

**CUNEIFORM HITTITE SOURCES ABOUT ARMENIAN HIGHLAND, Vol. I,  
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The Hittite cuneiform texts relating to 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BC, which contain valuable information about the western regions of the Armenian Highland, are quite important for the study of history of early communities, state formations of this region and the pre-history of Armenian ethnos. As is known, the Hittite sources have been first studied for the interpretation of the earliest Armenian history and language actually from the beginning of Hittitology, since 1920s when they were put into scientific circulation. Several Armenian (and not only Armenian) Hittitologists and Armenologists had made use of Hittite cuneiform texts dealing with the Armenian Highland, which cover a time span of over two hundred years (XV-XIII c. BC). Among them N. Martirosyan, Gr. Kapancyan, L. Barseghyan, V. Khachatryan, G. Jahukyan, N. Mkrtchyan, A. Kosyan, A. Petrosyan, R. Ghazaryan, H. Hmayakyan, M. Khanzadyan should be distinguished.

However, the two studies under review is the first attempt to bring together those Hittite cuneiform texts which contain information about the Armenian Highland and offer scholarly publication (transliteration, translation, textual and historical commentaries). These have been done using the most up-to-date principles of scientific edition of primary sources.

In 2013-2016 within the framework of two consecutive grants provided by the Science Committee of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia the group based at the Institute of Oriental Studies, NAS RA, had published first two volumes of the large project “Cuneiform Hittite Sources About Armenian Highland”: “The XIV century B.C. Interstate Treaties Between the Hittite Empire and Hayasa” by Aram Kosyan (2016) and “The XV century Hittite Cuneiform Sources About the Armenian Highland” by Aram Kosyan, Robert Ghazaryan, Maryam Khanzadyan, Satenik Martirosyan that are essential for the study of the history of the Armenian Highland of the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BC.

First of the studies reviewed here is a monograph by Dr. Aram Kosyan. It consists of three chapters, annexes, indexes (toponyms, personal names and theonyms) and transliterations.

Chapter 1 incorporates transliteration, translation and textual notes relating to two treaties between the Hittite King Suppiluliuma and Hayasa’s ruler Hukkana as well as that concluded between the Hittite King Tudhaliya III and Mariya of Hayasa. Chapter 2 includes texts related to these treaties (also presenting their transliteration and translation and commentaries). These additional texts contribute to more comprehensive understanding of the Hittite-Hayasaeon treaties. Chapter 3 of the book gives a detailed accounts of Hatti-Hayasa relationships, discusses the political situation of the XIV c. BC in the western part of the Armenian Highland.

This work based on cuneiform sources gives comprehensive information about the Hittite-Hayasaeon historical and political interrelations, of which it becomes clear that after the battle of Kummaha, at the end of the reign of Tudhaliya III (mid-XIV c. BC) Hayasa fallen under the suzerainty of the Hittite empire. Nevertheless, Hayasa was

using every favorable political opportunity to gain some form of independence; this happened even during the time when one of the Hayasaean rulers was in co-parents-in-law relations with the Hittite king. Hayasa probably succeeded once - during the troubled times after the short reign of Suppiluliuma's son Arnuwandas II, when according to the cuneiform sources all dependent states attacked Hatti and became independent for some period (before the campaigns of Mursili II).

The second book under review "The XV century Hittite Cuneiform Sources about the Armenian Highlands" is a collective study, where are collected the XV c. BC texts. The work mainly discusses two important treaties concluded between the Hittite Empire and the countries of the Upper Euphrates as well as some related texts.

Study of the history of the Upper Euphrates state formations has a great importance for a better understanding of the political situation in the western part of the Armenian Highland: formulated views in this precious work enable revisiting some problems of the XV-XIV cc. The work covers the state formations laying west of the Lake Van and stretching to the sources of river Euphrates.

Chapter 1 of the book examines the cuneiform inscription KUB XXIII 72+ which is known as a text narrating Pahuwa's revolt and the treaties concluded with the Upper Euphrates states (KUB XXXI 103). The Chapter then sums up other authors' studies in regards to comments and deciphering of these texts: it also contains transliteration, translations as well as notes showing the authors' new approaches and comments.

Chapter 2 brings a collection of texts relating to the above treaty, they are transliterated, translated and commented. These texts are of great interest as they give a good deal of information and rich materials related to geography, topography and toponymy of the Upper Euphrates region.

The authors relying on other scholars' studies try to localize a large number of the preserved toponyms as well as find their equivalents in the Armenian sources. Of course, one would prefer to see orientating maps on these pages: they would make perception of the complicated material easier. Separating toponyms from the above sources, their classification per languages of origin that can serve a basis for uncovering the ethno-linguistic picture of the region is of utmost importance. These toponyms are of Hittite-Luwian, Hurrian, Indo-Iranian origin, nevertheless a large number of words appear to be of unknown origins or has not been etymologized. Further analyzing of this last group may be a good starting point for future remarkable findings yet to come. Meanwhile let us state that the concept, according to which in the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BC the territories of the Upper Euphrates have been inhabited mainly by Hurrians, needs to be reviewed truly as we see rather a presence of multiethnic population here.

Summarizing we would like to emphasize once again that the reviewed books stand out with their new approaches and prove their importance for the Armenian and Hittite studies.

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