

Ishtar Samir Dhahir

New Unpublished Cuneiform Texts in the Iraq Museum concerning builder workers

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1. Introduction

Workers form a major base in the Ancient Iraqi economy;availability manpower is one of the fundamentals in the economy of Mesopotamia. Cuneiform texts have provided us with information about workers and their types and wages. In this article we will talk about the construction worker.

This article is devoted to builders,This cuneiform text is one of the collection of the Iraq museum bearing the IM-160420;Its complete tablet deals with expenditure (zi-ga) of (guru□) builders from several cities dated to the reign of (d.□u-sin) the fourth king of UrIII Dynasty (six year).

I thank Dr.Nawala AL-Mutawalli in University of Baghdad, College of Arts for her remarks.

2.Transliteration and Commentary

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Iraq Museum No.:IM-160420

Excavation No. confiscated

Measurement:7.2×4.8×2.4

Obv.

Object:Clay Tablet

Date:^dŠu-sin(su-en) 6

Content Text: Expenditure

1. 3 guru□ □idim

3 buliders

L□- tu-l□ -um^{ki}

men Form tulium

1 guru□ □idim

2 buliders

Lu d□-ma-at-k□l-bu-um^{ki}

men Form dimat-kalbum

5.2 guru□ □idim

2 buliders

L□ i-z□- in-□r-ra^{ki}

Men form izin-erra

2 guru□ □idim

2 buliders

L□ □-si-in^{ki}

Men form isin

3 guru□ □idim □rad -□-

3 buliders household

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a	sarvants
10. u-nigin 11 guru idim	Total 11 buliders
bi-ta	From among it
8 guru idim gi-sal -til-la gul d gub-ba	8 buliders thin reeds ,finished house and stand it
Rev.	
1.1 guru idim	1 bulider
Ma- ub-ba eg ¹² gub-ba 1 guru idim	Employed at brickyard 1 bulider
G n-bal ^{gi} kiri ₆ la-za-ab ^{ki} D-d-gub-ba	The gin -bal of the garden lazab Construct
5. 1 guru idim	1 bulider
-g-g {ki u-kab ta - d-a}	Aagga from shukab whom bring
u- nigin 11 guru idim	Totle 11 buliders

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Zi-ga-ur	had been	Expended
Kurum ₇ aka idim -e-ne	Inspection(of the work) of	buliders
10. gar-a-na ^{ki}		In garshan

G ^d IM(adad) -kaskal-kur	Official ^d IM kaskalkur
abra	

Itu u ₅ -b-k	Four month
-------------------------	------------

Mu-us-sa ^d u- sin(su.en)	Second year after the year
	shu-sin the king of Ur built
	wall (6 shu-sin)

Lugal ur^{ki} -ma-ke₄ b_d

15.ba-d mu-us-sa-bi

left edge

u ₄ 2 k _m	Second day
---------------------------------	------------

Obv.

Line 1

guru (Akk.e-lu) occurs in ED III , old Akkadian, UrIII , Lagash II, old Babylonian means “workers” ⁽¹⁾ The Oldest mention of the Workers in the Cuneiform Sources came in

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Third Early Dynasty (2600-2370). we notice development sign see shape (1)&(2)

𐎠**idim** also read (𐎠itim , d𐎠m)⁽²⁾ means” builder”(AKK. Itinnu or ban𐎠)⁽³⁾

Line 2

𐎠𐎠 (Akk. am𐎠lu) means"man" ⁽⁴⁾

Tu-lí-um^{ki} name of a town,fluvial site judging from the present passage shows from the Drehem Text ⁽⁵⁾

Line 4

Dì-ma-at-kàl-bu-um^{ki} unknown place occur in Garshana Texts? ⁽⁶⁾

Line 6

i-Zí-in-èr-ra^{ki} unknown place occur in Garshana Texts? ⁽⁷⁾

Line 8

𐎠**si-in** ^{ki} modern (I𐎠 | n Ba—riy | t) lies on distance about 20 kilometer in south of Afak and 40 kilometer in south –east of Diwaniyah in the governorate Al Qadisiya. ⁽⁸⁾

Line 9

𐎠**rad** -𐎠**a** Sumerian term means “the household sarvant” ⁽⁹⁾

Line 10

𐎠**u-nigin** (Akk.napa— | ru) means “total” ⁽¹⁰⁾

Line 11

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𒀭𒀭-**bi-ta** Sumerian term means “from among it” ⁽¹¹⁾

Line 12

gi-sal (Akk.gisall𒀭)⁽¹²⁾ means “reed screen(13);Thin reeds formed into mats and layered in the construction of walls” ⁽¹⁴⁾

𒀭 **-til-la** Sumerian term means” finished house” ⁽¹⁵⁾

gul defective verb root means “raze” or”demolish” (Akk.ab | tu)⁽¹⁶⁾

d𒀭 defective verb root means“ bring” ⁽¹⁷⁾

gub-ba

gub defective verb root means “to put” ⁽¹⁸⁾
or" to be employed" ⁽¹⁹⁾

a relative suffix means “whom” ⁽²⁰⁾

Rev.

line 2

ma- 𒀭**ub-ba** Sumerian term means “brickyard” ⁽²¹⁾

𒀭**eg**₁₂ also read sig₄ see (MDA,p.233) (Akk.libittu) means “mud brick”⁽²²⁾

Line 4

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g□n-bal Sumerian term means “an unidentified garden structure”⁽²³⁾

gi□ kiri₆ (AKK.kir□) means “garden”⁽²⁴⁾

la-za-ab^{ki} unknown GN,GN occurs in Garshana Texts as za-ab-la^{ki} ⁽²⁵⁾

d□ defective verb root means "build"⁽²⁶⁾

line 6

□-□**g-g**□ PN. occurs in an Ur III text, from ur ⁽²⁷⁾
Girsu⁽²⁸⁾ Nippur⁽²⁹⁾ umma and Drehem⁽³⁰⁾

Ki----ta

Ablative instrumental means “from the place of”⁽³¹⁾

□**u-kab** Sumerian PN. Occurs in ur III texts From Drehem, Umma, Girsu ⁽³²⁾ As well as in Garshana texts, mostly Occurs in Garshana texts dated to (ŠŠ6 -ŠŠ7) With PN. "□-□**g-g**□"
Or "□-□**g**" ⁽³³⁾

□□ terminative instrumental ⁽³⁴⁾

Line 7

zi-ga Sumerian term (Akk. 𒌶 [tu) means “expenditure”⁽³⁵⁾

□**m** enclitic copula ⁽³⁶⁾

kurum7-aka Sumerian Term Means "Inspection Record"
(AKK.Paq du)⁽³⁷⁾

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e-ne Plural instrumental⁽³⁸⁾

Line 9

□à (AKK.Libbu) means "with in"⁽³⁹⁾

gar-□a-na^{ki}

Village located within the Umma District to the south near the (dukirabba) and are much closer to the canal known as canal ruler .⁽⁴⁰⁾

Line 10

Gìr read recent gir□ (akk.š pu) means literally "foot" ⁽⁴¹⁾

but here profession name ,an official transport ,under the authority of someone.⁽⁴²⁾

d. **Im(adad) –kaskal-kur** Sumerian PN.⁽⁴³⁾

□abra (Akk.šabrû) means "Chief administrator of temple"
⁽⁴⁴⁾

Line 11

Itu u₅-bí-kú fourth month in the calendar of Ur and Drehem, meaning "month of the eating of the ubi bird".⁽⁴⁵⁾

Line 12

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mu-us-sa^{d.š} šu-sin(su.en) lugal uríki-ma-ke4 bàd ba-dù mu-us-sa-bi

Second year after the year shu-sin the king of Ur built wall(sixth year rule king shusin).this is abbreviated form, complete form is

Mu-us-sa d.š.šu-sin(su.en) lugal uríki-ma-ke4 bàd mar-tu mu-ri-iq ti-id-ni-im mu-dù mu-us-sa-bi

Second year after the year shu-sin the king of Ur built wall(called)"muriq-tidnim" ⁽⁴⁶⁾

left edge

u4 (Akk. mu) means" day" ⁽⁴⁷⁾

kám instrument changing whole number from ordinal number.⁽⁴⁸⁾

3.comment

There are different kinds of workers ⁽⁴⁹⁾ who were mentioned in UrIII cuneiform texts,such as (guru□,er□n,l□—un-ga,er□n,un-□l,ect). Moreover, the cuneiform texts provide us with such information about these kinds of workers,their kinds ,rations and wages, but here we speak about one kind of worker (the builder)

Types of Professional Workers(builder)

Here are some other workers in connection with the building worker:

1. **lú dù** (Akk. B nû) means "builder"⁽⁵⁰⁾
2. **gi-ilá** (Akk. tupšikk nu) means "reed holder"⁽⁵¹⁾
3. **im-il₂** Sumerian term means "mud holder"⁽⁵²⁾
4. **im-tak₄** (Akk. ker u) means "kneader"⁽⁵³⁾
5. **šitim** (Akk. itinnu) means "house builder" (54)
6. **lú sig₄-du₈-du₈** (Akk. L bin libittu) means "brickmaker" (55)
7. **lú-gišal-la** (Akk. allim) means "hoe-wielder" (56)
8. **lú-íl** Sumerian term means "brick holder"⁽⁵⁷⁾
9. **lú-im-na₄-na** Sumerian term means "an accountant" (58)
10. **šitim-ma**— (Akk. šitim hu) means "chief builder" (59)
11. **lú níg-tag-tag** (Akk. piš qapp ti) means "basket maker"⁽⁶⁰⁾

4. conclusion

According to the content of the text studied here ,and the personal names (d.IM-kaskal-kur)(Akk. ^{d.}adad - illatu)(line 11)⁽⁶¹⁾, (šu-kab) which occur in Garshana and Drehem texts⁽⁶²⁾, we can imagine that the Provenance of our text may be either Garshana or Drehem.

Footnotes

- (1) CAD:(E),p. 407f);ePSD
- (2) MDA,p.199; □L: 3,p.844
- (3) : CAD:(I-J),p.296,CAD:(B),p.84
- (4) AbZ,p.137; CAD:(A) part II,p.48
- (5) Civil,M."On Some Terxts Mentioning Ur-Nammu"Or(NS), 54,1985,p.32; Kleinerman,A.& David,I.O.,CUSAS,Vol.4,p.646
- (6) Kleinerman,A.& David,I.O.,CUSAS,Vol.4,p.620
- (7) Kleinerman,A.& David,I.O.,CUSAS,Vol.4,p.638
- (8) Edzard,D.O.&Farber,G.,RGTC Band-II,p.85
- قحطان رشيد صالح ، الكشاف الأثري في العراق ،الموصل ١٩٨٧،ص٢٤٣
- (9) Kleinerman,A.& David,I.O.,CUSAS,Vol.4,p.22
- (10) MDA,p163;Watson,P.J.,CCT Vol-1, p.58;CAD:(N),part I,p.292
- (11) Falkenstein,A.,NG III ,p.160
- (12) CAD:(G),p.97
- (13) Halloran,J.A. ,Sumerian Lexicon,LosAngeles,2006,p.79
- (14) Kleinerman,A.& David,I.O.,CUSAS Vol.4,p.61
- Kleinerman,A.& David,I.O.,CUSAS Vol.4,p.46) 15(

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- (16) (□DG Band –I,p.371;CAD:(A),part I,p.41
- (17) Halloran,J.A. , Sumerian Lexicon,p,41; Thomsen ,M.L, Sum.1,p.294)
- (18) Thomsen ,M.L, sum.1,p.304,Schramm,W.,GAAL-4,p.66
- (19) Kleinerman,A.& David,I.O. CUSAS Vol.4,p.232
- (20) Thomen,M.L.,Sum.1,p.246
- سجى مؤيد عبد اللطيف، قواعد اللغة السومرية فى ضوء نصوص سلالة لكش
الأولى ، أطروحة دكتوراه غير منشورة ، بغداد ، ٢٠٠٤، ص٣٢٦
- (21) Kleinerman,A.& David,I.O ,CUSAS Vol.4,p.116)
- (22) Borger,R., Mesopotamisches zeichenlexikon(AOAT
Band 305),M□nster, 2004,p.456; CAD:(L),p.176
- (23) Kleinerman,A.& David,I.O ,CUSAS Vol 4 p.63
- (24) MSL-VI,p.136;CAD:(K), p.411
- (25) Kleinerman,A.& David,I.O,CUSAS Vol 4,P.649
- (26) Thomsen,M.L. ,Sum.1,p.300;Foxvog,D.A.,Elementary
Sumerian Glossary,p.12
- (27) Loding, D.,UET IX,p.51
- (28) Grégoire,J.P.,AAS,p.244
- (29) Sollberger,E.,TCS-I,p.95
- (30) Cdli 2010:p.1

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- (31) (Thomsen, M.L., Sum.L, p.104; Volk, K., A Sumerian Reader, Roma 1999, p.88
- (32) (Cdli 2010:p.1)
- (33) Such as Kleinerman, A. & David, I.O, CUSAS Vol 4:
(030123 Obv.10; 030004 Rev.4; 03005 Obv.3:7; 030048
Obv:3: 14; 030071 Rev.6; 030045 Rev.3; 030039 Obv:3:7;
030108 Rev: 17; 030103 Obv: :5; 030111 Obv: : 9; 030162
Rev: :5; 030047 Obv:3)
- (34) Thomsen, M.L., Sum.L, p.101
- (35) CAD:(ε), p.215
- (36) Thomsen, M.L., Sum.L, p.275
- (37) Halloran, Sumerian....., p.152; CAD:(P), P.115; ŠL:
3, P.876
- (38) Thomsen, M.L., Sum.L, P.61
- سجى مؤيد عبد اللطيف، المصدر السابق ص ٨٤
- (39) Nies, J.B., UDT, P. 167; Legrain, L., UET III, P.157.
- (40) Edzard, D.O. & Farber, G., RGTC Band II, p.52;
Sauren, H., Topographie der Provinz Umma nach den
Urkunden der Zeit der III Dynastie Von Ur, Teil
I, Heidelberg, 1966, p.53
- (41) MDA, p.199; CAD:(Š), part II, p.307

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(42) Hilgert, M., Drehem administrative Documents From the Reign of Amar-Suena (OIP Vol.121), Chicago, 2003, , p.403

(43) Gelb, I. J., MAD-3, p.40

(44) MDA, p.137; AbZ, p.122; CAD:(Š), part I, p.11

(45) Whiting, R.M., "Some Observations on the Drehem Calendar"

ZA-69, 1979, p.13; Langdon, S., Babylonian Menologies and the Semitic Calendars (BMSC), London, 1933, , p.116

(46) Sigrist, M. & Damerow, P., Mesopotamian Year Names, Neo-Sumerian and Old Babylonian Date Formulae, p.27

(47) MDA, p.175; AbZ, p.153

(48) Thomsen, M.L., Sum.1, p.83

(49) Oppenheim, L., Catalogue of the Cuneiform Tablets of the Willberforce Eames Babylonian Collection, (AOS Vol. 32), New Haven, (1948), p.238

نواله احمد المتولي مدخل في دراسة الحياة الاقتصادية لدولة أور الثالثة في ضوء

الوثائق المسمارية (المنشورة وغير المنشورة) بغداد ٢٠٠٧، ص ١٩٤

(50) CDA, p.38

(51) Šl:1, p.211; Salonen, A., AASF-171, p.169; Oppenheim, AOS vol.32, p. 234

(52) Salonen, A., AASF-171, p.169; Oppenheim, AOS vol.32, p.240

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(53) ŠI:3,p.780; Salonen,A.,AASF-171,p.169; MSL

XII,p.108;CAD(K),p..411

(54) Foxvog,D.A.,Elementary Sumerian-----,

p.50; Yildiz,F.&Gomi,T.,UTI Band III,p.285;CAD:(I-J),p.296

(55) Oppenheim,L., AOS Vol. 32,p.252; A Hw Band I,p.525

(56) Salonen,A.,AASF-171,p.172;CAD:(A),part I,p.357

(57) Salonen,A.,AASF-171,p.172;

(58)ePSD

(59)CAD:(Š) part III,p.29; Yildiz,F.&Gomi,T.,UTI Band III ,
p.285

(60) MSL XII,p.103;

علي ياسين الجبوري، قاموس اللغة الاكديّة العربيّة، الإمارات العربيّة المتحدّة
٢٠١٠، ص١٣٤

(61) The Personal name in this text(d.im-kaskal-kur)
(Akk.^d adad – illatu)was the chief administrator ,occurs in a
confiscated text from the collection of the Iraq Museum(I.M-
160875) which studied in M.A thesis

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٢٠٠٤ ق.م)، رسالة ماجستير غير منشورة، جامعة بغداد، ٢٠٠٧، ص٩٩

(62) OIP Vol.115,p.209

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5. Bibliography

1. Abbreviations

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AASF	Annales Academie Scientiarum Fennice, Helsinki (1909 ff)
AbZ	Borger, R., Assyrisch- babylonische Zeichenliste., Germany (1978)
AHw	Von Soden, W., Akkadisches Handwörterbuch, Wiesbaden (1965- 1981)
AOAT	Alter Orient und Altes Testament (1969 ff)
AOS	American Oriental Series, New Haven (1925ff)
BMSC	Langdon, M.A. Babylonian Menologies and the Semitic Calendars, London (1935).
CAD	The Chicago Assyrian Dictionary , Chicago (1956ff)
CCT	Waston, P.J., Catalogue of Cuneiform Tablets in Birmingham City Museum, England, (1986-1993).
CDA	A Concise Dictionary of Akkadian ,Wiesbaden (2000)
Cdli	Cuneiform Digital Library Initiative (2010)

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CUSAS	Cornell University Studies in Assyriology and Sumerology (2010)
ePSD	Electronic Pennsylvania Sumerian Dictionary
GAAL4	Gottinger Arbeitshefte Zur Altorientalischen Literatur, Gottingen, (2003)
MAD	Gelb,I.J., Materials for the Assyrian Dictionary, Chicago (1952-1970)
MDA	Labat, R., Manuel D'Epigraphie Akkadienne, Paris, (1988.)
MSL	Materialien Zum Sumerischen Lexikon, Roma, (1937ff)
NG	Falkenstein, A., Die Neu Sumerischen Gerichtsurkunden, Munchen, (1957.)
OIP	Oriental Institute Publications, Chicago (1924ff)
Or(NS)	Orientalia(Nova Series),Roma (1932 ff)
RGTC	Répertoire Géographique des Textes Cunéiformes, Wiesbaden, (1974).
Sum. L.	Thomsen, M.L., The Sumerian Language, Copenhagen, (2001)

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□L	Deimel, P.A., □umerisches Lexikon, Roma, (1925 - 50)
TCS	Texts from Cuneiform Sources (TCS- 1), New York, (1966).
UDT	Nies, J.B., Ur Dynasty Tablets, Leipzig, (1920).
UET	UR Excavations Texts, London, (1928 ff).
UTI 3	Yildiz, F. & Gomi, T., Die Umma-Texte aus den Arch□ologischen Museen zu Istanbul, Band III, Mayland, (1993).
ZA	Zeitschrift F□r Assyriologie und Vorderasiatische Arch□ologie, Leipzig & Berlin (1886 ff)

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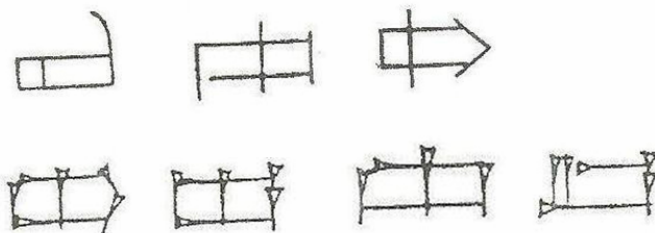
Ishtar Samir Dhahir

New Unpublished Cuneiform Texts in the Iraq Museum concerning builder workers

Sumerian
pictograph

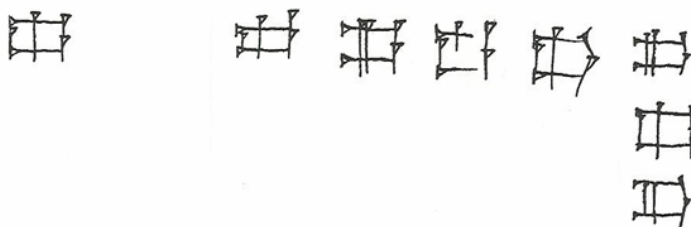


Sumerian
Classicism



Shape (1)

From ,Labat,R.,MDA,p.147

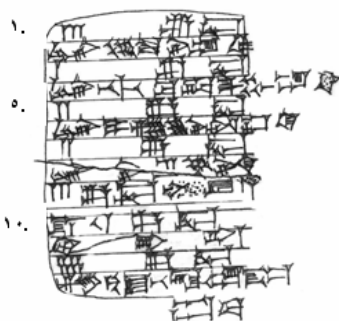


Shape (2)

From, Schneider , N., Die Keilschriftzeichen Der Wirtschaftsurkunden Von Ur III, Roma, (1935),p93

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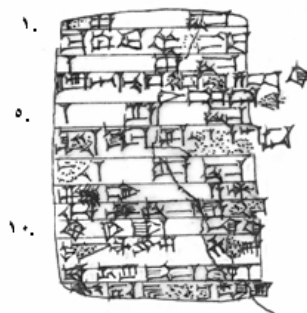
Obv.



Left edg.



Rev.



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