

# Sumerian Tablets in the National Museum of Man, Ottawa

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## XXIV.H:33c

48 × 40 × 11 mm

- 1) an-àm
- 2) ab-[ba KI.SU.LU.Ú]B.GAR
- 3) unu<sup>[ki-ga]</sup>-ke<sub>4</sub>
- 4) dumu DIN[GIR.DINGIR-še-me]-a
- 5) bàd [unu<sup>[ki-ga]</sup>
- 6) nì-dím-d[ím-ma libir]-ra
- 7) <sup>d</sup>GIŠ.BIL.GA.MES-ke<sub>4</sub>
- 8) 'ki'-bi b[í-i]n-gi<sub>4</sub>-a

(Reverse)

- 9) [a] nigin<sub>2</sub>-na-ba
- 10) 'gu'-nu-un-dí-da-dàm
- 11) sig<sub>4</sub>-al-ùr-ra-ta
- 12) mu-[na]-dù

Anam,  
chief of the army  
of Uruk,  
son of Ilān-šemeā  
– who restored  
the wall of Uruk,  
the ancient construction  
of the divine Gilgameš –  
in order that the water might rush noisily  
in its (i.e. the wall's) surrounding moat  
built it (i.e. the wall) for him (i.e. Gilgameš) with kiln-fired  
bricks

The text on the damaged obverse of this tablet has been known since 1893 from a stone tablet of the same size published by Hilprecht (BE 1, no. 26). But although the obverse of Hilprecht's tablet was complete, the reverse was broken. It was not until 1971 that the text of the reverse became known when R.J. Tournay published a stone tablet, purchased from an antiquities dealer in Jerusalem in 1966, which was a duplicate of the Hilprecht tablet (Albright Jubilee pp. 453–7). But although Tournay's tablet gives the full text of the reverse, more than a third of the upper part of the obverse, containing lines 1–3 of the Hilprecht tablet (and of the Ottawa tablet), is missing. The Ottawa tablet now provides a third exemplar of the inscription, with the greater part of the text preserved on both obverse and reverse. A translation of the complete text is given in Sollberger and Kupper, IRSA p. 233, text IVD6a.

Anam was king of Uruk c. 1821–1817 B.C. For the

information available on this king, see Falkenstein, Bagh. Mitt. 2 (1963), pp. 35–7.

## XXIV.H:34c

4.3 × 3.7 × 1.5 cm

- 1) 5 gú síg-gír-gul
- 2) sag-bi 10 ma-na
- 3) síg é-udu nibru<sup>ki</sup>
- 4) a-ba-<sup>en</sup>-líl-[gi]m
- 5) šu-ba-ti

(Reverse)

- 6) gír ur-gá-gi<sub>4</sub>-a  
du[b-sar]
- 7) iti še-gur<sub>10</sub>-[ku<sub>5</sub>-ta]
- 8) iti diri ezen-<sup>d</sup>me-ki-  
gál-šè
- 9) iti 13-kam
- 10) mu <sup>d</sup>šu-<sup>d</sup>suen
- 11) lugal uri<sup>ki</sup>-ma-ke<sub>4</sub>
- 12) <sup>en</sup>-líl <sup>d</sup>nin-líl-ra
- 13) mu-ne-dù

5 talents of gír-gul wool  
its additional weight: 10 mina's  
(being) wool (from) the sheep station of Nippur,  
Aba-Enlil-gim  
has received.

Official responsible: Ur-gagia the scribe.  
From the month Segurku  
to the intercalary month Ezen-Mekigal  
(a period of) 13 months.  
The year: Šu-Sîn,  
king of Ur,  
made (a high stele)  
for Enlil and Ninlil

## Commentary

1) For síg-gír-gul, see Waetzoldt, Textilindustrie, pp. 53–5.

2) For sag in the sense required here, see Waetzoldt, *ibid.* p. 30, n. 252.

8) The month name Ezen-<sup>d</sup>Me-ki-gál is distinctive of the Ur calendar. The tablet is probably from Šelluš-Dagān, modern Drehem near Nippur.

10–13) Šu-Sîn year 6 (c. 2032 B.C.).

Formerly published as W 10 in the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, text 112 in Jones and Snyder, *Econ. Texts*.

**XXIV.H.35c**

9.9 × 5.4 × 2 cm

- 1) 1 gukkal niga
- 2) 9 udu a-lum niga
- 3) 1 sila<sub>4</sub>
- 4) sag-[<sup>d</sup>ŠE]š.KI-zu
- 5) 4 udu [niga] '3'-<sup>d</sup>kam'-ús
- 6) 1 sila<sub>4</sub>
- 7) da-da-ga  
ensi<sub>2</sub>
- 8) 1 sila<sub>4</sub> nam-ha-ni  
šabra
- 9) 1 sila<sub>4</sub> lu-lu-ba-a  
nu-banda<sub>3</sub>
- 10) 1 sila<sub>4</sub> <sup>d</sup>šul-gi-  
i-lí
- 11) 1 sila<sub>4</sub> ri-bí-'in'  
girim<sub>2</sub>
- 12) 1 sila<sub>4</sub> za-zi
- 13) 21 udu
- 14) mu-túm lugal
- 15) 'šu-nigin<sub>2</sub>' 4 udu niga 3-kam-ús

## Column ii

- 1) šu-nigin<sub>2</sub> 1 guk[kal niga]
- 2) šu-nigin<sub>2</sub> 9 ud[u a-lum niga]
- 3) šu-nigin<sub>2</sub> '7' [sila<sub>4</sub>]
- 4) 21 [udu]
- 5) šà-bi-[ta]
- 6) 1 udu niga 3-[kam-ús]
- 7) 2 udu a-[lum niga]
- 8) 3 [udu]
- 9) puzur<sub>4</sub>-[<sup>d</sup>en-líl i-dí]b
- 10) vacat
- 11) 1 udu niga [3-kam-ús]
- 12) 3 udu a-[lum niga]
- 13) [4 udu]
- 14) <sup>d</sup>šul-gi-[x x i-dí]b
- 15) vacat
- 16) 1 udu niga [3-kam-ús]
- 17) 2 udu a-[lum niga]
- 18) 3 [udu]
- 19) a-ba-[<sup>d</sup>en-líl-gim i]-dí]b
- 20) vacat

(Reverse)

## Column iii

- 1) 1 gukkal niga
- 2) 1 udu a-lum niga  
2 udu
- 3) <sup>d</sup>šul-gi-[si-s]á
- 4) i-[dí]b
- 5) 1 udu niga 3-kam-ús
- 6) 1 udu a-lum niga  
2 udu
- 7) nu-úr-<sup>d</sup>iškur
- 8) i-dí]b
- 9) '7' sila<sub>4</sub>
- 10) 6 (read 7) udu
- 11) ur-kù-nun-na
- 12) i-dí]b

## Column iv

- 1) ki-kaš-dé-a
- 2) in-ta-è-
- 3) a
- 4) iti 'ki'-<sup>r</sup>sig'<sup>r</sup>d'<sup>r</sup>nin-a-zu
- 5) mu '<sup>r</sup>d'i-bí-
- 6) <sup>d</sup>suen lugal

## Left edge

u<sub>4</sub>-2-kam gir nu-<sup>r</sup>úr'-<sup>d</sup>suen dub-sar

- 1) 1 fattened fat-tailed sheep
- 2) 9 fattened *alu*-sheep
- 3) 1 lamb
- 4) Sag-Nanna-zu;
- 5) 4 [fattened] sheep, 3rd quality
- 6) 1 lamb
- 7) Dadaga  
the governor;
- 8) 1 lamb, Namḥani  
the director;
- 9) 1 lamb, Luluba  
the overseer;
- 10) 1 lamb, Šulgi-ílí;
- 11) 1 lamb, Ribin the courier;
- 12) 1 lamb, Zazi;
- 13) 21 sheep,
- 14) revenue of the king.
- 15) Total: 4 fattened sheep, 3rd quality;

## Column ii

- 1) Total: 1 [fattened fat]-tailed sheep;
- 2) Total: 9 [fattened *alu*]-sheep;
- 3) Total: 7 [lambs];
- 4) 21 [sheep]
- 5) Therefrom
- 6) 1 fattened sheep, 3rd [quality]
- 7) 2 [fattened] *alu*-sheep
- 8) 3 [sheep]
- 9) Puzur-[Enlil has taken];
- 10)
- 11) 1 fattened sheep, [3rd quality]
- 12) 3 [fattened] *alu*-sheep
- 13) [4 sheep]
- 14) Šulgi-[ has taken];
- 15)
- 16) 1 fattened sheep, [3rd quality]
- 17) 2 [fattened] *alu*-sheep
- 18) 3 [sheep]
- 19) Aba-[Enlil-gim has] taken;
- 20)

## Column iii

- 1) 1 fattened fat-tailed sheep
- 2) 1 fattened *alu*-sheep
- 3) 2 sheep
- 4) Šulgi-sisa has taken;
- 5) 1 fattened sheep, 3rd quality
- 6) 1 fattened *alu*-sheep
- 7) 2 sheep
- 8) Nur-Adad has taken;
- 9) 7 lambs
- 10) 6 (read 7) sheep
- 11) Ur-Kununa has taken.

## Column iv

At the place of the beer libation.

(Handled by) Intaea.

Month: Kisig-Ninazu

Year: Ibbi-Sîn became king.

(Left edge)

Day 2; official responsible, Nür-Sîn the scribe.

A record of the receipt of 21 sheep, of four varieties and collectively termed 'royal revenue,' from seven persons, three of whom are high-ranking officials. The animals are totalled according to the four varieties. The document then records how the 21 animals were distributed among six other persons, none of whom is defined according to rank or office. Dated to the 2nd day of the 5th month of the accession year of Ibbi-Sîn, fifth and final king of the Third Dynasty of Ur (c. 2028 B.C.). The month name belongs to the Ur calendar, which was also used at the government cattle station at Šelluš-Dagān, near Nippur. The contents suggest that the tablet is from Šelluš-Dagān. Formerly published as W 64 in the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, in transliteration only as text 92 in Jones and Snyder, *Econ. Texts*.

**XXIV.H:36c**

11.5 × 5.5 × 2.5 cm

(one or more lines missing at beginning)

- 1') 2 udu niga sig<sub>5</sub>-ús 2 udu niga [
- 2') a-rá 2-kam
- 3') lugal ku<sub>4</sub>-ra
- 4') 2 udu niga 3-kam-ús a-rá 1-kam
- 5') 2 udu niga 3-kam-ús a-rá 2-kam
- 6') <sup>n</sup>nanna
- 7') gir <sup>en</sup>en-líl-zi-šà-gál
- 8') 1 udu niga 4-kam-ús 4 zeh niga [sig<sub>5</sub>-ú]s
- 9') lugal ku<sub>4</sub>-ra
- 10') 1 udu niga 3-kam-ús 1 udu niga <sup>sig<sub>5</sub>?'-r'ús?</sup>
- 11') 1 zeh niga sig<sub>5</sub>-ús gir x [x x]
- 12') 1 zeh? niga gir *kàs-pu-ša* [sagi]
- 13') 1 zeh niga gir *a-bí-sí-[im]-[t]i*
- 14') <sup>na</sup>na-na-a
- 15') 1 udu niga 4-kam-ús <sup>ša?-'u<sub>x</sub>(GIŠGAL)?-'ša?</sup>
- 16') gir *kàs-pu-ša* sagi
- 17') 1 udu niga sig<sub>5</sub> 1 máš-gal niga sig<sub>5</sub>
- 18') 1 zeh niga sig<sub>5</sub> siskur<sub>2</sub> <sup>n</sup>nanna? šà'é-gal'
- 19') <sup>n</sup>nanna-palil sagi maškim
- 20') á-gi<sub>6</sub>-ba-a
- 21') 2 udu niga sig<sub>5</sub>-ús 4 udu niga 3-kam-ús
- 22') <sup>n</sup>nanna lugal ku<sub>4</sub>-ra
- 23') 1 sila<sub>4</sub> niga ni-kí-x-šè?  
(x is hardly saha<sub>x</sub> (HA X A))
- 24') <sup>n</sup>nanna-palil sagi maškim  
(Reverse)
- 25') 1 udu niga siskur<sub>2</sub>-ra? <sup>n</sup>nanna
- 26') 1 udu?-niga? a-tu<sub>5</sub>-a lugal
- 27') gir á-da-a x x x x
- 28') 1 udu niga x x

- 29') 1 udu niga x <sup>d</sup>x
- 30') 1 udu niga <sup>nin</sup>nin-<sup>hur</sup>hur-sag x x
- 31') 2 udu niga <sup>nin</sup>nin-kù-nun-na
- 32') 3 udu niga <sup>nin</sup>nin-sún
- 33') 3 udu niga <sup>nin</sup>nin-líl?
- 34') u<sub>4</sub> <sup>r</sup>ezen?'-<sup>r</sup>maḥ?'
- 35') 4 udu niga 2?-kam-ús x x x
- 36') 1 udu niga x x
- 37') gir <sup>suen</sup>suen-a-bu-šu sagi
- 38') 1 udu niga sig<sub>5</sub> *a-bí-sí'-im'-ti*
- 39') [ ] niga sig<sub>5</sub> *šu-kab-ta*
- 40') [ ] niga x x x gir?
- 41') [<sup>suen</sup>suen]-*a-bu-šu* sagi
- 42') [ ] maškim
- 43') [ ] *na-ap-la-núm* mar-dú
- 44') [ ] x maškim
- 45') [u<sub>4</sub>]-5-kam
- 46') [ki- ] x x x-ta ba-zi
- 47') [gir ] x x x
- 48') [iti ]

several lines missing

(Left edge)

55?

- 1') 2 fattened sheep, fair quality; 2 fattened sheep, [ ]
- 2') second time,
- 3') when the king entered (the temple);
- 4') 2 fattened sheep, 3rd quality, first time
- 5') 2 fattened sheep, 3rd quality, second time
- 6') (for) Nanna;
- 7') official responsible: Enlil-zišagal.
- 8') 1 fattened sheep, 4th quality; 4 fattened kids, [fair] quality,
- 9') when the king entered (the temple);
- 10') 1 fattened sheep, 3rd quality; 1 fattened sheep, fair quality;
- 11') 1 fattened kid, fair quality; official responsible: [ ]
- 12') 1 fattened kid; official responsible: Kaspūša the cupbearer.
- 13') 1 fattened kid; official responsible: Abī-simti
- 14') (for) Nanā.
- 15') 1 fattened sheep, 4th quality, (for) Šauša;
- 16') official responsible: Kaspūša the cupbearer.
- 17') 1 fattened sheep, good quality; 1 fattened full-grown goat, good quality
- 18') 1 fattened kid, good quality, sacrifice (for) Inanna-in-the-Palace
- 19') Nanna-palil the cupbearer, authorizing official
- 20') (for an offering) in the middle of the night.
- 21') 2 fattened sheep, fair quality; 4 fattened sheep, 3rd quality
- 22') (for) Nanna, when the king entered (the temple).
- 23') 1 fattened lamb, for . . .
- 24') Nanna-palil the cupbearer, authorizing official.  
(Reverse)
- 25') 1 fattened sheep, sacrifice (for) Nanna.
- 26') 1 fattened sheep (for) the king's lustration.
- 27') official responsible: Ada . . .
- 28') 1 fattened sheep . . .

- 29') 1 fattened sheep . . .  
 30') 1 fattened sheep (for) Ninḥursag . . .  
 31') 2 fattened sheep (for) Ninkununa  
 32') 3 fattened sheep (for) Ninsun  
 33') 3 fattened sheep (for) Ninlil  
 34') (on) the day of the high festival  
 35') 4 fattened sheep, 2nd quality . . .  
 36') 1 fattened sheep . . .  
 37') official responsible: Sîn-abūšu the cupbearer  
 38') 1 fattened sheep, good quality, Abī-sīmtī  
 39') [x] fattened [sheep], good quality, Šū-Kabta  
 40') [x] fattened [sheep] . . . official responsible  
 41') [Sîn]-abūšu the cupbearer  
 42') [            ], authorizing official  
 43') [            ] Naplānum the Amorite  
 44') [            ], authorizing official  
 45') [Day] 5  
 46') issued by [            ]  
 47') [Official responsible:] . . .  
 48') [Month            ]  
       one or more lines missing  
 (Left edge)  
       55?

Record of the expenditure of animals of various kinds (sheep, kids, lambs, a goat) and of various qualities for sacrifices to various deities (Nanna, Nanâ, Šauša, Inanna, Ninḥursag, Ninsun, Ninlil). The total number of the animals is given on the left edge (55?). The year name was given at the end of the reverse, but the relevant lines are broken away. The month name, which might indicate the provenance, probably occurs in line 34', but it is hardly legible. However, in view of the contents, the tablet is almost certainly from Šelluš-Dagān. Several of the personal names are familiar from documents dated to the reigns of Amar-Suen and Šu-Sîn of the Third Dynasty of Ur (c. 2046–2029 B.C.).