also EA 202:13; 247:15): Pintore, *GA* 11 (1972) p. 125, n. 136, thought the phrase refers to a wild dog (wolf, jackal) cut off from the pack and living isolated and miserable; but cf. EA 359:19ff.
3. *ak-le-ku* (also EA 202:14): cf. EA 198, n. 2.
4. See EA 174, n. 2.

EA 202

Ready for marching orders (2)

TEXT: VAT 331.
COPIES: WA 135; VS 11, 115.

Say to the king, my lord: Message of Amawaše, your servant. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times. 7-14 You have written me to assist the archers. Who am I, a mere dog, that I should not go? 15-19 I am herewith, along with my troops and my chariots, at the disposition of the archers.¹

NOTE

1. See EA 201.

EA 203

Ready for marching orders (3)

TEXT: VAT 330.
COPIES: WA 134; VS 11, 116.

Say to the king, my lord: Message of Šabdi-Milki, the ruler of Šašimi, your servant. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times. 9-19 You have written me to make preparations before the arrival of the archers. I am herewith, along with my troops and my chariots, at the disposition of the troops of the king, my lord, wherever they go.¹

NOTE

1. See EA 201.

EA 204

Ready for marching orders (4)

TEXT: VAT 328.
COPIES: WA 133; VS 11, 117.

Say to the king, my lord: Message of the ruler of Qanu, your servant. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times plus 7 times. 9-20 You have written me to make preparations before the arrival of the archers. I am herewith, along with my troops and along with my chariots, at the disposition of the troops of the king, my lord, wherever they go.¹

NOTE

1. See EA 201. The fact that here and in the two following letters the ruler's name is not given suggests that it was not known to the scribe, which also suggests that he did not write on the spot.

EA 205

Ready for marching orders (5)

TEXT: BM 25861.
COPY: BB 78.

PHOTOGRAPH, BB, pl. 7; C. Pfeiffer, *Tell el Amarna and the Bible* (Grand Rapids, 1963), p. 11 (obverse only).

Say to the king, my lord: Message of the ruler of Tubu, your servant. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, the Sun of (all) peoples, 7 times plus 7 times. 9-18 You have written to me to make preparations before the arrival of the archers. I am herewith, along with my troops and my chariots, at the disposition of the troops of the king, my lord, wherever they go.²

NOTES

1. See EA 195, n. 2.
2. See EA 201.

EA 206

Ready for marching orders (6)

TEXT: C 4762 (12229).
COPY: WA 151.

Say to the king, my lord: Message of the ruler of Nazibā, your servant. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times plus 7 times. 9-17 You hav[e w]e[ten] to make preparations before the arrival of the archers, and I am herewith, along with my troops and my chariots, at the disposition of the archers.¹

NOTES

1. Gordon saw traces below the *-ra* of *ḫa-ap-ra* and the *ḫi* of *ḫi-ḫi-zi*, "probably: *za*".
2. See EA 201 and 204, n. 1.

EA 207

A loyal servant

TEXT: VAT 1593.
COPIES: WA 194; VS 11, 118.

[S]ay to the king, my lord, [my *šm*]: (Message) of Ip[re]..., your [servant. I fall a]t the feet of m[y] lord. 4-9 I have obeyed a[ll the orders of the king] on the [tablet]. Look, I am a [loyal] servan[*t*] [that] has served [the king. Why]o [is a loyal] servan[*t*] like m[e]? 9-14 As to your saying, "Why?" must the commissioner of the king [sp]eak twice the wo[r]d of . . . Look, [I . . .] 15-24 [I . . .] like the Sun and like [Baal].¹ In fact, Puḫur² has not protected me. Lost to the 'Apiru: ḫa-I . . .]³ from (my) control are all the cities of the king.

NOTES

1. In [ki-h-ti] 7 [ša-si] cf. EA 114:56.
2. *ḫi-ḫi-zi* [a-a]ḫ-ḫi [mi-na]mi . . . a-ḫa-ḫi x (x)ḫ: for *zagbu*, cf. EA 116:8; 131:41; 145:23; for *nitan*, "why," cf. EA 126:14, 49.
3. Cf. EA 159:5ff.
4. The reference to the commissioner Puḫur(n) locates the origin of this letter somewhere in the area of his administration; see Heick, *Besuchungen*, p. 183, n. 96.
5. Reading of the gloss is uncertain, see Bottéro, *Habiru*, p. 105, and Greenberg, *Elchiptu*, p. 44.

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EA 208

Inquiry urged

TEXT: VAT 1699.
COPY: VS 11, 119.

1-7 [. . .] . . . 8-14 to me and . . . [. . .], and I sent him (*immo*)*diately*. And look, there is Puḫura.¹ Ask him about the cities of the king, my lord, [w]h[e]ther the cities of the king, my lord, are safe.

NOTE

1. See EA 207, n. 4.

EA 209

Abounding joy

TEXT: AO 2036.
COPIES: WA 149a; Thureau-Dangin, *RA* 19 (1922) p. 101.

[S]ay to the king, m[y] lord: Message of Zikamimi, yo[n] servant. I fall at [yo]ur feet.¹ 7 times and 7 times I fall before the king, my lord. 7-11 Your cities where I am are happy.² Look, I am your servant forever. And look, I am your servan[*t*] and you[r] [šm].³ 11-16 And look, you[r] cities where I am are cities of the king, my lord, and if I have [o]ur guarded⁴ y[ou]r cities, may the gods where you are *smash* my [he]ad.⁵

NOTES

1. Written ANSE.ME5-pt.
2. The joy of a subordinate usually implies a message from the king (cf. EA 141-45; 144; 147; 154; 362), perhaps telling of his arrival (cf. EA 227); see also Ne'eman, *Lingering new Words*, pp. 401ff. Noted features of this letter: the place, not its ruler, is happy; the language alludes to the vassal's duty of protecting the place where he is (lines 11f.).
3. Cf. EA 288:66.
4. See Rainey, *UF* 6 (1974) p. 306.
5. [SY AG²-ba-di (qaqqad)]? virtually certain.

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EA 210

Message lost

TEXT: VAT 1876.
COPIES: WA 223; VS 11, 120.

Too fragmentary for translation.¹

NOTE

1. Addressed to an Egyptian (see Introduction, n. 82). Line 3: "[Message of] Zšam[im]."

EA 211

Inescapable orders

TEXT: VAT 1648.
COPIES: WA 140; VS 11, 121.

Say to the king, my lord: Message of Zitiyara[ra], your servant. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times, both on the back and on the stomach. 7-15 As I am a servant of the king, my lord, he has obeyed the order that the k[ing], m[y] [lord], s[e]nt (r)to hi[s] servant. I am the servant of the king, my lord. 15-25 As the king is like the Sun from the sky: *ya-nu-ma*, we are unable to ignore the order of the king, my lord, and we obey the commissioner that you have placed over me.

EA 212

Perfect obedience

TEXT: VAT 1587.
COPIES: WA 141; VS 11, 122.

To the king, my lord: Message of Zitiyara, your servant. I fall at the feet of my lord 7 times and 7 times. 6-14 Just as we have alw[ays] acted—as all the mayors (have acted)—*-(p)²* shall I act towards the king, my lord. I am the servant of the king, my lord. Every order of the king, m(y) lord, I do obey.³

NOTES

1. Probably a reference to his predecessors; cf. EA 74:10ff.; 194:10ff.; 253:11ff.

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EA 213

2. *hi-(g)ia-am*.

3. The word order, with the object at the beginning of the sentence, emphasizes the completeness of the obedience.

EA 213

Preparations under way

TEXT: BM 29859.
COPY: BB 76.
PHOTOGRAPH: BB, pl. 6.

Say to the king, my lord, my Sun, my god: Message of Zitiyara, your servant, the dirt under your feet, and the mire you tread on. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, my Sun, my god, 7 times and 7 times, both on the stomach and on the back. 10-15 I have heard the message of the king, my lord, my Sun, my god, to his servant. I herewith [m]ake the preparations in accordance [w]ith the command of the king, my lord, my Sun, my go[d].

EA 214

Message lost

TEXT: VAT 1607.
COPIES: VS 11, 123.

Too fragmentary for translation.¹

NOTE

1. A letter to the king; possible mention of Zitiyara on line 11 (cf. EA 211-13).

EA 215

A warning

TEXT: BM 29843.
COPY: BB 60.
PHOTOGRAPH: BB, pl. 7.

To the king, my lord, my Sun, my god: Message of Bayawa, your servant. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, my Sun, my god, 7 times and 7 times, on the stomach and on the back. 9-17 Should I *Yauhamu*

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THE AMARNA LETTERS

not be here within this [year, a]ll the lands are [lo]st to the 'Apiru. So give life to your lands.

NOTE

1. The position of *hi* at the beginning of the sentence and *nu* before the predicate suggests Canaanite influence (cf. *ABW*, p. 560) and argues against taking *hi* as asseverative (Campbell, *Chronology*, p. 100, n. 70).

EA 216

Obedience to the commissioner

TEXT: C 4784 (12202).
COPY: WA 195.

Say 1(0) the king, my lord: Message of Bayawa, your servant. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, [my] Sun, 7 times and 7 times. 6-11 I have heard the message of the king, my lord, to his servant to make preparations before the arrival of the archers. [I] am now making preparations [in] accordance with the command of the king, my lord. 12-14 I obey most carefully the words of Maya, the commissioner of the king, my lord. 15-20 May the king, my lord, send arc[her]s to his servants. To men who do not obey the king, will the king, my lord, give thought??

NOTES

1. The script of EA 216 is quite different from that of EA 215. Between Yanbarna and Maya a new scribe was employed.
2. Or, "the king, my lord, will give thought" (threat), but not "may the king . . ." which is incompatible with the indicative *yimlakn*.

EA 217

About Maya

TEXT: VAT 1604.
COPY: VS 11, 124.

Sa[y] to the k[ing], m[y] lord: Message of . . . [. . .], yo[ur] servant. I fall at the feet of the king, [my] lord, [my] Sun, 7 times and [7] times. 7-12 I have heard all the words of the king, [my] [lord], and indeed [. . . of] the king, [my lord . . .]. 13-23 And wh[om] I that I would not obey [M]aya, the commissioner of the king, [my] [lord]? May

EA 218

the k[ing], m[y] lord, send troops to his country, so that [I can] guard. The men who have not obeyed Maya, they shall . . . [. . .]—all of (th)em.

NOTE

1. Here and in the following lines interpretation is very dubious.

EA 218

Preparations and obedience

TEXT: VAT 1696.
COPY: VS 11, 125.

[Say] to the king, my lord: Message of . . . , the ruler of . . . I fall [at the feet of my lord, 7 times] and [7 times]. 7-12 I have heard all the words of the king, m[y] lord, [and n]ow I [am preparing] what the king, my [lord], [. . .] 12-17 And I obey the words of Maya [very carefully]. May the king, my lord, send troops to his countries.

NOTE

1. *a-[su-ki-ra]*: cf. *i-[su-ki-ru]* in EA 216:10; 226:15; 316:23.

EA 219

Message lost

TEXT: VAT 1720.
COPY: VS 11, 126.

Too fragmentary for translation.¹

NOTE

1. Letter to the king; on the reverse, probably reference to gifts or tribute (25 30 GAL.DMES . . .) K0.GF3, "30 goblet[s . . .], of gol[d]").

EA 220

Awaiting the commissioner

TEXT: C 4785 (12226).
COPY: WA 150.

Say to the king, my lord, (my Sun) Message of Kurtaya, the ruler of . . . nu, your servant, the dirt at the feet of the king, my lord, my Sun,

and the mire you tread on. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, my Sun, 7 times and 7 times. 9-14 I have heard all the words of the king, my lord, my Sun. Who am I that I should not obey the commissioner of the king, my lord, my [Su]n, in accordance with the command of the [kin]g, my lord? 15-24 I am [in]deed guarding the [ci]ty of the king, my lord, my S[un], until the arrival of the commissioner of the king, my lord, my Sun. May the king, my lord, know that the city of the king, my lord, my Sun, where I am, was raided and my father struck down. 25-31 I am indeed guarding the city of the king, my lord, my Sun, where I am, until the arrival of the commissioner of the king, my lord, my Sun, to learn about the lords of the king, my lord, [my Sun].¹

NOTE

¹. There is an Egyptian notation of some sort, in black ink, on line 2; similarly, EA 221, 225, 262, 294, 326.

EA 221

Message received

TEXT: VAT 341.

COPIES: WA 136; VA 11, 127.

Say to the king, [m]y lord, the Sun from the sky: Message of Wiktasu, your servant. I prostrate myself at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times. 8-10 I have heard the message of the king, my lord, to me. 11-16 I am indeed guarding the city of the king, my lord, until the word of the king, my lord, arrives (again).¹

NOTE

¹. Egyptian notation at the end of the tablet; see EA 220.

EA 222

Giving all

TEXT: VAT 1683.

COPY: VS 11, 128.

Say to the k[ing], [my lord]: Message of Wik[asu], your servant. I prostrate myself at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times.

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6-11 A[s] to the king, my lord's, having written me, I *be[rewith]* give to the king, [my] lo[rd], whatever [I] have on ha[nd].

NOTE

¹. *a* [no-m].

EA 223

Compliance with orders

TEXT: VAT 1870.

COPIES: WA 220; VS 11, 129.

Say to the k[ing], my lord, the Sun fr[om] the s[ky]: Message of En[che]r[ut]a, your servant. I prostrate myself at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times. 7-10 Whatever the king, my lord, orders, I shall prepare.²

NOTES

¹. **en-^h[d]er-^h[d]*: following Thureau-Dangin, RA 19 (1922) p. 100, n. 1; see EA 367.

². Or "I prepare."

EA 224

From ancestral days

TEXT: BM 29849.

COPY: BB 66.

PHOTOGRAPH: BB, pl. 15.

Say to the k[ing], [my lo]rd, my [Sun]: Message of Šum-Add[ā], the serv[ant] of the king, my lord. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times. 7-13 As to the king, my lord's, having written for grain . . . , it has been destroyed. May the king, my lord, ask his commissioners whether our ancestors, since the days of Kusuna, our ancestor, always shipped (grain).

NOTE

¹. Nisnamu, *Political Disposition*, p. 78*, n. 7B, proposes (*sh-^hut*, "millet." In the next line, despite the *Glossary*, *su-^hu-^h* is probably not a gloss.

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EA 225

Perfect obedience

TEXT: C 4787 (12222).
COPY: WA 131.

Say to the king, my lord: Message of Šamu-Adda, the ruler of Šamḫuna. I fall at the feet of my king 7 times and 7 times. 7-13 I obey all the orders of my king, and I obey all the orders of the commissioner whom my king appoints over me.¹

NOTE

r. Egyptian notation follows (see EA 220).

EA 226

Cultivating and plucking

TEXT: VAT 1610.
COPIES: WA 157; V5 11, 130.

S[ay] t[o] the king, [my] lord: Messa[ge] of Šipḫu-ti[ya], your servant], and the dirr a[t] your [feet]. I fall at the feet of the king 7 times and 7 times. 6-14 May the king, my lord, know that hi[s] city is safe and sound, and all the orders the king, my lord, has sent to his servant, I am obeying. I am indeed cultivating : *šp-ri-šw* and plucking [g, and so I] must keep going out² [of] my city. I am, however, preparin[g] the . . .], and food and [strong drink]³ before the arrival of the expeditions⁴ of the [K]ing, my lord, [because I obey all the orders of the king, my lord,

NOTES

1. Cf. EA 244:8ff.
2. š] 13 [šl-qr-šw-šw]: this permits a normalization *šw* conforming to established usage.
3. Cf. EA 53:12.
4. Perhaps "expedition."

EA 227

The happy king of Hazor

TEXT: BM 29830.
COPY: BB 47.

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EA 228

Say to the king, my lord: Message of the king of Ḫayutu. I fall at the feet of my lord. 5-13 Look, I have the cities of the king, my lord, under guard until my lord reaches [me].¹ And when I heard these words of yours and of the coming forth of the Sun to m[e],² I rejoiced accordingly.³ I pondered⁴ (the news), and my jubilation came forth.⁵ There was peace,⁶ and the gods themselves looked (favorably) on me.⁷ 13-17 And I have indeed prepared everything until the arrival of the king, [my] lord. Look, whenever [Ḫay]i, your messenger, arrives,⁸ the heart [rejoice] exceedingly. 18-19 [I] my [bear] my joy [is great].⁹ When . . . [. . .] 20-28 . . . [. . .].

NOTES

1. *aw* [ia-šl]: cf. lines 9, 13; *aw* for *ama*, probably an archaic survival. On lines 5-18, see Na'aman, *Lingering over Words*, p. 403.
2. *aw-šl-u* ²UTU *an-ta-šl*: following Rainey, *UF* 7 (1975) p. 422, n. 35. If the writer's joy comes, not from the news of the king's journey, but simply from having heard from the king, another possibility is *aw-šl-šl* (*šalaf*) . . ., "the coming forth of the life of . . ."; cf. the message (breath) of the king as life-giving, EA 100, n. 9.
3. *šw-šw-šw-ma*: if right, another archaism; cf. *šw-šw*, CAD, K, p. 409, and *šw-ma* (A), *AHU*, p. 470b. The alternative, *šw-šw-ma*, "when u (the message?) was heard," introduces a repetition that is hard to explain.
4. *šp-ri-šw-tal* [r. *šl-šl*]: *šp-ri*, with Rainey, *ibid.*, who postulates another archaism, uncontracted *šp-ri-ma*, and restores *ri-šl-šl* (cf. line 19).
5. *AHU*, p. 1563, *šl-šw*, "my hand."
6. *šw-ta-mu*: indefinite third plural?
7. *šp-pal-šw* (sic *šp-pal*) *an-ta-šl*: following Na'aman, *Political Disposition*, pp. 55f.
8. The durative *šp-ri-šw* argues for a general statement and against "when Ḫayni arrived," though it is very likely that Ḫayni was in fact the bearer of the message to which EA 227 is the answer. See also EA 200, n. 5.
9. Five restorations.

EA 228

An invitation to recall the past

TEXT: BM 29831.
COPY: BB 48.
PHOTOGRAPH: BB, pl. 16.

Say t[o] the king, my lord: Message of 'Abdi-Ṭiši,¹ the ruler of Ḫayutu, your servant. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times ((at the feet of the king, my lord)). 10-17 As I am the loyal servant of

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the king, my lord, I am indeed¹ guarding Ḫasutn together with its villages for the king, my lord. 18–25 May the king, my lord, recall: *ia-aa-hu-ur-mi* whatever has been done against Ḫasura, your city, and against your servant.

NOTES

1. M. Weippert, ZDPV 82 (1966) p. 322, proposed *ir-dir-ḫi*, 'Abd(-)Idi, and is followed by Na'aman, *EF* 30 (1988) p. 188, n. 38.
2. *a-ma-aa-ma-mi* following Gordon.

EA 229

Message lost

TEXT: VAT 1689.

COPIES: WA 178; VS 11, 131.

Say to the king, my lord, [my Sun]: Message of 'Abdina, *(the ruler of . . .)*, your servant, the [loyal] servant of the [king], my lord, the dirt [at the feet of the king, [my] lord, [my Sun]. I fall at the feet [of the king, my lord, . . .].

NOTE

1. Both the reading of the personal name and the assumption of room sufficient for LO URD are uncertain.

EA 230

An unusual message

TEXT: BM 37646.

COPY: Scheil, *Mémoires*, p. 309.TRANSLATION: Na'aman, *Lingering over Words*, p. 401.

Say to the king, my lord: Message of Yama, your servant. I fall at your feet. 4–10 As I am your servant in the place where I am, the places where I am are all cities belonging to you. As your *(loyal) servant*,² I have indeed guarded your *commissioners*.³ 11–16 If a soldier of yours comes to me, then I guard [him]. And the cities where I am are all really guarded for you. 17–22 Just ask your *commissioners* whether they are really guarded.⁴ May you know that all your cities are safe and sound.

NOTES

1. Na'aman, *Lingering over Words*, p. 401, proposes that Yama is a mistake for Maya, the name of a well-known Egyptian commissioner (*rāhija*). This reading would explain the claim to offer protection to *ḫasutnūtū*, a term that only very exceptionally does not refer to the local rulers, the "mayors." If Maya is the writer, EA 230 is the only communication of an Egyptian official written in cuneiform.
2. *ir (k)-te-hu*; cf. VAB 2/2, p. 1601. Na'aman, *ibid.*, reads *ir-di-ka*.
3. If this letter is written by a vassal, then *ḫasutnūtū*, as in EA 237 and 317, must refer to Egyptian officials, for a mayor's duty was to protect, not other mayors, but Egyptians.
4. *aa-āi-ur*; see Otten, *MIO* 1 (1955) p. 157, n. 30. For *ir*, "really," cf. EA 255:25, *mādiḫi najrat*, "it is much guarded."

EA 231

Following orders

TEXT: VAT 1599.

COPIES: WA 212; VS 11, 132.

[Say to the king, my lord, *the Sun from the sky*: Message of . . . the ruler of . . . the servant of the king, the dirt at [his] feet, the ground on which [he] treads. [I fall at the feet] of the king, my lord, [the Sun from] the sky, 7 [times and 7 times]. 11–19 In accordance with what the king, my lord, [the Sun f]rom the sk[y], *wrote*, "[G]ua[r]d the city of [the king] where you [are]." I have [g]ua[r]de[d] the city in accordance with what the king, [my] lord, [my god], my Sun, *wrote*].

EA 232

Who would not obey?

TEXT: VAT 1640.

COPIES: WA 93; VS 11, 133.

Say to the king, my lord, the Sun from the sky: Thus Sarcra, the ruler of Akka, the servant of the king, the dirt at his feet and the ground on which he treads. I prostrate myself at the feet of the king, my lord, the Sun from the sky, 7 times and 7 times, on the chest: *ba-aa-ma-ma* (belly) and on the back: *sa-uh-ru-ma*. 12–20 Who is the ruler,² should the king, his lord, write to bif[m], that would not obey? In accordance with what has issued from the mouth of the Sun from the sky, so is it done.

NOTES

1. On the gloss, see Rainey, *UF* 3 (1971) p. 170.
2. Or simply "the man."

EA 233

Work in progress

TEXT: C 4767 (12201).
COPIES: WA 94.

Say to the king, [m]y [lord], the Sun from [the sky]: Message of Satarna, the ruler of Akka, your servant, the servant of the king and the dirt at his feet and the ground on which he treads. I prostrate myself at the feet of the king, my lord, my god, the Sun from the sky, 7 times and 7 times, both on the stomach and on the back. 16-20 He is obeying what the king, my lord, has written to his servant, and preparing everything that my lord has order[ed].¹

NOTE

1. *yf-qt-bi*: if Knudtzon's restoration of *-bu* is correct, then lines 16-20 state a general rule: "he obeys . . . and prepares everything that my lord orders." On line 2, Egyptian hieratic notation, in black ink, *sw*, "prince"; see Introduction, n. 73.

EA 234

Like Magdalu in Egypt

TEXT: VAT 1641.
COPIES: WA 95; VS 11, 134.
TRANSLATION: Albright, *ANET*, pp. 484f.

To the king, [m]y lord, the Sun from the sky. Message of Satarna, the ruler of Akka, your servant, the servant of the king, and the dirt at his feet, the ground on which he treads. [I] prostrate myself at the feet of the king, my lord, the Sun from the sky, 7 times and 7 times, both on the stomach and on the back.

10-35 May the king, my lord, heed the word of his servant. [Zirdamyasda des]er[re]d [B]ityawaza. He w[as] with Šnta, a . . . [. . .] of the king, in the gar[ri]son city.² He said [n]ot[h]ing [t]o him. Our came³ the troops of the king, my lord. He³ w[as] with them in Magidda. Nothing was said to hi[m].⁴ Then he deserted to me, and

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EA 235

Šura has just written to me, "Hand over Zirdamyasda to Bityawaza." But I have not agreed to hand him over. Akka is like Magdalu in Egypt,⁵ and has the king, [my lord], not [heard] that Šnta is turned against me? May the king, my lord, [send] his [com]missioner to fer[re] him.

NOTES

1. URD 'UN'-[i]l[un?]: on UN = *magaru*, see EA 116, n. 2; *Al magaru* occurs in EA 76:36 (Sumr) and 190:3 (Karnidn). The text does not say that the Zirdamyasda's desertion occurred in this place (so Pintore, *OÄ* 11 [1972] p. 307).
2. *at*, "to go/come forth," as said of troops, always refers in EA to leaving Egypt; the text does not say that the troops have departed (so Albright).
3. Perhaps the subject is plural ("they"), referring to Šura too. Zirdamyasda and Šura might have joined the Egyptian forces in Gaza and marched with them as far as Megiddo.
4. Since *lā* is consistently written *la-a* (lines 16, 26, 30), we should read, with Knudtzon, *la-a qa-bi*, not *la a-qa-bi*, "I said nothing" (so Albright); note also the nominative *mi-ma*.
5. The point of the comparison is not clear: whether the thorough Egyptianisation of Akka (Albright), or its loyalty (Nielsen, *Political Disposition*, p. 21ⁿ, n. 84). The reading and interpretation of what follows is also quite uncertain. In line 34, read *yf-qt-ru* (cf. EA 270:24), since *šlru* (Knudtzon) is always imperative.

At the end of line 10, Egyptian hieratic notation, in black ink, see EA 238.

EA 235 (+) 327

An order for glass

TEXT: BM 29815 (+) C 4791 + VAT 1882 (with join = C 12235).
COPIES: BB 32 (+) WA 206 (without join).
PHOTOGRAPH: BB, pl. 6.

Say to the king, my lord, my Sun, my god, the Sun from the sky: Message of Satarna, your servant, the dirt at your feet. [I] prostrate myself at the feet of the king, my lord, my Sun, my god, 7 times and 7 times, (at the feet of the king, my lord). 11-21 (EA 327:1-11) [I] have obeyed the [o]rders of the king's comm[issioner] to me, to guard² the citie[s] for the king, my lord. I have guarded very carefully. M[ore]over, the king, my lord has writ[ten] to me for glass,³ [and] I herewith send 50 (units),⁴ [their] weight, to the king, my lord.

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NOTES

1. The long distance join, made without comment, is Gordon's. Apart from other considerations, Knudtzon's assumption in EA 235:11 of *šm-qr* . . .] was in itself very improbable; *šm-qr* and *magānu* in the same letter would be without parallel, and any repetition of the proskynesis is confined to the scribe who wrote EA 63 (probably omitted by mistake in 64-65) and 284, and to 184. A mistaken repetition of "at the feet . . ." in line 10, as in EA 228, is in itself most plausible.

2. *na-šar*; similarly *š-na-šar* (line 15 = 3275); see EA 137, n. 15.

3. ^{na} ^{šar} ^{na} ^{šar} ^{na} ^{šar} almost certainly an error for *šm-qr* (AHU p. 191); cf. EA 314, 323.

4. The unit of measure is not clear. "50 (pieces), (total) weighed out"? Cf. EA 326:16.

EA 236

Message lost

TEXT: Ash 1893 I-41: 423.

COPY: Sayce, *Tell el Amarna*, no. 16.Too fragmentary for translation.¹

NOTE

1. Perhaps a reference to the ruler of Akko as an enemy.

EA 237

Under fire

TEXT: VAT 1701.

COPY: VS II, 135.

[. . .] . . . They have [captured Lab[*ayā*] and attacked the cit[ies] of the king, my lord. They have captured, too, the cities of the king, my lord, that the king, my lord, [put] in [my] charge to guard. 8-18 May the king, my lord, be informed that they have [captured the (c)ities of] the king, my lord, [but] the city in which I am I now keep under guard until I see the eyes of the commissioner of the king, my lord. 18-24 Indeed, from the day I send this tablet to the palace, they will be attack[ing me], and . . . [. . .]

NOTE

1. Cf. EA 230:9.

EA 237 is probably from the writer of EA 238; see VAB 2/2, p. 1304.

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EA 238

Absolute power

TEXT: VAT 1867.

COPIES: WA 219; VS II, 136.

[To] the magnate, [my] lord: [Message of Bayadi, [your] servant. I fall [at] the feet of the magnate, my lord. 4-14 As to the cities that the magnate, my lord, put in my charge, they have seized all the cities, and the city in which I am I cannot guard. So may the magnate, my lord, s[en]d me a 50-man garris[on] to guard [the city] until the arriv[al] of the magnate, [my] lord. 15-21 And [. . .] 22-23 again[st . . .] and the son of Š[*a*]Š[*ama*] and H[*agut*] [. . .] and they have captured [. . .] and attacked [me]. They have captured the cities of the magnate, my lord, so may the magnate, my lord, be informed. It is you who can keep us alive, and it is you who can put us to death.²

NOTES

1. For chronological difficulties with this reading, see Campbell, *Canaanol-* 20, p. 108.

2. An expression of apparently absolute power, which one would have expected to be ascribed only to the king; cf. Lorton, *The Juridical Terminology of International Relations in Egyptian Texts through Dynasty XVIII* (see Introduction, n. 73), p. 73, n. 25. Perhaps the fact that plural "you" is addressed implies the king as well as the magnate.

EA 239

Evil talk

TEXT: VAT 334.

COPIES: WA 139; VS II, 137.

Sa[*y*] to] the king, my [l]ord: Message of Baduzar[*a*], your [se]rvant. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times. 8-17 I will execute every order of the king, my lord, until the magnate comes forth and fetches everything the king, my lord, has ordered. 18-27 As we are the servants of the king, may the magnate come forth and know our crime, [] or in yo[ur] presence he has been speak[ing] evil of your servants.³

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NOTES

1. *+pa-at-ir*: *ippat* + *-ir* (pronominal suffix) rather than overhanging vowel; cf. *ippat* (EA 196:33, 42), *+pa-at* (EA 289:9).
2. The form *y3-ig-ib3* is singular; see Luce, *UF* 19 (1987) pp. 84f. If *y3-ig-ib3*, then "has spoken."

EA 240

Message lost

TEXT: VAT 2198 + 2707.
COPIES: VS 11, 240.

Too fragmentary for translation.²

NOTE

1. A promise of service to troops and chariots.

EA 241

A servant from ancient times

TEXT: VAT 1678.
COPIES: WA 148; VS 11, 139.

Say to the king, my lord, my god, the Sun: Message of Rusmanya, the ruler of Sarana, your servant, the dirt at your feet, the mire on which you tread, the footstool of the feet of my lord. (I fall at the feet of the king, my lord), 7 times and 7 times. 9-11 As I am a servant of the king from time immemorial, it is the king, my lord, I serve. 12-16 And here and now the king, my lord, [...], the king, my lord. 17-20 Another he smote¹ through my services, for I am a loyal servant of the king, my lord.

NOTE

1. *'da' k'ir*: perhaps infinitive + *i* (*JCS* 4 [1950] pp. 169ff.), and perhaps to be rendered as passive, "another was smitten," on the assumption of no distinction of voice in the infinitive.

EA 242

Request granted

TEXT: VAT 1670.
COPIES: WA 114; VS 11, 140.

Say to the king, my lord and my Sun: Message of Buzidiya,² the ruler of Magidda, the loyal servant of the king. I prostrate myself at the feet of the king, my lord and my Sun, 7 times and 7 times. 9-17 I herewith give what the king, my lord, requested:³ 30 oxen, [x sheep and goats, x birds: [...]] [...]. And indeed, [the [...]] of the U⁴and⁴ are at peace, but I am at war.

NOTES

1. On the Buzidiya in a Kamid-el-Luz letter and his relationship to the ruler of Magidda, see M. Görg, *ZA* 76 (1986) p. 308.
2. *ŠU.KAM.MI (mitu) šarr* [self?]; see *JCS* 31 (1979) pp. 247f.; *NABU*, 1988, no. 36.
3. 30 GUD.MEŠ 12 [x UZ.MEŠ x ig-gu]-*na-te*. cf. GUD.MEŠ UZ.MEŠ 2 MUŠEN MEŠ (EA 161:2); after *nadāku*, "I give," a restoration [... šu-š] *na-te*, "I prepare" (cf. EA 193:21; 227:13), is not likely.
4. [K]UR.KI following Na'aman, *Political Disposition*, p. 15ⁿ, n. 35, who also reads at the beginning of the line [a-n]a [E]N.

EA 243

Around-the-clock defense

TEXT: VAT 1669.
COPIES: WA 113; VS 11, 141.

[Say] to the king, [my] lord and my Sun and [my] god: Message of Buzidiya, the loyal servant of the king. I fall at the feet of the king, [my] lord and my Sun and my god, 7 times and 7 times.

8-22 I have obeyed the orders of the king, my lord and my Sun, and I am indeed guard[ing] Magidda, the city of the king, my lord, day and night: *še-lu*.² By day I guard (it) [f]rom the helds with chariots, and by night² on the wall[s] of the king, my lord. And as the warring of the [A]p[er]n in the land is severe, may the king, my lord, take cognizance of his land.

NOTES

1. *G₁₂-lu (mūla)*: there is no reason to postulate **mūlu*. The reading of the gloss follows Rainey, *UF* 7 (1975) p. 405.

2. [le-]a: following Rainey *ibid.*
 3. BAO.MEŠ (6a); the reading is certain; the MEŠ, perhaps *ušese*. I assume accusative of place, but (*šiu*) *dšimš* is another possibility. Another reading that has Būdiya guarding the walls seems unlikely.

EA 244

Besieged by Lab'ayu

TEXT: C 4768 (12200).

COPY: WA 244

TRANSLATIONS: Albright, *ANET*, p. 485; Campbell, *Shechem*, p. 193; H. Freydank in A. Jepsen, ed., *Von Sinai bis Nubukadnezar: Dokumente aus der Umwelt des Alten Testaments* (Stuttgart and Munich, 1975), p. 101; Seux, *Textes du Proche-Orient*, pp. 51f.

Say to the king, my lord and my Sun: Message of Biridiya, the loyal servant of the king. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord and my Sun, 7 times and 7 times. 8-17 May the king, my lord, know that since the return (to Egypt) of the archers, Lab'ayu has waged war against me. We are thus unable to do the plucking: *Ko-Zi-ra* (*harvesting*),¹ and we are unable to go out of the city gate: *ša-ab-ri* because of Lab'ayu. 18-24 When he learned that archers were not coming out,² he immediately [determined] to take Magidda. 25-33 May the king save his city lest Lab'ayu seize it. Look,³ the city is consumed by pestilence, by . . .⁴ So may the king give a garrison of 100 men to guard his city lest Lab'ayu seize it. Look, Lab'ayu has no other purpose. He seeks simply the seizure⁵ of Magidda.

NOTES

1. The gloss is difficult. That what precedes is to be read ZO.SI.GA *ša-qa-ni*, "plucking," must be considered certain; see Meissner, *AU* 5 (1928-29) p. 184; Kraus, *Staatliche Viehhaltung im altbabylonischen Lerna* (Amsterdam, 1966, p. 13); Finkelstein, *RA* 65 (1960) pp. 61ff. On the left of the gloss marker, there is nothing about harvesting fields (to Campbell). Middle Babylonian *baqānu* replaces Old Babylonian *baqānu*; the apparent gainive *baqāni* rather than the expected accusative *baqāna* remains unexplained. The gloss may not be read *ga-zi-ra* (Hebrew *gāzar*, "to cut off, divide"), which, difficulties of form aside (Piel infinitive *gāzaru*?), would imply cutting up the sheep, not plucking or shearing them. Therefore, *qā-zi-ra*, "harvesting," seems much more likely (cf. Hebrew *qāšar*), but not as a gloss to what precedes; rather, as another activity, the gloss marker simply indicating a non-Akkadian word. Interference in the basis of agrarian life, flocks and fields, seems to belong to the topos "under siege" (cf. EA 226.10ff.).

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2. *š-š-(ša-š)šā-ma*: following Gordon; this reading fits with the nominative *šūm* in the following line.

3. [Šu-m-ri-š]; only one vertical visible. Rainey, private communication, 18 January 1981, after collation, reads [šā-ri-š].

4. On *šamma* (also line 38), see EA 35, n. 3.

5. The reading *š(š)-ri* has yielded no satisfactory sense. Dhorme, *RB* 33 (1924) p. 16, n. 3, also published in *Revue Edouard Dhorme* (Paris, 1951), p. 501, n. 4, proposed "the dust (of Sheb)," but one does not die from the dust of the netherworld; see also JCS 7 (1953) p. 79, n. 8. It should be noted that neither sign is clear (so also Gordon). Albright and Campbell (see headnote) propose "šamma," apparently from context. Perhaps *šā-ri* (Hebrew *šāhar*), a virtual gloss and synonym of Akkadian *šūm*, which is here treated as singular.

6. 'šā-ša-ri-me: more likely than *šāšime*, "destruction" (Gordon); note *šāšaru* in lines 18 and 37. The inverted word order, object-verb, stresses the former.

EA 245

Assignment of guilt

TEXT: BM 29855.

COPY: BB 72

PHOTOGRAPHS: BB, pl. 3; Barnett, *Illustrations*, p. 16

(obverse).

TRANSLATIONS: Albright, *ANET*, p. 485; Campbell, *Shechem*, pp. 198f.

Moreover,¹ I urged my brothers, "If the god of the king, our lord, brings it about² that we overcome Lab'ayu, then we must bring him alive: *ša-ša-ma* to the king, our lord." 8-14 My mate, however, *having been put out of action: ša-ra* (having been shot), I took my place behind him: *šā-ri-ur-šā* and rode with Yašdata.³ But before my arrival he had struck him down: *ma-ab-šā-šā*. 15-23 Yašdata being truly your servant, he it was that entered with me into battle. May . . . [. . .] the life⁴ of the king, my [lord], that he may bring peace to everyone⁵ in [the lands of] the king, [my] lord. 24-35 It had been Surata that took Lab'ayu from Magidda and said to me, "I will send him to the king by boat: *a-na-yi*."⁶ Surata took him, but he sent him from [Jinnarunu] to his home, for it was Surata that had accepted from him: *ša-šā-šā* his ransom. 36-47 Moreover, what have I done to the king, my lord, that he has treated me with contempt: *šā-šā-šā-šā-šā* and honored: *šā-šā-šā-šā-šā* my less important brothers?⁷ It was Surata that let Lab'ayu

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go, and *ji* was Surata that let Ba'l-mehi go, (both) to their homes. And may the king, my lord, know.

NOTES

1. A two tablet letter; see EA 101, n. 1.
2. On the singular referent of DINGIR.MES and on *ji-pa-ta* as singular, see Izre'el, *UF* 19 (1987) pp. 82f.
3. On lines 8ff., see Campbell.
4. TIL.LA-af: perhaps *hadat* refers to provisions rather than to a message from the king, *il-la-af*, "auxiliaries," should not be ruled out.
5. *lu-pa-a*[3-3i-ib]: but only the base and causative conjugations are attested in EA: a[1]i[1-1] is concluded.
6. Finley, *Word Order in the Clause Structure of Syrian Akkadian* (see Introduction, n. 8), pp. 67f., shows that in lines 24-45, where the word order is subject-verb-object, Surata is the guilty one is stressed.
On the gloss, cf. Ermut(?) dialect *ana*, "gear, equipment," in *opim* *á-kaír* = *á-ou-ou* = *á-ou* (*Emar* 6/4, no. 545: 136').
7. Biridiya's "brothers" were probably his confederates joined with him against Lab'ayu (cf. lines 1ff.), and therefore, "small" (*šubáilá*) would seem better understood in terms of rank rather than age ("younger").

EA 246

The sons of Lab'ayu

TEXT: VAT 1649.

COPIES: WA 111; VS 11, 142.

Say to the king, my lord and my Sun: Message of Biridiya, your loyal servant. I fall at the feet of the king, m[y] lord and my Sun, 7 times and 7 times.

8-9 I have heard the mes[sage] o[ff] the ki[ng] . . .

Rev. 1-11 and [. . .], and indeed [. . .] you are [. . .].¹ May the king, my lord, know. The two sons of Lab'ayu have indeed gi[v]en² their money to the 'Apiru and to the Šu[š]ians³ in order to wage war against me.⁴ [May] the king [take cognizance] of [his servant].

NOTES

1. *á-ba-af* *á-á-á-á* [. . .]: following Rainey, *UF* 5 (1973) p. 250.
2. *á-af* [á]n-na: the copy of VS 11 is exact.
3. LU.MES KUR s[u]-ú: following Na'aman, *Political Dispersion*, p. 40; cf. EA 195:27ff.; 318:11ff. For the writing, cf. EA 122:34, 123:14, 297:16.
4. [á-á] *á-á-á-á* [á-á-á-á] to [UG]U-á: cf. Greenberg, *Ugaritic*, p. 45.

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EA 247

Who am I?

TEXT: C 4792 (12236).

COPY: WA 207.

[. . .] 7 times [I fall]. 8-13 As to the mes[sage that] the king], my lord, sent[] to me, I have obeyed very [carefully the orders] of the king, my lord. 14-21 Wh[er]e am I, a [man] do[ng],² that I would not [grant³ a request] of the king], my lord? I am in[deed] prepar[ing for] the king, [my lord, what⁴ he or]dered. [. . .].

NOTES

1. The script and the clay make the provenience of this fragment clear; it was Megiddo. The character of the message favors Biridiya, the ruler, rather than Yašdata, the exile (cf. EA 248).
2. On *halhu šáhu*, if the correct reading, see EA 201, n. 2.
3. If *šáhu* occurs in the next line, then a form of *šáhu*, "to grant," not *šáhu*, "to heed," seems required, for in common parlance one did not heed requests; one either granted or refused. See JCS 31 (1979) pp. 247f. The form should be indicative (*šáhu*, *šáhu*); cf. the indicative forms of *šáhu* in EA 201-2, 319-20, 322.
4. Or *šá-á*: 21 [á-á-á-á] LUGAL-á; cf. EA 144:21; 155:12, 39; 216:11; 220:13; 323:11.

EA 248

An exiled ruler

TEXT: BM 29842.

COPY: BB 59.

Say [to] the king, my lord, Sun and god: Message of Ya[š]data, the loyal servant of the king and the dirt at the feet of the king. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, Sun and god, 7 times and 7 times.

9-22 May the king, my lord, know that everything the king, my [] lord, gave to [his] servant, the men of *Tub[un]ak*:¹ [have made off with];² they have slaughtered³ my oxen and driven me away. So I am now with Biridiya. May the king, my lord, take cognizance of his servant.

NOTES

1. URU *á-á-á-á* [á-á-á-á]: there seem to be traces of the beginning of one horizontal, and above these the traces of a slightly indented, slightly oblique wedge, in the letters of Biridiya and Yašdata, NA is written with rather sharply

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oblique wedges, but the absence of this feature here could be due to the position of the sign on the upper corner of the reverse.

2. (*naḥ-ia mi*: here transitive, with *AHU* p. 726; otherwise, *CAD, N/1*, p. 220.

3. *na-ah-ju* = *nakir*; *AHU* p. 721, *CAD, N/1*, p. 177b.

EA 249

A desperate vassal

TEXT: VAT 1603.

COPIES: WA 149; VS 11, 143.

[Sa]y [to] the king, [my] lo[rd]: Message of Ba'lu-UR.SAG, your servant. I fall at the feet of my lord. 4-10. As to the king, my lord, may he know that my men are doing service in the day(s) of Mil[ki]lu.¹ What have I done to Milkilu that he should treat my men (even) more unjustly than his own servants? (To Tagi, his father-in-law, he has handed over his own servants!)² 10-17. And what can I myself do? They have been strack down because I am a [lo]yal servant of the king. And so they cannot [se]rve you. [May] the king [re]lease me!³ Where [...] Milkilu and Lab'ayu? 17-30 [...] . . .

NOTES

1. *UD.MEŠ-ia UD (im) mi-ju ki-ir*, first restoration with Albright, *CAH 2/2*, p. 106, and Na'ama, *Political Disposition*, p. 62, whom, however, I do not follow in the assumption of (a) by haplography and of UD by mistake for *na*, so that the men are going over to (and) Milkilu. My own solution, perhaps hardly less desperate, is *udim*, "to serve, do service"; see *CAD, N/1*, pp. 309f., and note its use in the periphery.

2. For a somewhat different version of the difficult lines 8-10, see Albright and Na'ama, *ibid.* (note 1).

3. *mi-ju*: the difference from Knudtzon's meaningless *mi-ju* is minimal and easily concealed in a damaged sign; UGU (*el? mi-ju?*), "because," as in *EA 250:17*.

4. [*ju-ir na-ia*: the petition, a measure of the vassal's desperate situation, is to be released from obligations of service and dismissed (cf. *EA 126:47*). Another proposal is Na'ama's in *Political Disposition*, p. 61: [*ju-ir na-ia* . . . "And the king wrote to me, 'What have Milkilu and Lab'ayu done?' (*ju-ir na-ia* *mi*)."] Although this accounts for more of the text, it postulates too many features that are exceptional (*el-ia*; indirect personal object expressed by the accusative verbal suffix; singular verb with plural subject) or unparalleled (*ju-ir-na*, interrogative pronoun).

EA 250

A calling to account

TEXT: C 4769 (12204).

COPY: WA 154.

TRANSLATIONS: Albright, *ANET*, pp. 485f.; Campbell, *Shabon*, pp. 202ff.

Say [to] the king, my lord: Message of Ba'lu-UR.SAG, your servant. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times. 4-8. May the king, my lord, know [that] the two sons of the rebel against the king, my [lord], the two sons of Lab'ayu, have made their purpose the loss of the land of the king, my lord, over and above the loss that the [to] father caused.¹ 9-14. May the king, my lord, know that—for how many days!—the two sons of Lab'ayu have been calling² me to account, (saying), "Why have you handed Gitipadalla [to] the king, your lord, a city that Lab'ayu, our father, had taken?" 15-27. And the two sons of Lab'ayu keep talking to me like this, (saying), "Wage war against the people of [G]ina for having killed our father. And if you do not wage war, then we will be your enemies." I have answered the two of them, "May the god of the king, my lord, preserve me from waging war against the peop[le] of [G]ina, servants of the king, my lord." May it seem rig[ht] in the sight of the king, my lord, and may he sen[d] one of his magnates to Biryawaza [to tell] him, "You will ma[ke] against the two sons of Lab'ayu or [yo]u are a rebel against the king." 28-30. After this may the king, my lord, wr[ite] to me, "Do [the] work of the [kin]g, your [lo]rd, against the two sons of Lab'ayu."³ 31-36 [...] . . .⁴ 37-39 . . . in order to⁵ cause the loss, with the assistance of the two of them, of the [re]b[el] of the lan[d] of the king, my [lord], over and above what Milkilu and Lab'ayu caused to be lost. 40-47. And thus the two [son]s of Lab'ayu keep saying to me, "Wage war against the king, your lord, as our father did, when he attacked Sunama, Burigluwa, and Ujaraba, and deported the evil ones, li[st]ing up the loyal." He also seized Gititimmunima, and he cultivated the [fiel]d⁶ of the king, your lord." 48-54. But I have answered the two of them, "May the god of the king, my lord, preserve me from waging war against the king, my lord. It is the king, my lord, I serve, along with my brothers that give heed to me."⁷ The messenger of Milkilu does not move from the two sons of Lab'ayu. 55-60. Now, Milkilu is indeed trying to cause the loss of the land of the king, my

lord, but I have no other purpose: the king, my lord, I serve, and the orders that the king speaks I obey.

NOTES

1. *arki ta*, "over and above what": see *BASOR* 211 (1973) p. 51, n. 6. On *golluqa*, see *EA* 99, n. 1.

2. *ru-ū* [*ru-ū*]: *ru-ur*: reading certain.

3. *i-[pa-uš]-mi ipi*: cf. *ipša ana mašhi epēta*, *EA* 287:71f.

4. The reading of lines 31-36 is so difficult that it seems best to avoid even a very tentative version. The following may be noted: (1) the copy of WA omits line 31 and makes the first line of the reverse the last line of the obverse; (2) end of line 33 has *pa-ū* [*pa-ū*]-*ru-ur* (*pa-ū*) (with copy, also Gordon); (3) any readings at the beginning of lines 34-35 must be considered extremely tentative; (4) line 35: . . . *a Zi x šzll zt*.

5. The reading of the beginning of the line is extremely difficult, with not one sign certain. Gordon doubted *a-š[ā]* and suggested that there was only one sign (*š[ā] ta?*).

6. According to Gordon, *ur EGIR-ki-[ā]*, but only *EGIR-ki*, the alleged *-[ā]* being in reality the *šy* of the end of line 23. The meaning is deduced from context; perhaps, with Na'aman, *Political Disposition*, p. 60, "hunterland."

7. *šp-šp-šp im-ni*: *ša-šp-šp ke-en-ni*: (1) *šp* (substantive, not adjective, and therefore not necessarily *šp*) seems preferable to an unmotivated dual pronominal suffix (*-ni*; so *BASOR* 211 [1973] p. 53); (2) the reading *-[šp-šp]* is also possible, though perhaps less likely and the interpretation of the apparent gloss are tentative in the extreme (*šp*, for *šp*, like *šp*; *šp*, indicative, circumstantial clause, "lifting," i.e., "promoting, favoring"; gloss marker specifically non-Akkadian syntax). See also *EA* 180, n. 2.

8. *šp-šp-šp*: *šp* [*šp*]: the dubious sign is very probably "definitely," according to Gordon) not *šp* or *šp*; *GAR* is likely. This reading guides the interpretation of *šp*, "he opened," i.e., "loosened the earth and made the fields ready for further cultivation, as the verb was used in both Akkadian and Hebrew. If this is the correct reading, the context suggests that this action was seen as a sign of appropriation. Na'aman, in Helzer and Lipiński, eds., *Society and Economy in the Eastern Mediterranean* (c. 1500-700 B.C.), *Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta*, 23 (Louvain, 1988), p. 185, sees here a reference to the crown lands in the Jezreel Valley. Gloss marker used to mark a quasi-logogram (U: *GAR* *sp*)?

9. Note that the word order—object—verb ("The king, my lord, I serve")—stresses the object of service (also lines 56-59); cf. too lines 59-60 ("the orders the king speaks I obey").

EA 251

A reckoning requested

TEXT: BM 29862.

COPY: BB 79.

PHOTOGRAPH: BB, pl. 6.

Let the king inquire of them if I have taken anything from a mayor. Let him speak in the presence of the king, and let the king, my lord, demand of me a reckoning. 6-15 You have now in this way been negligent. Surely the king, my lord, is going to learn of this matter, and the king, my lord, will reply to me as he will, and the order of the king I will obey.

NOTE

1. Cf. *EA* 280:25ff. A two-tablet letter (cf. *EA* 707, n. 1), perhaps addressed to the king (so Gordon) rather than to an Egyptian official (so Kaudron).

EA 252

Sparing one's enemies

TEXT: BM 29844.

COPY: BB 61.

PHOTOGRAPHS: BB, pl. 21; Barnett, *Illustrations*, p. 15

(obverse).

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Albright, *EASOR* 89(1943) pp. 30f.; B. Halpern and J. Huehnergard, *Or* n.s. 51

(1982) pp. 227f.

TRANSLATIONS: Albright, *ANET*, p. 486; Campbell, *Sabotage*,

p. 195.

Say to the king, my lord: Message of Lab'ayu, your servant. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord. 5-9 As to your having written me, "Guard the men who seized the city," how am I to guard (such) men? It was in war that the city was seized. 10-15 When I had sworn my peace—and when I swore the magnate swore with me—the city, along with my god, was seized. He has slandered me: "šp-šp-šp (I am slandered) before the king, my lord. 16-22 Moreover, when an ant is struck, does it not fight back? and bite the hand of the man that struck it? How at this time can I show deference? and then another city of mine will be seized? 23-31 On the other hand, if you also order, "Fall down beneath them so

they can strike you," I will d(ə) (r).⁵ I will guard the men that seized the city (and) my god. They are the despoilers of my father,⁶ but I will guard them.

NOTES

1. *š sur me*: following Rainey (private communication), confirmed by collation. My understanding of this difficult letter is that, in time of peace under oath, to which an Egyptian official was also a party (lines 10f.), certain enemies of Lab'ayu had taken his paternal city or village but had then been captured and come into his hands. On learning of this, the crown had written him, telling him to keep his prisoners in custody, presumably for investigation by Egyptian officials. Lab'ayu points out that he was not the aggressor, as he seems to have been accused (lines 13f.), and that his striking back was only natural (lines 16-19). Moreover, deference now to royal orders would only encourage further aggression (lines 20-22). Nevertheless, if ordered to do so, he would let his enemies have the upper hand, even kill him. Faithful vassal, he capitulates, and returning to the beginning of the letter, he promises to guard the prisoners.

2. The subject is the Egyptian official; see Halpern and Hoelmeigard (headnote), p. 220, n. 14. Cf., too, EA 253:16f.

3. See RA 69 (1975) p. 149, n. 1.

4. *i-ša-ba-tu*; on *šabātu* (properly of the *n-u* class), to renounce personal action out of deference to authority; see Durand, *AEM* 17, no. 32, note c.

5. *i-pf-šu*: very dubious.

6. By taking the statue or image of the family god, Lab'ayu's enemies had violated his family.

EA 253

Neither rebel nor delinquent (1)

TEXT: VAT 1589.

COPIES: WA 155; VS II, 144.

[To the k[ing], [my lord] and my {Sun}: Thus I, Lab'ayu, your {servant} and the d[irect] on which you r[es]ad I fall [at] the feet of the k[ing], my {lord}, 7 times and 7 times. 7-10 I have [ob]eyed the orders [that] the king, my lord, [w]rote to m[e] on a tablet. 11-17 [A]: [I am] a servant of the king [like] my {father} and my [g]t[and]f[ath]er, a servant [of] the k[ing] from [his] d[ay]. I am [not] a rebel [and] I am not delinquent in duty. 18-25 Here is my act of rebellion and here is my delinquency: when I entered Gazru, I [spoke] as follows: "The king treats us kindly."¹ 25-31 Now there is indeed no other purpose [for me] except the service of the king, and whatever [the k[ing] orders], I [ob]ey. 32-35 May the king keep me in [his char]ge of my commissioner [in order to] guard the c[ity] [of the king].

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NOTES

1. See EA 157, n. 3.

2. "The king punishes/will punish us" (Rainey, *AOAT*, 81, p. 70) would require a quite different and, it seems to me, quite implausible interpretation of EA 253-54.

EA 254

Neither rebel nor delinquent (2)

TEXT: VAT 335.

COPIES: WA 112; VS II, 145.

TRANSLATIONS: Albright, *ANET*, p. 486; Campbell, *Shechem*, pp. 196f.; Oppenheim, *LPM*, p. 125; Freydanik, in A. Jepsen, ed., *Von Sinuhe bis Nebukadnezar* (see EA 254, headnote), pp. 254f.; Seux, *Textes du Proche-Orient*, pp. 52f.

To the king, my lord and my Sun: Thus Lab'ayu, your servant and the dirt on which you tread. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord and my Sun, 7 times and 7 times. 6-10 I have obeyed the orders that the king wrote to me. Who am I that the king should lose his land on account of me? 10-15 The fact is that I am a loyal servant of the king! I am not a rebel and I am not delinquent in duty.¹ I have not held back my payments of tribute; I have not held back anything requested by my commissioner. 16-29 He denounces me unjustly,² but the king, my lord, does not examine my (alleged) act of rebellion. Moreover, my act of rebellion is this: when I entered Gazru, I kept on saying, "Everything of mine the king takes, but where is what belongs to Milkilu?" I know the actions³ of Milkilu against me! 30-37 Moreover, the king wrote for my son.⁴ I did not know that my son was consorting with the 'Apiru. I herewith hand him over to Addaya. 38-46 Moreover, how, if the king wrote for my wife, how could I hold her back? How, if the king wrote to me, "Put a bronze dagger into your heart and die," how could I not execute the order of the king?⁵

NOTES

1. See EA 253, n. 1.

2. On *yi-ba-lu* as singular, see Izre'el, *UF* 19 (1987) p. 83; on *har'i-šabālu*, "to denounce," see EA 163, n. 4. I take *ša-ba-lu-me* as an infinitive expressing circumstance; cf. the infinitive absolute in biblical Hebrew after a finite verb, and see Paul Joann, S.J., *Grammaire de l'Hebreu Biblique* (Rome, 1947), §233.

3. *šp-šp-šp-šp*: last two signs omitted in Knudtzon's transcription; see Schröder, *OLZ*, 1915, col. 175.

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4. *DUMU.MU-ia (also line 33): an unparalleled personal name, Dumaya (Knudtzon, Oppenheim, Seux), does not seem likely, and *mi-mu-ia*, "my father-in-law" (Albright, *CAH* 2/2, p. 115, u. 7), must be rejected on grounds of grammar (genitive expected in line 31) and especially paleography (the DUMU- and I-signs are quite distinct, and in both instances the sign in question is clearly the former). In view of *DUMU-*u-ia*, at roughly contemporary Thebes, most probably Binsya (Glutz, *BASOR* 204 [1971] p. 20), the same name may occur here. The apparent association, however, of ideas—delivery of a son, readiness to deliver a wife—favors a common noun and a display of provincial learning: Sumerian DUMU MU, "my son," plus Akkadian pronominal suffix. See also EA 3, u. 2.

5. On the Egyptian dockets after the letter, see Introduction, rect. 6.

EA 255

No destination too far

TEXT: VAT 333.

COPIES: WA 144; VS 11, 146.

TRANSLATION: Campbell, *Schochem*, p. 205.

Say [to] the king, [my] lord and my Sun: Thus Mut-Bahl[*u*], your servant, the dirt at your feet, the mire you tread on. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times. 8-11 The king, my lord, send Haya to me to say, "A caravan to Haganabat is this (near) to send on, and (all of you) send it on!" 12-21 Who am I that I would not send on a caravan of the king, my lord, seeing that [Le]b'ayu, my father, [used to] seek the king, his lord, [and] he [himself] used to send on [all] the caravans [that] the king [would send] to Haganabat. 21-25 Let the king, my lord, send a caravan even to Karaduniyaš. I will personally conduct it under very heavy guard.⁴

NOTES

1. The position of *amē* in the sentence argues against its being the deictic particle, and *amēlirona* is not a plural form. The plural imperative *amēn* is perhaps addressed to the entire local administration, but more probably it seems to me, to all whom Haya would meet on his journey.

2. [Ba-*u*-*u*-*u*-*u*]-*u*-*u* or [u-*u*-*u*-*u*]-*u*.

3. Placed at the beginning of its clause, "to Karaduniyaš" becomes an *ultima Thule*.

4. To paraphrase: "Send a caravan even much further, even to Babylon, and I will not only send it on but conduct it there myself, with a large escort."

EA 256

Oaths and denials

TEXT: BM 29847.

COPY: BB 64.

PHOTOGRAPH: BB, pl. 5.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Albright, *BASOR* 89 (1943) pp. 10ff.TRANSLATION: Albright, *ANET*, p. 486.

Say to Yanhamu, my lord: Message of Mut-Bahl*u*, your servant. I fall at the feet of my lord. 4-10 How can it have been said in your presence, "Mut-Bahl*u* has fled. He has hidden Ayyab? How can the king of Pihilu flee from the commissioner: *is-hi-ni* of the king, his lord? 10-19 As the king, my lord, lives, as the king, my lord, lives, I swear Ayyab is not in Pihilu. In fact, he *has been in the field*¹ for two months. Just ask Beu-Elima. Just ask Tadu. 19-28 Just ask Yisuya whether, after he [re]bbed Sulum-Marduk, I went to the aid of Astartu, when all the cities of Garu had become hostile: Udumu, Aduru, Araru, Meštu, Magdelu, Hen-anabi, Sarqu.² (Jayyunu, along with Yabiluma, has been captured.)³ 29-35 Moreover, seeing that, after you sent me a tablet, I wrote to him, before you arrive from your journey, he will surely have arrived in Pihilu. And I do obey [your] orders.⁴

NOTES

1. The rhetoric of defense: a rhetorical question challenging the two charges against Mut-Bahl*u* (lines 4-6); another rhetorical question challenging the first charge (6-20); under oath by the life of the king, twice invoked, denial of second charge, followed by statement of the facts (10-14); invocation of possible witnesses to support denial of implied third charge (15-28); transition ("Moreover") and, by implication, return to the first two charges: assuring Ayyab's presence in Pihilu (19-24), general statement of compliance with orders (25, as against the charge of flight).

2. *is-hi-ni*-*is*: this reading fits the traces, which *is*-[a-ou]-*me* (Albright), though making very good sense ("he is out/has not been here"), does not, cf. *is-hi-ni* at Mari, said of putting troops in camps (*ARMT* 2 23122). Ayyab, in this reading, is still engaged in stamping out the rebellion referred to later in lines 22-28. He might therefore be difficult for Yanhamu to reach, who might then suspect Ayyab's alleged ally of hiding him.

3. This new understanding of lines 15-27 depends on Ni'aman, *UF* 20 (1988) pp. 18ff. Line 20: of the two readings that have been proposed—*gšn'-ba* (Knudtzon) and '*E*' *ia* (BB, followed by Albright)—only the first is possible. The reading *ia* is wrong: of the putative two oblique wedges before the last vertical,

the lower is the end of the middle horizontal in *sa*, the upper a break in the tablet and not writing at all. Besides, only most rarely are personal names written without a determinative (the final vertical of the alleged *sa*). Mut-Baḥlu wishes to deny that after Ayyab's serious crime against a Babylonian—according to Na'aman, robbing his caravan, but the usage of *ganaš* in biblical Hebrew favors kidnapping (cf. EA 8:34ff.)—he gave any (further?) support to the ruler of Aštartu when the latter was faced with rebellion. (If the city Aštartu were the subject of *emmer* [Albright], the form would have to be either *emmer* or *emmerin*.) What remains unclear in this reconstruction is how Mut-Baḥlu, having in some sense broken off relations with Ayyab, could assure Yarḥamu of Ayyab's presence soon in Piḫlu.

4. Does this mean that these cities have been retaken?
5. *Hittites*: first person, following Rainey, *AOAT*, 82, p. 94.

EA 257

Under the yoke

TEXT: VAT 1715.
COPIES: WA 149; VS 11, 147.

{Sa}y (to the king), my {lor}d: {Message of Ba's}lu-meḥir, your {ser}vant. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times. 7-11 As I am the loy[al] servant of the king, may the king, my lord, know {th}at [h]is {city}, along with his servant, is safe and sound. 12-19 As I have placed my {s}neck in the yoke that I carry, may the king, my lord, know that I serve him {with complete devotion, and [..]}Gmate' {s}erves him {with complete devotion}.

NOTE

1. {URU} s-s-?G-ma-te following Na'aman, *Political Disposition*, p. 34. For a different reading, see Rainey, *Biblica* 70 (1989) pp. 570f.

EA 258

Complete approval

TEXT: VAT 529.
COPIES: WA 167; VS 11, 148.

To the king, my lord: Message of Ba'lu-meḥir, the loyal servant of the king. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times.

6-9 Whatsoever the king, my lord, has done to his land is very good.²

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NOTES

1. TEXT: EN EN for EN-la.
2. On the unincised reverse there appears apparently the same hieratic notation as on EA 254.

EA 259

All the news

TEXT: VAT 1582.
COPIES: WA 215; VS 11, 149.

To the k[ing], my [lord]: Message of [Ba'lu-me]ḥir, the loyal servant of the king. I fall[] at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times.

6-8 Whatsoever [I have hear]d¹ I have told (to the king), my [lord]. [..].

NOTE

1. [e]B-m]e. A few lines are missing on the reverse.

EA 260

A plea for royal concern

TEXT: Oppert (see Introduction, sect. 1 and n. 7).
COPY: none published.
TRANSLITERATION: Atzi, *JNES* 27 (1968) p. 170.

Balu-Mer says to the Great King, my lord: I fall at the feet of the Great King, the Sun in the sky, 7 times and 7 times.¹ 6-10 As for me, when the Great King, my lord, commands, I obey the orders of the Great King, my lord, the Sun in the sky.² 11-16 May³ the Great King take cognizance of his servant. I reside in Bir-Tenni, and may the Great King, my lord, take cognizance of his servant.

NOTES

1. On the northern origin of this letter, see Atzi.
2. The shift from present-future *iqabbi* to preterite *šm* cannot be interpreted with certainty; quite probable is "... commanded, I obeyed" (see Introduction, n. 59).
3. The marking for mood is not explicit.

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EA 261

Total obedience

TEXT: BM 29858.

COPY: BB 75.

PHOTOGRAPH: BB, pl. 16.

Say to the king, my lord, my Sun: Message of Dašru, the loyal servant of the king. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord and my Sun, 7 times and 7 times.

7-10 Whatsoever the king, my lord, orders, I obey.

EA 262

Total approval

TEXT: C 4786 (12220).

COPY: WA 127.

Say to the king, my lord: Message of Dašru, the loyal servant of the king. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times.

6-11 Whatsoever the king, my lord, does to his land is very, very good.

EA 263

Robbed of everything

TEXT: VAT 1688.

COPIES: WA 169; VS 11, 150.

[Say to my lord: Message of [...], your servant]. I fall at the feet of my lord 7 times and 7 times [...].¹ 5-17 [And may my lord listen to the words of his servant. When I visited the house of my lord, everything was taken from the house of your servant. Silver was taken; men were taken; sheep and goats: *šš šš-nu* were taken. The cities of my lord: *ba-š-tu* (were despoiled),² and whatever my lord had given to his servant, this too was taken. 17-25 So may my lord give thought to his servant. I make this speech through Pawura. May my lord send a garrison and horses: *šš-š-nu*. 26-34 My lord commanded his servant [...]. [From Tagi (and) from Labayu.⁴

NOTES

1. Although the addressee is never called king, the sevenfold prostration is given to the king alone.
2. Traces and a small break.
3. On *baštu*, see Held, *AS* 16, p. 398ff; *bit*, with the same meaning, is also attested in Ugaritic (*Ugar.* 7, p. 52).
4. *šš-š-nu* = *šš-š-nu* 34 [W] *šš-nu*: following Na'aman, *Political Disguise*, p. 16ⁿ, n. 36.

EA 264

The ubiquitous king

TEXT: BM 29853.

COPY: BB 70.

TRANSLATION: Oppenheim, *LFM*, p. 127.

To the king, my lord: Message of Tagi, your servant. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times. 5-10 As I am the servant of the king, I tried to assemble a caravan,¹ with my brother² in charge, but he barely escaped being killed. He is³ unable to send my caravan to the king, my lord. 11-19 Ask your commissioner if my brother did not barely escape being killed. Moreover, as far as we are concerned, it is to you that my eyes (are directed).⁴ Should we go up into the sky: *ša-me-ma*, or should we go down into the netherworld, our head: *ru-tu-nu* is in your hand. 20-25 So now I try nevertheless to send my caravan to the king, my lord, with a partner of mine in charge. May the king, my lord, be informed that I serve the king and am on my guard.

NOTES

1. It seems more likely that a vassal would be sending one caravan, not many; for instance H.A. cf. KASKAL-*ru-ni*: H.A. (EA 255:9), referred to by singular pronominal suffix (*uššer-ti*, line 11). Organizing a caravan involved assembling the various goods requested or expected, and this could entail searching in various places (cf. EA 145:10ff.).
2. Or "a brother of mine." Since *šappu*, "partner" (line 22), probably always refers in EA to fellow *maye*-vassals (EA 113:50; 129:45; 295 rev. 2), "brother" must mean here either a blood relation or someone of Tagi's immediate entourage.
3. "I am unable" (Knaflitzon) is hard to reconcile with lines 20ff.
4. The explanation of the alternation of first person singular and plural is perhaps that "it is to you that my eyes (are directed)" is an insertion in a stock expression of the impossibility of escaping the Pharaoh's control and support.

EA 265

A gift acknowledged

TEXT: VAT 1697.

COPIES: WA 165; VS 11, 151.

To the king, my lord: Message of Tagi, your servant. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord. My own man I sent along¹ with [...] to see the face of the king, my lord. 7-15 [And] the king, my lord, [sent] a present to me in the case of Tahmaya, and Tahmaya gave (me) a gold goblet² and [2] se[ri]s³ of linen garments. For the information [of the king], my lord.

NOTES

1. The word order (object-verb), which stresses the object, suggests that a vassal was not expected to send his own man (whatever that means), at least not in the writer's situation, to the court. The king acknowledged such devotion by sending back a generous gift. This report might also have served as a check on Tahmaya's honesty.

2. GAL (*kašu*), reading certain.

3. "Se[ri]" seems to imply that the garment consisted of more than one piece; see Oppenheim, *JCS* 21 (1969) p. 250, n. 76.

EA 266

And there was light

TEXT: VAT 1590.

COPIES: WA 156; VS 11, 152.

[S]ay [to] the king, [my] lo[rd], my [g]od, my [S]un: Message of Tagi, your servant, the dit at [you]r feet. I fall at the feet of the king, [my] lo[rd], my god, my Sun, 7 times and 7 times. 9-15 I looked [th]is way, and I [l]ooked [th]at way, and there was no [li]ght. Then I looked [to]wards the king, [my] lord, and there was light. 16-25 I am [in]deed deter[mi]ned to serve the king, my lord. A brick may move fro[m] u[nde]r [its] pa[rt]ner; still I will not move from [un]de[re] the feet [of the king], my lord. 26-33 I herewith se[nd] [th]e mess[age] [for] a pair of horses, and [a] bow, and [a] q[ui]live[re], [a] s[er]pe[n]t, [to] the king, [my] lo[rd].

NOTE

1. 27 [KUS].MEŠ a-ri-si 28 [ša] i-a-paš ANŠ[RE KUR.RA] 29 [li] GIŠ.BAN ð 30 [KUS] ð.MA[R.URU].(U) 31 [GIŠ] i-mi-i-ri-ia 32 [TUĞ]:

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EA 267

ša-di-(in-ai): for the reading of lines 27-31, see Na'aman, *JCS* 29 (1977) p. 238 (on line 30, see also Kühne in Wilhelm, *ZA* 63 (1975) p. 75); for the reading of line 32, see Na'aman, *Political Dispensation*, p. 76^a, n. 77. In line 28 Na'aman restores ð, so that a team of horses is also given, but in this case one would expect this gift to be at the head of the list. If *saddinnu* is the correct reading, it must have been some kind of cover for the horses; cf., at Nuzi, "saddinnu and harnesses," *CAD*, S, p. 17, citing *Joint Expedition with the Iraq Museum at Nuzi*, 588-36.

EA 267

Safe and sound

TEXT: C 4771 (12232).

COPY: WA 109.

[S]ay [to] the king, my lord, my [g]od, my Sun: Message of Milkilu, your servant, the dit at your feet. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, 7 times and 7 times. 9-14 The order the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, dispatched to me I am indeed carrying out for the king, my lord, the Sun from the sky. 15-20 May the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, know that the place of the king, my lord, where I am is safe and sound.

EA 268

A consignment of personnel

TEXT: VAT 1532.

COPIES: WA 108; VS 11, 153.

Say [to] the king, my [g]od, [my] g[od], my [S]un: Message of Milkilu, your servant, the [di]t at your feet. 5-11 I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, 7 times and 7 times. May the king, my [g]od, know that [the city of the king, my lord], that [the] pat[er]n [in my] charge, is safe and sound, [and] the word 12-14 [...] 15-20 [I see] ð [in the care of] Hay[ta] 46 female [...] and 5 male [...] and 5 *asirrimas* to the king, my lord.

NOTES

1. 11 *as-ri-ia (U) a-a[ri]-at*. For lines 12ff., cf. EA 267:9ff. Instead of only one completely destroyed line (line 14 according to Knudtzon), there are perhaps two or three.

2. 15 [li] ul-si-i-ri-ia: following Na'aman, *Political Dispensation*, p. 76^a, n. 73.

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3. ⁴ar-*š*[*š*]: for *ar-š*ti, "slave-girls" (Astour, *Gesellschaftsklassen im Alten Zwiitrrundland und in den angrenzenden Gebieten* [see EA 17, n. 7], p. 23), is highly unlikely. Read *ar-ki*:*ti*, "a late/follow-up contingent" (cf. CAD, A/2, p. 288), a group to be added to a previous contingent?

4. L.C.MEŠ DUMU.(KIN): Rainey, *JNES* 26 (1967) p. 299, tentatively; Astour, *Gesellschaftsklassen* (see n. 3). Another possibility is TUR.(MEŠ), *ṣḫāri*, "attendants."

5. The function of the *štrīma* is still not clear. That they were merchants (Astour, *Gesellschaftsklassen* [see n. 3]) does not seem supported by solid evidence. (*štrīma*, rather than *štrīma*, which should appear at Gezer as *štrīma, š-ṣi-ru-na*. See Huehnergard, *Ugaritic Vocabulary*, p. 163.)

EA 269

Archers and myrrh

TEXT: BM 29846.

COPY: BB 63.

Say to the king, my lord, my god, my Sun: Message of Milkilu, your servant, the dirt at your feet. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, 7 times and 7 times. 9-17 I have heard what the king, my lord, wrote to me, and so may the king, my lord, send the archers to his servants, and may the king, my lord send myrrh¹ for medication.

NOTE

1. {š}JM.ZAR.MEŠ: *ma-ar-nat* see CAD, M/2, p. 221.

EA 270

Extortion

TEXT: BM 29845.

COPY: BB 62.

PHOTOGRAPH: BB, pl. 2.

TRANSLATION: Oppenheim, *LFM*, p. 128.

Say to the king, my lord, my god, my Sun: Message of Milkilu, your servant, the dirt at your feet. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, 7 times and 7 times. 9-16 May the king, my lord, know the deeds that Yanjamu keeps doing to me since I left the king, my lord. 17-21 He indeed wants 2000 shekels of silver from me, and he says to me, "Hand ov[er] your wife and your sons, or I will kill

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EA 271

(you)." 22-29 May the king know of this deed, and may the king, my lord, send chariots and ferch me to himself lest I perish.

NOTE

1. *š-na-m*[*š*]: following Izre'el, *JOS* 8 (1978) p. 59, n. 175 (and last sentence of n. 176), who claims that his collation supported this reading. My own collation was inconclusive.

EA 271

The power of the 'Apiru

TEXT: VAT 1531.

COPIES: WA 110; VS 11, 154.

TRANSLATIONS: Albright, *ANET*, pp. 486f.; Seux, *Textes du Proche-Orient*, p. 34.

Say to the king, my lord, my god, my Sun: Message of Milkilu, your servant, the dirt at your feet. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times. 9-16 May the king, my lord, know that the war against me and against Suwardata is severe. So may the king, my lord, save his land from the power of the 'Apiru. 17-27 O[therwise], may the king, my lord, send chariots to fetch us lest our servants kill us. Moreover, may the king, my lord, ask Yanjamu, his servant, about what is bein[g] done in his [l]and.

EA 272

'Apiru activity

TEXT: BM 29863.

COPY: BB 80.

{[T]o the king, my lord, my Sun: Messa[ge of Šum-], . . . , the ruler of] . . . [. . . , your servant, the dirt at your feet. I fall] [at] the feet of [the king], [my] lord, [my] god, [my] [Sun, 7] times and 7 [times]. 8-17 I [am]n the [lo]ya[al] servant of the [king], my lord. [May] the king, my lord, [kn]ow [that] the mayots that were in the [major] cities¹ of my lord are gone,² and the [entire] land of the king, my [lord], [has] de[se]rved us³ the 'Apiru. 18-25 May the king, my lord, inquire of [his] commissioner about what is be[ing] done in the land of the k[ing], my [lord], so the king, my lord, will instruct his arc[h]ers in my regard.⁴

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NOTES

1. Knudtzon's transliteration omits the determinative of the text, ^mšw-c...
2. Na'aman, *Political Disposition*, p. 68, proposes URU [m]š-(š)-[š]-[š]-[š] and would identify it with the URU *mūšbuzi* in EA 298.25. Though n]a (Knudtzon; Na'aman's m]a) is quite uncertain, it may be doubted that *ma-še-ze* in line 13 explains the deviant spelling (so Na'aman).
3. CAD, *Mt*, p. 88, puts this use of *māšāzu* under "town, settlement," but this seems to be a later meaning of the word, and if it had this meaning, it is hard to see why it occurs nowhere else in EA. If here the connotation is not of "important city" (CAD, *Mt*, p. 87), perhaps it is "harbor (city)" (*ibid.*, p. 88, 5).
4. "Gone," not just "have gone" (i.e. "disappeared") (*halqū*), but "used up, destroyed, wiped out" (*ḡamū*), like the sons and daughters of Byblos (EA 74.15ff. and parallel passages).
5. O], "through the activity of, abetted by" (*na*).
6. ERIN MBS *šē'šā'-(š)-šc* following Baisoc, *Lingering over Words*, p. 417, a reading tentatively noted in my collation notes.

EA 272-77 were written by the scribe of the Milkilu letters; see Knudtzon, VAB 2/2, p. 329, n. 1, and EA 278, n. 1.

EA 273

From a queen mother

TEXT: VAT 1686.
COPIES: WA 137; VS 11, 155.

Say to the king, my lord, my god, my Sun: Message of ^mNIN-UR MAḤ. MEŠ, your handmaid, I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times. 8-14 May the king, my lord, know that war has been waged in the land, and gone is the land of the king, my lord, by desertion to^a the 'Apiru. 15-24 May the king, my lord, take cognizance of his land, and may the [k]ing, my lord, kn[ow]^b that [c] the 'Apiru wrote to Ayyaluna and to Šarḫa, and the two sons of Milkilu barely escaped being killed. 25-26 May the king, my lord, know of this deed.

NOTES

1. The bearer of this name, still of uncertain interpretation, was probably ruling as queen mother; see Liverani, in Garelli, ed., *Le Palati e la Royauté* (see Introduction, n. 73), p. 336, n. 5.
2. See EA 272, n. 5.
3. Note the different nuances of *yādu* in this and the preceding clause; for the latter, see EA 60, n. 8.

EA 274

Another city lost

TEXT: C 4773 (12216).

COPE: WA 138.

TRANSLITERATION (PARTIAL) AND TRANSLATION: Albricht, BASOR 89 (1943) p. 17.

Say to the king, my lord, my god, my Sun: Message of ^mNIN-UR MAḤ. MEŠ, your handmaid, the dirt at your feet. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times. 10-19 May the king, my lord, save his land from the power of the 'Apiru lest it be lost. Šapuma has been take(n).^a For the information of the king, my lord.

NOTE

1. ^ašā' q'š-*sa* (*sa*): the text reflects perhaps some confusion between Akkadian *šāp* and *šāpū*, Canaanite *šahadu*; cf. EA 284.7. Since city names are feminine in this dialect, *-šat*. Albricht's reading, 15 URU.KI-*ka* 16 URU *ša-ša-ša*, must be rejected; URU in line 15 is most unlikely (the copy is exact), and *ka* is impossible (copy is exact); in line 16, the next-to-last sign is conceivably *ka*, but certainly not *sa* (so also Gordon). Šapuma, if identified with biblical Šaphin in the Jordan Valley, is also open to objections on geopolitical grounds; see Na'aman, *UF* 11 (1979) p. 68n, n. 33.

EA 275

As ordered (1)

TEXT: VAT 1682.
COPIES: WA 166; VS 11, 156.

Say to the king, my lord, my g]od, [my Sun]: Message of Yāqzib-Adda, your servant, the dirt at your feet. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, 7 times and 7 times. 9-14 The order that the king, my lord, my [g]od, my [Sun], gave [t]o me, I am [in]deed carrying out [f]or the king, my lord.

EA 276

As ordered (2)

TEXT: VAT 1706.
COPIES: WA 187; VS 11, 157.

[Sa]y to the king, my lord, my god, my Sun: Message of Yahzib-Adda, your servant, the dirt [at] your feet. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, 7 times and 7 times. 9-15 The order that the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, sent to me, I am [in]deed carrying out [f]or the king, my lord, the Sun from the sky.

EA 277

As ordered (3)

TEXT: BM 29864.
COPY: BB 81.

[To] the king, my lord, my god, my Sun: Message of . . . , yo[ur] servant, [the dirt at] your [feet]. [I fall] [at] the feet of the king, my lord, my god, [my Sun], 7 times and 7 [times]. 8-16 The order that the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, sent to me, I am indeed carrying out for the king, my lord.

EA 278

As ordered (4)

TEXT: BM 29852.
COPY: BB 69.
PHOTOGRAPH: BB, pl. 5.

Say to the king, my lord, my god, my Sun: Message of Šuwardata, your servant, the dirt at your feet. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, 7 times and 7 times. 9-15 [The order that [the king], my lord, the Sun [from] the sky, sent to me, I am [in]deed carrying out [for] the king, my lord, [the Sun] from the Sky.¹

NOTE

¹ The sign forms of EA 278-80 exhibit many differences from those of EA 281, 282-84, and are indistinguishable in script and clay from EA 267-77; see Knudtzon, *VAB* 2/2, p. 1329, n. 2. Note, too, the virtually identical messages of EA 275-78. A fourth scribe was responsible for EA 366. Cf. EA 272, n. 6.

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EA 279

A wasteland

TEXT: VAT 1647.
COPIES: WA 107; VS 11, 158.

S[ay] [to] the king, my lord, my [god], my Sun: Mess[age] of Šuwardata, your servant, the dirt at your feet. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times. 9-13 May the king, my lord, know that the land of the king, my [lord], is [gone].¹ I must *drive back*!² I must go [for]th to Qeltu [against] the *raitors*.³ 14-23 May the [king] send *archers*. May the king, my lord, [drive] them to bits⁴ so that we may attack them and drive out the *raitors* from the land of the king, my lord.

NOTES

1. See EA 272, n. 4.
2. *ḫi-ḫi*; perhaps traces of *ḫi* from *nḫi*?
3. *LI.MEŠ ḫi-ḫi-ḫi*; cf. line 21.
4. *ḫi-ḫi* [mc LUGAL EN-ḫi-ḫi] 17 [LI].MEŠ *ḫi-ḫi-ḫi-ḫi*.

EA 280

Lab'ayu redivivus

TEXT: C 4772 (12213).
COPY: WA 100.

TRANSLATION: Albright, *ANET*, p. 487; Seix, *Textes du Proche-Orient*, p. 60.

Sa[y] [to] the king, my lord, [my] g[od], my Sun: Mess[age] of Šuwardata, [yo]ur servant, the dirt at your feet. I fall at the [feet] of the king, my lord, [my] god, my Sun, 7 [times] and 7 times. 9-15 The king, my lord, permitted me to wage war against Qeltu. I waged war. It is now at peace with me; my city is restored to me. 16-24 Why did 'Abdi-Heba write to the men of Qeltu. "[Accept] silver and follow me!" 24-29 Moreover, may the king, my lord, conduct an inquiry. If I took a man, or a single ox, or an ass, from him, then he is in the right! 30-35 Moreover, Lab'ayu, who used to take our towns, is dead, but now [another] Lab'ayu is 'Abdi-Heba, and he seizes our town. 36-40 [So] may the king take cognizance of [his] servant be-

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cause of this deed, but I will do nothing until the king sends back² word to his servant.

NOTES

1. Or "sent," but in any case stressing the intervention of the crown, without which he promises (lines 36ff.) no further action (occupation of Qelna?).
2. Instead of *yá-su-te-ra*, perhaps *yá-na-ki-ra* "changes," i.e., revokes an earlier decision (so Gordon).

EA 281

Rebellion

TEXT: VAT 1681.

COPIES: WA 190; VS 11, 159.

Say to the king, my lord, my god, (my) Sun,¹ [and] my breath (of life): Message of (Š)wardata, your servant. I fall at the feet of my lord 7 times and 7 times, both on the stomach and on the back. 8–17 May the king, [my] lord [be informed] that [no]w my own cities are hostile to me, and so may the king, my lord, send archers to (do) [to] [do] [to] as in the case of . . . ,² so the king, my lord, may r(ake) them. The . . . [. . .] 18–26 and may they write [be] fore the king, my lord. The king, my lord, has r(eg)retted my p(ro)posal, but the king should know the hostility[s] against me. Who is [committing] [a crime] against the king? [These] fellows are dogs, and so they have committed [a crime] against the king.³ 27–31 So may the king send archers that he may take [re]me[n]. May the king, my lord, be informed.

NOTES

1. ⁴UTU.MES.
2. The reading of the first two signs as UR[U h]a(*na-su-WA*) is extremely doubtful. Line 14: [a]-[a] [a] [a] [a].
3. 23 . . . me(m)-[a]-mi 24 [y]-[pa]-[su] [a]-na LUGAL 25 @ UR.[KU] MES a]o-nu-ku 26 @ r[]-[a]-[a] [a]-na LUGAL: following Nāšman, *UF* 11 (1979) p. 679, n. 31.

EA 282

Alone

TEXT: BM 29851.

COPIES: BB 68; A. Millard, *Biblical Archaeologist* 45 (1981) p. 147.PHOTOGRAPHS: M. Noth, *Die Welf des Alten Testaments* (Berlin, 1953), Tafel 3; Barnett, *Illustrations*, p. 16 (obverse only).TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Millard, *Biblical Archaeologist* 45 (1981) p. 146.

To the king, my lord, (my) god, my Sun: Message of Šwardata, (your) servant. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times, both on the stomach and on the back. 8–16 May the king, my lord, be informed that I am alone. May the king, my lord, send a very large archer-force that it may save me : *ia-š-t-ni* (get me out). May the king, my lord, be in(f)ormed.

EA 283

Oh to see the king

TEXT: VAT 339.

COPIES: WA 101; VS 11, 160.

To the king, my lord,¹ my god, my Sun: Message of Šwardata, your servant. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times more. 7–13 The king, my lord, has written me, "Enter and pay me homage." Into the presence of the king, my lord!² Would that it were possible³ to enter into the presence of the king, my lord, to⁴ receive the . . . and the . . . of the king, my lord. 13–17 Since Yanhamu is with you, speak with him. If there are still no archers available, then may the king, my lord, take me away. 18–24 May the king, my lord, be informed that 30 cities have waged war against me. I am alone! The war against me is severe. The king, my lord, has cast me⁵ from his hand. 25–33 May the king, my lord, send archers. May the king, my lord, take me away? Since Yanhamu, *that is*, the commissioner⁶ of the king, my lord, is there, may the king, my lord, speak with him, (asking), "Is the war against Šwardata severe or is it not?"

NOTES

1. There is a ruling between lines 1 and 2, and two more between lines 16 and 17.
2. *da-ga-la-ni KI (stt)* ... following AHU, p. 576a.
3. *mṯa-nt ymeggis*, lit. "who would grant"; cf. Hebrew *mā yittēn*.
4. The interpretation of line 12 is quite tentative: *ana* omitted (for the construction, see Introduction, n. 75) or (*ḫa-na*); *ḫa-qi-ma*, infinitive, but *ḫa-qi-ma* expected (see VAB 2/2, p. 1452).
5. The reading of KU + 40 and KÚ + 40 x is as obscure as ever. If the occasion of the visit reflects the presence of a new king on the throne, there may be reference here to the renewal of the vassal oath.
6. Cf. AHU, p. 709; *nada*, IV; CAD, N, p. 309; *nada*.
7. Taking Šwardata away is the alternative to sending archers; cf. lines 15–17.
8. It does not seem likely that the commissioner in question is someone different from Yanhamu, and so, tentatively, I take the *a* as corresponding to *anun-ephtatum*.

EA 284

The powerful hand of the king

TEXT: BM 29850.

COPY: BB 67.

To the king, my lord: Message of Šwardata, [your] servant. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord. I fall 7 times and 7 times more, both on the stomach and on the back. 6–12 Be informed, O king, my lord, that all the lands of the king, my lord, have been taken away.¹ I am all alone. As Ra[h]manu,² who imposed the lands of the king, my lord, has departed, [th]ere is n[on]e for the king. May the king, my lord, r[e]m[e]mber me. 13–16 I wrote to the king, my lord, "He knows ... [...]" May the king, my lord, se[n]d 17–20 ... [...] still. May the king, my lord, [s]end [forth] his power[ful] hand.³ 21–35 ... [...].⁴

NOTES

1. See EA 274, n. 1.
2. *ḫa-na-nti-ḫa-na-nti* [ḫa].
3. [y]á-u[ḫi]-ḫi [ḫi] 19 = LUGAL-ḫi EN-ia qa-ti-ḫu 20 da-an-na-[ḫi], following Na'aman, *Political Disposition*, p. 43ⁿ, n. 57. The feminine adjective agrees with *qati* + *na* (pronominal suffix); cf. EA 366:34, in another letter of Šwardata. ZAG (*ḫa-ḫi-ḫi*: *ḫa-ḫi-ḫi* = *ḫa-ḫi* + *ḫi* (pronominal suffix), *qati* *u* *ḫi* *na*, EA 299:19f.
4. Lines 21f., except for line 22 ("I fall 7 times and 7 times") and an occasional word or phrase, are unrecognizable. Because of the sevenfold prostration

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EA 285

formula this is not likely to be a postscript, despite the possible imperative plural [ḫi] *nada*, "be informed" (line 23). See also EA 298, n. 2.

EA 285

The soldier-ruler of Jerusalem

TEXT: VAT 1601.

COPIES: WA 174; VS 11, 161.

TRANSLITERATION (LINES 9–25) AND TRANSLATION: Na'aman, *Political Disposition*, pp. 97f.¹

[Say to the king], [my lord: Message] of 'Abdi-ḫ[ē]ba, your servant. I fall at the feet [of the king, my lord], 7 times and 7 times. 5–11 I am not a [mayer]; I am a soldier for [the king, my lord]. Why has the king, my lord, not sent a messenger ... [...] ...² [Acc]ordingly, [En]ḫanu se[an]t a military [force]³ here, [and it has not vacated] the house [that I want].⁴ 12–19 [And now] as for me, may the king [give heed] to 'Abdi-ḫ[ē]ba, his servant. If there are no archers available, may the king, my lord, [send] a commissioner that he may fetch [the majors] to himself. 20–25 [...] ... And as for [the garrison] that belongs [to Adadaya],⁵ the commissioner of the king, [I] want their house. 26–31 So may the king provide [for them, and may he send a messenger quickly. When [I d]ie, w[hat] ...] ...

NOTES

1. In the summer of 1951, I prepared with Albright a transliteration and translation of the Jerusalem letters that, though often considerably modified, I here draw on.
2. Perhaps *k[ḫi]-ma-ḫi-ḫi*, "with all speed" (Knaudtzen), but this expression is otherwise attested only at Byblos.
3. *ḫa-na-nti-ḫa-na-nti*: see also Na'aman, *Political Disposition*, p. 97. Though the word is attested only in EA 154:7, its appearance in a letter from Tyre is especially relevant because of a certain shared background of the Jerusalem and Tyran scribas. Note also in the north *am[ḫa] kaladu*, "to have the advantage over someone" (Nougayrol, *Ugarit*, 5, no. 20: 14, 17, 23¹).
4. *ḫa-na-nti-ḫa-na-nti* [ḫi] 19 = LUGAL-ḫi EN-ia qa-ti-ḫu 20 da-an-na-[ḫi], following Na'aman, *Political Disposition*, p. 43ⁿ, n. 57. The feminine adjective agrees with *qati* + *na* (pronominal suffix); cf. EA 366:34, in another letter of Šwardata. ZAG (*ḫa-ḫi-ḫi*: *ḫa-ḫi-ḫi* = *ḫa-ḫi* + *ḫi* (pronominal suffix), *qati* *u* *ḫi* *na*, EA 299:19f.
5. Lines 21f., except for line 22 ("I fall 7 times and 7 times") and an occasional word or phrase, are unrecognizable. Because of the sevenfold prostration

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EA 286

A throne granted, not inherited

TEXT: VAT 1642.

COPIES: WA 102; VS II, 162.

PHOTOGRAPHS: H. V. Hilprecht et al., *Explorations in Bible Lands during the Nineteenth Century to the Old Testament* (Philadelphia, 1903), p. 621; R. W. Rogers, *Concise Parallels to the Old Testament* (New York and Cincinnati, 1912), p. 529, pl. 30.TRANSLATIONS: Ebeling, pp. 374f.; Albright, *ANET*, pp. 487f.; Berger, in Galling, ed., *Textbuch zur Geschichte Israels*² (Tübingen, 1966), pp. 25f.; Seux, *Textes du Proche-Orient*, pp. 54f.

Say [to] the king, my lord: Message of 'Abdi-Heba, your servant. I fall at the feet of my lord, the king, 7 times and 7 times. 5-15 What have I done to the king, my lord? They denounce me: *š-lā a-ru* (I am slandered) before the king, my lord. "Abdi-Heba has rebelled against the king, his lord." Seeing that, as far as I am concerned, neither my father nor my mother put me in this place, but the strong arm of the king² brought me into my father's house, why should I of all people commit a crime against the king, my lord? 16-21 As truly as the king, my lord, lives,³ I say to the commissioner of the king, [my] lord, "Why do you love the 'Apiru but hate the mayors?" Accordingly, I am slandered before the king, my lord. 22-31 Because I say,⁴ "Lost are the lands of the king, my lord," accordingly I am slandered before the king, my lord. May the king, my lord, know that (though) the king, my lord, stationed a garrison (here), Enhamu has taken [it all] away: [...] . . . 32-43 [Now], O king, my lord, [there is no] garrison, [and so] may the king provide for his land. May the king [provide] for his land! All the [la]nds of the king, my lord, have deserted. Ili-Milku has caused the loss of all the land of the king, and so may the king, my lord, provide for his land. For my part, I say, "I would go in to the king, my lord, and visit the king, my lord," but the war against me is severe, and so I am not able to go in to the king, my lord. 44-52 And may it seem good in the sight of the king, [and] may he send a garrison so I may go in and visit the king, my lord. In truth,⁵ the king, my lord, lives: whenever the commissioners have come out, I would say (to them), "Lost are the lands of the king," but they did not listen to me. Lost are all the mayors; there is not a mayor remaining to the king, my

lord 53-60 May the king turn his attention to the archers so that archers of the king, my lord, come forth. The king has no lands. (That) 'Apiru⁶ has plundered all the lands of the king. If there are archers this year, the lands of the king, my lord, will remain. But if there are no archers, lost are the lands of the king, my lord. 61-64 [To] the scribe of the king, my lord: Message of 'Abdi-Heba, your [se]rvant. Present eloquent words to the king, my lord. Lost are all the lands of the king, my lord.

NOTES

1. On the gloss, see EA 180, n. 2. For the various explanations of EN.RI, see Schroeder, *DLZ* 7975, col. 295f. Hurrian influence has also been suggested: EN.RI = Hurrian *šer-šer*; see Lorenz, *UF* 6 (1972) p. 485, and *Jerusalem Scribe*, p. 163, n. 37. Rainey, in Avishur-Bilau, ed., *Studies in Bible and the Ancient Near East* (Jerusalem, 1978), p. 151, prefers a mistaken inscription from LUGAL-ri, an error occurring three times in this letter but nowhere else in the Jerusalem correspondence, though the work of the same scribe.

2. *ru-šl* LUGAL-ri KALAG.GA (*damatu*): cf. EA 147:12, and see Weipert, *UF* 6 (1972) p. 415, n. 2; not "the arm of the mighty king" (Albright). See also M. Görg, *Hommage à François Daumas*, Institut d'Égyptologie, Université Paul Valéry (Montpellier, 1986), pp. 323ff.

3. "As long as the king lives, I (will) say" (Knudtzon, Ebeling, Albright) does not make much sense, whereas *š-lā* as asseverative/conditional ("whether") particle in an oath does: 'Abdi-Heba swears that what he actually said or did, as against the charges of rebellion, was nothing more than to accuse the commissioner(s) of preferring the king's enemies to his supporters.

4. *a-qa-hi* see *Jerusalem Scribe*, p. 162, n. 37.

5. In view of the parallelism with *š-lā* in line 16 (see n. 3), *enimo* reflects Canaanite asseverative *š-lā* (cf. Albright's translation).

6. The Ili-Milku of line 36.

EA 287

A very serious crime

TEXT: VAT 1644 (not collated).

COPIES: WA 103; VS II, 163.

PHOTOGRAPH: A. Jepsen, ed., *Von Sinuhe bis Nebukadnezar* (see EA 244, headnote), pl. 29.TRANSLATIONS: Ebeling, pp. 375f.; C. Mullo Weir, in D. Winton Thomas, ed., *Documents from Old Testament Times* (London, 1958), pp. 39f.; Albright, *ANET*, p. 488; Freydlank, in A. Jepsen, ed., *Von Sinuhe bis Nebukadnezar*, pp. 102f.; Seux, *Textes du Proche-Orient*, pp. 55f.

{Say to the kin[ng, mly] lord: [Message of 'Ab]di-Heba, yo[u]servant. I fall at the feet of my lord 7 [times and 7 times. 4-9 Consider] the en[ir] affair! [Milkilu and Tugi brought] troops into [Qiltu] against me.⁴ [Consider] the deed that they did [to your servant].⁵ Arrow[s] [. . .] 10-19 [. . .] they brought into [Qiltu]. May the [kin]g know (that) all the lands are [at] peace (with one another), but I am at war. May the king provide for his land. Consider the lands of Gazru, Ašqaluna, and L[ab]i[s].⁶ They have given them food, oil, and any other requirement. So may the king provide for archers and⁶ send the archers against men that commit crimes against the king, my lord. 20-24 If this year there are archers, then the lands and the mayors will belong to the king, my lord. But if there are no archers, then the ki[n]g will have neither lands nor mayors. 25-32 Consider Jerusalem! This neither my father nor my mother gave to me. The [str]ong hand : zu-ru-ab (arm) of the king gave it to me.⁷ Consider the deed! This is the deed of Milkilu and the deed of the sons of Lab'ayu, who have given the land of the king (to) the 'Apiru. Consider, O king, my lord! I am in the right!⁸ 33-42 With regard to the Kašites, may the king make inquiry of the commissioners. Though the house is well fortified, they attempted a very serious crime. They [took their tools, and I had to seek shelter by a support] for the roof : ga-ag-gi. A[nd so i]f he is going to send [troops] into [Jerusalem], let them come with [a garrison for] (regular) service.⁹ May the king provide for them; [all] of the land might be in dire straits¹⁰ on their account. 43-52 May the king inquire about them. Let there be!¹¹ much food, much oil, much clothing, until Pauru, the commissioner of the king, comes up to Jerusalem. Gone¹² is Addaya together with the garrison of soldiers [that] the king [pro]vided. May the king know (that) Addaya [sa]id to me, "[Beh]old, he has dismissed me."¹³ Do not abandon it, [and] send this [year] a garrison, and send right here¹⁴ the commissioner of the king. 53-59 I sent [as gifts]¹⁵ to the king, my lord, [x] prisoners, 5000 . . . [. . .],¹⁶ [and] 8 porters¹⁷ for the caravans of the king, my lord, but they have been taken in the countryside : la-de-¹⁸ of Ayyaluna. May the king, my lord, know (that) I am unable to send a caravan to the king, my lord. For your information! 60-63 As the king has placed his name in Jerusalem forever, he cannot abandon it—the land of Jerusalem.¹⁹

64-70 Say to the scribe of the king, my lord: Message of 'Abdi-Heba, your servant. I fall at (your) feet. I am your servant. Present eloquent words to the king, my lord: I am a soldier of the king. I am always yours.²⁰

71-78 And please make the Kašites responsible for the evil deed.²¹ I was almost killed by the Kašites [in] my own house. May the king [make an inquiry] in the [in] regard. [May the kin]g, my lord, [provide] for them. 7 [times and 7 times] may the king, my lord, [provide] for me.²²

NOTES

1. [a-mu g]āb-(b) a-wu-ia; all the letters from Jerusalem, with the exception of EA 286, begin the body of the letter with *amar*; cf. Na'aman, *Political Disposition*, p. 58*, n. 37.

2. Cf. Albright (see headnote), but other restorations are of course possible; see lines 29-31. Verative, "gapani me?"

3. Or "did to me"; cf. EA 2995.

4. *MAGAG.Ú.TAG.GA (*malunlu, šulāpu*); following A. Sachs, *AFO* 12 (1937-39) pp. 373ff.

5. Enough room? See Na'aman, *Political Disposition*, p. 40*, n. 38.

6. *pt-ta-ti* 6: 6 for *u*, "and," sporadically in EA and elsewhere; see JAOS 100 (1980) p. 186; Schramm, *Einführung in die assyrischen Königinschriften*, pt. 2 (Leiden and Cologne, 1973), p. 2.

7. See EA 286, n. 2. On *AD.DA.A.NI, logogram with frozen pronominal suffix (cf. EA 3, n. 2), see *Jerusalem Scribe*, p. 163, n. 52, and Huebner, *Ugaritic Vocabulary*, p. 48, n. 2, and his criticisms of Weippert, *UF* 6 (1974) pp. 415ff. (The DUMU.A.NI *š-ki-ba-al*, *Iraq* 32 [1970] p. 272, should be read, with I. Gelb, *DUMU.A.NI š-ki-ba-al*; private communication of C. B. E. Walker.)

8. *šadq ana šadq* (translation, with Albright, according to context (criminal charges against enemies), but the assumed impersonal subject—*šd*. "It is right for me"—is difficult; see Feigin, *JQR* 34 (1943-44) pp. 443ff. For a different version, "it is the king my master that is *šadq* for me," *šadq* = "generous," see H. Cazelles, *JANES* 5 (1973) p. 76.

9. *šl-tu-š*: cf. *šrk* (AHU) p. 1220, with accusative of place, but no satisfactory explanation of the apparent durative (*šrk*). For earlier proposals and various possible readings, see Feigin, *JQR* 34 (1943-44) pp. 449ff. Albright, against the copy, read *šr-šr-šr*, "they breached" (see already Feigin, p. 449); Na'aman, *Political Disposition*, p. 91, reads *šr-šr-tu-š*, "they climbed up." As copied, the first sign is considerably larger than the BE on lines 37 and 45.

10. Cf. *šad* (*šad*); following an earlier reading of Albright, later retracted (see ANET). After the gloss, [š] 38 (*šad*).

11. 39 ERIN.MŠ *tu-ta-tu-tu-tu* (LD *ma-šar-tu*) 40 [a-na] IR.MŠ: *ana ardati*, with Albright (cf. EA 157, n. 1). 'Abdi-Heba asks, not for a punitive expedition, but for troops stationed permanently in Jerusalem that will give him the needed protection (cf. lines 46ff.). The assumption of *tu-ta-tu-tu* is erroneous for *tu-tu-tu*, "auxiliary troops," a proposal of Na'aman, *Political Disposition*, p. 91, and Rainey, *Studies in Bible* (see EA 286, n. 1), p. 144, seems unnecessary and unlikely. Albright restores [šr-šr] (cf. line 47), and translates "officer." Egyptian *šr*, however, referred to an infantryman (lowest grade) or simply a soldier; see A. R. Schulman, *Military Rank, Title, and Organization in the Egyptian New Kingdom*,

München: Ägyptologische Studien, vol. 6 (Berlin, 1964), pp. 36f.; EA 288, n. 1.
11. *ta-ia-qa*: cf. perhaps Hebrew *šāq*; form, *yaqula* (cf. *šāqula* in line 71). A more venturesome proposal is found in Rainey, *Studies in Bible* (see EA 286, n. 1), p. 149.

12. *šilt* ana *šiltu* (n. 11-6): *šilt* does not mean "requisition" (Albright, Seux), and *šilt* seems to be a predicative, not attributive, adjective (private communication of D. Gropp).

13. On the use of the infinitive (*patār*), see JCS 6 (1952) p. 77.

14. Against "let me go" (Albright)—apart from the difficulties of form (*patār* for expected *patāru*)—is the unlikelihood of a high Egyptian official asking permission from a local ruler for anything. The subject understood is the king. The dismissal of Addaya—i.e., sending him elsewhere—crosses 'Abdi-Heba's fears that the king is going to abandon Jerusalem to its own resources.

15. *anikam*, "here," is initial position in the sentence stressing Jerusalem as the place a commissioner should be stationed; see *Jerusalem Scribe*, p. 154.

16. [NIG.BA].H.A. following Albright; cf. EA 288:22.

17. Albright, "silver (shekels)," but the copy is against K[O].B[ABBAR].

18. Before "8" Knudtzon saw traces that he tentatively read as "318."

19. See *Jerusalem Scribe*, p. 162, n. 46.

20. *ma-at-ti*: a desperate crux; cf. Hebrew *šāmt* and perhaps *šā*, "to endure" (?), in Amarna personal names (see Hullmon, *APNMT*, p. 229). Albright translated as "insignificant" (?), "as if *ma-šā-ti* (*šāmt*)," and Finkelstein, *Exodus* 9 (1968) pp. 35f., as "I would surely die for you," but the modal force of the perfect is questionable, and one may doubt whether it is possible to die "very much" (*šāmt*). EA 289:50.

21. On lines 71-72, see *Jerusalem Scribe*, p. 164, n. 61.

22. Restoring *šikis* in both breaks, with Na'aman, *Political Disposition*, p. 92, but understanding the first instance as provision in terms of justice for the Kaskites, not of provision or concern for the garrison, which has not been mentioned for over 20 lines. Albright's "avenge" assumes [*š-ik-šim*] and an unsupported Canaanitism (*špm*): see W. Fikard, *Moscow 3/1* (1982) pp. 5ff.

On messages to the scribes of addressees, see the Introduction, sect. 4, n. 58.

EA 288

Benign neglect

TEXT: VAT 1643 (not collated).

COPIES: WA 103; VS 11, 164.

TRANSLATIONS: Ebeling, pp. 376f.; C. Mullo Weir, in D. Winton Thomas, ed., *Documents from Old Testament Times*, pp. 43f.; Albright, *ANET*, pp. 488f.; Freydanck, in A. Jepsen, ed., *Von Simcha bis Nebukadnessar*, pp. 103f.

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Say [to the king, my lord, Uny Su]: [Message of 'Abdi-Heba, your servant. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times. 5-10 Behold, the king, my lord, has placed his name at the rising of the sun and at the setting of the sun. It is, therefore, impious what they have done to me. Behold, I am not a mayor; I am a soldier of the king, my lord. 11-15 Behold, I am a friend of the king and a tribute-bearer of the king. It was neither my father nor my mother, but the strong arm of the king that [p]laced me in the house of [my] father.]¹ 16-22 [...] [I] gave over [to his charge] to slaves. Šuta, the commissioner of the king, ca[me to] me; I gave over to Šuta's charge 21 girls,² [8]0 prisoners, as a gift for the king, my lord. 23-28 May the king give thought to his land; the land of the king is lost. *All of it has attacked me.*³ I am at war as far as the land of Šetu and as far as Ginti-Kitmil. All the mayors are at peace, but I am at war. 29-33 I am treated like an 'Apiru,⁴ and I do not visit the king, my lord, since I am at war. I am situated like a ship⁵ in the midst of the sea. 34-40 The strong hand (arm) of the king took the land of Nahrma and the land of Kasi,⁶ but now the 'Apiru have taken the very cities of the king.⁷ Not a single mayor remains to the king, my lord; all are lost. 41-47 Behold, Tutbazu was slain in the city gate of Silu. The king did nothing. Behold, servants who were joined to the 'Apiru [i.e. Zimredda of Lakisu, and Yapili-Hadda was slain in the city gate of Silu. The king did nothing. [W]e] has he not called them to account? 48-53 May the king [pro]vide for [his land] and may he [se] to it th[at] archers [come out] to h[is] land.⁸ If there are no archers this year, all the lands of the king, my lord, are lost. 54-61 They have not reported to the king that the lands of the king, my lord, are lost and all the mayors lost. If there are no archers this year, may the king send a commissioner to fetch me, me along with my brothers, and then we will die near the king, our lord. 62-66 [To] the scribe of the king, my lord: [Message] of 'Abdi-Heba, (your) servant. [I h]a[ve] offered [to] the king, my lord: I am your servant [and] your [son].

NOTES

1. 'Abdi-Heba does not deny that he is a soldier (so Albright); cf. EA 283:5-6, and see the remarks of Liverani, *RA* 61 (1967) p. 15, n. 4. Jemelit-Groll, in M. Görg, ed., *Fontes atque pontes* (see EA 3, n. 17), p. 238, is of the view that Egyptian *w'w* (*w'w*) here means "post commander."

2. On *šm-št*, "friend" (?), see Donner, *ZAW* 73 (1961) pp. 269ff. *šbt*, "beaten," like *šbūt* in EA 287:55, or "I have brought."

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3. See EA 287, n. 7.
4. MUNUS.DUMU.MUNUS, *substantive*?
5. Cf. *ṣibatu*, "to seize one another, fight." The usual version, "all of it has been taken from me" (Knudtzon, followed more or less by Ebeling, Albright, et al.), has against it not only the assumption of a separative accusative (another example in EA?), but the fact that *all* of the king's land cannot be taken from a vassal because he never had all of it to lose.
6. *emima* ⁴⁴*ḥapiru*: translation with Albright, who recognized that *emima*, used commonly as a synonym of *ḥina* as conjunction, is here also given the latter's meaning as preposition.
7. *emima dappi*: see n. 6.
8. KUR *ka*-(pa)-ur following Rainey, AOAT⁷, p. 105, perhaps for *ka-a-ti*.
9. Though royal power is sufficient to achieve conquests far to the north and far to the south, so very close by are the conquests of the 'Apiru.
10. *iq-gi-ū-tu*: following Ebeling, VAB 2/2, p. 1546, for *yigg'ū-tu*. Boncôteo, *Éléments*, p. 109, reads *iq-gi-ū-tu*, "slaves . . . have unmolested(?) him," as if from *nagū*.
11. [u ṭjiddin taru pānūtu "u" [u-gi-m] 50 [LÜ.MEŠ] ÉRIN.MEŠ pī-ṣa-ti a-na KUR-ṭu]; cf. *ṭu-dū* LUGAL *ṣa-ni-tu a-na LÜ.MEŠ pī-ṣa-ti* & *ṭu-gi-mi LÜ.MEŠ ÉRIN pī-ṣa-ti*, in EA 286:3f. The reading 49 . . . 5' [u-mu-ṭi-ṭi 50 [LUGAL] (so Albright) accords with neither the space nor the traces. There is no reason why *-m* belongs at the end of line 50 (Knudtzon) rather than line 49.
12. 65 [ṭu na]-*ud*-*na-ti* following Na'aman, *Political Disposition*, p. 37*, n. 19.

EA 289

A reckoning demanded

TEXT: VAT 1645 + 2709.
 COPIES: WA 105 + WA 199; VS 11, 165.
 TRANSLATIONS: Ebeling, pp. 377f.; Albright, ANET, p. 489;
 Campbell, *Siechem*, pp. 200f.; Seux, *Textes du Proche-Orient*,
 pp. 58f.

[Say (to) the king, my lord: Message of 'Abdi-Ḥeba, your servant. I f[all] at the feet of my lord, the k[ing], 7 times and 7 times. 5-10 Milkilu does not break away from the sons of Lab'ayu and from the sons of Arsawa, as they desire the land of the king for themselves. As for a mayor who does such a deed, why does the king not (c)all him to account? 11-17 Such was the deed that Milkilu and Tagi did: they took Ruburn. And now as for Jerusalem, if this land belongs to the king, why is it (not) of concern to the king like Hazzatu? 18-24 Gintikimil belongs to Tagi, and men of Gintu are the garrison in Birsanu.² Are we to act like Lab'ayu when he was giving the land of Šakmu to the

Ḥapiru? 25-36 Milkilu has written to Tagi and the sons (of Lab'ayu), "Be the both of you a protection.³ Grant all their demands to the men of Qiltu, and let us isolate Jerusalem."⁴ Addaya has taken the garrison that you sent in the charge of Haya, the son of Miyare; he has stationed it in his own house in Hazzatu and has sent 20 men to Egypt. May the king, my lord, know (that) no garrison of the king is with me. 37-44 Accordingly, as truly as the king lives, his *irpi*-official,⁵ Fu'uru, has left me and is in Hazzatu. (May the king call (šbi) to mind when he arrives.)⁶ And so may the king send 50 men as a garrison to protect the land. The entire land of the king has deserted]. 45-51 Send Ye((eh)enhamu that he may know about the land of the king, [my lord]. To the scribe of the king, [my lord: M]essage of 'Abdi-Ḥeba, [your] servant. Offer eloquent words to the king: I am always, utterly yours.⁷ I am your servant.

NOTES

1. With Albright, CAH 2/2, p. 116; cf. *ima ṭibi lakānu?* On *emima*, "like," see EA 288, n. 6.
2. His enemies make up the protective forces to the north. "Who will guard the guardians?"
3. *ṭu ḡ 2 ṭt-tu-tu-nu*: difficult and obscure; see *Jerusalem Scrib.*, p. 162, n. 42, and the remarks on the reading *ṭu-ḡ a-mi-ṭu-tu-nu*, "be men" (*Aḥw*, p. 90b). Other emendations: *ṭu ḡ-mi a-tu-nu*, "you are of my house" (Albright, ANET; Campbell); *ṭu-ḡ ṣa-ni a-tu-nu*, "as for you, go on" (Albright, CAH 2/2, p. 116, n. 6; imperative of *apī?*).
4. *ḥ nuphur* lit. "let us separate"; perhaps, "let us desert." By their generosity to Qiltu they would entice the city to their side and thereby isolate Jerusalem; see Na'aman, *Political Disposition*, p. 100.
5. *ir-pi*: following Aḥw, p. 386; MASKIM (*ṣbiku*, "commissioner" [so Albright and Campbell]) is excluded.
6. A reading *ṭu-ḡ-ḡ* (Albright and Campbell), instead of *ṭu-ḡ-ḡ*, is excluded because of the assumed *ḡ* (a value unknown in EA) and the construction (all nine occurrences of *ṭu-ḡ* are with *emima*, never *em pāni*).
7. See EA 287, n. 20.

EA 290

Three against one

TEXT: VAT 1646.
 COPIES: WA 106; VS 11, 166.
 TRANSLATIONS: Ebeling, p. 378; Albright, ANET, p. 489;
 Seux, *Textes du Proche-Orient*, pp. 58f.

[Saly (t) to the king, my lord: Message of [ʿAbdi]-Ḫeba, your servant. I fall at the feet (of the king), my lord, 7 times and 7 times. 5–13 Here is the deed against the land that Milkilu and Šwardatu did: against the land of the king, my lord, they ordered troops from Gazna, troops from Gimru, and troops from Qiltu. They seized Rubutu. The land of the king deserted to the Ḫapiru. 14–21 And now, besides this, a town belonging to Jerusalem, Bit-²NIN.URTA by name, a city of the king, has gone over to the side of the men of Qiltu. May the king give heed to ʿAbdi-Ḫeba, your servant, and send archers to restore the land of the king to the king. 22–30 If there are no archers, the land of the king will desert to the Ḫapiru. This deed against the land³ was [ajt the order of Milkil]u and [ajt the order of [Šward]aru, [together w]ith Gint[aj].⁴ So may the king provide for [his] land.

NOTES

1. *ḫa* KUR (*ḫa* KUR, line 25): not *ḫa* gloss-market (Knudtzon, followed by Ebeling and Albright, who ignores the KUR in line 25). Naʿaman, *Political Disposition*, p. 51ⁿ, n. 19, suggests a syllabic writing, KUR = KUR, "hostile."

2. *ma-ḫar*: see *Jerusalem Scribe*, p. 151. Other solutions: "they hired" (Knudtzon, Ebeling); cf. Hebrew *masa*, "bride-price"; "they rushed" (Albright; cf. Hebrew *maḥar*, "to hasten"); "they were taken in" (GAD, *Mt*, p. 68, Akkadian *maḥar*); "they assembled" (emending *ma* to *pa*, Greenberg, *Ugaritic*, p. 49, followed by Rainey, *Studies in Bible* [see EA 286, n. 2], p. 150).

3. See n. 1.

4. 'a-na' KA-i ... 27 [ū a]-na KA-i: following Albright.

5. URU *gim*, [aj]: with copy and Schroeder, *OLZ*, 1915, col. 175.

EA 291

Message lost

TEXT: VAT 1713.

COPY: VS 11, 167.

Too fragmentary for translation.¹

NOTE

1. A letter from Jerusalem; see VAB 2/2, p. 1344, n. 1; note, too, the form of *ti* and *li*, and the verbal form *lanaššec*.

EA 292

Like a pot held in pledge

TEXT: BM 37647.

COPY: Scheil, *Mémoires*, p. 298.TRANSLATION: Albright, *ANET*, pp. 489f.

Say to the king, my lord, [my] gold, my Sun: Message of Adda-danu,¹ your servant, the dirt at your feet. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, 7 times and 7 times. 8–13 I looked this way, and I looked that way, and there was no light. Then I looked towards the king, my lord, and there was light. 13–17 A brick may move from under its partner, still I will not move from under the feet of the king, my lord.² 17–26 I have heard the orders that the king, my lord, wrote to his servant, "Guard your commissioner, and guard the cities of the king, your lord." I do indeed guard, and I do indeed obey the orders of the king, my lord, day and night. 26–40 May the king, my lord, be informed about his servant. These being war against me from the mountains, I built: [A]-[L]-[L] a house—its (the village's) name is Manjatu—to make preparations before the arrival of the archers of the king, my lord, and Maya has just taken it away from me and placed his commissioner in it. Enjoin Reanap, my commissioner, to restore my village to me, as I am making preparations before the arrival of the archers of the king, my lord. 41–52 Moreover, consider the deed of Peya, the son of Gulatu, against Gazru, the maidservant of the king, my lord. How long has he gone on plundering it so that it has become, thanks to him, like a pot held in pledge.³ People are ransomed from the mountains for 30 shekels of silver, but from Peya for 100 shekels.⁴ Be informed of these affairs of your servant.

NOTES

1. The reading of the name, written ʿIM-DI.KUD remains a matter of discussion. See RA 69 (1975) pp. 153f.; Izre'el, *Ti' Avot* 4 (1977) pp. 159ff.; idem, *IOS* 8 (1978) p. 15, n. 26; Naʿaman, *UF* 11 (1979) p. 681, n. 38.

2. Lines 8ff.: cf. the virtually identical introductions of EA 266 and 296.

3. The reading of the gloss is not entirely certain.

4. Cf. EA 297:28. *ri-qi* = *riqqi*, a byform of *riqqi* (AEW, p. 905, *riqqi* D), *ḫu-bu-šā*, in view of *ḫu-bu-šā* in EA 297:14, must derive from *ḫubullu*, "debt, interest," and "the pot of a debt" makes sense only as a type of security held until the debt is paid. The modesty of such a security contrasts with it, too, the implications of extreme poverty. This line of thought leads to the redemption in the following lines.

5. According to *PRU* 3, pp. 7f., the king of Carchemish paid a ransom of 50 shekels to get someone from the Suteans.

EA 293

Always on the watch

TEXT: C 4774 (12231).

COPY: WA 201.

{Say to the king}, my [lord, my god], my [Sun: Me]ssage of A[dda-
djanu,¹ [your] ser[van]t, the d[ir]t at your feet. I fall [at] the feet of the
king, my lord, my god, my Sun, 7 times and [7] times. 8-13 [I h]ave
heard² the order that the king, my lord, wrote to his servant, "Guard
the place of the king where you are." I am indeed guarding day and
night. 14-22 Since³ ...⁴ the king, my lord, ...⁵

NOTES

1. ^{ml}g. 'D' KUD: the second determinative (*dms*) is virtually certain, and is almost identical with the determinative in ³UTU-*ia* (line 6) (also Gordon). The next sign is doubtful only because so little is preserved, and this is compatible with *im*. In view of the otherwise (except EA 294) unparalleled features common to EA 292-93, there can be no doubt about the identity of the sender of this letter.

2. [A]b-*tu-mu*: following Gordon.

3. *Im-ma*: the first sign is completely preserved (also Gordon); perhaps "when, as to the fact that."

4. Traces of L⁹. KUR⁹ (Gordon).

5. Lines 16-22, too badly damaged for translation.

EA 294

Unquestioning obedience

TEXT: BM 29854.

COPY: BB 71.

PHOTOGRAPH: BB, pl. I.

Say to the king, my lord, my god, my Sun: Message of Ad[d]a-[d]janu,¹
your servant. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, 7
times and 7 times. 6-13 I have heard the orders that the king, my
lord, wrote to his servant, "Obey your commissioner, and guard the
cities of the king, your lord, where you are." I am indeed obeying the
orders that the king, my lord, gave me. 14-24 May the king, my

lord, be informed about his servant. Consider the deed of Peya, the son
of Gnlacn, [against] me. My men whom I sent to serve in Yapu and to
guard the house : *tu-nu-ti* (granary)² of the king, my lord, Peya, the son
of Gularu, has just taken.³ 25-35 May the king, my lord, be in-
formed of these affairs of his servant. If the king, my lord, says this to
me, "Abandon your city, (fleeing) from before Peya,"⁴ then of course I
will abandon it, and I will come and of course serve the king, my lord,
day and night, forever.

NOTES

1. On the syllabic writing here and the contested readings, see EA 292,
n. 1.

2. *tu-nu-ti* = Egyptian *tmwjt*: see Helck, *MDOG* 92 (1960) p. 11.

3. Cf. EA 292, 41ff.

4. A pregnant expression very reminiscent of *Isaiab* 17:9, *ka'at'abat* ... "for
'az'ab mippad *bn' yis'ael*", "like the region deserted by the ... that they deserted
(fleeing) from before the sons of Israel."

EA 295

A servant from head to toe

TEXT: VAT 1650.

COPIES: WA 88; VS 11, 168.

{Saly [to the king], my lord, my Sun, my god: Message of ...}-
DI. KUD: your servant, a loy[al] servant, [the dirt] beneath the sandals of
the [ki]ng, my lord. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, my Sun, my
god, 7 [times] and 7 times. 8-11 I am indeed the servant of the king,
my lord, who serves the king, my lord, [from] my head to my feet, just
as my [an]cestors² (have done) since time immemori[al]. 12-15 May
the king, [my] lord, be [in]formed of the deed that Yab[un]-... , the
ruler of Sidon³ [d]id to me. 15-22 ... [..] Evil [was done ...], and
he fell [upon ...], along with the dog, the ruler of ...⁴, along with his
brothers [...], along with the men of the hand of ...⁵, and he assemb[led
...]

Reverse

[...] 3-10 E[ti]a [has (also) been done] to [my] partner.⁶ May the king
be informed of [my] loy[alty], and may the king, [my] lord, give 50 men
along with the garr[ison] commander⁶ to guard the city : *ti-ti* (...)
[for the king]. I am indeed prepar[ing] my caravan and my intention is
to go (to Egypt) to serve the king.

NOTES

1. Na'aman, *UF* 11 (1979) pp. 673ff., has shown that EA 295 was sent by a viceroy of Tyre. He was probably the predecessor of Abi-Milko (EA 146-55), and the one killed in a palace revolt (see EA 89). The scribe of EA 295 is not the same as that of EA 146-55; perhaps he too perished with his master.
2. *la-ba-ti-ia*: so also Na'aman. The syllabic writing without the determinative LU is found only at Byblos and Tyre.
3. From Kautzsch's description of traces before *-du-na* (VAB 2/3, p. 887, note f), no longer visible even to Schroeder, Na'aman proposes [LU URU]*la-ba-ti-ia*; see *UF* 11 (1979) p. 673 (also Gordon).
4. *ga-du* = *ka-af-bi* LU URU ...; for the determinative, see Böhl, *Sprache*, p. 9; however, a syllabic writing of *ka/bu* is found elsewhere in EA only in EA 320:22 and 322:17.
5. [a-pl-lt]: if correct, this occurs elsewhere only at Byblos (*a-pl-lt*, 5 times), and always passive. Was the partner ("partners" is also possible) the ruler of Byblos? (See n. 1, and cf. EA 264, n. 2.)
6. LU.IGI.KAR.EN.(NUN/NU.UNI): in favor of EN NUN (*masjarti*), "garrison," as the task assigned to the man and the fact that 50 is a common number for manning a garrison (see EA 130:32; 238:11; 289:42). LU.IGI.KAR. perhaps *širu* or *paqida*, and *šir/paqid masjarti* may correspond to Egyptian *im-ṣ jr-ḥ*, "oversee of the garrison." For further discussion, see *Acta Sumerologica Japonensia* 5 (1983) p. 176, and cf. EA 337, n. 1.
7. Cf. EA 152:48.

EA 296

Under the yoke

TEXT: BM 29840.

COPY: BB 57.

PHOTOGRAPH: Pfeiffer, *Tell el Amarna and the Bible* (see EA 205, headnote), p. 11 (reverse only).TRANSLATION: Oppenheim, *LFM*, pp. 125f.

Say to the king, my lord, my god, my [Sun]: Message of Ya[h]ḫiru, your servant, the dirt at your feet. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, 7 times and 7 times. 9-16 Moreover, I am indeed the loyal servant of the king, my lord. I looked this way, and I looked that way, and there was no light. Then I looked towards the king, my lord, and there was light. 17-22 A brick: *la-bi-tu* may move from [un]der its partner, still I will not move from under the feet of the king, my lord. 23-29 May the king, my lord, inquire of Yanjamu, his commissioner. When I was young, he brought me into Egypt. I served the king, my lord, and I stood at the city gate of the king, my lord.

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30-35 May the king, my lord, inquire of his commissioner: whether I guard the city gate of Azzatu and the city gate of Yapu, and (whether) where the archers of the king, my lord, march, I *ma[arab]* with them. And indeed, now that I have [p]la[ad] the ... of the yoke: *ba-ul-la* of the king, my lord, on my neck, I carry it.

NOTES

1. Lines pff.: see EA 292, n. 2.
2. After *it*... I could see nothing.
3. Traces impossible to read.

EA 297

The sweet breath of the king

TEXT: BM 29834.

COPY: BB 51.

PHOTOGRAPH: BB, pl. 5.

TRANSLATION: Albright, *ANET*, p. 490.

Say to the king, my lord, my god, my Sun: Message of Yapahu, your servant, the dirt at your feet. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, 7 times and 7 times. 8-16 Whatsoever the king, my lord, has said to me, I have listened to with the greatest care. Moreover, I have become like a (bronze) pot: *št-ḥ* given in pledge, because of the Sureans. 17-21 I have, however, just heard the sweet breath of the king. It has come forth to me, and my heart is very content.¹

NOTES

1. *bi-na-ri-qi* URUDU: *št-ḥ*; on *ri-qi*, see EA 292, n. 4. To judge from the synonymous gloss *šḥ*, URUDU is probably best taken as a determinative. As to the gloss, Rainey, *UF* 5 (1973) p. 251, n. 82, compared Hebrew *šḥ* but this had already been assumed by Albright, as seems clear from his translation, "an empty [ḫ] bronze [URUDU] cauldron [*šḥ*]," and he restored the gloss in EA 292:16. On the position of the gloss, not in the previous line (Kautzsch), *št-ḥ* is written higher than the rest of line 15, but this seems to have been occasioned by the scribe's awareness of the lack of room; *ri* is even higher than *šḥ*, and the writing slopes gradually upward. See also EA 292, n. 4.
2. See EA 100, n. 9.

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EA 298

A perfidious younger brother

TEXT: BM 29833.
COPY: BB 50.TRANSLATIONS: Albright, *ANET*, p. 490; Freydanck, in A. Jepsen, ed., *Von Sinuhe bis Nebukadnezar*, p. 100.

{T}o the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, the Sun from the sky: Message of Yapaf[hu], the ruler of Gazru, your servant, the dirt at your feet, the groom of your horses. I prostrate myself at the feet of the king, my lord, the Sun from the sky, 7 times and 7 times, both on the stomach and on the back. 14-19 Whatever the king, my lord, has said to me, I have listened to very carefully. I am a servant of the king and the dirt at your feet. 20-33 May the king, my lord, be informed that my younger brother, having become my enemy, entered Muhhazu and pledged hi(m)self to¹ the 'Apiru. As [T]janna² is at war with me, take thought for your land. May my lord write to his commissioner with regard to this deed.

NOTES

1. *qa-(i)-ir*: "to give the hand" is understood, with Greenberg, *Ushbrre*, p. 49, in the light of Hebrew parallels; CAD, N/1, p. 54, "to join."
2. Cf. URU *ri-ri-ri-ri-ri* (EA 28433) and [KUR/URU *ri-ri-ri* na³] (EA 30634), following Na'aman, *UF* 11 (1979) p. 679, n. 28.

EA 299

A plea for help

TEXT: BM 29832.
COPY: BB 49.PHOTOGRAPH: Barnett, *Illustrations*, p. 14.

To the king, my lord, my god, the Sun, the Sun {f}rom the sky: Message of Yapafu, the ruler of Gazru, your servant, the dirt at your feet, the groom of your horses. Truly I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, the Sun from the sky, 7 times and 7 times, on the stomach and on the back. 12-21 I have listened to the words of the messenger of the king, my lord, very carefully. May the king, my lord, the Sun from the sky, take thought for his land. Since the 'Apiru are stronger than we, may the king, my lord, (g)ive² me his help, and

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EA 300

may the king, my lord, get me² away from the 'Apiru lest the 'Apiru destroy us.

NOTES

1. *(i)-ri-ri-ri-ri*: following Izre'el, *Tel Aviv* 4 (1977) p. 163.
2. *ri-ri-ri-ri*: the last sign, which is more probably *ri* than *nu*, "us," seems to have been written over LUGAL, which should probably be ignored in the translation; cf. EA 29833, *beliya* alone. For the reading, see Bottéro, *Ushbrre*, p. 110, Na'aman, *UF* 11 (1979) p. 679, n. 29.

EA 300

A servant like his father

TEXT: VAT 1606.
COPY: VS 11, 171.

[S]ay to the king, my [lo]rd, [my g]od, my Sun, the Su[n] f[ro]m the sky: Message of Yapafu, the ruler of Gazru, your servant, the dirt at your feet, the groom of your horses. [I f]all at the f[ee]t [of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times. 10-14 [M]ay the king, my lord, m[ay] I god, know th[is] the means of subsistence have disappeared [fr]om my [co]un[try], and m[ay] I have [not] b[e]en at all. 15-22 May he send [hi]s [brother]. It is they alone who [. . .] must get me back into my cities so I can serve the king, my lord, in accordance with (the practice of) my father and [his f]amily deeds.²

23-28 I have indeed o[bey]ed the o[r]ders of the king, my lord, and I obey [all] the orders of May[is, the com]m[issio]ner of the [k]ing, my lord, [the Sun] from the sky, the s[on] of the Sun.

NOTES

1. 10 [am]-qa [i]-de-m] [LUGAL EN-ia] II [DINGIR.MI]E[ri-ri-ri-ri] [i-n] [u-ma] 12 T[1].LA [hal]-qa [i]-ri-ri-ri 13 KUR-ia x a-(nu)-nu [i]-im-ma a-na ia-ri: see also Izre'el, *TOS* 8 (1978) p. 14, n. 15; Na'aman, *UF* 11 (1979) p. 679, n. 30.
2. Against [a-ri-ri-ri-ri], "his (female) partner," understood either of the local queen (*VAB* 2/2, p. 124B) or of the writer of EA 299B (Gordon), is the fact that *tappu* (4 times) and *tappu* (3 times); see that EA 29214 was perhaps written by the same scribe as EA 300) are always written with the *top*-sign. For [i-ri-ri-ri], plural of *ri*, see EA 136, n. 5.

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EA 301

500 oxen and 20 girls

TEXT: C 4781 (12214).
COPY: WA 117.

To the [k]ing, my lord, the [Sun] fr[om] the sky: Message of Šubandju, your servant, the dirt at your feet. I prostrate myself, on the stomach and on the back, at the feet of the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, the Sun from the sky, 7 times and 7 times. 12–23 The king, my lord, the Sun from the sky, sent Hanyu to me, and I have indeed listened to the [w]ords of the king, my lord, [ve]ry carefully, and I herewith g[iv]e 500 oxen and 20 girls. For the information of the king, my lord, the Sun from the sky.

NOTE

1. The position of the one clear vertical and the traces I thought I could see favor I believe, Knudsen's reading of "500" or "300"; Gudon could see nothing besides the single vertical. The reading "20" is virtually certain.

EA 302

Preparations as ordered

TEXT: VAT 332.
COPIES: WA 120; VS 11, 172.

To the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, the Sun from the [sky]: Message of Šubandju, your servant, the dirt at your feet. I prostrate myself at the feet of the king, my lord, the Sun from the sky, 7 times and 7 times. 11–18 As to the messenger whom the king, my lord, sent to me, I have listened to his words [ve]ry carefully, [and] I am indeed [ma]king the preparations [as] he commanded.

EA 303

Careful listening

TEXT: BM 29821.
COPY: BB 38.

To the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, the Sun from the sky: Message of Šubandu, your servant, and the dirt at your feet, the groom of your

EA 304

horses. 7–12 I prostrate myself, on the stomach and on the back, at the feet of the king, my lord, the Sun from the sky, 7 times and 7 times. 13–18 I have heard [a]ll the words of the king, my [lord], the Sun from the [sky], and I am indeed [g]uarding the place [of the king] where I am. 19–21 I have listened [to] Taḫmašti [ve]ry carefully.

EA 304

Guarding the place of the king

TEXT: BM 29822.
COPY: BB 39.
PHOTOGRAPH: BB, pl. 12.

To the king, [my lord, my god], my Sun, the Sun from the sky: Message of Šubandu, your servant, the dirt at [your] feet, the groom of your [horses]. 8–14 I [p]ro[st]rate myself, on the [st]omach and on the b[ac]k, at the feet [of the king], my lord, the Sun [fr]om the sky, 7 times and 7 times. 15–24 I have heard the words of the r[ab]bler of the king, my lord, that he s[pe]nt me, and I am indeed [g]uarding the place of the king, my lord, where I am. May the king take cognizance [of] his lands.

EA 305

The power of the 'Apiru

TEXT: C 4780 (12215).
COPY: WA 116.

To the king, my lord, the Sun from the sky, my god, my Sun: Message of Šubandu, your servant, the dirt at your feet, the groom of your horses. 8–14 I indeed prostrate myself, on the stomach and on the back, at the feet of the king, my lord, the Sun from the sky, 7 times and 7 times. 15–24 I have heard the words of the king, my lord, that he sent me, and I am indeed guarding the place of the k[ing] where I am. As the 'Apiru are more p[ow]erful than we, may the king take cognizance of his lands.

EA 310

Message lost

TEXT: VAT 1698.
COPY: VS 11, 169.

Too fragmentary for translation.

EA 311

Following orders

TEXT: VAT 1597.
COPY: VS 11, 175.

[To the king, my lord, my Sun ... [... the dirt at] your {feet, the
groom of your} hors(es). I prostr[ate myself at the feet] of the king, [my
lord, the Sun fr[om the sky], [7 t]imes and 7 times. 14-19 [...] ... I
guard the city [of the king] wh[ere I am]. [...].

EA 312

Message lost

TEXT: VAT 1886 + 1709.
COPY: VS 11, 176.

Too fragmentary for translation.

EA 313

Payment to the commissioner

TEXT: C 4782 (12228).
COPY: WA 197.

[...] 1-11 your² [...] 13 *me[²chanti*]³ from Egypt, who were struck
down in the attack of the 'Apiru. I have given 400 shekels of silver, *plus*
1000,⁴ to the commissioner of the k[ing] who is over me. 11-20 And
&&(and) the men that did this deed the Sun has given *into the powerful*
... of the king. And truly the 2 servants [of the king] were not [...];
*they were struck [down],*⁵ ...

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NOTES

1. To judge from the clay (grayish and filled with seashell fragments) and the script, this letter was very probably sent by Subandu (EA 301-6).
2. *š* probably belongs on line 1 (Gordon) rather than on line 2 (Knudtzon).
3. I.G.MEŠ DA(M)'. GĀR'. MEŠ': the first questionable sign is certainly not *š* (Knudtzon); the copy is accurate. Gordon saw traces following ŠAL that require DAM; if correct, the rest of the restoration is obvious.
4. Unless there is question of two separate payments or two separate indemnities, this is a strange way to write 1400. Or are 400 shekels paid *against* a debt of 1000?
5. *x-²*: first sign is not *š* (Knudtzon); unless two signs, a large sign.
6. *me-š[š]*: last sign is hardly *š* (Knudtzon); cf. line 4.

EA 314

A shipment of glass

TEXT: C 4778 (12219).
COPY: WA 153.

To the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, the Sun from the sky: Message
of Pu-Ba'lu, your servant, the ruler of Yurša. I indeed prostrate myself
at the feet of the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, the Sun from the sky,
7 times and 7 times, on the back and on the stomach. 11-16 I am
indeed guarding the place of the king, (my) lord, my Sun, the Sun from
the sky. Who is the do[*g that would not obey the orders of the king, the Sun
from the sky?* 17-22 (Since the king, my lord, has ord[er]ed some glass, I
[sh]eud it to the king, my lord, my god, the Sun from the sky).

EA 315

Like a command of the Sun

TEXT: BM 29839.
COPY: BB 56.

[To the k[ing], my lord, my god, the Sun from the sky: Message of Pu-
Ba'lu, the ruler of Yurša, the dirt at your feet. I indeed prostrate myself
at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times, on the back and on
the sto[m]ach.

8-12 I am indeed guard[ing] the city of the king, [my] lo[rd], and
the place of the king, my lord, the Sun fr[om the sky]. Whatever the

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king, my lord, has commanded—I am indeed observing, day and night, the order of the king, my lord.

13–18 As to [R]eanapa, the commissioner [of the king], (my) lord, what the king, my lord, commanded (through him), [is *nigibry* like the command of the Sun in the sky. [W]h[o] is the dog¹ that would not [ob]serve² the orders of the king, my lord, [the Sun] f[ro]m the sky?

NOTES

1. On the logogram UŠ GU, see Kühne, p. 145.
2. *[yi n]b-ss-n*: following Rainey, AOAT 84, p. 84.

EA 316

Postscript to the royal scribe

TEXT: BM 29838.

COPY: BB 55.

[To the king, m(y) lord, (my) god, my Sun fr(o)m the s[ky: Mess]age of Pu-Ba[š]u, your servant and the dirt at your feet, the [gr]oom of your horses. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, my god, my Sun from the sky, 7 times and [7] times, on the back and on the stomach ro–r5 I am indeed guarding the pla[ce] of the king carefully. And who is the [d]og that would [n]eg[ect]¹ (the comma)nd² of the king? I am indeed obeying the orders of [T]em[er]u,³ the commissioner of the king.

16–25 To the scribe⁴ of [my lord: Me]ssage of Pu-Ba[š]u. I fall[!] at your feet. There was nothing in my h[ou]se when I [en]ter[ed] it,⁵ and so I have not sent a caravan to you. I am now preparing a fine caravan for you.

NOTES

1. [i]n]b-šm-nb-šm: from *mekš*?
2. {n}n]b (N)IM.G[AR.R]A²
3. [m]a]b-n]b-šm: Albright, *JNES* 5 (1946) p. 11, rightly doubted the existence of an otherwise unknown [m]a]b-n]b-šm (Knudtzon), but his own reading "m]a-an-in", is unlikely; cf. EA 2659.
4. For the Egyptianism, see Albright, *ibid.*, pp. 20f.; Helck, *Beziehungen*, p. 435, n. 6; Schulman, *Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt* 3 (1964) p. 60, n. 73.
5. Perhaps referring to his accession to the throne; cf. EA 286r3.

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EA 317

A family tradition of service

TEXT: VAT 1676.

COPY: WA 129, VS 11, 177.

TRANSLITERATION: Artzi, *JNES* 27 (1968) p. 170.

Dagantakala, your servant, says to the Great King, my lord: I fall at the feet of the Great King, my lord, 7 times and 7 times.¹ 7–12 And now Dagantakalla, your servant, belongs to the Great King, my lord. I have indeed listened to the orders of the Great King, my lord. 13–18 Dagantakala says, "Just as my father [and] my [gtan]d-father, too, [a]cted towards the Great King, I have act[ed] towards the Great King, my lord." 19–25 The Great King, my lord, has said to me, "Obey your commissioner."² I have obeyed very carefully, and the commissioner is the one who knows whether I have not obeyed him.

NOTES

1. On the northern margin of EA 317f., see Artzi.
2. LÜ (š)AŠKIM ša ss-ni-šr on *šazannu* as the designation of an Egyptian official, see EA 250, n. 5.

EA 318

Save me

TEXT: BM 29857.

COPY: BB 74.

PHOTOGRAPH: BB, pl. 1.

TRANSLITERATION: Artzi, *JNES* 27 (1968) p. 170.

Dagantakala, your servant, says to the Great King, (my) lord, the Sun in the sky: I fall at the feet of the Great King, my lord, 7 times and 7 times.¹ Save me from the *paaw[š]at* enemies, from the hand of the 'Apir[ū], robbers, and Suteans. And save m[e], Great King, m[y] lord!² And *babald!* I have *w[š]t[en]* [to] you!³ Mo[reover], you G[reat] Ki[ng], my lord, save me or I *will be [š]r*⁴ to the Great King. (my) lord!

NOTES

1. See EA 317, n. 1.
2. Following the proposal of Weippert, *Die Landnahme der israelitischen Stämme in der neueren wissenschaftlichen Diskussion* (Göttingen, 1967), p. 76, n. 2, to read *š-šr-šr-šr-šr* and to translate as if the precative does not seem probable.

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3. *š a-ma-ur-zi*? 17 *šd-(ap)-se-[k]h₂?*

4. *i ma-ba-a-š(1)*: so Artzi, based on his collation, and translation on the basis of EA 288:52 (perhaps third person, "it will be lost," i.e., the territory). The thematic vowel, however, is puzzling, and the writing *ba-a* is also unexpected. Simply *i-ma-ma-a*, "it will become a wasteland"?

EA 319

An obedient dog

TEXT: VAT 1722.

COPIES: WA 145, VS II, 178.

[To the king], my lord, my god, [my Sun], the Sun from the [sky]: Message of Sur-Ašar, the ruler of A[š]tišna, your servant, the dirt at your feet, the groom of your horses. I indeed prostrate myself at the feet of the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, the Sun from the sky, 7 times and 7 times, on the stomach and on the back. 15-23 I have indeed listened to the orders of the commissioner of the king, my [lo]rd, very carefully. Who is the [d]og that would not obey the orders of the king, his lord, the Sun from the sky, the son of the Sun?

NOTE

1. On A[š]tišna, A[š]tišna following Knudtzon's reading and the arguments of Na'aman, in E. Steu and D. Utman, eds., *Man and Environment in the Southern Shoshals: Studies in Regional Geography and History* (Massachusetts), 1988, sect. 98, p. 19, against G[un]tišna.

EA 320

Listening carefully (1)

TEXT: C 4777 (12218).

COPY: WA 121.

TRANSLATION: Albright, *ANET*, p. 490.

[To the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, the Sun from the sky: Message of Y[idiya], the ruler of Ašqaluna, your servant, the dirt at your feet, the groom of your horses. 10-15 I indeed prostrate myself, on the stomach and on the back, at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times. 16-21 I am indeed guard[ing] the place of the king where I am. Whatever the k[ing], my lord, has written me, I have listened to very carefully. 22-25 Who is the dog that would not obey the orders of the king, his lord, the son of the Sun?

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EA 321

Listening carefully (2)

TEXT: VAT 1671.

COPIES: WA 119; VS II, 182.

To the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, the Sun from the sky: [Mes]sage of Y[idiya], the ruler of Ašqaluna, your servant, the dirt at your feet, the groom of your horses. 10-14 I indeed prostrate myself at the feet of the king, my lord, the Sun from the sky, 7 times and 7 times. 15-23 As to the commissioner of the king, my lord, whom the king, my lord, the Sun from the sky, sent to me, I have listened to his orders [ve]ry carefully.

24-26 [And] I am indeed guard[ing] the [plac]e of the king where I am.

EA 322

Listening carefully (3)

TEXT: C 4776 (12217).

COPY: WA 118.

To the king], my [lo]rd, [m]y g[od], [m]y Sun, the Sun fr[om] the sky: Mess[age] of Y[idiya], the ruler of A[š]qaluna, y[our] servant, the [d]irt at [y]our feet, the g[room] of your horses. 9-14 I [m] indeed prostrate myself, on the stomach and on the back, at the feet of the king, my lord, the Sun from the sky, 7 times and 7 times. 15-19 I am indeed guard[ing] the place of the king where I am. Who is the dog that would not obey the commissioner of the king? 20-24 I have indeed listened very carefully to the commissioner of the king, my lord, the son of the Sun from the sky.

EA 323

A royal order for glass

TEXT: BM 29836.

COPY: BB 53.

To the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, the Sun from the sky: Message of Y[idiya], your servant, the dirt at your feet, the groom of your horses. 6-13 I indeed prostrate myself, on the back and on the stomach, at the

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feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times. I am indeed guarding the (p)lace of the king, my lord, and the city of the king, in accordance with the command of the king, my lord, the Sun from the sky. 13-16 As to the king, my lord's, having ordered some glass, I [her]e with send to the k[ing], my [l]ord, 30 (pieces) of glass. 17-23 Moreover, who is the dog that would not obey the orders of the king, my lord, the Sun fr[om] the sky, the son of the Sun, [wh]om the Sun loves?

EA 324

Preparations completed (1)

TEXT: BM 29837.

COPY: BB 54.

PHOTOGRAPH: BB, pl. 21.

To the king, my lord, my Sun, my god, the Sun from the sky: Message of Yidya, [y]our servant, the dirt at your feet, the groom of your horses. I indeed prostrate myself, on the back and on the stomach, at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times. 10-15 I am indeed observing the orders of the king, my lord, the son of the Sun, and I have indeed prepared food, strong drink, oil, grain, oxen, sheep and goats,¹ before the arrival of the troops of the king, my lord. I have [re]pared² everything for the troops of the king, my lord. 16-19 Who is the dog that would not obey the orders of the king, my lord, the son of the Sun?

NOTES

1. See EA 55, n. 2. Yidya may be here replying to the demands of EA 370.
2. [re]-pa-ri: the reading is virtually certain; the translation assumes derivation from *biāru*, as if "to house." It may also be an aberrant form of *bu'ru*, "I have searched out"; cf. EA 143/15, 264/6, 20.

EA 325

Preparations completed (2)

TEXT: BM 29835.

COPY: BB 52.

PHOTOGRAPHS: BB, pl. 14; Barnett, *Illustrations*, p. 15.

(To) the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, the Sun fr[om] the sky: Message of Yidya, your servant, the dirt at your feet, the groom of

[y]our horses. I indeed prostrate myself, on the back and on the stomach, at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times.

10-14 I am indeed guarding the place of the king, my lord, and the city of the king, my lord, [w]here I am. Who is the dog that would not obey the orders of the king, the Sun from the sky?

15-19 I have indeed prepared absolutely everything—[f]ood, strong drink, oxen, sheep and goats,¹ grain, straw, absolutely everything that the king, my lord, commanded. I have indeed prepared it.

20-22 And I am indeed p[re]paring the tribute of the Sun, in accordance with the comma[nd] of the king, my lord, the Sun fr[om] the sky).

NOTE

1. See EA 55, n. 2. This letter is hardly more than a restatement of EA 324, and like EA 324, it may be an answer to EA 370.

EA 326

A new commissioner

TEXT: VAT 1672.

COPIES: WA 122; VS 11, 183.

To the king, my lord, my god, [my] Sun, the Sun from the sky: Message of Yidya, your servant, the dirt at your feet, the groom of your horses. I indeed prostrate myself, on the [back] and on the stomach, at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times.

9-12 I am indeed guarding the city of the king, my lord. May the gods of the king, my lord, [guard] his cities, and may the [pawer]/[u]f hands of the king guard his entire land.

13-19 I have heard the word of the king, my lord, to his commissioner. Since he was unable to guard the land of the king, my lord, the king, my lord, has now appointed Resnaps as [com]missioner of the king, my lord. He brings to m[e]² whatever seems good to the king, my lord.

20-24 [Wha]tever proceed[s] from the mouth of the king, my lord, I indeed observe it day and nig[ht].

NOTES

1. [da-su/du]-su-su-ma: following Rainey, *UF* 7 (1975) p. 412; on the gender agreement, cf. *amānu*, both masculine and feminine, in EA 101/26; 104/46; 227/9; 292/52; 294/26.

2. Lit. "to my head." On *gaqqada*, "person, self," and its survival in the Western Periphery, see CAD, Q, pp. 106f.

EA 327

An order for glass

See EA 235.

EA 328

Obedience to the commissioner

TEXT: C 4775 (12193).

COPY: WA 124.

To the king, my lord, [my] god, my Sun, the Sun from the sky: Message of Yabni-Ilu, the ruler of Lakiša, your servant, the dirt at your feet, the groom of your horses. 10-16 I indeed prostrate myself at the feet of the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, the Sun from the sky, 7 times and 7 times, on the stomach and on the back. 17-26 As to the [com]missioner [of] the king, my lord, [wh]om [the king, my lord, sent to m(e)], I have indeed heard all the words that Maya, the kin[g's] commissioner, has spoken to me. I am indeed carrying out every one of them.

EA 329

Preparations under way

TEXT: VAT 1673.

COPIES: WA 123; VS 11, 181.

TRANSLATION: Freydanck, in A. Jepsen, ed., *Von Sinuhe bis Nebukadnezar* (see EA 254, headnote), p. 100.

To the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, the Sun from the sky: Message of Zimreddi, the ruler of Lakiša, your servant, the dirt at your feet. I prostrate myself at the feet of the king, my lord, the Sun from the sky, 7 times and 7 times. 13-20 As to the messenger of the king, my lord, whom he sent to me, I have listened to his orders very carefully, and I am indeed making preparations in accordance with his order.

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EA 330

Dirt at the feet of the king

TEXT: BM 29848.

COPY: BB 63.

PHOTOGRAPH: Barnett, *Illustrations*, p. 15.

Say [to] the king, my lord: Message of Šipri-Bašlu, your servant and the dirt at the feet of the king, my lord. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, 7 times and 7 times, at the feet of the king, my lord. 9-16 May the king, my lord, know that I have heard all the [w]ords of the king, my lord. Moreover, more, too, that Yanhamu is the loyal servant of the king and the dirt at the feet of the king. 17-21 Moreover, may the king, my lord, know that the city of the king where I am is safe and sound.¹

NOTE

1. *yal, (šu)-ma-at*.

EA 331

Glass for the king

TEXT: C 4779 (12221).

COPY: WA 200

[To] the k[ing], [my] lord, my god, [my] Sun, the Sun from the [sk]y: Message of Šipri-Bašlu, your se[r]vant, the dirt at your feet, the groom of your horses. I indeed prostrate myself at the feet of the king, my lord, my god, my Sun, the Sun [f]rom the sky, 7 tim[es] and 7 times, on the sto[m]ach and on the ba[ck]. 12-24 I am indeed g[ua]rding the place of the king, my lord, and the city of the king where [I] am. And as to the king, my [l]ord's, [h]aving [o]rdered w[hat]ever glass [I] may have on hand, I herewith [s]end [it] to [the king], my lord, my god, my [S]un, [the S]un from the sky.

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EA 332

Message lost

TEXT: VAT 1883.
COPY: VS 11, 184.

[To the king, (my) lord, (my) S[n]n, my [god, the Sun from the [sky:
Message of] Šipri-Ba[lu, the ruler of I]kikiša, [your servant], the dirt
[at yo]ur [feet], [the groom of] your [horses . . .].

EA 333

Plots and disloyalty

TEXT: Istanbul Arkeoloji Müzeleri, Tell el-Hesi, E1. 11.
COPY: BE 1/2, pl. LXIV, no. 147.
PHOTOGRAPH: BE 1/2, pl. XXIV, nos. 66-67.
TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Albright, BASOR 87
(1942) pp. 33ff.
TRANSLATION: Ebeling, p. 370; Albright, ANET, p. 490;
Na'aman, in E. Stern and D. Urman, eds., *Man and
Environment in the Southern Shephelah: Studies in Regional
Geography and History* (Massada, 1988), sect. 94 (Hebrew).

Say [to] the magnate: [Message of P]Jaapu.¹ I fall [a]t yonr feet.
4-18 May you know that Šipri-Ba[lu and Zimredda are acting disloy-
ally] together, and Šipri-Ba[lu said to Zimredda, "The for[ces] of the
town of Yaramu have written to me. Give me [x +] 11³ bows, 3
daggers,⁶ and 3 swords. Look,⁷ I am about to sally forth against the
land of the king, and you are in league⁸ with me."⁹ 19-26 To be sure,
he rejects² (the charge of) disloyalty to the king, (saying), "The one
who is disloyal is Paapn, so send him [to] me." I [m]u¹⁰ send Rabi-
lin. He will [certainly] answer¹¹ him [i]n¹² this matter.

NOTES

1. I have not seen the copy by Scheil (see VAB 2/1, p. 15).
2. *am-ma-egla-a-pi* following Albright, BASOR 87 (1942) pp. 33ff., and cf. Knudtzon, VAB 2/1, p. 945, n. 1; the reading is certain.
3. This form, *tu-ia-ia-ia* (line 20), and *š-ia-aj* (line 21), are classified by AHU, p. 1205, as (Canaanite) passives of *šānu*, "to despise." Formally, this is possible, but I cannot make sense of the letters under this assumption, and so I follow Albright in taking all forms as "intensives" (*ibid.*, p. 33, n. 8). The

absolute use in this line is comparable to *šānu*, "to condemn," but also "to sin," and there may have been some confusion between *šānu* and *šānu*.

4. 'a'-bi or 'ša'-bi: traces of two verticals, with Knudtzon and BE 1/2; Albright's LU (*ibid.*, p. 34, n. 10) is impossible.
5. Traces favor 10 + 1, with room for another 10. Against 6 (Knudtzon) is the fact that enough of the final vertical is visible to argue against another above it.
6. GJR URUDU: following Albright, *ibid.*
7. "H" does not seem to fit the context; on *šamtu*, see EA 35, n. 3.
8. The erasure at the end of line 18 seems to have been of *a-na*; cf. *a-na ta-ii* in the line above.
9. *š-ia-aj* following Albright, *ibid.*, the visible horizontal is lower than one would expect if the last sign were *ii* (Knudtzon).
10. *š-ia-aj* (Knudtzon) fills the break better than *š-ia-aj* (Albright).
11. *š-na-na*.
12. *[lu]-u' y-ia-ia*.
13. *š-na*: traces of a vertical probable (Knudtzon).

EA 334

Message lost

TEXT: VAT 1609.
COPY: VS 11, 185.

[S]aly [to] the kin[g], my lord: Message of [. . .] Zai[ra].¹ [. . .] . . .

NOTE

1. [. . .] x [U] URU *tu-ia-ia*¹⁰ seems a possible reading of the traces. For the possibility of reading *am-ep-ia-ia*, see Na'aman, in Stern and Urman (see EA 333), sects. 97-98, n. 18. The rest of the letters is too fragmentary for translation.

EA 335

All alone

TEXT: VAT 1616 + 1708.
COPY: VS 11, 186.
TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Na'aman, UF 11 (1979)
p. 677.

[Say to the king, my lord: Message of 'Abdi-Ašarti, your servant.
I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times, both on
the stomach and] on the back, [at the feet of the king], my lord.¹
6-12 [May the kin]g, my lord, be [informed that] I am [all alone]. May
[the kin]g, my lord, be [in]formed] that Tu[bazu and] Yāpiti]-Hadda

blaise been slai'm ; *mi-bi-ja*, and . . . [. . .]² Lakišu. May the king, my lord, be informed. And [the r]ebai has [taken] 13-21 all my . . . May the king, my lord, be informed that Lakišu is h[os]tile, Mu[ri]štu ste[er]ed, [Jerusalem has]tile. [And so may] the king, [my lord, send] [archers . . .].

NOTES

1. The lineation is Na'aman's. See also EA 63-65.
2. If one reads *na-ki-ri* (Knudtzon, Na'aman), one must find a masculine subject. By rule, Lachish is feminine, cf. line 15.

EA 336

Message lost

TEXT: VAT 1707.
COPY: VS 11, 188.

[Š]ay [to the king], [my] lo[r]d: Message of Hizziru, [your] servant. [I fall] [at the f]eet of my lord 7 times [and 7 r]imes. [. . .]

EA 337

Abundant supplies ready

TEXT: VAT 1679.
COPIES: WA 147; VS 11, 187.

Say to the king, my lord, my Sun, my god: Message of Hizziru, your servant. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times. 7-12 The king, my lord, wrote to me, "Prepare the supplies (*ma-at-ri-a*) before the arrival of a large army of: *pi-ia-ri* (archers) of the king, [my] l[ord]. 13-23 May the god of the king, my lord, grant that the king, my lord, come forth along with his large army and learn about his lands. I have indeed prepared accordingly abundant supplies: *ma-at-ri-a* before the arrival of a large army of the king, my lord.

24-30 The king, my lord, wrote to me, "Guard Maya," the commissioner of the king, my lord. Truly, I guard Maya very carefully.

NOTES

1. On 1G1 KAR, "provisions, supplies," see P. Steinkeller, *Acta Sumerologica Japonensia* 4 (1982) pp. 149ff.; on its use here and the gloss (cf. Phoenician *mrw*), see the Introduction, sect. 3, and n. 37, and *Acta Sumerologica Japonensia* 5 (1983) pp. 175f.

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2. *pi-ia-ri* is perhaps simply a gloss to ERIN.MRS; note the position of the gloss in line 21, and see Introduction, n. 100.

EA 338

Message lost

TEXT: VAT 1884.
COPY: VS 11, 189.

Too fragmentary for translation.

EA 339

Message lost

TEXT: VAT 1887.
COPY: VS 11, 190.

Too fragmentary for translation.

EA 340-61

A sequence of tablets not containing letters or inventories, and therefore omitted here. See the Introduction, sect. 2.

EA 362

A commissioner murdered

TEXT: AO 7093.
COPY: Thureau-Dangin, *RA* 19 (1922) pp. 102f.
PHOTOGRAPH: "Amarna," *Dictionnaire de la Bible*, Supplément, vol. 1 (Paris, 1928), fig. 10.
TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Thureau-Dangin, *RA* 19 (1922) pp. 91ff.; Rainey, *AOAT* 8², pp. 18ff.
TRANSLATION: Oppenheim, *LFM*, pp. 131ff.

Rib-Haddi. Say to the king, my lord: I fall beneath the feet of my lord 7 times and 7 times.² 5-11 I have indeed heard the words of the king, my lord, and my heart is overjoyed. May my lord hasten the sending of the archers with all speed. If the king, my lord, does not send archers, then we ourselves must die and 12-20 Gubla² will be taken. *He was*

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disraught recently; *be* is also *disraught* now.³ Recently they were saying, "There will be no archers," but I wrote with the result that archers came out and took their father. 21-30 Now indeed they are saying, "Let him not write or we will certainly be taken."⁴ They seek to capture Gubla, and they say, "If we capture Gubla, we will be strong." If they capture Gubla, they will be strong;⁵ there will not be a man left, (and) they (the archers) will certainly be too few for them.⁶ 31-39 I for my part have guarded Gubla, the city of the king, night (and) day. Should I move to the (outlying) territory, then the men will desert in order to take territory for themselves,⁷ and there will be no men to guard Gubla, the city of the king, my lord. 40-50 So may my lord hasten the archers or we must die. Because my lord has written to me, they know indeed that they are going to die, and so they seek to commit a crime.⁸ As to his having said⁹ before the king, "There is a pestilence in the lands," the king, my lord, should not listen to the words of other men. There is no pestilence in the lands. It has been over for a long time.¹⁰ 51-59 My lord knows that I do not write lies to my lord. All the mayoes are not in favor of the archers' coming out, for they have peace. I am the one who wants them to come out, for I have distress. 60-65 May the king, my lord, come out, visit his lands, and take all. Look, the day you come out, all the lands will be (re)joined to the king, my lord. Who will resist the troops of the king? 66-69 May the king, my lord, not leave this year five (or) the sons of 'Abdi-Asirta, for you know all their acts of hatred¹¹ against the lands of the king. Who are they that they have committed a crime and killed the commissioners: *is-bi-ka-na*, Pewure?

NOTES

1. See EA 126, n. 1.
2. On URL.MES as singular, see EA 129, n. 33.
3. URL.MES *ybr^h-di is-ml, qm ma-^h-ga-mi . . . : agimi* ("today") (Thureau-Dangin, RA 19 (1922) p. 92, n. 1; AHU, p. 15; CAD, A1, p. 14) must be rejected. It is neither West Semitic (AHU, CAD), where it is unknown and has no explanation, nor a compound of *ag^h + imi* (Thureau-Dangin), since the first element is attested only in very late times. Moreover, *im^h-ma* is impossible, since enclitic *-ma* is rare in general and does not appear once in this letter, where we find *-ni* 13 times and even *gi-bi-mi*, an extremely rare replacement of *sanad^h gi-bi-mi*. We thus have a twofold comparison between the past and the present: *ma-a-ga-mi* in the past (*sanad^h taladmi*), *ma-an-ga-am-mi* (also) in the present (*inanna*) on the non-initial position, cf. EA 101.11-18; but, in the past (*sanad^h taladmi*) they were saying . . . (*iqbilim*); on the form see EA 126, n. 12), *uow* (*inanna*) they are saying . . . (*iqbilim*). An unattested West Semitism, *ma^h(^h)* "what" + *gmi*

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"also" (Rainey), understood to mean that what was true in the past is also true now, does not allow for the statement of contrast between the past and the present. And so I assume either a mistake (*ma-a for ma-an*) or *im^h-ma = inanna*. The subject I would identify as Asirta, who reappears unnamed in line 46 (see n. 9). On the meaning of the verb, see EA 106, n. 3.

4. Lines 15-23; see Or n.s. 29 (1960) pp. 4 and 15.
5. Lines 25-29; see JCS 4 (1950) p. 170.
6. *ia-^h-^h-^h-ni LO-la re-^h ja a-na ta-^h-^h-^h-ni*: accusative *awla*, governed by *yaku*, according to rule (JCS 2 (1948) p. 248); *re^h* is from (*re^h*), not from (*re^h*), since in the latter the preformative is always *re* (see lines 19, 56, and 62 in this letter). On a similar warning about the archers (feminine singular, by title; see JCS 6 (1952) p. 78), cf. EA 157:44 and n. 8.
7. Lines 34-39; see Or n.s. 29 (1960) p. 34.
8. Rib-Hadda seems to imply that the sons of 'Abdi-Asirta were familiar with the Pharaoh's letter promising the arrival of archers, an event that would mean their deaths. The crime would be the capture of Babylon, an event rendering the arrival of the archers meaningless; see above, lines 25-30. Perhaps the murder of Pewure should also be included; see below, line 69.
9. *yig^h* is in form singular, and the subject can only be Asirta, at this period at least *pramus inter pares* (fratres); see Rainey, AOAT 82, p. 21.
10. Or: "all is healthy for a long time" (cf. Rainey, *ibid.*), "all is healthier than before" (cf. Thureau-Dangin; Dhorme, RB 33 (1924) p. 8 [also in *Revue É. D'Égypte*, p. 492]; Oppenheim, LFAM).
11. Line 66; following Thureau-Dangin, cf. EA 162:42f. Line 67: *ni-di in-na*: cf. *lanu^h-^h*, "hater, enemy" (AHU, p. 1164), but the comparison is questionable, and other interpretations are possible (Thureau-Dangin, Oppenheim, Rainey).

EA 363

A joint report on Amqu (4)

TEXT: AO 7097.

COPY: Thureau-Dangin, RA 19 (1922) p. 107.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Thureau-Dangin, RA 19 (1922) pp. 94f.; Rainey AOAT 82, pp. 24f.

Say to the king, my lord, my god, my Sun: Message of 'Abdi-Riṣa,² your servant, the ruler of E(m)ṣasi.³ I fall in the dirt under the feet of the king, my lord, 7 times and 7 times. 7-14 Look, we ar(e) in Amqu, in cities of the king, my lord, and Etakkama, the ruler of Qissa, assisted the troops of Hattu and set the cities of the king, my lord, on fire. 15-23 May the king, my lord, take cognizance, and may the king, my lord, give archers that we may (re)gain the cities of

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the king, my lord, and dwell in the cities of the king, my lord, my god, my Sun.

NOTES

1. *URU-*na*, written on the reverse, was omitted in the copy; see RA 69 (1975) p. 155, n. 1. On this letter, see EA 174, n. 1. Joint reports 1-3 are EA 174-76.
2. Na'aman, *UF* 20 (1988) pp. 187f., suggests that *-ri-ša* is a mistaken metathesis for *-šar-ri*, an element well known in Hittite names. Against this proposal is the fact that "servant of..." is a type of name unattested among the Hurrians (Gernot Wilhelm, private communication).
3. See EA 187, n. 1.

EA 364

Justified war

TEXT: AO 7094.

COPY: Thureau-Dangin, RA 19 (1922) p. 104.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Thureau-Dangin, *ibid.*, pp. 95f.; Rainey, AOAT 82, pp. 26f.

To the king, my lord: Message of Ayyab, your servant. I fall at the feet of my lord 7 times and 7 times. I am the servant of the king, my lord, the dirt at his feet. 10-16 I have heard what the king, my lord, wrote to me through Atahmaya. Truly, I have guarded¹ very carefully [the *city*]² of the king, my lord. 17-28 Moreover, note that it is the ruler of Hapur who has taken 3 cities from me. From the time I heard and verified this,³ there has been waging of war against him. Truly, may the king, my lord, take cognizance, and may the king, my lord, give thought to his servant.

NOTES

1. *ar-šar-²mi*, following Thureau-Dangin; if *ar-šar-²na* is the reading (Rainey), "I am guarding."
2. Though [KUR].MEŠ seems required by the space, KUR is only very rarely the object of *našaru*, and never with plural determinative, whereas URU + plural marker is quite common.
3. In lines 18f., the word order, subject-verb, stresses the identity of the one who took the cities. In line 21, the sequence *šub-šub-ri*, "hear-see," brings out the fact of personal verification. Perhaps *a-me-ru* is best taken as an infinitive, "I heard and then there was verification." Rainey postulates a West Semitism, "I commanded (the waging of war)."

EA 365

Furnishing corvée workers

TEXT: AO 7098.

COPY: Thureau-Dangin, RA 19 (1922) p. 108.

TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Thureau-Dangin, *ibid.*, pp. 97f.; Rainey, AOAT 82, pp. 28f.TRANSLATIONS: Ebeling, p. 378; Alt, *Kleine Schriften zur Geschichte des Volkes Israel*, vol. 3 (Munich, 1959), pp. 169ff.; Albright, *ANET*, p. 485; Borge, in Galling, ed., *Textbuch zur Geschichte Israels*² (Tübingen, 1968), p. 28; Na'aman, in M. Heltzer and E. Lipiński, eds., *Society and Economy in the Eastern Mediterranean (ca. 1500-1000 B.C.)*, *Orientalia Lovanensia Analecta* 23, pp. 180f.

Say (to the king, my lord and my [Su]): Message of Biṭidiya, the loyal servant of the king. I fall at the feet of the king, my lord and my Son, 7 times and 7 times.

8-14 May the king, my lord, take cognizance of his servant and his city. In fact, only I am cultivating : *ar-ri-šu* in Šunama, and only I am furnishing corvée workers. 15-23 But consider the mayors that are near me. They do not act as I do. They do not cultivate in Šunama, and they do not furnish corvée workers. 24-31 Only I : *iaš-šur-šu-²mi* (by myself) furnish corvée workers. From Yapu they come, from [my] resources here, (and) from Nuzibia.⁴ And may the king, my lord, take cognizance of his city.

NOTE

1. Lines 26-29: the language is quite ambiguous, and various translations have been proposed. Line 27: *ri-šu-šu*, singular, subject *šaru*, a collective; *šru Šu-šur-ri*. The restoration *šru šu-šur-ri*^[27] (Albright, *CAH* 2/2, p. 106) is highly improbable, since throughout this letter, city names are preceded by URU. Na'aman reads "From [you'] hand," i.e., by the Pharaoh's authority they come to Megiddo ("here") from Yapu, an Egyptian garrison-city; whether, however, *šru šur-ri* can have this meaning is not clear.

EA 366

A rescue operation

TEXT: AO 7096 (not collated).
 COPY: Thureau-Dangin, *RA* 19 (1922) p. 106.
 TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Thureau-Dangin, *ibid.*, pp. 98f.; Rainey, *AOAT* 2, pp. 32f.
 TRANSLATIONS: Ebeling, pp. 378f.; Alt, *Kleine Schriften zur Geschichte des Volkes Israel*, vol. 3, pp. 162ff.; Albright, *ANET*, p. 487; Berger, in Galling, ed., *Textbuch zur Geschichte Israels*², p. 27; Seix, *Textes du Proche-Orient*, p. 59.

Say to the king, my lord, my Sun, my god: Message of Šewardata, your servant, the servant of the king and the dirt at your feet, the ground you tread on. I prostrate myself at the feet of the king, my lord, the Sun from the sky, 7 times and 7 times, both on the stomach and on the back.

11-19 May the king, my lord, be informed that the 'Apiru that rose up: *na-af ka-a* against the lands, the god of the king, my lord, gave to me,¹ and I smote him. And may the king, my lord, be informed that all my brothers have abandoned me. 20-28 Only 'Abdi-Heba and I have been at war with (that) 'Apiru. Surata, the ruler of Akka, and Enderuta, the ruler of Akšapa, (these) two also² have come to my aid. *na-ak-a-qa* (have been summoned to help)³ with 50 chariots, and now they are on my side in the war. 28-34 So may it seem right in the sight of the king, my lord, and may he send Yanjamu so that we may all wage war and you restore the land of the king, my lord, to its borders: *up-ii-ki*.⁴

NOTES

1. Lines 11-15 with Na'aman, *Political Disposition*, p. 120.
2. On the dual pronoun *lani* (-ma, "also"), see *BASOR* 211 (1973) p. 51. For another interpretation of these lines, see Albright, *CAH* 2/2, pp. 114f.
3. On the gloss *na-ak-a-qa*, see Finkelstein, *Eretz Israel* 9 (1969) p. 33.
4. See *EA* 284, n. 3.

EA 367

From the Pharaoh to a vassal

TEXT: AO 7095.
 COPY: Thureau-Dangin, *RA* 19 (1922) p. 105; *idem*, *Recueil d'études égyptologiques dédiées à la mémoire de Jean-François Champollion* (Paris, 1922), pp. 377ff.; Rainey, *AOAT* 82, pp. 36f.
 TRANSLATION: Albright, *ANET*, p. 484.

Say to Enderuta, the ruler of Akšapa: Thus the king. He herewith dispatches to you this tablet, saying to you, Be on your guard. You are to guard the place of the king where you are.

6-21 The king herewith sends¹ to you Hanni, the son of Mai'eya, the stable overseer² of the king in Canaan. And what he tells you heed very carefully lest the king find fault in you. Every word that he tells you heed very carefully and carry out very carefully. And be on your guard! Be on your guard! Do not be negligent! And may you prepare before the arrival of the archers of the king food in abundance, wine (and) everything else in abundance. Indeed he is going to reach you very quickly, and he will cut off the heads of the enemies of the king.

22-25 And know that the king is hale like the Sun in the sky. For his troops and his chariots in multitude all goes very well.

NOTES

1. Liverani, *Lingerings over Words*, pp. 34f., maintains that the king here and in *EA* 369-70 announces an event of the future, "will send," but this is incompatible with the form of the verb, *awtilla*, which is clearly a perfect. It no more has future reference than *awtillakku* in line 3. In lines 18-20 the subject is the king, not Hanni. See also Introduction, n. 78.
2. *akil sarbaqi* renders Egyptian *hry dmw*; see Helck, *Beziehungen*, p. 438. For the rest of the letter, see the Introduction, sect. 5, and *EA* 99, n. 7.

EA 368

A list of Egyptian words written in syllabic cuneiform, and therefore omitted here. See Introduction, sect. 2.

EA 369

From the Pharaoh to a vassal

TEXT: *Musées Royaux d'Art et d'Histoire* (Brussels) B. 6753.
 COPY: G. Dossin, *RA* 31 (1934) p. 127.
 PHOTOGRAPH: Dossin, *Académie Royale de Belgique, Bulletin de la Classe des Lettres et des Sciences Morales et Philosophiques* 20 (1934), facing p. 86.
 TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Dossin, *RA* 31 (1934) pp. 126, 128; Rainey, *AOAT* 8², pp. 40ff.
 TRANSLATIONS: Dossin, *Académie*, pp. 87f.; Albright, *ANET*, p. 487; Borger, in Galling, ed., *Textbuch zur Geschichte Israels*², pp. 24f.; Seux, *Textes du Proche-Orient*, p. 53.

To Milkilu, the ruler of Gazru. Thus the king. He herewith dispatches to you this tablet, saying to you, He herewith sends to you Hanyu, the stable (overseer) of the archers, along with everything for the acquisition of beautiful female cupbearers:¹ 9-14 silver, gold, linen garments: *ms-af-ha-š*, carnelian, all sorts of (precious) stones, an ebony chair; all alike, fine things. Total (value): 160 *diban*.² Total: 40 female cupbearers, 40 (shekels of) silver being the price of a female cupbearer. 15-23 Send extremely beautiful female cupbearers in whom there is no defect, so the king, your lord, will say to you, "This is excellent, in accordance with the order³ he sent to you." 24-32 And know that the king is hale like the Sun. For his troops, his ch[ariots], his horses, all goes very well. Aman has indeed put the Upper Land, the Lower Land, where the sun rises, where the sun sets, under the feet of the king

NOTES

1. *an-na-am*: see *RA* 69 (1975) p. 151, n. 2. This (elsewhere *an-na-a*) is one of several features that set *EA* 369 apart from the other letters to vassals (Introduction, sect. 5): (1) non-Hittite diction; (2) *šššššššššš* (elsewhere *šššššššššš*); (3) *ana qabē* (elsewhere *qabē*); (4) omission of *ššššš*; (5) conclusion of letter without parallel.

2. *šap-šim*: see *RA* 69 (1975) p. 154, n. 2.

3. *šš-ka-an*: Egyptian *šbr*; on the reading, see Edel, *GM* 15 (1975) p. 12. The *šbr* weighed ca. 91 gmm, and therefore the shekel here (10 shekels = 1 *šbr*) is not the Babylonian shekel (8.416 g) but the slightly heavier Syrian one (ca. 9 g).

4. *KA* (A) *šš-šš-šš*: see *RA* 69 (1975) pp. 151ff.

EA 370

From the Pharaoh to a vassal

TEXT: BM 134870
 COPY: Gordon, *Or n.s.* 16 (1947) p. 15.
 TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Gordon, *ibid.*, p. 5;
 Rainey, *AOAT* 8², pp. 44f.

Say to Idrya, the ruler of Ašqaluna: Thus the king. He herewith dispatches to you this tablet, saying to you, Be on your guard. You are to guard the place of the king where you are.

7-8 The king herewith sends to you Irimayašša,¹ 9-22 . . .
 [. . .]. 23-29 And know that the king is hale like the Sun in the sky. For his troops and his chariots in multitude, from the Upper Land to the Lower Land, the rising of the sun to the setting of the sun, all goes very well.²

NOTES

1. Gordon, followed by Rainey, would make Irimayašša a commissioner (LU.MASKIM = *ššššš*), whereas Ne'uman has him a stable overseer (LU.PA.TUR), a parallel to *EA* 367-8 (*Lingering over Words*, p. 400, n. 16).

2. The long form; see Introduction, sect. 5, and *EA* 93, n. 7.

EA 371

Smitten, smitten!

TEXT: BM 134868.
 COPY: Gordon, *Or n.s.* 16 (1947) pp. 16f.
 TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION: Gordon, *ibid.*, pp. 8f.;
 Rainey, *AOAT* 8², pp. 46f.; Izre'el, *Amurru*, pp. 62ff.

[. . .] 10-18 [. . .] I guard them [. . .] . . . until the king, the Sun, [gives the] *ššššš* to his servants, [And bear] my lord, truly [I guard] his place and [the city] of my lord, as my father did; there is no duplicity. 19-24 [With regard to] the troops of Šehalū,² [may he] know that [they are] not friendly, and they go on seizing [the land]; along with the men who [assist] them, [I am guard]ing the commissioners³ . . . 25-33 [and] I went to the rescue [. . .] along with my chariots [and] my [troops], but [. . .] . . . had been burnt down, and slain [the . . .] who were in the house [of my lord]. The very city of the king, my lord, from [. . .] was smitten, smitten! And [. . .] . . . with money [. . . bef]ore the

THE AMARNA LETTERS

Obverse

ka LUGAL a [...]

à ku x [...]

Iam-ma PA x [...]

[x u]m ma a x [...]

[]²DUB.SAR (...)

This *ans* should appear on the first line and not at the beginning of the next line would be without parallel, as far as I know.

Index of Words Discussed

The following list contains the words discussed either in the Introduction (reference by page number [roman]) or in the notes to the letters (reference by EA number). The order is strictly alphabetical, even of Egyptian words. Note the sequences: *a, d, h, b, ð, ð, s, ð, t, f, z, z*.

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Abbreviations: Akk. = Akkadian; Egr. = Egyptian; Hit. = Hittite; Hur. = Hurrian; hyp. = hypocoristic; Kass. = Kassite; Lu. = language uncertain; Ugar. = Ugaritic; WS = West Semitic; DN = divine name; PN = personal name. The index is strictly alphabetical. Note the sequences: i, s, h, j, j, j. All references are to EA.

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Nibhpu-reya (Egy. "Lord of forms is Re?"), person of Tuankharua, or a variant form of **Nipbu-reya**, 91
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Pihlu (Hurr. "he who belongs to the lord" [?]), Mitan envoy to Egypt, 27:89, 93; 100; 28:12
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Rab(i)-lu (WS "Great is lu/the god/my god [lu]"), *ra-lu* (333) is ambiguous, also possible are: "my beak" [see 28:1]

Ziim Eddai (WS "My protection is Edda"
[Hadda] ca "protected by Edda"),
1. Mayor of Sidon, 83-95 (18278);
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2. Mayor of Lakka, 288:43; 3295;
333:6, 9
Zacharyakda (Lu.), took refuge with
Sutras, 234:11, 25
Zalamim (Lu.), mayaz? 209-103
Zita, Luwian "man," probably brother of
Suppiluliumaš, 4413
Zusna, Luwian "man" (+ -na), Hitt.
general, 170210
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Adad (Adda, Akk.), Hadda/du (WS),
storm-god. *Ad may stand for Baal/
Ba'u (q.v.) or, in Hurr., Tesup
(q.v.). 24 176; 24 176; 77; 52:4; 53:6
108:9; 147:14; 148:7; 159:7
Adonis, written *DA.MU, a Sumerian god,
"the Child," identified with Dumuzi
(Tammuz). The Babylonian god must be
the one that classical writers called

Adonis, a Hellenized form of
Phoenician Adon, "the Lord," perhaps
*Zay Zaid? 84:33
Ammun/Amun, god of Thebes and, before
the Aten revolution, the supreme god
during the 18th dynasty, 1:46; 1925,
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85:4; 87:5; 95:3; 164:20; 369:29
Aren, the Seder Disk

Ba'lat Gubbi. See Lady of Gubbi
Baal/Ba'u, "the Lord," appellative of
Hadad, which it tends to replace. See
Adad

Ea-Sari, an aspect of the Sumerio-
Akkadian god Enke-Ea, very popular
in the Huro-Hurr. culture, 24 176,
101.

Galtra, WS god, cf. Galtram at Mari and
the gods of the *epiphany* at Ugarit, *gtr* w
gpr See 74 n.10

Hadda'iu. See Adad

Inanu. Sumerian goddess, identified with
the Akk. Ishtar

Irtanah, Hitt. Sun god, 32:17

Lady of Gubbi, to EA NIN ZA URU Gubbi,
1/2 2/3 in Phoenician inscriptions, and
Belkis among the Greeks; identified
with the Egy. goddess Hathor and
perhaps with Canaanite Astarte and
the supreme deity at Byblos, 68-4; *parvus* in
the greetings of 69-70, 75-79, 81, 85,
87, 89, 92, 95, 104, 105, 107-10, 112,
114, 116-19, 121-25, 129, 132, *adna*
83:54-55; 84:24-43; 85:85-86,
86:25-26
Lu'im (WS god). See 195, n.2

*MAB MAS. See 35 n.2

Nabu, Babylonian god, patron of scribes,
32:15

Nergal, Sumerio-Akk. lord of the
underworld and plague-god, also patron
of commerce. See 31 n.4 and 35 n.3

Nibura, Sumerio-Akk. god of war and
agriculture, son of Baal. See 74 n.10

Rapu (Reshep), WS god corresponding
to Nergal. See 31 n.4 and 35 n.3

Sun, Somaš, Šamtu (Akk.) See also Išumal,
Ref., Šimilge, and Ucu, 95:23; 108:105;
147:18, 43, 52, 58; 149:6; 159:8;
162:8, 80-81, 163 rev. 2, 4-5;
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Sunšaš, Akk. sun-god. See Sun

Sušaš, the Hurr. Ishtar. Her cult was very
popular among the Phoenicians, and to
be identified with the Itur of either
Nueveh or Arbill, 19:24; 20:25; 21:15,
18; 23:13, 26, 31; 24 176; 24 11 98

Šep, bull-god to the service of Tesup, 24
17 145

Šimige, Hurr. sun-god, 21 15, 18; 24 1 77;
86-87; 94, 101; 24 125; 55:53, 56,
59, 65, 66

Tesup, Hurr. storm-god. See Adad

Ucu, Sumerian sun-god, See Sun

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*Annu, WS deified personal name or
people (tribe), Ammianuru,
(Hittite)
*Anu, WS goddess of war and love;
Anu u
*Anu, WS god known only in PN: Bin-
Anu
Api, Egy. god known only in PN. Api,
Appia(?)
Ašar, WS god known only in PN:
Šar-Ašar(?)
Aširu, Akkara, biblical Asherah,
according to Ugar. myths, spouse of El,
mother of the gods and mistress of
marriage; 'Abdi-Ašira
Aškur, WS god known only in PN:
Aškur-malku
Aškur, women of the city Aškur, national
god of Assyria; Aškur-nadin-ašše,
Aškur-uballit

'Ašaru, Ugar. 'šrr, Astarte of the
Greece, identified with Aphrodite, the
planet Venus; 'Abdi-Ašari

Buriyaš, Kass. storm-god; Buqa/Buriyaš

Dagan, perhaps originally a storm-god,
known to the Akkadians, but extremely
popular along the Middle Euphrates and
in Syria; Dagan-tabali

El(u), See Il(u)

Enlil, supreme god of the Sumerian
pantheon; Kadafman-Enlil

Īš'ap(i) (š'p), Egy. god of the Nile;

Īš'ap(i) Īš'ap

Īš'ap(i), Hitt. goddess, spouse of Tesup;

'Abdi-Īš'ap, Kele-Īš'ap, Tado-Īš'ap

Horan, Egy. storm-god, lord of the sky;

Īš'ar-mašši, Īš'ar-mašša

Il(u), Ebla, head of Canaanite pantheon;

Rab-Gil, Šab-Ilu, Yabai-Ilu

Išu, WS god, known mainly from PN:

'Abdi-Iš

Marduk, god of Babylon and Babylonian
national god; Sulam-Marduk

Mer, Mtu, Wer, storm-god, assimilated to
Adad; Batu-Mir, Pirišik(?)

Myr, Egy. goddess of the northwind;
Današik(?)

Milku, WS god, "the king"; 'Abdi-Milki,
Ili-Milku, Milk-ilu, Milkaya,
Milkuru

NIN.UR.MAH MEŠ. See Personal names

Peab, god of Memphis and, according to
Memphite theology, the Creator;

(A)š'ap(i), Tiyamaš

Rama, WS, "the exalted one," known
only in PN: 'Abdi-Rama

Re', Egy. sun-god; Īš'ur-ya, Mš'eyya,
Manabp'irya, Nap'umanya,
Nib'puzereya, Nibumanya, Rešap(i)

Riba (WS?), meaning mercator (cf.
Ugar. 'š'ar); 'Abdi-Riba

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Seib (*Sib*), god of Upper Egypt, (1)val of Heos and Osiris; Seta, Setai
 Šakpa (WS "justice"); Šab-Šakpa
 Šapin (WS "judgment"), known only from the PN Šapin(147)
 Šegab, Kmt, god of the underworld:
 Šud-Šugab

Tarhant, Luwian storm god; Tarhantundin
 Tiedu (WS "wine?") 'Abdi-Tiedu

Uraš, Sumerian god of the city Dilbat; also the goddess "Earth," spouse of An, the sky-god, Canaanite correspondent unknown; 'Abdi URAŠ

Wcr. See Wcr

Geographical names

Names marked with *, see map of Near East (p. 1); names marked with +, see map of Israel (p. 124); modern site identifications given in italics

Adara, town to the east of the Sea of Galilee, 197:2; 256:24

Ahiaton, or Ahurimaton, town probably south of Tiberias, 315:7

Akhetaten, capital of Egypt, built by Amenophis IV. See *am* and El-Amarna

+ Akko, biblical Akko, 8:19; 88:46; 111:122; in the beginning of 23:2-34, 236; 366:22

*Alak, northern half of Babylonia

Akshat, biblical Akshath, name Akko, 366:23; 367:1

*Alalakh, city in northern Syria

*Alakija, Cyprus or a part of the island, in the beginning of 33:35; 37:40; 34:39; 35:39; 36:14; 105:2

Amunisi, probably Amun, near Tirosh, 73:27; 74:25; 75:13; 81:13; 88:7; 95:45; 139:14; 140:11

+ Amri, probably *Am*, 71:31; 72:8, 29; 76:19; 95:44; 102:20; 104:11, 40

Amorah, *Am*, 55:38; 110:27; 305; 170:16; in the beginning of 17:3-26, 163, 164

+ Anaton, territory of uncertain boundaries, from east to west, between

the Omrites and the Mediterranean, and from north to south, between Arwada and Tirosh; also a state established by 'Abdi-Ahira and his sons. On the province, see *am* 107. Despite DR III A, now *am* (1621), a city named Amron seems questionable (in, however, R. Stieglitz, *JNES* 50 [1991] pp. 45f.), 60:8 & rev 5; 70:23, 28, 73:11, 15; 82:48; 85:19, 82; 91:38; 95:21, 28; 101:5, 20, 25; 110:31-32; 145:14; 115:17; 127:64; 129:40; 142:24; 145:24; 156:4; 158:15; 162:4, 7; 165:20, 35; 166:24, 167:25; 178:24, 24; 179:9

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+ Arshat, Elhata, *Arak*, 72:5; 75:11; 88:5; 104:10; 105:12; 139:15, 140:12

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*Assyria, in EA "the country of the god Assur," state named after the city and its gods, 15:15; 16:3; Genitic "Assyria," 9:31

+ Aqshatu, biblical Aqshath, 287:14; 320-21 & 322:5; 370:1

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*Bogazköy, city in central Turkey, site of Hattusa, Hitt. capital

Burqana, town, probably *Burkin*, 4 km. southwest of Gina, 250:43

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Domau, a kingdom in eastern Cilicia

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