

Six Ur III Tablets from the Special Collections  
 of the University of Missouri-Columbia  
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§1 *Introduction*

§1.1 The following six cuneiform tablets from the Special Collections of the University of Missouri-Columbia, MO, are dated to the time of the Third Dynasty of Ur (also referred to Ur III, ca. 2112–2004 BC); they were donated to UMC Libraries by the Ernest McClary Todd Museum, formerly a part of the School of Journalism at the University of Missouri. They probably came to the university in the early twentieth century.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Ms. Kelli Hansen, Print Collections Librarian of Rare Books and Special Collections of the University of Missouri-Columbia, for spending a considerable amount of time scanning high-quality photographs of all six tablets, for sending them as well as the measurements of all six tablets to me, and for generously granting permission for their publication. I transliterated the texts based on those photographs. Additionally, I would like to thank Professors Markus Hilgert and Lorenzo Verderame for reading the paper and providing me with helpful corrections and revisions. Any remaining mistakes or errors, however, are my sole responsibility.

§2. *Transliterations, translations and commentary*

§2.1. *Messenger text*

*Museum No.: MULC 1*

*Provenience: Umma?*

*Size: 22 × 24 × 12mm*

*Date: – x 29*

obverse

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1) 5(diš) sila <sub>3</sub> kaš saga      | 5 sila of high-quality beer, |
| 3(diš) sila <sub>3</sub> ninda            | 3 sila of bread,             |
| 2) 2(diš) gin <sub>2</sub> i <sub>3</sub> | 2 shekels of oil,            |
| 2(diš) gin <sub>2</sub> naga              | 2 shekels of naga,           |

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 3) 1(diš) ku <sub>6</sub> 1(diš) sa                | 1 fish, 1 bundle of onions                |
| šum <sub>2</sub>                                   |   |
| 4) inim-dinanna                                    | (for) Inim-Inanna;                        |
| 5) 4(ban <sub>2</sub> ) ninda ša <sub>3</sub> -gal | 4 ban <sub>2</sub> of bread as provisions |
| simug-e-ne   | for smiths,                               |

reverse

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1) giri <sub>3</sub> inim-dinanna                | via Inim-Inanna;                     |
| 2) 5(diš) sila <sub>3</sub> kaš 5(diš)           | 5 sila of beer, 5 sila of bread,     |
| sila <sub>3</sub> ninda <sup>1</sup>             |                                      |
| 3) 2(diš) gin <sub>2</sub> i <sub>3</sub> 2(diš) | 2 shekels of oil, 2 shekels of naga, |
| gin <sub>2</sub> naga <sup>1</sup>               |                                      |
| 4) 1(diš) ku <sub>6</sub> 1(diš) sa              | 1 fish, 1 bundle of onions           |
| šum <sub>2</sub>                                 |                                      |
| 5) giri <sub>3</sub> da-da                       | via Dada;                            |
| 6) u <sub>4</sub> 2(u) la <sub>2</sub>           | it is on the 19 <sup>th</sup> day    |
| 1(dištenû)-kam                                   | (of the month),                      |

left edge

- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1) i <sup>1</sup> ti ezem <sup>1</sup> -dšul-gi | Month: “Festival of Šulgi.” |
|---|-----------------------------|

§2.1a. This is one of the so-called “messenger texts,” that generally list six types of goods (beer, bread, oil, naga, fish, onion) in quite regular quantities. The commodity designated as naga is generally held to be a product derived from an alkali-bearing plant; based on its common attestation together with what were presumably dried fish, this product may in turn have been used in the preparation of fish or other foodstuffs.

obv. 4: An Inim-Inanna is also found in the messenger texts: *BIN* 5, 297, *MVN* 14, 259, *Nisaba* 1, 170, *Nisaba* 6, 14, and *Nisaba* 16, 84.

rev. 5: The personal name “Dada” recorded in the messenger texts from Umma is also found in *Nebraska* 47; *Nisaba* 1, 12; *Nisaba* 1, 123; *Nisaba* 16, 22; and *UMT-BM* 3, 18.

## §2.2. Withdrawal of livestock

Museum No.: MULC 3

Provenience: Drehem

Size: 58 × 56 × 19mm

Date: Šulgi 46 vii 28

obverse

- 1) 1(diš) maš<sub>2</sub>-gal niga  
    <sup>1</sup>šimašgi<sub>2</sub><sup>1</sup>                      *1 barley-fed Šimaškian billy  
goat,*
- 2) 1(diš) munu<sup>s</sup>aš<sub>2</sub>-gar<sub>3</sub>  
    niga d<sup>e</sup>n-lil<sub>2</sub>                      *1 barley-fed female kid  
(for) Enlil,*
- 3) 1(diš) maš<sub>2</sub>-gal niga  
    <sup>1</sup>šimašgi<sub>2</sub><sup>1</sup>                      *1 barley-fed Šimaškian full-  
groan billy goat,*
- 4) d<sup>n</sup>in-<sup>1</sup>lil<sub>2</sub><sup>1</sup>                      *(for) Ninlil,*
- 5) zabar-dab<sub>5</sub> <sup>1</sup>maškim<sup>1</sup>                      *the zabardab was the requisiti-  
tioner;*
- 6) 1(diš) maš<sub>2</sub> niga  
    mu-ku<sub>x</sub>(DU)  
    še-lu-uš-d<sup>e</sup>da-gan                      *1 barley-fed male kid, delivery  
of Šelluš-Dagan,*
- 7) 1(diš) udu aslum<sub>x</sub>  
    (A.LUM) niga  
    1(diš) ud<sub>5</sub> maš<sub>2</sub>  
    nu<sub>2</sub>-a                      *1 barley-fed long-fleeced ram,  
1 serviced nanny goat,*
- 8) mu-ku<sub>x</sub>(DU) ur-  
    d<sup>e</sup>suen dumu lugal                      *delivery of Ur-Suen, son of  
the king;*
- 9) 1(diš) munu<sup>s</sup>aš<sub>2</sub>-gar<sub>3</sub>  
    niga mu-ku<sub>x</sub>(DU)  
    d<sup>e</sup>utu-ul<sub>4</sub>-gal                      *1 barley-fed female kid, delivery  
of Utu'ulgal*

reverse

- 1) e<sub>2</sub> uz-ga                      *for the E'uzga,*
- 2) da-a-a-ni maškim                      *Dayyāni was the requisitioner;*
- 3) 1(diš) sila<sub>4</sub> d<sup>e</sup>n-lil<sub>2</sub>                      *1 lamb (for) Enlil,*
- 4) 1(diš) sila<sub>4</sub> d<sup>n</sup>in-lil<sub>2</sub>                      *1 lamb (for) Ninlil,*
- 5) mu-ku<sub>x</sub>(DU) šeš-da-  
    da <sup>1</sup>sanga<sup>1</sup>                      *delivery of Šešdada, the temple  
administrator;*
- 6) 1(diš) sila<sub>4</sub> d<sup>e</sup>utu                      *1 lamb (for) Utu,*
- 7) mu-ku<sub>x</sub>(DU) ensi<sub>2</sub>  
    šuruppak<sup>ki</sup>                      *delivery of the governor of  
Šuruppak,*
- 8) d<sup>n</sup>anše-ul<sub>4</sub>-gal                      *Nanše'ulgal was the requisiti-  
tioner;*
- 9) 1(diš) gu<sub>4</sub> 1(diš) ab<sub>2</sub>  
    3(diš) udu                      *1 ox, 1 cow, 3 sheep,*
- 10) 2(diš) maš<sub>2</sub> <sup>1</sup>šu<sup>1</sup>-gid<sub>2</sub>  
    e<sub>2</sub> muḥaldim-<sup>1</sup>še<sub>3</sub><sup>1</sup>                      *2 goats (as) provisions for the  
kitchen;*
- 11) 1(diš) dusu<sub>2</sub>-munus  
    ba-uš<sub>2</sub> mu ur-ra-še<sub>3</sub>                      *1 female equid, slaughtered,  
on account of the dogs,*
- 12) dingir-ba-ni sipa ur-ra-  
    ke<sub>4</sub> šu ba-ti                      *Ilī-bani, the kennelman,  
received it;*  
    *blank space*
- 13) zi-ga u<sub>4</sub> 2 (u) 8(diš)-  
    <sup>1</sup>kam<sup>1</sup>                      *withdrawn; it is on the 28<sup>th</sup> day  
(of the month).*
- 14) iti ezem d<sup>e</sup>šul-gi                      *Month: "Festival of Šulgi."*
- 15) mu ki-maš<sup>ki</sup> hu-ur<sub>2</sub>-ti<sup>ki</sup>  
    ba-ḥul                      *Year: "Kimaš and Hurti were  
destroyed."*

§2.2a. This text records a number of sheep and goats withdrawn for various purposes.

obv. 7: Steinkeller 1995: 52 discusses the meaning of A.LUM = aslum<sub>x</sub> as "long-fleeced." For the discussion of nu<sub>2</sub>-a, see Steinkeller 1995: 55 and Heimpel 1993: 133-134.

rev. 1: For the interpretation of e<sub>2</sub> uz-ga, see Johnson 2004: §3.2, Sigrist 1992: 158-162 and Wu 1996.

rev. 10: The phrase šu-gid<sub>2</sub> means "to extend (one's) hand, to take or accept." According to Sigrist 1992: 40-42, in Drehem texts it often designates animals delivered by shepherds or distributed to the kitchen.

## §2.3. Receipt of garments

Museum No.: MULC 4

Provenience: Drehem

Size: 40 × 34 × 18mm

Date: Šulgi 48 viii –

obverse

- 1) 4(diš) tug<sub>2</sub> di<sub>4</sub>-di<sub>4</sub>-la                      *4 small new combed garments,*  
    gibil<sub>4</sub> g<sup>e</sup>s<sup>e</sup>garig<sub>2</sub>-ak
- 2) ki-la<sub>2</sub>-bi 1(u) 2(diš)  
    1/3(diš) ma-na                      *2 their weight is 12 1/3 minas;*
- 3) 7(diš) tug<sub>2</sub> sag uš-bar                      *7 "sagušbar" garments,*
- 4) [ki-la<sub>2</sub>]-<sup>1</sup>bi<sup>1</sup> 2(u)  
    5(diš) ma-na                      *(for) their weight is 25 minas;*
- 5) [n tug<sub>2</sub>]uš-bar                      *n "ušbar" garment(s),*
- 6) [ki-la<sub>2</sub>]-<sup>1</sup>bi 5(diš)<sup>1</sup>  
    ma-na                      *4 its/their weight is 5 minas;*

reverse

- 1) [n tug<sub>2</sub>] mug                      *n "mug" garment(s),*
- 2) [ki-la<sub>2</sub>-bi] 4(diš) ma-na                      *its/their weight is 4 minas;*  
    *blank space*
- 3) [ki] a<sub>2</sub>-na-na-ta                      *from Anana,*
- 4) <sup>1</sup>mu<sup>1</sup>-ku<sub>x</sub>(DU)                      *delivery;*
- 5) i-di<sub>3</sub>-er<sub>3</sub>-ra lu<sub>2</sub> azlag<sub>2</sub>                      *Iddin-Erra, the fuller;*
- 6) šu ba-ti                      *received them.*
- 7) iti <sup>1</sup>šu<sup>1</sup>-eš-ša                      *Month: "šuešša,"*
- 8) mu ḥa-ar-š<sup>ki</sup>i<sup>ki</sup> u<sub>3</sub> ki-  
    maš<sup>ki</sup> ba-ḥul                      *year: "Harši and Kimaš were  
destroyed."*

§2.3a. This text records the weight of four kinds of garments delivered from Anana, received by Iddin-Irra. For similar Drehem texts associating these two officials with garments, see PDT 2, 1167; SumRecDreh 7; Nik 2, 504; BIN 3, 411; OIP 115, 367; Ontario 1, 8; and BPOA 7, 2932

obv. 1: For a discussion of g<sup>e</sup>s<sup>e</sup>garig/ga-rig<sub>2</sub>-ak "(to be) combed," see Waetzoldt 1972: 115-116 and Attinger 1993: 179.

obv. 3, 5 and rev. 1: For a discussion of  $tug_2$  sag uš-bar,  $tug_2$  uš-bar and  $tug_2$  mug, see Waetzoldt 1972 and Oppenheim 1948: 13-14 and 104-106.

## §2.4. Receipt of slaughtered livestock

Museum No.: MULC 5

Provenience: Drehem

Size: 33 × 29 × 15mm

Date: Amar-Suen 4 xii 14

obverse

- 1) 1(diš) maš<sub>2</sub>-gal niga *1 barley-fed full-grown billy*  
saga us<sub>2</sub> *goat of the second grade,*
- 2) 1(diš) udu *1 sheep,*
- 3) 3(diš) ᵀu<sub>8</sub> *3 ewes*
- 4) 7(diš) ud<sub>5</sub> *7 nanny goats,*
- 5) 2(diš) maš<sub>2</sub> *2 billy goats,*
- 6) 5(diš) sila<sub>4</sub> ga *5 suckling lambs,*
- 7) 3(diš) maš<sub>2</sub> ga *3 suckling kids,*

reverse

- 1) ba-uš<sub>2</sub> *were slaughtered,*
- 2) u<sub>4</sub> 1 (u) 4(diš)-kam *it is on the 14<sup>th</sup> day (of the*  
*month),*
- 3) ᵀki a-ḥu<sup>ᵀ</sup>-we-er-ta *from Aḥu-Wer,*
- 4) ᵀdšul<sup>ᵀ</sup>-gi-iri-mu *Šulgi-irimu*
- 5) šu ba-ti *received them.*
- 6) ᵀiti še-sag<sub>11</sub>-ku<sub>5</sub> *Month: "Harvest,"*
- 7) ᵀmu en ᵀnanna ba- *year: "The en-priestess of Nanna*  
ḥun<sup>ᵀ</sup> *was installed."*

left edge

- 1) 2(u) 2(diš) udu (Total:) 22 sheep.

§2.4a. This text documents the receipt of 22 carcasses from Aḥu-Wer to Šulgi-irimu. For recent discussions of these officials, see Hilgert 2003: 43-53 and Tsouparopoulou 2008: 168-169 and 255-256.

## §2.5. Sealed receipt of millstone of black basalt

Museum No.: MULC 6

Provenience: Umma

Size: 44 × 50 × 16mm

Date: Šu-Suen 5 –

obverse

- 1) 1(diš) kikken ᵀa<sub>2</sub>-da- *1 millstone of high-quality black*  
bar<sup>ᵀ</sup> saga *basalt (?)*
- 2) lugal-iti-da *(for) Lugal-itida*
- 3) 1(diš) kikken a<sub>2</sub>-da-bar *1 millstone of black basalt*
- 4) a-kal-la ašgab *(for) Akalla, the leatherworker;*
- 5) 1(diš) ᵀkikken uš-mu<sup>ᵀ</sup> *1 millstone (of black basalt*  
x *for) Ušmu,*
- 6) 1(diš) ᵀkikken A-DU- *1 millstone (of black basalt for)*  
la-URU<sup>ᵀ</sup> *ADUlaURU,*
- 7) 1(diš) ᵀkikken ᵀdšara<sub>2</sub>- *1 millstone (of black basalt for)*

za-me  
reverse

- 1) ᵀki a<sup>ᵀ</sup>-du-ta *from Adu,*
- 2) ᵀkišib<sub>3</sub> ᵀur-d<sup>ᵀ</sup>nu- *under seal of Ur-Numušda.*  
ᵀmuš<sup>ᵀ</sup>-da  
*blank space*
- 3) ᵀmu<sup>ᵀ</sup> us<sub>2</sub>-sa ᵀdšu-d<sup>ᵀ</sup>suen *Year after: "Šu-Suen, king of*  
ᵀlugal<sup>ᵀ</sup>-e bad<sub>3</sub> mar- *Ur, built the Amorite wall."*  
tu mu-du<sub>3</sub>

Šara-zame,

§2.5a. The text records five millstones of black basalt withdrawn from the account of Adu. Texts dealing with millstones of black basalt are very uncommon. The personal names Akalla, the leatherworker, and Šara-zame, are exclusively found in Umma texts; see, for instance, TCL 5, 5672, BIN 5, 106, AAS 72, Nik 2, 263, BIN 5, 48, MVN 4, 120, and MVN 13, 213.

obv. 1 and 3: The reading of kikken (also kinkin, sign HAR) preceding a<sub>2</sub>-da-bar derives from <sup>na</sup>4kikken ad-bar, with the meaning of "millstone of black basalt," for which see OB Nippur Ura 4 Seg. 1, 106. The term is discussed by Stol 1979: 83-88. The three "kikken" listed in obv. ll. 5-7 are, in my opinion, all abbreviations of the "kikken a<sub>2</sub>-da-bar" recorded in obv. 1 and 3.

## §2.6. Transfer of livestock

Museum No.: MULC 7

Provenience: Drehem?

Size: 23 × 21 × 12mm

Date: Amar-Suen 2 viii 29

obverse

- 1) 1(diš) sila<sub>4</sub> ga *1 suckling lamb,*
- 2) 1(diš) kir<sub>11</sub> ga *1 suckling female lamb,*
- 3) 1(diš) maš<sub>2</sub> ga *1 suckling kid,*
- 4) u<sub>3</sub>-tu-da *new-borns;*
- 5) u<sub>4</sub> 3(u) la<sub>2</sub> 1(diš)-kam *it is on the 29<sup>th</sup> day (of the*  
*month),*

reverse

- 1) ᵀdšul-gi-a-a-mu i<sub>3</sub>-dab<sub>5</sub> *Šulgi-ayamu took.*
- 2) iti šu-eš-ša *Month: "Šu'ešša,"*
- 3) mu ᵀamar-d<sup>ᵀ</sup>suen lugal- *year: "King Amar-Suen*  
e ur-bi<sub>2</sub>-lum<sup>ki</sup> mu-ḥul *destroyed Urbilum."*

left edge

- 1) 3(diš) 3

§2.6a. This text registers three new-born domestic animals taken by Šulgi-ayamu. For the discussion of this official, see Hilgert 2003: 43-53 and Tsouparopoulou 2008: 163-164.

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