

Prosobab document types and subtypes

Within the archival documentation we distinguish between legal documents, administrative documents, and correspondence. The vast majority are legal documents. These are legally binding records which are characterized (and therewith distinguish themselves from administrative documents) by a witness list and a date formula. For an elaborate discussion especially of the legal document types see Jursa 2005a.

1. Legal documents

Subtype	Description
Adoption	Contract according to which the legal parenthood of a person is taken over by someone other than the biological parents.
Annulment	The cancellation of another contract, such as promissory notes or purchases.
Apprenticeship	Contract about the placement of a person in the care of a craftsman for a fixed period in order to learn a certain trade.
Bond	Contract which stipulates that one person commits himself to another to do something or refrain from doing something.
Contract of pledge	Contract concerning the placing of a pledge.
Contract renewal	Contract which renews previous agreements due to the loss of the original contracts.
Court protocol	Legal document recording court proceedings, including statements of the litigants, inquiries by the judges and the judgement.
Deposit	Silver is deposited in order to keep it safe or to seize it. This also includes contracts about fictional deposits which were used in a way similar to modern "cheques".
Deposition	Legal document which records the deposition before a collective of witnesses.
Dispute-related	Legal record about a dispute, which differs from a court protocol, a deposition before witnesses, or an oath at court.
Division	Contract about the division of property (received from a third person), other than inherited property.
Division of inheritance	Legal document which records the division of an inheritance among the heirs.
Divorce	Contract recording the dissolution of a marriage agreement and the repayment of the dowry.
Dowry promise	Contract which stipulates the payment of a dowry (listed in detail) by the family of the bride.
Exchange	Contract recording the exchange of ownership of houses and other real estate.
Extra witness (<i>ana šībūti, ana mukinnūti</i>)	Legal document recording an extra witness to a legal transaction (originally recorded in another document).
Gift	Contract about the transfer of ownership of real estate or another type of property (including prebends) from one person to another as a gift.
Inheritance-related	Legal document recording issues related to inheritance, other than the division of inheritance.
Lease contract***	Contract about the lease of property. It stipulates the rental period, the rent, and other obligations (depending on the type of property) to be taken over by the lessee.
Loan (<i>ina pāni</i>)	Legal document recording a debt of silver or other movable goods or commodities.

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Manumission	Contract concerning the release of a person from the status as a slave.
Marriage agreement	Contract about a woman who is given into marriage (by her father or any other closest relative) along with her dowry.
Marriage-related	Contract relating to marriage, which differs from a dowry promise, marriage agreement, or a divorce.
Oath	Legal document recording an oath (sworn on gods and the king) about the fulfilment of an obligation. It can also occur as part of another type of legal document such as a court protocol.
Partnership, creation	Legal document which records the creation of a business partnership (often in connection with a trading enterprise) by listing the investments.
Partnership, dissolution	Legal document which records the dissolution of a business partnership (often in connection with a trading enterprise), usually on the occasion of the death of a business partner.
Partnership-related	Legal document recording a matter related to a business partnership, other than the creation or dissolution of such a partnership.
Plan	Plan of a landed property.
Prebendary work contract	Contract about the fulfilment of cultic services connected to a temple prebend. The cultic services are taken over by someone other than the actual owner of the prebend.
Promissory note***	Contract which establishes an obligation to pay silver or deliver certain goods (emerging, for example, from tax liability or the lease of properties).
Purchase	Contract about the purchase of immovable property (i.e. real estate) and movable property (especially slaves) as well as prebends.
Purchase-related	Legal document recording an issue related to a purchase which is recorded in another document.
Receipt	Legal record about the full or partial payment of silver (or payment in kind) or the full or partial delivery of movable goods.
Settlement of accounts	Legal record with an overview of payments and tasks between two or more parties which have been (or still have to be) fulfilled. Can be related to prebends.
Sub-lease contract***	Contract concerning the lease of immovable property. In contrast to a lease contract, the lessor leases the property but does not own it.
Summary	A document which lists two or more legal transactions (of the same type) on the basis of the original contracts. Also known as "Sammeltafel".
Summons	Legal document recording the call of an authority to appear or to ensure that somebody or something appears at a certain place (for the purpose of collecting evidence for a court case).
Sustenance contract	Contract about the sustenance of another person.
Testament	Contract which regulates what should happen to the property after the death of the owner (who is still alive).
Warranty	Legal document recording that one or more persons assume warranty for (an)other person(s) or for (the quality of) objects and (the production of) commodities.
Witness list	Legal document recording witnesses of a legal transaction documented on another tablet.
Work contract	Legal contract recording a temporal employment.

***For these subtypes further sub-categories were established, see below.

Sub-categories of legal document types

Promissory note, with antichretic pledge	Promissory note which stipulates that no rent and no wages need to be paid by the creditor for the pledged house or the pledged slave and therefore no interest accrues to the debtor from the indebted money.
Promissory note, with interest	Promissory note which stipulates a monthly or yearly interest to be paid until the obligation is discharged.
Promissory note, with pledge	Promissory note which stipulates the handing over of a pledge (such as a slave or a house) as security to the creditor.
Promissory note, with pledge and interest	Promissory note which stipulates the handing over of a pledge as security to the creditor as well as interest to be paid until the obligation is discharged.
Promissory note, with pledge and without interest	Promissory note which stipulates the handing over of a pledge as security to the creditor and which clearly states that no interest has to be paid.
Promissory note, without interest	Promissory note which clearly states that no interest has to be paid.
Lease contract (<i>ana ašbūti</i>)	Contract about the lease of immovable property in tenancy (<i>ašbūtu</i>).
Lease contract (<i>ana dulli</i>)	Contract about the lease of landed property for the purpose of doing work (<i>dullu</i>) on it.
Lease contract (<i>ana errešūti</i>)	Contract about the lease of landed property for the purpose of sharecropping (<i>errešūtu</i>).
Lease contract (<i>ana idī</i>)	Contract about the lease of immovable property (house) in which the fixed rent (<i>idū</i>) is stipulated.
Lease contract (<i>ana maddatti</i>)	Contract about the lease of immovable property in which the fixed rent (<i>maddattu</i>) is stipulated.
Lease contract (<i>ana nukuribbūti</i>)	Contract about the lease of landed property for the purpose of date gardening (<i>nukuribbūtu</i>).
Lease contract (<i>ana nukuribbūti</i> and <i>errešūti</i>)	Contract about the lease of landed property for the purpose of date gardening (<i>nukuribbūtu</i>) and sharecropping (<i>errešūtu</i>).
Lease contract (<i>ana palāh šarri</i>)	Contract about the lease of landed property for the purpose of yielding <i>palāh šarri</i> tax.
Lease contract (<i>ana sūti</i>)	Contract about the lease of landed property in which the fixed rent (<i>sūtu</i>) is stipulated.
Lease contract (<i>ana sūti</i> and <i>zāqipānūti</i>)	Contract about the lease of landed property in which the fixed rent (<i>sūtu</i>) is stipulated and for the purpose of planting date palms (<i>zāqipānūtu</i>).
Lease contract (<i>ana zitti</i>)	Contract about the lease of movable property (animals) for the purpose of profit-sharing (<i>zittu</i>).
Lease contract, hire (<i>ana idī</i>)	Contract about the lease of movable property (slave) in which the fixed wages (<i>idū</i>) are stipulated.
Sub-lease contract (<i>ana sūti</i>)	Contract about the sub-lease of landed property in which the fixed rent (<i>sūtu</i>) is stipulated.

2. Administrative documents

Subtype	Description
Balanced account	Balanced account about incoming and outgoing goods.
Incoming	Administrative document or account about incoming goods.
Incoming and outgoing	Administrative document or account about incoming and outgoing goods.
Inventory	Inventory or checklist of certain goods.
Letter order	Orders originating from the temple authorizing the recipient to effect payments to the temple.
List	List of goods for which it is unclear whether they were coming in or going out.
Memorandum	Document recording (from the perspective of the archive holder) certain administrative procedures or activities (to be executed).
Note	Document recording notes on certain administrative procedures or activities.
Outgoing	Administrative document or account about outgoing goods.
Roster	Register or schedule for certain administrative procedures or activities.

3. Correspondence

Subtype	Description
Business- and family-related letter	Letter dealing with business and family matters.
Business-related letter	Letter dealing with business matters.
Family-related letter	Letter dealing with family matters.
Letter	Letter with other or various different contents.
Royal letter	Letter written and sent by the king.
Temple-related letter	Letter dealing with matters related to the temple.