

TWO NEO-ASSYRIAN TABLETS

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The two small administrative texts edited below were discovered in 1982 during the rescue project of the State Organization for Antiquities and Heritage directed by Sd. Hazim an-Nejefi at the site of Tell Baqqaq 2 in the Saddam Dam basin. This site with a Late Assyrian palace lies a few kilometres to the east of the modern course of the Tigris, close to the road leading north from Mosul to Dohuk and Zakho (cf. Iraq 45 [1983], p.208; 47 [1985], p.228-9).

IM 121891

1.9 x 5.3 x 4.3 cm.

List of military equipment

Transliteration

Obverse

- 1 20 *gur-pis* URUDU
- 2 5 GÍR^{ME} *ša* UGU
- 3 GÍŠ^{bu-ut-ni}
- 4 [2]0 GÍŠ^{BAN}MEŠ
- 5 [2]0 KUŠ^{a-za-nu}
- 6 [(x+)]4 ME GÍŠ^{KAK.TI}MEŠ

Edge

- 1 URUÉ-*u-su*
- 2 *hu-[ra]-du*

Reverse

- 1 *ina ŠÀ* um me(š?)
- 2 *ša še-ru-d[i?]*
- 3 ITI^{APIN} UD.27.KÁM
- 4 *lim-mu*
- 5 ¹*Ia-ha-lu*

Translation

20 copper coats-of-armor; 5 daggers ... of terebinth wood; 20 bows; 20 quivers; 400(+) arrows. (E. 1) Town of Bît-Ušu. The army. (Rev. 1) In the ... To be brought down (?).

(3) Month of Marchesvan (VIII), 27th day, eponymate of Iahalu (=833/824/821 B.C.)

Notes

2-3: the signs are clear; the sense expected is “with terebinth wood handles”.

Edge 1: Bît-Ušu appears to be otherwise unknown; no other obvious reading of the signs suggests itself.

2: the shape and size of the damaged space permits the restoration of *ra* (collated).

Rev. 1: the tablet has *um*, not *dub*, so a syllabic writing *um-me* should be considered. Unfortunately, the meaning of *ummu* in Neo-Assyrian contexts remains problematic (cf. *AHW.*, p. 1417a s.v. *ummu(m)* I 16).

IM 121892

1.5 x 3.6 x 3.0 cm.

Issue of flour (?)

Transliteration

Obverse

1 𒉺-BÁN²⁷ ZÍ[D] ur x

2 [š]a URUÉ-[u-]su

3 a-na KURÚ-tú²-a-a-a

4 i-ta-nu

Reverse

5 IT¹ZÍZ UD.1.KÁM

Translation

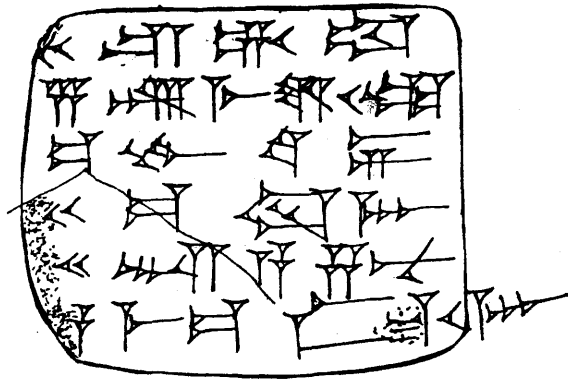
2 *sūtu*(?) of flour (?), of the town of Bît-[U]su, they have given to the Utu'aens.
(Rev. 5) Month of Shebat (XI), 1st day.

Notes

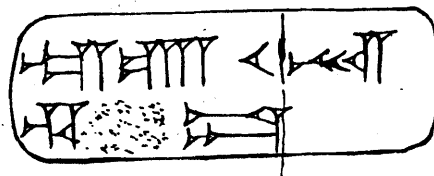
1: the final sign is as copied; owing to the ambiguity of the KU sign, it is possible the text deals rather with textiles, but the first sign in the line seems to favour a commodity measured in *sūtu*.

2: the town name is restored after IM 121891:8.

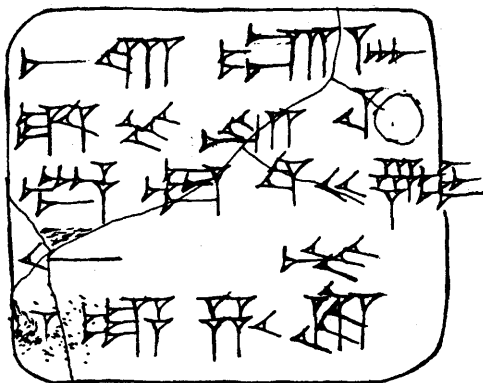
3: if, as seems probable, this tablet belongs closely with IM 121891 and hence dates to the end of the reign of Shalmaneser III or the first years of his successor, then this is the earliest known instance of Itu'aens serving in the Assyrian army, presumably as mercenaries or auxiliaries (cf. *RIA* V, s.v. *Itu'*).



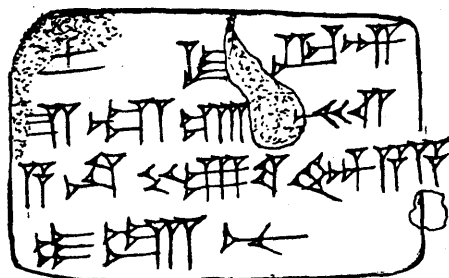
IM 121891, Obverse



IM 121891, Edge



IM 121891, Reverse



IM 121892, Obverse



IM 121892, Reverse