

A 8003: A FRAGMENT OF ASSURBANIPAL PRISM G¹

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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 × 6.7 × 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.² He noted only that its contents corresponded to B ii 55–70, but that after B ii 65 the inscription added [*pa-an (išu)nî|ri-ia ú-tir-ram-[ma]*], “I turned my [cha]riot around [and].”³ 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* ^{GIŠ}SUDUN-*i[a . . .]* in BM 127941 ii’ 10’ (his ex. W, Borger’s C7), an exemplar of Prism C that preserve part of this same variant.⁴

1. I would like to thank A. K. Grayson, G. Frame, and R. F. G. Sweet for offering their remarks on a draft of this manuscript. In addition, J. C. Jones proofed the final edition and offered helpful suggestions. Their time and care is greatly appreciated. Moreover, I am grateful to W. Farber for allowing me access to the Assurbanipal material in the Oriental Institute and to J. Tenney for the efficient and speedy supply of prisms. My appreciation goes out once again to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and the University of Toronto for providing the funding necessary to support the Royal Inscriptions of Mesopotamia Project.

2. A. C. Piepkorn, *Historical Prism Inscriptions of Ashurbanipal I: Editions E, B₁₋₅, D, and K, AS 5* (Chicago: The Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, 1933; hereafter *Asb*), 94.

3. Piepkorn, *Asb*, 43 n. 40 and 94.

4. R. D. Freedman, *The Cuneiform Tablets in St. Louis* (Ph.D. diss. Columbia University, 1975), 52 (last paragraph). For BM 127941, see A. R. Millard, “Fragments of Historical Texts from Nineveh: Ashurbanipal,” *Iraq* 30 (1968) pl. XXIII.

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”);⁵ he accepts with caution Freedman’s identification of “B₄” as an exemplar of C.⁶

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 84–87.⁷ With regard to the textual alteration, *šal-meš a-tu-ra a-na* NINA^{KI} URU EN-*u-ti-ia* (“I safely returned to Nineveh, the city of my lordship”) was changed to [*šal-meš a]-tu-ra a-na* ^{KUR}*aš-šur*^K[^I] (“[I] returned [safely] to Assyria”).⁸ 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*

5. *Beiträge zum Inschriftenwerk Assurbanipals: die Prismenklassen A, B, C = K, D, E, F, G, H, J und T sowie andere Inschriften* (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 1996; hereafter *BIWA*).

6. *BIWA*, 28, 373, 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.

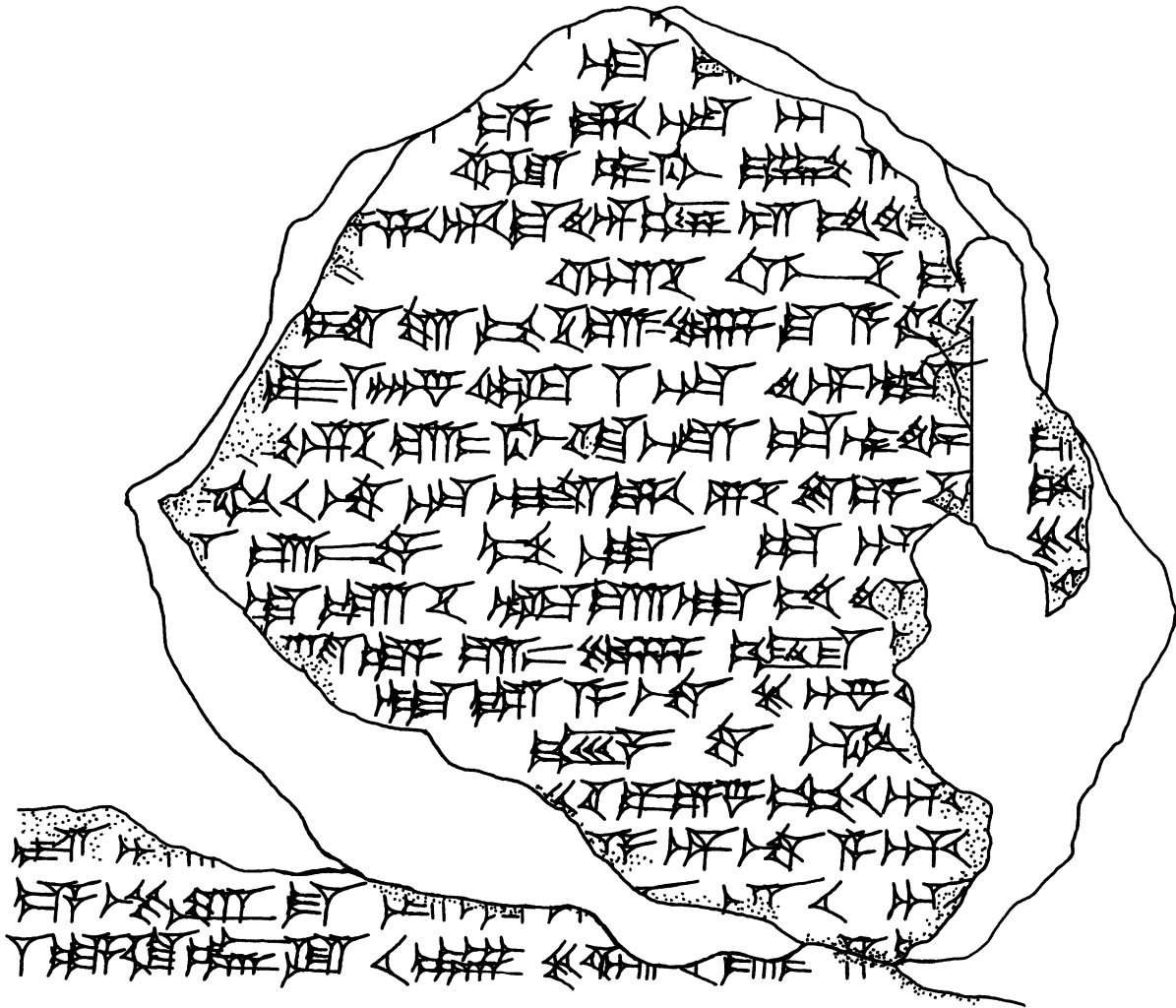


Fig. 1. A 8003 + A 11867 ii' 1'-3'

gestae.⁹ 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 × 14.4 × 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 Iakīn-Lû (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

9. For a catalogue of exemplars and details of the inscription, see *BIWA*, 130-32; and J. R. Novotny, *Eḫulḫul, Egipar, Emelamana, and Šin's Akitu-House: A Study of Assyrian Building Activities at Ḫarrān* (Ph.D. diss. University of Toronto, 2003), 20-21 and 317.

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. 36.

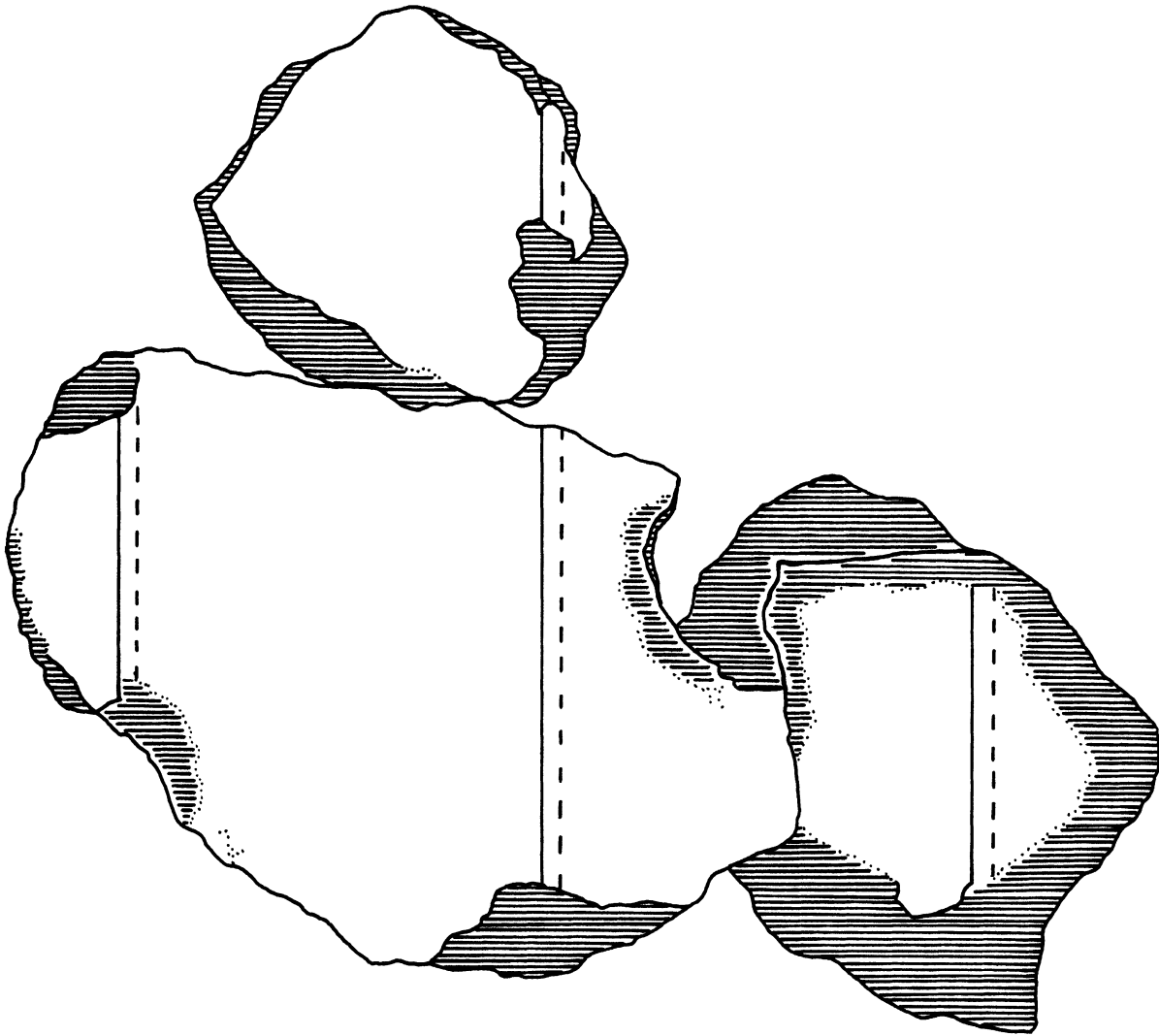


Fig. 2. A 7960 + A 8003 + A 11867

Transliteration

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

Lacuna

0 [DUMU.MUNUS *ši-it lib-bi-šú u*
DUMU.MUNUS.MEŠ ŠEŠ.MEŠ-šú]
1' [a-na e-peš MUNUS.AGRIG(-u)-ti ú-bi-la
a-d]i² m[ah²-ri-ia]
2' [DUMU-šú ma-ti-ma ti-GÉM]E[?] la ¹e¹-[bi-ra]
3' [iš-šá-a a-n]a e-peš ARAD-t[i-ia]
4' [DUMU.MUNUS-su] ù DUMU.MUNUS
ŠEŠ.ME[Š-šú]
5' [it-ti te]r-*ha-ti ma-²a-as-si am-*hu*[r-šú]
6' [re-e-m]u ar-ši-šú-m[a]*

7' [DUMU *ši*]-it lib-bi-šú ú-tir-ma a-¹din-šú¹
8' [^{URU}HAL.Š]U.MEŠ šá UGU ^mba-²a-¹li¹
9' [LUGAL ^{KUR}]šur¹-ri ú-rak-ki-su ap-tur
10' [ina tam-t]im u na-ba-li gir-re-te-e-¹šú¹
11' [ma-l]a ú-šab-bi-tu ap-t[i]
12' [ma-da]-¹at¹-ta-šú ka-bit-tu am-¹hur¹-[šú]
13' [pa-an ^{GIŠ}]UDUN-ia ú-tir-ram-m[a]
14' [šal-meš a]-tu-ra a-na ^{KUR}aš-šur^K[¹]
15' [ma-al-ke] MURUB₄ tam-tim [u]
16' [LUGAL.MEŠ a-šib š]ad-de-e šá-qu-u-¹ti¹
17' ¹da-na-an¹ [ep-še(-e)-ti-i]a an-na-a-ti
18' e-mu-ru-ma ¹ip-la-*hu* EN¹-u-¹ti¹
19' ^mia-ki-in-lu-u LUGAL ^{KUR}[ar-ú-a¹-d[a]
A 11867 ii' continues for another 26 lines

A 8003 ii'

Lacuna

- 1' ʿša¹ [ina ter-ši LUGAL.MEŠ AD.MEŠ-ia
e-ki-mu^{KUR}man-na-a-a]
2' d[a-ád-me šá-a-tu-nu ak-šu-ud]
3' ^{KUR}m[an-na-a-a TA ul-tu lîb-bi as-suh]
4' [AN]Š[E.KUR.RA.MEŠ^{GIS}til-le ú-nu-ut MÈ-
šú-nu]

Lacuna of 8 lines

Translation

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

Lacuna

i' 0-12') [He (Ba²alu) brought (his) daughter, his own offspring, and the daughters of his brothers int]o [my] pre[sence to serve as my housekeepers. He sent his son, who had] never cr[ossed the sea, to me to] do obeisance to [me]. I receiv[ed from him his daughter] and the daughters of [his] brothers [with] (their) large [dow]ries. I had [mercy] on him an[d] I gave him back [(his) son], his own [off]spring. I dismantled [the fortifica]tions which I had constructed [against Ba²alu, king of] Tyre. I opened [up as many] of his routes as I control [by se]a and mainland. I received [from him] his heavy [trib]ute.

i' 13'-19') I turned my [cha]riot around an[d] I returned safely to Assyria. [Rulers] on island(s) [and kings who reside on] high [mo]untains saw the might of these [deeds of mi]ne and were afraid of my lordship. Iakin-Lû, king of Arvad, . . .

A 11867 ii' continues for another 26 lines

A 8003 ii'

Lacuna

ii' 1'-4') [I conquered those] set[tlements] which [the land of Mannea had appropriated in the time of the kings, my fathers. I tore apart] the land of M[annea from inside. I carried off h]or[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 84-102 (*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 MAḪ. There is sufficient space at the end of the line to restore *m[ah²-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 *iš-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^{GIS}ŠUDUN-ia ú-tir-ram-ma*, "I turned my chariot around and": Millard, *Iraq* 30 (1968) pl. XXIII ii' 10' (*pa-an^{GIS}ŠUDUN-i[a . . .]*).

i' 14': The variant *a-na^{KUR}aš-šur^K[I]* ("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-u-ti-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-še₂₀(ŠI)-ti*.

ii' 1'-4': Col. ii' is not mentioned by Piepkorn (*Asb.*, 94). The passage duplicates Prisms B/D iii 74-78 and Prism C iv 84-87 (*BIWA*, 35).