

COLLECTION: Cuneiform tablets.

MS
Q4

p.1

DESCRIPTION: 10 tablets bought from Edgar J. Banks, ca. 1915.
1 tablet from the estate of Kate I. Hansen, received 1969.

DATES COVERED: ca 2112-529 BC.

DATES WRITTEN: ca 2112-529 BC.

PLACE: Southern Mesopotamia: Drehem
Erech (Uruk)
Umma
Ur

LANGUAGE: Sumerian
Akkadian

CONTENTS: Each item is separately catalogued: see pp 4-5 for short list, and pages 6-17 for transcription and translation by Professor Tom B. Jones, U. of Minnesota.

Warning: The short list contains in addition the original descriptions of Banks; but these so often clash with Jones' descriptions that it is doubtful whether they are of any worth.

WARNING: The tablets are identified by the box-compartment they're in; take out ONE AT A TIME and make sure they're RETURNED TO THE RIGHT COMPARTMENT. Page 18 is a diagram of the box.

FRAGILE: No. 2 is fragile; the rest are quite sturdy but must not be dropped or wet.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: See p.2

Miscellaneous NOTES: See pp 2-3

Another copy of the short list, and of the box-diagram, is laid in the large compartment in the box.

Correspondence, etc., in MS Records.

alh 6-mar 73.

Box made by wlm in 1972.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

Sumerian. Southern Mesopotamia is known as Sumeria or Babylonia. The Sumerian civilization began with city-states: the center was at first at Uruk (Erech, Warka, Unug) which produced the earliest written documents. These were in pictographic form, which became stylized into cuneiform--a syllabic method of writing Sumerian. Other important cities were Ur, Lagash, Nippur (a religious and intellectual center), and Umma (Djokka, Jokha).

In 2310 BC Sargon, king of the northern city of Akkad (Agade), founded an imperial dynasty unifying Mesopotamia, which lasted to 2154. (NB. Scholars are certain only of the relative position of dates, not of their absolute value: another system dates Sargon ca. 2650. We are here following the system used by Oppenheim in 1964, Jones in 1970, and Kang in 1972.) In 2112 Ur-Nammu founded the "Third Dynasty of Ur"--a new empire rising out of the old city-state of Ur. The kings of Ur ruled Mesopotamia directly or through provincial governors until 2004: Shulgi (2094-2047) instituted many administrative procedures, and we have vast administrative archives from Ur III found in the ruins of Umma, Lagash, Ur and Drehem (a goods depot near Nippur founded by Shulgi).

Old Babylonian. The "First Dynasty of Babylon" (1894-1595) moved the center of empire upstream to a small town named Babylon. Hammurabi (1792-1750) is noted for expanding his frontiers north to include Akkad again, and turning city-states like Uruk into provincial capitals. This period is called "Old Babylonian": during it the business language shifted from Sumerian to Akkadian (or Assyro-Babylonian--the Semitic language of the Assyrians and Babylonians). Cuneiform was used to express this language as well, in the same way that Chinese writing is used for Chinese and Japanese. Babylonia then passed through a Dark Age and subjection to Assyria.

Neo-Babylonian. In the 9th century BC certain warlike tribes known as Chaldeans who lived on the delta began rebelling against the Assyrian rule; their leaders thereafter became kings of Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar II (604-562) conquered the Assyrian Empire and ruled it from Babylonia. But in 538 BC Cyrus, king of Persia, conquered Babylonia and absorbed it into the Persian Empire.

[These notes are a gross simplification of A. Leo Oppenheim's Ancient Mesopotamia, 1964, which in its turn is an "unavoidable simplification".]

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

Oppenheim on legal documents: he who assumes the obligation indicates this by rolling his **cylinder seal** over the soft clay to indicate his presence and thus his consent. This was first practised in Ur III.

Oppenheim on trials: criminal proceedings were apparently not recorded on tablets: a Sumerian text from Nippur describing a trial for murder and execution may be a literary exercise. There are Old Babylonian reports of a strangled slave, a kidnapped baby, a mutilated child, political murder, murdered merchants, and 2 traitors only; theft and burglary records are rare and late.

NOTES abstracted from Kang, Shin T. Sumerian economic texts from the Drehem Archive (Vol I of Sumerian and Akkadian Cuneiform Texts in the Collection of the World Heritage Museum of the University of Illinois.) 1971. (in Watson)

Banks: Professor Edgar J. Banks, a graduate of Harvard and the University of Breslau, had served as American Consul at Baghdad, Professor of History at Roberts College, and as a field director of the University of Chicago's excavations at Bismya. In Baghdad in 1912, Banks had acquired about 11,000 tablets, part of a hoard estimated at 30,000 tablets, uncovered by Arabs who were digging clandestinely in the mounds of Jokha (ancient Umma) and at a small mound at

Drehem: Drehem village (the ancient site of Šillush-Dagan or Puzrish-Dagan) near the Sumerian city of Nippur). The Drehem tablets consist chiefly of the records of the great cattle and sheep market which supplied the temples of Nippur with animals for sacrifice and also distributed animals to the military kitchens. Banks sold Illinois 1800 tablets in 1913.

Illinois holdings: largely Ur III economic texts from Drehem, Umma, Lagash, Nippur, and Ur.

Drehem: These texts come from an archive in the Drehem complex; a large government-operated animal complex established by the order of Sulgi, the second king of the Ur III empire (r. 2095-2048 BC). Here were collected livestock, fowl, and wild animals, brought here either as gifts for the royal families, offerings for the temples, as taxes, or booty from conquered cities. The officials received the animals, collected fodder and bedding for them, set caretakers over them, and finally shipped them to the temples, to officials and soldiers in payment of salaries, or to the royal household. Branches had to make detailed reports of incidents.

1. Small pink tablet. Receipt for 1 dead lamb. 2112x2004 BC. Drehem.
Administrative document from Ur III.

Banks 7: "Found at Jokha, dated about 2350 BC."

Sp

2. Large red and white tablet, repaired. List of cattle, sheep, and goats,
"delivery credited to the royal account." Shulgi 47 (ca. 2048 BC). Drehem.
Administrative document from Ur III. **Fragile.**

Banks 1: "Found at Drehem. Delivered to a shepherd for herding. The
date on the bottom of the back or rounded side is about 2350 BC.
The wedges at the beginnings of the lines are the numbers of
the animals." Sh

3. Brown tablet. Rations of beer, bread, oil, spices and onions.
Shu-Sin 5 (g) (ca 2032 BC). Umma.
Administrative document from Ur III.

Banks 8: "A rare perfect messenger tablet with a list of provisions supplied
the temple messenger for the journey. Dated about 2350 BC. The
messenger tablets are very rare and highly prized for the writing
on them is finer. Found at Jokha." Se

4. Brown tablet. Materials for caulking the ship Ur-Gilgamesh: asphalt, bitumen,
fish-oil, wood, etc. Shulgi 40 (ca 2055 BC). Umma.
Administrative document from Ur III.

Marked Banks 13 (?): "Found at Senkereh (Larsa). A sun-dried tablet giving
the contents of a basket delivered to the temple.
Jones: Banks 10 Rare: from the time of Hammurabi, ca. 2250 BC." (?) Sh

5. Brown tablet. Record of plowing and harrowing the field Gi-apin-ku-du:
man-days required. Shu-Sin 4 (i) (ca 2033 BC). Umma.
Administrative document from Ur III. Sealed.

Banks 10? "Found at Jokha. A typical record of the temple offerings.
Jones: Banks 9 After the tablet was written, while the clay was still soft,
the temple scribe rolled over the entire tablet his cylindrical
stone seal, making it impossible to change the record. About
2350 BC." So

6. Gray tablet. Record of execution of Lugalhili and Lugalabba from Umma for
killing their father Lugalenzen. Sentence passed by the gir-
officials. Shu-Sin 4 (i) (ca 2033 BC). Umma?
Administrative document from Ur III.

Banks ? (Jones: Banks 15: "Found at Tello (Lagash). A list of merchandise. ca 2200 BC"

7. Large white tablet. Tablet of Singashid, King of Uruk (ca. 1850 BC): records
his titles and that he built a palace.
cca. 1850 BC. Erech

Votive inscription

Banks x: "Found at Warka. Written by the temple priests and presented to
the temple by or for the king for his welfare. The crystallization
comes from the salt-peter in the soil of Babylonia. From one of
the early kings of Ur: not long after 2800 BC."

8. Pink cone. Cone of Singashid, King of Uruk (ca. 1850 BC): records his titles and that he built a palace. (Same text as 7, but dittography in l.6) cca. 1850 BC. Erech
Votive inscription

Banks 16: "A votive cone, made by the priest of the temple of the Goddess Ishtar, and sold to the visiting pilgrim who thrust it into the mortar between the bricks of the temple wall as an offering for the king. Dated 2100 BC." §h
Found at Warka.

9. [called "17" by Jones]
Brown tablet. Contract: Aradinnen and Ishtarshuma-ibni must repay 9 kur of barley to the Lady of Uruk and Nana. Witnessed.
Nebuchadnezzar 35 (570 BC). Erech.
Temple business document?: Neo-Babylonian Empire.
Transcribed, transliterated, translated in MS records.

Banks 17: "A neo-Babylonian document of sun-dried clay. 580 BC.
Found at Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar 25 (580 BC)!§e

10. [called "18" by Jones]
Large brown tablet, broken. Court case: Nabu-aha-iddina, the Royal Commissioner and Executive Officer of Eanna, swears that Shullumu has stolen his servant: Shullumu denies it [see translation!] before a jury of patricians.
Cyrus ? (before 529 BC). Erech.
Record of trial: Babylonia as part of Persian Empire under Cyrus.
Transcribed, transliterated, translated in MS records.

Banks 18: "A contract bearing the name of Cyrus who captured Babylon in 538 BC as the first word in the last line."
Found at Babylon. §e

11. Fragment of large white cone or cylinder.
Uncatalogued: from estate of Kate I. Hansen.
Note in box: "Tablet with cuneiform characters, from the excavations of Ur of the Chaldees. To University of Kansas."

Kansas 1-6. Ur III (c. 2000 B.C.) administrative documents from the reigns of Shulgi and Shu-Sin.

Kansas 1. Brown, intact. 15 by 15 mm. Drehem. No year. Month 5. Day 17.

1 silá	1 lamb
ba-ug ₆ u ₄ 17 kam	dead, on the 17th day
ki En-dingir-mu-ta	from Endingirmu
Rev) d ₃ SUL-gi-uru-mu	Shulgiurumu
šu-ba-ti	received.
Month	Month

For comparable texts, see Jones and Snyder, SET , pp. 10-15, and for a discussion see ibid., pp. 222-227.

Kansas 2. Brown, damaged. #72 by 43 mm. Drehem. Shulgi 47 (44 B / e) Month 1. No day.

18 gu ₄ [se	18 grain-fed oxen
11 [gu ₄	11 oxen
1 gu ₄ gis-du	1 gis-du ox
1 gu ₄ ab	1 (ab) ox
5) 6 gu ₄ dar-a	6 spotted oxen
3 gu ₄ gis-du dar-a	3 gis-du spotted oxen
3 ab	3 cows
1 ab dar-a	1 spotted cow
1 amar-gu ₄ -am mu-l	1 calf, year old
10) 1 amar-gu ₄ -am-ga	1 milk-fed calf
1 udu se-gig lu SU	1 black grain-fed sheep, Subarian type
11 udu se	11 grain-fed sheep
9 gukkal	9 rams
1 gukkal gis-du	1 gis-du ram
41 udu	41 sheep
15) 40 udu lu SU	40 Subarian sheep
REV) 45.....	45
280+	280+ (lambs ?)

Kansas 2 (cont)

20)	100+	100+
	4.....	4.....
	1 sila-bar-x	1 bar-gal ? lamb
	2 mas-gal [se	2 grain-fed kids
	2 mas-gal	2 kids
25)	2 mas dar-a 3 {kam-us	2 spotted kids grade 3 quality
	1 SAL.AS.KAR	1 female kid
	mu-TUM lugal	delivery credited to the royal account
	ki Na-sa -ta	from Nasha
	Lú-dingir-ra ⁶ dumu Inim- ^d Sara	Ludingira, agent of Inim-Shara
30)	i-dib	took in charge
	Month	Month
	Year	Year

Kansas 3, Brown, intact. 32 by 28 mm. Umma. Ration text.

Shu-Sin 5 (g). Month 6. Day 13.

Exact parallel in Jones and Snyder, SET. no 217.

Beer, bread, oil, spices and onions given as rations to:

GIS.KIN.NA.NI.SA⁶, du⁸-as⁶ (line 4)

Su-d⁸Samas⁸, du-as⁸ (line 8)

I-li-dan, du-as⁸ (line 12)

This is followed by the totals and the date.

Kansas 4. Brown, intact. 53 by 40 mm. Umma. Shulgi 40
(mu Ša-aš-ru-um ba-hul) Month 13 (SI.A).

200 gu esir-babbar

esir ma gul-la

Ur-^dgis-gibil

70 gu esir-gul-gul

5) e-su-tum gu-~~id~~ id-

da PA.TE.SI-ka-ta

Gir Ur-am-ma

u Ses-kal-la su-i

30 gu esir-babbar

200 talents asphalt

asphalt for calking the ship

(named) Ur-^dgis-gibil
(Ur-Gilgamesh)

70 talents bitumen

from the storehouse on the bank

of the canal of the ensi

Conveyancer: Uramma

and Sheshkalla, the su-i

30 talents asphalt

Rev, 10) 50 sila i-ku₆

2 1/5 (kur) 30 sila esir-e-a

ki Lugal-he-gal-ta

42 gis-u-hi-a

50 measures fish-oil

2 1/5 kur 30 sila
bituminous mastic

from Lugalhegal

42 pieces of wood

vacat

ma-du₈-a

Month

Year

calking a boat

Month

Year

Kansas 5. Brown, sealed. 57 by 42 mm. Umma. Shu-Sin 4 (1).
No month or day.

1/3 iku TUK.[✓]SE.[✓]KIN 1/3 acre plowed

1/24 iku gi[✓]a-ra[✓] 1 kam 1/24 acre harrowed once at the
1/4 iku-ta rate of 1/4 iku

a-erin-na-bi u₄ its rate per worker: 28 days
28 kam (1 worker, 28 days, or 28 workers,
1 day)

2/3 iku gi[✓]a-ra 2/3 acre harrowed at rate of 2 1/4 iku
2 1/4 iku-ta

5) a-erin-na-bi u₄ its rate per worker: 24 days
24 kam

a-sa gi-apin-ku₅-du (in) the field called Gi-apin-ku₅ - du

Rev) ugula Lugal-ku-zu overseer: Lugalkuzu
ki[✓]si[✓]b Nu-ur^d-Mer confirmed (sealed) by Nur-Mer
vacat
Year Year

Seal: Nu-ur^dMer Nur-Mer, scribe, agent of Ahu^{tab}
dub-sar
dumu A-hu-^{tab}

Kansas 6. Gray, intact. 50 by 40 mm. Umma ? Shu-Sin 4 (1).

Month 5. No day.

1 Lugal-hi-li One (person named) Lugalhili

1 Lugal-ab-ba One (person named) Lugalabba

lu GIS.UNUG.KI.ME-še men from Umma

mu Lugal-ezen ab-ba-ni because Lugalezen, their father,

5) ~~ba-hul~~ in-gaz-es-a-se they killed

ba-hul nir-da-as were destroyed for their wickedness

di-dib-ba gir-ir-e-ne judgement rendered by the
gir-officials

Rev) gir Su-ma-ma lu-girim gir Shumama, girim

Lu-Kis^{ki}-da Lukiskida

10) dumu sukkal-mah agent of the vizier

gir Lu^dNanna gir LuNanna

dumu Ur^d-Da-mu a-zu agent of LuDamu, the physician

Month

Year

Kansas 7. White, intact. 96 by 60 mm. Tablet of Singashid,
King of Uruk (c. 1850 B.C.)

Singashid
mighty man
King of Uruk
King of Amnanum
Nourisher of Eanna

Rev) The Palace
of his royalty
built.

Kansas 8. Cone. Red brown. Diameter 30, altitude 55. Cone
of Singashid, King of Uruk.

Singashid
mighty man
King of Uruk
King of Amnanum
The Palace
The Palace (apparent dittography)
of his royalty
built.

Item 9

#17

OBY.

1. 凡欲入學之學生
 2. 須先向本校
 3. 領取入學表
 4. 填妥後
 5. 繳交本校
 6. 以便
 7. 審核
 8. 合格者
 9. 即可
 10. 入學

5

LoE

1. 凡欲入學之學生
 2. 須先向本校
 3. 領取入學表
 4. 填妥後
 5. 繳交本校
 6. 以便
 7. 審核
 8. 合格者
 9. 即可
 10. 入學

10

Rev

1. 凡欲入學之學生
 2. 須先向本校
 3. 領取入學表
 4. 填妥後
 5. 繳交本校
 6. 以便
 7. 審核
 8. 合格者
 9. 即可
 10. 入學

15

U.E

1. 凡欲入學之學生
 2. 須先向本校
 3. 領取入學表
 4. 填妥後
 5. 繳交本校
 6. 以便
 7. 審核
 8. 合格者
 9. 即可
 10. 入學

University of Kansas-no number #17
Brown- 3.5 by 4.6 mm
Nebuchadrezzar- Year 35, month not clear, 5th day

OBV.

1. 9 GUR ŠE.BAR šu-pil-ti
2. šá 6 GUR ZÚ.LUM.MA NÍG.GA
3. dGĀŠAN šá UNUG.KI u d_{na-na-a}
4. ina UGU I_{IR}-d_{in-nin} A I_{šá-du-nu}
5. u Id_{XV.MU.DÙ} A-šú šá Id_{EN.GI}
6. ina ITI GU₄ ina ma-š_{i-hu} šá dGĀŠAN šá UNUG.KI
7. ina É.AN.NA i-nam-di-nu
8. 1-en pu-ut šá-ni-i

LO.E.

9. na-š_{u-ú}
10. [e]lat ú-_{il-tim} šá ina UGU I_{IR}-d_{in-nin}
11. LÚ mu-kin-nu Id_{EN-šú-nu}
12. A-šú šá Id_{AG.ŠEŠ.MEŠ.MU} A I_{e-gi-bi}
13. Id_{AG.MU.MU} A-šú šá Id_{EN-ib-ni} A Id_{EN.ZALÁG-ú}
14. Id_{AMAR.UD.MU.URÙ} A-šú šá I_{kit-ia?} A Id_{XXX-tab-ni}
15. LÚ.ŠID I_{É.AN.NA.MU.DÙ}
16. A-šú šá I_{ŠEŠ.MEŠ-šá-a} UNUG.KI
17. ITI x UD.Š.KAM MU.35.KAM

U.E..

18. Id_{AG.NÍG.DU.URÙ} LUGAL TIN.TIR.KI

University of Kansas- no number

#17

TRANSLATION

1. 9 kur of barley in lieu of
2. 6 kur of dates, the property of
3. the Lady of Uruk and Nanâ
4. Charged against Arad-Innin son of Šadûnu
5. and Ištar-šūma-ibni son of Bēl-ušallim
6. In the month of Ayyar, according to the measure of the Lady of Uruk
7. they shall pay(back) into the Eanna.
- 8,9. One will bear responsibility for the other
10. (This is) apart from any (previous) contract which (was) charged against Arad-Innin.
11. Witnesses: Bēl-šunu
12. son of Nabu-ahhē-iddina descendant of Egibi
13. Nabu-šūma-iddina son of Bēl-ibni descendant of Bēl-nūru
14. Marduk-šuma-ušur son of Kit-ia? /descendant/ of Sīn-tabni
15. Scribe- Eanna-šūma-ibni
16. son of Ahhē-šâ. Uruk
17. month of [x], 5th day, 36th year of
18. Nebuchadrezzar, King of Babylon.

University of Kansas- #18
Brown- 5.1 by 6.2 cent mm

Cyrus, Year name broken, Month of Arahšamnu, day number broken

OBV

1. Iba-ni-ia A-šú šá Ika-b-ti-ia A [..]
2. Id^{XV}.ŠEŠ.MU A-šú šá Idin-nin-NUMUN.BA-šá LÚ.[SIPÁ].[SA.DUG₄]
3. Izu-um-bu A-šú šá Iba-ni-ia A Id^{XXX}.TI.ER
4. Igu-za-nu A-šú šá Id^{AG}.DÙ.ŠEŠ A Iku-ri-i
5. Id^{na-na-a}.ŠEŠ.MU A-šú šá Ila-qi-pi
6. I^{MU}.GI.NA A-šú šá I^{AG}.SIG₅-iq
7. LÚ.DUMU.DÙ-i.MEŠ šá ina pa-ni-šú-nu
8. Id^{AG}.ŠEŠ.MU LÚ.SAG.LUGAL LÚ.EN-pi-qit-tuq É.AN.NA
9. a-na I^{šul}-lu-mu A-šú šá

LO.E

10. Id^{AG}.GIN.IBILA iq-bi um-ma
11. i-na Iku-ra-áš LUGAL TIN.TIR.KI
12. LUGAL KUR.KUR-ti-me ki-i DUMU-ú-a
13. šá ta-bal i-ta-ba-ku lu a-mu-ru
14. I^{šul}-lu-mu iq-bi um-ma DUMU-ú-a
15. UD^{mu}-us-su ina su-ú-qu [am-mar]
16. LÚ.DUB Igi-mil-lu [A-šú šá [Idin-nin-NUMUN] [MU]]
17. UNUG.KI ITI APIN [UD.X.KAM MU.X.KAM]
18. Iku-ra-áš LUGAL [TIN.TIR, KI LUGAL KUR.KUR]

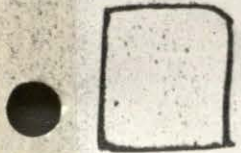
University of Kansas-#18

TRANSLATION

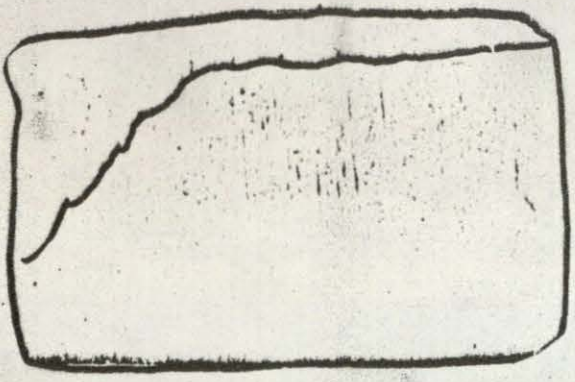
1. Bānīa son of Kabtia descendant of [...]
2. Iṣtar-aḥa-iddina son of Innin-zēra-iqīsa--sheperd [of the regular offering]
3. Zumbu son of Bānīa descendant of Sīn-liq-unnini
4. Guzanu son of Nabu-bāni-aḥa descendant of Kūri
5. Nanā-aḥa-iddina son of Laqīpi
6. Šum-ukīn son of Nabu-mudammīq
7. (these are the) mār-bāni (patricians) who before them
8. Nabu-aḥa-iddina, the Royal Commissioner and Executive Officer of Eanna
9. to Šullumu son of
10. Nabu-mukīn-aplī swore thus (lit. said as follows)
11. by Cyrus, the king of Babylon
12. the king of the lands:
13. "I saw (a person who looked) like my servant whom a thief had stolen."
14. Šullumu swore as follows (lit. said as follows):
15. "I see my servant in the street every day."
16. Scribe- Gimillu son of Innin-zēra-iddina
17. Uruk, Month of Araḥsamnu, [x day, x year]
18. Cyrus, king [of the lands]

Comm.

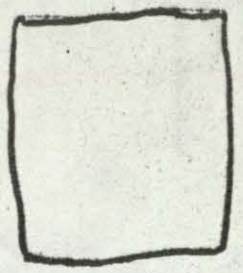
Nabu-aḥa-iddina claims that Šullumu has stolen his servant. Šullumu replies sarcastically that he sees his own servant every day + hence denies the charge.



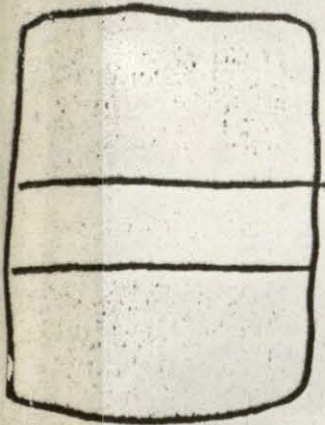
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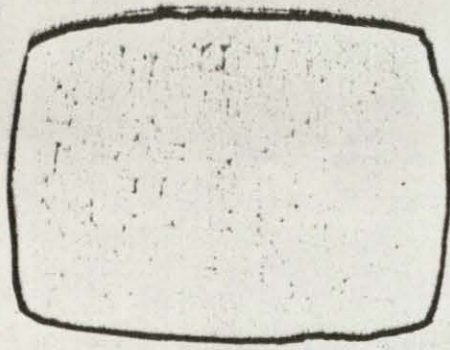
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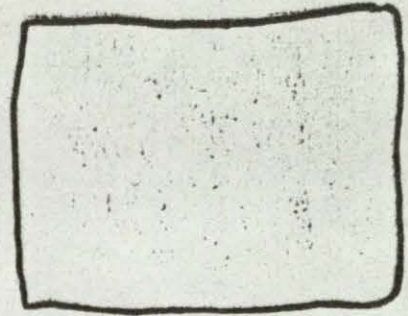
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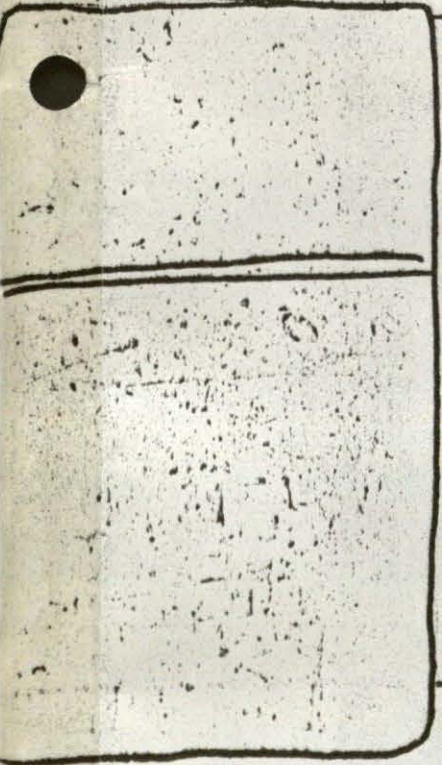
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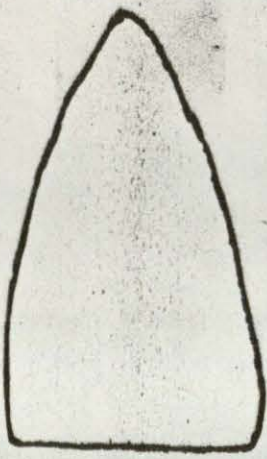
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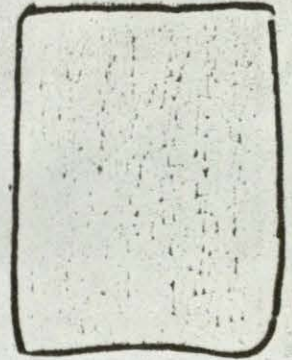
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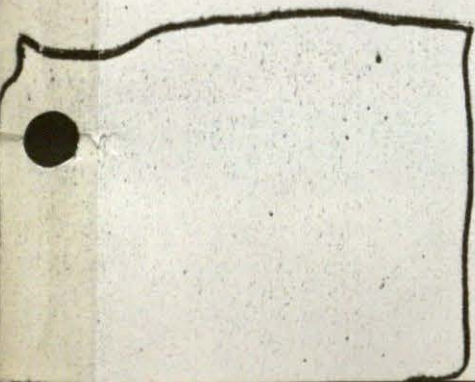
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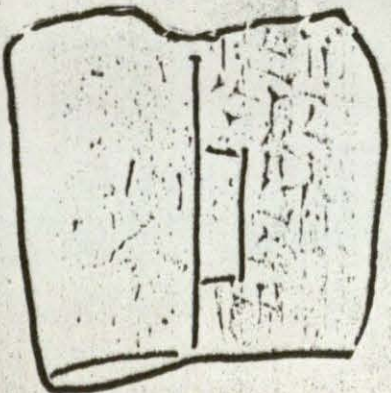
8



9



10



11

Guide to layout
of box containing
Clay tablets