

TEXTS AND FRAGMENTS

AN UR III DOCUMENT AND AN OLD BABYLONIAN CONE AT COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

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Colorado State University owns an administrative tablet of the Ur III period and a cone of Lipit-Eštar, which are kept in the university archives, in CSU's Morgan Library.¹ No record relating to the acquisition of these two objects can be located, but they are said to have been the gift of a professor early in the institution's history.² It may be surmised that they were among the many tablets and other ancient Near Eastern artifacts that were dispersed by Edgar J. Banks during the early twentieth century.

CSU's tablet and cone are kept encased in individual mountings of clear plastic, each mounting having been custom-made to fit the object inside, as well as to stand on its own. These mountings make it possible to pick up and look at the artifacts without touching them, although their edges and corners are obscured. I had the tablet removed from its mounting in order to copy it, but because the cone bears a text that is well known from numerous exemplars, I merely examined it through its mounting.

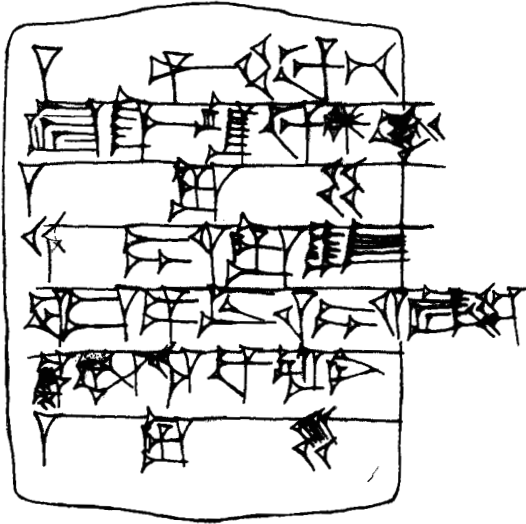
The texts of the cone records Lipit-Eštar's construction of the "House of Justice" (*é-níg-si-sá*),

and is the same as the text inscribed on at least ninety-three other cones so far known. Ninety-two exemplars of this inscription are listed by Douglas Frayne in *RIME 4 (Old Babylonian Period [2003–1595 BC])* [Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1990], no. E4.1.5.4), and to that list one should add MMA 1971.71, published as text 114 in Ira Spar, ed., *Cuneiform Texts in the Metropolitan Museum of Art*, vol. I (New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1988).

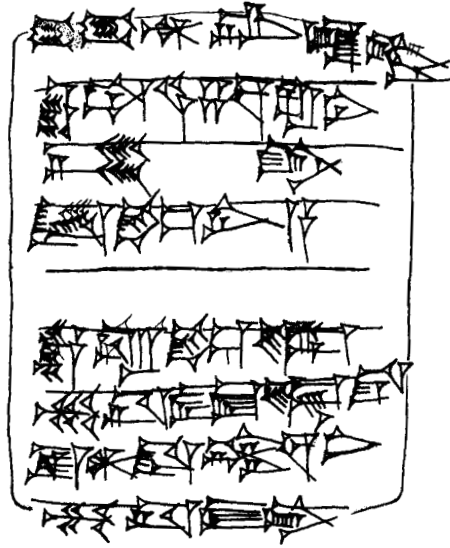
The tablet, which is in an almost perfect state of preservation (measurements: 3.7 × 2.9 × 1.4 cm), originates from Drehem and is dated to the third month of Shulgi's 41st year. It records the disbursement by Apilia of three animals for three different purposes: a goat for the palace, a fattened sheep for the *elūnum*-festival, and another fattened sheep for the regular offerings of the goddess Al-latum. Apilia is well attested as the official in charge of livestock administration for the queen, Shulgi-simtum, during the years Shulgi 39–41, and his presence allows this tablet to be recognized as belonging to the archive of Shulgi-simtum (on which see most recently W. Sallaberger, *OBO 160/3* [Freiburg: Universitätsverlag, 1999], 253–60). It is characteristic of this archive that disbursements for both secular and cultic purposes are recorded on the same tablet (Sallaberger, *OBO 160/3*, 258). A copy and transliteration follow:

1. I thank John Newman, archivist at Colorado State University, for graciously facilitating my examination of these artifacts and for permission to publish them.

2. Information courtesy John Newman.



(1) 1 máš ba-ug₇ (2) é-gal-la ba-an-ku₄ (3) 1 udu niga (4) è-lu-núm (5) sag-rig₇-ke₄-ne (6) iti-ta u₄ 1 ba-ra-zal (7) 1 udu niga (8) sískur ^dal-latum (9) iti-ta u₄ 4 ba-ra-zal (10) zi-ga (11) á-pi₅-



lí-a [blank line] (12) iti u₅-bí-gu₇ (13) mu ús-sa é puzur₄-iš-^dda-gan ba-dù (14) mu ús-sa-bi³

3. Since I am inexperienced in reading Ur III tablets, I gratefully acknowledge David I. Owen's assistance with the transliteration.