

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 Ammišaduqa. 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, Iraq 27, 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' (*nišqu*) 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.

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| 34896 | 48 | 9979 | 11 | | |
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| 37189 | 27 | Rm 518 | 52 | | |
| 38538 | 18 | 520 | 54 | 82-9-18,45 | 43 |
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| 123379 | 55 | 355 | 19 | Th 1929-10-12,56 | 41 |
| 134502 | 51 | 426 | 31 | 83 | 37 |
| | | 492 | 48 | | |
| K 170 | 54 | | | Th 1932-12-10,322 | 55 |
| 2599 | 49 | Sp II 139 | 47 | | |
| 3008 | 38 | 380 | 25 | Th 1932-12-12,497 | 51 |
| 3069 | 49 | 407 | 48 | | |
| 3454 | 39 | 431 | 17 | | |
| 3935 | 39 | 519 | 48 | | |

ATRAHASIS

PLATE I

/ BM 78941

+78943

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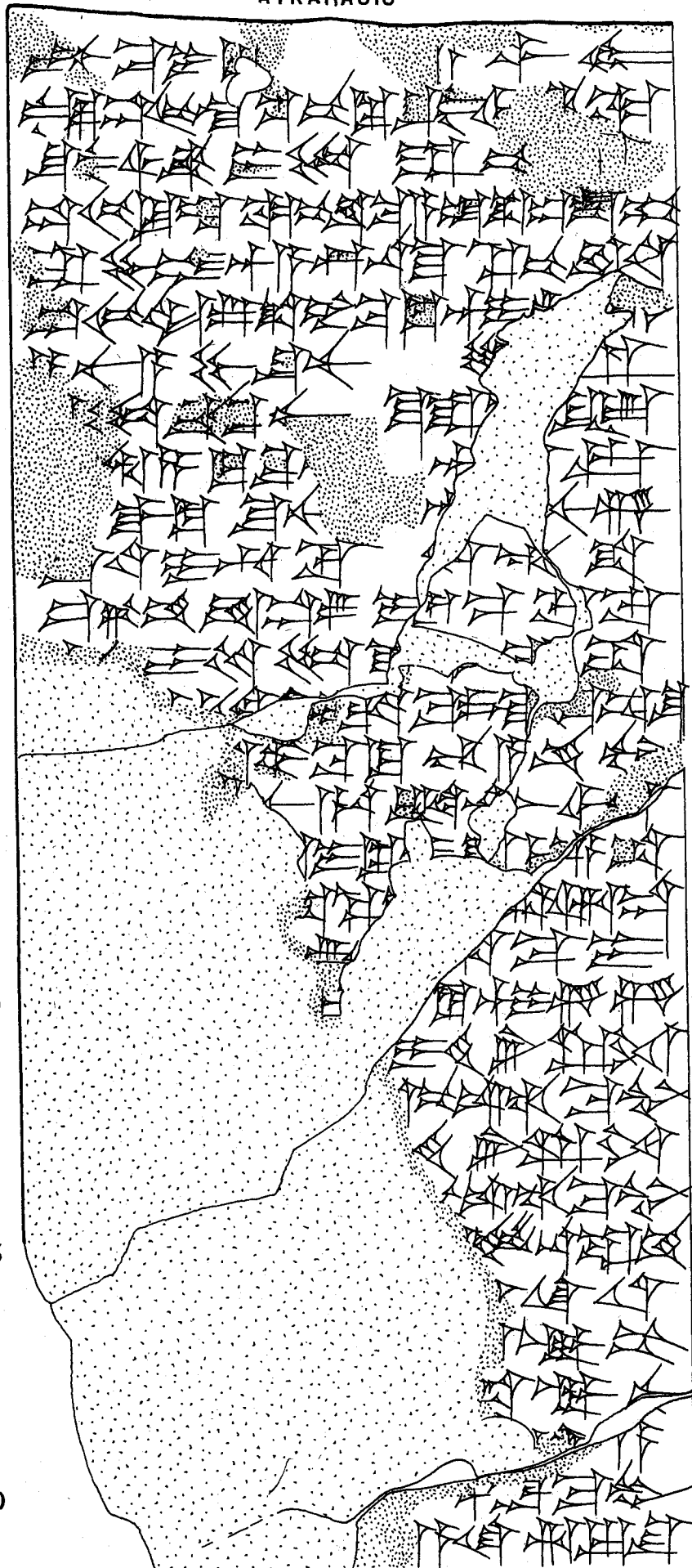
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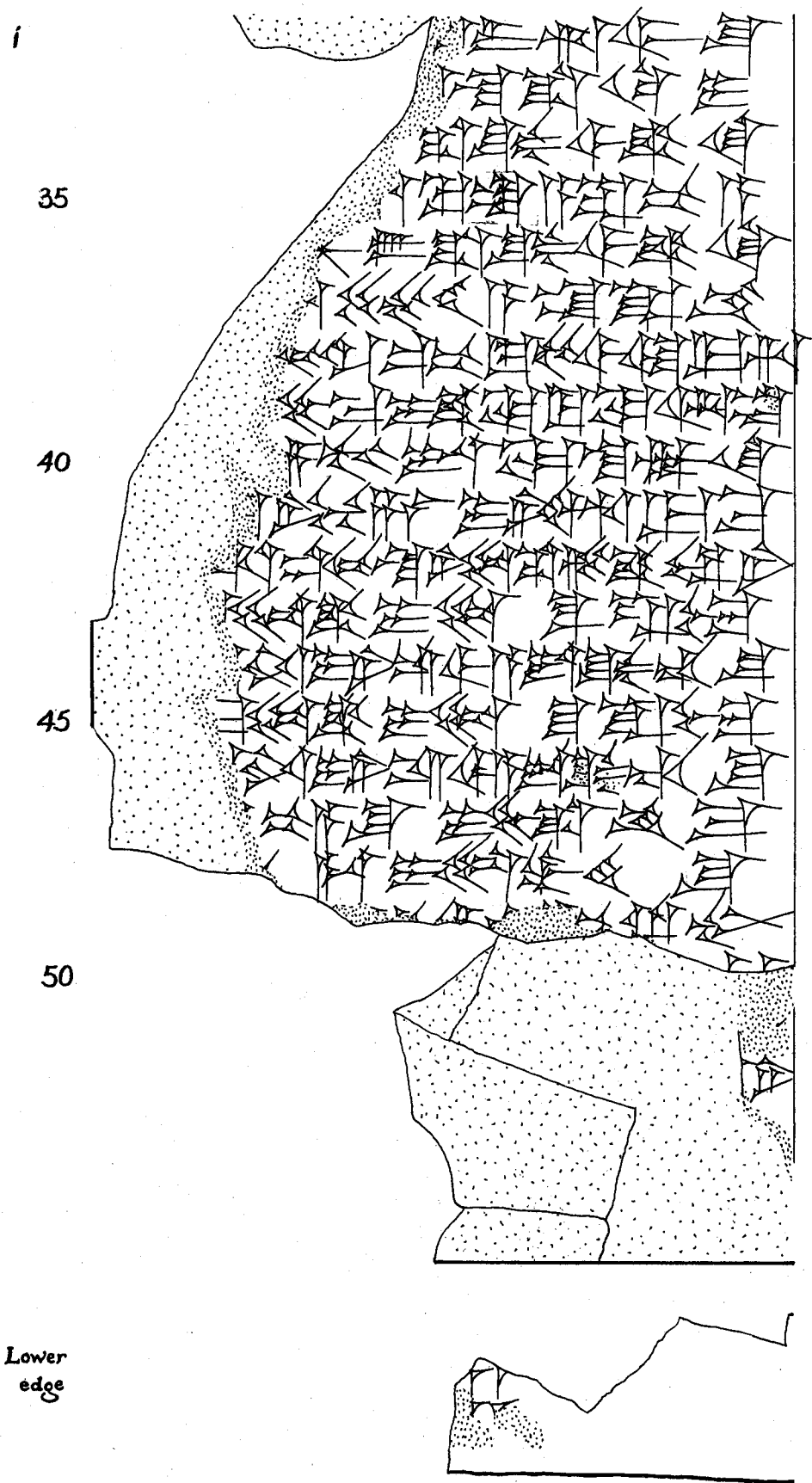
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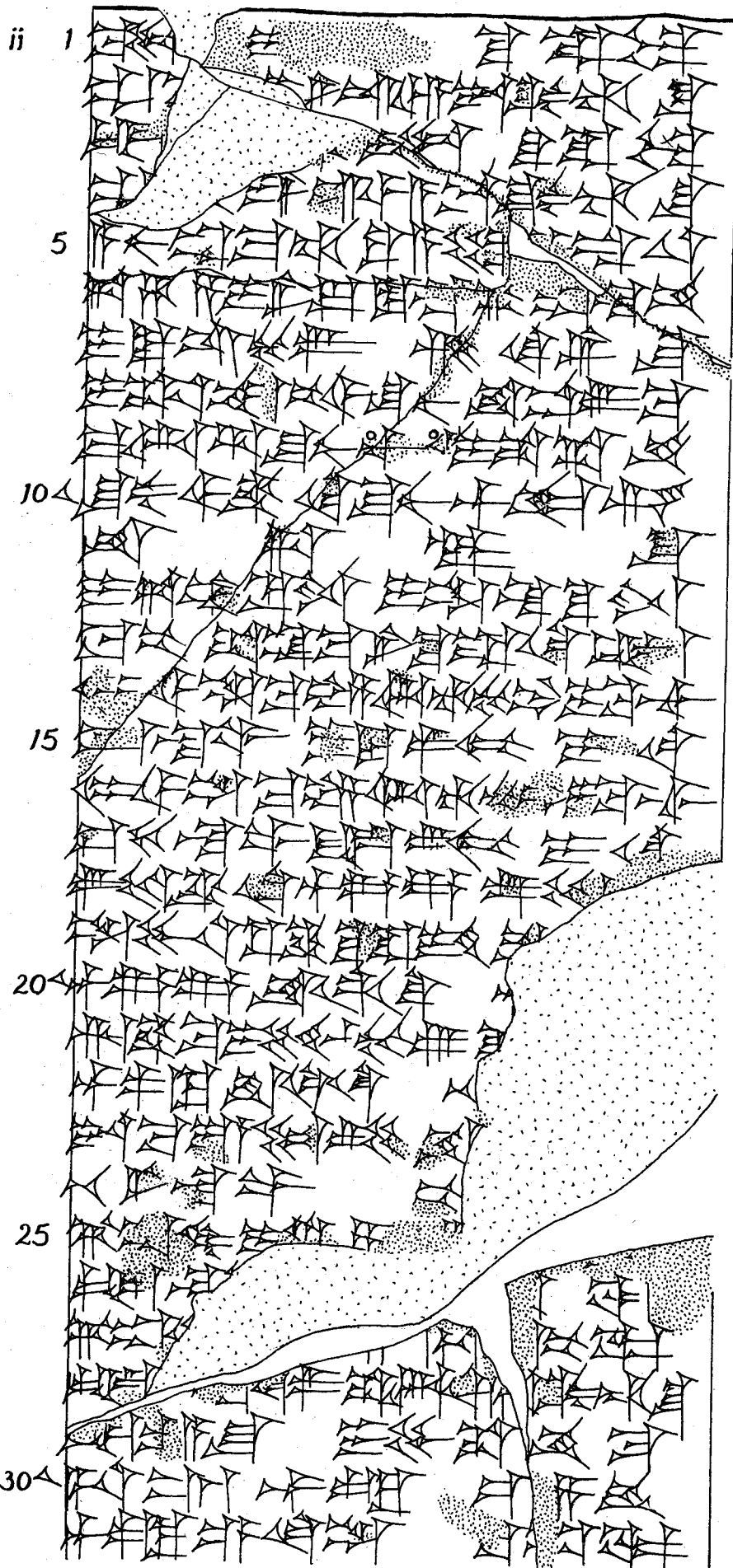
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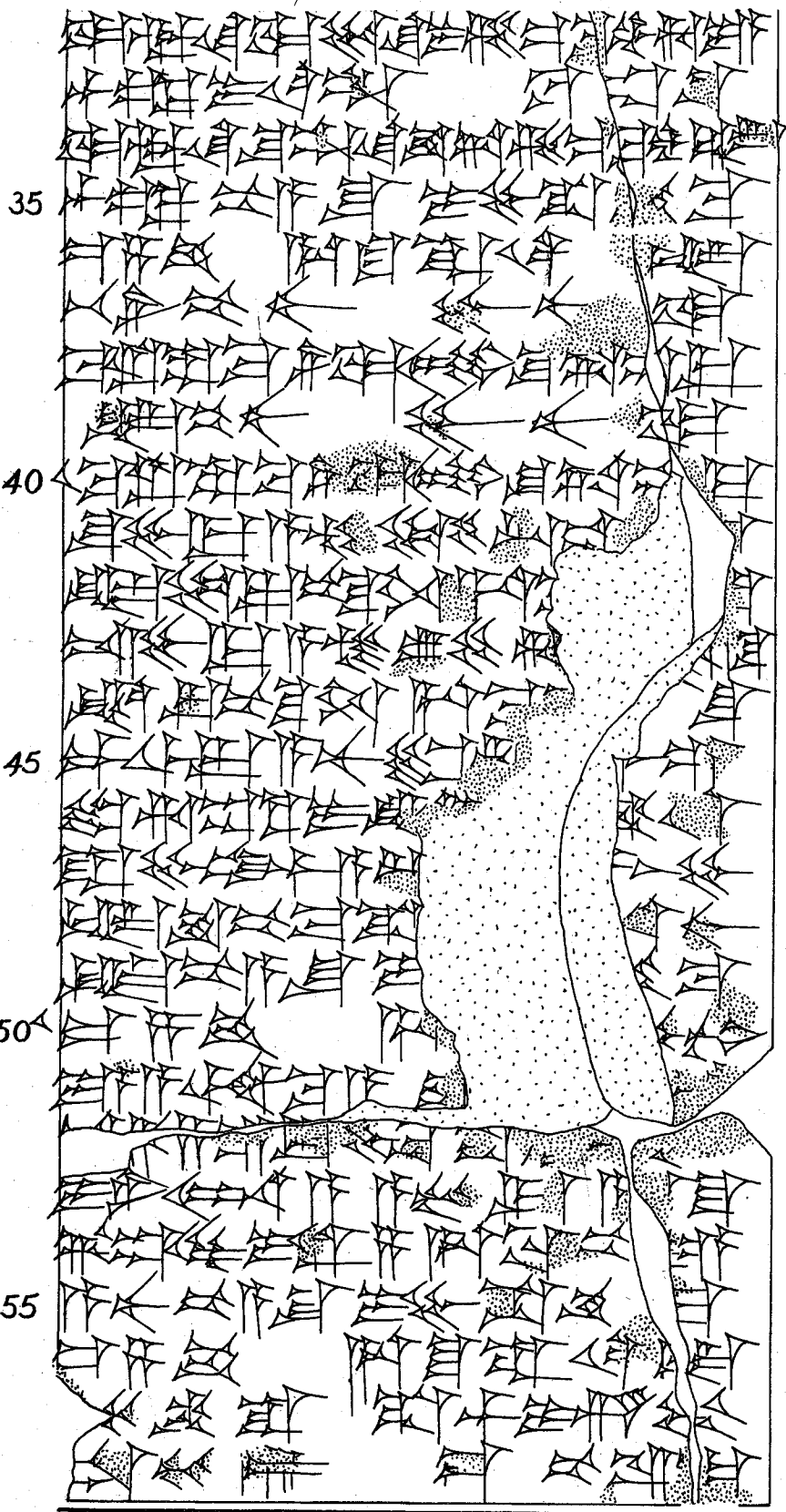


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ATRAHASIS

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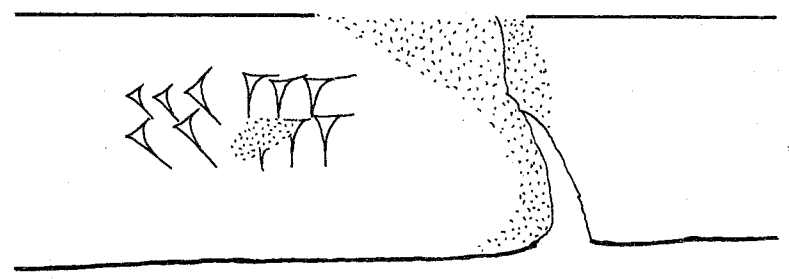
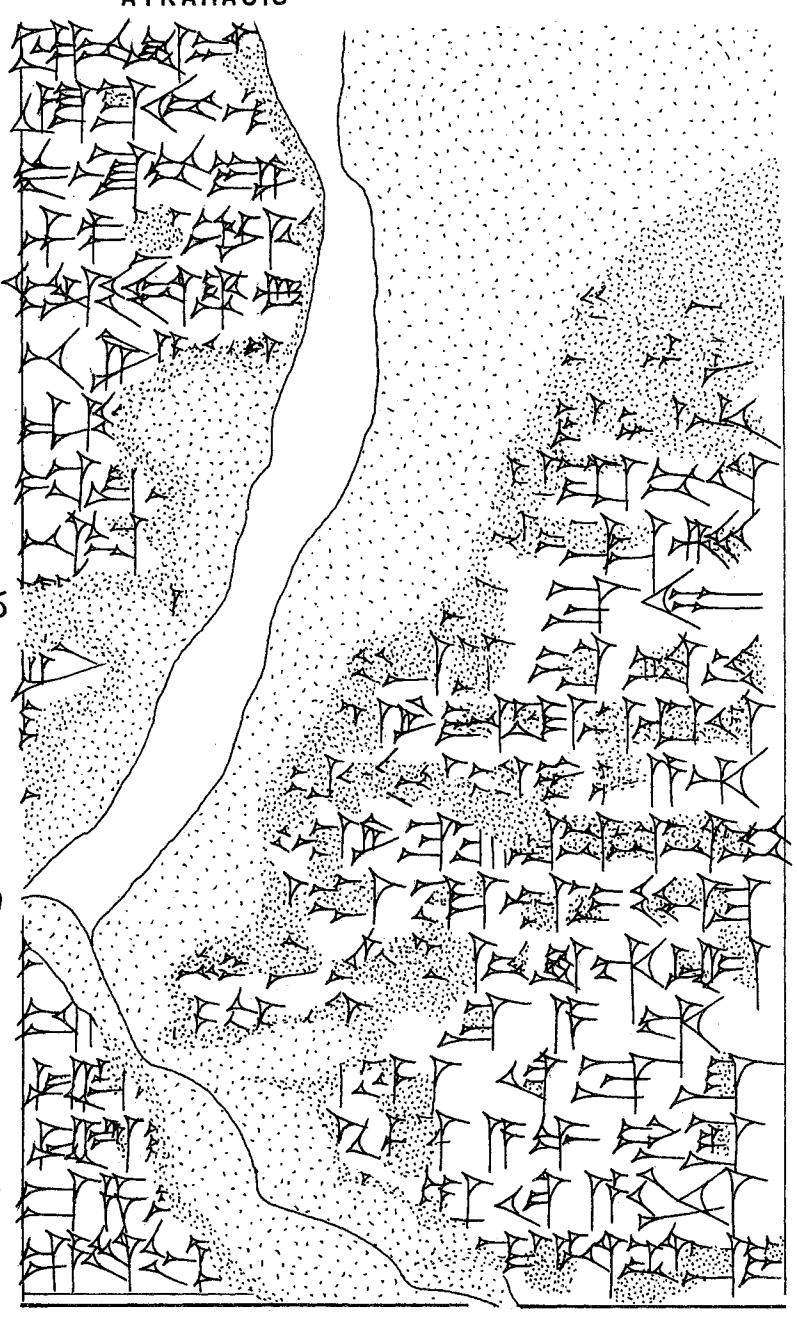
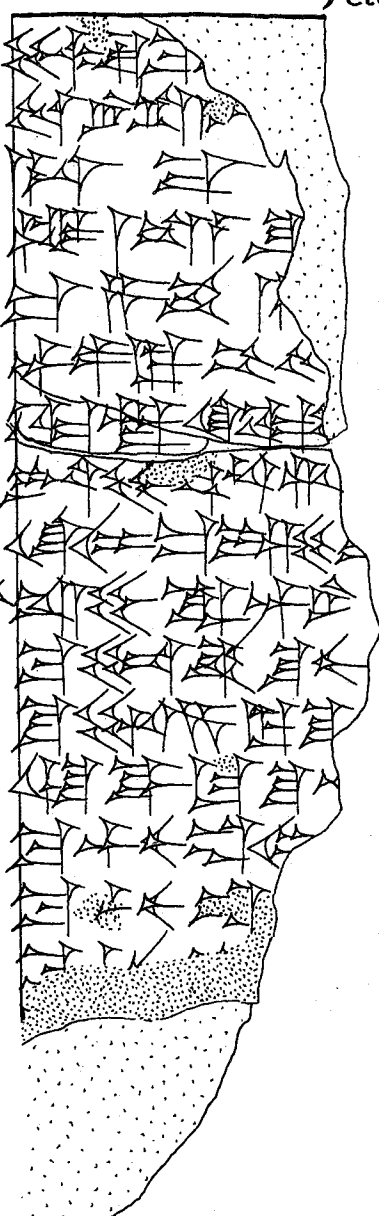
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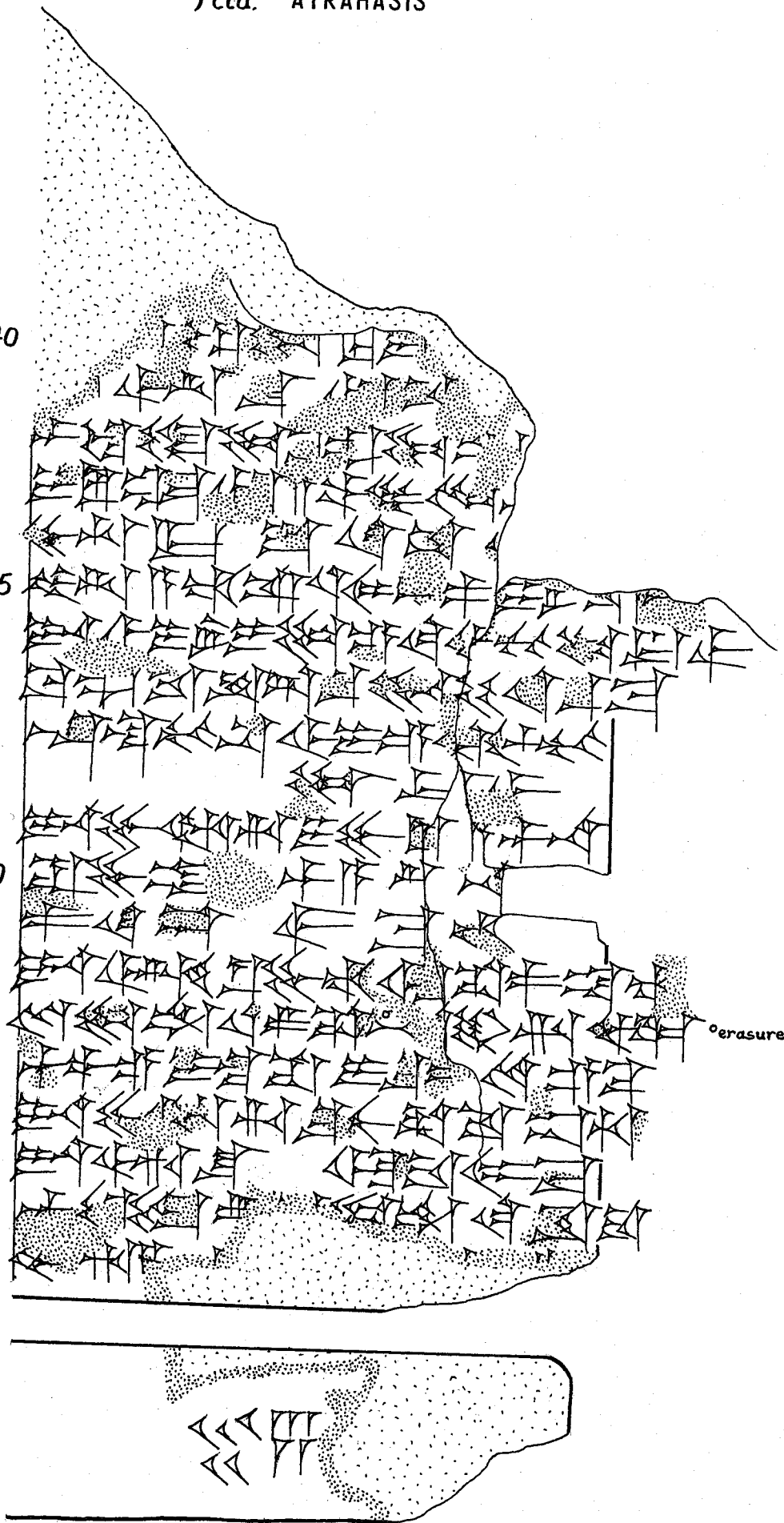
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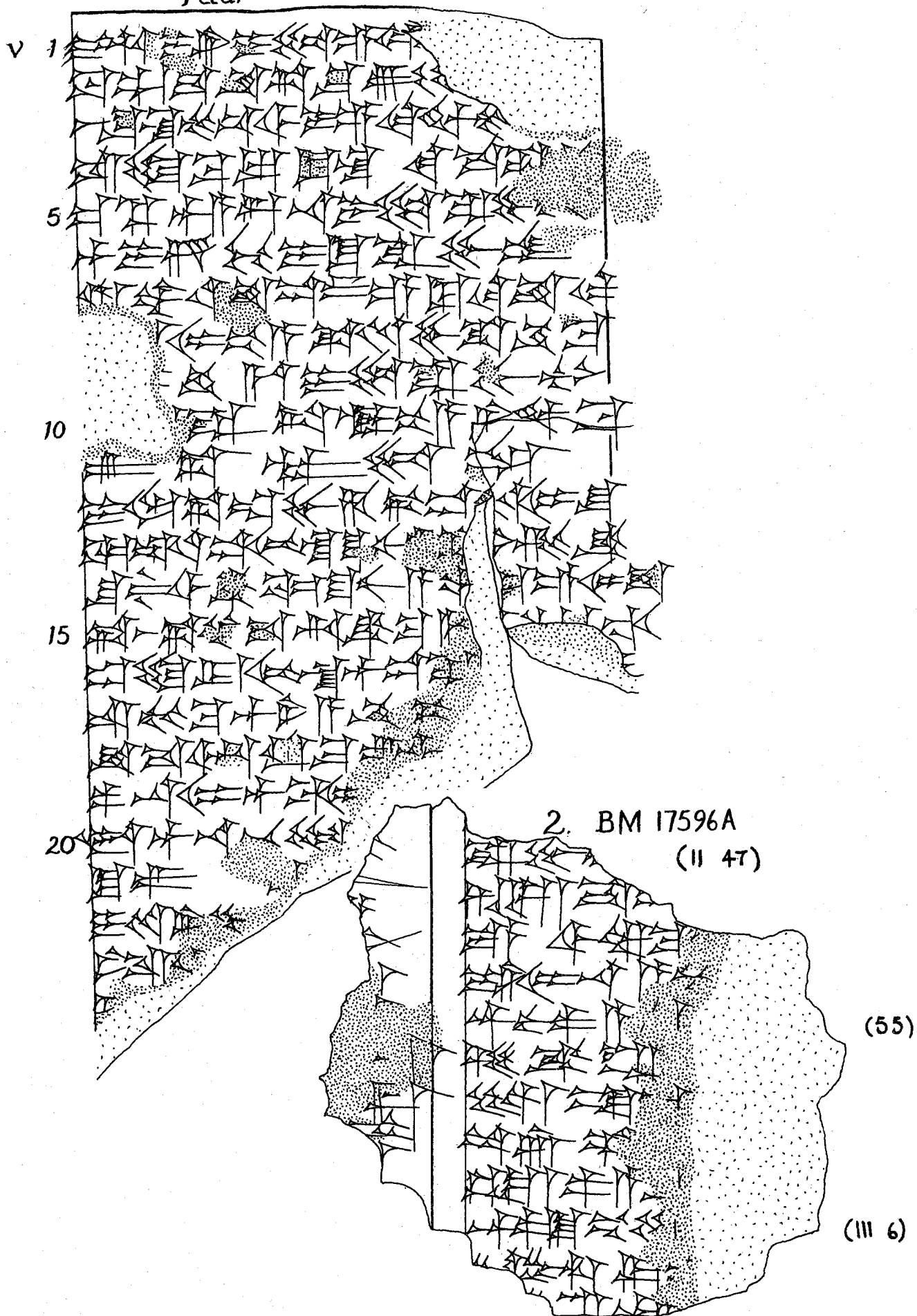
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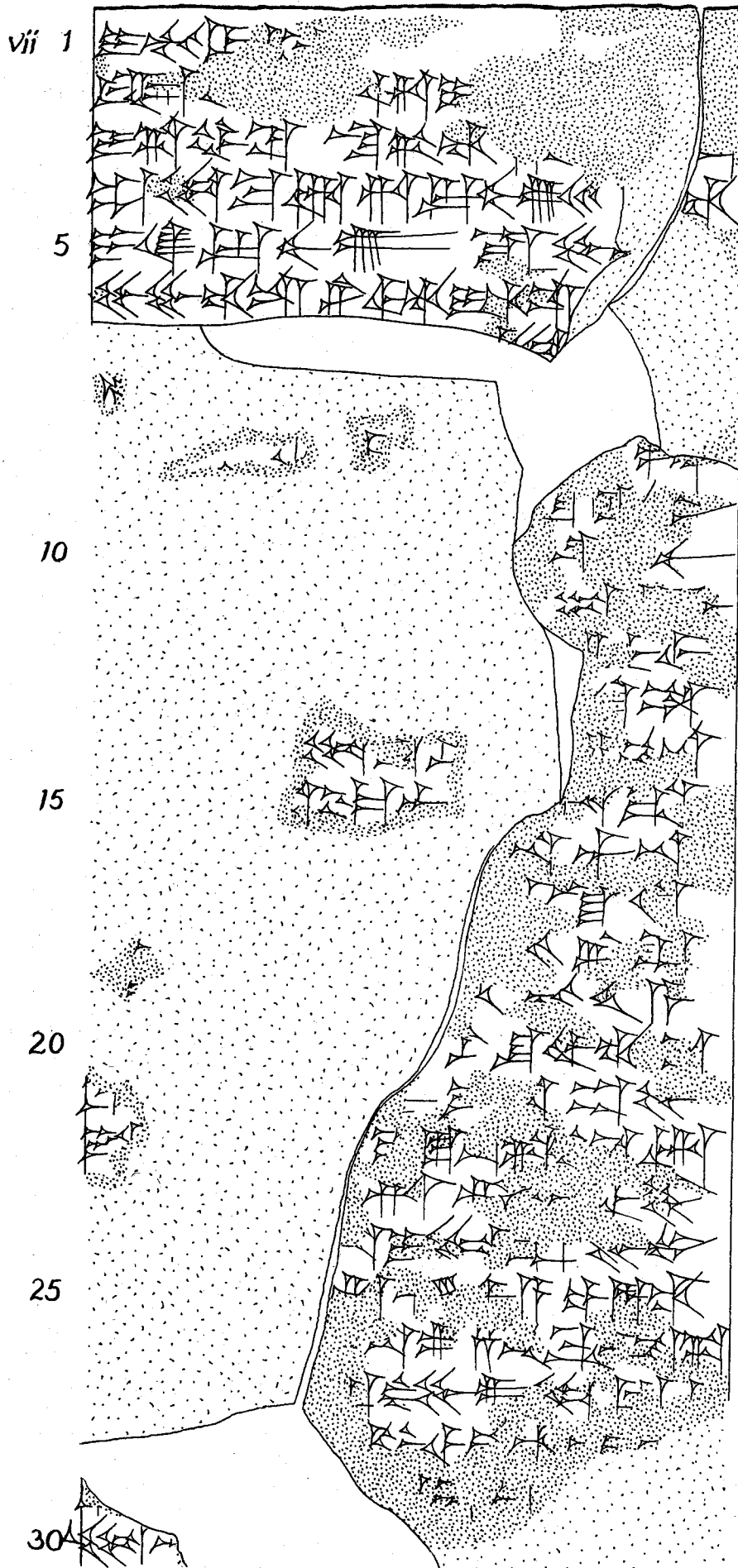
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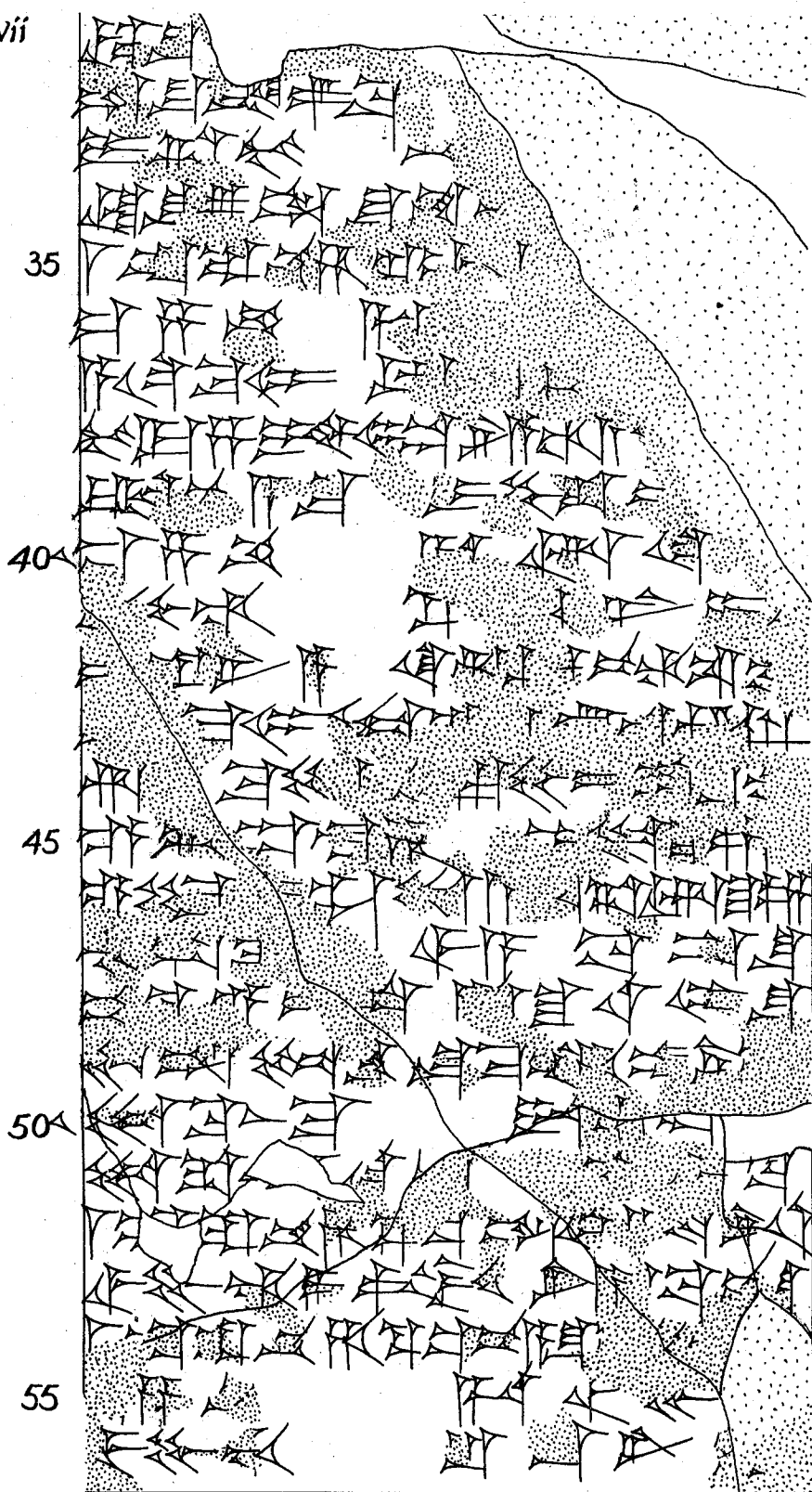
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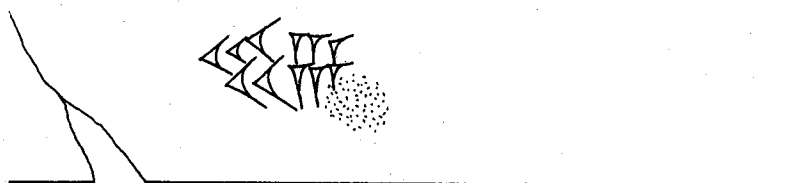




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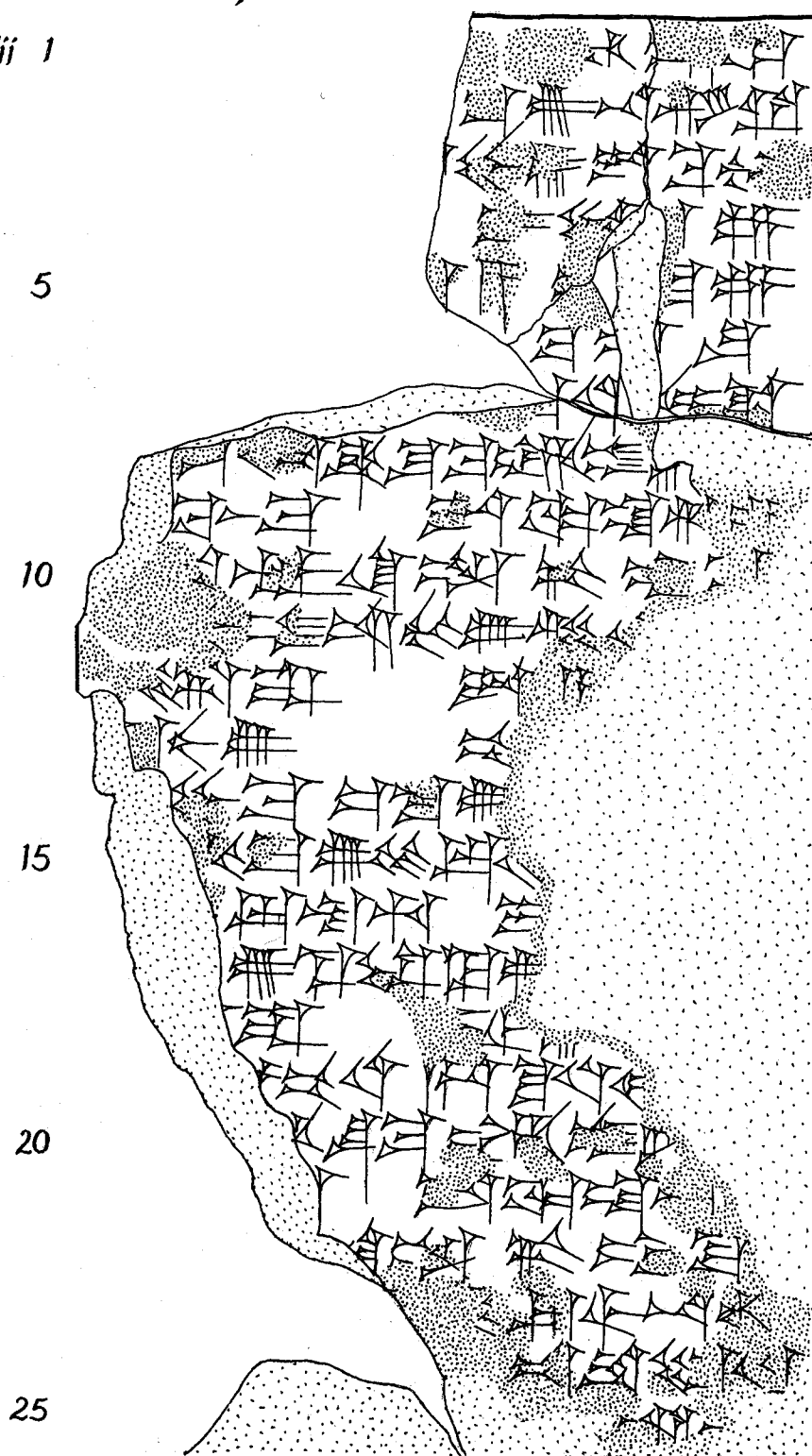


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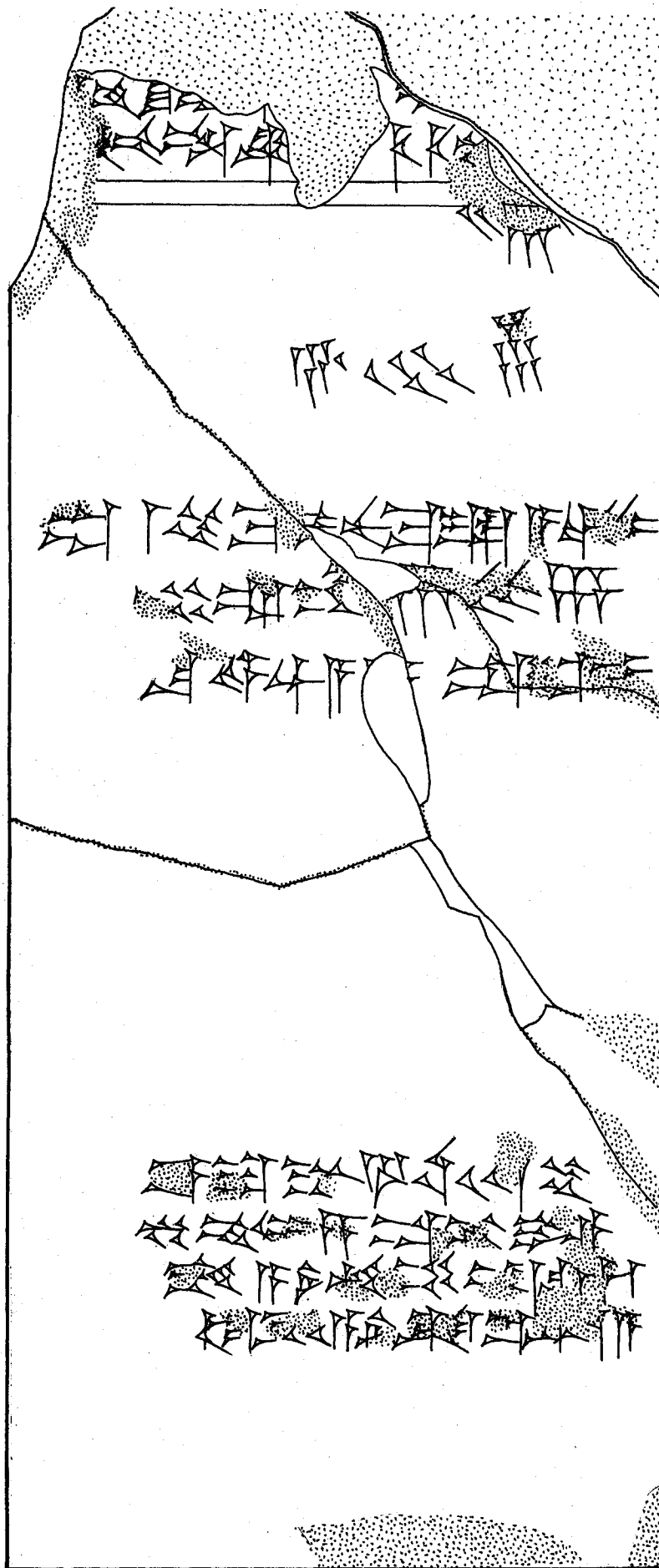


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viii



ATRAHASIS

3. BM 78942

+78971

+80385

III i

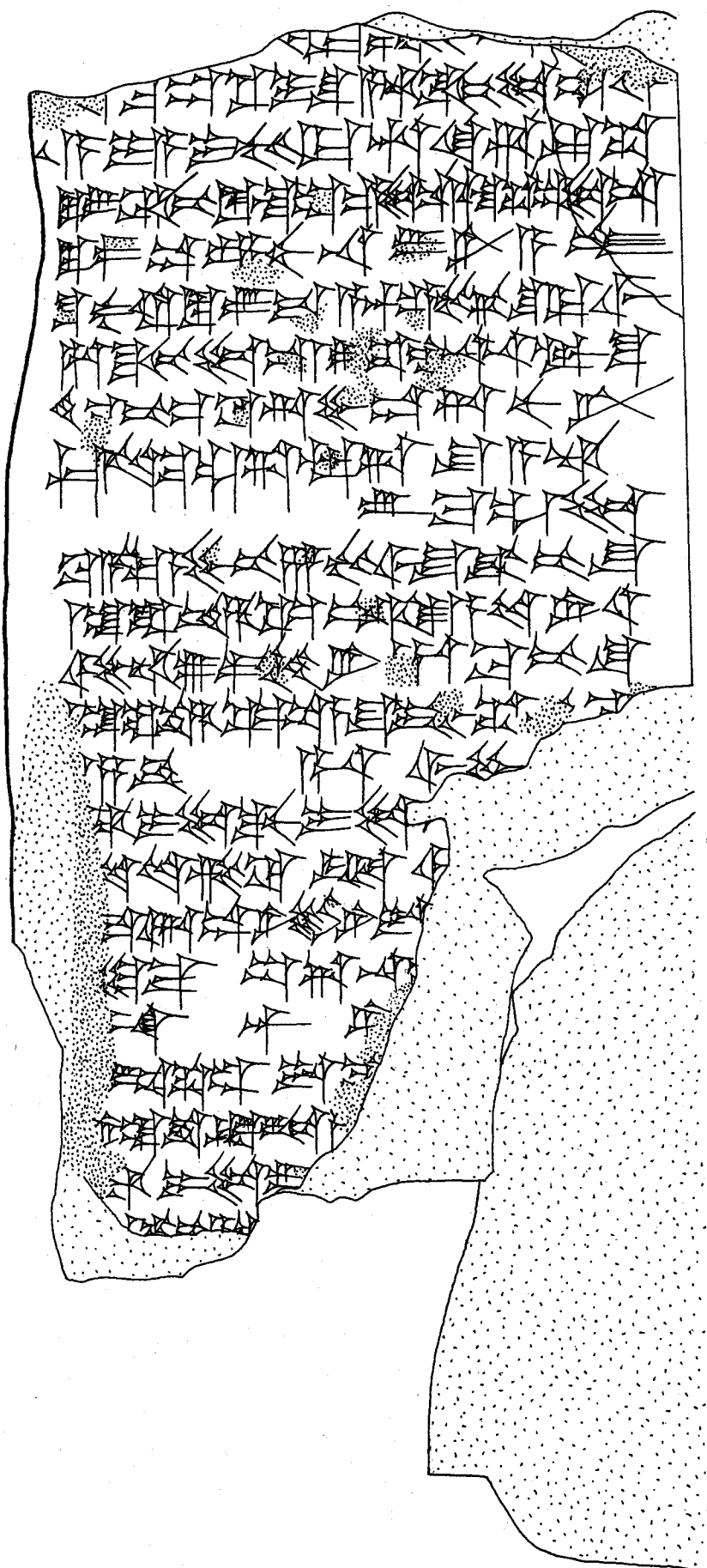
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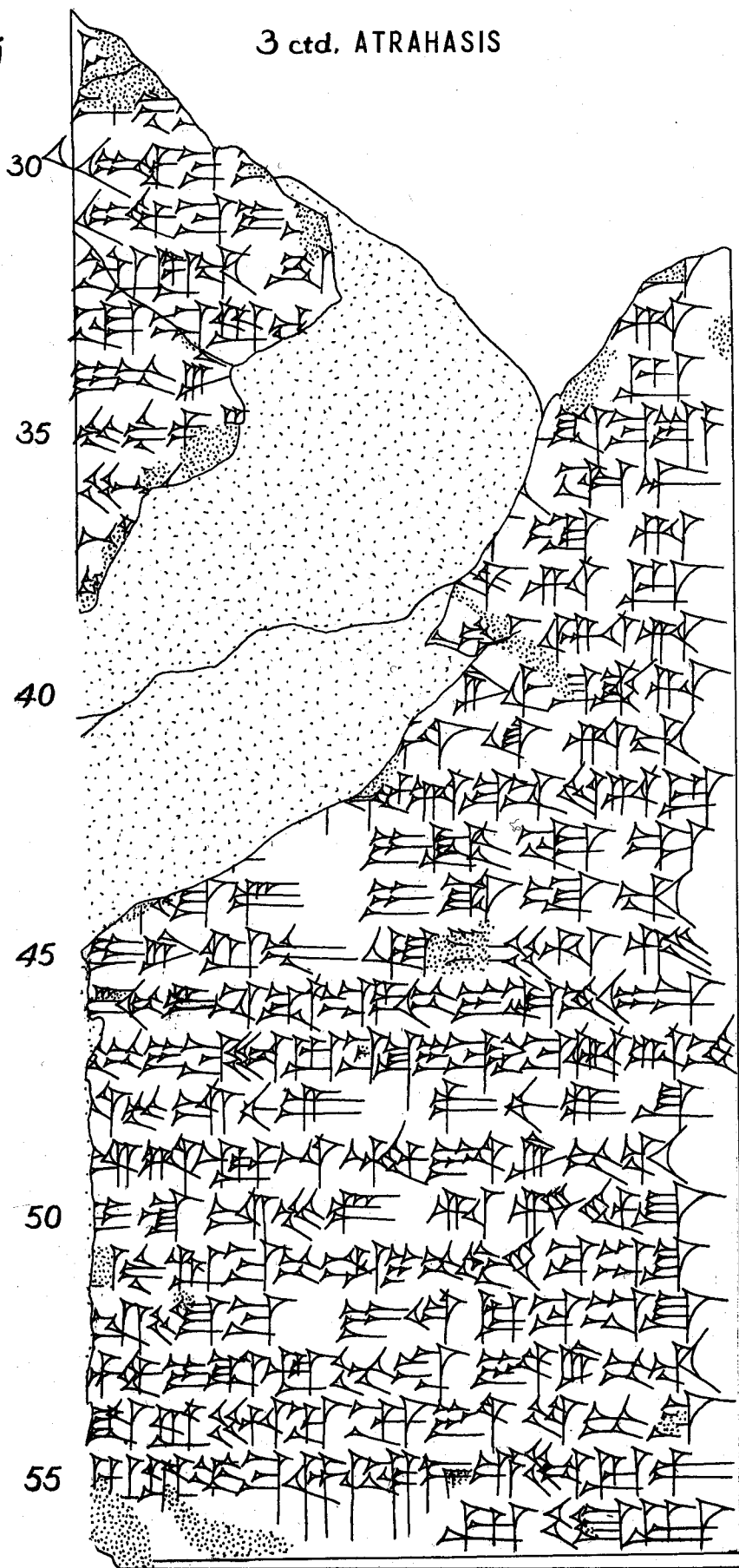
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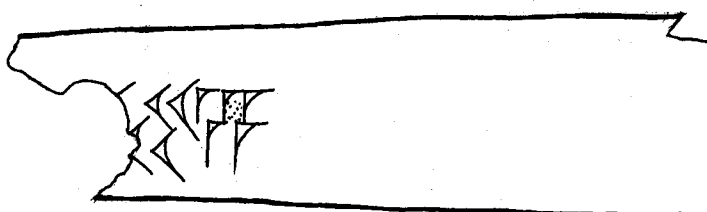
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PLATE XIV



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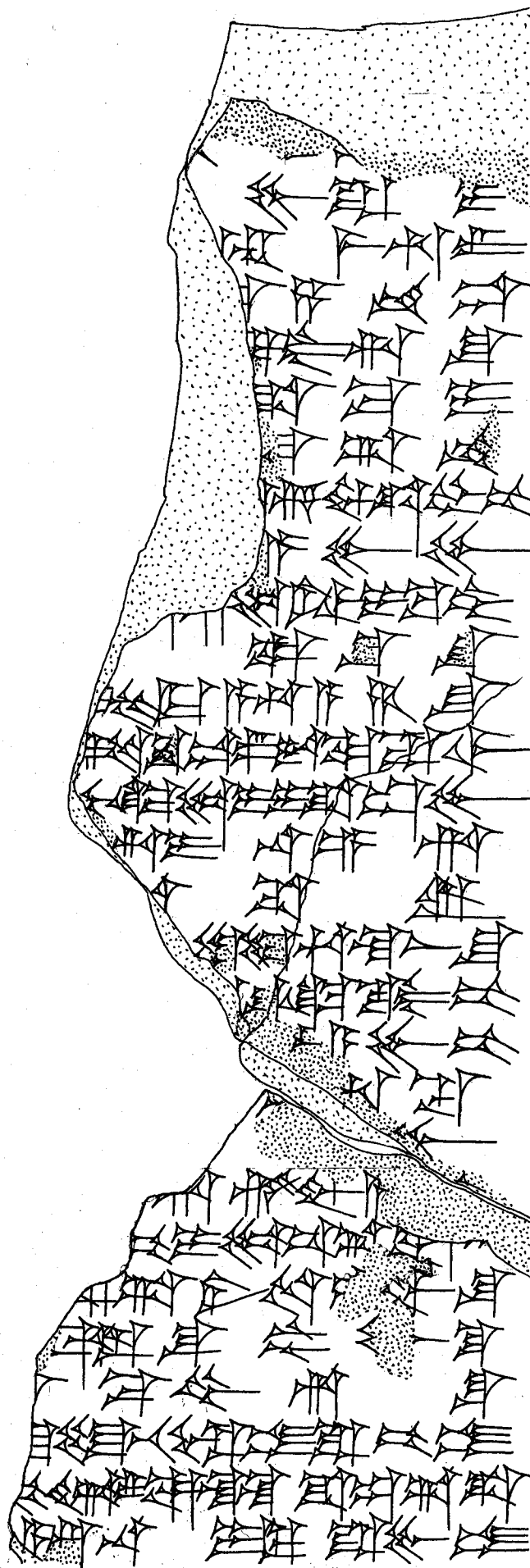
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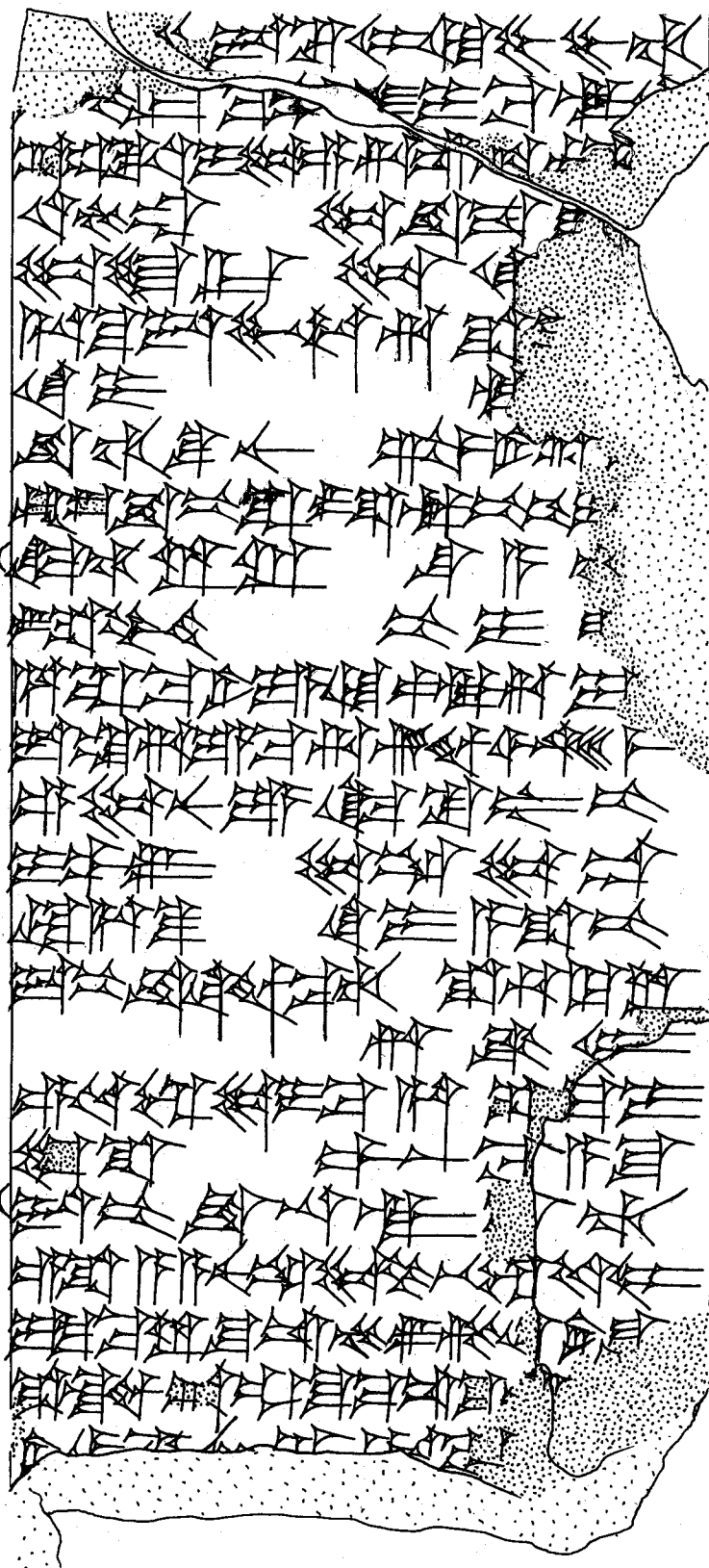
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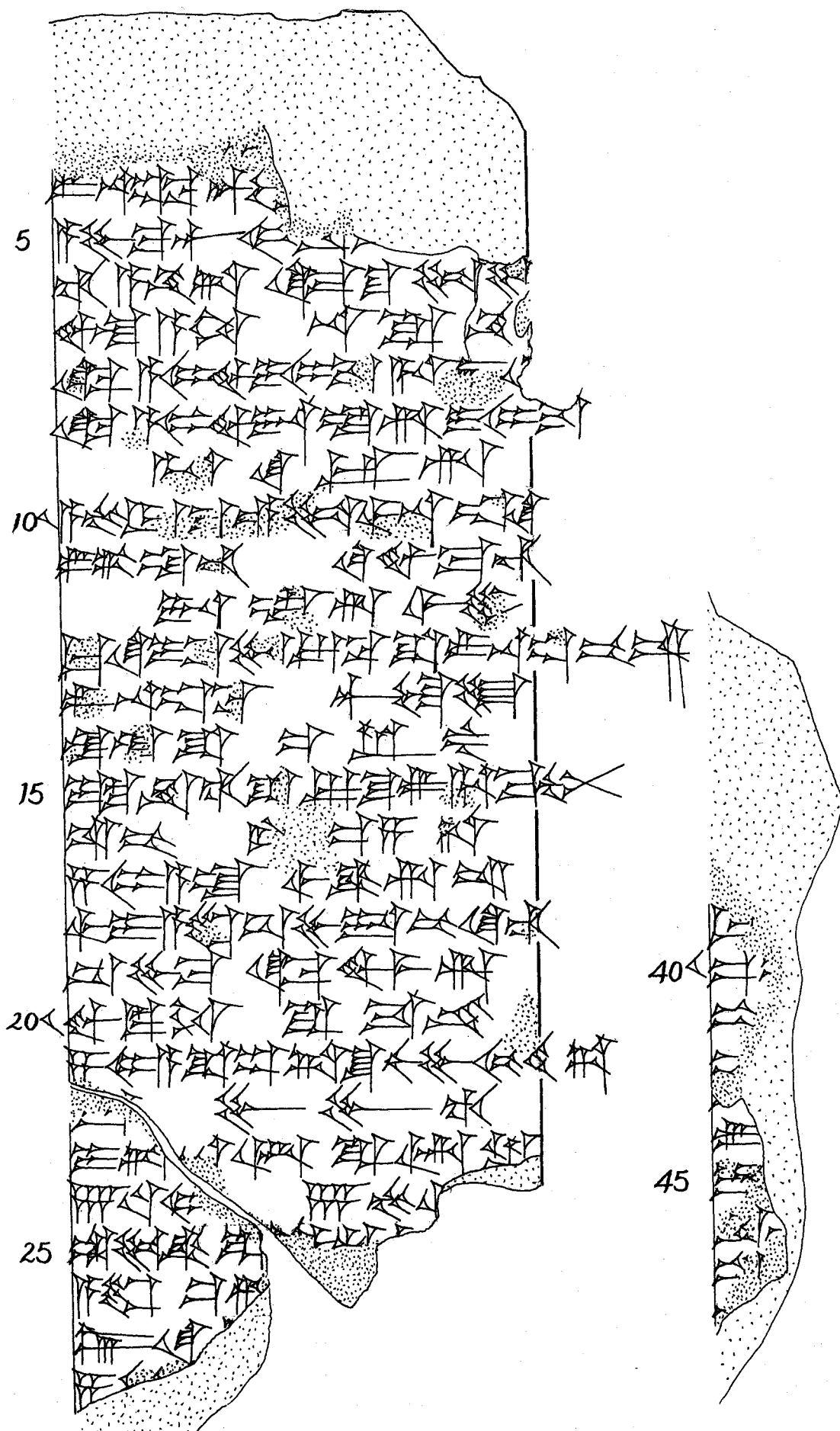
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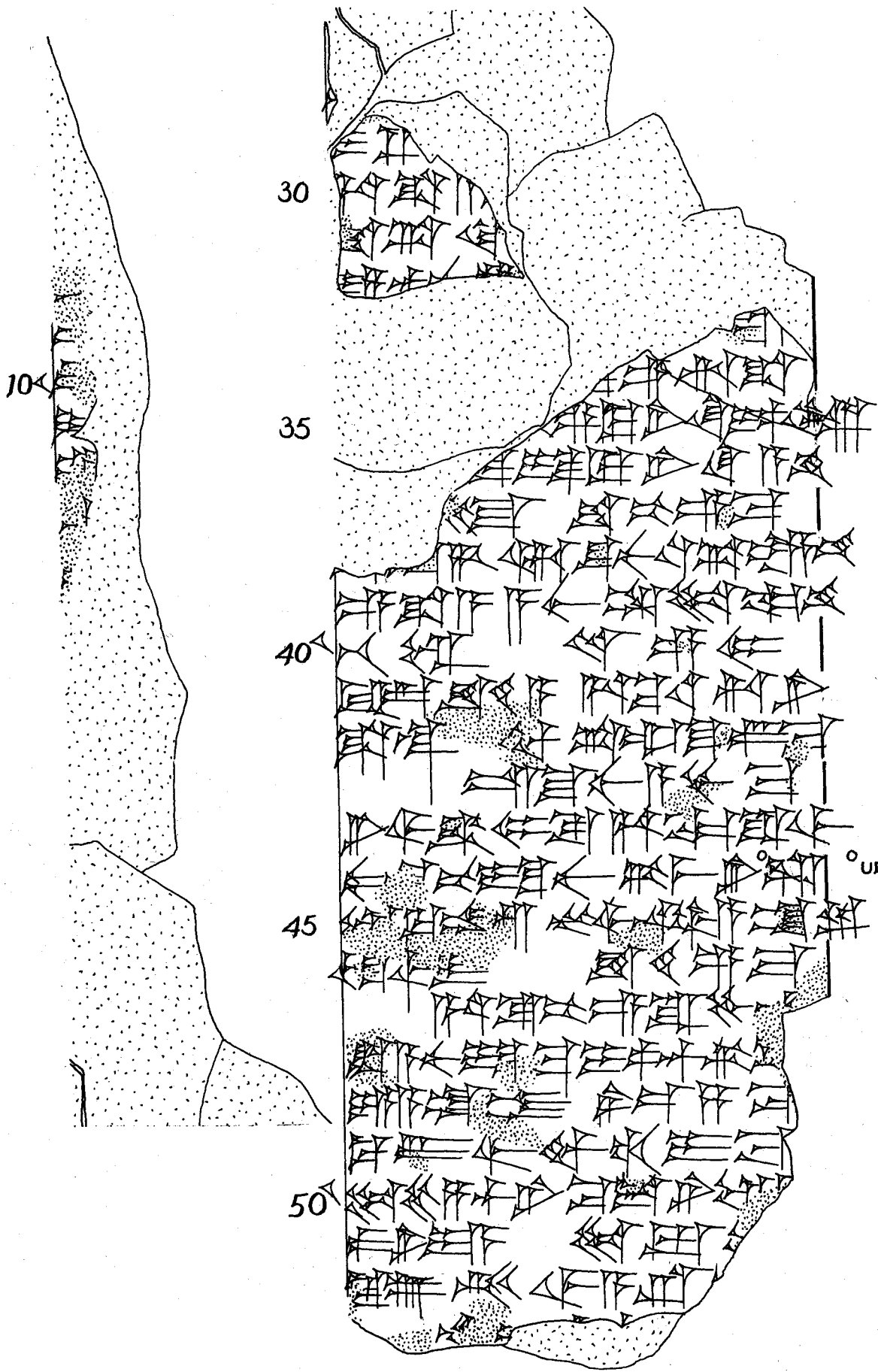


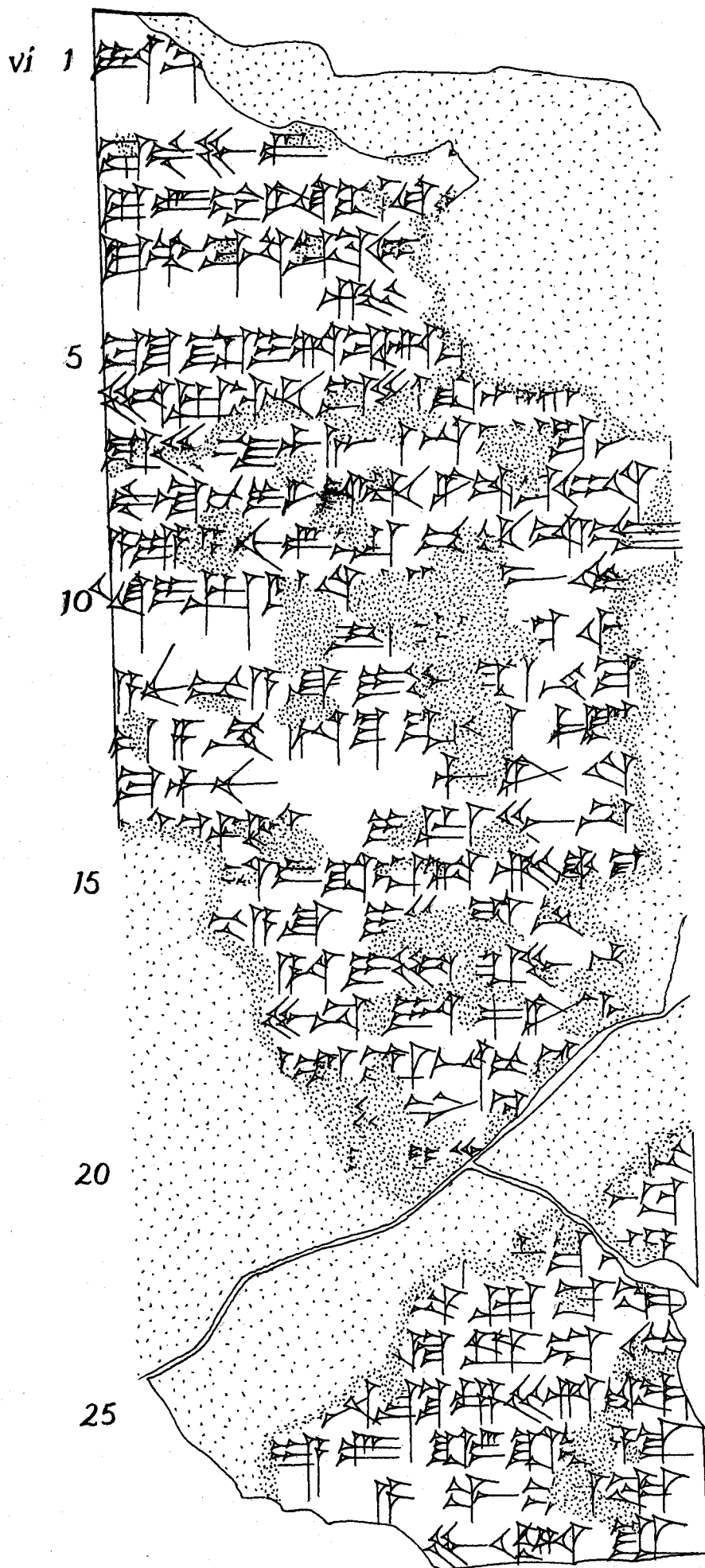
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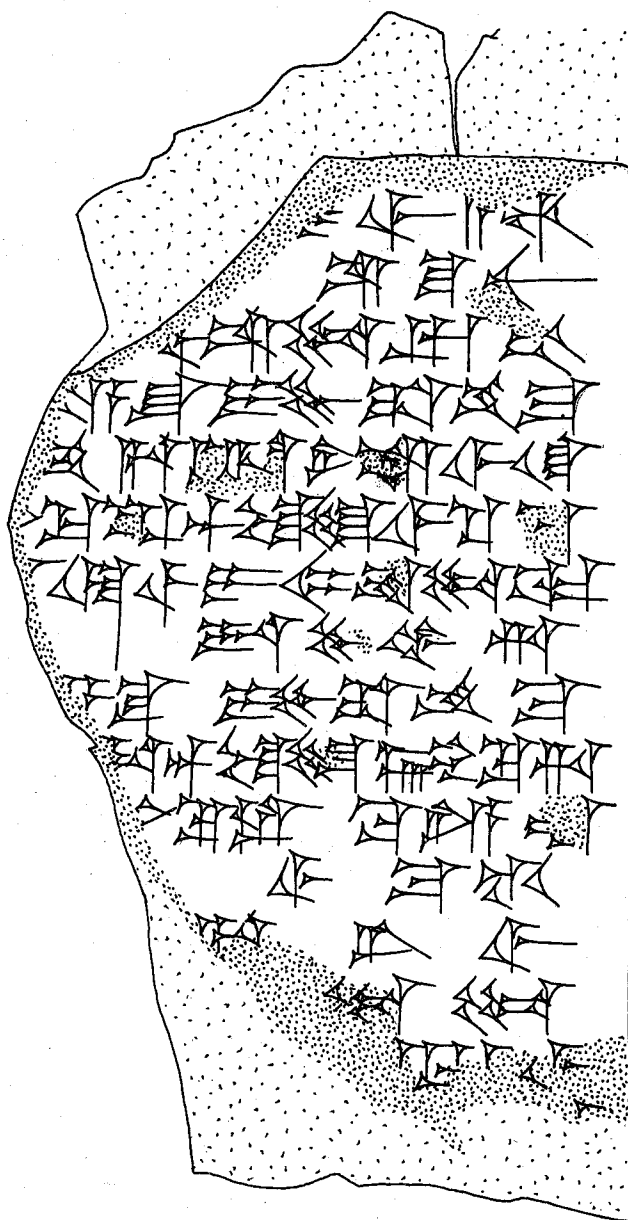


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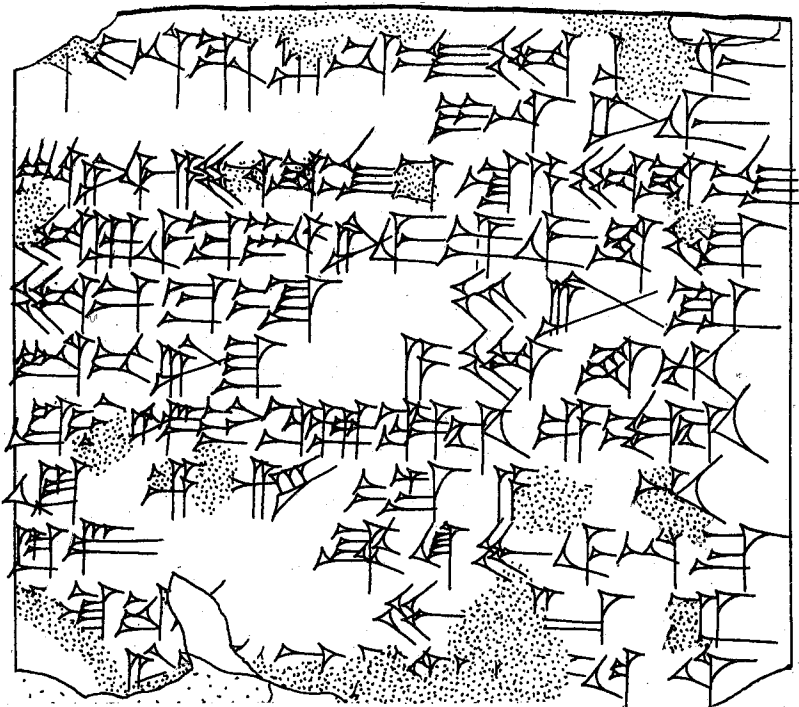
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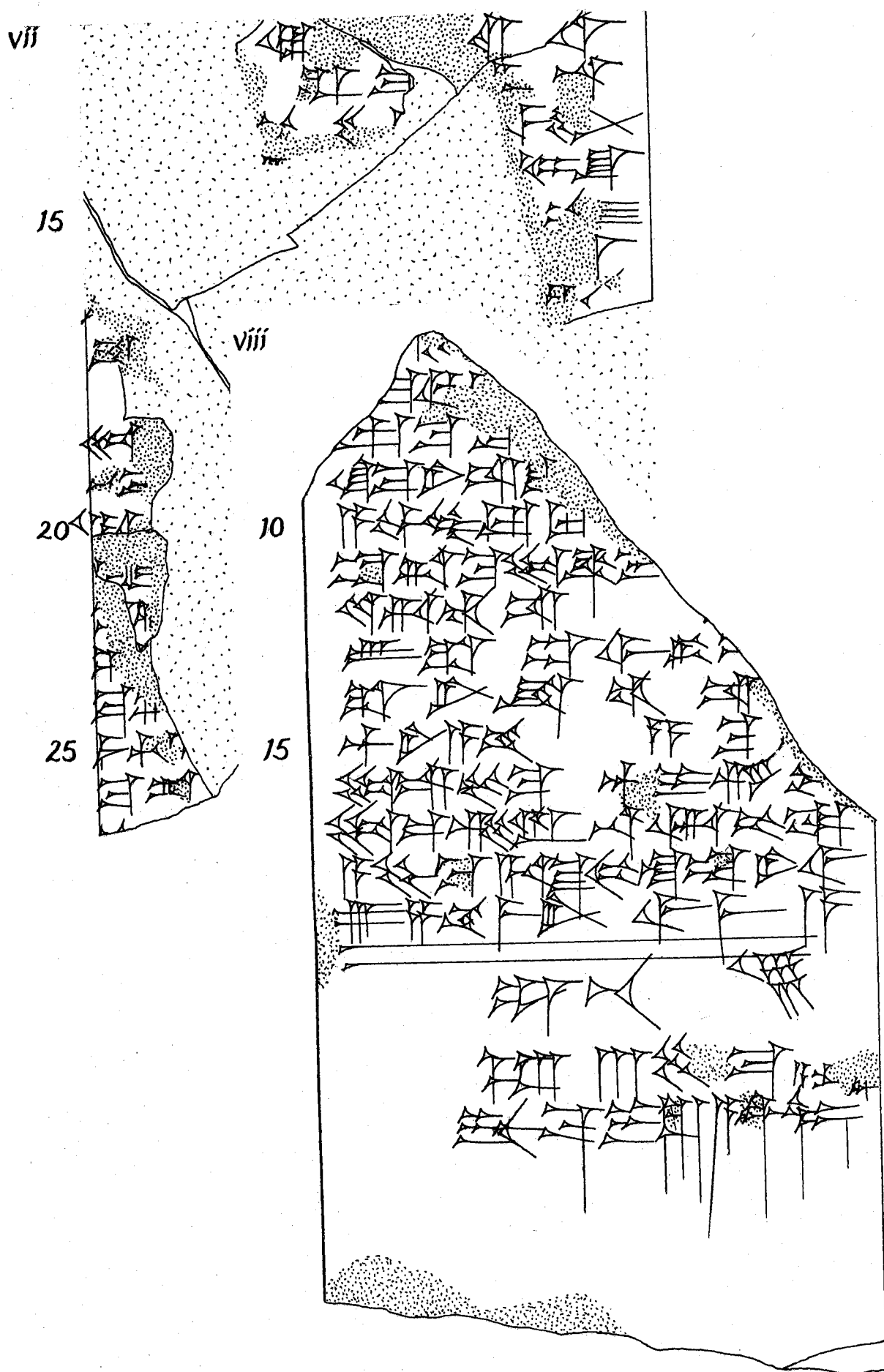


vii 1

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5. K 11261 + 11624

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11624

4. BM 92608
Rev. IV-V

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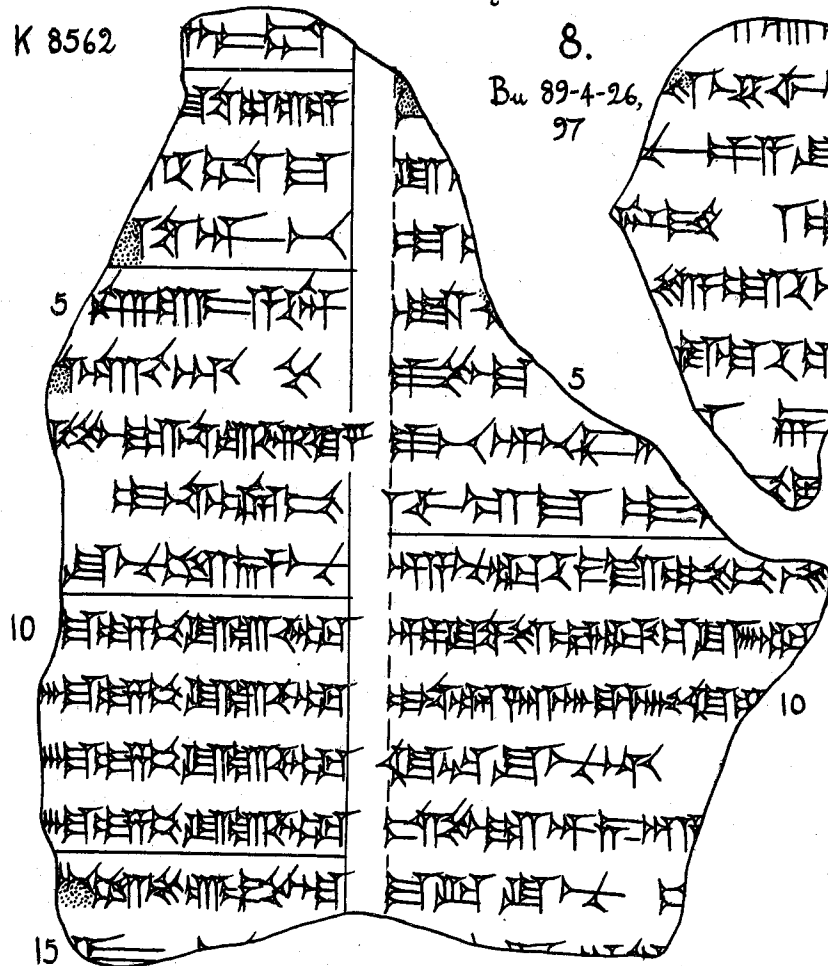
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Sup. res?

Sic!

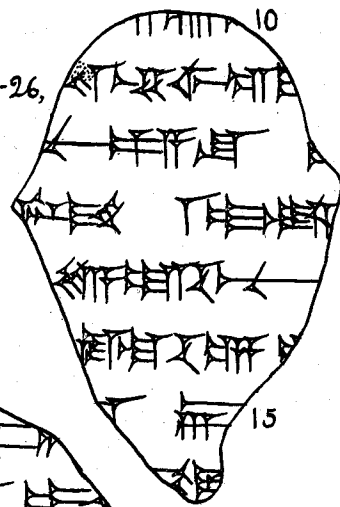
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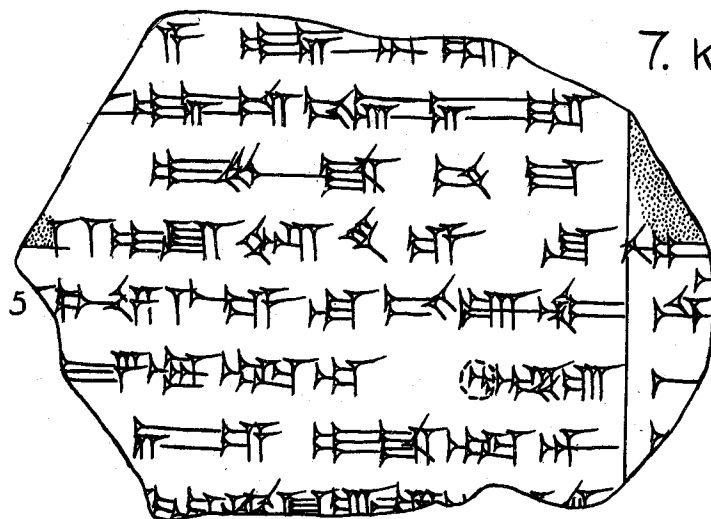


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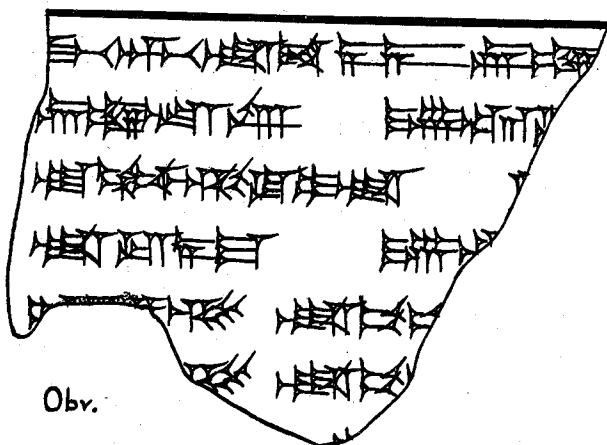
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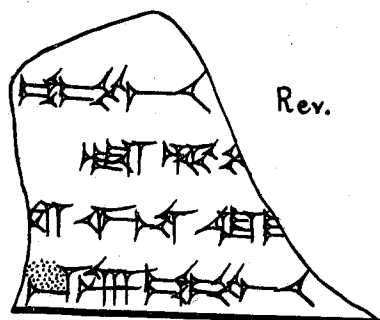
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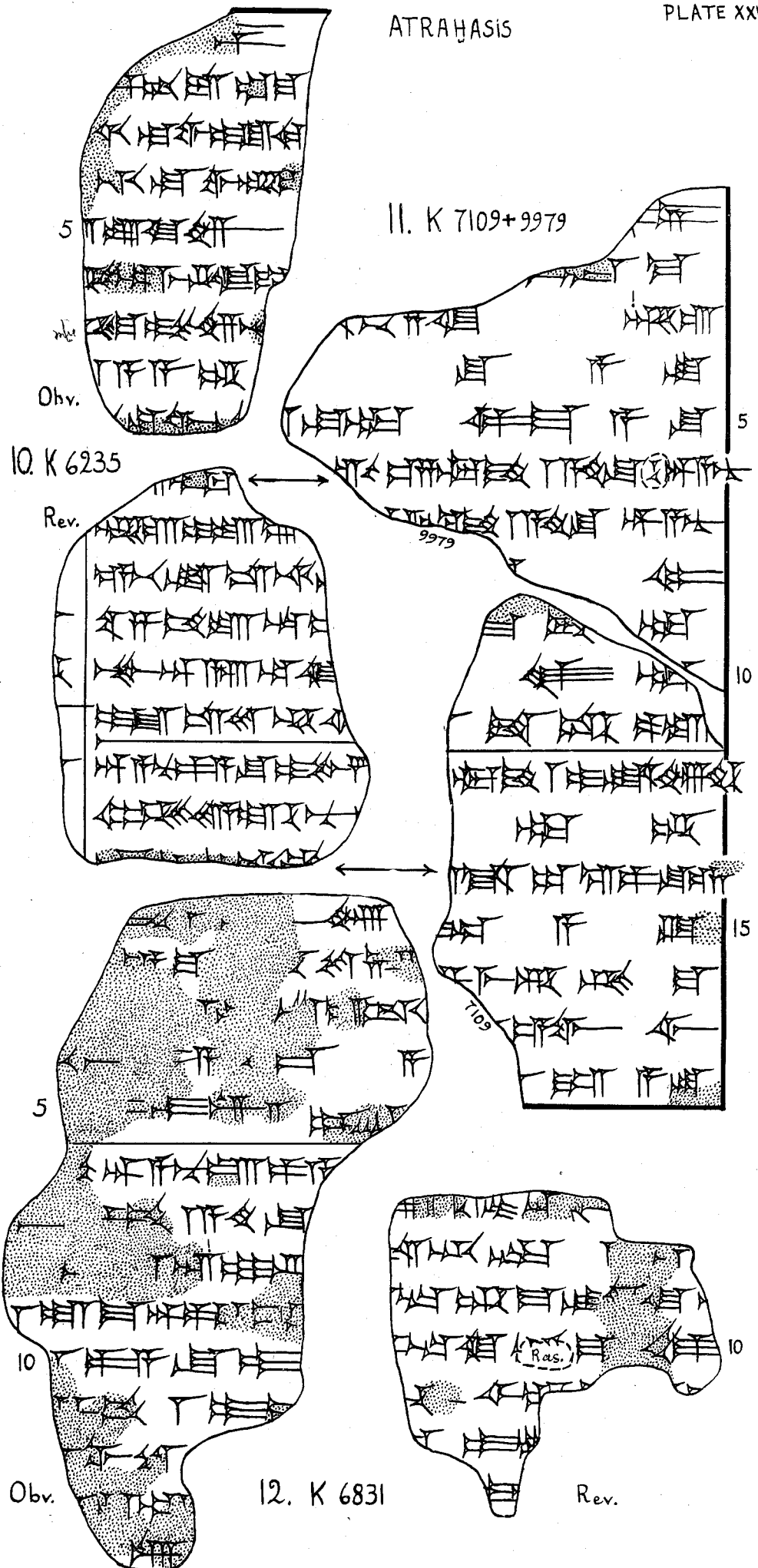
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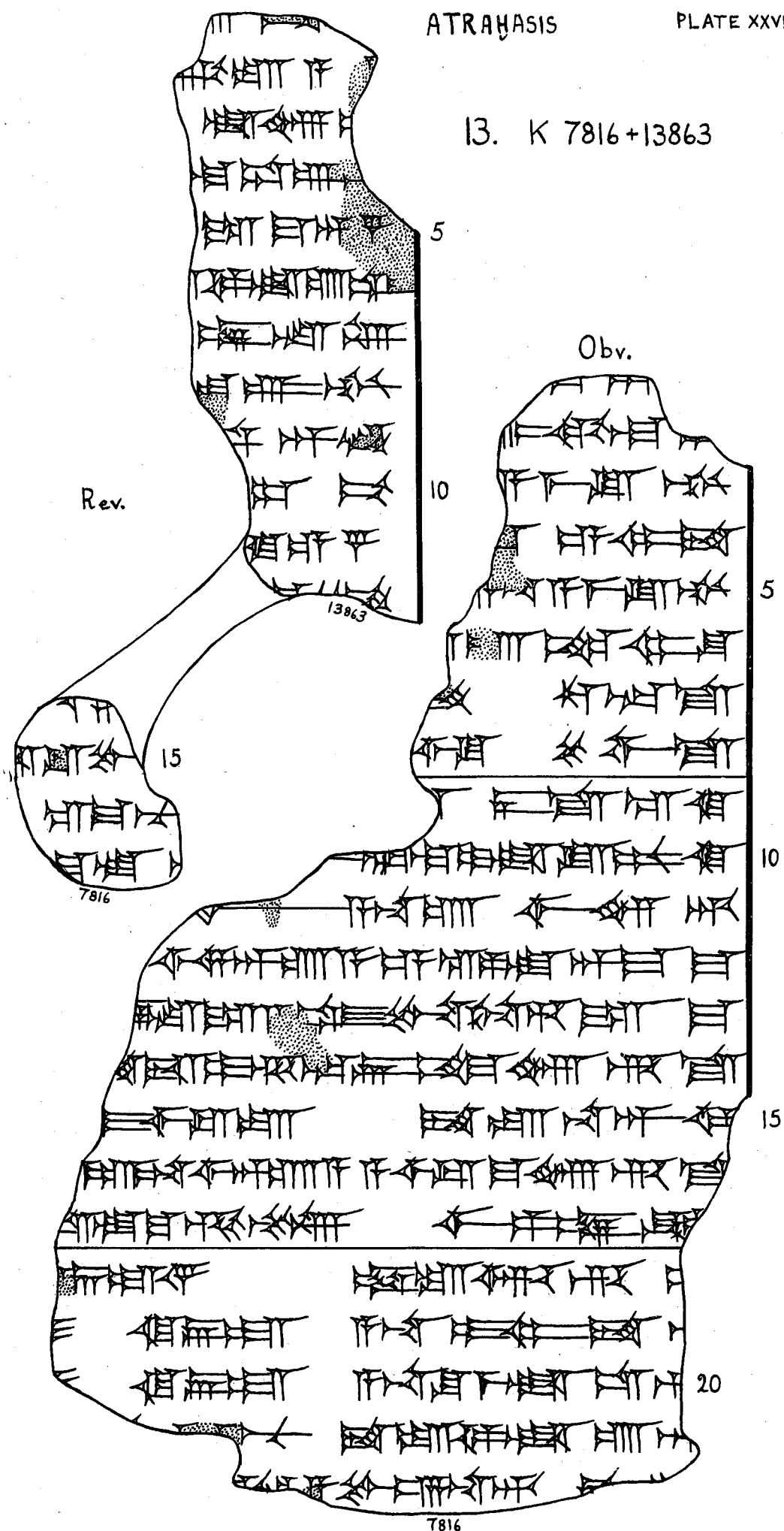
Obv.



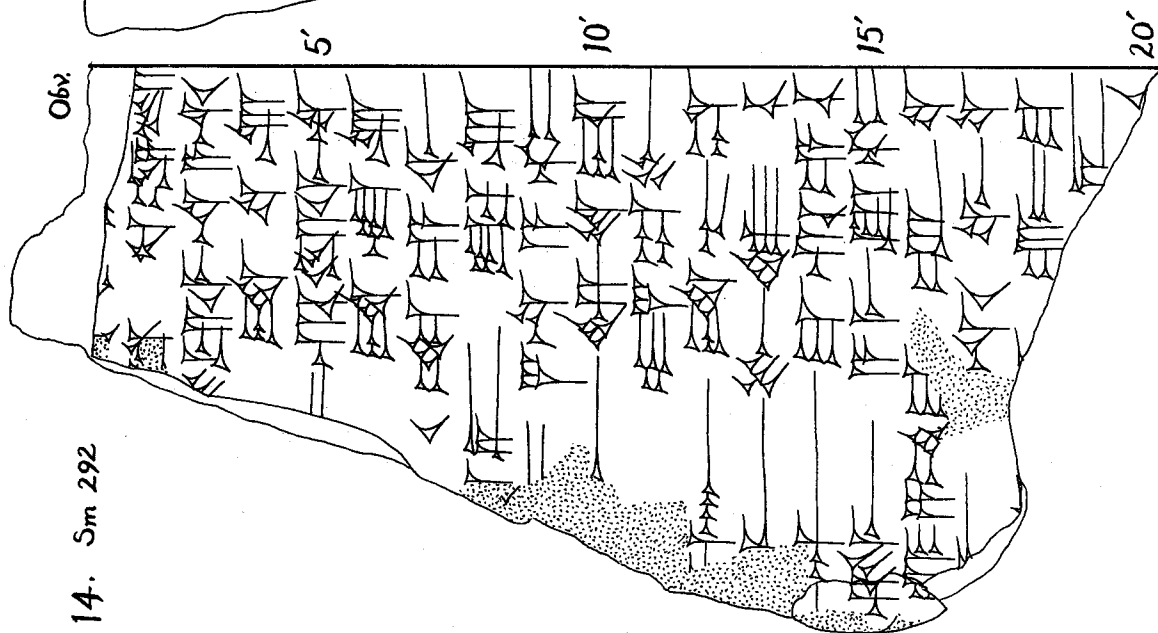
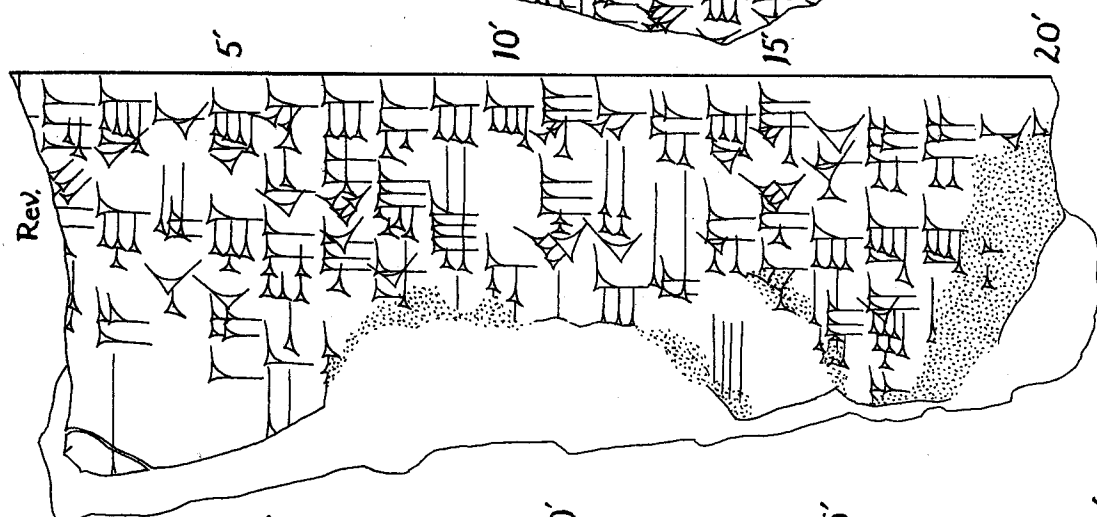
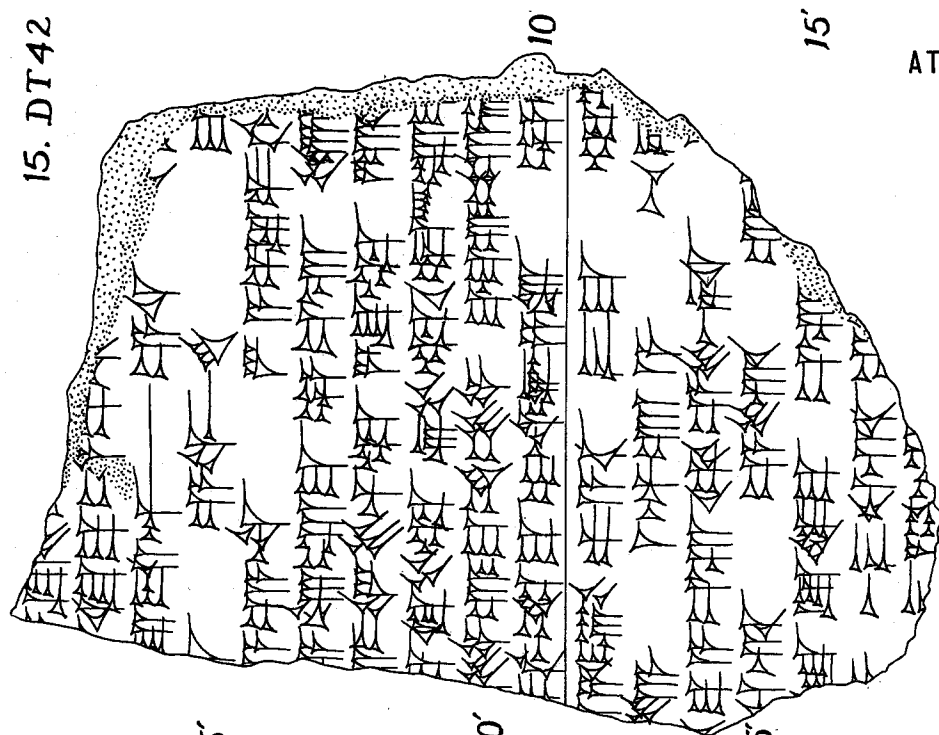
Rev.



13. K 7816+13863



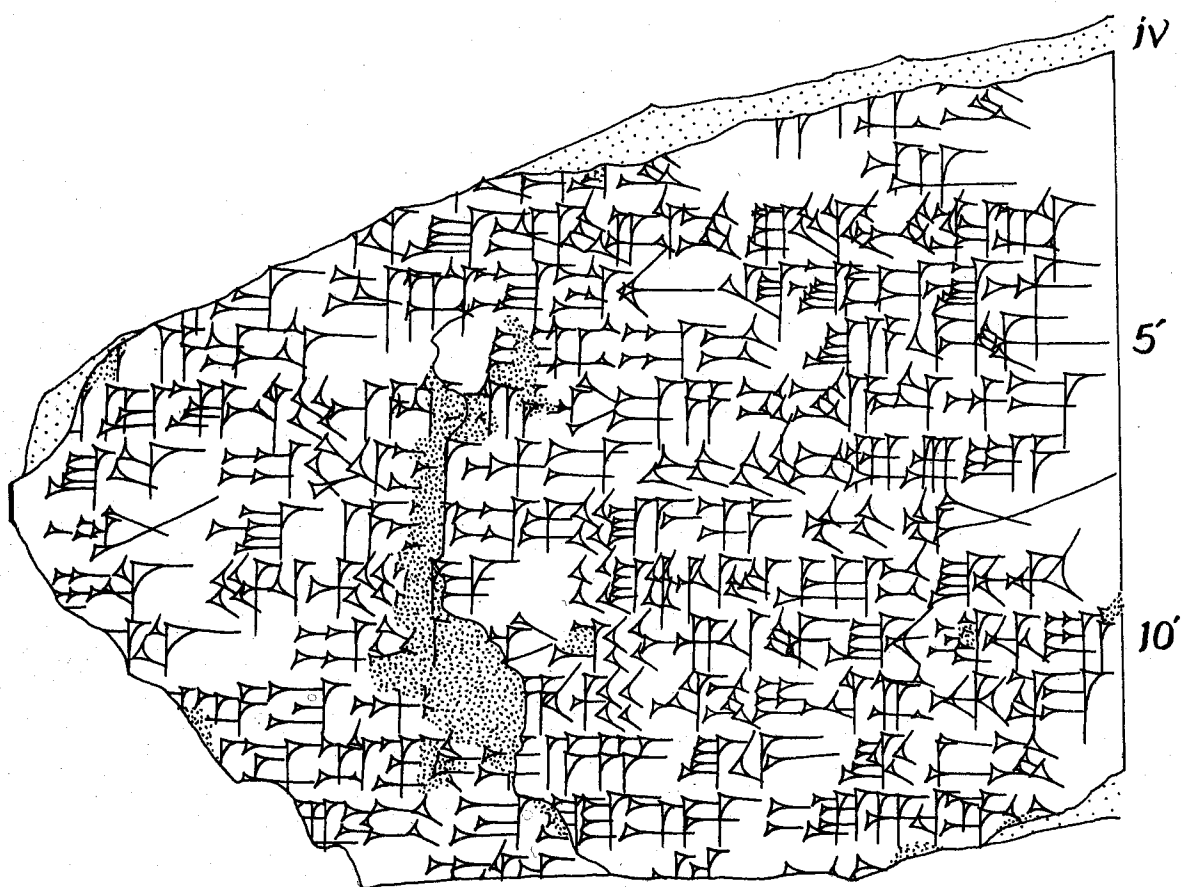
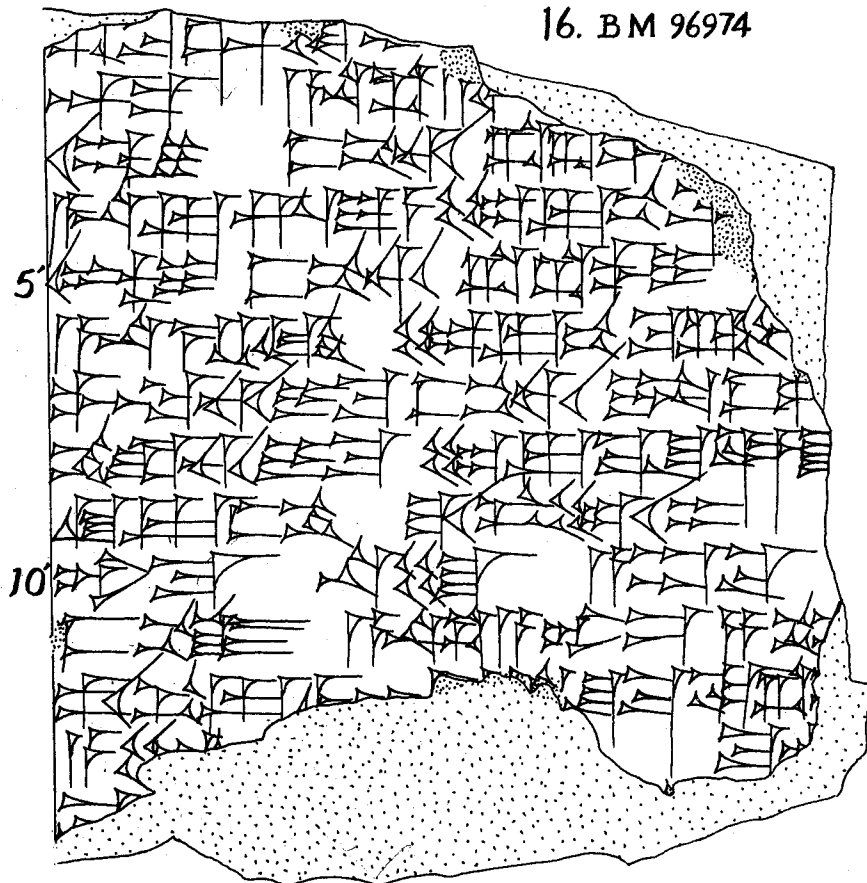
15. DT42

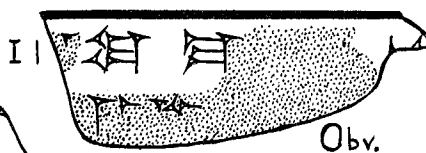
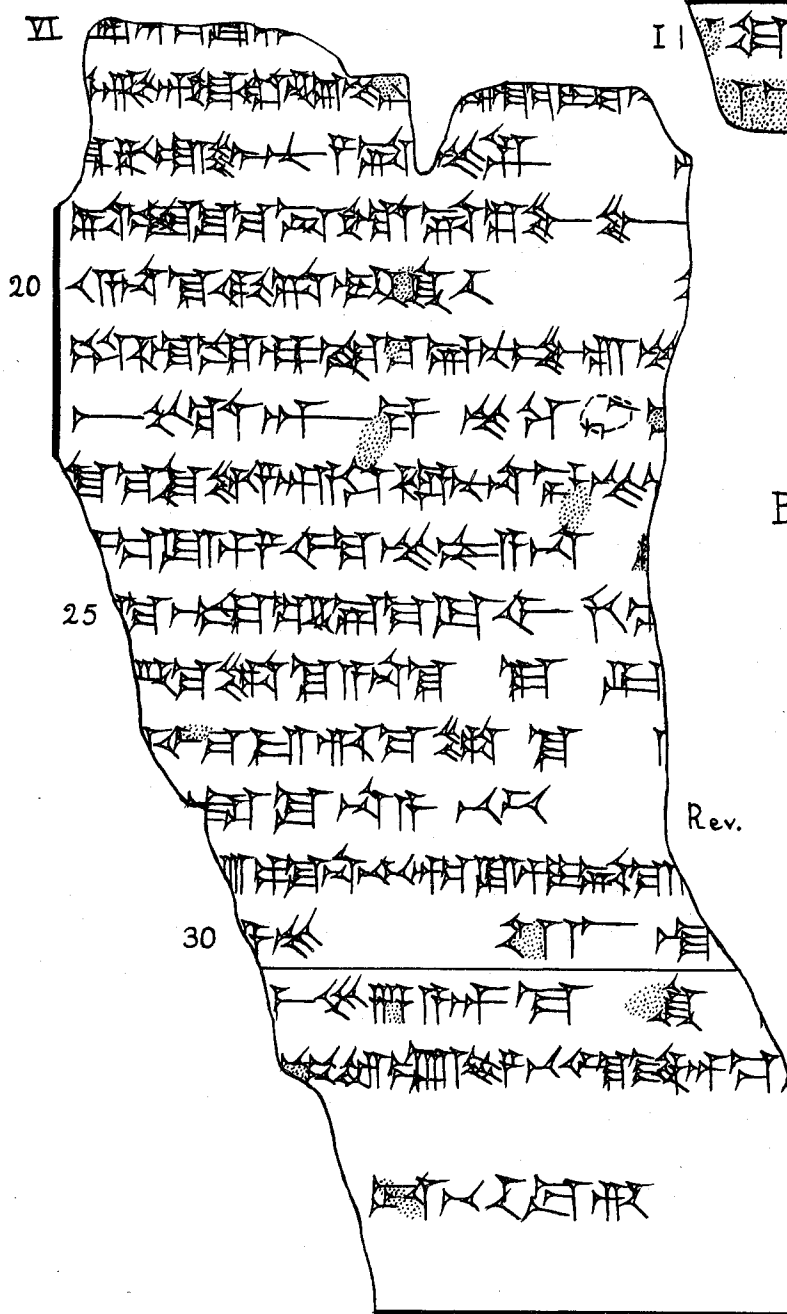
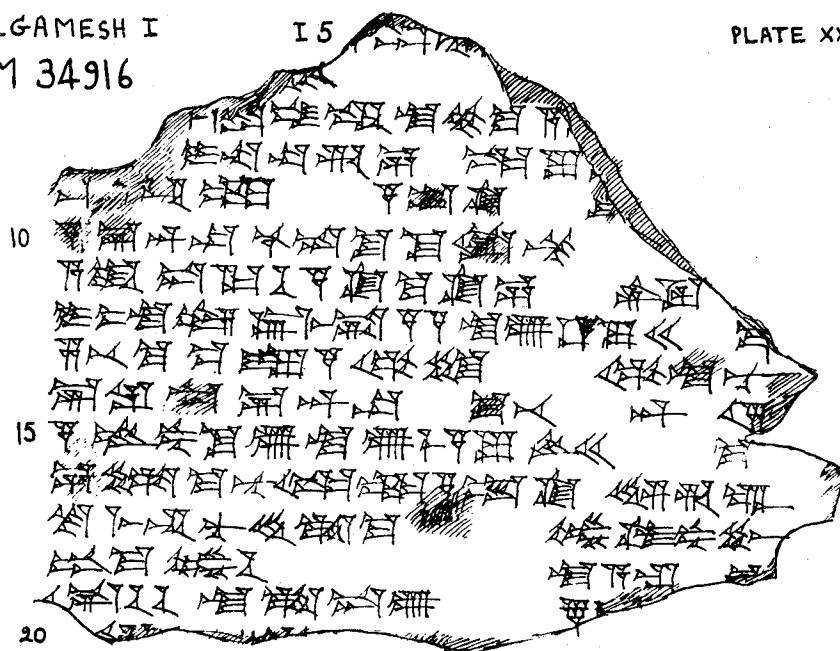


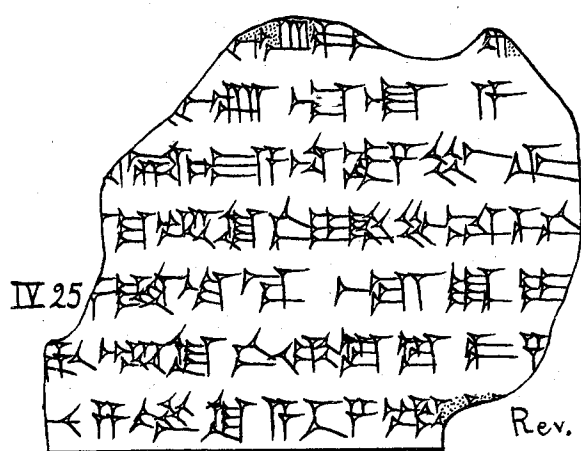
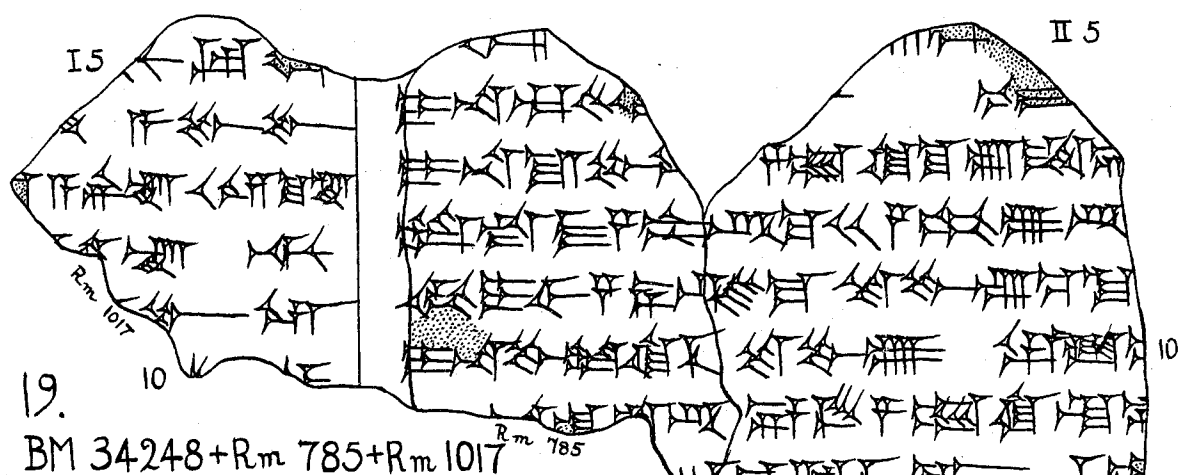
14. Sm 292

iii

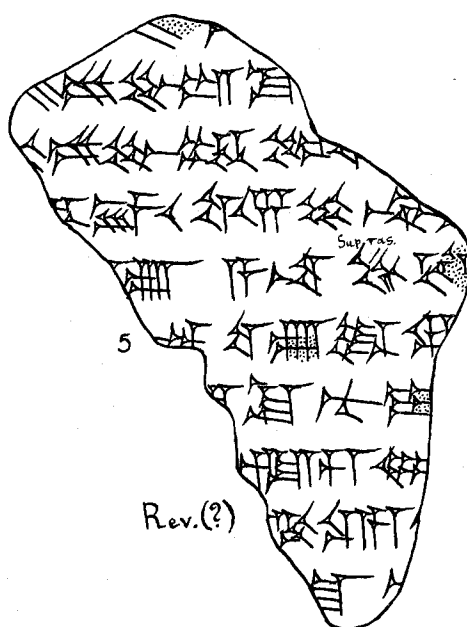
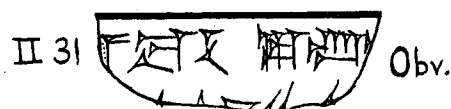
16. BM 96974



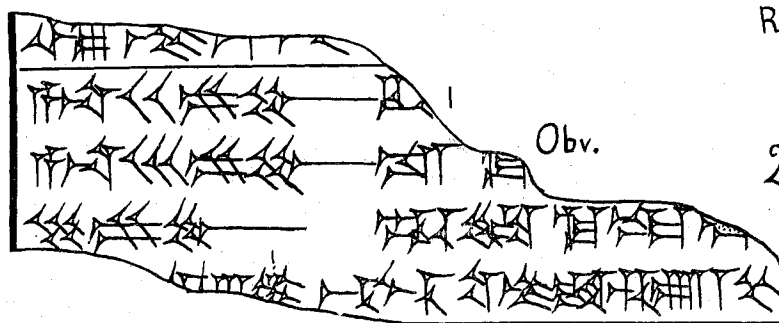




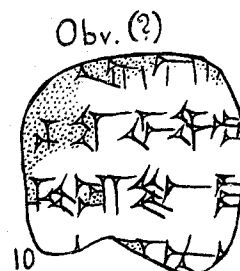
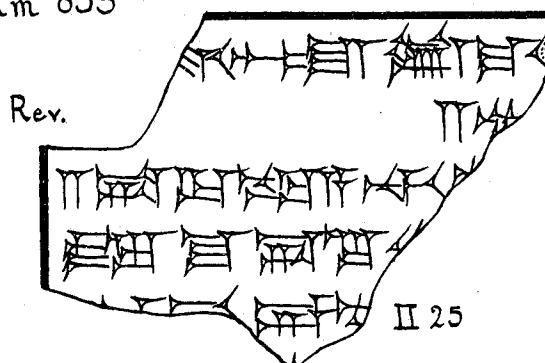
20. BM 37163

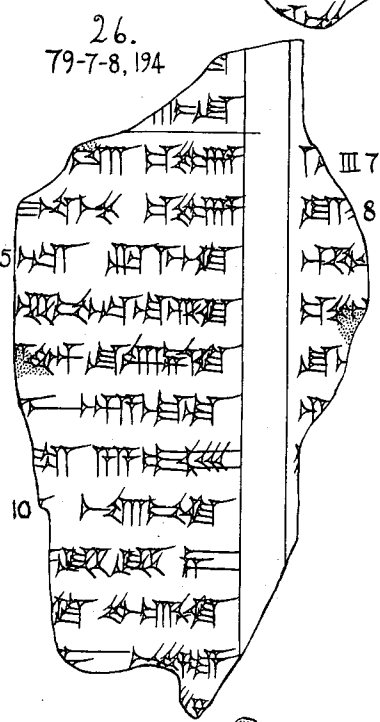
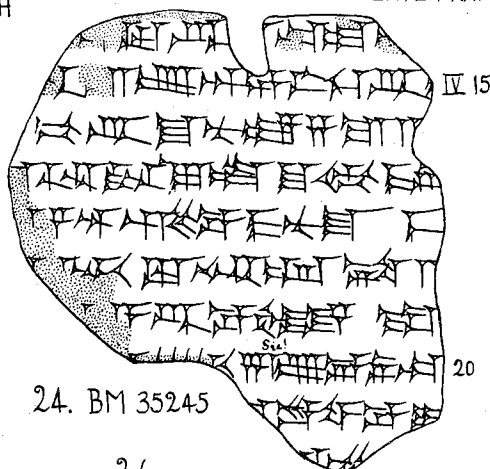
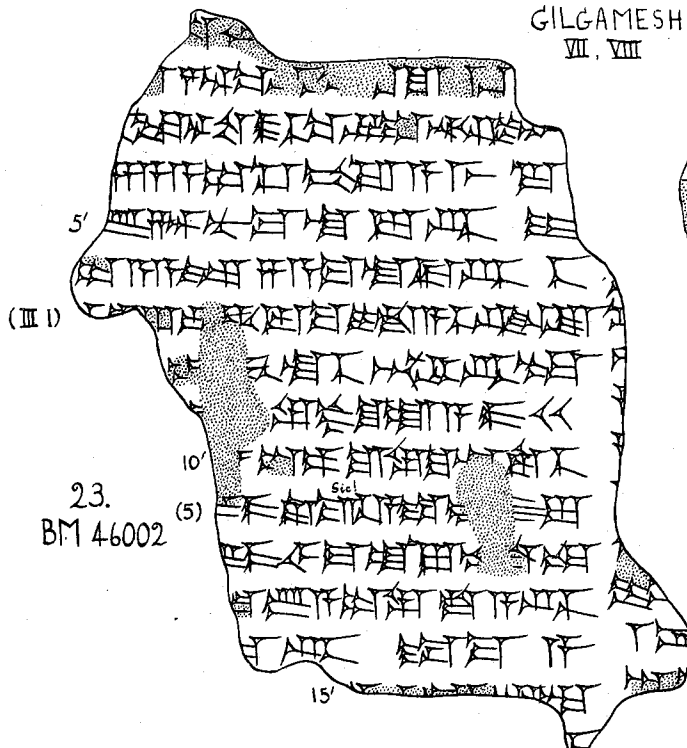


22. BM 45883

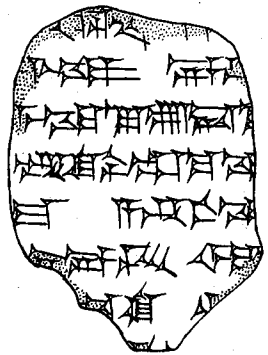


21. Rm 853

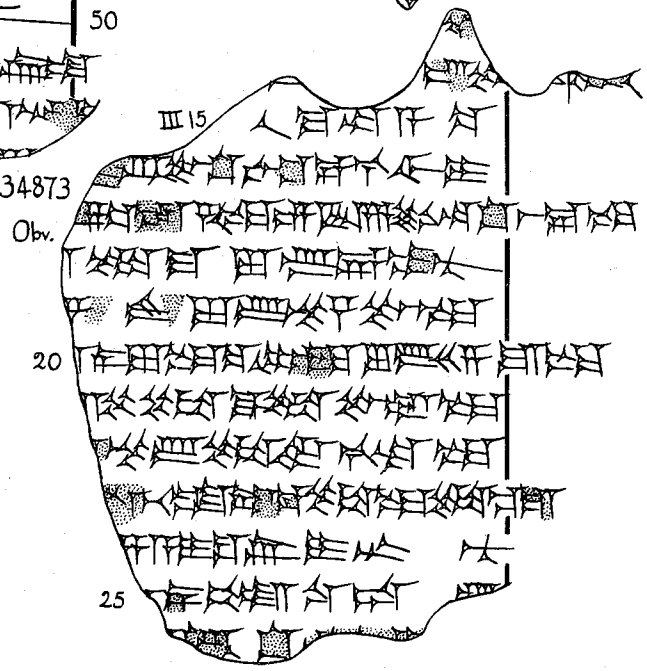




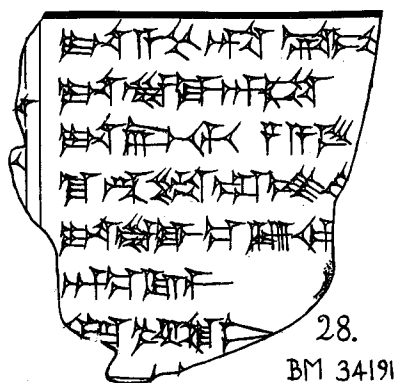
25. BM 34873



27. BM 37189



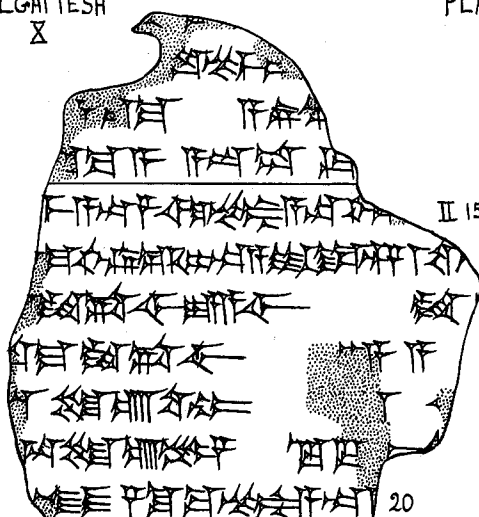
26. 79-7-8, 194



28.
BM 34191

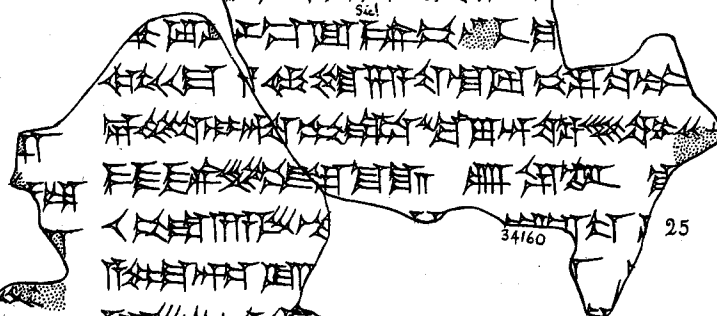


29.
K 8573



II 15

20



34160

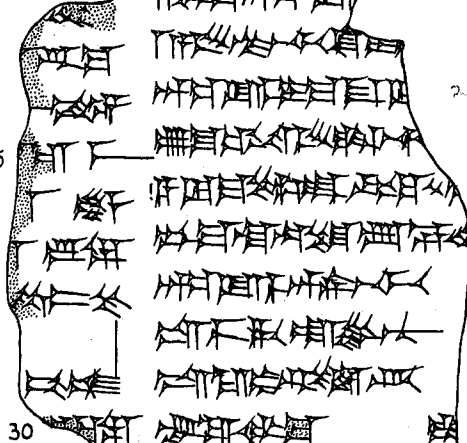
25

30.

BM 34160
+34193
+35174
+35348
+35413
+35628

Obv.

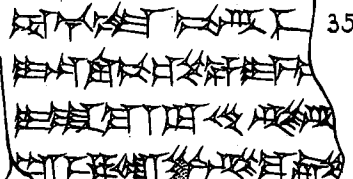
I 25



30

2-8

30-31a



35



35

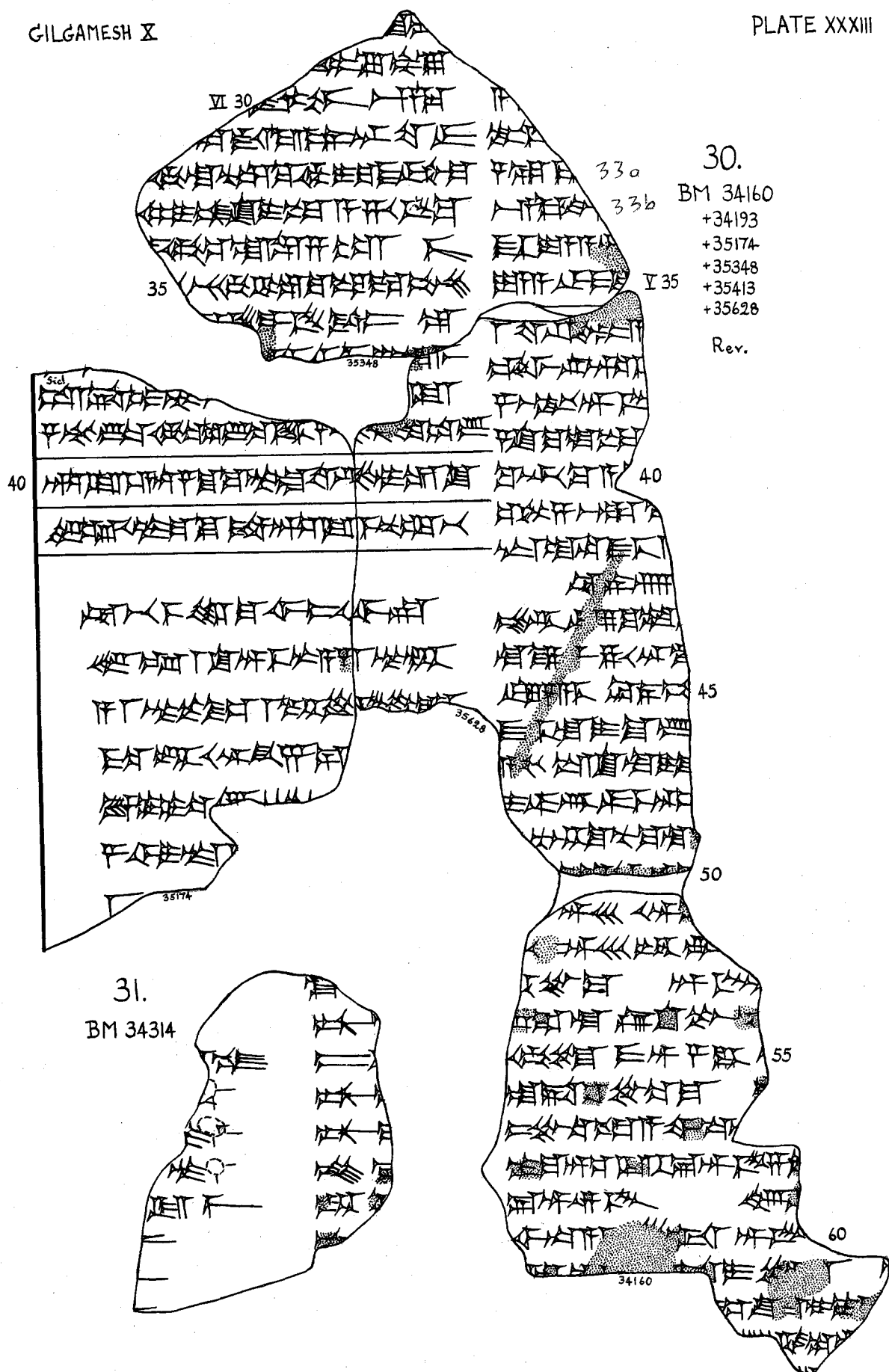
40

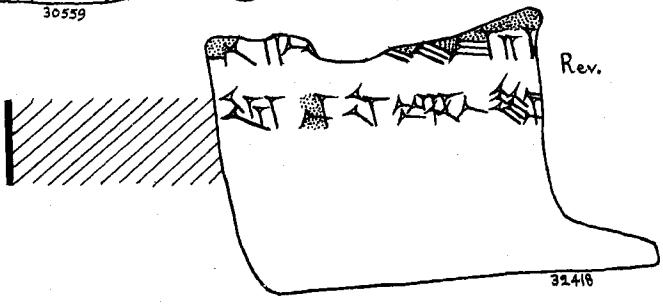
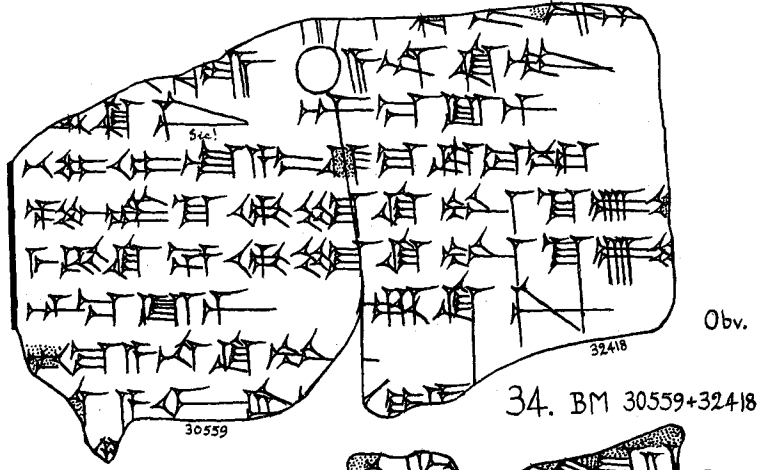
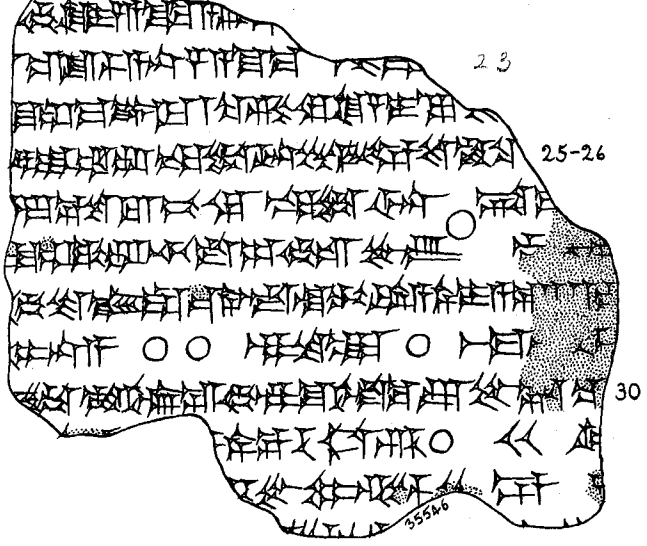
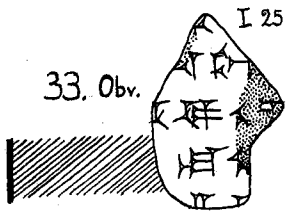
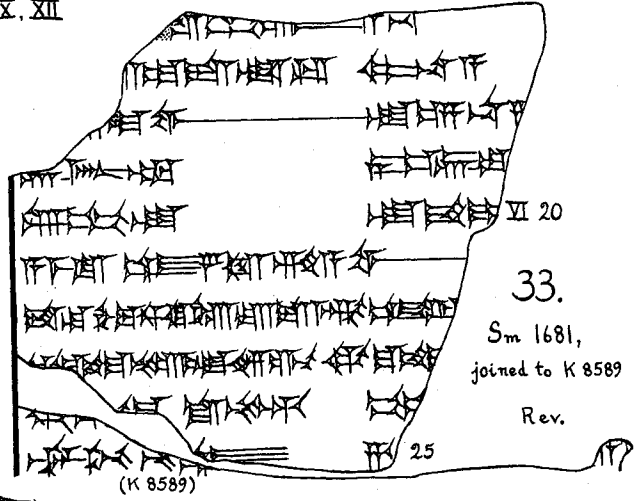
40'

45'

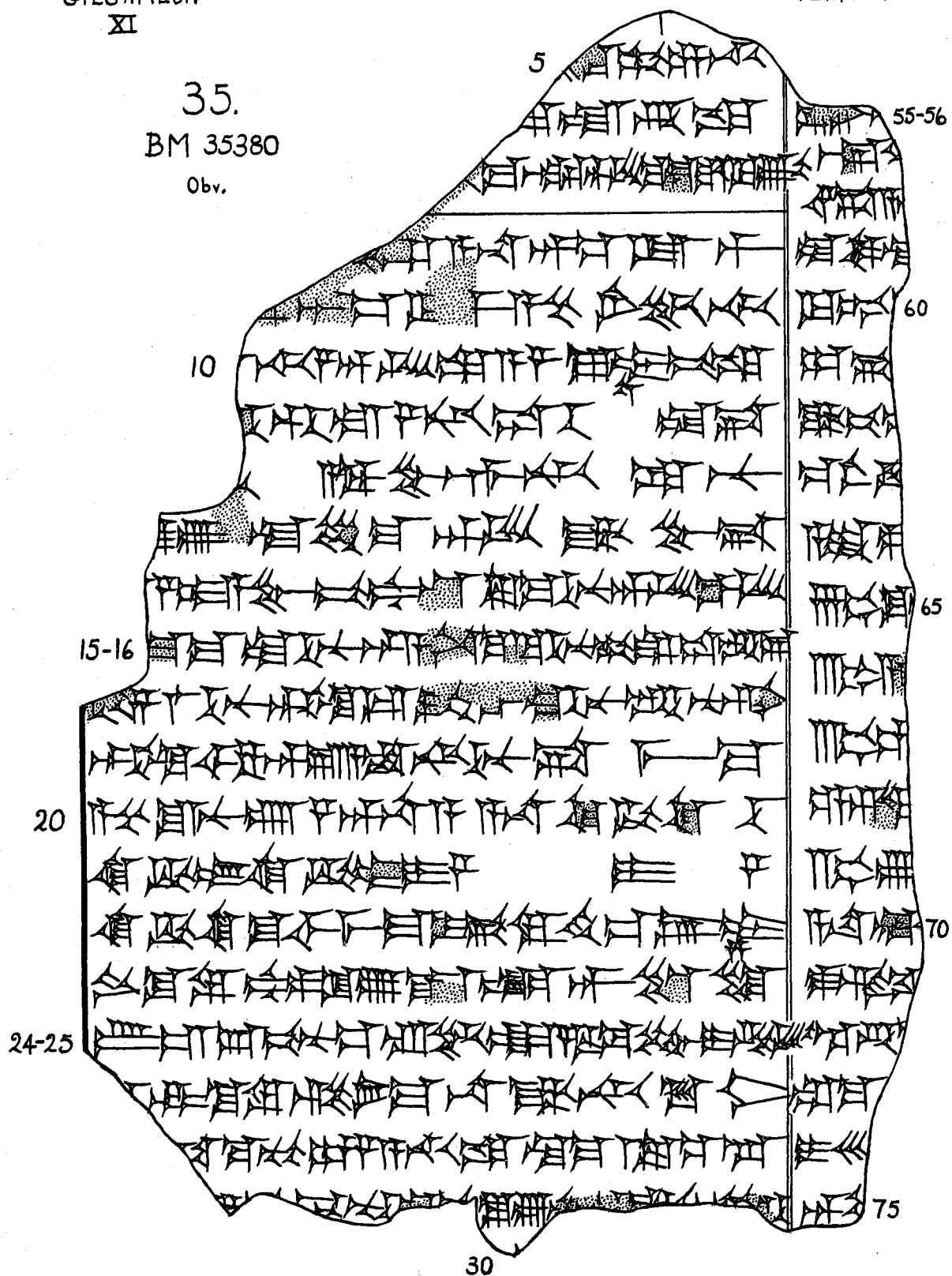
45

34193





35.
BM 35380
Obv.



275

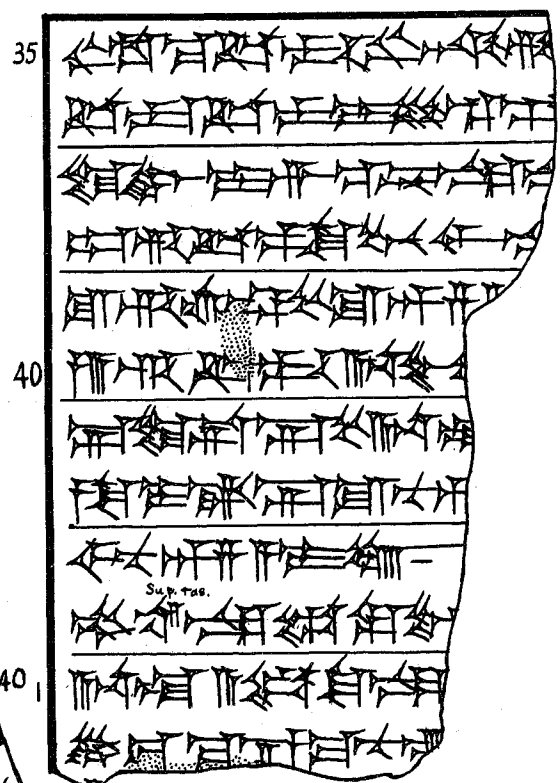
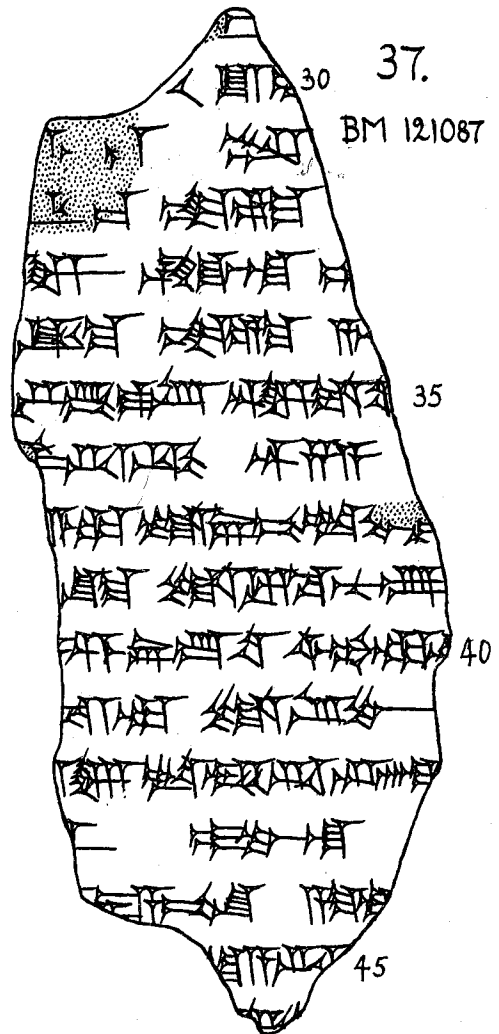
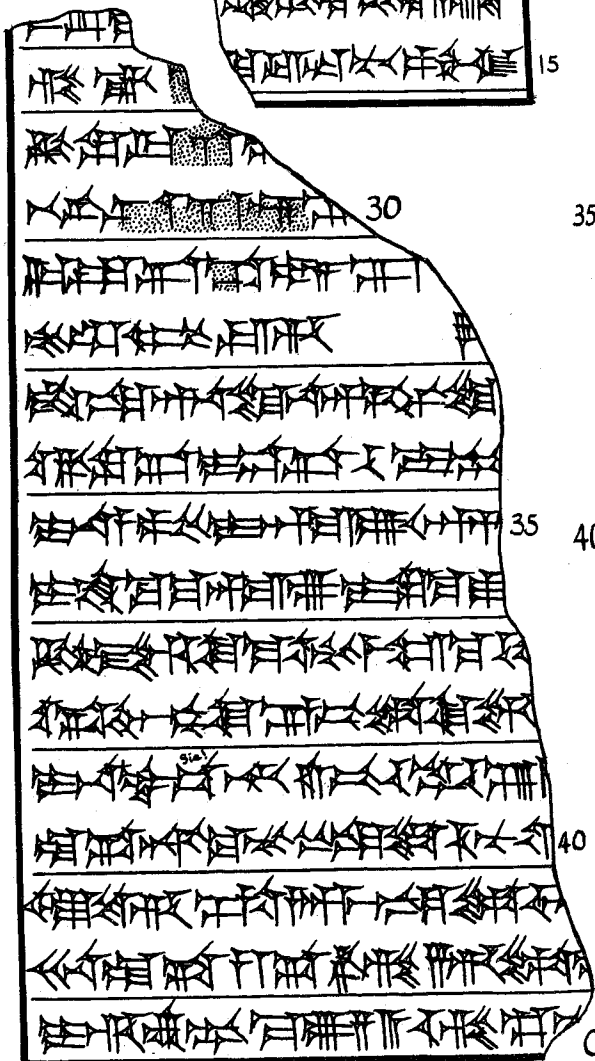
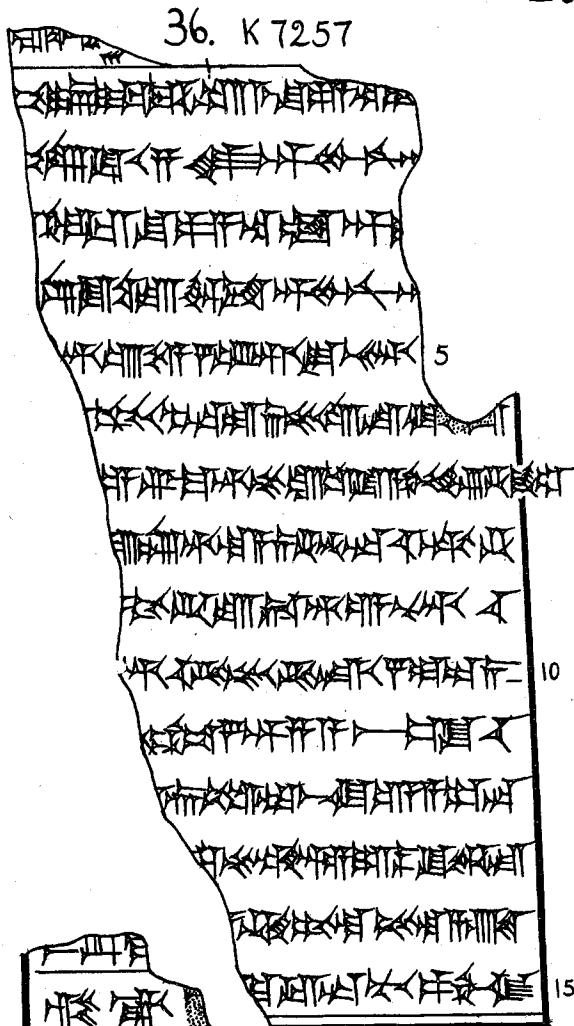
280

285

290

294-5

300

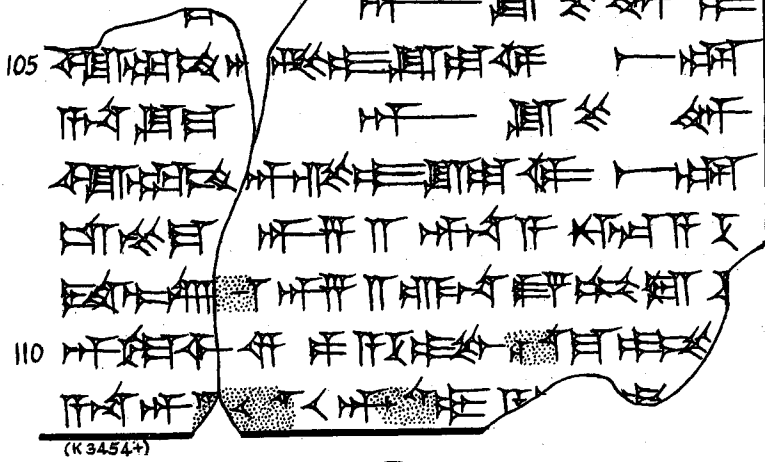


Rev.

Obv. 38. K 3008

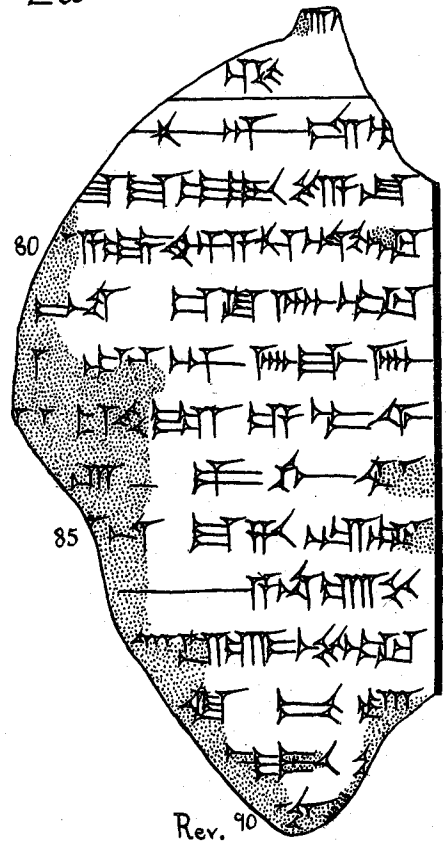
39. DT 292

joined to K 3454+
3935



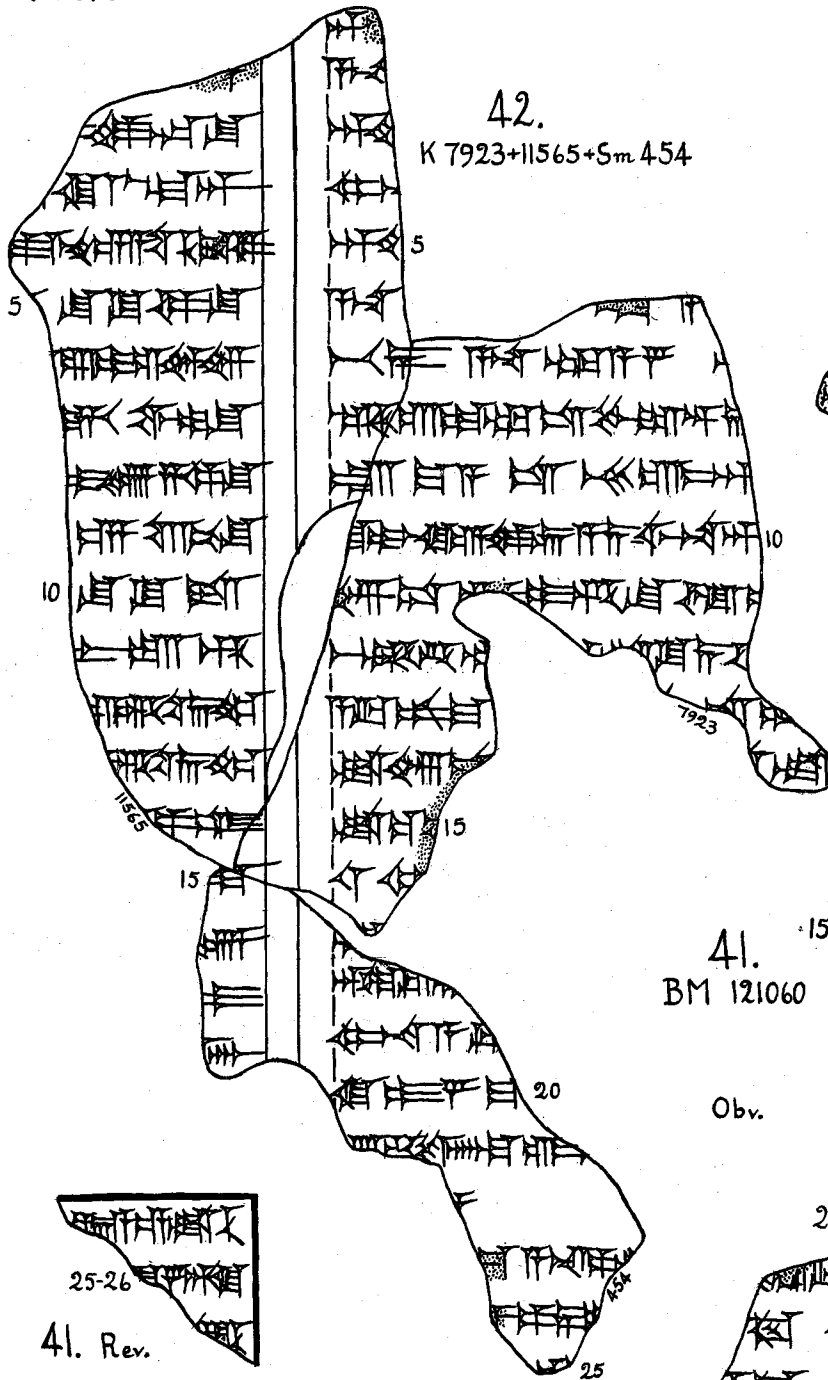
ZU

PLATE XXXVIII



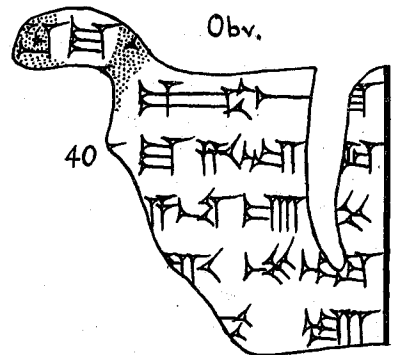
42.

K 7923+11565+Sm 454



40. Sm 1807

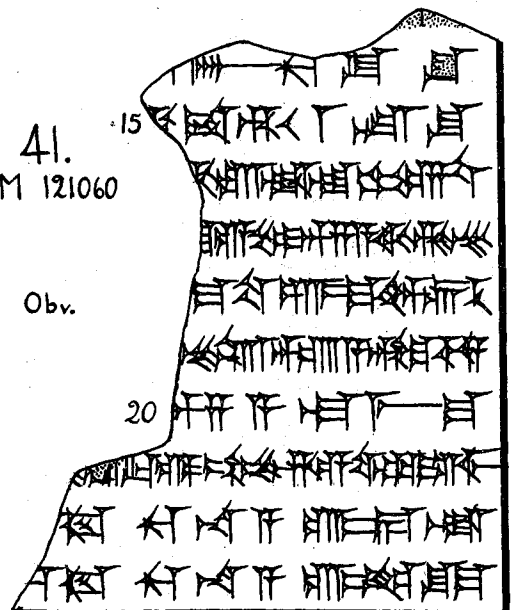
Obv.



41.

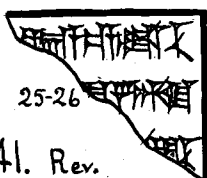
BM 121060

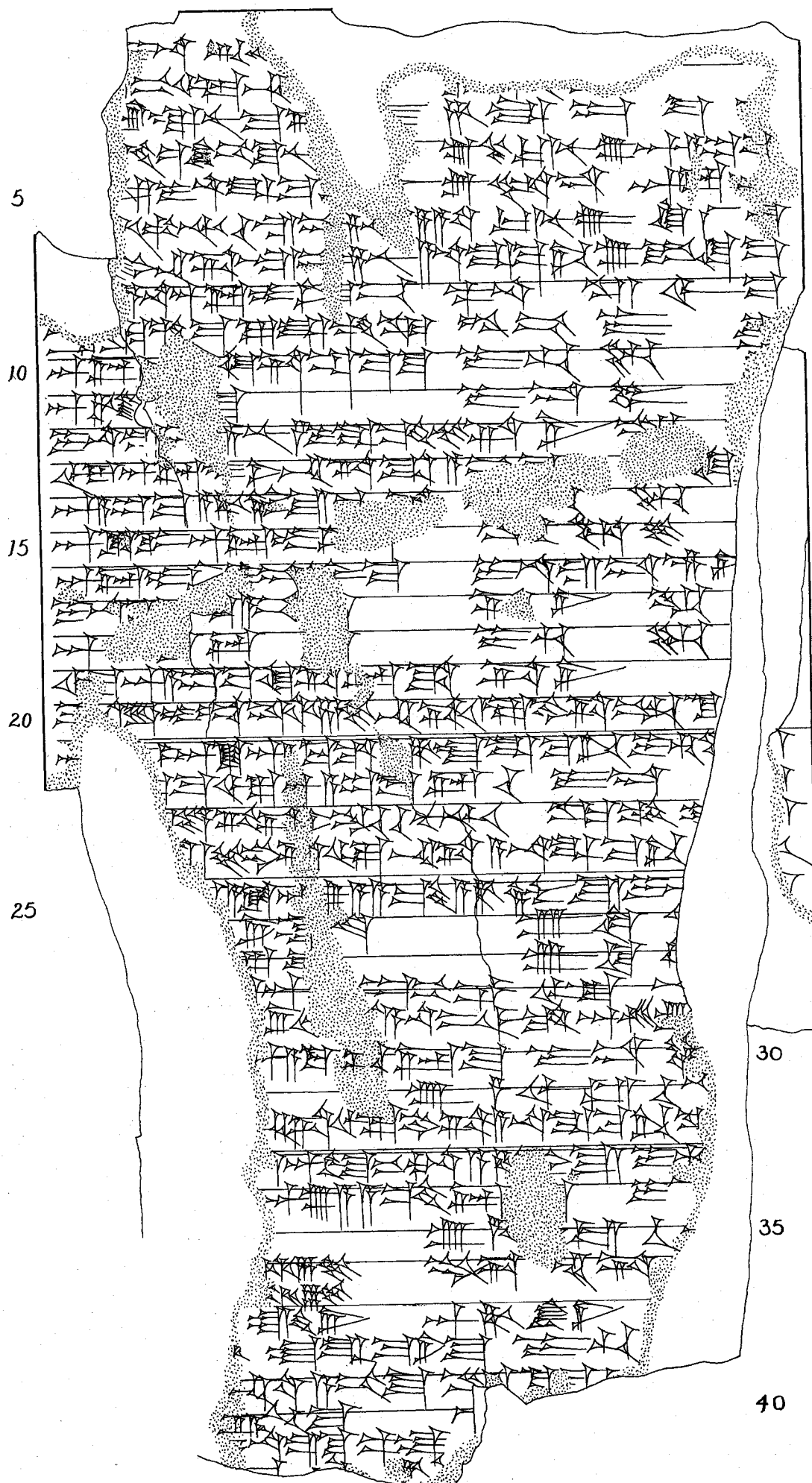
Obv.



25-26

41. Rev.

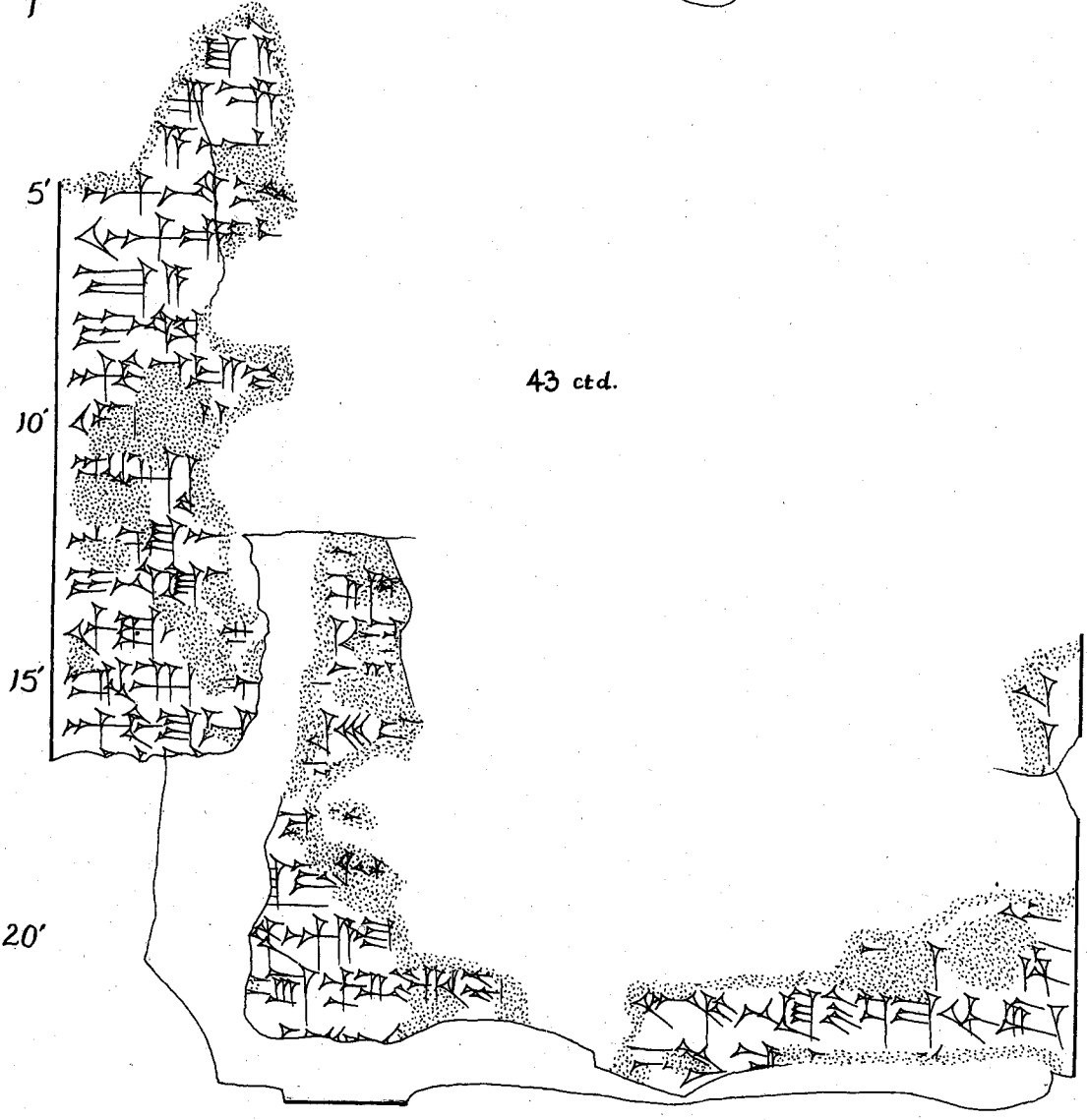




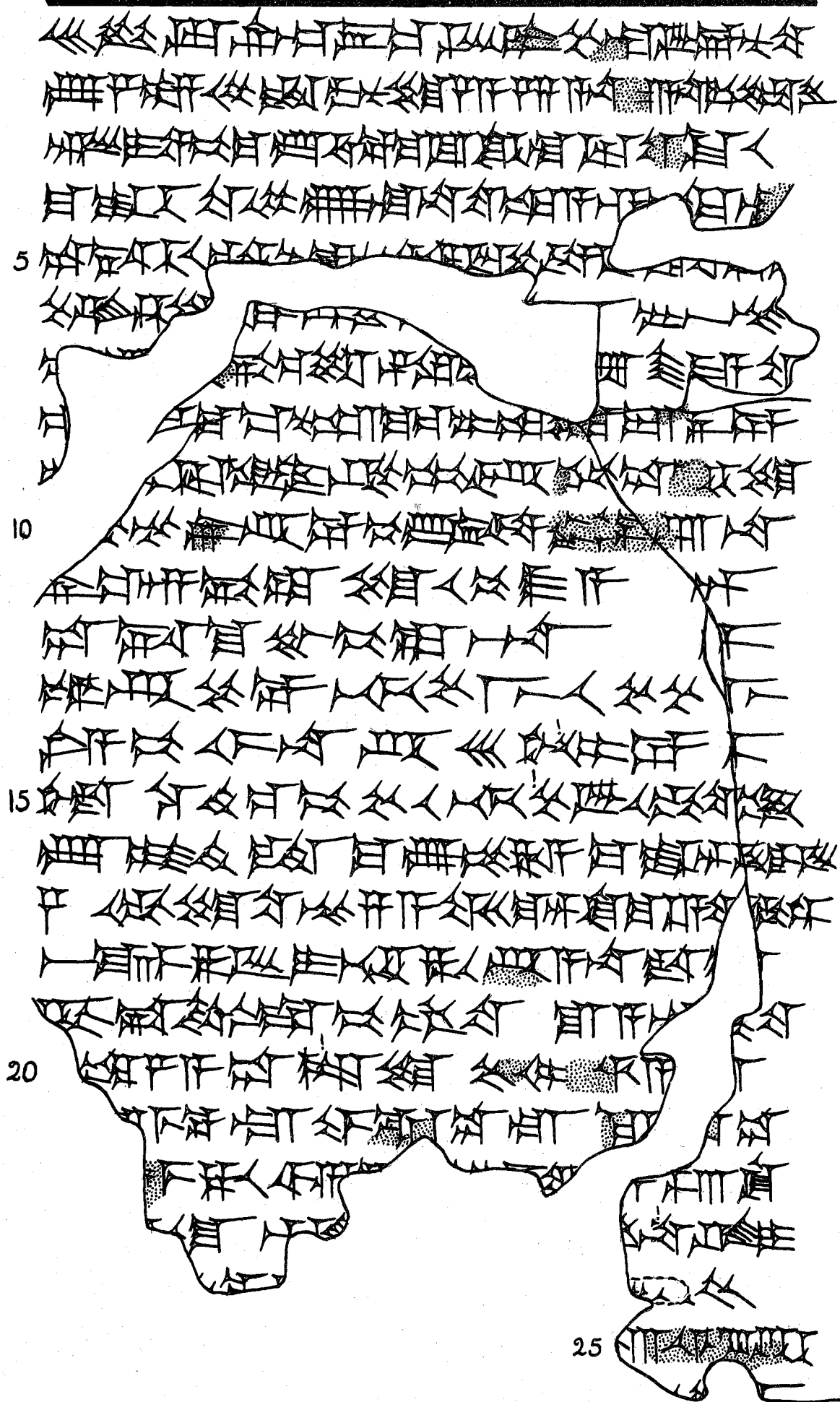
44. BM 95431

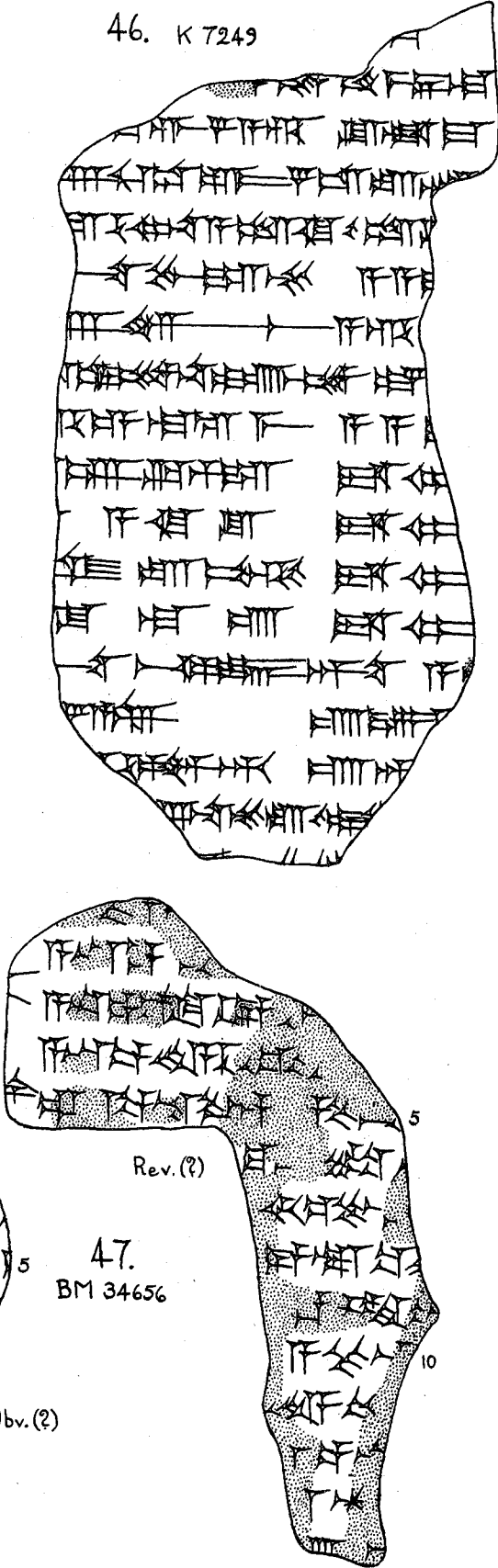
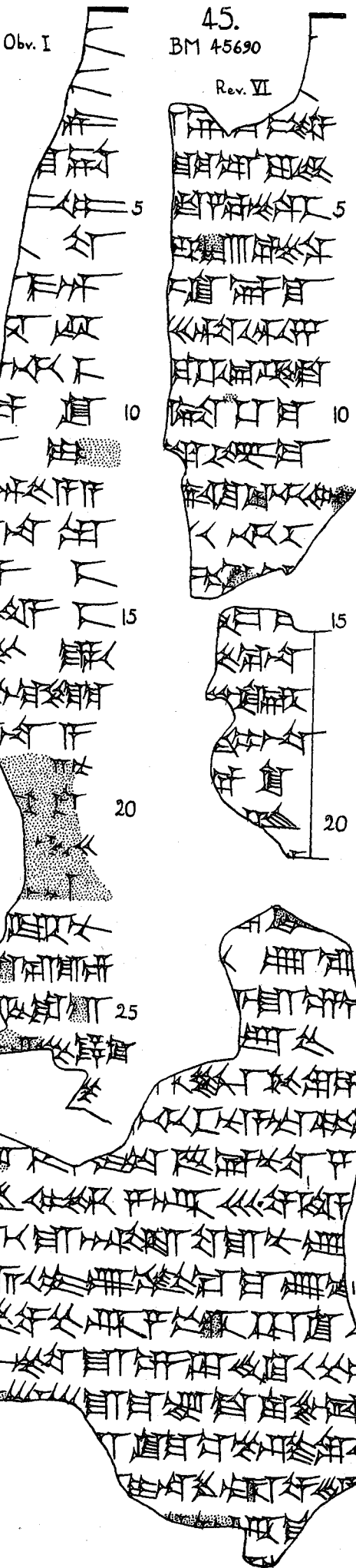


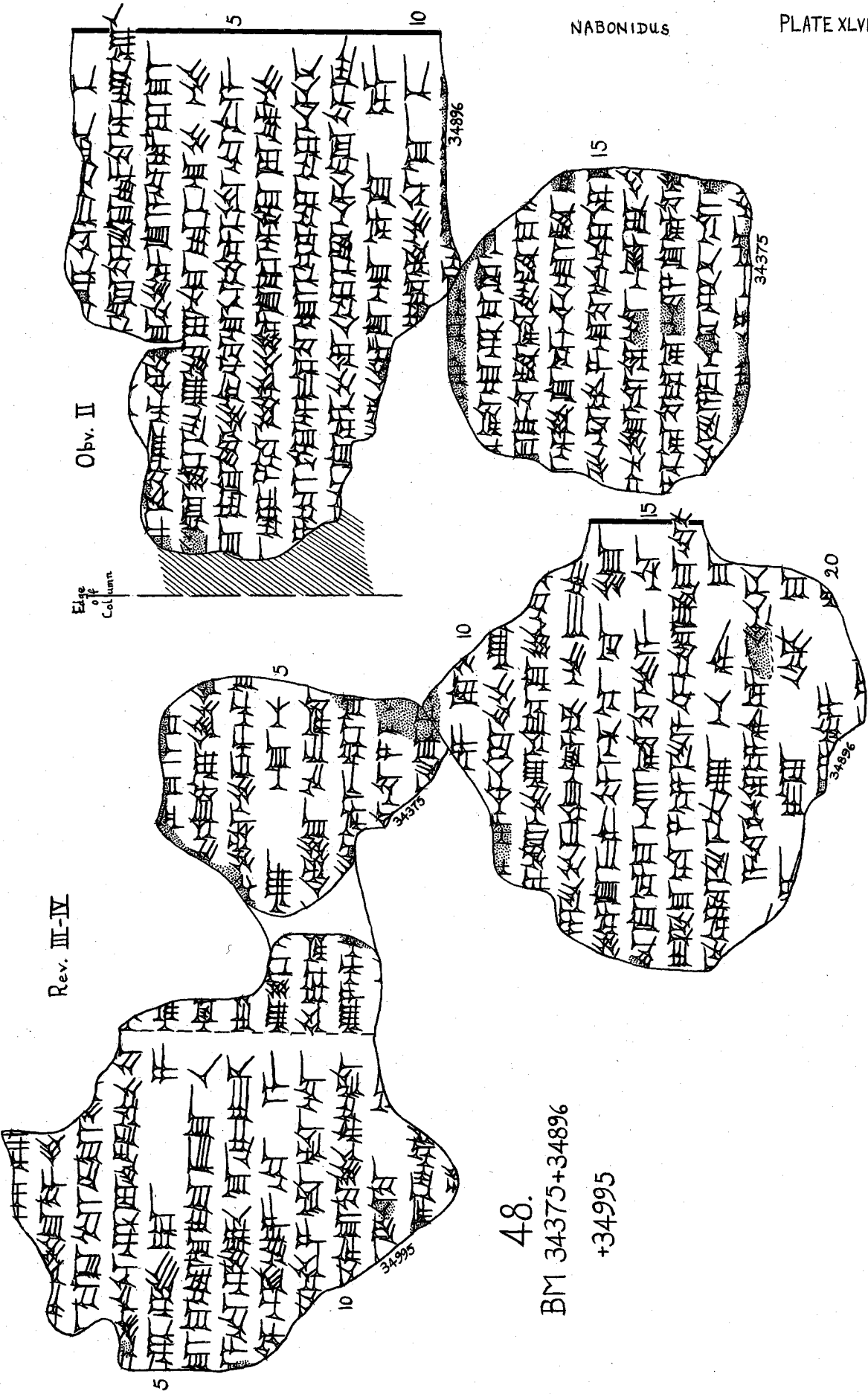
Rev.
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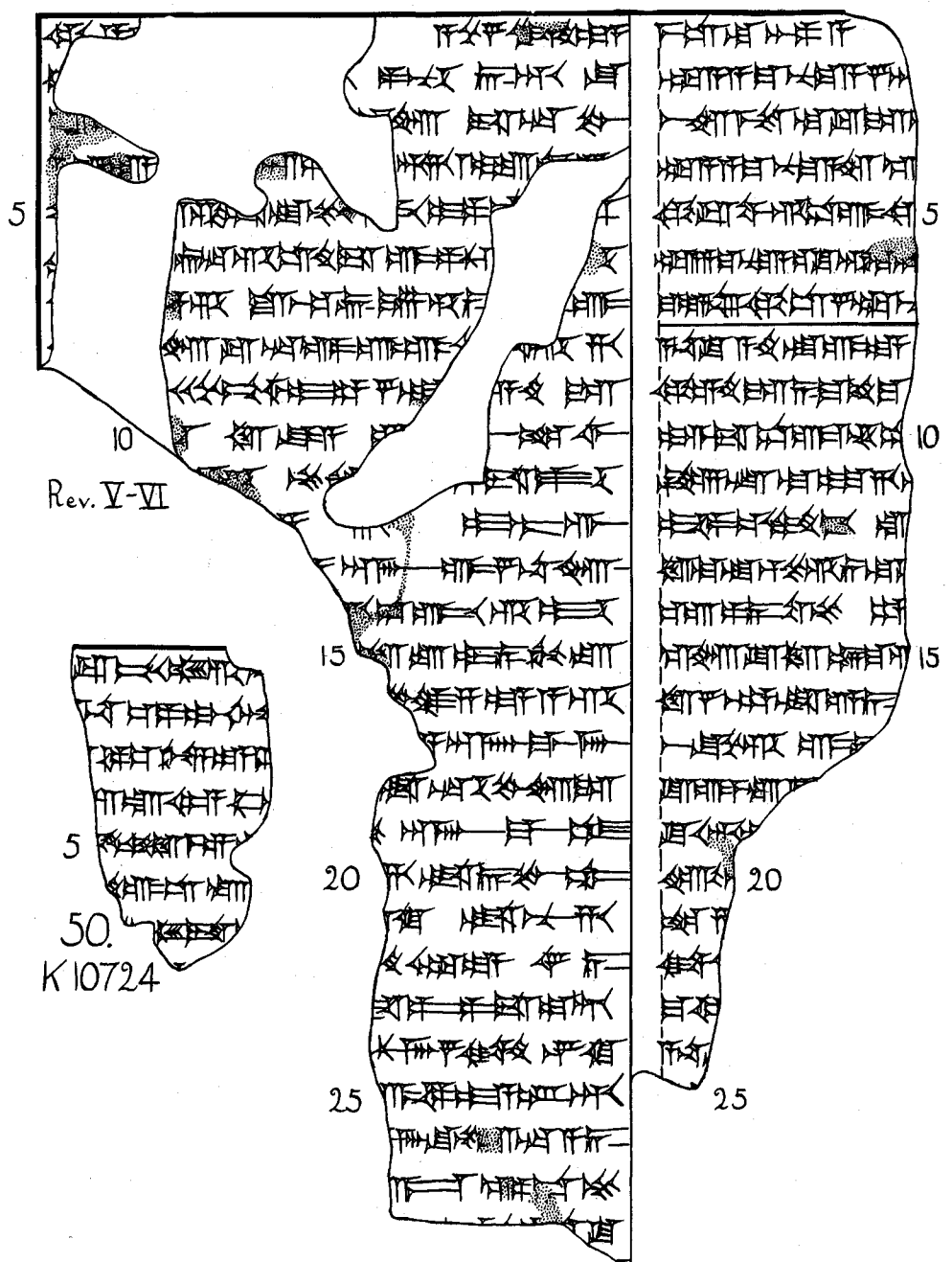
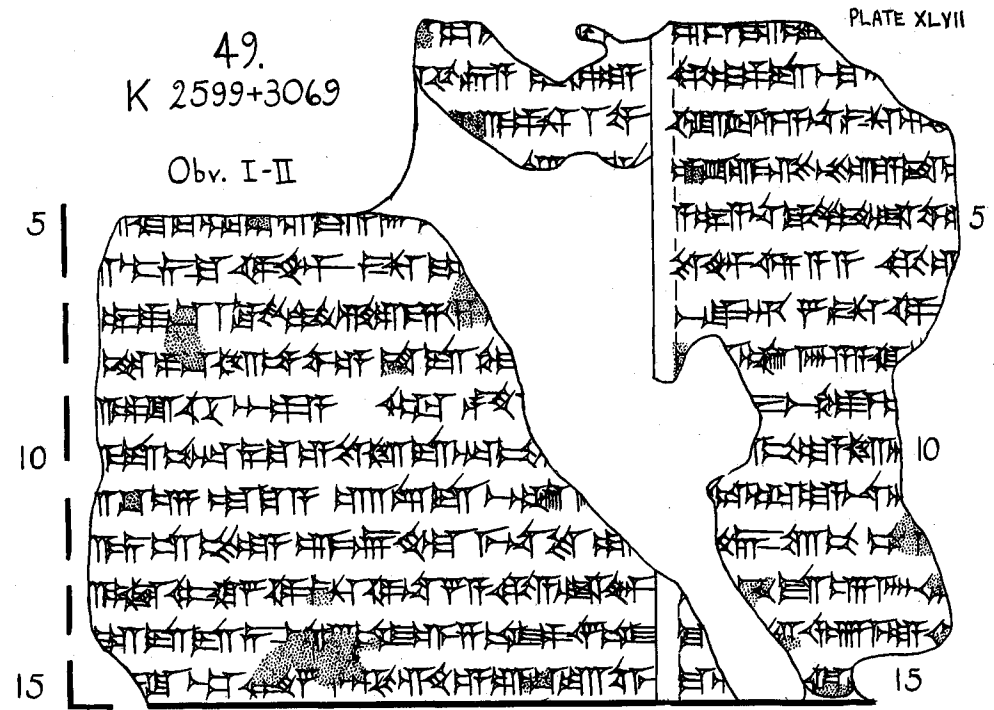






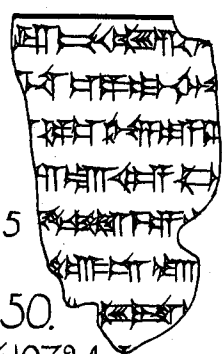
49.
K 2599+3069

Obv. I-II



Rev. V-VI

50.
K 10724



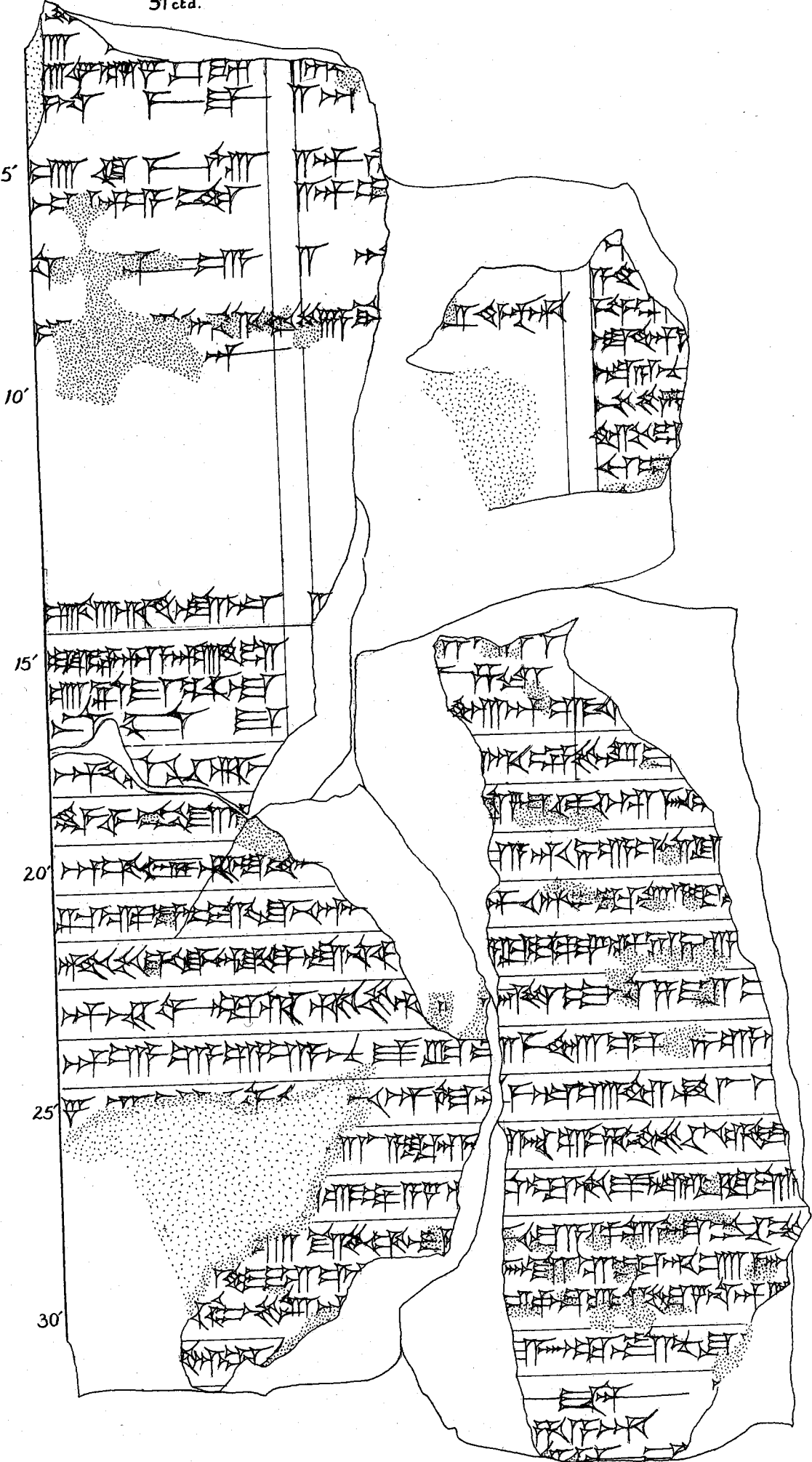
51. B.M. 134502

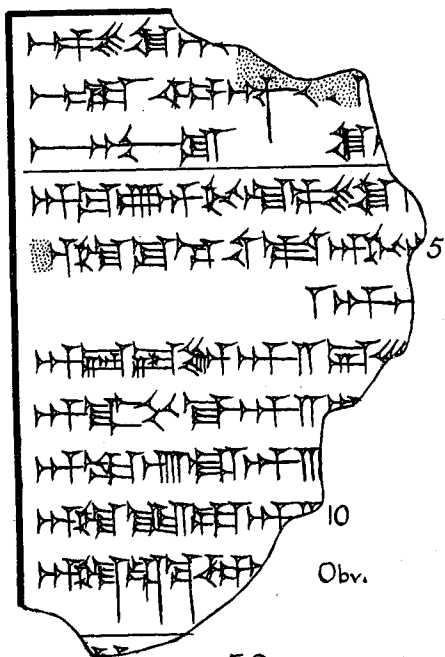
Obv.



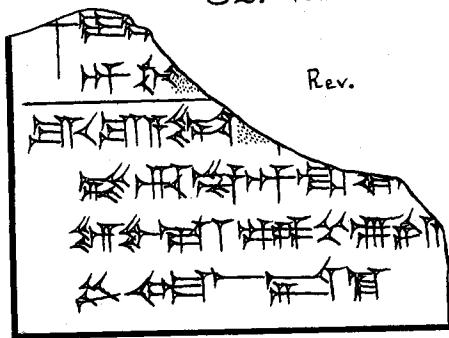
Rev.

51 ctd.

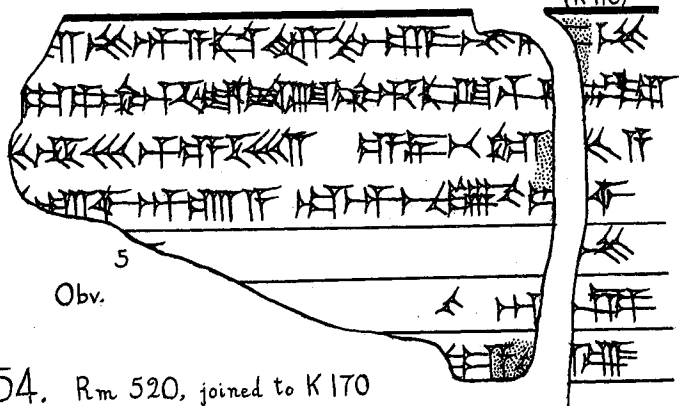
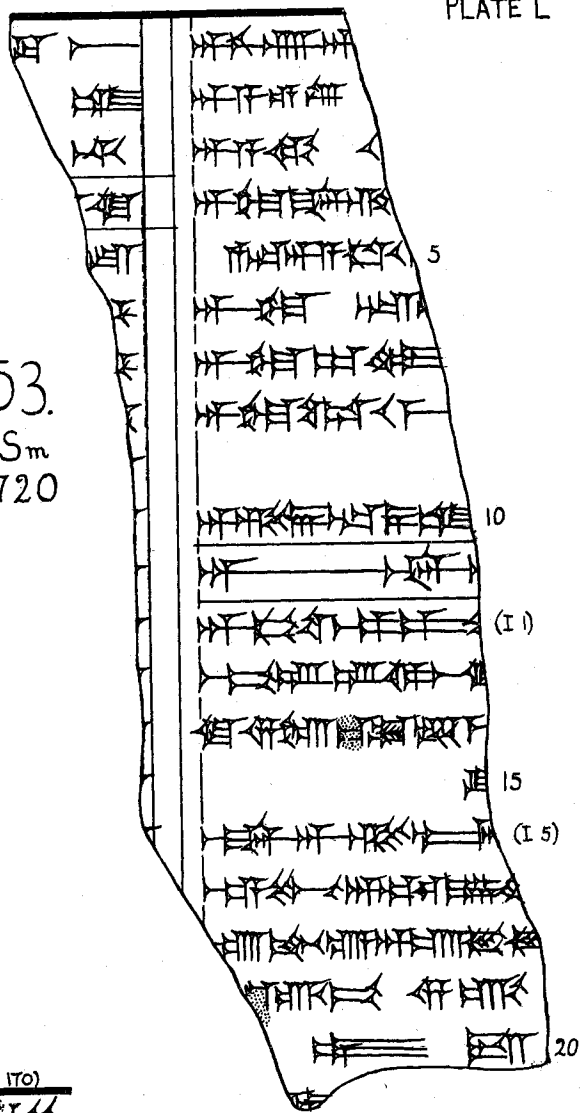




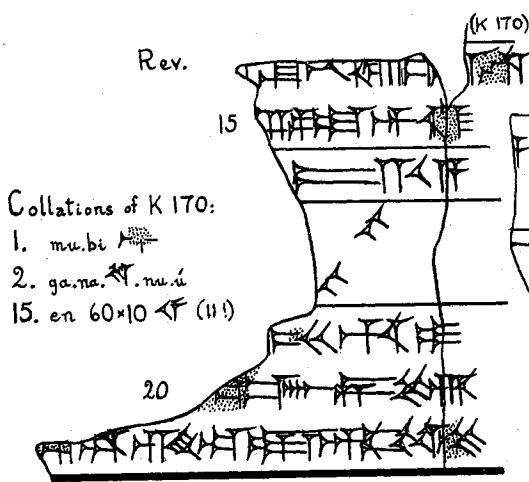
52. Rm 518



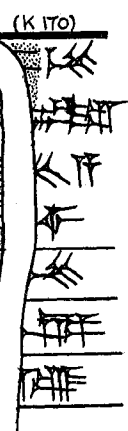
53.
Sm
1720



54. Rm 520, joined to K 170



Collations of K 170:
1. mu.bi
2. ga.ma. nu.ri
15. en 60x10 (II)



55.
BM 123379
Obv.

