

DT 166

Anunnakū, Ea,
and the Canal

CDLI P424517 · RINAP Q003960 / Sennacherib 155

Neo-Assyrian Nineveh · archival tablet fragment

CORE LOCUS · OBVERSE 4'

[AN.ŠĀR] pa-qid dī-gì-gì u dA-nun-na-ki AD DÙ
[DINGIR.MEŠ ...]

[Aššur], the one who regulates the Igīgū and Anunnakū
gods, the father of al[the gods ...]

ROLE-SAFE RESULT

The group name is preserved, but Aššur is the
restored regulator. On the reverse, Sennacherib digs
the canal, ritual gifts go to Ea and canal gods, and the
gods answer prayer. These roles must not be merged.

EXACT PHOTOGRAPH INSPECTED

The current CDLI photograph visibly presents the same small clay
fragment in multiple views; CDLI and RINAP bind P424517, DT
166, Q003960, and Sennacherib 155.

OBVERSE · EDITION ROWS



REVERSE · CANAL PASSAGE

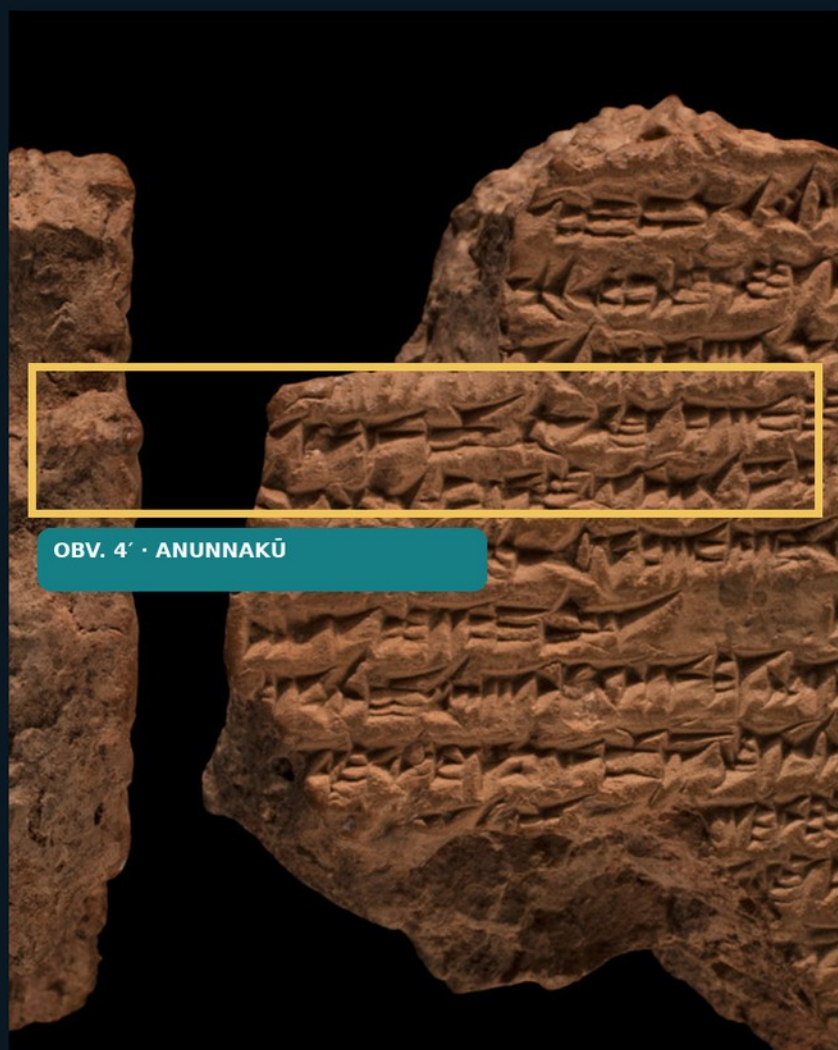


Obverse 4' and reverse 6'-11'

Conservative row bands; edition-guided, not autonomous sign reading

DT 166 · IMAGE-TO-TEXT REGISTRATION

Broad edition-mapped row zones; sign values remain edition-controlled



The boxes register rows, not isolated signs. Restored clauses are not claimed as photograph-decoded.

WHAT THE EXACT PHOTOGRAPH SUPPORTS

Object identity, physical preservation, inscribed row survival, and the edition-mapped zones. Obverse 4' preserves the full Anunnakū spelling; paqid is damaged-readable; [Aššur] and the trailing divine phrase are restored.

EXACT LIMIT OF THE VISUAL CLAIM

The boxes mark whole rows, not isolated signs. RINAP controls sign values, restoration, grammar, and translation. Reverse 6'-11' contains surviving canal, gift, Ea, dike/canal, handiwork, and water-flow material, while substantial syntax is supplied from parallels.

Visible, damaged, restored, excluded

One row cannot carry claims supplied by another witness

OBV. 4' dA-nun-na-ki

Full group spelling is un-restored; paqid damaged-readable

photograph_visible

OBV. 4' [AN.ŠÁR]

Divine subject restored by Frahm from text 153 obv. 1

edition_restored_or_composite

REV. 6' ÍD šu-a-tú

'that canal' survives; exorcist/lamentation singer partly survives

photograph_visible

REV. 8'-9' oil / Ea / dikes

Key tokens survive; offering syntax and titles heavily restored

edition_restored_or_composite

REV. 10'-11' handiwork / water

Prospering/flow wording partly survives; sluice self-opening is parallel-restored

edition_restored_or_composite

A hierarchy beside a real canal project

Divine authorization, ritual appeal, and human execution stay separate

PUBLISHED RINAP — OBV. 4'
"[(The god) Aššur], the one who regulates the Igīgū and Anunnakū gods, the father of al[l of the gods ...]"
CAUTIOUS WORKING READING
[Aššur], supervisor of the Igīgū and Anunnakū, father of al[l the gods ...]. The group is the regulated object, not the canal builder.
HUMAN EXECUTION
The reverse credits Sennacherib with having the canal dug with a small workforce and completing it in one year and three months; much of this clause is restored from the Bavian parallel.
RITUAL / DIVINE RESPONSE
Gifts are offered to Ea, Enbilulu, and En'e'imdu. The great gods heed prayer and make the king's handiwork prosper. This is theological authorization, not proof that the Anunnakū operated machinery.
EXCLUDED INFERENCE
The dramatic self-opening sluice is largely parallel-restored. It cannot be presented as a visibly decoded autonomous mechanism, advanced technology, or Anunnakū engineering.

Canal engineering without agency transfer

A useful limit case for the technology hypothesis

MAIN TAKEAWAY	One exact tablet places an un-restored Anunnakū name in a divine hierarchy and preserves fragments of a canal-opening dossier. The canal’s human, ritual, and divine actors are explicitly different.
CORPUS VALUE	The witness connects organized divine authority, Ea/Abzu-linked water theology, a quantified construction claim, and real irrigation work on one object—while preserving an agency firewall.
SUPPORT	Moderate support for an organized divine order and for religious authorization of hydraulic works. Strong evidence that Mesopotamian scribes could distinguish divine oversight from royal labor and ritual procedure.
LIMIT / CONTRADICTION	Aššur, not the Anunnakū, governs the divine hierarchy. Sennacherib and his workers execute the canal. Ea and canal gods receive gifts. The Anunnakū do not receive an engineering verb.
SITCHIN TEST	No spacecraft, extraterrestrial origin, genetics, mining, laboratory, power plant, autonomous machinery, or advanced technology is demonstrated by this fragment.

Reproducible evidence chain

Artifact page, exact witness, composite edition, and primary book

- CDLI P424517 — exact physical tablet witness, artifact-specific transliteration, current multi-view photograph, British Museum collection, and Nineveh provenance.
- CDLI P467170 / Q003960 — Sennacherib 155 composite page linking the sole witness P424517.
- ORACC RINAP Q003960 — current lemmatized transliteration and published English translation, CC BY-SA 3.0.
- Grayson & Novotny, RINAP 3/2 (2014), pp. 205-211 — primary edition, catalogue, restoration notes, and comparison with Sennacherib 223/Bavian.

DAILY CAPABILITY IMPROVEMENT

Adds a restoration-density-by-clause gate for technical narratives. Track every actor, verb, and object separately; calculate whether a clause is photograph-visible, damaged-readable, or supplied from a parallel; and prohibit restored spectacle from becoming the headline claim. Here the sluice’s self-opening is mostly parallel-restored, so the secure result is role separation, not machine identification.

CLASS: exact_selected_artifact · photograph_visible · edition-guided