

Six Neo-Sumerian Texts in the Boston Public Library

Changyu Liu
 Zhejiang Normal University

§1. Introduction

§1.1. The six Neo-Sumerian cuneiform tablets published here are housed in the collection of the Boston Public Library, Boston, Massachusetts. They were brought to the Boston Public Library in 1928 when Edgar J. Banks had transcribed them

in a letter (April 14). I would like to thank Sean Casey from the Rare Books & Manuscripts Department, Boston Public Library, and Susan L. Glover, the Keeper of Special Collections in Boston Public Library, for kindly granting the publication rights of these texts. Any remaining mistakes or errors, however, are my sole responsibility.

§2. Transliterations, translations and commentary

§2.1. Withdrawal of animals

Museum Number: [CAB.G.3.137-1](#) (Plate 1)
 Provenience: Puzriš-Dagan
 Date: Šulgi 43 iii 20

Obverse

- | | | |
|-----|--|---|
| 1. | 1(diš) sila ₄ ^d en-lil ₂ | 1 lamb for Enlil, |
| 2. | 1(diš) sila ₄ ^d nin-lil ₂ | 1 lamb for Ninlil, |
| 3. | mu-ku _x (DU) šeš-kal-la / u ₂ -du-lu | delivery (from) Šeš-kala, the chief herdsman, |
| 4. | er ₃ -ra-na-da maškim | Erra-nada was <i>maškim</i> ; |
| 5. | 1(diš) udu niga 2(diš) sila ₄ ^d en-lil ₂ | 1 barley-fed sheep, two lambs for Enlil, |
| 6. | 1(diš) udu niga 2(diš) sila ₄ ^d nin-lil ₂ | 1 barley-fed sheep, two lambs for Ninlil, |
| 7. | 1(diš) udu niga ^d inanna | 1 barley-fed sheep for Inanna, |
| 8. | 1(diš) udu niga 1(diš) sila ₄ ^d ašgi | 1 barley-fed sheep for Ašgi, |
| 9. | 1(diš) udu niga ^d alla _x (PAP.NAGAR) | 1 barley-fed sheep for Alla, |
| 10. | 1(diš) udu niga ^d nin-ḫur-saḡ | 1 barley-fed sheep for Ninḫursaḡ, |

Reverse

- | | | |
|-----|--|--|
| 1. | 1(diš) udu niga 1(diš) sila ₄ | 1 barley-fed sheep, 1 lamb |
| 2. | ^d šul-pa-[e ₃] | for Šulpae, |
| 3. | 1(diš) sila ₄ niga ^d ne ₃ -[eri ₁₁]-gal | 1 barley-fed lamb for Nergal, |
| 4. | [1(diš)] ^r sil ₄ ^d si-im-ti-ša | 1 lamb for Išimtiša, |
| 5. | ^r mu ^r -ku _x (DU) zabar-dab ₅ | delivery (from) the <i>zabardab</i> -official, |
| 6. | [^d]nanše-ul ₄ -gal maškim | Nanše-ulgal was <i>maškim</i> ; |
| 7. | 1(diš) ud ₅ 1(diš) maš ₂ šu-gid ₂ | 1 female goat, 1 male goat, designated as <i>šugid</i> , |
| 8. | e ₂ -muḫaldim-še ₃ | to the kitchen; |
| 9. | u ₄ 2(u)-kam | credited on the 20 th day; |
| 10. | zi-ga iti u ₅ -bi ₂ -gu ₇ | month: "Ubi feast," |

11. mu en ^dnanna maš-e / i₃-pad₃

year: “The *en*-priestess of Nanna was chosen by omen.”

§2.1.1 This text documents the livestock credited for various deities and to the kitchen.

obv. 3: For the term u₂-du-lu, see Waetzoldt 1982.

obv. 8: In the Ur III texts, this divine name ^dAšgi is found as part of personal names, such as Lu₂-^dAšgi (BPOA 7 2650) and Ur-^dAšgi (TCL 2 5483), as well as a part of geographical name like ^dAšgi-pa₃-da^{ki} in TCTI 2 3543. For ^dAšgi, see Such-Gutiérrez 2003: 321.

obv. 9: Except for this case, the divine name

^dAlla_x (PAP.NAGAR) is exclusively attested in the texts from Iri-Saĝrig, such as Nisaba 15 488 and Nisaba 15 1070. For the signs PAP.NAGAR read as Alla, see Owen 2013: 555.

rev. 3: The divine name was restored on the basis of Nisaba 15 652.

rev. 4: Except for this case, the divine name DIĜIR-si-im-ti-ša or Il₃-si-im-ti-ša is exclusively attested in the texts from Iri-Saĝrig, such as Nisaba 15 178 and Nisaba 15 944. For the reading of this deity, see Owen 2013: 556.

§2.2. Receipt of Slaughtered Animal

Museum Number: CAB.G.3.138-3 (Plate 2)

Provenience: Puzriš-Dagan

Date: Šulgi 46 xi 25

Obverse

1. 1(diš) maš-da₃
2. ba-uš₂
3. u₄ 2(u) 5(diš)-kam
4. ki lu₂-digir-ra-ta

1 gazelle,
slaughtered,
on the 25th day,
from Lu-diĝira,

Reverse

1. ur-niĝar^{gar}
2. šu ba-ti
blank space
3. iti ezem me-ki-gal₂
4. mu ki-maš^{ki} u₃ / ħu-ur₅-ti^{<ki>} ba-ħul

Ur-niĝar
received;

month: “Festival of Mekiĝal,”
year: “Kimaš and Ĥurti were destroyed.”

§2.2.1 This text records that one slaughtered gazelle was accepted by Ur-niĝar from Lu-diĝira (son of Arad-ħulla). Note that the transaction

of slaughtered animals between Ur-niĝar and Lu-diĝira was also recorded on the same day in the text BPOA 7 2984.

§2.3. Transfer of Animals

Museum Number: CAB.G.3.138-5 (Plate 2)

Provenience: Puzriš-Dagan

Date: Amar-Suen 2 i 21

Obverse

1. 1(diš) gu₄ niga
2. u₄ 2(u) 1(diš)-kam
3. ki ab-ba-sa₆-/ga-ta
4. ^dšul-gi-a-a-gu₁₀

1 barley-fed ox,
on the 21st day,
from Abba-saga,
Šulgi-ayaĝu

Reverse

1.	i ₃ -dab ₅ <i>blank space</i>	seized;
2.	iti maš-da ₃ -gu ₇	month: "Gazelle feast,"
3.	mu ur-bi ₂ -/lum ^{ki} ba-ḥul	year: "Urbilum was destroyed."
<i>Left edge</i>		
1.	1	(Sum:) 1 (ox).

§2.3.1 This text records that Šulgi-ayaḡu, an official of the *nakabtum* organization, seized one ox from Abba-saga. For Šulgi-a'ḡu and Abba-saga, see recently Liu 2017: 236-254, 30-177.

rev. 3: For the abbreviated year name mu ur-bi₂-lum^{ki} ba-ḥul "the year when Urbilum was destroyed" referring to the second regnal year of Amar-Suen, see Hilgert 2003: 19-20.

§2.4. Transfer of Animals

Museum Number: [CAB.G.3.140](#) (Plate 3)

Provenience: Puzriš-Dagan

Date: Amar-Suen 7 x

Obverse

1.	3(ban ₂) dabin	30 liters of semolina,
2.	1(ban ₂) 5(diš) sila ₃ eša	15 liters of <i>eša</i> -flour,
3.	er ₂ e ₂ -nigin ₂ -na	designated as er ₂ e ₂ -nigin ₂ -na,
4.	^d inanna	for Inanna;
5.	4(diš) sila ₃ dabin 2(diš) sila ₃ eša	4 liters of <i>dabin</i> -flour, 2 liters of <i>eša</i> -flour,
6.	^d na-na-a a-ra ₂ 1(diš)-kam	for Nanaya for the first time;
7.	1(ban ₂) zi ₃ sig ₁₅ ninda gur ₄ -ra-še ₃	10 liters of refine <i>zi</i> -flour for (making) fat-breads,
8.	4(diš) sila ₃ dabin 2(diš) sila ₃ eša	4 liters of <i>dabin</i> -flour, 2 liters of <i>eša</i> -flour,

Reverse

1.	dub-dub-de ₃	designated as <i>dub-dub</i> ,
2.	^d na-na-a ša ₃ e ₂ -/gal <i>blank space</i>	for Nanaya at the palace (for the second time);
3.	zi-ga ša ₃ unu ^{ki} -ga	credited at Uruk;
4.	iti ezem an-na <i>blank space</i>	month: "Festival of Heaven,"
5.	mu ḥu-uh ₂ -nu-ri ^{ki} / ba-ḥul	year: "Ḥuh ₂ nuri was destroyed."

§2.4.1 This text documents flour credited for various deities.

livestock, such as maš₂ er₂-nigin₂-na ka ge₆-par₄-ra in [AnOr 7 58](#), udu niga er₂-nigin₂-na in [JEOL 26 51 13](#), and maš₂ er₂ iri nigin₂-na in [CTNMC 9](#).

obv. 3: The phrase er₂ e₂-nigin₂-na possibly means "the mourning of/for the house-of-returning." It also possibly refers either to a type of rite attested in the text [AUCT 2 322](#) (er₂ siskur₂-ra "mourning rite") or to a designation following

obv. 7: For the term zi₃ sig₁₅, see Englund 1990: 86-88.

rev. 1: For the term dub-dub, see Sallaberger 1993: 218.

§2.5. On Female Workers

Museum Number: [CAB.G.3.137-7](#) (Plate 4)

Provenience: Umma

Date: Amar-Suen 3

Obverse

- | | | |
|----|---|--|
| 1. | 1(geš ₂ 'u) 5(geš ₂) 1(u) 4(diš) geme ₂ | 914 female workers |
| 2. | u ₄ 1(diš)-še ₃ | for one day, |
| 3. | geme ₂ niĝ ₂ -ar ₃ -ra e ₂ -amar-ka | (were) female workers of groats in Eamar, |
| 4. | 5(geš ₂) 1(u) 2(diš) geme ₂ u ₄ 1(diš)-še ₃
geme ₂ kicken ₂ | 312 female workers for one day, (were) female
workers of miller-(house) |
| 5. | 3(geš ₂) geme ₂ u ₄ 1(diš)-še ₃ geme ₂ / e ₂ -bappir | 180 female workers for one day, (were) female
workers of beer-house, |
| 6. | e ₂ -kas ₄ a-pi ₄ -sal ₄ ^{ki} | (in) the Ekas of Apisal, |

Reverse

- | | | |
|----|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. | ki šeš-saga ₁₀ -ta | from Šeš-saga, |
| 2. | kišib lu ₂ -kal-la | under seal of Lu-kala, |
| 3. | a ₂ u ₄ -du ₈ -ḥa-bi | its wage of nonworking day |
| 4. | i ₃ -ib ₂ -ĝar | was placed; |
| 5. | mu ^{ges} gu-za ^d en-/lil ₂ -la ₂ ba-dim ₂ ^l (HUL) | year: "The throne of Enlil was made." |

Seal

- | | | |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | lu ₂ -kal-la | Lu-kala, |
| 2. | dub-sar | the scribe, |
| 3. | dumu ur-e ₁₁ -e kuš ₇ | son of Ur-e'e, chief livestock administrator. |

§2.5.1 obv. 3: For the term niĝ₂-ar₃-ra "groats", see Powell 1984: 52.

rev. 3: The phrase u₄-du₈-ḥa is also attested in [AAICAB 1/1 pl. 063-064 1924-0665](#), [AAS 135, AnOr 1 85, ASJ 9 242 19, BIN 5 344](#), cf. Englund 1990: 77 (u₄-du₈-a).

§2.6. Receipt of Beer

Museum Number: [CAB.G.3.137-8](#) (Plate 5)

Provenience: Umma

Date: Šu-Suen 4 xii 25

Obverse

- | | | |
|----|---|------------------------------|
| 1. | 1(ban ₂) 5(diš) sila ₃ kaš saga ₁₀ | 15 liters of good beer, |
| 2. | 3(ban ₂) 5(diš) sila ₃ kaš du | 35 liters of common beer, |
| 3. | u ₄ 2(u) 3(diš)-kam | on the 23 rd day; |
| 4. | 1(ban ₂) 2(diš) ½(diš) sila ₃ kaš saga ₁₀ | 12.5 liters of good beer, |
| 5. | 3(ban ₂) 8 sila ₃ kaš du | 38 liters of common beer, |
| 6. | u ₄ 2(u) 4(diš)-kam | on the 24 th day; |

Reverse

- | | | |
|----|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. | 1(ban ₂) 5(diš) sila ₃ kaš saga ₁₀ | 15 liters of good beer, |
| 2. | 3(ban ₂) 7(diš) sila ₃ kaš du | 37 liters of common beer, |
| 3. | u ₄ 2(u) 5(diš)-kam | on the 25 th day; |
| 4. | ki a-al-li ₂ -ta | from Ayalli, |
| 5. | kišib ensi ₂ -ka | under seal of the governor (of Umma); |
| 6. | iti ^d dumu-zi | month: "Dumuzi," |
| 7. | mu bad ₃ mar-tu / ba-du ₃ | year: "The Amorite wall was built." |

Seal

- | | | |
|------|--|----------------------------|
| i 1. | ^d šu- ^d suen | Šu-Suen, |
| 2. | lugal kala-ga | strong king, |
| 3. | lugal uri ₅ /ki-ma | king of Ur, |
| 4. | lugal an ub-/da limmu ₂ -ba | king of the four quarters: |

- ii 5. a-a-kal-la
- 6. ensi₂
- 7. umma^{ki}
- 8. arad₂-zu

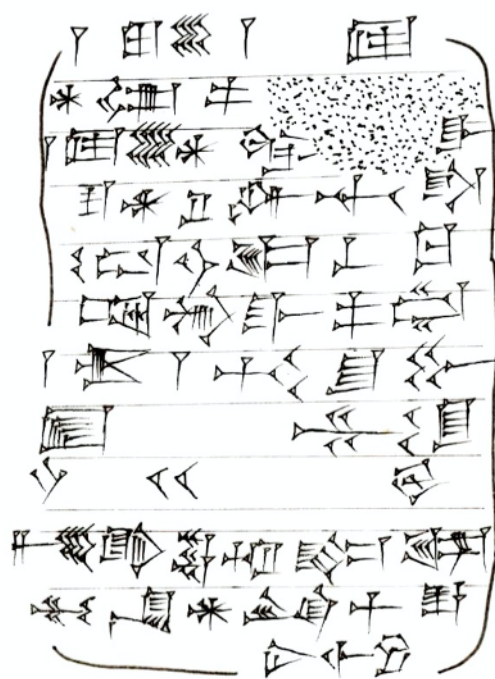
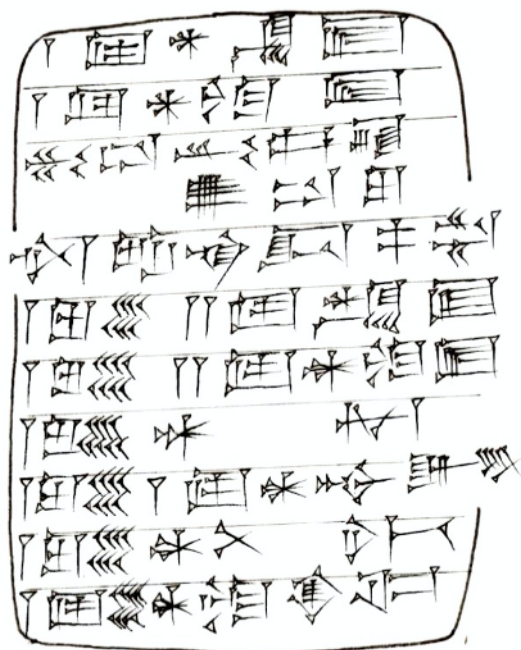
Aya-kala,
governor
of Umma,
(is) your servant.

§2.6.1 This text documents that beer was received by the governor of Umma (Aya-kala in this case) from Ayalli. For further discussion on Aya-kala, the governor of Umma province, see Dahl 2007: 63-69.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

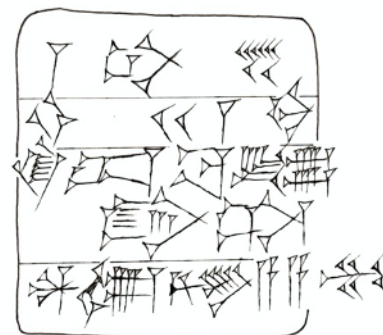
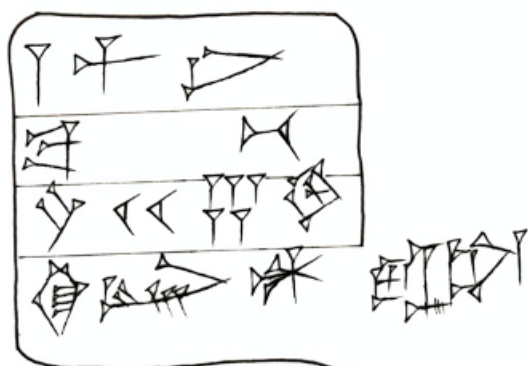
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Plate 1

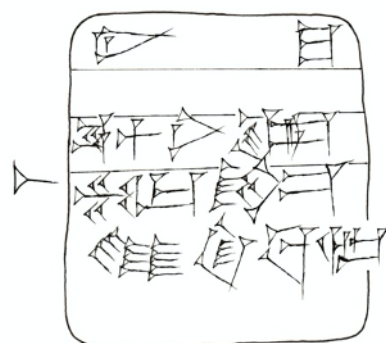


(1) [CAB.G.3.137-1](#)

Plate 2

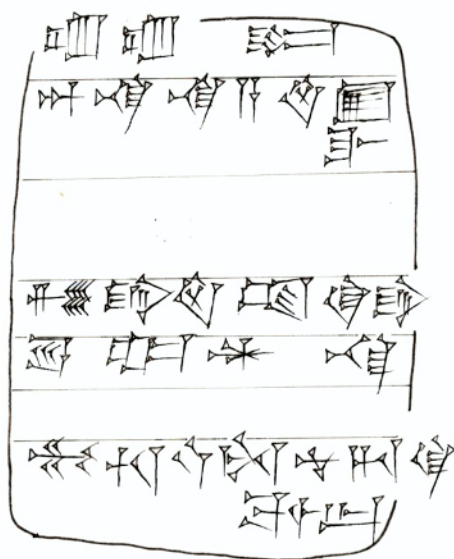
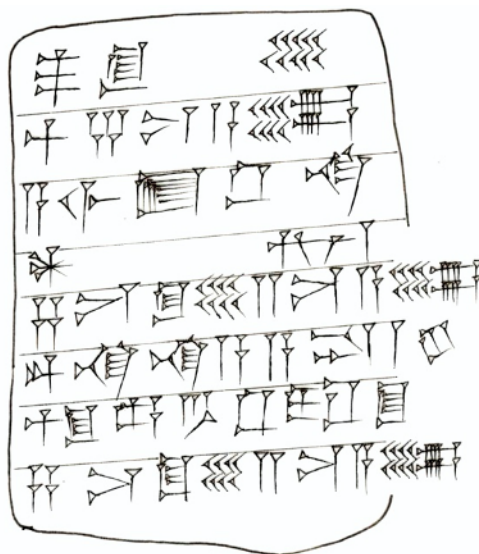


(2) [CAB.G.3.138-3](#)



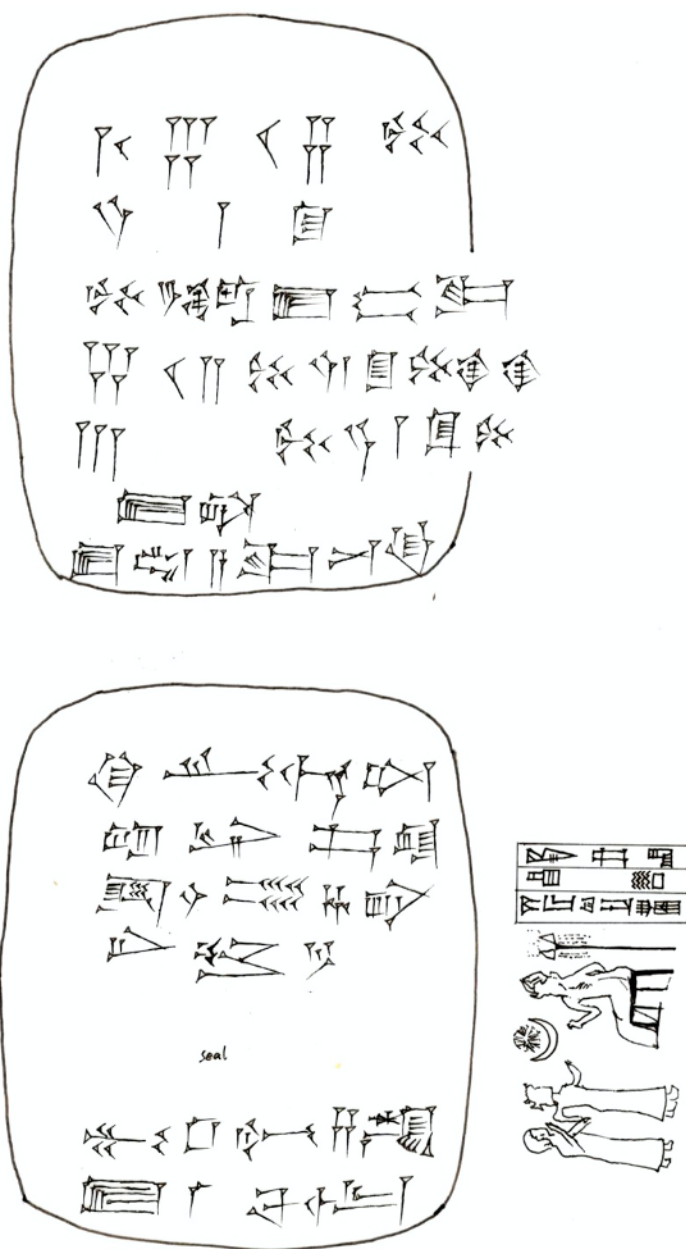
(3) [CAB.G.3.138-5](#)

Plate 3



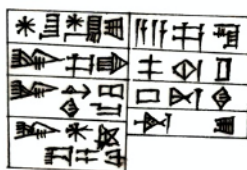
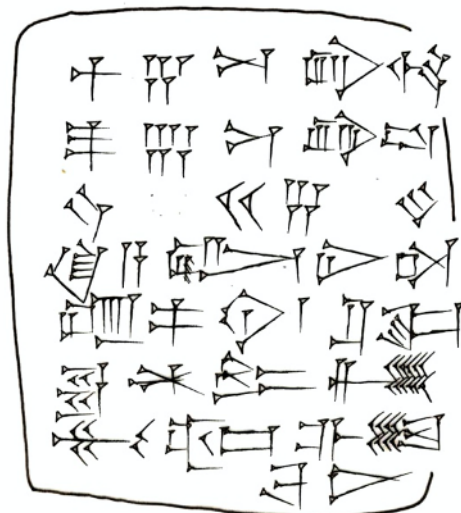
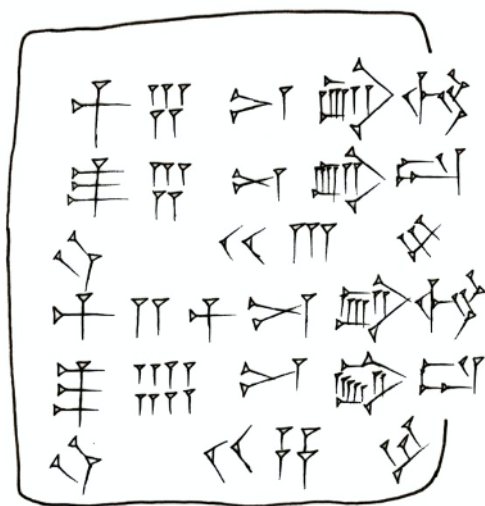
(4) [CAB.G.3.140](#)

Plate 4



(5) [CAB.G.3.137-7](#)

Plate 5



(6) CAB.G.3.137-8