

Tintir (Dintir, Tenter). An ancient toponym, spelled tin.tir^{ki}, pronunciation provided by Diri IV 89, where it is glossed [t]e-^ʀen-tir?¹ (George 1992, 237; Civil 2004, 152, [t]e-e[n-ter]). Probably derives from a prehistoric language, though an origin in the “Kiš tradition” of writing has also been suspected (Kienast 1979). It has three known applications in the historical toponymy of lower Mesopotamia.

1. A village near Umma that appears in documents of the Ur III period as a cult-centre of Nergal (Edzard/Farber-Flügge 1974, 194; George 1992, 238; Cohen 1996).

2. A spelling of Babylon that first occurs in the nineteenth century, in year names, archival documents and a Sumerian hymn of Inanna; in royal inscriptions it begins to be used in the Kassite period, and becomes common in the first millennium (George 1992, 237–241).

3. A spelling of the toponym Šuanna, both as another name of Babylon and as a quarter of the city inside the Uraš Gate (George 1992, 374 f.).

The name Tintir also refers to a series of scholarly lists, incipit Tintir = Babylon, that celebrate Babylon, its monuments and topography (George 1992: 1–71; Veldhuis 1998). In bilingual lists tin.tir^{ki} occurs in the left-hand column, explained to the right as (a) ŠU, i. e. *Tintir*, (b) *Šuanna*, and (c) *Bābilu* (Babylon), which prompted ancient scholars to treat it as a Sumerian counterpart of (b) and (c). Thus it occurs in a pseudo-Sumerian personal name tin.tir^{ki}-ki-dùg.ga (“Babylon is a Pleasant Place”), the scribe of a document written at or near Babylon in the reign of Abiešuh (Klengel 1971, 125 f.). As a supposedly Sumerian proper noun tin.tir^{ki} was open to etymological speculation, through which it was interpreted in Diri IV 92–93 and Tintir I 2–3 as (d) *šubat nuḥši* “the seat of plenty” and (e) *šubat balāḫi* “seat of life”, where tin = *balāḫu* and *nuḥšu* and tir = *šubtu*.

M. Civil 2004: The Series DIRI = (*w*)*atru* (= MSL XV) – M. E. Cohen 1996: The gods of suburban Umma, Fs H. Limet 27–35 – D. O. Edzard/G. Farber 1974: RGTC 2 – A. R. George 1992: Babylonian Topographical Texts (= OLA 40) – B. Kienast, 1979: The name of the city of Babylon, Sumer 35, 248–246 – H. Klengel 1971: Drei altbabylonische Urkunden betreffend Felder von *ugbaptum*-Priesterinnen, JCS 23, 124–129 – N. Veldhuis 1998: TIN.TIR = Babylon, the question of canonization, and the production of meaning, JCS 50, 77–85

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