

## 15. Angus J Huck Major Texts in the East Iberian Script - Summary Analysis

Below are summary analyses of six texts written in the East Iberian Script and in the Iberian language. Three of these (from **Ampurias**, **Castellon** and **Ullastret**) are on lead foil. Two are lapidary inscriptions (Santa **Perpetua de Moguda** and **Sinarcas**). One (the **Liria Vase**) is painted on to a ceramic vessel. Two of the texts are votive (**Castellon** and **Ullastret**), two are funerary (**Santa Perpetua de Moguda** and **Sinarcas**), one is an *execratio* (**Ampurias**) and one lists individuals who manufactured and decorated the object on which the text appears (the **Liria Vase**).

I first of all transliterate the script in its pure form. Next, I modify the transliteration to provide word breaks and to add further information than is not furnished by the script (for instance, to include the correct vowels which are incorporated into the multi-aspect syllabic **m**-sign, and to indicate whether or not consonants are voiced or unvoiced – based on similar lexical elements recorded in the Roman and Ionian scripts, and on Basque cognates). I then offer a tentative translation.

The lists of lexical elements demonstrate that up to 95% of the Iberian lexicon is explicable by reference to Basque. One or two words (such as **borrte**, **kulets** and **talts**) remain to be explained, but these are exceptional.

A detailed analysis of all these (and other) texts is in preparation.

### Some Notes of the Iberian Sound System

*Vowels:* **a, e, i, o, u**, plus diphthongs **ai, au, ei, eu, ia, ie, iu, oi, ui**.

The length and quality of these vowels are unknown.

*Consonants:* **b, p, d, t, k, g, j, l, m, n, ñ, r, s**, plus **x** (voiceless velar fricative), **c** (hissing voiceless occlusive), **ll** (voiceless lateral fricative).

**w** was present in some dialects, but only as a substitute for **s**.

**h** was present North of the Pyrenees, but appears to have been absent in most of the dialects which used the East Iberian Script (Enserune excepted).

**ç** (hushing voiceless occlusive) was present North of the Pyrenees, where the Roman script represents it with the cluster **XS**. It is unclear if it existed South of the Pyrenees.

It seems that in some dialects vowels could become nasalized (as in High Roncalese).

**kw** was present only in the Asturian, Galician and Lusitanian dialects.



**b** and **p** never occurred finally. **p** could occur initially, but only rather rarely. In the Asturian, Galician and Lusitanian dialects, initial **p** often replaced initial **b**. After **s**, **b** always became **p**.

**d** and **t** both occurred initially. Most of these occurrences shifted to **z**, **s** and **tx** in Basque. Sometimes, initial **s** was substituted for initial **t** (eg, **sekel** for **tekel**, **sur** for **tur**, etc). **d** never occurred finally. The East Iberian script is unable to represent a final **t**, so a syllabic sign had to be used.

**k** could occur finally, but **g** could not, except exceptionally in the Contestanian dialect as a substitute for **k**. Final **k** was always part of a grammatical marker (it is clear that in the case of the ergative and partitive suffixes, **k** was ultimately elided).

**j** only occurred initially.

Initial and final **l** was always the “sharp” **l** made with the tip of the tongue. There were three classes of medial **l**, the “sharp” **l**, which was often substituted with **r**, the “dark” **l**, and the voiceless lateral fricative, **ll**, which was represented, somewhat confusingly, by **LT** (the practice of writing **LD** was carried into the Roman script). **ll** only occurred medially, as in **illur** “snow”, **illi** “town, village, settlement”, **illun** “dark” and **sillir** “silver”.

**m** occurred initially, both in its own right and as a substitute for **n**. It occurred medially, sometimes in its own right, but occasionally as an assimilation of **nb** (which was usually assimilated as **b**). Generally, **m** did not occur finally, but it seems that it did do so occasionally in the Edetanian dialect, as a substitute for **n**. There were two **m**-signs in the East Iberian Script, the most frequent of which was syllabic and multi-aspect. The placing of an **n**-sign before an **m**-sign indicated that the **m**-sign did not incorporate an anterior vowel.

**ñ** only occurred medially and finally.

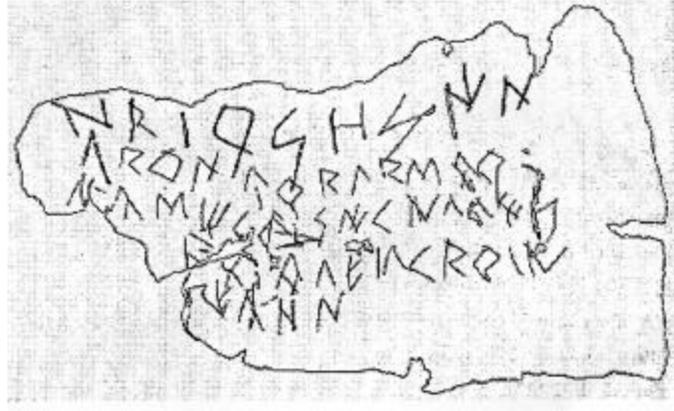
There were two **r**-signs, and these appear to have represented equivalents of the Basque single **r** and the double trilled **rr**. However, final **r** in Iberian was usually weak, and was very often elided before a vowel in compounds (as happens to **lur**, **ur** and **zur** in Basque). Also, final **r** sometimes became **rts**. **r** never occurred initially in Iberian dialects, North and South of the Pyrenees. However, initial **r** seems to have been present in Vasconic languages spoken North of the Garonne/Aude axis (including Enserune).

**x** only occurred medially, in such words as **bexorr** “mare”, **ixes** “escape, flight”, **saxar** “old”, **suxur** “wise”.

The consonant clusters **lt** and **nt** were unusual in Iberian, but not unknown. They were always substitutes for **ld** and **nd**.



(1) Ampurias Lead Foil (execratio)



NABARSOSIN/

LARNURALASUR/

LEKASTIKERBASIKEILTETIKEBA/

ERBAKALEBALKEARBAN/

AEKAON/

NABARTSOTSIN

LAR(A)NUR ALASUR

LEGASTIKERR BATSIKE IL DETIKEBA

ERBAKALE BALKEARPAN

?? AIBIGA EDERKI KALAIKI OTOENNAU ??

|               |   |                                 |
|---------------|---|---------------------------------|
| pillarbox red | = | anthroponym                     |
| orange        | = | theonym                         |
| apple green   | = | other noun                      |
| purple        | = | adjective                       |
| royal blue    | = | verb                            |
| beige         | = | (non-verbal) grammatical marker |

Tentative Translation

"Nabartsotsin, the substantial, the pure."



If only **Legastikerr**, son of **Basike**, could be dead.”

The city deity favours me, **Balkearpan**, beautifully and highly.”

**Nabartsotsin lar(a)nur alasur**: “**Nabartsotsin**, tending to have substance, tending to be pure”

**Legastikerr Batsike il detikeba**: “**Legastikerr**, (son of) **Batsike**, dead if he can be”

**erbakale Balkearpan** “community deity (subject of transitive verb) **Balkearpan** (direct object in apposition)”

**aibiga ederki kalaiki otoi nau**: “favour \* beautifully \* highly \* prayer-on account of \* it has me”

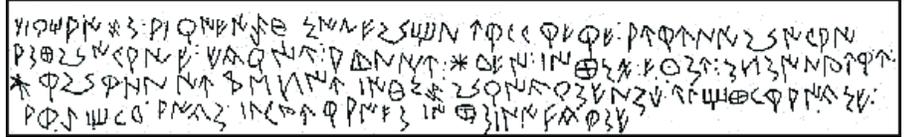
(An *execratio* did not need to be read by anyone, so it was written characteristically on poor quality media, such as the roughly hewn scrap of lead foil employed in the present case.)

### Lexicon

| <u>Lexis</u>   | <u>Suggested Translation</u>    | <u>Basque Cognate</u>               |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>aibiga</b>  | “to favour”                     | <b>abegi</b> “reception, welcome”   |
| <b>alas</b>  | “pure”                          | <b>aratz</b> (L)                    |
| <b>arpan</b>   | “saw”                           | <b>arpan</b>                        |
| <b>ba</b>  | <i>hypothetical particle</i>    | <b>ba-</b>                          |
| <b>bakal</b>   | “king, magistrate”              | <b>bakal-dun</b> “king”             |
| <b>bal</b>   | “gold”                          |                                     |
| <b>balke</b> <* <i>bal-ke</i>  | “(piece of) gold”               | <b>-balki</b> ( <i>itsa-balki</i> ) |
| <b>batsi</b> ( <b>bats</b> , <b>bas</b> , <b>baso</b> , <b>basi-</b> ) | “forest, wilderness” ??         | <b>baso</b> , <b>basa-</b>          |
| <b>detike</b>  | “he can be”                     | <b>diteke</b> “he can be”           |
| <b>-e</b>  | <i>ergative marker</i>          | <b>-ek</b>                          |
| <b>eder</b>  | “beautiful”                     | <b>eder</b>                         |
| <b>-en</b>   | “because of”                    |                                     |
| <b>er-</b>   | “community”                     | <b>(h)erri</b> , <b>(h)er-</b>      |
| <b>erbakal</b>   | “city ruler, city deity”        |                                     |
| <b>ike</b> ( <i>iki</i> )  | “sun”                           | <b>eki</b> (BN-Bardos <i>iki</i> )  |
| <b>il</b>  | “dead”                          | <b>(h)il</b>                        |
| <b>kalai</b> ( <i>karai</i> )  | “high”                          | <b>garai</b>                        |
| <b>-ke</b>   | “piece of”                      | <b>-ki</b>                          |
| <b>laran</b>   | “size, substance”               | <b>larrantz</b>                     |
| <b>legas</b>   | “hake”                          | <b>legatz</b> (G, L)                |
| <b>nabar</b> ( <i>mabar</i> )  | “multi-coloured”                | <b>nabar</b>                        |
| <b>oto</b>   | “prayer, supplication, request” | <b>otoi</b>                         |
| <b>tsotsin</b>   | “straight, honest”              | <b>zuzen</b>                        |
| <b>-ur</b>   | “having propensity to”          | <b>-or</b>                          |



**(2) Castellon Lead Foil (votive text)**



**MBARTIAIKIS : ABARIEIKITESINEBETINURKEKERERE :**

**AURUNIBEIKEAI/**

**ASTEBEIKEAIE : EKARIU : ATUNIU : BOTUEI :**

**BAITESKI : EKUSU : SOSINBIURU :/**

**BORBERONIUKOSOIUBAITESKIBERIKARSENSE : ULTITEKERAIKASE/**

**: ARKITIKERAIKAS : BALKEBIURAIESBANIEKARSE/**

**MABARDIAIKITS : ABARJEIKI TE TSINEBETIN URKEKERERE :**

**AURUN(N) BEIKEAI ATSTE BEIKEAIE : EKARJU : ADUNJU : BO DUEI**

**: BAITETSKI : EKUTSU : TSOTSINBIURU : BORBERONJU KOSOJU**

**BAITETSKI BERIGAR TZEN TSE : ULDITEKERAIKATSE :**

**ARGITIKERRAIKATS BALKEBIURAIETS BAITETS BANI EKAR TSE**

- pillarbox red** = *anthroponym*
- orange** = *theonym*
- apple green** = *other noun*
- royal blue** = *verb*
- turquoise** = *numeral*
- beige** = *(non-verbal) grammatical marker*
- olive green** = *negative particle*
- grey** = *copulative particle*

**Tentative Translation**

“**Mabardiaikits** and **Abarjeiki: Tsinebetin**, son of **Urkekere**, the one who is commanded to be the best child to them, the one who is commanded to be the priest to them, assuredly brought the new wheat to them, permissively.”

“**Borberon Koso: Tsotsinbiur** washed it to them, permissively. It was not seseli.”



“Ulditekeraiats , Argitikerraiats, Balkebiuraiets do not bring this permission to them.”

**Tsinebetin Urkekerere aurunin beikeai atste beikeaie adun bo duei baitetski:**

“**Tsinebetin** (son of) **Urkekere** (subject of transitive verb) child-good-est have him be to them sorcerer/priest have him be to them (subject of transitive verb) bring new wheat certainty he has it to them permission-ly”

*(It is likely that seseli was a low-status fodder crop, in contrast to the new wheat, which was the subject of the offering.)*

**Lexicon**

| Lexis                    | Suggested Translation  | Basque Cognate                 |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| {r)e                     | <i>ergative marker</i><br>(only attached to proper names and titles) | -ek                            |
| abar                     | “branch bit”   | abar                           |
| adun                     | “new wheat”  | adun                           |
| -aiets                   | <i>deity suffix</i>  | jaiki, jeiki “to rise, get up” |
| -aikats                  | <i>deity suffix</i>  | jaiki, jeiki “to rise, get up” |
| aikits                   | <i>deity suffix</i>  | jaiki, jeiki “to rise, get up” |
| argi                     | “light”  | argi                           |
| atste                    | “magician, priest”   | azti “wizard, sorcerer”        |
| aur                      | “child”  | (h)aur                         |
| aurunin < *aur-un-in     | “best child”   |                                |
| baitets                  | “permission”   | baitetsi “to approve”          |
| baitetski < *baitets -ki | “permissively”   |                                |
| balke < *bal-ke          | “(piece of) gold”  | -balki (itsa-balki)            |
| bani (ban)               | “one, this”  | ban                            |
| beikeai                  | “have him be to them”  | bekie (C), bekioe (B)          |
| berigar                  | “seseli”   | berigar-ki                     |
| beron                    | “lead”   | berun                          |
| betin (baitin, batin)    | “certain”  | baitin, batin                  |
| biur                     | “curved, twisted”  | bi(h)ur(ri)                    |
| bo                       | <i>emphatic particle</i>   | bo                             |
| bor                      | “cavity, hollow”   | -bor (zil-bor, gil-bor)        |
| dī ??                    |  |                                |
| duei                     | “he has it to them”  | die                            |
| ekar                     | “to bring”   | e-karr-i “to bring”            |
| ekutsu                   | “to wash, cleanse”   | i-kuz-i (L, BN, Z)             |
| -in                      | “superlative suffix”   | -en                            |
| jeiki                    | <i>deity suffix</i>  | jaiki, jeiki “to rise, get up” |
| ju                       | <i>mantra word</i>   |                                |
| -ke                      | “piece of”   | -ki                            |
| kere (keri)              | “attitude”   | kerri                          |
| -ki                      | <i>adverbial suffix</i>  | -ki                            |
| koso                     | “sweet” (epithet for deity)  | gozo                           |
| mabar (nabar)            | “multi-coloured”   | nabar                          |
| -te (ita)                | <i>copulative particle</i>   | eta, ‘ta                       |
| teker (taker)            | “rough, crude, uncouth”  | zakar (B, G, L)                |
| tikerr                   | “little”   | txikar, txiker (B)             |
| tsen                     | “he, she, it was”  | zen                            |
| tsine (tine)             | “oath”   | zin, ziñ                       |
| tsotsin (sosin)          | “straight, honest”   | zuzen                          |



|                                      |   |                     |
|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| <b>uldi</b>                          | "élan, zest"                                | <b>olde</b> (L, BN) |
| <b>-u</b>                            | ergative marker only after <b>-u-</b> vowel |                     |
| <b>un</b>                            | "good"                                      | <b>(h)on</b>        |
| <b>urke (urki, urgi, uske, uski)</b> | "birch tree"                                | <b>urki</b>         |

(Basque **baitesti** (L, BN, Z) "to approve, ratify, confirm", clearly based on **bai** "yes", seems to have had a more oblique meaning in Iberian: "request" is more appropriate to the context than "approval" or "permission".)



(3) Liria Vase (manufacturer's imprint)



[...]BASERTE : BONANTE : NMBARTE : BORTEBARA :  
KARESIRTEEKIAR : KAR[...]/

URKEBAS/

BANKUTURIRATIAR/

BAN/  
[...]R/

OROTS/

KARA/

BEKOR

EBIRTEEKIAR/

ELBEBEBEBEBER/

TIASELBASTIBAA/

BELAR : BANIR/

LOLEKARKOE/

EKIAR/

KARESBOBIKIR/



(...)BATSERR TE: BONANDI TE: MABAR TE: BORRTEBARRA :  
KARETSIRR TE EGIARR : (...)

URKEBATS

BAN GUDURR IRADIARR

BANIR

OROTITS

GARA

BEXORR

EBIR TE EGIARR

ELBERRDI ATSELBASTI BAA

BELARR : BANIR

LOLEKARKOE

EGIARR

KARETSPOBIGIR

|               |   |                                 |
|---------------|---|---------------------------------|
| pillarbox red | = | anthroponym                     |
| orange        | = | theonym                         |
| apple green   | = | other noun                      |
| royal blue    | = | verb                            |
| turquoise     | = | numeral                         |
| beige         | = | (non-verbal) grammatical marker |
| grey          | = | copulative particle             |



## Tentative Translation

“and (...)batserr and Bonandi and Mabar (and) Borrtebarra and Karetsirr making (they have them)”

“Urkebats”

“This battles depicting (we have them): *we have depicted these battles*” (it is indeed battles that are depicted)

“These”

“To remember on account of we are: *in order that we be remembered*”

“The mare” (a horse is placed immediately to the right of the word)

“The Jew making (he has them)”

“Elberrdi (son of) Atselbasti”

“Belarr these (making he has them)”

“Lolekarko (subject of a transitive verb)”

“making (he has them) Karetspobigir”

*(Lolekarko is either a deity or a regulus. His seal must be taken to confer authorisation, since his name is suffixed with the ergative marker. The l-sign is marked as the beginning of the text by being smaller than the other signs.)*

## Lexicon

| Lexis                            | Suggested Translation       | Basque Cognate                 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| adi                              | “to pay attention to”       | adi-tu                         |
| andi                             | “big, great”                | (h)a(u)ndi                     |
| -arr                             | <i>gerund suffix</i>        | -ten, -tzen                    |
| atsel- (atseri, aseri)           | “fox”                       | azeri, azel-                   |
| ban                              | “one, this”                 | bat                            |
| banir                            | “these”                     |                                |
| barra                            | “smile”                     | barra                          |
| basti                            | “foreign, other”            | beste                          |
| bats (batsi, bas, baso, basi-)   | “forest, wilderness”        | baso, basa-                    |
| batser (baitser, baiser, paiser) | “free man”                  | bezer-o (B) “customer, client” |
| belarr (balar, balir)            | “grass”                     | belar                          |
| bexorr                           | “mare”                      | behor, bohor                   |
| bigi                             | “eye”                       | begi                           |
| bigir                            | “eyes”                      |                                |
| bo                               | <i>affirmative particle</i> | bo                             |
| bon                              | “vessel”                    | bon-                           |
| borrte (worde, worte)            | ??                          |                                |
| di                               | ??                          |                                |
| -e                               | <i>ergative marker</i>      | -ek                            |



|                               |                                     |                    |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| ebir                          | "Jew"                               | eber-tar           |
| egi                           | "to do, make, create"               | egi-n              |
| egiarr                        |                                     |                    |
| elberr-                       | "crippled, disabled"                | elbarri (B, G, BN) |
| gara                          | "we are"                            | gara               |
| gudu                          | "war, battle"                       | gudu               |
| -ir                           | <i>plural/partitive suffix</i>      | -(r)ik             |
| ira-                          | <i>transitiviser prefix</i>         |                    |
| iradi                         | "to depict"                         |                    |
| iradiarr                      | "depicting"                         |                    |
| -irr                          | <i>plural/partitive suffix</i>      | -(r)ik             |
| kar (karr)                    | "flame"                             | gar                |
| karets                        | "plant shoot"                       | garitz             |
| -ko                           | <i>non-personal genitive suffix</i> | -ko                |
| -le                           | <i>agent suffix</i>                 | -le                |
| lo                            | "sleep"                             | lo                 |
| lole                          | "sleeper"                           |                    |
| mabar (nabar)                 | "multi-coloured"                    | nabar              |
| oro(i)                        | "to remember"                       | oro-i-tu           |
| -r                            | <i>plural/partitive suffix</i>      | -(r)ik             |
| -rr                           | <i>plural/partitive suffix</i>      | -(r)ik             |
| -te (ita)                     | <i>copulative particle</i>          | eta, 'ta           |
| -tits                         | "about, concerning"                 | -taz               |
| urke (urki, urgi, uske, uski) | "birch tree"                        | urki               |



(4) Santa Perpetua de Moguda Stele (funerary text)



[...]STANES U[...]/

INTANES/

[...]BANEN AU/

RUNINKIKA/

ORTINSE/

IKIKA SIBA/

NTIN

USTANES UMI INDARNES EBANEN

AURUNINKIK(A) ORDINTSEIKIK(A)

TSIBANDIN



## Tentative Translation

“**Ustanes**, son of **Indarnes**, in here”

“For the best child, for the payment servant”

“They put it (ie, the stele) (here)”

## Lexicon

| <b>Lexis</b>          | <b>Suggested Translation</b>       | <b>Basque Cognate</b> |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| ustan (ustain, estin) | “coin”                             | üztün (Z) “ring”      |
| nes                   | “I am”                             | naiz                  |
| indar                 | “strength, vitality”               | indar                 |
| eban                  | “here”                             | heben (L, BN, Z)      |
| ebanen                | “in here”                          |                       |
| -en                   | <i>inessive singular suffix</i>    | -an                   |
| aur                   | “child”                            | (h)aur                |
| umi                   | “child”                            | ume                   |
| -kik(a)               | <i>benefactive singular suffix</i> | ??                    |
| ordin                 | “payment, reward, etc”             | ordain                |
| tsei                  | “servant, slave”                   | sehi (L, BN)          |
| -in                   | <i>superlative suffix</i>          | -en                   |
| un                    | “good”                             | (h)on                 |
| unin                  | “best”                             |                       |
| sibandin              | “they put it”                      | zebenden (L)          |



(5) Sinarcas Stele (funerary text)



MSKEBABASSBA/

BAISETASILTTASEBA[...]/

NMISELTARBANMI/

BERBEINARIEUKIAR/

[...]MIKATEKASKOLOITE/

KARIEUKIAR : SELTARBAN/

MIBASIBALKARMBARMI/

**M**OT**S**KE **BAN BAN** TSEITSEI **BAN** ??

**BA**IT**S**ERTAS **ILL**URTAS **E**BAN**EN**

**MAI** SEL**D**ARR **BAN** **MAI** **B**ER**B**EIN **ARRI** **E**U**KI**ARR **MAI** **G**A**TU**

**E**K**A**S**KO** **LOI**TE **K**A**R**I **E**U**KI**ARR **S**E**L** **D**A**R**R **B**A**N**

**MAI** **B**A**S**I**B**A**L** **K**A**R**R**M**A**B**A**R** **MAI**

|                      |   |  |
|----------------------|---|--|
| <b>pillarbox red</b> | = | <i>anthroponym</i>                     |
| <b>apple green</b>   | = | <i>other noun</i>                      |
| <b>royal blue</b>    | = | <i>verb</i>                            |
| <b>turquoise</b>     | = | <i>numeral</i>                         |
| <b>beige</b>         | = | <i>(non-verbal) grammatical marker</i> |
| <b>grey</b>          | = | <i>copulative particle</i>             |



## Tentative Translation

"This stele, this servant, this servant ??

**Baitsertas**, son of **Illurtas**, in here.

(love) This tomb (love) once again is containing (love) us.

And this tomb regrettably contains our charcoal bodies.

(love) **Batsibal**, son of **Karmabar** (love)."

**Baitsertas Illurtas ebanen:** "*Baitsertas, (son of) Illurtas, (is) in here*"

**seldarr ban berbein arri eukiarr gatu:** "*tomb this re-once continuously contain-ing it has us*"

**ekasko loi kari eukiarr seldarr ban (gatu):** "*charcoal-of body contain-ing tomb this (it has us)*"

**Batsibal Karmabar:** "*Batsibal, son of Karmabar, (erected this stele)*"

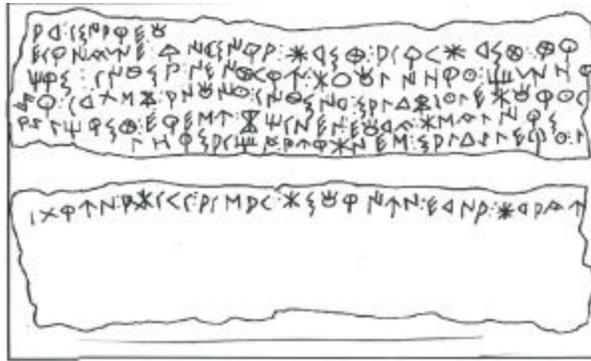
*(nai/nai, like ju, was often inserted into texts in order to bestow good luck.)*

## Lexicon

| <u>Lexis</u>                    | <u>Suggested Translation</u>         | <u>Basque Cognate</u>                  |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| -arr                            | <i>present tense suffix</i>          | <b>-ten, -tzen</b>                     |
| arri                            | <i>continuity particle</i>           | <b>ari, ari-tu</b> "to be busy"        |
| baiser (batser, baiser, paiser) | "free man"                           | <b>bezer-o</b> (B) "customer, client"  |
| bal                             | "gold"                               | <b>itsa-bal-ki</b> "melilot"           |
| ban                             | "one, this"                          | <b>bat</b>                             |
| batsi-                          | "forest, wilderness"                 | <b>basa-</b>                           |
| bein                            | "once"                               | <b>be(h)in</b>                         |
| ber-                            | "re-"                                | <b>ber-, bir-</b>                      |
| berbein                         | "once again"                         |  |
| eban                            | "here"                               | <b>heben</b> (L, BN, Z)                |
| ebanen                          | "in here"                            |  |
| ekas                            | "charcoal"                           | <b>i(n)k(h)atz</b>                     |
| -en                             | <i>inessive singular suffix</i>      | <b>-an</b>                             |
| euki                            | "to contain"                         | <b>e(d)uki</b> "to have, possess, etc" |
| gatu                            | "he, she, it has us"                 | <b>gaitu</b>                           |
| illur                           | "snow"                               | <b>elur</b>                            |
| karr (kar)                      | "flame"                              | <b>gar</b>                             |
| kari                            | "regret"                             | <b>garri</b>                           |
| -ko                             | <i>non-personal genitive suffix</i>  | <b>-ko</b>                             |
| loi                             | "body"                               | <b>loi</b>                             |
| mabar (nabar)                   | "multi-coloured"                     | <b>nabar</b>                           |
| mai (mai)                       | "love, desire"                       | <b>mai-te, na(h)i</b>                  |
| mots                            | "short, truncated, stump"            | <b>motz</b>                            |
| motske                          | "stele" (literally "piece of stump") |  |
| seldarr                         | "tomb"                               | <b>zaldar</b> "boil, carbuncle"        |
| tas                             | "mackerel" ??                        | <b>sats</b> "mackerel"                 |
| tsei                            | "servant, slave"                     | <b>sehi</b> (L, BN)                    |



(6) Ullastret Lead Foil (votive text)



AR : BASIAREBE/

EBARIKAME : TUIKESIRA : BORSTE : ABARKEBORSTE : TER/

TIRŠ : BAITESBI : NEITEKERI : BOBELIORKU : TIMOR[...]/

KIR : BARTASKO : ANBEIKU : BAITESIR : ŠALTUKOBAKULEBOBERKUR/

BIKILTIRŠTE : ERESU : KOTIBANEN : EBERKA : BOSKALIRS/

LORŠABATIBI : BIURBONES : ŠALTUKILERKU : L[...]/

BATARUN : ABOB AKEBA : ABASAKE : BOŠBERIUN : ERNA :  
BORAKAU[...]/

**A(GU)RR** : **BATSI AREBE**

**EPARIKAME** : **DU IXETSIRA** : **BORRTS TE** : **ABARKE BORRTS TE** :

**DERDIRTS** :

**BAITETS BI** : **NEITEKERI** : **BOBELIORKU** : **TIMOR(A)GIR** : **BARDASKÖ** :

**ANBELIKU** : **BAITETSIRR** : **TSALDUHOBaku LEPOBERKUR** :

**BIGILDIRTS TE** :

**ERESU** : **GOTI BANEN** : **EBERRKA** : **BOS KALIRRTS** : **LORTSA BADIBI** :

**BIURBON ES** : **TSALDUGILERKU** :

**L(O) PADAR UN** : **APÖBAXEBA** : **ABASAXE** : **BOTS BERI UN** : **ERRNA** :

**BORRAKA U(N)**



|               |   |                                 |
|---------------|---|---------------------------------|
| pillarbox red | = | anthroponym                     |
| orange        | = | theonym                         |
| apple green   | = | other noun                      |
| purple        | = | adjective                       |
| royal blue    | = | verb                            |
| turquoise     | = | numeral                         |
| beige         | = | (non-verbal) grammatical marker |
| olive green   | = | negative particle               |
| grey          | = | copulative particle             |
| -õ-           | = | nasalized -o-                   |

### Tentative Translation

"Hail, **Batsi Arebe** !

And the mother partridge has many escapes. And she crushes many branch bits.

Two permissions: **Neitekeri**, **Bobeliorku**, **Timoragir**, **Bardaskō**, **Anbeliku**

Permissions: **Tsalduhobaku**, **Lepoberkur** and **Bigildirts**.

Because of this little prayer, may they take many wheats in tens.

Not for **Biurbon**, the ostler.

Good sleep refuge. **Apobaxeba** (son of) **Abasaxe**. Much good news, fertility, good struggle."

*(It is likely that **Batsi Arebe** was depicted as a partridge.)*

### Lexicon

| <u>Lexis</u>               | <u>Suggested Translation</u>        | <u>Basque Cognate</u>     |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| abarke < *abarke           | "branch bit"                        |                           |
| abar                       | "branch"                            | abar                      |
| abas (abis)                | "song"                              | abes                      |
| agir (ager, air)           | "visible, manifest"                 | ager(i)                   |
| agurr                      | "hail!, greetings!"                 | agur                      |
| ame                        | "mother of an animal"               | ame                       |
| anbel (inbel)              | "capital" ??                        | inbel                     |
| apō (apon)                 | "wild boar" ??                      | apon, apo                 |
| arebe (erebe, orebi, rewe) | "sister" (epithet for female deity) | arriba "sister of a man"  |
| askō                       | "badger" ?? "arrow" ??              | azkon "badger" or "arrow" |
| axe                        | "plough"                            | ahe (L, BN, Z)            |
| ba                         | affirmative particle                | ba-                       |
| ba                         | hypothetical particle               | ba-                       |
| badibi < *ba-d-ibi         | "if they have it"                   |                           |
| baitets                    | "permission"                        | baitetsi "to approve"     |
| ban                        | "one, this"                         | bat                       |



|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <b>barda</b>   | "small branch"                         | <b>barda</b> (L)                              |
| <b>batsi</b> ( <b>bats</b> , <b>bas</b> , <b>baso</b> , <b>basi</b> -) | "forest, wilderness" ??                | <b>baso</b> , <b>basabahe</b> (L, BN, Z)      |
| <b>baxe</b>  | "sieve, winnowing fan"                 | <b>bela</b> , <b>bele</b>                     |
| <b>beli</b> ( <b>bele</b> , <b>wel</b> -)                              | "crow"                                 | <b>bere</b>                                   |
| <b>bere</b>  | "his, her, its"                        | <b>berri</b>                                  |
| <b>beri</b> ( <b>berr</b> -)   | "new, news"                            | <b>berekor</b>                                |
| <b>berkur</b> < * <i>bere-kur</i>                                      | "selfish, greedy, stubborn"            | <b>bi</b> , <b>biga</b>                       |
| <b>bi</b> ( <b>bik</b> )   | "two"                                  | <b>begi</b>                                   |
| <b>bigi</b>  | "eye"                                  | <b>bi(h)ur(ri)</b>                            |
| <b>biur</b>  | "curved, twisted"                      | <b>bon-</b>                                   |
| <b>bon</b>   | "vessel"                               | <b>borroka</b>                                |
| <b>borraka</b>   | "struggle, battle"                     | <b>bost</b> , <b>bortz</b>                    |
| <b>borrts/bos/bots</b>   | "many"                                 | <b>da-</b>                                    |
| <b>d-</b>  | <i>3rd person d/o agreement prefix</i> |   |
| <b>derdirts</b> < * <i>d-erdirts</i>                                   | "he/she/it breaks it"                  | <b>(h)amar-ka</b>                             |
| <b>eberrka</b> < * <i>eberr-ka</i>                                     | "in tens"                              | <b>eper</b>                                   |
| <b>-en</b>   | "because of"                           |   |
| <b>epar</b>  | "partridge"                            | <b>erdira-tu</b>                              |
| <b>eparikame</b> < * <i>epar-i-k o-are</i>                             | "mother partridge"                     | <b>errezu</b> (B, G)                          |
| <b>erdirts</b>   | "to cleave, divide"                    | <b>erne</b> , <b>erna-</b>                    |
| <b>eresu</b>   | "prayer"                               | <b>ez</b> (C), <b>ze</b> (B)                  |
| <b>errna</b>   | "growth, fertility, awakening"         | <b>gari</b> , <b>gal-</b>                     |
| <b>es</b> ( <b>tse</b> )   | <i>negative particle</i>               | <b>-gile</b>                                  |
| <b>gali</b>  | "wheat"                                | <b>guti</b> (L, BN, Z)                        |
| <b>-gile</b> < * <i>gin-le</i>   | <i>agent suffix</i>                    | <b>(h)obeki</b>                               |
| <b>goti</b>  | "little"                               | <b>ekhü</b> (Z)                               |
| <b>hobaku</b>  | "better" ??                            | <b>elder</b> (L, BN, Z) "drool"               |
| <b>iku</b> ( <b>ekwo</b> )   | "quiet, calm"                          | <b>-(r)ik</b>                                 |
| <b>ildirts</b> ( <b>ildir</b> )  | "saliva"                               | <b>-(r)ik</b>                                 |
| <b>-irr</b> ( <b>-irts</b> , <b>-irrg</b> )                            | <i>plural/partitive suffix</i>         | <b>ihes</b> (also <b>iges</b> , <b>iñes</b> ) |
| <b>-irts</b> ( <b>-irr</b> , <b>-irrg</b> )                            | <i>plural/partitive suffix</i>         | <b>-ki</b>                                    |
| <b>ixetsira</b> < * <i>ixets-ira</i>                                   | "escape, flight"                       | <b>kerri</b>                                  |
| <b>-ke</b>   | "piece of something"                   | <b>lepo</b>                                   |
| <b>keri</b> ( <b>kere</b> )  | "attitude"                             | <b>lo</b>                                     |
| <b>lepo</b>  | "neck"                                 | <b>lor-tu</b> (B, G)                          |
| <b>lo</b>  | "sleep"                                |   |
| <b>lor</b>   | "to take, grab"                        | <b>nei-tu</b> "to end"                        |
| <b>lortsa</b> < * <i>lor-tsa</i>                                       | "act of taking"                        | <b>nei-tze</b>                                |
| <b>nei</b>   | "to end"                               | <b>orkoi</b> "mould, shoe-block"              |
| <b>neite</b> < * <i>nei-te</i>   | "end"                                  | <b>padarra</b>                                |
| <b>orku</b> ( <b>orko</b> )  | "wall"                                 | <b>-rako</b>                                  |
| <b>padar</b>   | "refuge"                               | <b>eta</b> , <b>'ta</b>                       |
| <b>-rku</b>  | <i>benefactive singular suffix</i>     |   |
| <b>-te</b> ( <b>ita</b> )  | <i>copulative particle</i>             | <b>tximur</b> "wrinkle, fold, pleat"          |
| <b>-te</b>   | <i>verbal noun suffix</i>              | <b>-tza</b> , <b>-tze</b>                     |
| <b>timor</b>   | "wrinkle"                              | <b>zaldi</b>                                  |
| <b>tsa</b> ( <b>-tse</b> )   | <i>verbal noun suffix</i>              |   |
| <b>tsaldu</b>  | "horse"                                | <b>(h)on</b>                                  |
| <b>tsaldugile</b> < * <i>tsaldu-gile</i>                               | "ostler"                               |   |
| <b>un</b>  | "good"                                 |   |

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