

HOW WAS A MAGAN-BOAT MADE ?

A cuneiform text from Tello, ancient Girsu, dated to the 21st century BC and housed in the British Museum in London (BM 18390), provides a list of items used in the construction of a Magan-boat:

178 large palm trees
1400 large pine trees
36 large tamarisk trees
32 large acacia (?) trees
10 tamarisk of 3 cubits
276 talents of palm fibre rope
34 talents of palm leaf rope
418 talents of reeds
207 talents of alfalfa-grass
600 [or more] ox hides, 44 talents
48 minas of goat's hair
1695 litres of fish oil...
4260 bundles of construction-reeds
12324 bundles of fuel(?) -reeds
3170 GUR of purified bitumen
for making watertight the Magan-boats...