


Large numbers of Old Assyrian texts have been unearthed near Kayseri in the ruins of Kültepe, ancient Kanish, since the start in 1948 of the official Turkish excavations led by Tahsin Özgüç. Some of these were published in articles, mainly by Turkish scholars: K. Balkan, E. Bilgiç, C. Günbattu, S. Bayram, H. Sever, V. Donbaz, and by Ayşe Uzunalımoğlu and other members of the Assyriological staff at the Ankara Museum for Anatolian Civilizations, where the numerous tablets are kept. The long awaited publication of these texts has finally started. A new series has been created for this purpose, abbreviated as AKT, three volumes of which have appeared thus far.

AKT I

The first volume contains 82 texts in transcription and Turkish translation and, unlike the subsequent AKT II and III, in hand copy as well. In contrast to the other volumes, it does not contain a homogeneous group of texts. Numbers 1-18 were bought in 1935, and known as "Ankara no ..."; texts 19-29 are kept in the Istanbul Archaeological Museums, but were studied by E. Bilgiç in 1949. By coincidence, these Istanbul texts were published almost simultaneously by V. Donbaz in his Keilschrifttexte in den Antiken-Museen zu Stambul II, which appeared in 1989 (the foreword to AKT I is dated 1988). Numbers 30-33 are not kept in Ankara. The rest of the texts published here stem from the regular excavations in the kārum or lower city, where the Assyrians lived: 44 texts from kt a/k (season 1948), one text from kt t/k (1968), two texts from kt y/k (1971). Two other texts were found on the tepe or mound itself (kt y/t). E. Bilgiç provided a slightly different hand copy of 76 (kt a/k 894) and of 77 (kt t/k 55) in the second volume of the proceedings of the Tenth Congress of the Turkish Historical Society, plates 287 and 285-286. The volume ends with indexes of names, months, year and week eponyms, and with a very useful index of words.

AKT II

Written exclusively in Turkish, the second volume contains transliterations and translations of 60 (kt n/k 550-610) out of the nearly 2000 texts excavated in 1962. The sheer number of kt n/k texts makes it impossible to publish all at the same time and therefore they have been divided among the assyriologists of Ankara University. The first 80 kt n/k texts stem largely from level Ib and will be published by V. Donbaz (cf. his articles in Afo 35 and in Studies in

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AKT III

The third volume contains a large portion of the 114 texts found in 1970 (kt v/k). It is one of the last publications by Professor Emin Bilgiç, who died in 1995. Kt v/k texts which have been published before were not included in this book. These texts are: kt v/k 7 + kt u/k 3, a large school text published by K. Hecker (Studies in Honor of Nemet Özgüç, Ankara 1993, 282-285; photo in T. Özgüç, Kültepe-Keşiş II, Ankara 1986, 60.1), kt v/k 28 and 52 (published by C. Günbatt, Belleten LIII 206 [1989], 55-56), kt v/k 89 (the same, Archivum Anatolicum I [1995], 114), and kt v/k 152 (V. Donbaz, Anatolica 12 [1985], 155). Veyssel Donbaz will publish 46 of the remaining texts, among which are kt v/k 146-182 and 184-188 in envelopes with seal impressions. The texts already published bear little internal relation to those contained in AKT III, but it is unfortunate that the other kt v/k texts could not be included.

As AKT III contains a large portion of the excavated archive of Šalim-ahum and members of his family (other texts belonging to these dossiers were unearthed before 1948), this archive is best suited for discussion. The findspots of the tablets are not indicated in this book, which makes it impossible to determine which tablets were found together. The only information I was able to acquire on the 1970 campaign stems from the annual report in the American Journal of Archaeology 75 [1971], 164, where it is said that “work in the Karum concentrated on two objectives: 1. The area of Ib houses in the center of the Karum (...). 2. The outer fortification wall on the E side of the Karum (...).” The year eponyms mentioned in texts 1 and 2 indicate they are from the younger Ib period. All other texts in AKT III are from the preceding level II.

Nos. 61-64 are letters exchanged between Puzur-Suen and Innaya, possibly both sons of Amurāya and thus brothers. The text edited by C. Michel, Innaya dans les tablettes paléoassyriennes II (Paris, 1991), as no. 177 (RA 60 [1966], 34), can now be restored with the help of its duplicate 62.1-38.

On the basis of the texts published in this volume, it emerges that Šalim-ahum is the father of Dān-Aṣšur, Ennam-Āṣšur, and Azia, and of a daughter called Šat-Āṣšur. He had a fourth son by the name of Kura, attested with patronimics in TC 3, 190.7. Šalim-ahum lived in Assur, as did Šat-Āṣšur and Azia. No mention is made of his wife. Nos. 65-74 are letters sent to one or both of his sons in Kanish, sometimes addressed to Aṣšur-mālik or Pūšu-kēn as well. Nos. 75 and 76 are archive copies of letters Pūšu-kēn (in 75 together with Dān-Āṣšur) sent to Šalim-ahum. No. 78 is a letter from Alilī and Šalim-ahum to Pūšu-kēn, Aṣṣurišt-tikal, and Dān-Āṣšur.