Collations to ED Lu C and D

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§1. Each of the Early Dynastic lexical 'professions' lists ED Lu C and D has been known to Assyriology from a single source from Fara, published by A. Deimel in WVDOG 43 (= SF) as numbers 47 and 48 respectively. They were re-published in MSL 12 (1969), which contains editions of professions lists from earliest times to the first millennium B.C. The editions of these two lists have profited from updated and improved readings. However, the source tablets were not collated. During a visit to Berlin in February 2000, the present author was able to collate the tablets, the results of which are presented below. The text of ED Lu C in particular has changed significantly. Only limited notes will be given here; the detailed analysis will be left to M. Krebernik, who has begun a major work on all the Fara school tablets. Notes provided in MSL 12, 15-16, are not repeated here.

§2. The lists are an intriguing mix of familiar, well-attested professions and more enigmatic terms, some of which lend themselves to plausible interpretation, while others are more difficult to comprehend.

VAT 12619 (SF 47; ED Lu C)

§3. This list is now also known from a prism fragment from Nippur (6N-T 920). This fragment will be published by M. Civil in the official volume of 6N-T texts. Thanks are due to Civil for sending me information and a photo of the fragment. This Ur III(?) duplicate demonstrates that the identification of obverse and reverse by Deimel was incorrect and must be reversed. On account of this and some other problems with line division, the line numbering requires change; the numbering of MSL 12 is given in brackets following the new line number. Variants from the prism fragment are not given here.

§4.

| 1 (66) | 21 (51) |
| 2 (67) | 22 (52) |
| 3 (68) | 23 (53) |
| 4 (69) | 24 (54) |
| 5 (70) | 25 (55) |
| 6 (71) | 26 (56) |
| 7 (72) | 27 (57) |
| 8 (73) | 28 (41) |
| 9 (74) | 29 (42) |
| 10 (58) | 30 (43) |
| 11 (59) | 31 (44) |
| 12 (60) | 32 (45) |
| 13 (61) | 33 (46) |
| 14 (62) | 34 (47) |
| 15 (63) | 35 (34) |
| 16 (64) | 36 (35) |
| 17 (65) | 37 (36) |
| 18 (48) | 38 (37) |
| 19 (49) | 39 (38) |
| 20 (50) | 40 (39) |

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§5.


4-6: The apparent SI should be understood as a variant of ma₂ in these lines. These terms refer to boatmen.

7: For the latest discussion of this term see H. Steible, Die neusumerischen Bau- und Weihinschriften (=FAOS 9/2; Stuttgart 1991) 63-64.

8: There are traces of extra signs not copied by Deimel.


10-15: These lines form a sequence of terms associated with animals in various ways.

11: This is perhaps someone who must count sheep, if šid here has its common meaning “to count” (= manú), well attested with reference to animals.

19: There is a damaged sign between lu₁ and lab₄.

25: The “NUNUZ+AB₂” in MSL 12 seems closer to USAN₃.

28: There are traces before usan₃ which were not copied by Deimel.

32-38: These again are animal-related. 30, 34: The NITA-signs are transliterated according to the chart in I.J. Gelb, “Terms for Slaves in Ancient Mesopotamia,” in M. A. Dandamayev et al., eds., Societies and Languages of the Ancient Near East: Studies in Honour of I. M. Diakonoff (Warminster 1982) 96. In 30, the sign seems to have the remains of two Winkelhaken preserved. The first sign does indeed seem to be gidim.

47: These are both members of the cult of Enki. 48, ensi is written EN.LI; there is no room available for a ME. This writing is also known from Ebla, e.g. ED Lu E source I1 (MEE 3, 39).

52-54: These once more are animal-related. 53 and 54 are given by Deimel as one line but a ruling between them is preserved on the tablet.

56-60: These lines seem to be music-related. 58: cf. Kagal section 9: 7’ (MSL 13, 248): nundun-bur₂-re-balag-ga₂ = na-sa₂-a-sum “to lament”; also Enki’s Journey to Nibru 64-65: ad-du₁₀-ga nundun-bur₂-re-balag-ga₂ ša₂ ni₂-ba-ka ad ḫa-ba-ni-ib-ša₄ “The ... resounded by themselves with a sweet sound”.

This is given by Deimel as two lines but no ruling is visible on the tablet. The gar₃ are clear; Deimel’s copy is inaccurate.
This is given in SF 47 as ezen-x-giš. The last sign is definitely not giš (being preceded by a column of at least 9 horizontals). The x may be a separate sign (perhaps LAGAR) or may be part of the last sign.

§6. Many of the entries in this list are obscure. A few are found in other lists of this period e.g., l.1: i₂-ra₂-ra₂ (ED Lu E 80), l. 14: lu₂-sa-gaz (ED Lu E 153), or are familiar from contemporary administrative documents.

1 i₃-ra₂-ra₂
2 Nl:SUM:ir
3 gu₄-GiR₂-GiR₂
4 lu₂-ti-ru
5 lu₂-AMA:GIII:MEŞ₂
6 lu₂-UHₓₓSAL:DUN:DU:x
7 'x':[...]
8 lu₂-PI
9 sukkal-du₈
10 lu₂-IGI+LAGAB
11 lu₂-kisal
12 nu-ak-ak
13 gu-RU
14 lu₂-sa'-gaz₂
15 ka₂₉-ka₂₉
16 tug₂,Zl-ZlA:[x]:A
17 lu₂-sc-ku₄-ku₄
18 lu₂-SlA:NI₂x
19 lu₂-nu₂
20 lu₂-DUGxA
21 ba-sar-ra
22 igi₂zii²:kit:gal
23 lu₂-ka-sig
24 lu₂-u₁₄-nu-gar
25 gu₂-gal
26 bahar₃
27 mu-TAG-TAG

[two and a half columns empty]

§7.
3: GIR₂ here is perhaps to be read šum₄.
   Cf. ED Lu E 197 (MSL 12, 19): lu₂-šah-GIR₂.
10: For this term see F. Pomponio and G. Viscicato, Early Dynastic Administrative Tablets of Su-ruppak (Naples 1994) 12, n. 13.
15: This line is given in MSL 12 as nigin
    (from Deimel’s “rim-rim”). However, the entry is ka₂₉-ka₂₉(ri₉₉₂ri₉₄₉₄).
16: The reading of Zl-ZlA here is not clear
    but see M. Civil, “Feeding Dumuzi’s Sheep: the Lexicon as a Source of Literary
    Inspiration,” in F. Rochberg-Halton, ed., Language, Literature, and History: Philo-
17: See J. Krecher, “DU= ku₄(-r) ’eintreten, hineinbringen.’” ZA 77 (1987) 7-21 for the
    sign transliterated here ku₄.
24: The sign transliterated u₃ might instead be igi-x or x(-x). For u₃-nu-gar cf. ED Lu E 186
    (MEE 3, 40), The Instructions of Shu-
    ruppag 42-43: u₃ nu-gar-ra na-ab-be₂-'e'
    eger-bi-šex giš-par₄-gin₇ ši-meši-ib₂-la₂-e
    “You should not speak improperly; later
    it will lay a trap for you.”, and see P. At-
    tinger, Éléménts de linguistique sumérienne: La construction de du₁′/eldi «dire» (=OBO
    Sonderband; Freiburg and Göttingen 1993) 734-735, §895.