



## DILMUN IN THE ARCHAIC URUK CORPUS - Robert Englund

In the corpus of archaic Uruk texts (dated roughly between 3200-3000 B.C.), now being prepared for publication (1), Dilmun is attested with some frequency both in lexical lists and economic documents. A short note on the sign's occurrences and unusual paleographic development might be of interest to archaeologists and Assyriologists alike.

The sign , which resembles the Sumerian sign mušen = bird , allows of identification with dilmun (NI+HUB) of later ED tradition through its appearance in lexical lists:

## Archaic lu line 85 (2) Script stage

A (W20266.1)vi2'	1 dilmun.[ ]	Uruk III
AG (W21208.6+)vi6'	1 dilmun.enku <sub>x</sub> (ZÀ) (3)	III
DN (W19948.34)ii'1'	1 dilmun.enku <sub>x</sub> (ZÀ)	IV?

## Archaic metal line 27 (4)


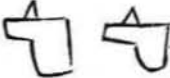



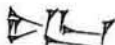
D (W20266.10)ii9'	[ .tù]n	III
E (W21208.3+)ii2'	1 dilmun.tùn	III
L (W20266.42)ii'2'	1 di[lmun. ]	III
S (W20266.47)i'1'	[ ]dilmun.tùn'	III

Here we have apparently an official (dilmun.enku<sub>x</sub>) involved with tax or rent collection, and a Dilmun-metal object (dilmun.tùn). Further, the geographical context of the sign is furnished by the text W21185 (Geographical List 6;Uruk III):

i'1'	[ ]	
2'	[ ]MÜŠ.TE (zabalam <sub>x</sub> )	
3'	[ .an]še?	
4'	[ ]x.dilmun	x = <del>177</del>
ii'1'	'ki'	

The evident connection of Dilmun in these lexical lists with trade, particularly in metals, is attested in eleven economic documents. The text W14731bb refers in unfortunately broken context - the entries seem to deal with grain disbursements (5) - to urudu.urudu.si dilmun; other tablets however record wool/cloth rations (for trade? [6]) made to individuals connected with Dilmun. For instance W20274.77i2, according to the formula "so-and-so many (wool-)units (issued to) PN, the? (profession?), (of/for) x", reads: 2x ly gibil.nun sù.pap dilmun, whereby dilmun is parallel to ezen. 'inanna, "the Inanna festival", in the preceding line. gibil.nun is elsewhere attested in the textile accounts W20493.4 and 21671, and in one grain rations text W20511.2, which itself lists nun.é.hi dilmun, again someone often appearing in textile accounts. Further references to Dilmun are too broken to be of consequence.

Finally, the unusual development of the Dilmun sign up to late ED might be given graphically:

Uruk IV		(lú 85 witness DN,W19948.34)
Uruk III		(all other texts cited, = ATU 675)(7)
Archaic Ur		(UET 2, 409) (8)
Fara		(LAK 514)
Abu Salabikh		(e.g. OIP 99, liv15 /lú)
Ebla		(ELLes 268) (9)

There was apparently a striking interruption in the process of abstraction between the Uruk III and Archaic Ur periods, after which the classical Fara sign NI+HUB saw little change.

#### Notes

1. M. Green's signlist and an edition of the archaic lexical lists, co-authored by Green and H. Nissen, director of the Berlin Uruk project, may be expected to go to press in the near future. The present article and text references contained within it result from their preliminary work and the friendly assistance of P. Damerow, who completed and delivered computer printouts of the Archaic Uruk corpus.

2. See E. Arcari, La lista di professioni "Early Dynastic Lú A", Naples, 1982, p. 25 to line 83, and cf. MSL 12:3-21; H. Nissen in L. Cagni, ed., La lingua di Ebla, Naples, 1981, p. 99-108. The enku<sub>x</sub> sections of these lists have to do with officials in charge of collecting taxes or rents, see the dictionaries under imittum.

3. The reading enku<sub>x</sub> of ZÀ is assured by the syllabic Ur III lexical text SLT 24 rev. ! ii4' [ZA.Dilmun] en.kù.dilmun.na (reference M. Green).

4. See MEE 3, p. 79, and read A dilmun<sup>1</sup> .tù[n]; B to line 22!; J (W24012/3) iil l an.<sup>1</sup>bar!<sup>1</sup>.uš to line 45; the source for Pettinato's reading of the Old Akkadian (see MAD 5, xxx) text I is unclear to me - the line occurs in the section dealing with metal objects in all other cases followed by the determinative urudu 'copper'.

5. Grain rations to Dilmunites W20511.2, 20916, and probably ATU 524.

6. For the later textile trade between Mesopotamia and Dilmun see H. Waetzoldt, UNT 72; 142<sup>538</sup>; W. Leemans, Foreign Trade in the Old Babylonian

Period , p. 22-56. The cited Larsa period texts deal with the "tithe" (zà.10) due the goddess Ningal of Ur from members of a Dilmun expedition.

7. A. Vaiman, VDI 1974/2:147 equates incorrectly the sign OECT 7, 189 with Dilmun. The sign should probably be connected with múrub (SAL.LAGAR), always written together with unug in the Uruk corpus.

8. Attested as gentilic with (or element of) personal names for the most part receiving rations. In three cases (UET 2, 91,112, and 346) the recipient is called dumu.dilmun, "son/citizen? of Dilmun".

9. Significant is MEE 3, 44 obv. x 12: dilmun<sup>ki</sup> after elam<sup>ki</sup> (photo in MEE 3A, Pl. XV). J. Krecher, La lingua di Ebla, 143 and following him M. Krebernik, ZA 72(1982), 182 have not allowed for paleographic ambiguity in this sign.