

A royal share in the meals of Šamaš – BM 63681 comes from the Sippar Collection of the British Museum and, in its fragmentary state, preserves the names of individuals next to entries listing quantities (nearly all missing) or an unknown commodity from big and small morning and evening meals. There can be little doubt that these were from divine meals, and whilst it is not strictly proven that the god in question was Šamaš – the meals could have been prepared for any of the other deities dependent on the Ebabbara – this does seem the most likely possibility. It does however seem certain that the payments recorded were from the finished meals rather than contributions towards their preparation. At a guess this text was a protocol regulating the standard redistribution of food from these meals rather than a one-off list of actual payments paid on a specific occasion. Of greatest interest is that the king is among the recipients of these shares (1.8) and that he appears there in the middle of numerous other people. In other words, the king was entitled to a certain share, but appears to have had no great prerogative and his presence represents nothing more exceptional than one individual among many others. This may mean that the share of the king was acquired in the same manner as the shares held by other individuals, i.e. by means of the normal commercial traffic in temple perquisites. Alternatively, the share(s) of the king may originally have been more extensive and reduced to the single entry by selling off or gift. Whether or not these shares were related to the holding of prebends cannot be said, though it is possible that laborious prosopographic analysis would cast light on this ; a cursory analysis has not. No date is preserved.

BM 636816.4+ × 10.3+ *cm.*

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | [... GAL-ú šá] [še]-[e]1-ri m ^d EN1-[X]-X |
| 2 | [... GAL]-ú šá [še-e]1 ri m ^{BA} -šá-d ^d AMAR.UTU |
| 3 | [... GAL]-ú šá [še]-[e]1-ri m ^d UTU-PAP |

4 [... tar-t]en-nu šá še-e-ri ^mdNÀ-ka-šir
 5 [... ta]r-ten-nu šá še-e-ri
^mdNÀ-it-tan-nu A ^mDA-^dAMAR.UTU
 6 [... t]ar-ten-nu šá še-e-ri ^mBa-zu-zu
 7 [...] tar-ten-nu šá še-e-ri ^mAp-la-a

8 [(x)+5-B]ÁN GAL-ú šá ki-ši
 u₄-mu LUGAL
 9 [(x)+5-B]ÁN GAL-ú šá ki-ši u₄-mu
^mdAMAR.UTU-DU-[X]
 10 [...] GAL-ú šá ki-ši u₄-mu
^mNi-din-^ftu₄ A-šú šá ^m[PN]
 11 [...] GAL-ú šá ki-ši u₄-mu
^mdEN-TIN-^fīṭ¹

12 [... tar]-ten-nu šá ki-ši u₄-mu
^mMU-^drEN¹
 13 [... tar-te]n-nu šá ki-ši u₄-mu
^mdNÀ-[X X]
 14 [... tar]-ten-nu šá ki-ši u₄-mu
^mX] X [X X]
 15 [...] tar-ten-nu šá ki-ši u₄-^fmu¹
^mX X X X]
 16 [... GA]L-ú šá še-e-[ri PN]
 17 [... GA]L-ú šá še-e-[ri PN]
 18 [... GAL]-^fú¹ [šá še-e-ri PN]

Translation

- 1 [Q (from) the large morning meal] :
Bēl-[...]
- 2 [Q] (from) the large morning meal :
Iqīša-Marduk
- 3 [Q] (from) the large morning meal :
Šamaš-našir
- 4 [Q] (from) the small morning meal :
Nabû-kašir
- 5 [Q] (from) the small morning meal :
Nabû-ittannu son of Ile''i-Marduk
- 6 [Q] (from) the small morning meal :
Bazuzu
- 7 [Q] (from) the small morning meal :
Aplāya
- 8 [x]+30 l. (from) the large evening meal :
the king
- 9 [x]+30 l. (from) the large evening meal :
Marduk-mukīn-[...]
- 10 [Q] (from) the large evening meal :
Nidintu son of [...]
- 11 [Q] (from) the large evening meal :
Bēl-uballit
- 12 [Q] (from) the small evening meal :
Iddin-Bēl
- 13 [Q] (from) the small evening meal :
Nabû-[...]
- 14 [Q] (from) the small evening meal : [PN]
- 15 [Q] (from) the small evening meal : [PN]

- 16 [Q] (from) the large morning meal : [PN]
17 [Q] (from) the large morning meal : [PN]
18 [Q] (from) the large morning meal : [PN]
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