

UNPUBLISHED CUNEIFORM TEXTS FROM THE ARCHIVE OF ZABABA-ŠARRA-ŪŠUR RELATED TO THE ESTIMATED YIELD OF DATE FIELDS

BY

Basima Jalil ABED and Hussein Mohammed RIDHA

1. OVERVIEW OF THE ARCHIVE

Approximately 130 cuneiform texts from this archive have been discovered through clandestine excavations. Seven tablets from Sh. Moussaieff were published in by F. Joannes and A. Lemaire,¹ forty-one texts from Iraqi Museum were studied in PhD dissertation in Baghdad by Aminah Fadhil Al-Bayati,² fifty-four texts from Martin Schøyen Collection were published by C. Wunsch,³ a few texts were separate published, two from David Sofer Collection by L. E. Pearce, & C. Wunsch,⁴ one text studied by C. Wunsch and Z. Niederreiter, from the Royal Museums of Art and History, Brussels.⁵ A group of texts belongs to this archive from Iraqi Museum is being studied for a PhD dissertation at the University of Baghdad, College of Arts, Department of Archaeology, by Hussein Mohammed Ridha who aims to study the entire archive.

The history of the archive's texts extends from the first year of Cyrus (539-530 B.C),⁶ to the fifth year of Xerxes' reign (486-465 B.C), which is probably the last year belonging to this archive so far.⁷ Most of these tablets were written in Bīt-Abī-rām which is located in a Chaldean territory of Bīt-Dakūru southern Babylonia,⁸ it was approximately determined its location within an area to the southeast of the city of Babylon.⁹ Zababa-šarra-ūšur, son of Nabû-zēra-iddin is regarded as the protagonist in this archive, which includes records of his own transactions and his activity related to the Bīt rēdûti that belongs to the crown prince.

2. ZABABA-ŠARRA-ŪŠUR, HIS POSITION AND COMMERCIAL WORKS

He was appointed by the ruling authority to manage the properties and businesses of the crown prince Xerxès son of Darius I, he is mentioned in the texts as “*rab sūti ša bīt rēdûti*”,¹⁰ “*rab ša bīt rēdûti*”,¹¹ and

1. Joannès & Lemaire 1996.

2. Which will be published in Babylonische Archive 8.

3. Wunsch 2022.

4. Pearce & Wunsch 2014.

5. Niederreiter & Wunsch 2023, pp. 278-285.

6. Wunsch 2022, no. 58.

7. Wunsch 2022, no. 94.

8. Zadok 1985, p. 85.

9. Joannès & Lemaire 1996, p. 52, 58.

10. Al-Bayati 2016, no. 31:2,3.

11. Text no. 4:5.

in short form “*rab bīti*”,¹² it refers to his job as the steward of the crown prince’s estate, a scholar pointed that, based on the Aramaic inscriptions, it is possible that he held a high position which is “*bēl-piqitti*” (royal superintendent),¹³ it is also appeared in another position which is “*bēl-piḥatti*” (governor).¹⁴

The works of Zababa-šarra-ūsur can be classified into two categories: The first includes transactions about the property of the king and the crown prince such as his responsibility of Bīt rēdūti, managing agricultural land resources, crown revenue, investing royal family funds...etc. these texts mentioned his position after his name, which gives an official purpose to these documents, the second category includes his independent activity like contracts related to debt, purchase and sale, animal care, lease, partnership and investment ...etc. Generally, his activity can be determined from the third year of Darius I¹⁵, to the fifth year Xerxès¹⁶, that means the period of his transactions extended approximately thirty-seven years. Although a text dated to Nebuchadnezzar (IV) mentioned him in a secondary role, as a receiver for a promissory note for silver owed to his father¹⁷.

3. THE DATE FIELDS OF *BĪT RĒDŪTI*

Bīt rēdūti owned many agricultural lands that produced dates, barley, and wheat, these lands were located outside of Bīt-Abī-rām, as the texts clearly indicated their location in several of towns which we will discuss later.

3.1 The estimate yield of date fields

A group of texts in this archive named “debt notes for *imittu*”, the impost or rent assessed by the landowners or their representatives while the dates were still on the trees¹⁸. It is possible concluding that the management of each field was by one or more tenants or farmers, and there was a representative who worked under the authority of Zababa-šarra-ūsur his name is Barīk-Iltammeš son of Zērija -the chief farmer, under his responsibility most of these fields- he was receiving the rent, which consists of quantities of dates crop from these fields, as well as the additional tax and delivery them to Zababa-šarra-ūsur, he was likely supervising to the process of estimating for date fields before the harvest, this man is attested in twelve texts related to this context. The texts referred to two other people carrying out this task, also working under the authority of Zababa-šarra-ūsur, they are attested separately in two different texts, they are Kalbi-Bāba son of Bēl-aḥḥē-iddin¹⁹ and Etel-pī²⁰.

The estimated yield of the date field was accomplished by a group of tax assessors (officials) called in Akkadian “*emidu*”²¹ after estimating the yield, the additional taxes owed are determined based on the field’s crop estimates, this tax was paid in white silver ranging from (1) to (3) shekels, furthermore one perfect male *namirtu*-sheep, and they were delivered palm mats, palm shoots, fibres, and a load of dry branches as well, perhaps these materials were used to make an enclosed area “*ḥašāru*”²² for delivering

12. Texts no. 2:5; 3:6.

13. Joannès & Lemaire 1996, p. 52; Hoftijzer & Jongelin 1995, p. 934.

14. This text is being studied within the texts of Hussein Mohammed Ridha’s PhD dissertation.

15. Al-Bayati 2016, no.1:13.

16. Wunsch 2022, no. 94.

17. Wunsch 2022, no. 75.

18. Jursa 2015, p. 172.

19. Al-Bayati 2016, no. 24:3; He is also attested here in text no. 1:4 as rented farmer.

20. Al-Bayati 2016, no. 26:2.

21. Joannès 1982, p. 144-146 ; CAD I-J p. 125.

22. CAD H, p. 130.

dates where was often at a location on the edge of a waterway²³, another tax that was attested in only two texts was paying a quantity of unripened dates which is called “*ḥaba uḥinu*”²⁴. For more see table no. (1).

It seems that the scribe was accompanying the yield’s estimators (officials)²⁵, maybe he was member of this team, he recorded the texts related to this content there, the most important one is Nabû-ittannu son of Nabû-ēṭir-napšāti, descendants of Dēkû, he wrote many texts of the archive especially that related to this context as he appeared in eleven of them²⁶.

The harvest and crop delivery date are always in the eighth month “Araḥsamnu” of the Babylonian calendar approximately one month after estimating the yield when the texts were written in the seventh month “Tašrītu”. The date crop from these fields was abundant, reaching 733 kor (131,940 litre) in the twenty-first year of Darius I, in light of the archive’s texts discovered so far. It is possible to give an approximate price of dates in Babylonia, generally in the fifth century BC, which was 2 shekels of silver for 1 kor; that means the price doubled compared to the previous sixth century²⁷.

It is be possible to estimate the size of these field by suppose that each tree given a Maximum yield of one kur that requires 10×10 metres, the size needed to produce 60 kur of dates would exceed 6000 m² (or about half a kur) of prime quality land at the canal²⁸.

3.2 Date fields’ locations

3.2.1 *Bīt Zak-ka*

It appeared in the archive’s texts in several forms “*uru₂zak-ka*”²⁹, “*uru₂bīt-lu₂zak(sak₆)-ka*”³⁰, “*uru₂bīt-lu₂za-za-ak-ka*”³¹, perhaps it was the same town of “*uru₂bīt-lu₂za-za-ak-ku*” which is likely located in Nippur area³². Four texts were written there regarding this content, two of them on the same date, it also appears to be located near the city (Bāb Nār Kabari) -on the road leading from Uruk to Babylon, near Nippur to the west of it³³ as it was attested as the place where one of these texts was recorded³⁴. *Bīt-lu₂za-za-ak-ka* is also located near a canal or river called (Bēl-Ab-ūšur), this canal was attested as the place to pay a quantity of dates as a crown revenue³⁵.

3.2.2 *Bīt^mKurubannu*

Its location is unspecified, A date field was located in this town attested in one text related to the estimated yield, the text was issued there³⁶, Anani-īl, son of Kurubannu, is attested as tenant in this text, his father could have been the one after whom the place was named³⁷, he was also mentioned as witness in Ālu-ša-mār-šarri in another text for the same context³⁸. An arable field belonging to the property of the crown

23. Joannès & Lemaire 1996, p. 53.

24. CAD U-W, p. 44.

25. CAD I-J, p. 125.

26. Texts 1; 2; 3; 4; Joannes & Lemaire 1996, no. 2; 3; 4; Al-Bayati 2016, no. 18; 19; Wunsch 2022, no. 45;46.

27. Joannès 1982, p.357.

28. Wunsch 2022, p. 66.

29. Al-Bayati 2016, no. 18:2.

30. Text 1:2, 18; Joannès & Lemaire 1996, no. 4:2,19; Al-Bayati 2016, no. 19:2, 20.

31. Al-Bayati 2016, no. 17:5.

32. Zadok 1985, p. 111; BE 8, no. 158:2.

33. Zadok 1985, p. 60; YOS 3, no. 111:28.

34. Al-Bayati 2016, no. 18:18, 19.

35. Al-Bayati 2016, no: 17: 4, 5.

36. Wunsch 2022, no. 45:2, 21.

37. Niederreiter & Wunsch 2023, p. 279.

38. Niederreiter & Wunsch 2023, no. 46:18, 19.

prince was also mentioned there³⁹, the town was also mentioned in promissory note for barley owed to Zababa-šarra-ūšur, which was issued there⁴⁰.

3.2.3 *Kār-Adad*

Its location is unspecified, it seems that two date fields are located there since two texts related to estimated yield were recorded there, all having the same date and written by the same scribe⁴¹, maybe that day was a trip to estimate the yields of this town's fields, this town is probably is close to an edge of waterway or irrigation canal as the texts mentioned it when the crop was delivered⁴². It is also mentioned as the place where a judicial document was recorded regarding the settlement of a lawsuit between Zababa-šarra-ūšur and Tammeš-ladīn⁴³.

3.2.4 *^{uru}Bīt-Nargija*

Its location is unspecified, a date field was located in this town attested in one text related to the estimated yield, the text was issued in Kār-Adad⁴⁴. A promissory note for one mina and twenty shekels of silver owed to Nabû-zēra-iddin father of Zababa-šarra-ūšur was issued in this town⁴⁵.

3.2.5 *Ālu-ša-^{lu}mār-šarri*

It was located nearby Uruk city⁴⁶, a date field was attested in this town by one text related to the estimated yield, which was issued there⁴⁷. According to Table (1), The team of the yield's estimators worked in three town: Kār-Adad, Bīt Nargija, Ālu-ša-mār-šarri in one day at 10th of Tašrītu, 21st of Darius I, it is clear that these town were neighboring.

3.2.6 *Bīt Itti-Nabû-īnia*

Its location is unspecified, it is attested in one text related to the estimated yield for the date field where the text has recorded there⁴⁸. It was also mentioned in the archive's texts as a place where the crown revenue of dates was paid⁴⁹.

3.2.7 *Gaditu(?)*

It may locate in the Uruk region, as two cities have been mentioned in texts outside this archive their name close to it, are Gadēti⁵⁰, Gadījatu⁵¹. It was attested as the place where a text was written relating to the estimated yield of the date field which belonged to the crown prince⁵².

39. Al-Bayati 2016, no. 31:5.

40. Niederreiter & Wunsch 2023, p. 279.

41. Texts 2: 2,17; 3 :2,19; Joannès & Lemaire 1996, no. 2 :2, 18.

42. Text s2:7; 3:9; Joannès & Lemaire 1996, no. 2:8.

43 Wunsch 2022, no. 79.

44. Text 3: 2, 3.

45. Wunsch 2022, no. 75.

46. Zadok 1985, p.14; YOS 7:30, 14.

47. Wunsch 2022, no. 46.

48. Joannès & Lemaire 1996, no. 3:2-3, 20.

49. Al-Bayati 2016, no: 17:4.

50. Zadok 1985, p. 136; YOS, 17, no. 285: 1f.

51. Zadok 1985, p. 136; YOS, 3, no. 74: 14.

52. Al-Bayati 2016, no: 26.

3.2.8 *Āl^{lu₂}qašti?*

The name of this town means “the town of archer(s)?” may the scribe meant “^{lu₂}gišban”, this name may be refer to “bow-land” although the sign “*bīt*” is not written, its name is similar to a city known as Qaštu located in Nippur area which has attested in texts outside of this archive as “^{uru}*Qaštu/uru* ^{giš}ban” without the sign (lu₂)⁵³, however, it was mentioned here in the text 4 which is about the estimated yield of date field⁵⁴, another name as “*Ālu-ša-qašti* (^{giš}ban) *ša mār-šarri*” is also attested in a text related to the same content, indicating that this city belongs to the crown prince⁵⁵.

3.2.9 *Ālu-ša-errēšūti* (^{lu₂}*apin*^{meš})

Its location is unspecified, the name refers to “the town of cultivators”, and a date field belonging to Bīt rēdūti has existed there⁵⁶, this town was likely connected to the previous town because their names were attested in the same text.

3.3 Measurement of the dates crop

“^{giš}*mašihu*” is a measuring container usually made of wood used to measure dates and grains⁵⁷. In the archive’s texts there are two common measuring containers used for delivering the dates and grains: the first named “*mašihu ša šarri*” its capacity is 1 *pānu* (= 36 *qū*)⁵⁸, this measure appeared in one text related to the crop of a date field which belongs to the king’s son (crown prince)⁵⁹. The second was called “*mašihu ša mār šarri*”, it appeared in most of these texts that related to date fields crop, its capacity is 45 *qū*⁶⁰, it is clear that the king’s son’s measure is (1/4) kor, bigger than the king’s measure which is only (1/5) kor.

4. TRANSLITERATION AND TRANSLATION OF THE TEXTS

4.1 Text: 01 (IM 141927), (5.3 * 6.4 * 2.5 cm)

A debt note for imittu

Obv.

- 92 *kur₃ suluppu i-mit-tu₄ eqli*
ša₂ ʿbīt¹ re-du-tu ʿša₂¹ ina ^{uru}bīt-^{lu₂}zak-ka
ša₂ sūti ša₂¹ba-ri-ki-il₃-tam-meš apli-šu₂ ša₂¹zērija^{ia}
ina muḫ-ḫi¹kal-bi-^dbāba apli-šu₂ ša₂^{1d}bēl-aḫḫē^{<meš>}-iddin
5. *ina ^{iti}araḫsamnu suluppa-am₃ ʿ92¹ kur₃*
ina ma-ši-ḫu ša₂ 1 pānu 1 sūtu 3 qa ša₂^{lu₂}mār šarri
ina muḫ-ḫi me-e rabūti^{meš} a-na¹ba-ri-ki-il₃-tam-meš
i-nam-din it-ti 1 kur₃ tu-ḫal lib₃-bi-lib₃-bi
man-ga-ga biltu ša₂ ḫu-ša-bi
10. *i-nam-din 1+en immeru ša₂ na-mir-tu₄*

Lo. edge

3 šiḫil kaspu peṣū^{u₂} i-nam-din

53. Zadok 1985, p. 254; BE 10, no. 15:4; 39:17; 40:17; PBS 2/1, no. 156:20.

54. Text 4: 2, 22.

55. Al-Bayati 2016, no. 24:22.

56. Al-Bayati 2016, no. 24:2.

57. CAD, M/1, p. 366.

58. It was mentioned in a text from the city of Kār-Nabû dated to the 22nd year of the reign of Darius I, It probably not far from Babylon. VAS 3 no. 131:8f; Zadok 1985, p. 196.

59. Al-Bayati 2016, no. 26.

60. Texts 1:6; 4: 9, 10; Joannès & Lemaire 1996, no. 4: 7; Al-Bayati 2016, no. 18:7; no. 24: 10.

Rev.

- ^{lu2}mu-kin-nu ¹ša₂-ḥu-u₂⁶¹ apli-šu₂ ša₂
^{ld}[nuskū]-ēdu-ūšur ¹ap-la-a apli-šu₂ ša₂ ^{ld}šamšaja^{a.a}
^{ld}bēl-kāšir apli-šu₂ ša₂ ^{ld}bēl-uballiṭ^{it}
15. ¹mušallim-^dnabû apli-šu₂ ša₂ ^{ld}nabû-ahhē^{meš}-erība
¹za-bi-da-a apli-šu₂ ša₂ ¹nar-gi-ia
^{lu2}tupšarru ^{ld}nabû-it-tan-nu apli-šu₂ ša₂
^{ld}nabû-ēfir-napšāti^{meš} uru bīt-^{lu2}zak-ka
^{iti}tašrītu ūmu 6^{kam} šattu 21^{kam}
20. ¹da-ru-ma-aš₂-šu₂ šar bābilit^{ki}
u mātātī^{meš}

Translation:

Obverse 1. 92 kor (c. 16.560 liters) of dates, the estimated yield of a field ² of the crown prince's estate in the town Bīt-^{lu2}Zakka, ³ the rental income owed to Barik-Iltammeš, son of Zērija, ⁴ owed by Kalbi-Bāba son of Bēl-aḥḥē¹-iddin, ⁵ in Araḥsamnu 92 kor of dates, ⁶ by the son of king measuring device of 0.1.1.3 kor (c. 45 litres), ⁷ at the edge of waterway to Barik-Iltammeš, ⁸ he will give (these dates), with 1 kor ¹⁰ he will deliver ⁸ palm-mats, palm-shoots, ⁹ fibres and a load of dry branches, ¹⁰ one perfect male sheep (and) ^{low edge} ¹¹ three shekels of white silver, he will give.
Reverse 12. The witnesses, Šaḥû son of ¹³ Nusku-ēdu-ūšur, Aplaja son of Šamšaja, ¹⁴ Bēl-kāšir son of Bēl-uballiṭ, ¹⁵ Mušallim-Nabû son of Nabû-ahhē-erība, ¹⁶ Zabdiya son of Nargija, ¹⁷ the scribe, Nabû-ittannu son of ¹⁸ Nabû-ēfir-napšāti, town Bīt-^{lu2}Zakka. ¹⁹ 6th of Tašrītu, year 21st
²⁰ Darius king of Babylon, ²¹ and countries.

Note: Kalbi-Bāba son of Bēl-aḥḥē-iddin is attested in archive texts⁶², may be the scribe forgot “meš” sign.

4.2 Text: 02 (IM 141921), (5.0 * 5.5 * 2.2 cm)

A debt note for imittu

Obv.

- 35 ¹kur₃ ¹suluppu i-mit-tu₄ eqli
ša₂ bīt re-du-tu ša₂ ina ^{uru}kār-^dadad
ša₂ sūti ša₂ ¹ba-ri-¹ki¹-il₃-tam-meš
apli-šu₂ ša₂ ¹zērija^{ia} ša₂ qātē ^{ld}zababa-šarra-ūšur
5. ^[lu2]rab-bīti ina muḥ-ḥi ^middinā^{na-a} <apli-šu₂ ša₂>
¹bānija^{ia} ina ^{iti}araḥsamnu suluppa-am₃
35 kur₃ ina muḥ-ḥi me-e rabūtī^{meš}
a-na ¹ba-ri-ki-il₃-tam-meš
i-nam-din 1 ¹šiqil¹ kaspu pešū^{u2}

Lo. edge

10. i-nam-din

Rev.

- ^{lu2}mu-kin-nu ¹ia-di-ḥi-ilāni
apli-šu₂ ša₂ ¹[pa]-ni-^dnabû-lu-mur
¹kararaja^{a.a63} apli-šu₂ ša₂ ^{ld}adad-šarra-ūšur
¹ardi-^dbānītū^{tu4} apli-šu₂ ša₂ ¹ḥa-na-na
15. ^{ld}bēl-kāšir apli-šu₂ ša₂ ^{ld}bēl-uballiṭ^{it}

61. “Šaḥû, son of Nusku-edu-ūšur” was mentioned in Wunsch 2022, no. 44:15; Al-Bayati 2016, No. 17:15; 19:14. We suggest that he was the same man in Joannès & Lemaire 1996, no. 4: 14, writhen as “Zaḥû, son of Nabû-ušallim”.

62. Al-Bayati 2016, no. 23:13; 24:3.

63. “Kararaja, son of Adad-šarra-ūšur” was mentioned in Wunsch 2022, no. 44:22; 45:18; 46:20; 54:18; 78:19; Al-Bayati 2016, no. 36:27, we suggest that he was the same man in Joannès & Lemaire 1996, no. 3:16; 5:8, writhen as “im-di-ia”, the second sign should be “ki” instead of “di”, (=Kararaja)

^{lu₂}tupšarru ^{ld}nabû-it-tan-nu apli-šu₂ ša₂
^{ld}nabû-ēfir-napšāti^{meš} uru^dkār-[adad]
^{iti}tašrîtu ūmu 10^{kam} šattu 21^{kam}

Up edge

^{ld}da-ru-ma-aš₂-šu₂ šar bābili^{ki}
 20. u mātāti^{meš}

Translation:

Obverse 1. 35 kor (c. 6.300 litres) of dates, the estimated yield of a field ² of the crown prince's estate in the town Kār-Adad, ³ the rental income owed to Barīk-Iltammeš, ⁴ son of Zērija, under the authority of Zababa-šarra-ūšur, ⁵ the one in charge of the crown prince's estate, owed by Iddinā <son of> ⁶ Bānija, in Araḥsamnu, ⁷ 35 kor of ⁶ dates, ⁷ at the edge of waterway ⁹ he will deliver (these dates), ⁸ to Barīk-Iltammeš, (and) ⁹ one shekels of white silver, ^{Low edge} ¹⁰ he will give. Reverse 11. the witnesses, Iadīḫ-Ilāni ¹² son of Pān-Nabû-lūmur, ¹³ Kararaja son of Adad-šarra-ūšur, ¹⁴ Ardi-Bānitu son of Ḥanana, ¹⁵ Bēl-kāšir son of Bēl-uballiṭ, ¹⁶ the scribe, Nabû-ittannu son of ¹⁷ Nabû-ēfir-napšāti, town Kār-Adad, ¹⁸ 10th of Tašrîtu, year 21st Up edge ¹⁹ Darius, king of Babylon, ²⁰ and countries.

Note: Iddinā son of Bānija is attested in archive texts⁶⁴, may be the scribe forgot “*apli-šu₂ ša₂*” term.

4.3 Text: 03 (IM 141972), (4.5 * 5.4 * 2.2 cm)

A debt note for imittu

Obv.

18 kur₃ suluppu i-mit-[tu₄ eqli]
 ša₂ bīt re-du-tu ša₂ ina ^{uru}[bīt]/
^{ld}nar-gi-ia ša₂ sūti
 {ša₂ sūti} ša₂ ^{ld}ba-ri-ki-il₃-tam-meš apli-šu₂ ša₂
 5. ^{ld}zērija^{ia} ša₂ qātē ^{ld}zababa¹-šarra-ūšur
^{lu₂}rab-bīti ina muḫ-ḫi ^{ld}mu-še-zib-[^dbēl]
 apli-šu₂ ša₂ ^{ld}tābu-^dadad ina ^{iti}araḥsamnu
 suluppa-am₃ 18 kur₃
 ina muḫ-ḫi me-e rabūti^{meš} a-na

Lo. edge

10. ^{ld}ba-ri-ki-il₃-tam-meš
 i-nam-din 1 šiqil ^{ld}kaspu¹ pešū^{lu₂}
^{ld}i-nam-din¹

Rev.

^{lu₂}mu-kin-nu ^{ld}iddinā^{ina-a} apli-šu₂ ša₂
^{ld}bānija^{ia} ^{ld}ardi-^dbānītu^{lu₄} apli-šu₂ ša₂
 15. ^{ld}ḫa-na-na ^{ld}kararaja^{a.a} apli-šu₂ ša₂
^{ld}adad-šarra-ūšur ^{ld}bēl-kāšir
 apli-šu₂ ša₂ ^{ld}bēl-uballiṭ^{iti} ^{lu₂}tupšarru
^{ld}nabû-it-tan-nu apli-šu₂ ša₂ ^{ld}nabû-ēfir-napšāti^{meš}
 uru^dkār-^dadad ^{iti}tašrîtu
 20. ūmu 10^{kam} šattu 21^{kam}

Up edge

^{ld}da-ru-ma-aš₂-šu₂
 šar bābili^{ki} u mātāti^{meš}

Translation:

Obverse 1. 18 kor (c. 3.240 liters) of dates, the estimated yield of the field, ² of the crown prince's estate in the town [Bīt]-, ³ Nargija, the rental income(?) ⁴ the rental income owed to Barīk-Iltammeš son of, ⁵ Zērija, under the authority of Zababa-šarra-ūšur, ⁶ the one in charge of the crown prince's estate, owed by Mušeziḫ-[Bēl], ⁷ son of Tābu-Adad, in

64. Joannès & Lemaire 1996, no. 2:15; Text no. 3, 13,14.

Arašsamnu, ¹¹. he will deliver (these dates), ⁹. at the edge of waterway, to ^{Low edge} ¹⁰. Barīk-Iltammeš (and) ¹¹. one shekels of white silver, ¹². he will give. ^{Reverse} ¹³. the witnesses, Iddinā son of, ¹⁴. Bānija, Ardi-Bānītu son of, ¹⁵. Hanana, Kararaja son of, ¹⁶. Adad-šarra-ūšur, Bēl-kāšir ¹⁷. son of Bēl-uballit, the scribe ¹⁸. Nabû-ittannu son of Nabû-ētir-napšāti, ¹⁹. Town of Kār-Adad, ²⁰. 10th of ¹⁹. Tašrītu ²⁰. year 21st ^{Up edge} ²¹. Darius, ²². king of Babylon and countries.

4.4 Text: 04 (IM 141930), (4.8 * 6.2 * 2.3 cm)

A debt note for imittu

Obv.

- 1 *me* +9 *kur*₃ *sullupu i-mit-tu*₄ <*eqli*>
*ša*₂ *bīt re-du-tu* [*ša*₂] *ina āl* ^{lu₂} *qašti*
*ša*₂ *sūti* *ša*₂ ¹*ba-ri-ki*¹ *il*₃ *-tam-meš*
*apli-šu*₂ [*ša*₂] ¹*zērija*^{ia} *ša*₂ ¹*qātē*¹ <¹^d> *zababa-šarra-ūšur*
5. ^{lu₂} *rab* *ša*₂ *bīt re-du-tu*
ina muḥ-ḥi ¹*ba-ri-ki* [*il*₃] *-tam-meš*
*apli-šu*₂ *ša*₂ ¹*iddinā*^{na.a} *ina* ^{iti} *arašsamnu*
*suluppa-am*₃ 1 *me* +9 *kur*₃
ina ma-ši-ḥu *ša*₂ 1 *pānu* 1 *sātu* 3 *qa*
10. *ša*₂ ^{lu₂} *mār* *šarri* *ina muḥ-ḥi me-e*

Lo. edge

rabūti^{meš} *i-nam-din it-ti* 1 *kur*₃
*tu-hal lib*₃ *-bi-lib*₃ *-bi man-ga* [*ga*]

Rev.

- bilti* *ša*₂ *ḥu-ša-bi* 1 *-en* ¹*immeru*¹
*ša*₂ *na-mir-tu*₄ 2 *šiqil kaspu pešū*^{u₂}
15. *i-nam-din* <^{lu₂} *mu-kin-nu*> ¹*mu-še-zib* ^d*ninurta* *apli-šu*₂ *ša*₂
^{Id} *nergal-iddin* ^{Id} *bēl-iddin* *apli-šu*₂ *ša*₂
¹*nūr-e-a* ¹*ia-di-ḥi-ilāni*
*apli-šu*₂ *ša*₂ ¹*pa-ni* ^d*nabû* ¹*lu*¹ *-mur* ^{Id} *bēl-kāšir*
*apli-šu*₂ *ša*₂ ^{Id} *bēl-uballit*^{it} ¹*kararaja*^{a.a}
20. *apli-šu*₂ *ša*₂ ^{Id} *adad-šarra-ūšur* ^{lu₂} *ṭupšarru*
^{Id} *nabû-it-tan-nu* *apli-šu*₂ *ša*₂ ^{Id} *nabû-ētir-napšāti*^{meš}

Up edge

āl ^{lu₂} *qašti* ^{iti} ¹*tašrītu*¹
¹*umu* 12^{kam} *šattu* [*x*]^{kam} ¹*da-ru-ma-aš*₂ *-šu*₂

Le. edge

šar bābili^{ki} *u mātāti*^f ^{meš}¹

Translation:

Obverse 1. 109 kor (c. 19.620) of dates, the estimated yield of <a field> ². of the crown prince's estate in the town of bow land?, ³. the rental income of Barīk-Iltammeš, ⁴. son of Zērija, under the authority of Zababa-šarra-ūšur, ⁵. the one in charge of the crown prince's estate, ⁶. owed by Barīk-Iltammeš, ⁷. son of Iddinā, in Arašsamnu, ⁸. 109 kor of dates ¹⁰. by the son of king ⁹. measuring device of 0.1.1.3 kor (c. 45 liters), ¹⁰. at the edge of waterway ^{Low edge} ¹¹. he will give (these dates to Barīk-Iltammeš), ¹¹. with 1 kor (of dates) ¹⁵. he will deliver ¹². palm-mats, palm-shoots, fibres (and) ^{Reverse} ¹³. a load of dry branches, one perfect male sheep, ¹⁴. (and) two shekels of white silver, ¹⁵. he will give, <the witnesses>, Mušeziab-Ninurta son of ¹⁶. Nergal-iddin, Bēl-iddin son of, ¹⁷. Nūreja, Iadīḥ-ilāni ¹⁸. son of Pān-Nabû-lūmur, Bēl-kāšir ¹⁹. son of Bēl-uballit, Kararaja ²⁰. son of Adad-šarra-ūšur, the scribe ²¹. Nabû-ittannu son of Nabû-ētir-napšāti ^{Up edge}. ²². town of bow land?, ²³. 12th of ¹⁹. Tašrītu, year [x] Darius, ^{Left edge} ²⁴. king of Babylon and countries.

Note: It seems, according to the information from table (1) below, the valuation commission worked in two separate years, so we suggest the missing year was either (21) or (24).

5. APPENDIX

5.1. Table 1, the estimated yield of date fields, be arranged in chronological order

No.	Estimated yield/ the place	Date of the text	Date and place of delivering	Farmer (tenant)	Additional tax	Reference
1.	92 kor/ Bīt Zak-ka	6th of Tašrītu, 21st of Darius I	Arašsamnu/ the edge of waterway/ By <i>mašīḫu ša mār šarri</i> -the crown prince measure	Kalbi- Bāba/ Bēl- aḫḫē!- iddin	with 1 kor palm-mats, palm-shoots, fibres and a load of dry branches, one perfect male sheep, three shekels of white silver	Text 1
2.	110 kor/ Bīt ^{lu₂} Zak-ka	6th of Arašsamnu!, 21st of Darius I	Arašsamnu/ (the edge of waterway)/ By <i>mašīḫu</i> ...	Ardija/ Šamaš- uballiṭ	with 1 kor palm-mats, palm-shoots, fibres and a load of dry branches, one perfect male sheep, three shekels of white silver	Al-Bayati, 2016, no. 19
3.	125 kor/ Bīt ^m Kurubannu	8th of Tašrītu, 21st of Darius I	Arašsamnu/ (the edge of waterway)/ By <i>mašīḫu ša mār šarri</i>	Anānī-īl /Kurbannu	with 1 kor palm-mats, palm-shoots, fibres and a load of dry branches, one perfect male sheep, three shekels of white silver	Wunch 2022, no. 45
4.	35 kor/ Kār- Adad	10th of Tašrītu, 21st of Darius I	Arašsamnu/ the edge of waterway	Iddinā/ Bānija	One shekel of white silver	Text 2
5.	18 kor/ Kār- Adad	10th of Tašrītu, 21st of Darius I	Arašsamnu/ the edge of waterway	Iddin-Bēl/ Bēl-ahhē- bulliṭ	One shekel of white silver	Joannès & Lemaire 1996, no. 2
6.	18 kor/ Bīt- Nargjia	10th of Tašrītu, 21st of Darius I	Arašsamnu/ the edge of waterway	Mušezi- Bēl/ Tābu- Adad	One shekel of white silver	Text 3
7.	65 kor/ Ālu-ša- ^{lu₂} mār-šarri	10th of Tašrītu, 21st of Darius I	Arašsamnu/ the edge of waterway/ By <i>mašīḫu ša mār šarri</i>	Ninurta- iddin/ Bēl- eṭēri- Nabû.	with 1 kor palm-mats, palm-shoots, fibres and a load of dry	Wunch 2022, no. 46

					branches, one perfect male sheep, one shekels of white silver	
8.	30 kor/ Bīt Itti-Nabû-īnia	20th of Tašrītu, 21st of Darius I	Araḥsamnu	Bulluṭ/ Nabû-isqī-šukun	with 1 kor palm-mats, palm-shoots, fibres and a load of dry branches, (and) one and half shekels of white silver	Joannès & Lemaire 1996, no. 3
9.	140 kor/ Bīt Zak-ka	23th of Tašrītu, 21st of Darius I	Araḥsamnu/ the edge of waterway/ (By <i>mašīḫu ša mār šarri</i>)	Šamaš-iddin/ Šum-iddin	with 1 kor palm-mats, palm-shoots, fibres and a load of dry branches, one perfect male sheep, three shekels of white silver	Al-Bayati 1996, no: 18
10,	100 kor/ Bīt ^{lu2} Zak(sak ₆)-ka	[x] ⁶⁵ of (Tašrītu), 21st of Darius I	Araḥsamnu/ the edge of waterway/ By <i>mašīḫu ša mār šarri</i>	Aḫḫēa/ Nargija	with 1 kor palm-mats, palm-shoots, fibres and a load of dry branches, one perfect male sheep, two shekels of white silver, haba uhinu	Joannès & Lemaire 1996, no. 4
11.	112 kor/ Ālu-ša-er-rešūti (^{lu2} apin ^{meš}), (the town of cultivators)	18th of Tašrītu, 24th of Darius I	Araḥsamnu/ at “ <i>ḫaṣāru</i> ”/ By <i>mašīḫu ša mār šarri</i>	Barīk-il/ Iddinaja!, Il-na-tan-nu/ Šalūpi, Barīk-il/ Iddinaja	with 1 kor palm-mats, palm-shoots, fibres and a load of dry branches, (...)	Al-Bayati 1996, no. 24
12.	130 kor/ Gaditu (?)	28th of Tašrītu, 24th ⁶⁶ of Darius I	Araḥsamnu/ at the water (course)/ By <i>mašīḫu ša šarri</i> -the king measure	Barīk-il/ Šumaja!	with 1 kor palm-mats, palm-shoots, fibres and a load of dry branches, one	Al-Bayati 1996, no. 26.

65. We suggest that the day was (23) when the valuation commission was worked in Āl-zakka, (Al-Bayati 2016, no. 18:19).

66. It seems the year is 25 according to autograph of the text.

					perfect male sheep, three and one to third shekels of (white) silver	
13.	109 kor/ Āl ^{lu2} qašti (town of bow-land?)	12th of Tašrītu, [x] of Darius I	Arašsamnu/ the edge of waterway/ By <i>mašīḫu ša mār šarri</i>	Barīk- Iltammeš/ Iddinā	with 1 kor palm-mats, palm-shoots, fibres and a load of dry branches, one perfect male sheep, two shekels of white silver	Text 4

5.2 Personal names

- Adad-šarra-ūšur father of Karkarāja, no. 2:13; 3:16; 4:20.
- Aplaja son of Šamšaja, no. 1:13.
- Ardi-Bānītu son of Ḫanana, no. 2:14; 3:14.
- Bānija father of Iddinaja, no. 2:6; 3:14
- Barīk-Iltammeš son of Iddinaja, no. 4:6.
- Barīk-Iltammeš son of Zērija, no. 1:3; 2:3; 3:4,10; 4:3.
- Bēl-aḫḫē!-iddin father of Kalbi-Bāba, no. 1:4.
- Bēl-iddin son of Nūreja, no. 4:16.
- Bēl-kāšir son of Bēl-uballiṭ, no. 1:14; 2:15; 3:16; 4:18.
- Bēl-uballiṭ father of Bēl-kāšir, 1:14; 2:15; 3:17; 4:19.
- Ḫanana father of Ardi-Bānītu, no. 2:14; 3:15.
- Iadīḫ-ilāni son of Pān-Nabû-lūmur, no. 2:11; 4:17.
- Iddinaja father of Barīk-Iltammeš, no. 4:7.
- Iddinaja son of Bānija, no. 2:5; 3:13.
- Kalbi-Bāba son of Bēl-aḫḫē!-iddin, no. 1:4.
- Karkarāja son of Adad-šarra-ūšur, no. 2:13; 3:15; 4:19.
- Mušallim-Nabû son of Nabû-aḫḫē-erība, no. 1:15.
- Mušēzib-Bēl son of Ṭāb-Adad, no. 3:6.
- Mušēzib-Ninurta son of Nergal-iddin, no. 4:15.
- Nabû-aḫḫē-erība father of Mušallim-Nabû, no. 1:15.
- Nabû-ēṭir-napšāti father of Nabû-ittannu, no. 1:18; 2:17; 3:18; 4:21.
- Nabû-ittannu son of Nabû-ēṭir-napšāti, no. 1:17; 2:16; 3:18; 4:21.
- Nargija father of Zabdija, no. 1:16.
- Nergal-iddin father of Mušēzib-Ninurta, no. 4:16.
- Nūreja father of Bēl-iddin, no. 4:17.
- Nusku-ēdu-ūšur father of Šaḫû, no. 1:13.
- Pān-Nabû-lūmur father of Iadīḫ-ilāni, no. 2:12; 4:18.
- Šaḫû son of Nusku-ēdu-ūšur, no. 1:12.
- Šamšaja father of Aplaja, no. 1:13.
- Ṭāb-Adad father of Mušēzib-Bēl, no. 3:7.
- Zababa-šarra-ūšur, no. 2:4; 3:5; 4:4
- Zabdija son of Nargija, no. 1:16.
- Zērija father of Barīk-Iltammeš, no. 1:3; 2:4; 3:5; 4:4.

5.3 Places name

Āl ^{lu₂}Qašti, no. 4 :2,22

uruBīt-^{lu₂}Zak-ka, no. 1 :2,18.

uruKār-Adad, no. 2:2,17; 3:19.

uruBīt-Nargjia, no. 3:2.⁶⁷

5.4 Autographs and photos of texts

5.4.1 Text 1, (IM 141927), (5.3 * 6.4 * 2.5 cm)

A debt note for imittu

Text: 01

Museum's number: IM 141927

Dimensions: 5.3 * 6.4 * 2.5 cm

Obv.

5.

10.

Lo. edge

Rev.

15.

20.

1 CM

R. edge

Obv.

5.

10.

Lo. edge

Rev.

15.

20.

1 CM

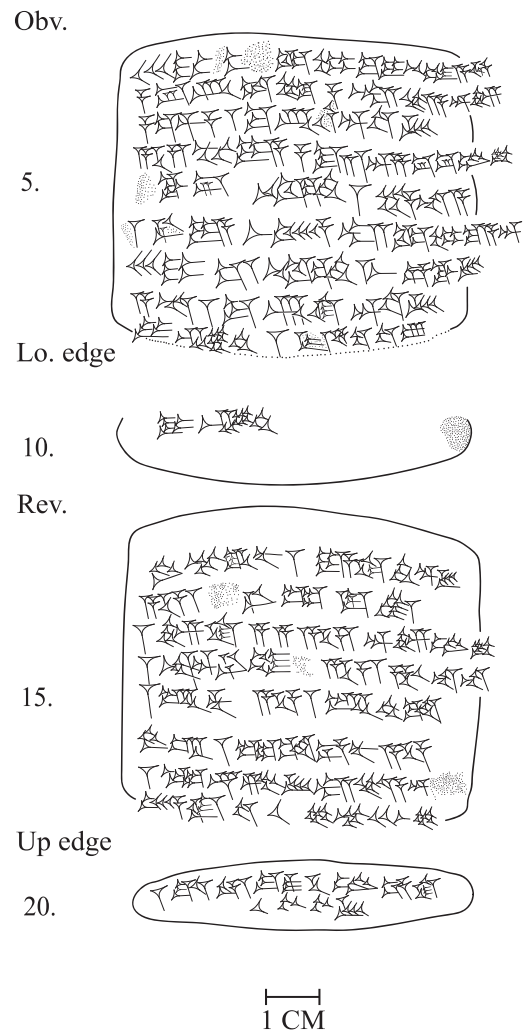
5.4.2 Text 2, (IM 141921), (5.0 * 5.5 * 2.2 cm)

A debt note for imittu

Text: 02

Museum's number: IM 141921

Dimensions: 5.0 * 5.5 * 2.2 cm



5.4.3 Text 3, (IM 141972), (4.5 * 5.4 * 2.2 cm)

A debt note for imittu

Text: 03

Museum's number: IM 141972

Dimensions: 4.5 * 5.4 * 2.2 cm

Obv.

5.



Lo. edge

10.



Rev.

15.



20.

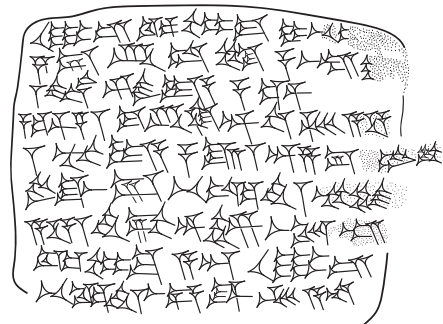
Up edge



1 CM

Obv.

5.



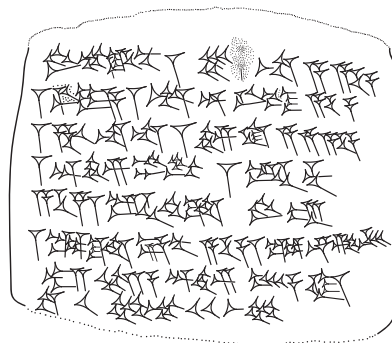
Lo. edge

10.



Rev.

15.



20.

Up edge



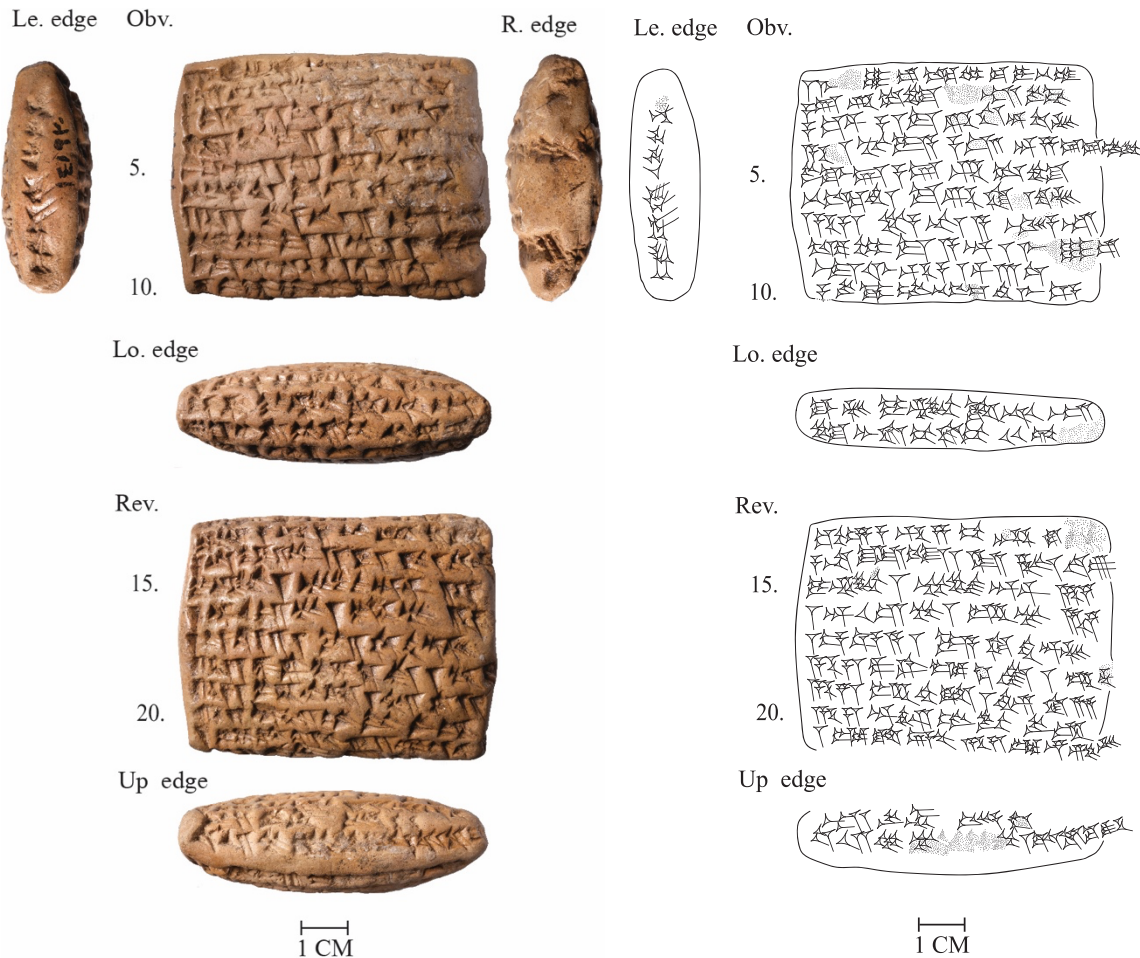
1 CM

5.4.4 Text 4, (IM 141930), (4.8 * 6.2 * 2.3 cm)*A debt note for imittu*

Text: 04

Museum's number: IM 141930

Dimensions: 4.8*6.2*2.3 cm

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ABSTRACT

The research studies four unpublished cuneiform texts from the archive of Zababa-šarra-ūšur dating back to the Late Babylonian period, during the reign of the Achaemenid's king Darius I (521-486 BC) which related to the estimated yield of date fields belonging to Bît rēdûti, the crown prince's estate, the total number of texts associated with this content reached thirteen texts so far, nine of them were previously published. After studying this group of texts, we obtained information about how to estimate the crop of these fields and places of delivering the crop, in addition to the measuring devices and their capacities that are used to weigh it, and the additional tax that must be paid by farmers or tenants which is proportional to the amount of crop, as well as the locations of these fields which were located outside the town of Bît-Abî-râm, furthermore the scribe who recorded most of these texts.

RÉSUMÉ

Pr. Basima Jalil Abed
Department of Archaeology, College of Arts, University of Baghdad
basima.abed72@yahoo.com; basimajalel@coart.uobaghdad.edu.iq

Ass. Pr. Hussein Mohammed Ridha
College of Archaeology, University of Thi-Qar
hussienmodric@yahoo.com; hussien@utq.edu.iq