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TELL WARESH2, EARLY OLD BABYLONIAN TABLETS FROM THE SEASON OF RESCUE EXCAVATIONS (1990)

BY

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INTRODUCTION

Tell Wares2 was an archaeological site in southern Iraq (32.18349, 45.34218/UTM: 38N 532256 3560826, see maps 1 and 2 below). It was located 1 km west of Lake Dalmaj, some 12 km east from Nippur, 17 km north-east from the modern Iraqi city of Afak, and 44 km east from Al-Diwaniyah, the capital of Al-Qadissiyah province. The site was destroyed due to hydraulic works on the so-called “Third River Project” between the Euphrates and Tigris rivers, which were completed in December 1992. The Third River Project was started with the goal of draining used irrigation waters to a main canal that discharges into the Gulf. An adverse effect of the Third River Project was the drying up of major parts of the marshes in Southern Iraq. Currently an intake canal towards Lake Dalmaj runs over the location of Tell Wares2. As a result of the work on the Third River Project and the destruction of the site, a season of rescue excavations was carried out on Tell Wares2 from the 28th of January 1990 until the end of April of the same year by the Iraqi State Board of Antiquities and Heritage (SBAH) under the supervision of Muhammad Yahya Radhi.

TELL WARESH2 AND ITS EPIGRAPHIC MATERIAL

When the 1990 archaeological expedition began its work, the site was temporarily called “Tell Hindi2” because it was located about 1 km north-west of Tell Hindi.¹ Only later the name was changed to that of Tell Wares2 because it was also closely situated to the east of Tūlūl Werrish (currently also known as Hawise), carrying no. 983 in Adams’ survey. When one studies the sites surveyed by Adams we see that our Tell Wares2 is identical with Adams’ no. 1031. For this site, Adams wrote: “140 NW x 90 x 3. Lower debris tails off SE. Traces of Late Uruk, Early Dynastic. Mainly Ur III-Larsa. The debris to the SE is Early Islamic.” In the immediate vicinity, Adams also identified a number of other sites, that have nos. between 1030 and 1051. When one sees the location of all of these sites on map 1 below, it becomes apparent that they are clustered together, and that some of them are less than one hundred meters apart. After having visited the area, we therefore believe that these sites were in fact the highest points of a larger settlement that had a surface of somewhere between ca. 3 and 4 km². The exact extent of this larger settlement remains to be determined.

The excavators found two main levels on Tell Wares2, of which the most recent one dates to the Early Islamic period and the oldest one to the Early Old Babylonian (Isin-Larsa) period.² In the latter level, two layers of occupation were distinguished. On the north-eastern part of the site, a large rectangular mud brick building was excavated. The excavators believed that it was an administrative building (or a temple?) consisting of three main units separated by a courtyard and containing many rooms, some of which were paved with bricks. In addition to (fragments of) cuneiform tablets, the excavators found seals, tags with seal impressions, pottery, as well as human and animal figurines. The texts found included receipts, loans of barley and silver, sale contracts, and letters. Of these texts, 29 were found in a jar, carrying the year names of four Larsa kings: Abī-sarê, Sumu-

1. In the survey of Adams’ 1981 *Heartland of Cities*, Tell Hindi has no. 1039 (Adams 1981: 270).

2. The information in this paragraph was largely taken from Muhammad (2013).

El, Nūr-Adad, and Sîn-iddinam. One of these texts (IM 221043, tablet and case), a loan of silver, was the subject of a 2013 article by A.K. Muhammad.³

The texts found in the jar mentioned above will be published in the future by A. K. Muhammad and B. J. Abed. The Isin-Larsa cylinder seals found by the expedition, as well as two tags with seal impressions from Tell Wares2, will be published by A. Al-Hussainy (forthcoming-a), who will also publish a more elaborate article about the site itself (forthcoming-b). In the meantime, the reader finds here the publication of fourteen texts from the Tell Wares2 rescue excavations.

PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FROM THE TELL WARESH2 TABLETS

Perhaps the most interesting information that we can garner from the Tell Wares2 tablets is the fact that the site, only a few kilometres east of Nippur, had been in the hands of the Larsa kingdom for such a long time. The texts found at the site are dated to the reigns of Abī-sarē (1905-1895 BCE) until Sîn-iddinam (1849-1843).⁴ It must have served as a springboard for the ambitions of the Larsa kings against Isin, Babylon, and Malgium. However, we cannot know for certain if Tell Wares2 and its larger settlement had been in the hands of the Larsa kingdom for the whole period between ca. 1905 and 1843 BCE.

There are no geographical names in the texts published hereunder, however text 10 (IM 221118) mentions the mother goddess Ninḫursag as a creditor (she perhaps also occurs in text 12, IM 221120), which could help us in determining the ancient name of the site. The main deity of a city often functioned as a creditor in certain loans.⁵ However, by the same token, the city god was also often evoked in solemn oaths. In text 3 (IM 221105) we see an oath being sworn in the name of Nanna and Sumu-El, so Nanna could also have been the city-god of Tell Wares2. When we survey the literature for possible towns in Nippur's vicinity that could have had Ninḫursag as its main deity we find a number of possibilities: Dimat-Enlil,⁶ HI.ZA^{ki},⁷ Keš, and Iri-sagrig.⁸ None of these towns seem to us –as of yet– convincing candidates for the ancient name of Tell Wares2 and/or its larger settlement. We will have to await the publication of the other texts from the site, because these will perhaps shed more light on the ancient name of the site.

It has been suggested that Nippur was already conquered by Gungunum of Larsa (1932-1906 BCE),⁹ an event that is perhaps supported by text 6 (IM 221114), which possibly carries a Gungunum year name. In the wake of these Larsa conquests, Sumu-El of Larsa (1894-1866 BCE) tried to expand his realm further to the north by achieving victories over Kazallu and Kiš,¹⁰ as well as destroying Akusum and Pī-nārātim and

3. For the reader's convenience, Muhammad's text is given here: (Obv.) ¹6 GÍN KÙ.BABBAR, ²MÁŠ 10 GÍN 2 GÍN, ³KI sa-mu-ki-el, ⁴i-lī-a-pil-šu-nu DI.KU₅, ⁵ŠU.BA.AN.TI, ⁶ITI ⁴EN.LÍL⁷ KÙ DAḪ.DAM, (Rev.) ⁷IGI za-ni-nu-um, ⁸IGI a-ra-ia, ⁹IGI ša-ma-a-a, ¹⁰MU.ÚS.SA su-mu-DINGIR, ¹¹ÍD.DA LUGAL ⁴EN.ZU ¹²IN.BA.AL. Translation: six shekels of silver, its interest per 10 shekels is 2 shekels (20%), from Samu-ki-El, Iī-āpilšunu, the judge, took. In the month of Enlil⁷ (obscure month name, perhaps identical with níḡ-⁴en-líl-lá, Sallaberger 1993: 10 n. 31), he will pay back. Witnesses: Zāninum, Arāya, Šamāya. Year: the year after Sumu-El, the canal Šarrum-Sîn was dug (Sumu-El 8). The case has a BUR.GUL seal in the name of i-lī-apil-šu-nu, DUMU x x x x.

4. Muhammad (2013: 121-122).

5. On city gods as creditors: Charpin (2015: 157), and earlier Harris (1960: 127-128).

6. This fortress had Ninḫursag (a.k.a. Dingirmah) as its chief deity, as we know from a royal inscription of Samsuiluna in which he commemorates the rebuilding of fortresses built by his ancestor Sumu-la-El (Frayne 1990: 381). However, it is unlikely that Sumu-la-El had built a fortress this close to Nippur. In addition, Steinkeller (2010: 373-377) argued for a location between Sippar and Babylon for Dimat-Enlil.

7. This town harbored perhaps a sanctuary of Ninḫursag, cf. George (1993: 100 and 119 no. 473) and Wilcke (1972-1975). However, the town apparently lay somewhere between Sippar and Akkad.

8. The ancient town of Keš (on its temple: George 1993: 108 and 119, nos. 578 and 713) has often been identified with Tell Al-Wilayah, which is several kilometers to the east of Tell Wares2. However, Viano (2019: 38-39) proposes that Tell Al-Wilayah was ancient Iri-sagrig and that Keš was actually modern day Tūlūl al-Baqarat (to the east of Tell Al-Wilayah). Molina (2013: 76) located Iri-sagrig at either no. 1056 or no. 1032 in Adams' survey, the latter being only a few hundred meters south from no. 1031 (see map 1).

9. Charpin (2004: 72 with n. 229).

10. Charpin (2004: 77).

seizing the towns of Nanna-isa and Sabum.¹¹ In the group published here, at least one text can safely be dated to Sumu-El (text 3, IM 221105) and possibly also text 13 (IM 221121).

The exact find spots of the tablets published here are unknown, and none of them seem to form a coherent group. Having said that, we do encounter two sons (Lalütum¹² and Samu-ki-El¹³) of a certain Bālum in two different texts, as well as Bālum himself acting as a creditor.¹⁴

The script in the texts is typical for the Early Old Babylonian period, as are the types of texts: five loan documents (nos. 1, 9, 10, 12, and 13), sale and/or lease contracts (nos. 2 and 6), a letter (no. 8), several administrative lists (nos. 4, 5, 11, and 14), an undetermined text (no. 7), and –the most interesting one– an adoption contract (no. 3). Instead of copies of the texts below, the reader will find photos below.

no.	Iraq Museum number	Contents	Date (Month/Day/Year)
1	IM 221101	Loan of barley	XI/??
2	IM 221102	Sale or lease of a field	lost
3	IM 221105	Adoption contract	?/?/Sumu-El
4	IM 221107	List with names, purpose unclear	?
5	IM 221113	List with amounts of silver and personal names	?
6	IM 221114	Fragmentary contract, probably a sale	XI/?/Gungunum?
7	IM 221115	Fragment of a list of witnesses	?
8	IM 221116	Letter from Abī-alah [?] to Abum-ṭābum	?
9	IM 221117	Loan of barley	I'/?/?
10	IM 221118	Loan of barley	?
11	IM 221119	List of amounts of silver [?] and personal names [?]	?
12	IM 221120	Loan of barley	?/?/?
13	IM 221121	Loan of silver with guarantee clause	?/?/Sumu-El 9 [?]
14	IM 221122	Memo concerning barley	?

Table 1. Catalogue of Tell Wares2 texts published here below

1) IM 221101

Loan of barley (XI/??)

1	12 [?] [ŠE.GUR] MÁŠ.BI [1] 'GUR [?] [0.1.4.0.(TA)] KI d ^r x [x] x x ¹ l ^d EN.[...]	12 [kor of barley], its interest is [100 qa per [?]] kor (= 33⅓ %), from d[DN-...], Sîn/Enlil/Enki-[...]
5	[ŠU.BA.AN.TI] L.E. broken	[took].
R.1'	U ₄ .EBUR'.Š[È Ì.ÁG.E] KIŠIB d ^d EN.[...] DUMU be-l[a [?]]-a-[num [?]] empty space, very faint traces of a seal ITI ZÍZ.A U.E. broken	On the day of harvest [he will measure out the barley] The seal of Sîn/Enlil/Enki-[...] son of Bēlānum [?] Month XI.

11. According to Sumu-El's year names.

12. As the person adopting Arnabum, no. 3 (IM 221105): 3-4 and 15.

13. As a debtor, no. 13 (IM 221121): 4-5. Perhaps this Samu-ki-El is identical to the creditor in the text published by Muhammed (2013) (see also note 3 above).

14. As a creditor, no. 9 (IM 221117): 3.

2) IM 221102

Sale or lease of a field

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | ʾ2ʾ IKU ¹ A.ŠÀ AB.ŠÍN ¹
ʾKI ² ga ² -a ² -da ² -a-nu-um
ʾx x x i ḥa x [...] | A two IKU field with furrows
Belonging to <i>Gādānum</i> ²
...
rest of obverse and reverse too damaged for any sensible reading |
|---|--|---|

3) IM 221105¹⁵

Adoption contract (time of Sumu-El)

- | | | |
|-----|---|--|
| 1 | [ʾar]-na-bu-[um]
[KI DINGI]R-mu-de ù ʾa ¹ -[ḥu]-ni
[ʾl]a-lu-[tum]
[DUM]U ba-a-lum | Arnabum, ¹⁶
[from Ilu]m-mūdê and Aḥūni,
Lalūtum,
son of Bālum, |
| 5 | ʾNAM ¹ DUMU.NI.ŠÈ
BA.AN.TUK
[GÌR ² x]-ʾx ¹ -at- ^d EN.ZU GUDU ₄
[ar]-na-bu-um
[DUMU l]a-lu-t[um] | took him as his son.

[Supervisor ² is x]-ʾx ¹ -at-Sîn, <i>paššum</i> priest. ¹⁷
Arnabum,
son of Lalūtum, |
| 10 | [U ₄ .KÚR.ŠÈ] TUK[UM.BI]
lower part of the obverse lost ¹⁸ | [in the future], if |
| R. | [AD.DA.MU]
[NU].ʾUB.BÉ ¹ .A
[x] MA.NA KÙ.BABBAR Ì.LÁ.E
ù TUKUM.BI | he will not say: [“he is my father”], ¹⁹

he will pay [x] mina of silver.
Furthermore, if |
| 15 | la-lu-tum DUMU.MU NU.UB.BÉ.<A>
1 MA.NA KÙ.BABBAR Ì.LÁ.E
A.ŠÀ.GA {X} ^{gis} KIRI ₆ ʾÉ ¹ [ù NÍG].ʾGA ¹ /ʾKI ¹
a[r-n]a-bu-um ŠU.BA.A[B.TE.G]A
[MU] ^d ŠÈŠ ¹ .KI ù su-mu-DINGIR IN.PÀD | Lalūtum will not say: “he is my son”,
he will pay 1 mina of silver (and)
Arnabum will take field, orchard, house, and utensils. |
| 20 | [IGI] e-te-lum DUMU ḥu-la-mi
[IGI] ʾsa ¹ -mu-a-bi DUMU ga-ga-ni
[IGI] ʾsa ¹ -ia-ʾa ¹ DUMU a-bi-re ¹ -di | They swore by Nanna and Sumu-El.
Witness: Etellum, son of Ḥulami.
Witness: Samu-abi, son of Gagāni.
Witness: Sayâ, son of Abī-rēdī. |
| U.E | [IGI a ² -ḥ]u ² -ni DUMU ia-mi-li ¹ -di-DINGIR
[IGI x (x)]- ^d EN.ZU ʾDUMU ¹ sà-lu-lum | Witness: Aḥūni ² , son of Yamilidilum ²⁰ .
Witness: [...]Sîn, son of Sallulum. |
| 25 | [IGI a] ² ʾta ² -DINGIR DUMU ta-li-wu | Witness: Atta ² -ilum, son of Taliwu(m). |

15. A tiny fragment of a case is in the same box as IM 221105, it is too damaged to discern any readable signs.

16. The name is probably Arnabum, given the amount of space left for the broadly written sign /ar/ in lines 1, 8, and 18, another (less likely) possibility for the name is *šu-na-bu-um*.

17. The inclusion of the name of a *paššum* priest is surprising. We interpreted it here as someone who had to approve of the adoption. The name of this priest is also a problem, the sign /at/ is clear, but the sign before it remains unclear. Possible names are: *ni-id-na-at*-^dEN.ZU (not probable, due to lack of space), *ša-at*-^dEN.ZU (not probable, because this is a feminine name, women were –as a rule– not *paššum* priests), and *qī-ša-at*-^dEN.ZU (perhaps the best option).

18. However, given our reconstruction, it does not seem that anything is missing in these lines, we assume that the rest of the lost obverse was not inscribed.

19. The phrasing of the renunciation clause is unusual, this type of clause (...MU NU.UB.BÉ.A; *he will not say: “he/she/it is my...”*), is usually found in sale contracts, but not in adoption contracts.

20. A yet unattested Amorite personal name, we have opted for the (awkward) reading Yamilidilum instead of Yamilidi-El because sometimes the DINGIR sign could be read as /(i)lum/ in Amorite names, cf. De Boer (2014: 51).

Le.E. [...] iš¹ ku² r¹ x¹ [...] ²¹
 [IGI PN] DUMU ba-r¹ a¹ [...] ...
 [Witness: PN] son of Bâ-[...]

4) IM 221107

List with names, purpose unclear

1' [...] x ...
 [...] -DINGIR [...] -DINGIR
 [...] ir¹ -ra-e-mu-q¹ [...] Er¹ ra-emūq¹
 [...] sa-li-ia¹ [...] Sa¹ li-ya
 5' [...] x ta hu bu² um² [...] ...
 empty line
 [...] x¹ an-za-ru x [...] Anzarum²
 [...] x¹ me² -hi² -DINGIR [...] -me² hilum²
 rest broken of obverse broken
 R. empty space
 1'' [...] zi-ik² -ru-ú [...] Zikrū²
 [...] x x x x ...
 empty space

5) IM 221113

List with amounts of silver² and personal names

1 [x x G] ÍN² dan² -^d šu-bu-la ...shekels: Dan-Šubula.
 [x x G] ÍN² sà-tu-ia ...shekels: Satūya.
 [x x G] ÍN² ma² -x-x-a-a¹ ...shekels: Ma-x-x-a-a.
 r¹ x x G ÍN² nu² ne² ru² ...shekels: Nu² -ne² -ru².
 5 [x x] r¹ G ÍN² ha² x x x x¹ ...shekels: Ha² -x-x-x-x.
 1/3² 4 G ÍN² r¹ x¹ [...] r¹ x¹ 1/3² + 4 shekels: ...
 1/3² 7 G ÍN² U[r¹ -...] 1/3² + 7 shekels: U[r¹ -...].
 1/3² 4 G ÍN² za-ma-m[a] 1/3² + 4 shekels: Zamama.
 L.E. 19 G ÍN² i-di-^d EN.ZU 19 shekels: Iddin-Sîn.
 R.10 1/3² 4 G ÍN² DINGIR-ma²² 1/3² + 4 shekels: Ilum-ma
 rest of reverse not inscribed

6) IM 221114

Contract, probably a sale (XI²/Gungunum²)

beginning of obverse lost
 1' [...] r¹ x¹ ...
 [U₄.KÚR.ŠÈ L]Ú.LÚ.[(RA)²] [In the future], one man against another
 [NU.MU.G]L₄.GI₄.DÈ¹ [will not] come back (on the case).
 [MU LUG]AL IN.PÀD¹ They swore [by the life of the ki]ng.
 5' [IGI x]-ra² -a-a [Witness: x]râya².
 [IGI...] r¹ x¹ [x] r¹ x¹ [Witness]: ...
 R. [IGI]^d EN.ZU-en¹ -nam [Witness]: Sîn-ennam.
 [IGI] mu¹ -tu [Witness]: Mutu.
 [IGI DUMU²] -KI [Witness: Mār²] -eršetim.

21. Perhaps this line contained a year name of Sumu-El (maybe year 20 or 21: [mu(-ús-sa) íd-buranun-na ba-an]-kešda ba-s[i-i-gi-a], or the name of another witness).

22. There does not seem to be anything after the last sign.

- 10' [IGI *u*²]-*ba-ia* [Witness: U]bâya².
 [IGI *ir*²]-*dër-ra* [Witness: Warad]-Erra².
 [IGI] *a*²-*di-ru-um* [Witness: A]dirum².
 [IGI *s*]*u*²-*mu-ru-u[m]* [Witness: S]ummurum².
 [IGI] *a*²-*li-ia* [Witness: A]līya².
 15' [ITI] ZÍZ.A Month XI.
 [MU *g*]*u*²-*un-g[u*²-*nu*²-*um*²]
 rest of reverse gone, faint traces of a seal [The year: *G*ung[unum²].

7) IM 221115

Fragment of a list of witnesses

- 1' [IGI *x x*¹ [...]/*x* *x*¹ Witness: ...
 IGI KÙ²-*d*B[A.Ú²] Witness: *Ku-Bau*²

8) IM 221116

Letter from Abī-alah² to Abum-ṭābum

- 1 [a-n]a a-bu-ṭā-bu-um To Abum-ṭābum,
 [qí-b]í-ma speak,
 [um-m]a a-bi-a-la²-aḥ-ma thus (says) Abī-alah².
 [x x z]i² ḥé² e a-nu²-bu-um [...]. . . of Anubum²
 5 [x x] *x*¹ ḫi *x*¹ nu² ...
 [x x] *x*¹ aš-ri-šū his...
 [x x x (x)]-ni² ...
 R. [x x x x] *x*¹-tam ...
 [x x x x]-bi-a ...
 10 [aš-pu-ra-ak]-ku-um [I have written] to you,
 [a-pu]-*tum*¹ [it is impor]tant!
 rest of reverse not inscribed

9) IM 221117

Loan of barley (l²?/?)

- 1 32 ŠE.[GUR] 32 kor of barley,
 MÁŠ 1 GUR [0.1.4.0.TA] the interest is [100 *qa*²] per kor (=33⅓ %),
 KI *ba-lum* from Bālum,
 dŠEŠ.KI-i-[x (x)] Nanna-i[...]
 5 ŠU.BA.AN.T[II] took.
 L.E. U₄.EBUR.ŠÈ At the time of harvest,
 R. NÍG MU.T[ÚM] what he delivered (he will pay back).
 IGI PUZUR₄-*d*E[N.ZU/LÍL/KI] Witness: Puzur-[Šin/Enlil/Enki].
 IGI *ga-a-la-nu*-[um] Witness: Gālanum.
 10 IGI a-bu-ḫu-[um] Witness: Abuḫum.
 IGI a-ku-bi²-*x*¹-(x) Witness: Akubi-*x*¹-(x).
 IGI *u*²-*x*-*x*-[x] Witness: *ri*²-*x*-*i*²-[x].
 U.E. TTI BARA₂.ZAG².GA[R²]/*x x* Month I...
 BUR.GUL seal on Left Edge and lower part of Reverse:
 na²-*x*¹ [...], DUMU *ri-šū*[m²...])

10) IM 221118

Loan of barley

1	8 [+x ² GUR ŠE.GUR] MÁŠ 1 GUR 0.4 ² . [1 ² .0.(TA)] KI ^d NIN.ĤUR.SAG ù za-bi-ni- ^r nu ² [-um ²]	8 [+x ² kor of barley], its interest is [100 qa ²] per kor (=33⅓ %), from Ninĥursag ²³ and Zabīnūnum ² ,
5	zi-ki-lum DUMU la-la-nu- ^r um ¹ ŠU.BA. ^r AN ¹ . [TI] lower part of tablet lost	Zikkilum, son of Lalānum took.
R.1'	KA ^r u ² [-p ² -š ² u ² ŠE ù MÁŠ] Ì.[ÁG.E] IGI [...] IGI [...] rest of reverse broken	According to the wording [<i>of his tablet</i>] ²⁴ , he will measure out [<i>the barley and the interest</i>]. Witness: [...]. Witness: [...].

11) IM 221119List of amounts of silver² and personal names²

	beginning lost	
1'	^r x ¹ GÍN ² ^r ar ² -ki ² -nu ² -x ¹ ^r ½ ² ku-ku-uk ² -ia ¹ ½ ² GÍN ² a-ma-a- ^r sà ² ^r x x ¹ [x] ^r x x ¹ [...]	x shekels ² Arkinu-x ² from/of Kukukktīya ² ½ shekel Amāssa ² ...
L.E.5'	^r ½ ² GÍN ² ì-lf ² [...]/la ² ^r x ¹ [...]	... Before Ilī-...]
R.	^r ½ ² GÍN ² ba ² ^r x ¹ [...] ^r ½ ² GÍN ² x-x ¹ [...] ^r ½ ² GÍN ² zī ² -ki-x ¹ [x] ^r GÍN ² zī ² -ki-ru ² ¹	½ ² shekel ² Ba ² ... ½ ² shekel ² ... ½ ² shekel ² Ziki-x ² [x] shekel Zikiru ²
10'	[x] ^r x x x x ¹ rest of reverse lost	...

12) IM 221120

Loan of barley (??/?)

1	3.2. ^r 2 ² .(x ²) ŠE.GUR ¹ ŠU.TI.A èr-ra-ka-šī-id KI zi-lum	1040 ² liters of barley, received by Erra-kāšid, ²⁵ from Zilum,
5	ŠÀ.BI 12 ŠE.GUR ŠE ^d NI[N.ĤUR ² .SAG ²] ITI DU ₆ .K[Ù Ì ² .ÁG ² .E ²] R. ^r IGI bur ¹ [- ^d ...]/ ^r x ¹ [-...] IGI a-bi- ^r x ¹ [-...]	from the 12 kor of barley, the barley of Nin[ĥursag ²]. In month VII ² , [<i>he will measure (it) out</i>]. Witness: Būr-[DN]/... Witness: Abī-...

23. The divine name Ninĥursag takes up all of line 3, we can doubt whether anything is written after it, so we are dealing here with the deity Ninĥursag as a creditor.

24. Line 1' presents us with a problem. It is clear that line 2' gives us the repayment clause of the loan, but we are at a loss as to what we should read in line 1'. The solution presented here was inspired by UET 5 359: 11 which has KA DUB.BA.KA.

25. We assume in line 3 a mistake or alternate spelling of /si/ (reading here: šī) for /ši/.

- 10 IGI SIG-x-[...] Witness: Ipiq-...
 IGI *hu-š[u-tum²]* Witness: *Huš[šutum²]*
 'MU² x x' [...] Year:...
 'x' [...] 'x BAR' ...
 'x' [...] 'UD' ...
 BUR.GUL seal impression on the Left Edge:
 [...] DUMU *ra²-x¹* [...])

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Loan of silver with guarantee clause (?/Sumu-El 9³)

- 1 1 MA.[NA KÙ.BABBAR] 1 mi[na of silver],
 MÁŠ *l[a² u²-ša²-ab²]* [he will not add any²] interest,
 KI *ì-lí-ga-[mil²]* from Ilī-gā[mil²],
sa-mu-ki-e[l] Samu-ki-El,
 5 DUMU *ba-lum* son of Bālum,
 ŠU.BA.AN.TI took.
 ŠU.DÙ.A.NI (As) his guarantor,
ia-x¹ [...] Ya-x-[...],
 DUMU [...] son of [...],
 10 Š[U.BA.AN.TI] took (responsibility).
 lower Edge lost
 R.1' 'IGI *bur-^dx¹* [...] Witness: Būr-^d[DN].
 IGI *ri-ba-am-ì-[l]* Witness: Rībam-ilī,
 DUMU UR.NI.D[A²] son of Ur-nida².
 IGI *ba-gi₄-nu-um* Witness: Bagīnum,
 5' 'DUMU¹ *ma-la-^fki²-im* son of Mallākum.
 'IGI *ki²-il-ga²-a-a* Witness: Kilgāya²,
 DUMU *ka-a-^fa DUB¹.SAR* son of Kāya, the scribe.
 empty space of two lines with vague seal impressions
 ITI ^dDUMU².[ZI²] Month Dumuzi².²⁶
 MU.ÚS.SA.A.[BI ÍD².DA²] Second year after the year: [the canal²]
 /LUGAL [^dEN².ZU² BA².BA².AL²] of Šarrum-[Šîn was dug²].
 BUR.GUL seal impressions on the Left Edge:
sa-^fmu-ki-e[l], DUMU *ba-^flum¹* Samu-ki-El, son of Bālum

14) IM 221122

Memo concerning barley

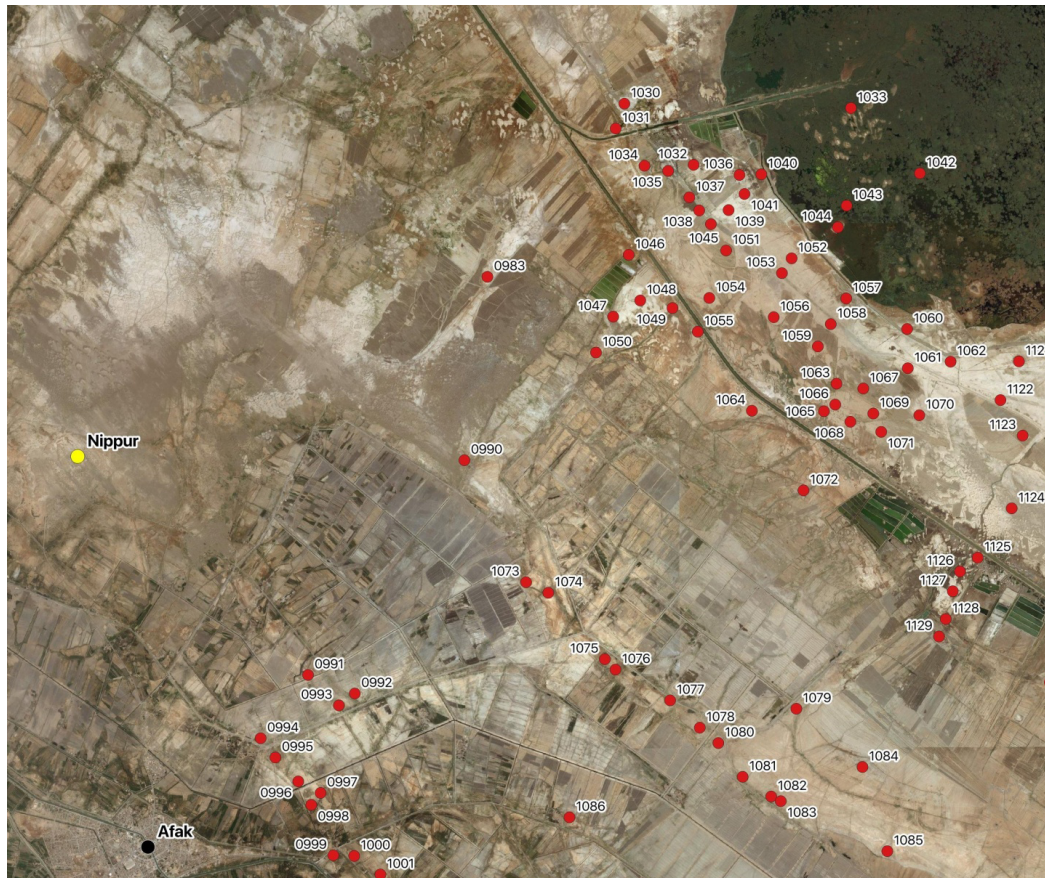
- 1 '15.2¹.[+...] 4620 [+...²] liters of barley,
 MU.[TÚ]M delivery,
 ŠĀ.BI.TA² from
 34 GUR 'ZI²/x 10.200 liters...
 lower edge broken (above the /ri/ in line 5 is a small sign /bar/)
 R.5 'u² ta-ri-[...] ...

26. The month name on this tablet is difficult to read, the expected standard Nippur calendar has no month names starting with the sign /DINGIR/, this is why we propose to read ^dDUMU².[ZI²], another possibility is to read ^dLl₉².[SL₄²]. On the month names, see Hunger (1976-1980) and Sallaberger (1993: 7-11).

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NDLR. Les photographies des tablettes publiées dans cet article sont accessibles sur www.archibab.fr.



Map 1. The location of Tell Wareshe2 (no. 1031 at the top) and other sites mentioned in this article (no. 983 Tūlūl Werrish and no. 1039 Tell Hindi). The Third River is seen flowing to the south-east, Lake Dalmaj is in the upper right-hand corner



Map 2. The location of Tell Wareshe2 (map by M. Sauvage)

SUMMARY

In this article, fourteen texts from the rescue excavations of Tell Wares2 in southern Iraq are published. The site was close to Nippur and was destroyed due to hydraulic works in the 1990s. About seventy-two objects with cuneiform writing were discovered, mostly carrying date formulae belonging to the kings of Larsa.

RÉSUMÉ

Dans cet article, quatorze textes issus des fouilles de sauvetage de Tell Wares2 dans le sud de l'Irak sont publiés. Le site était proche de Nippur et a été détruit à la suite d'ouvrages hydrauliques dans les années 90. Environ soixante-douze objets comportant des écritures cunéiformes ont été découverts, portant pour la plupart des dates appartenant aux rois de Larsa.

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