

14 Linear Elamite Texts

Stuart L. Harris, October 2011

Summary of Linear Elamite Texts

Around 2200 BC, a script called Linear Elamite suddenly appeared at Elam on the southwest coast of Iran, likely introduced from Estonia. Only the elite knew how to write this script and few examples survive, but two of these are masterpieces. During their tenure, Elam grew to be the most powerful city-state in the region.

Inscription A is a dedication speech, chiseled into a foundation stone of a temple on the highest mound in Susa, delivered by the king of Elam to honor his fallen soldiers, called Swords of Elam.

Inscription Q, inscribed on the Silver Cup of Elam, is a wedding gift from Kiririsa, the Elamite goddess of war and fertility, to her sister Narunte, goddess of victory, on the eve of Narunte's marriage to Sargon of Akkad. The message outlines her thoughts, misgivings, and measures still to be taken prior to the marriage.

A number Elamite names make sense in Finnish. Two short inscriptions from Estonia and Austria indicate that Linear Elamite survived in northern Europe.

Linear Elamite Syllabary

Table 1: Linear Elamite syllabary.

A	Ä	E	I	O	Ö	U	Y	
1	10	50	100					Linear Elamite
a	ä	e	i	o	ö	u	y	urho
ha	hää	he	hi	ho	hö	hu	hy	H
ja	jää			jo	jö	ju	jy	J
ka	kää	ke	kī	ko	kö	ku	ky	K
la	lä	le	lī	lo	lö	lu	ly	L
ma	mää	me	mī	mo	mö	mu	my	M
na	nää	ne	nī	no	nö	nu	ny	N
pa	pää	pe	pi	po	pö	pū	py	P
ra	rää	re	ri	ro	rö	ru	ry	R
sa	sää	se	si	so	sö	su	sy	S
ta	tää	te	tī	to	tö	tu	ty	T
va	vää	ve	vī	vo	vö	vu	vy	V

Linear Elamite Writing

Linear Elamite Writing

Linear Elamite existed in Elam for 200 years, from around 2200 BC to the end of the reign of Kutik¹-Inšušinak², whose epithet was Puzur³-Inšušinak. Only a few examples exist, mostly royal inscriptions at Susa⁴, which indicates that writing was confined to the elite who spoke Elamite.

Around 2000 BC, a son of Sargon of Akkad conquered Elam and replaced Linear Elamite with Akkadian, a much different language and script. Although Linear Elamite died in Elam, it survived in northern Europe, demonstrated by inscriptions in Estonia and Austria.

The Mounds of Susa

The Mounds of Susa in Iran so intimidated archaeologist M. Jacques de Morgan that he despaired of how to excavate. Everywhere de Morgan looked were mounds, a haven from perennial floods that renewed the land and dissolved mud-brick dwellings. It was December 1897 on the broad floodplain of Elam, which spreads southeast from Sumer and Babylon, between the Persian Gulf and the Zagros Mountains. In 1895 France had negotiated an exclusive right to excavate throughout Iran. The Delegation en Perse selected de Morgan to be the director. As head of Egyptian Antiquities, de Morgan wanted to trace the origin of Egyptian civilization, and he felt Susa might be the key.

de Morgan began with the largest mound at Susa, the acropolis.⁵ His father had trained him as a mining engineer, so he used mining techniques. He removed 2½ million cubic meters of overburden in a series of cuts on the southern corner until he reached ground level, which had the most sophisticated pottery of all.

Foundation Stone called Linear Elamite A

In 1905, de Morgan uncovered the foundation stone of a temple with a five-line inscription, later called Linear Elamite A. Other foundation stones of the temple carried the same inscription, while one had a second five-line inscription in Akkadian.

He sent the two inscribed stones to the Louvre, whose Akkadian scholars read the chief god of Elam, Inšušinak. With visions of a second Rosetta Stone, the Louvre confidently predicted that the mysterious language of Elam would soon be understood, but a century passed without comprehension. It was not a Rosetta Stone; no amount of creativity could align the two inscriptions.

However, by reading the dedication stone in the language of Old Elamite, the Linear Elamite inscription reveals itself to be a speech to commemorate the fallen soldiers of Elam, called the Swords of Elam. This proper name occurs in a long poem from Akkad that describes an Elamite assault on the city of Erech, led by a giant named Khum-baba⁶, who fled into the wilderness after Akkad toppled Elam. "Thus pitiless the **Sword of Elam** gleams, and the best blood of Erech flows in streams."⁷

¹ Kutik < Kuutiki 'Eternal moon'

² Inšušinak < Hiihin susinhakki 'Blazed wolfdog'

³ Puzur < Puusuur 'Tree mouth'; refers to a speech he gave, called Linear Elamite A, wherein he calls himself the mouth of or speaker for the trees of Elam, meaning the soldiers of Elam.

⁴ Susa < suussa 'At the entrance'

⁵ The acropolis was called Uru-anna; in Akkadian, uru means city.

⁶ Khum-baba < Kumma vahva 'Remarkably strong'

⁷ The fall of Erech, from the Epic of Izdubar, Ishtar and Izdubar, Alcove I, Column II. This long poem was discovered in 1871 by George Smith in the library of King Assurbanipal within the palace at Dur-Sargina. It was composed about 2000 BC, and later written down on tablets around 600 BC. It recounts how Elam rebelled against Akkadian rule and under the giant king Khum-baba conquered Erech, Nipur, Marad, Eridu and Babylon to regain independence, which they maintained for a thousand years.

Linear Elamite Writing

- The Akkadian inscription identifies the speaker as Kutik Inšušinak⁸, King of Elam. He dedicated the temple foundation and surrounding woods to the god Inšušinak. Thus the temple was originally surrounded by woods.
- The Linear Elamite inscription confers “everlasting peace to the men laid low, our hundred now made of wood.” He urges the survivors of the Swords of Elam to marry and provide mead to drink, but never make peace with Akkad.

The Silver Cup of Elam

The Silver Cup of Elam⁹, an astounding drinking flagon, resides in the Archaeological Museum of Tehran.¹⁰ Dated 2200 BC, it was a wedding gift from Kiririsa, the Elamite goddess of war and fertility, to her sister Narunte, goddess of victory, on the eve of her marriage to Sargon of Akkad.

The cup was made by supporting a flat silver sheet on a deformable layer of pitch, hammering from the backside in repoussé technique, then soldering the sides and bottom together. After completing the cup, a formal inscription just below the rim, called Linear Elamite Q, was carefully applied from the outside. Vertical lines separate phrases of evenly-spaced letters.

The cup is a handle-less tankard or flagon, rare in the Middle East but common in Germany, 19.3 cm high. The silver alone weighed 72 shekels (602 grams), worth at that time the equivalent of \$170,000.¹¹ The front and back contain life-like images of both sisters dressed in identical robes, trimmed with fox. They both look over their shoulder in the same direction, as if watching someone approach.

Figure 1: Silver cup of Elam.



Persian laborers found the silver cup in 1966 while digging an irrigation ditch near Persepolis, the ancient ceremonial center of the Persian Empire. Persepolis nestles against the western flank of a long mountain in central Iran that overlooks an irrigated valley, which in rainier times was the bottom of a lake. With hot,

⁸ The original translation in 1905 by Scheil was Puzur-Inshushinak, last king of the Awan dynasty. Documents archaïques en écriture proto-elamite.

⁹ Elam < Elämme meaning ‘Our life’.

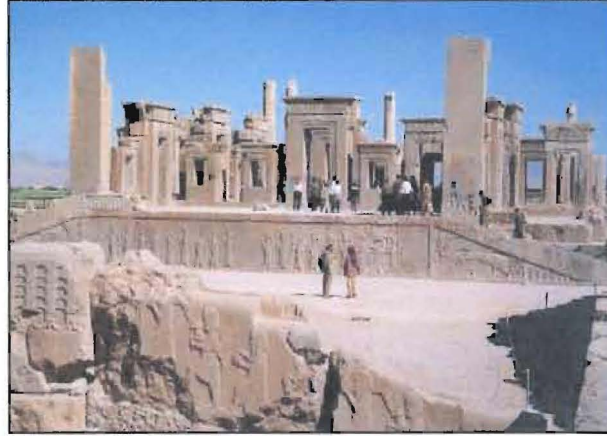
¹⁰ Tehran < Terän meaning ‘Of steel’.

¹¹ A shekel of silver paid a hired worker for a month, who worked 10 hours a day, 5.5 days a week. If a worker was paid \$10 an hour, he would earn \$2365 in a month. A shekel weighed 8.34 gm, so there were 72 shekels worth of silver in the cup. Thus the 602 gm cup had a value of \$170,000 for a wage scale of \$10 per hour.

Linear Elamite Writing

dry weather similar to that of Phoenix, this fertile valley and others nearby supported a large population; over one hundred thousand archaeological sites have been found. When Alexander the Great conquered Persia, he judged Persepolis more beautiful than the Acropolis of Athens. In a drunken stupor he encouraged his troops to burn it, including the priceless library.

Figure 2: Photos of the ruins of Persepolis, ancient metropolis of Elam.



An earthen jar protected the cup, accompanied by a bronze belt buckle, bronze needles with large round heads, and enough beads for several necklaces. Nearby were cylinder seals and clay statuettes.

The late Walther Hinz, an expert on Elam, dated the cup to the early part of the reign of Sargon of Akkad, the period under Kutik-Inshushinak (c.2240-2220 BC), before Akkadian replaced Linear Elamite.¹² This period followed a catastrophe around 2350 BC that obliterated many civilizations in the Middle East.

The people who wrote in Linear Elamite came from northern Europe, where they cremated their dead, not buried. Dietrich Huff noted that “Only a few of the countless prehistoric mounds in the mountain valleys of Fars have been investigated by archaeologists. A characteristic group of monuments are cairn burials, which are also found in the neighboring eastern provinces. Their abundance and distribution have not yet been fully recognized, and as they have scarcely been studied, their ethnic and cultural context is unclear. They seem to have been used and reused, but opinions about their dates of origin vary from the 3rd millennium BC until the late Iron Age.”¹³ Burial of cremated bones beneath cairns is typically Baltic, so these cairns may assign the origin of Linear Elamite to the Baltic region.

¹² Hinz, Walther; 1969, *Altiranische Funde und Forschungen*, Berlin

¹³ Huff, Prof. Dietrich; “Ancient Monuments of Fars”, *The Circle of Ancient Iranian Studies*, founded 1988, on the web.

Linear Elamite Writing

The woman standing at the front of the cup is Narunte¹⁴, goddess of victory in Elam, whose name means 'laughter maker'. She wears a long, warm, quilted gown with three-quarter sleeves, scooped neck, and pseudo fox-tail fringe around the neck, shoulders and waist. The tips of her toes stick out unnaturally from beneath her gown, a sign that she is Narunte. Coils of long hair cover her ears, and a headband holds her hair in place. She wears neither cap nor veil, nor has her forehead been artificially flattened. In each hand she carries a short, flat weaving batten wrapped in thread. Except for her toes, her pose seems entirely natural, facing the viewer while looking to the right. The likeness is excellent, from life. Judging from the height of her hips, she was over six feet tall. If this woman walked into a room today, everyone would stare in wonder.

The woman seated on the back of the cup is her sister Kiririsa¹⁵, the Elamite goddess of war and fertility. She wears the same costly quilted dress with a fringe of pseudo fox-tails, and like her sister, toes peek out from beneath her gown. Her long hair falls down her back, covered with a thin scarf held on by a tiara of shiny disks, perhaps shells or gold. Based on her name, 'Disk of the father in heaven', the color of her hair was like that of the Sun. A thin, shiny bracelet adorns her right wrist, and around her neck hangs an imposing necklace of three ropes of a shiny, flexible material. She faces front but looks to her left in three-quarter view. Her right arm is visible, her left arm hidden in the folds of her gown. We look down at her, an amazingly sophisticated pose.

Walther Hinz felt that the seated woman sent the cup to the standing woman.¹⁶

The fox trim identifies the two women as natives of Estonia, which at that time was known as Revala meaning 'fox'.¹⁷ The capital city Revala or Rebala lay ten miles east of Tallinn, beside a shallow lake, which area has yielded great quantities of Bronze Age artifacts and distinctive stone burial mounds. A guide in Estonia related that "Estonian women had right of passage on the sea because so many of them ended up as queens; it was extremely bad luck to capture or endanger your future queen."

¹⁴ Narunte < Naurunte 'laughter maker'.

¹⁵ Kiririsa < Kehrä isä 'Disk of the father in heaven' i.e. the Sun.

¹⁶ Hinz, Walther; 1969.

¹⁷ The Icelandic Njálssaga calls Tallinn by the name of Rafala, and Germany called it Reval.

Linear Elamite A: Susa temple dedication, 'We men are left now'

Linear Elamite A: Susa temple dedication, 'We men are left now'

Inscription A, on the foundation stone of a temple on the acropolis of Susa, is half Akkadian, half Linear Elamite. The Akkadian half identifies the speaker as Kituk-Inšušinak, the King of Elam, while the Elamite half dedicates the temple to his fallen warriors, called the Sword of Elam.

Since both texts had five lines, scholars assumed a bilingual text. Walther Hinz claimed to have deciphered 18 signs of Linear Elamite, while scholar Piero Meriggi claimed 58 signs, though neither agreed on the results of the other. This is not surprising since the two texts are completely different.

Translation of the Akkadian inscription

Akkadian

1. Te-em-tik-ki nap In-šu-ši-na-ik, un-ki.
2. u, Ku-ti-ki-šu-ši-na-k, Zunkik hal-me ka,
3. hal-me-ni-ik Šu-si-im-ki,
4. Ši-in-pi Hi-iš-hu-ik,
5. ša-ki-ri, nap-ir lik hi-an ti-la-ni-li.

English

1. Lord God Inshushinak, have this wood.
2. I, Kutik-I(n)shushinak, King of the land (Elam),
3. country heritage of Susa,
4. of Shinpi Hishuk,
5. son of god, as a foundation for the temple dedicated.¹⁸

Translation of Linear Elamite inscription

Finnish

1. Me miehet jäänyt nyt, miekkoa taoit, Elamin Miekkat, urhot puhas. Se loihe niin, nähin, surmia keihä'ästä. Rauha Akkan ei temme, Elamin Miekkat.
2. Sohannut taas, Elamin Miekkat, surmia keihä'ästä. Rauha Akka etehet, sie tammet.
3. Iki rauha miehin kaoin, meiän sa'an jo loi puun. Akkat tee ehon suur' keihä'itä; jain pari, Elamin Miekkat.
4. Miehet keihä'itän, riia'a, tuo me'en juoa. Uni miehiä tutut taas meren. Jään nyt riian me'en ehon Akkat tee.
5. Sata nyt kaoin, Elamin Miekkat. Te loit uuet puut sieltä. Saisin ta'oa meren lihoa miehin. Taoit itse jo purren kuohun.

English

1. We men are left now, a sword you forged, Swords of Elam, fair men. It began thus with these deaths from the spear. Peace of Akkad we will not make, Swords of Elam.
2. Be idle again, Swords of Elam, deaths from the spear. Peace of Akkad never, you oaks.
3. Everlasting peace to the men laid low, our hundred now made of wood. Akkad makes fine big spears; I was left a pair, Swords of Elam.
4. Men of spears, marry, provide mead to drink. I dream of men beloved again of the sea. I am left now to woo the fine mead Akkad makes.
5. A hundred now laid low, Swords of Elam. You created new trees there. I would forge from the sea the flesh of men. I will forge myself now a vessel of foam.

¹⁸ Kausen, Ernst; Das Land Elam und seine Geschichte; 2002. This recent translation of the Akkadian speech clarifies the ceremony as a temple dedication. <http://homepages.fh-giessen.de/kausen/wordtexte/Elamisch.doc>

Linear Elamite A: Susa temple dedication, 'We men are left now'

Image

Figure 3: Image of Linear Elamite 'A'. Source Jacob Dahl.



Inscription

Figure 4: Drawing of Linear Elamite 'A' turned to match the stone.
Drawn by Dr. Gudrun Ulbricht.

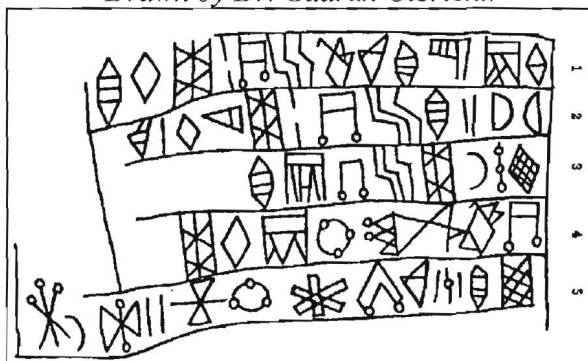


Figure 5: Inscription of Linear Elamite 'A', arranged to read naturally, left to right, top to bottom.
Compound letters also read left to right, top to bottom.



Linear Elamite A: Susa temple dedication, 'We men are left now'

Transcription

Figure 6: Transcription of Linear Elamite 'A'.

Sign Line	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	ME MI	JÄ NY-NY	MI KO-TA	E LA MI KA	U-PU	SE-LO NI-NÄ	SU	KE MI TÄ	RA	A KA E TE	ME	E LA MI KA
2	SO	NU	TA	E LA MI KA	SU	KE MI TÄ	RA	A KA E TE	SI-TA	ME		
3	KI RA MI KA	ME SÄ A	JO-LO	PU	A KA E TE	SU	KE TÄ	JÄ PA-RI	E LA MI KA			
4	KE MI TÄ	RI ME TU JU	U-NI	MI TU-TU TÄ	LO ME	JÄ NY-RI	ME	A KA E TE				
5	SÄ TA NY KA	E LA MI KA	TE-LO	U-PU	SI TÄ	SA SI TA	LO TÄ ME	LI MI	TA	SE JO	PU	KU-RE

Translation details

Table 2: Translation details of Linear Elamite 'A'.

Sign No.	Linear Elamite	Finnish	English
1.1	ME MI	Me miehet	We men
1.2	JÄ-NY NY	jäänyt nyt,	are left now,
1.3	MI-KO TA	miekkoa taoit,	a sword you forged,
1.4	E-LA-MI MI-KA	Elamin Miekkat,	Swords of Elam,
1.5	U PU	urhot puhas.	fair men.
1.6	SE LO NI NÄ	Se loihe niin nähin	It began thus with these
1.7-8	SU-MI KE-TÄ	surmia keihä'ästä.	deaths from the spear.
1.9	RA	Rauha	Peace
1.10-11	A-KA E TE-ME	Akkaan ei teemme,	of Akkad we will not make,
1.12	E-LA-MI MI-KA	Elamin Miekkat.	Swords of Elam.
2.1-2	SO-NU	Sohannut	Be idle
2.3	TA	taas,	again,
2.4	E-LA-MI MI-KA	Elamin Miekkat,	Swords of Elam,
2.5-6	SU-MI KE-TÄ	surmia keihä'ästä.	deaths from the spear.
2.7	RA	Rauha	Peace
2.8	A-KA E-TE	Akkaan ettet,	of Akkad never,
2.9-10	SI TA-ME	sie tammet.	you oaks.
3.1	I-KI RA MI KA	Iki rauha miehin kaaoin,	Everlasting peace to men laid low,
3.2	ME SA	meiän sa'an	our hundred
3.3	JO LO	jo loi	now made
3.4	PU	puun	of wood.

Linear Elamite A: Susa temple dedication, 'We men are left now'

3.5	A-KA TE E	Akkaat tee ehon	Akkad makes fine
3.6	SU	suur'	big
3.7	KE-TÄ	keihä'itä;	spears;
3.8	JÄ PA-RI	jäin pari,	I was left a pair,
3.9	E-LA-MI MI-KA	Elamin Miekkat.	Swords of Elam.
4.1	MI KE-TÄ	Miehet keihä'itän,	Men of spears,
4.2	RI TU ME JU	riia'a, tuoa me'en juoa.	marry, provide mead to drink.
4.3	U-NI	Uni	I dream
4.4	MI TU-TU TA	miehiä tutut taas	of men beloved again
4.5	ME-RE	meren.	of the sea.
4.6	JÄ NY RI	Jään nyt riian	I am left now to woo
4.7	ME	me'en	the mead
4.8	E A-KA TE	ehon Akkaat tee.	fine Akkad makes.
5.1	SA-TA NY KA	Sata nyt kaaoin,	A hundred now laid low,
5.2	E-LA-MI MI-KA	Elamin Miekkat.	Swords of Elam.
5.3	TE LO	Te loit	You created
5.4	U PU	uuet puut.	new trees
5.5	SI-TÄ	sieltä.	there.
5.6	SA-SI TA	Saisin ta'oa	I would forge
5.7	ME-RE	meren	from the sea
5.8	LI MI	lihoa miehin.	the flesh of men.
5.9	TA	Taoin	I will forge
5.10	I-SE JO	itse jo	myself now
5.11-12	PU-RE KU	purren kuohun.	a vessel of foam.

Notes on Translation

References 'K' are chapter and verse from Kalevala, translated by Francis Peabody Magoun, who adhered closely to the original phrasing without attempting poetry. Composed over a ten-year period from 1430 to 1420 BC, Kalevala contains 18,000 different Finnish words with archaic meanings and common contractions, free of Indo European.

The scribe wrote in the old style of Proto Elamite, which rotated the tablet anti-clockwise, rotated the letters the same way, and then filled the tablet from top to bottom, left to right. I have reversed the process so that the letters read normally left to right, top to bottom.

Letter shapes and sound values come from Old European. No letter had been rotated more than forty-five degrees.

1.10 **A-KA** spells the foreign term **Akkaat* meaning 'Akkad' and *Akkaan* meaning 'of Akkad'.

1.12 **Elam** may come from *Elämme* 'Our life'.

2.7-2.8 This phrase is purposely ambiguous: 'Peace with **fine** Akkad make' and 'Peace with Akkad **never** make'. Iran remains enemy of Iraq and speaks a different language.

4.3 This sign was too wide to fit within the ruled borders, so the scribe rotated it. For the same reason, I have divided the sign into two pieces, 4.3 and 4.4.

1.1 -----

ME = *me* 'we'; K23.799 "**We** (*Me*) are the children of one mother"

MI = *miehet* 'men'; K11.218 the young **men** (*miehet*) laid low by a sword'

1.2 -----

JÄ-NY = *jäänyt* 'left, remained not'; K25.498 'was **left** (*jäänyt*) on a stone'

Linear Elamite A: Susa temple dedication, 'We men are left now'

NY = *nyt* 'now'; K 02.303 'Now (*nyt*) make the turf grow'

1.3 -----

MI-KO = *miekkoa* 'a sword'; K29.288 'who was not whetting his **sword** (*miekkoa*)'

TA = *taoit* 'you forged'; K15.199 '**you forged** (*taoit*) before, you forged yesterday'

1.4 -----

E-LA-MI = *Elamin* 'Elam's'; **Elam** may come from *Elämme* 'Our life'.

MI-KA = *miekkat* 'swords'; K12.283 'Bring me a flaming **sword** (*miekkat*)'

1.5 -----

U = *urohot* 'men'; K12.256 '**men** (*urohot*) as old as the earth'

PU = *puhas* 'fair, handsome'; K18.597 '**a handsome** (*puhas*) man was in the stern of the vessel'

1.6 -----

SE = *se* 'it, he'; K04.502 '**it** (*se*) called its life long'

LO = *loihe* 'began'; K03.285 'He **began** (*loihe*) to sing'

NI = *niin* 'thus'; K02.183 '**Thus** (*Niin*) on the third time'

NÄ = *nähin* 'with these'; K18.091 '**with** bow toward **these** (*nähin*) landing places'

1.7-1.8 -----

SU-MI = *surmia* 'deaths'; K26.107 'There are always **deaths** (*surmia*) for women''

KE-TÄ = *keihä'ästä* 'from the spear'; K26.746 'From the evil elf's spear (*keihä'ästä*)'

1.9- 1.11 -----

RA = *rauha* 'peace'; K32.371 'Grant **peace** (*rauha*) to the cattle'

1.10-1.11

A-KA = *akkaan* 'of Akkad'

E = *ei* 'not'; K01.229 'The eggs do **not** (*ei*) get into the ooze'

TE-ME = *teemme* 'we will make'; K32.415 'Thus **we will make** (*teemme*) everlasting compacts'

1.12 -----

E-LA-MI MI-KA = *Elamin miekkat* 'Swords of Elam'; see 1.4 above.

2.1-2.2 -----

SO-NU = *sohannut* 'be idle'; K24.112 'not **be idle** (*sohannut*) in corners'

2.3 -----

TA = *taas* 'again'; K38.205 '**again** (*taas*) the horse pricks up its ears'

2.4 -----

E-LA-MI MI-KA = *Elamin miekkat* 'Swords of Elam'; see 1.4 above.

2.5-2.6 -----

SU-MI = *surmia* 'deaths'; K26.107 'There are always **deaths** (*surmia*) for women''

KE-TÄ = *keihä'ästä* 'from the spear'; K26.746 'From the evil elf's spear (*keihä'ästä*)'

2.7 -----

RA = *rauha* 'peace'; K32.371 'Grant **peace** (*rauha*) to the cattle'

2.8 ----

A-KA = *akkaan* 'of Akkad'

E-TE = *ettet* 'never'; K17.517 'so that you will **never** (*ettet*) get free'

2.9-2.10 ----

SI = *sie* 'you'; K03.120 '**You** (*Sie*) are younger than I'

TA-ME = *tammet* 'oaks'; K29.154 '**oaks** (*tammet*) in the middle of farmyards'

3.1 -----

I-KI = *iki* 'everlasting, forever'; K17.492 'stop bad ones **forever** (*iki*)'

RA = *rauha* 'peace'; K32.371 'Grant peace (*rauha*) to the cattle'

MI = *miehin* 'to the men'; K27.090 'the mead measured out **to the men** (*miehin*)'

KA = *kaaoin* 'laid low'; K06.218 'and **laid low** (*kaaoin*) the man of the Kaleva District'

3.2 -----

Linear Elamite A: Susa temple dedication, 'We men are left now'

ME = *meiän* 'our'; K19.415 "Did our (*meiän*) suns blaze over there"

SA = *sa'an* 'hundred'; K15.410 'from the sheaths of a hundred (*sa'an*) herbs'

3.3 -----

JO = *jo* 'now'; K03.082 'Now (*Jo*) on the third day'

LO = *loit* 'made, created'; K34.061 "as **you created** (*loit*) me, God"

3.4 -----

PU = *puun* 'of wood'; K11.058 dearth **of wood** (*puun*), dearth of splints'

3.5 -----

A-KA = *akkaat* 'Akkad'

TE = *tehä* 'makes, to make' from *tehdä*; K02.215 'for a wizard to make (*tehä*) his arrows'

E = *ehon* 'fine'; K14.071 "into the ear of your **fine** (*ehon*) mistress"

3.6 -----

SU = *suur* 'big' from *suuri*; K18.491 'the **big** (*suur*) cattle shed must be cleaned'

3.7 -----

KE-TÄ = *keihä'itā* 'spears'; K28.146 "sharpening the spears (*keihä'itā*)"

3.8 -----

JÄ = *jäin* 'I was left'; K34.077 "When I was little I was left (*jäin*) without a father"

PA-RI = *pari* 'a pair'; not in K., of unknown etymology.

3.9 -----

E-LA-MI MI-KA = *Elamin miekkat* 'Swords of Elam'; see above.

4.1 -----

MI = *miehet* 'men'; K11.218 'the young **men** (*miehet*) laid low by a sword'

KE-TÄ = *keihä'itān* 'of spears'; K28.146 "sharpening the spears (*keihä'itā*)"

4.2 -----

RI = *riia* 'a marry'; K37.227 'for rich men **to court** (*riian*) to marry'

TU = *tuoa* 'provide, produce'; K32.225 '**to provide** (*tuoa*) milk-filled udders'

ME = *me'en* 'mead'; K27.182 the dark **mead** (*me'en*) to his own good luck'

JU = *juoa* 'to drink'; K25.390 'plenty to eat, plenty **to drink** (*juoa*)'

4.3 -----

U-NI = *uni* 'I dream'; K12.057 "I do not believe in women's **dreams** (*unia*)"

4.4 -----

MI = *miehiä* 'of men'; K47.145 "What manner **of men** (*miehiä*) are you"

TU-TU = *tutut* 'beloved'; K29.473 "What took away my **beloved** (*tutut*) dwelling"

TA = *taas* 'again'; K23.423 "**Again** (*Taas*) when he sets out from the house"

4.5 -----

ME-RE = *meren* 'of the sea'; K01.125 'on the broad expanse **of the sea** (*meren*)'

4.6 ----

JÄ = *jään* 'I am left'; K44.155 "**I am left** (*jään*) quite naked"

NY = *nyt* 'now'; K04.373 'Who **now** (*nyt*) is to bring the word'

RI = *riian* 'to woo'; K37.227 'for rich men **to court** (*riian*) to marry'

4.7 -----

ME = *me'en* 'the mead'; K27.182 'the dark **mead** (*me'en*) to his own good luck'

4.8 ----

E = *ehon* 'fine'; K14.071 "into the ear of your **fine** (*ehon*) mistress"

A-KA = *akkaat* 'Akkad'

TE = *tehä* 'makes, to make' from *tehdä*; K02.215 'for a wizard to make (*tehä*) his arrows'

5.1 -----

SA-TA = *sata* 'a hundred'; K11.100 '**a hundred** (*sata*) men with their swords'

NY = *nyt* 'now'; K04.373 'Who **now** (*nyt*) is to bring the word'

Linear Elamite A: Susa temple dedication, 'We men are left now'

KA = *kaaoin* 'laid low'; K06.218 'and **laid low** (*kaaoin*) the man of the Kaleva District'

5.2 -----

E-LA-MI MI-KA = *Elamin Miekkat* 'Swords of Elam'; see above.

5.3 -----

TE = *te* 'you'; K40.266 "O **you** (*te*) half-witted lads"

LO = *loit* 'created'; K34.061 as **you created** (*loit*) me, God'

5.4 -----

U = *uuet* 'new'; K11.395 'set up **new** (*uuet*) walls'

PU = *puut* 'trees'; K02.033 '**Trees** (*puut*) began to tower aloft'

5.5 -----

SI-TÄ = *sieltä* 'there'; K05.097 '**From there** (*Sieltä*) it said these words'

5.6 -----

SA-SI = *saisin* 'I would, could'; K29.367 "**I could** (*saisin*) even get a hundred women"

TA = *ta'oa* 'forge' from *takoa*; K18.226 "**forge** (*tao*) pretty rings"

5.7 -----

ME-RE = *meren* 'of-from the sea'; K04.365 'as the fish **of the sea** (*meren*)'

5.8 -----

LI = *lihoa* 'flesh'; K36.333 'I eat **the flesh** (*lihoa*) of an innocent person'

MI = *miehin* 'of men, to men'; K27.090 'the mead measured out **to the men** (*miehin*)'

5.9 -----

TA = *taoin* 'I forged'; K15.199 '**you forged** (*taoit*) before, you forged yesterday'

5.10 -----

I-SE = *itse* 'myself'; K03.057 "I **myself** (*itse*) will sing down my rival singers"

JO = *jo* 'now'; K03.082 'Now (*Jo*) on the third day'

5.11 - 5.12 ---

PU-RE = *purren* 'a vessel'; K18.592 'a new **vessel** (*purren*) sailing along'

KU = *kuohun* 'of foam'; K40.042 'boulders on the crest **of the foam** (*kuohun*)'

Linear Elamite Q: Silver Cup of Elam 'Swiftly now mead'

The Silver Cup of Elam¹⁹ has a meticulous inscription called Q that circles the rim from left to right. It was composed by the goddess of war to advise her sister, the goddess of victory, about preparations for her wedding to Sargon of Akkad²⁰. Both sisters appear in long, heavy dresses from the Baltic, cut in a style still popular in the Middle Ages. Fox trim points to their origin as Estonia, whose emblem was the fox.

Translation

Finnish

- 1.1 Kepeä nyt me'en, mehumme rauhoan. Mie teinko höhlä? Ehkä käyn metsän aho.
- 2.1 Rehu, löihen tehä te rehu, uuen me'en hääväen, lihat lähen.
- 3.1 Raahi riian Sarkan! Jää teho. Käyn rome rehu tehä hääväen, [ja]
- 4.1 riia'a puhe'et isä meiän riitti.
- 5.1 Ken pe'en nyt, en karkas. Löihen; tein lyhyt reissu.
- 6.1 Rauha uuen pu'u; jäihän te joua.
- 7.1 Sumer riian-mies Sarkan; uuen pu'u teen.
- 8.1 Riian mies Sarkan, uuen pu'u; jäihän te joua. Loin te tähän [sarkka] ja uuet niiet ei rouhi miekan. Roihu käymme.
- 9.1 Rauha meriä hauan.

English

- 1.1 Swiftly now mead, our elixir of peace. Did I act foolish? Perhaps I will visit the forest clearing.
- 2.1 Food, I started to make you some food, new honey from the wedding people, pieces of meat I am setting out.
- 3.1 Have the heart to court Sarkan! Farewell to power. I will go fetch at dawn food made by the wedding people, [and]
- 4.1 the marry-words father for our ceremony.
- 5.1 Whomsoever of the family now, I am not eager. I started; I did a brief trip.
- 6.1 Iron the new gown; I left you time.
- 7.1 Sumer courting-man Sargon, champion of foolish mead.
- 8.1 To court the man Sargon, a new gown I am making. I created you this [goblet] and new heddles not smashed by a sword. At the blaze of dawn we shall go.
- 9.1 Peace of the deep sea.

Translation Highlights

The foremost attempt at translation came from Hinz, who rendered each sign as a distinct syllable: "Help, mistress, help! I kuri-Nahiti am the drink-sacrifice-donor for the godhead. Bringing reward and blessing, divine mistress, appear! May everlasting benevolence be allotted to the temple servants. Help! The receptacle of the female bequeather, near to heaven, holy thou, to her as a chosen one, day to day."²¹

But most signs are compound letters built from simple shapes of Old European. To translate the inscription, partition each letter and use known values of Old European.

Surprisingly, **this inscription uses different letters for O and Ö.**

¹⁹ Elam < Elämme 'Our life'

²⁰ Akkad < Akka etehon 'Woman in front'

²¹ Hinz, Walther, 1969.

Linear Elamite Q: Silver Cup of Elam 'Swiftly now mead'

Line 1.1 of the inscription calls the cup a courtship flagon for drinking the mead of peace. The Elamite word for flagon was *sarkan*, alluding to Sargon of Akkad, who would later unify Akkad, Sumer and Elam.²² He was courting Narunte, a marriage to unify two realms.

In Line 1.7, Kiririsa says she may visit 'the forest clearing', which refers to the temple atop the highest mound of Susa. Inscription A of Linear Elamite likens the felling of trees to make this clearing to the fallen soldiers of Elam. Thus Kiririsa resided in Susa, the capital of Elam.

In Line 3.1, Kiririsa urges her sister Narunte, "You have the heart to court Sarkan!" In line 5.3, Kiririsa says she also had the heart to court Sargon, but now has relinquished him to her sister.

Sargon of Akkad would reign for 56 years and die at 85. His Akkadian epithet Sharru(m)-kin meant 'True King', but his Elamite name Sarkan meant 'flagon, goblet'. He and his only wife had five children: Rimush who reigned 9 years; Manishtu who reigned 15 years, father of Naram-sin who reigned 56 years; Ibarum; Abaish-takal; and lastly Enheduanna.

Enheduanna, high priestess of Sin at Ur, was a gifted poet who composed much of the surviving literature and poetry of Sumer. Like Narunte, Enheduanna must have been an imposing woman. Her Elamite name *Ennet tuhanne* meant 'a thousand omens'.

Before this translation, little was known of Sargon's wife Narunte. In a dedicatory inscription, the wife of Sargon was called Tashlultum, a derogatory Akkadian epithet meaning 'I took her as spoil', clearly not the case.²³ According to legend, Sargon slept with the wife of Lugalzaggesi, and then took her as his concubine. If so, it must have been after the death of Narunte, as northern wives suffered no rivals.

For forty years after the marriage, Elam prospered in peace as part of Sargon's empire. Then something changed and four kings revolted against their Akkadian overlords. Perhaps Narunte died, breaking the blood bond between Elam and Akkad.

²² Hinz, Walther, 1975: "Irrefutable proof of the authenticity of the silver goblet is afforded by the one-line inscription in Linear Elamite under the rim on top. No faker could have invented this beautiful inscription – not even myself, for that matter, since the vase shows in perfect shape a sign which I formerly had misread in inscription D. In 1962 I had taken this sign to be a somewhat blotted RI, but on the silver goblet it is now clearly recognizable as a rising sun with six rays, to be read perhaps as nahiti 'sun'."

²³ The Finnish meaning is no better, taas luulit uoma 'again you think of bed'.

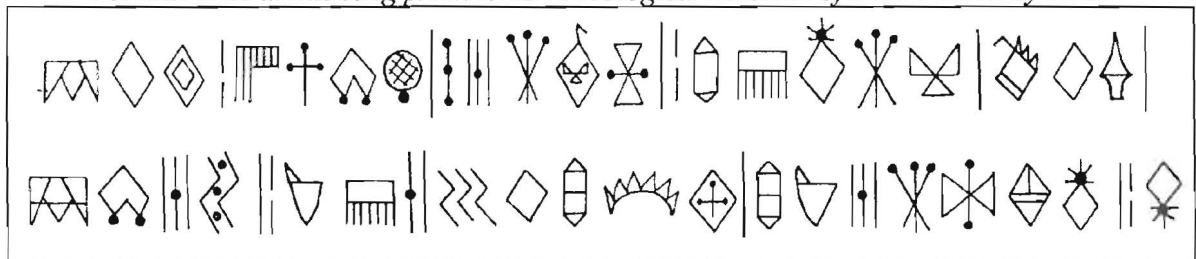
Linear Elamite Q: Silver Cup of Elam 'Swiftly now mead'

Image and Transcription

Figure 7: Silver cup from Elam with Linear Elamite inscription.
3rd C BC, Archaeological Museum of Iran.



Figure 8: Inscription Q on the Silver Cup from Elam.
Vertical lines divide long phrases. Archaeological Museum of Iran. Drawn by Hinz.







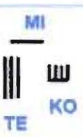


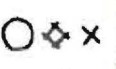
































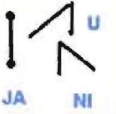

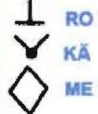


Linear Elamite Q: Silver Cup of Elam 'Swiftly now mead'

Figure 9: Silver cup inscription expanded and numbered.

Line No	Letter Position							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								

Linear Elamite Q: Silver Cup of Elam 'Swiftly now mead'

Figure 10: Transcription of the Silver Cup from Elam.

Line No.	Letter Position							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	 PE NY KE	 ME	 ME ME	 RA	 TE KO MI	 HÖ LÄ	 KÄ KÄ E	 ME SÄ A
2.	 RE	 TE LÖ	 RE TE	 U ME	 HÄ VÄ	 LI LÄ		
3.	 RA	 RI SA KA	 JÄ TE	 KÄ RO ME	 RE TE	 HÄ VÄ		
4.	 RI PU I SA	 ME	 RI TI					
5.	 PE NY KE	 KÄ KÄ E	 TE LÖ	 LY RE				
6.	 RA	 U PU	 JÄ TE	 JO				
7.	 SU	 ME	 MI RI SA KA	 URHO	 ME HÖ LÄ			
8.	 MI RI SA KA	 U-PU	 TE LÖ	 RE TE	 JA NI U	 E RO MI KA	 RO KÄ ME	
9.	 RA	 ME RI HA						

Linear Elamite Q: Silver Cup of Elam 'Swiftly now mead'

Inscription Photographs

Figure 11. Photos of Inscription Q on the Silver Cup from Elam.



Linear Elamite Q: Silver Cup of Elam 'Swiftly now mead'

Translation Detail

Table 3: Translation of the Silver Cup from Elam.

Sign #	Linear Elamite	Finnish	English
1.1	KE-PE NY	Kepeä nyt	Swiftly now
1.2	ME	me'en,	mead,
1.3	ME-ME	mehumme	our elixir
1.4	RA	rauhoan.	of peace.
1.5	MI TE-KO	Mie teinko	Did I act
1.6	HÖ-LÄ	höhlä?	foolish?
1.7	E-KÄ KÄ	Ehkä käyn	Perhaps I will visit
1.8	ME-SÄ A	metsän aho.	the forest clearing.
2.1	RE	Rehu,	Food,
2.2	LÖ TE	löihen tehä	I started to make
2.3	TE RE	te rehu,	you some food,
2.4	U ME	uuen me'en	new honey
2.5	HÄ-VÄ	hääväen,	from the wedding people,
2.6	LI LÄ	lihat lähen.	pieces of meat I am setting out.
3.1	RA	Raahi	Have the heart
3.2	RI SA-KA	riian Sarkan!	to court Sargon!
3.3	JÄ TE	Jää teho.	Farewell to power.
3.4	KÄ RO-ME	Käyn rome	I will go fetch at dawn
3.5	RE TE	rehu tehä	food made
3.6	HÄ-VÄ	hääväen, [ja]	by the wedding people, [and]
4.1	RI PU I-SÄ	riia'a-puhe'et isä	the marry-words father
4.2	ME	meiän	for our
4.3	RI-TI	riitti.	ceremony.
5.1	KE PE NY	Ken pe'en nyt,	Whomsoever of the family now,
5.2	E KÄ-KÄ	en karkas.	I am not eager.
5.3	LÖ TE	Loihen; tein	I started; I did
5.4	LY RE	lyhyt reissu.	a brief trip.
6.1	RA	Rauha	Iron
6.2	U PU	uuen pu'u;	the new gown;
6.3	JÄ TE	jäihän te	I left you
6.4	JO	joua.	time.
7.1-2	SU-ME	Sumer	Sumer
7.3	RI MI SA-KA	riian mies Sarkan,	courting man Sargon,
7.4	URHO	urho	champion
7.5	HÖ-LÄ ME	höhlä me'en	foolish mead.
8.1	RI MI SA-KA	Riia'a mies Sarkan,	To court the man Sargon,
8.2	U PU	uuen pu'u	a new gown
8.3	TE. LO	teen. Loin	I am making. I created
8.4	TE TÄ	te tähän [sarkka]	you this [goblet]
8.5	JA U NI	ja uuet niit	and new heddles
8.6	E RO MI-KA	ei rouhi miekan.	not smashed by a sword.
8.7	RO KÄ-ME	Roihu käymme.	At the blaze of dawn we shall go.
9.1	RA	Rauha	Peace
9.2	ME-RI HA	meriän hauan.	of the deep sea.

Linear Elamite Q: Silver Cup of Elam 'Swiftly now mead'

Notes on Translation

The text reads from left to right, top to bottom, with no reversed images. The text begins and ends on either side of the head of the standing woman, to whom it is addressed. The scribe employed vertical lines for phrase dividers.

1.3 A forest clearing is the subject of Elamite Inscription A, a dedication of a temple to the fallen soldiers of Elam in a forest clearing of Susa. This temple or acropolis crowned the highest hill.

2.1 Dots tend to modify the letter.

3.1 Normally a vertical line would be RA, but now used as a phrase divider. Therefore, RA must have a different form. A letter almost like RA has two short vertical lines one above the other; assign this to RA.

4.1 Sign 4.1 has several possibilities, but the rest make no sense. The photo of the sign (Figure 11) differs slightly from the drawing of the sign (Figure 10).

6.1 The verb *rouha* 'to iron' is the same as the noun *rouha* 'iron', just as in English.

7.4 URHO 'champion, hero' represents an olive branch, symbol of athletic victory.

9.2 The scribe placed a dot on HO to change the vowel to HA.

1.1 -----

KE-PE = *kepeä* 'swift, lively, spry'; K03.378 'one is **swift** (*kepeä*) in a race'

NY = *nyt* 'now'; K09.269 "**Now** (*nyt*) I know the origin of iron"

ME = *me'en* 'mead'; K27.182 'the dark **mead** (*me'en*) to his own good luck.

ME-ME = *mehumme* 'our elixir'; K20.500 'the **elixir** (*mehu*) of man ready to drink'

RA = *rauhoan* 'of peace'; K32.489 "Grant **peace** (*rauhoa*) to the cattle"

1.5 -----

MI = *mie* 'I'; K02.139 "**I** (*mie*) am this sort of a man"

TE-KO = *tein* 'I acted, made'; K33.231 "I, wretched herdsman, **acted** (*tein*) badly"

-ko = question clitic, applied as a suffix to the first verb.

HÖ-LÄ = *höhlä* 'foolish'; not in K.

1.7 -----

E-KÄ = *ehkä* 'perhaps'; K15.293 "**Perhaps** (*ehkä*) he might become a cod"

KÄ = *käyn* 'I will visit'; K23.431 '**visit** (*käy*) the neighboring farm after asking leave'

ME-SÄ = *metsän* 'forest's, of the forest'; K14.072 'charming mistress **of the forest** (*metsän*)'

A = *aho* 'clearing'; K36.308 'the loveliest **clearing** (*aho*) lamenting'

2.1 -----

RE = *rehu* 'some food', from *ruoka*; K26.028 "set out **some food** (*ruoka*) quickly"

LÖ = *löihen* 'I started' from *aloittaa*; K37.064 '**he** himself **started** (*löihe*) to work the bellows'

TE = *tehä* 'to make' from *tehdä*; K02.215 'for a wizard **to make** (*tehä*) his arrows'

TE = *te* 'you'; K40.266 "**O you** (*te*) half-witted lads"

RE = *rehu* 'some food', from *ruoka*; K26.028 "set out **some food** (*ruoka*) quickly"

2.4 -----

U = *uen* 'of new'; K15.081 "I will smash the door **of the new** (*uen*) threshing barn"

ME = *me'en* 'honey'; K09.423 'from plants which let **honey** (*me'en*) flow onto the ground'

HÄ- = *hää-* 'wedding'; K27.088 '**the wedding** (*hää-*) drunk out, the feast over'

VÄ = *väen* 'of-from people'; K25.662 'the comeliness **of the young people** (*väen*)'

2.5 -----

LI = *lihat* 'pieces of meat'; K46.302 'he put **pieces of the meat** (*lihat*) in a cauldron'

LÄ = *lähen* 'I am setting out'; K13.063 "**I am setting out** (*lähen*) to ski down an elk"

3.1 -----

RA = *raahi* 'have the heart'; K24.207 'you just do not **have the heart** (*raahi*) to whip your poor girl'

RI = *riian* 'to court' from *riiata*; K37.227 'for rich men **to court** (*riian*) to marry'

Linear Elamite Q: Silver Cup of Elam 'Swiftly now mead'

SA-KA = *sarkan* 'flagon, mug, goblet', a personal name; K28.080 "you will get a better **flagon** (*sarkan*) here"

3.3 -----

JĀ = *jān* 'I am left'; K44.155 "**I am left** (*jān*) quite naked"

TE = *tehā* 'to make'; K02.215 'for a wizard **to make** (*tehā*) his arrows'

3.4 -----

KĀ = *kāyn* 'I will go fetch'; K26.333 "**I will go fetch** (*kāyn*) my father's sword"

RO-ME = *rome* 'at dawn'; not in K.

3.5 -----

RE = *rehu* 'food, some food', from *ruoka*; K26.028 "set out **some food** (*ruoka*) quickly"

TE = *tehā* 'to make, it made' from *tehdā*; K02.215 'for a wizard **to make** (*tehā*) his arrows'

3.6 -----

HĀ = *hādā* 'wedding-'; K27.088 "**the wedding** (*hādā*) drunk out, the feast over"

VĀ = *vāen* 'of the people'; K25.661 'the splendiddness **of the old people** (*vāen*)'

4.1 -----

RI = *riiā* 'to marry' from *riiata*; K37.227 'for rich men **to court** (*riiā*) to marry'

PU = *puhe'et* 'words, speech'; K23.638 '**words** (*puhe'et*) kept dropping'

I-SĀ = *isā* 'father'; K36.065 "His **father** (*isā*) uttered these words"

4.2 -----

ME = *meiān* 'for our'; K50.260 "I am asking **for our** (*meiān*) Marjatta"

4.3 -----

RI-TI = *riitti* 'ceremony'; K48.320 "**sprinkle sleety water** (*rittehistā*)"

5.1 -----

KE = *ken* 'who, whoever'; K03.275 "**Whoever** (*ken*) does not proceed to measure swords"

PE = *pe'en* 'of the family' from *pere*; K 24.205 "**The family** (*Pere*) bade you whip her"

NY = *nyt* 'now'; K09.269 "Now (*nyt*) I know the origin of iron"

5.2 -----

E = *en* 'I am not'; K07.307 "**I am not** (*En*) asking for your gold pieces"

KĀ-KĀ = *kārkās* 'quick, eager'; K42.125 '**quick** (*kārkās*) even if not ordered'

5.3 -----

LŌ = *lōihen* 'I started' from *aloittaa*; K37.064 '**he himself started** (*lōihe*) to work the bellows'

TE = *tehā* 'to make, to do' from *tehdā*; K02.215 'for a wizard **to make** (*tehā*) his arrows'

5.4 -----

RE = *reissu* 'trip', from *reessä* 'in the sleigh'; K03.108 "my poor **sleigh** (*re'en*) to bits"

LY = *lyhyt* 'short, brief'; K46.401 'with **short** (*lyhyt*) legs, with bandy legs'

6.1 -----

RA = *rauha* 'iron, to iron'; K08.224 "a healer of a wound inflicted **by iron** (*rauan*)"

6.2 -----

U = *uen* 'a new'; K18.592 '**a new** (*uen*) vessel sailing along'

PU = *pu'u* 'gown' from *puku*; not in K.

6.3 -----

JĀ = *jāihān* 'I left'; K36.287 "**I left** (*jāihān*) the dog Blackie behind"

TE = *te* 'you'; K47.159 "Where are **you** (*te*) going, men?"

6.4 -----

JO = *joua* 'time'; K18.490 "I have no **time** (*joua*), my dear master"

7.1 - 7.2 -----

SU-ME = *Sumer* 'Sumer'; not in K.

7.3 -----

RI = *riiān* 'to court' from *riiata*; K37.227 'for rich men **to court** (*riiān*) to marry'

Linear Elamite Q: Silver Cup of Elam 'Swiftly now mead'

MI = *mies* 'man'; K12.165 "But being **the man** (*mies*) I am"

SA-KA = *Sarkan* 'flagon, stein', 'Sargon of Akkad'

7.4 -----

URHO = *Urho* 'hero, champion', from *uro* 'man'; K26.329 "**A man** (*uro*) is not likely to pay attention to them"

7.5 -----

HÖ-LÄ = *höhlä* 'foolish'; not in K.

ME = *me'en* 'mead'; K27.182 'the dark **mead** (*me'en*) to his own good luck'

8.1 -----

RI = *riian* 'to court' from *riiata*; K37.227 'for rich men **to court** (*riian*) to marry'

MI = *mies* 'the man'; K12.165 "But being **the man** (*mies*) I am"

SA-KA = *Sarkan* 'Sargon; flagon, goblet'; K28.080 "you will get a better **flagon** (*sarkan*) here"

8.2 -----

U = *uuen* 'a new'; K18.592 '**a new** (*uuen*) vessel sailing along'

PU = *pu'u* 'gown' from *puki* 'dress, suit'; K26.366 'put on his battle **dress** (*puki*)'

8.3 -----

TE = *teen* 'I am making, I will make'; K18.464 "**I will make** (*Teen*) a friendly agreement"

LO = *loin* 'I created'; K34.063 "**you created** (*loit*) me as if among seagulls"

8.4 -----

TE = *te* 'you'; K47.159 "Where are **you** (*te*) going, men?"

TÄ = *tähän* 'this'; K22.379 "when you come to **this** (*tähän*) farm"

8.5 -----

JA = *ja* 'and'; K04.148 "I uttered this **and** (*ja*) said"

U = *uuet* 'new'; K11.398 '**new** (*uuet*) doors on the thresholds'

NI = *niiet* 'heddles'; K08.013 'the copper **heddles** (*niiet*) rattled'

8.6 -----

E = *ei* 'not, no'; K02.253 'the Kaleva oats **not** (*ei*) grow'

RO = *rouhi* 'smashed, crushed'; K35.063 "you smashed (*rouhit*) the net floats to rubbish"

MI-KA = *miekan* 'by a sword'; K11.218 'the young men laid low **by a sword** (*miekan*)'

8.7 -----

RO = *roihi* 'blaze, blaze of dawn'; K31.158 'kindled **a blazing pile of wood** (*roiskattihin*)'

KÄ-ME = *käymme* 'we shall go'; K39.153 "**Shall we** now **go** (*käymme*) look"

9.1 -----

RA = *rauha* 'peace'; K32.371 "Grant **peace** (*rauha*) to the cattle"

9.2 -----

ME-RI = *meriän* 'of the sea'; K18.054 'along the shore **of the sea** (*meriä*)'

HA = *hauan* 'deep'; K49.011 'The pike knew the **deep** (*hauan*) places'

Elamite Names

King Names from Avan Dynasty (2500-2240 BC)

Names of Elamite Kings from the Avan Dynasty make sense when read in Finnish.²⁴

Peli or Peli (c. 2500 BCE) < Piele 'pillar'

Tata or Tari < Taata 'father' or Taari 'table beer'

Ukku-Tahish < Ukko 'god on high' + uutta hiisi 'new demon'

Khishur < Kyysuur 'big serpent'

Shushun-Tarana < Suu su'un 'mouth of the clan' + Taa raanna 'this shore'

Napil-Khush < Anna pilli 'Grant pipe' + kuus 'moon descendant'

Kikku-Sive-Temti < Kikkui 'moving' + siivet 'wings' + temmotti 'will pull'

Lukh-Ishshan (c. 2350 BCE) < Lukki isäni 'watchdog master'

Hishep-ratep < hiisi hepo 'demon horse' + orat hepo 'sprouts horse'

Khelu, Hielu (c. 2300 BCE) < Kellu 'bell'

Khita or Hita (c. 2275 BCE) < Kiittää 'thanks' or Hiittä 'demon'

Kutik-Inshushinnak (c. 2240 BCE) < Kuut iki 'moon everlasting' + Hiien susin ak 'demon wolf's axe'

Puzur (epithet of Kutik) < Puu surri 'big tree'

Elamite Proper Names

Proper names of Elam from 2200-2000 BC make sense when read in Finnish.

Elam < Elämme 'Our life'

Khum-baba < Kumma vahva 'Remarkably strong'

Kirisa <? Kehrä isä 'Disk father (in heaven), Sundisk'

Kutik < Kuutiki 'Moon eternal'

Narunte < Naurunte 'Laughter maker'

Susa < Suussa 'At the entrance'

Uro-anna < Urho anna 'hero Anna, champion grant'

²⁴ Shahmiri, Cyrus; Elamite Empire; Iran Chamber Society, 2010; www.iranchamber.com/history/elamite/elamite.php

Tallinn Owner's Mark: 'Our flour hall'

Tallinn Owner's Mark: 'Our flour hall'

In the Old Town of Tallinn in Estonia, at Vene 22 where it intersects Puhavaimu, a guild of wealthy merchants constructed an elegant building to trade flout, now occupied by a gymnasium (school). High on the front wall, visible from far up Puhavaimu, is a large owner's mark in Linear Elamite.

A similar circle surrounded each city symbol of the Hanseatic League that monopolized trade in the Baltic for many years. ME can spell *me* 'we' or *meiān* 'our', a reasonable expression of guild, league or confederacy.

Translation

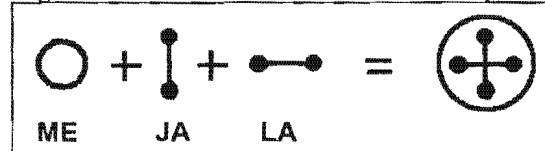
Linear Elamite: ME JA-LA

Finnish: Meiän jauhola

English: Our flour hall

Image and Transcription

Figure 12: Tallinn owner's mark inscription.



Notes on Translation

The letter shapes are identical to those from Linear Elamite of Elam, Iran, from 2300 to 2200 BC, at a time when Elam contested for power with its neighbor Sumer in Iraq. Few inscriptions exist, which implies that only the elite could read and write. Two long inscriptions reveal humor, pathos and poetry, characteristic of formal education. After Akkadian replaced Elamite, the number of inscriptions increased by orders of magnitude, as now the entire population had access to writing in their own language.

A costly Elamite silver goblet accurately depicts two women dressed in long, warm, elegant gowns trimmed in faux fox. The thickness and warmth of the gowns seems totally out of place for Elam, much more suited to a cold region like the Baltic. Since merchants of Tallinn wrote with the same alphabet, these two ruling women may have come from a royal house in Estonia.

The two women may have been of the same generation as the Titans, the children of Uranus and Gaia, who migrated first from Sumer to Portugal, then in 2294 BC to the Baltic in time of drought. The Titans remained in the Baltic, but others may have returned to Sumer and Elam.

Utzi Dorf Owner's Mark: 'Our oak will fit'

At Utzi Dorf theme park at Umhausen in the Utztal Valley west of Innsbruck, the organizers pecked into stone an inscription found somewhere in the Tyrolean Alps. The alphabet is Linear Elamite. TA made from three small horizontal circles is unique to Linear Elamite, while the bumps at the end of MA, TE and SE are typical flourishes.

Utzi the Ice Man was a smith, who died at low elevation in 4000 BC from an arrow in the back that severed an artery. His friends chased away the killer and carried his body and belongings to a high ridge on the boundary between Austria and Italy, where they laid him to rest on a flat rock. Just then the weather changed, and he lay buried in snow and ice for 6000 years until discovered in 1991. A theme park at Umhausen in Austria presents a wide variety of artifacts, buildings, animals, crops, costumes and movies to illustrate life in the Alps at that time.

Translation

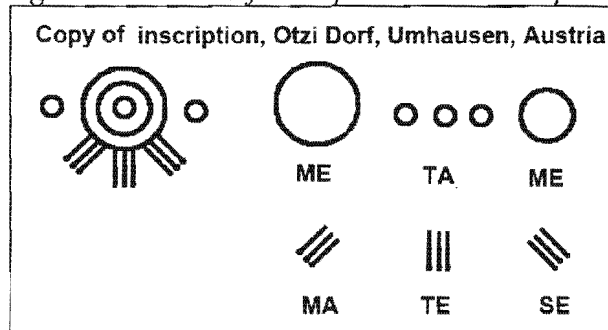
Linear Elamite: ME TA-ME MA; TE SE.

Finnish: Meian tammea mahu; te'in sen.

English: Our oak will fit; I worked it.

Image and Transcription

Figure 13: Utzi Dorf inscription and transcription.



Notes on Translation

ME = *meian* 'our'; K15.393 "Bee, **our** (*meian*) bird"

TA-ME = *tammea* 'oak'; K16.010 "to try to get **an oak** (*tammea*)"

MA = *mahu* 'it will fit'; K21.127 "The son-in-law **will** not **fit** (*mahu*) into the house"

TE = *te'in* 'I worked'; K23.628 "**I worked** (*te'in*) in working hours"

SE = *sen* 'it'; K05.057 "He pulled **it** (*sen*) into his boat"

You are invited to contact Stuart Harris about these or any other inscriptions at
PO Box 60281, Palo Alto, CA, 94306; Stuart.Harris -at- sbcglobal.net; 650-888-1859