

CUNEIFORM TEXTS

FROM

BABYLONIAN TABLETS

IN THE

BRITISH MUSEUM

PART XLVI

BABYLONIAN LITERARY TEXTS

BY

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PREFACE

Although the British Museum possesses numerous Babylonian literary texts, the official publications issued by the Trustees until now have contained relatively little of this class. The present volume will, it is hoped, make some amends for this deficiency.

From its contents, in particular, knowledge of the Epic of Atrahasis is very substantially increased, indeed the new tablets of this text published here mark without doubt the biggest single advance in the recovery of Babylonian epic literature since George Smith's original discoveries. Furthermore, since substantial new Late Babylonian fragments of the Gilgamesh Epic have been found and previously known pieces have been cleaned and joined, it became desirable to present here all the Late Babylonian pieces of this Epic so far identified in the Museum's collections. Among the historiographical texts, one especially should be noted: no. 45, which has many aspects previously unknown in Babylonian literature, including a very detailed and vivid account of a river ordeal.

Except for no. 17, which is by the late Th. G. Pinches, the copies are the work of Messrs. W. G. Lambert (nos. 4-13, 18-42, 45-50, and 52-55) and A. R. Millard (nos. 1-3, 14-16, 43-44, and 51). The introductory pages are by Mr. Lambert. All will be grateful to them for their fruitful labours.

R. D. BARNETT,
Keeper.

Department of Western Asiatic Antiquities,
The British Museum,

October, 1964.

SUMMARY CATALOGUE

1-15: *The Epic of Atrahasis*. (Nos. 1-4 from a late Old Babylonian edition; nos. 5-15 from Late Assyrian copies.)

1. Tablet I of a three-tablet edition written by Ellet-Aya, a junior scribe, in the first month of the twelfth year of Ammişaduqa. The loss of the opening and closing lines of some columns prevents a continuous line numeration. The tablet is ruled for each full line, but often little of the rulings is visible, so they are omitted altogether from the copy.

2. Flake from another copy of Tablet I. The lines preserved in the second column correspond to no. 1 II 47-III 10.

3. Tablet III from the same edition and scribe as no. 1. The piece published by A. Boissier in RA 28 (1931) 92-95, now in the Musée d'art et d'histoire at Geneva, is probably part of this tablet, belonging to the upper right-hand side.

4. Part of a copy of Tablet I written in six columns, of which some of II, III and IV is preserved. A copy was first given by Th. G. Pinches in CT VI 5, and a second by S. Langdon in PBS X/1 pls. III-IV (= *Le Poème* pl. X). The tablet was baked and cleaned for J. Laessøe, and on the basis of his collations and photographs W. von Soden gave an improved text and illegible photographs in *Orientalia n.s.* 26 (1957) 306-315. The copy given here offers further improvements.

5. Not strictly Atrahasis, but a fragment of a bilingual epic dealing with some, at least, of the same material. K 11624 only was published by T. Jacobsen, *The Sumerian King List*, p. 217, from a copy of F. Geers. A fragment of a Late Assyrian copy.

6-15. Late Assyrian fragments, not all from the same recension. Nos. 6-8 and 10-13 cover portions of Tablet I in the Old Babylonian recension. Nos. 10 and 11 appear to be parts of the same tablet, and the episode they cover duplicated or restored by 8 and 12 also. Nos. 9 and 13 correspond to parts of Tablet I in their obverse portions, and to Tablet II in their reverses. No. 15 covers part of Tablet III in the Old Babylonian recension. No. 6 was translated by G. Smith in his *Chaldean Account of Genesis* (1876), p. 156, but has been lost from sight ever since. Part only of no. 13 (K 7816) was given in copy by K. D. Macmillan in BA V 688. No. 14 was previously known from J. Laessøe's copy in JSS 5 (1960) 122, and no. 15 from the copies of P. Haupt (*Nimrod-Epos* p. 131), F. Delitzsch (*AL³* p. 101), and Th. G. Pinches (IV R², Additions, p. 9). A photograph of no. 15 is given in E. Sollberger, *The Babylonian Legend of the Flood* (London, 1962) p. 37.

Fuller details of these and other Atrahasis tablets will be given in the two authors' forthcoming edition of the Epic.

16-35: *The Babylonian Gilgamesh Epic*

16. Large flake from the reverse of an Old Babylonian tablet. It corresponds to Tablet X of the late recension, and may well be part of the Meissner Tablet (VAT 4105 in MVAG VII 1-15). *Ed. by Millard, Iraq 26, 99-105,*

17-35. All these pieces, with the possible exception of nos. 28-29 whose attribution to this epic is not certain, belong to the late recension, and, apart from nos. 29 and 33, which are Late Assyrian, all are Late Babylonian. Where practical, the indications of Tablet (within the series), column, and line are made to conform with those found in R. Campbell Thompson, *The Epic of Gilgamesh*. ('Wiseman' refers to the article by D. J. Wiseman in P. Garelli (ed.), *Gilgameš et sa légende*, Paris 1960.)

17. Fragment of Tablet I, drawn upon in Campbell Thompson's composite text, but not hitherto published. Since the original deteriorated under wartime storage, an old copy of Pinches, touched up from the original where preserved, has been reproduced.

18-20. Other fragments of Tablet I. Campbell Thompson similarly drew on one of the pieces making up no. 19, BM 34248, and Wiseman gave copies of nos. 18 and 20.

21-22. The obverse of 21 duplicates LKU 39 and no. 22 obv. The reverse of no. 21 has some lines corresponding with Campbell Thompson's Tablet V column II. The reverse of no. 22 duplicates LKU 40. See Wiseman for a previous copy of no. 22.

23-26. Pieces of Tablet VII. Lines 2-3 of no. 23 correspond with STT I 14 rev. 10-11. Campbell Thompson's column III sets in at line 10. No. 24 confirms B. Landsberger's arrangement of column IV as set out in WZKM 57 (1961) 8, note 38. The left-hand column of no. 26 presumably represents the missing portions of column II; the right-hand column is certainly column III.

27. This fragment of Tablet VIII restores and duplicates STT I 15 obv. 21-rev. 4. Previously given by Wiseman.

28-29. Although 28 was given by P. Haupt, *Nimrod-Epos* p. 68, and R. Campbell Thompson, *op. cit.*, pl. 12 (the latter also citing the variants of no. 29), there is no guarantee that these pieces really belong to this Epic.

30, 32, 33. Parts of Tablet X. Some pieces of the joins have been published previously: BM 34193 (from no. 30) by Campbell Thompson, and later by Wiseman, together with BM 35413 and BM 35174+35628, which are now joined with three other pieces as no. 30. Wiseman also gave a copy of BM 35546, which is now joined to Rm 751 as no. 32. No. 33 is a piece joined to one published by Campbell Thompson.

31. While almost certainly a piece of the Gilgamesh Epic, its position within the epic is unknown.

34. A fragment of Tablet XII, previously given by Wiseman.

35. Tablet XI, first given by Haupt, *Nimrod-Epos* pp. 121-123, and cited (in some cases less accurately) by Campbell Thompson in his apparatus. Laboratory treatment and careful copying has resulted in fuller decipherment in the copy given here.

(A new edition of the Babylonian Gilgamesh is being prepared by the copyist of these pieces.)

36-42: *Fragments of the Zû (or Anzû) Epic*

36. The opening section of the epic, written on a tablet that contained some other work in addition. A transliteration only was given by E. Reiner in RA 51 (1957) 107-108. Late Assyrian.

37. A Middle Assyrian fragment, corresponding to CT XV 39 II 29-46.

38. A piece from Ashurbanipal's library, but in Babylonian script. A photograph of the obverse only was given by E. Reiner in RA 48 (1954) 145-148, where the parallel texts are given.

39. A Late Assyrian fragment joined to K 3454+3935 (CT XV 40) III bottom. See E. Reiner, RA 48 (1954) 145-148, where a transliteration is given.

40. A Late Assyrian fragment, corresponding, in its obverse, to CT XV 39 II 38-43, and in its reverse to CT XV 40 III 76-90. First identified by E. Reiner, who quotes readings from it in RA, *loc. cit.*

41. A Late Assyrian fragment, the obverse of which corresponds to LKA 1 II 13-22, and its reverse to *idem* 23-28.

42. A Late Assyrian fragment describing the final battle of the story, not duplicated elsewhere.

Jacobsen, *SANE* 2/3 (1984)

43. A Late Babylonian tablet, copied from an 'original of Assur', containing an otherwise unknown myth which involves several obscure deities.

44. An Old Babylonian fragment divided into sections, each addressed by a man to his friend. The content of the words is not clear.

50: *Historiographical Texts*

45. Part of a Late Babylonian tablet containing both prophecies and narrative, of First Millennium origin. The text deals with the outcome of political and personal events as expressions of divine justice. An edition is being prepared by the copyist. *Lambert, drag 2-7, 1-11*
46. A Late Assyrian duplicate of the birth legend of Sargon of Agade. Cf. CT XIII 42, K 4470 II.
47. Probably part of the same tablet as no. 48.
48. Portion of a Late Babylonian tablet describing the events of Nabonidus's reign, a literary text, not a chronicle. One of the joined pieces was given, minus one line, by J. Strassmaier in *Hebraica* 9 (1892-93) 5.
49. Part of a Late Assyrian tablet containing a royal autobiography. Mention of 'the Cassite king' is the only indication of the period referred to.
50. Probably a fragment of the same tablet as no. 49.

51-55: *Specimens of Babylonian speculation and erudition*

51. A Late Assyrian tablet containing a list of shrines, the deity presiding at each, and explanations of these. The reverse of K 2107+6086 bears a similar text (for the obverse see L. W. King, STC II pl. LXI-LXII).
52. A Late Babylonian fragment of expository character. The preserved lines include a list of Gula manifestations. Reference was made to this piece by E. Weidner, AfO 19 (1959-60) 111.
53. A Late Assyrian duplicate of the Archive of Mystical Heptads. Other pieces belonging to this text are KAR 142 and III R 69 no. 3.
54. A join to CT XXV 50, K 170. The final 'extract tablet' (*nishu*) of the series i.NAM giš.ḫur.an.ki.a. Late Assyrian, from the library of Nabû-zuqup-kēna.
55. A Late Assyrian fragment giving the measurements of the universe. The reverse has parts of four lines of an Ashurbanipal colophon *d* in the classification of M. Streck, VAB VII 358.

INDEX

<u>CT XLVI</u>	<u>Museum Number</u>	<u>Plate</u>	<u>CT XLVI</u>	<u>Museum Number</u>	<u>Plate</u>
1	BM 78941+ = Bu 89-4-26,234+ 78943 236	I-XII	30	BM 34160+ = Sp 265+ 34193+ 299+ 35174+ Sp II 726+ 35348+ 922+ 35413+ 998+ 35628 Sp III 140	XXXII-XXXIII
2	BM 17596A = 94-1-15,310A	VII	31	BM 34314 = Sp 426	XXXIII
3	BM 78942+ = Bu 89-4-26,235+ 78971+ 266+ 80385 Bu 91-5-9,524	XIII-XXI	32	BM 35546+ = Sp III 52 Rm 751	XXXIV
4	BM 92608 = Bu 91-5-9,269	XXII-XXIII	33	Sm 1681 (+ K 8589)	XXXIV
5	K 11261+11624	XXIII	34	BM 30559+ = S† 76-11-17,286+ 32418 2152	XXXIV
6	K 8562	XXIV	35	BM 35380 = Sp II 960	XXXV-XXXVI
7	K 10082	XXIV	36	K 7257	XXXVII
8	Bu 89-4-26,97	XXIV	37	BM 121087 = Th 1929-10-12,83	XXXVII
9	K 6634	XXIV	38	K 3008	XXXVII
10	K 6235	XXV	39	DT 292 (+ K 3454+3935)	XXXVIII
11	K 7109+9979	XXV	40	Sm 1807	XXXVIII
12	K 6831	XXV	41	BM 121060 = Th 1929-10-12,56	XXXVIII
13	K 7816+13863	XXVI	42	K 7923+11565+Sm 454	XXXVIII
14	Sm 292	XXVII	43	BM 74329 = 82-9-18,45	XXXIX-XL
15	DT 42	XXVII	44	BM 95431 = 1901-10-12,1084	XL
16	BM 96974 = 1902-10-11,28	XXVIII	45	BM 45690 = 81-7-6,95	XLI-XLV
17	BM 34916 = Sp II 431	XXIX	46	K 7249	XLV
18	BM 38538 = 80-11-12,422	XXIX	47	BM 34656 = Sp II 139	XLV
19	BM 34248+ = Sp 355 Rm 785+1017	XXX	48	BM 34375+ = Sp 492+ 34896+ = Sp II 407+ 34995 519	XLVI
20	BM 37163 = 80-6-17,913	XXX	49	K 2599+3069	XLVII
21	Rm 853	XXX	50	K 10724	XLVII
22	BM 45883 = 81-7-6,314	XXX	51	BM 134502 = Th 1932-12-12,497	XLVIII-XLIX
23	BM 46002 = 81-7-6,446	XXXI	52	Rm 518	L
24	BM 35245 = Sp II 812	XXXI	53	Sm 1720	L
25	BM 34873 = Sp II 380	XXXI	54	Rm 520 (+ K 170)	L
26	79-7-8,194	XXXI	55	BM 123379 = Th 1932-12-10,322	L
27	BM 37189 = 80-6-17,942	XXXI			
28	BM 34191 = Sp 297	XXXII			
29	K 8573	XXXII			

<u>Museum Number</u>	<u>CT XLVI</u>	<u>Museum Number</u>	<u>CT XLVI</u>	<u>Museum Number</u>	<u>CT XLVI</u>
BM 17596A	2	K 6235	10	Sp II 726	30
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32418	34	6831	12	922	30
34160	30	7109	11	960	35
34191	28	7249	46	998	30
34193	30	7257	36		
34248	19	7816	13	Sp III 52	32
34314	31	7923	42	140	30
34375	48	8562	6		
34656	47	8573	29	S† 76-11-17,286	34
34873	25	8589	33	2152	34
34896	48	9979	11		
34916	17	10082	7	79-7-8,194	26
34995	48	10724	50		
35174	30	11261	5	80-6-17,913	20
35245	24	11565	42	942	27
35348	30	11624	5		
35380	35	13863	13	80-11-12,422	18
35413	30				
35546	32	DT 42	15	81-7-6,95	45
35628	30	292	39	314	22
37163	20			446	23
37189	27	Rm 518	52		
38538	18	520	54	82-9-18,45	43
45690	45	751	32		
45883	22	785	19	Bu 89-4-26,97	8
46002	23	853	21	234	1
74329	43	1017	19	235	3
78941	1			236	1
78942	3	Sm 292	14	266	3
78943	1	454	42		
78971	3	1681	33		
80385	3	1720	53	Bu 91-5-9,269	4
92608	4	1807	40	524	3
95431	44				
96974	16	Sp 265	30	94-1-15,310A	2
121060	41	297	28	1901-10-12,1084	44
121087	37	299	30	1902-10-11,28	16
123379	55	355	19		
134502	51	426	31	Th 1929-10-12,56	41
		492	48	83	37
K 170	54				
2599	49	Sp II 139	47		
3008	38	380	25	Th 1932-12-10,322	55
3069	49	407	48		
3454	39	431	17		
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ATRAHASIS

PLATE I

BM 78941

+78943

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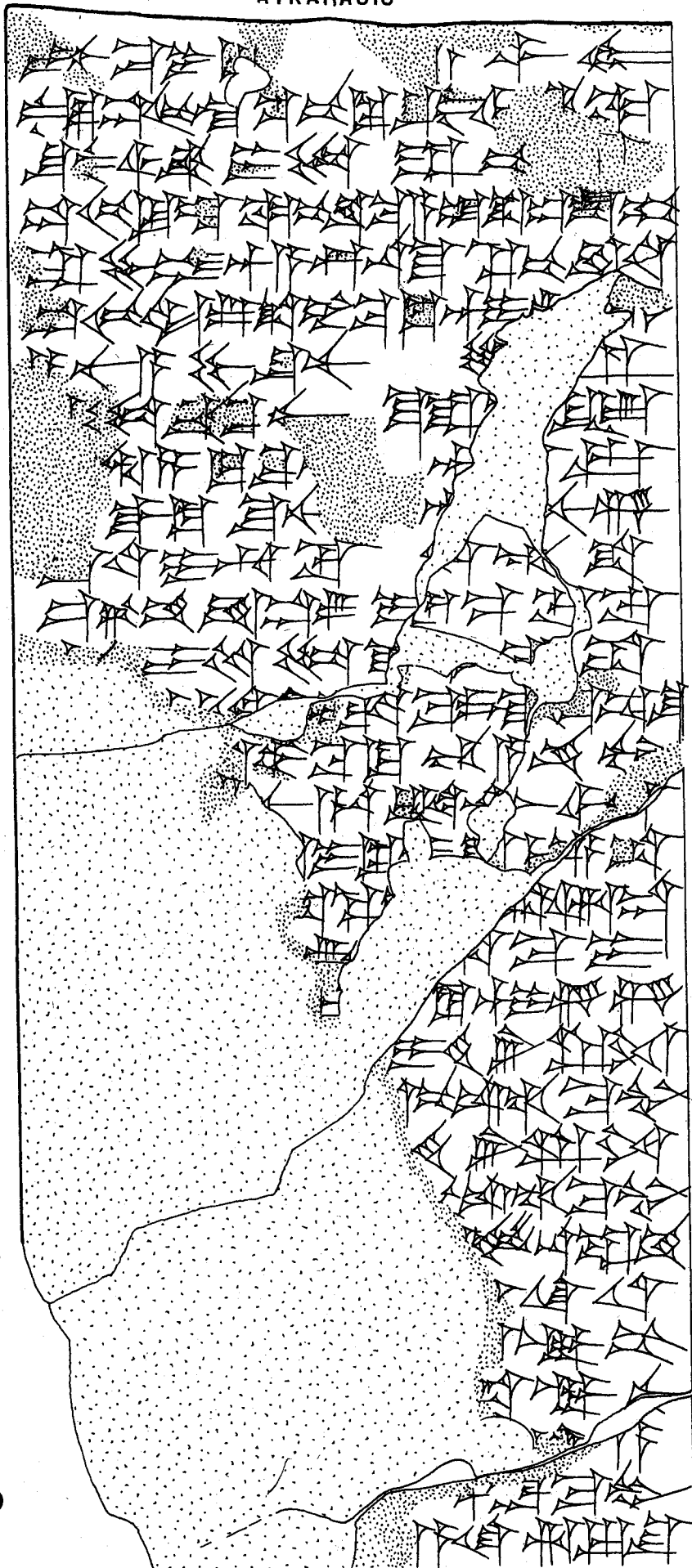
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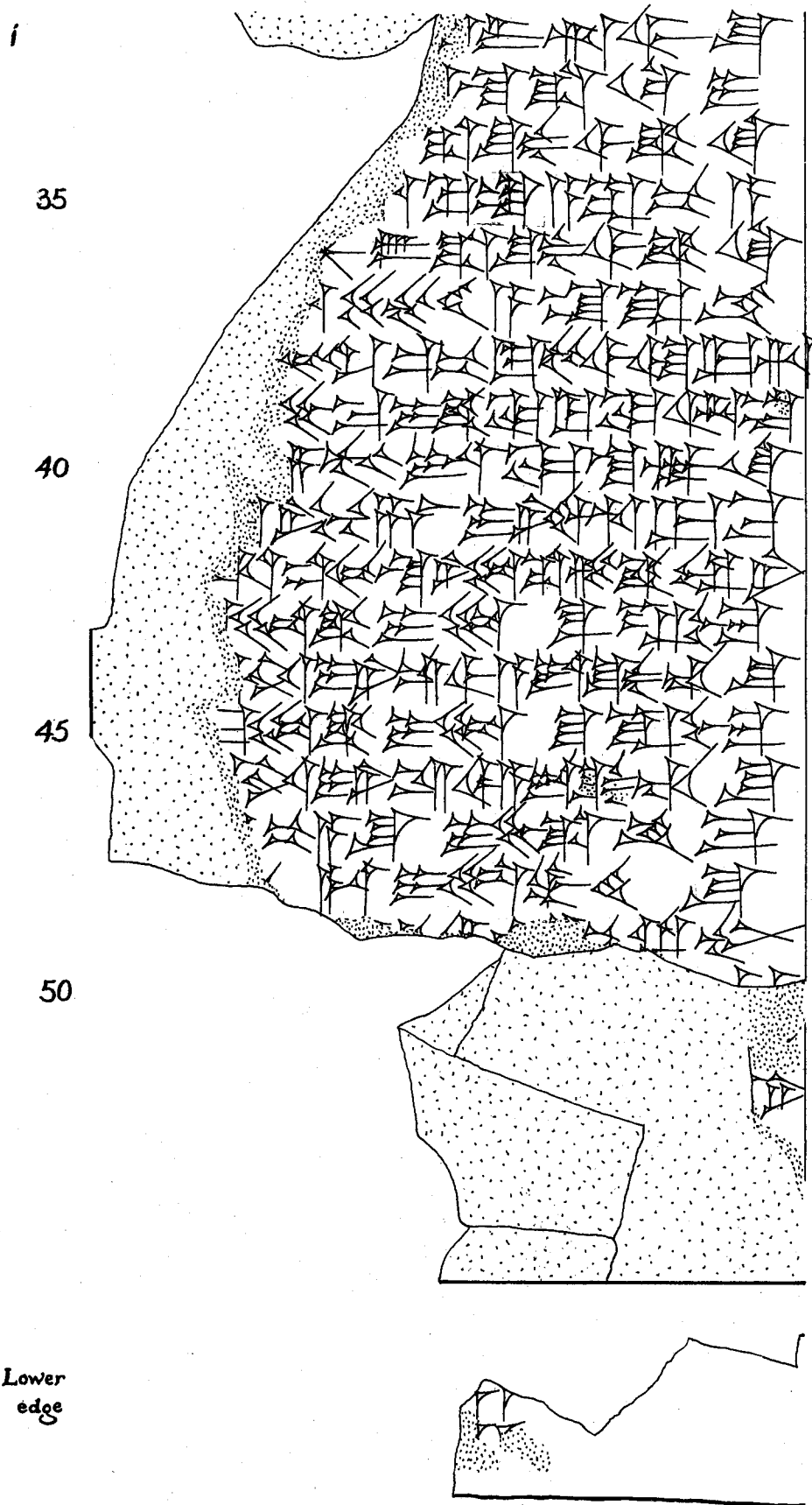
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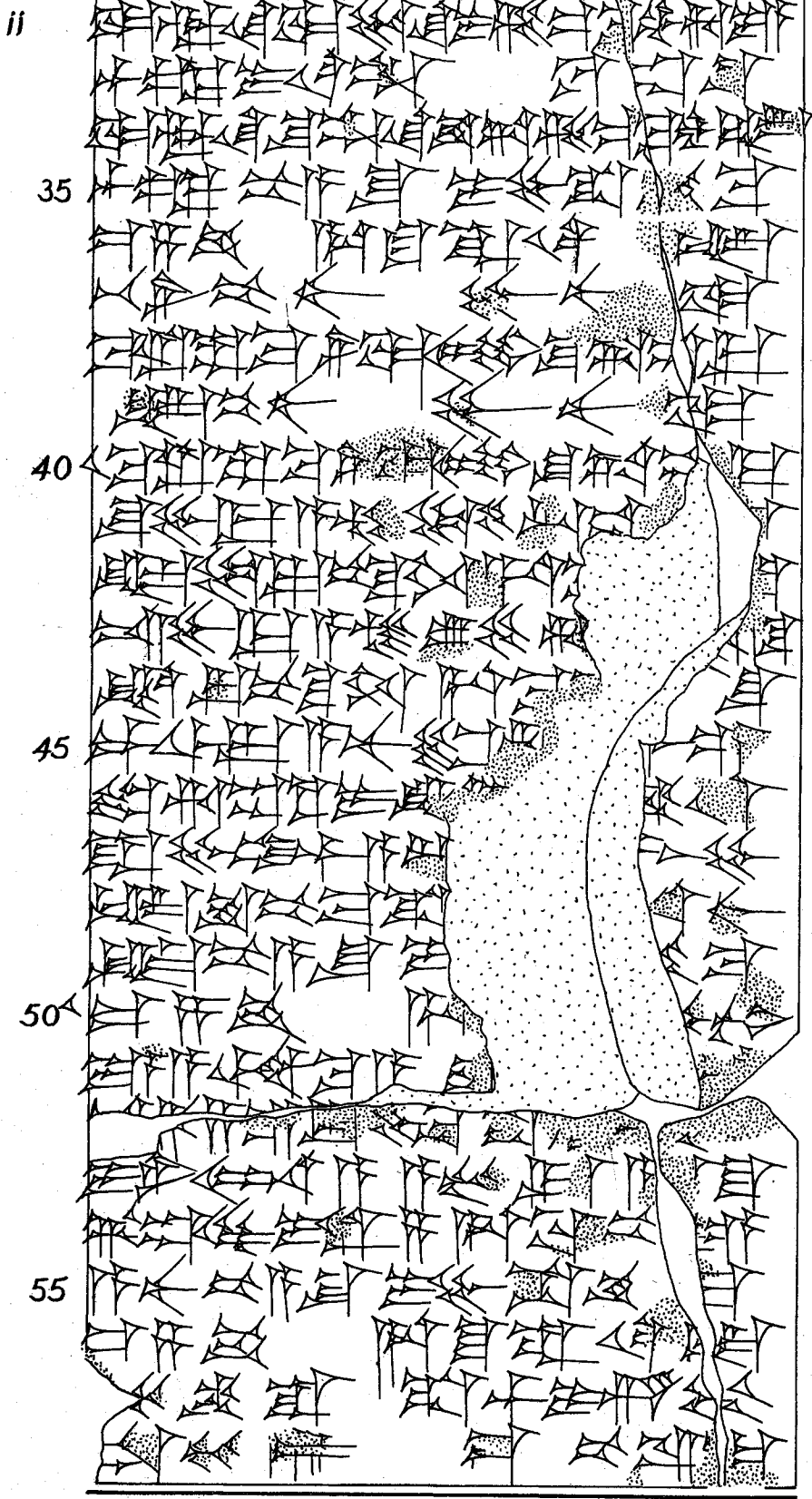


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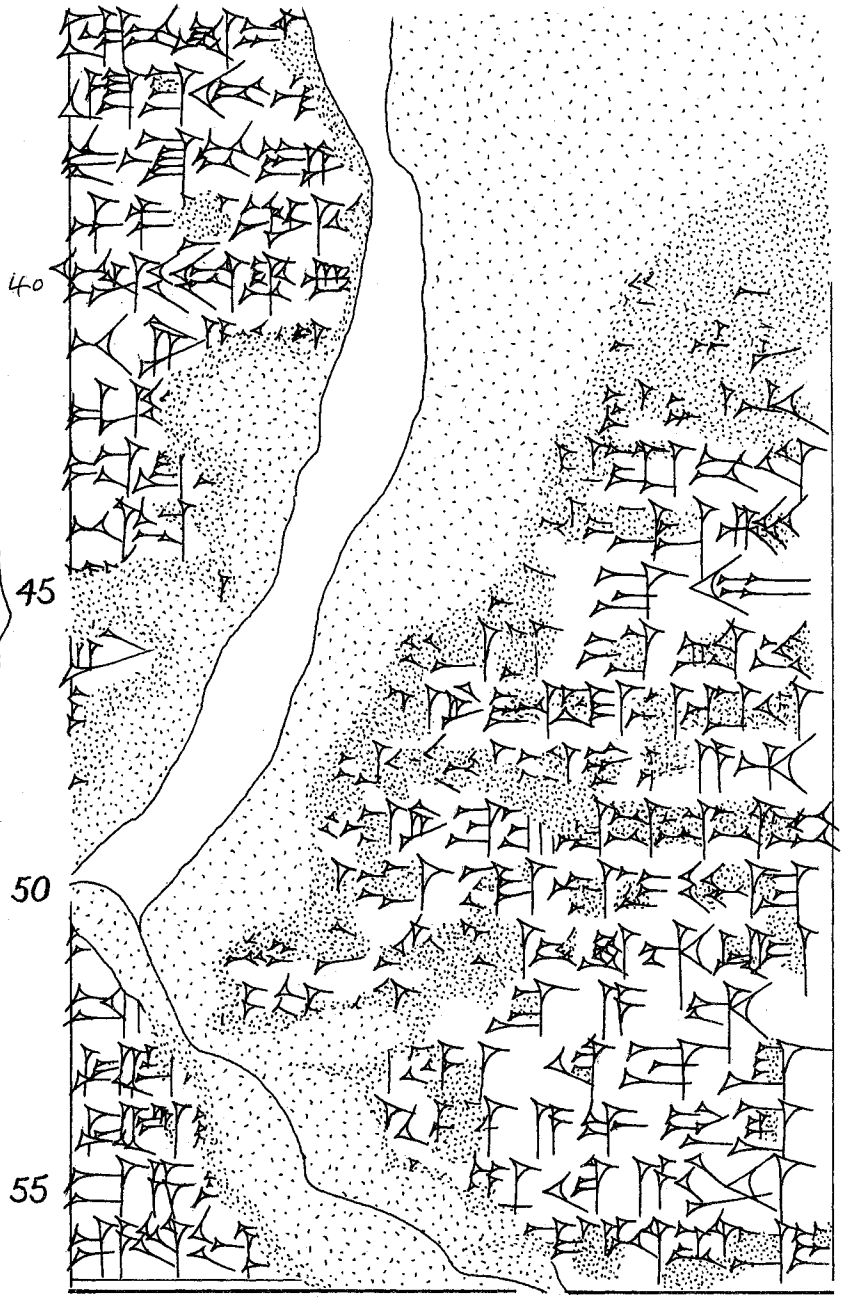
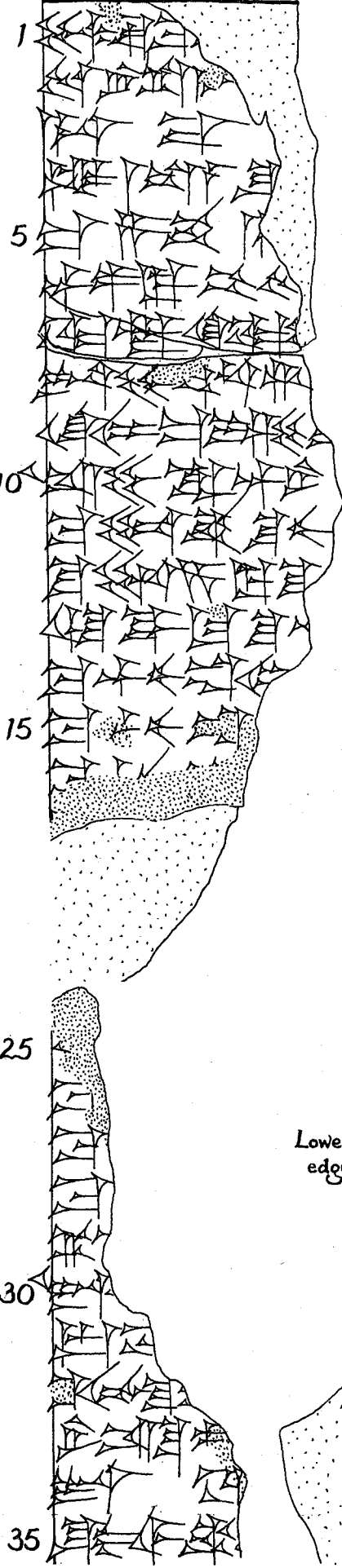
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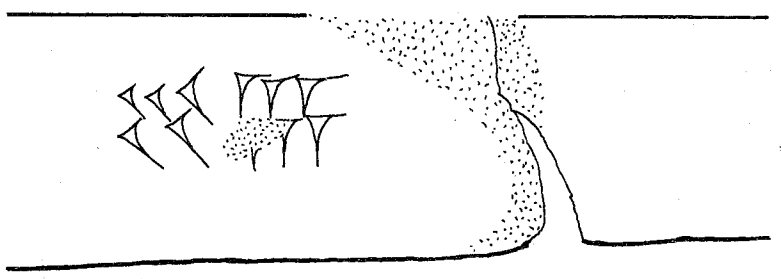
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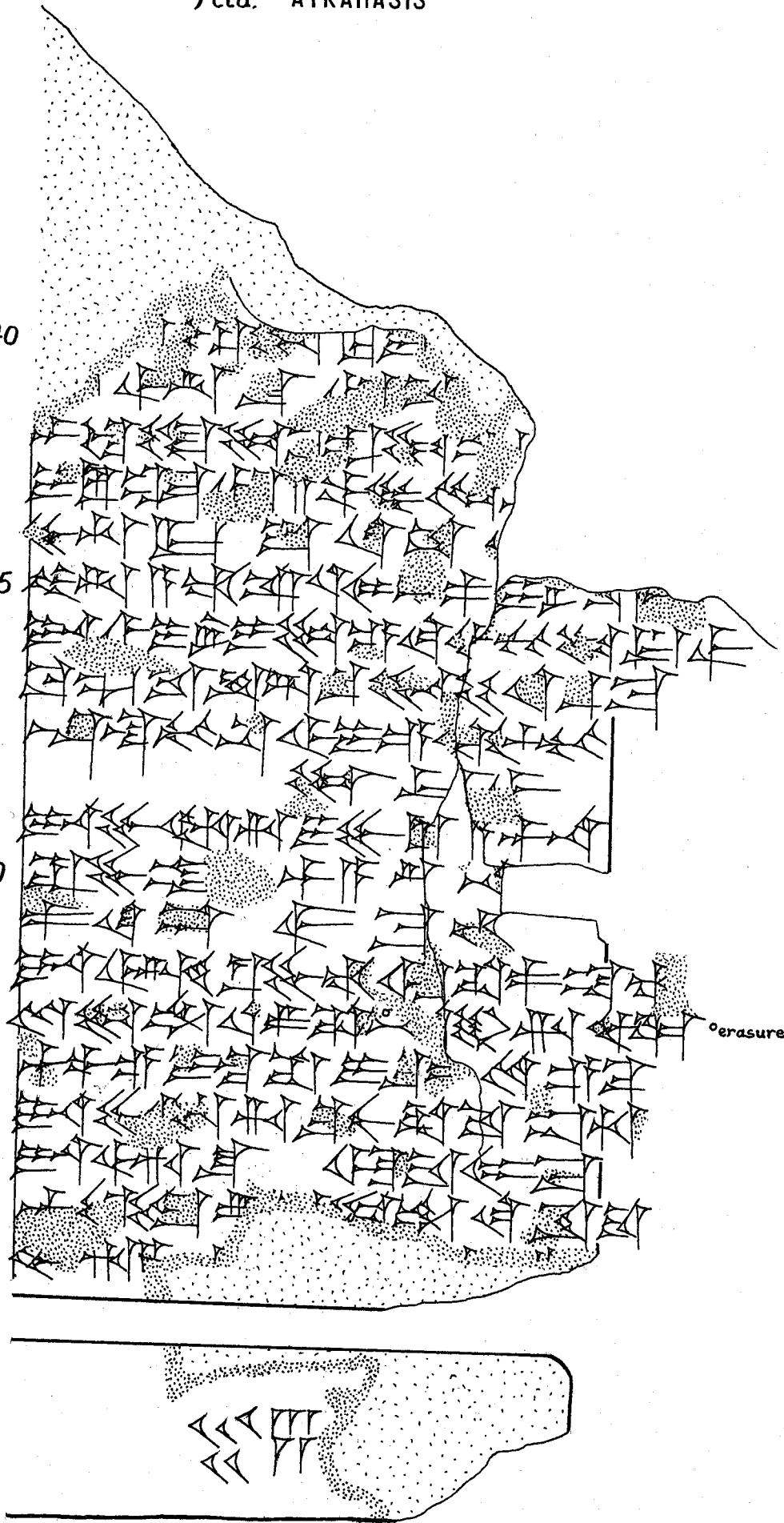
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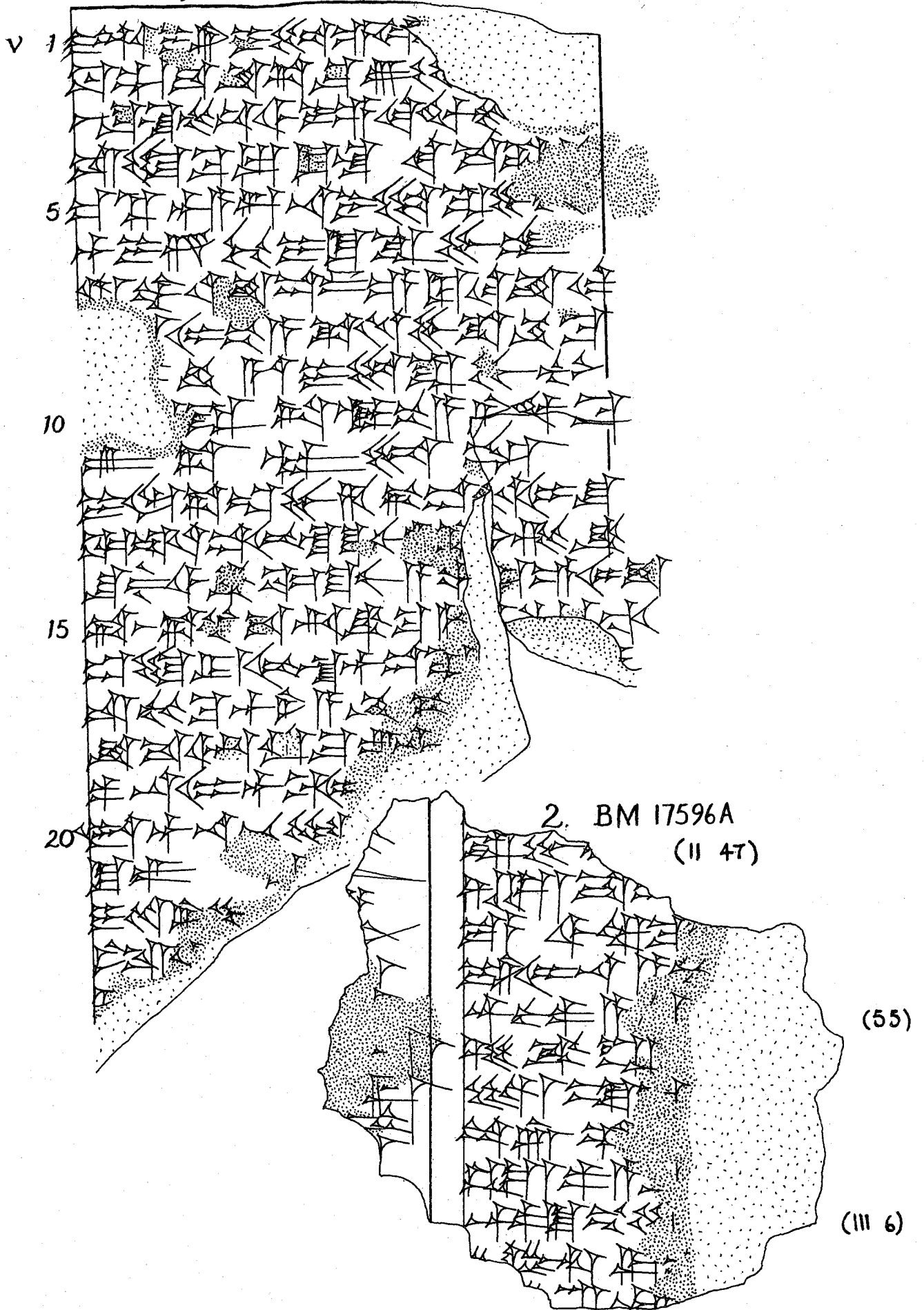
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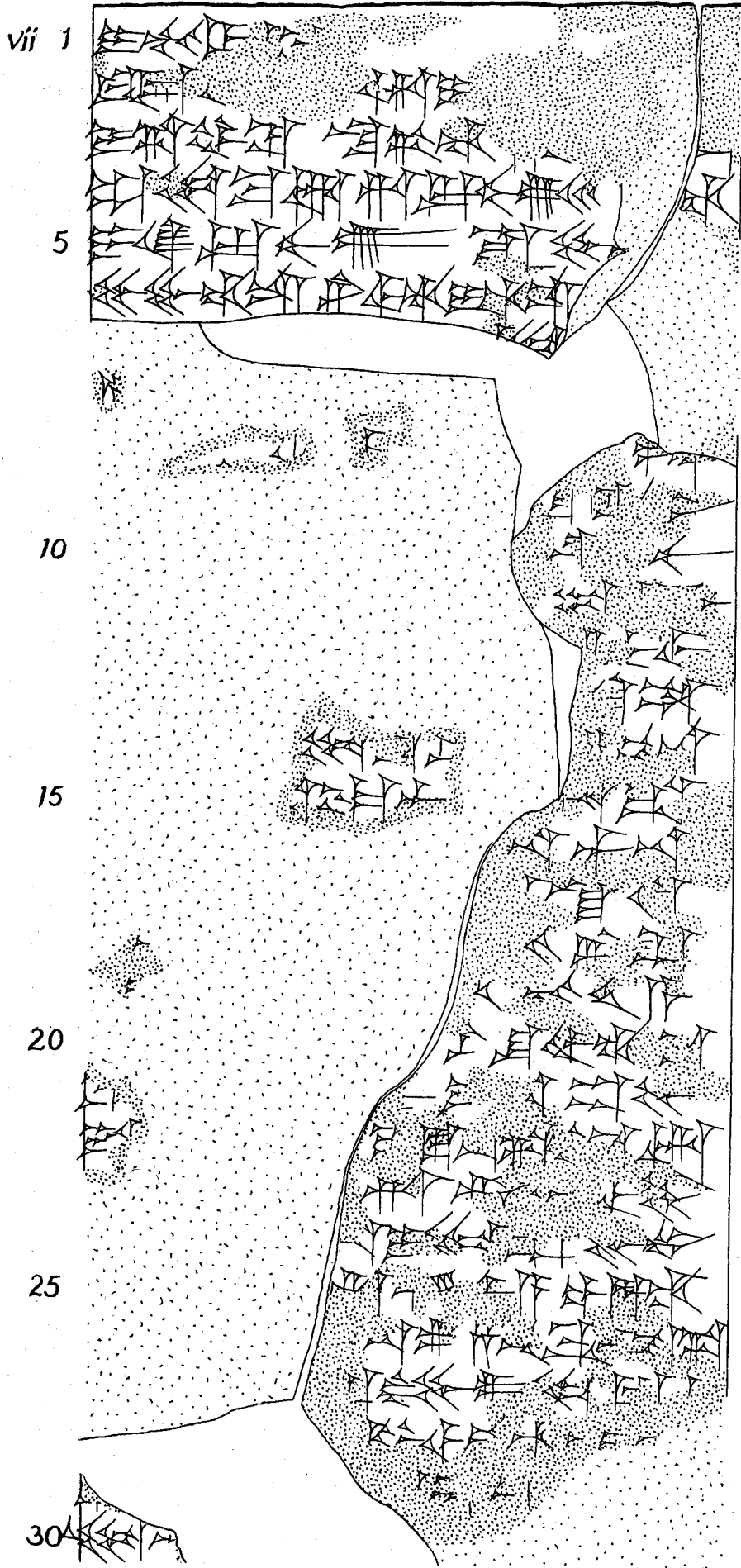
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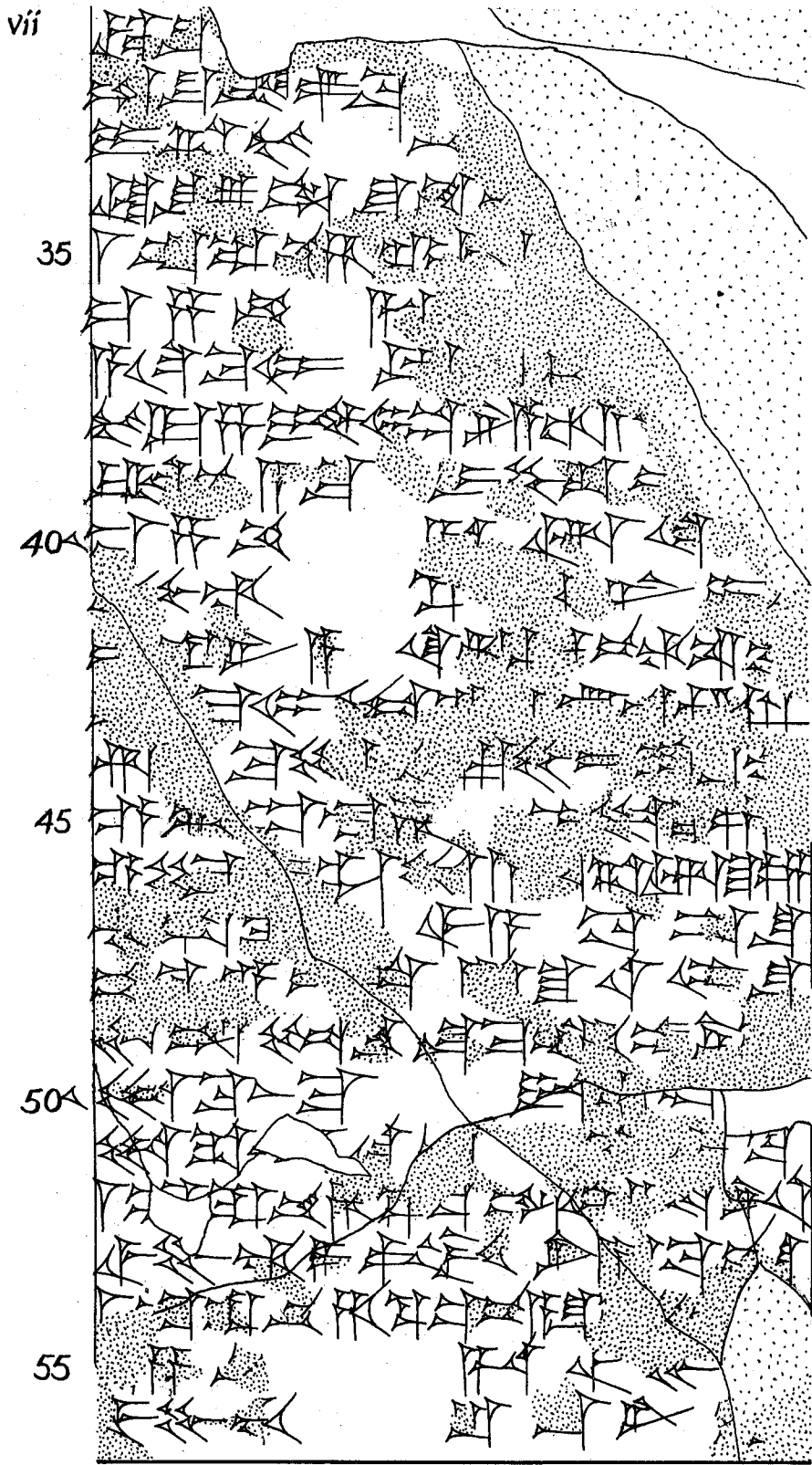


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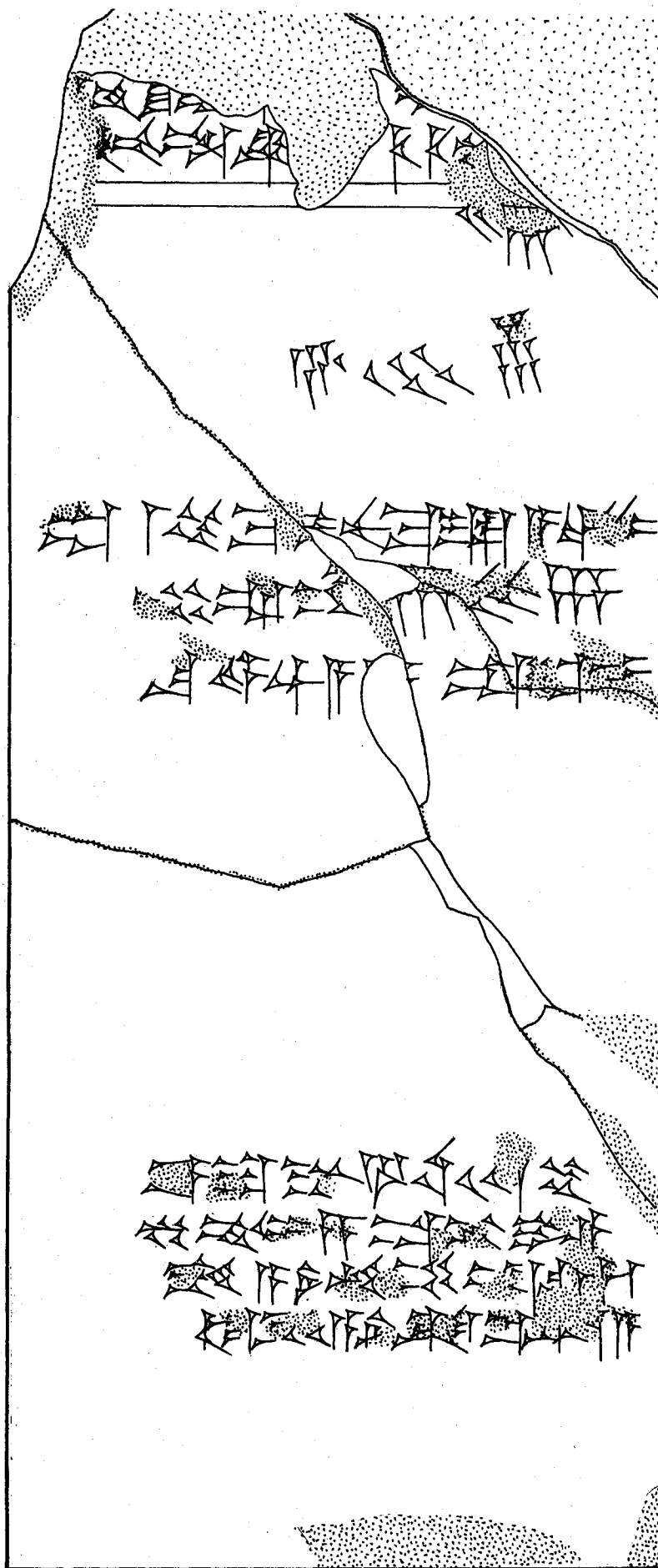
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ATRAHASIS

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+78971

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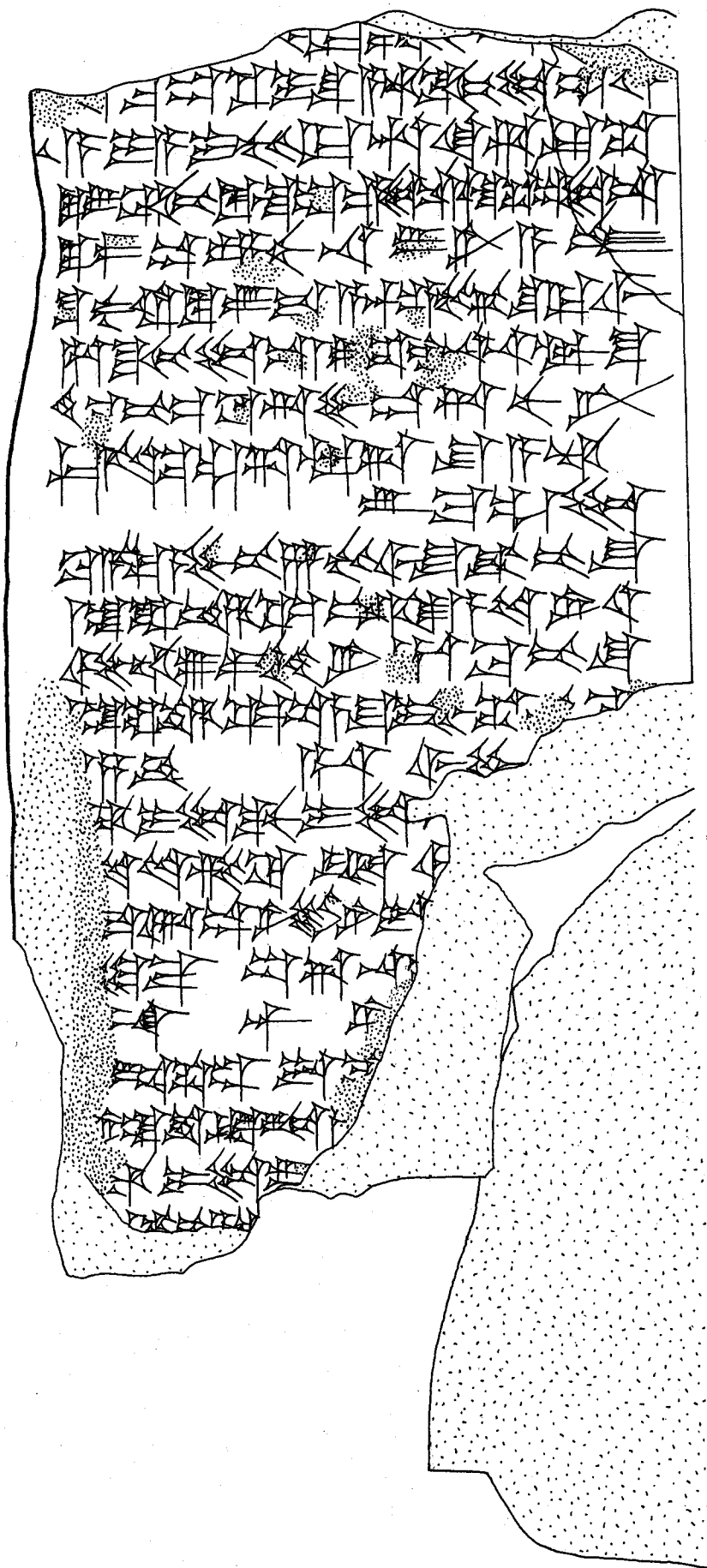
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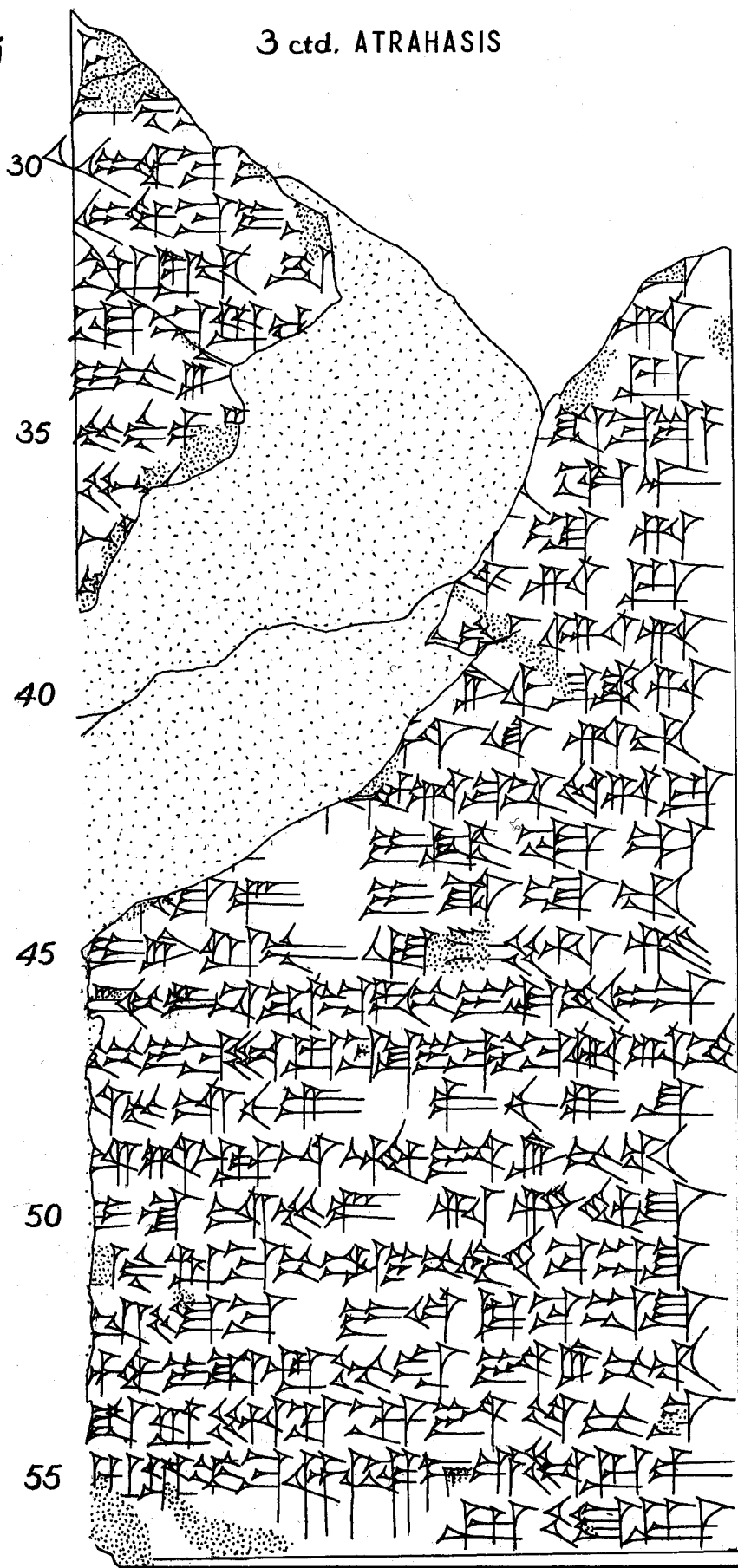
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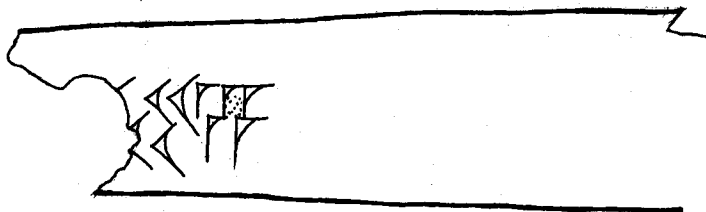
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PLATE XIV



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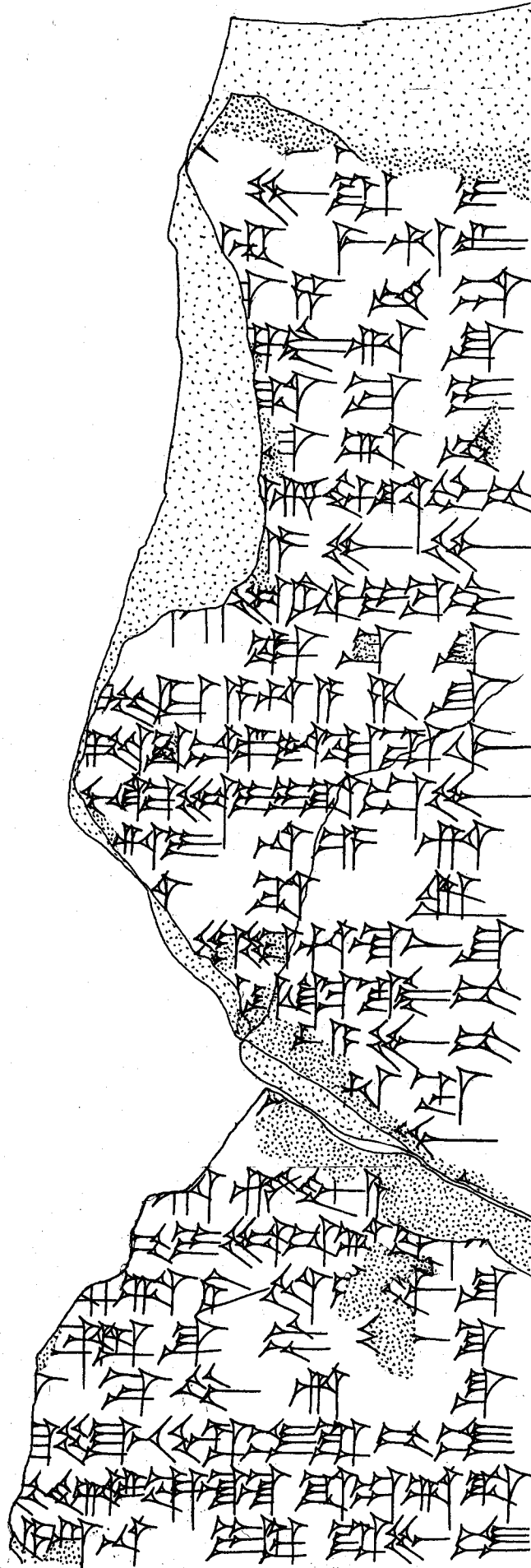
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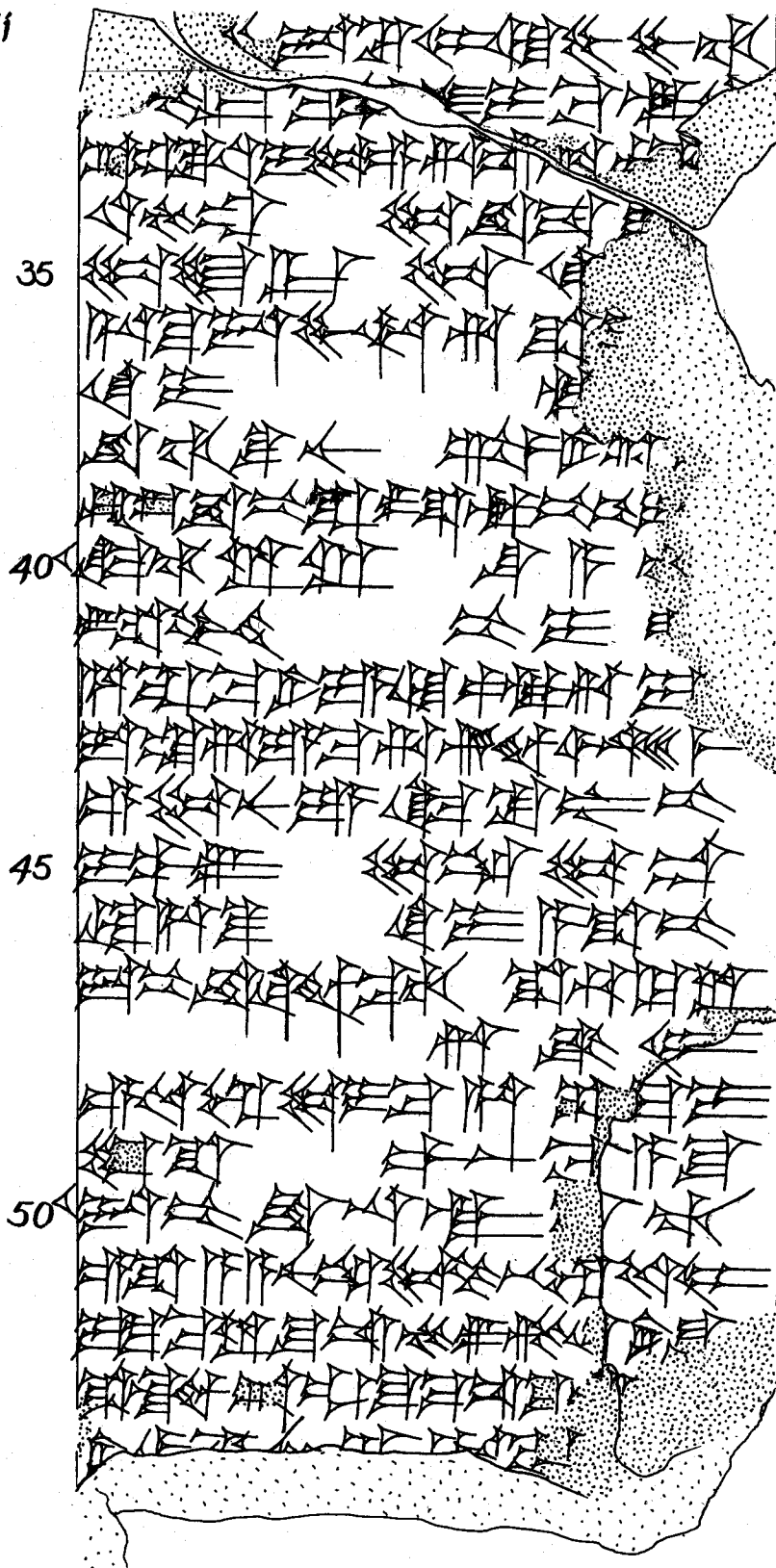
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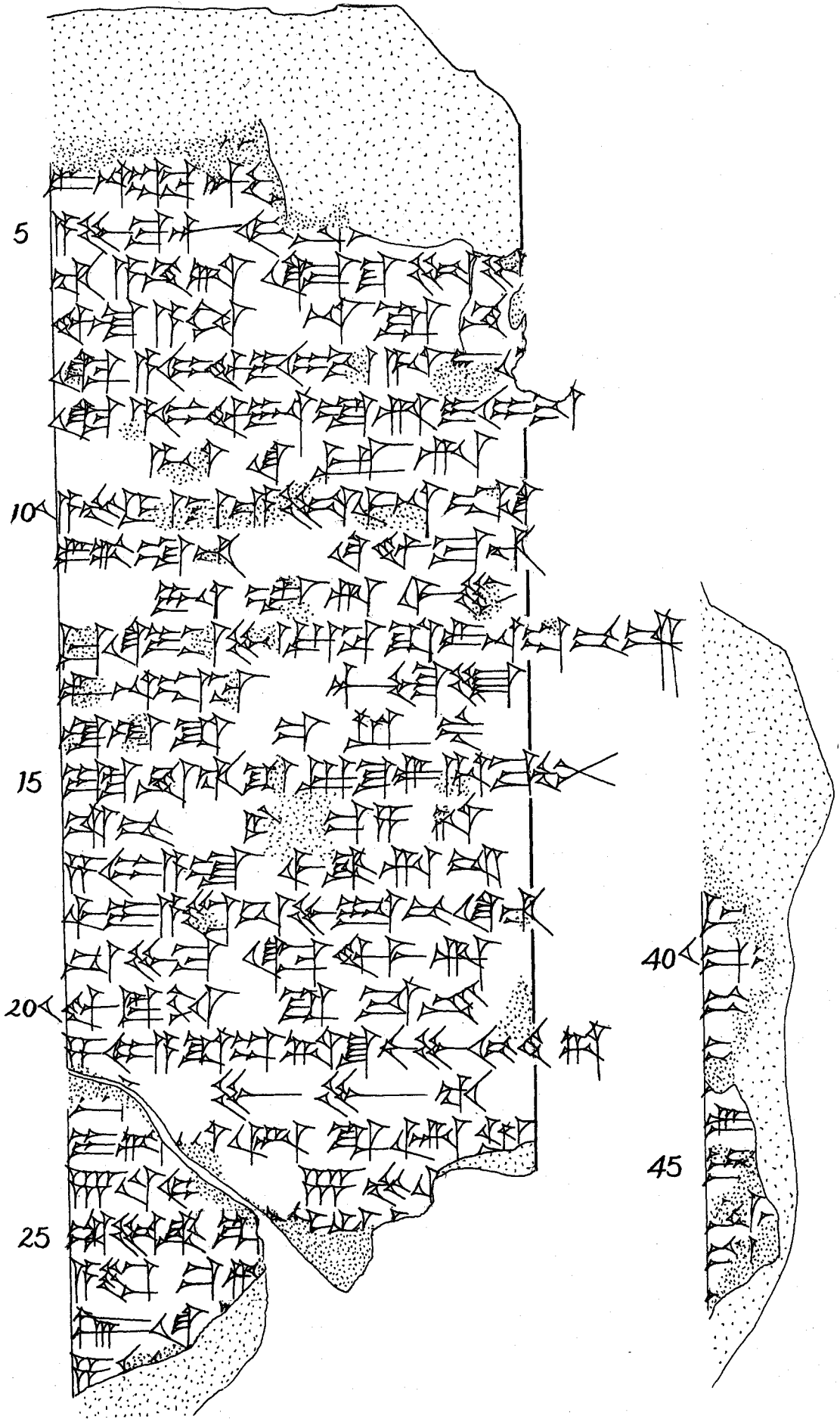
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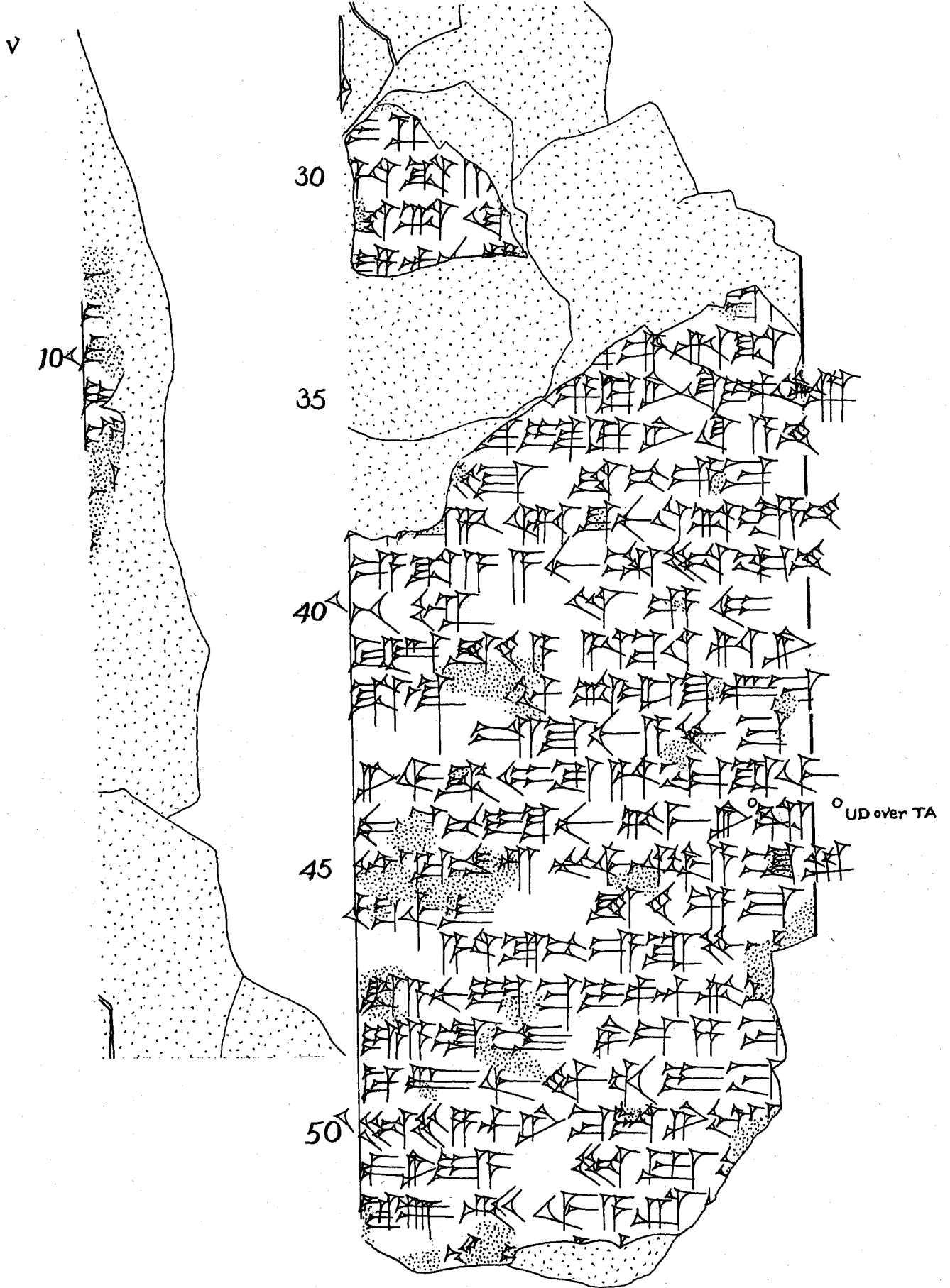
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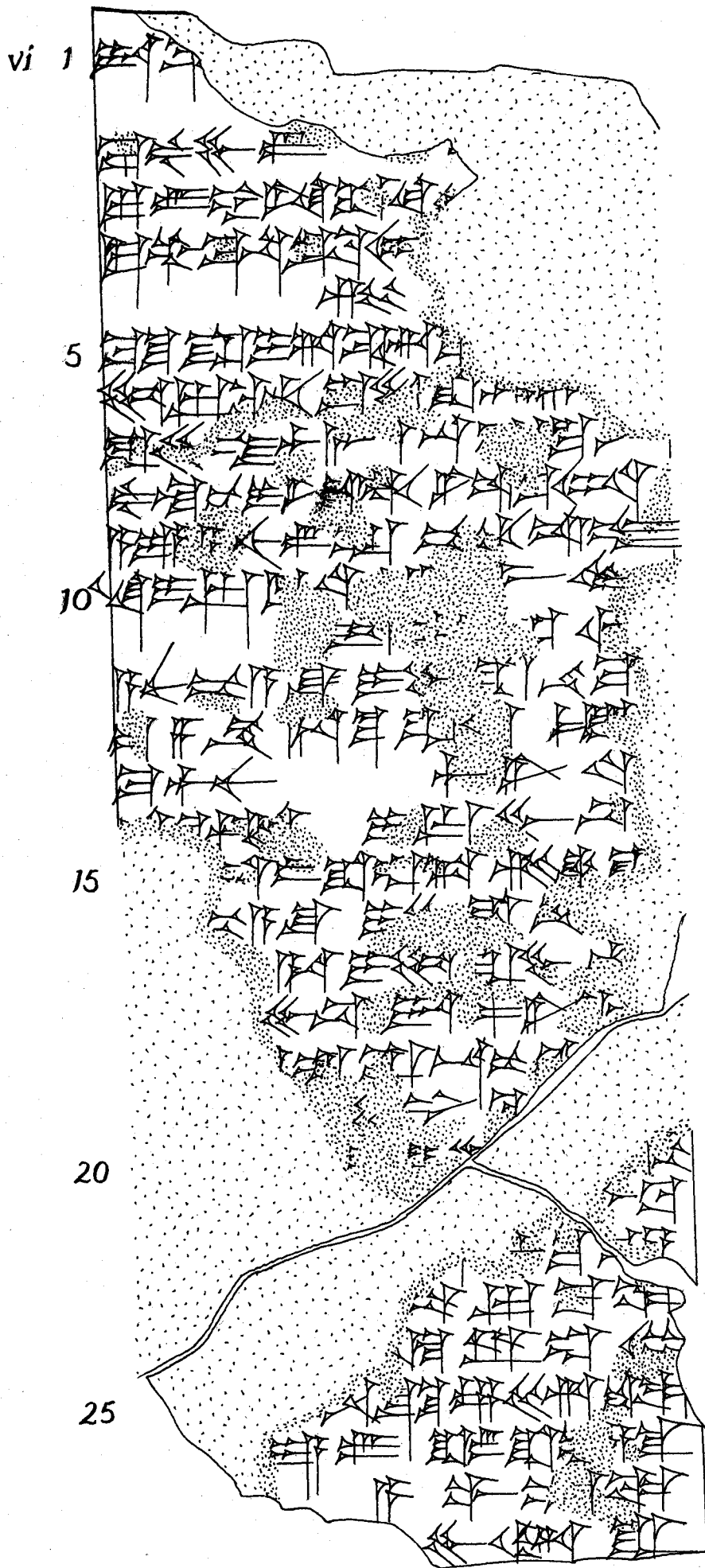
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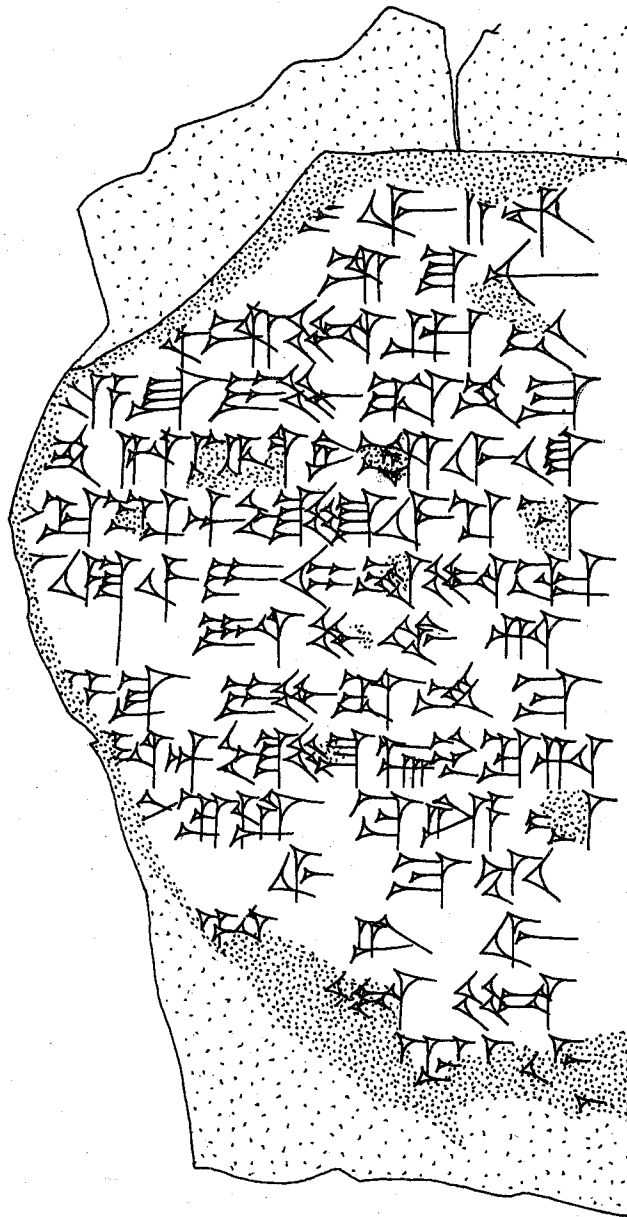


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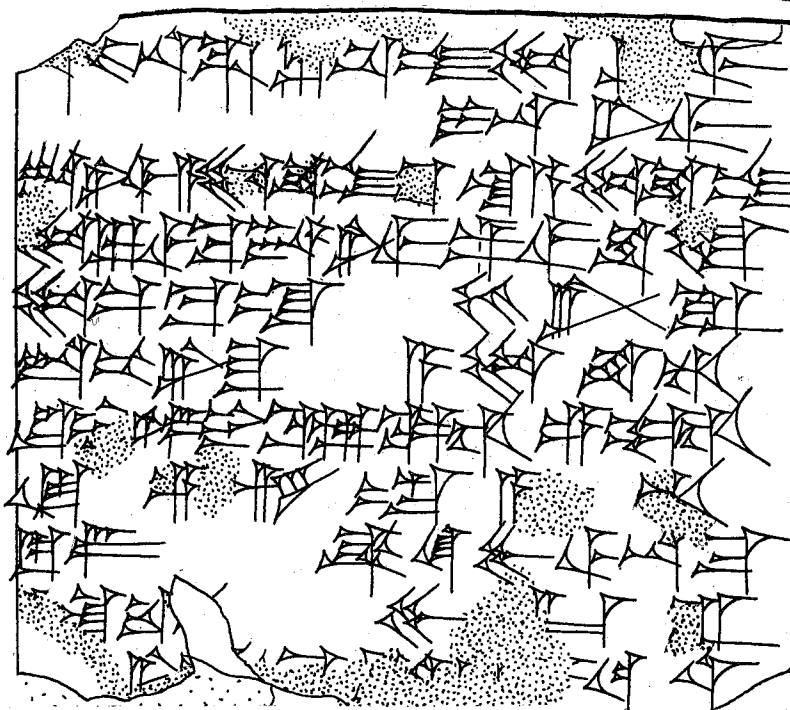
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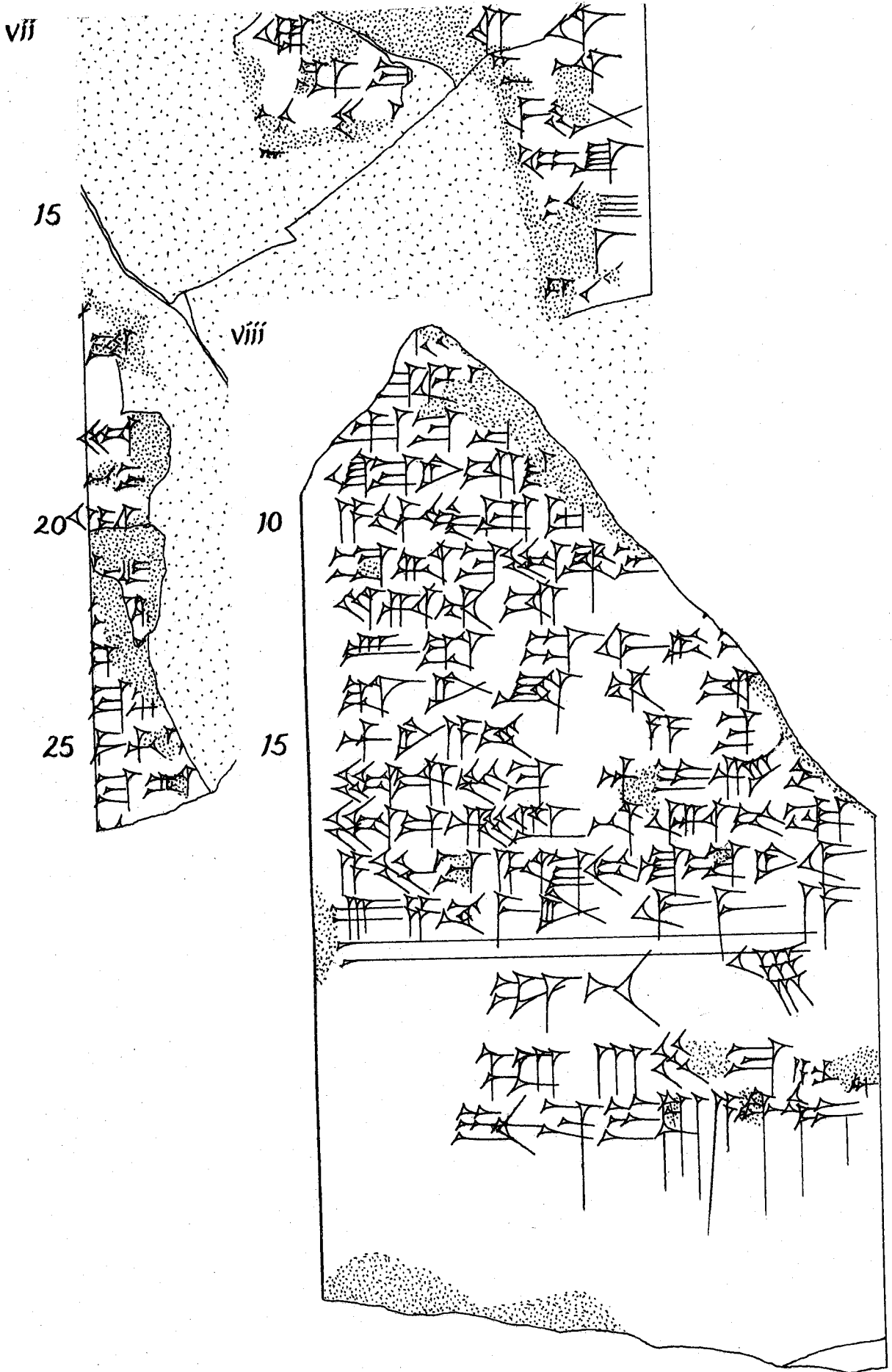


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11624

4. BM 92608
Rev. IV-V

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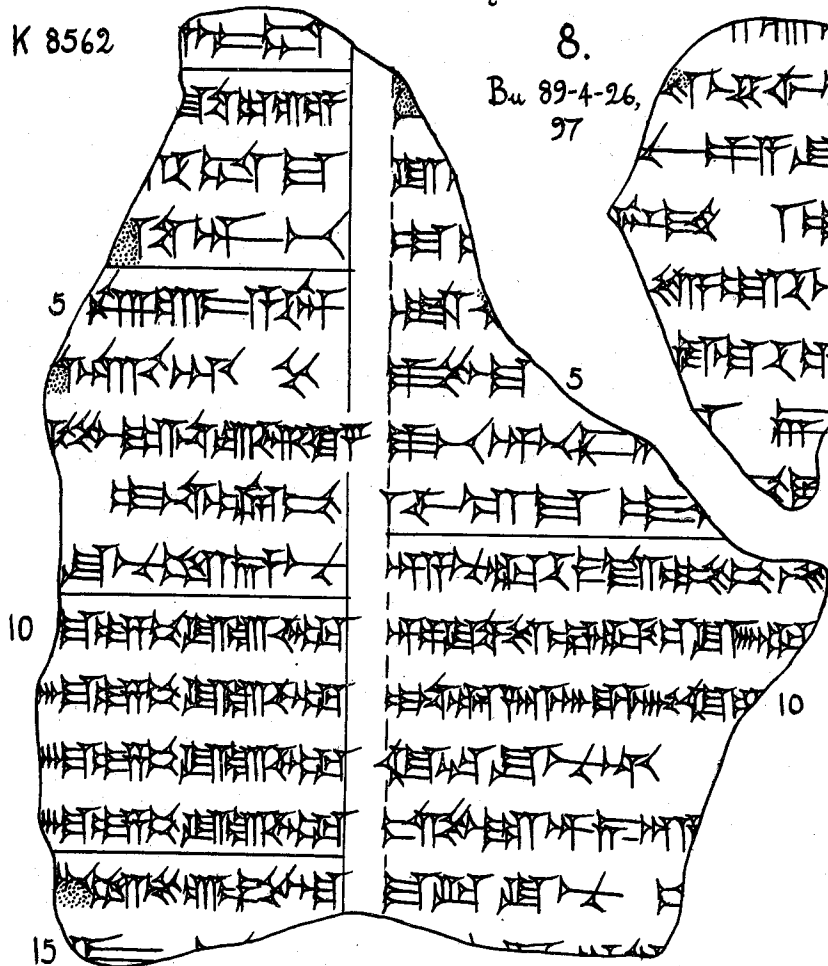
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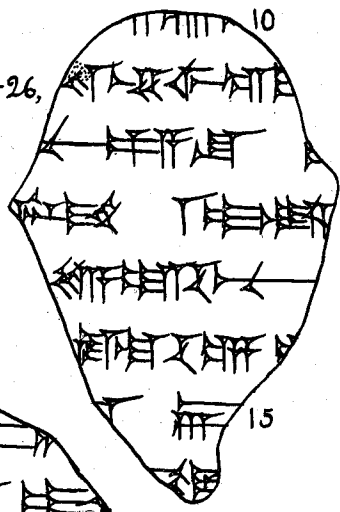
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Sic! Sic!

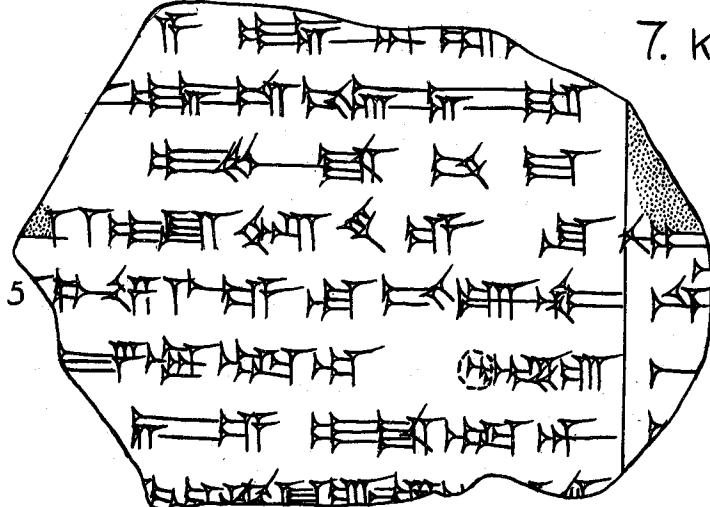
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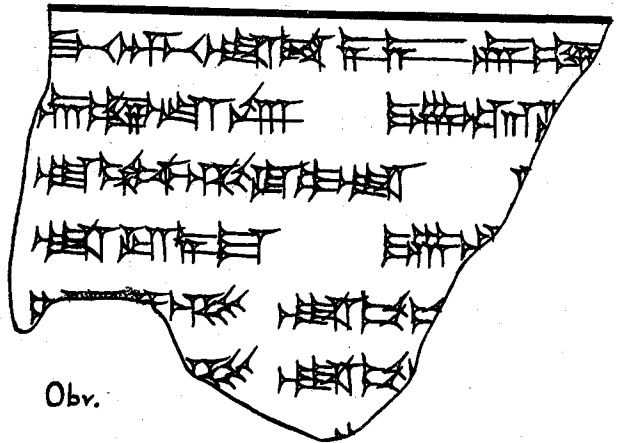
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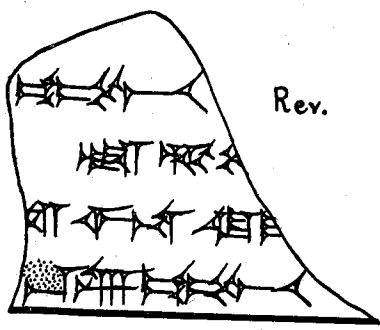
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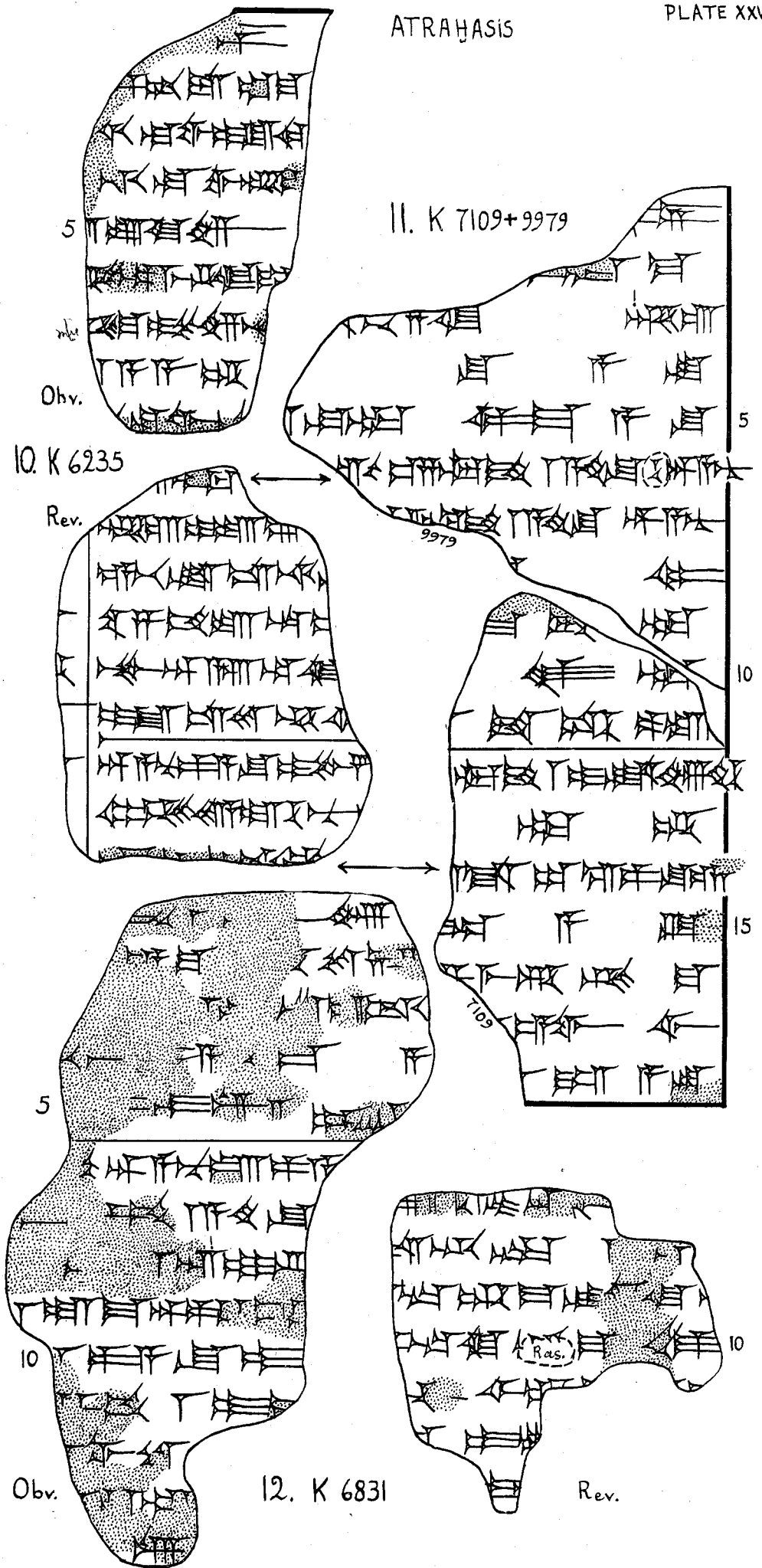
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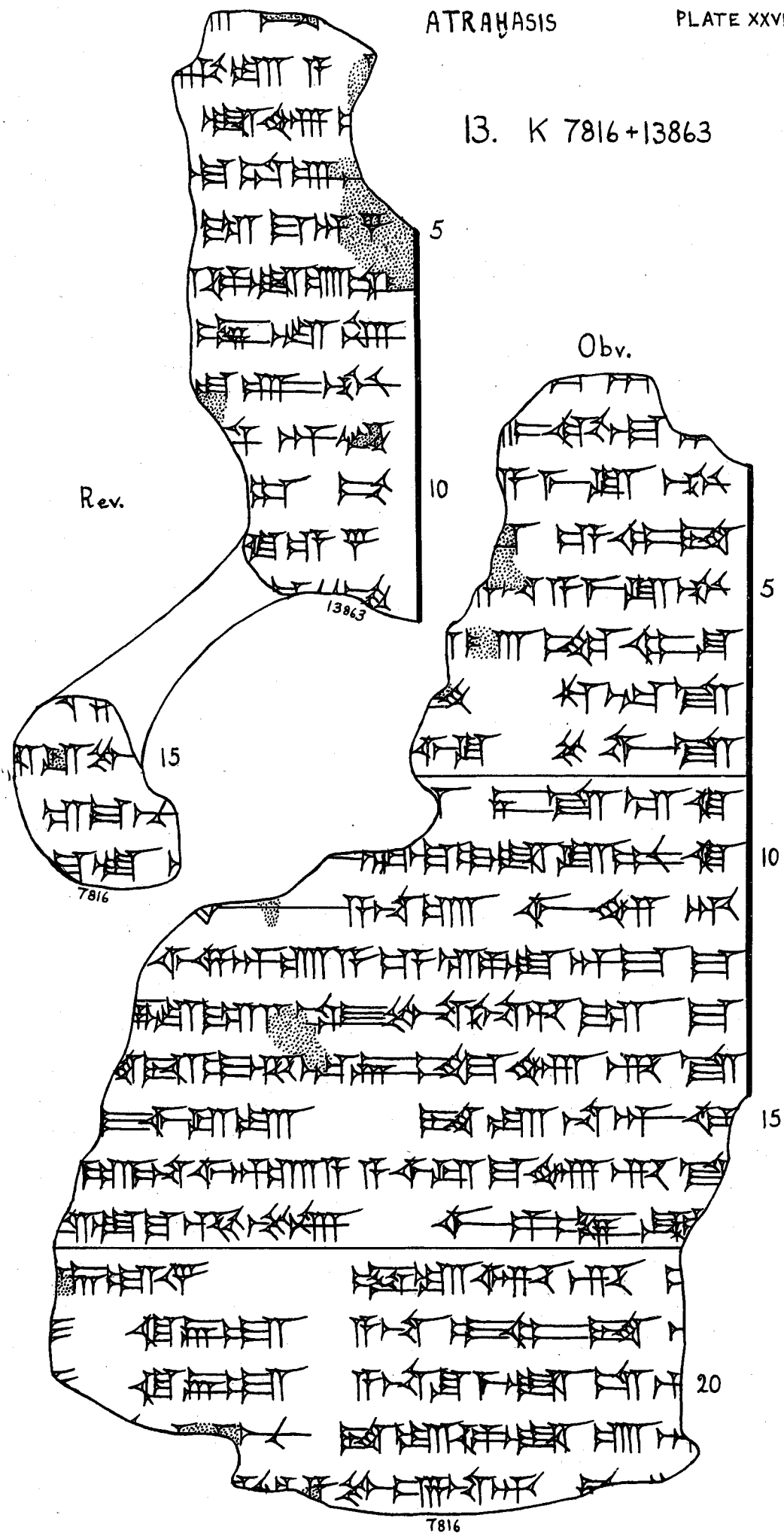
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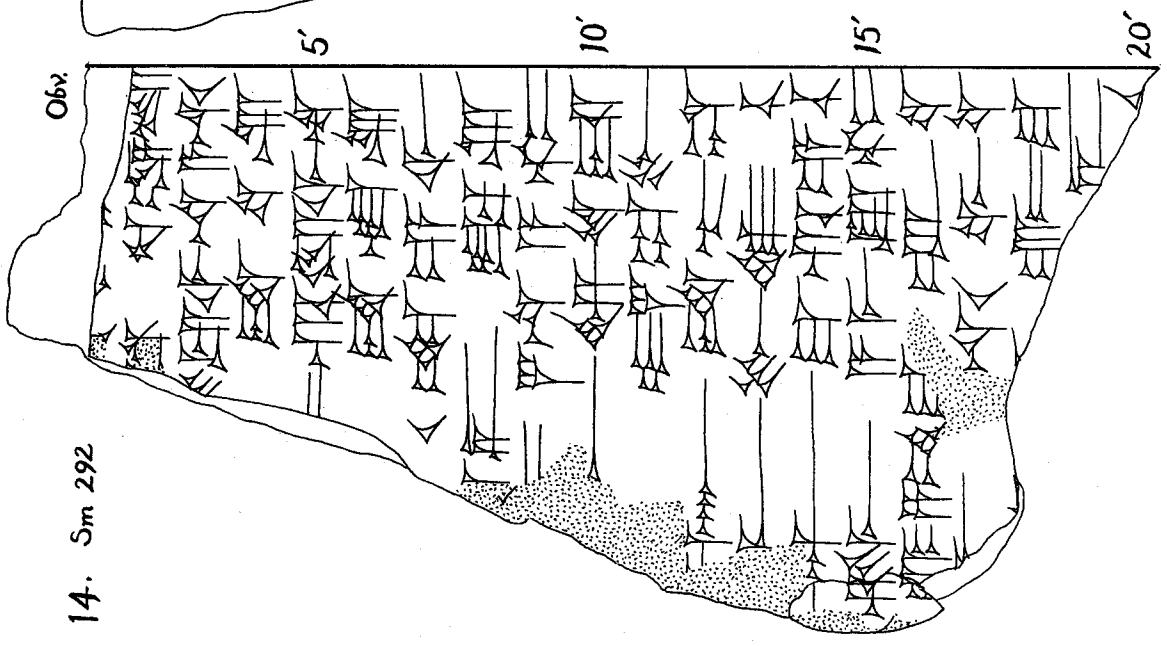
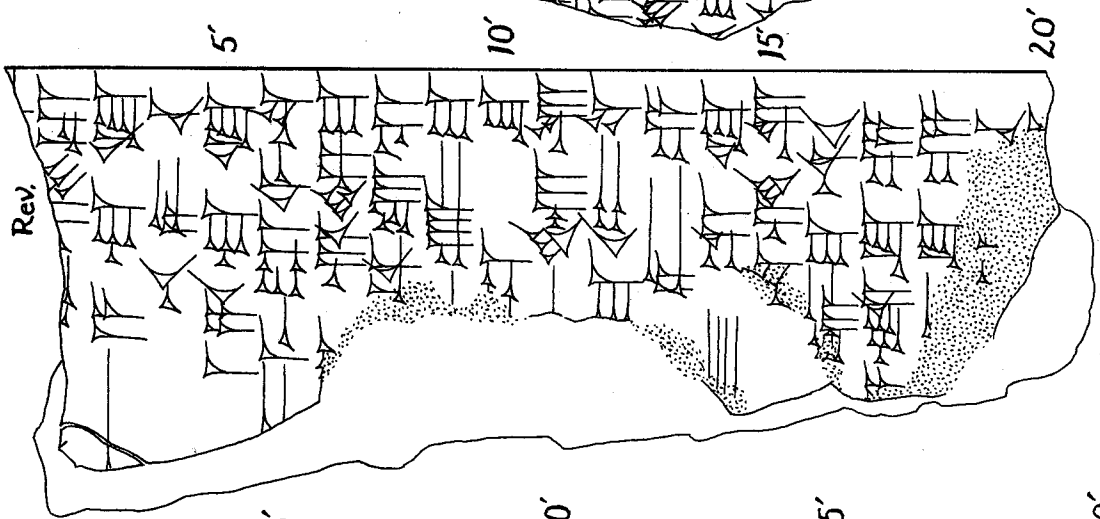
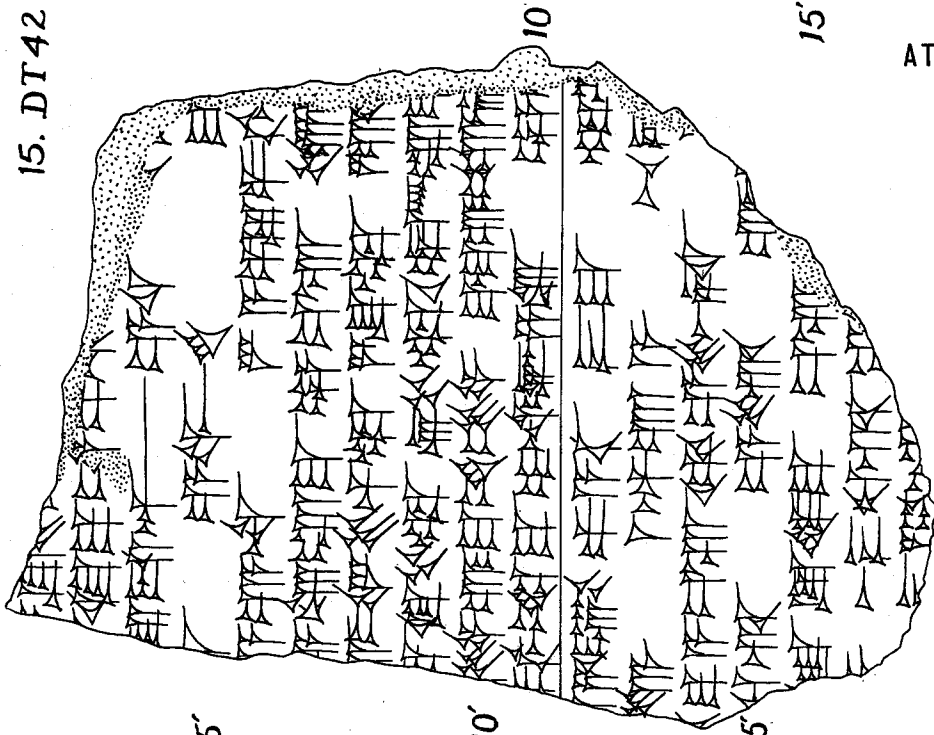
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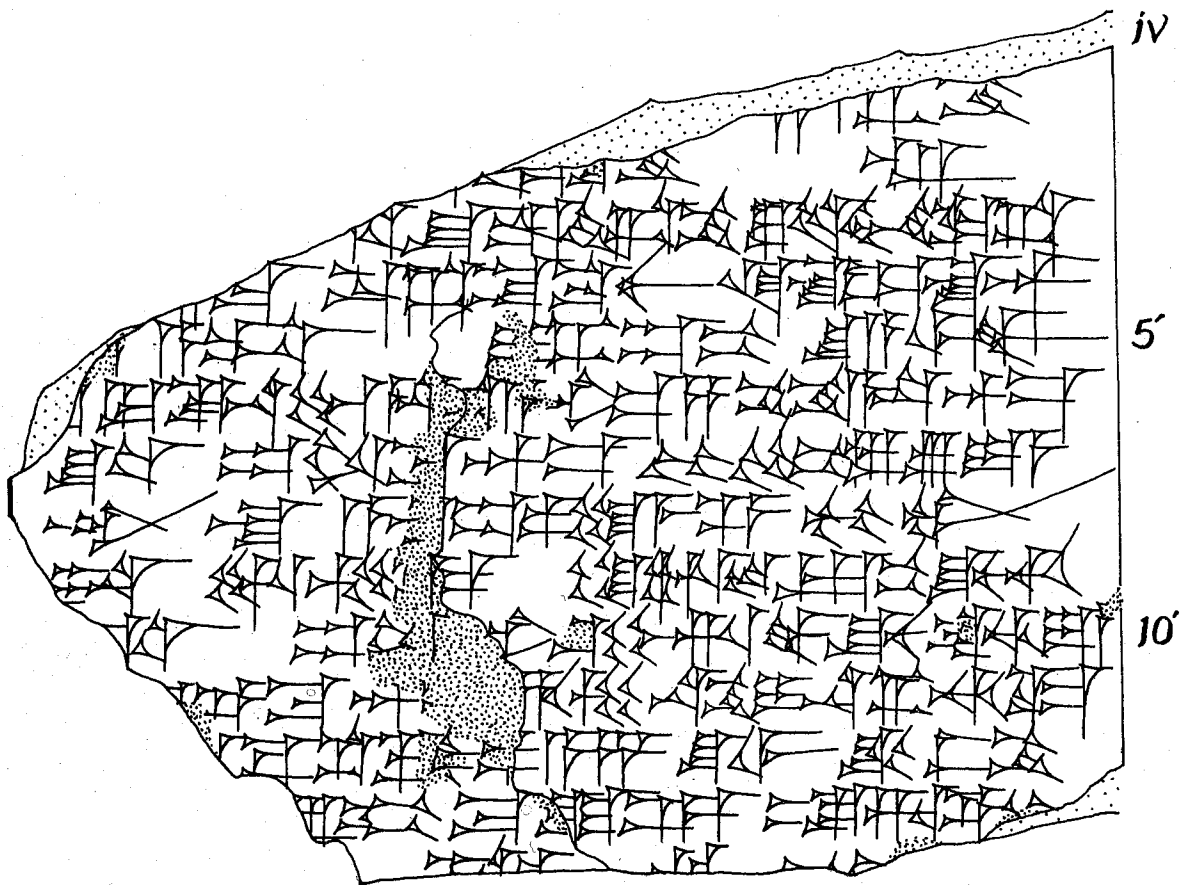
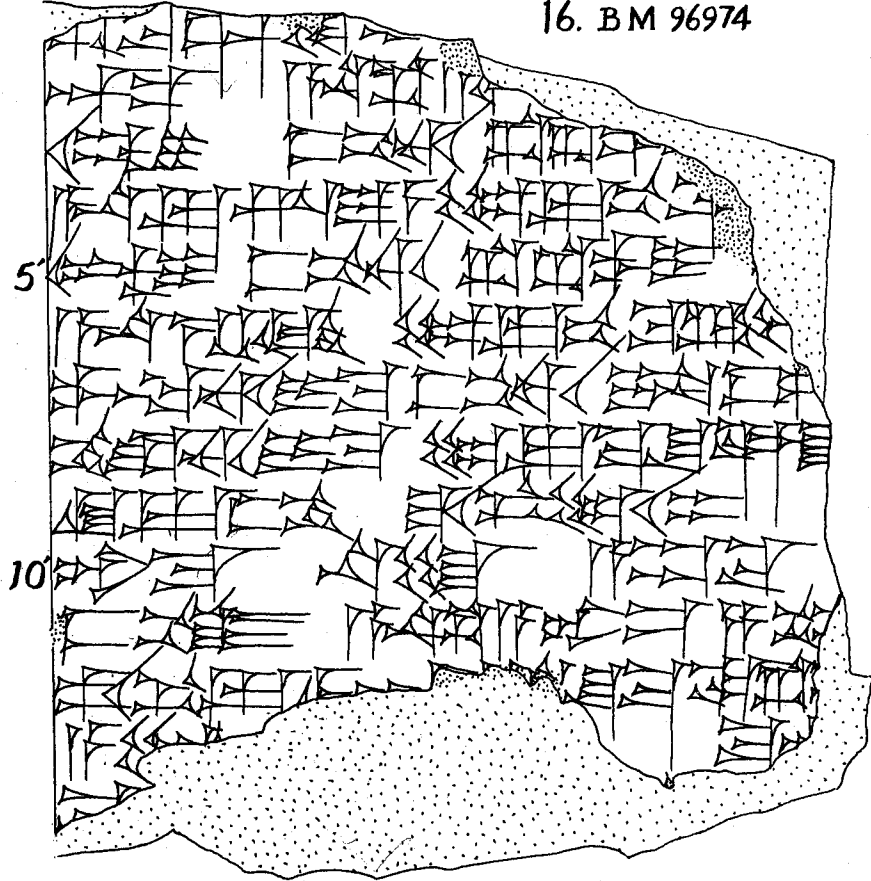
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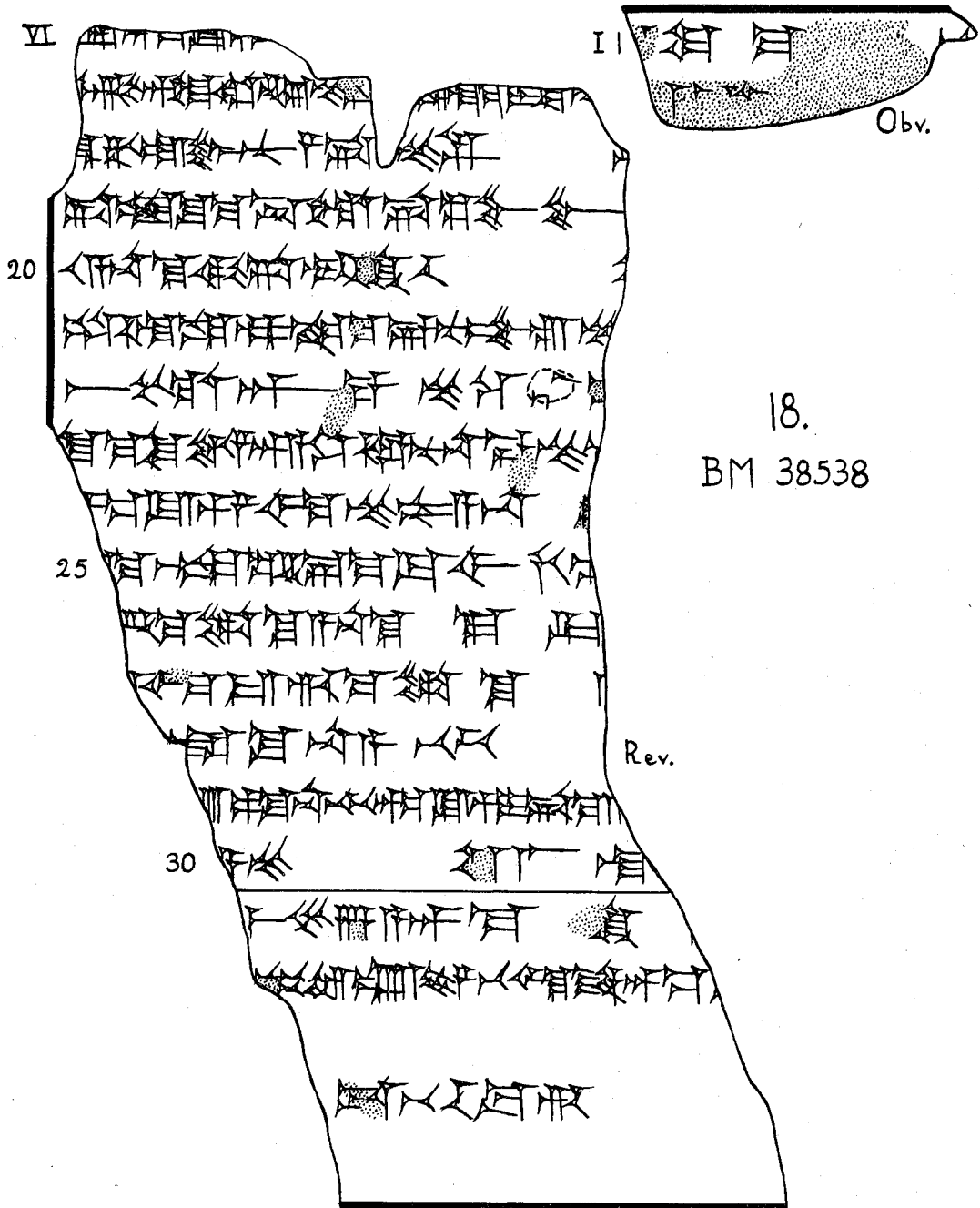
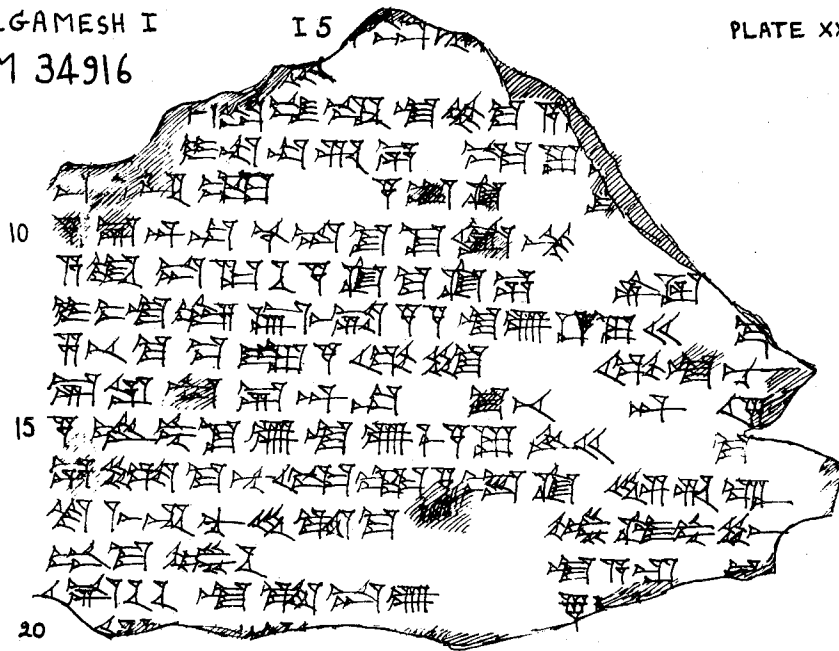


14. Sm 292

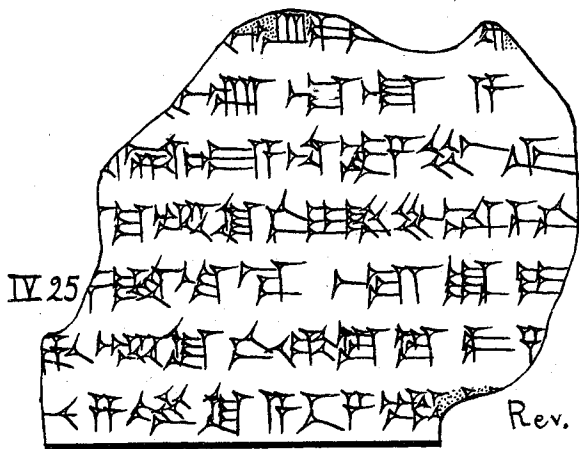
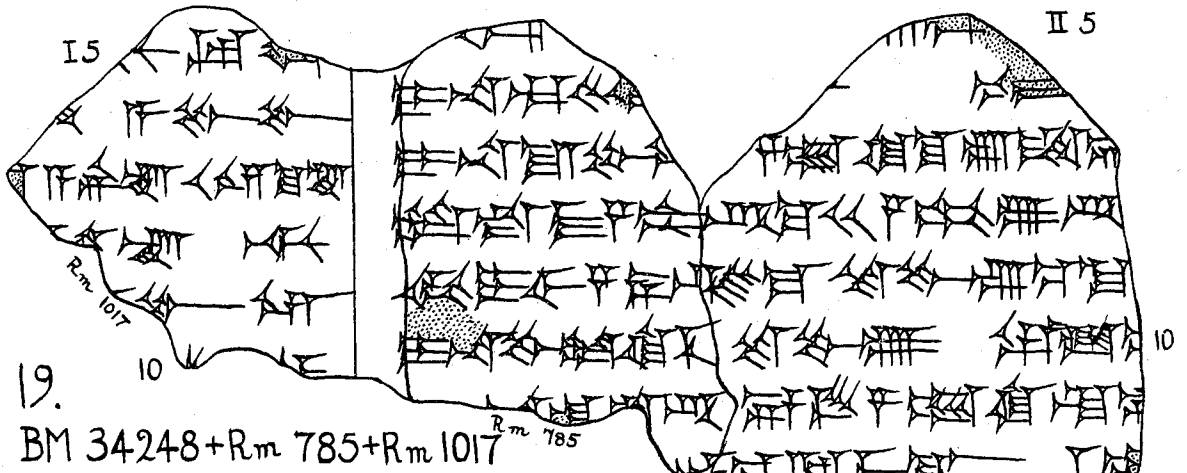
iii

16. BM 96974

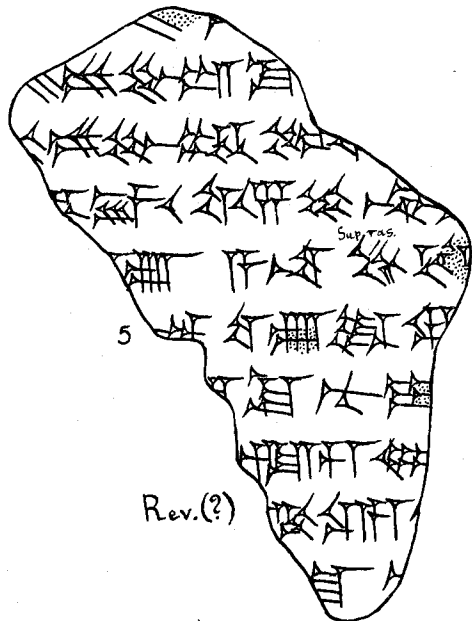
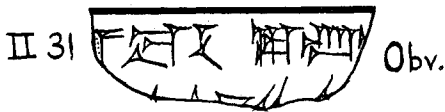




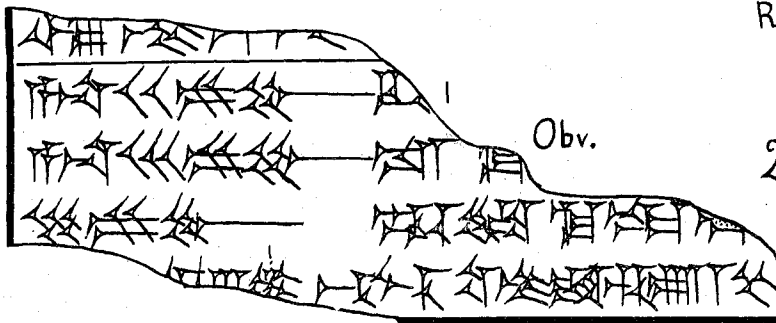
18.
BM 38538



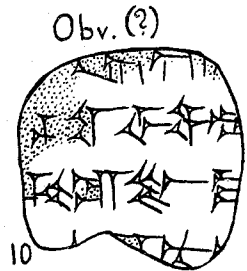
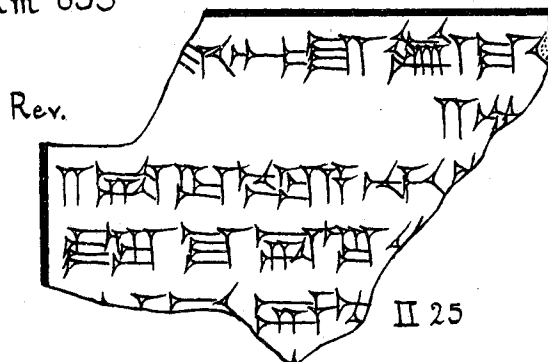
20. BM 37163

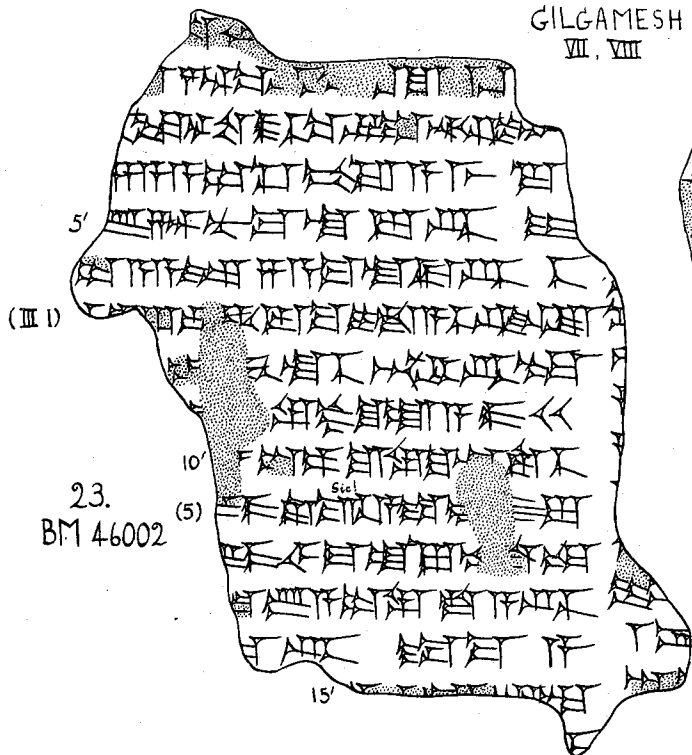


22. BM 45883

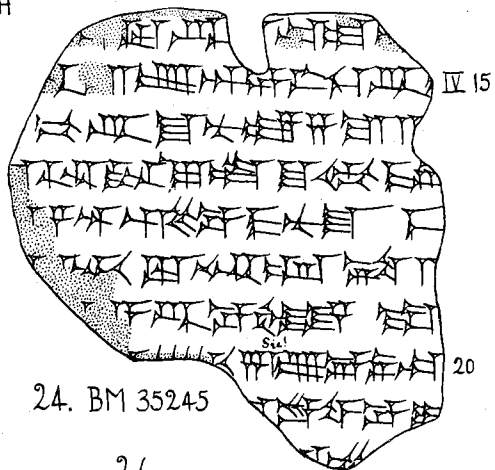


21. Rm 853

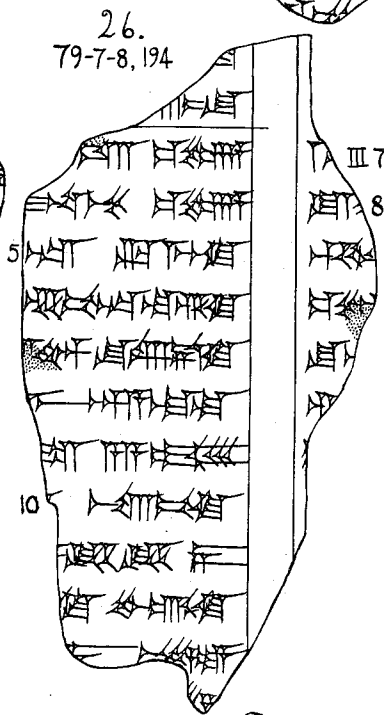




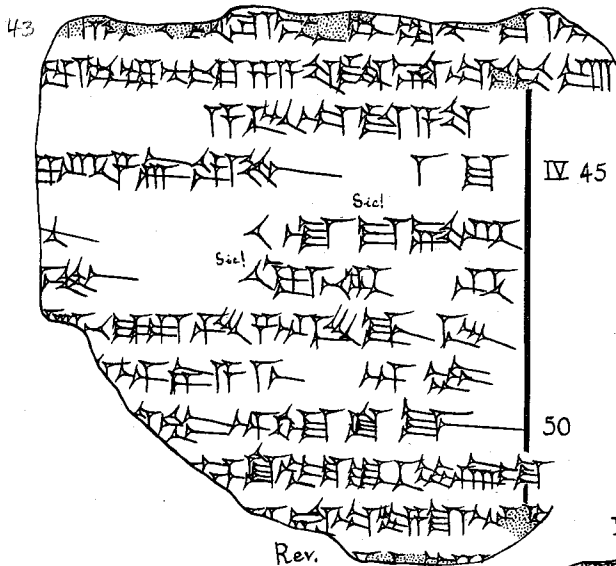
23.
BM 46002



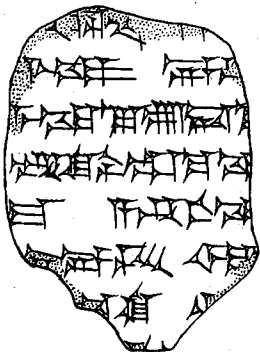
24. BM 35245



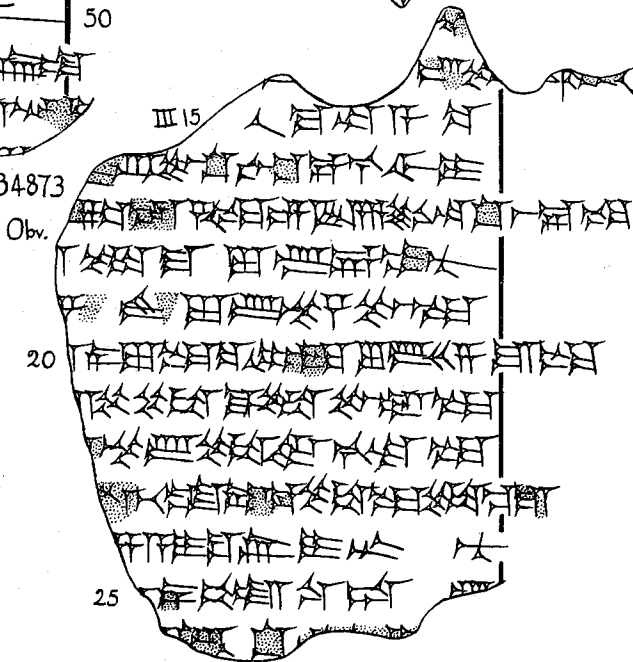
26.
79-7-8, 194



25. BM 34873



27. BM 37189



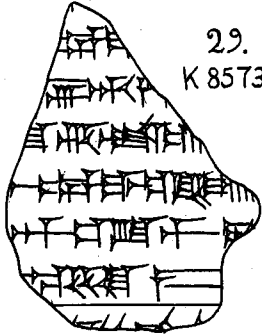
Obv.

20

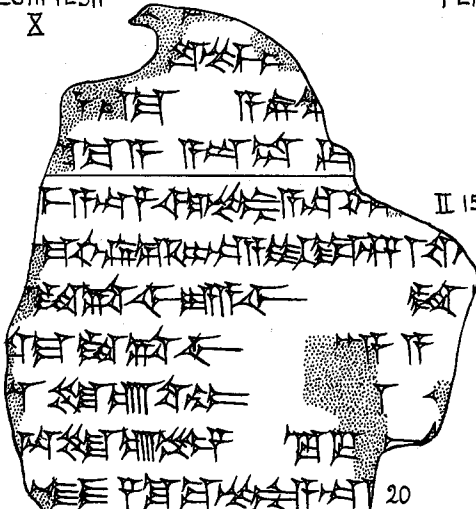
25



28.
BM 34191

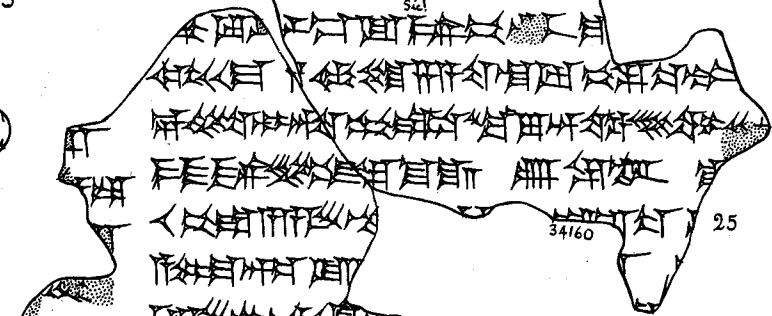


29.
K 8573



II 15

20



34160

25

30.
BM 34160
+34193
+35174
+35348
+35413
+35628
Obv.

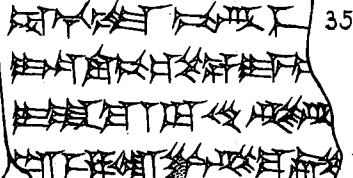
I 25



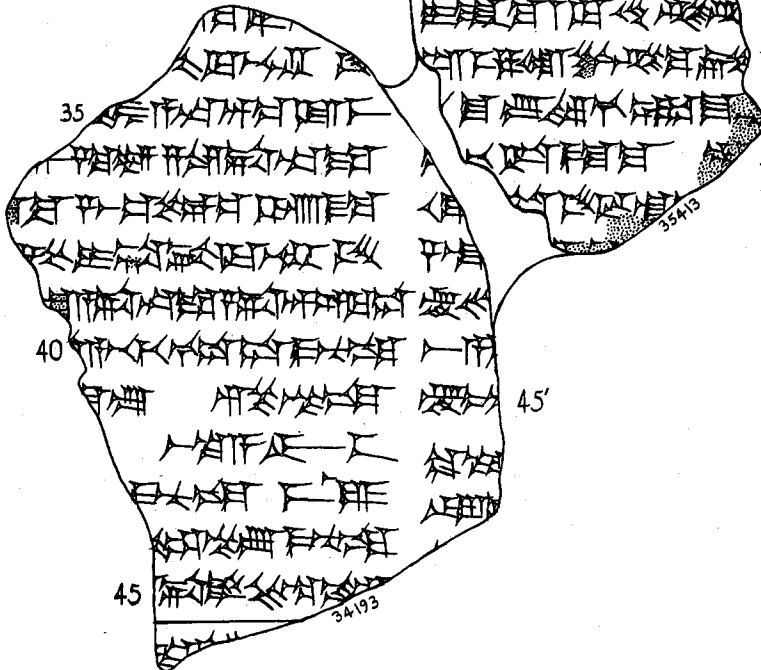
2-3

30-31a

30



35



35

40'

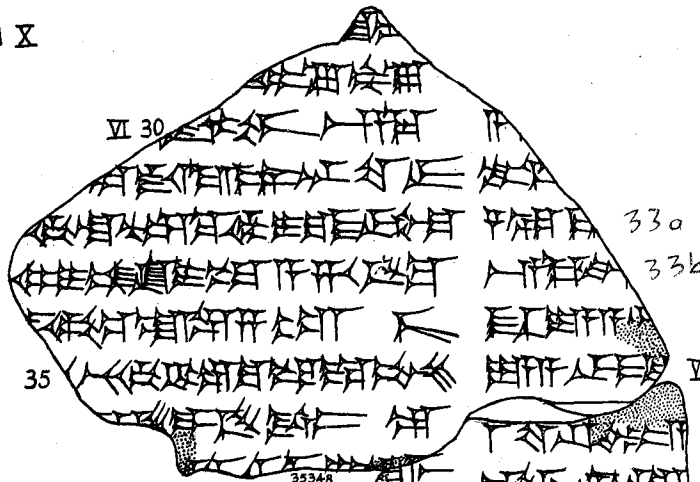
35413

40

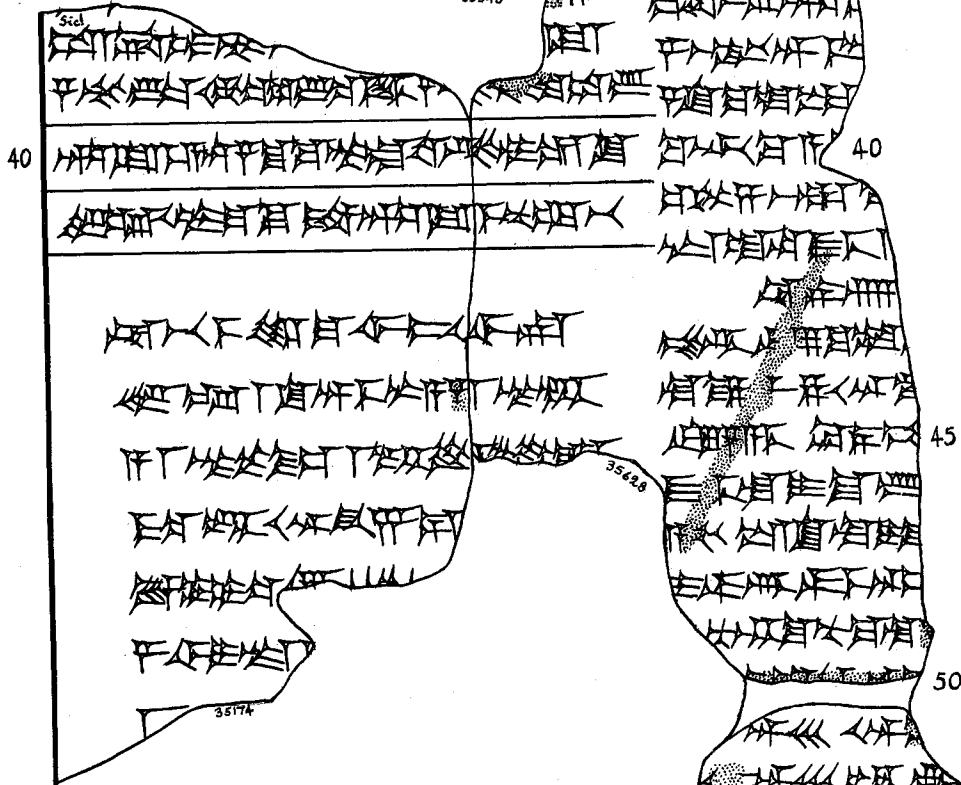
45'

45

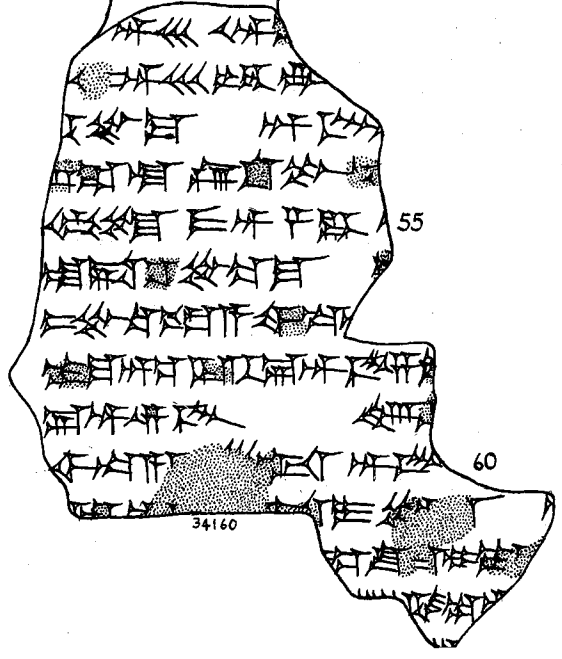
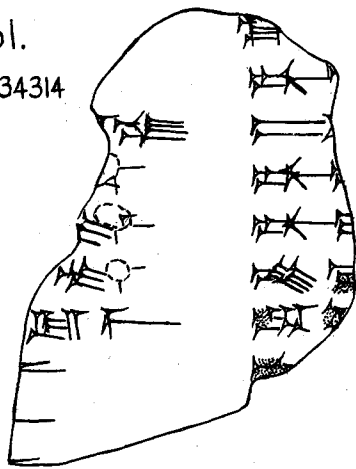
34193

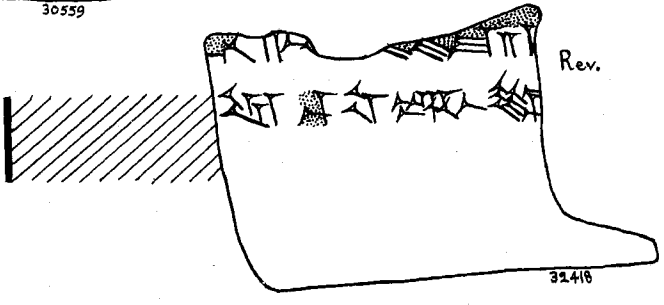
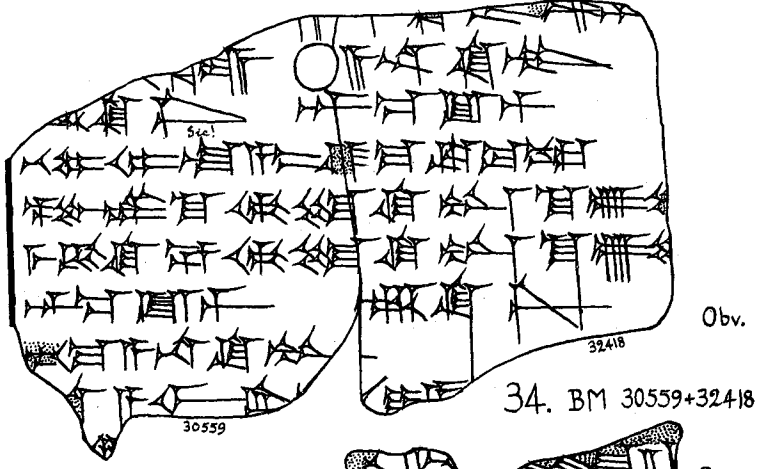
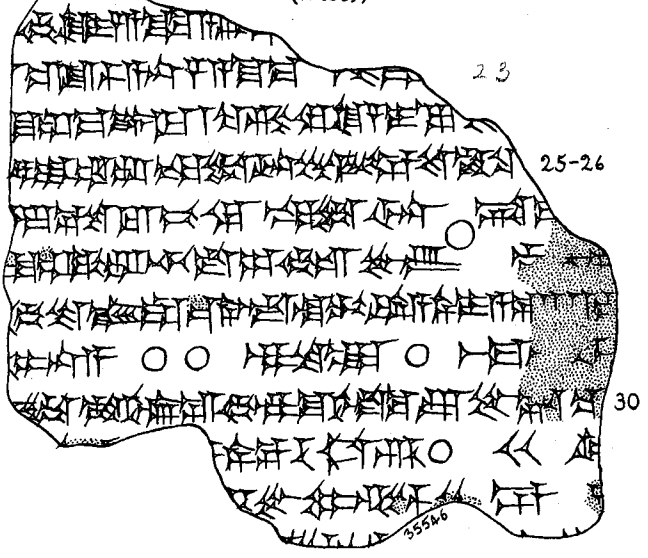
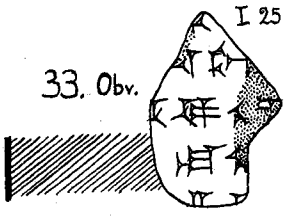
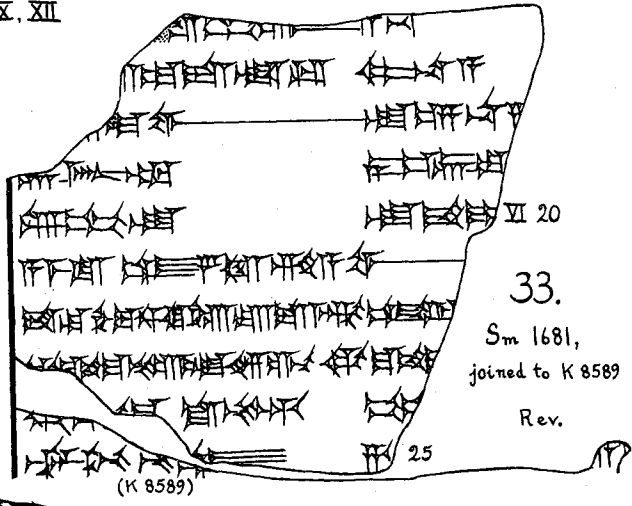


30.
 BM 34160
 +34193
 +35174
 +35348
 +35413
 +35628
 Rev.

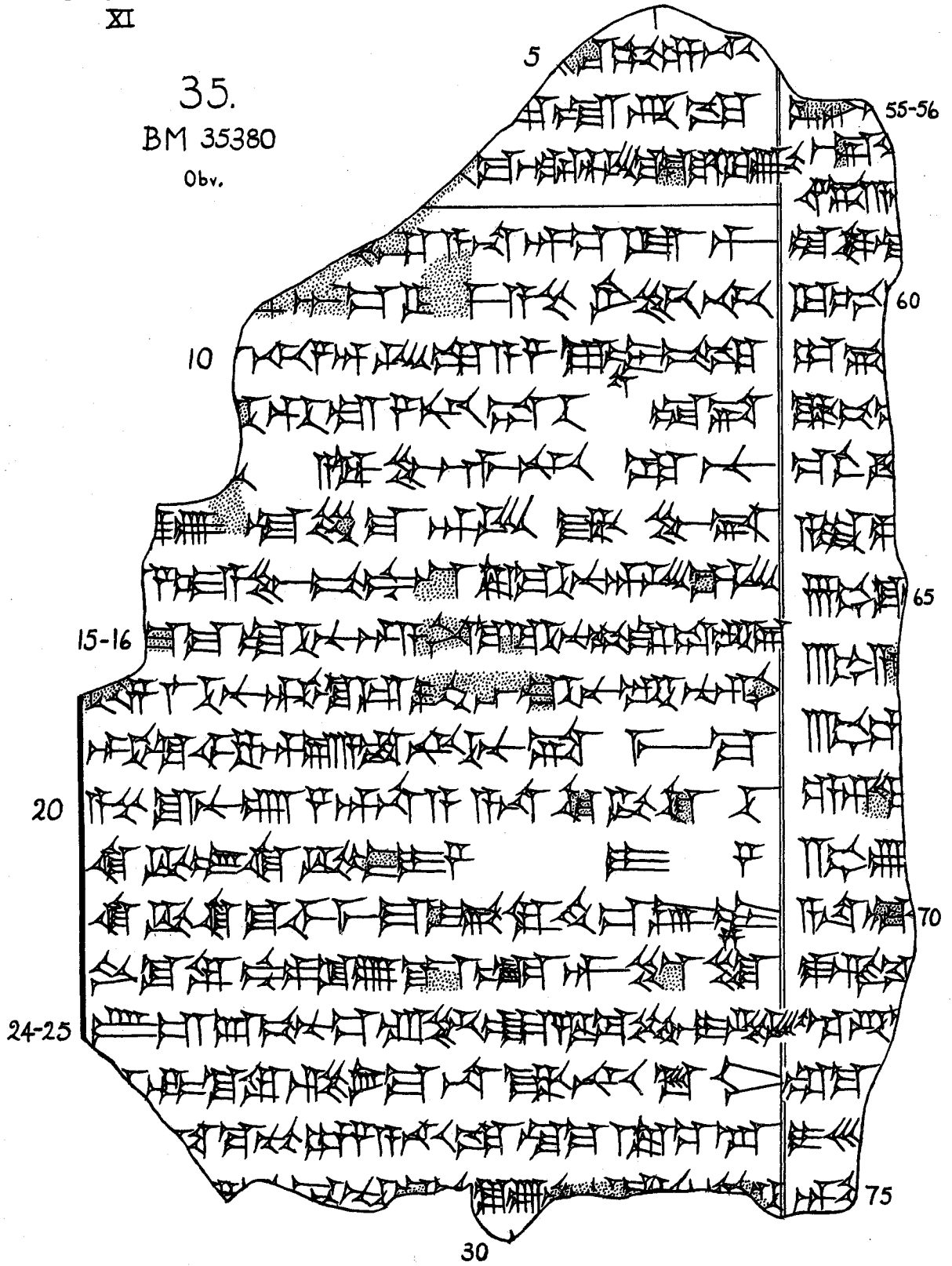


31.
 BM 34314





35.
BM 35380
Obv.



275

𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧
 𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧
 𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧
 𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧

280

𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧
 𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧
 𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧
 𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧

285

𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧
 𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧
 𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧
 𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧

290

𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧
 𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧
 𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧
 𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧

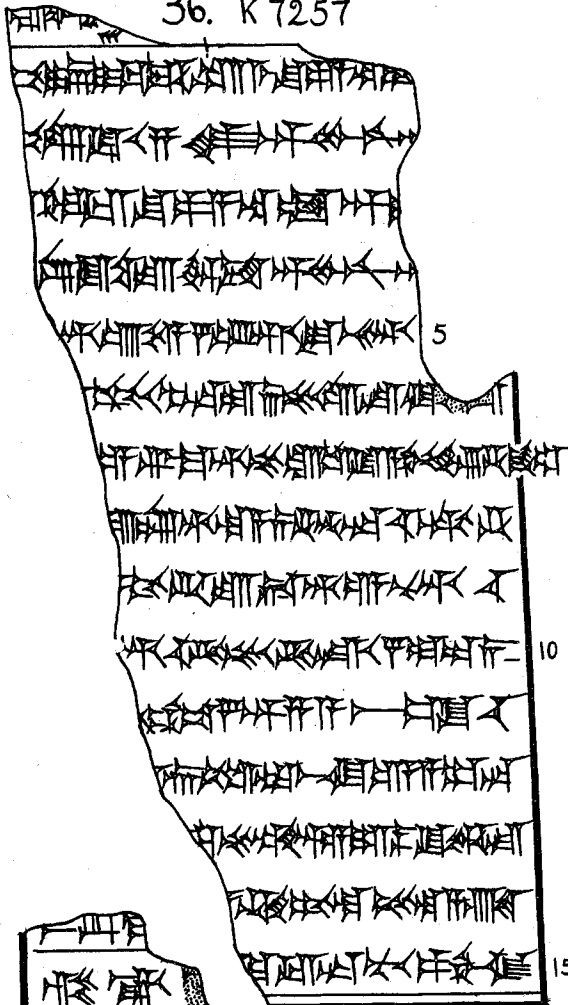
294-5

𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧
 𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧
 𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧
 𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧

300

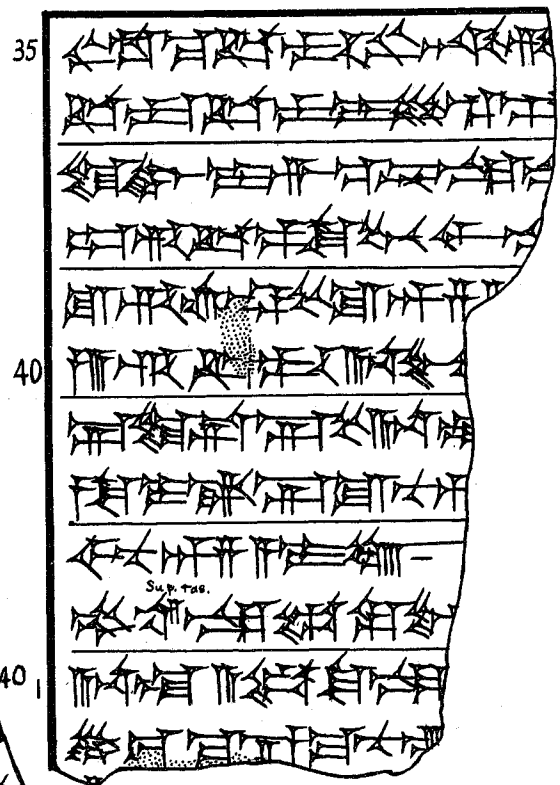
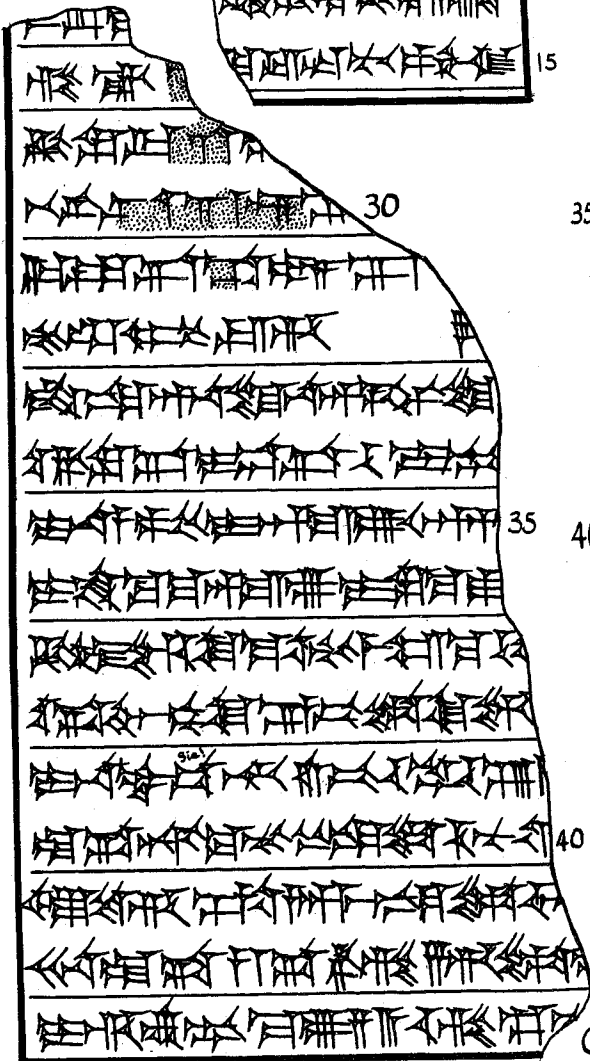
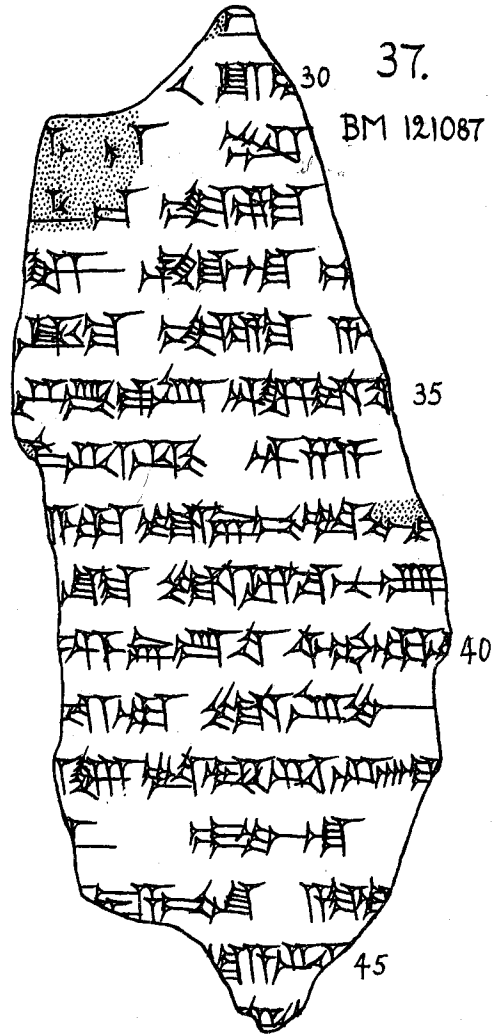
𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧
 𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧
 𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧
 𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧𐎶𐎵𐎠𐎧

36. K 7257



37.

BM 121087



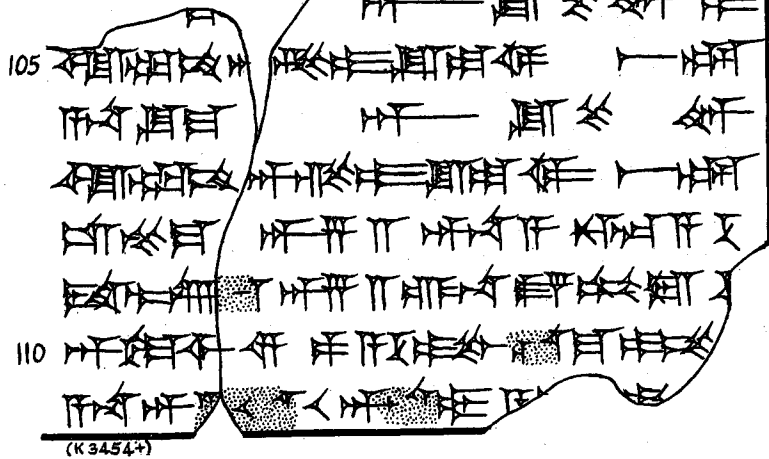
Obv.

38. K 3008

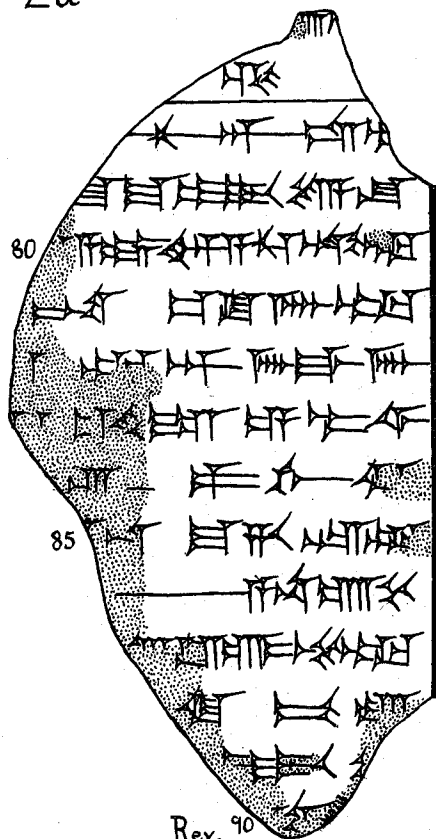
Rev.

39. DT 292

joined to K 3454+
3935



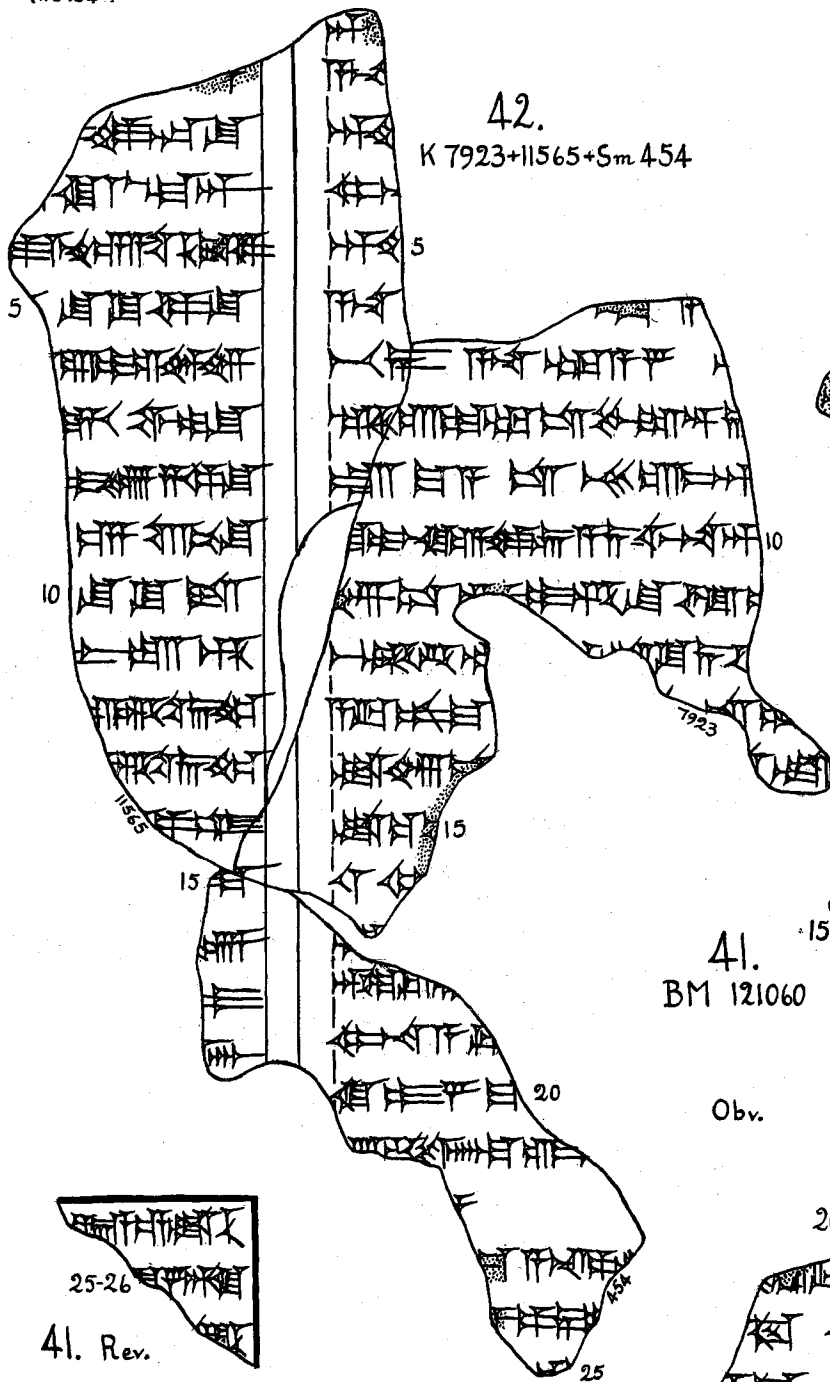
(K 3454+)



Rev. 90

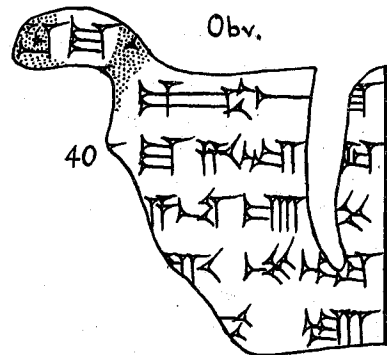
42.

K 7923+11565+Sm 454



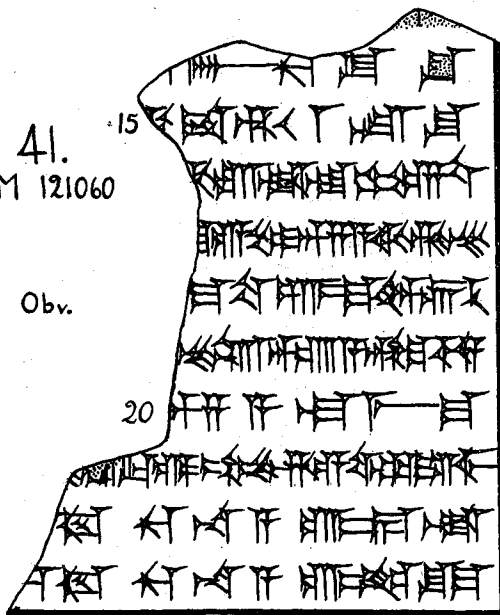
40. Sm 1807

Obv.



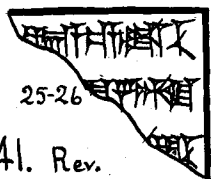
41.
BM 121060

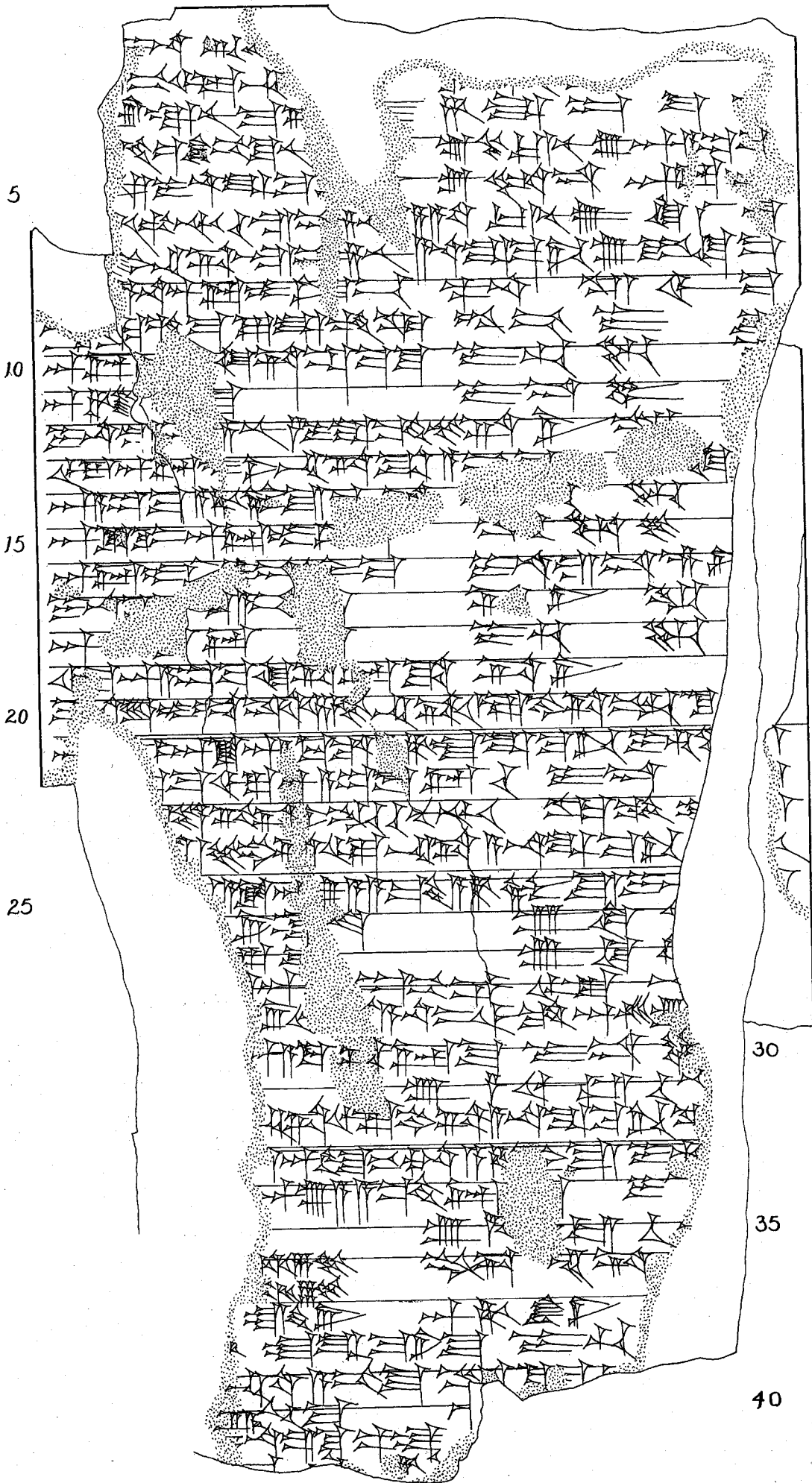
Obv.



25-26

41. Rev.

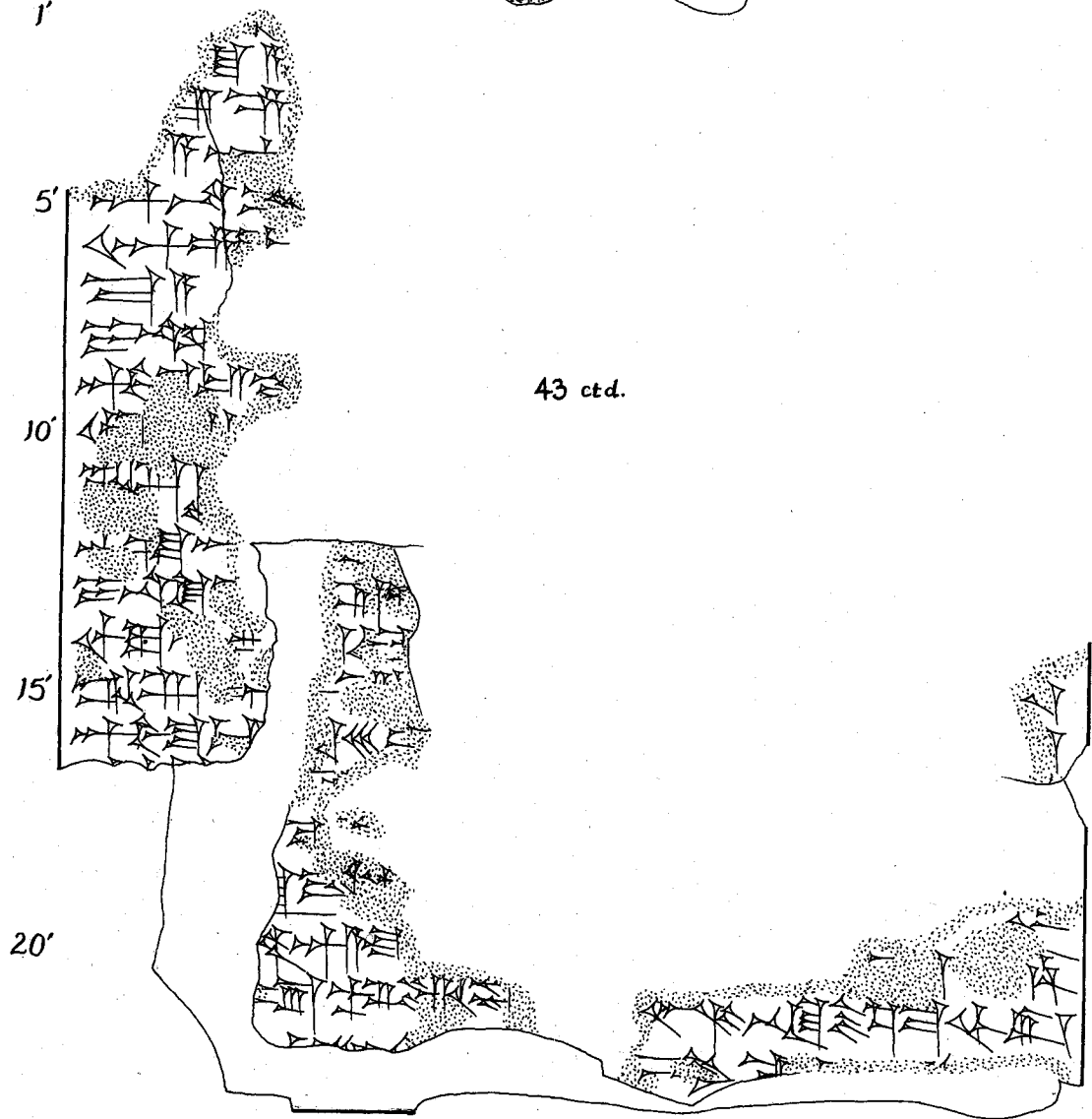




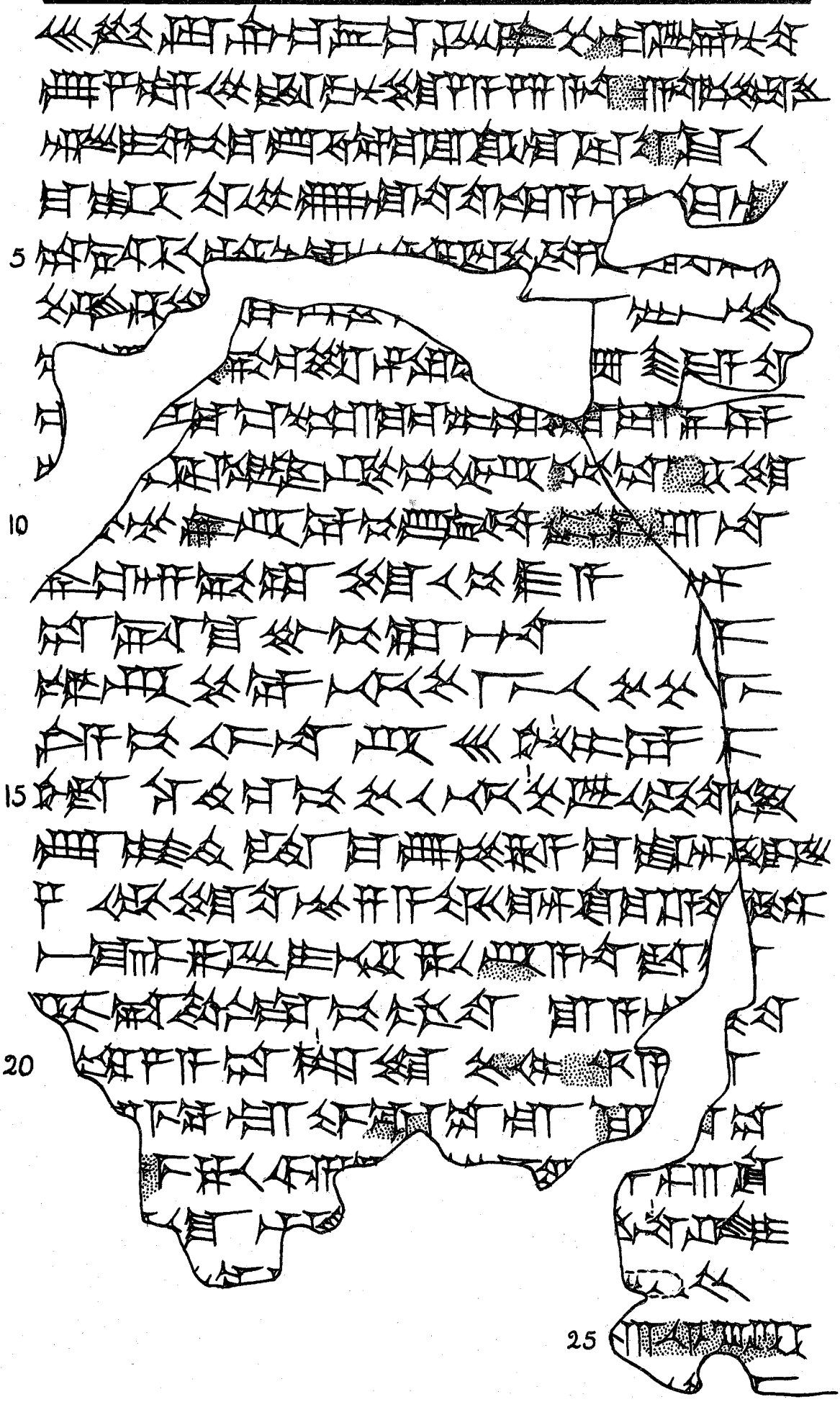
44. BM 95431



Rev.
1'



43 ctd.



5

10

15

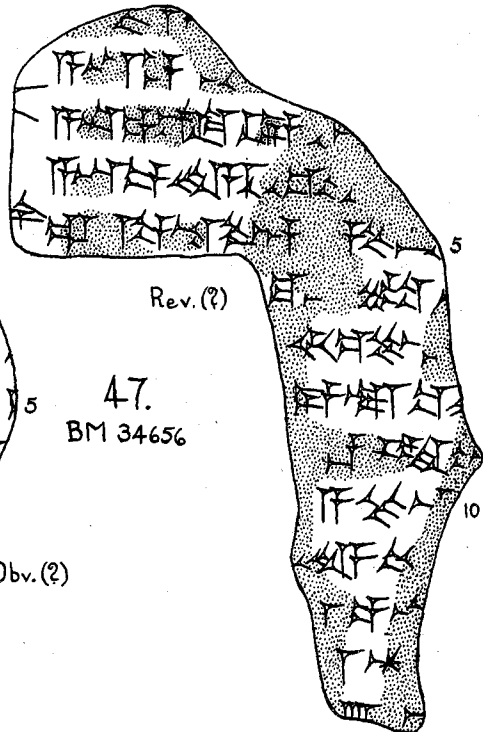
20

25

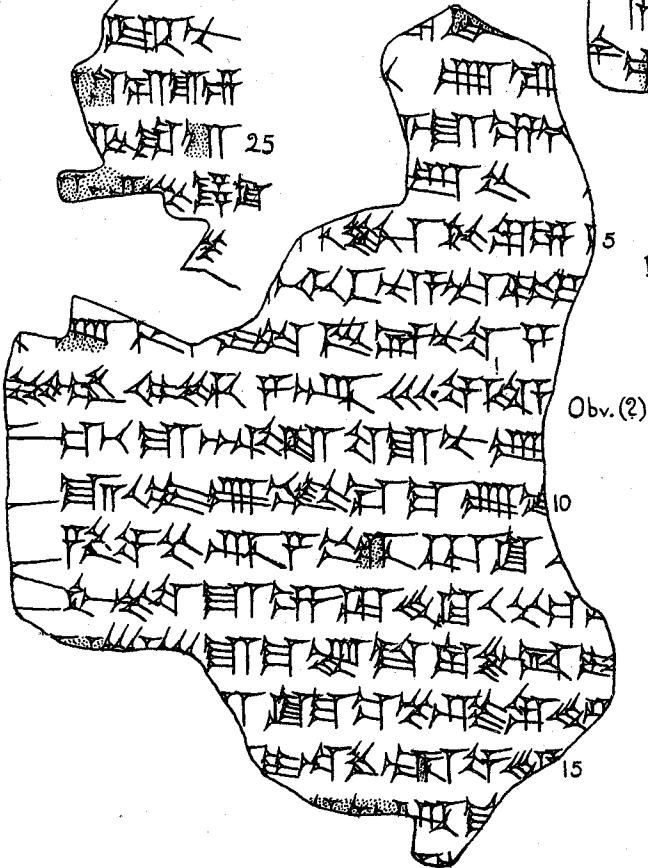
45. BM 45690
Obv. I
Rev. VI



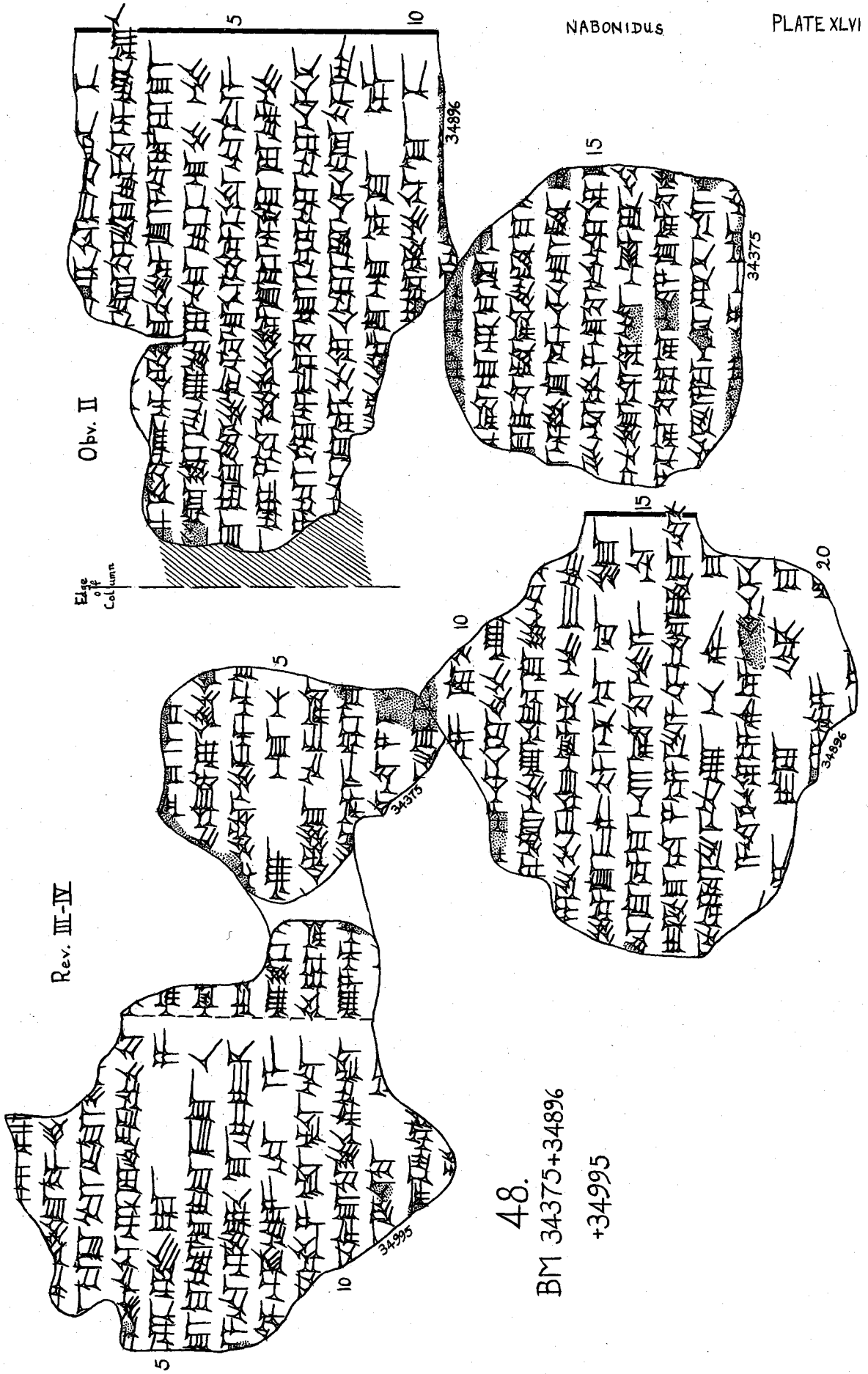
46. K 7249



47. BM 34656
Rev. (?)



Obv. (?)



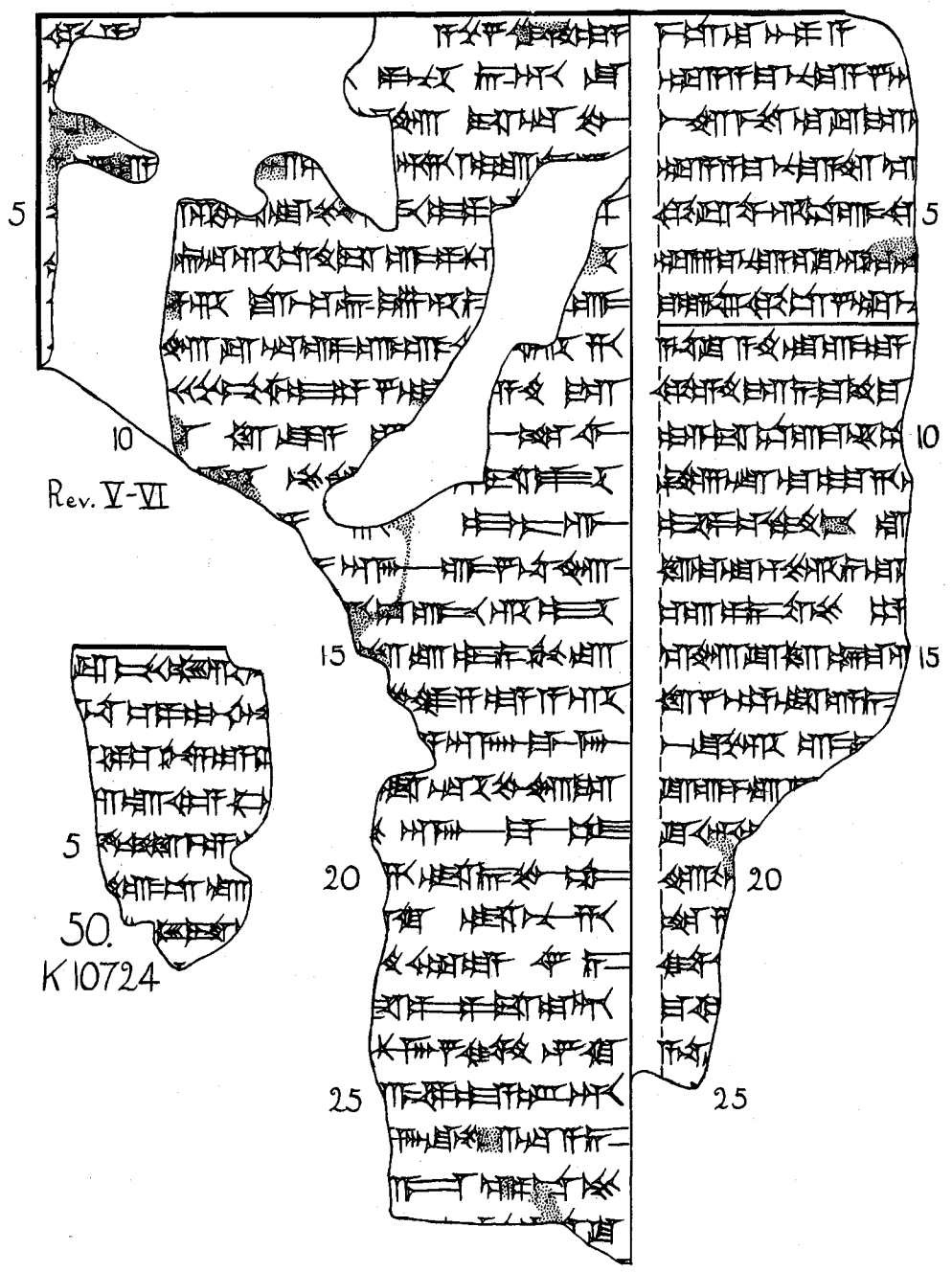
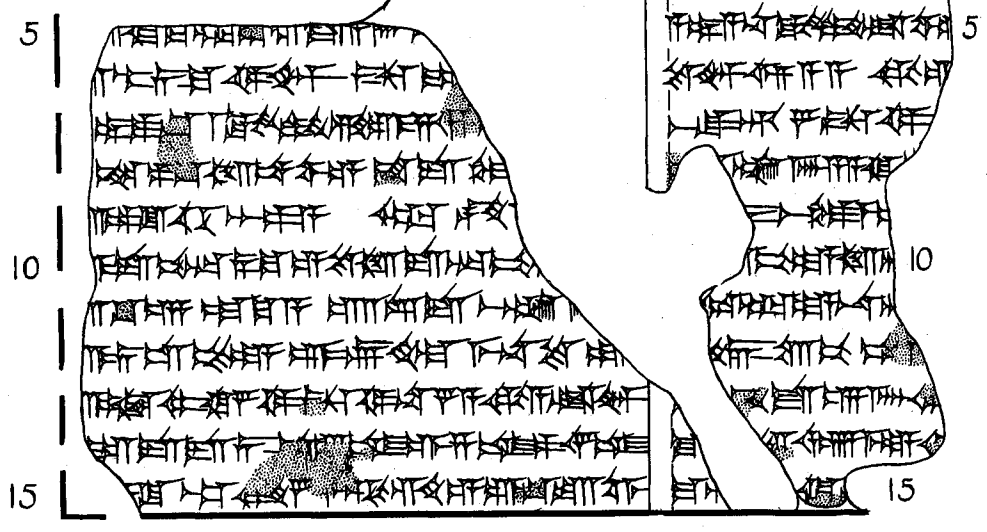
48.

BM 34375+34896

+34995

49.
K 2599+3069

Obv. I-II

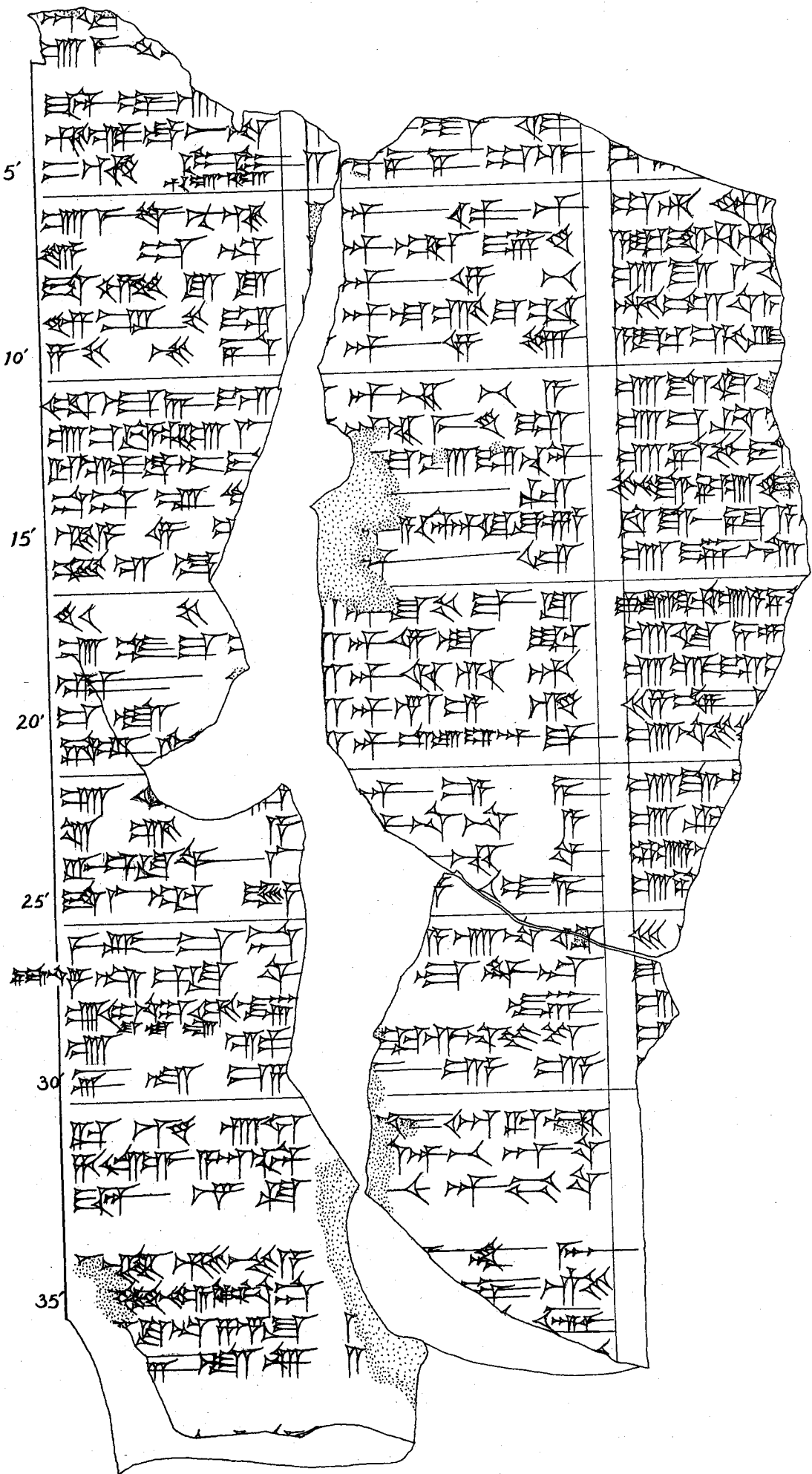


Rev. V-VI

50.
K 10724

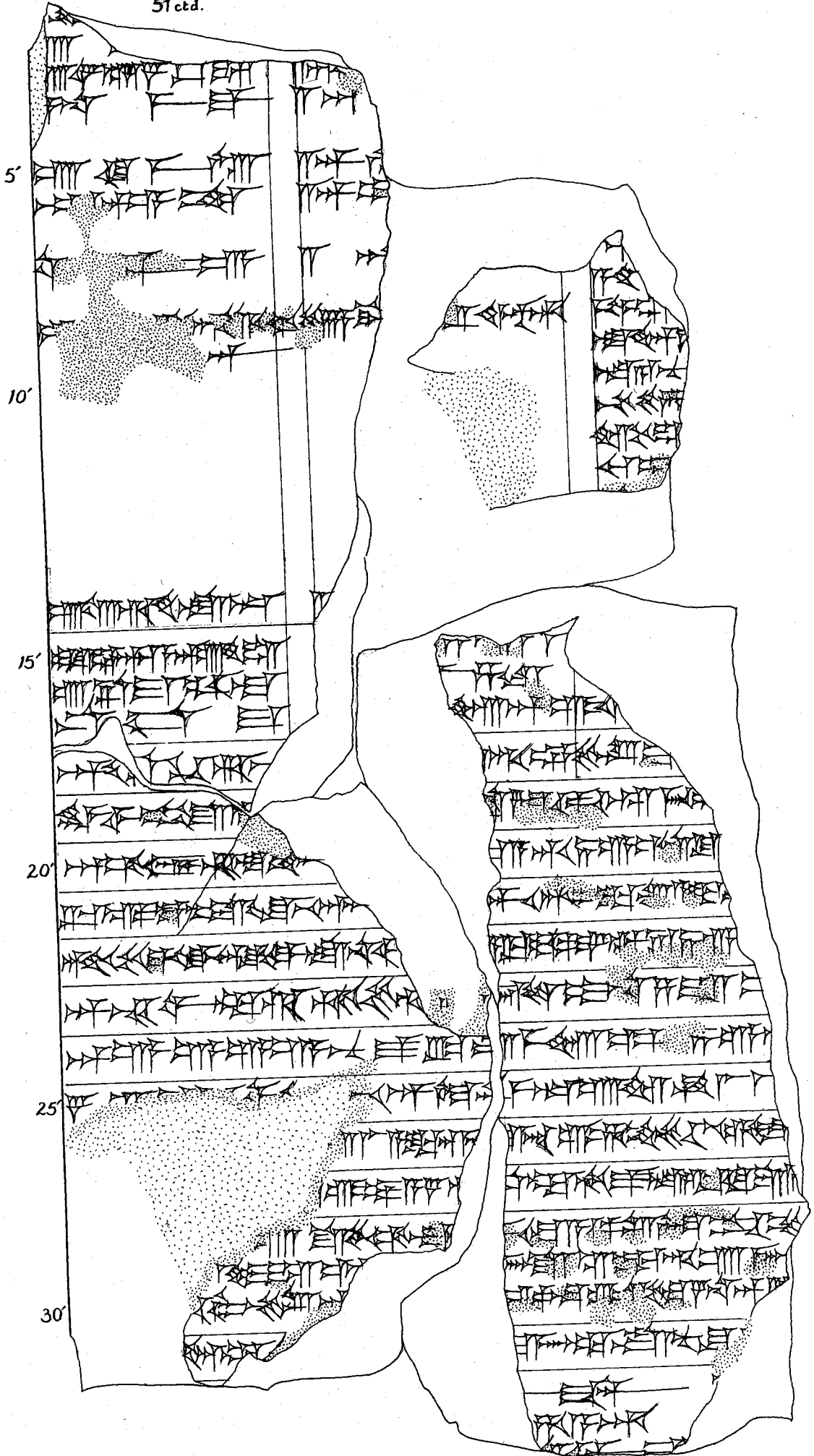
51. B.M. 134502

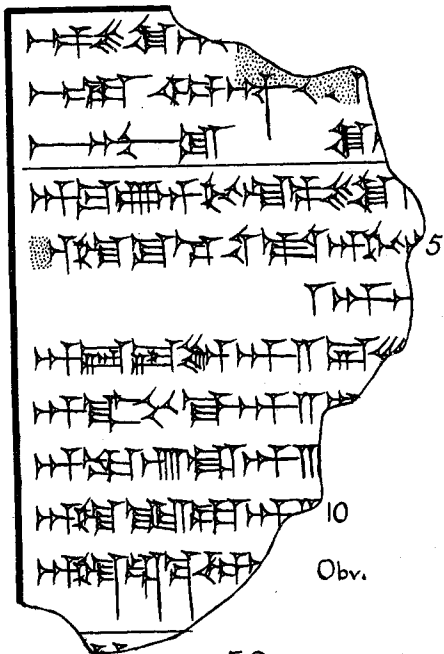
Obv.



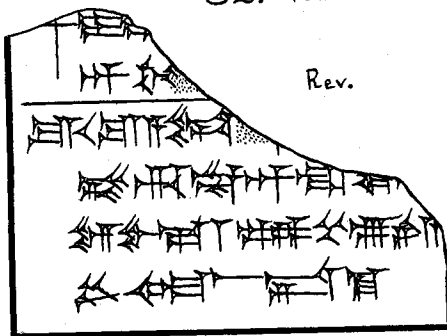
Rev.

51 ctd.



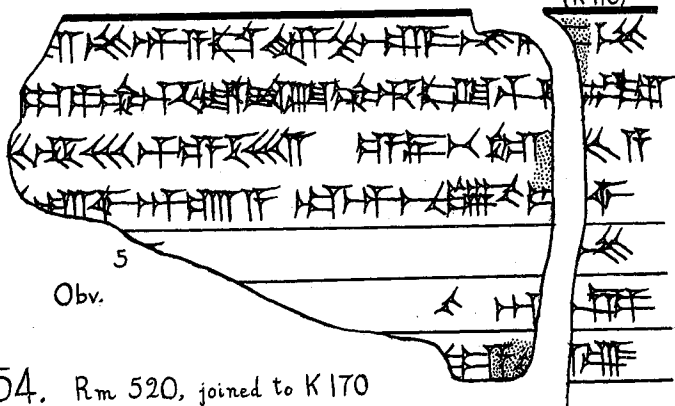
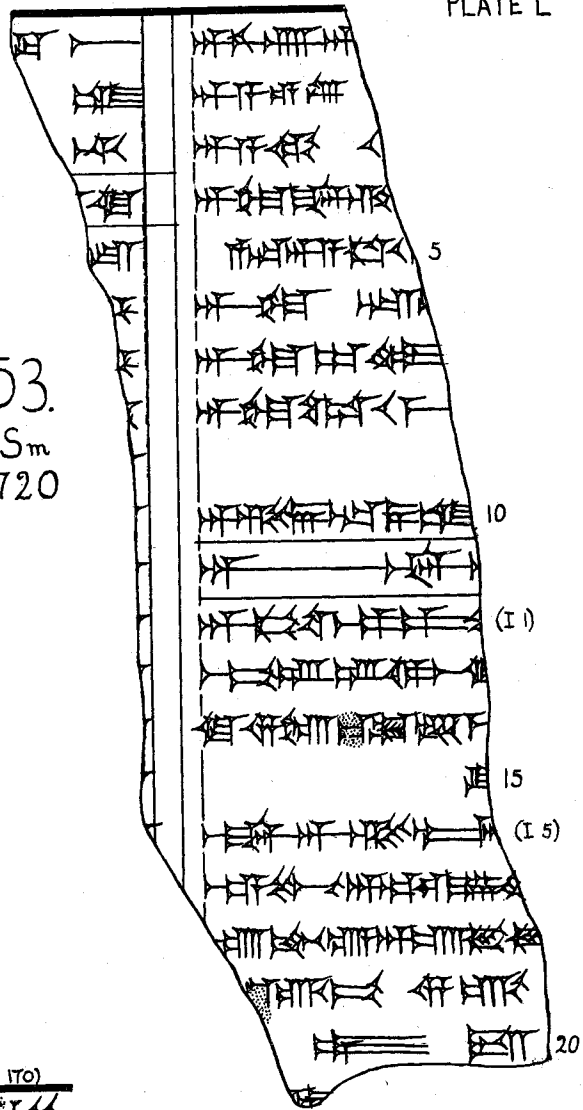


52. Rm 518



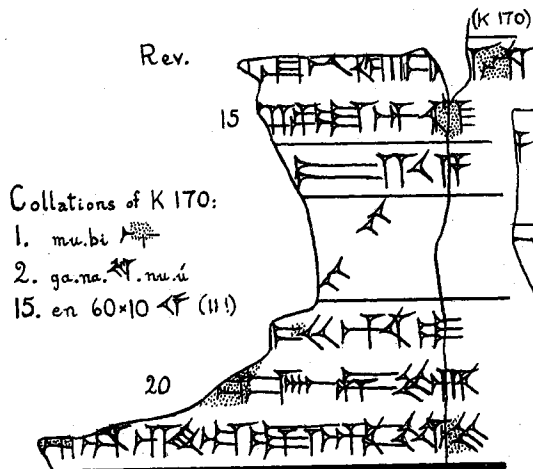
Rev.

53.
Sm
1720



54. Rm 520, joined to K 170

Obv.



Rev.

Collations of K 170:

1. mu.bi
2. ga.ma. nu.ú
15. en 60×10 (H)

55.
BM 123379
Obv.

