

## BALANCING THE ACCOUNTS OF THE ROYAL NEW YEAR'S RECEPTION

### Seven Administrative Documents from Nineveh

Raija Mattila — Helsinki

This study was inspired by a growing need to understand and be able to assess the information provided by Neo-Assyrian administrative documents. Preparing a dissertation on the highest officials of the Neo-Assyrian Empire has clearly demonstrated how difficult these documents are to use as source material.

To approach the administrative texts productively one must look at them in groups. A curious group of seven texts sharing common features and clearly representing a distinctive text category is analysed here to illustrate the point. As always with the *ADD* texts, it was clear from the outset that the texts needed careful collation. Prof. Simo Parpola kindly undertook this task on my behalf. Collation showed that all the fragments indeed belonged to roughly similar but separate 4-column tablets<sup>1</sup>.

The present study does not offer an edition of the texts themselves, since this is to appear soon in the State Archives of Assyria series. Instead, I have ventured to combine the information of the individual texts into a composite text to make their structure and format apparent<sup>2</sup>. The composite text takes as its point of departure a reconstruction of tablet A (*ADD* 1083), a 4-column tablet with the following dimensions:  
width:  $c.25+3+23+2.5+25+2.5+c.25=106$  mm (see Fig. 1)  
length: with a 2:3 ratio 159 mm.

<sup>1</sup> I wish to thank Prof. Simo Parpola for discussing these texts with me and for undertaking the task of collation. I am also indebted to Mr. Nicholas Postgate for allowing me to use his collations of some of the texts. All collations by Parpola are marked SP, while those by Postgate are marked JNP. Dr. Robert Whiting kindly revised my English and helped with the production of the manuscript. The renderings of personal names, names of professions and administrative terms generally follow the conventions of the SAA series.

<sup>2</sup> The term "composite text" is perhaps not the best one since the texts are not, strictly speaking, duplicates, but rather a group of texts composed using the same model. The "composite text" is thus an

The script density in A being about 3 lines per cm (21 per 7 cm), each 16 cm long column had space for about 48 lines.

The reconstruction of the obverse of the composite text can be fairly reliably based on A, as its text covers parts of all the four columns. On the reverse the situation is more problematic. Reconstruction is based here on the sequence attested in A, B and F, because in these fragments the column numbering is certain. These columns are marked in the following with uppercase Roman numerals (I) as opposed to assumed ones, indicated by lower case Roman numerals (i).

## TEXT

Text sigla (alphabetical order reflects fragment size in terms of extant lines [as counted before collation, December 1988]):

A = K 2023 (*ADD* 1083)

B = 82-5-22, 548 (*ADD* 1125)

C = K 13198 (*ADD* 834) + K 7702 (*ADD* 837) + K 13029 (*ADD* 849) + K 13752 (*ADD* 903)

D = 83-1-18, 454 (*ADD* 981)

E = Sm 287 (*ADD* 971)

F = K 11955 (*ADD* 1046)

G = K 9119 (*ADD* 970) + K 11420 (*ADD* 1138)

### Texts included:

*ADD* 834 → C

*ADD* 837 → C

*ADD* 849 → C

*ADD* 903 → C

*ADD* 970 → G

*ADD* 971 → E

*ADD* 981 → D

*ADD* 1046 → F

*ADD* 1083 → A

*ADD* 1125 → B

*ADD* 1138 → G

attempt to reconstruct this underlying model in order to assess its implications for the nature and function of these texts.

## The Composite Text

(beginning, c. 17 lines, broken away)			
18	[x x x x x].MEŠ	[.....]	AI 1'
19	[x x x x] MUŠEN-GAL-e	[.....] ducks	AI 2'
20	[x x x x x] kur-'ki <sup>1</sup>	[.....] geese	AI 3'
21	[x x x x x] 20' [x]	[.....]	AI 4'
22	[x x x x x]-iz'-[x]	[.....]	AI 5'
23	[x x x x x x]x-ur <sup>2</sup>	[.....]	AI 6'
24	[x x x x x] NINA.KI	[.....] Nineveh	AI 7'
25	[x x x x x x].MEŠ	[.....]	AI 8'
26	[x x x x x x]x	[.....]	AI 9'
27	[x x x x x x]x	[.....]	AI 10'
(break of c. 20 lines)			
48	[x x x] DUMU-LUGAL	[...] crown prince	Gi 1'
49	[x x Ml. <sup>4</sup> še]-ru-u-a-KAR-at	[... Še]ru'a-eġerat	Gi 2'
50	[x x <sup>m</sup> aš-šur]-GIN-BAL-iá	[... Aššur]-mukin-pale'a	Gi 3'
51	[x x <sup>m</sup> aš-šur-AN-KI]-TLLA.BI	[... Aššur-šamê-eršet]-muballissu	Gi 4'
52	[x x <sup>m</sup> GIŠ.NU-UG <sub>5</sub> ].GA-TLLA	[... Šamaš-me]tu-uballiṭ	Gi 5'
(break of c. 12 lines)			
65	[x x <sup>m</sup> a'-kul'-la'-ni <sup>1</sup>	[...] Akkullanu	A II 1'
66	[x x x x] [x x x <sup>2</sup>	[...].....	A II 2'
67	[x x x] ÚR ERIN <sup>1</sup>	[...] loins, ...	A II 3'
68	[x x x] ZAG.MEŠ kab-bur	[...] shoulder (portion)s, fat (oxen)	A II 4'
69	10 [x x]x <sup>2</sup> .MEŠ <sup>1</sup> KAL <sup>1</sup> 'te <sup>1</sup> LU <sup>1</sup>	10 big [...], ...	A II 5'
70	10 [x x]x <sup>2</sup> .MEŠ <sup>1</sup> ti-nu-ri	10 oven-(baked) [...]	A II 6'
71	PAB 6'-me <sup>1</sup> -1 [U]ZU BUR / [PA]B 2 GUD [	in all 601 (cuts of) meat, <i>naptunu</i> / in all 2 oxen	A II 7' FI 2'
72	6' UZU [x x] <sup>1</sup> MUN <sup>1</sup>	6 (cuts of) [...] meat, salted	A II 8'
73	8/2 UZU <sup>1</sup> É'-[x x]x-i <sup>1</sup>	8/2 (cuts of) meat, ...	A II 9', FI 3'
74	1 GABA UD.HAL	1 breast (portion) ...	A II 10', FI 4'
75	3/1 GUD ina É-a-ni	3/1 ox, in the inner precinct	A II 11', FI 5'
76	1 UZU ša ITI ša Ml.É.[GAL]	1 (cut of) meat, monthly, of the queen	FI 6'
77	4 :. / [x] GUD ŠU.2 <sup>m</sup> MAN-lu-dà-ri	4 ditto/oxen, in charge of Šarru-lu-dari	A II 12', FI 7'
78	1 :. MURUB <sub>4</sub> -URU	1 ox, Central City	A II 13'
79	9 UZU É.GAL <sup>1</sup> -ma-šar-te	9 (cuts of) meat, Review Palace	A II 14'
80	1 GUD :. ki-šir GIBIL	1 ox, ditto of the New Corps	A II 15'
81	9 UZU É-GIBIL <sup>1</sup>	9 (cuts of) meat, New Palace	A II 16'
82	6 :. É-UŠ-u-te	6 ditto, Succession Palace	A II 17'
83	6 :. É-GIBIL MURUB <sub>4</sub> -URU	6 ditto, New Palace of the Central City	A II 18'
84	5 :. É-ku-tal	5 ditto, Rear Palace	A II 19'
85	1 GUD <sup>1</sup> [x x x]	1 ox [...]	A II 20'
(break of a few lines only)			
89	2 GUD <sup>1</sup> UN.MEŠ [É.GAL]	2 oxen, people [of the palace]	D ii 1
90	2 'GUD <sup>1</sup> SUHUŠ x[x x x]	2 oxen, <i>base</i> [...]	D ii 2
91	[x x] 'x <sup>1</sup> [x x x]	[.....]	D ii 3
92	[x x x x x]	[.....]	D ii 4
93	'x <sup>1</sup> [x x x x]	[.....]	Gi ii 1'
94	PAB 20 x[x x x]	in all 20 [...]	Gi ii 2'
95	(blank space of one line)		G
96	2 UDU sap'-liš'-h[u]	2 sheep, <i>saplišhu</i> offering	Gi ii 3'
97	26 UDU e-qu-te GIBIL <sup>1</sup>	26 <i>votive</i> sheep, burnt offering	Gi ii 4'
98	17 UDU EN KÚ.MEŠ	17 sheep, in addition to eaten ones	Gi ii 5'
99	10 UDU 10 NIM kab-bur	10 sheep, 10 spring lambs, fat	Gi ii 6'
100	10 UDU 10 NIM šar-hu <sup>1</sup> -te-šú	10 sheep, 10 spring lambs, ( <i>served</i> ) hot	D ii 11, Gi ii 7'
101	10/5 :. /UDU tak-bar	10/5 sheep, fattened	D ii 12, Gi ii 8'

102	10 :: [x x x x]	10 ditto, [...]	D ii 13
103	10/5 :: <i>si-sal-hi</i>	10/5 ditto, <i>sisalhu</i>	D ii 14, G ii 9'
104	10/5 :: <i>gab-bu-bu</i>	10/5 ditto, roasted	D ii 15, G ii 10'
105	<sup>1</sup> 10/5 :: <i>hal-'lam</i> <sup>1</sup>	10/5 ditto, <i>hallam</i>	D ii 16, G ii 11'
106	[10]/5 :: KAM.TUR.MEŠ	[10]/5 ditto, small kettles	D ii 17, G ii 12'
107	[x]x 'x x' [x x]	[.....]	D ii 18
108	PAB 65 UDU.MEŠ BUR	in all 65 sheep, <i>naptunu</i>	D ii 19, G ii 13'
109	<sup>1</sup> 16 <sup>1</sup> UDU.MEŠ <i>ki-ru-tū</i>	16 sheep, <i>kirutu</i>	G ii 14'
110	[x] ' : ' <i>um-marī ū-ra-si</i>	[x] ditto, artisan(s) (and) brick-masons	G ii 15'
111	[x š]a' É—UŠ-u-te	[...] of the Succession Palace	G ii 16'
112	[PAB x] UDU.MEŠ <i>a-kil-[tū]</i>	[total x] sheep, consumption	G ii 17'
113	[x x x x] 'x x' [x x x] (break)	[.....] (break)	G ii 18'
115	<i>bir'-x[x' x x x x]</i>	[.....]	A III 1'
116	10 KUR.GLMUŠEN	10 geese	A III 2'
117	10 :: TU.GUR <sub>4</sub> .MUŠEN	10 doves	A III 3'
118	10 MUŠEN—GAL-'e <sup>1</sup> [x x x]	10 ducks [...]	A III 4', B III 1'?
119	10/4 :: <i>ina É-a-ni</i>	10/4 ditto, in the inner precinct	A III 5', B III 2'
120	10 :: <i>ba-[a-a-du]</i>	10 ditto, vigil	A III 6'
121	10/2 <i>tam'-šil' ba-a-a-du</i>	10/2 <i>tamšil</i> -birds, vigil	A III 7', B III 3'
122	1-me/20 TU.GUR <sub>4</sub> <i>šar-hu-te-šū</i>	100/20 doves, ( <i>served</i> ) hot	A III 8', B III 4'
123	1-me/10 :: <i>hal'-lam</i>	100/10 ditto, <i>hallam</i>	A III 9', B III 5'
124	1-me/10 :: [ <i>ba-a-a-du</i> ]ina É-a-ni	100/10 ditto, vigil/in the inner precinct	A III 10', B III 6'
125	3-me ŠEŠ.MUŠEN ::	300 <i>marratu</i> -birds ditto	A III 11'
126	[1]-me/5 <i>kak-kab-nat</i> TA* <sup>1</sup> <i>ki-ru-t[e]/BUR'</i>	100/5 star patterned birds from <i>kirutu/naptunu</i>	A III 12', B III 7'
127	50/25 :: TA* BUR ZA GUR <sub>4</sub> GA	50/25 ditto from <i>naptunu</i> .....	A III 13', B III 8'
128	50 [ : . x x x x x x]	50 [.....]	A III 14'
129	10/20 <i>ak-bir</i>	10/20 jerboa	A III 15', B III 9'
130	2-me/10 KU <sub>6</sub> .ME BUR	200/10 fish, <i>naptunu</i>	A III 16', B III 10'
131	50 <sup>1</sup> : ' <i>ki-ru-'tū</i> <sup>1</sup>	50 ditto, <i>kirutu</i>	B III 11'
132	10 UDU.M[ÉŠ x x x]	10 sheep [...]	A III 17'
133	1-me [x x x x x x]	100 [.....]	A III 18'
134	2- <i>lim</i> [x x x x x x]	2000 [.....]	A III 19'
135	1-me [x x x x x x]	100 [.....]	A III 20'
136	1 [x x x x x x]	1 [.....]	A III 21'
137	x[x x x x x x x] (break of c. 28 lines)	[.....] (break)	A III 22'
166	1 <sup>1</sup> [x x x x x x x]	1? [.....]	A IV 1'
167	1 <i>si-x</i> [x x x x x x]	1 [.....]	A IV 2'
168	PAB 7 [x x x x x x]	in all 7 [.....]	A IV 3'
169	1 [x]- <i>ri-gi</i>	1 ...	A IV 4'
170	1 5 [x x x x x x]	1 5 [.....]	A IV 5'
171	1 [x x x x x x x] (c. 4 lines completely destroyed)	1 [.....] (break)	A IV 6'
176	1 x[x x x x x x x] (break of a few lines only)	1 [.....] (break)	A IV 7'-10'
180	1 [x x x x x]	1, [.....]	B IV 1'
181	1 <sup>mp</sup> [A-x x x]	1, Na[bū-.....]	B IV 2'
182	2 <sup>mtu</sup> UTU <sup>1</sup> —(UG <sub>9</sub> ).GA—TL.LA <sup>1</sup>	2, Šamaš-metu-uballit	B IV 3'
183	2 <sup>m30</sup> —MAN—PAB.MEŠ-šū	2, Sin-šar-ahhešu	B IV 4'
184	1 GAL— <i>ki-šir</i> .MEŠ <sup>1</sup> <i>qur'-b[u]'</i>	1, cohort commanders of the bodyguard	B IV 5'
185	1 <i>mu-šār-ki</i> .MEŠ	1, recruitment officers	B IV 6'
186	1 <i>ha-za-nu</i> <sup>men</sup> —KAR-ir	1, mayor Bel-ešir	B IV 7'
187	2 <sup>1</sup> DIB—PA.MEŠ URU.NINA.KLMEŠ	2, Ninevite chariot-drivers	B IV 8'
189	2 LÚ*.3-šū.MEŠ :	2, ditto "third men"	B IV 9'
190	1 <sup>1</sup> 3-šū.MEŠ NIM.MA-a-a (break of c. 28 lines)	1, Elamite "third men" (break)	B IV 10'

219	10 <i>ur-<sup>1</sup>x<sup>1</sup> [x x x x]</i>	10, [.....]	B r I 1
220	23 <i>ú-ra-[te]</i>	23, teams	B r I 2
221	PAB 1- <i>me-60</i> BANŠUR <sup>1</sup> .MEŠ	in all 160 tables	B r I 3
222	<i>a-kil-tú</i>	consumption	B r I 4
223	(blank space of one line <sup>1</sup> )		B r I
224	3 <sup>1</sup> DUG <sup>1</sup> .ŠAB <sup>1</sup> .MEŠ <sup>1</sup> KAŠ <sup>1</sup> (break of c. 14 lines)	3 <i>šappu</i> -vessels of beer (break)	B r I 5
239	[x x x x][x x x x]		G r III 1'
240	[x x x x][x x x x] (lines G r III 3'-4' seem blank) (lines G r III 5'-12' obliterated & difficult)		G r III 2' G G
251	[x x x x]- <i>ku ša</i> KI-ŠÚ	..... his colleague	G r III 13'
252	[x x].MEŠ <i>da</i> 12' <i>ša</i> KI-ŠÚ	..... his colleague	G r III 14'
253	[x x] <i>da pu ša</i> KI-ŠÚ	..... his colleague	G r III 15'
254	[x x].MEŠ LUGAL <i>ša</i> KUR. <i>sa-lat</i>	[x], royal [...] of Sallat	G r III 16'
255	[x]x 3'-ŠÚ.MEŠ NIM <sup>1</sup> .{MA-a-a}	[x], <i>Elamite</i> "third men"	E r III 1'?
256	<sup>1</sup> GAL- <i>ki-šir</i> ( <sup>1</sup> E <sup>1</sup> .KAB/KAB <i>ša</i> KI-ŠÚ)	1, cohort commander of the left <i>house</i> , (his colleague)	C r III 1', E r III 2', G r III 17' E r III 3'
257	1 GIGIR	1, groom(s)	
258	1 DIB-PA.MEŠ 3-ŠÚ.MEŠ :/ <sup>1</sup> x <sup>1</sup> .MEŠ	1, chariot-drivers, "third men" of ditto/[...]s	C r III 2', G r III 18'
259	<i>ša</i> KI-ŠÚ- <i>nu</i>	their colleagues	G r III 19'
260	SAG.UŠ.MEŠ	regulars	C r III 3'
261	3 <i>qur-but</i> ( <i>ša</i> ) GIR.2 (LÚ.GIGIR) DU <sub>9</sub> .MEŠ :	3, bodyguards of the <i>ša-šepe</i> -guard, (groom) of the open ditto chariotry, ditto	C r III 4', E r III 4', G r III 20'
262	4 DU <sub>9</sub> .MEŠ	4, of the open chariotry	E r III 5'
263	PAB 8 1 GIŠ.PA	in all 8 (courtyards?), 1 staff	E r III 6'
264	1 DIB-PA A-MAN <i>ša</i> KI-ŠÚ <i>/3-šú ša</i> A-MAN <sup>m</sup> <i>da-ni-i</i>	1, chariot-driver of the crown prince, his colleague / third man of the crown prince, <i>Danî</i>	C r III 5', E r III 7', G r III 21'
265	1 BANŠUR 2-u A-MAN	1, second table of the crown prince	C r III 6', E r III 8'
266	<sup>3</sup> SAG.UŠ <sup>1</sup> .MEŠ :	3, regulars of ditto	E r III 9'
267	[x] GAL- <i>ki-šir</i> .MEŠ :	[x], cohort commanders of ditto	C r III 8', E r III 10'
268	[x GIŠ].GIGIR A-MAN	[x], groom(s) of the crown prince	E r III 11'
269	[x] A.SIG.(MEŠ) A-MAN (DU <sub>9</sub> .MEŠ :)	[x], chariot fighter(s) of the crown prince, (men of the open chariotry of ditto)	C r III 9', E r III 12' E r III 13'
270	[x DI]B-PA.[MEŠ :]	[x], chariot drivers [of ditto]	C r III 10'
271	<sup>m</sup> DINGIR-SU MU	Ilū-eriba, cook	C r III 11'
272	[x] GAL-50.MEŠ	[x], commanders-of-50	C r III 12'
273	[x] DINGIR x[x x]x	[x], [...]	C r III 13'
274	6 NAR.MEŠ	6, singers	C r III 14'
275	[x] GAL-SAG	[x], Chief Eunuch	A r II 1'?, C r III 15'
276	[x] NAM.MEŠ <sup>1</sup> x <sup>1</sup> SAG <sup>1</sup> .MEŠ	[x], governors, eunuchs	A r II 2', B r II 4', C r III 16'
277	2 (KUR <sup>1</sup> .AŠ) GAR- <i>nu</i> .MEŠ ( <i>ša</i> ) BAD-HAL	2, (...) captains of the cavalry	A r II 3', B r II 5', C r III 17'
278	SAG <sup>1</sup> .MEŠ PAB.PAB.MEŠ/ <i>tar<sup>1</sup>-bi<sup>1</sup>-a-ni</i>	eunuchs, trainees	A r II 4', B r II 6', C r III 18'
279	GAR- <i>nu</i> .(MEŠ <i>ša</i> ) A-MAN	captain(s) of the crown prince	A r II 5', B r II 7', C r III 19'
280	1 (KUR <sup>1</sup> .AŠ) <i>ša</i> / <i>šá</i> -IGI-SILA	1, (...) <i>street inspector</i>	A r II 6', B r II 8'-9', C r III 20'
281	1 (KUR <sup>1</sup> .AŠ) GAL-50.(MEŠ <i>ša</i> ) 3-ŠÚ.MEŠ (GIR.2)	1, (...) commander-of-50 of the "third men" (of the) <i>ša-šepe</i> -guard	B r II 10'
282	1 (KUR <sup>1</sup> .AŠ) GA[L <sup>1</sup> -x x x]	1, (...) [.....]	A r II 7'
283	[x x <i>šá</i> -EN].NUN-ŠÚ- <i>nu</i>	[x], their [gu]ard	A r II 8'
284	[x x x x x x x]x (break of c. 21 lines)	[.....] (break)	
306	2 <i>ni ni</i> [x x x]	2 ...[...]	F r III 1?
307	1 <i>be-x</i> [x x x]	1 [.....]	F r III 2?
308	1 [x x x x x] (break of c. 30 lines)	1 [.....] (break)	F r III 3?
339	[x x x x].MEŠ	[.....]	C r III 1'

340	[x x] 12' 3-šú.MEŠ-šú	[...] 12?, his "third men"	C rii 2'
341	[x x] 'EN'.NUN <sup>1</sup> .-šú-nu	[...] their <i>guard</i>	C rii 3'
342	[x x x x] MAN / [x x] É.GA[L x x x]	[...] king/palace [...]	C rii 4', D rii 2', B rII 1'?
343	[x] 2'-u-te um-man	[x], deputies, scholars	C rii 5' B rII 2'
344	([x] LÚ*) .HAL.MEŠ	([x]) haruspices	C rii 6' B rII 3'
345	'1 <sup>1</sup> '30-MAN-PAB	1, Sin-šarru-ušur	C rii 7', D rii 3'
346	[(x)] 'm <sup>1</sup> M-GAL'-AŠ	[I] Adad-...-iddin	C rii 8'
347	[(x)] um-man ma-a <sup>2</sup> -du-te	[I] numerous scholars	D rii 4'
348	1 <sup>1</sup> 'ba-la-su LÚ*.SANGA	1, Balasu, priest	D rii 5'
349	ša URU.KASKAL	of Harran	D rii 6'
350	1 (LÚ*) .IGLDUB (ša) URU.KASKAL	1, treasurer of Harran	D rii 7', F rIV 1
351	10 (ub-sa-a-te) qab-sa-telsat	10, middle storehouse	C rii 9', D rii 8'
352	[x]x' 2-u-te' A'.BA.MEŠ	[x], deputies (and) scribes	D rii 9'
353	[0 š]a' NAM'.MEŠ	[o]f governors	D rii 10'
354	1 um-man ŠU.2 MAN	1, scholar(s) in the service of the king	C rii 10', D rii 11', F rIV 2
355	1 (URU).ŠA-URU-a-a	1, (ditto) from Assur	C rii 11', D rii 12', F rIV 3
356	2 DUMU.(MEŠ) NINA.KI/ni-nu-a	2, (ditto) from Nineveh	C rii 12', D rii 13', F rIV 4
357	'4 <sup>1</sup> /1 DUMU.(MEŠ URU).arba-il-(a-a)	4/1, (ditto) from Arbail	C rii 13', D rii 14', F rIV 5
358	[x] (DUMU) 'URU'.kal-ha-a-a	[x], (ditto) from Calah	D rii 15', F rIV 5
359	1 (DUMU) URU.KASKAL-a-a	1, (ditto) from Harran	D rii 16', F rIV 6
360	[x] 'x' :! [x x]	[x], ... ditto [...]	D rii 17', F rIV 7
361	PAB 7 TÜR PAB 1 GI[Š'.PA]	in all 7 courtyards, in all 1 [ <i>staff</i> ]	C rii 14'
362	[PA]B 22 ina É [x]	in all 22 in [...]	C rii 15'
363	[PA]B 85 ga-[x x]	in all 85 [...]	C rii 16'
364	[x] 'x'.ME[Š x x]	(rest too fragmentary for translation)	C rii 17'
365	'8 <sup>1</sup> x[x x]x [x x]		C rii 18'
366	'x x <sup>2</sup> [x x x]		C rii 19'
367	[x]x [x x x x]		C rii 20'
	(rest c. 32 lines missing)		

## Notes on the Composite Text


18: See fig. 1. Judging by the curvatures A is a fragment roughly from the middle of the tablet.

48: The breaks between fragments from different tablets as reconstructed here are of course purely hypothetical, but serve to demonstrate the approximate and relative size of gaps in the composite text. G i is placed as it is to allow c. 50 lines between G i 1 and G ii 6', which are written on the same level on the fragment.

66: The reading of the extant traces is very uncertain. SP reads 3-me-20<sup>1</sup>, but a number at the end of line would be somewhat unexpected. JNP reads ]x GAL<sup>2</sup>-É A<sup>2</sup>-MAN<sup>2</sup>

68: Lines A I 1', II 1', III 4' and IV 4' are written on the same level. Allowing c. 50 lines in between each of them gives us a fairly reliable reconstruction of the obverse.

69: Coll. JNP. The interpretation of the last three signs remains obscure despite the collation; the last sign can not be read UDU, since the section deals with oxen.

73: This whole line is omitted by Johns in A. Neither *bētu šaniu* or *bētāni* are possible according to collation. JNP: F I 3' shows only: 2 UZU [x x x x]. 

75: F I 5': 1 GUD ina é-a<sup>11</sup>-[ni (copy has 2).

79: coll. JNP.

93: In D six lines (ii 5-10) completely destroyed.

100: *hu<sup>11</sup>*, copy has *kab*, but compare l. 122 where reading *šar-hu-te-šú* has been confirmed by JNP. *šar-hu-te-šú* is here tentatively taken as an ellipsis for *ina šarhūtīšu*, possibly a technical term for meat served while still hot.

109: *kirutu* (or *kirrutu*, *kirūtu*, *qerūtu*) seems to denote a type of meal, cf. lines 126 and 130f, where it also appears with *naptunu*.

117: No collation, possibly not to be read like this at all.

118: It has not been possible to place B II showing only ends of several lines, all ending in *-šú*.

121, 124: *bajādu* is the NA equivalent of NB/LB *bajātu* "nocturnal ceremony, vigil" (CAD B, 34). It is possible that *ina é-a-ni* in line 124 stands for *ina bajadāni*, note the LB plural form *ba-a-a-da-nu*.

131: Coll. JNP.

132: UDU is verified by collation of SP.

182: Coll. JNP.

184: Coll. JNP.

190: Coll. JNP.

219: Placing of the different texts on the reverse is mostly based on F where column r.III ought to start at about line 300 and column r.IV at about line 350 assuming that the tablet had 8x50 lines. A r.I gives the first sign of five lines including two sums (PAB).

223: 𒀭𒀭𒀭 coll. JNP.

255: For lines 255-283 see Appendix where a score transliteration of this passage is given.

280: E r.iv 2' probably belongs here, but lines 3'-8' are too uncertain to be placed. See Appendix on this passage.

343: B r.II 2'-3' parallels this section, but in a different context.

346: GAL<sup>?</sup> according to SP. é-~~𒀭𒀭~~-i.

## Discussion

The composite text presented above shows that these seven texts, which taken separately make little sense, do in fact form a distinct new text type. The fragments in question are in many places badly worn and difficult to read without the support of parallel passages provided by the composite text. On the other hand, it is only with the composite text that the real problems concerning the nature of this text group start to emerge.

The text is divided into two distinct parts. The obverse (lines 18-176) lists amounts of edible commodities defined either by person/place or a qualifying adjective. The

reverse presents sequences of official titles, military, administrative, priestly and scholarly, each preceded by a figure.

The commodities listed follow roughly the order known from the so-called “Offerjournals” (*ADD* 998ff., cf. van Driel, *The Cult of Aššur*, App. III): cuts of meat are followed by sheep and different kinds of birds. So many of the terms used refer to offerings that one is entitled to see the commodities as foodstuff retrieved from offerings. Some of them are identified as coming from the offerings provided by the royal family or important palaces.

In the second section (from about line 177 onwards) we have a list of persons with the exception of l. 265 1 BANŠUR 2-u A-MAN, “second table of the crown prince”, which can be compared with BANŠUR MAN / ∴. MÍ.KUR / ∴. GAL-SAG, “table of the king, ditto queen, ditto chief eunuch”, receiving wine in *NWL* 35, r I 12-14. No information is available on what the figures preceding the titles stand for. On lines 221-222 they add up to “160 tables, consumption; 3 šappu-vessels of beer”<sup>3</sup>. The only other totals on the reverse (lines 263 and 361f) add little to the understanding of the text because the precise implications of TÜR and PA as administrative technical terms remain obscure.

The seven tablets clearly refer to seven different occasions, with individual variation as to amounts and persons mentioned. The amounts in A are on the whole considerably higher than the figures in the other texts, but the fact that B has at least one quantity larger than A argues against A being a summary tablet giving the totals of the other six texts.

<sup>3</sup>) A possible solution may be suggested by *ADD* 946+ (K 9751 + *ADD* 838 [K 4672] joined by Tuviah Kwasman, collations by Postgate). The text is distinctly of a different text type but it features many elements known from the present text group. Very distinctive is the sequence on lines r. 1-6:

2	2	LÜ GAL-ki-šir x [ x x ]
2	1	GIŠ GIGIR [x x ]
2	2	LÜ GAR-nu <sup>MES</sup> BAD.[HAL]
2	1	I <sup>1</sup> GIR <sup>II</sup> -15 I <sup>1</sup> PAB-[ x x ]
[x]	1	LÜ šá-IGI-[SILA]
[x]	1	GAL-50 <sup>M</sup> [EŠ] 0 [ x ]

The title LÜ šá-IGI-SILA is known from only these texts. Lines 221-224 in the composite text parallel closely the concluding sum on lines 13-15:

[P]AB 74 BANŠUR<sup>MES</sup> 5[1 DUGŠ]AB<sup>MES</sup> 2 BE

[(0)]

[ x ] x ina é x [ x x ] x

za-[']u-u-zu

e-ta-ak-lu

Surprisingly enough the obverse is counting shekels to persons mentioned by name. Could this be the case also with the figures preceding persons in the composite text?

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
UZU É-x-x-i	8					2	
GABA UD.HAL	1					1	
GUD <i>ina betani</i>	3					1	
UDU <i>suplišhu</i>							2
UDU <i>equte</i> GÍBIL							26
UDU EN KÚ <sup>MEŠ</sup>							17
UDU <i>takbar</i>							
UDU <i>sisalhi</i>				10			5
5 UDU <i>gabbubu</i>				10			5
UDU <i>hallam</i>				10			5
KUR.GI	10	—					
MUŠEN.GAL	30	4					
<i>tamšil</i>	10	2					
TU.GUR <sub>4</sub>	300	40					
ŠEŠ <sub>4</sub> MUŠEN	300	—					
<i>kakkabnat</i>	200	30					
<i>akbir</i>	10	20					
KU <sub>6</sub> -ME	200	60					

These texts can be dated to the time of Esarhaddon on the basis of G ii mentioning royal children. Unfortunately it is not possible to say anything more precise on the basis of the other names mentioned. Two of them, Šarru-lu-dari and Sin-šarru-ušur feature in two texts — A & F and C & D respectively — but even this does not help us to determine how long the time span covered by the texts is.

Šerua-eṭerat							G
Aššur-mukin-palea							G
Aššur-šamê-erṣeti-muballissu							G
Šamaš-metu-uballit							G
Šarru-lu-dari				A		F	
Sin-šarru-ušur					C D		

The seven texts represent seven different tablets: no joins between them seem possible. On the other hand it has not been possible to find any more material belonging to this text group amongst the published *ADD*-texts<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>4</sup>) With the possible exception of *ADD* 898 which according to Postgate's collation begins:  
line I 1: 2<sup>2</sup>-te<sup>2</sup> BUR ša É.[

There is no direct evidence in the texts themselves, which could help to establish whether the texts record a daily routine or account for a series of special occasions. However, the presence of scholars and priests from other major cities in the capital may be taken to point to a special occasion, important enough to require their participation. No high-ranking administrative officials, such as governors, are mentioned, but it is quite possible that we have simply lost the relevant section.

While the nature of these texts remains uncertain owing to their fragmentariness, it does seem extremely likely, following a suggestion by Prof. Parpola, that they are accounts of food and possibly gifts distributed at the royal New Year's reception arranged twice a year (in Nisan and Tishri) in the Assyrian capital<sup>5</sup>.

### APPENDIX

Score of lines 255-283

E riii 1'	[ x ] x 3 <sup>1</sup> -šú <sup>MEŠ</sup> NIM <sup>?</sup> . [MA-a. a]		
C riii 1'	[ x ] ʾGAL-ki <sup>7</sup> -šir	ʾÉ <sup>7</sup> .KAB	
E riii 2'-3'	[ x ] GAL-ki-šir [?]		/ 1 GIGIR [0]
G rii 17'	ʾ1 <sup>7</sup> GAL-ki-šir	KAB ša KI-šú	
C riii 2'-3'	[x] DIB-PA <sup>MEŠ</sup> 3-šú <sup>MEŠ</sup>		∴ / SAG <sup>1</sup> .UŠ <sup>1</sup> MEŠ
G rii 18'-19'	1 DIB-PA <sup>MEŠ</sup> 3-šú <sup>MEŠ</sup>	ʾSAG <sup>?</sup> .UŠ <sup>?</sup> MEŠ	/ ša KI-šú-nu
C riii 4'	ʾ2 <sup>7</sup> qur-ZAG	GÌR <sup>II</sup>	DU <sub>8</sub> <sup>MEŠ</sup>
E riii 4'-5'	3 qur <sup>1</sup> -ZAG	GÌR <sup>II</sup>	DU <sub>8</sub> <sup>?</sup> M[EŠ] <sup>?</sup> / 4 DU <sub>8</sub> <sup>MEŠ</sup>
G rii 20'	[ x qur-ZA ]G <sup>1</sup> ša	GÌR <sup>II</sup> LÚ GIGIR	DU <sub>8</sub> -[MEŠ]
E riii 6'	PAB 8 1 GÌS <sup>PA</sup>		
C riii 5'	1 <sup>?</sup> DIB-PA	A-MAN ša <sup>1</sup> ʾKI-šú <sup>7</sup>	
E riii 7'	1 DIB-PA 3-šú ša	A-MAN <sup>1</sup> Da-ni-i	
G rii 21'	[ x x x x ]	MAN <sup>1</sup> ša K[I <sup>?</sup> -šú]	

If this fragment belongs to the group, as suggested by Postgate, it would give us the opening lines of the composite text.

<sup>5)</sup> The exceptionally high figures in A may reflect special occasions involving an exceptionally high number of guests, as was the case e.g. in early 672, when Esarhaddon assembled "all Assyria" to take the oath of loyalty at the treaty ceremonies by which he regulated his succession.

- C riii 6' [ X BA]NŠUR<sup>1</sup> 2-*u* A-MAN  
 E riii 8' 1 BANŠUR 2-*u* A-MAN  
 G rii 22' [ X X X X X X ] X [ X X ]
- C riii 7' a minute additional line? (JNP)  
 E riii 9' ʾ3<sup>1</sup> SAG.UŠ<sup>1</sup>MES<sup>1</sup> :.
- C riii 8' [ X GAL-*ki*]-šir<sup>MES</sup> ʾ.:<sup>1</sup>  
 E riii 10' [ X ] GAL-*ki*-šir<sup>MES</sup> :.
- E riii 11' [ X ] GIGIR A-MAN
- C riii 9' [ X ] A.ʾSIG A-MAN<sup>1</sup> DU<sub>8</sub><sup>MES</sup> :.  
 E riii 12' [ X A].SIG<sup>MES</sup> A-MAN
- E riii 13' [X DI]B-PA<sup>MES</sup> :.]
- C riii 10' <sup>1</sup>DINGIR-SU<sup>2</sup> MU
- C riii 11' [ X ] GAL-50<sup>MES</sup>
- C riii 12' [ X ] DINGIR X [ X X ] X
- C riii 13' 6 NAR<sup>MES</sup>
- C riii 14' [ X ] GAL-[SA]G
- A rII 1' [ X X X X X ] X-*me*<sup>2</sup> EN<sup>2</sup>  
 C riii 15' [ X ] NAM<sup>MES</sup> ʾX<sup>1</sup> SAG<sup>MES</sup>
- A rII 2' X [ X X X X X ] EN<sup>2</sup>  
 B rII 4' 2 KUR<sup>1</sup>.AŠ GAR-*nu*<sup>MES</sup> BAD-HAL  
 C riii 16' [ X ] GAR-*nu*<sup>MES</sup> ša BAD-HAL
- A rII 3' [ X ] SAG<sup>MES</sup> PAB .PAB<sup>MES</sup>  
 B rII 5' 0<sup>2</sup> SAG<sup>MES</sup> tar<sup>1</sup>-bi<sup>1</sup>-a-ni  
 C riii 17' [ X S]AG<sup>MES</sup> PAB.PAB<sup>MES</sup>

A rII 4'	[ x ]	GAR- <i>nu</i> <sup>MEŠ</sup> <i>ša</i> A-MAN	
B rII 6'		0 <sup>2</sup> GAR- <i>nu</i> <i>ša</i> A-MAN	
C riii 18'	[ x ]	GAR- <i>nu</i> <sup>MEŠ</sup> A-MAN	
E riv 1'	[ x ]	GAR <sup>2</sup> MU <sup>2</sup>	
A rII 5'	[ x ]	<i>ša</i> <sup>1</sup> -IGI-SILA	
B rII 7'	1	KUR <sup>1</sup> .AŠ <i>ša</i> -IGI-SILA	
C riii 19'	[ x ]	<i>ša</i> -IGI-SILA	
E riv 2'	[ x ]	<i>ša</i> <sup>2</sup> -IGI <sup>2</sup> -SILA	
A rII 6'	[ x	x x ]- <i>me</i> <sup>2</sup>	<i>ša</i> 3- <i>šu</i> GİR <sup>II</sup>
B rII 8-9'	1	KUR <sup>1</sup> .AŠ GAL-50 <sup>MEŠ</sup> /	<i>ša</i> 3-[ <i>šu</i> x <sup>1</sup> ]
C riii 20'	[ x ]	GAL <sup>1</sup> -50 <sup>1</sup>	3- <i>šu</i> <sup>MEŠ</sup>
E riv 3'	[ x x ]		<i>ša</i> KI <sup>1</sup> - <i>šu</i> <sup>1</sup>
B rII 10'	1	KUR <sup>1</sup> .AŠ GA[L <sup>1</sup> -x x x ]	
A rII 7'	[ x x	<i>ša</i> -EN].NUN- <i>šu</i> - <i>nu</i>	
A rII 8'	[ x x x x x x x ]	x	
C riii 21'	[ x x ]	[ x x ]	

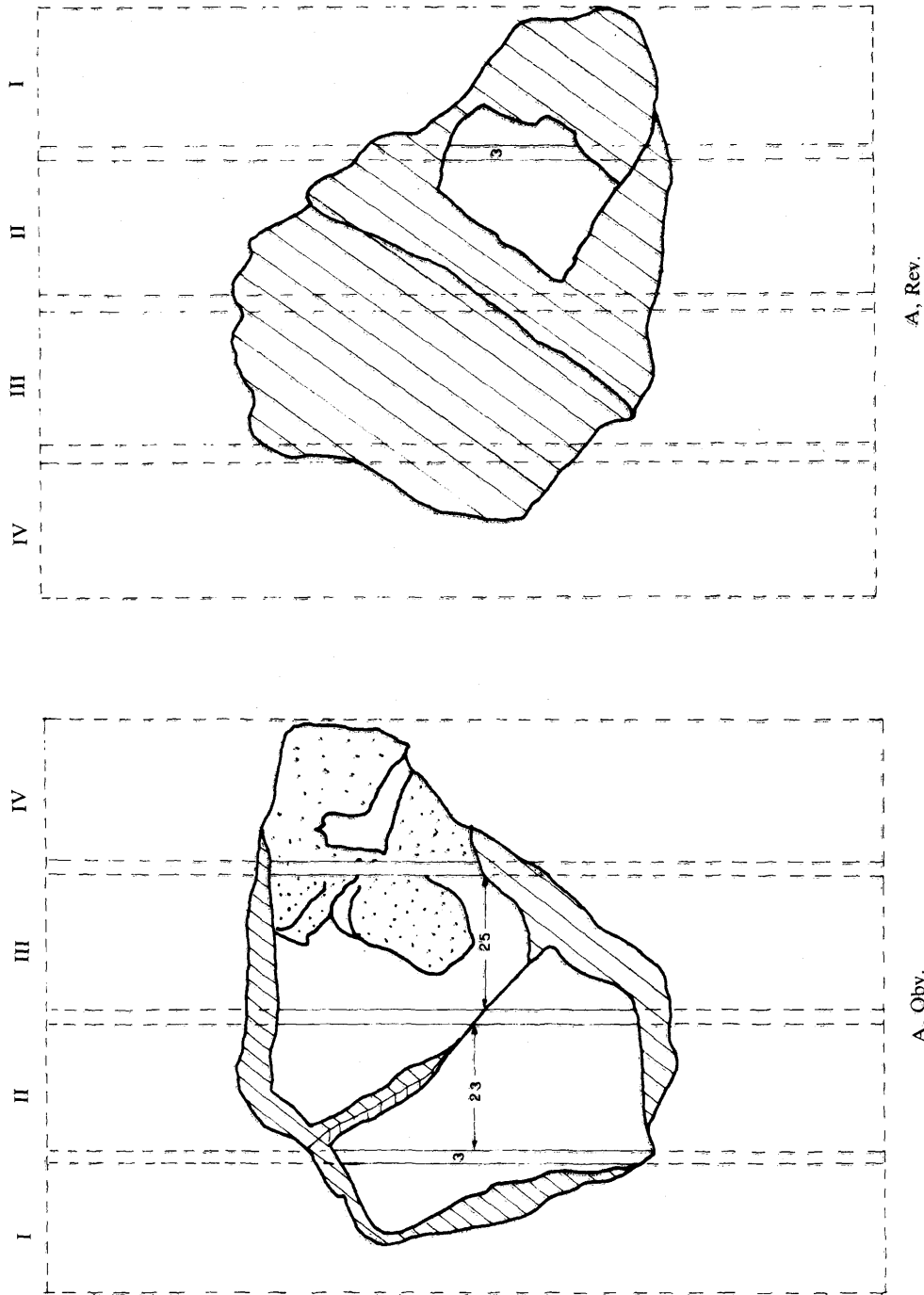
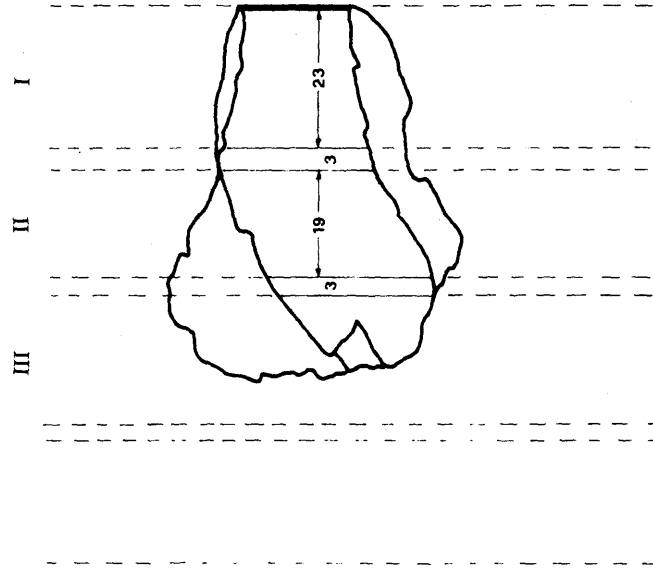
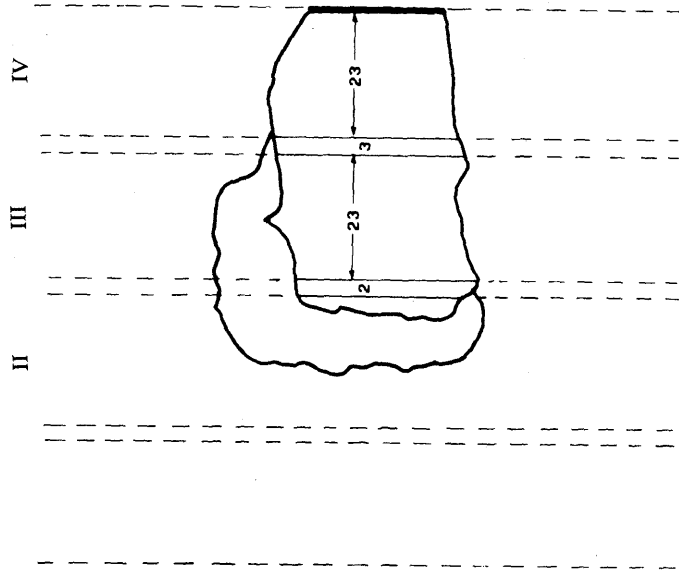


Fig. 2



B, Rev.



B, Obv.

Fig. 3

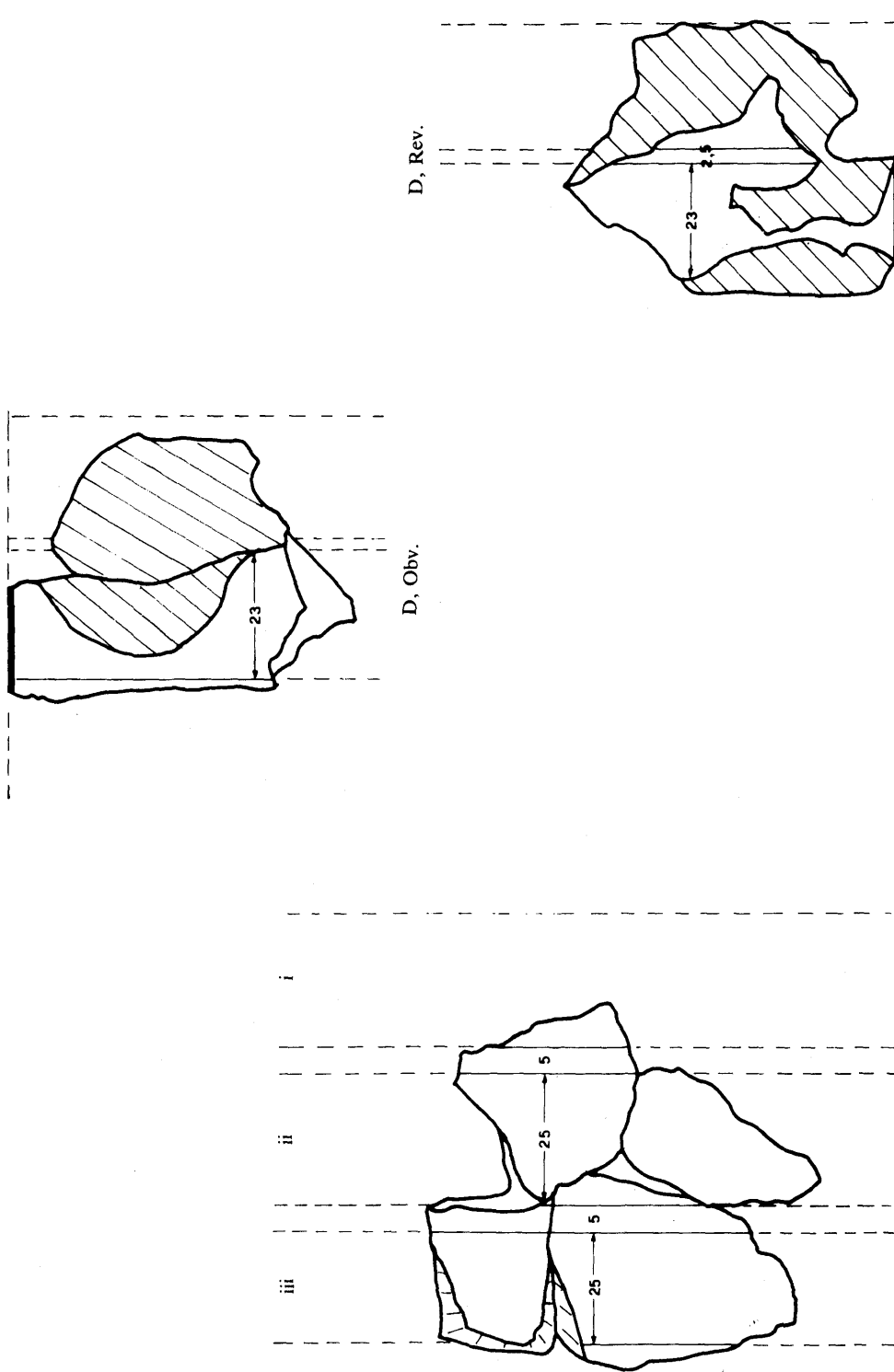
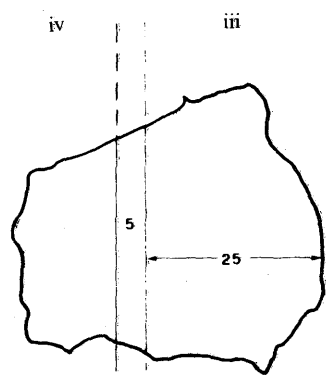
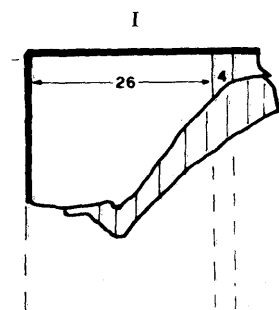


Fig. 4

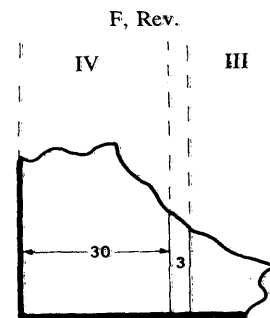
C, Rev.



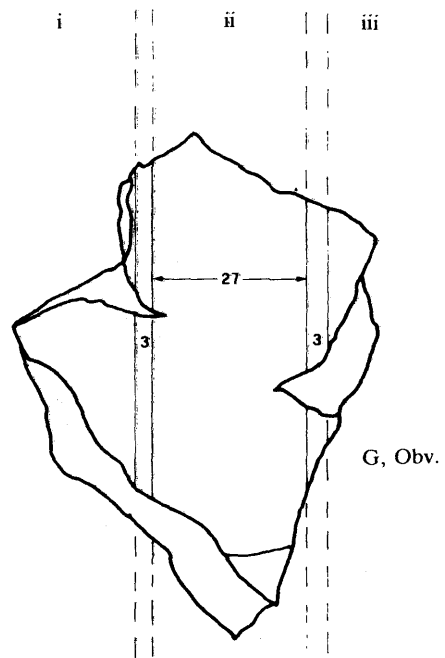
E, Rev.



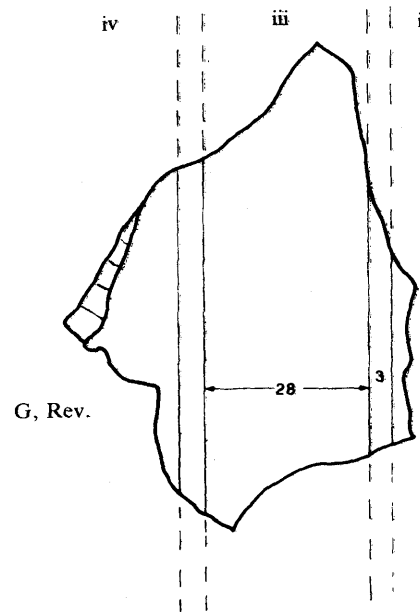
F, Obv.



F, Rev.



G, Obv.



G, Rev.

Fig. 5