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Preface and Acknowledgements

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Abbreviations

…/a–…/z	Inventory number of tablets excavated at Bogazköy during 1931–1967
A	Tablets in the collections of the Oriental Institute
AASF	Annales Academiae Scientiarum Fennicae, Reihe B
AASOR	Annual of the American School(s) of Oriental Research
ÄAT	Ägypten und Altes Testament
AB	Assyriologische Bibliothek
ABoT	Ankara Arkeologji Müzesinde bulunan Bogazköy Tabletleri
ADFU	Ausgrabungen der Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft in Uruk-Warka
AfO	Archiv für Orientforschung
AHw	W. von Soden, *Akkadisches Handwörterbuch*, Wiesbaden 1959–81
AJSL	American Journal of Semitic Languages and Literatures
ALASP	Abhandlungen zur Literatur Alt-Syrien-Palästinas
AlT	*The Alalakh Tablets* (= Wiseman 1953)
AMD	Mesopotamian Magic. Textual, Historical, and Interpretative Perspectives (Ancient Magic and Divination I)
AMT	R. C. Thompson, *Assyrian Medical Texts from the originals in the British Museum*, London 1923
AnOr	Analecta Orientalia
AOAT	Alter Orient und Altes Testament
AoF	Altorientalische Forschungen
ArOr	Archiv Orientalni
AS	Assyriological Studies
Ash. M.	Museum siglum Ashmolean Museum
ASJ	Acta Sumerologica
ASKT	P. Haupt, *Akkadische und sumerische Keilschrifttexte nach den Originalen im Britischen Museum: copirt und mit einleitenden Zusammenstellungen sowie erklärenden Anmerkungen* (= AB 1, 1881/1882; Nachdruck: Leipzig 1974)
ATT	Tel Atshana Text, excavation sigla Alalaḫ
AO	Museum siglum Louvre
AoF	Altorientalische Forschungen
ARET	Archivi reali di Ebla. Testi
AUAM	Tablets in the collections of the Andrews University Archaeological Museum
AuOr	Aula Orientalis
AuOr Suppl.	Aula Orientalis Supplements
AUWE	Ausgrabungen in Uruk-Warka. Endberichte
BASOR	Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research
BaF	Bagdhader Forschungen
BaM	Baghdader Mitteilungen
BAM	Die babylonisch-assyrische Medizin in Texten und Untersuchungen
BBR	H. Zimmern, *Beiträge zur Kenntnis der babylonischen Religion*, 1–2 (= AB 12, 1896–1901)
BBVO	Berliner Beiträge zum Vorderer Orient
Beschwörungsrituale	W. Farber, *Beschwörungsrituale an Ištar und Dumuzi*, Wiesbaden 1977

BiMes	Bibliotheca Mesopotamica
Bmisc.	F.H. Weissbach, *Babylonische Miscellen*, Leipzig 1903
BE	The Babylonian Expedition of the University of Pennsylvania
BIN	Babylonian lnscriptions in the Collection of J. B. Nies
BiOr	Bibliotheca Orientalis
BLMJ	Museum siglum of the Bible Lands Museum, Jerusalem
BM	Museum siglum of the British Museum, London
BMS	L.W. King, *Babylonian Magic and Sorcery*, London 1896
Bo	Tablet siglum of tablets excavated at Bogazköy during 1906–1912
BoHa	Bogazköy-Hattusha. Ergebnisse der Ausgrabungen
BPOA	Biblioteca del Proximo Oriente Antiguo
Brockmon Tablets	R. Kutscher, *The Brockmon Tablets at the University of Haifa*, Haifa 1989
BRM	Babylonian Records in the Library of J. Pierpont Morgan
BSOAS	Bulletin of the School of Oriental (and African) Studies
Bu	Museum siglum of the British Museum (Budge)
BWL	W.G. Lambert, *Babylonian Wisdom Literature*, Oxford 1959
CAD	The Assyrian Dictionary of the University of Chicago
CBS	Museum siglum of the University Museum in Philadelphia
CCL	L. Delaporte, Musée du Louvre, *Catalogue des cylindres orientaux, cachets et pierres gravées de style oriental, I: Fouilles et missions*, Paris 1920; *II: Acquisitions*, Paris 1923
CCT	Cuneiform Texts from Cappadocian Tablets in the British Museum
CdC	L. de Clercq/J. Menant, *Collection de Clercq*, Paris 1903
CDLI	Cuneiform Digital Library Initiative
CHANE	Culture and history of the ancient Near East
Choix	F. Lenormant, *Choix de textes cuneiforms inédits ou incomplètement publiés jusqu'à ce jour*, Paris 1873
CIRPL	E. Sollberger, *Corpus des inscriptions "royales" présargoniques de Lagash*, Geneva 1956
CM	Cuneiform Monographs
CNAS	E. Porada, *Corpus of Ancient Near Eastern Cylinder Seals in North American Collections I: The Collection of the Pierpont Morgan Library*, Washington 1948.
CRRAI	Proceedings of the Rencontre assyriologique internationale; Compte rendu de la Rencontre Assyriologique lnternationale
CT	Cuneiform Texts from Babylonian Tablets in the British Museum
CTA	A. Herdner, *Corpus des tablettes en cunéiformes alphabétiques, découvertes à Ras Shamra-Ugarit de 1929 à 1939* (= MRS 10, 1963)
CTH	Catalogue des textes hittites
CTN	Cuneiform Texts from Nimrud
CUNES	The Cornell University Collection in Ithaca, New York
CUSAS	Cornell University Studies in Assyriology and Sumerology
Das wieder erstehende Babylon	R. Koldewey, Das Wiederstehende Babylon, Leipzig 1925
DBH	Dresdner Beiträge zur Hethitologie
De wereld van de bijbel	M.A. Beek, *De wereld van de bijbel, tentoonstelling ter gelegenheid van het hondervijftig-jarig bestaan van het Nederlandsch bijbelgenootschap*, Zutphen 1964-1965
Diseases in Antiquity	D. Brothwell / T. Sandison (eds.), *Diseases in Antiquity*, Illinois 1967
DME	Catalogue of Cunningham, *Deliver Me From Evil*, Rome 1997.

Dragons, Monsters and Fabulous Beasts	J.G. Westenholz, *Dragons, Monsters and Fabulous Beasts*, Jerusalem 2004
DT	Museum siglum for British Museum, London (Daily Telegraph)
EA	J. A. Knudtzon, *Die El-Amarna-Tafeln*, Leipzig 1915
Emar	D. Arnaud, *Recherches au pays d'Astata: Emar 6/1-4, Textes sumeriens et accadien*s, Paris 1986
Essays Finkelstein	M. de Jong Ellis (ed.), *Essays on the Ancient Near East in Memory of J.J. Finkelstein*, Hamden 1977
FAOS	Freiburger Altorientalische Studien
FM	Florilegium Marianum
Fs. Boehmer	U. Finkbeiner / R. Dittmann / H. Hauptmann (eds.), *Beiträge zur Kulturgeschichte Vorderasiens: Festschrift für Rainer Michael Boehmer*, Mainz 1995
Fs. Borger	S.M. Maul (ed.), *Festschift für Rykle Borger zu seinem 65. Geburtstag am 24. Mai 1994: tikip santakki mala bašmu ...*(= CM 10, 1998)
Fs. De Meyer	H. Gasche / M. Tanret / C. Janssen / A. Degraeve (eds.), *Cinquante-deux réflexions sur le Proche-Orient ancien: offertes en hommage à Léon De Meyer* (= MHEO 2, 1994)
Fs. Falkenstein	D. O. Edzard (ed.), *Heidelberger Studien zum Alten Orient: Adam Falkenstein zum 17. September 1966* (= HSAO 1, 1967)
Fs. Groneberg	D. Shehata / F. Weiserhäuser / K. Zand (eds.), *Von Göttern und Menschen: Beiträge zu Literatur und Geschichte des Alten Orients: Festschrift für Brigitte Groneberg* (= CM 41, 2010)
Fs. Hilprecht	*Hilprecht Anniversary Volume: Studies in Assyriology and Archaeology Dedicated to Hermann V. Hilprecht upon the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of his Doctorate and his Fiftieth Birthday (July 28) by his Colleagues, Friends and Admirers*, Leipzig 1909
Fs. Larsen	J.G. Dercksen (ed.), *Assyria and Beyond: studies presented to Mogens Trolle Larsen* (= PIHANS 100, 2004)
Fs. Limet	Ö. Tunca/D. Deheselle (ed.), *Tablettes et images aux pays de Sumer et d'Akkad: mélanges offerts à Monsieur H. Limet* (= Mémoires de l'APHAO 1, 1996)
Fs. Pope	J.H. Marks /R.B. Good (eds.), *Love & Death in the Ancient Near East*, Guilford 1987
Fs. Röllig	B. Pongratz-Leisten / H. Kühne / P. Xella (eds.), *Ana šadî Labnāni lū allik: Beiträge zu altorientalischen und mittelmeerischen Kulturen: Festschrift für Wolfgang Röllig* (= AOAT 247, 1997)
Fs. Stol	R.J. van der Spek (ed.), *Studies in Ancient Near Eastern World View and Society. Presented to Marten Stol on the occasion of his 65th birthday*, Bethesda 2008
Fs. Szaryńska	J. Braun / K. Łyczkowska / M. Popko / P. Steinkeller, *Written on Clay and Stone. Ancient Near Eastern Studies Presented to Krystyna Szaryńska on the Occasion of her 80th Birthday*, Warsaw 1998
Fs. Wilcke	W. Sallaberger / K. Volk / A. Zgoll, *Literatur, Politik und Recht in Mesopotamien. Festschrift für Claus Wilcke* (= OBC 14, 2003)
GAG	W. von Soden, *Grundriss der Akkadischen Grammatik* (= AnOr 33, 1952)
GMTR	Guides to the Mesopotamian Textual Record
H	Field number, excavations at Tell-Haddad
HES	Heidelberger Emesal Studien

HKL	R. Borger, *Handbuch der Keilschriftliteratur*, 1–3, Berlin 1967/1975/1975
HS	Tablet siglum of the Hilprecht Collection in Jena
HSOA	Heidelberger Studien zum Alten Orient
HSS	Harvard Semitic Series
HT	Hittite Texts in the Cuneiform Character from Tablets in the British Museum
HTS	Tablets from the Hartford Theological Seminary Collection texts no at Yale and Andrews Universities
Ḫulbazizi	*ḪUL.BA.ZI.ZI: Ancient Mesopotamian Excorcistic Incantations*, Birmingham 1976 (Unpublished Dissertation)
IBoT	Istanbul Arkeoloji Müzelerinde bulunan Bogazköy tabletleri
IM	Museum siglum of the Iraq Museum in Baghdad
Iraq	Iraq (British School of Archaeology in Iraq)
ISET	Istanbul Arkeoloji Müzelerinde bulunan Sumer edebi tablet ve parcalari (Sumerian Literary Tablets and Fragments in the Archaeological Museum of Istanbul)
ITT	Inventaire des tablettes de Tello
JANER	Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions
JAOS	Journal of the American Oriental Society
JCS	Journal of Cuneiform Studies
JEOL	Jaarbericht van het Voor-Aziatisch-Egyptisch-Gezelschap
JNES	Journal of Near Eastern Studies
JRAS	Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland
JSS	Journal of the Semitic Studies
K	Museum siglum of the British Museum in London (Kuyunjik)
KADP	F. Köcher, *Keilschrifttexte zur assyrisch-babylonischen Drogen- und Planzenkunde. Texte der Serien URU.AN.NA : maltakal, HAR.ra: ḫubullu und Ú.GAR-šú*. Berlin 1955
KAJ	E. Ebeling, *Keilschrifttexte aus Aššur juristischen Inhalts* (= WVDOG 50, 1927)
KAL	*Keilschrifttexte aus Aššur literarischen Inhalts*
KAR	E. Ebeling, *Keilschrifttexte aus Assur religiösen Inhalts I/II* (= WVDOG 28, 1919; 34, 1923)
KAV	O. Schroeder, *Keilschrifttexte aus Assur verschiedenen Inhalts* (= WVDOG 35, 1920)
KBo	Keilschrifttexte aus Boghazköi
KH.	Field number, excavations at Karkemish
Kh.	Tablets from Khafadje in the collections of the Oriental Institute, University of Chicago
Ki	Tablets excavated at Kish in the collections of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford
kt	Inventory numbers of Kültepe texts
Ktèma	KTEMA. Civilisations de l'Orient, de la Grèce et de Rome antiques
KTU	M. Dietrich/ O. Loretz/ J. Sanmartín, *Die keil-alphbetischen Texte aus Ugarit* (= AOAT 24/1, 1976)
KUB	Keilschrifturkunden aus Boghazköi
LANE	Languages of the Ancient Near East
LB	Tablets in the de Liagre Bohl Collection (Leiden)
LKA	E. Ebeling (unter Mitwirkung von F. Köcher / L.Rost), *Literarische Keilschrifttexte aus Aššur*, Berlin 1953a

LOT	Library of Oriental Texts
LSS	Leipziger Semitistische Studien
LTBA	*Die lexikalischen Tafelserien der Babylonier und Assyrer*, Bd. I: L. Matous; Bd. II: W. von Soden, Berlin 1933
Lugale	J. van Dijk, *Lugal ud me-lam-BI*, Leiden 1983
M	Private Collection from UK, from Meskene/Emar
MAARAV	MAARAV, A Journal for the Study of the Northwest Semitic Languages and Literatures
MAOG	Mitteilungen der Altorientalischen Gesellschaft
M.A.R.I.	Mari, Annales de Recherches Interdisciplinaires
MARV	Mittelassyrische Rechtsurkunden und Verwaltungstexte
MC	Mesopotamian Civilizations
MLC	Morgan Library Collection, siglum of the Yale Babylonian Collection, New Haven
MDP	Mémoires de la Délégation en Perse
Metropolitan 1984–85	P. Harper, *Metropolitan Museum, Notable Acquisitions* 1984–85, New York 1985
MHEO	Mesopotamian History and Environment.
MIO	Mitteilungen des Instituts für Orientforschung
MMA	Museum siglum of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
MRS	Mission de Ras Shamra
MS	Manuscript Schøyen; object signature, Schøyen Collection Oslo and London
MSL	Materials for the Sumerian Lexicon; SS = Supplementary Series
MUSJ	Mélanges (de la Faculté Orientale) de l'Université Saint-Joseph
MVAG	Mitteilungen der Vorderasiatischen Gesellschaft
MVN	Materiali per il vocabulario neosumerico
MZL	R. Borger, *Mesopotamisches Zeichenlexikon* (= AOAT 305, 2004)
Msk	Tablet siglum of texts from Meskene
N	Museum siglum of the University Museum, Philadelphia (Nippur)
N.A.B.U.	Nouvelles Assyriologiques Brèves et Utilitaires
NBC	Nies Babylonian Collection, siglum of the Yale Babylonian Collection, New Haven
ND	Field numbers of tablets excavated at Nimrud
N.F.	Neue Folge
Ni	Museum siglum of the Archaeological Museum, Istanbul (Nippur)
Nouvelles Fouilles de Telloh	G. Cros, *Nouvelles Fouilles de Telloh*, Paris 1910
NTA	V. Donbaz, *Ninurta-Tukulti-Aššur*, Ankara 1976
O	Museum siglum of Antiquités (orientales), Musée du Cinquantenaire
OBC	Orientalia Biblica et Christiana
OBO	Orbis Biblicus et Orientalis
OECT	Oxford Editions of Cuneiform Texts
OIC	Oriental Institute Communications
OIP	Oriental Institute Publications
OLZ	Orientalistische Literaturzeitung
OPKF	Occasional Publications of the Samuel Noah Kramer Fund
OrAnt	Oriens Antiquus
ORidA	Orientalische Religionen in der Antike
OrNS	Orientalia, NS = Nova Series
OrSu	Orientalia Suecana
PBS	University of Pennsylvania, Publications of the Babylonian Section

Peiser Urkunden	F.E. Peiser, *Urkunden aus der Zeit der dritten babylonischen Dynastie, Berlin*, 1905
PIHANS	Publications de l'Institut historique-archéologique néerlandais de Stamboul
PRAK	H. de Genouillac, *Premieres recherches archeologiques a Kich*, Paris 1925
Priests and Officials	K. Watanabe (ed.), *Priests and Officials in the Ancient Near East*, Heidelberg, 1999
Proverbs of Ancient Sumer	B. Alster, *Proverbs of Ancient Sumer: The World Earliest Proverb Collections*, Bethesda, 1997
RA	Revue d'Assyriologie et d'Archéologie Orientale
RGTC	Répertoire géographique des textes cunéiformes
RlA	Reallexikon der Assyriologie (und Vorderasiatischen Archäologie)
Rm	Museum siglum of the British Museum
RMO	Rijksmuseum van Oudheiden, Leiden
RS	Museum siglum of the Louvre and Damascus (Ras Shamra)
RSO	Rivista degli Studi Orientali
SAA	State Archives of Assyria
SAACT	State Archives of Assyria Cuneiform Texts
SAALT	State Archives of Assyria Literary Texts
SAAS	State Archives of Assyria Studies
SANE	Sources of the Ancient Near East
SANER	Studies in Ancient Near Eastern Records
SAOC	Studies in Ancient Oriental Civilization
SEL	Studi Epigrafici e Linguistici sul Vicino Oriente Antico
SF	A. Deimel, *Schultexte aus Fara* (= WVDOG 43), Berlin, 1923
Si	Field numbers of tablets excavated at Sippar in the collections of the Archaeological Museums
SLTN	S. Kramer, *Sumerian Literary Texts from Nippur in the Museum of the Ancient Orient at Istanbul* (= AASOR 23, 1944)
Sm.	Museum siglum of the British Museum in London
SMEA	Studi Micenei ed Egeo-Anatolici
SpTU	Spätbabylonische Texte aus Uruk
SCCNH	Studies on the Civilization and Culture of Nuzi and the Hurrians
StBoT	Studien zu den Bogazköy-Texten
StOr	Studia Orientalia
St. Pohl	Studia Pohl
STT	O. Gurney/J. Finkelstein, *The Sultantepe Tablets*, I/II, London, 1957/1964
Studies Lambert	A.R. George/I.L. Finkel (eds.), *Wisdom, Gods and Literature. Studies in Assyriology in Honour of W.G. Lambert*, Winona Lake 2000
Studies Jacobsen	T. Abusch (ed.), *Riches Hidden in Secret Places. Ancient Near Eastern Studies in Memory of T. Jacobsen*, Winona Lake 2002
Studies Sachs	E. Leichty/M. deJ. Ellis/P. Gerardi (eds.), *A Scientific Humanist: Studies in Memory of Abraham Sachs* (= OPKF 9, 1988)
STVC	E. Chiera, *Sumerian Texts of Varied Contents* (= OIP 16, 1934)
Su	Field numbers of tablets excavated at Sultantepe
Sumer	Sumer. Journal of Archaeology and History in Iraq
Syria	Syria. Revue d'art oriental et d'archéologie
TBC	Texts from the Babylonian Collection
TCL	Textes cunéiformes, Musées du Louvre
TCS	Texts from Cuneiform Sources

Tell el Amarna	W.M. Flinders Petrie, *Tell el Amarna*. With chapters by A.H. Sayce / F.Ll. Grifftith / F.C.J. Spurrel. Londen, 1894 (reprint 1974)
THeth	Texte der Hethiter
TIM	Texts in the Iraq Museum
TMH	Texte und Materialien der Frau Professor Hilprecht Collection. Jena
Travels and Researches in Chaldea and Susiana	W.K. Loftus, *Travels and Researches in Chaldea and Susiana*, New York 1857
TSO	Texte und Studien zur Orientalistik
TSŠ	R. Jestin, *Tablettes sumériennes de Šuruppak conservées au Musée de Stamboul*, Paris 1937
TUAT	Texte aus der Umwelt des Alten Testaments
UHF	M.J. Geller, *Forerunners to Udug-hul* (= FAOS 12 1985)
UE	Ur Excavations. Publications of the Joint Expedition of the British Museum and the Museum of the University of Pennsylvania to Mesopotamia
UET	Ur Excavations. Texts
UF	Ugarit-Forschungen
UFBG	*Untersuchungen zur Formensprache der babylonischen "Gebetsbeschwörungen"* (= St. Pohl 5, 1976)
Ugaritica	Ugaritica. Mission de Ras Shamra
UIOM	Tablets in the collections of the Univ. of Illinois Oriental Museum
UM	Tablet siglum of the University Museum, Philadelphia
UVB	Vorläufiger Bericht über die . . . Ausgrabungen in Uruk-Warka
VA	Museum siglum of the Vorderasiatisches Museum, Berlin (Vorderasiatische Abteilung, Ass. = Aššur)
VAT	Museum siglum of the Vorderasiatisches Museum, Berlin
VS	Vorderasiatische Schriftdenkmäler der (Königlichen) Museen zu Berlin
W	Field numbers of tablets excavated at Warka
WAW	Writings from the Ancient World
WdO	Die Welt des Orients
WOO	Wiener Offene Orientalistik
WVDOG	Wissenschaftliche Veröffentlichungen der Deutschen Orient-Gesellschaft
YBC	Tablet siglum, Yale Babylonian Collection
YOS	Yale Oriental Series, Babylonian Texts
ZA	Zeitschrift für Assyriologie und verwandte Gebiete

Conventions

Divisions, i.e. columns, on individual tablets are indicated by lowercase Roman numerals, e.g. NN: iv 3 designates the third line of the fourth column in a particular text. In case of a multiple-sided prism, individual sides are designated with capital A, B, *etc*. When referring to series of tablets, I use capitalized Roman numerals to indicate a particular tablet of the series, e.g. *Maqlû* II indicates the second tablet of the *Maqlû*-series. When the beginning of a tablet has not been preserved, I follow the conventional practice of marking the first line with 1'.

When an incantation is physically separated by horizontal or vertical ruling on the tablet, it is indicated accordingly in the transliteration. Incantations found among ritual agenda or medical prescriptions are marked as such, e.g. (*ritual instructions*) is inserted accordingly when an incantation is preceeded or followed by ritual instructions.

All individual incantations are named after their primary publication of the tablet (copy or photo). When a tablet is unpublished, museum or excavation siglum is used instead, e.g. VAT 13226. When multiple incantations occur on the same tablet, they are indicated by a, b, c, *etc*, e.g. *KBo* 1, 18a, *KBo* 1, 18b *etc*. The same system is followed for the *Catalogue of Middle Babylonian and Middle Assyrian incantations*.

If a tablet is published in photo in the CDLI-database only, it is listed under primary publication after the corresponding CDLI number, e.g. CDLI no. P268915, in the various tables occurring in this study, but in the main discussion it is referred to by its museum siglum, i.e. CBS 13905. When there is no separate column for sigla in a table, the museum siglum is found in parentheses after the CDLI-number, e.g. CDLI no. P268915 (CBS 13905). This is to prevent confusion for the reader, who may only know the tablet by its sigil. The same goes when a tablet is published in the present study for the first time, e.g. VAT 13226 is designated as pl. I–III under primary publication, but is referred to as VAT 13226 in the general discussion.

No difference is made in the present study between <g> and <ĝ> in the transliteration or transcription of texts in the Sumerian language. The antique rubrics frequently found at the beginning or end of an incantation are consistently written in capitals, e.g. ÉN and KA.INIM.MA, and serve as visual markers as well in the modern transliteration and translation.

Further Conventions

Transliteration:

a-lak-ti li-mad	Texts in italics are Akkadian
DUMU^{meš}	Texts in capitals are Sumerograms, while small written syllables in superscript mark determinatives
me.šè ba.da.ri	Texts in lowercase but not in italics are unilingual Sumerian passages
BAR/MAŠ	Slash indicates alternative possibilities
šal-bir giš la ki	When the exact reading is uncertain in Akkadian passages, signs are rendered in lowercase separately
kur ḪU ˹x˺	When the exact reading is uncertain in Sumerian passages, signs are rendered in capitals
a-a ‹i›-tur	Signs omitted by ancient scribes are indicated by angle brackets
ḫi-li «li» il-pu-ut	Signs erroneously inserted by the ancient scribes, i.e. dittography, are indicated by double angle brackets
{x}	Indicates an erasure
//	Indicates use of *Glossenkeile*
ḪUR$^{?}$.SAG$^{?}$	A question mark in superscript indicates an uncertain reading
aq$^{!}$(IQ)*-qur*	An exclamation mark in superscript indicates erroneous use of a sign
al-lu-ḫap-p[*u*]	Square brackets are used to indicate damaged signs
˹x˺	Indicates that there are some traces of a sign, which cannot be indentified due to damage
[(x)]	Indicates that there is possible place for an extra sign
[…]	Ellipsis marks a lacuna of an uncertain number of signs

Additional information on specific incantations:

//	Duplicate
~	Partial duplicate
≈	Forerunner to later series
°	Only incipit cited
#	Cited as external incantation in ritual tablet of later series

Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 Typology of Incantations

In the present study, incantations are divided according to the entity they address, i.e. regular incantations address the disease/demon or (medical) problem directly, *Kultmittelbeschwörungen* are incantations directed to cultic objects, and incantation-prayers are directed to deities. As a result, the larger textual environment in which incantations are used, e.g. an incantation-prayer to Šamaš can be found in an anti-witchcraft context, is of secondary concern here. The main subject of a text, instead of individual incantations, can be found in § 2.1, where texts are grouped according to their textual environment, and in § 5.1, where individual incantations are thematically grouped and their textual environment is consequently presented.

First, we should address a basic question: what qualifies a text as an incantation? Ideally, an incantation is designated as such by the ancient scribes through the use of paratextual comments such as ÉN/*šiptu*(*m*) and KA.INIM.MA; further examples can be found in § 2.4. Texts which lack such self-designations are identified according to contextual parallels which can be identified as incantations. When no contextual parallels exist, we must consider the textual environment of an incantation, e.g. recitanda found among ritual agenda or therapeutic prescriptions.

Kunstmann (1932) established the terminus *Beschwörungsgebet*,[1] here incantation-prayer, which was subsequently followed in later studies, e.g. von Soden (1957–1971, 168–170); Mayer (1976); Lenzi (2011).[2] A thin line distinguishes incantation-prayers from prayers. Ideally, both groups can be be distinguished by the use of paratextual comments, e.g. ÉN and KA.INIM.MA for incantation-prayers;[3] *unninnu*, *teslītu*, *tespītu* and *ikribu* for regular prayers.[4] In the present study incantation-prayers are understood as those prayers that have paratextual comments corresponding to incantations, e.g. ÉN, KA.INIM.MA *etc*, those which are recited in the context of ritual agenda[5] and medical prescriptions, and those which are known to be incantation-prayers from later parallels of the First Millennium.

1 According to von Soden 1957–1971, the terminus derives originally from Benno Landsberger.

2 For an extended bibliography, s. Lenzi 2011, 24. A discussion of the genre of Sumerian incantation-hymns coined as širnamšub(ba), s. M.E. Cohen 1975.

3 In the First Millennium a typical feature of incantation-prayers is the use of the terminus ŠU.ÍL.LA$_{(2)}$ "lifting the hand" in the colophon. Note that in the present corpus this terminus is not attested. For a discussion of ŠU.ÍL.LA$_{(2)}$, s. Frechette 2012. A study of the Emesal šuʾilla-prayers is forthcoming by D. Shibata.

4 Oshima 2011, 8.

5 Exceptions being recitanda in rituals which are clearly introduced as prayers, e.g. the Middle Assyrian ritual in the *Bīt ēqi* (*KAR* 139), where recitanda are specifically introduced with *i-kar-rab* (l. 10) and *i-kar-rab-šu* (l. r. 2').

Kultmittelbeschwörungen, which correspond to Falkenstein's *Weihungstyp*,[6] are those incantations used to consecrate cultic objects in a ritual context.[7]

1.2 Historical Setting

The present study focuses on the timespan between the Middle Babylonian and Middle Assyrian periods. The Middle Babylonian period begins after the Fall of Babylon around 1595 BCE[8] and covers the textual data of the First Sealand Dynasty, the Kassite kings and the Second Isin dynasty, which subsequently ruled Babylonia, and ends with the last king of the latter dynasty, Nabû-šumu-libūr, in 1026 BCE. The Middle Assyrian period concerns all textual data starting with Aššur-nīrārī II (1424–1418/1414–1408) and ending with the last king, Aššur-bēl-kala (1073–1056).

A political change can be observed in the second half of the Second Millennium. After the political and economic decline in the Middle East during the 16th and 15th centuries, the landscape changed from weak states to large territorial entities, i.e. Babylonia, Assyria, Mittani, Ḫatti, Alašiya, Arzawa. In 14th century Egypt the ruler Akhenaten moves the capital to Akhetaten (Tell Amarna), where a group of tablets containing international correspondence with the above-mentioned powers, known as the *Amarna letters*, yields unique insights into the political environment of that time. These great states corresponded with each other in Akkadian, which became the *lingua franca* in this period. As a result, scribal centra were founded in the peripheral areas of the Mesopotamian heartland which taught the Mesopotamian curriculum in a variety of Akkadian and Sumerian scholarly texts, which included magico-religious texts containing incantations. Another reason we find incantations of the present corpus far outside the Mesopotamian heartland is the distribution of amulets, e.g. the Lamaštu-amulets from Dūr-Untaš and Susa in present day Iran.

A global overview of the geographical setting of the present corpus can be found in Figure 1; a more detailed discussion including the archival setting of tablets can be found in Chapter 3.

6 Fundamental work on the analysis of Mesopotamian incantations was conducted by Falkenstein in 1931. He distinguished four types among the Sumerian incantations: I. *Legitimationtyp*, II. *Prophylaktischer Typ*, III. *Marduk-Ea-Typ*, and IV. *Weihungstyp*.

7 Further discussion of the sub-genre of *Kultmittelbeschwörungen* can be found in Jacobsen 1946, 130–135; Mayer 1976, 432–435 (*Kultmittelgebete*); Krebernik 1984, 94–104; Michalowski 1993, 152–161; Abusch 2003, 2–4; Rudik 2015, 63–66. As for a discussion of cultic objects, s. Selz 1997.

8 This study follows the Middle Chronology.