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 GIRME ša UGU
3  GISbu-ut-ni
4  [2]0 GISBANMEŠ
5  [2]0 KUSa-za-nu
6  [(x+)]4 ME GISKAK.TI MEŠ

Edge
1  URUÉ-u-su
2  hu-[ra]-du

Reverse
1  ina ŠÀ um me(š²)
2  ša še-ru-d[i²]
3  ITIAPIN UD.27.KÁM
4  lim-mu
5  ḫa-ha-lu
Translation

20 copper coats-of-armor; 5 daggers ... of terebinth wood; 20 bows; 20 quivers; 400(+) arrows. (E. 1) Town of Bit-Usu. 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: Bit-Usu 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 "2-BÁN? ZÍ[D] ur x
2 [š]a URU[-]su
3 a-na KUR Ú-tú'-a-a-a
4 i-ta-nu

Reverse

5 üüZÍZ UD.1.KÁM

Translation

2 sütut(? of flour (?) ... of the town of Bit-[U]su, they have given to the Utu’aeans. (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'aeans serving in the Assyrian army, presumably as mercenaries or auxiliaries (cf. RIA V, s.v. Itu').

IM 121891, Obverse

IM 121891, Edge