Bricks Inscriptions from the city of al-Rammahiyah Survey (2020)

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ABSTRACT

In this article devoted to the study of five bricks inscribed with royal memorial texts dating back to the Neo-Babylonian period, specifically to the reign of the famous King Nebuchadnezzar II, and although all the bricks are incomplete, the content of their texts can be known by comparing those texts with other bricks that bore the same inscribed taxes, and I will briefly address the city of Al-Rammahiyah by name, history and geographical location, and then an overview of the archaeological survey that took place in the city above, its techniques and approach.

***Keywords*: Al-Rammahiyah, Neo- Babylonian, Royal Insicriptions , Nebuchadnezzar II**

طبعات كتابية على الآجر من مدينة الرماحية
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الخلاصة:

ان هذا البحث مخصص لدراسة خمس أجرات عليهن طبعات لكتابات مسمارية، تمثل نصوص ملكية تعود إلى العصر البابلي الحديث ، وتحديداً إلى عهد الملك الشهير نبوخذ نصر الثاني ، وعلى الرغم من أن جميع الآجرات غير مكتملات ، الا اننا تمكنا من معرفة فحوى النصوص بشكل كامل من خلال مقارنة تلك النصوص مع اجرات أخريات يحملن الختمات الكتابية ذاتها ، وفضلا عن ذلك فقد تناولنا بإيجاز مدينة الرماحية بالاسم والتاريخ والموقع الجغرافي كونها الموقع الذي عثرنا على الاجرات فيه ، وكذلك عرضت لمحة عامة عن المسح الأثري الذي تم في المدينة أعلاه ، والتقنيات التي استخدمت فيه ومناهجه.

الكلمات المفتاحية: مدينة الرماحية، العصر البابلي الحديث، الكتابات الملكية، نبوخذنصر الثاني.

the city of al-Rammahiya:

Al-Rammahiyah is one of the most important civil metropolises in the southern part of Mesopotamia after the fall of Baghdad in 656 AH [2]. As to its name (Al-Rammahiyah), there are different interpretations of which (Rum Nahia) is of a prime significance in virtue of its reference to the invasion of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent (1520-1566 AD) to Iraq and that 'Rum Nahia' was the region of his allies (Rum) as named by Iraqi people. Gradually, the two words were then merged into one word as in. As for the second interpretation of what 'Al-Rammahiyah stands for, it is believed that it goes back to its inhabitants' profession in the

manufacture of fighting spears (Rumah in Arabic). The third is related to the ancestral name of its inhabitants as belonging to Al-Ramah, Malik bin Wabra Al-Kelbi. Al-Kelbi was famous for the spears as one of the captains of Kufa. He was one of Al-Arajis and the ancestor of Al-Zuwain[3]. The third interpretation is the closest to rightfulness

Although the history of Al-Rammahiyah is ambiguous, it's history goes back to the late seventh century of migration, which is before the fall of Baghdad in the year 656 AH - 1258 AD [4]. It played an important role in the Ottoman era and enjoyed a prominent position by that time. In this respect, its ruler was deputizing on the authority of the governor of Baghdad during any military campaigns assigned to him by the Ottoman Sultan., This is what actually happened when Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent commissioned the governor of Baghdad, Muhammad Pasha Al-Baltaji, to lead a campaign to restore the castle of Shahrazur from the hand of Sarkhab, the Prince of Ardalani, loyal to the Safavids. Al-Ramahiah Suhail Bey[5], and Al-Ramahiah remained outstanding city until the year 1700 AD. Few tourists and researchers wrote down a lot of information about it and that the Danish traveler Carsten Niebuhr is a case in point [6].

As for its geographical location, Al-Rammahiyah is located 30 km northwest of Al-Diwaniyah city, the center of Al-Qadisiyah Governorate, to the left of the road going from Al-Diwaniyah to Al-Shamiya district [7], within coordinates 472922 3528938, specifically on the left bank of the current digger, which is believed to have been dig in the place of Al-Rammahiyah River. Its ruins are still available and visible in the plot numbered (36), District 16, of Al-Dhaisia, the heresy of Muhammad bin Dukhain, the lands of the Shebl clans at the present time Euphrates River[8].

The Survey of (2020).

On March 12, 2020, we conducted an archaeological survey of this site. We divided it up into fifteen areas (A-O)[9], and collected the archaeological findings from its surface, Pottery, glass, stone and metal were among the collected findings, different bags with different labels (cards) were used as part and parcel of the process of identification to the findings. The identification process was assigned to all categories of the findings (stones, glass, metals and other surface objects) and to the geographical location to each.

After this stage, the process of washing and cleaning the objects begins and then classify them according to the shape (base, body, rim).They are further classified according to their times, numbered, depicted, drawn and documented the color of each piece from the outside and inside as well as documenting the color and type of fabric depending on the Munsell Soil Color and this applies to all findings regardless of being made of stone, glass or metal. Among the finding five inscribed bricks back to Nebuchadnezzar II.

the inscribed Bricks

1. Inventory No.: Ram.1/20.
Area H:
Brick D.: [21×17×07].
Inscription D.: [12×5,5].

Transliteration:
1. ^{d}AK-*ku-du- ri*-URI$_3$ L[UGAL KA$_2$.DINGIR.RA^{ki} *za-ni-in*]
2. E$_2$.SAG.IL$_2$ *u$_3$*$^{?}$ E$_2$.ZI.DA [IBILA *a-ša-re-du*]
3. ˹*ša*˺ ^{d}AK.IBILA.URI$_3$ L[UGAL KA$_2$.DINGIR.RA^{ki}]

Translation:
[1] Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the provider [2] of the temple of Esagil and the temple of Ezida. The foremost son [3] for Nabublezzar king of Babylon.

Commentary:
We have here one of most famous inscription for Nebuchadnezzar II, it written some time with some differences, for example, the name of the city of Babylon some time written in Sumerian KÁ.DINGIR.RA^{ki} or in Akkadian *babilu^{ki}* , in addition to the royal names. It's abbreviated from longer inscription, (Walker, 1981 p.78). This inscriptions were found in late occupation settlement, Tell al-Rammahiya mainly occupied during Sassanian Period with some other times in late Islamic to Ottoman Periods. I have attested on a sample exactly same mold were found to the east of Babylon, in land of Malgium included a reused context, (al-Hussainy and Jawdat, *Forthco.*) The existence of a stamped bricks dates back to an earlier periods is archeologically justified, it is known that the bricks was reused from other nearby sites and used in different constructional contexts. All bricks (2,3,4 and 5) below same inscription with different molds.

2. Inventory No.: Ram.2/20.
Area E:
Brick D.: [14x9x7].

Inscription D.: [9×4].

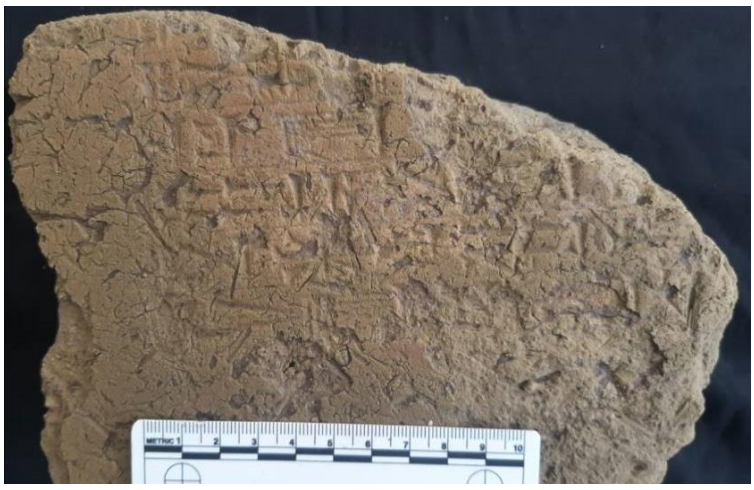
Transliteration:

1. [x x x x x] KA_2.DINGIR.RA ^{ki} x x x x
2. [x x x x x] E_2.ZI.DA IBILA ʿ*a*ʾ-[*ša-re-du*]
3. Missing.

3. Inventory No.: Ram.3/20.
Area E:
Brick D.: [14×12×08].
Inscription D.: [7.2×5.3].

Transliteration:

1. [^{d}AK-*ku-du-ri*-URI_3 LUGAL KA_2.DINGIR.R]A ^{ki}
2. [*za-ni-in* E_2.SAG.IL_2 $u_3^{?}$ E_2.] ZI . DA
3. [IBILA *a-ša-re*]-*du*
4. [*ša* ^{d}AK.IBILA.URI_3 LUGAL KA_2.DINGIR.R]A^{ki}



4. Inventory No.: Ram.4/20.
Area H:
Brick D.: [15×18×07].
Inscription D.: [14×08].

Transliteration:
1. [^{d}AK-*ku-du-ri*-URI$_3$]
2. L[UGAL KA$_2$.DINGIR.RA^{ki}]
3. *za-ni-in* [E$_2$.SAG.IL$_2$]
4. *u*$_3$ E$_2$.[ZI.DA]
5. IBILA *a-š*[*a-r*]*e-*[*du*]
6. *ša* ^{d}AK.IBILA.UR[I$_3$]
7. LUGAL KA$_2$.[DINGIR.RA]^{ki}

Commentary:
Inscription of Nebuchadnezzar II as well. This mold is very well known in southern Babylon sites, there is a samples was found at Marad during the excavation of 2nd season 2005. (al-Hussainy 2018: 53). It is not easy to observe all forms of molds of Nebuchadnezzar's inscriptions and link them to their exact locations, as these bricks were found on a very massive range and their use was changed many times in following ancient periods.

5. Inventory No.: Ram.5/20.
Area H:
Brick D.: [17×12×04].
Inscription D.: [11×06].

Transliteration:
1. [x x x x x L]UGAL [x x x x]
2. [x x x x x] E$_2$ [x x xx]
3. [x x x x x x LUGAL] KA$_2$.[DINGIR.RA^{ki} x x x x]

Footnotes:

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[5] - Al Azawi, A. The History of Iraq between two occupations, (Beirut , ----), p. 74. (in Arabic)

[6] - AlSaedi, H. Research on Iraq and Its trips, (Al- Najaf Al Ashraf, 1990), pp. 40-41.(in Arabic). Also see Fig 3.

[7] - Fig.1, Map No.1.

[8] - Fig 2, Map 2.

[9] - Fig 4.

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	Name	Measurements of Bricks			Measurements of Stamp	
		Length	Width	Thickness	Length	Width
1	RM20, H1	21	17	7	12	5,5
2	RM20,E 2	14	9	7	9	4
3	RM20,E 3	14	12	8	7,2	5,3
4	RM20, H4	15	18	7	14	8
5	RM20, H5	17	12	4	11	6

Table 1, Measurements of Bricks.

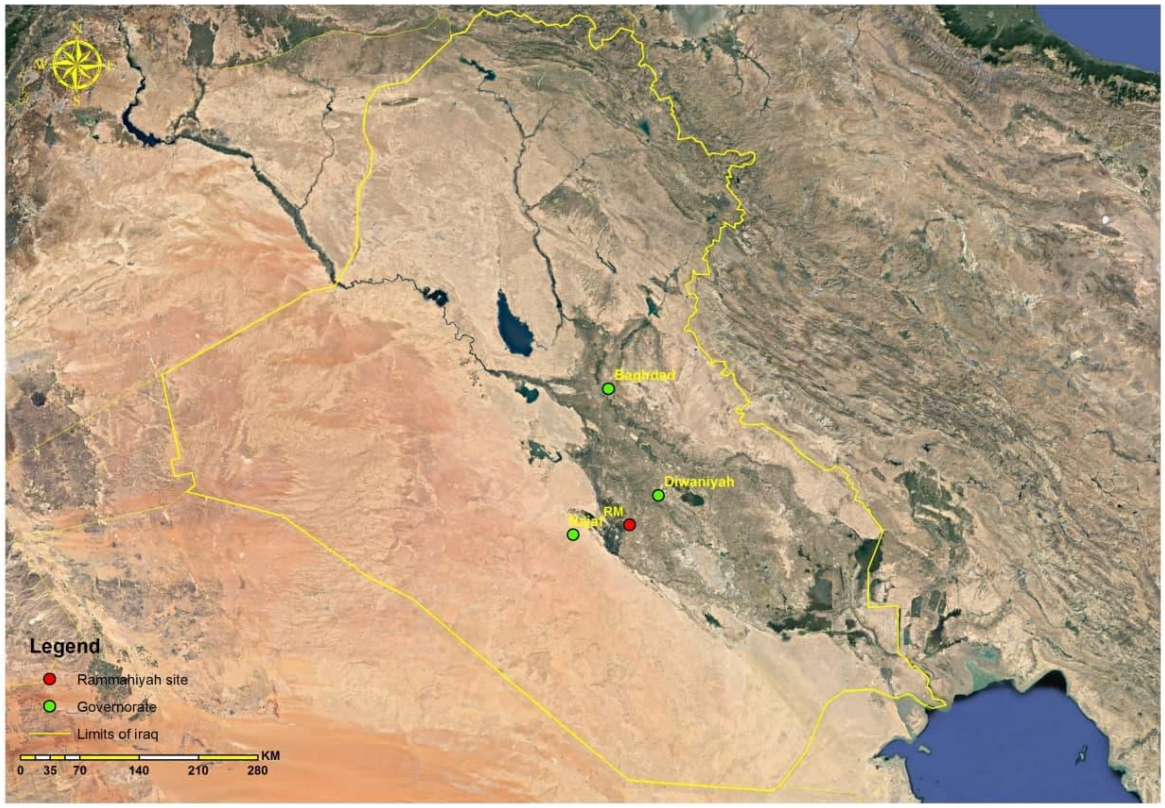

Fig 1, map No. 1 The location of AlRammahiyah

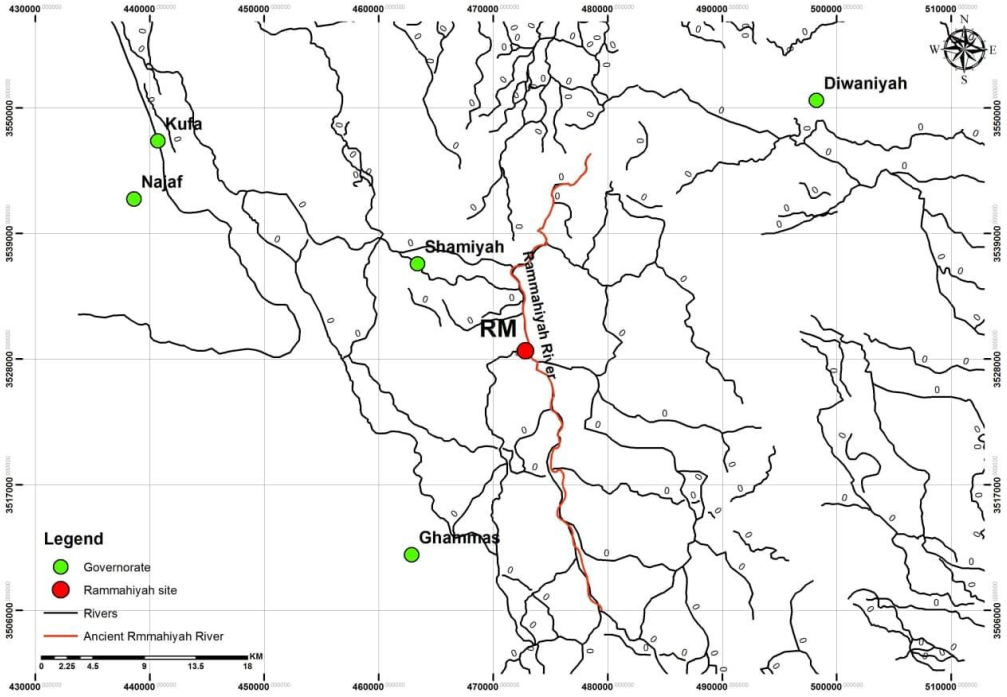

Fig 2, map No.2 Al Rammahiyah with its River

Fig. 3, Drone Image of AlRammahiyah Site.

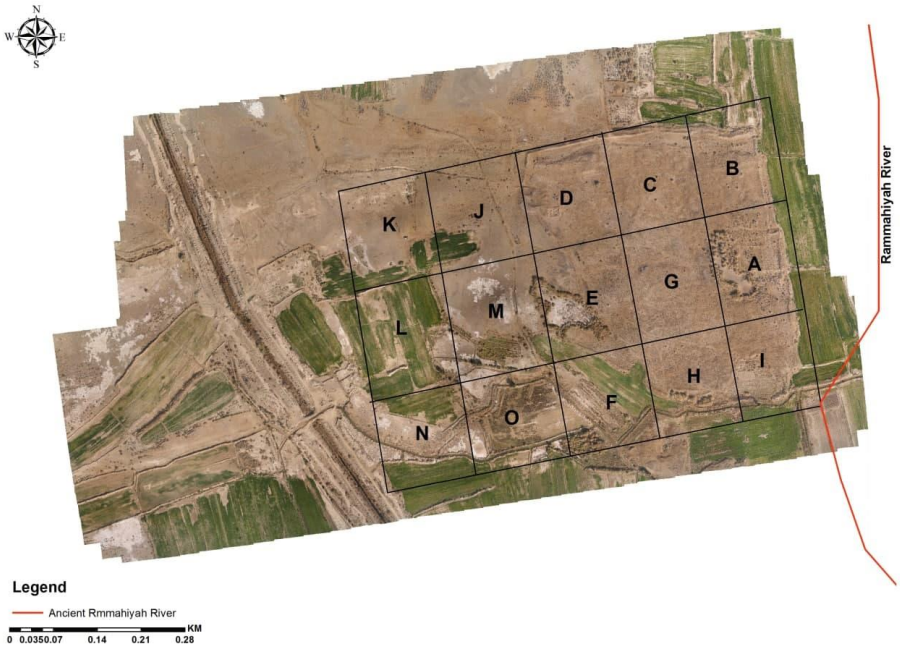

Fig. 4, Grid of AlRammahiyah Site.