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Cuneiform Texts in the Creighton University

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Abstract: The five unpublished cuneiform texts presented in this study are currently housed in the collection of the Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska. This article provides the publication of three Neo-Sumerian tablets from Umma; an inscription from the king Sîn-kašid and one tablet dating from the reign of Nabû-kudurrī-uṣur (Nebuchadnezzar) II.

Keywords: administrative tablets, messenger text, Ur III period, Sîn-kašid, Nabû-kudurrī-uṣur II

Introduction

The cuneiform documents edited below belong to the Law Library at Creighton University, Omaha, Nebraska. Though the exact history of acquisition is unknown, the tablets were already housed at Creighton University in 1930 as they are described in a newspaper article in The Omaha World Herald of January 19, 1930 (http://culibraries.creighton.edu/rarebook/1930-article).

This collection of five texts consists of three Ur III tablets (No. 1–3), one cone of the king Sîn-kašid (No. 4) and one administrative text from the reign of the Neo-Babylonian king Nabû-kudurrī-uṣur II (No. 5). The aim of the present article is to offer an edition of these texts. The transliterations were done from photographs. Texts nos. 1–4 were edited by Ch. Liu; the edition of text no. 5 is the work of K. Kleber. We thank the anonymous reviewer for his/her comments. We are grateful to Professor Kay Andrus for kindly granting the publication rights and to David E. Crawford for photographing the high-quality images of these texts. The photographs of the five texts published here, which will be available on CDLI, were provided courtesy of the Venteicher Rare Book Collection of Klutznick Law Library at Creighton University School of Law (Omaha, Nebraska).

Edition and Catalogue of the Texts

No. 1 (tab03): Receipt of barley

Size: 41 × 35 × 18 mm
Provenience: Umma
Date: Amar-Suen 7

Transliteration and Translation

Obverse
1. 73.2.0 5 sīla še gur
2. sā-dukₘₙ₁ₙ₁ kasₙₙ
3. 116.1.0 gur
4. šā-gal aamar

73 gur 2 barig 5 sīla barley
provisions for messengers,
116 gur 1 barig (barley)
(for) fodder of the calves,

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5. 0.0.3 še naga-bi 0.1.3
6. 1.3.2 še gur

Reverse
1. éšir š-A-bi 0.1.4
2. ki Lú-Šul-gi-ra-ta
3. "Ur-e₁₁-e-ke₂ šu ba-ti
4. mu Hu-úh-nu-/riḫi ba-hul

blank space

Commentary

This text documents barley was received by Ur-e'e from Lu-Šulgi.


No. 2 (tab04): Baskets for Lu-Šara

Size: 44 × 46 × 17 mm
Provenience: Umma
Date: Šulgi 44 ix

Transliteration and Translation

Obverse
1. 53 Ššušu
2. ki A-du-ta
3. kišib Lú-Ššara
4. iti Li₄ si₄

Reverse
blank space
1. mu Si-mu-ru-um ki Lu-lu-bu-um₁₁ [ki]

Year: "Simurum and Lulubum were destroyed".

Seal impression
1. Lú-Ššara
2. dub-sar
3. dumu [Iri-bar-e]

Commentary

This text records that baskets were received by Lu-Šara from Adu.

Seal 3: The reconstruction of the personal name Iri-bar-e is based on the Umma text MVN 18, 206 (AS 5): Ššušu, kišib Lú-Ššara, with seal impression Lú-Ššara / dub-sar / dumu Iri-bar-e.

No. 3 (tab06): Messenger Text

Size: 25 × 25 × 14 mm
Provenience: Umma
Date: Šu-Suen 4
Transliteration

Obverse
1. 5 sìl a k a š i g, 3 sìl a n i n d a 5 gì n šúm 3 gìn 1 / 2 gìn n a g a
2. 1-li-ra-bî
3. 5 sìl a k a 3 sìl a n i n d a 5 gì n šúm 3 gìn 1 2 gìn n a g a
4. A·a·b·b·a
5. sìl a k a 3 sìl a n i n d a 5 gì n šúm 3 gìn 1 2 gìn n a g a
6. Ur·ā·n.z.u
7. 5 sìl a k a 3 sìl a n i n d a 5 gì n šúm 3 gìn 1 2 gìn n a g a
8. DA·KU·k a m
9. 3 sìl a k a 2 sìl a n i n d a 5 gì n šúm / 3 gìn 1 2 gìn n a g a

Reverse
1. A·b u·du₁₀
blank space
2. šu·nì-gín 5 sìl a k a s a g a 0.0.18 sìl a k a gìn
3. šu·nì-gín 0.0.14 sìl a n i n d a š u·nì-gín ½ sìl a 5 gì n šúm
4. šu·nì-gín 1 5 gìn i šu·nì-gín 1 0 gìn n a g a
5. u₄ 30-lá-1-k a m iti ezem ₄Šul·gì
6. mu bàd ma r·tu ba·/dû

Translation

5 sìl a good beer, 3 sìl a bread, 5 gìn onions, 3 gìn oil and 2 gìn herb-naga for Ili-rabi; 5 sìl a beer, 3 sìl a bread, 5 gìn onions, 3 gìn oil and 2 gìn herb-naga for A’abbâ; 5 sìl a beer, 3 sìl a bread, 5 gìn onions, 3 gìn oil and 2 gìn herb-naga for Ur-Suen; 5 sìl a beer, 3 sìl a bread, 5 gìn onions, 3 gìn oil and 2 gìn herb-naga for DA-KU-x; 3 sìl a high-quality beer, 2 sìl a bread, 5 gìn onions, 3 gìn oil and 2 gìn herb-naga for Abudu; sum: 5 sìl a high-quality beer, 1 ban 8 sìl a middle-quality beer, sum: 1 ban 4 sìl a bread, sum: ½ sìl a 5 gìn onions, sum: 15 gìn oil, sum: 10 gìn herb-naga. It was the 29th day. Month: “Festival of Šulgî“. Year: “The Amorite wall was built”.

Commentary

This text is the so-called Messenger Text which belongs to the type of Group J based on the classification of D’Agostino and Pomponio 2002: 16 (namely Nisaba 1).

obv. 8: The uncertain personal name DA-KU-k a m is only attested in this text.

No. 4 (tab07): Cone of Sîn-kašid

Size: 62 × 33 (base diameter)
Provenience: Uruk
Date: Old Babylonian, Sîn-kašid

Transliteration and Translation

1. Ṛkn.z.u·kà·ši-id Sîn-kašid,
2. nîta ka·la·ga mighty man,
3. lugal Unu·ši-ga king of Uruk,
4. lugal Am-na-nu-um king of Amnânum,
5. ú-a/-é-an-na provider of Eanna,
6. é-ga l his royal
7. nam-lugal-la-ka-ni  palace
8. "mu"-dû  he built.

Commentary

This cone is one of the numerous exemplars of the inscription of the king of Uruk, Sin-kašid, edited by Frayne (1990: 447, E4.4.1.3).

No. 5 (tab09): Expenditures of rations

Size: 51 × 34 × 20 mm  
Provenience: Uruk  
Date: Neo-Babylonian, Nabû-kudurri-uṣur II 20 ix 7 (30th November 585 BC)

Transliteration

Obverse
1. 2 "aišmašī̄̄š ŠŠ.BAR ŠUK Šâ ITI.GAN
2. "la-na-a a Šš-ŠŠ-AMA-a-qar
3. it-ta-ši
4. 2 "ši-šin-numun-ba-šâ a Šš-na-na-a-dû
5. 2 "sum-na-šēš
6. A "šin-nin-numun-dû

Reverse
1. 1 3 BÂN a-na ši-di-ti-šû-nu
2. "la-na-a a Šš-šin-numun-ba-šâ
3. u "sum-na-šēš it-ta-šû-û
4. 5 BÂN 2 ŠÎLA NINDA "šâ šâ KÎ.DIMNX
5. šâ ep-re-e-ti i-pa-at-ti-qu
6. TA UD.8.KAM a-dî UD.10.KAM
7. "ši-šin-numun-ba-šâ
8. ITI.GAN UD.7.KAM MU.20.KAM
9. "Ag-ŠIN.DU-ORU LUGAL TIN.TIR";

Translation

Amêl-Nanāya, the son of Ah-ummi-aqar has received (lit.: carried away) two mašī hu of barley, the ration for Kislimu.  
Two (mašī hu) Nabû-zēru-iqīša, son of Nanāya-ûni.  
Two (mašī hu) Nādin-ahī, son of Innin-zēru-ûni.  
Amêl-Nanāya, Nabû-zēru-iqīša and Nādin-ahī have received (lit.: carried away) one pānu-û, three sūtu for their travel ration.  
Nabû-rēhtu-uṣur has received (lit.: carried away) 5 sūtu and 2 qû of bread for the goldsmiths who melt down ore, from the 8th to the 10th day.  
7th of Kislimu of the 20th year of Nabû-kudurri-uṣur, king of Babylon.

Commentary

Administrative texts often bear a date but no place of issue, as is the case with this tablet. It records expenditures of barley and bread. The administrative terminology, the Ininn- and Nanāya-names point to an origin at Uruk. The text belongs in all
The capacity measure *mašīhu* derives from a measuring vessel the size of which varies between 30 and 54 liters. The *mašīhu* of Eanna, which is probably intended here, had a size of ca. 45 liters (see Beaulieu 1989).

*Nabû-zêru-iqîḫa/Nanaya-ibni* is attested in the Eanna archive as a messenger who delivered the remains of the sacrificial meal to the king (see Kleber 2008: 308).

The photo is not completely clear here but there seems to be a number before the 3.bÁ.n, possibly 1 but maximally 3 pt.

5 sūtu and 2 qû are approximately 32 liters.

See CAD E, 189a and Payne 2007: 25 and 210–212.

**Bibliography**


Fig. 1: No. 1 – Receipt of barley.
Fig. 2: No. 2 – Baskets for Lu-Šara.
Fig. 3: No. 3 – Messenger Text.
Fig. 4: No. 4 – Cone of Sîn-kašid.
Fig. 5: No. 5 – Expenditures of rations.