

It may be opportune to correct here a fallacious reading of an interesting sign apparently not sufficiently laid to rest by FRIBERG in *Vicino Oriente* 6 (1986) 15. STEIBLE follows tradition (see SAKI 68 iii 10; EDZARD, *Sumer* 15 [1959] 21) with the transliteration and translation of Gudea Statue B iii 10 (FAOS 9,1 [1991] pp. 160-161) šà-lú-216000 (=3600 x 60)(=RÉC491)-ta, (when Ningirsu [chose] Gudea) “aus der Mitte von 216000 Menschen . . .”. Gudea adhered in the use of this sham divine election to the pre-Sargonic Lagash rulers Entemena and Urukagina (Ent. 32 i 2'-3': [šà l]ú ŠAR²-ta / [šu-n]i ba-ta-[dab₅]-ba-a; Urk. 4, viii 5-6 = 5 vii 18-19: šà lú ŠAR²U-ta / šu-ni e-ma-ta-dab₅-ba-a). Since Statue B iii 6-11 was first translated by THUREAU-DANGIN in SAKI 66ff. and RÉC 491 itself interpreted in RÉC (the sign form ŠARxKU₃ in CROS, *FT*, Partie épigraphique, pl. VIII, is incorrect), the sign has been misrepresented as the sexagesimal step above RÉC 490 = šár = “3600”, that is, $3600 \times 60 = 216,000$. While this interpretation did offer an appealing numerical progression through time, namely from a pool of 3600 “citizens” (cf. HRUŠKA, *ArOr.* 41 [1973] 126-127, and the literature cited there) prior to the reign of Entemena, through a pool of 36,000 prior to Urukagina, to a pool of 216,000 prior to Gudea, the Fara school text TSŠ 671 (HØYRUP, *Historia Mathematica* 9 [1982] 19-36) and the late Akkadian/Lagash II administrative text NFT p. 184, AO 4303 (ENGLUND, *BBVO* 10 [1990] 145-146, n. 459), cited by Friberg, present unassailable proof that the Gudea reference must be corrected to RÉC 491 = 36,000, that is, that the gunified sign ŠAR²U is an allograph of simple ŠAR²U. This oversight should be corrected in the announced glossary by BEHRENS.

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