

## New Cuneiform Texts in Barcelona

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[The present article presents the publications of eight new cuneiform texts in Barcelona.]

**Keywords:** Ur III Period, Drehem, Puzriš-Dagan, Umma, Messenger Texts.

The selling of Joseph Klein antiquities collections gathered in New York between 1941 and 1980, caused this small group of eight cuneiform texts to be brought to Barcelona.<sup>1</sup> The tablets belonging to this collection were divided into small lots and were recently sold in London. One of these lots was purchased by an antiquity dealer from Barcelona. The texts that make up this group are seven tablets from the Ur III Period, (five from Puzriš-Dagan and two from Umma) and one fragment of a gypsum brick stamp from the Sargonic Period.

### 1. *Texts from Puzriš-Dagan*

Five texts from this group belong to the archives of Puzriš-Dagan (modern Drehem), a complex centre which controlled of livestock in the Ur III period.<sup>2</sup> All the tablets from Puzriš-Dagan come from illicit excavations and so far more than 14.600 tablets from this site have been made available to us via museums, private collections, etc.<sup>3</sup>

Text 1 and 2 are receipts (šu ba-ti) of dead cattle from the Disbursal Office to the Office of Dead animals. The person in charge of the Disbursal Office was Nalu<sup>4</sup> in text 1 and Ūta-mīšaram<sup>5</sup> in text 2; the

1. The Joseph Klein collection of cuneiform text comprises 39 tablets from the Ur III period. The texts are catalogued in Molina, Database of Neo-Sumerian Texts (<http://goo.gl/jNJzqT>). The abbreviations follow those in the Cuneiform Digital Library Initiative ([http://cdli.ox.ac.uk/wiki/abbreviations\\_for\\_assyriology](http://cdli.ox.ac.uk/wiki/abbreviations_for_assyriology)).

2. For the organization of the Puzriš-Dagan livestock agency see the classical book of Sigrist 1992; the comprehensive edition and study of Hilgert 1998 and 2003; the systematic approach of Sallaberger 1999: 238-273 and more recently the excellent study of Tsouparopoulou 2013.

3. See Molina, Database of Neo-Sumerian Texts (<http://bdts.filol.csic.es/>).

4. Nalu was one of the supervisors of the branch at Nippur and Ur of the Disbursal Office. He was supervisor from Šulgi 28 to Šu-Suen 5 (Tsouparopoulou 2013: §3.2.3.2.; Hilgert 1998: 15-16; Sigrist 1992: 257-259 and 305-306).

5. Ūta-mīšaram was supervisor of the branch associated with the Royal Court of the Office of the Disbursal from Amar-Suen 4 to Amar-Suen 8 (Tsouparopoulou 2013: §3.2.3.2.; Hilgert 2003: 71; Sigrist 1992: 336).

person in charge of the Office of Dead Animals was Ur-niġar in text 1 and Šulgi-iriġu<sup>6</sup> in text 2. The scheme of the texts follows the patterns described in Sallaberger 1999: 262 type 3.

**Text 1.** Measurements: 26×23×13. Provenance: Puzriš-Dagan. Date: Amar-Suen 3/III/12.<sup>7</sup>

Obv.	1.	2 maš <sub>2</sub> -gal 1 sila <sub>4</sub> ga ba-ug <sub>7</sub> u <sub>4</sub> ʾ12ʾ-kam	2 billy goats, 1 suckling lamb, they are dead, it is the 12 <sup>th</sup> day;
Rev.	5.	ki na-lu <sub>5</sub> -ta ʾurʾ-niġar <sup>gar</sup> šu ba-ti iti u <sub>5</sub> -bi <sub>2</sub> -gu <sub>7</sub> mu <sup>d</sup> gu-za <sup>d</sup> en-	from Nalu Ur-niġar accepted them. Month: “Food of <i>ubi</i> ”; the year: Enlil’s throne
Rev.	10.	lil <sub>2</sub> -la <sub>2</sub> ba-dim <sub>2</sub>	was fashioned.

**Text 2.** Measurements: 23×21×13. Provenance: Puzriš-Dagan. Date: Amar-Suen 8/VI/13.<sup>8</sup>

Obv.	1.	[1 ...] ba-[uš <sub>2</sub> ] u <sub>4</sub> 13-[kam] ki u <sub>2</sub> -ta <sub>2</sub> -mi-šar/-ra-ʾamʾ-ta	[1 ...], it [is dead], it is the 13 <sup>th</sup> day; from Ūta-mīšaram
Rev.	5.	<sup>d</sup> šul-gi-iri-ġu <sub>10</sub> šu ba-ti ʾiti a <sub>2</sub> ʾ-ki-ti mu en eridu/ <sup>ki</sup> b[a-huġ]	Šulgi-iriġu accepted it. Month “Akiti (Festival)”; The year: the en-priestess of Eridu was [installed.]
Le.E.		(total): 1	(Total): 1.

The following three texts (texts 3, 4 and 5) record the expenditures (i<sub>3</sub>-dab<sub>5</sub>) of animals from the chief official: Abba-saga<sup>9</sup>. The expenditures were accepted by Šū-Erra<sup>10</sup> (text 3); by Nalu (text 4) and by Ūta-mīšaram (text 5). The scheme of the texts follows the patterns described in Sallaberger 1999: 262 type 2.

**Text 3.** Measurements: 30×27×13. Provenance: Puzriš-Dagan. Date: Amar-Suen 5/III/15.<sup>11</sup>

Obv.	1.	1 du <sub>2</sub> -nita <sub>2</sub> u <sub>4</sub> 15-kam ki ab-ba-sa <sub>6</sub> -ga-ta šu-er <sub>3</sub> -ra	1 male donkey it is the 15 <sup>th</sup> day; from Abba-saga Šū-Erra
Rev.	5.	i <sub>3</sub> -dab <sub>5</sub>	received it.

6. Ur-niġar is the supervisor of the Office of Dead Animals from Šulgi 43 to Amar-Suen 3 and Šulgi-iriġu from Amar-Suen 3 to Ibbi-Suen 2 (Tsouparopoulou 2013: §3.2.5.1.; Sallaberger 1999: 262).

7. <http://bdtns.filol.csic.es/193393> (catalogue and photo of the reverse).

8. <http://bdtns.filol.csic.es/193395> (catalogue and photo of the reverse).

9. Abba-saga was one of the best attested officials from Puzriš-Dagan texts. He was the chief official from Amar-Suen 2 to Amar-Suen 9 (except few months of Amar-Suen 8) (Tsouparopoulou 2013: §3.2.2.; Hilgert 2003: 53-54; Sigrist 1992: 273-292).

10. Šū-Erra was a member of the shepherds’ office. On his bureau see Hilgert 2003: 70, with previous bibliography.

11. <http://bdtns.filol.csic.es/193392> (catalogue and photo).

	iti u <sub>5</sub> -bi <sub>2</sub> -gu <sub>7</sub> mu en-unu <sub>6</sub> -gal d <sub>1</sub> inanna unu <sub>6</sub> <sup>ki</sup> - ga ba-huĝ Le.E. (total): 1	Month: “Food of <i>ubi</i> ”. The year: En-unu-gal of Inanna of Uruk, was installed. (Total): 1
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**Text 4.** Measurements: 31×26×13. Provenance: Puzriš-Dagan. Date: Amar-Suen 7/1/23.<sup>12</sup>

Obv.	1. 3 udu niga u <sub>4</sub> 23-kam ki ab-ba- <sup>r</sup> sa <sub>6</sub> -/ga-ta na-lu <sub>5</sub> 5. i <sub>3</sub> -dab <sub>5</sub> (blank)	3 grain-fed rams, it is the 23 <sup>rd</sup> day; from Abba-saga Nalu received them.
Rev.	iti maš-da <sub>3</sub> -gu <sub>7</sub> mu hu-u[h <sub>2</sub> -n]u-ri <sup>ki</sup> ba-hul Le.E. (total): 3	Month: “Gazelle feast”; the year: Huhnuri was destroyed. (Total): 3

**Text 5.** Measurements: 32×31×13. Provenance: Puzriš-Dagan. Date: Amar-Suen 7/VIII/14.<sup>13</sup>

Obv.	1. 1 ud <sub>5</sub> LU <sub>2</sub> . <sup>r</sup> SU <sup>r</sup> u <sub>4</sub> 14-kam ki ab-ba-[sa <sub>6</sub> ]-ga-/[ta] u <sub>2</sub> -ta <sub>2</sub> -m[i-ša]r-ra/-am	1 Šimaškian she-goat, it is the 14 <sup>th</sup> day; from Abba-saga Ūta-mīšaram
Rev.	5. i <sub>3</sub> - <sup>r</sup> dab <sub>5</sub> <sup>r</sup> (blank) iti šu-eš <sub>5</sub> - <sup>r</sup> ša <sup>r</sup> mu hu-u[h <sub>2</sub> -n]u-ri <sup>ki</sup> [ba-hul] Le.E. (total): 1	received it. Month: šu’ešša; the year: Huhnuri [was destroyed]. (Total): 1

## 2. Texts from Umma

**Text 6.** Measurements: 32×23×13. Provenance: Umma. Date: Amar-Suen 7/IV/4.<sup>14</sup>

This text is another example of the so-called *Messenger texts*, one of the most common kinds of text in Ur III Umma. The tablet records the supply of beer, bread, oil, potash, (dry) fish and onion to two well-documented messengers (kaš<sub>4</sub>).<sup>15</sup>

Obv.	1. 3 sila <sub>3</sub> kaš 2 sila <sub>3</sub> ninda 2 gin <sub>2</sub> i <sub>3</sub> 2 gin <sub>2</sub> / naĝa 1 ku <sub>6</sub> 1 sa sum šu- <sup>d</sup> IM	3 liters of beer, 2 liters of bread, 5 centiliters of oil, 16.6 grams of potash, 1 fish and 1 bunch of onions (to) Šū-Adad.
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12. <http://bdtns.filol.csic.es/193396> (catalogue and photo of the obverse).

13. <http://bdtns.filol.csic.es/193391> (catalogue and photo of the obverse).

14. <http://bdtns.filol.csic.es/193397> (catalogue and photo of the obverse).

15. For the so-called Umma Messenger Texts see the classical book of McNeil 1971. For more recent approaches see Sallaberger 1999: 98-99; Pomponio – Notizia 2006.

Rev.	5.	3 sila <sub>3</sub> kaš 2 sila <sub>3</sub> ninda 2 gin <sub>2</sub> i <sub>3</sub> 2 gin <sub>2</sub> / nağa 1 ku <sub>6</sub> 1 sa sum ur- <sup>d</sup> nanna 0.0.5 ninda 0.0.3 kaš gen	3 liters of beer, 2 liters of bread, 5 centiliters of oil, 16.6 grams of potash, 1 fish and 1 bunch of onions (to) Ur-Nanna. 50 liters of bread, 30 liters of beer of second quality,
	10.	½ sila <sub>3</sub> i <sub>3</sub> -ġiš ša <sub>3</sub> -gal kaš <sub>4</sub> -e-ne ġiri <sub>3</sub> ur- <sup>d</sup> nanna u <sub>4</sub> 4-kam iti nesaġ	½ liter of vegetable oil as provisions for messengers, via Ur-Nanna. It is the 4 <sup>th</sup> day. Month: “First fruit offering”;
L.E.	15.	mu <us <sub>2</sub> >-sa ša-aš-ru-um <sup>ki</sup> / ba-hul	the year following (the year): Šašrum was destroyed.

**Text 7.** Measurements: 96×52×23. Provenance: Umma. Date: Šū-Suen 6/VI/.<sup>16</sup>  
Delivery (mu-ku<sub>x</sub>(DU)) of oxen and cows from different people to Šara.

Obv.	1.	[1] ṛgudṛ mu-[1] ba-sa <sub>6</sub> -g[a] 1 gud mu-1 ur- <sup>d</sup> nin-mug-ga	[1] ox of 1 year (from) Basaga; 1 ox of 1 year (from) Ur-Ninmuga
	5.	1 gud mu-2 ur-e <sub>11</sub> -e 1 gud mu-1 lugal-ma <sub>2</sub> -gur <sub>8</sub> -re dumu x-ṛxṛ-[(x)] 1 gud mu-1	1 ox of 2 years (from) Ur-e'e; 1 ox of 1 year (from) Lugal-magure son of ... 1 ox of 1 year
	10.	ba-zi-ge 1 ab <sub>2</sub> mu-2 al-la dumu ur-teš <sub>2</sub> 1 ab <sub>2</sub> mu-2 lu <sub>2</sub> -ib-gal dumu KU-[...]	(from) Bazige; 1 cow of 2 years (from) Ala son of Urteš; 1 cow of 2 years (from) Luibgal son of KU-[...];
	15.	1 <sup>anše</sup> kunga <sub>2</sub> -nita <sub>2</sub> ġi[š] <sup>d</sup> nanna-ku <sub>3</sub> -zu dumu a-t[u]	1 yoke male mule (from) Nanna-kuzu son of Atu.
Rev.	(blank)	šu-niġin <sub>2</sub> 2 ab <sub>2</sub> mu-2 šu-niġin <sub>2</sub> 1 g[ud m]u-2 šu-niġin <sub>2</sub> ṛ4ṛ [gud] mu-1	Total: 2 cows of 2 years. Total: 1 ox of 2 years. Total: 4 [oxen] of one year.
	20.	šu-niġin <sub>2</sub> [1] <sup>anše</sup> kunga <sub>2</sub> ṛnita <sub>2</sub> ṛ ġiš (blank) mu-ku <sub>x</sub> (DU) ṛ <sup>d</sup> šara <sub>2</sub> iti šu-numun mu <sup>d</sup> šu- <sup>d</sup> suen lu[gal] uri <sub>5</sub> <sup>ki</sup> -ṛmaṛ-ṛke <sub>4</sub> ṛ	Total: [1] yoke male mule.  Delivery for Šara. Month: “Sowing”: The year: Šū-Suen, the king of Ur, the Great-Steale of En[lil ...]
	25.	na-ru <sub>2</sub> -a m[ah] <sup>d</sup> e[n-lil <sub>2</sub> ...]	
	27-28.	[...]	

16. <http://bdtns.filol.csic.es/193394> (catalogue and photo of the obverse).

3. *Old Akkadian Text*

**Text 8.** Measurements: 53×71×14. Provenance: Nippur<sup>?</sup>. Date: Šar-kali-šarrī.

Fragment of a gypsum brick stamp of Šar-kali-šarrī commemorating the construction of the temple of Enlil. See RIME 2 1.5.3: lines 2-3 and 5-6.

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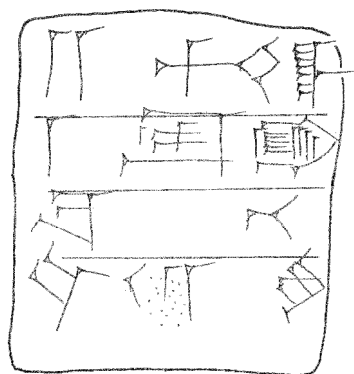
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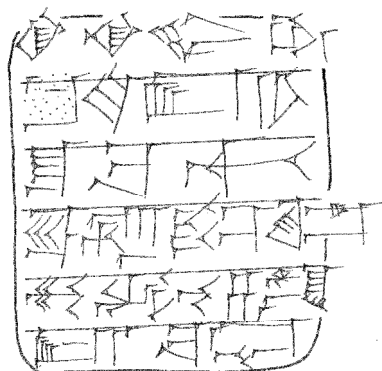
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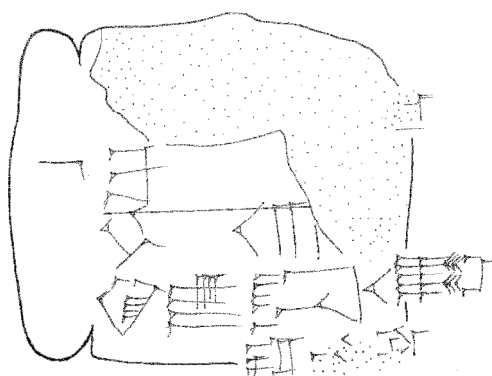
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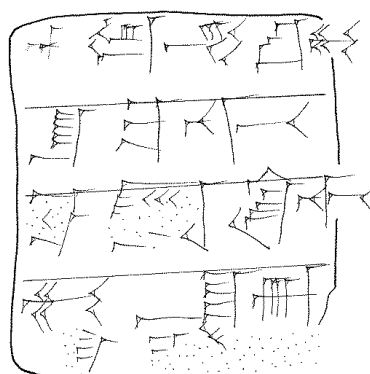
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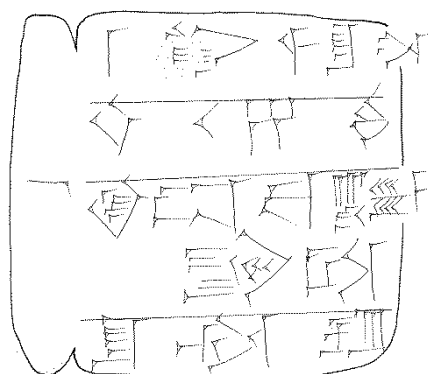
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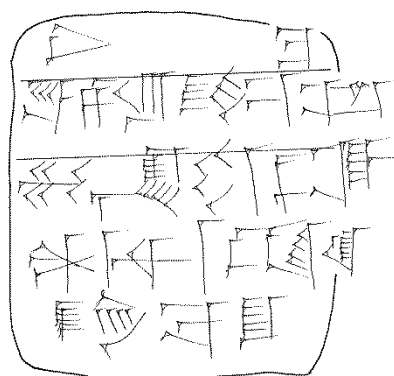
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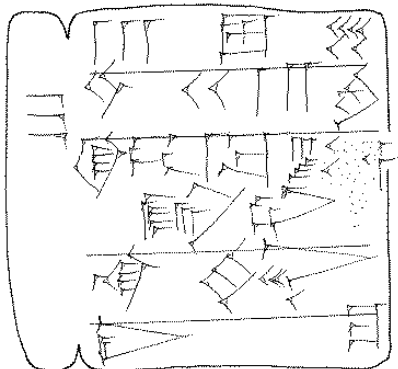
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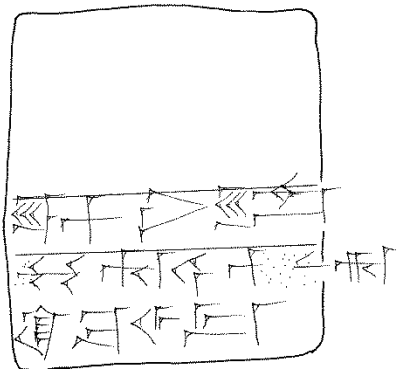
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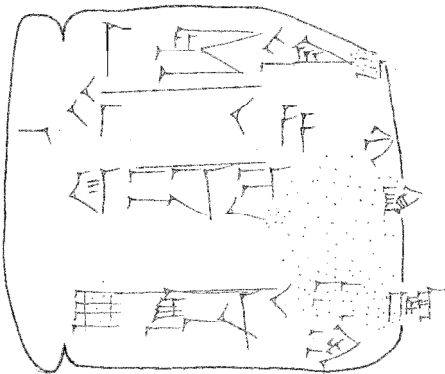
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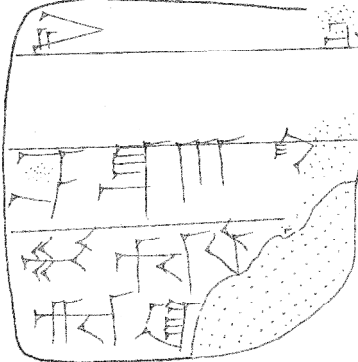
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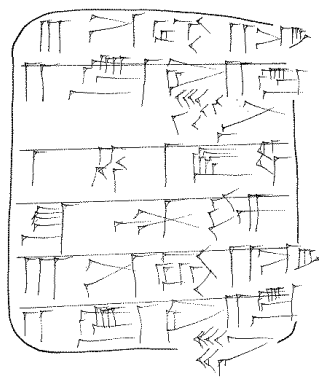
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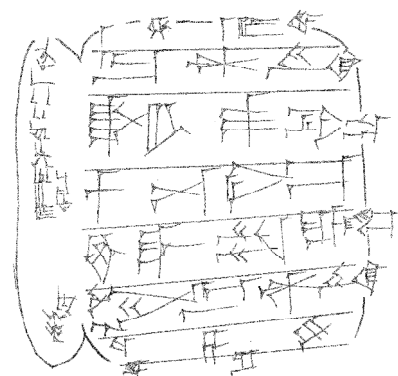
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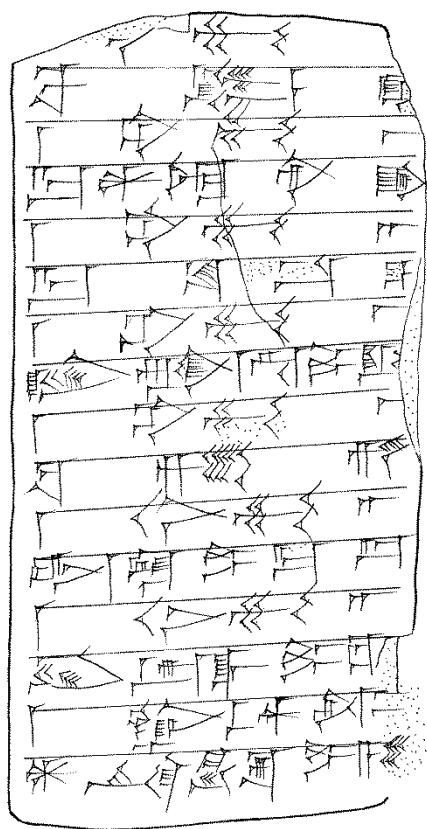
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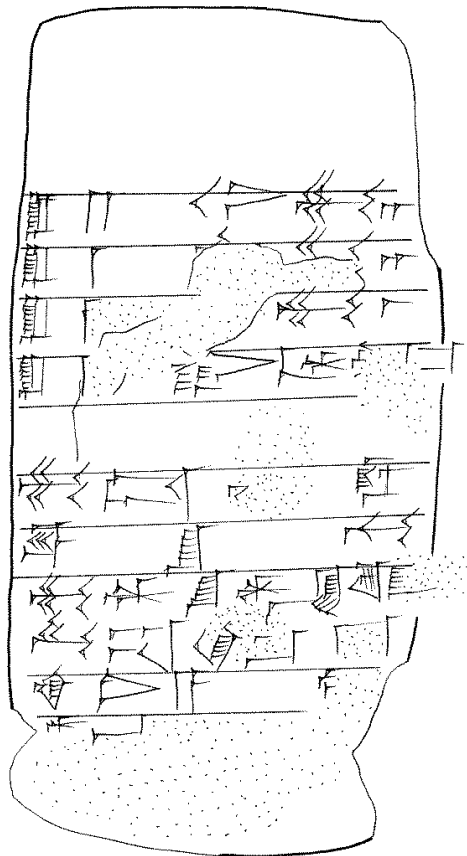
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Text 7. Obv.



Rev.



Text 8.

