

Sumerian Tablets in the Walker Collection, Laurier House, Ottawa

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X 73-839

65 × 45 × 19 mm

- 1) 6 udu-niga sá-dug₄ dub-lá-maḥ
 - 2) 2 u[du-niga] sá-dug₄ ^dnin-é-gal
 - 3) 30 + [1 udu-niga s]á-dug₄ ^dgu-la
 - 4) 3 ud[u]-'niga' sá-dug₄ ^den-ki giš-kin-ti-gu-la
 - 5) 2 udu sá-dug₄ ^den-ki nin-ul-gùru
 - 6) 30 udu-niga šu-a-gi-na
 - 7) 3 udu-niga ní-g-diri
 - 8) sá-dug₄ ^dšul-gi-ra
 - 9) 30 udu-niga šu-a-gi-na
 - 10) 3 udu-niga ní-g-diri
(Reverse)
 - 11) sá-dug₄ ^damar-^den-zu
 - 12) 3 udu-niga 27 udu
 - 13) sá-dug₄ dumu-dumu-ne
 - 14) 3 udu-niga gu₄-e-ús-sa
 - 15) sá-dug₄ diri-tum
 - 16) sá-dug₄ šu-a-gi-na u₄-30-kam
 - 17) ki-na-lu₅-ta
 - 18) ba-zi
 - 19) šà ŠEŠ.AB^{ki}-ma
 - 20) gir *i-šar-i-lí* dub-sar
 - 21) iti šeš-da-kú
 - 22) mu-ús-sa má-dàra
 - 23) abzu ^den-ki ba-ab-du₈
(Left edge)
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- 1) 6 barley-fed sheep, regular payment (for presentation in) the Dubla-maḥ;
 - 2) 2 barley-fed sheep, regular payment (for) Nin-egal;
 - 3) 31 barley-fed sheep, regular payment (for) Gula;
 - 4) 3 barley-fed sheep, regular payment (for) Enki, the Great Craftsman;
 - 5) 2 barley-fed sheep, regular payment (for) Enki, Nin-ulguru;
 - 6) 30 barley-fed sheep, regular offering,
 - 7) 3 barley-fed sheep, additional (offering),
 - 8) regular payment (for) the divine Šulgi;
 - 9) 30 barley-fed sheep, regular offering,
 - 10) 3 barley-fed sheep, additional (offering),
(Reverse)
 - 11) regular payment (for) the divine Amar-Suen;
 - 12) 3 barley-fattened sheep, 27 (ordinary) sheep,

- 13) regular payment (for) the children;
- 14) 3 sheep 'followed by the oxen.'
- 15) regular payment (for) Watartum.
- 16) Regular payments and regular offerings (on the) 30th day.
- 17) Issued
- 18) by Nalu
- 19) in Ur.
- 20) Official responsible: Išar-ilī, the scribe.
- 21) Month Šešdaku.
- 22-23) The year after: The boat 'Ibex of the Absu' was caulked.
(Left edge)
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Commentary

1) Dubla-maḥ: 'the high platform,' part of the temple of Nanna in Ur.

2) Nin-egal: 'lady of the palace,' daughter of Suen.

4) giš-kin-ti-gu-la, 'great craftsman,' evidently an epithet for a form of Enki, god of magic and of the subterranean waters, not known to me elsewhere.

5) nin-ul-gùru, understood as 'lord who inspires joy,' evidently another epithet for a form of Enki. I know of the epithet only once elsewhere (Oppenheim, Eames 16*), where it is read nin-UL-ga₆ with the suggestion that the ga₆ (ÍL) be emended to ne. But the present text shows very clearly that the sign is ÍL.

13) dumu-dumu-ne, 'the children.' Whose children? The deceased children of the kings just mentioned? All the payments mentioned in this text up to this point are clearly in honour of and for the benefit of the deities mentioned (even in line 1, the payment is probably for the divine genius thought to inhabit the Dubla-maḥ). In the present line the payment is therefore unlikely to be from, or offered in the name of, the children of the reigning king.

15) Watartum was the name of the wife of Ur-Nammu, founder of the Ur III dynasty, and mother of Šulgi, the second king. The offering of this line is presumably for her benefit. Note that, as with dumu-dumu-ne in line 13, the name is not preceded by the semantic indicator for deity.

17) Nalu: a well-known official whose activities are attested from the reign of Šulgi to that of Šu-Sîn (see Jones and Snyder, *Econ Texts* pp. 224, 236-8).

21–23) Third month of the Ur calendar, which was also used at Šelluš-Dagān. Third year of Šu-Sîn, fourth king of the Ur III dynasty, i.e. c. 2035 B.C.

(Left edge) This total of the number of animals listed in the text permits the partly broken number in line 3 to be restored as 31.

In brief, the document is a list of expenditures of animals for offerings to various deities, including two deified former kings, in Ur on the 30th day (a day for special religious observations) of the third month of the third year of king Šu-Sîn of Ur, c. 2035 B.C.

X 73-840

94 × 47 × 25 mm, badly encrusted with salt which covers a good 50 per cent of the obverse

- 1) 132 u₈-bar-gál
 - 2) 8 u₈-bar-su
 - 3) 37 udu-bar-gál
 - 4) 2 udu-bar-su
 - 5) ġir [] kuš_x (iš)
 - 6) 120 [+ x u₈]-bar-gál
 - 7) 3 [u₈]-bar-su
 - 8) [x udu]-bar-gál
 - 9) [x udu]-bar-su
 - 10) []-x kuš_x (iš)
 - 11) [vacat?]
 - 12) [vacat?]
 - 13) [] x
 - 14) [] x
 - 15) [] x
 - 16) [] x
- (Reverse)
- 17) 12 udu
 - 18) 50 u₈
 - 19) ġir *nanna-ki-áka kuš_x (iš)
 - 20) udu a-[lum?] gukkal
 - 21) 10 ùz? ġir ba-a-ba-lum kuš_x (iš)
 - 22) 3
 - 23) a-rá 2-kam
 - 24) 540
 - 25) šu-gíd ki-ur-mes en₅-si
 - 26) uru-sag-rig,^{ki}-ta

- 1) 132 ewes, fleece intact
 - 2) 8 ewes, fleece plucked
 - 3) 37 rams, fleece intact
 - 4) 2 rams, fleece plucked
 - 5) Official responsible: [NN], the herdsman.
 - 6) 120 + [x ewes], fleece intact
 - 7) 3 [ewes], fleece plucked
 - 8) [x rams], fleece intact
 - 9) [x rams], fleece plucked
 - 10) [Official responsible: NN], the herdsman.
 - 11) [apparently blank]
 - 12) [apparently blank]
 - 13) []
 - 14) []
 - 15) []
 - 16) []
- (Reverse)
- 17) 12 rams
 - 18) 50 ewes
 - 19) Official responsible: Nanna-aka, the herdsman.
 - 20) Fat-tailed rams?
 - 21) 10 nanny-goats? Official responsible: Babalum, the herdsman.
 - 22) 3
 - 23) 2-fold
 - 24) 594
 - 25) General dues, from Ur-mes, governor (ensi)
 - 26) of Urusagrig.

The tablet has no date, but Ur-mes is known to have been the governor of Urusagrig from at least as early as the second year of Amar-Suen of Ur (c. 2046–2038 B.C.) until the sixth year of Šu-Sîn (c. 2037–2029 B.C.), see Goetze, JCS 17 (1963), p. 20. The reading of lines 20–21 is doubtful. The rationale of the mathematics in lines 22–24 is not clear. The meaning of the recurrent term bar-su is debated.