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Title: Elamite bricks from the Museum of Hotel Sandelin (France, Saint-Omer)

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Elamite bricks from the Museum of Hotel Sandelin (France, Saint-Omer)

By Pauline Leroy¹

This preliminary article proposes to present a first edition of elamite bricks preserved at the Museum of the Hotel Sandelin (France, Saint-Omer) brought to my attention in June 2017². The purpose of this preliminary article is to present, as exhaustively as possible, each brick, and systematically record the first observations. The full forthcoming edition will deepen in particular the question of variants and offer better quality pictures and a copy of each brick.

1. From Suse to Saint-Omer

The thirteen elamite bricks in the Sandelin collection were registered on 1905 as donated by Georges Lampre. All of these bricks bear excavation numbers in red and/or white paint, clearly indicating that they were found during the excavations at Susa³. However, the exact discovery context is unknown.

The donor, Georges Lampre, studied in Saint-Omer and always remained attached to the town. His first meeting with Iran took place in 1887 when he was named tutor of the governor of Azerbaijan's children by mister Cotte, the uncle of his wife and merchant for the tobacco company ("Régie des Tabacs"). In Tauris (now Tabriz, province of eastern Azerbaijan in Iran) and in Tehran (Iran), he founded colleges in which he worked as secretary of the "Alliance française". In 1897, after he met the Lampre spouses for the first time in Tauris in 1889, Jacques de Morgan, general delegate of French archaeological excavations in Persia, invited them to join the Scientific Delegation in Persia ("Délégation scientifique en Perse") and offered Georges Lampre the position of general secretary.

Georges Lampre and his wife were among Jacques de Morgan's first collaborators and Georges Lampre took part in several excavation campaigns in Susa, from 1897 to 1907. He also participated in the publication of several works, including two volumes of the Memoirs of the archaeological mission of Persia⁴, the edition of cuneiform texts in the elamite language⁵, and an archaeological work⁶.

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² LEROY 2018. Thanks to Romain Saffré, director of the museum, for allowing me to study and publish these bricks.

³ OVERLAET 2006, p. 48.

⁴ DE MORGAN, JEQUIER & LAMPRE 1900 et DE MORGAN, JEQUIER, GAUTIER & LAMPRE 1905.

⁵ SCHEIL, LAMPRE, GAUTIER, DE MORGAN & LEGRAIN 1902. V. Scheil wrote the obituary of G. Lampre, very enriching about his life and role within the Scientific Delegation in Persia : SCHEIL 1912.

⁶ GAUTIER & LAMPRE 1905.

2. Presentation of the bricks

These bricks, dating back to the 2nd millennium BC, all bear cuneiform inscriptions of elamite kings. The inscriptions are part of the royal inscriptions of Susa. The Louvre Museum, for example, has at least 2,600 complete and fragmentary copies, studied by Florence Malbran-Labat, while 19 bricks and fragments, studied by Carole Roche, are kept at the Royal Museums of Art and History in Brussels. Some inscriptions are also kept at the National Museum of Iran. We refer to the studies devoted to these three collections for the previous bibliography⁷. The inscriptions of the bricks of Saint-Omer are therefore well known and already published elsewhere.

The terracotta bricks of Saint-Omer probably come from the acropolis of Susa, given the type of inscriptions they bear, typical of official buildings. The collection includes six large square bricks (one of which is slightly broken in the back), one small square brick, four half bricks and two fragments.

They all are in cuneiform writing but the language differs: sumerian for brick 7313, akkadian for bricks 7314 and 7321, and elamite for the other ten bricks and fragments (7309, 7310, 7312, 7315, 7316, 7317, 7318, 7319 and 7320). The inscription is still on one of the side faces, except for bricks 7309 and 7310, which the inscriptions are on top. F. Malbran-Labat proposes that the square bricks stamped on the surface have been placed on the doorstep, which reconstruction is mentioned in the inscription⁸. The bricks with an inscription on the edge were intended to be inserted in the wall.

The bricks 7314 and 7321 bear the same inscription likewise the bricks 7318, 7319 and 7320 or the bricks 7309 and 7310.

The inscriptions are attributed to kings belonging to four successive dynasties and therefore corresponding to a rather long period of Elamite History⁹. The Epartides dynasty is represented by two akkadian inscriptions from Attahušu (*ca.* 1927 BC). The Šimaški dynasty is represented by a sumerian inscription by Idadu (*ca.* 1925 BC), which attests his political and religious activity in Susa. The Igihalkides dynasty is represented by three elamite inscriptions from Untaš-Napiriša (*ca.* 1340-1330 BC), one of the greatest Elamite builders. Finally, the Šutrukides dynasty¹⁰ is represented by seven elamite inscriptions, including three in the name of Šutruk-Nahhunte (*ca.* 1190-1155 BC), one in the name of Kutir-Nahhunte (*ca.* 1155-1150 BC) and three in the name of Šilhak-Inšušinak (*ca.* 1150-1120 BC).

⁷ MALBRAN-LABAT 1995, ROCHE 2006 and MATSUSHIMA & TERAMURA 2012.

⁸ MALBRAN-LABAT 1995, p. 98-99.

⁹ For an in-depth presentation of the political history of Elam in the 2nd millennium BC, see for example MALBRAN-LABAT 1995, ROCHE 2006, DE GRAEF & TAVERNIER 2012 or ÁLVAREZ-MON, BASELLO & WICKS 2018.

¹⁰ Recently, E. Matsushima proposed an article about the Šutrukides dynasty : MATSUSHIMA 2019.

The last dynasty was particularly involved in the construction of religious buildings in Susa. This ensemble therefore documents both the paleo-elamite period and the middle-elamite period.

The content of the inscriptions is always in the same format. The king, who speaks in the first person, first indicates his name, filiation and title. Some kings, like Attahušu or Idadu, use both political and religious titles, while other sovereigns, like Untaš-Napiriša or Šutruk-Nahhunte, define themselves only as “king of Anzan and Susa” and Šilhak -Inšušinak as “beloved servant of Inšušinak”. The king then indicates the architectural achievement which motivated the writing and the making of the brick. Finally, there is a dedication to one or more gods, to whom the king pays tribute to by offering the construction in question. Local Elamite gods and goddesses, like Inšušinak, the Poliad god of the city of Susa, as well as well-known gods of the Mesopotamian pantheon like Nabu, the patron god of the scribes, are mentioned.

Table 1 : Summary of the content of the Sandelin bricks¹¹

Brick	King's name	Political titles	Religious titles	Filiation	Realisation	Dedication
7313	Idadu	Governor of Susa	Beloved servant of Inšušinak	Son of Tan-Ruhuratir	Building of a new baked bricks wall	Inšušinak
7314	Attahušu	Pastor of the people of Susa	Beloved servant of Inšušinak	Son of Silhada's sister	Building of a ramp	/
7321	Attahušu	Pastor of the people of Susa	Beloved servant of Inšušinak	Son of Silhada's sister	Building of a ramp	/
7315	Untaš-Napiriša	King of Anzan and Susa	/	Son of Humbanumena	Building of a baked bricks Nabû's temple and installation of a Nabû's gold statue in the temple	Nabû
7316	Untaš-Napiriša	King of Anzan and Susa	/	Son of Humbanumena	Building of a baked bricks temple	NUN. EŠŠANA
7317	Untaš-Napiriša	King of Anzan and Susa	/	Son of Humbanumena	Building of a baked bricks temple	Belala

¹¹ The lines in identical color indicate the same inscription written on different bricks.

7318	Šutruk-Nahhunte	King of Anzan and Susa	/	Son of Hallutuš-Inšušinak	Building of a temple	Inšušinak
7319	Šutruk-Nahhunte	King of Anzan and Susa	/	Son of Hallutuš-Inšušinak	Building of a temple	Inšušinak
7320	Šutruk-Nahhunte	King of Anzan and Susa	/	Son of Hallutuaš-Inšušinak	Building of a temple	Inšušinak
7311	Kutir-Nahhunte	/	Beloved servant of Inšušinak	Son of Šutruk-Nahhunte	Rebuilding of the baked bricks outside chapel	Inšušinak
7309	Šilhak-Inšušinak	/	Beloved servant of Inšušinak	Son of Šutruk-Nahhunte	Rebuilding of the baked bricks temple	Inšušinak
7310	Šilhak-Inšušinak	/	Beloved servant of Inšušinak	Son of Šutruk-Nahhunte	Rebuilding of the baked bricks temple	Inšušinak
7312	Šilhak-Inšušinak	/	Beloved servant of Inšušinak	Son of Šutruk-Nahhunte	Rebuilding of the baked bricks outside chapel	Inšušinak

3. Catalogue¹²

The bricks are presented in chronological order. For each of them, the main characteristics are given : dimensions, weight, date, language. The parallels are systematically indicated, as well as the variants. Since there are no major changes, the translations suggested here are the English versions of the French translations by F. Malbran-Labat¹³.

Brick n°1

- Sandelin inventory number : 7313
- Red or white excavation number : 488 (red number)
- Measurements (H x l x E cm) : 8,4 x 35 x 15,9
- Weight (kg) : 4,2
- Observations : fragment of a square brick ; inscription on the edge (complete)
- Date : Idadu (*ca.* 1925)
- Language : Sumerian¹⁴
- Parallels : SCHEIL 1900 (n°2) ; SOLLBERGER & KUPER 1971 (n°IV O 3a) ; WALKER 1981 (n°55) ; MALBRAN LABAT 1995 (n°6, text 1) ; ROCHE 2006 (n°1)
- Graphic variants : graphics and layout similar to MALBRAN-LABAT 1995 n°6, text 1
- Transliteration :
 - 1 ʳᵈNIN ʳ.MÙŠ.EREN
 - 2 [LU]GAL.A.NI.IR
 - 3 NAM.TI
 - 4 ʳ*i-da*ʳ-du
 - 5 ENSI₂
 - 6 MÙŠ.EREN.KI
 - 7 ÌRʳ KI.ÁG
 - 8 ᵈNIN.MÙŠ.EREN
 - 9 DUMU *tan*-ᵈru-hu-/ra-ti-ir
 - 10 É GAR₈ LIBIR NU ʳ./ʳUN.GI ʳ
 - 11 É GAR₈ GIBIL SI[G₄]/AL.LU.RA
 - 12 [É].ʳKI.KÙ.NUN.NA ʳ
 - 13 [EG]IR.ʳRA MU.NA.DÙ ʳ
 - 14 [N]AM.TI.LA.ʳNI.ŠÈ ʳ
 - 15 [M]U.UN.NA.DÙ

¹² I thank F. Malbran-Labat for agreeing to reread this preliminary edition.

¹³ MALBRAN-LABAT 1995.

¹⁴ This inscription also exists in akkadian : ROCHE 2006, p. 23.

- Translation :

(For) Inšušinak, his king, for his life, Idadu, governor of Susa, beloved servant of Inšušinak, son of Tan-Ruhuratir, do not reassemble the old bituminous wall (but) builds new baked brick wall behind the Ekikuanna ; (he) built for his life.



Brick 7313 (Sandelin collection)
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Brick n°2

- Sandelin inventory number : 7314
- Red or white excavation number : 1011 (red number) ; 2333 (white number)
- Measurements (H x l x E cm) : 6,5 x 29 x 11
- Weight (kg) : 2,6
- Observations : half brick (very damaged) ; inscription on the edge (complete but badly preserved)
- Date : Attahušu (*ca.* 1927)
- Language : Akkadian
- Parallels : THUREAU-DANGIN 1907 (n°182, 6a) ; SOLLBERGER & KUPER 1971 (IV O 6 b) ; MALBRAN LABAT 1995 (n°10, text 1) ; MATSUSHIMA & TERAMURA 2012 (BK 8)
- Graphic variants : graphics and layout similar to MALBRAN-LABAT 1995 n°10, text 1
- Translitteration :
 - 1 'ad-da'-[hu-šu]
 - 2 'SIPA' 'EREN₂' 'MÜŠ.EREN'
 - 3 ÌR 'KI'ÁG
 - 4 [d]MÜŠ.EREN
 - 5 [DUMU]' NIN₉ si-'il'-/'ha-ha'
 - 6 'ti-tu'-ra-am
 - 7 i-'pu'-uš
 - Translation :

Attahušu, pastor of the people of Susa, beloved servant of Inšušinak, son of Silhada's sister, built a ramp.



Brick 7314 (Sandelin collection)
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Brick n°3

- Sandelin inventory number : 7321
- Red or white excavation number : 4040 (red number)
- Measurements (H x l x E cm) : 9,5 x 26,8 x 21
- Weight (kg) : 4
- Observations : fragment of a square brick ; inscription on the edge (complete)
- Date : Attahušu (*ca.* 1927)
- Language : Akkadian
- Parallels : THUREAU-DANGIN 1907 (n°182, 6a) ; SOLLBERGER & KUPER 1971 (IV O 6 b) ; MALBRAN LABAT 1995 (n°10, text 1) ; MATSUSHIMA & TERAMURA 2012 (BK 8)
- Graphic variants : graphics and layout similar to MALBRAN-LABAT 1995 n°10, text 1
- Translitteration :
 - 1 'ad'-da-hu-'šu'
 - 2 SIPA EREN₂ MÜŠ.EREN
 - 3 'İR' KLAG
 - 4 'd'MÜŠ.EREN
 - 5 DUMU 'NIN₉ si-il-/ha-ha'
 - 6 ti-tu-ra-am
 - 7 i-pu-uš
- Translation :

Attahušu, pastor of the people of Susa, beloved servant of Inšušinak, son of Silhada's sister, built a ramp.



Brick 7321 (Sandelin collection)
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Brick n°4

- Sandelin inventory number : 7315
- Red or white excavation number : 3139 (red number)
- Measurements (H x l x E cm) : 10 x 40,6 x 16
- Weight (kg) : 8,1
- Observations : half brick ; inscription on the edge (complete)
- Date : Untaš-Napiriša (ca. 1340-1330)
- Language : Elamite
- Parallels (Nabû) : SCHEIL 1901 (n°VII) ; RUTTEN 1953 (n°XIV), KÖNIG 1965 (n°71 a-b, II a-d) ; STEVE 1967 (n°41) ; KÖNIG 1965 (n°71 a-b, II a-d) ; MALBRAN-LABAT 1995 (n°25, text 3) ; MATSUSHIMA & TERAMURA 2012 (Type I-3 a : BK 122, BK 139, BK 151)
- Graphic variants : the division of the lines 2, 3 and 4 is different from MALBRAN-LABAT 1995 n°25, text 3
- Transliteration :
 - 1 *ú^mun-taš-DINGIR.GAL ša-a[k] ^{md}hu-ban-nu-^rme-na^ʔ-ki su-un-ki-^rik^ʔ*
 - 2 *an-^rza^ʔ-an^ršū^ʔ-šū-un-ka si-ia-an ^d[n]a-bu-me ú-^rpa-at hu-us^ʔ-*
 - 3 *si-^rip^ʔ-^rm^ʔe ku-ši-^rih ^dna-bu-ú^ʔ la-[an-si]-ti-ir-^rra ir a^ʔ-ha-^rar^ʔ*
 - 4 *mu-^rur^ʔ-tah hu-ut-[tak] ^rha^ʔ-li-ik-^rú^ʔ-me ^dna-bu-ú^ʔ*
 - 5 *si-ia-an ku-uk-^rra ul^ʔ-li-^rna te-la-ak-ni^ʔ*

- Translation :

Me, Untaš-Napiriša, son of Humbanumena, king of Anzan and Susa, I built the temple of Nabû out of baked bricks ; I installed (a) gold Nabû there ; may the work I have done be, as an offering, pleasant to Nabû !



Brick 7315 (Sandelin collection)
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Brick n°5

- Sandelin inventory number : 7316
- Red or white excavation number : 1687 (red number) ; 2181 (white number)
- Measurements (H x l x E cm) : 8,5 x 35,7 x 19,9
- Weight (kg) : 6
- Observations : half brick ; inscription on the edge (complete)
- Date : Untaš-Napiriša (ca. 1340-1330)
- Language : Elamite
- Parallels (NUN.EŠŠANA) : SCHEIL 1901 (n°XII) ; KÖNIG 1965 (n°9 Ib) ; STEVE 1967 (n°35) ; MALBRAN-LABAT (n°27, text 5) ; ROCHE (n°8) ; MATSUSHIMA & TERAMURA 2012 (Type II-1 a)
- Graphic variants : the division of the lines 1, 2, 3 and 4 is different from MALBRAN-LABAT 1995 n°27, text 5
 - l. 1 : ^{md}hu-um-ban-nu-me-na-kí. Attested variant : ^{md}hu-um-ban-en-me-na-kí (Roche 2006 n°8)
 - l. 2 : ki-it-ti-im-ma. Attested variant : ki-it-ti-ma (Roche 2006 n°8)
 - l.2 : na-a-me-lu-uk-ra. Attested variant : na-me-lu-uk-ra (Roche 2006 n°8)
 - l. 3 : in-ti-ik-ka. Attested variant : in-ti-ka (Roche 2006 n°8)
 - l.3 : a-kí. Attested variant : a-ak (Roche 2006 n°8)
 - l.5 : ul-li-na. Attested variant : li-na (MALBRAN-LABAT 1995 n°27, text 5)
- Remarks : NUN.EŠŠANA read NUN.LUGAL by F. Malbran-Labat¹⁵. EŠŠANA is the encrypted ideogram of “king” (LUGAL). EŠŠANA be equivalent to “king” (*šarrum*) for R. Labat (n°593) and M. J. Stève (n°593)¹⁶. The reading of the divine name like NUN.EŠŠANA comes from the article “Elam vi. Elamite religion” by F. Vallat in the Encyclopædia Iranica online (www.iranicaonline.org)¹⁷. The written format NUN.EŠŠANA be found in the Kidinuides incipitions¹⁸ and in MALBRAN-LABAT 1995 n°24, text 2 (read A.É.A-EŠŠANA : EA?-SUNKIR)¹⁹.
- Transliteration :
 - 1 [ú^m]un-taš-DINGIR.GAL ša-ak^{r^m d}hu-um-^rban-nu-me¹-na-kí su-un-ki-ik an-za-an
 - 2 [šu-šu]-un-ka pi-el ki-it-ti-im-ma na-a-me-lu-^ruk-ra¹ su-un-ki-me
 - 3 [tu₄]-^rur hi¹-ih si-it-me hi-en-ka in-ti-ik-ka a-kí si-ia-an
 - 4 [NUN.EŠŠANA-m]e ku-ši-ih NUN.EŠŠANA si-ia-an ku-uk-ra du-ni-ih^r hu-ut-tak¹ ha-li-ik-
 - 5 [ú-me NUN.EŠŠANA] ^ra-ak^d in¹-šu-ši-na-ak si-^ria-an¹ ku-uk-^rpa[?] ul¹-li-^rna¹ [te-la-ak-ni]

¹⁵ MALBRAN-LABAT 1995.

¹⁶ LABAT 1976 and STEVE 1992.

¹⁷ VALLAT 1998.

¹⁸ MALBRAN-LABAT 1995, p. 56-58.

¹⁹ MALBRAN-LABAT 1995, p. 64.

- Translation :

Me, Untaš-Napiriša, son of Humbanumena, king of Anzan and Susa, so that, (prince) always fulfilled over the years, I have a continually prosperous royalty, it is for this intention that I built the temple of NUN.EŠŠANA ; I donated to NUN.EŠŠANA of the *siyan-kuk*. That the work I have made be pleasant as an offering to NUN.EŠŠANA and Inšušinak of the *siyan-kuk*.



Brick 7316 (Sandelin collection)
©Lille University and Museum of Hotel Sandelin

Brick n°6

- Sandelin inventory number : 7317
- Red or white excavation number : 956 (red number)
- Measurements (H x l x E cm) : 9 x 38,9 x 11,6
- Weight (kg) : 4,7
- Observations : half brick ; inscription on the edge
- Date : Untaš-Napiriša (ca. 1340-1330)
- Language : Elamite
- Parallels (Belala) : KÖNIG 1965 (n°10b) ; MALBRAN-LABAT 1995 (n°30, text 8) ; ROCHE 2006 (n°9-12) ; MATSUSHIMA & TERAMURA 2012 (Type III a)
- Graphic variants : the division of the lines 3, 4 and 5 is different from MALBRAN-LABAT 1995 n°25, text 3 and ROCHE 2006 n°9-12
- Transliteration :
 - 1 *ú^mun-taš-DINGIR.GAL ša-^rak¹ md^hu-um-ban-nu-me-na-kí su-un-ki-ik^r an-za-an šu-šu-un-ka^r*
 - 2 *d^bbe-la-la ku-ul-la-an-ka ku-la-a ur tu₄-um-pa-^ran¹ -ra a-ak tu₄-ru-^run-ka hu-ut-^r*
 - 3 *ta-an-ra si-ia-an ku-uk^r si-ia-an-i-me ú-pa-at hu-us^r-si-ip-me ku-ši-^rih d^bbe^r-la-^rla^r*
 - 4 *la-an-si-ti-ir-ra ir^r ša-ri-ih^r si-ia-an ku-uk si-ia-an-ra ir mu-ur-^rtah hu^r-ut-^rtak^r ha-*
 - 5 *li-ik-^rú-me d^bbe-la-la si-ia-an ku-uk-ra un li-na te-la-ak-ni^r pi-el ki-it^r-*
 - 6 *t[i-im-ma na-a]-me lu-u[k-ra] a-ak^r su^r-[un-ki-me tu₄-u]r hi-ih s[í-i]t-^rme un du-ni^r-[iš-ni]*
- Translation :

Me, Untaš-Napiriša, son of Humbanumena, king of Anzan and Susa, to/for Belala, she who answers prayer for me when I pray and who grants it when I speak a word, I have built her temple of the *siyan-kuk* out of baked bricks; I carved/chiseled (a) Belala in gold, I placed it in a temple of the *siyan-kuk*. May pleasant the work I have done, as an offering on my part, to Belala of the *siyan-kuk*! May she also give me a continuously reign of prosperity, (me) always fulfilled over the years !



Brick 7317 (Sandelin collection)
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Brick n°7

- Sandelin inventory number : 7318
- Red or white excavation number : 3404 (red number) ; 1275 (white number)
- Measurements (H x l x E cm) : 6,9 x 27,3 x 20,9
- Weight (kg) : 7,5
- Observations : whole square brick (the back of the brick is broken) ; inscription on the edge
- Date : Šutruk-Nahhunte (*ca.* 1190-1155)
- Language : Elamite
- Parallels : SCHEIL 1901 (n°XXVI et pl. 7 n°1) ; KÖNIG 1965 (n°18) ; MALBRAN-LABAT 1995 (n°33, text 1) ; ROCHE 2006 (n°13-16)
- Variants : the division of the lines 1, 2, 3 and 4 is different from MALBRAN-LABAT 1995 n°25, text 3 and ROCHE 2006 n°13-16.
- l. 3 : *e-ri-en-tu₄-um*. Attested variant : *e-ri-me-en-tu₄-um* (ROCHE 2006 n°13-16).
- Transliteration :
 - 1 *ú mšu-ut-ru-uk dnah-hu-un-te ša-ak mhal-lu-du-uš-din-šu-*
 - 2 *ši-na-ak-kí-ik su-un-ki-ik an-za-an šu-šu-un-ka₄*
 - 3 *e-ri-en-tu₄-um ti-pu-uh a-ak hi-ia-an dín-šu-*
 - 4 *ši-na-ak 'na-pír ú-ri-me' a-ha-an ha-li-ih-ma hu-*
 - 5 *'ut-tak ha-li-ku-me' [d]'in-šu-ši-na-ak na'-pír-ú-ri 'in li'-*
'na te-la'-ak-[ní]
- Translation :

Me, Šutruk-Nahhunte, son of Hallutuš-Inšušinak, king of Anzan and Suse, I shaped the brickwork and so I built the hypostyle hall of Inšušinak, my god. May the work I have made be pleasant to Inšušinak, my god!



Brick 7318 (Sandelin collection)
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Brick n°8

- Sandelin inventory number : 7319
- Red or white excavation number : 563 (red number) ; 2252 (white number)
- Measurements (H x l x E cm) : 9,3 x 19 x 15,7
- Weight (kg) : 4
- Observations : little square brick ; inscription on two edges : corner brick with continuous reading
- Date : Šutruk-Nahhunte (*ca.* 1190-1155)
- Language : Elamite
- Parallels : SCHEIL 1901 (n°XXVI et pl. 7 n°1) ; KÖNIG 1965 (n°18) ; MALBRAN-LABAT 1995 (n°33, text 1) ; ROCHE 2006 (n°13-16)
- Graphic variants : the division of the lines 1, 2, 3 and 4 is different from MALBRAN-LABAT 1995 n°25, text 3 and ROCHE 2006 n°13-16
- Translitteration :
 - 1 *ú mšu-ut-ru-uk^dna[h-hu]-/[un]-te ša-ak^mhal-lu-du-^ruš^r-*
 - 2 *^din-šu-ši-na-ak-^rkí-ik^r/su-un-ki-ik an-za-an šu-šu-*
 - 3 *un-ka₄ e-ri-en-tu₄-um ti-/[pu]-uh a-ak hi-ia-an^din-*
 - 4 *šu-ši-na-ak na-pír-ú-ri-me/^ra^r-ha-an ha-li-ih-ma hu-ut-tak*
 - 5 *ha-li-ku-me^din-šu-ši-na-ak/^rna^r-pír-ú-ri in li-na*
te-la-ak-[nī]
- Translation :

Me, Šutruk-Nahhunte, son of Hallutuš-Inšušinak, king of Anzan and Suse, I shaped the brickwork and so I built the hypostyle hall of Inšušinak, my god. May the work I have made be pleasant to Inšušinak, my god !



Brick 7319 (Sandelin collection)
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Brick 7319 (Sandelin collection) / Edge 1
©Lille University and Museum of Hotel Sandelin



Brick 7315 (Sandelin collection) / Edge 2
©Lille University and Museum of Hotel Sandelin

Brick n°9

- Sandelin inventory number : 7320
- Red or white excavation number : 3424 (red number) ; 799 (white number)
- Measurements (H x l x E cm) : 6,8 x 28,3 x 28,3
- Weight (kg) : 9
- Observations : whole square brick ; inscription on the edge
- Date : Šutruk-Nahhunte (ca. 1190-1155)
- Language : Elamite
- Parallels : SCHEIL 1901 (n°XXVI et pl. 7 n°1) ; KÖNIG 1965 (n°18) ; MALBRAN-LABAT 1995 (n°33, text 1) ; ROCHE 2006 (n°13-16)
- Graphic variants : the division of the lines 1, 2, 3 and 4 is different from MALBRAN-LABAT 1995 n°25, text 3 and ROCHE 2006 n°13-16
- Transliteration :
 - 1 *ú mšu-ut-ru-uk dnah-ʿhu-un-teʿ ša-ak mʿhalʿ-lu-du-uš-din-*
 - 2 *šu-ši-na-ak-kí-ik su-un-ki-ik an-za-an šu-šu-un-ka₄ e-ʿriʿ-*
 - 3 *en-tu₄-um ti-pu-uh a-ak hi-ia-an dn-šu-ši-ʿnaʿ-[ak]*
 - 4 *[na]-ʿpírʿ-ú-ri-me a-ha-an ha-li-ih-ma hu-ut-tak ha-l[i]-*
 - 5 *ʿik-maʿ dn-šu-ši-na-ak na-[pír-ú]-ri in li-ʿna te-la-ak-niʿ*
- Translation :

Me, Šutruk-Nahhunte, son of Hallutuš-Inšušinak, king of Anzan and Suse, I shaped the brickwork and so I built the hypostyle hall of Inšušinak, my god. May the work I have made be pleasant to Inšušinak, my god !



Brick 7320 (Sandelin collection)
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Brick n°10

- Sandelin inventory number : 7311
- Red or white excavation number : 3409 (red number)
- Measurements (H x l x E cm) : 10,5 x 32,2 x 31,5
- Weight (kg) : 17,5
- Observations : whole square brick ; same inscription on two edges.
- Date : Kutir-Nahhunte (ca. 1155-1150)
- Language : Elamite
- Parallels : SCHEIL 1901 (XXVIII et pl. 7 n°3) ; KÖNIG 1965 (n°29) ; LAMBERT 1978 ; MALBRAN-LABAT 1995 (n°35, text 1) ; ROCHE 2006 (n°17)
- Graphic variants : l. 3 : *e-ri-en-tu₄-um-ma*. Attested variant : *e-ri-en-tum₈-ia* (MALBRAN-LABAT 1995 n°35, text 1)
- Transliteration :

First edge :

- 1 [ù] *^mku-tir*]-^r*nah¹-hu-^run¹-te ša-^rak¹* [*^mšu-ut-ru-uk-^dnah-hu-un-te-kí-^rik¹*]
- 2 ^r*li-ba¹-ak ha-ni-ik ^din-šu-ši-^r[<na>-ak-kí-ik ku-um-pu-um ki-du]-^rú-ia¹*
- 3 [ú]-^r*pa-at-ma ku-ši-ik a-ak mi-ši-ir-ma-na sa-ri-ih¹* [*a-ak e-ri-en-tu₄-um*]-*ma*
- 4 [*ku*]-^r*ši-ih a-ak ^din-šu-ši-na-ak na-pír-ú-ri i si-ma-ta-ah e ^din¹-[šu]-*
- 5 [*ši*]-^r*na-ak na-pír-ú-ri hu-ut-ta-ak ^rha-li-ik-ú-me li-ma-nu te-la-ak-ni¹*
- 6 [*a-ak a-ha*]-*an hi-ih ^rsi-tu₄-uk-ti-ni¹*

Second edge :

- 1 [ù *^mku-tir*]-^r*nah¹-hu-^run¹-te ša-ak ^mšu-ut-ru-uk-^dnah-hu-un-te-kí-^rik¹*
- 2 [*l*]-*ba-ak ha-ni-ik ^din-šu-ši-<na>-ak-kí-ik ku-um-pu-um ki-du-ú-ia*
- 3 [ú]-*pa-at-ma ku-ši-ik a-ak mi-ši-ir-ma-na ^rsa¹-ri-ih a-ak e-ri-en-tu₄-um-ma*
- 4 [*k*]-*u-ši-ih a-ak ^din-šu-ši-na-ak na-pír-ú-ri i si-ma-ta-ah e ^din-šu-*
- 5 [*ši*]-*na-ak na-pír-ú-ri hu-ut-ta-ak ha-li-ik-ú-me li-ma-nu te-la-ak-ni*
- 6 [*a*]-*ak a-ha-^ran¹ hi-ih si-tu₄-uk-ti-ni*

- Translation :

Me, Kutir-Nahhunte, son of Šutruk-Nahhunte, beloved servant of Inšušinak, as the outside chapel was built of raw bricks and threatened to ruin, I restored it and (re)built of baked bricks ; I dedicated it to Inšušinak, my god. May the work I have done be pleasant to you as an offering and may you make the power (which) (represented) there prosper !



Brick 7311 (Sandelin collection)
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Brick 7311 (Sandelin collection) / Edge 1
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Brick 7311 (Sandelin collection) / Edge 2
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Brick n°11

- Sandelin inventory number : 7309
- Red or white excavation number : 5133 (red number)
- Measurements (H x l x E cm) : 9,5 x 34,4 x 33,5
- Weight (kg) : 17
- Observations : whole square brick ; inscription on the top (in a cartouche).
- Date : Šilhak-Inšušinak (ca. 1150-1120)
- Language : Elamite
- Parallels : SCHEIL 1901 (n°XLVIII et pl. 11) ; KÖNIG 1965 (n°35) ; MALBRAN-LABAT 1995 (n°43, text 6)
- Graphic variants : Inscription of 19 lines also known for 68 bricks from the Louvre (MALBRAN-LABAT 1995). Some bricks from the Louvre show that the same inscription can be written on the edge (8 lines)
- Transliteration :

- 1 'ù^ṽ mšil-ha-ak-^din-šu-ši-na-ak ša-ak
- 2 [mš]u-ut-ru-uk-^dnah-hu-un-te-kí-ik
- 3 [l]i-ba-^rak^ṽ ha-ni-ik^ṽ ^din-šu-ši-na-^rak-kí-ik
- 4 [s]i-ia-an^ṽ ^din-šu-ši-na-ak-me^ṽ ^ṽú^ṽ-pa-at-im-ma
- 5 ku-ši-^rik a^ṽ-ak mi-ši-ir-^rma-na^ṽ ^ṽu e-ri-en-
- 6 tum₈-im-ma ku-ši-^rih^ṽ a-ak si-íp hu-ti-e
- 7 ^ṽu-pa-^rat^ṽ ak-^rtí^ṽ-ia-ma^ṽ ku-ši-ih^ṽ a-ak
- 8 te-ti-^rin la^ṽ-an-si-i[t-i]m-ma-ma
- 9 ra-ar-^rba-ah^ṽ [a-ak ta-ak-kí]-^rme-^ṽú^ṽ-me^ṽ-ni
- 10 ^dnah-hu-[un-te-^ṽú]-^rtú^ṽ-me a-ak
- 11 pu-hu-^re-na^ṽ [in-tí]-^rik-ka₄^ṽ a-ak
- 12 ir-ki-in-^rti ni-ka₄-me-na^ṽ ^din-šu-ši-na-ak
- 13 te-^rep-ti^ṽ [a-l]i-^rme-lu-ur-ra na-pír^ṽ-^ṽú^ṽ-ri
- 14 i si-ma-ta-ah^ṽ a-ak su-un-kip^ṽ li-ku-up
- 15 ur-pu-^rup^ṽ-pá si-ia-^ran ku-ši-ih-iš-ta^ṽ hi-iš
- 16 a-[pi-e]^ṽ ^re-re-en-tum₈ pè-ep^ṽ-ši-ia-ma
- 17 t[a-al]-^rlu-uh a-ak sar-ra-ah^ṽ a-ha ku-ši-ih
- 18 ^re^ṽ [^din]-^ršu-ši-na-ak na-pír^ṽ-^ṽú^ṽ-ri hu-ut-tah
- 19 ha-^rli-en^ṽ-ka₄ li-^rma^ṽ-nu te-la-ak-ni

- Translation :

Me, Šilhak-Inšušinak, son of Šutruk-Nahhunte, beloved servant of Inšušinak: the temple of Inšušinak had been built of raw bricks, and as it threatened to ruin, I (re)built it out of baked bricks, and the structure[?] from the door I built it out of enameled bricks and I enclosed it with gold studs. And for my life, for that of Nahhunte-Utu, and for his descendants, it is for this intention that, for our safeguard[?], I dedicated it to Inšušinak, lord of the Acropolis, my god ; and the kings of the kingdom, my predecessors, who had built the temple, I wrote their name on the foundation brick and I rehabilitated it and I (re)built it . Ô Inšušinak, my god, I worked : may the realization be pleasant to you as an offering !



Brick 7309 (Sandelin collection)
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Brick n°12

- Sandelin inventory number : 7310
- Red or white excavation number : 5132 (red number)
- Measurements (H x l x E cm) : 9,2 x 34,4 x 33,2
- Weight (kg) : 16
- Observations : whole square brick ; inscription on the top (in a cartouche).
- Date : Šilhak-Inšušinak (ca. 1150-1120)
- Language : Elamite
- Parallels : SCHEIL 1901 (n°XLVIII et pl. 11) ; KÖNIG 1965 (n°35) ; MALBRAN-LABAT 1995 (n°43, text 6)
- Graphic variants : Inscription of 20 lines. Inscription known in 19 lines by the bricks of the Louvre (MALBRAN-LABAT 1995) and the brick 7309. The variation in the number of lines shows that there were several matrices.
- Transliteration :
 - 1 ^rù ^mšil-ha-ak-^din-šu-ši-na-ak ša-ak
 - 2 ^mšu-ut-ru-ú-uk-^rd^{nah}-hu-un^r-te-kí-^rik^r
 - 3 ^rli^r-ba-ak ha-ni-ik ^rdⁱⁿ-šu-ši-na-[ak]-
 - 4 ^rkí-ik^r si-ia-an ^din-šu-ši-^rna^r-ak-[me]
 - 5 ^rú-pa^r-at-im-ma ku-ši-ik a-ak mi-[ši-ir-]
 - 6 ^rma-na^r ú e-ri-tum₈-im-ma ku-ši-ih a-ak
 - 7 [si-ip] hu-ti-^re ú^r-pa-at ak-ti-ia-ma
 - 8 [ku-ši-ih] a-ak ^rte^r-ti-in ^rla^r-an-si-it-
 - 9 [im-ma-ma ra-ar-ba-ah] ^ra-ak^r ta-^rak-kí^r-me-
 - 10 [ú-me-ni] ^rd^{nah}-hu-un-te-ú^r-tú-me
 - 11 [a-ak pu-hu]-^re-na in^r-ti-ik-ka₄ a-ak
 - 12 ir-ki-in-ti ni-ka₄-me-na ^din-šu-ši-
 - 13 ^rna^r-ak ^rte-ep-ti a-li-me-lu-ur-ra^r na-pír-
 - 14 [ú]-^rri i si-ma-ta-ah a-ak^r [su-u]n-kip
 - 15 ^rli-ku-up ur-pu-up-[pá si-ia]-an ku-ši-ih^r-
 - 16 [iš-ta hi-iš a-pi-e e-re-en-t]um₈
 - 17 [pè]-ep-ši-ia-ma ta-al-lu-uh a-ak
 - 18 [sar]-ra-ah a-ha ku-ši-ih e ^din-šu-
 - 19 ^rši-na-ak na-pír^r-[ú-ri hu-ut-t]ah
 - 20 ha-li-en-ka₄ li-^rma^r-nu ^rte-la-ak-ni^r

- Translation :

Me, Šilhak-Inšušinak, son of Šutruk-Nahhunte, beloved servant of Inšušinak: the temple of Inšušinak had been built of raw bricks, and as it threatened to ruin, I (re)built it out of baked bricks, and the structure[?] from the door I built it out of enameled bricks and I enclosed it with gold studs. And for my life, for that of Nahhunte-Utu, and for his descendants, it is for this intention that, for our safeguard[?], I dedicated it to Inšušinak, lord of the Acropolis, my god; and the kings of the kingdom, my predecessors, who had built the temple, I wrote their name on the foundation brick and I rehabilitated it and I (re)built it . Ô Inšušinak, my god, I worked: may the realization be pleasant to you as an offering !



Brick 7310 (Sandelin collection)
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Brick n°13

- Sandelin inventory number : 7312
- Red or white excavation number : 3413 (red number)
- Measurements (H x l x E cm) : 9,3 x 33 x 32
- Weight (kg) : 16
- Observations : whole square brick ; inscription on the edge
- Date : Šilhak-Inšušinak (ca. 1150-1120)
- Language : Elamite
- Parallels : SCHEIL 1901 (n°XXXI et pl.8) ; KÖNIG 1965 (n°32) ; MALBRAN-LABAT 1995 (n°40, text 3)
- Variants : graphics and layout similar to MALBRAN-LABAT 1995 n°40, text 3
- Transliteration :
 - 1 *ù mšil-ha-^rak-^din^r-šu-ši-na-ak ša-ak mšu-ut-ru-^ruk-^dnah-hu^r-un-te-kí-i[k]*
 - 2 *^rli^r-ba-ak ha-ni-ik ^din-šu-ši-na-ak-kí-ik ku-um-pu-um ki-du-ú-ia*
 - 3 *^rú-pa^r-at-^rma ku^r-ši-ih a-ak mi-ši-ir-ma-na sa-ri-ih a-ak e-ri-en-tu₄-um-ma*
 - 4 *ku-ši-ih a-ak ^din-šu-ši-na-ak na-pír-ú-ri i-si-ma-ta-ah e ^din-šu-ši-na-ak*
 - 5 *na-pír-ú-ri hu-ut-tak ha-li-ik-ú-me li-ma-nu te-la-ak-ni*
 - 6 *a-ak ^ra^r-ha- an hi-ih si-tu₄-uk-ti-ni*
- Translation :

Me, Šilhak-Inšušinak, son of Šutruk-Nahhunte, beloved servant of Inšušinak: as the outside chapel was built of raw bricks and threatened to ruin, I restored it and (re)built of baked bricks ; I dedicated it to Inšušinak, my god. Ô Inšušinak, my god, may the work I have done be pleasant to you as an offering and may you make the power (which) (represented) there prosper !



Brick 7312 (Sandelin collection)
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4. Conclusion and new perspective

The collection of the Museum of the Hotel Sandelin enriches the corpus of inscribed bricks from Susa, which is a capital source for our knowledge of the elamite civilization, the elamite sovereigns of the 2nd millenium BC and about their role as king builder.

In the future, it would be interesting to propose a study on excavation numbers. Indeed there seems to be a logical sequence along the excavation numbers allocated, at least for some bricks. For instance, the brick 7318 bears red excavation number 3404 while two bricks from the Louvre with the same cuneiform inscription bear the red excavation numbers 3406 and 3408. The brick 7319 has the same cuneiform inscription as the brick 7318 and bears red excavation number 563. Several bricks from the Louvre with the same cuneiform inscription bear red excavation numbers close to each other : 566, 568, 570 or 551, 553 and 555. A last example with the brick 7315 bearing the red excavation number 3139: two bricks from the Louvre, with the same cuneiform inscription, bear the red excavation numbers 3142 and 3145. It therefore appears that the bricks bearing the same cuneiform inscription have excavation numbers which are part of coherent sequences. If we start from the principle that excavators have assigned consecutive excavation numbers to bricks, it might be interesting to conduct a study aimed to proposing a virtual reconstruction of the walls by grouping the bricks that must have been nearby in the original construction.

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