

SOME SUMERIAN TABLETS IN THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY.

BY THE REV. T. FISH.

THE nine tablets here copied belong to the Bedale collection of Sumerian tablets presented to the John Rylands library by the relatives of the late Rev. Charles Bedale, who, at the time of his death, was Lecturer in Assyriology in the University of Manchester and a Governor of the John Rylands Library. The collection contains about 600 tablets, all dating from the last dynasty of Ur (i.e. c. 2400 B.C.), and at least 400 of them come from Drehem.

Hilprecht describes Drehem as "halbwegs zwischen Nippur und Suḫ-el-'Afez, in kurzer Zeit ($\frac{1}{2}$ Stunde) mit dem Boote von Nippur zu erreichen. Er repräsentiert eine ziemlich grosse Ruine, die der Ausgrabung wert ist" (quoted in Rev. d'Assyr., Vol. VII., p. 186, 1910). Excavations of the mound have been conducted privately by natives and have yielded large quantities of tablets. The first specimens were published by Thureau-Dangin, Rev. d'Assyr. 1910. Since then about 1500 others have been published either in copy or in transcription, in Italy, France, England and America. A list of the publications in which Drehem texts occur would take up two pages of the BULLETIN !

The vast majority of Drehem texts are concerned with animals, wild and domestic, their food, their skins and their use in sacrifices, at Nippur, Ur, Erech, and other Sumerian shrines. Occasionally tablets record the receipt of barley and other products, or precious stones and objects in various metals. The tablets here copied are uncommon and provide much that is new and interesting. The copies reproduce the proportions and condition of the tablets exactly.

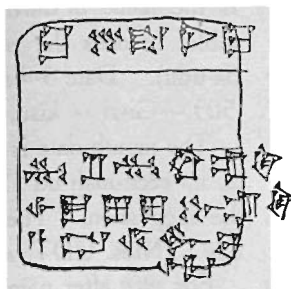
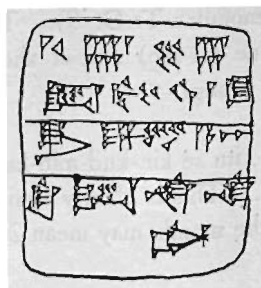
J.R. 501.—1197 salaries (á = kisru) of slaves (gím) for one day.

kin-gí-a-aš-aš occurs only here on Drehem texts. *Aš-aš* (= didli) is a plural suffix. Cf. Legrain TRU. 379^R where Ku-li is again concerned with salaries. *Á-na-na* is a common name on Drehem texts. Date 42 + x of Dungi.

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JR. 501

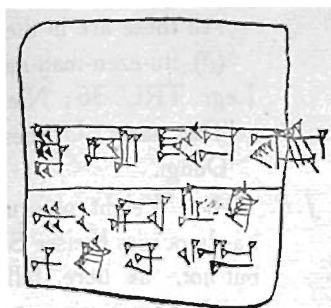
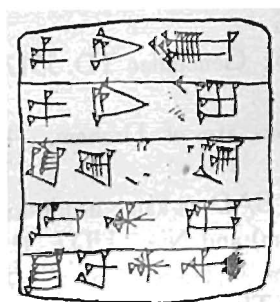
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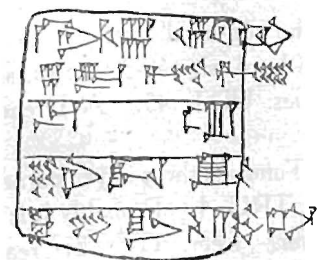
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J.R. 502.—Drehem text, cf. month-name, and the proper name Ur^d Kal (see *Legr. TRU.* 20²; *Genouillac TD.* 5532; *Langdon TAD.* 48). Is the name in third line Zu-ú-zu? (cf. *Genouillac Tr.D.* 9). The tablet records the receipt of the fat of swine (iá-šah) and of sheep (iá-udu). Date 3rd month of 45 + x year of Dungi.

J.R. 503.—Gi-zi = kisu, i.e. reed.

The month-date is particularly interesting. itu se-kin-kud-min-kam-ta, itu-ezen-mah ud 15 ba-zal-šú, itu 9 ud 15. This is clearly against the suggestion, "The min, after the name of the month, may mean 20th day" (*Nies. UDT.* ad 118).

For *min* after name of month on Drehem texts, cf. :—

(a) itu mas-dū-kú-min. *J.R.* 17 (not published).

itu šeš-da-kú-min-kam. *Legr. TRU.* 105.

itu ū-ne-kú-min-kam. *Legr. TRU.* 256.

itu ki-sig^d Nin-a-zu-min(-kam). *H.E.* 240 (*Rev. d'Assyr.* 1920, p. 210); *SA.* 8, *ibid.* 1912, p. 57.

itu-ezend^d Nin-a-zu-min-kam. *J.R.* 18 (not published).

All these are in the year 42 + x of Dungi.

(b) itu-ezen-mah-min-kam. *SA.* 124, 125; *Genouillac TD.* 5517; *Legr. TRU.* 36; *Nies. UDT.* 118.

The name, Ur-mes, and the month-names are of Drehem. 46 Dungi.

J.R. 504.—Weight of urudu (copper)-ha-bá-da BAD-za-kam, urudu-ha-bá-da occurs *Keiser STD.* 110¹ (from Drehem) and *Nies. UDT.* 1¹⁸, but not, as here, followed by BAD-za-kam. These "saws" (?) weighed from one to two pounds, cf. *Reisner TU.* 124^{III.} 12-11; 280¹⁻³. A Drehem tablet, cf. names of persons and month—the tenth of B.S. 4.

J.R. 505 is the copy (gab-ri = gabrû) of a tablet or of an account recording allowance of kaš-du (kaš = šikaru, a strong drink) in varying quantities to various persons. Note the names, Lugal-gú(?)-en-e, Lú^d Nin-ūr-ra, Giš-ku-gar-ni, Ur-ab-ba-šig, Lugal-é-a-ni, Lugal-zag-gi-šú, Na-ga-nar, A'-nin-gà-ta, Mèr-di-bi. The other names occur on Drehem texts. Date, 16-VIII.-9 B.S.

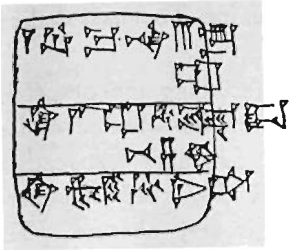
J.R. 506.—2 gú (talents) of sig (wool) of the túg-lugal quality. Other qualities in order of value are sig-túg-uš-lugal, sig túg-3-kam-us, sig-túg-4-kam-uš. Cf. *Legr. TRU.* 304; *Nies. UDT.* 45. A Drehem tablet, dated VIII. 2 B.S.

Ša(g) Tùm-ma-alki.—A letter places 'Tummaal three days' journey, by boat, distant (from Drehem?), cf. *Legr. TRU.* 4. Probably it is to this place that numerous Drehem texts refer. *Legr. TRU.* 21⁷ reads "ša(g) Tum-ma-al," and from the context, e.g. "ša(g) á-ki-ti, seems to

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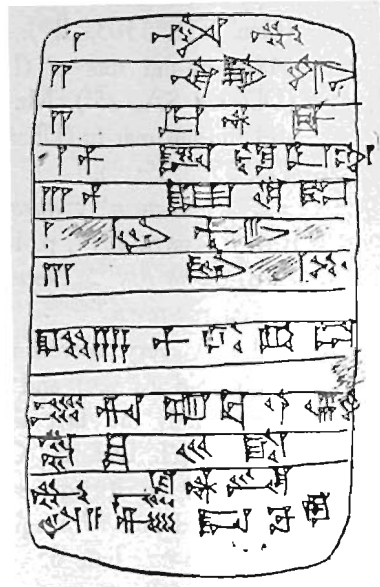
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refer to another Tum-ma-al, perhaps to the shrine Tummaal dedicated to Ninlil at Nippur (cf. Pöbel H.G.T.).

J.R. 507.—Reverse wanting. A Drehem text recording the despatch of sheep to the kitchen (é-MU). Identical with the obverse of Legr. TRU. 305, except in the second line, where Legrain's text reads mu-mar-tu-maš-maš ni-tùg-e-ra-ne, whereas *J.R.* 507 reads mu-mar-tu-maš-maš ni-tùg-TA-e-ra-ne. The meaning is very obscure. There seems to be a reference to the Amorrites (mar-tu). Amorites are frequently named on Drehem tablets. Their names are interesting and usually end in -num, -a-num.

Thus: Ba-nu-um mar-tu (Lang. TAD. 17 R³), E-la-nu-um mar-tu (Legr. TRU. 295¹⁵), En-gi-nu-um mar-tu (Legr. TRU. 29⁹), Gul-ba(?)-nu-um mar-tu (*J.R.* 184, not yet published), I-za-num mar-tu (Gen. TD. 5503, II²⁰), La-a-nu-um mar-tu (Gen. Tr.D. 25, III¹⁰), Ma-ga-nu-um mar-tu (Legr. TRU. 295¹⁸), Mi-da-nu-um mar-tu (Dhorme SA. 25³), Mu-ra-nu-um mar-tu (Legr. TRU. 267¹⁰), Na-ab-la-nu-um mar-tu (Dhorme SA. 241), Na-ab-ša-nu-um mar-tu (Gen. TD. 5508, I¹². 1⁵).

Zi(d)-da-num^{ki}; *num* not *lum* because of Delaporte, No. 7R¹, Rev. d'Assyr., 1911, p. 188, where the name of this place is written *Zi(d)-da-nu-um*^{ki}. Note the Amorite termination -a-num. Was it an Amorite town?

J.R. 508.—A very interesting but imperfect tablet, which states the length (gid = arāku) and the width (dagal = rapšu) of 1 *ig*^{giš} × . Unfortunately the first line is broken. For *ig* cf. *giš* *ig* = da-al-tu = door, (cf. Del. S. Gl. p. 18) and 1 *ig*^{giš} dú-a-gu-la, 1 *ig*^{giš} dú-a-tur, 3 *ig* ri(g)-gi-ne-lù. Nikolsky, 283, 285. (Telloh Tablets of Lugalanda and Urukagina period.)

é-sag-da-na, line 6, cf. *Sag-da-na*^{ki}, Nies. UDT. 56⁶⁵, 60⁷⁹. (Telloh texts.)

Month and year are too incomplete to decide the date. Possibly the month is *itu-maš[-dū]*, a Drehem month, but the personal names *Bá(?)-ú-a* and *E-lāh-a* are not found on Drehem texts hitherto published.

J.R. 509 concerns the *tùg* (clothing) of *uš-bar* (= *ušparu*, weavers) and the *tùg-ú* and *tùg-mug* of *kal* (men), all of which are described as the *tùg-ša(g)-gu(d)-ka*, i.e. garments of cowherds. Date G.S.I.

Ša(g)-gu(d), cf. Legr. TRU. 363²³: A-a-šú lù-ša(g)-gu(d)-ta-è-a; *ibid.* 379⁴: (*kal*), *ša(g)-gu(d)-me*.

Tùg-uš-bar, cf. Legr. 347³; Nesb. SRD. VII.³; *tùg-mug*. Nesb. SRD. VII.⁵; *tùg-ú*, only here on Drehem texts.

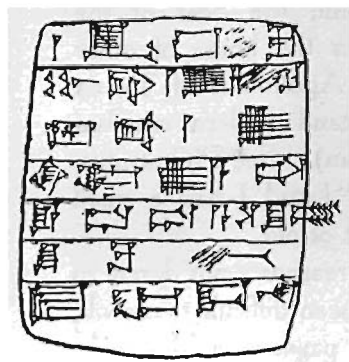
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