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11 SARGONIC TABLETS IN THE SÜLEYMANIAH MUSEUM

BY
Ari KAMIL and Camille LECOMPTE

INTRODUCTION

The Museum of Süleymaniah, Kurdistan, Iraq, houses among its collection of cuneiform texts eleven hitherto unpublished tablets and fragments dating back to the Sargonic period. The tablets were purchased in 2009 and included in its catalogue in 2013. We would like to thank the trustees of the Süleymaniah Museum for their permission to publish the documents here.¹

According to their data, most of these tablets seem to come from Adab:

- the provenance of tablets 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 is secured by diverse concordances with the previously published documents from Adab
- tablets 4 and 11 most probably come from Adab
- a doubt arises in the case of tablet 2, which might belong to the group of legal documents from Isin but might also originate from Adab, or even from another city.

EDITION OF THE TEXTS

Text 1. SM. 039816 (=T3816)

Date: Middle Sargonic. Month iii.² Origin: Adab.

Dimensions (h × w × t): 50 × 36 × 15

Content: distribution of loaves of bread.

Obverse

1. ʾ20¹ ninda
2. *Be-li₂-QAR*
3. KU-lugal
4. 20 *Ša-du₂-diĝir*
5. lu₂ *Ib-ni^d-Su'en*
6. 20 Ama-bara₂-ge-si
7. 20 Me-Unug^{ki}-si¹(e)
8. lu₂ ma₂-u₁₁

Reverse

1. ʾ20 II₂¹
2. 10 En-ne₂
3. dub-sar
4. 10 Ur-^dEn-ki
5. [I]u₂ *En-bu-diĝir*
- blank line
6. [šu]-niĝen₂ 120 ninda ½ sila₃
7. [iti] še-saĝ-sig₁₅-ga

“20 loaves of bread: *Beli-QAR*, the KU-lugal; 20 (loaves): *Šadû-ilum*, the man of Ibni-Su'en; 20 (loaves): Ama-baragesi; 20 (loaves): Me-Unugesi, the travelling merchant; 20 (loaves): II; 10 (loaves): Enne, the scribe; 10 (loaves): Ur-Enki, the man of *Enbu-ilī*. Total: 120 loaves of bread (of) ½ *sila*. Month iii”.

1. We also thank Manuel Molina and Antoine Cavigneaux for their valuable suggestions and corrections, Emmert Clevestine and Anne-Christine Parr for the correction of our English.

2. On the Adab calendar, see Maiocchi (2009: 11-12) and Molina (2014: 38-39).

Commentary

Obv. 2-3. A few individuals bear the same name during the Sargonic period, cf. CUSAS 35, 288 rs. 1 from Adab. The interpretation of this name, and of the sign GAR₃/qar, used in several names of the type DN-qar, is uncertain, see Hilgert 2002: 332-332; Gelb 1957: 148 (KR?); Pagan 1998: 220-221, who appears to connect it with kr, “ram”. It has been variously interpreted as a shortened form of *qarradum* or as *waqar*, see the bibliographical references in Hilgert 2002: 332 fn. 62;³ the name may therefore be either *Belī-qar(rad)* or *Belī-(wa)qar*. On the profession KU-lugal, see Molina 2014: 110.

Obv. 4-5. Both individuals occur in a text dealing with containers, CUSAS 20, 32, obv. 1-rs. 5: *Ša-du₂ / lu₂ Ib-ni^dŠu'en*, the former being an abbreviation of *Ša-du₂-diġir*. The personal name *Ša-du₂-diġir*, also written *Ša-du₂-i₃-lum* (cf. MAD 5, 38. obv. ii. 3), is attested elsewhere (Gelb 1957: 264, *ša-du₂* being interpreted as *šadūm*), notably in Gasur (see HSS 10, p. xxxvi for the references).

Obv. 6. The same name occurs for instance in (Pre)-Sargonic texts from Nippur, OSP 1, 66. obv. 4 and OSP 1, 114. obv. 2.

Obv. 7. Compare with the name mentioned in several Old Akkadian documents from Adab, Me-Unug^{ki}-ge-si: CUSAS 23, 82. obv. i. 2 and Bartash (2017: 509). It could also be interpreted here as Me-Unug^{ki}-e-<si>.

Obv. 8. For a reading u₁₁ of H_U, see Molina (2014: 76 and 121) with bibliography. It is therefore identical with the profession mentioned in the Lu₂ list, lu₂ ma₂-u₅: *ša₂ ru-ku-bi₃* (CAD R, p. 409).

Text 2. SM. 039833 (= T3833)

Date: Middle Sargonic. Origin: Adab or Isin (?).

Dimensions: 84 × 44 × 22

Content: triple oath concerning a dusu₂-equid.

Obverse

1. 1 dusu₂
2. Lu₂-gu-la ~~ba-ra~~^{ba-ra} ba-tum₂
3. bi₂-du₁₁
4. mu lugal al-pa
5. 1 Ur-^dIštaran
6. dumu Ur-lu₂
7. 1 Ab-KID
8. dumu Lugal-ad-da
9. 1 E₂-niġ₂ nu-kiri₆
10. 1 Saġ-AB dumu Za₃-mu
11. 1 I₃-li₂-tab_x(MIN)-ba
12. aga₃-us₂ lugal
- blank line
13. lu₂-ki-inim-me
14. e₂ I₃-ta₂-ma²-la₂^{2ki}-me

edge lu₂ ki-inim-ma-me

“1 dusu₂-equid: Lugula ~~the bar-za official (?)~~ took it away’ (alternative reading: ‘1 dusu₂-equid: Lugula for four (shekels) took it away’): he (Zamu) declared; the oath by the name of the king was sworn. ¹Ur-Ištaran, son of Ur-lu; ¹Ab-KID, son of Lugal-adda; ¹Eniġ, the gardener; ¹Saġ-AB, son of Zamu; ¹I₃-tappê, the royal soldier: they are the witnesses, they are (in) the house of *Ištamala* (?). For the second time, the oath by the name of the king was sworn: ¹Ur-sa, ¹Lu-sa, ¹Ur-sipada, ¹Ur-AB: (they are) the witnesses, they are in the house of Ġiri-ne (?). For the third time, Zamu swore by the name of the king: ¹Lu-sa, the supervisor, ¹Dayyānum, ¹Dagula, ¹Lugal-itida, (groom) of the donkeys (?): they are the witnesses”.

Commentary

Although the text may originate from Adab, its content as well as the use of PA for pa₃ point toward Isin. The prosopography does not provide enough evidence to determine its provenance but does show some connections with Adab.⁴

3. Compare with Maiocchi (2009: 18 and 250), who interprets *i₃-lum-qar* as *Ilum-qar(rad)*.

4. Note that Ur-sa₆ occurs in several texts from Isin, such as CUSAS 26, 53. rs. 6. CUSAS 26, 54. obv. 2. Obv. 14. Compare also E₂-niġ₂ (cf. Balke *dubsar* 1, p. 142) with E₂-ġar-bi, cf. CUSAS 35, 348. obv. 3 from Adab, and BIN 8, 167, rs. 8, from Isin (which also contains Za₃-mu).

ABSTRACT

This paper aims to publish ~~ten~~ Sargonic tablets belonging to the Museum of Süleymaniah, Iraq. ~~Nine~~, originating from Adab, are consistent with the bulk of administrative documents previously published in recent years. Another legal document, either from Adab or from Isin, features a rare example of a triple oath relating to a $dusu_2$ -equine.

RÉSUMÉ

Cet article présente la publication de ~~dix~~ tablettes d'époque sargonique du Musée de Süleymanieh en Irak. ~~Neuf~~ d'entre elles, provenant d'Adab, sont des textes administratifs cohérents avec le reste de la documentation de ce site publiée récemment. Un document juridique, d'Adab ou d'Isin, comporte la mention d'un triple serment dans le cadre d'une affaire peu claire relative à un équidé $dusu_2$.

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