

Sumerian Texts from Irišaḡrig Archive

Wafaa Hadi Zwaïd^(*)

Received Date: 19/11/2023

Reviewed Date: 18/12/2023

Accepted Date: 20/12/2023

Available Online: 1/6/2024

Abstract:

This article presents the transliteration and translation of eight unpublished texts (Tablets-Bullae) of Iri-saḡrig/Al-Šarrakī archive from Ur III period which they were kept in Iraq Museum and dated from the 7th year of Amar-Suena's til the 2nd year of Ibī-Suen's reign. Iri-saḡrig is located about 4 days travel by boat from Umma in the south of Mesopotamia. Its texts dealing with receiving barley and wool as well as expenditures of meat and bread and other objects.

Keywords: Ur III, Iri-saḡrig, Account balance, Workers, Sumerian

(*) Departement of Archaeology /College of Arts/University of Baghdad

E-mail: wafaahadi@coart.uobaghdad.edu.iq

ORCID: 0000-0002-0538-0562

نصوص سومرية من أرشيف اري-ساكر

وفاء هادي زويد(*)

تاريخ المراجعة: ٢٠٢٣/١٢/١٨

تاريخ التقديم: ٢٠٢٣/١١/١٩

تاريخ النشر الالكتروني: ٢٠٢٤/٦/١

تاريخ القبول: ٢٠٢٣/١٢/٢٠

الملخص:

تقدم هذه المقالة قراءة وترجمة ثمانية نصوص (رقم -وصلات) غير منشورة من أرشيف اري-ساكر من عصر اور الثالثة محفوظة في المتحف العراقي وارخت من السنة السابعة من حكم الملك امار-سين الى السنة الثانية من حكم الملك ابي-سين؛ تقع مدينة اري-ساكر على بعد اربعة اميال بواسطة القارب عن مدينة اوما في جنوب بلاد الرافدين. هذه النصوص تتعلق بتسلم الشعير والصوف وكذلك نفقات اللحم والخبز ومواد اخرى.

الكلمات المفتاحية: أور الثالثة، اري-ساكر، حسابات، عمال، سومري

(*) قسم الآثار/ كلية الآداب/ جامعة بغداد

Introduction:

Iri-saḡrig located about four days travel by boat from Umma, not upstream the Tigris from Adab¹, the trip between Umma and Iri-saḡrig was four days of towing-time, therefore less than average five days of towing-time between Umma and Kasahar, confirming that Iri-saḡrig situated downstream of Kasahar². Its location is still unknown because these texts came from Iri-saḡrig, a Sumerian city that had never been excavated before except mentioning them in the texts coming from other sites such as the archives of Garašana³.

The archaeological sites in Iraq were exposed to illegal excavations which resulted in the extraction of large numbers of archaeological finds especially cuneiform texts and smuggling them outside Iraq, including the site of Sumerian city Iri-saḡrig, and a number of these were retrieved to the Iraqi Museum. It was determined that they came from Iri-saḡrig by comparing them with published texts of a number of researchers based on personal names and month names in these texts⁴. Mieroop suggested that the texts came from north Sumer, possibly from location close or at Tell Al-Wilayah⁵.

Catalogue of Texts

No.	IM.	Size in cm.	Date	Contents
1	235356	5,7×4,9×3	ŠS 9	Receipt of barley as a royal gift by ilum-asu, the scribe from urkununa son ḡirinisa
2	221582	4,3×3,8×1,6	ŠS 9	Receipt of barley by ilum-asu, the scribe from buga'a, the herdsman
3	235369	4,1×3,9×1,9	IS 2	Receipt of wool by bazmum, wool scribe from ba'aga, the fattener
4	222711	3,9×3,3×1,5	IS 2	Male workers
5	227006	3,1×2,9×1,2	AS 7	Female workers (for) grain transferred
6	212956	2,2×3×1,2	broken	Expenditure of meat (Bulla)
7	212276	1,9×2,9×1	IS 1	Expenditure of bread (Bulla)
8	205144	3,4×4,7×1,5	-	Offering Regular of flour (Bulla)

No.1(IM. 235356)

Transliteration:

Obv.

1. 1. [...] 'še¹ 'gur¹
2. niĝ₂-ba lugal
3. ki ur-ku₃-nun-na/dumu
ĝiri₃-ni-i₃-sa₆-ta
4. diĝir-a-su₂ dub-sar
5. šu ba-ti

Rev.

6. niĝ₂-ka₉ a-gu₃/a-na/ba-a-
ĝar
7. mu ^dšu-^dEN-ZU/lugal
uri^{ki}-ma-ke₄ e₂-šara₂
umma^{ki}/i₃-du₃

S.l

diĝir-a-su₂ dub-sar

dumu bi₂-bi₂ dub-sar

Comments:

2. niĝ₂-ba lugal: This term means royal gift¹.

3. The name urkununa,son of ĝirinisa occur in Irisaĝrig archive for the first time in this text.

4. diĝir-a-su₂ dub-sar: ilumasu,the scribe is well-known from Irisaĝrig archive,is attested from AS9-IS3 ².

The seal impression for (ilum-asu,the scribe son of bibi,the scribe) is well-attested at Irisaĝrig from the year ŠS 7-IS 2.³

Translation:

Obv.

1. [---] liters of barley
2. royal gift
3. from urkununa,son of
ĝirinisa
4. Ilumasu,the scribe
5. received it

Rev.

6. account balance to
account put
7. The year Šu-Suen,king of
Ur,built the Šara temple of
Umma (ŠS9)

No.2(IM. 221582)

Transliteration:

Obv.

1. [...]še gur
2. [ki pu]-ga-a na-gada-ta
3. *diğir-a-su*₂ dub-sar
4. šu ba-ti

Rev.

5. niğ₂-ka₉-ta a-gu₃/*a-na*/ba-a-ğar
6. mu ^dšu-^dEN-ZU/lugal
uri^{ki}-ma-ke₄ /e₂-šara₂
umma^{ki}/-ka mu-du₃

Translation:

Obv.

1. [---] liters of barley
2. from buga'a, the
herdsman
3. Ilumasu, the scribe
4. received it

Rev.

5. from Account balance to
account put
6. The year Šu-Suen, king of
Ur, built the Šara temple
of Umma (ŠS9)

Comments:

2. pu-ga-a, (na-gada) occurs in only two text from Irisağrig, is dated from ŠS4-ŠS9¹. Who is mentioned as the herdsman, son of Suen-SAGA².

No.3(IM. 235369)

Transliteration:

Obv.

1. 25 gu₂ ½ ma-na siki gir₂-
gul
2. ki ba-a-ga kurušda-ta
3. *ba-az-mu-um* dub-sar /-
siki
4. šu-ba-ti

Rev.

5. mu en-^dinana/unu^{ki} maš₂-
e i₃-pa₃

Translation:

Obv.

1. 25 talents half mana of
gir₂-gul wool
2. from ba'aga, the fattener
3. bazmum, wool scribe
4. received it

Rev.

5. The year that the en-priest
of innana was chosen by
omen (IS 2)

Comments:

1. siki gir₂-gul: according to Al-Mutawalli,N.&Sallberger,W. the phrase means is scraped off wool¹,while Hilgert,M. defined it as (plucked with) the arītu-knife².This phrase is known as (a specification of wool)³ by Kleinerman,A.& Owen,D.I.
2. The name ba'aga,the fattener (kurušda) is only known in (196) Irisaḡrig texts,was mainly active during AS7-IS3⁴.
3. Bazmum,the wool scribe,attested in only seven Irisaḡrig archive,is dated from AS7-IS2⁵.

No.4(IM. 222711)**Transliteration:**

Obv.

1. 50 guruš 2 sila₃ inda₃-ta
2. 6 dumu-nita₂ 1 sila₃
inda₃-ta
3. inda₃-bi 0.1.4 6 sila₃
4. u₄ 1-kam u₄ 30-še₃
Space
5. šu-niḡen₂ 0.3.0 inda₃

Rev.

6. eren₂ šar-ra-ab-du dab₅-
ba
7. ib₂-gu₇
8. ša₃ en-nu-ḡa₂
9. ḡiri₃ še-le₂-bu-um /dub-
sar
10. zi-ga še-KIN-ku₅
- 11.mu en ^dinana/unu^{ki} maš₂-
e i₃-pa₃

Translation:

Obv.

1. 50 male workers 2 liters of
bread
2. 6 male child 1 liter of
bread
3. its bread, 11 liters
4. from 1 day to 30 day
Space
5. total 3 liters of bread

Rev.

6. worker-administrator
seized
7. ate it.
8. in the prison
9. via šelebum,the scribe
- 10.expended month
harvesting of barley
- 11.The year that the en-priest
of inana was chosen by
omen (IS2)

Comments:

6. $eren_2$ šar-ra-ab-du:the title means worker-administrator is well documented in only fifteen texts from this Archive¹.

8. en-nu-ğ_{a2}:Akk. muşşartum means prison,guard².

9. ġiri₃ še-le₂-bu-um dub-sar:The name is mentioned in six texts from this Archive³.Šelebum ,the scribe appeared on two seal impressions in Irisağrig:

še-le₂-bu-um dub-sar dumu lugal-i₃-zu⁴, še-le₂-bu-um dub-sar dumu a-li₂-ni-šu⁵.

No.5(IM. 227006)

Transliteration:

Translation:

Obv.

Obv.

1. 175 geme₂ /u₄ 1-še₃

1. 176 female workers for one day

2. še-bala-a

2. grain transferred

3. ugula a-a-ni-šu
Space

3. the formen,ayanišu
Space

Rev.

Rev.

4. ġiri₃ lu₂-du₁₁-ga

4. via,luduga

5. u₃ AN-PU-A? dub-sar

5. and AN-PU-A,the scribe

Space

Space

6. iti a₂-ki-ti

6. month Akiti-festival

7. mu ħu-uh₂-nu-ri^{ki}/ba-ħulu

7. The year that Ĥuħnuri was destroyed (AS 7)

Comments:

2. še-bala-a:the term means grain transferred¹.

3. ugula a-a-ni-šu,this name is attested in only Girsu text and is dated to ŠS 8².Probably appears here for the first time in this Archive.

4. The name luduga,the via (ġiri₃) is known only two texts from Irisağrig, which is dated to ŠS 6³. ġiri₃ lu₂-du₁₁-ga appears also in both Umma and Girsu⁴.

No.6(IM. 212956)

Transliteration:

Obv.

1. 79 im-libir
2. zi-ga uzu
3. iti izim-a-dara₄

Rev.

4. [......] ^{ki} /ba-ḫuḡ

Translation:

Obv.

1. 79 old tablet-record
2. expended meat
3. month of the festival
of the wild goat

Rev.

3. [---]

Comments:

1. im-libir: the term means old tablet-records¹.
2. uzu: Akk. šīru means meat².
3. iti izim-a-dara₄: the ninth month on the calendar of Irisagrig³, the month also transliterated as (iti izim-a-sig₂)⁴.

No.7(IM. 212276)

Transliteration:

Obv.

1. 53 im-libir
2. zi-ga inda₃
3. iti niḡ₂-^den-lil₂-la₂

Rev.

4. mu ^di-bi₂ /-^dEN-ZU
lugal

Obv.

4. 53 old tablet-record
5. Expended bread
6. month of property of
Enlil

Rev.

7. The year that Ibbi-
Suen became king
(IS 1)

Translation:

Comments:

3. iti niḡ₂-^den-lil₂-la₂: the eighth month on the calendar of Irisagrig¹.

No.8(IM. 205144)**Transliteration:**

Obv.

1. 2.0.0. dabin (ZI₃.ŠE)
2. sa₂-du₁₁ zi₃
3. ki *ma-šum*

Rev.

4. iti a-bi

Obv.

1. 2 liters of flour
barley
2. regular offering of
flour
3. ki mašum

Rev.

4. month of Abi

Translation:**Comments:**

3. ma-šum: the name occurs in Irišaḡrig¹.
4. iti a-bi: the fifth month on the calendar of Irišaḡrig².

Conclusion:

The texts of this article belong to Ur III dynasty and were dated from the 7th year of Amar-Suena's until the 2nd year of Ibbi-Suen's reign..The provenance of these texts from Iri-šaḡrig Archive was based on the month names like:(izim-a-dara₃,niḡ₂-^den-lil₂-la₂,a-bi),and various officials of Iri-šaḡrig such as: ba'aga the fattener-bazmum,the wool scribe (text 3) puga,the herdsman-ilumasu,the scribe (texts 1-2)-Šelebum,the scribe (texts 4) are well-attested only in Iri-šaḡrig texts.ilumasu and bazmum were receiving barley and wool from ba'aga and puga from the year ŠS9-IS2.

Index**Personal Names:***a-a-ni-ni-šu* ugula 5:3

ba-a-ga,kurušda 3:2

ba-az-mu-um dub-sar-siki 3:3*diḡir-a-su₂* dub-sar 1:4;2:3lu₂-du₁₀-ga ḡiri₃ 5:4

ma-šum 8:3

Pu-gu-a,na-gada 2:2

še-le₂-bu-um dub-sar 4:9Ur-ku₃-nun-na son ḡiri₃-ni-i₃-sa₆
1:3**Sumerian and phrases:**a-gu₃ a-na: 1:6;2:5

ba-a-ḡar: 1:6;2:5

dab₅-ba: 4:6

dabin (ZI₃.ŠE): 8:1

dumu-nita₂: 4:2

en-nu-ġa: 4:8

eren₂ šar-ra-ab-du: 4:6

geme₂: 5:1

guruš: 4:1

ib₂-gu₇: 4:7

im-libir: 6:1;7:1

inda₃: 4:1,2,3,5;7:2

niġ-ba lugal: 1:2

niġ-ka₉: 1:6;2:5

sa₂-du₁₁ zi₃: 8:2

še-bal-la: 5:2

siki gir₂-gul: 3:1

šu-ba-ti: 1:5;2:4;3:4

šu-niġin₂: 4:5

uzu: 6:2

zi-ga: 4:10;6:2;7:2

index of month names:

iti a-bi 8:4

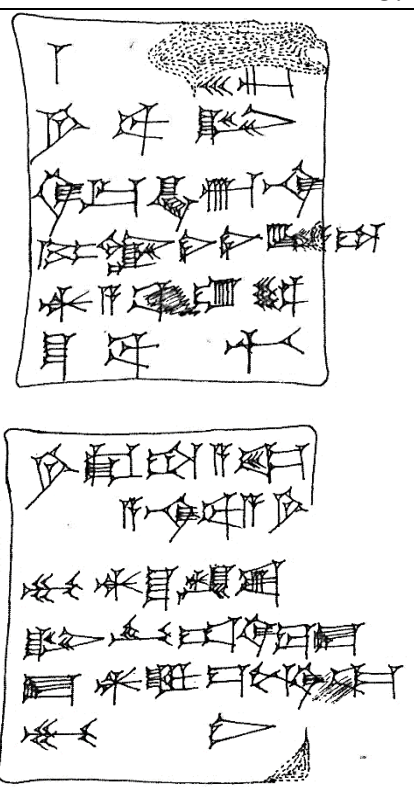
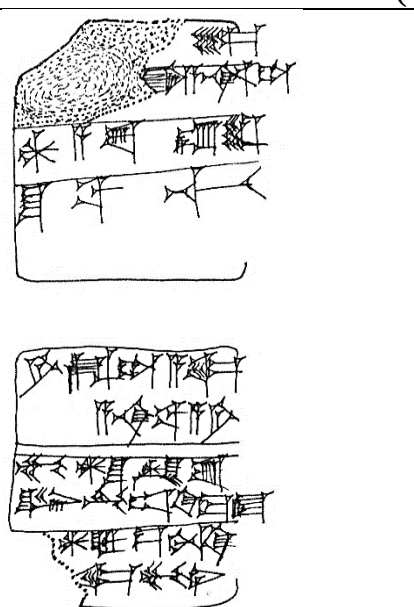
iti izim-a-dara₄ 6:3

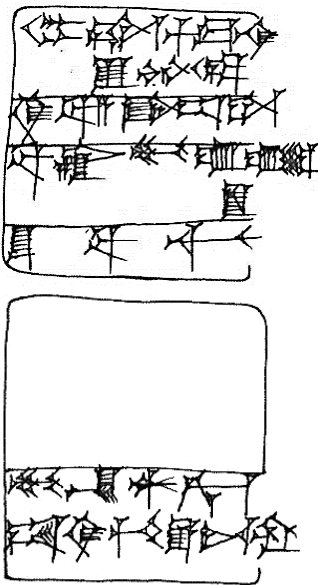
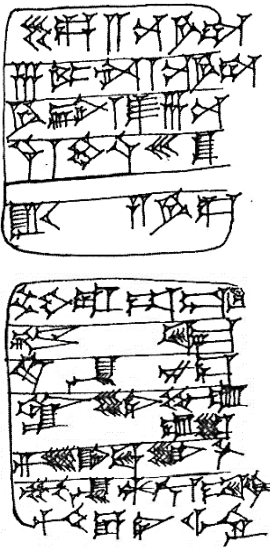
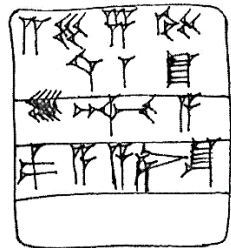
iti niġ₂-^den-lil₂-la₂ 7:3

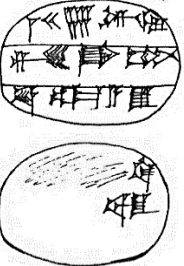
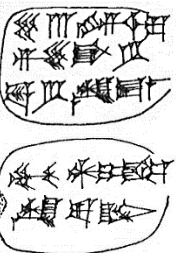
iti še-KIN-ku₅ 4:10

iti a₂-ki-ti 5:6

Photo and copy of Texts

No.1(IM. 235356)	
	
2(IM. 221582)	
	
3(IM. 235369)	

	
4(IM. 222711)	
	
5(IM. 227006)	
	

	
6(IM. 212956)	
	
7(IM. 212276)	
	
8(IM. 205144)	
	

References:

- (1) Wilke,C.,”Der aktuelle Bezug der Sammlung der Sumerischen Tempelhymnen und ein Fragment eines Klageliedes”,ZA/62,1972,p.55-61
- (2) Steinkeller,P.,”New light on the Hydrology and Topographt of Southren Babylonia” , ZA/911,2001p.74
- (3) Molina,M.”On the Location of Iri-saḡrig”,in:S. Garfinkle/M. Molina (eds.) , from the 21st century BC to the 21st Century AD,Proceedings of the International Conference on Neo-Sumerian Studies Held in Madrid 22-24 2010,2013,p.60

- (4) Garfinkle, S. "Turam-ili and the community of Merchants in the UrIII period", JCS/54, 2002
- (5) Mieroop, Van D., "Turam-ili: an UrIII Merchant", JCS/38, 1986, 6
- (6) Ozaki, T. & Sigrist, M., UrIII Administrative Tablets British Museum, BPOA/I, Madrid, 2006, N.1261:5; Molina, M., Testi Amministrativi Neosumerici dal British Museum BM 13601-14300, MVN/XXII, Roma, 2003, N.253:2
- (7) Widell, M., "Ilum-asu. A Scribe from Irisagrig", ARCHIV ORIENTÁLNI 90, 2022, p.26; Zwaid, W.H., & Cripps, E.L., "Some UrIII Texts from Irisagrig in the Iraq Museum", Akkadica 141-2, 2020, N.1
- (8) Widell, M., Op cit., p.27
- (9) Owen, D.I., Cuneiform Texts primarily from Iri-Sagrig/Al-Šarrākri and the History of the UrIII Period, Nisaba 15/2, Bethesda, 2013, N.554
- (10) Nisaba 15/2, N.294
- (11) Al-mutawalli, N., & Sallaberger, W., "The Cuneiform Documents from the Iraq Excavation at Drehem", ZA/107-2, 2017, N.19:7, 8, 17
- (12) Hilgert, M., Drehem administrative Documents from the Reign of Amar-Suen, OIP/121, Chicago, 2003, p.403
- (13) Kleinerman, A., & Owen, D.I., Analytical Concordance to the Garšana Archives, CUSAS/4, Maryland, 2009, p.167
- (14) Zwaid, W.H., "A New Text from Ur III dynasty on Ba'aga, the fattener", Journal of the College of Education, N.45-2, 2021, p.187, for Ba'aga fattener activities during UrIII see: Op cit, p.192-193
- (15) Owen, D.I., Nisaba 15-2, N.38:3; Sigrist, M. & Ozaki, T., Tablets from the Irisagrig archive, CUSAS 40-2, University Park, 2019, N.205:3; 661:3; 1111:2; 1262:5; 1498:3; AL-Rebeawi, A.S., Unpublished cuneiform texts in the Iraqi Museum from the Period of Ur III (2112-2004 BC), Unpublished MA. Thesis, University of Bagdad, 2022, (In Arabic), N.4:3
- (16) Owen, D.I., Nisaba 15-2, N.49:9; 614:6; 719:17; 764:7; 810:33; 814:24; Sigrist, M. & Ozaki, T., CUSAS 40-2, N.3:3; 64 Rev.15; 106:2; 508:2; 733 Rev.2; 815:16; 849:3; 876:3; 1841 Rev.2
- (17) Oppenheim, L. & Others, The Assyrian Dictionary of University of Chicago, CAD-M/ I, Chicago, 1977, p.333:a; Von Soden, W., Akkadisches Handwörterbuch, AHW, Band II, Wiesbaden, 1972, p.620:b
- (18) Nisaba 15-2, N.614:rev 8; CUSAS 40-2, N.106:rev 7; 508:rev 6; 614:; 733 Rev 14; 1841:rev 15
- (19) CUSAS 40-2, N.106: Nisaba 15-2, N.846
- (20) Nisaba 15-2, N.614
- (21) Yildiz, F., & Tohro, G., Die Umma-Texte aus den Archäologischen Museen zu Istanbul, UTI/VI, Bethesda, 1997, N.2896:8; Changyu Liu, "The Neo-Sumerian Texts in the Williams College Museum of Arts", Orient 55, 2020, N.6

-
- (22) Gomi,T.,&Sato,S.,Selected Neo-sumerian Administrative Texts from from the British Museum,SNAT,Chuo-Gakuim University,1990,N.147:6
 (23) Nisaba15-2,N.367:6,387:7
 (24) Ozaki,T.,Lost and the found Cuneiform Collections Rediscovered,Nisaba 33-1,Messina, 2020 , N.147;Sigrist,M.&Ozaki,T.,Administrative UrIII Texts in the British Museum,PPAC 5, Supplement to Journal of Ancient Civilizations 3,Changchun,2013,N.1088,1309
 (25) Nisaba15-1,p.385
 (26) AHW,p.1249:b
 (27) Ozaki,T.,”On the Calendar of Uri-saĝrig”,ZA/106, 2016
 (28) Garfinkle,S.J.,Private Enterprise in Babylonia at End of Third Millennium BC, Dissertation , Columbia University,2000,N.82
 (29) Ozaki,T.,Op.cit,p.131
 (30) CUSAS 40-2,N.961:rev 5;1126:rev 5;1344:rev 5
 (31) Ozaki,T.,Op.cit,2016,p.134

Bibliography of Arabic References:

- Al-mutawalli,N.,&Sallaberger,W.,”The Cuneiform Documents from the Iraq Excavation at Drehem”,ZA/107-2·2017.
- AL-Rebeawi,A.S.,Unpublished cuneiform texts in the Iraqi Museum from the Period of Ur III (2112-2004 BC),Unpublished MA. Thesis,Universty of Bagdad,,2022,N.4:3. ,(In Arabic).
- Changyu Liu,"The Neo-Sumerian Texts in the Williams College Museum of Arts", Orient 55 , 2020
- Garfinkle,S.J.,Private Enterprise in Babylonia at End of Third Millennium BC, Dissertation , Columbia University,2000,N.82
- Garfinkle,S.”Turam-ili and the community of Merchants in the UrIII period”,JCS/54,2002
- Hilgert,M.,Dreham administrative Documents from the Reign of Amar-Suen, OIP/121,Chicago, 2003
- Kleinerman,A.,&Owen,D.I., Analytical Concordance to the Garšana Archives,CUSAS/4, Maryland ,2009
- Mieroop, Van D.,”Turam-Ili:an UrIII Merchant”,JCS/38,1986
- Molina,M.,Testi Amministrativi Neosumerici dal British Museum BM 13601-14300, MVN/XXII,Roma,2003
- Molina,M.”On the Location of Iri-saĝrig”,in:S. Garfinkle/M. Molina (eds.) , from the 21st century BC to the 21st Century AD,Proceedings of the International Conference on Neo-Sumerian Studies Held in Madrid 22-24 2010,2013
- Oppenheim,L.&Others,The Assyrian Dictionary of University of Chicago,CAD-M I, Chicago, 1977
- Owen,D.I.,Cuneiform Texts primarily from Iri-Saĝrig/Al-Šarrākri and the Hostory of the UrIII period,Nisaba 15/1,Bethesda,2013
- Owen,D.I.,Cuneiform Texts primarily from Iri-Saĝrig/Al-Šarrākri and the History of the UrIII period,Nisaba 15/2,Bethesda,2013
- Ozaki,T.&Sigrist,M.,UrIII Administrative Tablets British Museum, BPOA/I ,Madrid ,2006

- Ozaki,T.,”On the Calendar of Uri-saĝrig”,ZA/106, 2016
- Ozaki,T.,Lost and the found Cuneiform Collections Rediscovered,Nisaba 33-1,Messina, 2020
- Sigrist,M.&Ozaki,T.,Administrative UrIII Texts in the British Museum,PPAC 5, Supplement to Journal of Ancient Civilizations 3,Changchun,2013
- Sigrist,M.&Ozaki,T.,Tablets from the Irišaĝrig archive,CUSAS 40-2, University Park,2019
- Steinkeller,P.,”New light on the Hydrology and Topographt of Southren Babylonia” , ZA/91¹,2001
- Von Soden,W.,Akkadisches Handwörterbuch,AHw,Band II,Wiesbaden,,1972
- Wilke,C.,”Der aktuelle Bezug der Sammlung der Sumerischen Tempelhymnen und ein Fragment eines Klageliedes”,ZA/62,1972
- Yildiz,F.,&Tohro,G.,Die Umma-Texte aus den Archäologischen Museen zu Istanbul, UTI/VI , Bestheda,1997
- Zwaid,W.H.,&Cripps,E.L.,”Some UrIII Texts from Irišaĝrig in the Iraq Museum”,Akkadica 141-2,2020
- Zwaid,W.H.,” A New Text from Ur III dynasty on Ba’aga, the fattener”,Journal of the College of Education,N.45-2,2021