

Mesopotamia and Beyond: ANE stands for Ancient Northeast

Written by Jason Hong for Festivus 2020

1. The Assyrians received great quantities of this resource from the Na'iri, which was then transported south to the cities of Sippar and Larsa. The merchant Ishkhi-Dagan, who imported this resource from Elam, was from the city of Mari, which was a major hub for the trade of this resource. Though this resource was thought to be primarily imported from Afghanistan, its namesake “problem” was solved when ceramics found in the village of Goltepe were discovered to contain very high concentrations of this resource. The inhabitants of Goltepe exported this resource, which was known as *annaku*, from the nearby site of Kestel, where skeletons of young children were found in a (*) tunnel. Frequent poisoning by arsenic fumes led to this resource being used instead to lower the melting point. For 10 points, name this resource that was mixed with copper to make bronze. ANSWER: tin [or annaku before mention; do not accept or prompt on “bronze”] <Sumer, Akkad, and Babylon>
2. Signers of treaties were threatened by a curse of having these objects covered in blood if they broke the treaty. Following the conquest of Samaria, a unit of soldiers who were particularly renowned for their skill in the use of these objects was absorbed into the royal army. In one relief, a parasol is held over a triumphal one of these objects as captured Elamite prisoners march in the background. The increasing relegation of these objects to status symbols led J. N. Postgate to call them (*) “Assyrian Porsches.” These objects were more suited for breeds from Kush as opposed to those from Mesu. Iron rims were fitted onto these objects to improve their durability. The production of large, heavy examples of these objects, combined with the development of cavalry, signalled the end of their military use. For 10 points, name these horse-drawn vehicles used as shock troops by the Assyrian army.
ANSWER: Assyrian chariots [or appatu] <Assyria>
3. In one text that was found at this place, a combination of one grain, one jar of syrup, and one festival date-juice was suggested as a remedy for scorpion stings by a scorpion charmer. Neferabu relates on a stela how he was cured of blindness by the cobra-goddess Meretseger, who was worshipped by the populace of this place. During his excavation of this place, Bernard Bruyere uncovered thousands of *ostraca*, or pottery shards. The first labor strike in history occurred when the inhabitants of this place marched on Thebes in response to delays in grain deliveries. Residents of this place were known as (*) “servants in the place of truth.” Amenhotep I created this village as a solution to increased tomb robberies during his reign. For 10 points, name this village home to the artisans and workmen that built and maintained the tombs in the Valley of the Kings. ANSWER: Deir el-Medina [or Set maat; prompt on Theban necropolis] <Egypt>
4. A sculpture of one of these animals found in the city of Maras bears a hieroglyphic inscription identifying it as being made during the reign of Halparuntiyas III. Two of these animals flank the southwest gate of the Hittite capital of Hattusa. In a series of reliefs depicting these animals, men with mastiff dogs and spears are positioned to prevent these animals from escaping. A stone sculpture of one of these animals trampling a man located in the city of Babylon may represent the goddess Ishtar. Ashurbanipal records how he set out to confront a (*) ferocious group of these animals and escaped by shooting his way out with bow and arrow after they surrounded his royal chariot; he later depicted himself hunting these animals in a famous series of reliefs located in his palace at Nineveh. For 10 points, name this animal that is the body of the Great Sphinx of Giza. ANSWER: lions <Anatolia, Syria, and Beyond>
5. An inscription at Bavian details how this ruler built an automatic sluice gate into his canal system. This ruler

built the first above-ground aqueduct 500 years before the Romans at Jerwan to transport water to his capital. To regulate the flow of water from the canals of his capital, this ruler constructed an artificial swamp, which he then turned into a royal hunting preserve. Though he is not named Nebuchadnezzar, this ruler supposedly deployed Archimedes screws over 350 years before they were invented in Egypt in his “palace without a rival” to bring water up (*) terraces. Oxford scholar Stephanie Dalley hypothesized that the Hanging Gardens of Babylon were actually the extensive gardens built by this ruler in his capital. For 10 points, name this ruler who moved the Assyrian capital to Nineveh and who was succeeded after his death by his son Esarhaddon.
ANSWER: Sennacherib <Assyria>

6. The poet Callinus wrote an elegy urging the people of Ephesus to rise up and defend against these people. Esarhaddon records how he concluded an alliance with the *Ishkuza* to inflict a defeat upon these people, killing their king Teushpa. Constant raids by these people sparked the decline of the Kingdom of Urartu, whose King Rusa I was defeated by a group of these people allied with Sargon II. Following the invasion of (*) Phrygia by these people, King Midas committed suicide by supposedly drinking bull’s blood. Following their defeat of King Gyges, these people achieved their greatest success with their sacking of the Lydian capital of Sardis. According to Homer, these people lived in a region of mist and darkness at the edge of the world, which may have referred to the Black Sea. For 10 points, name these nomadic people who were displaced by the Scythians.
ANSWER: Cimmerians [or Gimirri] <Anatolia, Syria, and Beyond>

7. The Zenon papyri detail the petition of people who oversaw the production of this substance at the Faiyum oasis. Allegedly, Ramses III offered 21,000 jars of this substance in a sacrifice to Hapi. This substance was produced by creatures who were created from the tears of Ra touching the earth. A painting from the Sun Temple at Neuserre depicts several cylindrical ceramics that were used in the production of this substance. Pepy II would smear a slave with this substance in order to keep flies away from himself. Supposedly, after finding jars of this substance in Tutankhamun’s tomb, archaeologists (*) tasted it and found it to be still edible. This substance was used extensively in ancient medicine, including as a remedy for eye diseases and coughs. For 10 points, name this substance that was often collected from rafts on the Nile that followed the blooming of flowers.
ANSWER: honey <Egypt>

8. *Warning: two answers required.* A marble pillar erected by Emmetana, a king of one of these cities, designated a region between these two cities as a “no man’s land.” Mesilim, the king of Kish, mediated his namesake peace treaty between these two cities. A boundary stone was placed along with a ditch in the fertile plain of Gu-Edin, which was disputed between these two cities. A king of one of these cities named Lugalzagesi ended its century-long conflict with the other after conquering it during his campaigns, which created the first kingdom to unite all of Sumer. The “Zu-bird,” which represents the god Ningirsu, flies overhead while Gudea, the king of one of these cities, is shown trampling the soldiers of the other city in the Stele of the Vultures. For 15 points, name these two Sumerian cities whose extensive border conflict resulted in both of them being conquered by Sargon of Akkad.

ANSWER: Umma and Lagash [accept Girsu in place of “Lagash”] <Sumer, Akkad, and Babylon>

9. The line “Bridegroom, spend the night in our house till dawn” appears in the oldest love poem ever found, which is addressed to a ruler whose name means “After [this god].” A cluster of buildings called the *gipar* is described as the “princely shrine of pure divine powers [that] marks the passage of days” in a hymn addressed to one temple of this god known as the Ekishnugal. A sanctuary dedicated to this god in Harran was built by a ruler whose name means “Beloved of [this god];” that sanctuary was later restored by a ruler who was the first (*) archaeologist and who particularly venerated this god. Sargon of Akkad appointed his

daughter Enheduanna as the High Priestess of the goddess Inanna and this god. The worship of this god was promoted over the worship of Marduk by Nabonidus, which angered the people of Babylon. For 10 points, name this Mesopotamian god of the moon.

ANSWER: **Sin** [or **Nanna**; accept **Naram-Sin**; accept **Shun-Sin**; do not accept or prompt on “Inanna”] <Sumer, Akkad, and Babylon>

10. According to a recent study led by Sally Wasef, based on mitochondrial analysis, these animals were likely tamed seasonally from wild populations rather than raised on large-scale farms. Herodotus claims that this animal was honored because it kills the invading horde of winged serpents every spring. Large numbers of these animals were sacrificed near the necropolis of Tuna El Gebel. Snails were often placed in the stomachs of these animal before mummification, which took place on a large scale at (*) Hermopolis. The flooding of Lake Moeris helped to attract large numbers of these animals for capture. Ra was said to have created this animal to act as a messenger between heaven and earth. The first letter of the Egyptian alphabet was named after this bird in honor of the alphabet’s inventor. For 10 points, name this sacred bird that was used as a symbol of Thoth.

ANSWER: **ibis** <Egypt>

11. Though not found in Egypt, a stone tower found in the harbor of this civilization’s capital may have served as an ancient lighthouse. Sennacherib sent Uperi, a king of this civilization, debris from his destruction of Babylon to intimidate him into paying tribute. The presence of Mesopotamian pottery on the island of Failaka suggests a period where this civilization came under the control of the Kassites. Seals from this civilization had a unique round shape, as opposed to the cylinder seals of Mesopotamia. The increasing availability of copper from Cyprus led to the decline of this civilization, which depended on its monopoly on the copper trade from (*) Oman. The creation myth of Enki and Ninhursag, which supposedly takes place on the island of this civilization, may have inspired the story of the Garden of Eden. For 10 points, name this ancient civilization located in modern-day Bahrain.

ANSWER: **Dilmun** civilization <Anatolia, Syria, and Beyond>

12. *Description acceptable.* Small ceramic rings called Clayton rings were produced by the Sheikh Muftah culture, which dwelled in this region. A hill in this region that was named for being covered in thousands of broken pottery shards was a station on an ancient trade route known as the Abu Ballas trail. An expedition to this region during the reign of Khufu searched for a rare substance known as “mefat.” Carlo Bergmann discovered a large depot in this region that was used as a base for expeditions to quarry valuable pigments; Bergmann named that place the (*) Water Mountain of Djedefre. A yellow scarab found in the tomb of King Tutankhamun was discovered to have been carved from glass from this region that was formed from a 29-million year old meteorite impact. This region was known as the “red land,” in contrast to the “black land” of the Nile. For 10 points, name this vast region that Set was the lord of, found to the west of Egypt.

ANSWER: Sahara **desert** [or the **Saharan** desert or the Libyan **Desert** or **Libya**; accept the Western **Desert** or the **Great Sand Sea**; accept descriptions of the **desert** to the **west** of Egypt; prompt on **desert** before “west” is mentioned; do not accept or prompt on “Eastern Desert”] <Egypt>

13. These people were expected to carry out the duty of *massartu*, which was given the wider meaning of “vigilance.” Records left by these people indicate the observance of *akukutu*, or “red glow” around 660 BC. The *Enuma Anu Enlil* was a collection of daily reports to the king compiled by these people. According to these people, the death of a great king was sometimes preceded by the yellow or green flashes caused by a *kakkabu*. The notebook of one of these people details the Kofels event, which may have inspired the story of Sodom and Gamorrah. The “bending” of (*) *shamash* observed by members of this profession could invoke the

temporary installment of a slave as the “substitute king,” who inevitably died within a hundred days. A copy of the aforementioned notebook belonging to a member of this profession is known as the Planisphere tablet. For 10 points, name these people who interpreted omens by looking towards the sky.

ANSWER: **astrologers** [or **astronomers**; prompt on **priests**; prompt on **scribes**] <Assyria>

14. **The Kassite king Ulam-Buriash forced the last ruler of a dynasty named for this specific region to flee to Elam after “making himself the master of the land” by conquering this region. The Amorite king Abi-eshuh led an unsuccessful attempt to conquer this region by damming the Tigris River. Ashurbanipal II appointed Bel-ibni as military commander over this region. The Chaldean king Marduk-apla-iddina II, who was part of the Bit-Yakin tribe that governed over this region, established what some historians refer to as the “Third Dynasty of [this region];” from this region, Marduk-apla-iddina was able to plague Sennacherib by constantly instigating rebellions. Following the death of Hammurabi, an Akkadian-speaking king named Ilum-ma-ili established the (*) Second Dynasty of Babylon, which was named for this region. For 10 points, name this swampy region of southern Mesopotamia.**

ANSWER: **Sealand** [or **Mat-tamti**; accept **Sealand** dynasty; accept **Babylonian marshes**] <Sumer, Akkad, and Babylon>

15. **Tablets found in Ur record the payments of barley delivered by a colony of people from this region that was located in the port city of Guabba. Multi-colored ivory bird figurines were exported to Ur from this region. An Akkadian text records how a man named Lu-Sunzida, whose name means “man of the just buffalo cow,” was from this region. Sargon of Akkad boasted that ships from Dilmun, Magan, and this region docked at the quay at his capital. Tombs in the Royal Cemetery of Ur contain necklaces made from etched (*) carnelian beads, which were thought to be imported from this region. Motifs of horned deities and centaurs, which may have been inspired by Mesopotamian seals, are depicted on the square seals from this region. Sumer engaged in extensive trade with, for 10 points, what region whose cities included Lothal and Harappa?**

ANSWER: **Indus Valley** civilization [or **IVC**; accept **Meluhha** or **Melukhkha**] <Anatolia, Syria, and Beyond>

16. ***Description acceptable.* The scholar Mar-Issar was granted temporary usage of this system during his reorganization of cults and sanctuaries. Only those bearing a signet ring with a seal depicting a king slaying a lion, who were known as the Great Ones, could utilize this system. A letter addressed to Sargon II details the complaints of a member of this system who was provided with an insufficient number of animals called *kudunu*. Governors were responsible for maintaining houses known as *bet mardeti* as part of this system. This system was later expanded into the more well-known (*) Chapar Khaneh of the Achaemenid Empire. Unusually, pairs of mules rather than horses were used in this system, which operated on the *hul sarri*, or King’s Road. For 10 points, name this system used by the Assyrians to communicate through a network of stations and relay couriers.**

ANSWER: Assyrian **postal** service [or **kalliu**; accept descriptive answers similar to the last line of the tossup] <Assyria>

17. **The war god Anhur was the local god of this city and thus bore the epithet “Bull of [this city].” The nome of this city was the northernmost to fall under the control of Antef II; further northern expansion was halted when Antef was defeated at this city by an army led by Akhtoy III during the First Intermediate Period. Following that battle, Akhtoy’s troops destroyed the tombs in this city’s nome, for which Akhtoy apologetically took the blame for as recounted in *The Teaching for King Merikare*. The cemetery of Umm el-Gaab at Abydos, which was believed to be near this city, served as the burial ground for rulers from this city. According to Manetho, Menes led a tribal confederation that lends its name to this city. This city lost much of its importance after Memphis became the capital of the Old Kingdom. For 15 points, name this**

yet-to-be discovered first capital of Egypt.

ANSWER: **Thinis** [or **Tjenu**; accept **Thinite** Confederacy] <Egypt>

18. According to an epic tale called the *King of Battle*, this ruler defeated the city of Purushunda after coming to the aid of some merchants, after which he crossed the Sea of the West and reached Kuppara, which may have been the island of Crete or Cyprus. After prostrating himself before the god Dagan, this ruler marched as far as the Silver Mountain, which may have referred to the Taurus Mountains. According to the *Chronicle of Early Kings*, this king destroyed the city of Kazallu so thoroughly that “there was not even a perch for a bird left.” After capturing an enemy king, this ruler “led him in a dog collar to the gate of Enlil” after drawing him out by levelling the walls of (*) Uruk. This ruler’s empire stretched from the “Upper Sea” to the “Lower Sea.” Proclaiming himself the ensi of Enlil, this ruler also claimed the kingship of Kish after previously serving as royal cupbearer. For 10 points, name this founder of the Akkadian Empire.

ANSWER: **Sargon** I of Akkad [accept **Sargon** the Great; do not accept or prompt on “Sargon II”] <Sumer, Akkad, and Babylon>

19. After supposedly ridding the country of a foreign enemy, Nebuchadnezzar built the Arahtu canal as well as a road through the mountains of Sirara to transport this resource. The god Nergal is described as “opening the way for Naram-Sin” and “giving him the Amanus, the Upper Sea, and [this resource] Mountain.” The importation of this resource by Sneferu was recounted on the Palermo stone, who used it to build the “Praise of the Two Lands.” In order to move an image of Amun, Wenamun is sent to the city of (*) Byblos to obtain this resource. A frieze from the palace of Sargon II shows the transportation of this resource, as it is depicted being towed by boats. In order to build a new gate for the city of Nippur, Enkidu and Gilgamesh defeat Humbaba to obtain this resource. For 10 points, name this resource that was predominantly found in ancient Lebanon. ANSWER: **cedar** wood [or **erenu**; prompt on wood; prompt on timber] <Anatolia, Syria, and Beyond>

20. The northern side of this city was protected by a huge building known as the *mushlalu*. Numerous clay tablets found at Kultepe attested to the extensive trade between this city and its colonies. This city was founded by rulers who were known as “kings who lived in tents.” The temple of Esarra, which was dedicated to this city’s chief deity, was alternatively named the House of the Universe. Following a failed attempt to seize this city, one king was forced to retreat to the fortress of Tikrit, where he was besieged for ten days. This city’s massive ziggurat, built by (*) Shamshi-Adad, was dedicated to Enlil, whom Shamshi-Adad may have tried to fuse with this city’s primary deity. Cyaxares concluded a marriage alliance in the ruins of this city with the aforementioned king Nabopolassar following Cyaxares’s sacking of it. For 10 points, name this city that takes its name from the main deity of the Assyrians.

ANSWER: **Assur** [or **Ashur**; accept **Qal’at Sherqat**] <Assyria>