

“Of Dogs and (Kennel)Men”

David I. Owen
Cornell University

§1. Introduction

§1.1. The recent article by C. Tsouparopoulou (2012) on the role of dogs at Drehem and in the army during the Ur III period brings to the fore additional interesting insights into both the Ur III military organization (recently Lafont 2009) and the various roles that certain military officials played in the administration of canines at Puzriš-Dagan (Drehem) and other sites in Sumer. The article also reveals the limitations imposed by evidence coming primarily from a single site, in this case Puzriš-Dagan, and how new evidence, unfortunately today mostly from unprovenienced sources, enhances greatly our understanding of the existing evidence. It also calls into question the rigid position that some scholars maintain by refusing to consider unprovenienced¹ evidence for their research.² The following comments

based entirely on unprovenienced data, which are excluded from consideration by these individuals, reveal the haplessness of their reasoning.

§1.2. The publication of 1159 mostly unprovenienced texts, the great majority from the city of Irisagrig/*Āl-Šarrākī* (Owen 2013³) and environs follows upon the publication and elaboration of ca. 1400 texts, all unprovenienced, from Garšana (Owen & Mayr 2007; Kleinerman & Owen 2009; Heimpel 2009; Owen 2011)⁴ that provided substantial new and often unique data for the Ur III period. The texts from Irisagrig/*Āl-Šarrākī* are doing no less. Among the latter, and directly relevant to the role of canines⁵ in Ur III society, are those texts that

¹ I use the term “unprovenienced” to mean any text or artifact that was not properly excavated. This includes numerous texts and artifacts seen on the Internet or in museum, public and private collections that have been acquired through donation, purchase, or confiscation by the authorities. I do not differentiate dates of acquisition, most of which are unknown to me, nor am I qualified to or interested in assigning any legal/illegal status to any artifact referenced in this or any other study. I find it entirely unacceptable, if not illogical, that some scholars regularly utilize data from unprovenienced texts obtained prior to 1970 (or some later designated date) but exclude from consideration texts obtained after that date, no matter how relevant such texts might be to their work.

² It is reflected in the statement in Tsouparopoulou’s dissertation, where she wrote that, “it should be emphasized at this point that tablets appearing on E-bay or published online without being part of a known collection acquired before 1990, are not treated in this thesis and were not taken into account at all. These tablets are thought to be of illegal nature and the author does not endorse practices of using illicitly dug tablets for the study of ancient Mesopotamia. Thus, this thesis will present only a tenta-

tive view of how Drehem was organized based on material acquired only before 1990” (Tsoupoloupoulou 2008: 25 n. 32). This approach would not appear to comport with the tenants of research and scholarship that strive to incorporate all available evidence regardless of its source. I have attempted in *Nisaba* 15/1, pp. 27-38 & 335-356, to address some of the consequences that an overly strident application of a policy of hands off of irregularly excavated text artifacts must necessarily represent to our historical view of ancient societies, where that view is clouded enough by a *lack* of source material.

³ Text references below from this volume are in bold.

⁴ Presumably, Tsouparopoulou’s omission of the source for her statement about “Šu-Kabta from Garšana” (*ZA* 102, 7 n. 18), based entirely on unprovenienced data in these volumes published since 2007, reflects her position.

⁵ Also noteworthy are the substantial new data on the care and feeding of palace lions (ur-maḥ e₂-gal), which occur here for the first time directly associated with the palace, and often in the same texts as canines. Although otherwise well known from the Ur III archives, lions occur frequently in Iri-Saḡrig/*Āl-Šarrākī* texts and apparently were kept as royal pets, perhaps in pits or cages, in a local palace as they were at Ur (cf. Owen 1979: 63 & 2013 *sub* lion keeper).

document the care and feeding of palace dogs by dog handlers/kennelmen at Irisagrig/*Āl-Šarrākī*. Following upon the publication of *Nisaba* 15 (Owen 2013), the following observations can now be offered.

§2. The Evidence

§2.1. Dog Handler/Kennelman (*sipa ur-gi₇-ra*)

There are seven dog handlers known now from the Irisagrig/*Āl-Šarrākī* texts. None is attested in other sources as a dog handler/kennelman or serving in any other capacity in the ration distribution texts (“messenger texts”) at Irisagrig/*Āl-Šarrākī*. All of the names are Semitic and, except for Puzur-KU(-ku⁶; *MVN* 11, 175 obv. 4 and seal), all names appear in the Ur III corpus for the first time. The following chart lists named dog handlers/kennelmen who are documented primarily for three cities—*Āl-Šarrākī*, Girsu, and Puzriš-Dagan. With few exceptions,

the individual dog handlers/kennelmen are mentioned infrequently by name. At Puzriš-Dagan Ilum-ba-ni can be documented over a twenty-five year period. He was followed by Iš-me-ilum and Puzur-Enlil, the latter two having overlapped their predecessors at Puzriš-Dagan. Although there are overlapping positions among the dog handlers/kennelmen, there seems to have been only a single individual in charge of the dogs at any one extended period. At Irisagrig/*Āl-Šarrākī* the sequence appears to have been Šu-Nabar → Puzur-Šulal → Puzur-Ku(-ku?) → Puzur-Šulal → Epine → Iku-me/išar → Irdum-alsin → Iku-me/išar → Rima. Their basic daily rations at Iri-Sagrig/*Āl-Šarrākī* were two liters of soup/stew (tu₇). Aside from two single references from Umma, it is worth noting that dog handlers/kennelmen are not documented by name at any of the other major cities in Sumer.

<i>name</i>	<i>city</i>	<i>sipa</i>	<i>date(s)</i>	<i>sources</i>
A-ta ₂ -na-aḥ	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-ra	AS 5 iv 19	<i>MVN</i> 11, 152 obv. 12
Ad-da	Girsu	ur-gi ₇	AS 5 viii 14	<i>MVN</i> 19, 42 obv. 2
	Girsu	ur-gi ₇	AS 5 ? ?	<i>MVN</i> 19, 43 obv. 2
	Girsu	ur-gi ₇	? v 30	<i>Santag</i> 7, 182 obv. 2
Dan-a-bu	Girsu	ur-ra	AS 3 xi -	<i>BAOM</i> 2, 29 52 obv. 5
Dan- ^d Šul-gi	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	AS 1 iii -	<i>BIN</i> 3, 520 obv. 4
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-ra	AS 1 v -	<i>CST</i> 229 obv. 3
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	AS 4 viii 22	<i>OIP</i> 121, 499 obv. 5
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-ra	AS 5 vi ?	<i>OIP</i> 121, 501 obv. 3
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	AS 6 iv 10	<i>ASJ</i> 7, 123 14 obv. 4
E ₂ -a-ba-ni	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	AS 5 ix -	<i>OIP</i> 121, 54 obv. 4
En-um-E ₂ -a	uncertain	ur-gi ₇ -ra	Š 47 - -	<i>Hirose</i> 402 obv. 3
E-pi-ne ₍₂₎ ⁶	Āl-šarrākī	ur-gi ₇ e ₂ -gal	ŠS 8 iii -	<i>Nisaba</i> 15, 451 obv. 6, seal
	Āl-šarrākī	ur-gi ₇ -ra	IS 2 v 23	<i>Nisaba</i> 15, 774 obv. 19
I-ku-me/mi-šar	Āl-šarrākī	ur-gi ₇ -ra	IS 1 i 6	<i>Nisaba</i> 15, 557 obv. 30
	Āl-šarrākī	ur-gi ₇ -ra	IS 1 i 20'	<i>Nisaba</i> 15, 561 obv. 33
	Āl-šarrākī	ur-gi ₇ -ra	IS 1 i ?	<i>Nisaba</i> 15, 563 obv. 26
	Āl-šarrākī	ur-gi ₇ -ra	IS 1 vi 14	<i>Nisaba</i> 15, 596 obv. 25
	Āl-šarrākī	ur-gi ₇ -ra	IS 1 vi 20	<i>Nisaba</i> 15, 598 obv. 29
	Āl-šarrākī	ur-gi ₇ -ra	IS 1 vi 24	<i>Nisaba</i> 15, 599 obv. 32(mi)
	Āl-šarrākī	ur-gi ₇ -ra	IS 1 vi 28	<i>Nisaba</i> 15, 600 obv. 35
	Āl-šarrākī	ur-gi ₇ -ra	IS 1 x 30	<i>Nisaba</i> 15, 630 obv. 4(mi)
I ₃ -li ₂ -a-ti	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	AS 5 x 17	<i>PPAC</i> 4, 96 obv. 5
Ilum-ba-ni	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-ra	Š 28 xii -	<i>MVN</i> 15, 242 obv. 17
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur	Š 43 i -	<i>OIP</i> 115, 295 obv. 5
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-ra	Š 43 v -	<i>Orient</i> 16, 40 4 obv. 8
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-ra	Š 43 v -	<i>MVN</i> 11, 184 obv. 33
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur	Š 43 ix -	<i>PDT</i> 1, 30 obv. 6
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-ra	Š 44 ii 11	<i>OIP</i> 115, 232 obv. 13
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur	Š 44 iii -	<i>TCS</i> 1, 69 obv. 6

⁶ E-pi-ne appears to be the only dog handler/kennelman associated specifically with palace dogs.

	Puzriš-Dagan	ur	Š 44 v -	<i>OIP</i> 115, 301 obv. 5
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur	Š 44 vii -	<i>CST</i> 70 obv. 6
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-ra	Š 45 viii -	<i>TRU</i> 276 obv. 7
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-ra	Š 45 viii -	<i>MVN</i> 13, 127 obv. 12
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	Š 46 ii -	<i>TCS</i> 1, 120 obv. 5
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-ra	Š 46 iii 29	<i>MVN</i> 2, 114 obv. 33
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-ra	Š 46 vi -	<i>PDT</i> 2, 1065 obv. 8
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	Š 46 viii 4	<i>PDT</i> 1, 467 rev. 9
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur	Š 47 i -	<i>Aegyptus</i> 19, 235 2 obv. 6
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur	Š 47 ii -	<i>MVN</i> 8, 102 obv. 6
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur	Š 47 ii -	<i>BPOA</i> 6, 578 obv. 7
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur	Š 47 vii -	<i>OIP</i> 115, 313 obv. 6
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇	Š 47 viii 29	<i>AUCT</i> 2, 194 obv. 3
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-ra	Š 47 viii -	<i>NYPL</i> 321 obv. 5
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇	Š 47 ix -	<i>MVN</i> 13, 645 obv. 6
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur	Š 47 xi 26	<i>MVN</i> 15, 314 obv. 7
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-ra	Š 47 xi -	<i>Aegyptus</i> 19, 235 1 obv. 6
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-ra	Š 48 viii -	<i>Princeton</i> 2, 132 obv. 8
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	Š 48 ix -	<i>MVN</i> 2, 160 obv. 6
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-ra	Š 48 xi -	<i>AUCT</i> 1, 331 obv. 6
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	AS 1 i -	<i>BPOA</i> 7, 2656 obv. 6
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	AS 1 iii -	<i>BIN</i> 3, 520 obv. 3
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-ra	AS 1 v -	<i>CST</i> 229 obv. 3
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-ra	AS 2 iv -	<i>BPOA</i> 6, 82 obv. 6
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-ra	AS 2 x 30	<i>SAT</i> 2, 724 rev. iii 43, v 16
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur	AS 2 x -	<i>MVN</i> 8, 132 obv. 7
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-ra	AS 2 x -	<i>MVN</i> 8, 102 orev. 6
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-ra	AS 3 iii 27	<i>MVN</i> 11, 184 obv. 33
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-ra	AS 3 x 30	<i>BIN</i> 3, 68 obv. 9
			- ii -	<i>ITT</i> 3, 4926 obv. 4
I ₃ -na-ze ₂ -er	Girsu	ur		<i>Nisaba</i> 15, 625 obv. 6
Ir-du-um-al-si-in	Āl-šarrākī	ur-gi ₇ -ra	IS 1 iii -	<i>TRU</i> 330 obv. 8 ⁷
Iš-me-ilum	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	AS 3 xii -	<i>BCT</i> 1, 92 obv. 4
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	AS 4 viii -	<i>BCT</i> 1, 93 obv. 3
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	AS 4 viii -	<i>MVN</i> 13, 476 obv. 4
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	AS 5 iii -	<i>PDT</i> 1, 439 obv. 6
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	AS 5 vi 26	<i>PPAC</i> 4, 93 obv. 3
Ku-ul-ti	Girsu	ur	ŠS 8 ii 18	<i>MVN</i> 2, 149 rev. 8
	Girsu	ur	ŠS 8 ii 28	<i>MVN</i> 2, 93 obv. 3
	Girsu	ur	ŠS 8 ix 27	<i>Berens</i> 56 obv. 6
Ku ₅ -da	Girsu	ur-gi ₇	AS 5 viii 14	<i>MVN</i> 19, 42 obv. 3
	Girsu	ur-gi ₇	AS 5 ? ?	<i>MVN</i> 19, 43 obv. 3
	Girsu	ur-gi ₇	? v 30	<i>Santag</i> 7, 182 obv. 3
La-la	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	AS 7 vi 28	<i>PDT</i> 2, 869 obv. 3
Lu ₂ -dingir-ra	Umma	ur	? - -	<i>Rochester</i> 157 obv. 32
Lugal-ur ₂ -ra-ni	Puzriš-Dagan	ur	Š 35 vii -	<i>Nisaba</i> 8, 118 obv. 2
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	AS 5 xi -	<i>PDT</i> 1, 114 obv. 3
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	AS 6 ix -	<i>Rochester</i> 63 obv. 3
	Puzriš-Dagan	sipa	[?] - -	<i>SmithC</i> 38 34 obv. 13
Na-ra-ma-da	Umma	ur-ra	- - -	<i>TCS</i> 1, 130 obv. 3
Puzur ₄ - ^d En-lil ₂	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-ra	AS 7 i -	<i>AUCT</i> 2, 89 obv. 9
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	AS 7 xii -	<i>TRU</i> 333 obv. 6

⁷ The ugula is I₃-lal₃-lum, also known from Āl-Šarrākī; see note 14 below.

	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	AS 8 xii -	<i>BAOM</i> 6, 136 288 obv. 3
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	ŠS 5 xii -	<i>BIN</i> 3, 243 obv. rev. 23
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	ŠS 6 - -	<i>MVN</i> 3, 271 obv. 3
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	ŠS 8 i -	<i>Aegyptus</i> 19, 236 6 obv. 4
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	ŠS 8 vi -	<i>PDT</i> 1, 409 obv. 8
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	ŠS 8 vii -	<i>SACT</i> 1, 178 obv. 4
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	ŠS 8 xii 12	<i>UDT</i> 171 obv. 4-5
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	ŠS 9 iii -	<i>MVN</i> 13, 89 obv. 4
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	ŠS 9 ix -	<i>PDT</i> 1, 7 obv. 4
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	ŠS 9 x -	<i>AUCT</i> 1, 224 obv. 4
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	ŠS 9 xii 29	<i>SET</i> 99 obv. rev. ii, 1
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	ŠS 9 xii 29	<i>SET</i> 99 obv. rev. iii, 1
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	? - -	<i>PDT</i> 1, 515 obv. vii, 12
Puzur ₄ -eš ₁₈ -dar	Girsu	ur-gi ₇ -re	? v 18	<i>DoCu</i> 343 obv. 7
	Umma	ur-gi ₇ -ra	? - 24	<i>SET</i> 247 obv. 6
	Girsu	ur-gi ₇	???	<i>AuOr</i> 16, 210 29 obv. 6
Puzur ₄ -KU(-ku [?]) ⁸	Āl-šarrākī	ur-gi ₇ -ra	ŠS 4 vii	<i>Nisaba</i> 15, 283 obv. 7
Puzur ₄ -dŠu-lal	Āl-šarrākī	ur-gi ₇ -ra	ŠS 3 xii 30	<i>Nisaba</i> 15, 258 obv. 6
	Āl-šarrākī	ur	ŠS 7 x -	<i>Nisaba</i> 15, 420 obv. 7, seal
Rim-ma	Āl-šarrākī	ur-gi ₇ -ra	IS 2 x 21	<i>Nisaba</i> 15, 855 obv. 15
Ša ₃ -ku ₃ -lum	Girsu	ur-ra	? - -	<i>TCTI</i> 2, 2807 obv. 23
Šu-Na-ba-ar	Āl-šarrākī	ur-gi ₇	ŠS 3 i -	<i>Nisaba</i> 15, 229 obv. 7
Šar-ru-um-ba-ni	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-ra	AS 1 ix -	<i>ASJ</i> 7, 123 15 obv. 3
Šu-i ₃ -li ₂	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	AS 1 xii 1	<i>PDT</i> 2, 825 obv. 3
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	AS 3 xi 28	<i>SACT</i> 1, 147 obv. 8
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	AS 3 xii -	<i>TRU</i> 330 obv. 13 ⁹
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	AS 4 xii 25	<i>SACT</i> 1, 190 obv. rev. ii, 10
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-ra	AS 4 xi 8	<i>Tavolette</i> 241 obv. 4
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	AS 8 iii 26	<i>Princeton</i> 2, 106 obv. 14
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	AS 8 iv -	<i>BIN</i> 3, 188 obv. 3
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	AS 8 x -	<i>MVN</i> 13, 543 obv. 3
Šu-La-lum	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	ŠS 2 xii -	<i>PDT</i> 1, 346 obv. rev. 45
Šu-Me-me	Girsu	ur-gi ₇	? viii -	<i>MVN</i> 19, 66 obv. 3
	Girsu	ur-gi ₇	- ix -	<i>TUT</i> 227 obv. 4
Tul ₂ -ta	Girsu	ur	- - -	<i>MVN</i> 7, 150 obv. 2
Ur-nigar	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	Š 47 - -	<i>SA</i> 49 obv. 3 (pl. 5)
Ur-[sanga]	Umma	ur-gal	? - -	<i>UTI</i> 5, 3188 obv. xi 11'
Wi-me	Girsu	ur-ra	? ix -	<i>MVN</i> 2, 278 obv. ii, 9'
Wi-mu	Girsu	ur-gi ₇	? vi 8	<i>TUT</i> 230 obv. 4
	Girsu	ur-gi ₇	???	<i>AuOr</i> 16, 210 29 obv. 5
Zi-im-zi-la-ah _h	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	AS 3 iii -	<i>SAT</i> 2, 742 obv. 5
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-ra	AS 5 vii 4	<i>ASJ</i> 4, 66 12 obv. 3
	Puzriš-Dagan	ur-gi ₇ -ra	???	<i>PDT</i> 2, 1105 obv. 2'
Zu-ḥu-ti	Girsu	ur-gi ₇	? viii -	<i>MVN</i> 19, 66 obv. 4
	Girsu	ur-gi ₇	- ix -	<i>TUT</i> 227 obv. 4

§2.2. Palace Dogs (*ur-gi₇e₂-gal*)¹⁰

ur-gi₇ e₂-gal, *Nisaba* 15, 283 obv. 6 (tablet & envelope); 420 obv. 6; 451 obv. 5; 718 rev. 10. All references to dogs in this archive are to palace dogs.

⁸ The name is known from a single Nippur text, *MVN* 11, 175 obv. 4 (IS 2/-/-). There is also a Puzur₄-Ku-lal known from a text from the Tūram-ilī archive (*JCS* 38, 58 23 rev. 2 [IS 2/-/-]), but this may be a mis-copy of -ku-ku' and requires collation.

⁹ The ugula is I₃-lal₃-lum is also known from Āl-šarrākī; see note 14 below.

¹⁰ Palace dogs are known from only four previously published Umma texts, *Princeton* 1, 185 obv. 1 (AS 8/viii/1), *Nik* 2, 440 obv. 1 (IS 2/ix/15), *AAICAB* 1/1, pl. 30,

§2.3. *Types of Dogs*

a. ur-gi₇-munus, “female mastiff,” *Nisaba* 15, 54 obv. 2, 420 obv. 1

b. ur-gi₇-nita₂, “male mastiff,” *Nisaba* 15, 54 obv. 1, 420 obv. 2

(obv. 1.) 15 ur-gi₇-munus (2.) 2 [ur-gi₇]-nita₂ (3.) ninda-[bi 2 sila₃-ta] (4.) u₄ 1-kam u₄ 30-še₃ (5.) |ŠU+LAGAB| 3 gur (6.) ša₃-gal ur-gi₇ e₂-gal (rev. 1.) puzur₄-dšu-lal sipa ur<-gi₇-ra> (2.) šu ba-ti, *Nisaba* 15, 420

No other qualification of dogs appears in the archive. The general identification of dogs of this period is “mastiff” but there is no consensus as to the actual breed involved.¹¹

§2.4. *Feeding of Dogs*¹²

a. meat (sheep and oxen carcasses)¹³

(obv. 1.) 1 ad₇ udu (2.) u₄ 1-kam u₄ 30-še₃ (3.) ad₇ udu-bi 30 (4.) ša₃-gal ur-gi₇-ra (5.) [i-ku-me]-šar sipa ur-ra (6.) [šu ba]-ti (rev. 1.) ugula i₃-lal₃-lum,¹⁴ *Nisaba* 15, 64

(obv. 1.) 2 ad₇ udu (2.) u₄ 1-kam u₄ 30-še₃ (3.) ad₇ udu-bi 60 (4.) 3 ad₃ gu₄ (5.) 10 ad₇ šah₂ (rev. 1.) ša₃-gal ur-gi₇ e₂-gal (2.) puzur₄-KU sipa ur-gi₇ (3.) šu ba-ti (4.) ugula nir-i₃-da-gal₂,¹⁵ *Nisaba* 15, 283

Ashm 1911-213 obv. 2 (IS 2/x/-), and *Hirose* 407 obv. 2-3 (IS 3/-/-). Thus *Irisağrig/Āl-Šarrākī* provides more references to palace dogs than the entire previously published Ur III corpus.

¹¹ Cf. Mander 1994: 314. Steinkeller (1993: 1129) simply calls the breed “native,” for lack of a more specific identification.

¹² Cf. Heimpel 1972-1975: 494-497.

¹³ It should be noted that both dogs and lions each received meat and bread as rations. While bread rations for dogs are well documented (see note 16 below), it is unexpected with respect to lions. Palace dogs were also fed semolina (dabin, *Nik* 2, 440), flour (zi₃, *Princeton* 1, 185), donkeys (eme₆, *AAICAB* 1/1, pl. 30, Ashm 1911-213) and cooked fish (ku₆ še₆), *Hirose* 407 obv. 1.

¹⁴ An *Ilallum* (I₃-la-lum) occurs in *Nisaba* 15, 145 obv. 7 (AS 9/i/18), a text that includes a number of officials and generals. This *Ilallum* is to be identified most likely with the short-term governor of *Irisağrig/Āl-Šarrākī*.

¹⁵ The presence of the well-known (general) *Nir-i₃-da-gal₂* supports Tsouparopoulou’s assertion (2012: 1) that generals often are associated with dogs, presumably for military purposes or guard duty at the palaces.

¹⁶ It appears that 2 liters of bread per day was the standard

b. bread¹⁶

(obv. 1.) 11 ur-gi₇-nita₂ (2.) 1 ur-gi₇-munus (3.) 2 sila₃ ninda-ta (4.) ninda-bi 24 sila₃ (5.) ninda-bi u₄ 30-še₃ (6.) |ŠU+LAGAB| 2.2.0. gur ninda (rev. 1.) ša₃-gal ur-gi₇-ra i-ku-me-šar sipa ur-ra (2.) šu ba-ti (3.) ugula i₃-lal₃-lum, *Nisaba* 15, 54

c. grapes¹⁷

(rev. iv 2.) 1.0.0 geštin gur (3.) ša₃-gal ur-gi₇-ra-še₃ (blank space) (4.) zi-ga gar-gar-a (5.) šu-ma-ma agrid, *Nisaba* 15, 56

d. generic fodder

a. u₄ ša₃-gal ur-gi₇-ra-še₃ im-gen-na-a, “when he [i.e. ur-dnanše lu₂ kin-gi₄-a-lugal] came for fodder for the dog(s),” *Nisaba* 15, 726 obv. 18

b. u₄ ša₃-gal ur-gi₇-ra-še₃ im-gen-na-a, “when he [i.e. rim-ma sipa ur-gi₇-ra] came for fodder for the dog(s),” *Nisaba* 15, 855 obv. 16

§2.5. *Offerings for Dogs*¹⁸

(1.) 1 a-gam NE-[x] (2.) sa₂-du₁₁ ur-gi₇-ra (3.) ki ur-mes ensi₂-ta (4.) a₂-pil-la-ša (5.) šu ba-ti, *Nisaba* 15, 532

§2.6. *Work Assignments for Dog Handlers/Kennelmen*¹⁹

a. u₄ ur-gi₇-ra-še₃ im-gen-na-a, “when he [i.e. i-ku-me-šar sipa ur-gi₇-ra] came for the dog(s),” *Nisaba* 15, 596 obv. 26, 597 obv. 40, 598 obv. 30, 599 obv.

ration for dogs as was already shown in Mander 1994: passim. Curiously, in the archive studied by Mander, animal carcasses are rarely recorded as being fed to the dogs.

¹⁷ This is the only text found so far that indicates dogs were also fed grapes, strange as this might seem, since grapes are considered to be harmful to dogs. Internet sources write that “clinical findings suggest raisin and grape ingestion by dogs can be fatal, but the “mechanism of toxicity” is still considered unknown. However, kidney failure is not seen in all dogs after ingestion of grapes or raisins. The reason why some dogs are affected excessively while others are not is still being studied.” The geštin sign is clear in the text.

¹⁸ Offerings for dogs are well attested but nearly always they are animal carcasses. The offering of an a-gam of [?] is unique.

¹⁹ Ca. 300 “ration distribution texts/messenger texts,” record extensive rations of meat, soup and fish for numerous members of the royal family, officials, and professionals who were assigned diverse tasks. The quoted passages are representative of hundreds of such assigned tasks documented in these new sources. Cf. *Nisaba* 15/1 sub “Catalogue of Subordinate Temporal Clauses.”

33, 600 obv. 36

b. u₄ ur-gi₇-ra-še₃ im-gen-na-a, “when he [i.e., e-pi-ne₂ sipa ur-gi₇-ra] came for the dog(s),” *Nisaba* 15, 774 obv. 20

§2.7. *Gathering of Dogs by Dog Handlers/Kennelmen*

a. u₄ ur-gi₇-ra-še₃ im-gen-na-a, “when he [i.e. i-ku-me-šar sipa ur-gi₇-ra] came for the dog(s),” *Nisaba* 15, 596 obv. 26, 597 obv. 40, 598 obv. 30, 599 obv. 33, 600 obv. 36

b. u₄ ur-gi₇-ra-še₃ im-gen-na-a, “when he [i.e. e-pi-ne₂ sipa ur-gi₇-ra] came for the dog(s),” *Nisaba* 15, 774 obv. 20

§2.8. *Rations for Dog Handlers/Kennelmen*

a. soup/stew²⁰

(1.) 2 sila₃ tu₇ (2.) u₄ 1-kam u₄ 30-še₃ (3.) tu₇-bi 0.1.0 (4.) šukur₂ i-ku-mi-šar sipa ur-gi₇-ra-ka, *Nisaba* 15, 630

§3. *Conclusions*

What then can we conclude from these new data and how do they add to the study of Tsouparopoulou? For one, they substantiate that dogs played a wider role in Ur III society than just for the military. W. Heimpel (1972-1975) and P. Mander (1994: 314²¹) showed that they functioned also as guards, presumably at palaces, in various cities and towns. In addition, they were surely used for hunting. However, neither of these functions is explicitly recorded in the Ur III sources so far available. While the Puzriš-Dagan canine sources are primarily associated with military functions, they provide only a limited view of the role of canines in Ur III society. Thus, the new data, emanating as they do from sources devoid of archaeological context (as are all the Puzriš-Dagan texts!), nevertheless demonstrate all the more the importance of incorporating pertinent evidence regardless of when, where or even how this evidence was obtained. A policy that disregards essential data, excluded after some arbitrary date imposed by a patently political body and enforced by academic censorship, is objectionable to scholarship and should be rejected outright.

²⁰ Soup/stew was a typical ration both at Garšana and at Irisagrig/*Āl-Šarrāki*. Cf. Brunke 2008: 173-175.

²¹ Where he interprets ur-gi₇-gal-gal as “watchdogs.”

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Brunke, Hagan
2008 *Essen in Sumer Metrologie, Herstellung und Terminologie nach Zeugnis der Ur III-zeitlichen Wirtschaftsurkunden*. Munich: Herbert Utz Verlag
- Heimpel, Wolfgang
1972-1975 "Hund." *RLA* 4, 494-497
2009 *Workers and Construction Work in Garšana*. *CUSAS* 5. Bethesda: CDL Press
- Kleinerman, Alexandra & Owen, David I.
2009 *An Analytical Index to the Garšana Archives*. *CUSAS* 4. Bethesda: CDL Press
- Lafont, Bertrand
2009 "The Army of the Kings of Ur. The Textual Evidence." *CDLJ* 2009/5.
- Mander, Pietro
1994 *An Archive of Kennelmen and Other Workers in Ur III Lagash*. *IUOA* 54, suppl. 80. Naples: Istituto universitario orientale
- Owen, David I.
1979 "A Thirteen Month Summary Account from Ur." In Powell, M. A. & Sack, R. H., eds. *Studies in Honor of Tom B. Jones*. *AOAT* 201. Neukirchen-Vluyn: Verlag Butzon & Bercker Kevelaer
2013 *Cuneiform Texts Primarily from Iri-Saġrig/Āl-Šarrākī and the History of the Ur III Period*. *Nisaba* 15/1-2. Bethesda: CDL Press
- Owen, David I., ed.
2011 *Garšana Studies*. *CUSAS* 6. Bethesda: CDL Press
- Owen, David I. & Rudolf H. Mayr
2007 *The Garšana Archives*. *CUSAS* 3. Bethesda: CDL Press
- Steinkeller, Piotr
1993 "Early Political Development in Mesopotamia and the Origins of the Sargonic Empire." In Liverani, M., ed. *Akkad, the first World Empire*. Padua: Sargon
- Tsouparopoulou, Christina
2008 "The Material Face of Bureaucracy: Writing, Sealing and Archiving Tablets for the Ur III State at Drehem." PhD Dissertation, University of Cambridge
2012 "The "K-9 Corps" of the Third Dynasty of Ur: The Dog Handlers at Drehem and the Army." *ZA* 102, 1-16