

An agricultural tablet from Ur III Iri-saġrig kept in the Iraq Museum

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Abstract

The cuneiform tablet study here comes from southern Mesopotamia, specifically from the site of Iri-saġrig. This tablet dated to the second year of Ibbā-Suen's reign (2028-2004 BC), the last king of the third Dynasty of Ur. The Iraq Museum number (IM 212985), its measurements (14.4× 8.5× 4 cm.) and is currently preserved in the Iraq Museum - Baghdad. It is a part of hundreds of confiscated cuneiform tablets, which were returned to Iraq from Jordan - Amman in 2008. The tablet documents amounts of grain (barley) and five land fields appeared only at the archives of Iri-saġrig.

Keywords: Agricultural land, Iri-saġrig, Fields, Ur III, Iraq Museum.

المخلص

اللوح المسماري المدروس هنا، هو بالاصل من جنوب بلاد الرافدين، وتحديدًا من موقع إيري-ساكرىك (Iri-saġrig). يعود تاريخ اللوح إلى عهد سلالة أور الثالثة، وتحديدًا إلى السنة الثانية من حكم الملك إبي-سين (٢٠٢٨ - ٢٠٠٤ ق.م)، وهو آخر ملوك تلك السلالة. يحمل اللوح الرقم (م.ع. ٢١٢٩٨٥)، وتبلغ أبعاده (١٤,٤ × ٨,٥ × ٤ سم)، وهو محفوظ حاليًا في المتحف العراقي - بغداد. يُعد هذا اللوح جزءًا من مئات الألواح المسمارية المصادرة التي أُعيدت إلى العراق من عمّان - الأردن عام ٢٠٠٨. يوثق اللوح كميات من الحبوب (الشعير) وخمس حقول زراعية التي لم تظهر إلا في أرشيف إيري-ساكرىك.

الكلمات المفتاحية: أراضي زراعية، إيري-ساكرىك، حقول، سلالة أور الثالثة، المتحف العراقي.

Introduction

According to Ur III period texts specifically agricultural Umma texts, the lands were divided into three categories: domain land (GAN₂ gu₄), subsistence land (GAN₂ šuku) and tenant land (GAN₂ niĝ-ĝal₂-la). The domain land (GAN₂ gu₄) belonged to the temple or the state.ⁱ It is grown by Cultivators working by the inspector of plow oxen (nu-banda₃ gu₄).ⁱⁱ These cultivators (engar) were in groups, each one of them consisted of five cultivators under the inspector of plow oxen, and overseer (ugula) was responsible of two inspector of plow oxen and overseer to two groups of cultivators.ⁱⁱⁱ

The content of the tablet (IM 212985) is very similar to a tablet dated to the 1st year of Ibbī-Suen reign, published by David I. Owen in (NISABA 15/2,669). the tablet in this article consists of two columns, records the amounts of grain harvested from domain land. Based on the text that will be published in this article, the cultivators were divided into four groups, each groups consisted of five cultivators who were under the inspector of plow and overseer of ten cultivators at Iri-saĝrig as follows:

Group 1: includes the cultivators (ša-lim-be-li, ip-qu₂-ša, šu-ma-ma, qu₂-ra-ad-i-li, ip-qu₂-ša), under the inspector of plow oxen called nu-ĥi-DINGIR.

Group 2: includes cultivators (a-za-a, DINGIR-ba-ni, puzur₄-ĥa-ia₃, i-šur-DINGIR, i-ru-ru), under the inspector of plow oxen called šu-eš₁₈-tar₂.

A person named DINGIR-ra-bi₂, the scribe of plow oxen who leads both of the above groups.

Group 3: consists of cultivators (DINGIR-ba-ni, Ba-ba, ur-^daš₇-gi₄, DINGIR-ba-ni, xx-um) under the inspector of plow oxen named i-šar-ra-ĥi.

Group 4: consists of cultivators (NE.NE, E₂-a-ba-ni, puzur₄-ĥa-ia₃, i-ku-num₂, DINGIR-ba-ni), under the inspector of plow oxen called du-du.

Both the third and fourth groups were under the overseer a person (x x x), the scribe of plow oxen.

The exceptions recorded within those four groups are:

1-The cultivator ip-qu₂-ša was documented twice in group 1.

2- The cultivator DINGIR-ba-ni was attested in groups 1, 2, 3.

3-The cultivator puzur₄-ĥa-ia₃ was attested in groups 2, 4.

The text mentioned the names of five fields for growing grains (barley) that were documented exclusively at Iri-saĝrig :

Field 1: a-ša₃ ^dšu-^dsuen ti-kal₂

Field 2: a-ša₃ nin-gal-zu

Field 3: a-ša₃ agar₄ PI-ri-ti

Field 4: a-ša₃ keš₃^{ki}-mah

Field 5: a-ša₃ TI-ar

In the end of the text, the phrase (še ġeš e₃-a) means, “Threshed barley”^{iv} such as barley and wheat.

Transliteration

Obv.

Col.i

1. 210.0.0. še gur
2. *ša-lim-be-li*₂ engar
3. 213.0.0. gur
4. *ip-qu*₂-*ša* engar
5. a-ša₃ ^dšu-^dsuen ti-kal₂
6. 215.0.0 gur
7. *šu-ma-ma* engar
8. a-ša₃ nin-gal-zu
9. 190.0.0. gur
10. *qu*₂-*ra-ad-i*₃-*li*₂ engar
11. a-ša₃ agar₄ Pi-ri-ti
12. 127.0.0. gur
13. *ip-qu*₂-*ša* engar
14. a-ša₃ keš₃^{ki}-mah
blank space
15. *nu-ġi-DINGIR* nu-banda₃ gu₄
16. 212.0.0. gur
17. a-za-a engar
18. 121.0.0. gur
19. a-ša₃ ^dšu-^dsuen ti-kal₂
20. 92.0.0. gur
21. a-ša₃ agar₄ Pi-ri-ti
22. *DINGIR-ba-ni* engar
23. 16.3.0. gur u₄-de₃ de₆-a

Col.ii

1. *puzur*₄-*ġa-ia*₃ engar

2. a-ša₃ nin-gal-zu
3. 145.0.0. gur
4. i-šur-DINGIR engar
5. a-ša₃ Ti-ar
6. 120.2.0. gur
7. i-ru-ru engar
8. a-ša₃ keš^{ki}-maḥ
blank line
9. šu-eš₁₈-tar₂ nu-banda₃ gu₄
10. šu niĝin₂ 162.2.0. še gur/
11. šu niĝin₂ 16.3.0. gur u₄-de₃ de₆-a/gana₂-gu₄-bi-1
blank Line
13. ugula DINGIR-ra-bi₂ dub-sar gu₄
14. 208.0.0. gur
15. DINGIR-ba-ni en[gar]
16. a-ša₃ ^dšu-^dsu[en-ti-kal₂]
- 17.22.0.0. gur u₄-de₃]-[de₆-a]
18. ba-ba en[gar]
19. a-ša₃ nin-gal-[zu]
20. 150.0.0. [gur]
21. a-ša₃ agar₄ Pi-ri-ti]
22. 30.0.0. gur
23. a-ša₃ keš₃^{ki}-maḥ

Rev.

Col.iii

- 1.ur-^daš₇-gi₄ engar
- 2.123.4.0. gur
3. DINGIR-ba-ni engar
4. a-ša₃ [keš₃^{ki}-maḥ
5. 140.[x].4. gur
6. x-x-um engar
7. a-ša₃ Ti-ar
Blank Line
8. i-šar-ra-[ḥi] nu-banda₃ gu₄
9. 206.0.0 gur
10. NE.NE engar
11. 212.0.0. gur
12. E₂-a-ba-ni engar
13. a-ša₃ ^dšu-^dsuen ti-kal₂
14. 27.0.0. gur u₄-de₃ de₆-a
15. puzur₄-ḥa-ia₃ engar

16. a-ša₃ nin-gal-zu
17. 188.0.0. gur
18. i-ku-num₂ engar
19. a-ša₃ agar₄ Pi-ri-ti
20. 132.0.0 gur
21. DINGIR-ba-ni engar
22. [a]-ša₃ keš₃^{ki}-maḥ

Col.iv

1. du-du nu-banda₃ gu₄
blank Line
2. šu niĝin₂ 322.1.0 gur ziz₂ še/-gur [gar]
3. šu niĝin₂ 49.0.0 gur u₄-de₃ de₆-/a gana₂-gu₄-bi 2
blank Line
4. ugula x x x x dub-sar gu₄
blank Line
5. šu niĝin₂ 366?.3.4 /[še]-gur
6. šu niĝin₂ 2.3.0 gur [u₄]-de₃/du₆-a gana₂-gu₄-bi 3
7. gana₂ gu₄
8. [-----]
9. e₂-a-keš^{ki} xxxxx
10. 284?.0.2 še-gur
11. še ĝiš e₃-a gana₂-gu₄
12. a-bu₃-um-[ba-qar] [šabra-gu₄-20
13. ĝiri₃ ur-eš₃-ku₃-ga dub-sar
14. [mu]en^d inanna unug^{ki} / [maš₂-e] [i₃]-pa₃

Le.ed

a-bu₃-um-ba-qar

Translation

Obv

Col. i

1. 63000 sila (liters) of barley
2. šālim-belī, the cultivator
3. 63900 sila (liters)
4. ipquša, the cultivator
5. field Šu-suen-tikal
6. 64500 sila (liters)

7. šu-mama, the cultivator
8. field ningalzu
9. 57000 sila (liters)
10. qurāt-ilī, the cultivator
11. field agar₄ Piriti
12. 38100 sila (liters)
13. ipquša, the cultivator
14. field keš-maḥ
blank space
15. nūḫi-ilum, inspector of plow oxen
16. 63600 sila (liters)
17. aza, the cultivator
18. 36300 sila (liters)
19. field Šu-suen-tikal
20. 27600 sila (liters)
21. field agar₄ Piriti
22. ilum-bāni, the cultivator
23. 4980 sila (liters), brought in daily

Col. ii

1. puzur-ḥaya, the cultivator
2. field ningalzu
3. 43500 sila (liters)
4. iṣṣur-ilum, the cultivator
5. field Tiar
6. 36120 sila (liters)
7. iruru, the cultivator
8. field keš-maḥ
blank line
9. šu-eštar, inspector of plow oxen
10. total 48720 sila (liters) of barley
11. total sila (liters)
blank line
12. the overseer ilum-rabī, ox scribe
13. 208 sila (liters)
14. ilum-bāni, the cultivator
15. field Šu-suen tikal
16. 22 sila (liters)
17. baba, the cultivator
18. field ningalzu
19. 150 sila (liters)

20. field agar₄ Piriti
21. 9000 sila (liters)
22. field keš-maḥ

Rev

Col. iii

1. ur-ašgi, the cultivator
2. 37140 sila (liters)
3. ilum-bāni, the cultivator
4. field keš-maḥ
5. 42040 [xxx] sila (liters)
6. x-x-um, the cultivator
7. field Ti'ar
blank line
8. išar-aḥi, inspector of plow oxen
9. 61800 sila (liters)
10. Nene, the cultivator
11. 63600 sila (liters)
12. Ea-bāni, the cultivator
13. field Šu-suen tikaḥ
14. 8100 sila (liters), brought in daily
15. puzur-ḥaya, the cultivator
16. field ningalzu
17. 56400 sila (liters)
18. ikunum, the cultivator
19. field agar₄ Piriti
20. 39600 sila (liters)
21. ilum-bāni, the cultivator
22. field keš-maḥ

Col. iv

1. dudu, inspector of plow oxen
Blank line
2. total 96660 sila (liters) of wheat (and) barley?
3. total 14700 sila (liters) brought in daily, domain land
Blank line
4. overseer, xxxxx
Blank line
5. total 586? sila (liters) of barley
6. total xxxx sila (liters) brought in daily, domain land
7. domain land

8. [-----]
 9. e₂-keš^{ki} xxx
 10. 85220? sila (liters) of barley
 11. threshed barley in domain land
 12. abum-bāqar, official of plow oxen
 13. via the scribe ur-eškuga
 14. the year chose the en priest of Inanna in Uruk by omen
- le.ed.
abum-bāqar

Tablet Comments

Obv. Col.i

2. ša-lim-be-li₂ engar, is attested at Iri-saĝrig in IS1^v, and the name also identified at Umma dated IS3.^{vi}
4. ip-qu₂-ša engar, is attested only once in the Iri-saĝrig texts.^{vii}
5. a-ša₃ ^dšu-^dsuen ti-kal₂, the field name attested at Iri-saĝrig in twice text in ŠS9^{viii}, and once in IS1.^{ix}
7. šu-ma-ma engar, occurs in twice texts in the years (ŠS9-IS1) at Iri-saĝrig^x, and also documented in another text whose site is unknown.^{xi}
8. a-ša₃ nin-gal-zu, the field name documented for the second time in the years (ŠS9-IS1) at Iri-saĝrig.^{xii}
10. qu₂-ra-ad-i₃-li₂ engar, his name attested at Iri-saĝrig^{xiii}, and also identified as a cultivator at umma in AS6^{xiv}, qu₂-ra-ad-i₃-li₂ dumu zu-zu in IS 2-3, IS2 qu₂-ra-ad-i₃-li dumu i₃-li₂-aš-ra-ni
11. a-ša₃ agar₄ Pi-ri-ti, the field name attested once at Iri-saĝrig.^{xv}
14. a-ša₃ keš₃^{ki}-maḥ, the field name attested once at Iri-saĝrig.^{xvi}
15. nu-ḫi-DINGIR nu-banda₃ gu₄, the name occur once as the inspector of plow oxen at Iri-saĝrig.^{xvii}
17. a-za-a engar, perhaps the same name read **a-ḫa-a** by OWEN in (NISABA 15/2, 669). In addition, attested the name at Umma.^{xviii}
22. DINGIR-ba-ni engar, the name attested once as a cultivator at Iri-saĝrig in IS 1.^{xix}
23. u₄-de₃ de₆-a, the expression “brought in daily” appeared at Iri-saĝrig.^{xx} It is also attested in other sites at Umma^{xxi} and Girsu.^{xxii}

Obv. Col.ii

1. puzur₄-ḫa-ia₃ engar, the name occurs at Iri-saĝrig for the first time with title a cultivator.^{xxiii}

4. i-šur-DINGIR^{xxiv} engar, probably the same name is transliterated i-**da-AN** in (NISABA 15/2,669).
5. a-ša₃ Ti-ar, the field name attested at Irišağrig in IS1.^{xxv}
7. i-ru-ru engar, the name unattested at Irišağrig so far.
9. šu-eš₁₈-tar₂ nu-banda₃ gu₄, occurs once as the inspector of plow oxen at Irišağrig.^{xxvi}
13. ugula DINGIR-ra-bi₂ dub-sar gu₄, the name appears at Irišağrig during IS 1.^{xxvii}
18. ba-ba en[gar], perhaps this name is read ša₃-ba in (NISABA 15/2, 669) at Irišağrig.

Rev. Col.iii

1. ur-^daš₇-gi₄, the name appears for the first time as (engar) at Irišağrig, is attested as mu-sar “lapidary”^{xxviii}, and attested ŠS4 at Adab.^{xxix}
8. i-šar-ra-ḥi nu-banda₃ gu₄, occurs once as the inspector of plow oxen at Irišağrig.^{xxx}
10. NE.NE, is read also bi₂-bi₂, the name attested in as the cultivator (engar) in the Irišağrig texts from (ŠS9-IS1).^{xxxi}
12. E₂-a-ba-ni, is attested as (angar) twice at Irišağrig from year IS1-IS2.^{xxxii}
18. i-ku-num₂ engar, is attested i-ku-x engar at Irišağrig.^{xxxiii}

Rev. Col.iv

1. du-du nu-banda₃ gu₄, is unattested as nu-banda₃ gu₄ at Irišağrig. The name appears as a royal messenger and cooker.^{xxxiv}
12. a-bu₃-um-[ba-qar] [šabra-gu₄-20, appears at Irišağrig with the title of (šabra), for the years AS3, ŠS9, IS2.^{xxxv}. the name also spelled a-bu-um-ba-qar in the Irišağrig.
13. Via the scribe ur-eškuga, the name is well attested at Irišağrig, the first appears in IS1^{xxxvi}, and last attested as ḡiri₃ in IS2^{xxxvii}. He occurs as (dub-sar lugal) “a royal scribe” for rations of beer, bread, soup, fish and meat for the royal messengers.^{xxxviii}

Conclusion

After studying this tablet it appeared that it is identical in form and content with another tablet published in (NISABA 15/2, no. 669), this text originates from Iri-sağrig Province in Sumer. Both tablets date back to the first and second

years of Ibbī-Suen reign. The text recorded the names of five fields documented exclusively at Iri-saĝrig, to produce barley, as well as the names of the cultivators and inspector of plow oxen contained in them; most of them were Akkadian personal names.

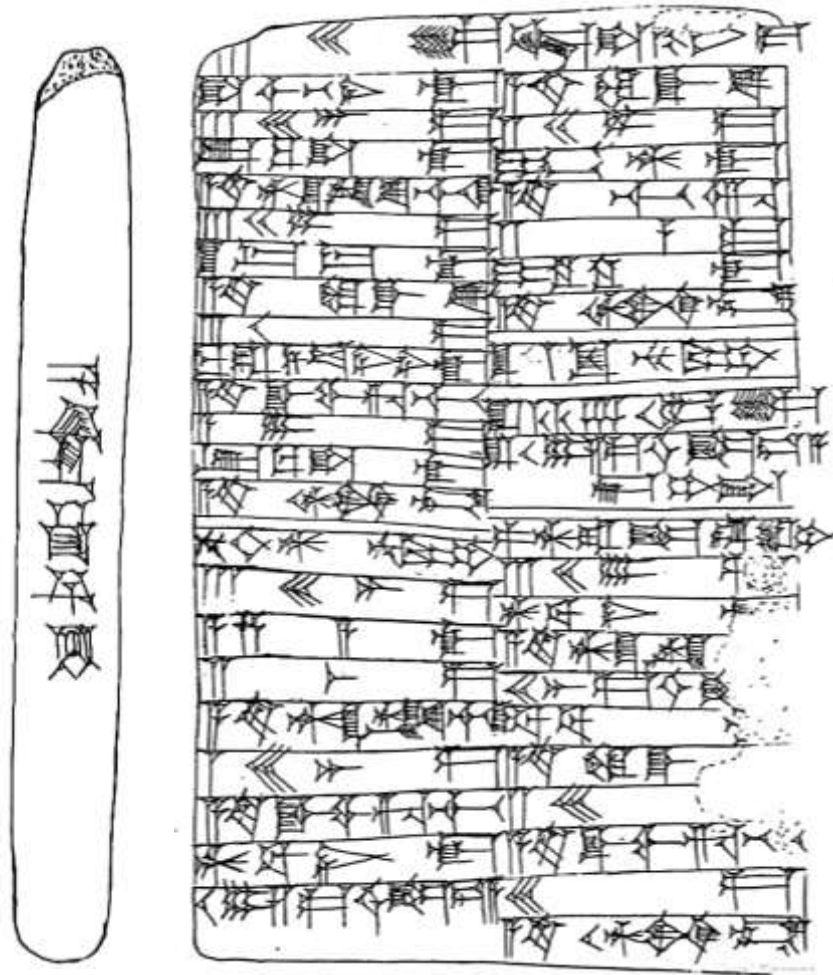


Fig. 1 : IM 212985 Obv. Handcopy by Wafaa H. Zwaid



Fig. 2 : IM 212985 Rev. Handcopy by Wafaa H. Zwaïd



Fig. 3 : IM 212985 Obv.

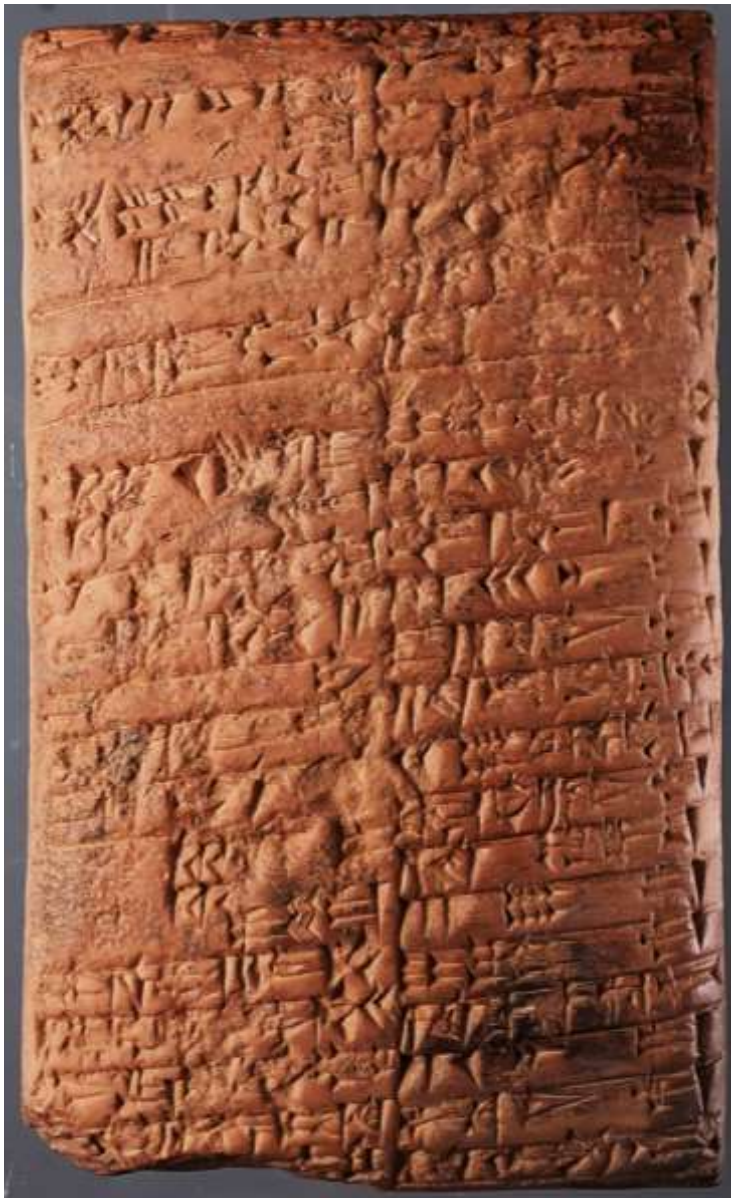


Fig. 4 : IM 212985 Rev.

Endnote

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- ^x NISABA 15/2, nrs. 495, 669.
- ^{xi} Sigrist, M. 1984: Neo-Sumerian Account Texts in the Horn Archaeological Museum. Berrien Springs, (AUCT 1), Michigan, no. 271.
- ^{xii} Owen, D.I. 2021, p. 228, no. 22.
- ^{xiii} NISABA 15/2, no. 669.
- ^{xiv} NISABA 15/2, nrs. 974, 797, 798.
- ^{xv} NISABA 15/2, no. 669.
- ^{xvi} NISABA 15/2, no. 669.
- ^{xvii} NISABA 15/2, no. 669.
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- ^{xxiii} NISABA 15/2, no. 669.
- ^{xxiv} see Hilgert, M. 2002: Akkadisch in Der Ur III-Zeit. Band. 5 (IMGULA), Münster, p.303.
- ^{xxv} NISABA 15/2, n. 669, & Abed, B. 2017: Unpublished Cuneiform Texts of the Third Dynasty of Ur from the City of Iri-Sag-rig₇ / Al-Šarraki, Baghdad (in Arabic), no. 55.
- ^{xxvi} NISABA 15/2, no. 669.

- xxvii NISABA 15/2, no. 669.
- xxviii NISABA 15/2, no. 892.
- xxix NISABA 32, no. 213.
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