MORE EXAMPLES OF CORRESPONDENCES BETWEEN kārum' s *

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Among the published Kültepe Texts there are at least fifteen letters exchanged between $k\bar{a}rum$ Kaniš and other $k\bar{a}r\bar{u}$. They are addressed to such $k\bar{a}r\bar{u}$ as Purušhattum, Durhumit, Hurama, Tamnia, Uršu, Wahšušana and Zalpa. We may note here that kt. n/k 681 reveals the existence of yet another $k\bar{a}rum$, that of Eluhut. In all we know now some twenty cities were Assyrian $k\bar{a}r\bar{u}$ existed.

I like to present hereby three new $k\bar{a}rum$ letters. One (no.2) is addresed by $k\bar{a}rum$ Kaniš to $k\bar{a}rum$ Purušhattum, the two others are written by $k\bar{a}rum$ Wahšušana to $k\bar{a}rum$ Kaniš 3.

No.1 (kt. 83/k 117)

- Obv. 1. a-na kà-ri-im Kà-ni-iš
 qí-bi-ma um-ma
 ší-ip-ru-ku-nu ù
 kà-ru-um Wa-ah-šu-ša-na-ma
 - 5. tup-pè-e wa-bar'-tum
 ša Ú-lá-ma ù Ša-lá-tù-ar
 ú-šé-bi₄-lu-nim-ma
 ni-iš-ta-me-ma ni-ik-nu-uk-ma
 na-áš-ú-ni-ku-nu-tí

^{*} This paper was presented in Turkish to the 34 Rencontre Assyriologique Internationale, Istanbul, 1986, but the report on papers has not yet appeared until now.

These letters have already been discussed by M.T. Larsen, OACC, p.247 ff.
 L.10: kå-ru-um E-lu-hu-ut; kt n/k 681 belongs to the group of texts which we are now preparing for publication.

Although kt r/k 16 might also be a letter from kārum Waḥšušana to kārum Kaniš, the tablet unfortunately is too damaged to yield something meaningful.

10. i-ša-am-ší tup-pè-c ni-iš-ta-mc-ú 2 ší-ip-ri ha-ra-an Ú-lá-ma-ma 2 ší-ip-ri ha-ra-an

Edge Rev.

15. Ša-lá-tù-ar-ma a-na
Pu-ru-uš-ḥa-tim a-na
a-wa-tim za-ku-im
ni-iš-ta-pár! a-wa-tám
pá-ni-tám-ma

2(). Ša ú-bu-lu-ni-ni ni-ša-pá-ra-ku-nu-tí-ma ú-za-ku-nu ni-pá-tí I-ku-pì-a DUB.SAR ší-pár-ni

Translation

²Speak ¹to *kārum* Kaniš: ²Thus (say) ³your envoys and ⁴*kārum* Waḥšušana: ⁵The *wabartum* 's ⁶of Ulama and Šalatuar ⁷have sent us ⁵letters (tablets) and ⁸having read (them) we have put them under seal and ⁹they are on their way to you. ¹⁰The very day ¹¹we have ¹⁰the(se) letters ¹¹read, ¹⁸we have sent ¹²two messengers ¹³by way of Ulama and ¹⁴two (other) messengers by way of ¹⁵Šalatuar to ¹⁶Purušhattum in order to ¹⁷to clear up the matter. ¹⁹The first ¹⁸report ²⁰they will bring us ²¹we will write to you ²²in order to inform you (more in details). ²³Ikuppia, the scribe, ²⁴is our messenger."

Comments

The messengers of $k\bar{a}rum$ Kaniš ("your messengers"), which occur here as senders of letter together with another $k\bar{a}rum$, are also attested as writers in MNK 636 (L. Matouš, Journal of Juristic Papyrology 11, p.111 ff.) and KTK 8 (1.2 read: $\pm i$ - $\pm i$

Kt. f/k 183 from kārum level IB (K. Balkan, Observation, p.36, and P. Garelli, Les Assyriens en Cappadoce, p.333 ff.), which is still one of the most important sources on political relations between the office of

kārum's and Anatolian local rulers, also sheds light on the nature of these messengers. According to line 5f. the "messengers of kārum Durhumit" apparently were sent to the ruler of Tamnia in order to make him swear an oath. But the ruler refuses to deal with these representatives of kārum Durhumit in a serious political matter. So he will only deal with the messengers of kārum Kaniš, those "of my fathers", who have the authority to conclude treaties.

In our text the messengers, acting together with the local kārum, inform kārum Kaniš, their sender, about letters received from two wabartum's and report on their actions undertaken to get more information on problems which must have arisen in Purushattum. They are gathering information by sending two pairs of messengers along two different routes, presumably because communications are difficult. Perhaps there was a sukurtum, "suspension of commercial traffic" as mentioned in BIN 4,35: 16; TC 3, 14: 3; RSM 1922, 396:4. Ikuppia, the scribe, is also attested in CCT 3, 50b: 12 and RA 60, 135:53.

This letter gives us an important clue about the location of Ulama and Šalatuwar, both of which appear here as towns with a wabartum. It is rather clear that they were located somewhere between Wahsusana and Purushattum, but on different routes. Recently M. Forlanini his discussed the location of some important Anatolian cities and proposed locations of Wahsusana, Purushattum, Ulama and Šalatuwar (Hethitica 6, 1985, p.67). He put Wahsusana to the north, Purushattum to the south, Ulama to the east and Šalatuwar to the west of the modern Salt Lake (Tuz Gölü). This proposal also makes sense in the context of our text no.3 (kt.83/k 284) and we can accept his locations in a general way.

No.2 (kt. v/k 89)

Obv. 1. um-ma kà-ru-um Kà-ni-iš-ma a-na kà-ri-im Pu-ru-uš-ḫa-tim qí-bi-ma iš-tù

5. Ú-şur-ša-A-šùr a-ma-nu-um ú-şa-a-ni-ma a-na ma-tim qé-er-bi-tim c-ru-bu lu KÙ.BABBAR lu KÙ.GI lu URUDU lu AN.NA

10. lu TÚGḥi.a mì-ma Ú-ṣur-ša-A-šùr a-ma-kam

Edge e-zi-bu

lu wa-ar-kà-nim

Rev. ^{flu-qú l}-sú e-ru-ba-am

15. lu D[AM.G]AR qí-ip-ma
u₊-mu-[šu] ma-al-ů
lu a-hu-ru ma-ma-an
lá i-ṣa-ba-at a-na
Kà-ni-iš i-pá-hu-ra-ma

20. a-dí Ú-ṣur-ša-A-šùr i-lǎ-kà-ni i-ba-ší ma-ma-an a-ma-kam

lá i-ţá-ḫi

ša il5-qé-ú ú-ta-ar

Edge 25. lá ša ú-ta-ru i-ša-ri-<iq>-šu-um

Translation

¹Thus (says) kārum ² Kaniš: ⁴Speak ³to kārum Purušhattum: ⁴"After ⁵Uṣur-ša-Aššur ⁴departed ⁵from there ⁴and ⁵went into ¹the inland, ¹owhatever ⁵silver ⁰or gold or copper or tin, ¹or textiles ¹¹Uṣur-ša-Aššur ¹²left behind ¹¹over there, ¹⁴or what merchandise of his arrived ¹³after (his departure) ¹⁵or whatever had been entrusted to a agents, ¹ówhether their terms are due ¹²or no yet due-nobody ¹⁵shall take (anything). ¹¹It has to be brought together ¹¹sin ¹⁰Kaniš ²¹and shall remain there ²ountil Uṣur-ša-Aššur ²¹arrives. ²²Nobody ²³shall touch it ²²over there. ²⁴Who took (something) shall give it back, ²⁵who does not give it back, ²⁶it will be taken away from him."

Comments

It seems that Uşur-sa-Assur, having left for the "inland", has disappered. The order of $k\bar{a}rum$ Kanis wants to prevent his creditors, partners etc. to take from his assets-mechandise he left behind when he left, merchandise which arrived later, from Kanis or Assur, and payments due from agents who sold his merchandise-what they consider their claims. The measures prescribed by the $k\bar{a}rum$ are the usual ones adopted when a trader has died and a general settlement of accounts controlled by the au-

thorities has to take place. See the recent remarks by J.G. Dercksen on these procedures in BiOr 49 (1992), p.794.

No.3 (kt. 83/k 284)

- Obv. 1. a-na kà-ri-im Kà-ni-iš qí-bi-ma um-ma kà-ru-um Wa-aḥ-šu-ša-na-ma a-šu-mì ša-du-a-tim
 - ša ha-ra-an sú-qí-nim
 e-ru-bu-ni-ni
 ša ta-áš-pu-ra-ni-ni
 2 MA.NA 10 GÍN KÙ.BABBAR
 Puzur4-A-šùr DUMU Ú-ku
 - 10. lu šu-a-am lu ša a-hi-im

eb-ri-im

Edge i-dí 1 5/6 MA.NA 5! GÍN

Rev. KÙ.BABBAR I-dí-Ku-bu-um DUMU A-šùr-DÙG

> 15. i-dí 1 MA.NA 15 GÍN KÙ.BABBAR Ku-ku-lá-num DUMU Ku-ta-a i-dí ŠU.NIGÍN 5 1/3 MA.NA KÙ.BABBAR

ku-nu-ki-ni Ah-ša-lim

20. na-áš-a-ku-nu-tí

Translation

²Speak ¹to kārum Kaniš: ²Thus (says) kārum ³Waḥšušana: ⁴"As for the šaddu utum-tax ⁵due from those ⁶who entered by ⁵way of the 'narrow track' ⁷about which your wrote us, ⁹Puzur-Aššur, son of Uku ¹²deposited ⁸2 minas and 10 shekels of silver ¹⁰either of himself and of ¹¹a colleague ¹⁰and friend. ¹⁴Idī-Kubum, son of Aššur-tāb ¹⁵deposited ¹²1 mina und 55! shekels of silver. ¹⁶Kukulānum, ¹⁷son of Kuta'a deposited ¹⁵1 mina and 15 shekels of silver. ¹⁸In all: 5 1/3 minas of silver, ¹⁹Aḥšalim ²⁰is bringing you ¹⁹under our seal."

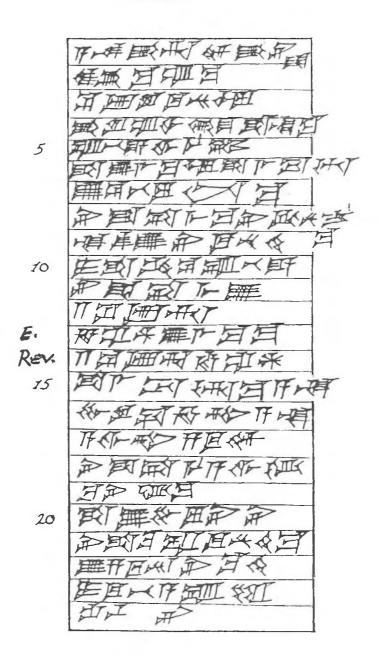
Comments

Though there are now quite a number of texts mentioning the harran

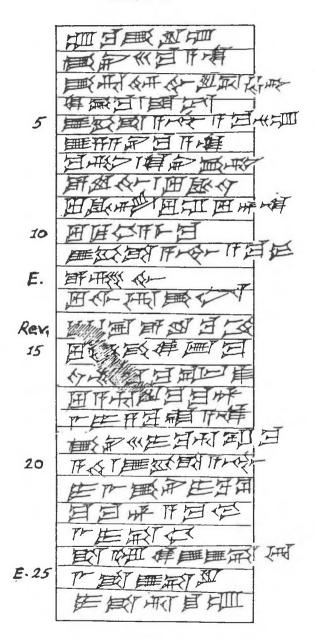
suginnim, it is still not quite clear what the qualification suginnum means in connection with harranum, "road". In his book (AOATT, p.322ff.), K.R. Veenhof has once discussed harran suginnim in detail. He opted for a meaning "narrow track", adding "Not the name for a specific smuggler's road... It is a name for a type of less easily passable, fairly uncommon byroad, a smuggler's track, which could be found and used in many regions..." (op.cit., p.335). In this he agreed with J. Lewy and pointed out that such roads were used for the purpose of smuggling, for transporting merchandise without paying tax or toll to the local Anatolian authorities. Harran suginnim was twice attested in combination with a tax. In BIN 4, 5: 4ff. (AOATT p.325, no.35) it is preferred to save i.a. the gaggadātum or "head tax"; in kt. a/k 405: 24ff. (ibid, no.36) in connection with the saddu'utum- tax, payable to the Assyrian organisation of kārum Kaniš. The interpretation of the latter text is difficult. Does it mean that a merchant arriving by way of the harran suginnim does not have to pay that tax or simply that he did not pay it? The following words, "in Kanis they have made me responsible" could suggest that this Assyrian tax was always due, also when the harran suginnim was used. This is confirmed by our text: Traders arriving in that way do pay the šaddu'utum- tax to the local kārum, who sends the silver to kārum Kanis. The fact that the letter refers to a letter of kārum Kaniš dealing with this issue may indicate that there were problems or that the rules were not quite clear, which seems also to be the case in a/k 405.

Professor Veenhof informs me that also kt. 91/k 100, a broken letter sent by the ruler of Assur (the waklum) to "the envoys [of the City (of Assur)] and $k\bar{a}rum$ Kanis", on its left edge mentions the [ha-ra-a]n su-a-a1mm1. Unfortunately most of the context is destroyed so that we do not know whether the letter contained instructions about the use of this route.

Kt.83/k 117



Kt.v/k 89



Kt.83/k 284

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