

**رسالة غير منشورة من عصر سلالة أور الثالثة  
(٢١١٢-٢٠٠٤ ق.م)**

**المدرس الدكتور  
نشأت علي الخفاجي  
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عن اوامر ادارية شاعت في العصر السومري الحديث.

تناولت الدراسة قراءة النص وترجمته وتحليله بالاضافة الى مقدمة عن اهم الاحداث السياسية التي جرت خلال تلك الفترة.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:**

رسالة طلب ، أور - نمو ، سلالة أور الثالثة ، سيدي ، النص ، الرقيم

**الملخص:**

تركت دولة أور بروقراطية المعقدة للغاية وواحدة من اكبر مجموعات الوثائق الادارية في العالم القديم والتي تشير بوضوح الى الازدهار الاقتصادي والصلات الادارية المميزة بين مدن المملكة خلال العصر السومري الحديث، البحث حول نص مسماري مدون باللغة السومرية اتضح من خلال دراسته انه من نوع الرسالة التي اتفق الباحثين على تسميتها برسائل الطلب وهي عبارة

**Abstract:**

The state of Ur III Dynasty was left a very complicated bureaucratic regime with the biggest number of administration record in the ancient world which conform its economical

flourishing and specific administrative relationship.

This research focuses on studying unpublished cuneiform text which was confiscated by Iraq Museum, the study resulted that the text considers one of the administrative

letter-order known among scholars which was very common found in Ur III period.

In this study an introduction written about political activities occurred before this period and then I add a transliteration and translation with detail commentary to the text

**Key words:**

Letter-order, Ur-Nammu, UR III period, Lgal. Gu<sub>11</sub>.the Text. the tablet.

**Unpublished Letter from the UR III period**

(2112–2004. B.C)

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**Introduction:**

After one or three generations of the fall of the Akkadian empire by the Kotteens; there was an attempt to set the Mesopotamia free and get rid of the foreign invasion and

submit Sumer and Akkad for the central and united regime.

This liberation battle which is considered as the first war to liberate in Iraq and world had been led by Utu-hegal<sup>(1)</sup>. The information about this dynasty is so few; we only knew some information about its beginning such as: its natural home was Uruk according to the Sumerian Knigs` List, where Utu-hegal was the only member of the fourth dynasty of Uruk<sup>(2)</sup>, in a text he claimed that he had defeated the Kotteens and restore the Sumerian kingdom<sup>(3)</sup>.

The period of his regime was very short, not more than three years, according to the modern resources<sup>(4)</sup>, though most of the previous researchers agreed that his rign lasted seven years according to the Sumerian Knigs` List<sup>(5)</sup>. Also, most of the previous researchers agreed that the Sumerian Knigs` List has so much exaggeration upon

the number of ruling years ascribed to many of the kings mentioned in it; Utu-hegal was one of them.

After his death, his brother Ur.Nammu has used this event to move authority from Uruk to his city Ur<sup>(6)</sup>. Where he was the military governor, ŠAGAN in the Sumerian language and (šakkanakku) in Akkadian language<sup>(7)</sup>,

during the regime of Utu-hegal. The ancient studies and resources did not mention that the king Ur.Nammu was a brother of Utu-hegal.

So, Ur.Nammu has established a new Dynasty known as the third decent of Ur, or the new Sumerian age<sup>(8)</sup>.

The regime of Ur.Nammu had lasted for eighteen years (2112-2095), where Sumer and Akked again became as one country<sup>(9)</sup>.

His son and successor (Šul . gi), ruled for about a half century(2094-2947B.C.)<sup>(10)</sup>, in his regime the

state had been unified, the eastern and the northern east boundaries were secured, the army was reformed as well as the relation between the court and the temple, and new centers were founded to receive the taxes from all the kingdom cities<sup>(11)</sup>.

Following Naram Sin, the fourth king of the Akkadian emperor empire, (Šul . gi) declared himself as a ruler of the four elements of world<sup>(12)</sup>, applied extremely central bureaucracy to administrate the state. Ur.Nammu and his four caliphates had governed for about a century (2112-2004)<sup>(13)</sup>.

Their cities includes Sumer and Babylon in addition to the trade roads to the east, the valley of Diyala across the mountains of Zagroos, later known as the road of silk, and to the south the valley of Susa<sup>(14)</sup>. They had made all efforts to establish colonies in the boundaries mountain areas, having

series wars to control the area of the ocean to the north and the eastern north. Moreover they had deepened their relation with the kings of the boundaries kingdoms by the diplomatic marriages<sup>(15)</sup>.

Ur had a very distinguished bureaucracy system and left one of the greatest administrative documents in the ancient world; the estimations indicate that there are more than thirty four thousands published texts belong to this period<sup>(16)</sup>, yet the number could not be limited where there are new texts are provided by the modern techniques and the clay boards confiscated for the Iraqi museum.

#### **Studying the text:**

The tablet confiscated by the Iraqi museum with the number (IM. 174508 ), rectangular in shape with (7cm) length and (4cm) width, contains ten lines distributed on the obverse and the reverse: eight on

the obverse and two on the reverse. The right edge of the tablet was defaced.

Studying the text shows that it belongs to the modern Sumerian age. It seems that most of these letters are administrative orders usually described as request letters, rarely dated.

The first line of the letter is read as (Lugal.mu) or (Lugal. gu<sub>11</sub>), which means to my lord or to my master, the latter is more suitable and acceptable. As these letterers are requests, the king had nothing to do with such little administrative affairs. The amplified meaning of such letter is that it is issued or sent from a person who had less rank from the receiver.

**IM. 174508**

**Text type: letter-order**

**Date: Ur III**

**Provenance:** unknown (the letter was probably written in Nippur).

**Transliteration:**

1. lugal-ĝu<sub>10</sub>
2. u<sub>3</sub>-na-a-d[u<sub>11</sub>]
3. 605 ĝeš<sup>s</sup>pisaĝ ʾxʾ
4. a-ra<sub>2</sub> 1-[kam]
5. Eden<sup>ki</sup>-t[a]
6. 1800 ĝeš<sup>s</sup>pisaĝ
7. Ur-niĝar<sub>x</sub>!(NIĜ.E<sub>2</sub>)<sup>ĝar</sup>
8. nu-banda<sub>3</sub> Ku-ma-x
9. lu<sub>2</sub> dEllil<sub>x</sub>(EN.E<sub>2</sub>)-la<sub>2</sub>-ke<sub>4</sub>-ne
10. u<sup>2</sup>nin<sub>9</sub> al-bu-re-ne

**Translation:**

“After you (= the tablet) have said this to my lord(, he will know what follows):

605 wooden baskets of ...: this was the first (delivery); from Eden.

1800 wooden basket: (were delivered by) (?) Ur-niĝara(k); superintendent: Kuma...

The men of Ellil are pulling out / will pull out rushes.”

**Commentary:**

Line 2: For u<sub>3</sub>-na-a-du<sub>11</sub>, “when you have said this to him” in the introductory formula of letters, see A. H. Jagersma, *A Descriptive Grammar of Sumerian* (unp. PhD dissertation, University of Leiden, 2010) 526.

Line 4: For a-ra<sub>2</sub>, see Å. W. Sjöberg (ed.), *The Sumerian Dictionary of the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania*, vol. 1/l: A/l (Philadelphia 1992) c.f. a-ra<sub>2</sub> A.

Line 5: I am not aware of any other attestation of the GN Eden<sup>ki</sup> in Ur III texts. However, this toponym is known from Old Akkadian texts: see, for instance, Nik. 2, 39 rev. 3 (CDLI P215820).

Line 7: Ur-NIĜ.E<sub>2</sub><sup>ĝar</sup> is probably an erroneous writing of Ur-NIGIN<sub>3</sub>(= U.UD.E<sub>2</sub>)<sup>ĝar</sup>, that is, Ur-

niĝar<sub>x</sub>(NIGIN<sub>3</sub>)<sup>ĝar</sup>. For the reading of NIGIN<sub>3</sub><sup>ĝar</sup> as niĝar<sub>x</sub><sup>ĝar</sup>, see A. Cavigneaux and M. Krebernik, “NIN-niĝara”, *Reallexikon der Assyriologie* 9, 477.

Line 8: The context suggests that Ku-ma-x here represents a personal name, although unattested otherwise.

Line 9: The expression lu<sub>2</sub><sup>d</sup>Ellil<sub>x</sub>(EN.E<sub>2</sub>)-la<sub>2</sub>-ke<sub>4</sub>-ne, “the men of Ellil”, is not otherwise attested. For the writing <sup>d</sup>EN.E<sub>2</sub> (and not <sup>d</sup>En-lil<sub>2</sub>) and its reading as Ellil (and not Enlil), see G. Marchesi, *Lumma in the Onomasticon and Literature of Ancient Mesopotamia* (Padova 2006) 32-33 n. 142.

Line 10: The verbal form al-bu-re-ne is to be analyzed as {al.bur.en□}, third person plural of the present-future (or imperfective), transitive conjugation. For the verbal prefix al-, see Jagersma, *A Descriptive Grammar of Sumerian*, 533-534. For the verb bu(-r), see

Å. W. Sjöberg (ed.), *The Sumerian Dictionary of the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania*, vol. 2: B (Philadelphia 1984) s.v. bu B. As for <sup>u2</sup>nin<sub>9</sub>, I follow W. Sallaberger in considering it as a variant of <sup>u2</sup>ninni<sub>5</sub>, “rush, reed;” see *Der kultische Kalender der Ur III Zeit, Teil 1* (Berlin and New York 1993) 235 n. 1129. See also Sjöberg, op. cit., 190b.

#### Conclusion :

1. The text in study has confiscated by Iraqi Museum which is mean its provenance unknown.
2. The text in study dated to the UR III period.
3. It seems this text was written probably in the middle or southern part of Mesopotamia, since its shape and context has similarity with hose published texts found at Nippur.

4. The text shown economical flourishing and systematic central administration of UR III period.

5. The text shown a relationship among cities under control of UR III dynasty.

نيبور مقارنة مع نصوص اخرى منشورة سابقا من نفس الفترة والتي أبدت شبيها كبيرا من حيث شكل النص والمضمون.

٤- يظهر النص مدى الأزدهار الأقتصادي والأدارة المركزية المنتظمة والدقيقة لسلالة اور الثالثة.

٥- من خلال دراسة النص تبين ان هناك صلات ادارية مميزة بين المدن الخاضعة لسلطة سلالة أور الثالثة.

### الاستنتاجات:

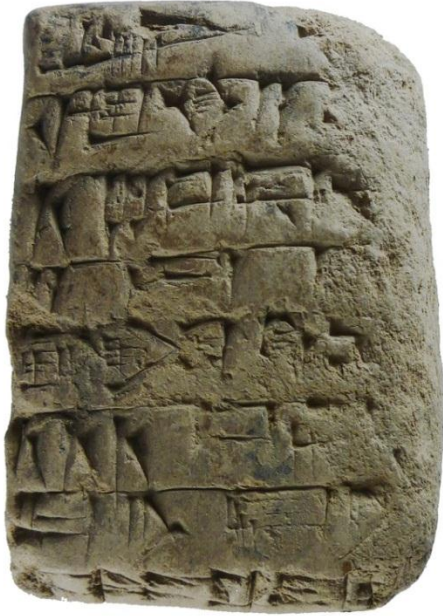
تبين من خلال دراسة النص المسماري ( رسالة الطلب ) غير منشورة والواردة في هذا البحث الى ما يلي.

١- لم يأتي نص الدراسة عن طريق التنقيبات الأثرية انما هو مصادر لصالح المتحف العراقي.

٢- النص يعود الى العصر السومري الحديث.

٣- يبدو ان النص يعود الى واحدة من مدن وسط وجنوب بلاد الرافدين وربما كتبت في مدينة

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Obv .

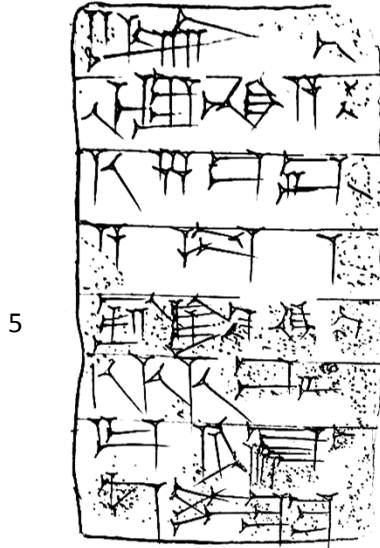


Rev .

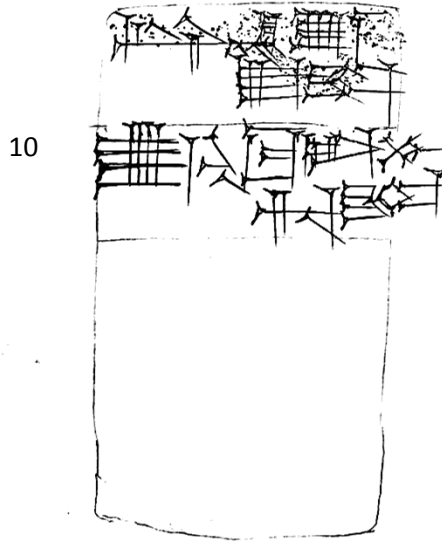


IM.174508

Obv.



Rev.



## margins

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- 8: Harry, W. F. Saggs, The Greatness that was Babylon, Translate to Arabic: Amir Suleiman, Al- Mosel, 1979, P. 74.
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