

**HIRING OF WORKERS  
DOCKETS FROM THE OLD BABYLONIAN PERIOD**

BY  
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Volume 45 of Cuneiform Texts from Babylonian Tablets in the British Museum (CT 45) includes a number of copies of docketts concerning hired workers which add some new material to the group of docketts published by the present author in his book "Some aspects of the hiring of workers in the Sippar region at the time of Hammurabi" (Copenhagen, 1962). The following numbers used in the left column refer to the numbers in this book, and the added letters arrange the docketts of CT 45 into the array of the previous material. The inscription is placed on three sides of the pyramidal clay lump. The first side designates the hired worker, the second a personal name, the third, month and day. Except for 60 a, they are impressed with seal i (p. 19), one of the two already known seal impressions on the docketts hitherto published, whereas 60 a bears a new seal, not formerly found in use on these docketts. To follow the numeration of the docketts, the number of the seal of 60 a would be: ii a. The docketts derive from the collection Bu. 88-5-12.

6 a            1 lú hun-gá <sup>d</sup>rNergal<sup>l</sup> ([Nè]-iri<sub>11</sub>-gal)-mu-ša-lim  
CT 45:73                            <sup>11</sup>kin <sup>d</sup>Inanna u<sub>4</sub> 26-kam  
B.M. 78235

23 a            1 lú hun-gá <sup>d</sup>Šamaš(<sup>d</sup>UTU)-tap-pé-e  
CT 45:67                            <sup>11</sup>du<sub>6</sub>-kù u<sub>4</sub> 12-kam  
B.M. 78229



Except for docket 52 the designation of the worker is *lú hun-gá*; the text of 52 is broken, but leaves the probability of reconstructing [*hun-gá*].

The conclusion to which I came was that the dockets may derive from more than one year, e. g., both seals were used on dockets inscribed with the same date. The group of personal names from the lists of the 42nd year seems to have more features in common with the names known from the dockets than do the names from the lists of the 35th year (p. 42 f.). Even though no correlation between dockets and lists had been proved, the affinity may give us a hint with regard to the dating of the dockets. None of the seal impressions i and ii has till now been found on dated documents—so far as I know—but the docket CT 45, no. 71, B. M. 78233, which is dated from the second year of Samsuiluna, bears the seal impression i:

1 šitim	1 "šitim".
u <sub>4</sub> (?) ša al-tar <sup>3</sup>	On the day when work with the hoe
é-ka-si-ka <sub>8</sub> (?)	(at) the house (or temple?) . . .
i-pu-šu(?)	he did.
gîr Ipiq(SIG)- <sup>a</sup> Iš-ha-ra	Overseer Ipiq-Išhara.
tuš <sub>u</sub> -numun-a u <sub>4</sub> 11-kam	4th month, 11th day.
mu ama-ar-gi(?)	
ki-en-gi in-gar(?)	

This docket seems to have some connection with dockets nos. 118 & 119 of the book quoted (p. 59), so far as the personal name is concerned. Chronological sequence: CT 45:71: 11/IV — no. 119: 10/XII; both within the 2nd year of Samsuiluna. — no. 118: 10/VII of the 3rd year—or 4th year—of Samsuiluna.

The transcription of the first part of no. 118:

3 lú šitim	3 "šitim",
Ipiq(SIG)- <sup>a</sup> Iš-ha-ra	(under the supervision of) Ipiq-Išhara
ša úru(?) é(?)-gal	made the foundation of the "palace"(?) <sup>4</sup>
<u>i-pu-šu</u>	

<sup>3</sup> al-tar, *rapāqu*, to hack, MSL I, p. 186-187. — Cf. also A. Leo Oppenheim: Catalogue of the Cuneiform Tablets of the Wilberforce Eames Babylonian Collection in The New York Public Library. Tablets of the time of the third dynasty of Ur (1948), p. 114: N 14: "to dig".

<sup>4</sup> Cf. the suggestion made by Dr. Rivkah Harris, *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 83/2 (1963) p. 252: *bād é-gal*.

These dockets contribute to our knowledge of the work of the *šitim*, which is normally translated "bricklayer", "Baumeister", as the equivalent of Accadian *itinnum*.<sup>5</sup> From this it may be deduced that the *lú šitim*, though the skilled craftsman, and the *lú hun-gá*, the unskilled worker, were both engaged in activities comprising digging as well as bricklaying.

The name of *Ipiq-<sup>a</sup>Išhara* is also known from a list where he is designated *šitim*. The list contains the name of another person, *dumu šitim*, and is dated 29/VI in the 35th year of Hammurabi.<sup>6</sup>

*gír Ipiq-<sup>a</sup>Išhara*: "under the supervision of *Ipiq-Išhara*". The name on the docket belongs to the man who was to receive the docket, and where more than one worker is mentioned, also the wages on their behalf.<sup>7</sup>

The hypothesis that the work carried out by the hired workers was some kind of building activity seems still valid. The date of the dockets sealed with the seal impression *i* may be regarded as dating from the period round the 2nd year of Samsuiluna — and consequently also from the last years of Hammurabi.

<sup>5</sup> E. g. A. Falkenstein: Die neusumerischen Gerichtsurkunden, Bd. 3 (1957) p. 162. (Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften. Philosophisch-historische Klasse. Abhandlungen. Neue Folge. Heft 44).

<sup>6</sup> Not "u, 26" as given in the transcription MW:HW p. 50.

<sup>7</sup> Cf. MW:HW p. 62 f.