



WALL PLAQUE

Elamite (Iran)
Middle Elamite Period, Dynasty of the Igihalkides, 1340-1300 BC
Light blue glazed clay with cuneiform inscription for Untash Napirisha
Width 37.5 cm x 37.5 cm Height 19 cm

Large square enamelled plaque with pommel. Decorative element from the exterior walls of the Ziggurat of Tchoga-Zanbil, ancient Dur-Untash the holy city of Elam which suddenly disappeared at the end of the 12th century BC. This piece was probably found in room XXVI of the Ziggurat of Tchoga-Zanbil itself. It certainly comes from Kukunum, a summit temple now disappeared that once formed the fifth floor of the Ziggurat of which only inscriptions remain.

Untash Napirisha was married to Napir Asu, the daughter of the king of Babylon, Burnaburiash II, who reigned in the first half of the 14th century BC. This fact helped to better date the reign and the period of constructions of king Untash Napirisha.

Translation of Prof. Lambert: 'e un-tas-an.gal – Untash-Napirisha (King of Elam)'

PROVENANCE

Former private collection Roman Ghirshman Paris, France since circa 1946; Boisgirard 7th November 1982; private collection F.A. Paris, France; private collection Germany, acquired from the above

PUBLICATION

F. Antonovich: *Les métamorphoses divines d'Alexandre*, Paris 1996 : p. 365-366, fig. p. 145

LITERATURE

R. Ghirshman: *MDAI, XXXIX, Tchoga-Zanbil (Dur Untash), I, La ziggourat*, Paris 1966
P. Amiet: *Marlik et Tchoga Zanbil: Revue d'Assyriologie et d'Archéologie Orientale*, vol. 84, Paris 1990 : no. 1, p. 44-47
D. T. Potts: *The Archaeology of Elam*, Cambridge University Press, 1999
A. Benoit: *Les Civilisations du Proche Orient ancien*, Manuels de l'École du Louvre, Paris 2003 : p 351-359

PARALLEL

British Museum London, acc. no. 132225, Donation of R. Ghirshman
Musée du Louvre Paris, acc. no. SB 23747, R. Ghirshman