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Jerrold S. Cooper: A wine debt from Emar

A small (4.5 x 4 cm.) privately owned tablet, probably from Emar, records the repayment by a third party of a debt of wine. All of the PNN on the tablet are attested at Emar and Ekalte, but none of the father-son pairs is to be found in the data base of Emar PNN (Pruzsinszky 2003), nor could I find any in the Ekalte texts. The scribe, Ikun-Dagan, is not otherwise attested at Emar, but there is a scribe of that name at nearby Ekalte (Cohen 2009: 95). A vertical ruling creates a margin on the reverse, to the left of the witness list. The tablet is undated and not sealed.

Text 1:*obverse*

1. 8 ^{du}g^hu-pu kaš-geštin
2. hu-bu-ul-li
3. ša ¹a-wi-ri
4. dumu hi₂-ma-ši
5. ¹da-da
6. dumu ab-di-^diš-ha-ra
7. dumu-meš zu-^dda-gan
8. dumu i-ri-ib-^dda-gan

*lower**edge*

9. i-pu-ul-šu-nu

reverse

1. igi ip-qi₂-^dda-gan
2. dumu mil-ka-ma
3. igi i-ku-^dda-gan dub-sar
4. igi ^dda-gan-ma
5. dumu zi-ik-ri

Eight hupu-jars of wine, the debt of Awiri son of Himaši, Dada son of Abdi-Išhara paid to the sons of

Zu-Dagan son of Irib-Dagan.

*Witnesses: Ipqi-Dagan son of Milkama, Ikun-Dagan
the scribe, Dagan-ma son of Zikri.*

This unusual debt payable in jars of wine is paid off by a third party to the sons of a creditor, probably deceased. The *hupu* or *hubu* vessel at Emar is used for wine alongside the *hizzibu* vessel (Fleming 1992: 143f.). The *hupu* is the larger vessel, judging from the fact that it is generally listed first and in smaller quantities when it occurs together with the *hizzibu*, but it most likely is not the same as the *huppum* at Mari made from 12 mina of copper, which must have been very large indeed (Guichard 2005: 201). That the debt in our document is expressed in *hupu*-jars indicates that the *hupu* was standardized, as does the use of *hupu* to establish the amount of wine to be provided annually to the NIN.DINGIR-priestess at Emar (Fleming 1992 29:87). Note, as well, Emar 6/3, [364](#), where four *hupu* and three *hizzibu* of wine for one month, and eight *hizzibu* for a second month, are said to total ten *hupu* of wine, implying that the *hupu* is about twice the size of the *hizzibu* (11 *hizzibu* = 6 *hupu*, thus 1 *hupu* = 1.8 *hizzibu*). (As Arnaud [1986] notes, the numeral ten is written as 4+4+2, rather than the customary U. It

might, then, be a misread numeral 8 [3+3+2], implying about a 3:1 ratio [4 *hupu* + 11 *hizzibu* = 8 *hupu*, so 11 *hizzibu* = 4 *hupu*, and 2.75 *hizzibu* = 1 *hupu*]).

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