

NOTE BREVI

A new Urartian Inscription from the Neighbourhood of Muş (figs 1-3).

The here published inscription comes from a building made of basalt stones situated on a hill between the villages of Soğucak and Kepenek, about 3.5 km South-East of Muş. The building has been completely demolished due to illegal excavations carried out by robbers searching for buried treasures. The inscribed block is now re-utilised in a wall in the village of Kepenek. Dr. Koçhan was able to access the inscription thanks to Mr. Cumhuri Sur, the Director of the Primary School of the village of Kepenek, to whom we are very grateful.

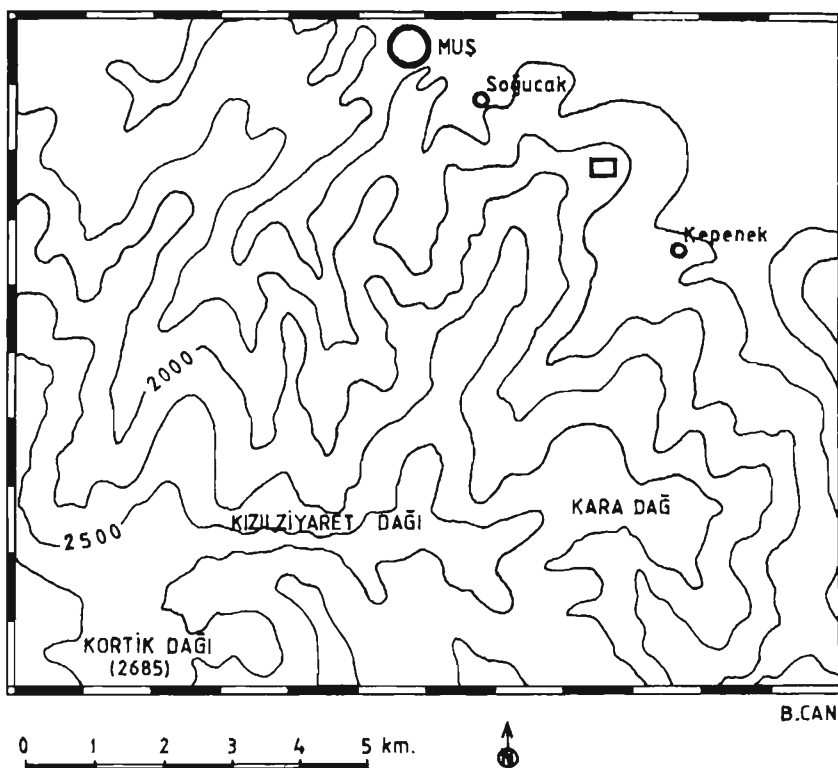


Fig. 1 – Schematic map of the region where the new Urartian inscription was found.



Fig. 2 · The hill between the villages of Soğucak and Kepenek, 3.5 km South-East of Muş, discovery site of the inscribed basalt stone.



Fig. 3 – The new *susi* inscription of Argišti I, re-utilised upside-down in the village of Kepenek.

Measurements of the stone: Height: 56 cm; Width: 76.5 cm; Thickness: 50 cm; Empty space under the written surface: 13.5 cm; Height of every line: 4.5 cm.

1. ʰal-di-i-e e-ú-ri-i-e
2. i-ni ʰsu-si-e ʰar-giš-ti-še
3. ʰmì-[nu]-a-ḫi-ni-še ši-di-iš-tú-ni
4. e-ʳʰaʳ [É.GA]L ba-du-ú-si-i-e
5. te-ru-b[i ʰa]r-giš-ti-ḫi-ni-li ti-ni
6. ʰa[l]ʳ-diʳ-[ni]-ni al-su-i-ši-ni
7. ʰar-[giš]-t[i-n]i ʰmì-nu-a-ḫi LUGÁL DAN-NU
8. LUGÁL a[l-su]-i-[ni] LUGÁL ʰURbi-a-i-na-ú-e
9. a-lu[-si ʰRU]tu-uš-pa-a-e U[RU]

«To Haldi, the lord, Argišti, the son of Minua, has built this *susi*-temple and a [fortre]ss in a perfect way. I gave the name of Argištihinili. Through the greatness of Haldi (I am) Argišti, son of Minua, powerful king, great king, king of Biainili, lord of the city of Tušpa».

The stone was originally incorporated in the façade of a tower-temple (*susi*), and the informations about its site of discovery and original context could confirm the existence of such a building on the hill where it was found. The inscription of Argišti I (ca 785/780–756 B.C.)¹, the son of Minua, chronicles about the construction of a temple and of a fortress, named Argištihinili.

We know about the existence of the great city of Argištihinili in Armenia, corresponding to the sites of Armavir and Davti-blur. This appears to be another one, a distinct foundation with the same name, and built by the same king Argišti I. It is similar to the situation we know concerning the founding of Toprakkale and Ayanıs: both cities are named Rusahinili by Rusa II.

Two more Urartian inscriptions come from the region of Muş; both are of Minua. HchI² 26 is the lower part of a stela found in Muş and conserved in the Archaeological Museum of Tbilisi (Tiflis); HchI 27 was discovered in the cemetery of Trmerd (old name), 18 km East of Muş. The first one is the account of a military expedition; the preserved final section of the text quotes the city of Atauni and the land of Urme and contains the information that the stela was set up in the city of Arhi. The second one is also very incomplete and cites again the land of Urme, and other place names. It is difficult to say whether the new inscription has any connection with this country.

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¹ M. Salvini, *Geschichte und Kultur der Urartäer*, Wiesbaden 1995, p. 207.

² HchI = F.W. König, *Handbuch der chaldischen Inschriften*, AfO, Bh 8, Graz 1955-1957.