

A New Old Babylonian Date List from Sippir with Year Names of Apil-Sîn and Sîn-muballit

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Our knowledge of the history of the earlier parts of the Old Babylonian Period relies to a great extent on the names by which the individual years were identified and the sequence of year formulae established by the date lists collected and studied by Arthur Ungnad in his trail-blazing article "Datenlisten" in *RIA* 2 (1938) 131–194. As date lists are school texts, the historian will always be wary of the pupil's errors, especially if only one date list is available as is the case with the time of the first kings of the Hammurabi dynasty.¹ Therefore a new date list for this period is a very welcome witness to corroborate information read from the earlier exemplar or to cast doubt on them.

The tablet to be presented here is the second in a sequence of at least two tablets, the lost first one listing the 14+36 year names of Sumu-abum, the first king of the dynasty, and of Sumu-la-el, whom later generations regarded as the founder of the dynasty. Our second tablet comprised the 15 year names of Sabi'um (now mostly broken away), the 18 of Apil-Sîn and 19 (or 20) of Sîn-muballit, i.e., roughly the same number of entries.

Although very poorly preserved, the new Sippir List helps restore and correct some readings – mostly of Apil-Sîn year names. But – apart from the omission of the year Sîn-muballit² – it also differs in several places from the wording and sequence of the list used by Ungnad, which comes from Sippir too. Because

¹ Not counting the small fragment of a list of Sîn-muballit year names in *PRAK* 1, 18 B 224; see M. Stol, in: *RA* 66, 191: 15. Notwithstanding Stol's note "Le revers (qui ne peut pas être la partie inférieure de la face)" we are inclined to change reverse and obverse of this tablet and to identify the last and only entry on the obverse(!) with the year Sm 6, assuming an error of ba-dù for ba-dim, immediately preceding years 7–9 of the reverse(!).

² This is the ús-sa date to year Sm 3; the omission may be regarded as a homoioteleuton.