

SONDERDRUCK aus:

# ARCHIV FÜR ORIENTFORSCHUNG

Internationale Zeitschrift  
für die Wissenschaft vom Vorderen Orient

Begründet von Ernst Weidner, fortgeführt von H. Hirsch

Herausgegeben von  
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Redaktion: Michaela Weszeli

BAND LIII

2015

Selbstverlag des Instituts für Orientalistik der Universität Wien  
Druck: F. Berger & Söhne G.m.b.H., Horn



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ben muss, auch wenn uns dieser Umstand nicht unmittelbar aus den Quellen ersichtlich wird. Ebenso verweist der Autor mit Nachdruck darauf, dass sowohl den assyrischen als auch den griechischen Darstellungen und Berichten eine ideologische Komponente inhärent ist, die nicht unterschätzt werden darf. Insgesamt spielt dabei nämlich der Topos vom geniehaften Feldherrn in der Grenzregion eine gewichtige Rolle. Auch das Bild vom Überschreiten von Grenzflüssen, welches insgesamt auf mesopotamischen Vorläufern beruht und auch noch nachbabylonisch in den Darstellungen und Inschriften der achaimenidischen Periode zu finden ist, hat eine entsprechende metaphysisch überhöhende Funktion. Dies ist v.a. bei Arrian spürbar, dessen Darstellung neben der Beeinflussung durch Xenophon auch eine starke Affinität zum Werk Herodots aufweist, und zwar besonders zu den Dareios I. betreffenden Episoden (Donauüberschreitung). Abgesehen von den ideologischen Aspekten ist auch angesichts der Unwirtschaftlichkeit der bei den Alexanderhistorikern beschriebenen Prozeduren sowie deren Dauer und Aufwand auf einen tatsächlichen Rückgriff Alexanders auf die gut belegten indigenen, sehr praktikablen Pioniertechniken zur Überquerung von Euphrat und Tigris zu schließen. Neben den bereits besprochenen Schwimmschlüuchen, Booten und Flößen widmet sich Rollinger in den letzten beiden Abschnitten des Kapitels noch den Befunden aus der Achaimenidenzeit und allgemeiner den Ponton- und Schiffsbrücken.

Die letzten beiden Kapitel des Hauptteiles beleuchten das Fortwirken der beschriebenen mesopotamischen Pioniertechniken bis in die Spätantike (S. 74-82) und eine Zusammenfassung der Ergebnisse (S. 83-88). In letztem Abschnitt wird nochmals die Rolle der ideologischen Textgestaltung sowie die der mesopotamischen Pionertraditionen betont. Die Studie schließt mit einem wohlgeordneten, ausführlichen Anhang von Quellenmaterial, das nicht einfach nur wiedergegeben, sondern in den Fußnoten auch kommentiert wird. Ebenfalls hervorzuheben ist das umfassende Literaturverzeichnis, das dem detaillierter Interessierten in fast jeder Hinsicht weiterzuhelfen vermag. Insgesamt fällt *CLeO* 7 durch die vom Autor gepflogene dekonstruktivistisch-materialistische Methodik angenehm auf. Robert Rollinger hat das Projekt der konzisen Aufarbeitung eines doch recht spezialisierten Forschungsgebietes für die altertumswissenschaftliche Gemeinschaft höchst gewinnbringend bewältigt. Dank der geschickten Verbannung nicht unmittelbar benötigter Diskussionen in die Fußnoten ist der Band aber auch einem breiterem Publikum sehr zu empfehlen. Abschließend noch ein Korrigendum zu Fn. 2 auf S. 27: Lies „(...), vgl. dazu unten S. 32 Anm. 27“ statt „Anm. 26“.

Berlin.

Johannes Bach.

**A. Schuster-Brandis**, *Steine als Schutz- und Heilmittel. Untersuchung zu ihrer Verwendung in der Beschwörungskunst Mesopotamiens im 1. Jt. v. Chr.* XVI + 490 S. 38 Abb. Münster, Ugarit-Verlag, 2008 (= *Alter Orient und Altes Testament* 46). € 140,– ISBN 978-3-934628-75-5.

This is an impressive study of much material dealing with amulet stones from Mesopotamia, with editions and translations of relevant texts, as well as a catalogue of amuletic stones which appear in identical sequences within magical and medical texts. Hand copies of some texts are also included in the volume, which make this book a standard work on the subject for the foreseeable future.

One significant contribution is the clear presentation of the ‘chains’ (*Ketten*) of amulet stones in healing rituals. It turns out that the Mesopotamian scribes did not rely upon arbitrary listing of amulet stones, but these were consistently given in a predetermined fixed order, always in the same or similar sequence, even when the stones appear in different genres of texts (e.g., incantation rituals or stone inventories). This is important; it probably indicates that listings of stones were learned by heart and may reflect a long history of oral transmission before being committed to writing. On the other hand, one must then question to what extent individual stones, when ground up and included as *materia medica* within medical recipes, were perceived as having some unique chemical or pharmaceutical value, since in these texts sequences of stones were deemed to be effective against various magico-medical problems, rather than properties of single stones. We do not tend, for instance, to find examples of *simplicia* (i.e. one stone used against one ailment) among amulet stones, in contrast to common practice within mostly botanical recipes in which stones can appear as *simplicia* (e.g., BAM VII No. 9 iii 3'-11'). We therefore have little idea why certain groups of stones, listed in a specific order, were considered to be effective against psychological and physical diseases, such as various types of neurotic anxiety, epilepsy, stroke, or paralysis.

The chains of amulet stones also differ from botanical lists (Uruanna) by not containing any obvious *Dreckapotheke* or *Decknamen*, with only one candidate noted among the stone names, namely šurim <sup>d</sup>GU<sub>4</sub>, ‘droppings of (the god) Šēriš’ (so S-B p. 448). However colourful this stone name may be, it is unlikely to represent *Dreckapotheke*, in contrast to šurim gud/anše (*kabūt alpi/imēri*) ‘ox/ass-dung’, which are *Dreckapotheke* but not stones.

We are left with the puzzling question why amulet stones in general were considered to be effective as both *materia medica* and *materia magica*. Even Galen, that most impressive physician of the ancient world, made begrudging concessions for certain amulets containing

green stones for stomach complaints (See V. Nutton, *Ancient Medicine*, 2004, 268f.). The question is when stones were used in healing and when they were not. It is clear that stones were usually employed less frequently than plants in therapeutic recipes, and when ground up as *materia medica* the stones do not appear in characteristic ‘chains’. The fixed listing of stone chains is more characteristic of magical texts, which rely upon ritual objects being inserted into a leather pouch and hung around the person’s neck or on that part of the patient’s body causing pain. As such, these amulets may also contain other rather more exotic ingredients, such as human bone. On the other hand, the author edits SBTU II 22 + III 85 (S-B No. 6), which consists of incantations and rituals employing chains of amulet stones, but the text is actually structured around the characteristic diagnostic ‘diš na’ incipit of medical recipes, although in this case intended for medical ailments which are essentially psychic and not physical. As in the case of this Uruk tablet, it is important to distinguish between texts which formally belong to magic and which to medicine.

The author has made a serious attempt at identifying individual stones, and especially commendable is her catalogue of stones associated with inscribed stone objects, which actually name the type of stone on which the inscription appears (S-B pp. 459-460). Nevertheless, we are still a long way from an actual taxonomy identifying the many stone names, even with the help of the first text edited in this volume, *šammu šikinšu*, a listing of stones with a minimal description of each. Unfortunately, much more research is still required before we can follow the models of other disciplines, such as the excellent study of Iranian perfumed substances by Mehr Ali Newid, *Aromata in der iranischen Kultur* (Wiesbaden, 2010), which gives a full description of mineral substances used in perfumes.

Even the basic philology of stone names can cause difficulties, which can be highlighted by the following suggestion. No distinction is made by our dictionaries between the readings <sup>na<sub>4</sub></sup>an.bar and an.bar; both are considered to be alternative logograms for *parzillu*, ‘iron’, although S-B considers the former reading to be *aban parzilli*, for which no actual evidence exists. We have no difficulty with an.bar being *parzillu* ‘iron’, since it often occurs with an.na ‘tin’ as a medical ingredient, but what about <sup>na<sub>4</sub></sup>an.bar? One could possibly read this stone name as <sup>na<sub>4</sub>.d</sup>maš, corresponding to the plant name <sup>sim.d</sup>maš for Akkadian *nikiptu*; this suggestion has already been posed and rejected by W. Farber (*Fs. Groneberg*, 2010, 80 n. 25), but without stating any grounds. One occasionally encounters plant names and stone names with the same logogram, only differentiated by their determinatives. The word *pallišu*, for instance, can refer either to a plant or to a stone, with logograms <sup>ú</sup>níg.bùr.bùr, <sup>na<sub>4</sub></sup>níg.bùr.bùr and <sup>na<sub>4</sub>.ú</sup>níg.bùr.bùr, as does the similar *sāpinu* = <sup>na<sub>4</sub>.ú</sup>níg.sù.sù (BAM VII No. 9 ii 32'-33'); CAD prefers to treat these

as stones without considering the ambiguities involved. Our author hedges her bets by referring to *pallišu* as a ‘Pflanzenstein (des Steinbohrers)’, referring to a theory of W. Heimpel that it may refer to emery (JCS 40, 1988, 190f.), but there is a lack of convincing evidence to support this assertion.

Another possible matter for speculation is the stone name *abašmū*, regularly written with the AD sign for *aba* in first millennium orthography (S-B p. 392). According to CAD A/1 39, the Sumerian stone name <sup>na<sub>4</sub></sup>amaš.pa.è should be considered as the same stone, written with a metathesis, although the identification is rejected by our author in favour of *ašpū* (S-B p. 401). Another stone is also written with an initial AD sign, namely <sup>na<sub>4</sub></sup>ad.bar, probably a type of basalt used for millstones and monumental buildings. However, the fact that *abašmū*-stone is much more common in these ritual and medical contexts than *atbaru*-stone allows us to suggest the following: perhaps the orthography <sup>na<sub>4</sub></sup>AD.BAR in amulet stone chains might actually be for <sup>na<sub>4</sub>.à</sup>ba-maš, a learned writing for *abašmū*, also employing a metathesis.<sup>1</sup> This orthographic variant would be easily recognisable from the common use of the AD sign in both stone designations, and this would then mostly exclude the *atbaru*-stone from consideration in first millennium medical and magical texts.<sup>2</sup>

A final word about copies. It is extremely useful to have copies of tablets in this collection, and particularly of the LB tablets from the British Museum, the photographs of which are mostly unreadable; the copies are the best record we have of the texts. Some of the copies are excellent (see plates 5-6), but others are disappointing, especially those of BM 56148+ (plates 9-23), and it may therefore be useful to comment upon techniques for copying large and difficult tablets. The copies of BM 56148+ as a complete tablet look impressive (plates 9 and 17), although the scale is too small to be easily legible. The individual columns have been reproduced in succeeding plates, but the quality of reproduction is poor, compounded by the cursive nature of LB script. One way of avoiding this problem is to copy the tablet on a scale three times larger than the original, and then having the copies reduced for publication. It appears in this case as if the original tablet was copied and afterwards enlarged, leading to poor results. Considering the amount of time required to copy a large tablet, it is worth developing techniques to insure high quality copies.

One question pertaining to a reference work of this kind is how easy it is to use when encountering new texts dealing with amulet stones. The present reviewer has found the lack of a comprehensive list of logograms somewhat inconvenient, but the book is otherwise ex-

<sup>1)</sup> Note below the edition of AO 17619 and the orthography *aba-šam* for this stone.

<sup>2)</sup> This stone should be differentiated from the <sup>na<sub>4</sub></sup>har.ad.bar-millstone, which occasionally occurs in first-millennium medical texts.

tremely useful. Two texts below are appended here, since the tablets are referred to but not edited in full in the book and further identifications of stone chains can be made; a third tablet is an unpublished amulet stone text from the British Museum.

AO 17616 = TBER pl. 45

- 1' na<sub>4</sub>.zálag
- 2' na<sub>4</sub>.mu-ṣa
- 3' na<sub>4</sub>.an.bar
- 4' na<sub>4</sub>.aš-pú-u
- 5' na<sub>4</sub>.za.gìn
- 6' na<sub>4</sub>.téš
- 7' na<sub>4</sub>.giš.nu<sub>11</sub>.gal
- 8' na<sub>4</sub>.an.zah
- 9' na<sub>4</sub>.dłamma
- 10' na<sub>4</sub>.babbar.dili

rev.

- 11' na<sub>4</sub>.meš lá-tíú (= Kette No. 130)<sup>3</sup>
- 12' na<sub>4</sub>.ú-ru-ut-tu<sub>4</sub>
- 13' na<sub>4</sub>.im.ma.na
- 14' na<sub>4</sub>.lu-lu-da-ni-tu<sub>4</sub>
- 15' na<sub>4</sub>.igi.ku<sub>6</sub>
- 16' na<sub>4</sub>.zú.lum.ma (= Kette unidentified)

AO 17619 = TBER pl. 45

- 1 1 na<sub>4</sub>.aš-pú-ú
- 2 1 na<sub>4</sub>.zú.gi<sub>6</sub>
- 3 2 na<sub>4</sub>.me dab<sup>tim</sup> d<sup>sin</sup> bür (= Kette No. 4, S-B p. 81)
- 4 1 na<sub>4</sub>.gug
- 5 1 na<sub>4</sub>.za.gìn
- 6 1 na<sub>4</sub>.nír
- 7 na<sub>4</sub>.muš.gír
- 8 1 na<sub>4</sub>.kur-nu dab

BM 46852 (unpublished)<sup>6</sup>

- 1' [na<sub>4</sub>aš-pú-u na<sub>4</sub>zú.ge<sub>6</sub> 2 na<sub>4</sub>.meš] [dab-ti] <sup>d</sup>Sin b[úr] (= Kette No. 4, S-B p. 81)
- 2' na<sub>4</sub>bal na<sub>4</sub>kur-nu dab 2 na<sub>4</sub>.meš dab-ti <sup>d</sup>utu bú[r] (= Kette No. 5, S-B p. 81)
- 3' na<sub>4</sub>algameš na<sub>4</sub>sikil '2' [na<sub>4</sub>.meš da[b-ti] <sup>d</sup>iškur [búr] (= Kette No. 6, S-B p. 81)
- 4' na<sub>4</sub>sah-hu-u na<sub>4</sub>igi.z[ág.ga na<sub>4</sub>zú.zalag]
- 5' na<sub>4</sub>zú.ge<sub>6</sub> na<sub>4</sub>z[ú.sig<sub>7</sub> na<sub>4</sub>mar-hal-lu<sub>4</sub>]
- 6' na<sub>4</sub>an.bar na<sub>4</sub>d[še.tir]
- 7' (bottom) na<sub>4</sub>.me[š? dab-ti dingir.meš dù.a.bi búr] (= Kette No. 15, S-B p. 85)
- 8' n[á]kù.babbar na<sub>4</sub>dúr.mi.na na<sub>4</sub>an.zah]
- 9' na<sub>4</sub>[kur-nu dab na<sub>4</sub>aš-pú-u na<sub>4</sub>zálag na<sub>4</sub>sah-hu-u] 7? [na<sub>4</sub>.meš dingir.meš ana lú arhuš tuk-e] (= Kette No. 16, S-B p. 86)

- 9 na<sub>4</sub>.kù.babbar
- 10 na<sub>4</sub>.kù.sig<sub>17</sub>
- 11 7 na<sub>4</sub>.me hul muš u gír.tab {ana na nu te} (= Kette No. 192, S-B p. 158f.)

- 12 1 na<sub>4</sub>.gug
- 13 na<sub>4</sub>.za.gìn
- 14 na<sub>4</sub>.muš.gír

col. ii

- 15 na<sub>4</sub>.babbar.dili
- 16 na<sub>4</sub>.babbar.min<sub>5</sub>
- 17 1 na<sub>4</sub>.aš.gí.gí
- 18 1 na<sub>4</sub>.ugu.aš.gí.gí
- 19 na<sub>4</sub>.dúr.mi.na
- 20 1 na<sub>4</sub>.hi.lib
- 21 1 na<sub>4</sub>.kur-nu dab
- 22 1 na<sub>4</sub>.dłamma
- 23 1 na<sub>4</sub>.igi.ku<sub>6</sub>
- 24 1 na<sub>4</sub>.pa
- 25 1 na<sub>4</sub>.aba-šam<sup>4</sup>
- 26 14 na<sub>4</sub>.me hul á.me giskim.me

rev.

- 27 ana na nu te (cf. Kette No. 193 and No. 200)<sup>5</sup>
- 28 1 na<sub>4</sub>.aš-pú-u
- 29 1 na<sub>4</sub>.téš
- 30 1 na<sub>4</sub>.dłamma
- 31 1 na<sub>4</sub>.kur-nu dab
- 32 4 na<sub>4</sub> hul ud iti u mu.an.na (Kette No. 199, S-B p. 160)
- 33 1 na<sub>4</sub>.za.gìn
- 34 1 na<sub>4</sub>.aba-šam (= abašmû)
- 35 1 na<sub>4</sub>.zú.lum.ma
- 36 3 na<sub>4</sub> hul giskim hul-ti
- 37 ana na nu te (Kette No. 185, S-B p. 157)

<sup>3)</sup> Not noted in S-B p. 137.

<sup>4)</sup> abašmû, see S-B p. 392 n. 572).

<sup>5)</sup> Cf. S-B pp. 159-161 and p. 224. No exact Kette of 14 stones is as yet identified with this rubric.

<sup>6)</sup> This tablet could not be copied or collated because of the closure of the British Museum tablet collections during 2010-2011.

10'	<sup>na₄</sup> gug <sup>na₄</sup> za.gin <sup>na₄</sup> [nír]
11'	[ <sup>n</sup> ] <sup>a₄</sup> kur-nu dab <sup>na₄</sup> kù.babbar <sup>na₄</sup> kù.sig <sub>17</sub> 7 [na₄.meš hul muš {ana lú nu te}] (= Kette No. 192, S-B p. 158f.)
12'	<sup>na₄</sup> àb-aš-mu <sup>na₄</sup> aš-pú-u <sup>na₄</sup> řuba [ <sup>na₄</sup> ka-pa-šu]
13'	<sup>na₄</sup> pa 5 na₄.me dingir kám-[lu ki lú silim-mi] (= Kette No. 17, S-B p. 86)
14'	[ <sup>na₄</sup> gug <sup>na₄</sup> z]a <sup>?</sup> .gìn [ <sup>na₄</sup> ][...]

We add for consideration one additional tablet, the reverse of which has relevant data for the use of stones in a healing recipe for Hand-of-the-Ghost-disease (*cf.* S-B p. 141); the obverse of the tablet is a namburbî with two other duplicates, edited by S. Maul in *Zukunftsbewältigung* p. 375; the reverse (also edited by Maul) is duplicated (AO 17614 = TBER 42, court. S. Panayotov).

AO 17620 = TBER pl. 45

rev.

11	<sup>na₄</sup> gug <sup>na₄</sup> za.gin <sup>na₄</sup> muš.gír <sup>na₄</sup> babbar.dili
12	<sup>na₄</sup> babbar.min <sub>5</sub> <sup>na₄</sup> dúr.mi.na <sup>na₄</sup> min.bàn.da <sup>na₄</sup> kur-nu dab
13	<sup>na₄</sup> an.zah <sup>na₄</sup> min.babbar <sup>na₄</sup> min.ge <sub>6</sub> <sup>na₄</sup> mu-şa
14	<sup>na₄</sup> kù.babbar <sup>na₄</sup> kù.sig <sub>17</sub> <sup>na₄</sup> urudu <sup>na₄</sup> an-na-ku
15	<sup>na₄</sup> muš <sup>na₄</sup> sim.bi.zi.dal <sup>na₄</sup> zálag <sup>na₄</sup> ka-pa-aş
16	[2]1 na₄.meš šu.gu <sub>4</sub> <sup>7</sup> sighé.me.da è
17	[7 k]a.kešda kěš e-ma ka.kešda
18	[kěš én] mu-šal-lim é.kur.ra šid ki gu,-šú kěš
19	[egir] én i.ba.ah i.ba.ah ana ugu šid-nu
20	[i'igi]-lim <sup>“</sup> i'igi'-ešra kib-ri-tu <sup>na₄</sup> KA-tam-tim
21	[ina kal-k]al-le-e he-pe-e-šú-ma ta <sub>5</sub> -sak

These tablets were also collated by S. Panayotov with some corrected readings. I suggest the following translation for AO 17620 ll. 16-21:

String 21 stones for Hand-of-the-Ghost (disease) on red wool, and make [...] knots; when [you knot] the knots, recite [the incantation] *mušallim ekurra* (and) bind the place where it hurts him. [Afterwards] recite the incantation *ibah ibah* over it. As for *imhur-lim*, *imhur-ešra*, sulphur, and *imbu<sup>2</sup> tamtim*, breaking it up you crush (them) in a bowl.

The text on the reverse is a good example of a magico-medical recipe in which the stones are applied to the sore part of the body, although it is unclear why this should be appended to a namburbî text protecting against omens caused by creaking house beams. What we seem to have here, however, is a medical text using incantations and amulet-stones to treat physical ailments, representing a grey area between magic and medicine.

<sup>7)</sup> Reading courtesy Gilles Buisson, which fits the context of the use of these stones against Hand-of-the-Ghost disease.

As we have seen, there are many absorbing problems remaining to be resolved among this vast quantity of new material supplied by the author, who has done an excellent job of making these texts readable and accessible to specialists and non-specialists interested in the use of minerals and stones in healing contexts. We commend the author for this work.

Berlin.

Mark J. Geller.

**M. Sigrist and T. Ozaki**, Neo-Sumerian Administrative Tablets from the Yale Babylonian Collection. Part One. 613 S. Madrid, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, 2009 (= *Bibliotheca del Próximo Oriente Antiguo* 6). € 72,12. ISBN 978-84-00-08862-0.

**M. Sigrist and T. Ozaki**, Neo-Sumerian Administrative Tablets from the Yale Babylonian Collection. Part Two. 601 S. Madrid, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, 2009 (= *Bibliotheca del Próximo Oriente Antiguo* 7). € 72,12. ISBN 978-84-00-08863-7.

These two volumes represent the latest installment in the on-going collaborative effort of Marcel Sigrist and Tohru Ozaki, who between them have published nearly one in four of the Ur III tablets that populate our digital corpora (see below). Whatever problematic aspects that one may find in these two volumes (hereafter BPOA 6+7), we must first recognize that to a substantial degree their tireless efforts have made Ur III studies a viable subdiscipline. More so than nearly any other cuneiform corpus, the study of Ur III administration is a collaborative venture, now organized on the basis of massive on-line corpora (BDTNS and CDLI). This means that we should first take stock of these two new volumes and the data that they make available before turning to details and marginalia. BPOA 6+7 offers transliterations of 3024 cuneiform tablets, of which all but two belong to the Ur III corpus: BPOA 6, 179 is Old Akkadian (as already indicated by Sigrist and Ozaki) and BPOA 7, 3024 is a list of Old Babylonian year names. Since BPOA 7, 3022 and 3023 are the tablet and envelope from a single textual artifact in antiquity, they are assigned a single entry according to the conventions of CDLI. As a result, a