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NEW URARTIAN INSCRIBED STONES AT ANZAF

By P. HULIN

ANZAF ¹ LIES APPROXIMATELY north-east of the modern town of Van, and rather less than ten miles from it by road ; it is just off, and south-east of, the main road which leads from Van to Erçek and beyond in the direction of the modern frontier between Turkey and Iran and of the high mountains west of Khoi. Three published Urartian inscriptions, all of Menua, are described as having come from Anzaf ; ² and there are, in the neighbourhood of the village, remains of two anciently walled places ; ³ one is on an eminence (from which Lake Erçek is visible) above, and close to, the village, which it conceals from the main road ; the other is on the other side of the main road, about a mile distant from the village on the way to Van.

In September 1957 two unpublished stones, inscribed in the Urartian language, were reported ⁴ from Anzaf to the writer, who accordingly inspected them.⁵ One of the stones, lying on a slope of the eminence above and close to the village, proved to bear a six-line inscription of Menua, differing only slightly ⁶ from that appearing thrice on a stone from Anzaf in the Georgian Museum, Tiflis.⁷ The stone (Pl. XXVII*b*, and p. 206, Fig. 1⁸) is broken off on all surfaces except that bearing the inscription ; it has a maximum preserved width of 1.01 m., a maximum preserved height of .55 m. and a maximum preserved thickness of .36 m. ; the width of the inscription is .87 m. and its height .24 m.

The other stone, according to the account of the villager who claimed to have dug it up, had come from a well of hewn stones, situated where there is now a pool for animals, just below the more distant from the village of the two ancient sites (Pl. XXVII*a*) ; it was during the digging of this pool, said the villager, that the inscription was unearthed. The stone (Pl. XXVII*c*, and p. 206, Fig. 2) is circular, with a maximum preserved height of .18 m. ; the lower surface is broken off ; and the upper surface, with

¹ Marked Angaf on the quarter-inch map GSGS 3919, sheet J38H, 2nd edition, 1942.

² *HChI.* 46, 55*a*, 72.

³ Described and sketch-planned by C. A. Burney, *AS.* VII (1957), 38, 40, 44-5, with photographs of parts of them *ibid.* Pl. IV (*b*) and (*a*), under the names Upper Anzaf Kale and Lower Anzaf Kale ; and again with measured plans in the present volume, pp. 178-180.

⁴ By Mr. C. A. Burney, who also kindly conveyed to the writer the report of the discovery of the circular stone by the villager who claimed to have found it.

⁵ The writer thanks the Turkish central and local authorities and the authorities of the British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara for helping him to make the journey which included this visit to Anzaf, the Trustees of the Arnold Historical Essay Fund of the University of Oxford and the Council of the British Academy for helping to meet his expenses in making it, and Mr. E. W. F. Tomlin for practical help in the course of the visit.

⁶ Perhaps, originally, not differing at all—see note 9 below.

⁷ *HChI.* 46.

⁸ The rulings cut above, between, and below the lines of the inscriptions are omitted in the copies.

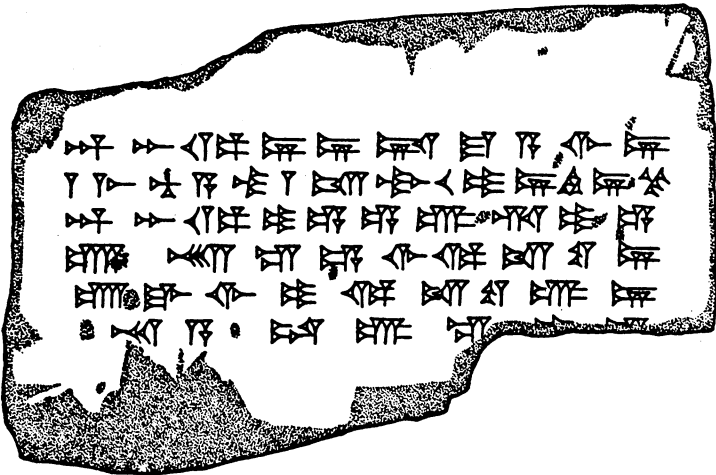


FIG. 1.

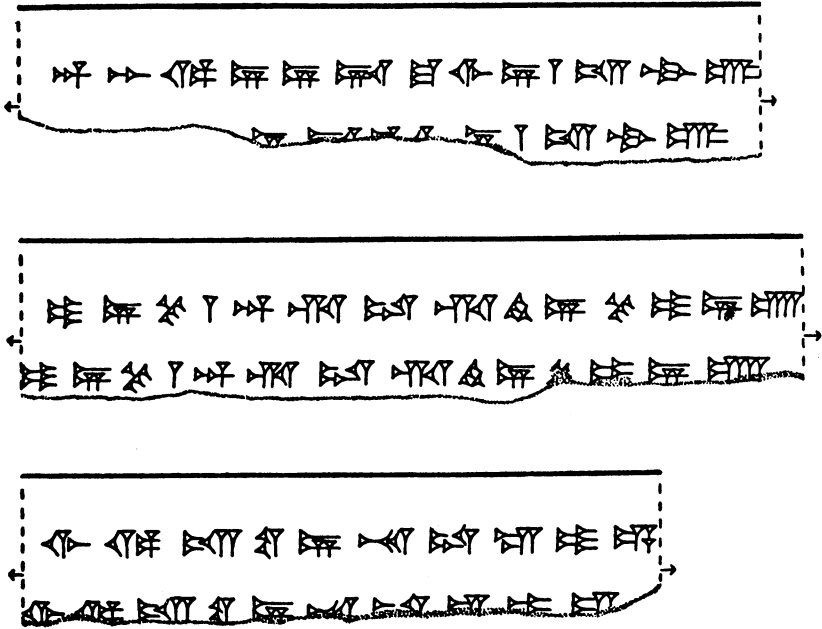


FIG. 2.

a diameter of .89 m., has a centrally placed flat circular projection .66 m. in diameter and .003 m. in height, conceivably intended to function as a base for a column (or something else) above, from the foot of which the projection would allow rain or other moisture to drip or flow free to avoid rotting. From the edge of the upper surface downward, the stone has an uninscribed portion .05 m. in height, a line of cuneiform inscription .035 m. in height, an uninscribed portion .035 m. in height, and a second line of cuneiform inscription .035 m. in height; the break around the stone is irregular and occurs in, or just above, or just below, the second line of cuneiform inscription, which, as far as it is preserved, duplicates the first. The inscription is in the name of Ishpuini, and is therefore among the earliest surviving inscriptions on stone in the Urartian language.

There follow transliterations and translations, first of the inscription of Menua (No. 1), then of that of Ishpuini (No. 2).

No. 1

DINGIR	<i>hal-di-ni-ni uš-ma-a-ši-ni</i>	Through Haldi's might
^I	<i>me-nu-a-še ^Iiš-pu-u-i-ni-ḫi-ni-še</i>	Menua, son of Ishpuini,
DINGIR	<i>hal-di-i-e e-ú-ri-i-e</i>	to Haldi, the lord,
É	<i>su-si-e ši-di-iš-tú-ni</i>	a building ⁹ , a shrine has set up,
5 É.GAL	<i>ši-i-di-iš-tú-ú-ni</i>	5 a stronghold he has set up,
	<i>ba-a-du-ú-si-⁷i-e⁷</i>	(a noble(?) ¹⁰ (stronghold).

No. 2

1 DINGIR	<i>hal-di-ni-ni uš-ma-ši-ni ^Iiš-pu-ú-i-ni-še</i>	1. DINGIR	<i>sar₅-du-ri-ḫi-ni-še i-ni É ši-</i>
2	<i>.....⁷ni uš-ma-ši-ni⁷ ^Iiš-pu-ú-i-ni-še</i>	1. DINGIR	<i>sar₅-du-ri-ḫi-ni-še i-ni É ši-</i>
1 (cont.)	<i>di-iš-tú-ni ba-du-si-i-e</i>		
2 (cont.)	<i>di-iš-tú-ni ba-⁷du-si-i-e⁷</i>		

Through Haldi's might Ishpuini, son of Sarduri, this building has set up,
(a) noble(?)¹⁰ (building).

⁹ This collocation of É and *su-si-e* is unexampled elsewhere in known Urartian texts; and the otherwise almost identical text from Anzaf at Tiflis (*HChI.* 46) has, like a stone from Malazgirt (*HChI.* 47) whose inscription includes the wording of these two Anzaf texts, the better intelligible *i-ni su-si-e*, "this shrine". The vertical wedges of É can be seen to be cut deep into the stone, as if perhaps to obliterate something previously incised; and close inspection of an enlarged photograph shows a slight depression at the lower right of the first vertical where the middle horizontal of *i* would have begun, a similar slight depression at the lower right of the third vertical where the lower horizontal of *ni* would have begun, traces of what may have been the verticals of *ni* before and after the fourth vertical, and marks to the right of the fourth vertical which may be traces of the right-hand parts of the horizontals of *ni*. These indications suggest that the stone may originally have borne *i-ni*, altered afterwards to É for a reason not clear to the present writer.

¹⁰ *AS.* VIII (1958), 244, n. 26.



(a) The Anzaf pool, and the ancient site just above it, showing two lengths of walling.



(b) The new stone of Menua.



(c) The new stone of Ishpuini,