

NEW SUMERIAN LITERARY FRAGMENTS

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This year it was the aim of the authors of this article to study, transliterate, and copy the as yet unpublished Sumerian literary pieces in the Nippur Collection of the Istanbul Archaeological Museums. All in all there are about 550 such pieces, and the great majority of them are small and very small fragments. The work was actually begun several months before Dr. Kramer's arrival in Istanbul in the middle of May, and it continued uninterruptedly for ten weeks. In the course of this time, 383 fragments were read and transliterated, and 80 of these have now actually been copied by Hatice Kızılyay and Muazzez Çiğ. Copies of the remaining transliterated pieces will be prepared, it is hoped, in the course of the coming fall and winter.

From the point of view of value and importance, the fragments may be divided into three classes: (1) those which contain new and still unknown material (2); those which help to fill in some of the broken words and phrases in texts already largely restored (3); those which add practically nothing new. In the present state of our knowledge, however, it is often impossible to decide to which category a given fragment belongs, and it was therefore deemed advisable to transliterate and copy as the time allowed. The fragments published in this article were selected to serve as a more or less representative cross-section of the material as a whole. Thus:

Ni. 4013 (pl. 10) may be a fragment of a lamentation over the destruction of

(1) Cf. for details *Bellekten*, vol. XVI p. 348 ff.; *Bulletin* (University Museum) vol. 17; *Orientalia* (Nova Series) vol. 22 p. 190 ff.

(2) Plates 1-6 were copied by Hatice Kızılyay, and plates 7-12 were copied by Muazzez Çiğ.

(3) Cf. *SLTN* p. 34.

Eridu which consisted of several "songs".

Ni. 4048 (pl. 8) is small fragment of a myth (?).

Ni. 4053 (pl. 8) is a small fragment of a myth (?) mentioning the city Ur and the deities Enlil, Inanna, and Enki.

Ni. 4057 (pl. 8) is a small fragment of a myth (?) mentioning the god Sin and perhaps the Martu "who know not grain".

Ni. 4074 (pl. 11) is a small fragment of a hymn (?) mentioning the city Isin, which consisted of several "songs".

Ni. 4077 (pl. 11) is a small fragment of a "book" of proverbs now being pieced together by Edmund Gordon in the University Museum of the the University of Pennsylvania.

Ni. 4080 (pl. 11) of what, to judge from the gloss, may be a Dumuzi composition.

Ni. 4081 (pl. 11) is a small fragment of a myth mentioning the "sons of Adab", the "sons of Erech", the goddess Gęstinanna, and the *galla*-demons (lines 1 and 2 of the obverse, and lines 4 and 5 of the reverse are also found in "Inanna's Descent").

Ni. 4116 (pl. 6) is a very small fragment whose extant complexes may perhaps describe the god Enlil.

Ni. 4120 (pl. 6) is a very small fragment of a myth(?).

Ni. 4123 (pl. 6) is a very small fragment of an unidentifiable composition.

Ni. 4131 (pl. 6). Small fragment of the Ninurta composition known as *án-gimdim-ma*; the obverse will help restore several broken lines of the text.

Ni. 4132 (pl. 5) is a small fragment of a myth(?) mentioning the deities Ninsun and Ninsubur.

Ni. 4148 (pl. 4) is a small fragment

of a myth(?) the extant part of which contains an address.

Ni. 4155 (pl. 2 and 3) is a fragment of the composition commonly known as the "Agade Lament". While the obverse is of little value since the text is now available from other documents, the reverse adds considerable new material.

Ni. 4159 (pl. 4) is a very small fragment of a composition mentioning the god Enki.

Ni.4206(pl.7)is a fragment of the myth "Enki and Sumer: the Organization of the Earth and its Cultural Processes" (4); column I and the last lines of column II are of considerable value for the restoration of the text at this point.

Ni. 4341 (pl. 9) is a fragment of the Enlil hymn described in the *Belleten*, vol. XVI pp. 368 - 369; the obverse helps to restore few broken signs, but the reverse adds practically nothing new.

Ni. 4563 (pl. 4 and 5) is a hymn designated by the scribe as a *bal-bal-e* of the goddess Inanna; cf. *Belleten*, vol. XVI pp.

360 - 362 for another example of this literary genre.

Ni. 9630+9791 (pl. 1 and 2) is a fragment of a "book" of proverbs the great majority of which begin with the word *lú* "man".

Ni. 9635 (pl. 7) is a small fragment of the Inanna hymn noteworthy for its description of the New Year ceremony in the course of which the king Iddin Dagan married the goddess Inanna (5).

Ni. 9666 (pl. 9) is a very small fragment of a hymn(?) consisting of several "songs".

Ni. 9667 (pl. 12) is a fragment of the Inanna hymn *nin-me-šár-ra* (6) which will help in the restoration of a number of words and complexes towards the end of the composition.

(4) Cf. *SM* pp. 59-62.

(5) Cf. *SLTN* p. 23, comment to No. 66. For another tablet belonging to this hymn, cf. *ORIENTALIA* vol. 22, p. 193.

(6) Cf. *SLTN* pp. 22-23, comment to No. 64.