

**A NEBUCHADNEZZAR II BARREL CYLINDER:  
THE RESTORATION OF EBABBAR IN SIPPAR**  
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This barrel cylinder is in the possession of David Sofer from London. The barrel cylinder was purchased by the owner at Bonhams, London, 13 April 2011, sale 18817: lot 132. Regarding the cylinder's provenance, Bonhams notes the following:

Reputedly from the Dr. Edgar Banks Collection. Dr. Banks was Field Director of the Babylonian Expedition and American Consul to Baghdad in 1937. Property from a New England Museum gifted prior to 1990.

The cylinder is 13.2cm long with a diameter of 5.8cm. It is perforated length-wise all the way through. The cylinder contains two columns, each one with 18 lines of text, describing the rebuilding of the Ebabbar temple of Šamaš in Sippar by Nebuchadnezzar II. The text is well known from other exemplars, see e.g. VAS 1 no. 41 (VA 3111, VA 3309).

The barrel cylinder is at present housed at the Bible Lands Museum Jerusalem.

**Text:**

I	ii
1. <sup>d</sup> na-bi-um-ku-dur <sub>2</sub> -ru-u <sub>2</sub> -šu-ur <sub>2</sub>	1. ša la na-ka-ra-am
2. šar ba-bi-li <sup>ki</sup>	2. i-pi <sub>2</sub> -iš-ti li-pi <sub>2</sub> -it qa <sub>2</sub> -ti-ia
3. za-ni-in e <sub>2</sub> -saĝ-il <sub>2</sub> u <sub>3</sub> e <sub>2</sub> -zi-da	3. lu-la-ab-bi-ir a-na da-ri <sub>2</sub> -a-tim
4. mār <sup>d</sup> na-bi-um-aplu-u <sub>2</sub> -šu-ur <sub>2</sub>	4. li-pu-u <sub>2</sub> -a i-na šar-ru-ti
5. šar ba-bi-li <sup>ki</sup> a-na-ku	5. li-te-el-li-pu
6. e <sub>2</sub> -babbar-ra bīt <sup>d</sup> Šamaš	6. li-ku-un i-na māti
7. ša qe <sub>2</sub> -ri-ib Sippar <sup>ki</sup>	7. e-ma qa <sub>2</sub> -ta-a na-šu-ka bēlu <sup>d</sup> Šamaš
8. a-na <sup>d</sup> Šamaš bēlu mu-ša <sub>2</sub> -ri-ku u <sub>4</sub> -mi-ia	8. lu pe-e-tu-u <sub>2</sub> ur <sub>2</sub> -hi-ia
9. e-eš-še-iš e-pu-uš	9. a-na na-a-ri a-a-bi-ia
10. <sup>d</sup> Šamaš bēlu rabû-u <sub>2</sub> ep <sub>2</sub> -še-tu-u <sub>2</sub> -a	10. <sup>d</sup> Šamaš at-ta-ma
11. a-na da-mi-iq-ti	11. <sup>ĝeš</sup> kakkû <sup>1</sup> -u <sub>2</sub> -ka iz-zu-u <sub>2</sub> -tim
12. ha-di-iš na-ap-li-is-ma	12. ša la im-ma-ha-ru
13. ba-la-tam u <sub>4</sub> -um ru-qu-u <sub>2</sub> -tim	13. a-na šu-um-qu <sub>3</sub> -tu na-ki-ri-ia
14. še-bi-e li-it-tu-tu	14. li-il-li-ka i-da-a-a
15. ku-un-na <sup>ĝeš</sup> kussi u <sub>3</sub> la-ba-ar pa-li-e	15. ki-ma libnātu e <sub>2</sub> -babbar-ra
16. a-na ši-ri-ik-ti šu-ur <sub>2</sub> -ka-am	16. ku-un-na a-na ša-a-tim
17. ni-iš qa <sub>2</sub> -ti-ia ki-ni-iš mu-gu-ur <sub>2</sub> -ma	17. ša-na-tu-u <sub>2</sub> <a> <sup>2</sup> li-ri-ka
18. ina qi <sub>2</sub> -bi <sub>2</sub> -ti-ka ši-ir-ti	18. a-na u <sub>4</sub> -um da-ri <sub>2</sub> -u <sub>2</sub> -tim

**Translation:**

i 1-5. Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, the provider of Esagil and Ezida, son of Nabopolassar, King of Babylon, I am.

<sup>1</sup> ĞEŠ.TUKUL.ĞEŠ.TUKUL

<sup>2</sup> VA 3111 and VA 3309 (VAS 1 41) read: ša-na-tu-u<sub>2</sub>-a li-ri-ka

6-9. Ebabbar, the temple of Šamaš, which is in the heart of Sippar, for Šamaš, the Lord, the one who extends my days, I built anew.

10-17. O Šamaš, great lord, joyfully look at my deeds with kindness. A life of distant days, the satisfaction of extremely old age, a firmly established throne and a long lasting reign, as a gift bestow upon me. Accept favorably the raising of my hand (in prayer).

18- ii 3. At your supreme commandment, which cannot be contested, may the deeds of my handiwork last to eternity.

4-6. May my descendants flourish as kings, may it (the kingship) stand firmly in the land.

7-14. Whenever my hand is raised before you, O Lord Shamash, may you open my roads for destruction of my enemies. You are Shamash, your fierce weapons, which cannot be confronted, may they come to my side against my fallen enemies.

15-18. Just as the foundations of Ebabbar are established forever, may my (regal) years last for an age of eternity.