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Source: *Journal of Cuneiform Studies*, Jan., 1979, Vol. 31, No. 1 (Jan., 1979), pp. 30-55

Published by: The University of Chicago Press on behalf of The American Schools of Oriental Research

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## CUNEIFORM TABLETS AT BRYN MAWR COLLEGE

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University Museum  
University of Pennsylvania*

The Rare Book Room of the Bryn Mawr College Library has a small collection of cuneiform documents.<sup>1</sup> The collection consists of eighteen tablets, a clay nail, and a building cone. Of these, all but the building cone came to the College in the years 1948-52, as part of the Marjorie Walter Goodhart Collection.<sup>2</sup> The cone was given to the library in 1978 by Zelma Corning Brandt.

Copies of the tablets are given below; copies of the clay nail and the building cone are not included since the texts are well-known.<sup>3</sup>

In addition to the tablets belonging to the Rare Book Room of the Library, the Ella Riegel Museum of the College's Department of Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology also possesses six cuneiform documents. Of these, the two Old Assyrian texts (T-46 and T-47) were published by A. Goetze in JCS 8 (1954) 145, and one of the two Ur III documents (T-48) by M. Civil in JCS 25 (1973) 172 and 176. The other Third Dynasty text (T-49) is a notice concerning two workmen, and is dated to Amar-Suen's fourth year.

The remaining two documents are exemplars of Neo-Assyrian literary texts. Both came to Bryn Mawr, at different times, as the gift of members of the family of F. H. Williams, an American missionary who acquired the tablets in Nineveh.<sup>4</sup> Of the tablets, one (T-235), is a fragment of the second tablet of the Erra Epic, and is the tablet published by M. Jastrow in 1891 as "A Fragment of the Babylonian 'Dibbara' Epic."<sup>5</sup> The second tablet (T-236) presents us with somewhat of an enigma. It shows the text of the "Marsh Fragment" of the Etana legend, which was published by Jastrow as "A New Fragment of the Babylonian Etana Legend."<sup>6</sup> At the time of its publication, the Marsh Fragment belonged to a member of the Williams family; I have not been able to trace its history subsequent to that time. The

1. I must thank Professor James H. Tanis, Director of the Bryn Mawr College Libraries, and Mrs. Mary S. Leahy, Rare Book Librarian, for permission to publish these documents.

2. The major part of the Goodhart gift consists of the Marjorie Walter Goodhart Medieval Library of incunabulae and medieval manuscripts. There unfortunately is no indication as to when and where the texts may have been acquired. M. Powell most recently discussed the probable appearance on the antiquities market of the group of tablets to which numbers 6 and 7 belong in HUCA 49 (1978) 6-8.

3. See the catalogue, below, under numbers 19 and 20.

4. See M. Jastrow, "A Fragment of the Babylonian 'Dibbara' Epic," Publications of the University of Pennsylvania, Series in Philology, Literature, and Archaeology, 1/2 (1891) 1-2.

5. Jastrow, 'Dibbara' Epic (1891).

6. BA 3 (1896) 363ff.; cf. S. Langdon, *Babyloniaca* 12 1ff. and pls. I-III, "Marsh Fragment."

tablet at Bryn Mawr College may thus be the Marsh Fragment itself. However, the Bryn Mawr tablet is relatively light in weight, and it is therefore possible that it is a cast—if so, a very good one—of the original. It is known that members of the Williams family also had casts of the genuine tablets: a cast of the Erra tablet now at Bryn Mawr was presented to the University Museum in 1891, by Dr. Talcott Williams, another member of the family. However, unlike the Bryn Mawr “Etana tablet” that cast (CBS 1941) was made of plaster, not clay. Unless the whereabouts of the original “Marsh Fragment” can be established with certainty, therefore, the question must remain moot.

### *Catalogue*

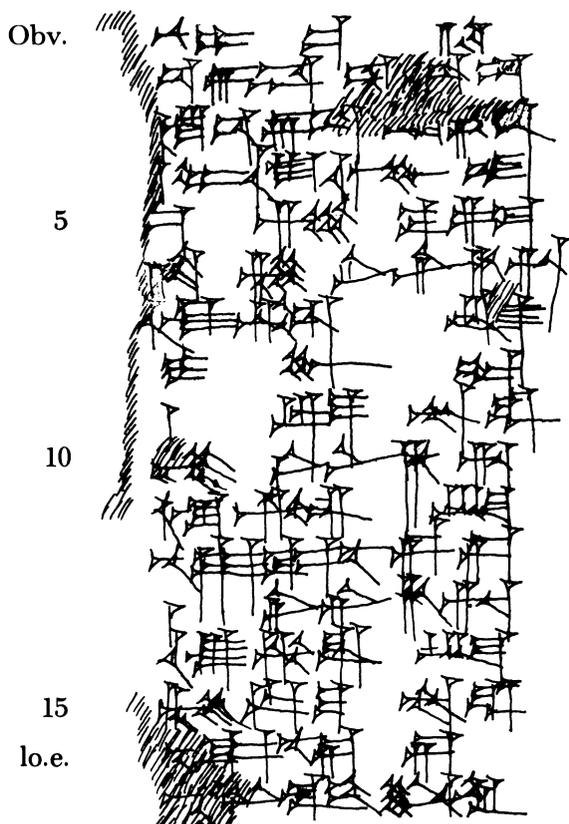
1. Old Babylonian legal document concerning a plot of land. The tablet is dated to Rim-Sin of Larsa, year 12. It is not sealed.  $6 \times 4 \times 8$  cm.
2. Ur III list of small cattle, from Drehem, zi-ga of the 4th day of Ezen-maḥ (IX), of Šulgi's 46th year. The tablet contains some very interesting geographical names. It is not sealed.  $14.7 \times 7.6 \times 3.4$  cm.
3. Old Babylonian legal document concerning the sale of a plot of land, dated to Damiq-ilišu of Isin, year “10.” For the date, see E. Prang, *JCS* 27 (1975) 154; *RIA* 2 149b no. 212, year “i.” The tablet is sealed.  $11.5 \times 5.7 \times 2.3$  cm.
4. Ur III text recording the delivery of two lambs, noted in the margin as two sheep. The official involved was Intaea (cf. Jones-Snyder pp. 234f.). The tablet, which is not sealed, comes from Drehem and is dated to the 15th day of Akiti (VII; cf. Whiting, *ZA* 69 [1979] 13 fig. 1) of Šu-Sin's 5th year.  $3.6 \times 4.1 \times 1.5$  cm.
5. Old Babylonian administrative memorandum containing personal names.  $3.8 \times 4.5 \times 1.4$  cm.
6. Early dynastic list of field plots dated to Lugalzagesi's seventh year.<sup>7</sup> The SUR.GU official was Amabaragesi. This and related texts were recently discussed by Powell, *HUCA* 49 (1978) 1ff. Powell classifies this text and Bryn Mawr 7, below, as text type 1A2b (p. 13f.). He ascribes the archive of which they are part to the Inanna temple at Zabala<sup>8</sup> (pp. 6f.).  $11 \times 11 \times 2.5$  cm.

7. Powell, *HUCA* 49 (1978) 9, discusses the dating system used in the Lugalzagesi texts, and its peculiarities. He explains the standard form of the year number as a horizontal line across which the number is written in vertical wedges, with, at the end of the horizontal wedge, a mark consisting of two wedges of which the heads meet and the tails are at a right angle. The wedges of the “mark” can overlap in such a way that the “mark” appears to be a Winkelhaken (but Powell notes that he has never seen a true Winkelhaken on a pre-Sargonic tablet). This is the case with the “Winkelhaken” that is shown on both BMC 6 and BMC 7.

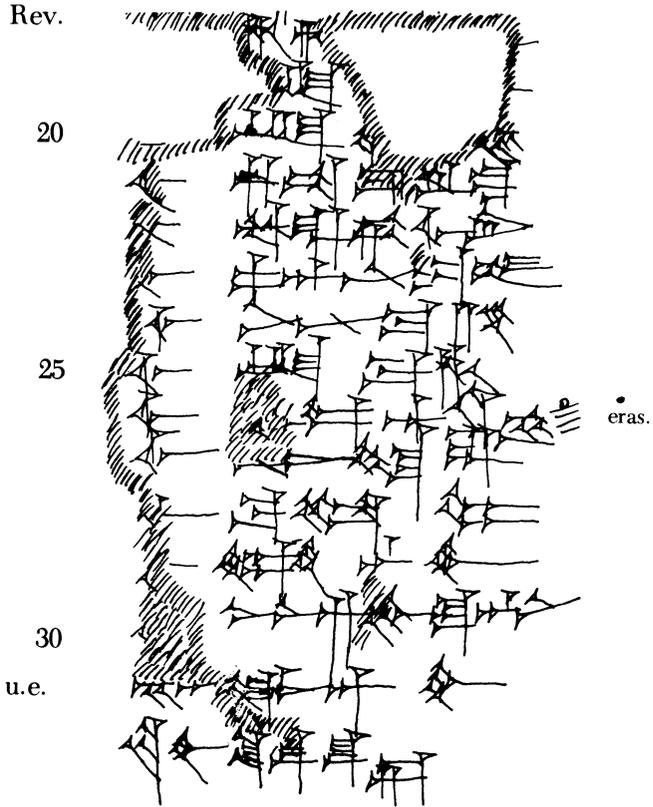
8. For the reading of the geographical name as Zabala, rather than Zabalam, see Powell, *Or NS* 45 (1976) 100 n. 2.

7. Early Dynastic list of field plots, like Bryn Mawr 6 dated to Lugalzagesi's seventh year. Cf. Powell, HUCA 49 (1978) 14 under 1A2b.  $11.8 \times 11.8 \times 3.3$  cm.
8. Old Babylonian list of six plots of land. Undated.  $5 \times 3.8 \times 1.7$  cm.
9. Old Babylonian legal text, possibly dealing with two slave girls. Witnesses are listed, but there is no mention of other clauses or an oath. The tablet is neither dated nor sealed.  $4.2 \times 4.7 \times 1.9$  cm.
10. Old Babylonian list of names, in which subgroups are described as being NĪG.ŠU PN. The obverse is very badly abraded; according to the note on the left edge (ii), the text concerns 43 workers under one person. The tablet, which is not sealed, is dated to a year GUD.GIŠ.APIN x[ ]; such a formula is known for Ibalpiel II of Ešnunna, variant; see Baqir, Sumer 5 (1949) 74, and now Greengus Ishchali p. 30 no. 33. The month designation on the tablet is unusual, but may be short for *za-ba-<ra-tum>*; cf. Greengus Ishchali index p. 99.  $5.9 \times 13.4 \times 2.1$  cm.
11. Ur III list, ba-zi of a commodity the name of which is not preserved. The tablet, from Drehem, is dated to Ezen-maḥ (IX) of Amar-Suen's 5th year.  $4 \times 5.3 \times 2$  cm.
12. Old Babylonian memorandum concerning grain.  $4 \times 5.4 \times 1.5$  cm.
13. Old Babylonian list of amounts of field and numbers of men (ERĪN), occasionally subtalled as: x men, x amount of field. Further subtotals describe the nature of the groups of men.  $14.7 \times 7.6 \times 3.4$  cm.
14. Old Babylonian letter requesting barley.  $2.7 \times 3.1 \times 1.9$  cm.
15. Old Akkadian administrative document concerning grain. It, like texts 6 and 7, may come from Zabala, since the name Mesag is on the tablet. Cf. M. Lambert, RSO 49 (1975) 159-84 for a discussion of officials bearing this name, and p. 164 for his tentative attribution of the texts to Zabala.  $3.2 \times 4.3 \times 1.2$  cm.
16. Early Dynastic ration list, with subtotals and grand total.  $10.5 \times 11.2 \times 2.8$  cm.
17. Ur III receipt (Ī.DAB<sub>3</sub>) for one cow and four oxen. The tablet is dated to the last month of Ibbi-Sin's 5th year. It is sealed.  $5 \times 4.3 \times 1.5$  cm.
18. Early Dynastic list.  $6 \times 5.5 \times 1.5$  cm.
19. Gudea clay nail, with inscription for Nindara. For the text, see SAKI 1 140-41 Backstein A. Copy not included. Total length, 16.8 cm.; dia. head, 6.5 cm.; length shank, 15.5 cm.
20. Building cone of Lipit-Ištar of Isin, recording the building of the Ennisa of the Namgarum. For the text, inscribed in two columns, see most recently Sollberger and Kupper IRSA 177 IVA5c; duplicates are listed by Hallo, BiOr 18 (1961) 6 under L-I 2. Copy not included. Length 10.5 cm.; dia. at wide end 4.7 cm.

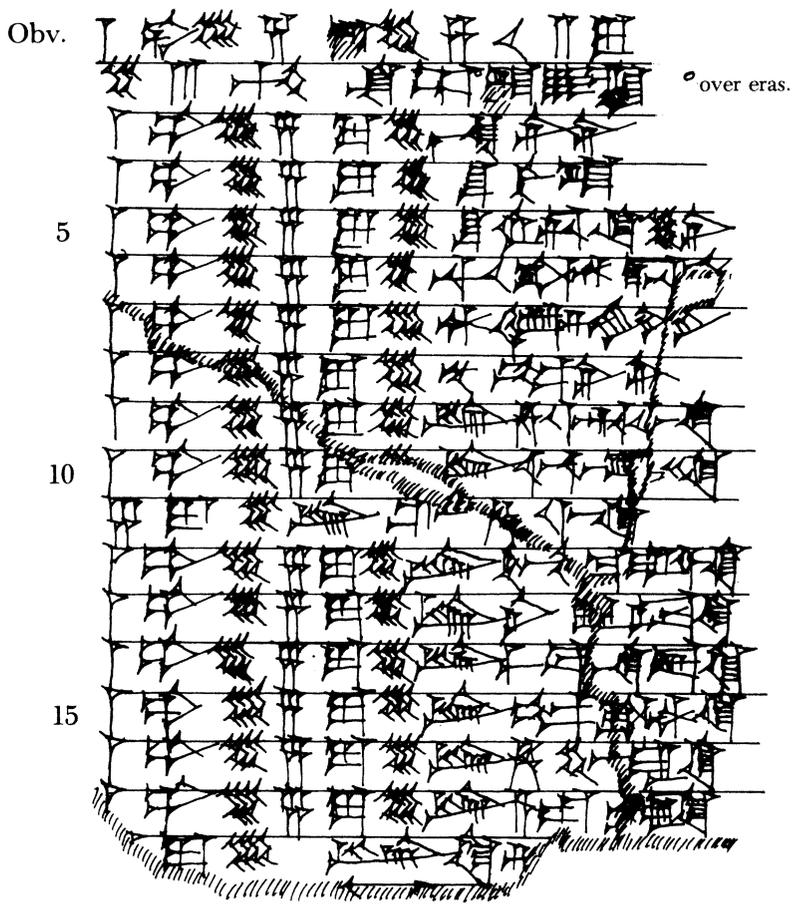
BMC 1



BMC 1



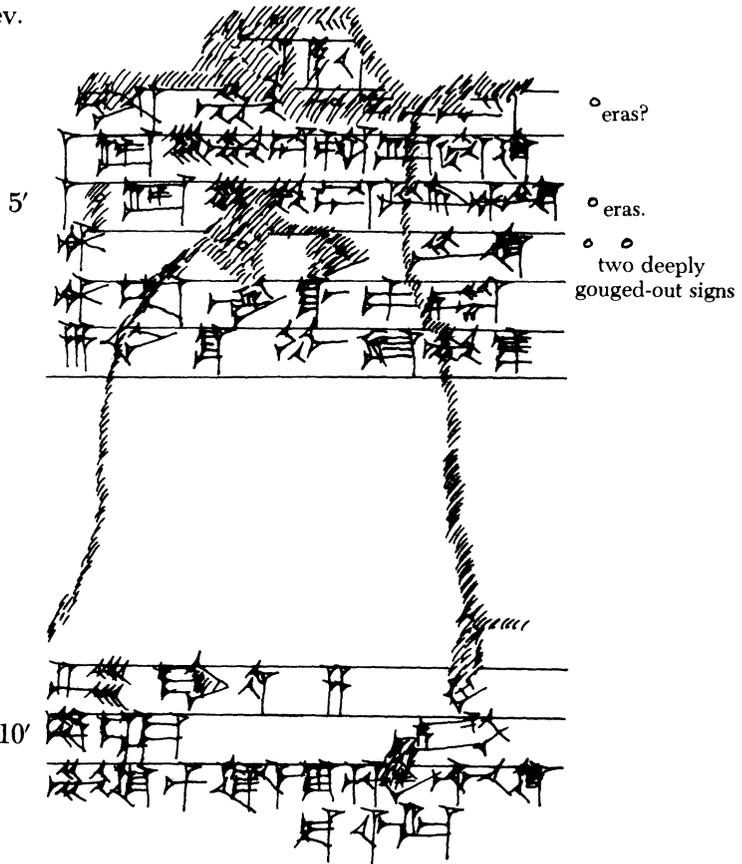
BMC 2



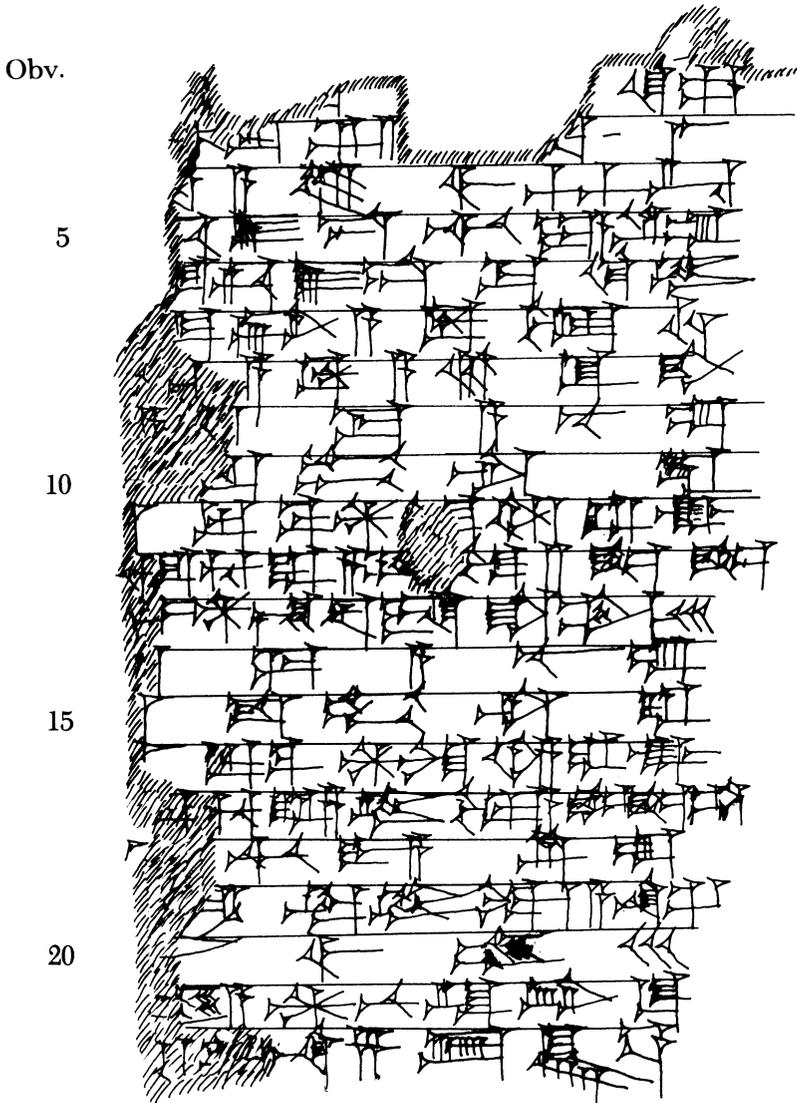
one or two lines each destroyed on both obv. and rev.

BMC 2

Rev.



BMC 3

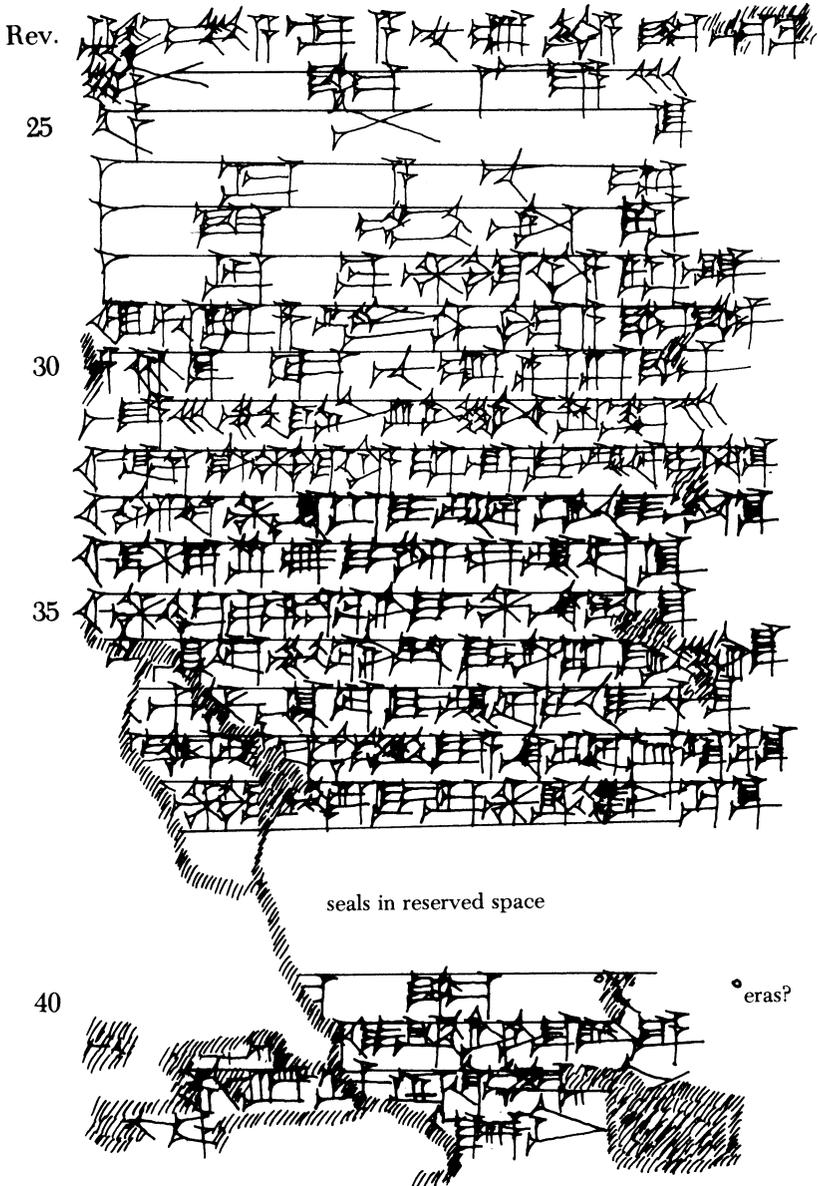


sealed by:

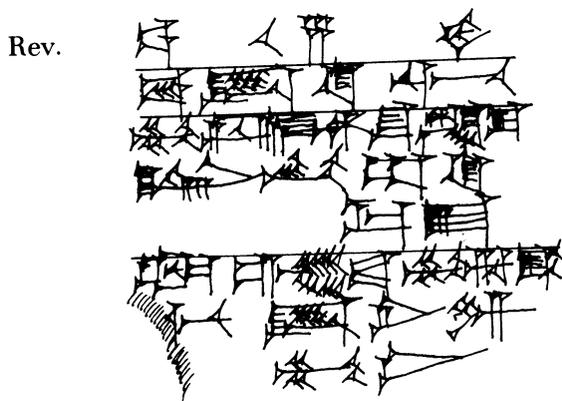
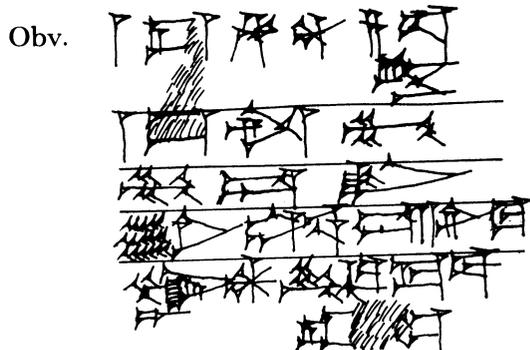
1. *Ip-qi-<sup>a</sup>Nin-kar-ra-[ak]*  
 DUMU <sup>a</sup>EN.ZU<sup>?</sup>-i-qi<sup>?</sup>-[

2. *Iš-qum-<sup>l</sup>Ir-ra*  
 DUMU <sup>a</sup>EN.ZU-x x x

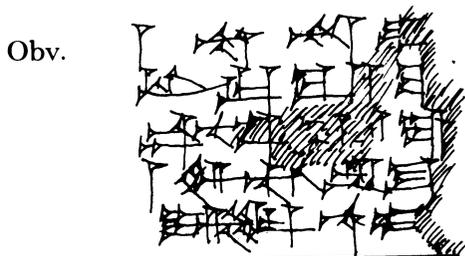
BMC 3



BMC 4

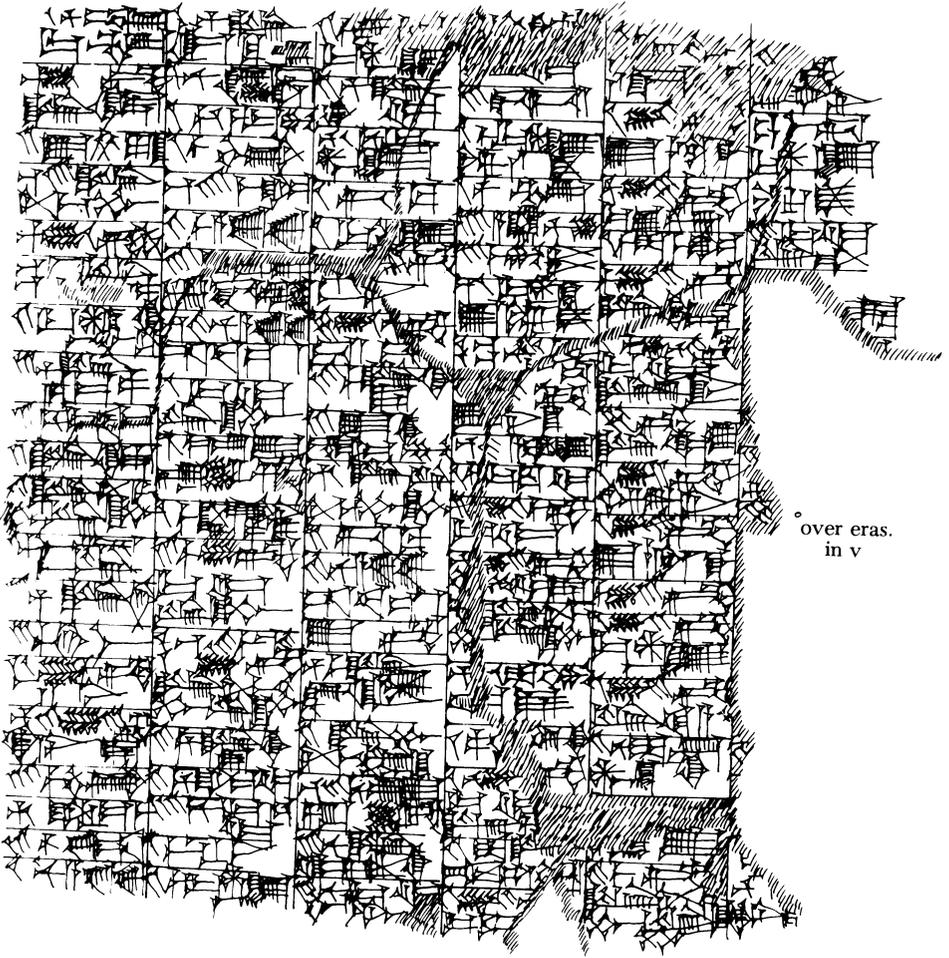


BMC 5



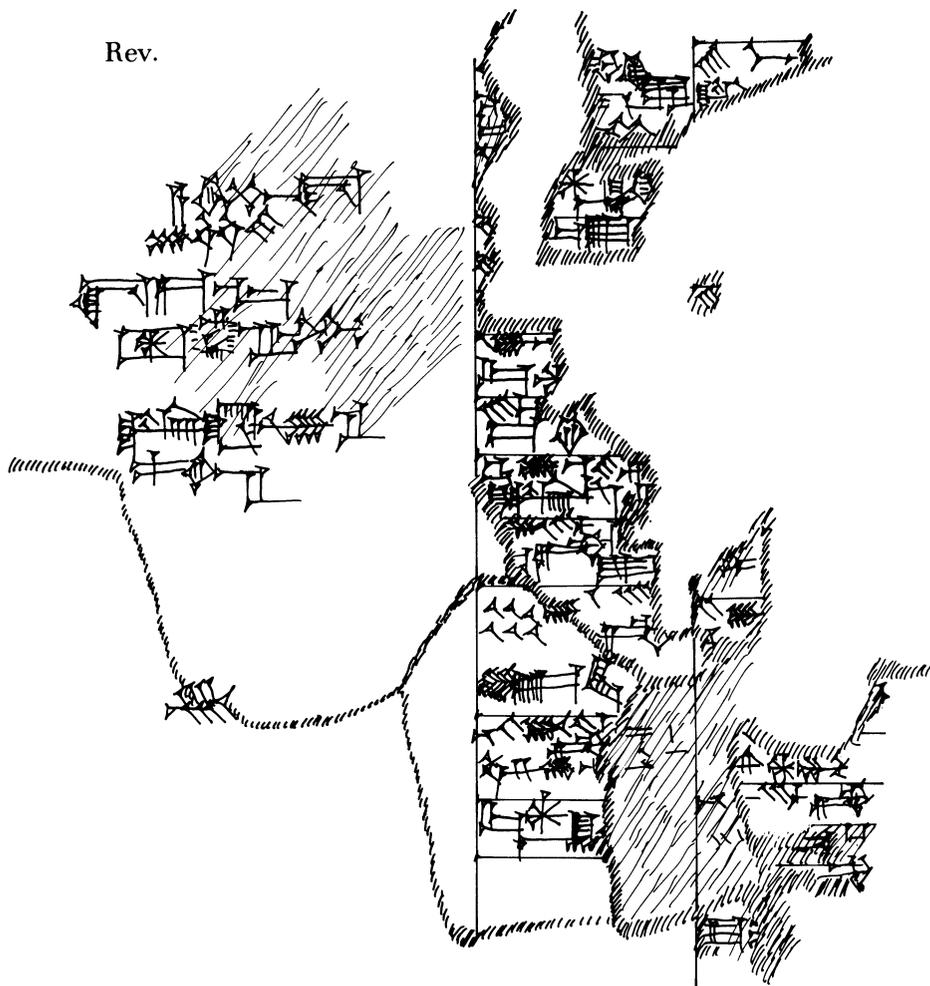
BMC 6

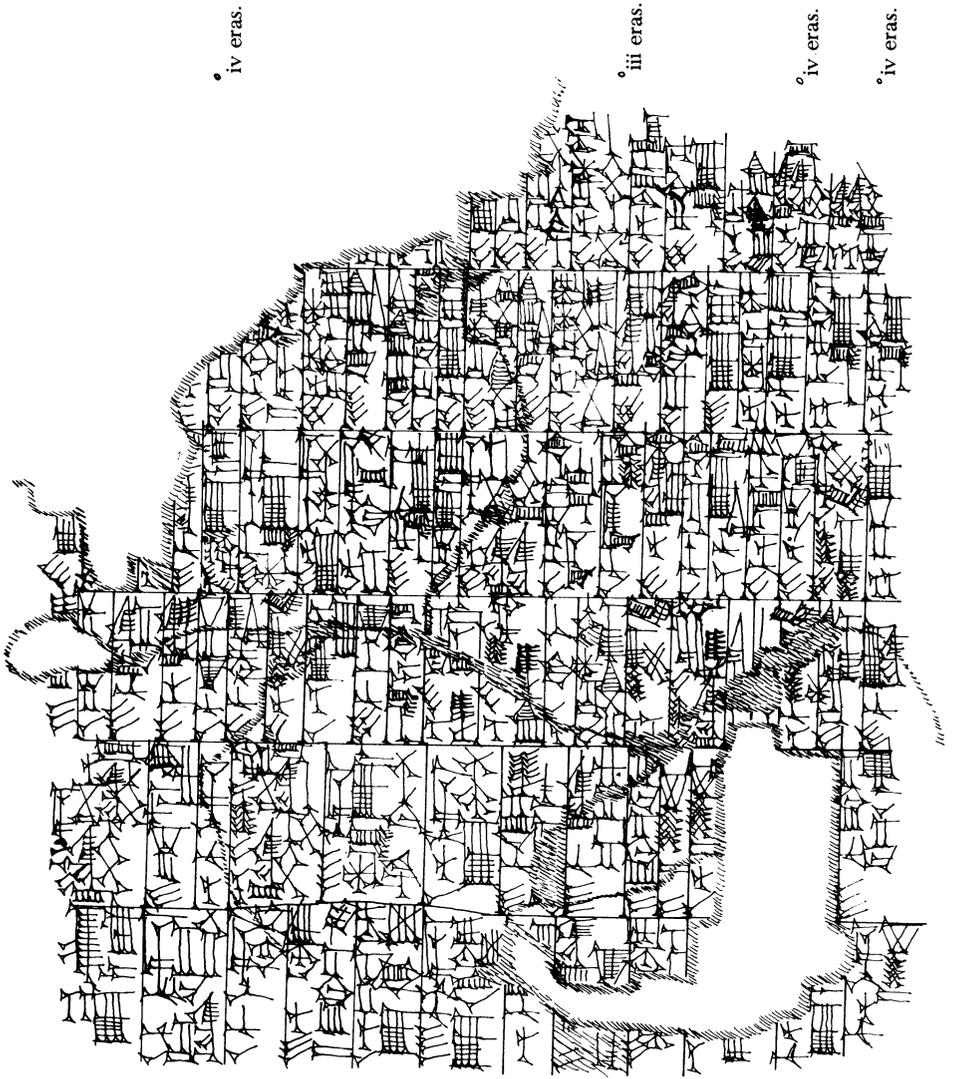
Obv.



BMC 6

Rev.

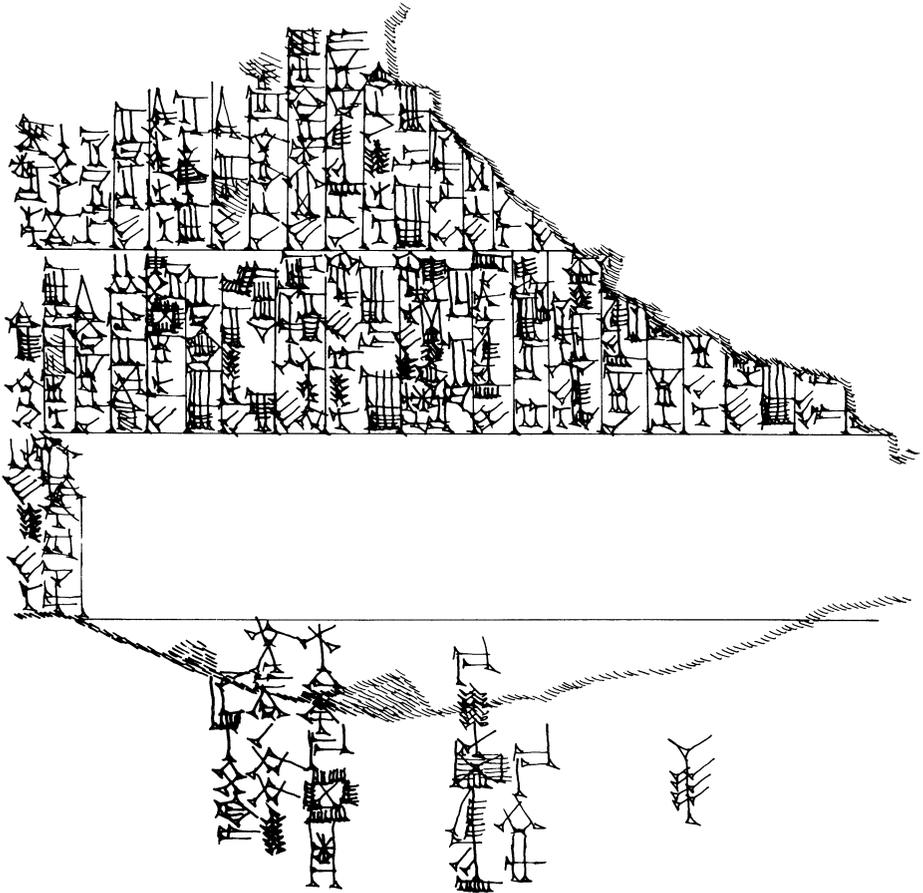




Obv.

BMC 7

viii eras.

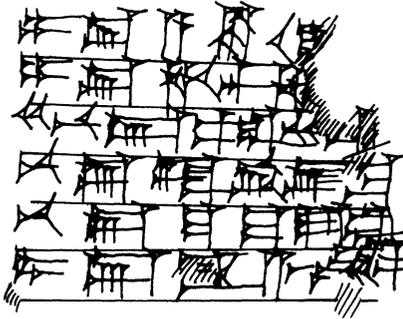


BMC 7 Rev.

BMC 8

Obv.

5

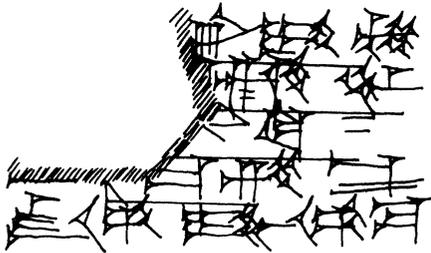


rev. not inscribed, but scratched across: 𐌆

BMC 9

Obv.

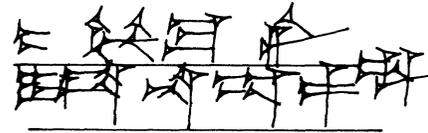
5



Rev.

10

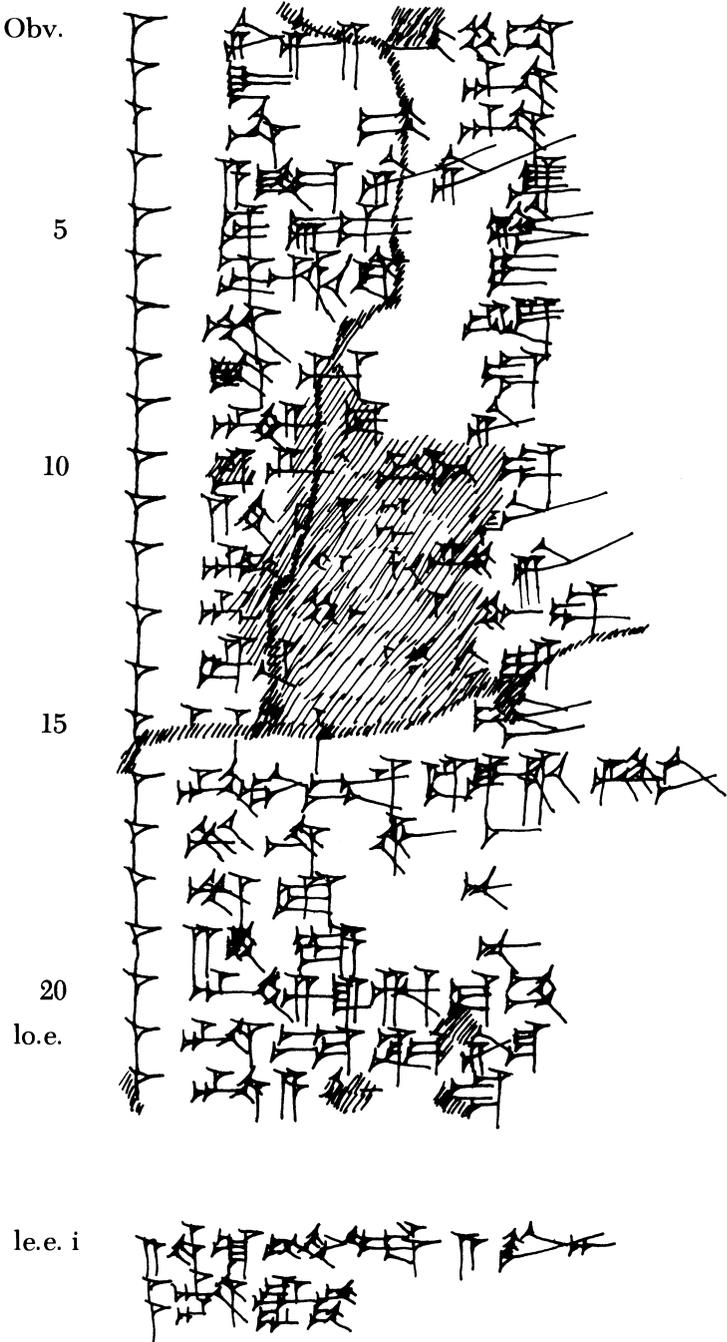
lo.e.



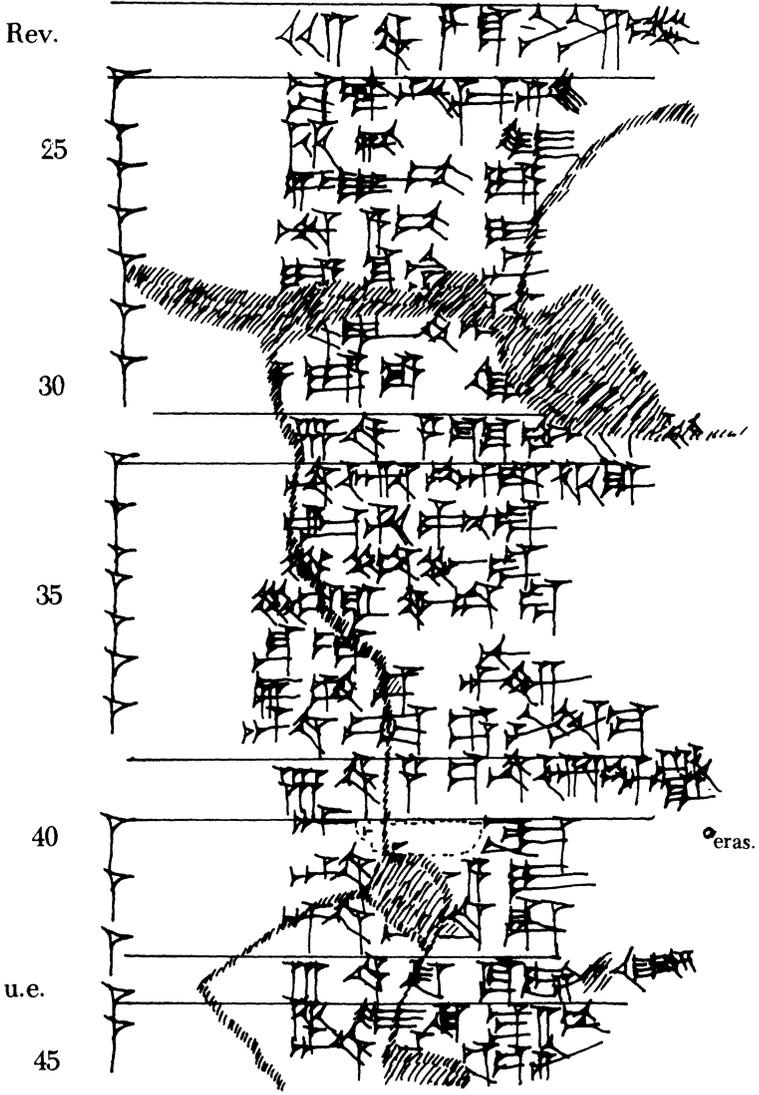
le.e.



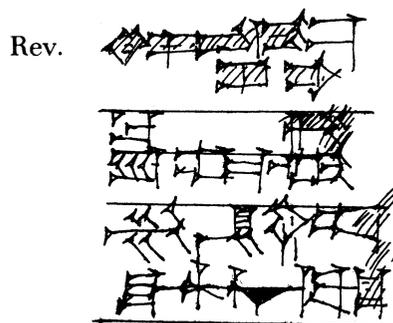
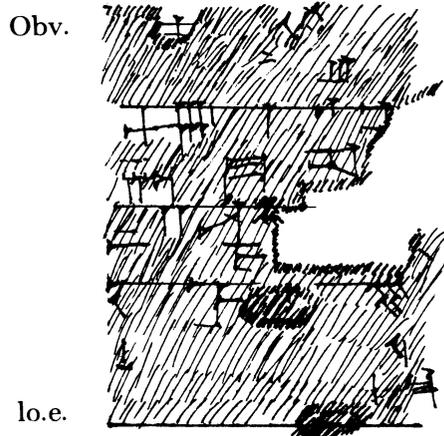
BMC 10



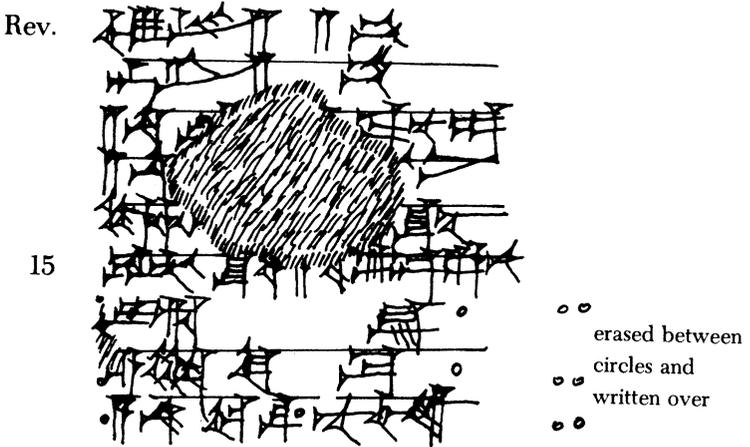
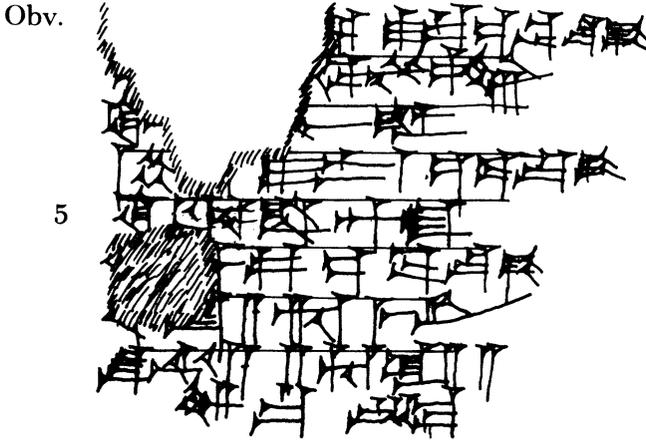
BMC 10



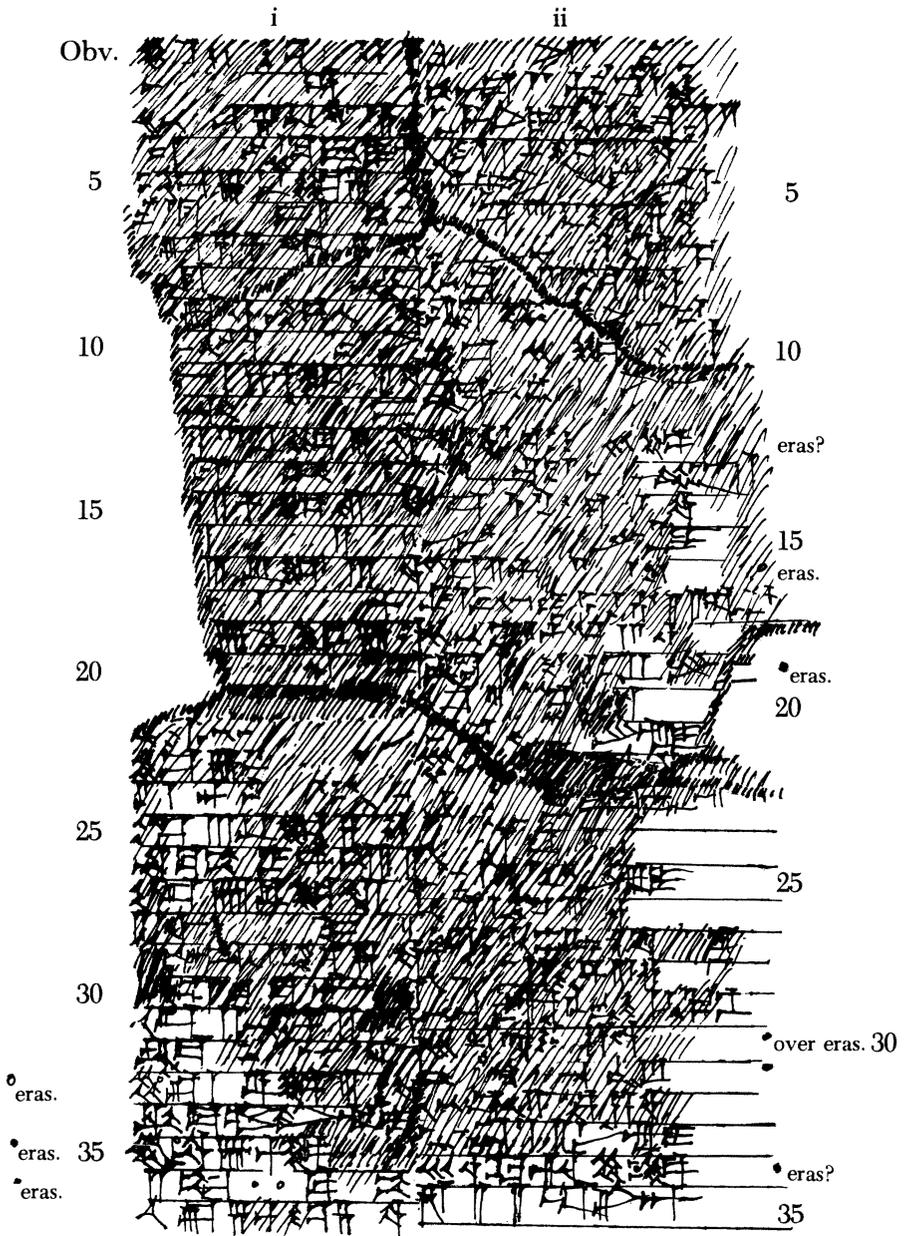
BMC 11



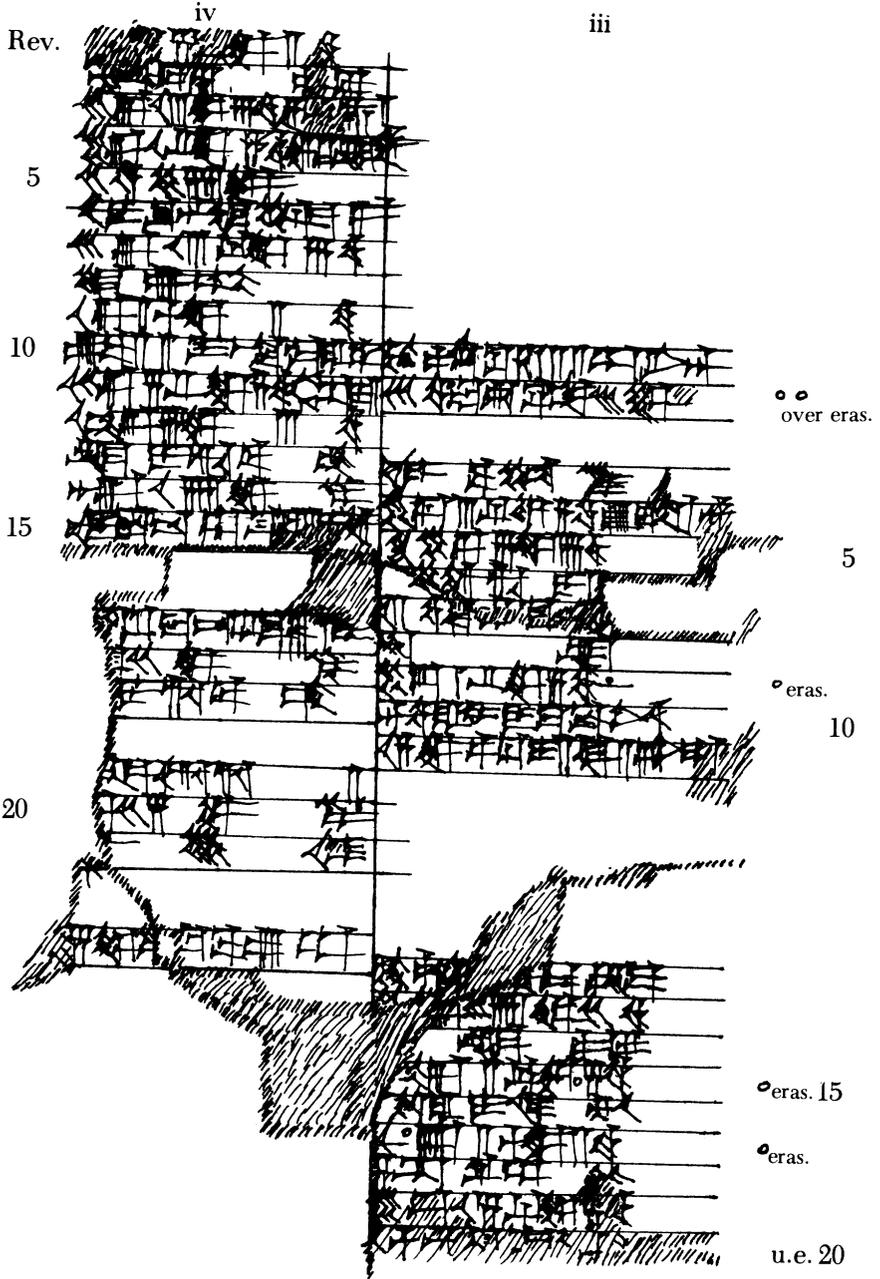
BMC 12



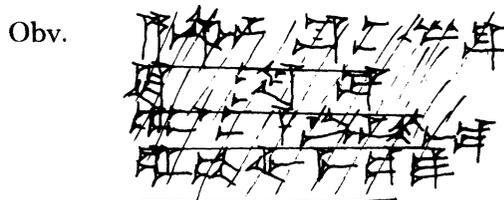
BMC 13



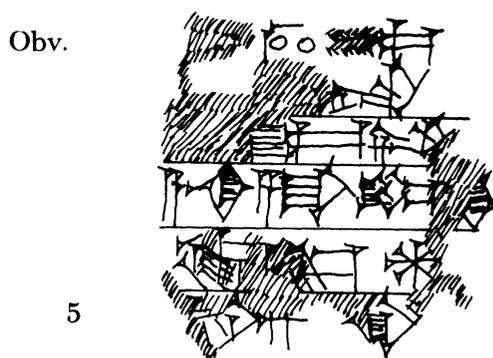
BMC 13



BMC 14

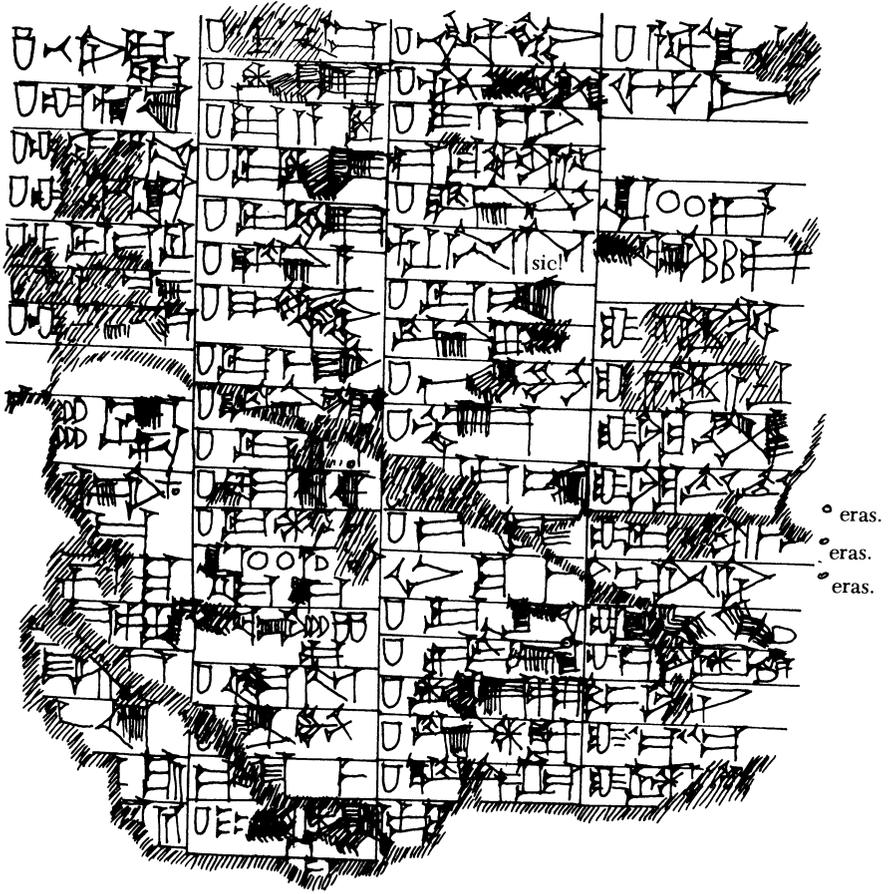


BMC 15



BMC 16

Obv.



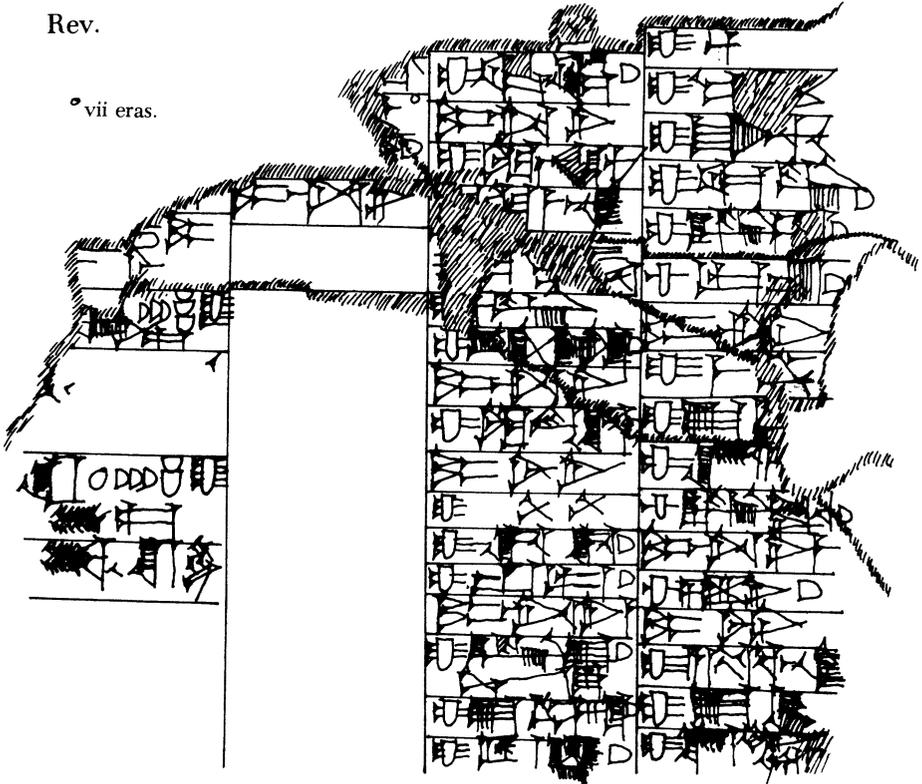
BMC 16

Rev.

° vii eras.

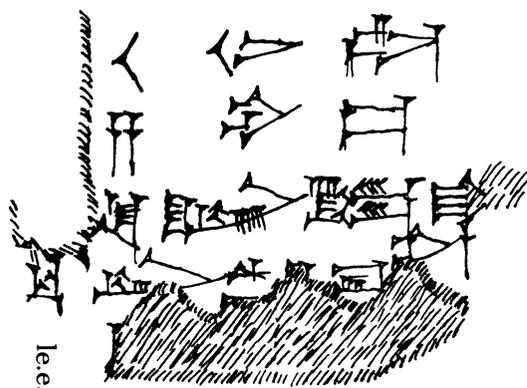
4<sup>?</sup> lines gone

4<sup>?</sup> lines gone



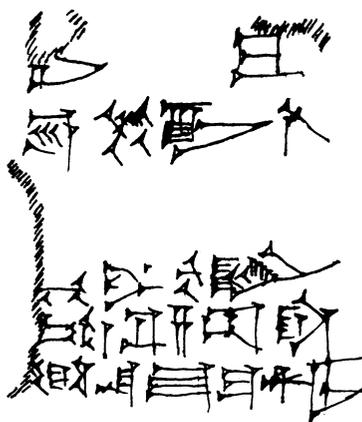
## BMC 17

Obv.



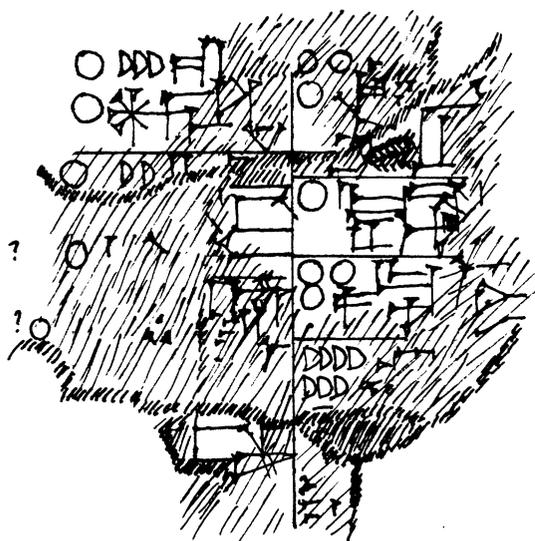
I.e.e.

Rev.



BMC 18

Obv.



Rev.

