

The Toponym Ligri^{ki}

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§1. The recent publication by G. and W. Farber of the Ur III tablet ÅS 1208 in Munich (ZA 91 [2001] 208-209) confirms the existence of the place-name Ligri^{ki} in the texts of this period. This name is consequently found written in the forms li₂-ig-ri₂^{ki}, li-ig-ri₂^{ki}, and perhaps li-ig-ri^{ki}. It is therefore necessary to abandon my proposal (Lafont-Yıldız *TCTI* 1 [1989] 263, and again Lafont *NABU* 1990/17) to read the sign sequence LU₂.NI.IG.URU.KI.ME as lu₂-i₃-gal₂-uru^{ki}-me, suggesting that these people were “persons being in the city”, rather than “those who are inside the palace” (ša₃-e₂-gal-me), a category found in the same texts. A new tablet in Istanbul that I am currently editing (no. 2 in

the list below) had already led me to reject a proposal that posed obvious problems of syntax.

§2. The toponym Ligri^{ki} nonetheless leaves open questions for further discussion; indeed, we may look at this matter with renewed interest once all available attestations of Ligri^{ki} have been gathered together, providing us with the small but interesting list displayed below. The corpus describing Ligri^{ki}, essentially made up of small tablets recording allocations of food and beer to individuals, includes altogether 29 references in 28 texts (the list takes into account the Istanbul tablets to be published in *TCTI* 3):

§3.

Date	Beneficiaries	Reference
1. Š46/xi/-	lu ₂ li-ig-ri ₂ ^{ki} -me	Farber, <i>ZA</i> 91, 209
2. ŠS1/xi/23	lu ₂ hu-uh ₂ -nu-ri ^{ki} / lu ₂ mar-ḥa-ši ^{ki} / lu ₂ li ₂ -ig-ri ₂ ^{ki}	Lafont-Yıldız, <i>TCTI</i> 3, 5469
3. ŠS2/iv/03	ša ₃ -e ₂ -gal-me / lu ₂ li ₂ -ig-ri ₂ ^{ki}	Lafont-Yıldız, <i>TCTI</i> 3, 6217
4. ŠS2/iv/04	ša ₃ -e ₂ -gal-me / lu ₂ li ₂ -ig-ri ₂ ^{ki}	Lafont-Yıldız, <i>TCTI</i> 2, 3322
5. ŠS2/iv/08	ša ₃ -e ₂ -gal-me / lu ₂ li ₂ -ig-ri ₂ ^{ki} -me	Lafont-Yıldız, <i>TCTI</i> 2, 3243
6. ŠS2/iv/10	lu ₂ li ₂ -ig-ri ₂ ^{ki} -me	Lafont-Yıldız, <i>TCTI</i> 1, 660
7. ŠS2/iv/14	ša ₃ -e ₂ -gal-me / lu ₂ li ₂ -ig-ri ₂ ^{ki} -me	Lafont-Yıldız, <i>TCTI</i> 3, 5109
8. ŠS2/iv/15	ša ₃ -e ₂ -gal / lu ₂ li ₂ -ig-ri ₂ ^{ki} -me	Lafont-Yıldız, <i>TCTI</i> 2, 3319
9. ŠS2/iv/16	ša ₃ -e ₂ -gal-me / lu ₂ li ₂ -ig-ri ₂ ^{ki} -me	Lafont-Yıldız, <i>TCTI</i> 2, 3657
10. ŠS2/iv/18	ša ₃ -e ₂ -gal-me / lu ₂ li ₂ -ig-ri ₂ ^{ki} -me	Lafont-Yıldız, <i>TCTI</i> 1, 699
11. ŠS2/iv/26	ša ₃ -e ₂ -gal-me / lu ₂ li ₂ -ig-ri ₂ ^{ki} -me	Lafont-Yıldız, <i>TCTI</i> 2, 3671
12. ŠS2/iv/29	ša ₃ -e ₂ -gal-me / lu ₂ li ₂ -ig-ri ₂ ^{ki} -me	Lafont-Yıldız, <i>TCTI</i> 3, 5016
13. ŠS2/v/01	ša ₃ -e ₂ -gal-me / lu ₂ li ₂ -ig-ri ₂ ^{ki} -me	Lafont-Yıldız, <i>TCTI</i> 3, 5048
14. ŠS2/v/02	^d nanše-kam / ša ₃ -e ₂ -gal-me / lu ₂ li ₂ -ig-ri ₂ ^{ki} -me	Sigrist, <i>SAT</i> 1, 149
15. ŠS2/v/03	^d nanše-kam / ša ₃ -e ₂ -gal-me / lu ₂ li ₂ -ig-ri ₂ ^{ki} -me	Lafont-Yıldız, <i>TCTI</i> 3, 5068
16. ŠS2/v/11	^d nanše-kam / ša ₃ -e ₂ -gal-me / lu ₂ li ₂ -ig-ri ₂ ^{ki} -me / sagi-me	Lafont-Yıldız, <i>TCTI</i> 3, 5190
17. ŠS2/v/14	^d nanše-kam / ša ₃ -e ₂ -gal-me / lu ₂ li ₂ -ig-ri ₂ ^{ki} -me / sagi-me	Barton, <i>HLC</i> 3, 296 (pl. 128)
18. ŠS2/v/20'	^d nanše-kam / ša ₃ -e ₂ -gal-me / lu ₂ li ₂ -ig-ri ₂ ^{ki} -me / sagi-me	Lambert, <i>TEL</i> 40

<i>Date</i>	<i>Beneficiaries</i>	<i>Reference</i>
19. ŠS2/v/21	^d nanše-kam / ša ₃ -e ₂ -gal-me / lu ₂ li ₂ -ig-ri ₂ ^{ki} -me / sagi-me	Lafont-Yıldız, <i>TCTI</i> 3, 5203
20. ŠS2/v/22	^d nanše-kam / ša ₃ -e ₂ -gal-me / lu ₂ li ₂ -ig-ri ₂ ^{ki} -me / sagi-me	Lafont-Yıldız, <i>TCTI</i> 1, 648
21. ŠS2/v/23	^d nanše-kam / ša ₃ -e ₂ -gal-me / lu ₂ li ₂ -ig-ri ₂ ^{ki} -me / sagi-me	Lafont-Yıldız, <i>TCTI</i> 2, 4141
22. ŠS2/v/26	^d nanše-kam / ša ₃ -e ₂ -gal-me / lu ₂ li ₂ -ig-ri ₂ ^{ki} -me / sagi-me	Sigrist, <i>MVN</i> 13, 381
23. ŠS2/v/27	^d nanše-kam / ša ₃ -e ₂ -gal-me / lu ₂ li ₂ -ig-ri ₂ ^{ki} -me / sagi-me	Lafont-Yıldız, <i>TCTI</i> 3, 6252
24. ŠS2	lu ₂ li ₂ -ig-ri ₂ ^{ki} u ₃ lu ₂ mar-ḥa-ši ^{ki}	BM 105359 (unpublished)
25. No date	lu ₂ li ₂ -ig-ri ₂ -me	Charpin-Durand, <i>DCS</i> 64
26. No date	lu ₂ li ₂ -ig-ri ₂ / lu ₂ mar-ḥa-ši ^{ki} / u ₃ lu ₂ a-LU ₃ [?] -me lu ₂ li ₂ -ig-ri ₂ / u ₃ lu ₂ mar-ḥa-ši ^{ki}	Limet, <i>TSU</i> 108 iv 13 Limet, <i>TSU</i> 108 vii 13
27. No date	lu ₂ li ₂ -ig-ri ₂	Jones-Snyder, <i>SET</i> 297 ii 4 (= <i>ASJ</i> 8, 343)
28. No date	lu ₂ li-ig-ri ^{ki} -me-eš (Owen) lu ₂ li-ig-ri ^{ki} -me-eš ₂ (Hallo, Michalowski)	Unpublished YBC text in Yale (Hallo, <i>RHA</i> 36 [1978] 72 n. 16 = Owen, <i>JCS</i> 33 [1981] 255 = Michalowski in Weiss, <i>Origins of Cities</i> , 146); text apparently not mentioned in the catalogue of the Yale tablets by M. Sigrist.

Several observations are possible from this list:

- §4) The two occurrences (nos. 1 and 28) of the writing of the toponym with LI rather than NI as initial sign confirm its reading as /Ligri/ or possibly /Likri/. Text no. 28 would appear to be the only writing with RI rather than URU as final sign (but this point requires confirmation).
- §5) The interesting place-name sequence: Ḥuḥnuri / Marḥaši / Ligri in text no. 2 may indicate the approximate geographic horizon of the city of Ligri. Based on its Ligri / Marḥaši association, this text is doubtless related to our nos. 24 and 26.
- §6) Most of these 28 documents evidently derive from a coherent archive of texts that covers a very short period, between the 23/xi/ŠS1 and the 27/v/ŠS2, with a majority of the tablets dated of the months iv and v of the year ŠS2. Ninety percent of the attestations of the place-name Ligri^{ki} (text nos. 2 through 23, 26) belong to this two-month archive of documents from Tello. These archival texts record daily food and beer distributions to the following individuals:
- at the end of the year ŠS 1: lu₂ ḥu-uh₂-nu-ri^{ki} / lu₂ mar-ḥa-ši^{ki} / lu₂ li₂-ig-ri₂^{ki} / lu₂ a-LU₃[?]-me (among several other beneficiaries) (text nos. 2 and 26);
 - in month iv of the year ŠS 2: ša₃-e₂-gal-me / lu₂ li₂-ig-ri₂^{ki}-me (text nos. 3 through 13);
 - on the 2nd and 3rd days of month v of the year ŠS 2: ^dnanše-kam / ša₃-e₂-gal-me / lu₂ li₂-ig-ri₂^{ki}-me (text nos. 14 and 15);
 - from the 11th to the 27th day of month v of the year ŠS 2: ^dnanše-kam / ša₃-e₂-gal-me / lu₂ li₂-ig-ri₂^{ki}-me / sagi-me (text nos. 16 through 23).
- Thus, one has the sense of a kind of delegation sent from Iran to the land of Sumer at the beginning of Šu-Suen's reign that was supplemented with the addition of various individuals during the several weeks of its stay in Girsu. However, it is at present difficult to understand why certain individuals are associated with this delegation, including those designated with proper names (Nanše-kam, about whom nothing very precise can be said), with staff categories (ša₃-e₂-gal-me), with occupations (sagi-me) and with various city names (lu₂+GN^{ki}). Only text no. 26 (a summary account spanning several columns, which is rather atypical among Tello tablets) might help us to better understand the context of this group of texts (see pp. 105-106 of H. Limet, *TSU*, where the various recipients are described). This tablet no. 26 probably comes from Tello (and not from Umma as proposed by its editor). It bears no date, but we can with some confidence propose a date in the same period as the other texts of the file (ŠS 1 or 2). This text registers among the recipients of

food and beer: lu_2 $ligri^{ki}$ -me / lu_2 $mar\check{h}a\check{s}i^{ki}$ -me / lu_2 a-LU₃²-me / $sagi$ -me / $\check{s}a_3$ -e₂-gal-me. The very substantial measures of grain products distributed to the three first categories should be underscored: 24 gur of $ka\check{s}$ sig₅, 176 gur of $ka\check{s}$ DU, 71 gur of $ninda \check{s}u$, 127 gur of $ninda$ DU and so on (*TSU* 108 iv 8-12).

- §7) Reference no. 24 is the only text of this list that evidently comes from Umma. It was sealed by lu_2 -eb-gal / dub-sar / $dumu$ ur-gi₆-par₄ / $gudu_4$ d_i -nanna, an official well attested at Umma precisely between the years ŠS 1 and 3 (see R. Mayr, unpublished dissertation, Leiden, 1997). This text also records the distribution of rations, closing with the expression (ll. 4-7): sa_2 -du₁₁ dug-utul₂ gal-gal / lu_2 li_2 -ig-ri₂^{ki} / u_3 lu_2 mar- $\check{h}a$ - $\check{s}i^{ki}$ / $giri_3$ ur₄- $\check{s}a_3$ -ta-lu₂. Since it is dated to ŠS 2, it must clearly be added to our file. It might represent a record of the delegation's stopover at Umma during its journey to or from Girsu.
- §8) Ultimately, we must wonder why, aside from this group of texts covering less than 6 months, the Iranian city of Ligri is attested so rarely in the Sumerian documentation of the second half of the 3rd millennium. If our speculation of a possible Iranian delegation is correct, this toponym might represent a city that has entered the written record with but this singular diplomatic gesture to Girsu.
- §9) From an archiving point of view, and with an eye toward the problem of the distribution of Tello's administrative tablets among museums and collections around the world, it can be stated that of this coherent text group, which must have been originally collected in a unique place, 19 tablets went to Istanbul, two to Pennsylvania, one to the British Museum in London, and one to Brussels (the large account tablet of 10+4 columns).