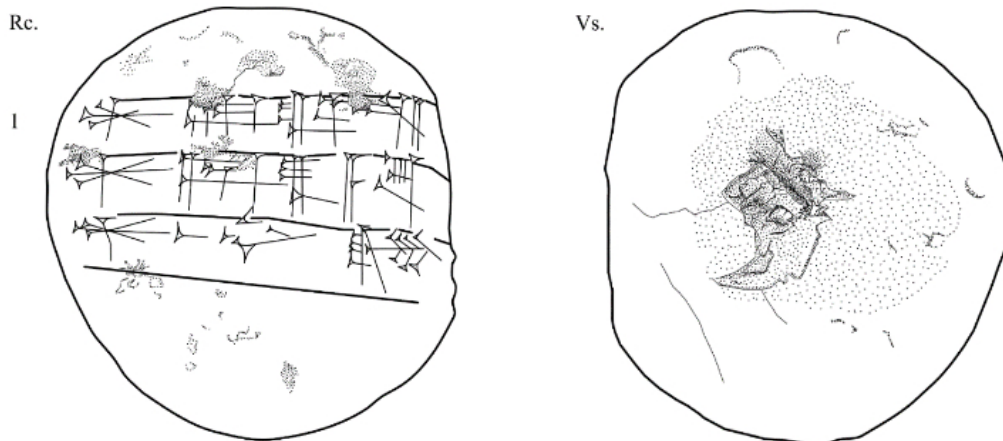


63) An Old Babylonian extract from a god list and a brick of Nebuchadnezzar II from the online antiquities market¹⁾ — This note is a small contribution to improve scientific access to the immense number of cuneiform tablets sold online. Tablets on the online market often sell on short notice and then disappear into private collections for an unpredictably long time, or for good. While it is mostly frustratingly difficult to find out anything about modern ownership history, internal criteria often can at least hint towards their ancient provenance, as with tablet no. 1.

The Madrid-based gallery Ars Historia Archaeology sold the first tablet via the online-platform *invaluable.com* (<https://www.invaluable.com/auction-lot/cuneiform-clay-tablet-b354732b62>)²⁾ in October 2019 alongside two similar objects (<https://www.invaluable.com/auction-lot/cuneiform-clay-tablet-3-c-7654fd8ad0> and <https://www.invaluable.com/auction-lot/cuneiform-clay-tablet-4-c-75c43f689b> all accessed May 18th 2020). The buyer is unknown, it stems allegedly from a “J. F. Private Collection“, but I’ve been unable to confirm any information. Measurements according to the site are 7x7.5 cm. There are no lines, but a rough depression on the reverse, though it is unclear whether it is ancient or stems from a modern tool. Salt incrustation has set in on the surface.



- Rc.
 1. ^dama-ra e₃-a
 2. ^dama-ra a-zu
 3. ^daš-aš₇-gi₄

The tablet is certainly a school excerpt of a god list. The deities are found in several lists, the first two mostly as subsequent entries, though in varying order. The first deity is also written ^dama-ra-ḫe₂-aḡ₂ (Fara god list SF I col. x l. 12),³⁾ ^dama-ra-ḫe₂-e₃-a (An = *A-nu-um* col. iii l. 42), ^dama-ra-ḫe₂-aḡ₂-e (Genouillac god list rc. col. iv l. 23), ^dama-ra-ḫe-e₃-a (Weidner god list l. 15).⁴⁾ The second deity is also found in Old Babylonian as ^dama-a-ra-zu and ^damar-ra-a-zu but is missing in Fara. A Middle Babylonian list from Ugarit equals ^dama-ra-a-zu with (phonetic) *a-ma-ar-a-zu* (vs. col. ii l. 5).⁵⁾

All three deities in this orthographic variant, though in different order, are to my knowledge only found in a local god list from Isin:

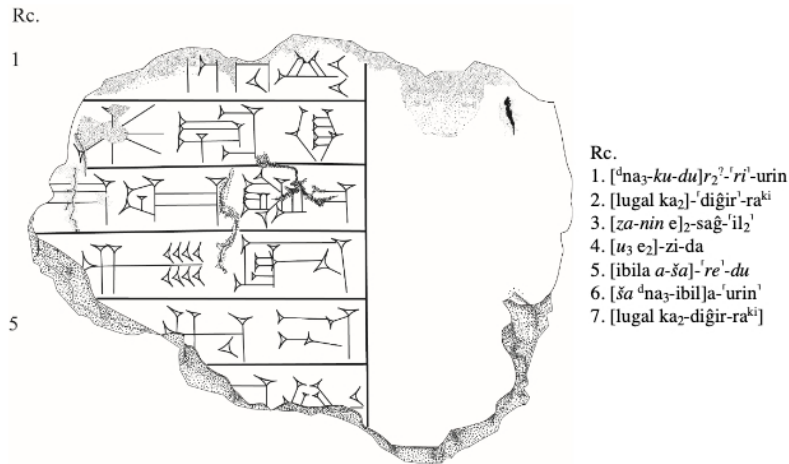
B V 4 ^dAŠ.ŠIR-gi₄

A VII 31 ^dAma-ra-e₃-a
 B VIII 34 ^dAma-ra-e₃-a

A VII 32 ^dAma-ra-a-zu
 B VIII 35 ^dAma-ra-a-zu⁶⁾

Whether the combination in this tablet is part of a different edition of the list (witness C is mostly destroyed) or an individual variation (difficult dictation exercise?), is unclear. In any case, the orthographic similarity is a good indication regarding the provenance of the tablet.

The second object is an inscription fragment of Nebuchadnezzar brick 41 and is still on offer (May 2020) on the website [https://www.trocadero.com/stores/Senatus/items/1357983/Sumerian-Cuneiform-large-fragment-Foundation-Brick-for-695\\$](https://www.trocadero.com/stores/Senatus/items/1357983/Sumerian-Cuneiform-large-fragment-Foundation-Brick-for-695$) as „highly interesting and quite rare larger fragment of a burned clay brick – likely a foundation brick” by the Danish seller www.senatus-consulto.dk. Allegedly, it was acquired from the widow of a Danish construction contractor, but nothing could be found out regarding this claim. Measurements are given as 13.5 x 10 cm.



Notes

1. The tablets were chosen as part of my master's thesis "Save what is left? Cuneiform texts on the online antiquities market – discussion and edition" at Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Germany, supervised by Dr. Gösta Gabriel and Dr. Brit Kärger.

2. Any images no longer available online can be obtained from the author.

3. S. Manfred KREBERNIK, „Die Götterlisten aus Fara“, *ZA* 76 (1986): 161-204.

4. S. Richard L. LITKE, *A Reconstruction of the Assyro-Babylonian God-Lists. AN: ^dA-nu-um and AN: Anu šá amēli* (TBC 3), New Haven ²1998; Henri DE GENOUILLAC, *Textes religieux sumériens du Louvre* (TCL 15), Paris 1930; Ernst F. WEIDNER, „Altbabylonische Götterlisten“, *AfK* 2 (1924/25): 1-18.

5. S. Jean NOUGAYROL, *Nouveaux textes accadiens, hourrites et ugaritiques des archives et bibliothèques privées d'Ugarit* (Ugaritica 5), Paris 1968, here no. 137.

6. Claus WILCKE, „Inschriften 1983-1984“, in: B. Hrouda (Hg.), *Die Ergebnisse der Ausgrabungen 1983 1984 (7. Und 8. Kampagne), Isin – Išān Bahrīyāt* vol. 3 (AbhMünchen NF 94), München 1987, 83-120, here 95.97.

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