

Volume I

Diaries from 652 B.C. to 262 B.C.

VERLAG DER OSTERREICHISCHEN AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN
WIEN 1988

VAT 4956 (No. -567)

Nebukadnezar II year 37. I II III |] X XI XII

Copy E. F. Weidner, AfO 16 Tf. XVII

Transcription, translation, and commentary: P.V. Neugebauer and E. F. Weidner, Ein astonischer Beobachtungstext aus dem 37. Jahre Nebukadnezar II. (-567/66) (= Ber. über die Verh. der Königl. Sachs. Ges. der Wiss., Phil.-hist. Kl. Bd. 67/2. 1915.

Obv'

- 1: Year 37 of Nebukadnezar, king of Babylon. Month I (the 1st of which was identical with) the 30th (of the preceding month), the moon became visible behind the Bull of Heaven; [sunset to moonset:] ... [...]
- 2: Saturn was in front of the Swallow. The 2nd, in the morning, a rainbow stretched in the west. Night of the 3rd, the moon was 2 cubits in front of [...]
- 3: it rained? Night of the 9th (error for 8th), beginning of the night, the moon stood 1 cubit in front of β Leonis. The 9th, the sun in the west [was surrounded] by a halo
- 3: [... The 11th]
- 4: or 12th, Jupiter's acronychal rising. On the 14th, one god was seen with the other; sunrise to moonset: 4^o. The 15th, overcast. The 16th, Venus [...]
- 5: The 20th, in the morning, the sun was surrounded by a halo. Around noon, ... rain PISAN. A rainbow stretched in the east. [...]
- 6: From the 8th of month XII₂ to the 28th, the river level rose 3 cubits and 8 fingers, $\frac{2}{3}$ cubits [were missing] to the high flood [...]
- 7: were killed on order of the king. That month, a fox entered the city. Coughing and a little *risitu*-disease [...]
- 8: Month II (the 1st of which was identical with) the 30th (of the preceding month), the moon became visible while the sun stood there, 4 cubits below β Geminorum; it was thick; there was earth shine [...]
- 9: Saturn was in front of the Swallow; Mercury, which had set, was not visible. Night of the 1st, gusty storm from east and south. The 1st, all day [...]
- 10: stood [... in front] of Venus to the west. The 2nd, the north wind blew. The 3rd, Mars entered Praesepe. The 5th, it went out of it. The 10th, Mercury [rose] in the west behind the [Little Twins ...]