

A new join to IGI 1¹

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In their excellent new edition of the corpus of eye disease texts, Geller and Panayotov assign the small fragment AMT 12/5 to a group of Nineveh manuscripts that can only partially be related to the main IGI treatise.² These related manuscripts and fragments are important because they share parallel passages with IGI but belong to other compilations of medical remedies, such as UGU that includes treatments for eye diseases as a part of its systematic overview of the medical conditions affecting the head.

Geller and Panayotov record AMT 12/5 as one of these related Nineveh manuscripts, representing a parallel to IGI 1 lines 61'-63'.³ However, since the only bit of text preserved by AMT 12/5 is this three-line passage, one may also suggest that the fragment does not simply come from a related manuscript but actually belongs to the main IGI treatise. In this respect, Geller and Panayotov argued that AMT 12/5 is 'too fragmentary to judge but might be a fourth duplicate to IGI Tablet One'.⁴

The aim of this short communication is to show that AMT 12/5 is neither a related manuscript nor a fourth duplicate to the first tablet of IGI. This small fragment is, in fact, a direct join to BAM 510, the main manuscript of IGI 1, and partially fills the gap towards the top of the second column of the tablet.

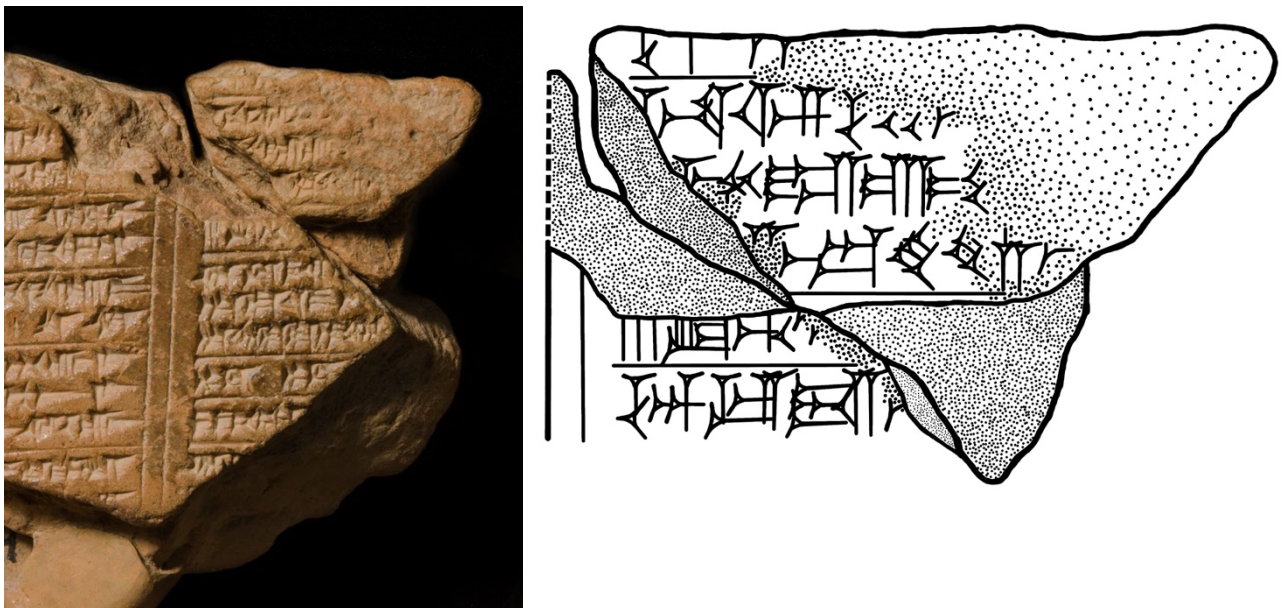


Fig. 1: Photo and hand-copy of the joining pieces BAM 510 column 2 top + AMT 12/5⁵

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² *BAM* 10 pp. 46-47 and pl. 42. In addition, AMT 12/5 was briefly discussed by Fincke in *Augenleiden* pp. 150 with n. 1140, and 166 with n. 1247.

³ *BAM* 10 pp. 72-74.

⁴ *BAM* 10 p. 47.

⁵ The fragment is published here by the kind permission of the Trustees of the British Museum, with the photo and hand-copy prepared by the author.

The first tablet of IGI is one of the few chapters in the therapeutic series from Nineveh that are known from more than one manuscript; here we have two other duplicates, BAM 513 and BAM 514, with preserved bits of text corresponding to what was once recorded in the opening section of BAM 510 col. 2, now partially filled with the help of the direct join AMT 12/5. Moreover, two related manuscripts from other cities (Ashur and Sippar / Borsippa) also include the prescription in IGI 1 lines 61'-63' and can be used for bringing our text reconstruction to a complete state.

The transliteration of the relevant lines is presented here in a synoptic fashion, with the sigla taken from Geller's and Panayotov's edition:

NA = BAM 510 (K 2573+)	NJ = AMT 12/5 (K 5852)
NB = BAM 513 (K 2570+)	AD = BAM 22 (VAT 13732)
NC = BAM 514 (K 2456+)	xA = BM 54641+ ⁶

Transliteration

60'	NA + NJ ii 1'	x x x [.....]
	NB ii 12'	[..... ⁿ a ⁴ as- <i>har</i> ina I ₃ .NUN SUD ₂ MAR
	NC ii 8'	[.....] ina I ₃ .NUN SUD ₂ MAR
<hr/>		
61'	NA + NJ ii 2'	DIŠ ¹ NA IGI.MIN-š _{u2} šik ¹ -n[a]
	NB ii 13'	[..... U ₅ A]RGAB ^{mušen} MUN <i>eme-sal-li₃</i>
	NC ii 9'	[..... š]a ₂ M[UD ₂ U ₅ ARGAB ^{mu} š ^{en} MUN <i>eme-sal-li₃</i>
	AD rev. 8-9	DIŠ NA IGI.MIN-š _{u2} šik-na ša ₂ MUD ₂ šak- ^r na IGI ¹ -al U ₂ ¹ BABBAR / U ₅ ARGAB ^{mušen} MUN <i>eme-sal-li₃</i>
	xA 16'	[DIŠ NA] IGI.MIN-š _{u2} šik-na ša ₂ MUD ₂ ¹ š[ak-n]a (0 0) U ₂ ¹ BABBAR U ₅ ¹ [ARGAB ^{mu} š ^{en} MUN ¹ e[me-sal-li ₃]
62'	NA + NJ ii 3'	ru ₂ ¹ KUR.RA u ₂ ¹ KUR ¹ .[KUR]
	NB ii 13'-14'	u ₂ ¹ KUR.RA / [..... U ₂ .HI].A ¹ an-nu-ti DIŠ-niš ta-mar-raq
	NC ii 10'	[..... u ₂ ¹ KU]R.K[UR] U ₂ .MEŠ ŠEŠ ¹ DIŠ-niš ta- ^r mar-raq ¹
	AD rev. 9-10	ru ₂ ¹ KUR. ^r RA u ₂ ¹ KUR ¹ .KUR / šimGUR ₂ .GUR ₂ I ₃ .UDU šimGIG 7 U ₂ ¹ .HI.A ŠEŠ DIŠ-niš SUD ₂ ¹
	xA 17'	ru ₂ ¹ KUR.RA u ₂ ¹ [KUR.KUR šimG]UR ₂ .GUR ₂ GAZI ^{sar} ¹ [x x x] x 8 U ₂ ¹ .HI.A Š[EŠ]

⁶ For the *editio princeps* of this tablet, see Fincke *CM* 37 pp. 86-93.

63'	NA + NJ ii 4'	[<i>ina</i> ZE ₂ UD]U.NITA ₂ 𒄩.𒄩 ZA ¹ .N[A]]
	NB ii 14'-15'	<i>ina</i> ZE ₂ UDU.NITA ₂ [?] / [..... GAZ] ^{sar} <i>ta-sa-pan</i> IGI.MIN- <i>šu</i> ₂ MAR
	NC ii 11'	[.....] x [.....] x ¹ <i>ina</i> A GAZI ^{sar} <i>ta-sa-pan</i> IGI.MIN- <i>šu</i> ₂ MAR ¹
	AD rev. 11-12	¹ <i>ina</i> ZE ₂ UDU.NITA ₂ ¹ 𒄩.𒄩 ZA.NA DU ₃ - <i>uš</i> ¹ <i>šum</i> ₄ - <i>ma</i> E ₂ .MEŠ <i>ina</i> A.MEŠ / <i>šum</i> ₄ - <i>ma</i> EN.TE.NA <i>ina</i> A.GEŠTIN.NA <i>t[a]-sa-pan</i> (0 0 0) MAR
	xA 18'	¹ <i>ina</i> ZE ₂ UDU.NITA ₂ ¹ 𒄩[I.𒄩 ZA.N]A ¹ DU ₃ - <i>uš</i> <i>šum</i> ₄ - <i>ma</i> EN.TE ¹ .[NA <i>ina</i>] ¹ A ¹ .[M]EŠ ¹ <i>šum</i> ₄ - <i>ma</i> AMA.MEŠ <i>ina</i> A GAZI ^{sar} <i>ta</i> ¹ - <i>s[a-pan</i> MAR]
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64'	NA + NJ ii 5'	¹ 3 GIN ₂ U ₅ ¹ [ARGAB ^{mušen}]
	NB ii 16'	[..... <i>in</i>]a LAL ₃ KUR.RA SUD ₂ IGI.MIN- <i>šu</i> ₂ MAR <i>an-nu-u šam-mi</i> UD.20.KAM ₂
	NC ii 12'	¹ 3 ¹ G[IN ₂] ¹ 1/2 [?] GIN ₂ U ₂ ¹ [BABBAR SU]D ₂ IGI.MIN- <i>šu</i> ₂ MAR ¹ <i>an</i> ¹ - <i>nu</i> U ₂ UD.20.KAM ₂

Translation

60' [. . .] (then) you pound (*tasâk*) *ašhar* (a stone) in ghee (and) daub (*teqqi*) (his eyes).

61'-63' If a man's eyes have blood deposits, but he is still able to see (*inaṭṭal*): *šammu pešû* ('white plant'), *rikibti arkabi* ('bat guano'), *emesallu* (a kind of salt), *nīnû* ('mint'), *atā'išu* (a plant), *kukru* (an aromatic) (and) fat from *kanaktu* (an aromatic)—you crush these seven ingredients together, you mix (*tuballal*) them in gall from a sheep (and) make (*teppuš*) a gaming piece (from the mixture). You dip it in water if it is winter (or) in sap from *kasû* ('tamarind') if it is summer (and) you daub (*teqqi*) (his eyes).

63' You pound (*tasâk*) three shekels of *rikibti arkabi* ('bat guano') (and) half[?] a shekel of *šammu pešû* ('white plant') in *dīšpu* ('syrup') from the mountains (and) you daub (*teqqi*) his eyes. This is a medicament for twenty days.

Bibliography

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