

Unpublished Ur III Texts, Ageština Field

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Abstract:

This article presents four cuneiform tablets from the confiscated collection in the Iraq Museum in Baghdad. The texts likely originate from the Umma provenance, and are dated to the reign of Amarsuen (AS9) and šusuen (šS2) of the Ur III dynasty. The tablets contain information about the field Ageština, which is also mentioned in Ur III texts. We trace the location of a- ša₃-a-ge štin-na, the area of the Ageština, and agricultural processes through additional texts available in the BDTNS database, complementing the information found in our unpublished texts.

Keywords: Ur III, Ageština field

Introduction:

In the Ur III period, the field exclusively belonged to the king (state) and the temple(Ebeling (R1A-) p.35). It was typically rented by individuals for a limited amount of barley or silver in return(Steinkeller (1981)p.115). The Sumerian term for the field is A- ša₃.g(Sumerian Dictionary ,A ,part-one,p.168), while in Akkadian, it is referred to as eqlum(CAD, E,p.249).

the location of a-ša₃-a-geštin-na

Ageština field, is mentioned in Ur III texts from Umma and Girsu, all dated to the years between SH31-IS3. I utilized these texts to explore the topography of the field. The field a-geštin-na is situated in Umma (Sauren 1966, p.199). Pettinato suggested that a-ša₃-a-geštin-na means "field in the water of the vine," feld am wasser des Weinstockes) and it is located near the lugala field (Pettinato 1967, p.66). The Ageština field was cultivated with barley and sesame (see sigrist, M.& Ozaki, T.,2013, 765; Durand, J.-M. (1987):30)

the area of Ageština field

The cuneiform texts document the areas of fields during the Ur III period between SH31 and ŠS7, listed as follows:

Date	area	reference
sh 31	5.635.25 iku/197.233.75 ha	Maekawa (1995) no.118
AS5	27 iku /2520 ha	Koslova (2000) MVN 21/142
AS5	245 iku/8.575 ha	Ozaki (2002) santag 7 163
AS6	108 iku /3.780ha	Gomi & Sato SNAT (1990) 363
AS7	25iku/ 875ha	Civil (1994) 8.3.2
AS7	148.5 iku/5.197.5 ha)	Oberhuber (1958) SAKF 95
šs4	71.5iku/2. 502.5ha	waetzoldt & Yildiz (1994) MVN 16 1533
šs7	15 iku/525 iku	Genouillac (1922) TCL 5 6043

The list does not help us distinguish the full area of the field. The largest area recorded for the field in a text dated to AS5 is 8575 hectares. However, we cannot be certain if this is the entire area documented for the field or just a part of it.

Agricultural processes

The cuneiform Texts mentioned Agricultural processes that took place in the Ageštinna field:

cut the reed and weed			Hoeing and plowing		
date	publication	BDTN S	date	publicatio n	BDTN S
AS4/ vi	cdlj 2008 no.20	17147 4	AS8/..	Princeton 2 142	06117 7
AS4/ .	MCS 3 p.92	01265 1	IS1/viii/ 3	JCS 24 no.3	03402 6
AS5/ .	MVN 21 142	04594 4			
As6/..	www.britishmuseum.org/collection (BM) 106105	05801 5			
AS7/ .	MCS8 p.52	01362 3			
AS8/ .	MVN 16 1485	03795 3			
AS8/ .	UTI6 3671	05111 2			
SS1/..	MCS 3 p.85	01259 8			
SS4/..	UTI5 3012	05041 8			
SS4/..	UTI5 3169	05057 5			
SS5/..	Nikol'skij (1915) 138	00437 7			
SS5/..	MVN 21 151	04595 3			

SS5/..	MVN21 97	04589 9			
SS6?/ ..	JSOR12 n0.21	00672 7			
SS6/..	SAT-3 1672				
SS6/..	MVN 4 19	01848 9			
SS6/..	WZKM 59-60 p.116	01452 5			
SS7/..	Sauren (1978) 62	02172 1			

Harrowing			Reaping or harvesting		
date	publication	BDTNS	date	publication	BDTNS
AS9/v	AUCT3 464	030210	AS8/..	UTI 5 3462	050867
AS9/..	Nisaba 26 18	069113	SS1/..	PPAC-10 422	033354
SS4/..	MVN 16 1533	038001	SS2/..	ERC 273	026214
SS5/..	BPOA 1 489	058177	SS2/..	Nisaba 23 97	069388
SS5/..	JSOR12 p.41	006734	SS2/..	PPAC-10 390	033322
ss6/..	SAT 3 1690	049873	SS5/..	SAT 3 1558	049741
SS7/..	TCL5 6043	006194	SS5/..	AAICAB1/1, Ashm.1924- 677	038743
SS7/..	BCT 2 41	034990	SS6/..	SAT 3 1744	049927
			SS6/..	Nisaba 23 75	069323

Winnow			Male and Female workers; Irrigation, harvesting and earth work		
date	publication	BDT NS	date	publicat ion	BDT NS
Sh39/..	CUSAS 16,15	00144 6	sh 47/..	PPAC- 18 497	06151 4
Sh43/..	ASJ-15 no.95	03493 0	AS2	BPOA- 1 971	05866 5
AS5/..	http://www.bonhams.com/auctions/20670/lot/68	19380 2	IS3/. .	AnOr- 45 no.60	01571 0
AS5/..	UTI-5 3045	05045 1	IS3/. .	Zinbun 22, p. 25	02931 6

AS5/..	BPOA1 1120	05882 4			
AS5/../ 18	AAICAB1/2 AShm.1971-258	15844 5			
AS5/ii	MVN16 813	03728 1			
AS5/..	BPOA 2 2254	07085 3			
AS5/iv	SAT- 2 842	04902 5			
AS5 /..	UTI-4 2675	04541 3			
AS7/..	BPOA 2 2100	07069 6			
AS7/..	MVN 16 1398	03786 6			
AS9/..	MVN- 13 290	02770 7			
SS2/..	BPOA 6 747	06208 8			
SS2/..	AnOr-1 161	00772 9			

The canal, the dam, the coast and the reservoir					
date	publication	BDTNS	date	publication	BDTNS
AS8/..	MVN-16 818	037286			
AS8/..	MVN-16 772	037240			
AS8/..	UTI-4 2791	045529			
SS6/..	Nikol'skij (1915) 155	004394			
SS7/..	MVN- 21 124	045926			
SS7/..	Nisaba 23 008	069105			
IS2/i	MVN- 14 549	030862			

Unpublished texts from the Iraqi Museum

catalogue					
Nr.	IM	HxWxTh mm	seal	date	remarks
1	239785	4.1x1.5x1.4	-	AS9/i	assignment of workdays for the breaches (a-e ₃ -a) at canals
2	239679	4.1x3.6x1.2		AS9/-	assignment of workdays for pouring out barley and threshing floor
3	239453	3.5x1.5x1.4	-	AS9/-	Assigning a number of female workers to carry out grain to the silo.
4	239701	4.6x1.8x1.5		šs2/vii/viii	Assigning a number of female workers for field work.

Text

1-IM 239785 Date: AS9/i

obv.	
1.10 geme ₂ u ₄ 1 še ₃	10 female workers for one day
2.a-e ₃ -a	breach
3.e a-ša ₃ -a-geštin TUR! gub-ba	canel in the Ageštinna field stationed
4. ġiri ₃ i-tib-ši-na-at šakkan ₆	under the authority of Itibšinat the military governor
Rev.	
5.geme ₂ i ₃ -sur-me	female workers oil-pressers
6.iti še-kin-ku ₅	
7.mu en ga-eš ^{ki} ba-hun	the year en of Gaeš was installed (AS9)

Commentary:

2) the term a-e₃-a is a “breach” or an “water outlet” (for irrigation/drainage) see (PSD A1-62)

Rost suggested that a-e₃-a is a breach mainly authenticated for fields followed by canels and various towns .see (Rost (2015) p.186f).the breaches were association with field that dealing with field installations. for instance an outlet in a field bund. The breaches were closed primarily in April during the flood. (Rost 2015) p.188) Therefore the text used še-kin-ku₅ indicated flood in this month.

3) e a-ša₃-a-geštin-na TUR! gub-ba usually written e a-ša₃ FN a-da gub-ba see (Grégoire 1970 28) or e a-ša₃ FN gub-ba (Sigrist 1983 92) the sign TUR here is written fault.

4) the name i-tib-ši-na-at is rare in ur III Texts .its attested in texts from Drehem (pizris-dagan) dealing with cattel According to the seal impression appears as via and ahead cup bearer. (Liu (2021) 273;

Sollberger (1978) 132; Sigrist (1995) 164).the name occurs from AS5 to IS2. He is as military governor in one text from Ur dealing with monthly offerings (ezem-mah) received from him, unfortunately the text does not have a date formula (Legrain UET III 272)

2- IM239679. Date: AS9

obv.	
1.15 guruš u ₄ 31 še ₃	15 workers for 31 days
2.še-de ₂ -a u ₃ ki-su ₇ /ka-gub-ba	at pouring out barley and threshing floor were in servise
3.a-ša ₃ -a-geštin-na	of the field Ageštinna
4.ugula ġiri ₃ -ni- i ₃ - sa ₆	supervisor :Girinisa
Rev.	
5.ġiri ₃ šu-ad-mu	under the authority of šuadmu
6.kišib e-ni-iš-da-hu-um	sealed by Enišdahum
7.mu en ga-eš ^{ki} ba-hun	the year en of Gaeš was installed (AS9)

Commentary:

2) the expression še de₂-a literally ‘barley that pour out’ see (Civil (1994) p.94. Sallaberger suggested that še de₂ means Simply “pouring” barley without measuring it. Almost še de₂ beside še ġiš ra (Sallaberger (2016) p.246) še de₂ appears associated with a threshing floor (ki-su₇) (see CDLI P342101).civil assumed the term še de₂-a is a regular winnowing.(Civil (1994)p.96)

4) the name giri₃-ni- i₃- sa₆ is common in the Ur III onomastion especially in Girsu. According to the statistics on BDTNS 163% of the 521 occurrence texts, but he appears as oversseer from Girsu (two texts undated (Gelb (1972)p.27; Sigrist& Ozaki(2013) 301)and one text from Ur (Legrain (1937) 1406)dated to šL44 dealing with workers and female workers responsibility of them , from Umma one text dated to šL 47 dealing with barely offerings(Schneider (1925) pl.7),from Irisagrig dated to šL46 contains giri₃-ni- i₃- sa₆ as overseer of blacksmith(Owen (2013) 892)

5) ġiri₃ šu-ad-mu the name is attested in only one texts from puzriš-dagan as (giri₃)Via dated to šs8 dealing with received animals.(Sigrist (1988) 002) but this name šu-ad-mu occurs in various provenances such as puzriš-dagan(Liu (2021) 393) and Išān Mizyad(Ahmed Mahmud(1989)no.2),umma (D'Agostino& Pomponio(2002)232)and Nippur (Owen (1982) 929) dated between AS1 to IS3.

6) e-ni-iš-da-hu-um is unattested in ur III Documents. It appeared the syllable e-ni-iš in two texts from puzriš-dagan (E-ni-iš-a-gu-um)(Sigrist (1988) 47) (E-ni-iš-ša₃-ge) (Genouillac (1911) 5484)

3- IM239453 Date: AS9

obv.	
1.15 <i>geme₂</i> <i>u₄</i> 7 <i>še₃</i>	15 female workers for seven days
2. <i>še</i> <i>guru₇-a</i> <i>du₆</i> <i>e₃-da</i>	brought out to the grain silo mound
3.a- <i>ša₃</i> -a-geštin-na	Ageštinna field
4.ĝiri ₃ <i>lu₂</i> ^d <i>ašnan</i>	under the authority of luašnan
Rev.	
5.ki <i>šar-ru-um-ba-ni-ta</i>	from šarumbani
6.ba-zi	withdrawn
7.mu en ga-eš ^{kī} <i>ba-hun</i>	the year en of Gaeš was installed (AS9)

Commentary:

2) *du₆ e₃-da* :Du6 civil explained that du6 mound refers to all kinds of elevations including old ruins (tells) and abandoned canal embankments.(civil (1994) p.68.e3-da=e3.d. hamtu verb means to bring out (Thomsen (1984,p.302)

4-IM 239701 Date: šs2/vii/viii

1.8 <i>guruš</i> <i>iti</i> 2 <i>še₃</i>	8 workers for two months
2. <i>u₄</i> <i>la₂-1</i> <i>še₃</i>	the day
3. <i>še-giš-i₃</i>	sesame
4. <i>kin-a</i>	its work
5.ĝiri ₃ KA.KU.A	under the authority of KAKUA
Rev	
6.a- <i>ša₃</i> a-geštin-na	Ageštinna field
7.2 <i>ban₂</i> i- <i>ba-e₂</i> ?	...
8. <i>iti</i> <i>ezem</i> ^d <i>šulgi</i>	month šulgi festival
9. <i>u₃</i> <i>šu-eš-ša</i>	and Šu'ešša
10. <i>mu</i> <i>ma₂</i> ^d <i>en-ki</i> <i>ba-dim₂</i>	the year the boat of the god enki was fashioned (šs2)

Commentary:

5) giri3 KA.KU.A this name is attested the first time. It is appeared giri3 KA-ta-KU?.KU in one text from puzriš-dagan dated from ŠS2 dealing with distribution of animals.(Limet (1955) N0.2)

7) 2 ban2 i-*ba-e₂*?unclear meaning.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this article sheds light on previously unpublished Ur III texts from the Iraq Museum in Baghdad, offering valuable insights into the Ageština field during the reigns of Amarsuen and Šusuen of the Ur III dynasty. These cuneiform tablets, likely originating from Umma, contribute to our understanding of the agricultural practices and land management during this period.

The study focuses on the location of a-*ša₃*-a-geštin-na, the Ageština field, with references from Ur III texts from Umma and Girsu. Through a meticulous examination of these texts, the topography of the field is explored, and its proximity to the lugala

field is noted. The field, interpreted by Pettinato as the "field in the water of the vine," was cultivated with barley and sesame, as revealed in additional texts from the BDTNS database.

Despite efforts to trace the area of the Ageština field, the available cuneiform texts do not provide a conclusive measurement. The largest documented area is 8575 hectares, as recorded in a text dated to AS5, but uncertainties remain regarding whether this represents the entire field or only a portion of it.

in addition to that, the current study takes into account the investigation of the agricultural processes taken place in the Agestine field in the Ur III era. the workdays errands of a variety of errands were listed in the cuneiform, including breaching canals, barley pouring, threshing floors and female handwork in the fields. all of these details clarify labor and cultivation techniques in the Agestina field.

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To sum up, both the unpublished tables from the Iraqi Museum and the BDTNS database increase the knowledge about the Agestina field and cleans the picture of Ur III era's agricultural landscape and the intercate processes involved in managing and cultivating these fields

Abbreviations

AAICA	J.-P. Grégoire, Archives administratives et inscriptions cunéiformes de l'Ashmolean Museum et de la Bodleian Collection d'Oxford: contribution à l'histoire sociale, économique, politique et culturelle du Proche-Orient ancien, 1–4 (Paris 1996–2002)
AAS	Grégoire, J.P. Archives Administratives Sumériennes, Paris (1970)
AnOr	Analecta Orientalia. Commentationes scientificae de rebus orientis antiqui (Rom 1931ff.)
AOAT	Alter Orient und Altes Testament. Veröffentlichungen zur Kultur und Geschichte des Alten Orients und des Alten Testaments (Münster etc. 1/1969; 2/1968ff.; AOAT 278 = SED); S = Sonderreihe (1971ff.)
ASJ	Acta Sumerologica (Hiroshima 1979ff.); Suppl. Ser. = Supplementary Series (1993ff.).
AUCT	Andrews University Cuneiform Texts (Berrien Springs 1984ff.; Bd. 1–5 = IAPAS 4–8).
AulaOr.	Aula Orientalis. Revista de estudios del Próximo Oriente Antiguo (Barcelona 1983ff.); Suppl. (1991ff.).

AUTBM	M. Sigrist/T. Ozaki, Administrative Ur III texts in the British Museum, part 1–2 (= JAC Suppl. 3 = PPAC 5, 2013):
BCT	Birmingham Cuneiform Tablets (Warminster 1986ff.) = P. J. Watson, Catalogue of cuneiform tablets in Birmingham City Museum (Warminster 1986ff.): 1: Neo-Sumerian texts from Drehem (1986); 2: Neo-Sumerian texts from Umma and other sites (1993);
BPOA	Biblioteca del Próximo Oriente Antiguo (Madrid 2006ff.).
CAD	A. L. Oppenheim/E. Reiner et al. (ed.), The Assyrian Dictionary of the University of Chicago (Chicago/Glückstadt 1956ff.); offizielle Homepage: http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/pubs/catalog/cad/ .
CDLJ	Cuneiform Digital Library Journal (2002ff.): http://cdli.ucla.edu/pubs/cdlj.html ; s. a. CDLI.
CUSAS	Cornell University Studies in Assyriology and Sumerology (Bethesda 2007ff.); enthält: MSCT 2ff
ERC	(Édition) Recherche sur les (Grandes) Civilisations, Cah. = Cahier (Paris 1980ff.); Mém. = Mémoire (1977/1980ff.; enthält: RSOu. 1–5); Synthèse(s) (1980ff.).
HSS	Harvard Semitic Studies (Winona Lake 22/1976ff.).
JCS	Journal of Cuneiform Studies (New Haven/Boston etc. 1947ff.); Suppl. (Ser.) (Boston 2008ff.); offizielle Homepage: http://www.asor.org/pubs/jcs/index.html .
JESHO	Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient = Journal d'Histoire Économique et Sociale de l'Orient (Leiden 1957/1958ff.).
JSOR	Journal of the Society of Oriental Research 1–16 (Chicago/Toronto [etc.] 1917–1932)
MCS	Manchester Cuneiform Studies 1/1–9/1 (Manchester 1951–1964[1969
MVN	Materiali per il vocabolario neosumerico 1–22 (Rom 1974–2003).
NATN	D. I. Owen, Neo-Sumerian archival texts primarily from Nippur in the University Museum, the Oriental Institute and the Iraq Museum (Winona Lake 1982).
Nisaba	Nisaba. Studi assiriologici Messinesi (Messina 2002ff.)
Or.	Orientalia (früher mit Untertitel: Commentarii periodici de rebus Assyro-Babylonicis, Arabicis, Aegyptiacis etc.; bzw.: Commentarii periodici de rebus Orientis antiqui), [SP = Series Prior] 1–55 (Rom 1920–1930); ; NS (1/1932ff.). Or. steht auch für Or. NS.
PPAC	Periodic Publications on Ancient Civilizations (Changchun 1989ff.).
PSD	The Pennsylvania Sumerian Dictionary. Å.W. Sjöberg (with the collab. of H. Behrens) [et al.] (ed.), The Sumerian dictionary of the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania 1–2 (Philadelphia 1984).
RA	Revue d'Assyriologie et d'Archéologie Orientale (Paris 1884/1885ff.).
RIA	Reallexikon der Assyriologie (ab Bd. 3/1957/1971:) und Vorderasiatischen Archäologie (Berlin/Leipzig 1928/1932ff.)
SAKF	K. Oberhuber, Sumerische und akkadische Keilschriftdenkmäler des Archäologischen Museums zu Florenz (= IBK Sonderheft 7/8, 1958/1960).
Santag	SANTAG. Arbeiten und Untersuchungen zur Keilschriftkunde (Wiesbaden 1990ff.).

SAT	Sumerian Archival Texts 1–3 (Bethesda 1993/2000/2000).
TCL	Textes Cunéiformes. Musée du Louvre, Département des antiquités orientales 1–31 (Paris 1910– 1967). Fortsetzung: TCM.
Toronto	R. M. Sigrist, Neo-Sumerian texts from the Royal Ontario Museum, 1–2 (Bethesda 1995/2004): 1: The administration at Drehem (Bethseda 1995); 2: Administrative texts mainly from Umma (Bethseda 2004).
TUU	H. Sauren, Topographie der Provinz Umma nach den Urkunden der Zeit der III. Dynastie von Ur, 1: Kanäle und Bewässerungsanlagen (Diss. Heidelberg 1966)
UET	Ur Excavations. Publications of the Joint Expedition of the British Museum and of the University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania(, Philadelphia,) to Mesopotamia. Texts 1– 9 (London 1928–1976).
UNL	G. Pettinato, Untersuchungen zur neusumerischen Landwirtschaft, 1: Die Felder, 1–2 (= Pubblicazioni del Seminario di Semitistica [dell']Istituto Orientale di Napoli. Ricerche 2–3, Neapel 1967).
UTI	Die Umma-Texte aus den Archäologischen Museen zu Istanbul = İstanbul Arkeoloji Müzelerinde bulunan Umma metinleri (türk. Paralleltitel in Bd. 2/1994) 4: T. Gomi/F. Yıldız, Nr. 2301–3000 (Bethesda 1997); 5: F. Yıldız/T. Ozaki, Nr. 3001–3500 (Bethesda 2000); 6: F. Yıldız/T. Ozaki, Nr. 3501–3834 (Bethesda 2001);
WZKM	Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes (Wien 1887ff.; [1944–1947 nicht ersch.]); Beih. = Beihefte 1–15 (1936–1989; [1940–1969 nicht ersch.]); SB = Sonderband 1–2 (1980– 1981); Fortsetzung: Neue Beihefte (2006ff.).
Zinbun	Zinbun. Annals of the Institute for Research in Humanities, Kyoto University (Kyoto 1957ff.)

king names	Abbreviation
šulgi	SH
Amar-suen	AS
šu-suen	SS
Ibbi-suen	IS

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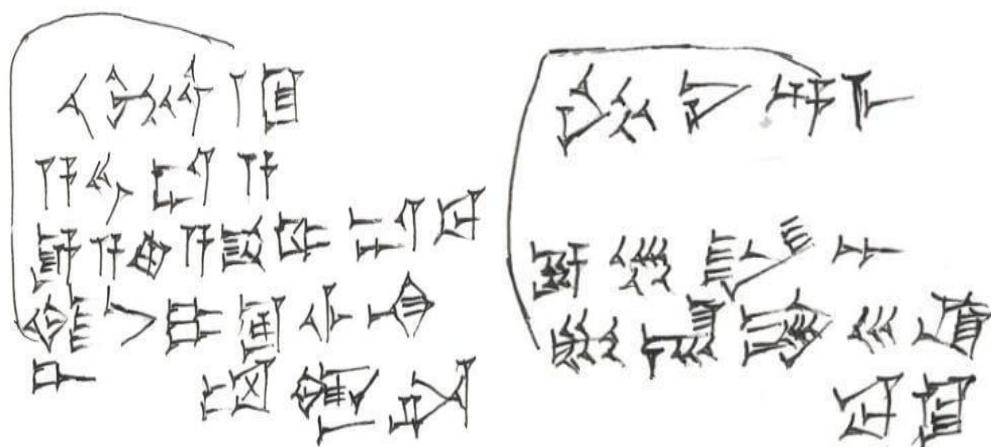


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Fig. 2: Hand copy of IM 239679, obverse (left) and reverse (right)

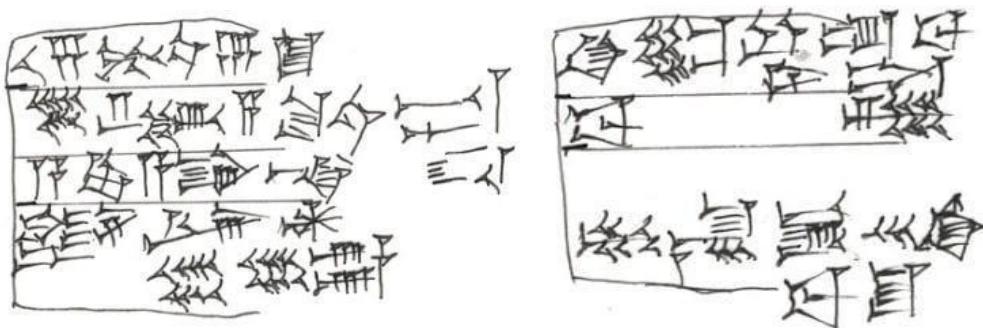


Fig. 3: Hand copy of IM 239453, obverse (left) and reverse (right)



Fig.4: Hand copy of IM 239701, obverse (left) and reverse (right)



Fig. 5: Photographs of IM 239785. From left to right: obverse and reverse, (© Iraq Museum, Baghdad).

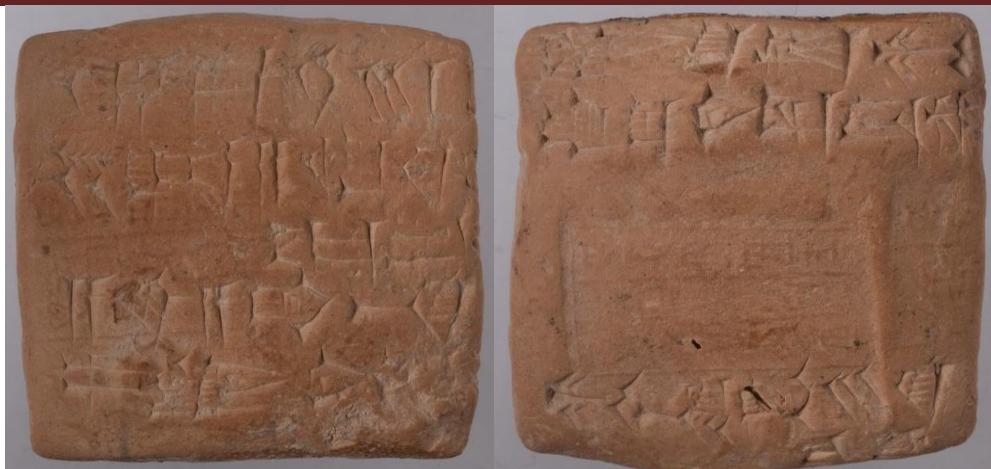


Fig. 6: Photographs of IM 239679. From left to right: obverse and reverse, (© Iraq Museum, Baghdad).



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