A 8003: A FRAGMENT OF ASSURBANIPAL PRISM G

Jamie R. Novotny
RIM Project, Toronto

In his edition of some of the historical prism inscriptions of Assurbanipal, A. C. Piepkorn classified A 8003, a fragment of a clay prism measuring 6.8 x 6.7 x 1.6 cm, as a sub-edition of Prism B ("B4") since it conformed in general to the "text-type of B," but departed from it in one passage. He noted only that its contents corresponded to B ii 55–70, but that after B ii 65 the inscription added [pa-an (isu)ni]ri-ia ú-tir-ram-[ma], "I turned my [char]riot around [and]." R. D. Freedman suggested tentatively that the piece was a fragment of Prism C, but was unable to confirm this since the fragment's contents were not available in any form; the identification was probably made on pa-an G הוא SUDUN-[a . . .] in BM 127941 ii' 10' (his ex. W. Borger's C7), an exemplar of Prism C that preserve part of this same variant.

R. Borger was unable to examine and properly identify A 8003 for his editions of Assurbanipal’s prism inscriptions since the fragment was missing ("verschollen, nicht auffindbar"); he accepts with caution Freedman's identification of "B4" as an exemplar of C.

During a recent trip I made to the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago (December, 2003), the inscription was once again available for study. A cursory examination supported Freedman's suggestion that Piepkorn's "B4" was an exemplar of Prism C, not only because it contained the noted deviation after B ii 65 (col. i' 13'), but also since A 8003 is clearly from a decagonal, not an octagonal, clay prism. A closer study of the fragment revealed that col. i' 14' also deviates from Prisms B and D (ii 66), as well as from Prism C (iii 97), and that col. ii', which was not referred to by Piepkorn, corresponds to Prisms B/D iii 74–78 and Prism C iv 84–87. With regard to the textual alteration, šal-meš a-tu-ra a-na NINAKI URU EN-ut-ia ("I safely returned to Nineveh, the city of my lordship") was changed to [šal-meš a]-tu-ru a-na KURagUrI[ ] ("[I] returned [safely] to Assyria"). Since Borger's Prism G contains a number of textual changes, I tentatively identified A 8003 as belonging to that edition of Assurbanipal's res

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3. Piepkorn, Ash, 43 n. 40 and 94.


6. BIWA, 28, 573, and 4° Heft 70.

7. BIWA, 35.

8. BIWA, 4° Heft 73 A 8005 iii' 28' (Borger’s D8). For orthographic variants, see BIWA, 29.
This proposal was confirmed shortly thereafter when I was able to join the bottom of col. i' to the top of col. ii' of A 7960 + A 11867 (Borger’s G1A).

A 7960 + A 8003 + A 11867 measures 13.5 x 14.4 x 3.5 cm and comes from the lower portion of cols. ii-v of the prism. The extant text contains parts of reports of the second Egyptian campaign (A 11867 i'), the receipt of tribute from rulers in Anatolia and along the Syrian coast (A 8003 i' + A 11867 ii' 1'–15'), the succession in Arvad after the death of Iakin-Lù (A 11867 ii' 16'–29'), the conquest and looting of Mannean cities (A 8003 ii'), the submission of the Mannean king Ualli (A 11867 iii' + A 7960 i'), and the war against the Elamite king Teumman (A 7960 ii'). Since no copy, edition, or transliteration of A 8003 has previously been published, these are presented here, with the kind permission of W. Farber, curator of the tablet collection of the Oriental Institute.10


10. For transliterations of A 7960 and A 11867, see BIWA, 4° Heft 40–41 and 134–135. For a copy of the latter fragment, see Freedman, *The Cuneiform Tablets in St. Louis*, 46–48 no. 56.
Fig. 2. A 7960 + A 8003 + A 11867

Transliteration

A 8003 i' + A 11867 ii' 1'-3'

Lacuna

0 [DUMUMUNUS ši-it līb-bi-šū u
DUMUMUNUS.MEŠ ŠEŠ.MEŠ-šū]

1' [a-na e-šeš MUNUS.AGRIG(-u)-ti ú-bi-la
a-[d]ī m[a]h'ī-ria-

2' [DUMU-šū ma-ti-ma ti-GÉM][E?] la [-e][-bi-ra]

3' [iš-ša-a a-n]a e-šeš ARAD-[i-i]

4' [DUMUMUNUS-su] Ĺ DUMUMUNUS
ŠEŠ.MEŠ[Ș-šū]

5' [it-ti te]r-ḫa-ši ma[:a-as-ši am-][u]r-[šu]

6' [re-em]u ar-ši-šū-[m]a

7' [DUMU ši]-it līb-bi-šū ú-tir-ma a'[u]m-šū

8' [UR][HAL]-š][U][MEŠ ša UGU m[ba]-a-li

9' [LUGAL KUR]-1-ri u-rak-ki-su ap-tur

10' [ina tam-t]im u na-ba-li gir-re-te-eššū

11' [ma-[l]a u-šā-ši tu ap-[l]

12' [ma-da]-¹aš-tašū ka-bit-tu am² ḥuru²-sū

13' [pa-an] CŠ UDUN-ia ú-tir-ram-[m]a

14' [šal-meš a]-tu-ra a-na KUR aš-[šuK]

15' [ma-al-ke] MURUB₄ tam-tim [u]

16' [LUGAL.MEŠ a-šiš šad-de-e ša-qu-ur]-ti

17' [da-na-an] (-e)-ti-i/a an-na-a-ti

18' e-mu-ra-ma ¹[p]-la-[u] EN₁-ti

19' [ia-ki-in-lu-u LUGAL KUR]-ar-ú-a-d[a]

A 11867 ii' continues for another 26 lines
A 8003 ii’

Lacuna
1’ śa[1] [ina ter-si LUGALMEŠ ADMEŠ-ia] e-ki-mu KUB[man-na-a-a]
2’ [d[a-äd-me šá-a-tu-nu ak-šu-ud]]
3’ KUB[m[a-na-a-a] TA ul-tu lib-bi as-su[i]]
4’ [AN][S][E.KUR.RA.MES GiS-ti[le ú-nu-ut MÉ-šu-nu]]

Lacuna of 8 lines

Translation

A 8003 i’ + A 11867 ii’ 1’–3’

Lacuna
i’ 0–12) [He (Ba‘alu) brought (his) daughter, his own offspring, and the daughters of his brothers into] [my] presence to serve as my housekeepers. He sent his son, who had never crossed the sea, to me to do obeisance to [me]. I received from him [his] daughter and the daughters of his brothers [with] (their) large dowries. I had [mercy] on him and his own offspring. I dismantled [the fortifications which I had constructed] [against Ba‘alu, king of] Tyre. I opened [as many] of his routes as I control [by sea and mainland]. I received from him his heavy tribute.

A 11867 ii’ continues for another 26 lines

A 8003 ii’

Lacuna
ii’ 1’–4) [I conquered those] set[lements] which [the land of Mannea had appropriated in the time of the kings, my fathers. I tore apart] the land of Mannea from inside. I carried off [hor]ses, harnesses, (and) their military equipment to Assyria.

Lacuna of 8 lines

Notes
i’ 1’–19): The passage duplicates Prisms B/D ii 54–71 and Prism C iii 94–102 (BIWA, 28–29) with orthographic variants and deviation in lines 13’–14’.
i’ 1): The reading of the signs is not entirely certain, but the traces on the prism fit DI and MAH. There is sufficient space at the end of the line to restore m[ah‘-ri-ia].
i’ 2): The reading of the first sign is not entirely certain, but the traces fit GÉME; [tam-ti]m is less likely, but possible.
i’ 3): Restoration based on Prism D (A 8005+, Borger’s D8); this passage is damaged in Prisms B, C, and CND. Compare is-te-niš ú-še-bi-la (“he sent at the same time”) in Prism F i 66 and Prism A ii 59 (BIWA, 28).
i’ 13): Variant from Prisms B and D noted correctly by Piepkorn (Asb., 43 n. 40 and 94). Apart from A 8003, only BM 127941 (Borger’s C7) partially preserves pa-an GiSSUDUN-ia ú-tir-rama-’a, “I turned my chariot around and”: Millard, Iraq 30 (1968) pl. XXIII ii’ 10’ (pa-an GiSSUDUN-ia . . .).
i’ 14): The variant a-na KUB[aš-sur Ki] (“to Assyria”) was not noted by Piepkorn (Asb., 43 and 94). As mentioned above, Prism B (K 1775+, Borger’s B1), Prism D (A 8005+, Borger’s D8), Prism C (K 1705+, Borger’s C2B), and Prism CND (ND 4378+, Borger’s CND3) have a-na NINA Ki URU EN-uti-ia, “to Nineveh, the city of my lordship.”
i’ 15): There is sufficient space at the end of the line to restore u (“and”).
i’ 16): Possibly restore a-ši-bu(-u)-ti for a-šib.
i’ 17): Another possible, but less likely, restoration is ep-še2o ŚI-iti.