

**New Date Formula from the Reign of
"Enlil.Bani"
In the Light of Unpublished Cuneiform
Distribution Text**

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سنة حكم جديدة من عصر الملك " أنليل باني " في ضوء

نص توزيع مسماري غير منشور

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Abstract:

The study of Date formulas is one of the most important studies that shed the light on the history of Mesopotamia, as it is full and rich in information, till it became a reliable information source that leads us to solve all the problems within the periods it represents.

الكلمات المفتاحية :

(بيت ، حقل ، ملك ، سنة حكم)

key words :

(House , Field , king , Date Formula)

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The study of Date formulas is one of the most important studies that shed the light on the history of Mesopotamia, as it is full and rich in information, till it became a reliable information source that leads us to solve all the problems within the periods it represents.

The most amazing thing about this type of study (Date formulas) is that it is not static or stagnant , but on the contrary, it is renewable , because it depends on the ongoing archaeological excavations and the resulting discovery of new cuneiform texts , which it carries within it new formulas that appear for the first time, which provides us with a new source of information that reveals facts that we did not know previously .

As is known, that the ruling dynasties in Mesopotamia were sprawling and there are many cities were subject to their rule . which was committed administratively and politically to the ruling authority , and it was obligated to implement all the central decisions .

That was in many cases indirect reason behind losing many event and information that were recorded inside the cuneiform texts .

For example the central calender that adopted by the ruling dynasty or kingdom were force all cities to adopt the same date formula , which in fact depends on the most important event approved by the ruling authority , and this certainly happens at the expence of other events wihch perhaps no less important than the event approved in the central calender

We also find in another cases that the ruling authority resorts to relying the same date formula for more than a year due to their great importance .

As a result, we find that there are many new date formulas that were not previously known appear from time to time, during the excavations .

Sometimes these date formulas appear as a rare cases mentioned in one or two texts at most , in a specific city to document local activity among a number of people .

Where a new date formula was discovered in a cuneiform Contracts from the Old babylonian period , during the excavation at the ancient city Nippur , and added to the rule years list of the king Enlil.Bani under the title (ab) , as shown below

**New Date Formula from the Reign of "Enlil.Bani" In the Light of
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**mu^den.lil₂.ba.ni lugal.e
eren₂ dumu i₃.si.in^{ki}na su in.ne.bar¹**

As well as it may occur more than once in more than one text, as is the case in a number of new cuneiform texts dating back to the reign of the king Abi-Sari , as shown below

- **MU BAD₃.GAL BA.U₂ GIR.NU.UM MU.ŠE.ŠUB**
- **MU BAD₃ BA.U₂ GIR.NU.UM MU.ŠE.ŠUB**
- **MU [BAD₃] BA.U₂.[GIR].NU.UM MU.ŠE.ŠUB**

The year in which the great wall girnuùm of the goddess Bau collapsed.

This formula was mentioned in three texts, and it refers to the collapse of the girnuùm wall. There is no information about this wall, especially since the formula is mentioned for the first time .²

Enlil-Bani

Enlil Bani was the tenth king of the first Dynasty of isin and the kinglist of " Ur-Isin " have been mentioned that he ruled twenty-four years (1860-1837 BC) .³

The Cuneiform sources mentioned that the way he became a ruler was legendary and perhaps it was apocryphal .

Where the Cuneiform sources mentioned that the king Erra - Imitti when he felt afraid of the bad omen that the priests warned him about , he chose his gardener, Enlil - bani, to become a replacement king for him , and he placed the royal crown on his head , until the threat of bad omen for him had passed .

But the strange irony is that the real king Erra - Imitti died while eating hot porridge, and the gardener Enlil - bani took advantage of this situation and refused to give up the throne and he became the king⁴

Its believed that the motive behind this fake tale is first to surround his name with an aura of sanctity , and secondly he wanted to make

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people believe that the tale of his accession to the throne was by the will of gods , and not that it was a usurpation of the throne .⁵

The reign of King Enlil Bani witnessed many upheavals and revolutions on the throne,

In any case , that state of chaos provided the opportunity for the King of Larsa Sin- idnam to extend his influence over many cities north of Isin, especially the city of Nippur⁶. However, the King Enlil Bani was able to eliminate the state of chaos and disobedience that prevailed in his kingdom at that time, and thus he succeeded in laying the foundations of his state in Isin.⁷

The Cuneiform texts mentioned that Enlil-bāni "build a new wall for Isin which had become dilapidated,"⁸, and he document that act on pottery cones. Also he named the wall " *Enlil-bāni-išdam-kīn*,"⁹ which mean "Enlil-bāni is firm as to foundation."

as well as he construct the é-ur-gi₇-ra, "the dog house,"¹⁰ also the e₂-ni₂-dub₂-bu, "house of relaxation," for the goddess Nintinugga,

Also he dedication two large statues made of copper to the holly city Nippur to the goddess Ningal, which Iddin-Dagān had fashioned 117 years earlier but had been unable to deliver it to the temple of his goddess , "on account of this, the goddess Ninlil had the god Enlil lengthen the life span of Enlil- Bāni."¹¹, where he documents this act , in two foundation cones , also Cuneiform soueces mentioned that he built a temple for the goddess Annunitum.¹²

Date Formulas of the King Enlil-Bani

As we have previously shown, that the date formulas are subject to renewal and updating, and this depends entirely on the results of the archaeological excavations and discovery of new cuneiform texts that contain information that was not previously known.

So it rather a written page awaiting any amendment or addition, because this is the principle of cuneiform studies.

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1.

MU ^dEN-LIL₂-BA-NI LUGAL

(Year of in which Enlil-Bâni (became) a king .

aa.

MU ^dEN-LIL₂-BA-NI LUGAL-E U₄ GU₂-UN EREN₂ DUMU I₃-SI-
IN^{ki}-NA MU-UN-DU₈-A

(Year of the king Enlil- Bâni released the citizens of Isin
from taxes)

ab.

MU ^dEN-LIL₂-BA-NI LUGAL-E EREN₂ DUMU I₃-SI-IN^{ki}-NA ŠU
IN-NE-BAR

(The year of the king Enlil-Bani in which he set free the citizens of
Isin from (forced labour)

b.

MU EN-KI-AG₂-^dINANNA EN-^dINANNA BA-HUN

The year (of the king Enlil-Bani) in which , the beloved priest of the
goddess Inanna (was) installed (as) en-priest of Inanna

C.

MU ^dEN-LIL₂-BA-NI LUGAL-E LUGAL KI-EN-GI KI-URI-KE₄
NIBRU^{ki} KI-BE₂ BI₂-IN-GL₄

(The Year of the king Enlil-Bani , the king of Sumer and Akkad, in
which he restored the city of Nippur to its right place).

D.

MU LAGAR-^dEN-LIL₂-LA₂ BA-HUN

(The Year of (the king Enlil-Bani) , in which the "lagar"-priest of the
god Enlil was installed) .

E.

MU ^{gis}ŠU-LU₂ KU₃-SIG₁₇ ^dEN-LIL₂-RA MU-NA-DIM₂

**New Date Formula from the Reign of "Enlil.Bani" In the Light of
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(The Year of (the king Enlil-Bani) in which he made a golden mace
for the god Enlil) .

F.

MU ^{URUDU}ALAN GAL-GAL 3-A-BI ^dNIN-URTA MU-NA-DIM₂

(The Year of (the king Enlil-Bani) , in which he made a very large
three copper statues for the god Ninurta) .

G.

MU ALAN KU₃-SIG₁₇ ^dNIN-URTA-RA MU-UN-NA.AN-DIM₂-
DIM₂-MA .

(The Year of (the king Enlil-Bani) , in which he made a gold statues
for the god Ninurta) .

H.

MU ALAN KU₃-SIG₁₇ ^dNA-NA-A-RA MU-NA-DIM₂ .

(The Year of (the king Enlil-Bani) , in which made he made a gold
statue for the goddess Nanaia) .

I.

MU E₂-ME-ZI-DA E₂ KI-AG₂-GA₂-NI-ŠE₃ ^dEN-KI-RA MU-NA-
DIM₂ .

(The Year of (the king Enlil-Bani) , in which he built for the god
Enki his beloved temple "Emezida") .

J.

MU ^{gis}GU-ZA ZAG-BE₂-US₂ KU₃-SIG₁₇ KU₃-BABBAR KIN GAL-
EŠ AK ^dEN-KI-RA MU-NA-AN-DIM₂ .

(The Year of (the king Enlil-Bani) , in which he made for the god
Enki an armchair made of gold and silver superbly decorated) .

K.

MU ^{gis}GU-ZA ZAG-BE₂-US₂ KU₃-SIG₁₇ ^dUTU- RA MU-NA -DIM₂ .

**New Date Formula from the Reign of "Enlil.Bani" In the Light of
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(The Year of (the king Enlil-Bani) , in which he made for the god
Utu a throne made of gold and silver).

L.

MU ^{gis}GU-ZA BARA₂ KU₃-SIG₁₇ ^dNANNA-RA MU-NA -DIM₂

(The Year of (the king Enlil-Bani) , in which he made for the god
Nanna a throne dais made of gold).

M.

MU A-ŠA₃ A-GAR₃ SIG ZAG A-AB-BA-ŠE₃ MU-UN-BA-A

(The Year of (the king Enlil-Bani) , in which the field and arable
land towards the sea was drained).

N.

MU NIN-MEN-^dKA?-[]-KU₃? NIN-DINGIR-^dISKUR BA-IL₂

(The Year of (the king Enlil-Bani) , in which , Ninmen... was
elevated as high-priestess for the god Ishkur).

O.

MU MIN ... DINGIR-LAMMA ZI-DA ?

(The Year of (the king Enlil-Bani) , in which Year 2 (statues) of
protective divinities (giving) life) .?

I would like to clarify here that after reading one of the confiscated cuneiform texts that belong to the Old Babylonian period, we discovered a new date formula that appeared for the first time. It was not included in the list of ruling years of King the Enlil Bani that shown below.

**MU ^dEN.LIL₂.BA.NI LUGAL.E
MU ^{gis}GU.ZA ZAG.BE₂.US₂ KU₃.SIG₁₇ ^dNIN.IN.SI.NA.RA
MU.NA.AN.DIM₂**

The Year of (the king Enlil-Bani) , in which he made for the goddess
Ninsina a throne made of gold and silver

**New Date Formula from the Reign of "Enlil.Bani" In the Light of
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After reading this new date formula, it became clear that it is very similar to the date formula (K) in the years list of the reign of King Enlil Bani , and the only difference is that the new date formula is dedicated to the the goddess Ninsina , while the other one (K) is dedicated to the god Utu

Therefore, we believe, but are not certain, that this new date formula may precede the date formula (K) or come after it. Because the two date formulas carried the same subject except for the difference in the name of God only ,
As shown below :

(K)

**MU^{GIS}GU.ZA ZAG.BE₂.US₂ KU₃.SIG₁₇^dUTU-RA
MU.NA.AN.DIM₂**

(The Year of (the king Enlil-Bani) , in which he made for the god
Utu a throne made of gold and silver).

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Obv.	
	1 SAR.E ₂ DU ₃ .A
	DA E ₂ ^d EN.ZU-iš-me-an-ni
	1 SAR.E ₂ DU ₃ .A
	DA E ₂ pa-a-zum
5.	2 GIŠ.IG MI.RI ₂ .ZA ¹⁷ ŠUB.BA
	2 EŠE IKU A.ŠA ₃ U ₂ .SAR.ŠE KIA.HI
	US ₂ .SA.RA ₂ da-da-a LUGAL
	1 EŠE IKU A.ŠA ₃ U ₂ .SAR.ŠE KIA.HI
	US ₂ .SA.RA ₂ lu ₂ - ^d im
10.	[.....]
	[.....]
	[xx] [A.Š]A ₃ i-din- ^d EN.ZU-[xx]
	[x] BA.E.A
	[ŠA ₃] BI-TA

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15.	[x] [S]AR E ₂ DU ₃ .A
	[DA] E ₂ pa-a-zum
	[x] [GIŠ].IG MI.RI ₂ .ZA ¹⁷ ŠUB.BA
	[x] [EŠE I] KU A.[ŠA ₃ U ₂].SAR.ŠE KI.A.HI
	[.....]
20.	[.....]
Rev.	
	[xxx] [A.Š]A ₃ U ₂ .SAR.ŠE KI.A.HI
	[US ₂ .SA.] ṚA ₂ E ₂ lu ₂ - ^d im
	[xx] ili ^d INANNA
	[DA] [A]ŠA ₃ i-din- ^d EN.ZU
25.	[x] SAR E ₂ DU ₃ .A
	[D]A. E ₂ ^d EN.ZU-iš-me-a-ni
	2 GIŠ.IG MI.RI ₂ .ZA ¹⁷ ŠUB.BA
	3[UBU IKU] 15 SAR U ₂ .SAR.ŠE KI.A.ḪI
	US ₂ .ṚSA ¹ .[R]A ₂ ḫa-am-ši
30.	3 [xxx] US ₂ .SA.RA ₂ a-pil ₂ -[.....]
	[.....] ^d EN.ZU
	[.....] [US ₂ .SA].RA ₂ ki-ri-[x]
	AL.TIL ₂ .LA.AŠ
	[INIM].BI I ₃ .DU ₁₁ .E
35.	[U.KUR].ŠE LU ₂ .LU ₂ .RA INIM.NU.UM
	GA ₂ .GA ₂ .NE.A
	[MU] LUGAL-bi IN.PAD ₃ .DE ₃ .EŠ
	[IGI] šar-ru-um- ^d IM DUMU bur- ^d IM
	[IGI] sa-na-qum-RA.GAB DUMU e-ri-ib- ^d EN.ZU
	[IGI] ^d da-da-wa-qar DUMU ši-e-nu
40.	IGI i-din- ^d IM DUMU ^d IM-ba-ni
	IGI ha-zi-ru DUMU a-ḫu-ni
	IGI šar-ru-um- ^d IM DUMU IR ₃ -ku-bi
	ITU NE.NE.GAR
J	MU ^d EN.LIL ₂ .BA.NI LUGAL.E
45.	MU ^{GIS} GU.ZA ZAG.BE ₂ .US ₂ KU ₃ .SIG ₁₇
	^d NIN.IN.SI.NA.RA MU.NA.AN.DIM ₂

**New Date Formula from the Reign of "Enlil.Bani" In the Light of
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Translating :	
Obv.	
	One Sar built House
	Next to Sin ishmiani House
	One Sar built House
	Next to Sin Paazum House
5.	Two canal gates made of small panels (for) ŠUB.BA Canal
	Two EŠE IKU (from) a vegetable field for the next time
	Next to dada.lugal
	One EŠE IKU (from) a vegetable field for the next time
	Next to lu.adad
10.	Broken line
	Broken line
	(.....) field edin sin (.....)
	[x] BA.E.A.
	including
15.	(.....) Sar built House
	(Next to) pazum House
	Two canal gates made of small panels (for) ŠUB.BA Canal
	(.....) from a vegetable field for the next time
	Broken line
20.	Broken line
Rev.	
	(.....) from a vegetable field for the next time
	(Next to) lu.adad
	(.....) ili ishtar
	(Next to) edin sin ishmiani field
25	(..... Sar) built House
	Next to sin ishmiani House
	Two canal gates made of small panels (for) ŠUB.BA Canal
	Three Eshe Iku , and fifteen sar (from) a vegetable field for the next time .
	Next to kha (.....) .

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30.	Three (.....) Next to a-(.....)
	(.....) Next to kiri
	As long as he still lives / As long as he is alive
	The word he said
35.	In the Future , the man will not go back on his word or complain about the other man .
	They swore in the name of their king
	In the presence of sharum adad son of bur adad
	In the presence of sanaqum the envoy son of erib sin
	(In the presence of) dada waqar son of senu
40.	In the presence of edin adad son of adad bani .
	In the presence of hazerum son of ahuni .
	In the presence of sharum adad son of warad kubi .
	The month of August
45.	The Year of (the king Enlil-Bani) , in which he made for the goddess Ninsina a throne made of gold and silver

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Vocabulary Explanation :	
1.	<p>SAR : Sumerian Unit of area measurement opposite by Akkadian (mušaru) , It is used to measure the area of fields, agricultural lands, and houses, and it is equal to (36.42) square meters according to the present area measurement .¹³</p> <p>E₂.DU₃.A : Sumerian term mean " constructed (built) house " ,opposite by Akkadian (bitum epšum).¹⁴</p>
2.	<p>DA : Sumerian Vocabulary mean " Nearby , beside " , opposite by Akkadian (tehu) .¹⁵</p> <p>d^hEN.ZU-iš-me-an-ni : Masculine Personal name .¹⁶</p>
4.	<p>pa-a-zum : Masculine Personal name .</p>
5.	<p>GIŠ.IG MI.RI₂.ZA : Sumerian Term mean " Channel gate made of small panels " , opposite by Akkadian (dalat parissi) .¹⁷</p> <p>GIŠ.IG : Sumerian Vocabulary mean " Door , The gate that controls the canal's water " , opposite by Akkadian (daltu).¹⁸</p> <p>MI.RI₂.ZA : Sumerian Term mean " Small board, boat pole " , opposite by Akkadian (parīsu) .¹⁹</p>
6.	<p>EŠE₃ : Sumerian Unit of area measurement opposite by Akkadian (eblu) , it is equivalent approximately (21600)^{M2} .²⁰</p> <p>IKU : Sumerian Unit of area measurement opposite by Akkadian (ikkum) .²¹</p> <p>A.ŠA₃: Sumerian Vocabulary mean " Field " , opposite by Akkadian (eqlum).²²</p> <p>A.ŠA₃ U₂.SAR.ŠE : Sumerian Term mean " Vegetable Field " , opposite</p>

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	by Akkadian (eqel arqi) . ²³
7.	US₂.SA.RA₂ : Sumerian Term mean " Nearby , beside", opposite by Akkadian (itûm) . ²⁴ da-da-a : Masculine Personal name . ²⁵
9.	lu₂-^dim : Masculine Personal name . ²⁶
12.	i-din-^dEN.ZU : Masculine Personal name . ²⁷
13.	[x] BA.E.A : A broken Sumerian Formula , we could not figure out it meaning . But despite of the broken signs , but we think it might translate as " said " or " agree " , because the meaning of the verb root "E" is " said " .
14.	[ša ₃] bi-ta : Sumerian Term mean " Part of it / including it " ²⁸
23.	ili ^dINANNA : Masculine Personal name , for comparison . ²⁹
29.	ha-am-šī : Masculine Personal name , we did not find it in PN Soures .
33.	AL.TIL₂.LA.AŠ : Sumerian Form mean " As long as he still lives / As long as he is alive " , opposite by Akkadian (a-di ina eqel arqi ašbu). ³⁰
34.	[INIM]. BI : Sumerian Form mean " His Word " , opposite by Akkadian (awat-šu) . I₃.DU₁₁.E : Sumerian Verbal Form mean " said / the agreed word " , opposite by Akkadian (qabû)
35.	[U.KUR]. ŠE : Sumerian Term mean " Later " , opposite by Akkadian (a-di ina eqel arqi ašbu) . ³¹ LU₂.LU₂.RA INIM.NU.UM.GA₂.GA₂.NE.A : Sumerian Verbal Form mean " He does not complain

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	/ demand " , opposite by Akkadian (ana la iragam). ³²
36.	LUGAL.BI : Sumerian Vocabulary mean " His King " , opposite by Akkadian (šarrašu) . ³³ IN.PAD₃.DE₂.EŠ : Sumerian Verbal Form mean " Swear " ³⁴
37.	IGI : Sumerian Vocabulary mean " witness , in the presence of " , opposite by Akkadian (šibum) . ³⁵ šar-ru-um-^dIM : Masculine Personal name. ³⁶ bur-^dIM : Masculine Personal name . ³⁷
38.	sa-na-qum : Masculine Personal name . ³⁸ RA.GAB : Sumerian Job mean " Messenger , Envoy " , opposite by Akkadian (rakbu). ³⁹ DUMU : Sumerian Vocabulary mean " Son " , opposite by Akkadian (māru). ⁴⁰ e-ri-ib-^dEN.ZU : Masculine Personal name . ⁴¹
39.	^dda-da-wa-qar : Masculine Personal name . ⁴² ši-e-nu : Masculine Personal name
40.	i-din-^dIM : Masculine Personal name . ⁴³ ^dIM-ba-ni : Masculine Personal name . ⁴⁴
41.	ha-zi-ru : Masculine Personal name. ⁴⁵ a-ḥu-ni : Masculine Personal name . ⁴⁶
42.	IR₃-ku-bi : Masculine Personal name . ⁴⁷
43.	ITU : Sumerian month,opposite by Akkadian (warhu). ⁴⁸ NE.NE.GAR : Name of a Sumerian month, which today represents a The month (August) , opposite by Akkadian (abu) . ⁴⁹
44.	MU : Sumerian Vocabulary mean (year) ,opposite by Akkadian (Šattu) . ⁵⁰

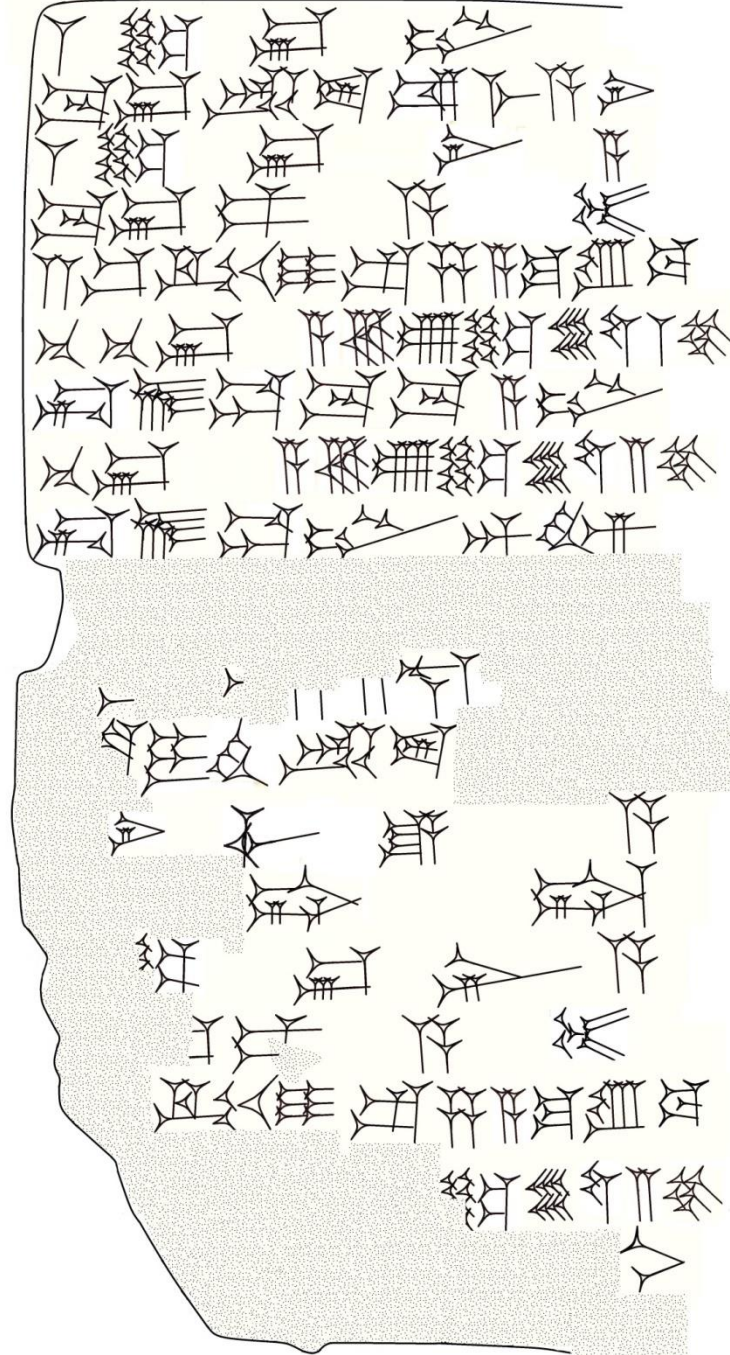
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conclusions:

- 1- It cannot be accepted that the cuneiform readings are fixed and cannot be change. This is also the case with the date formulas in ancient Iraq, as they are subject to change if new texts and new readings are revealed.
- 2- The kings of ancient Iraq relied on certain date formulas and not others, and this explains the presence of many events that were not recorded within the years of their rule.
- 3- The cuneiform sources have shown us that the dating formulas is usually central for all the cities subject to the king's authority, but in some cases there is another type that is considered local dating formulas usually used in a specific city and not others.
- 4- The cuneiform texts represent an inexhaustible source of information. They provide us from time to time with new readings that contain new information mentioned for the first time, paving the way for researchers to explore them.

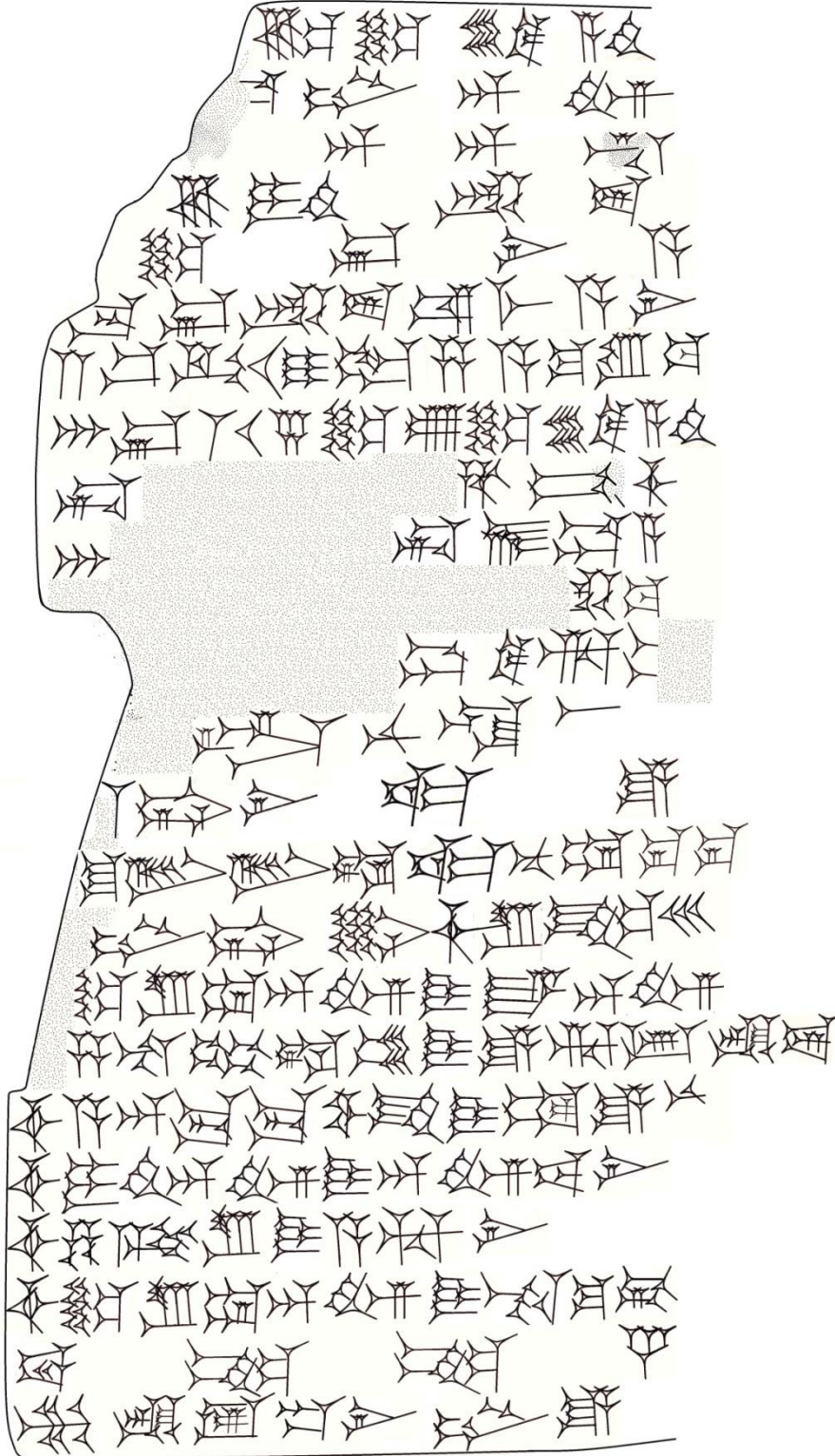
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Obv.

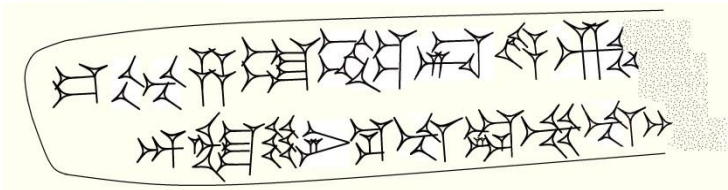


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Rev.



Up.ed



New Date Formula from the Reign of "Enlil.Bani" In the Light of
Unpublished Cuneiform Distribution Text

Obv.



New Date Formula from the Reign of "Enlil.Bani" In the Light of
Unpublished Cuneiform Distribution Text

Rev.



Up.ed



New Date Formula from the Reign of "Enlil.Bani" In the Light of Unpublished Cuneiform Distribution Text

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- ¹³ - RLA, 7 , p. 478 ; CAD , M/2 , p. 261:b .
- ¹⁴ - JCS.Vol.14,p.118 ; AHW,p.133 ; CAD , P. 84: a ; Abz, p. 133, No:324 .
- ¹⁵ - CAD,T,p. 82 :a ; AHW,p.1384.
- ¹⁶ - PNS,p280 .
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**New Date Formula from the Reign of "Enlil.Bani" In the Light of
Unpublished Cuneiform Distribution Text**

²³ - CDA, P. 434:b .

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وكذلك ينظر :

الشويبي ،سعد سلمان ، نصوص مسمارية غير منشورة من العصر البابلي القديم من تل بزيخ
(زابالام) وابو عنتيك (بيكاسي)، اطروحة دكتوراة غير منشورة، جامعة بغداد، ٢٠١٠، ص١٣٧

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FAOS, Band, 20/1, 1996,pp.124-125 ; CAD,R,p.62

³³ - CAD, Š/2,p. 76 : b ; OBPC, p. 36 .

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⁴⁰ - CDA,p.199:a

⁴¹ - PNS,p.280 . ;

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⁴² - Ranke, PN,p.77 .

New Date Formula from the Reign of "Enlil.Bani" In the Light of Unpublished Cuneiform Distribution Text

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⁴⁴ - PNS,p11.

⁴⁵ - Stamm Namengebung,P,234.

⁴⁶ - OBTM, P.277 ; YOS, 14, P.47.

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