

The Unpublished Tablet Fragments from the Boğazköy: Bo 6704, Bo 6692, Bo 6706, Bo 6717, Bo 6780

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[In our article, the five cuneiform tablet fragments numbered Bo 6704, Bo 6692, Bo 6706, KUB 41.26(Bo 84)(+)KUB 20.29(Bo 580)(+)IBoT 4.115(Bo 1413)(+)Bo 6717(+)CHDS 6.194 (Bo 5549)(+)VSNF 12.114(VAT 7490), and Bo 6780 which are preserved in the Ankara Anatolian Civilizations Museum and returned to Turkey from East Berlin in 1987, will be discussed and contributed to literature. The transliterations, translations and philological interpretations of the aforementioned tablet fragments will be provided along with their photographs. The joining status of these unpublished tablet fragments until today, with other Hittite cuneiform tablets, along with their duplicates/parallels and dating will also be evaluated.]

Keywords: Unpublished Bo Tablets/Fragments, Bo 6704, Bo 6692, Bo 6706, Bo 6717, Bo 6780, *nuntarijašhaš* Festival, God Ziparua.

The Hittites, an Indo-European people with a polytheistic belief system and ruled in Anatolia for centuries, placed great importance on their religious beliefs and, consequently, on their rituals, as evidenced by the fact that the majority of the Hittite cuneiform tablets uncovered in their settlements are religious in content.² The seven thousand three hundred ninety-six³ tablets or tablet fragments of Hittite cuneiform documents, unearthed during the first excavation period between 1906-1912 in the capital Boğazköy-Ḫattuša, are kept under protection in the Ankara Anatolian Civilization Museum. In this study, 5 (five) of Hittite cuneiform tablet fragments which are also referred to as the Berlin Tablets and are provided to me for publication will be examined and analysis of them will be contributed to the literature:

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2. For Hittite Religion, see Arkan, (2017) p.41-72.

3. Arkan-Schwemer, (2022) p.446; IBoT 4, s. IX.

1. Bo 6704**Inventory Number:** Bo 6704, Figure 1**CTH:** 626**Length:** 3.7 cm**Width:** 3.2 cm**Thickness/Height:** 1.3 cm**Color:** Light Brown Colored.**Period:** New Hittite Period.**Description:** It is a fragment from the middle part of the tablet.obv.I²

x+1]x- x[
 2']a-aš-šu-x[
 3']UD.10^{KAM} ma-a-an [
 4']x-ya-an-ta-r[i
 5']-NA UD^{KAM} x[
 6' ^{URU}K]a-a-ta-pa-az [
 7' -]a-at-ta [
 8' ma-]aḥ-ḥa-an É[
 9']-x-an-zi [
 10']-an²- [

x+1]x- x[
 2']good-x[
 3']tenth day. If[4' -]x-x [
 5'] per day x[
 6' from the city of K]atapa
 7' -]x. [
 8']when x construction/house[
 9']-x. [
 10']-x²- [

Ten lines of the tablet fragment, whose top and bottom parts are broken, are preserved. The point that catches our attention in this fragment is the mention of the city Katapa⁴ in the 6th line of the fragment. This city, one of the frequently mentioned settlements in the Hittite cuneiform texts and as a subject of interest for Hittite researchers is mentioned in the festivals named as *nuntarijašḥaš* and AN.TAḪ.ŠUM^{SAR}. In the texts related to festival of *nuntarijašḥaš* which was celebrated in autumn and lasted for sixteen days, it is learned that the king participated in various religious ceremonies in this city for approximately two and a half days (on the 1st, 2nd, and 14th days).⁵ In the AN.TAḪ.ŠUM^{SAR} festival, celebrated in spring, the

4. Otten, (1976-1980) p. 486; Ertem, (1973) p. 72-73; Monte-Tischler, (1978) p. 197-201; Monte, (1992) p. 75-76; Karasu, (2007) p. 373-381.

5. Karasu, (1988) p. 407-428; (2007) p. 373-381; Haas, (1994) p. 594; Taracha, (2009) p. 140.

mentioned city had a different function. During this festival, the city of Katapa was one of the king's stopping points, no celebrations take place in this city.⁶ Therefore, as the mentioned fragment is a festival fragment, the *nuntarijašḫaš* festival lasts for sixteen days and the phrase "tenth day" mentioned in the 3rd line of the fragment strengthens the possibility that the tablet fragment belongs to the *nuntarijašḫaš* festival (CTH 626).



Figure 1

2. Bo 6692

Inventory Number: Bo 6692, Figure 2

CTH: 670

Length: 2.4 cm

Width: 4.6 cm

Thickness/Height: 2.1 cm

Color: Light Brown Colored.

Period: ?

Description: It is a fragment from the middle part of the tablet. The top and the bottom of it are broken.

x+1] *pa-iz*[

2' *k]a-aš-ta-it-ma* [

6. Karasu, (2007) p. 373-381; Haas, (1994) p. 594.

3'		-a]n-zi na-an-kán	x[
4'	^U]ZU	šu-up-pa hu-u-[i-eš ⁷	
5'		]	x[
x+1		]	x-x[
2'		]but (with)? hungry	[
3'		-]x. And it	x[
4'		]raw? meat	[
5'	]	x[	

The writing of “*k]a-aš-ta-iṣ*”⁸ mentioned in the second line of the fragment which belongs to the middle part of the tablet and whose transliteration and translation are provided, should be a very rare form of writing. However, it should be immediately noted that the “*ka*” syllable in our fragment is unfortunately broken/faded.



Figure 2

7. See to complete CHD(š) (2019) p. 609.

8. HW: 105; HEG(a-k): 535-537; HED(k): 121-123; HHw: 76; Ünal, (2007) p. 329; Kloekhorst (2008) p. 461-463; Ünal, (2016) p. 270.

3. Bo 6706**Inventory Number:** Bo 6706, Figure 3**CTH:** 670**Length:** 3.2 cm**Width:** 3 cm**Thickness/Height:** 1.1 cm**Color:** Light Brown Colored**Period:** ?**Description:** Left Column.**x+1**]x x x x x**2'** -]zi

3']-x-ma-az ^{LÚ.MEŠ}SANGA**4'**]x-aš-ša-an**5'**]-x ti-an-zi**6'** a-d]a-an-na a-ku-ṽa-an-na**7'** -]x-ša-an-da**8'** -]an -zi

9']-x**x+1**]x x x x x**2'** -]x.

3']-x-x-x Priests**4'**]x**5'**]-x they are putting.**6'** e]at (and) drink [**7'** -]x-x-x-x [**8'**]-x

9']-x

The tablet fragment whose transliteration and translation are provided above, is from the left column of the tablet. Nine lines of the tablet fragment are preserved but the top and the bottom parts, as well as the other side are broken. This fragment, which is probably related to a festival ritual, indicates that the “priests” were involved in the ritual.



Figure 3

4. Bo 6717⁹**Inventory Number:** Bo 6717, Figure 4**CTH:** 750**Length:** 4 cm**Width:** 2.7 cm**Thickness/Height:** 1.1 cm**Color:** Light Brown.**Period:** ?**Description:** Right Column. It is a fragment from the middle part of the tablet.**rev.IV** x+1 A-N[A**2'** la-ḫu-ḡa-a[-i LUGAL-uš 2 NINDA.GUR₄.RA EM-ŠA]**3'** pá-r-ši-ḡa -z[i ta-an DUMU.É.GAL]**4'** A-NA PA-NI DINGIR^{MES} x[]**5'** da-a -i []**6'** EGIR-ŠU DUMU.É.G[AL BI-IB-RI UDU.ŠIR]**7'** ^{NA4}ZA.GÌN GEŠTIN[-it šu-un-na-i]**8'** LUGAL-i p[a-a-i]**9'** LUGAL-u[š-ša-an še-er ar-ḡa ši-pa-an-ti]**10'** n[a-an DUMU.É.GAL A-NA PA-NI^Dx]

9. Joins with Bo 1413, Bo 5549, Bo 6717, VAT 7490. Steitler Dupl. Bo 7216; also see. Otten (1971) p. 48; Mascheroni, (1983) p. 98; Groddek, (2004) p. 56; Weeden, (2011) p. 139 n. 609; Waal, (2015) p. 517.

x+1 inside[
2' pour[s. The King the two sour breads]
3' break[s. And it's the palace servant]
4' before the gods x[]
5' puts. []

6'-7' Then the palace ser[vant fills the dark blue rhyton] in the (form of) a ram with wine
8' g[ives] it to the king.
9' The king[performs a libation over it.]
10' And [the palace servant presents it before the God/Goddess x]

The tablet fragment numbered Bo 6717 whose transliteration and translation are provided above and which belongs to the upper right column of the tablet, has been determined that there is a direct join with the text in line rev.III 1-10, numbered KUB 41.26(Bo 84)(+)KUB 20.29(Bo 580)(+)IBoT 4.115(Bo 1413)(+)CHDS 6.194 (Bo 5549)¹⁰ (+)VSNF 12.114(VAT 7490).¹¹ The lines between 6'-10' of this tablet fragment which belongs to the festival celebrations for the god Ziparwa, have been reconstructed with the help of structurally similar words and rituals that are repeatedly found in the text numbered KUB 41.26 (Bo 84) + KUB 20.29 (Bo 580)(+)IBoT 4.115 (Bo 1413)(+)CHDS 6.194 (Bo 5549)¹²(+)VSNF 12.114 (VAT 7490) in the left column of the obverse, lines obv.r.kol. 6'-11', in rev.IV, lines 8'-11' and 16'-19'.

10. Also cf. Soysal-Çifçi, (2024) p. 194.

11. See also HPM Konkordanz: Ch.W. Steitler. For the join draft see HPM Konkordanz: Bo 6717.

12. Soysal-Çifçi, indicates in CHDS at 6.194 that tablet fragment numbered Bo 5549 could belong to "CTH 750" (Fête de Zapparwa en langue hittite) or 626 "Fête de la 'hâte'" (*nuntarriyashas*).



Figure 4

5. Bo 6780¹³

Inventory Number: Bo 6780, Figure 5

CTH: 825

Length: 3.2 cm

Width: 6.1 cm

Thickness/Height: 0.8 cm

Color: Brick Red Colored.

Period: ?

Description: Right Column. It is a fragment from the middle part of the tablet.

13. See also Mascheroni, (1983) p. 97; Waal, (2015) p. 546; Lebrun, (2014) p. 125.

obv.

x+1 KASKAL ^m*Pi-h*[a-UR.MAḪ DUB.SAR.GIŠ]

2' ^m*Pal-lu-ya-ra-a*¹⁴ [^{LÜ}DUB.SAR]

3' ^m*Ul-me*-^DLUGAL-*m*[a

4' x[]x ^m[*P*]*i-h*[a

x+1 Through *Piḫ*[a-UR.MAḪ, the wooden tablet scribe]

2' [Scribe] *Palluyarā*

3' *Ulme-šarrum*[a

4' x[]x [*P*]*iḫ*[a-

The wooden tablet scribe *Piḫ*a-UR.MAḪ (NH 978)¹⁵ and scribe *Palluyara* (NH 923)¹⁶ whose names are mentioned in the tablet fragment, are also written as scribes in lines VI 5th and 6th lines of the text numbered KUB 41.26(Bo 84)+KUB 20.29(Bo 580)(+)IBoT 4.115(Bo 1413)(+)CHDS 6.194(Bo 5549)¹⁷ (+)VS NF 12.114(VAT 7490). Additionally, *Palluyara* (NH 923) is mentioned in line VI 10th of KUB 44.24 (Bo 235), a festival ritual fragment of a Protective Deity dated to the New Hittite period, while *Piḫ*a-UR.MAḪ (NH 978) is mentioned in line VI 9th of the same text.¹⁸ *Ul-me*-^DLUGAL-*m*[a (NH 1422) is mentioned in Bo 3504.¹⁹ It is appropriate to date the tablet fragment to the New Hittite period considering that the texts KUB 41.26(Bo 84)(+)... and KUB 44.24(Bo 235) are dated to the Hittite Empire period, and given that the scribes mentioned in these texts are the same as those in the tablet fragment numbered Bo 6780.

14. The upper part of the sign is unfortunately broken/faded in the text; also cf. Mascheroni, (1983) p. 97; Waal, (2015) p. 546; Fuscagni, (2007) p. 150, “ZA” is read ideographically.

15. Laroche, (1966) p. 141.

16. Laroche, (1966) p. 135.

17. Also cf. Soysal-Çifçi, (2024) p. 194.

18. McMahon, (1991) p. 234; Laroche, (1981) p. 31, 32. For the different pronunciation see also. Mascheroni, (1983) p. 97; Thesaurus Linguarum Hethaeorum digitalis, hethiter.net/: TLHdig KUB 41.26 (2021-12-31); Waal, (2015) p. 546; Fuscagni, (2007) 150.

19. Laroche, (1966) p. 196.



Figure 5

Conclusion

In our study have been examined the unpublished cuneiform tablet fragments numbered Bo 6704, Bo 6692, Bo 6706, Bo 6717, and Bo 6780, also referred to as the Berlin Tablets, which were unearthed during the archaeological excavations in Boğazköy-Ḫattuša, the capital of Hittite Empire. Photographs of the fragments, along with their transliterations and translations have been provided and philological evaluations have been conducted. Based on these evaluations, we have determined that the tablet fragment numbered Bo 6717 directly joins with the text numbered KUB 41.26(Bo 84)(+)KUB 20.29(Bo 580)(+)IBoT 4.115(Bo 1413)(+)CHDS 6.194 (Bo 5549) (+)VSNF 12.114(VAT 7490) in line rev.III 1-10. In addition, another important point that should be emphasized in our study is that, as a result of our philological evaluations of the tablet fragment, we have carried out the reconstruction of the mentioned fragment.

The tablet fragment numbered Bo 6704 has a particular significance. The point that catches our attention in this fragment is the mention of the city of Katapa. The fact that the city's name appears in the *nuntarijašhaš* and AN.TAḪ.ŠUM^{SAR} festivals, but the king participates in various religious activities in the mentioned city on the 1st, 2nd, and 14th days of the *nuntarijašhaš* festival, along with the fragment being a festival fragment, the *nuntarijašhaš* festival lasting sixteen days, and the phrase “tenth day” appearing in the third line of the fragment, leads us to believe that the tablet fragment belongs to the *nuntarijašhaš* festival (CTH 626). Therefore, we assign the CTH number as 626.

The “priests” mentioned in the tablet fragment numbered Bo 6706 which belongs to Hittite festivals, are among the officials participating in the ritual. In the tablet fragment numbered Bo 6692 which is also a festival fragment, the most striking point is that, although

the syllable “ka” is broken/faded, we believe that “k]a-aš-ta-it” could be a rare form of writing within the known vocabulary. The mentioned tablet fragments are in the group of texts related to the festivals regularly celebrated by the Hittites. The similarities between the language and expressions used in different festival texts, as well as similar ritual practices, themes, and motifs, complicate the classification of these fragments, classified as CTH 670, and make it difficult to determine which festival they belong to. Therefore, additional data is needed since there is insufficient evidence to determine which festival the fragments belong to, all of this would be helpful to resolve the uncertainties. In the tablet fragment numbered Bo 6780, the scribes *Piḫa*-UR.MAḪ (NH 978) and *Palluyara* (NH 923), whose names are mentioned, also appear as scribes in lines VI 5. and 6. of the text numbered KUB 41.26 (Bo 84)(+)KUB 20.29 (Bo 580)(+)IBoT 4.115 (Bo 1413)(+)CHDS 6.194 (Bo 5549)(+)VSNF 12.114 (VAT 7490), which pertains to the festival ritual performed for the god Ziparḫa. It is also noteworthy that these scribes appear in fragments of festival rituals for the Protective Deity, dated to the New Hittite period. Considering that the scribes mentioned in these texts are the same as those in the tablet fragment numbered Bo 6780, and taking into account its dating to the New Hittite period, we find it appropriate to date the tablet fragment to the New Hittite period. It has also been determined by us that lines 6-10 of the fragment show similarities to lines 6'-11', rev.IV 8'-11', and 16'-19' of the text numbered KUB 41.26 (Bo 84)(+)KUB 20.29 (Bo 580)(+)IBoT 4.115 (Bo 1413)(+)CHDS 6.194 (Bo 5549)(+)VSNF 12.114 (VAT 7490), and the reconstruction of the mentioned tablet fragment was done according to this text.

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CTH	E. LAROCHE (1971), <i>Catalogue des textes hittites</i> . Paris: Klincksieck.
HED	J. PUHVEL, <i>Hittite Etimological Dictionary</i> . Mouton de Gruyter. Berlin. New York.
HEG	J. TISCHLER, <i>Hethitisches Etymologisches Glossar, Innsbrucker Beiträge zur Sprachwissenschaft</i> , Innsbruck.
HHw	J. TISCHLER, <i>Hethitisches Handwörterbuch, Mit dem Wortschatz der Nachbarsprachen</i> , Innsbruck 2001.
HPM	Hethitologie Portal Mainz (https://www.hethport.uniwuerzburg.de).
HW	J. FRIEDRICH, <i>Hethitisches Wörterbuch, Kurzgefasste kritische Sammlung der Deutungen hethitischer Wörter</i> . 1.-4. Lieferung, Heidelberg.
IBoT	<i>İstanbul Arkeoloji Müzelerinde bulunan Boğazköy Tabletleri(nden Seçme Metinler)</i> . İstanbul 1944, 1947, 1954, Ankara 1988: Maarif Matbaası.
KBo	<i>Keilschrifttexte aus Boghazköi</i> . 1916 ff. Leipzig-Berlin: Mann Verlag.
Konkordanz	S. KOŠAK, <i>Konkordanz der hethitischen Keilschrifttafeln</i> (https://www.hethport.uniwuerzburg.de/hetkonk/hetkonk_abfrage_F.php).
KUB	<i>Keilschrifturkunden aus Boghazköi</i> . 1921ff. Leipzig-Berlin: Mann Verlag.
obv.	obverse
rev.	reverse
sg.	singular