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## ŠŪZUBU, A CITIZEN OF URUK IN THE SIXTH CENTURY B.C.

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Cuneiform documents from the archives of the Eanna temple contain much valuable information about the inhabitants of the city of Uruk during Neo-Babylonian and Achaemenid times. One of these inhabitants was a certain Šūzubu, son of Kudurru, descendant of the Shepherd of the Regular offerings<sup>1</sup> of the Eanna temple. Referring to the texts YOS 6, 32; YOS 7, 74 and 79 from the reign of Nabonidus, H. M. Kümmel showed that Šūzubu was head of the management of the regular offerings<sup>2</sup> in sheep to the goddess Lady-of-Uruk (i.e. Ištar) and other deities<sup>3</sup>. In all probability, he was not himself a shepherd (*nāqīdu*), but received sheep for offerings from herdsmen. The total number of cattle belonging to Eanna amounted to 5,000 to 7,000 head, while there were also about 100,000 or 150,000 head of small livestock, which were necessary, in particular, for the offering of sacrifices. The temple administration used the services of herdsmen who worked for a certain payment or were given the right to a certain share of the temple income (*isqu*, i.e. prebend). There were three overseers over the livestock on Eanna, at whose disposal were nearly 150 chief herdsmen. The majority day-to-day temple affairs were settled by three individuals: the chief manager of the temple estate (*šatammu*), his deputy, and the royal commissioner (*ša rēš šarri*). The aim of this

<sup>1</sup> LÚ *rē'u sattukki ginê*. In a number of texts this designation after the name of Šūzubu is omitted.

<sup>2</sup> Ša muḥḥi ginê.

<sup>3</sup> Kümmel 1979, 85–86.

paper is to research Šūzubu's activities, which have not been taken into consideration in previous publications. For this let us consider all the texts where he is referred to in their chronological order.

The earliest known to us document where Šūzubu is referred to was written in the second regnal year of Nabonidus. This is YOS 6, 32 according to which he received 1 *kor* (180 litres) of barley as his food portion (*kurummatu*) for the period from the month Nisannu to Addaru, i.e. for a whole year (see line 54). In other words, he was paid 15 litres of barley for each month of that year. The document BIN 2, 133 was drafted in the third regnal year of Nabonidus (553 B.C.) and records that Šūzubu was issued 9 *kor* 5 *sūt* (c. 1650 litres) of grain and dates in order to pay to the shepherds of sheep (lines 21–22). In the same year he was issued some sheep (the number is destroyed) to distribute among several shepherds of the Eanna temple personnel (YOS 19, 288). YOS 19, 229 is a memorandum from the fourth regnal year of Nabonidus concerning 1 ¼ shekels of silver delivered to Šūzubu (he is named without patronymic but with the title the Shepherd of the Regular offerings) as salary for herdsmen. YOS 6, 77 contains an investigation concerning the embezzlement of some sheep (the number is destroyed) and five minas of wool of temple property. The audit was conducted by Eanna administration as well as by some persons admitted to all parts of the temple and citizens,<sup>4</sup> including Šūzubu. As seen from TCL 12, 82 written in the same fourth year of Nabonidus' reign, Šūzubu received from Eanna storehouse 1 *pān* (?) 9 *qa* (45 litres) of barley as his provision (*kurummatu*).

YOS 19, 157 from the seventh regnal year of Nabonidus records the withdrawal of barley by the same person as well as by some other superintendents, including chief of the temple prison, in order to distribute it among their subordinates. In the same year Šūzubu together with his men (*šābū*) was sent at the disposal of the "chief of account" (*rab nikkassi*) in order to pick out sheep for regular offerings (GCCI 1, 311). The next text from the eighth year of Nabonidus states, in particular, that 1000 *kor* (i.e. 180 000 litres) of barley were given from the storage of Eanna for the monthly allotments and provisions for various persons and for diverse purposes and in a broken context Šūzubu is mentioned as a Shepherd of the Regular offerings (OIP 122, No 83:40).

YOS 6, 232 was drafted in the twelfth regnal year of Nabonidus, and in it Šūzubu is referred to among some witnesses (line 28). The text records that three persons were responsible for determining the size of rental payment from an Eanna field. In one more document from the same year he, together with another person, stood surety for a man. They were liable to the penalty if they do not produce him

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<sup>4</sup> Lines 27–28: *ērib bītuti, kiništi, mār banê*.

at the request of the administrator and scribes of the Eanna temple. When the administrator had summoned this man, they would have had to bring and deliver him to temple authorities or otherwise to pay six minas of silver to the Eanna temple (YNER I, No 3). YOS 19, 52 is a promissory note from the 14<sup>th</sup> year of Nabonidus reign which records the obligation of two persons to repay thirty shekels of silver and 8 *kor* (1440 litres) of barley to Eanna. In this text Šūzubu appears among witnesses. YOS 6, 219 drafted in the next year records that a certain person was in debt to Eanna and as security for his obligation had to place three female slaves. In this text Šūzubu acts as one of the guarantors.

YOS 6, 224 from the fifteenth regnal year of Nabonidus states that the governor of Uruk named Nādin, king's steward Silim-ili in the Eanna temple and many citizens (*mār banê*), including Šūzunu, were present when the administrator of Eanna and king's steward in the same temple charged a certain man that he was son of a temple slave woman and therefore was to be considered as a slave of the goddess Lady-of-Uruk.

YOS 19, 11 records lease of a boat in the 17<sup>th</sup> regnal year of Nabonidus by a certain person to the Eanna temple for one month for 6 ½ shekels of silver. The document was composed in the presence of Šūzubu and some other persons. OrAn 25, No 5 from the same year also states that a certain man has given to Eanna a boat which carried 30 *kor* (5400 litres) for a rent of three shekels of silver. Šūzubu and one more person acted as witnesses of the contract.

YOS 7, 8<sup>5</sup> was drafted in the first regnal year of Cyrus on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of the month Ajaru and contains an audit of accounts of sheep offerings for the period during the 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> years of Nabonidus given at the disposal of Šūzubu. In particular, in one case from 4856 sheep 1473 were given at his disposal for regular offerings. In another case from 6816 sheep brought "from the shearing shed" 56 were left at his control.

The next four documents were also drafted in the first regnal year of Cyrus, and in three of them he is listed among witnesses. AnOr 8, 37 contains the obligation of one person to go to Babylon together with Eanna temple officials to attend a trial examination. YOS 7, 9 is a document regarding fifty sheep given at the disposal of two individuals. In YOS 7, 78 contains an acknowledgment of responsibility for disposition of wool. In AnOr 8, 41 from the same year he is mentioned among many citizens (*mār banê*) in whose presence the manager of the temple estate and royal commissioner declared to three Eanna overseers of the herds (*rab būli*) that nobody of their archers may leave the outpost of the king.

OrAn 25, 6 from the third year of Cyrus' reign records the rent of a boat to Eanna by two private persons for the sum of five shekels of silver per month, and

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<sup>5</sup> See for transliteration and translation San Nicolò 1949, 140–142.

Šūzubu is mentioned among the witnesses. He also appears as a witness in several other documents of Eanna everyday activities. TCL 13, 134 from the fourth regnal year of Cyrus contains the declaration of a herdsman that he had delivered a sheep to a certain man in order to pass it over to the Eanna temple but that person did not give it there. Šūzubu is mentioned among witnesses also in AnOr 8, 52 from the sixth year of Cyrus' reign which contains a certain obligation of three shepherds to Eanna administration.

The last dated text where Šūzubu is referred as a witness is YOS 7, 79 from the 8<sup>th</sup> regnal year of Cyrus.<sup>6</sup> It records that the administration of Eanna gave to three persons eight-month prebend of dairyman in order to draw milk for soaking. These persons received from Eanna two cows together with their calves and were obliged to “draw milk for the sacred meal of the Lady-of-Uruk.” Šūzubu appears among witnesses also in YOS 19, 114 regarding assignment of a certain man to temple watch. The date of the text is broken off.

In a number of texts a certain Šūzubu is referred to without any patronymic but judging from the context in all probability he was the person under discussion since they record various transactions with Eanna sheep (see, for instance, AnOr 8,14 and 33; YOS 19, 295 dated to the reign of Nabonidus). Here can be mentioned also by two letters from Eanna archives sent by Šūzubu to temple administration. In one of them he informs his officials that two goats belonging to the temple were sold for 9½ shekels of silver (BIN 1, 37). In another letter he writes that a boat is ready to transfer barley to Eanna but a certain man detains it (YOS 3, 128).

As we have seen above, Šūzubu is referred to in thirty-five so far published documents, the first of which was written in the second regnal year of Nabonidus and the last one was drafted in the eighth year of Cyrus' rule. In other words, he was active as a member of the Eanna temple personnel and its functionary at least during twenty-third years, 554–531 B.C. He was an overseer of the regular offerings in sheep at Eanna. It is known that this service belonged to his family, at least, during three generations.<sup>7</sup> The main functions of these officials were to organize regular offerings to the Lady-of-Uruk (i.e. Ištar) and to some other deities, including Nergal. Belonging to Eanna staff, he was a member of Uruk city society (*mār banê*, i.e. citizens with full rights) and consequently was active in its everyday economic and social life participating, in particular, as a witness of various temple business transactions and other documents. He also acted as a guarantor that persons who were in debt to Eanna would fulfil their obligations. For his service he received payment in barley.

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<sup>6</sup> See transliteration and translation Beaulieu 2003, 165.

<sup>7</sup> See San Nicolò 1949, 140; Kümmel 1979, 85–86.

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## Abstract

This paper is concerned with the activities of an official of the Eanna temple in the city of Uruk in Babylonia during the period 554–531 B.C. His name was Šūzubu and he was an overseer of the regular offerings in sheep to the Lady-of-Uruk (i.e. Ištar) and other deities. He also performed various other functions typical of the members of the temple personnel.

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