

Unpublished Cuneiform Texts from the City of Sippar_ Season 24

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Abstract:

The present research is a study of six cuneiform texts with economic connotations dating back to the Late Old Babylonian period. These texts have been discovered at Tell Abu Habba, the city of Sippar, during 24th season of excavations conducted by the Department of Archaeology, College of Arts, University of Baghdad, in 2002, when 700 cuneiform texts have been found in one important buildings, which is considered as a large quantity. It is worth noting this building is considered as one of the important buildings by the excavators, because of its location in the middle of the city on the one hand, and also because it contains this considerable number of clay tablets on the other hand. All of these discovered texts are kept in the Iraqi Museum, and through studying the historical date formula of these texts, we found that most of them belong to the reign of the Babylonian king Amme-Şadoqa (1646-1626 BC).

Keywords: Cuneiform Texts, Barley, Old Babylonian, Sippar, Income .

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نصوص مسمارية غير منشورة من مدينة سبار _ الموسم ٢٤

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الملخص:

البحث هو دراسة لستة نصوص مسمارية تحمل مضامين اقتصادية، وتعود بتاريخها إلى العصر البابلي القديم المتأخر، تم الكشف عنها في تل أبو حبة مدينة (سبار) اثناء التنقيبات التي أجريت من قبل قسم الآثار/ كلية الآداب بجامعة بغداد عام ٢٠٠٢، الموسم الرابع والعشرون، إذ تم العثور في إحدى البنايات على ٧٠٠ نص مسماري، وهي كمية كبيرة، عدت هذه البناية في نظر المنقبين أنها إحدى الأبنية المهمة، لوقوعها في وسط المدينة من ناحية، ولاحتمائها على هذا العدد الكبير من الرقم الطينية من ناحية أخرى، والنصوص المكتشفة هذه محفوظة جميعها في المتحف العراقي، ومن خلال دراسة الصيغ التاريخية لهذه النصوص وجدنا أن غالبيتها تعود إلى عصر الملك البابلي أمي- صدوقا (١٦٤٦-١٦٢٦ ق.م).

الكلمات المفتاحية: النصوص المسمارية، الشعير، البابلي القديم، سبار، مدخولات.

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Introduction

Tell Abu Habba (Sippar), had previously been subjected to excavations by Hormizd Rassam and François Chaille ⁽¹⁾ .in the nineteenth century which revealed large quantities of cuneiform texts in this city and in other old Babylonian sites⁽²⁾, archaeology and scientific research have been illuminated by these discoveries. As it has been the case in Babylonia in the old Babylonian period and later eras ⁽³⁾. The excavation expanded and its results increased, with the successful discoveries, especially during the 24th season/ 2002 of the College of Arts; Baghdad University since the late seventies of the last century. The cuneiform texts of our paper are from that season ⁽⁴⁾.

The area covered by the excavation in that season was estimated at (150 x 150 m2)⁽⁵⁾. In this season the excavators uncovered three layers, the third of which was the most significant ,more than 700 cuneiform texts have been discovered in it, written in old Babylonian script. They are dated to three Babylonian kings: Abi-Ishukh (1711-1684 B.C.), ; Ammi-Ditana (1683-1647 B.C.), and Ammi-Şaduqa (1646-1626 BC) ⁽⁶⁾. In fact, this season recorded the largest quantity of cuneiform texts discovered, exceeding the numbers discovered in all the previous seasons of excavations by the Department of Archaeology at Baghdad University. Our six cuneiform texts are part of the discovered this season and most of them from the reign of Ammi-Şaduqa according to the date formula of these texts .The first text contained a lease contract for a field of a limited area to be used for agricultural work in exchange for a limited quantity of barley instead of rent. The second text is about incomes given to the city of Babylon, and the third text also includes incomes presented to the temple of the god Shamash, and the fourth text contained limited of fish distributed to a group of people. As for the fifth text, it contained the deposit of limited of fish, while the sixth text included the distribution of limited quantities of barley to a group of people.

Below is a table of the texts of this research:

No.	Iraqi Museum number	Excavation number	Source	Description and content
1	191093	2917/24 S	Third layer , room number (1)	A complete clay tablet, with twelve lines on the obverse and ten lines on the reverse, and one line on the upper edge. Text content: Field lease contract.
2	191573	3420/24 S	Third layer ,room number (1)	A complete clay tablet, with five lines on the obverse, one line on the lower edge. The reverse contains four lines, while the upper edge contains two lines. Text content: A text of incomes
3	191572	3419/24 S	Third layer ,room number (1)	Almost complete clay tablet, with six lines on the obverse, one line on the lower edge, and four lines on the reverse, in addition to one line on the upper edge. Text content: Text of incomes
4	191535	3382/24 S	Third layer ,room number (1)	A complete clay tablet, with seven lines on the obverse, one line on the lower edge, and six lines on the reverse. Text content: Fish distribution.
5	191090	2919/24 S	Third layer room number (1)	A complete clay tablet with six lines on the obverse, one line on the lower edge. The reverse contains seven lines and the upper edge contains one line. Text content: The deposit of fish.
6	191696	3543/24 S	Third layer ,room number (1)	A complete clay tablet, with twelve lines on the obverse, one line on the lower edge, and ten lines on the reverse. Text content: Barley distribution.

(1)Text No

I.M. 191093

Dimensions: 6.4 x 4.6 x 4.6 cm

	Obv.	Obv.
	2 IKU A. ŠA ₃	2 iku Field (area)
	A. GAR ₃ a- la- lum	land (estate) of Alum,
	A. ŠA ₃ la- ma- sa ₃ - ni LUKUR ^d UTU	field of Lama-sani, priestess of the god Šamaš
	DUMU. MUNUS ^d na- bi- um- [XX]	daughter of Nabi'um- (...)
5.	KI la- ma- sa ₃ - ni [LUKUR ^d UTU]	from Lama-sa-ni [priestess of the god Šamaš]
	be- el- [ti] A. ŠA ₃	owner of the field
	^{m,d} IM. MA. AN. SUM	Adad-mansum
	DUMU ^d EN. ZU- mu- [ša- lim]	Son of Sin-mushlim
	A. ŠA ₃ a- na er- re- [šu- tim]	Field for cultivation
10.	a- na GU ₂ .UN a- na [MU] [X. KAM. XX]	for rent in (the year.....)
	u ₂ - še- ši ₂	rent
	U ₄ . BURU ₁₄ . ŠE ₃	at harvest time
	Rev.	Rev.
	1 ŠE GUR GIŠ. BAN ₂ ^d UTU	1 Kur of barley by the measure of the god shamash
	i- na KA ₂ GA ₂ . GI ₄ . A ^{ki}	at the gate of the city Kakum
15.	I ₃ .AG ₂ . E	he will weight
	^m a- pil- ^d UTU ša ₂ BAR- ZA- Ku	Apil-Šamaš of Bar-zaku
	pa- bi- ša u ₃ GABA. DU	Babiša and Kabadu
	i- pa- qi ₂ - id	Will deposit

IGI ^d UTU. ^d A.A	The witness, the god Šamaš and the goddess Aya
20. ITI GU ₄ . SI. SU UD 2. KAM	Month of May, second day
MU am- mi- ša- du- qa ₂ [LUGAL.E]	Year of Ammi - Šaduqa the king
BAD ₃ am- mi- ša- du- qa ₂	Wall of Ammi- Šaduqa
Up.ed.	Up.ed.
BAD ₃ ID ₂ UD. KIB. NUN ^{ki} TA ₁ [BI ₂]	at the mouth of the Sippar Canal (or at the gate (entrance) of the city of Sippar)

The general translation:

A lease contract for a field of two Kur between Lamasani, a priestess of the god Šamaš, and Adad-mnsum, for cultivation of the field in exchange for a limited quantity of barley. The contract was concluded in the presence of witnesses, and the text is dated to the eleventh year of the reign of the King Ammi-Šaduqa.

Notes:

A.GAR₂ : A Sumerian term meaning (a piece of land, an estate), and the Akkadian term is ugāru. The term was often applied to lands on the bank of a river or a channel, and more precisely (fertile lands suitable for agriculture) ⁽⁷⁾.

^{m.d}IM.MA.AN.SUM : A proper noun meaning “ the god Adad the giver” ⁽⁸⁾. Adad-mnsum was known for his economic activity and the abundance of commercial transactions in the city of Sippar. His economic activity continued for approximately ten years, from the 6th year of Ammi-Šaduqa's reign to the 16th year .Perhaps the future excavations reveal his most prominent economic activities. Cuneiform texts discovered in the city of Sippar mention that Adad-mansum was in charge for one of the palace's warehouses, therefore, his economic activity included receiving and delivering various materials .Concerning his economic activity on the personal level, the texts of the city of Sippar mentioned him as a seller or a buyer, and also his leasing of many agricultural lands for the purposes of cultivation and harvesting ⁽⁹⁾.

u₂-še-ši₂ : a past tense verb of the causal form Š , third person singular from the infinitive wašû meaning (to hire) ⁽¹⁰⁾.

GA₂.GI₄.A : A Sumerian word meaning a closed or isolated house. It is a closed building in the temple designated for women of the nadītu

class. the Akkadian term is (gagû) ⁽¹¹⁾, which is a walled area within the nadītu houses ⁽¹²⁾. This term in its meaning refers to the isolation of the Naditu priestess class in it. The lexical sources provided us with two terms corresponding to the term (gagû): E₂.nakimtu, which means (prison), and the term E₂.kilutu, which also designates the prisoner. All these terms refer to isolation ⁽¹³⁾.

Many cities in Mesopotamia were contain the gagu building, but there is no information about it, nor is there any archaeological evidence that indicates it. Even the gagu of the city of Sippar, whose existence is confirmed by the cuneiform texts, Most of the references to it came from the texts of the nadītu-priestesses ⁽¹⁴⁾.

i-pa-qi₂-id : a present tense verb, third person singular form G from the root paqādu meaning (to deposit or entrust) ⁽¹⁵⁾.

Text No (2)

I.M. 191573

Dimensions: 4 x 3.8 x 1.8 cm

Obv.

1 SILA₄

i-nu-^ˁma^ˁ a- na MU. TUM₂ ina ITI NE. NE. ^ˁGAR^ˁ

UD 4 KAM

a- na KA₂. DINGIR. RA^{ki} i- ba- aš- šu

Obv.

One lamb

When (it was) incoming in the month of August

the fourth day

to the city of Babylon exist

5. il- li- qu₂- u₂

Lo.ed.

MU.TUM₂

Rev.

^mu- bar- rum

^ˁu₃^ˁ ri- ma- an- ni- ^dAMAR. UTU

a- na ga₄ - mir iš- ta- ak- ka- an

They received

Lo.ed.

incomes

Rev.

Ubarum

and Rimani- Marduk

to Gamer It has been established

10. 'ITI' NE. NE. GAR UD 6 KAM
Up. ed.
'MU' am- mi- ṣa- du- qa₂ LUGAL. 'E'
,ALAN. NAM₁. NIR. GAL₂. LA. NI
- The month of Ab, the 6th day thereof.
Up. ed.
Year of Ammi- Saduqa the King
The year in which (Ammi-Ṣaduqa) was brought into the temple of E-babar for the sake of the god Šamaš, the noble ruler, his statue holding a curved golden sword ⁽¹⁶⁾.

The general translation:

Text of the receipts for a she-lamb delivered to the city of Babylon. The text is dated the sixth day of the month of Ab in the ninth year of the reign of King Ammi-Ṣaduqa.

Notes:

SILA₄ : A Sumerian word meaning (carry) and in Akkadian it means puḥādu ⁽¹⁷⁾.

i-ba-aš-šu : a present tense verb ,third person singular form G, the root bâšu meaning to exist ⁽¹⁸⁾.

il-li-qu₂-u₂ : A past tense verb in the passive form N ,third person plural from the source leqû meaning (they received) ⁽¹⁹⁾

MU.TUM₂ : A Sumerian term meaning (inputs) and in Akkadian šūrubtu ⁽²⁰⁾.

(Income) texts are known in Sumerian economic texts since Ur III Dynasty and their occurrence increased during the time of King Shulgi . It continued in a narrower form in the Old Babylonian period. The texts of the entries are based on the occurrence of the Sumerian term (MU. TUM₂/ MU. IR₁₀/ MU. DU).

It often comes before the date formula and the texts of the incomes are the presentation of a material from a certain party which entered in lists or warehouse records by administrative persons and others in charged with receiving it .Thereafter it will be spent for a specific purpose, ie celebration, or other purposes , and this context is similar to what is followed in current official government agencies, so when purchasing a specific materials, it is first entered into warehouse ie included in the lists of stored materials, then after it will be spent for a specific purpose, they marked it and delivered to the agency or to the purpose for which it was spent ⁽²¹⁾.

The income texts varied in terms of their content and the source of their presentation. In terms of their content, it is not possible to assert that a particular material was included without others, as for the materials included in the income tax texts are diverse. As for their presentation, they are presented either by rulers, administrative employees, individuals, merchants, shepherds, and others .

There is a type known as “royal income,” known by the Sumerian term (MU. TUM₂. LUGAL). Sometimes, the effort spent on revenues is mentioned in revenue texts, and revenues are usually spent for various purposes, such as for religious purposes (gods or temples and for gifts), or for palace purposes or celebrations and others, noting that there are daily, monthly and annual records of income ⁽²²⁾.

iš-ta-ak-ka-an : a past perfect verb in the form , third person singular masculine from the infinitive (šakānu) meaning (established, settled) ⁽²³⁾.

Text No (3)

I.M. 191572

Dimensions: 4.4 x 4.2 x 2.5 cm

Obv.

1 UDU. NITA₂

a-na GAN₂ iš-me-^dEN.ZU DUMU NA. NA u₂-ša-gal

i- nu- ma i - na KA₂ E₂ ^dUTU

il- li- kam

5. MU. ₁TUM₂

u- bar- rum SIPA [XXX]

Lo. ed.

a- na NI₃ GAN₂ i[š- me- ^dEN. ZU]

Rev.

₁a - [ša- ka]- an

Obv.

One ram

For the field of Ishmi-Sin, son of Nanna-ushakal When he returned to the gate of the temple of the Šamaš

incomes

Ubarum the Shepherd's [XXX]

Lo. ed.

Returns to the field of [Išmi-Sin]

Rev.

Established

- ITI BAR₂. ZA₃. GAR UD 15 KAM
 10. MU am- mi- ša- du- ı qa₂ LUGAL_ı. E
 ALAN NAM. NIR. GAL₂. LA. NI [ZU. BI] KU₃ GA. KE₄
 Up. ed.
 E₂. BABBAR. RA. ŠE₃ IN. NA. NE. 'EN'. KU₄. RA
- The 15th day of the month of Nisan
 years of Ammi-Šaduqa the king
 The year in which my Ammi-Šaduqa brought to (the temple of Shamash) that is, Babar the ruler who dwells in heaven his statue holding in his hand the arrows and the zubi weapon made of gold.

The general translation:

Text of the income for a ram offered to the temple of the god Šamaš. The text is dated the 5th day of Nisan in the 9th year of the reign of King Ammi-Šaduqa.

Notes:

UDU.NITA₂ : A Sumerian term meaning (ram) and in Akkadian immeru ⁽²⁴⁾.

il-li-kam : A past tense of the verb in the form G , third person singular masculine ,the infinitive alāku meaning he went and am is the ventive that repeats the speech, so the meaning becomes he returned ⁽²⁵⁾.

SIPA : A Sumerian profession meaning (shepherd) and in Akkadian rē'û ⁽²⁶⁾.

Text No (4)

I.M.191535

Dimensions: 3.6 x 3.2 x 1.4 cm

Obv.

1 ŠA KU₆ GID₂. DA

^dna- bi- um- mu- ša- lim

20 ŠA KU₆ GID₂. DA

ša a- na ID₂ BAD₃^{ki}

5. il- li- qum

ıšum_ı- ma ib - ni- ^dUTU

10 MA.NA il- qum

Obv.

1 Manû long fish

Nabium-mushalem

20 manû long fish

belong to Der city canal

Received

If Ibni- Shamash

who has received 10

Lo.ed.	Lo.ed.
[X X X]	(...)
Rev.	Rev.
5 ŠA KU ₆ GID ₂ . DA	5 manû long fish
10. ENSI ₂ E ₂ AMAR. UTU	(For) the Prince of the Temple of Marduk
5 ŠA KU ₆ GID ₂ . DA	5 manû long fish
EDIN- ru DUMU. MEŠ ib-ni-EŠ ₄ .TAR	He gives it (to) the son's of Ibni - Eshtar
9 ŠA KU ₆ GID ₂ . DA	9 manû long fish
i ₃ - li ₂ - ib- ni	(to) Ili - ibnin

The general translation:

Specific fish receipt and delivery text.

Notes:

ŠA : Sumerian unit of weight and in Akkadian manû ⁽²⁷⁾.

KU₆ : A Sumerian word meaning (fish) and in Akkadian it is nūnu ⁽²⁸⁾.

GID₂.DA : A Sumerian word meaning long and in Akkadian arāku ⁽²⁹⁾.

ID₂ : A Sumerian word meaning (river, canal, watercourse) and in Akkadian nāru⁽³⁰⁾.

il-li-qum : A passive past tense verb , third person singular masculine form of the infinitive leqû meaning (to receive) ⁽³¹⁾.

Text No (5)

I.M. 191095

Dimensions: 3.8 x 3.8 x 1.5 cm

Obv.

Obv.

20 KU₆. HA₂

20 fish

ša DUMU. MEŠ ar- du

belong (to) Maru-Ardu

'ITI' ŠE. KIN. KU₅ UD 15 KAM

March, 15th day

	25 KU ₆ . HA ₂ UD 21 KAM	25 fish (on) 21st day
5.	20 KU ₆ . HA ₂ UD 28 KAM	20 fish (on) 28th day
	54 KU ₆ . HA ₂	54 fish
	Lo.ed.	Lo.ed.
	[DUMU. MEŠ] ar- du	[belong (to) Maru] - Urdu
	Rev.	Rev.
	20 KU ₆ . HA ₂	20 fish
	DUMU. MEŠ i ₃ - li ₂ - MA. AN	(To) Ili-man
10.	75 KU ₆ . HA ₂	75 fish
	i [?] - ša dIM- MA. AN – SUM	belong (to) Adad-mansum.
	nam- ḫar- ti man- bēlšu	receipts of Man-bēlšu
	ITI ŠE. KIN. KU ₅ UD 28 KAM	Month of March, the 28th day thereof.
	MU am-mi-ša-du- qa ₂ [LUGAL].E	Year of Ammi-Šaduqa [king].
	Up. ed.	Up. ed.
		(Year) Royal statue made of copper.
15.	URUDU KI LUGAL. ʾGUB KUR ʾBI HE ₂	(This is a shortened form of a long form of this date formula)

The general translation:

Text of the deposit of a limit quantity of fish distributed to a group of people. The text is dated the 28th day of Adar 30th year of the reign of King Ammi-Šaduqa.

Notes:

nam-ḫar-ti : an Akkadian word meaning (receipts)⁽³²⁾.

Text No (6)

I.M.191696

Dimensions: 5.2 x 4.9 x 2 cm

Obv.

Obv.

	[1 PI] ^d .AMAR. UTU- mu- ša- lim	1 Panu (to) Marduk-Mushlim
	1 (PI) Ar-ra-bu	1 Panu (to) Ar-Rabu
	1 (PI) IR ₃ - ku-bi	1 Panu (to) Ward-Kubi
	1 (PI) ʿšum-maʿ - ḫu-uš	1 Panu (to) Shuma- ḫu- uš
5.	1 (PI) ʿšum-maʿ ri-iš	1 Panu (to) Shuma-ri-iš
	1 (PI) ^d [X]. NA- NA- ša- lim	1 Panu (to) [X]-Nana-Shalem
	1 (PI) ^d ʿPAʿ- za- gir- šu- mi	1 Panu (to) Nabu-Zakir-Shumi
	1 (PI) ^d ʿAMAR. UTUʿ - il- qu ₂ - ti	1 Panu (to) Marduk-elquti
	1 (PI) iš [X]- ma- a- na- an- šu	1 Panu (for) Ish- [X]- Mananshu
10.	1 (PI) nu- ri- ia	1 Panu (for) Nuriya
	1 (PI) šum- [ma]- mu- di	1 Panu (for) Shuma- mudi
	1 (PI) pa - te - si - i – gir	1 Panu (for) Patisi- igir
	Lo.ed.	Lo.ed.
	a-bu- ʿšeʿ - bu	Abu-Shebu
	Rev.	Rev.
	1 (PI) a- di- ma- an- na	1 Panu (for) Adima-anna
15.	1 (PI) sin- i- ʿdinʿ - nam	1 Panu (for) Sin-idinam
	[1 PI] IR ₃ - šu- nir	[1 Panu] (for) Urud/2-Shuner
	[1 PI] a- ḫu- ni	[1 Panu] (for) Akhuni
	[1 PI] ad- di- tum	[1 Panu] (for) Additum
	1 (PI) ^d .Tišpak- še- mi	[1 Panu] (for) Tishbak-Shemi
20.	1 (PI) ad- da- a	1 Panu (for) Addā
	1 (PI) 3 (BAN ₂) 3(SILA ₃) il – qa ₂	1 Panu 3 Sutu 3 Qa (for) Ilqa

Eš₅- u- lum

Eshulum

DIRI (PI) 4 (BAN₂) ŠE GUR

Addition 1 Panu 4 Sutu and Kur barley

The general translation:

Text of the distribution of specific quantities of barley to a number of people.

Conclusion

It is worth noting that writing of cuneiform signs was not to the slandered of quality than the texts of the Old Babylonian period, and this perhaps indicates that many scribes and copyists at that time were not government employee or not good in their private skill.

These 6th texts reveal

1 an important economic information of the late old Babylonian period, Text No1 shows the agricultural activities of the Babylonian nādītum who rent part of here land for barley. While text 2 is an income of one lamb to Babylon city, and No 3, a ram dedicated to the temple of Shamash. This kind of incomes were known from Ur III period especially from Shulgi reign. They normally come from certain rulers and officials or merchant. However, text 4th and 5th delivery and receptions of fish, while text 6th is a distributed of barley to group of people by names and weight.

(1) I.M.191093

Obv.

5.

10.



Rev.

15.

20.



Up.ed.



(2) I.M. 191573

Oby.

5.

Handwritten transcription of the obverse side of the tablet, showing several lines of cuneiform text.



Lo.ed.

Handwritten transcription of the lower edge of the tablet, showing a few characters.



Rev.

10.

Handwritten transcription of the reverse side of the tablet, showing several lines of cuneiform text.



Up.ed.

Handwritten transcription of the upper edge of the tablet, showing a few characters.



(3)LM.191572

Obv.

5.

Handwritten cuneiform transcription of the obverse side of tablet 5. The text is arranged in four lines. The first line contains two large characters. The second and third lines contain several smaller characters. The fourth line contains a few characters, including a prominent 'L' shape.



Lo.ed.

Handwritten cuneiform transcription of the lower edge of tablet 5. It shows a single line of text with several characters.



Rev.

10.

Handwritten cuneiform transcription of the reverse side of tablet 10. The text is arranged in three lines. The first line contains a few characters. The second and third lines contain several characters, including a prominent 'L' shape.



Up.ed.

Handwritten cuneiform transcription of the upper edge of tablet 10. It shows a single line of text with several characters.



(4)I.M. 191535

Oby.

5.



Lo.ed.

Rev.

10.



(5) LM.191095

Oby.

5.



Lo.ed.



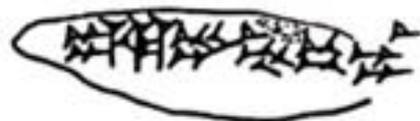
Rev.

10.



Up.ed.

15.



(6) I.M.191696

Oby.

5.

10.



Lo.ed.



Rev.

15.

20.



References:

- (1) Al-Jader, Walid, Sippar 2, Events from the History of the City, Baghdad, 1988, p. 7.
 - (2) Among these cities is Al-Deir, a large city located approximately 30 km south of Baghdad. For more, see: Budge, Sir Walis, Journeys to Iraq, Vol. 2, translated by: Fouad Jamil, Baghdad, 1968, p. 157.
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