

A Stone Foundation Plaque of Shulgi in Birmingham City Museum

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The purpose of this short note is to make known a stone tablet of Shulgi now in Birmingham City Museum (accession no. 1982A3104). It was formerly in the Wellcome collection (registration no. R 3802) and was transferred to Birmingham in 1982. The documentation which accompanied the piece contains no details of provenance nor even the source from which Wellcome acquired it noting only that it was first registered on 31st December 1937. The majority of Wellcome's Near Eastern material was acquired from London salerooms during the late 1920s and early 1930s and such a source is most likely for this piece. Although Wellcome did acquire some tablets from the Amherst collection this one is not listed amongst them, the number is in the wrong sequence, and the Amherst pieces were registered in late 1929/early 1930.

The tablet has a flat obverse and convex reverse and measures 79 mm high by 56 mm wide by 21 mm thick. It is made from black basalt and has been polished all over to a smooth shine though some shallow polishing scratch lines remain on both faces and especially on the edges. It is very well preserved and intact except for a few minor chips on the corners.

The inscription is quite deeply incised and of relatively neat workmanship except for the internal details of some signs which seem to have been done with less care. Note also the irregularity at the end of the third ruling line on the obverse. The text is a duplicate of Kārki, *StOr* 58 (1986) Šulgi 11 and records Shulgi's building activities at the Eanna precinct in Uruk. Other exemplars of this inscription include two stone tablets, one made from diorite in the British Museum (BM 90897 = King, *CT* 21 pls. 10–11 [copy] and *HSA* pl. 29 [photo]) and one from bituminous limestone excavated at Uruk (van Dijk, *UVB* 10 [1939] pl. 22).

TRANSLITERATION

Obverse:

- 1) ^dinanna
- 2) nin é-an-na
- 3) nin-a-ni
- 4) šul-gi
- 5) nita-kala-ga
- 6) lugal úri^{ki}-ma
- 7) lugal ki-en-gi ki-uri-ke₄

Reverse:

- 1) é-an-na
- 2) ki-bé-mu-na-gi₄
- 3) bàd-gal-bi
- 4) mu-na-dù

TRANSLATION

Obverse:

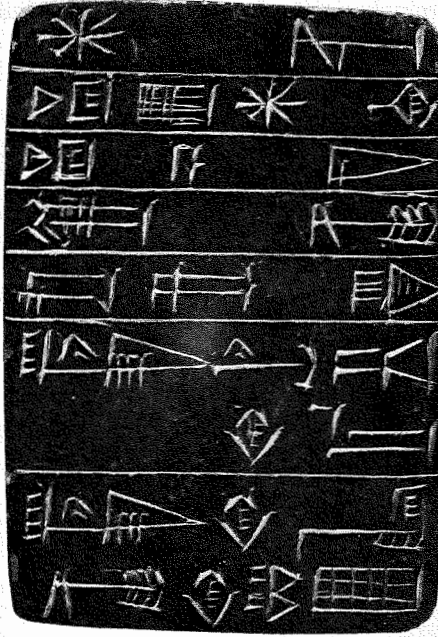
- 1) (For) Inanna,
- 2) Lady of Eanna,
- 3) his mistress,
- 4) Shulgi,
- 5) the mighty hero,
- 6) King of Ur,
- 7) King of Sumer and Akkad,

Reverse:

- 1) the Eanna (temple)
- 2) he has restored
- 3) (and) its great wall
- 4) he has built.

Birmingham City Museum Accession No. 1982A3104
Wellcome Collection Registration No. R 3802

Obverse



Reverse

