

FE 308

Lecture 1

A. Broad History of Surveying

1400 B.C.

120 B.C.

Importance of boundaries

Earliest recordings show the importance placed on the boundary markers

In the Commination or Book of Common Prayer

“Cursed is he that removeth his neighbor’s land-mark. Amen”

On the Kudurru at the time of the pharaoh Marduk-Nadin-Akhe (ca 1100 BC)

The title is given that the stone is “The Establisher of the Boundary Forever”

The inscribed penalty is as follows:

Whosoever in later days an agent, or a governor, or a prefect, or a superintendent, or an inspector, or any official whatsoever, who shall rise up and be set over Bit-Khanbi, shall direct his mind, to take away those lands, or shall lay claim to them, or cause a claim to be made, or shall take them away or cause them to be taken away, or shall side with evil and shall return those lands to their province, or shall present them to a god, or to the king, or to the representative of the king, or to the representative of the governor, or to the representative of his council or to any other man, or shall cause curtailment or

diminution, or shall say, "The lands were not the gift of the king" or because of the curse shall cause another to take them, or shall send a fool, or a man who is deaf, or one who is feeble-minded, or a vagabond or one who is without intelligence and he shall cause him to remove this memorial-stone, or shall cast it into a river, or put it in a well or destroy it with a stone, or burn it in the fire, or hide it in the earth, or hide it in a place where it cannot be seen, upon that man may Anu Enlil, Ea and Ninmakh, the great gods look with anger, and may they curse him with an evil curse that cannot be loosened.

May Sin the light of the bright heavens, with leprosy that never departs clothe his whole body, so that he may not be clean till the day of his death, but must lie down like wild ass at the outer wall of his city. May Shamash, the judge of heaven and earth, smite his countenance, so that his bright day may turn to darkness for him.

May Ishtar, the lady, the princess among the gods, send a curse (?) upon him, and in misery (?), her message of anger, may he multiply his words day and night, and like dog may he pass the night in the open place of his city.

May Marduk, the king of heaven and earth with dropsy, the bond of which cannot be loosened, fill his body.

May Ninib, the lord of the boundary and the boundary stone, tear out his boundary-stone, tread down his boundary, and change his holding.

May Gula, the mighty physician, the great lady, put a grievous sickness in his body, so that he may pass light and dark blood like water.

May Adad, the ruler of heaven and earth, overwhelm his fields, so that there may spring up abundantly weeds in place of green herbs and thorns in place of grain.

May Nabu, the exalted minister, appoint him days of scarcity and drought, as his destiny.

May all the great gods, whose names are mentioned on this memorial-stone, drive him into evil and unhappiness. His name, his seed, his offspring, (and) his posterity may they destroy in the mouth of widespread peoples.

One of the first BIG measurement questions:

Solving the question originally:

Revisiting the question today: