

Assyrian Scholarly Texts in the Yale Babylonian Collection

GARY BECKMAN AND BENJAMIN R. FOSTER

The Yale Babylonian Collection possesses a group of thirty-three Assyrian fragments, which were apparently acquired in one purchase sometime prior to 1920.¹ The majority, if not all, of these fragments seem to belong together. In 1933, F. J. Stephens published two of these pieces in YOS 9: YBC 7128, fragment of an Assurbanipal cylinder (No. 78), and YBC 7133, fragment of a prism of the same king (No. 79). We present the others here, having reduced the remaining inventory numbers to twenty-seven through joins.² The material includes historical, lexical, medical, and magical texts of various types.

The provenience of the fragments is uncertain, but two lines of evidence support Assur. First, No. 2 is a piece of the Middle Assyrian palace edicts, all previously published exemplars of which were found at Assur.³ Second, No. 7 joins BAM 28, a text reportedly from Assur.⁴ In addition, the colophons of this tablet and of No. 24 mention exorcists of the temple of the god Assur.⁵ No. 7 was

1. We thank W. W. Hallo, Curator of the Yale Babylonian Collection, for permission to publish this material. We also wish to express our gratitude to the following scholars, who left notes with the tablets, or who read our preliminary copies and sent us corrections, identifications, duplicates, and parallels: T. Abusch (No. 9b), R. Borger (Nos. 4, 22, and helpful comments on other pieces), M. Civil (No. 3), A. Goetze (No. 5), A. K. Grayson (Nos. 1, 7, 10), W. G. Lambert (Nos. 2, 9, plus helpful comments on other pieces), E. Reiner (Nos. 8, 9, 12, plus helpful comments on other pieces), and W. von Soden (Nos. 2, 4, 5, 7 [including join], 9, plus helpful comments on other pieces). We are particularly indebted to F. Köcher for many important observations on the medical fragments. To him we owe the joins which permit the reconstruction of No. 9. Unfortunately it was not possible to re-do the copies in light of this information. Various passages were collated by M. J. Geller, who contributed some suggestions and

corrections to several of the copies.

2. YBC 7136 and 7137 are unrelated.

3. See E. Weidner, *Afo* 17 (1954-56) 265-66, and O. Pedersen, *Archives and Libraries in the City of Assur*, 1 (Uppsala, 1985), p. 34.

4. *Die babylonisch-assyrische Medizin in Texten und Untersuchungen*, 6 vols. (Berlin, 1963-) 28 = EHE 333, from the collection of E. Tisserant; see V. Scheil, *RA* 18 (1920) 16. This join was confirmed by means of a plaster cast prepared by Ulla Kasten which Foster was able to join to EHE 333, courtesy of J.-M. Durand. Collation shows that the last sign in rev. 18' of BAM 28 is correctly copied, being DINGIR over an erasure. Most of this line appears to have been written over erasures.

5. No. 7: GIM SUMUN-šú šà-tir bà-ri [h]a-an-tš na-às-
ba / [ú-ù-t]i^m mki-šir-⁴A[G^L]⁰MAŠ.MAŠ É AN.ŠÁR.

No. 21: [LIBIR.RA.B]I GIM AB.SAR BA.AN.É.A /
[DUB mKi-šir¹-A]N.ŠÁR / [. . .] la ta-pa-šit.

the property of Kišir-Nabu, and the personal name in No. 21 is probably to be restored as [Kišir-]Assur.⁶ These two individuals, nephew and uncle respectively, were prominent members of the scribal family whose tablets were uncovered in the "Haus der Beschwörungspriester" (quadrant hD8I) at Assur.⁷ Nos. 7 and 21, as well as other of our fragments, seemingly belonged to the private library found in this house.⁸ It is interesting that the British Museum acquired a number of Assur texts from I. E. Gėjou in 1911,⁹ and that A. T. Clay, founder of the Yale Babylonian Collection, made significant purchases from the same Parisian dealer. A perusal of the Clay-Gėjou correspondence, however, turned up no recognizable reference to the texts studied here.

With the exception of Nos. 2 and 14 (and possibly Nos. 16 and 19), which display Middle Assyrian script, all of the Yale fragments are first-millennium in date. The three historical texts (No. 1 and the two pieces published by Stephens) date to the reign of Assurbanipal, while Kišir-Assur and Kišir-Nabu were active in the second half of the seventh century.¹⁰

We present these fragments in the hope that they will prove useful in reconstructing the series to which they belong. We wish that we could have discussed these pieces with A. Sachs, whose epigraphic skills, erudition, and generosity were the awe of master and apprentice alike, and whose tact and gentle personality made him the friend and mentor of Assyriologists *šeher rabi*.

CONCORDANCE

YBC	No.	YBC	No.	YBC	No.
7114	4	7125	10	7138	21
7115	5	7126	9c	7139	9d
7116	1	7127	11	7140	16
7117	20	7128	YOS 9 78	7141	21
7118	6	7129	12	7142	17
7119	20	7130	24	7143	18
7120	7	7131	13	7144	22
7121	23	7132	14	7145	19
7122	8	7133	YOS 9 79	7146	9b
7123	9a	7134	15	7147	20
7124	21	7135	3	7148	2

6. H. Hunger, *Babylonische und assyrische Kolophone*, AOAT 2 (Neukirchen-Vluyn, 1968), pp. 146-56, lists among scribes and owners of tablets only four individuals whose names end in the divine name Assur: Arad-Assur, Mutaqqin-Assur, SAR-x-Assur, and Kišir-Assur. Of these persons, only the last bears the professional designation ^LMAŠ.MAŠ, and he alone is attested with any frequency—more than forty times.

7. See G. Meier, *AfO* 12 (1937-39) 225-26.

8. On this material see S. Parpola, *JNES* 42 (1983) 10, and Hunger, *Kolophone*, p. 19 and entries 197-207. As demonstrated by Weidner, *AfO* 12 (1937-39) 147, other material from this locus went astray into the art market. Compare also B. Meissner, *ZA* 34 (1922) 113; C. Preusser, *Die Wohnhäuser in Assur*, WVDOG 64 (Berlin, 1954) 58; and O. Pedersen, *CRRAI* 32, pp. 145-46.

9. See A. K. Grayson, *ARRIM* 1 (1983) 17.

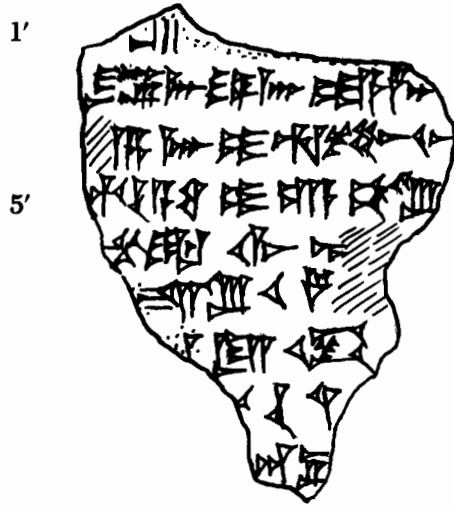
10. See Meier, *AfO* 12 (1937-39) 226.

CATALOGUE

<i>Number</i>	<i>YBC Number</i>	<i>Dimensions (cm)</i>	<i>Description</i>
1	7116	4.3 × 3.9	royal inscription: = Streck, <i>Asb.</i> 2, p. 90 lines 108-14; Aynard, <i>Prisme</i> , pp. 62ff. lines 61-68
2	7148	8.5 × 9.2	palace edicts: = VAT 14407 (<i>AfO</i> 17 [1954-56] Tf. XII) obv. 6-19 (lines 35-48 of edition, pp. 273-76); other side lost and piece smoothed flat, c. 1 cm thick
3	7135	4.0 × 4.5	syllabary: obv. = Idu II 105ff.; rev. = Idu II 320-31
4	7114	2.2 × 4.0	<i>šammu šikinšu</i> : cf. Köcher, <i>Pflanzenkunde</i> 33-35; <i>BAM</i> 327
5	7115	3.1 × 4.4	list of plants: obv. = CT 14 23 i 1ff., with addition of one entry between 7 and 8; <i>Therapeutic Vademecum</i> 5 i 1-7;10;8-9 (Köcher), to appear in <i>BAM</i> 9
6	7118	4.0 × 2.2	medical: rev. // <i>BAM</i> 311:41'-46'
7	7120	4.0 × 4.2	extracts from medical texts: join to <i>BAM</i> 28 (obv. 1-8, rev. 13'-18'); read rev. 14' [É]NAN.TA BA.MULKI.TA ¹ BA ¹ .MUL ¹ HULNAM.LÚ.ULÛ[.LU]; cf. also <i>BAM</i> 533 and 543.
8	7122	4.5 × 4.8	medical; colophon: SAG.DU <i>tup²-pi²</i> x x x NIG.GIG x [. . .]
9a	7123	4.2 × 5.0	Catalogue of medical texts, with numerous references to Sumerian incantations. 9a is the upper right-hand corner of the tablet, and 9b and 9d, while not joining directly, present successive portions of the right edge. 9c, which is a piece of the left edge, preserves the beginning of lines which find their completion on 9d. Thus, for the obverse, 9c obv. 14' = 9d obv. 10' (NIGIN 5 DU[B.MEŠ . . .] MURUB ₄ .MEŠ-šú KÚ.MEŠ-šú šá DÚR.GIG.GA.KAM), and on the reverse 9c rev. 7' = 9d rev. 18 (DIŠ DIB ^a A-nim [BÚR DIŠ NA gi-na]-a šu-dur) 9a read rev. 4' with von Soden <i>um-mu-¹ra¹</i> (D of <i>emēru</i> also in 9d obv. 18'); for the obscure scribal term SUR.GIBIL
9b	7146	6.5 × 7.3	
9c	7126	2.9 × 6.0	
9d	7139	5.6 × 4.6	

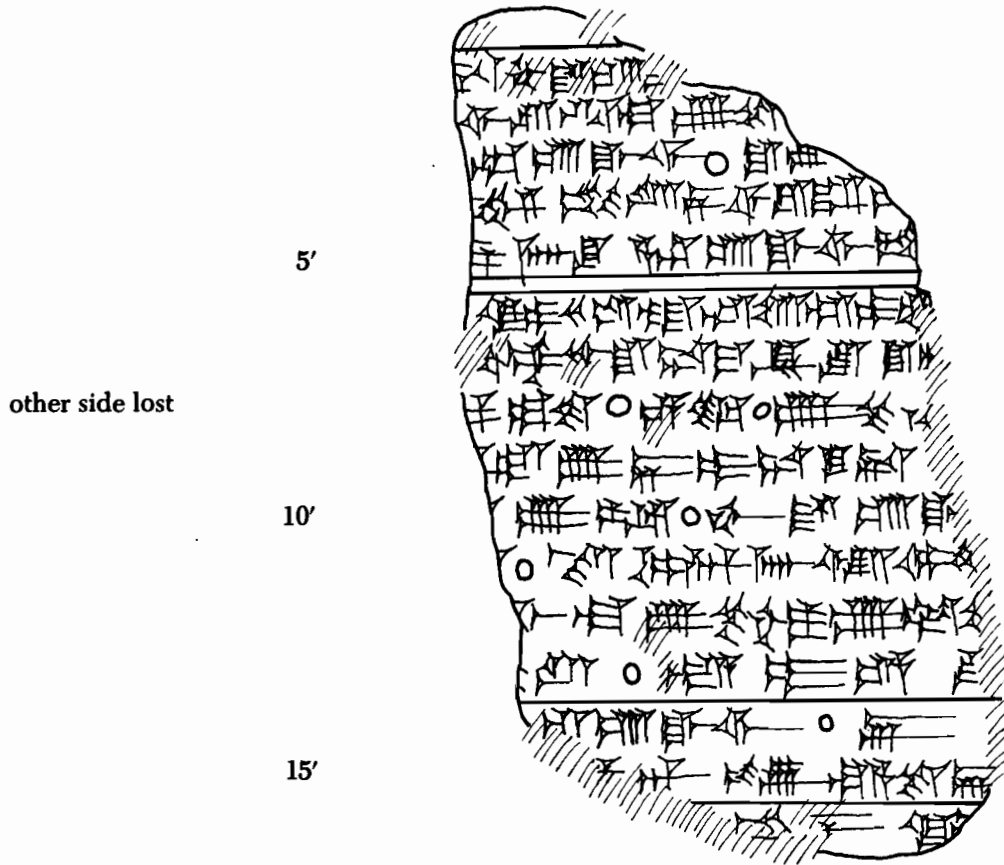
<i>Number</i>	<i>YBC Number</i>	<i>Dimensions (cm)</i>	<i>Description</i>
			<i>šab-tu</i> , see <i>CAD</i> s. v. <i>zarû</i> B; for the third line of the colophon read possibly LÚ ⁷ - ⁴ <i>Ba-ú šá</i> SANGA ⁷ URU ⁷ .BAL.TIL ⁴ 9d: to obv. 12' cf. <i>BAM</i> 131 rev. 9'; to rev. 24' cf. <i>KAR</i> 44 rev. 2.
10	7125	5.3 × 3.6	medical: = <i>CT</i> 23 10 iii 17-24
11	7127	4.5 × 2.3	medical: obv. = <i>BAM</i> 580 v' 18'-20'; rev. // <i>AMT</i> 5 1:5ff.
12	7129	5.0 × 2.0	medical: obv. ii 1-4 // <i>BAM</i> 168:62-66
13	7131	4.4 × 4.5	medical: obv. 1'-3' cf. <i>BAM</i> 134 ii 16-18; rev. cf. <i>BAM</i> 431 iv 43-46
14	7132	6.0 × 4.5	medical: cf. <i>BAM</i> 311, 315, etc.
15	7134	5.3 × 3.5	<i>suālu</i> tablet I: = <i>BAM</i> 574 iii 61-64
16	7140	4.9 × 5.8	medical
17	7142	6.4 × 6.9	medical
18	7143	6.2 × 5.2	medical; in rt. col. 7' note Ū AB.DUḪ for usual Ū AB.DUḪ
19	7145	4.4 × 7.2	medical
20	7117+7119 +7147	8.1 × 13.3	incantation: cf. Gurney, <i>AAA</i> 22 (1935) 42
21	7124+7138 (+)7141	8.1 × 7.0; 8.2 × 5.1	incantation and ritual: cf. <i>AAA</i> 22 56 i 45ff.; due to relative thickness cannot belong to same tablet as No. 20
22	7144	6.9 × 6.4	possibly a "mystical explanatory work"; rev. 3'-5' cf. <i>KAR</i> 307:25-27
23	7121	5.0 × 3.0	unidentified; fragment of exceptionally thick (3 cm), large tablet; text in Assyrian dialect (<i>er-ra-bu-ú-ni</i> , <i>kam-mu'-su</i>); second sign in line 1 is puzzling—perhaps the scribe wrote <i>i</i> , then, dissatisfied with the spacing, extended the sign to the left without fully erasing the left side of the first <i>i</i>
24	7130	7.0 × 3.0	unidentified

No. 1



other side uninscribed

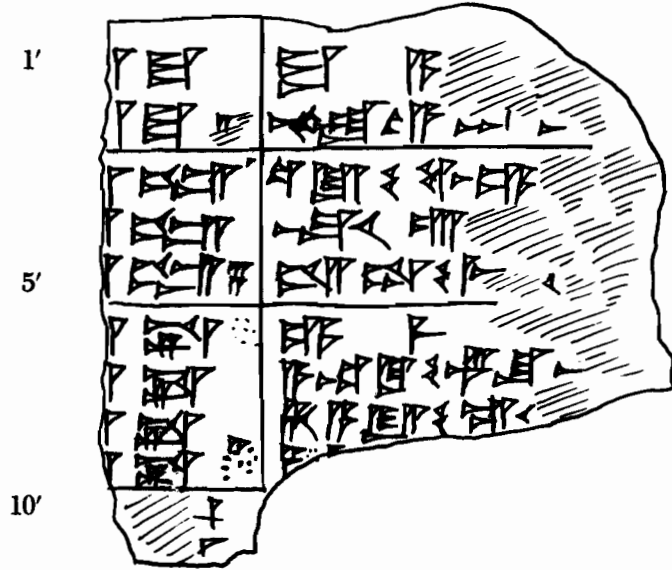
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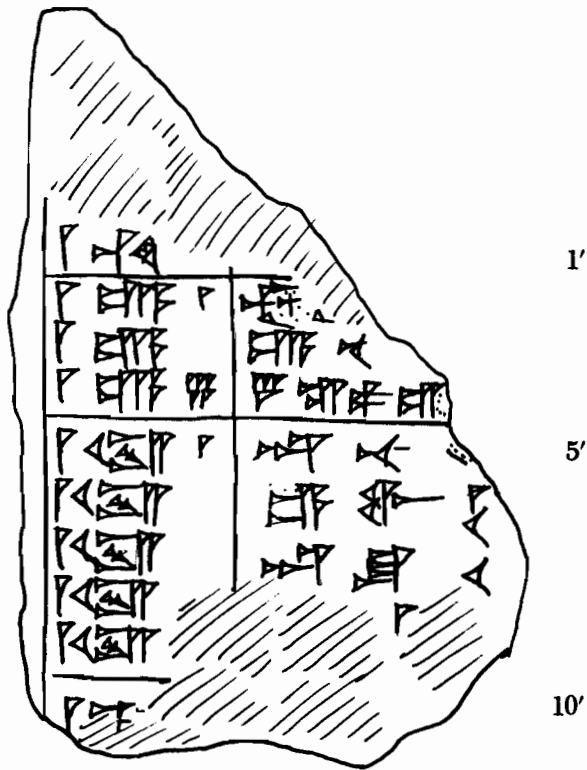
other side lost

No. 3

obv.

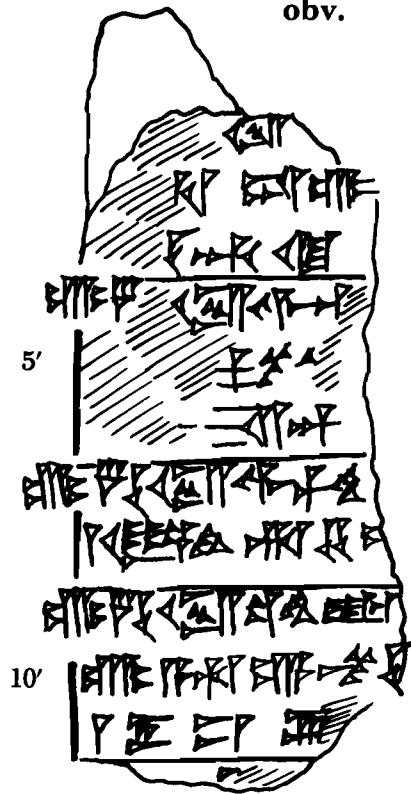


rev.

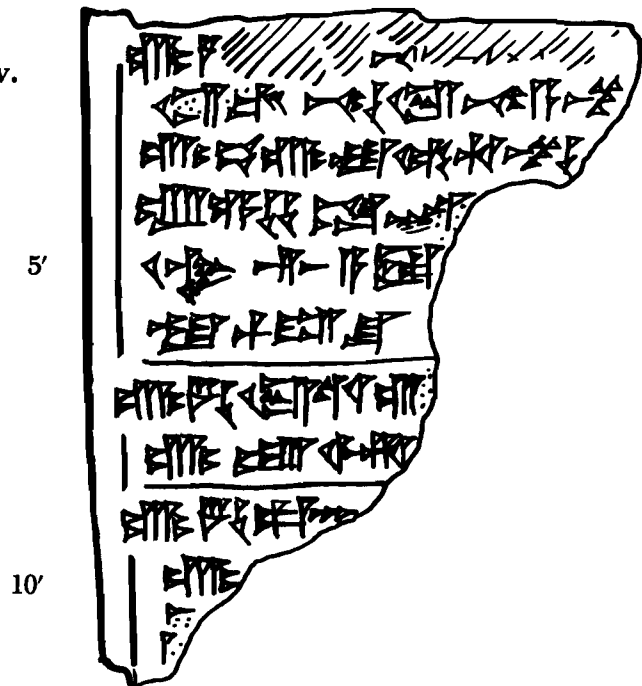


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obv.

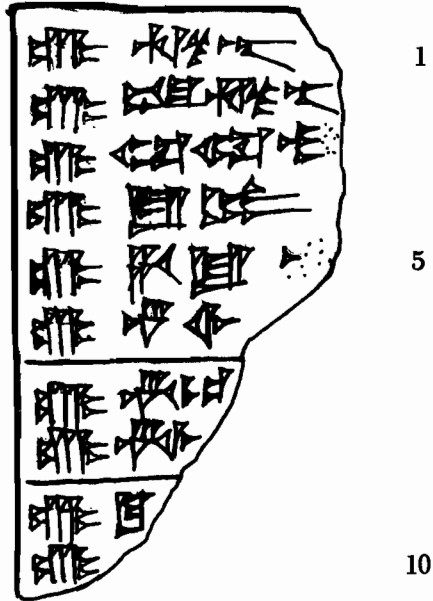


rev.



No. 5

obv.



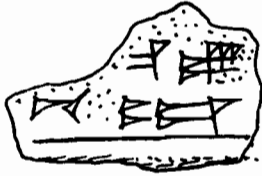
rev.



edge

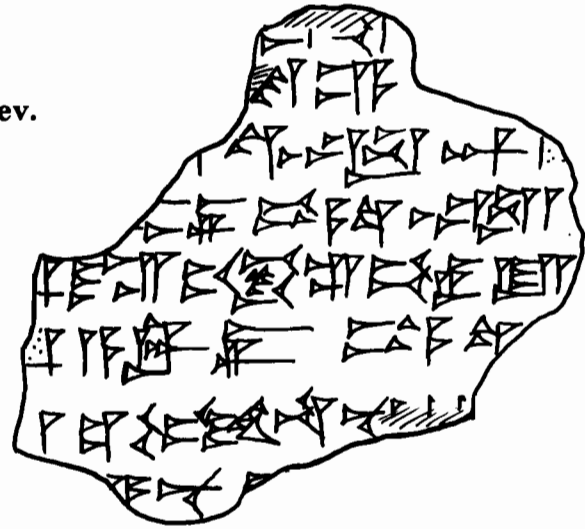
No. 6

obv.



rev.

5'



No. 7

obv.

1

5

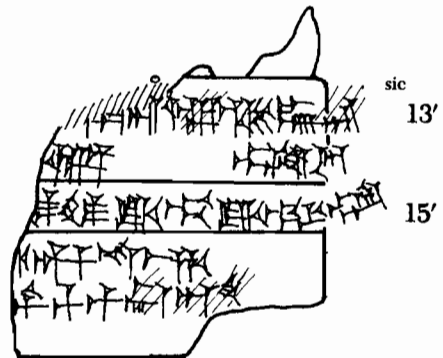


rev.

sic

13'

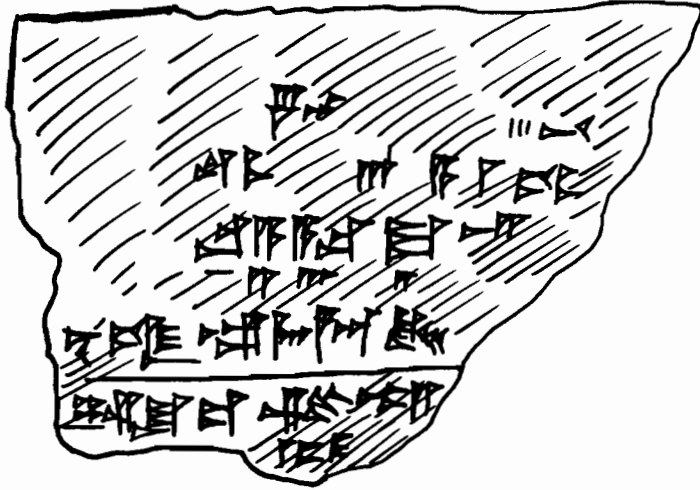
15'



No. 8

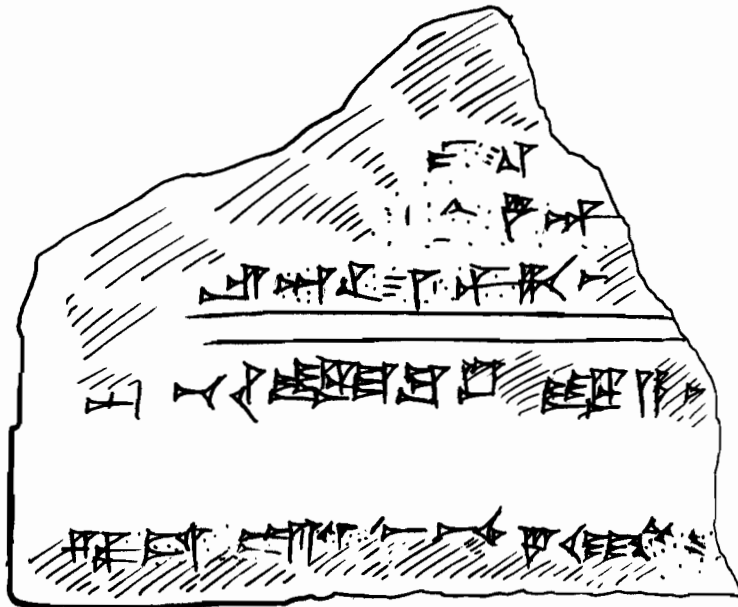
obv.

5'



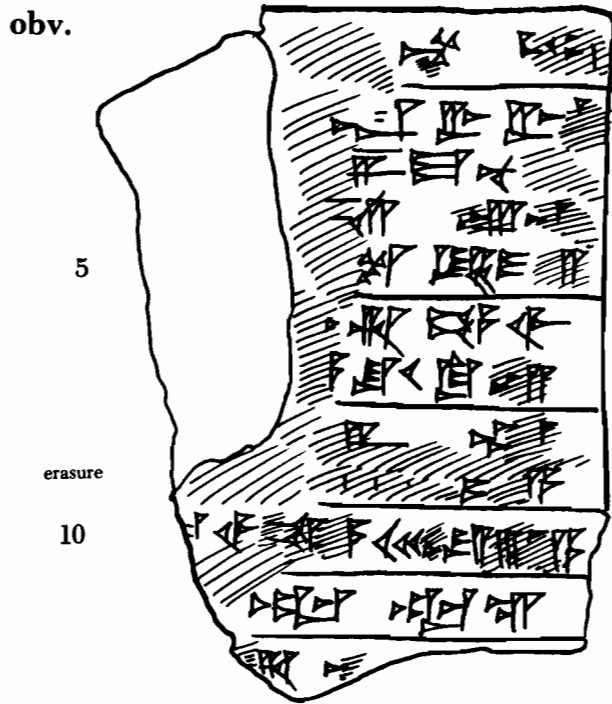
rev.

5'

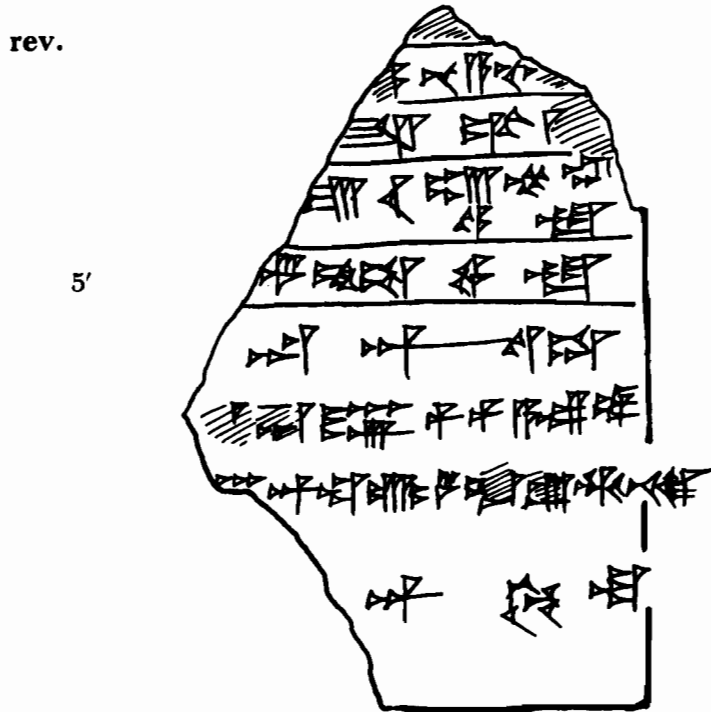


No. 9a

obv.



rev.



No. 9b

obv.

5'

10'

15'

20'

sic

sic

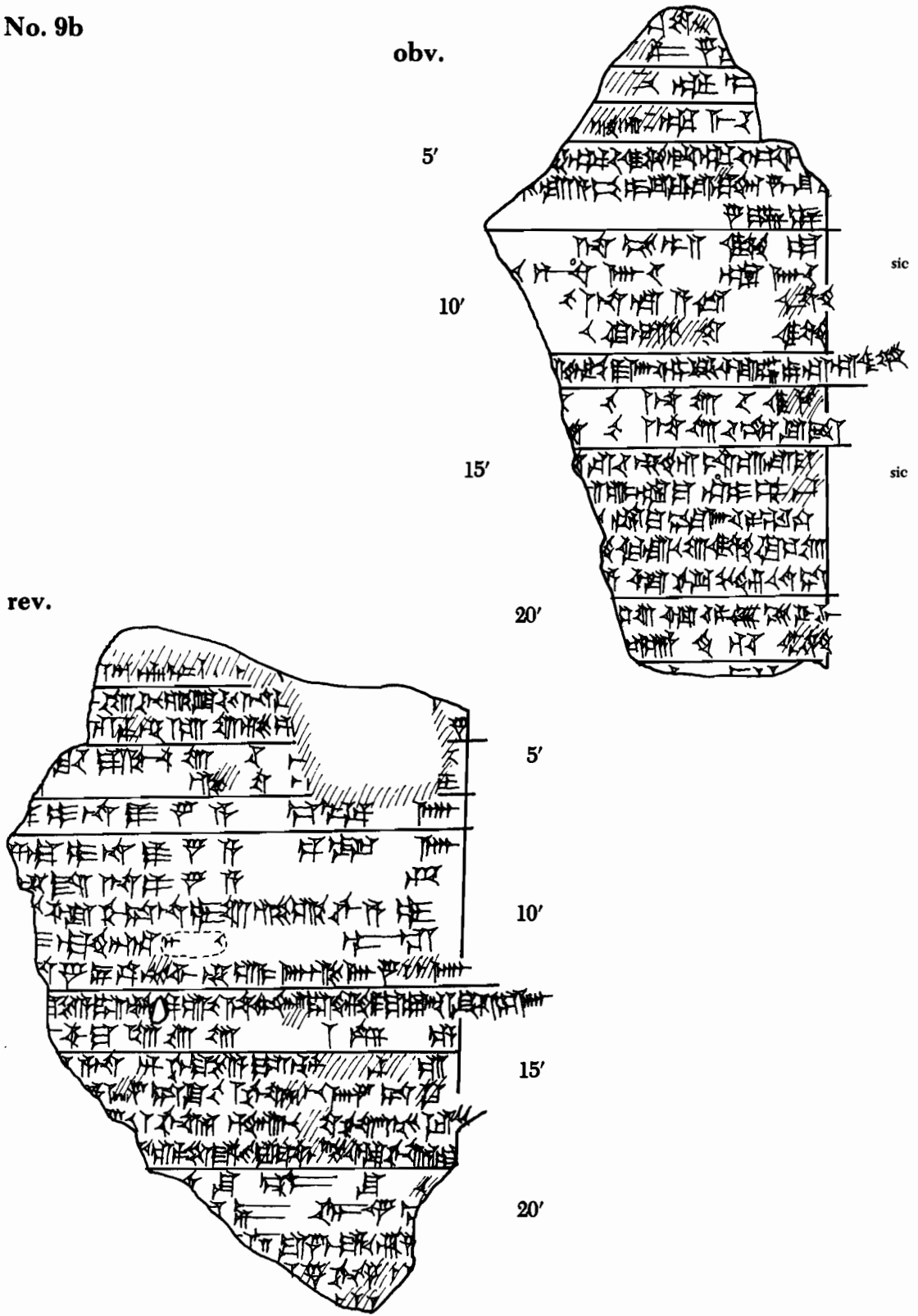
rev.

5'

10'

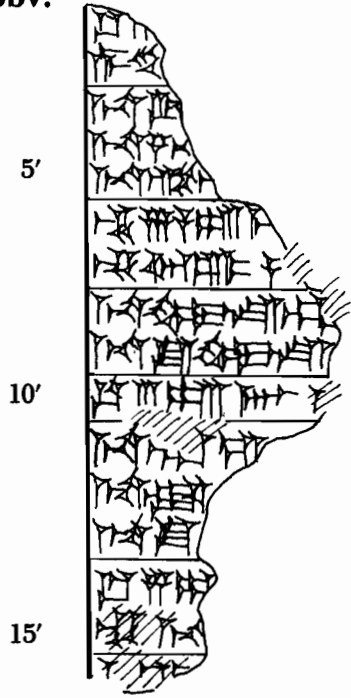
15'

20'

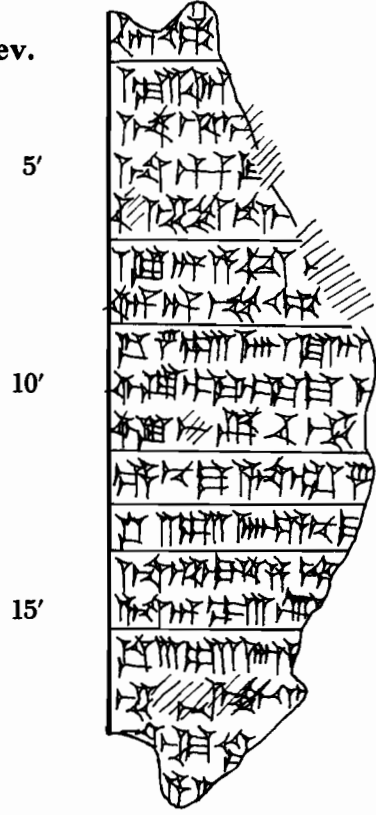


No. 9c

obv.

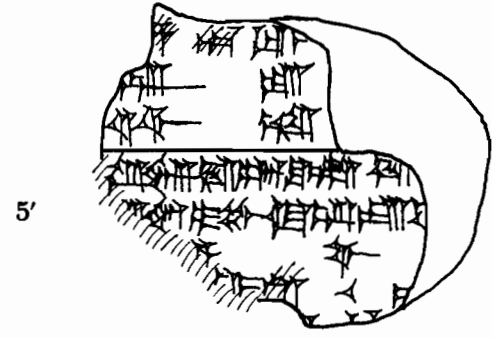


rev.



No. 10

obv.



rev.

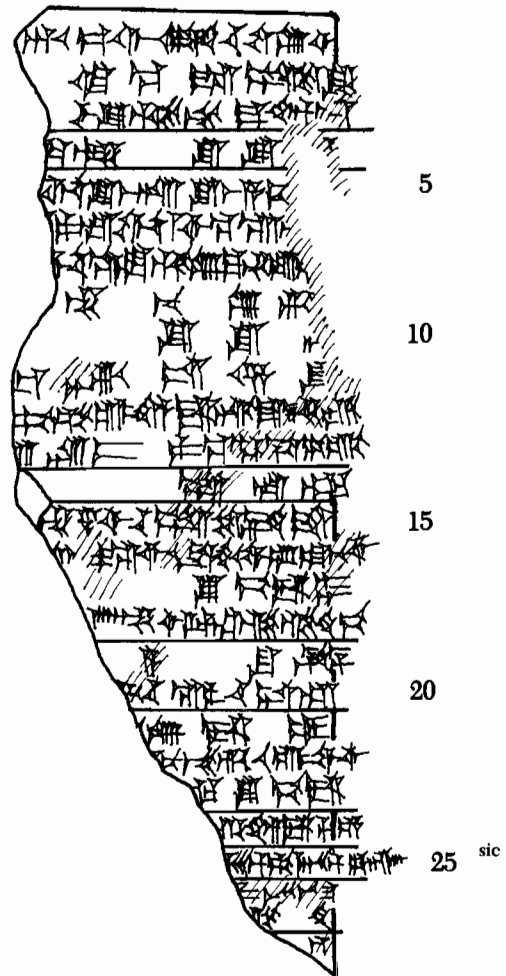


No. 9d

obv.

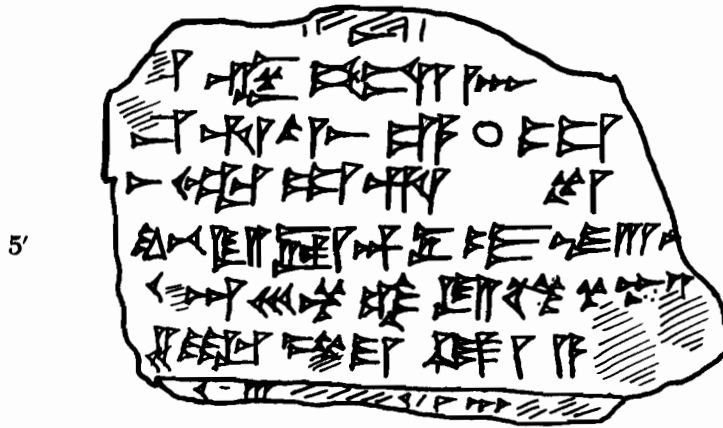


rev.

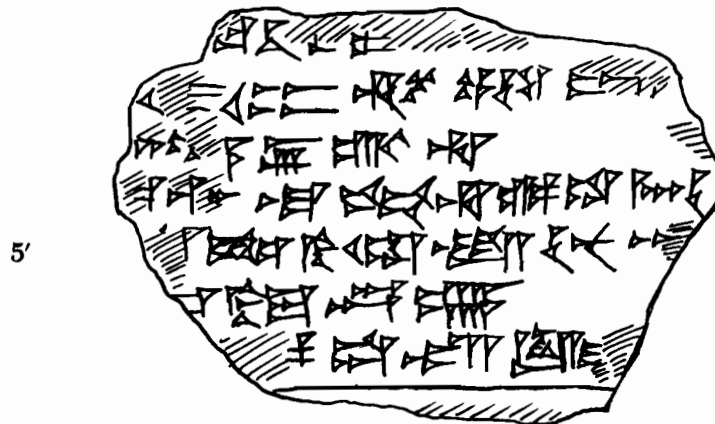


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obv.

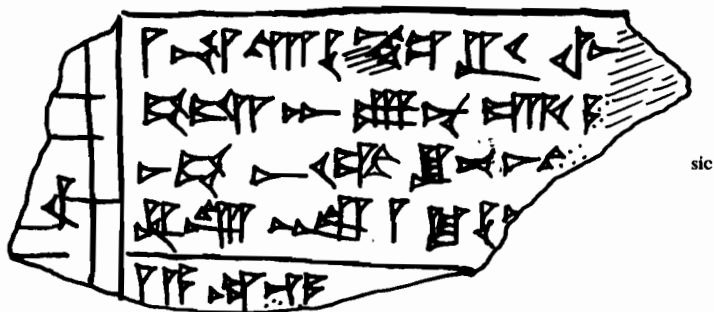


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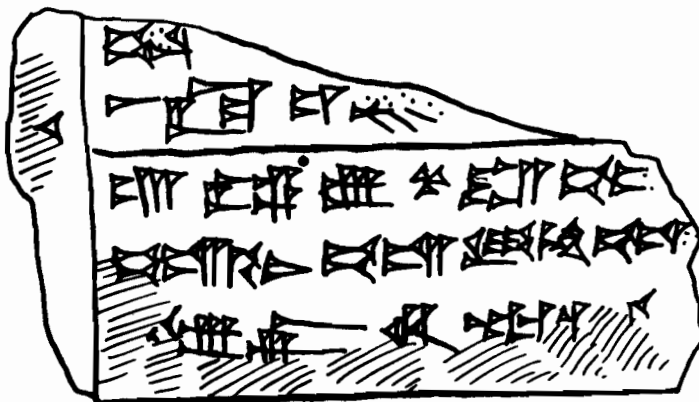
No. 12

obv.



sic

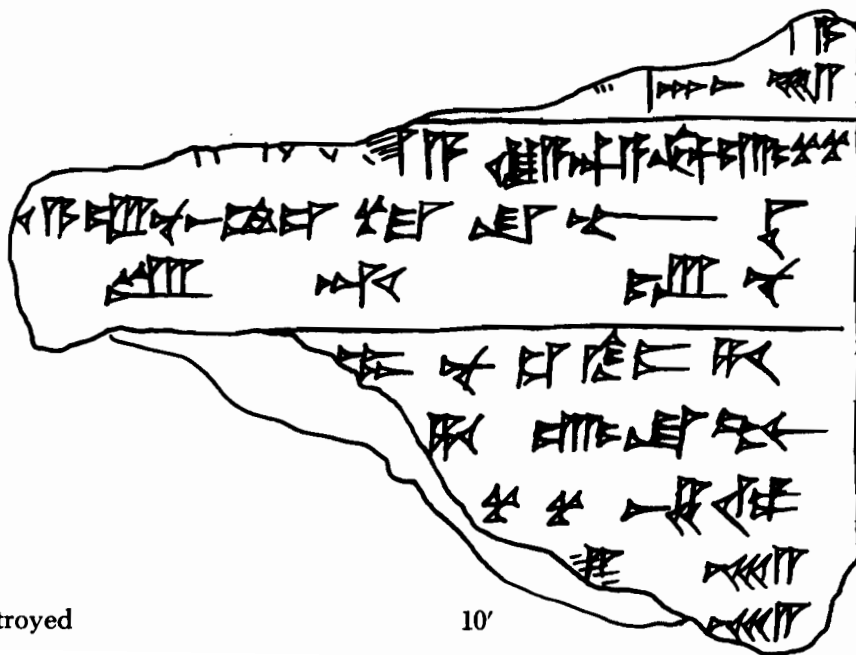
rev.



erasure

No. 14

obv.



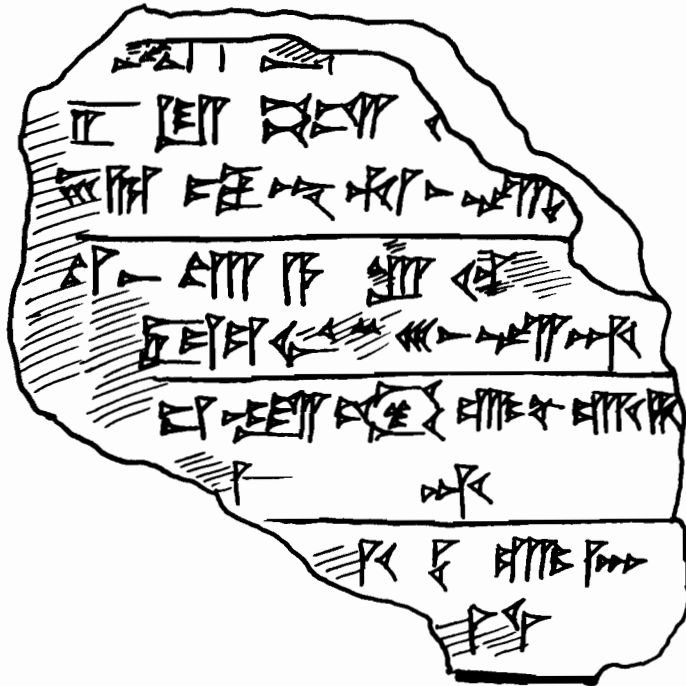
rev. destroyed

10'

No. 13

obv.

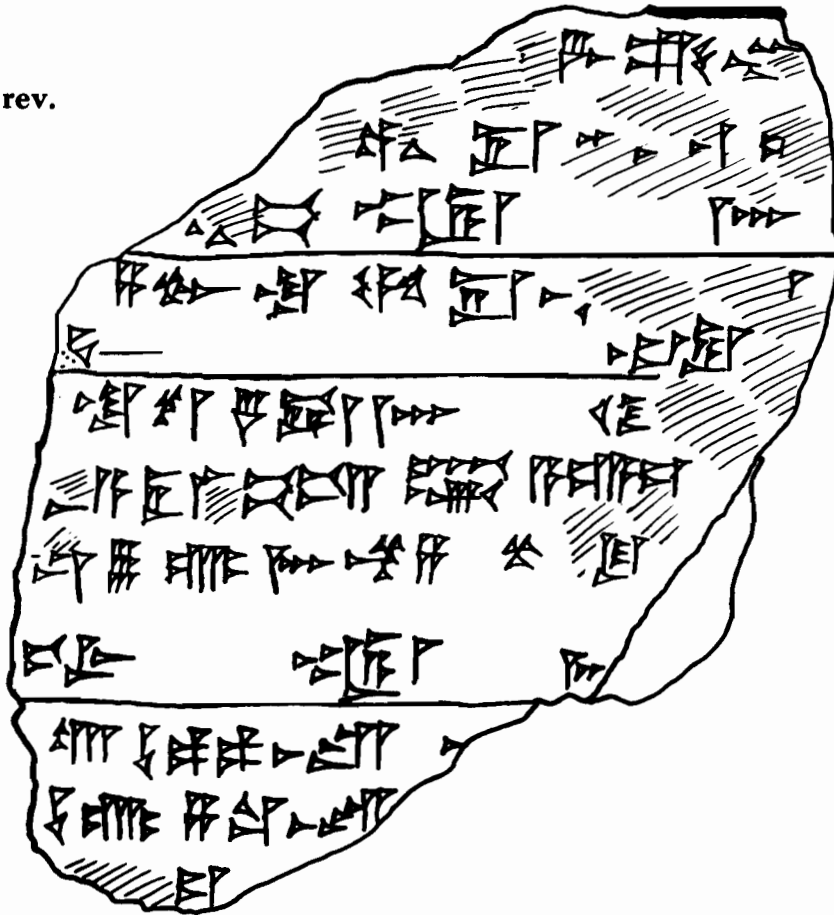
5'



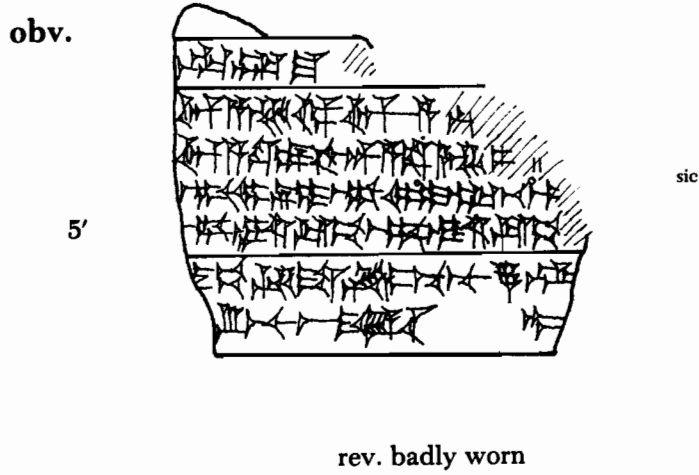
rev.

5

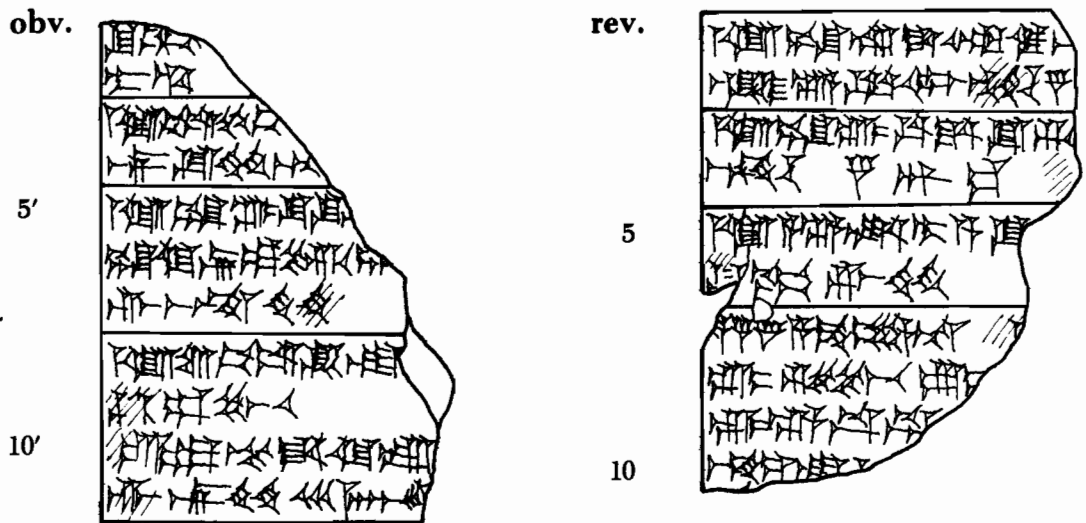
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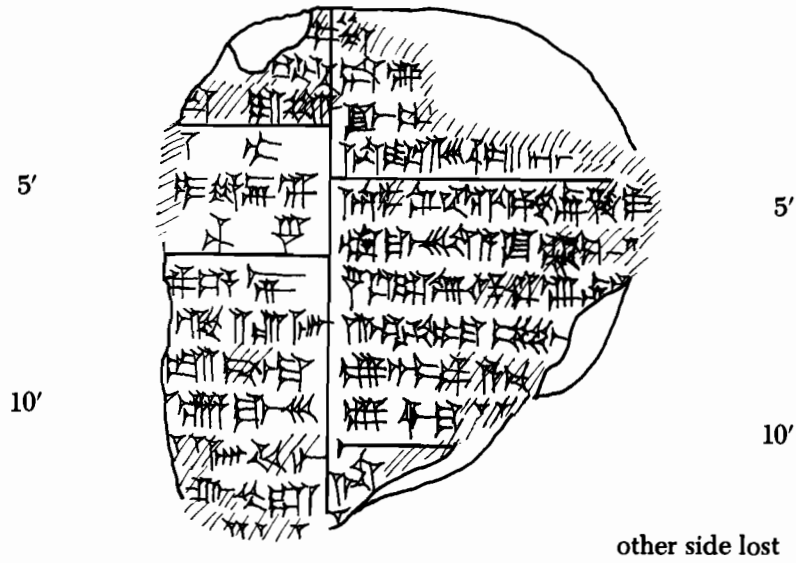
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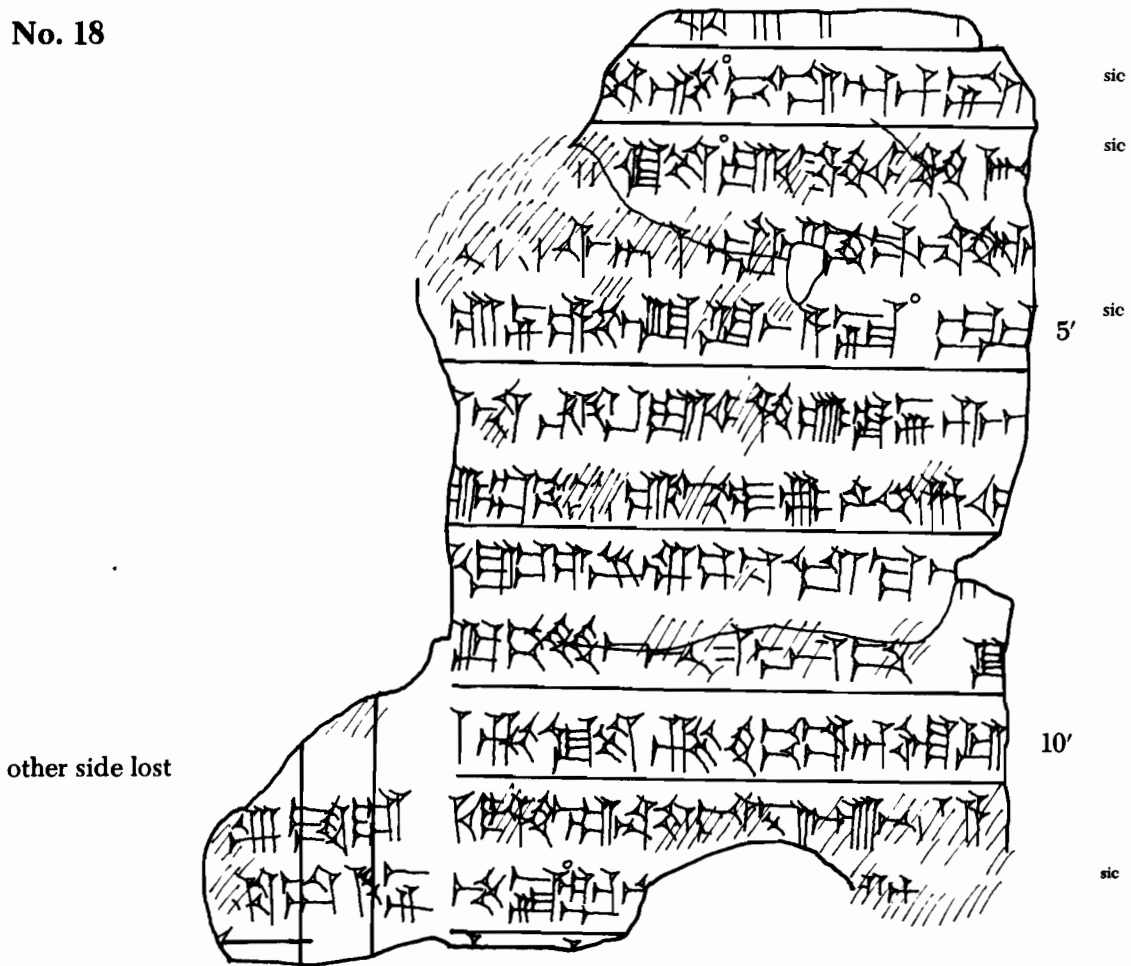
No. 16



No. 17



No. 18



No. 19

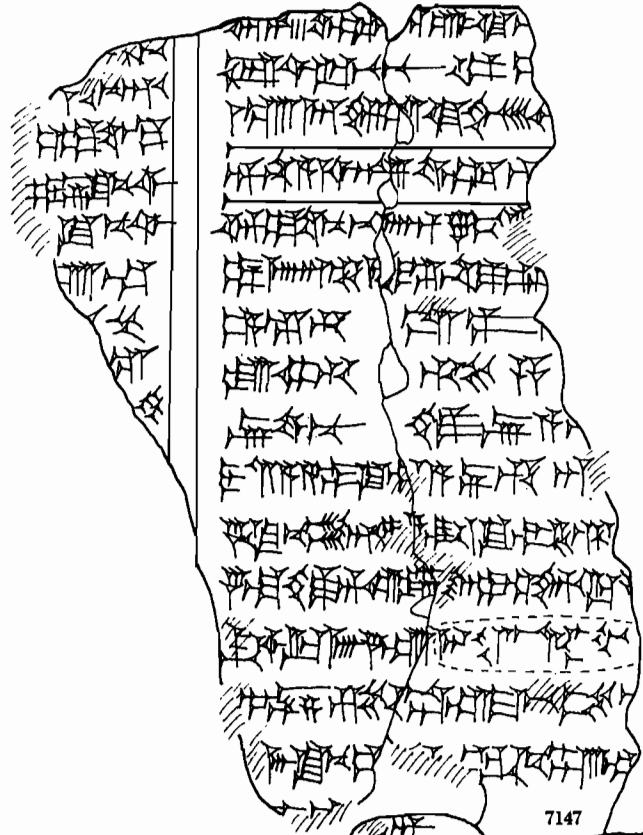


No. 20

obv.

1'

5'



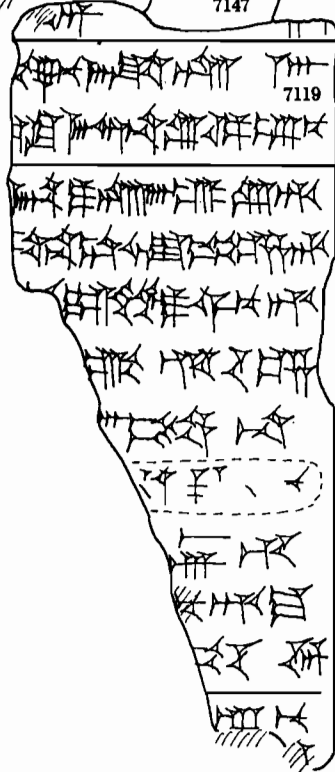
1

5

10

15

7147



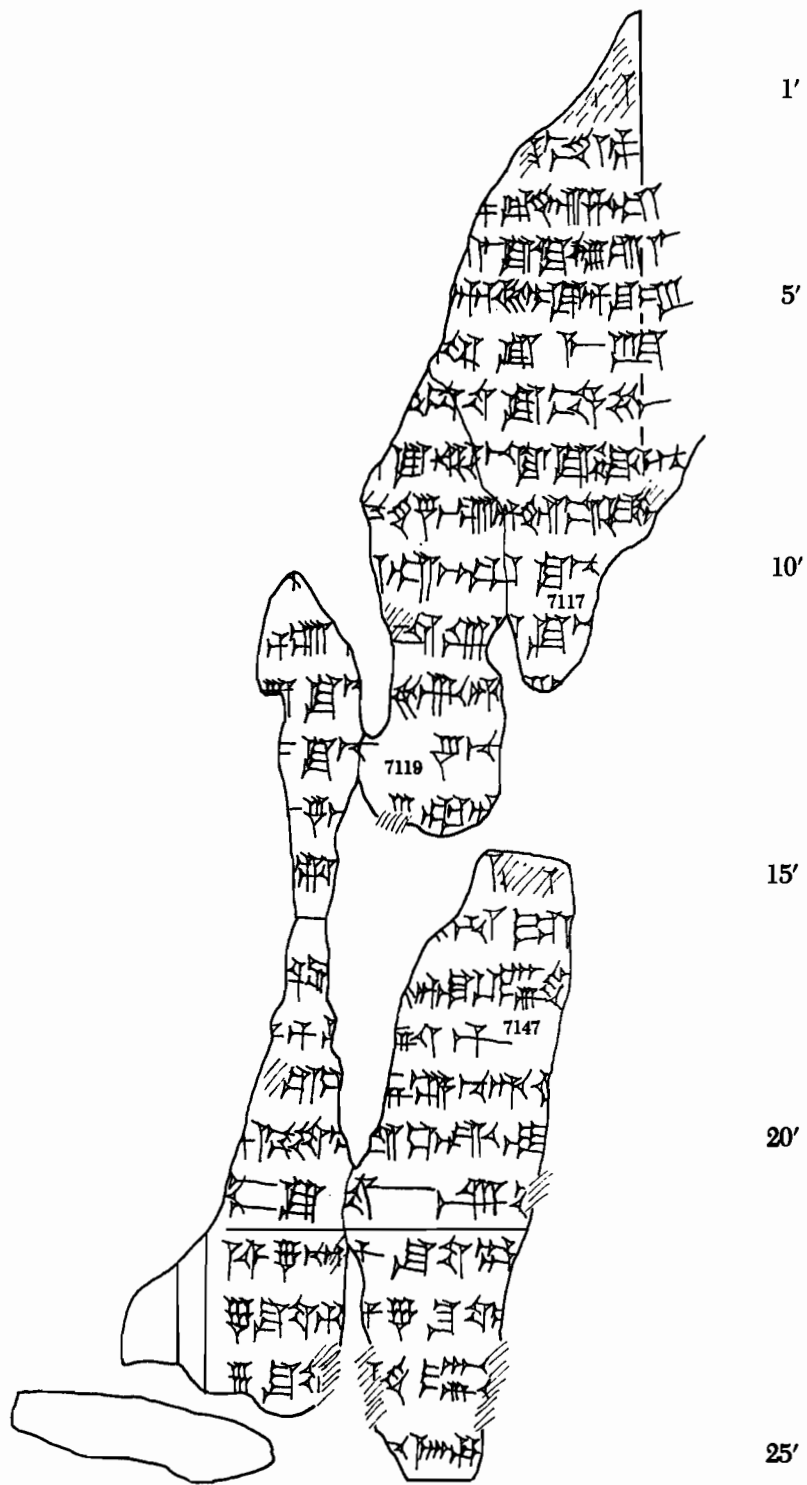
7119

20

25

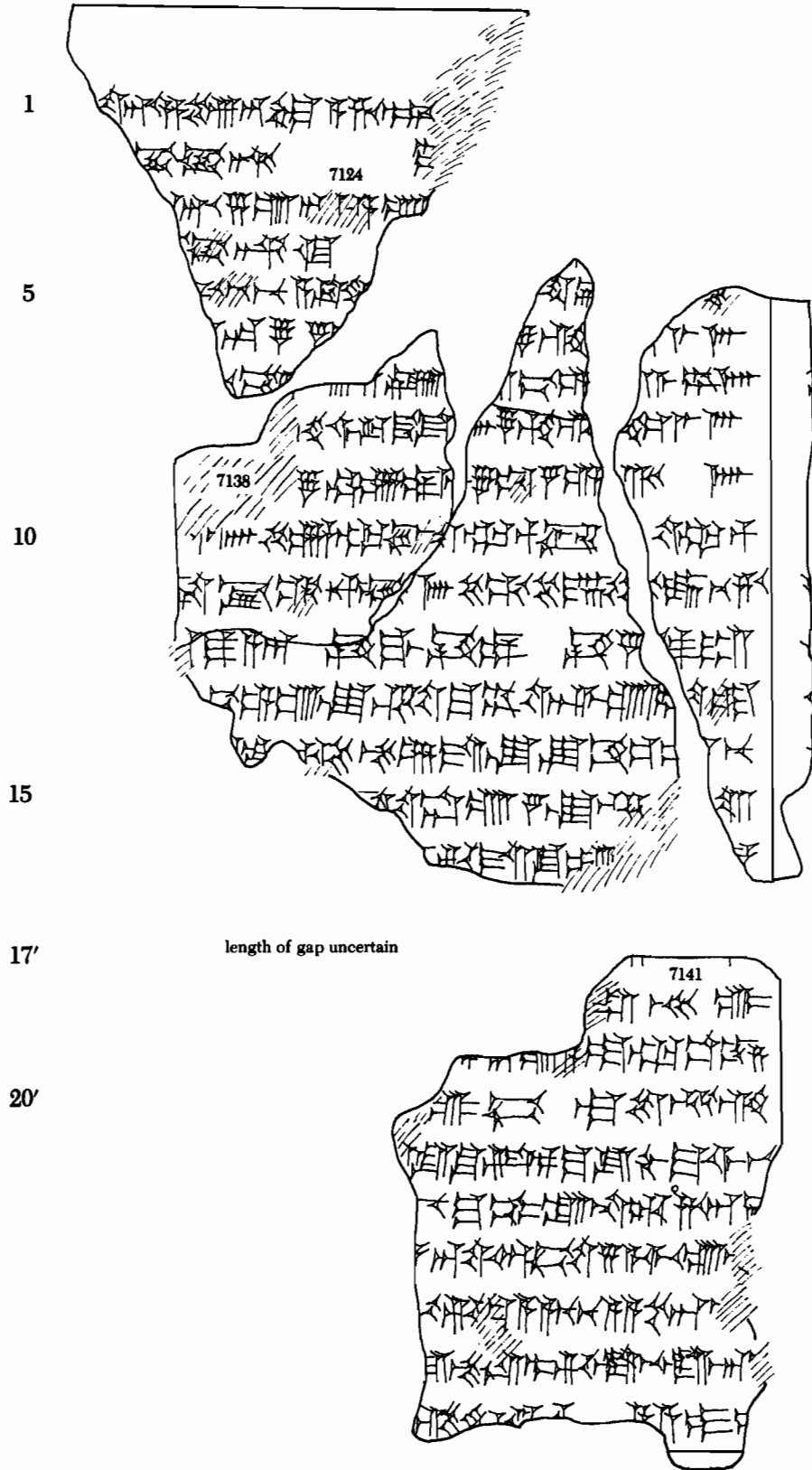
No. 20

rev.



No. 21

obv.



1

5

10

15

17'

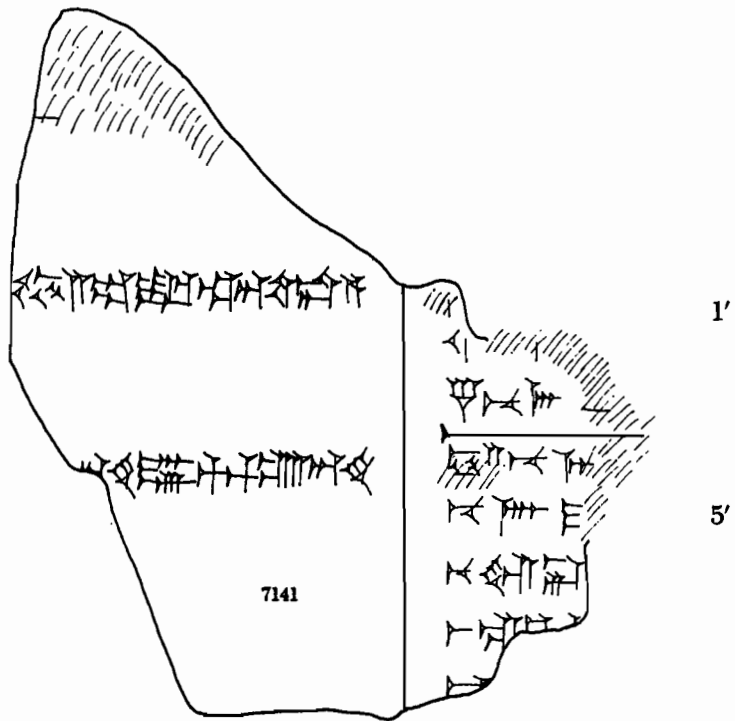
20'

length of gap uncertain

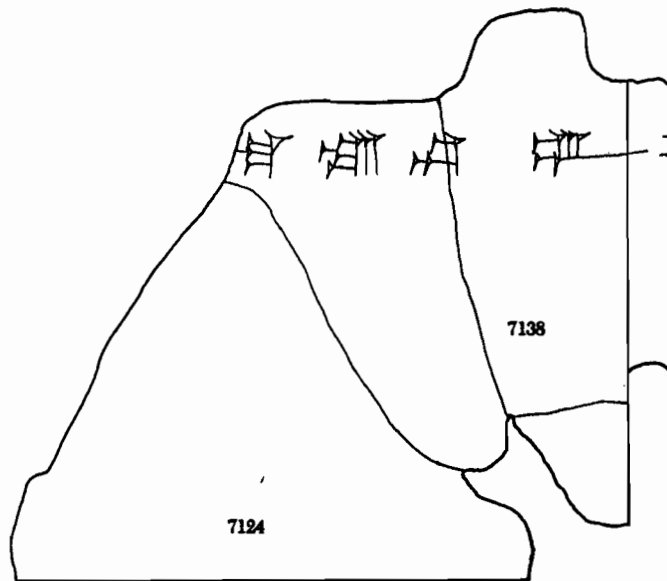
sic

No. 21

rev.



length of gap uncertain

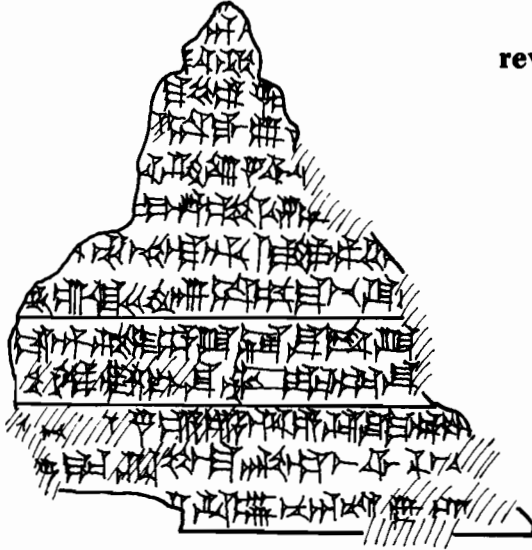


No. 22

obv.

5'

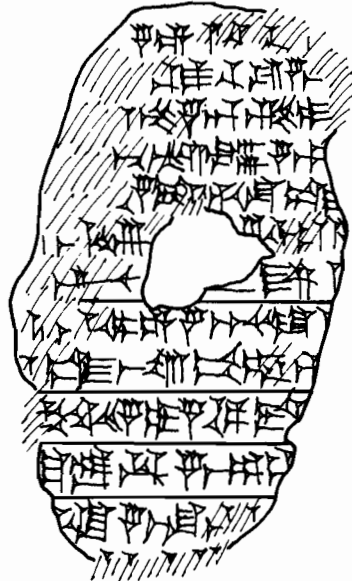
10'



rev.

5'

10'

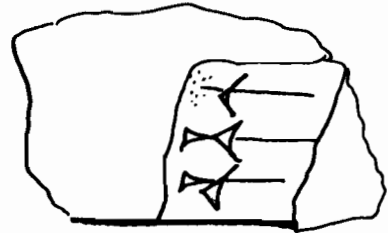


No. 23

obv.



rev.



No. 24

