

# A Varied Materials in the Unpublished Economic Texts from the Era of Ur III

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**Abstract:** *The era of Ur III (2012-2004 B.C.) is one of the important era in archaeological studies, because it is the era when the Sumerian civilization reached its almost glory. We have collected a set of confiscated economic texts from this era, which included a variety of materials such as clothing of regular or woolen fabrics, or property, and a variety of food items such as dates and barley. These texts came in a variety of contents such as the purchase contract of clothes, expenses and receipt. All these texts dating in different months, in cities like Drehem, Girsu and Umma, but most of these months go back to Umma, and to several kings who ruled Ur III state like Shulgi (2094- 2047 B.C.) Shusin (2037-2029 B.C.) Abi Sin (2028-2004 B.C.) .This kind of texts reveals the cultural aspect like names of the gods or personal names, besides the diverse needs, and foods. It also reveals the economic life which is characteristic of this age.*

**Keyword:** economic texts studying, Third Ur dynasty

## 1. Introduction

The diversity of the contents of texts and materials is important in any texts group of any era because it reveals on important cultural aspects in it . We can detect a clear and important diversity in the era of the Ur III dynasty since it reveals the development of the economic life in this age where diversity has included in content, materials, people, gods and events, especially those which are considered as a date formula of any king of the Third State of Ur, as well as the diversity of months based on the current economic processes in this era.

The present research, in addition to the introduction, background, problem & Methodology, included the Results & Discussion that touches upon the cuneiform texts that have been read with the notes are given ,then the conclusions & Future scope of the research are discussed, then supplements which included lists of words that coming in the research and the copying of the texts and their pictures, finally there is an abbreviations list and sources of the research.

We hope that we have been succeeded in our research to serve archeology especially the science of the cuneiform texts.

## 2. Background

The kings who succeeded Shulgi were Amarsin (2046-2038 B.C.) and shusin (2037-2029 B.C.). They followed the path of their predecessors in building and military campaigns, such as building of temples and cities, while their military campaigns included The texts in this research are from the era of the third Ur dynasty, which lasted 108 years (2112-2004B.C.), from Shulgi, Shusin and Ibisin era. Shulgi (2094-2047 B.C.), the son of Urnammu, the founder of the dynasty and the author of the first Sumerian law , is considered one of the most important kings of the dynasty; his era lasted for 48 years and which is a long time for any other Sumerian king . He carried out many architectural and military achievements such as building temples, ziggurats and other

works. The military achievements included controlling of the city of Assur, which came under his control, as well as the military campaigns directed at the Lullubu tribes, the city of Ashnan and Sussa. The state of Ur, in his era, reached the peak of its development; hence, the majority of the dynasty texts characterized with diversity came from this era [1], including some of our texts of this research.

The north and north-east. The era of Amarsin was driven by waves of Amurian from the western sides of Ur, thus he and the other kings who followed him built fortresses and walls like Muriq-tidnim.

Ibisin was a youngster when he ruled after the death of his father Shusin about (2028-2004 B.C.). His reign lasted for 25 years according to the Sumerian kings' lists. He was involved in many architectural and military works. His architectural achievements were represented by building defensive walls like Nippur and Ur walls which refers to his ability to feel future dangers for his country. His military activities began only in the third year of his rule, including the city of Simurum (a city whose location has not yet been determined, which is believed to be located south of the city of Zaban, near the Himarin Mountains ; another study mentions that it is located near the river of the present city of Sippar) [2]. He also started military campaign in the ninth year of his rule in Anshan (a city near Persepolis) [3]. His military campaigns were carried out on the cities around Sumer. As a result of the repeated attacks of the Martu tribes coming from the west, he encountered and stopped these attacks. Those tribes played a major role in the collapse of the Third Ur Dynasty. In the second and fourth years of Ibisin rule, the cities of Ashnunna and Sussa started to separate by the date formula of Ur State. Lagash also announced its separation from the rule of Ibisin in the fifth year of his reign. Moreover , some rulers of the regions stopped sending offerings to Nannar Temple since the sixth year . In addition , there was a deterioration of the economic situation in the country and the severe shortage of foodstuffs, which led to the rise of the cost of living and the spread of famine . All these circumstances that accompanied King Ibisin during his rule contributed to the weakness of

the state and its subsequent collapse by the Elamites during the reign of his successor, Kalishari [4].

### Definition of problem and methodology:

Our research is based on five economic texts, confiscated (whose sources are unknown); all of them are from the third Ur dynasty. They included various contents of different materials such as wheat, dates, etc. The problem we face here is the history of the text and the city to which it belongs, because all of them are confiscated. We have adopted the analytical method in its history based on the date formula and style of the text and the shape of cuneiform marks used, as well as the personal names contained therein.

Most diversified texts of the third Ur dynasty came from shulgi era [5], including the two texts that we will present out of the five texts that were adopted on the date formula of the texts and the type of material that covers them. They came in the purchase and expenditure, so that the first one of Shulgi texts includes receipts of quantities of wheat. The second is related to the expenditures. We are believed the two texts belong to the city of Umma depending on the formula of the months contained therein, because the month came from the calendar of Umma, especially the second text which is limited to Umma city only.

Our third text came from the rule of King Shusin in the fifth year of his reign. Its content came in the receipt of barley of the regular type and Emmer type [6]. Two texts came from his time in our group of texts, the fourth and fifth group. The first one came in the seventh month of Umma calendar concerning the expenditure of a quantity of barley of the normal type and the Emmer. The latter was included in the content of the receipt of barley too: the ordinary and the Emmer.

### 3. Results and Discussion

The following is a review of reading texts and the important results and discussions:

#### 1-IM (204962)

**text measurements:** 3.6x5 cm .

**General content:** wheat receipts .

**Era :** Year 30 of the rule of Shulgi reign .

**Antique Source:**confiscated

**Obv.**

1.  
773 (gur) 2(pi) dabingur-lugal  
32(gur) 3(pi) giggur  
125 (gur) zízgur  
Gán-gu4-kam  
5. a-šà- da-še- ħu-um  
480 še-gur  
a-šà a -[x]-ki  
630 še-gur  
a-šà<du6> -mu-ru-la [7]  
10. Ū-ur5 a-za

**Rev.**

- 100 še-gur  
a-šà<a> -ka-sahar [8]  
še-mu-túm

- mu-dumu-lugal  
15. énsi  
An-ša<-an><sup>ki</sup>-ke4  
Ba-an-tuku

**Notes:**

Gan2-gu4: Reserve fields, that is, land operated directly by the State, for its own purposes. [9]

#### 2-IM. (203942)

**text measurements:** 2.6x2.9 cm .

**General content:** dates expenditure.

**Era :** Year 25 of the rule of Shulgi reign .

**Antique Source :**confiscated

**Obv.**

1. 1 (PI) 5 sila3 zú-lum  
Kiša-at-Ištar ta  
Ba-zi

**Rev.**

- Itišu-numun  
5. mu si-mu-ru-um<sup>ki</sup>  
Ba-ħul

**Notes:**

Zú-lum: a Sumerian term, in Akkadian language suluppu meaning "dates" [10].

Itišu-numun: a Sumerian month of corresponds to the sixth in the Umma calendar and the fourth in the calendar of Lagash [11].

#### 3-IM. (221926)

**text measurements:** 4x5cm .

**General content:** a receipt of receiving barely.

**Era :** The first year of the rule of shusin.

**Antique Source :**confiscated

**Obv.**

1. 593 (gur) 2 (pi) 5 (bán) / še-gur-lugal  
6 gur 2 (pi) 1 (bán) zíz-gur  
Še-numun ur5-ta á  
Lú-ħung-gá-al-ak  
5. [x] -ú-sè-a  
Ki [a-zi] -našabra

**Rev.**

- A-zi-našabra  
Šu-ba-ti  
Kišib an-na-da dub-sar / ta  
10. mu ús-sa<sup>d</sup>šu-sin  
Lugalurim<sup>ki</sup> - ma-ke4  
Bád [mar-tu] mu-ri  
-iq-ti-da-ni-im

**Notes:**

lúħung-gá-: a term which means " Peasant procedure". [12]

#### 4-IM.203950

**text measurements:**3.4x3.5 cm .

**General content:** barely Charges

**Era :** The first year of the rule of Ibbisin.

**Antique Source :**confiscated

**Obv.**

1. 1 (gur) 5 (ban2) 5 sila3/ Še-gur  
4 (pi) 3 (ban2) zíz  
Kiša-at-Ištar ta

**Rev.**

5. ba-zi  
 Iti min-èš  
 Mu en<sup>d</sup>Inanna  
 Unug<sup>ki</sup>- màš- <e>--pàd  
 Min-èš: a name of a Sumerian month which was only given in the Umma calendar. [13]

**5-IM. (226535)**

**text measurements:** 3.4x3.5 cm .

**General content:** Receipt of barley

**Era :** The first year of the rule of Ibbisin.

**Antique Source :**confiscated

**The Obvers is broken**

**Rev.**

1. <sup>d</sup>áš-gi5-illat-zu  
 U3 ge6-<sup>d</sup>áš-gi5  
 Šu-ba-an-ti-éš  
 Mu <sup>d</sup>i-bi-<sup>d</sup>sin  
 5. lugalurim5<sup>ki</sup>-ka  
 Si-mu-ru-um<sup>ki</sup> mu- [ḫul]

**4. Conclusion and the Future Scope**

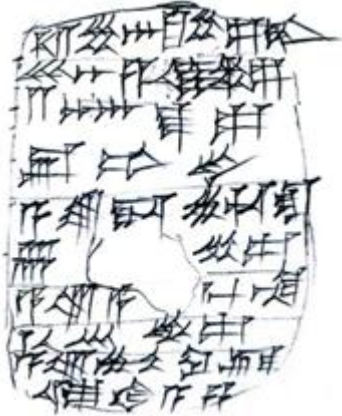
- 1) The texts date back to the times of various kings of the third Ur Dynasty beginning with King Shulgi, Shusin and ibisin.
- 2) The most important thing is the belief that the texts belong to the city of Umma, which in itself of great importance to the texts based on the names of months that appeared in a number of confiscated texts of the research.
- 3) All texts of the research revolves around the calendar of the city of Uma, or as Month of Šu-numun , and month of min-èš.
- 4) The content of the text represents contracts of purchase and disbursements besides receipts of received quantities of materials and receipts.
- 5) The text materials varied from wheat to dates to barley in both normal and Emmer .This is an indication of the economic development of the Third Ur Dynasty.

lú-ḫung-gá-al-ak	3:4
máš	1:26; 4:8
mu	2:5; 3:9; 4:7; 5:4
mu-tum2	1:13
pàd	4:8
šabra	3:6
še	1:6,8,11;3:1; 4:2
Še-numun	3:3
šu---ti	3:7; 5:2
tuku	1:17
U3-KAM A-ZA	1:10
ur5-ra	3:3
ús-sa	3:9
zal	1:25
zi	2:3; 4:5
zíz	1:3;4:3
zíz-gur	3:2
zú-lum	2:1
<b>Distinguished Names</b>	
<b>1-gods Names</b>	
<sup>d</sup> Inanna	4:7
<b>2-Personals Names</b>	
an-na-da	3:8
a-zi-na	3:6
<sup>d</sup> áš-gi5-illat-su	5:1
<sup>d</sup> i-bi-sin	5:4
ša-at-Ištar	2:2; 4:4
<sup>d</sup> šu-sin	3:9
ù-silli(Im)- <sup>d</sup> áš-gi5	5:2
<b>3-Cities Names</b>	
1:16si-mu-ru-um <sup>ki</sup>	2:5;5:6
unug <sup>ki</sup>	4:8
urim5 <sup>ki</sup>	3:10; 5:5

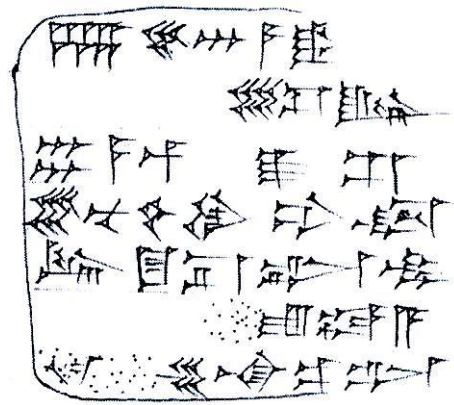
**Copying  
 1-IM.204962**

**Tablets**

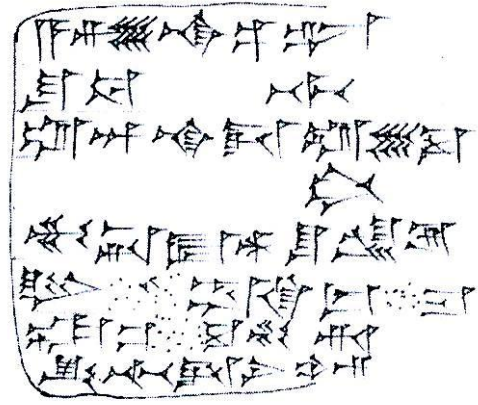
<b>Vocabulary</b>	
a-ša3 <du6>-mu-ru-la	1:9
a-ša3-a -x-ki	1:7
a-ša3 da-še-um	1:5
a-ša3 <a >-ka-sahar	1:12
[x]-ú-sè-a	3:5
bád	3:11
dabin	1:1
dub-sar	3:8
gan2-gu4-kam	1:4
gig	1:2
gur-lugal	3:1
ḫul	2:6; 5:6
iti	2:4; 4:6
kišib	3:8
lugal	3:10; 5:5



Rev.



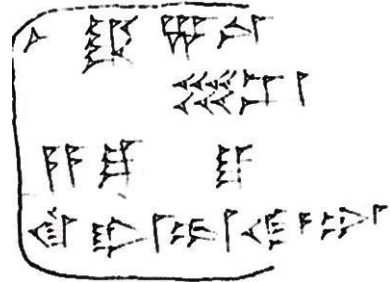
Rev.



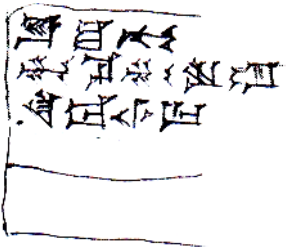
2-IM.203942  
 Obv.



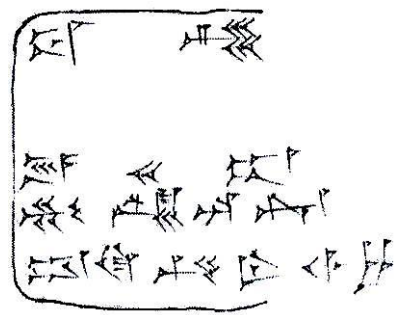
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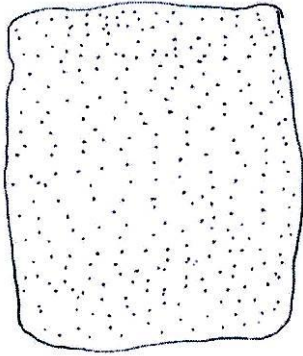
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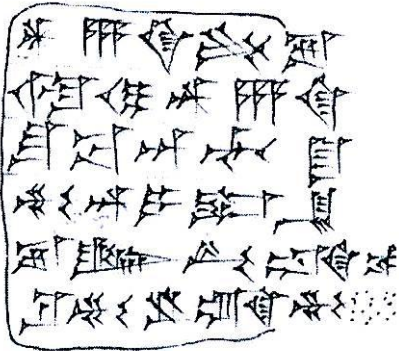
3-IM.221926  
 Obv.



5-IM.226535  
Obv.



Rev.



2- IM.203942  
Obv.



Rev.



PICTURS

1-IM.204962



3-IM.221926  
Obv.



Rev.



Rev.



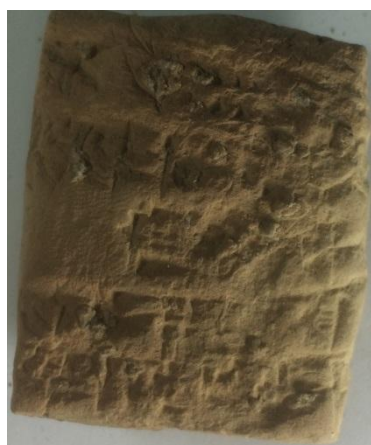
4-IM.203950  
 Obv.



Rev.



5-IM.226535  
 Obv.



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- [3] Ibid, p. 11
- [4] Ibid, pp. 363-364
- [5] In the Economic texts of Ur III, See: Al-Mutawalli N.A., An Introduction to the state Economy of Ur III Dynasty, Baghdad, 2007, pp 25-26
- [6] Ibid, p. 287
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- [9] Grégoire J.P., Archives administratives sumériennes, Paris 1970, p. 287
- [10] AHW, p. 1057
- [11] "Kalender", "Kalender", RIA, vol.5, Berlin, 1977, P.299-300
- [12] Sauren H., MVN 2, p.33
- [13] Kalender, Op.Cit, p.299-300

## Abbreviations

- 1) **AHW:** von Soden W., Akkadisches Handwörterbuch, (Wiesbaden 1959 - 1981)
- 2) **CUSAS:** Cornell University Studies in Assyriology and Sumerology (Bethesda, 2007ff.)
- 3) **MVN:** Materiali per il vocabolario eosumerico (Roma 1974 ff.)
- 4) **RGTC (aka Rép. géogr.):** Répertoire géographique des textes cunéiformes (= TAVO Beihefte Reihe B Nr.7 1974 ff.)
- 5) **RIA:** Reallexikon der Assyriologie (und Vorderasiatischen Archäologie) (Berlin 1928 ff.)
- 6) **RIME:** The Royal Inscriptions of Mesopotamia, Early Periods (Toronto 1990ff)

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