

## Cuneiform Tablet at the University of Victoria, Brown Collection

Dates to the period of the Third Dynasty of Ur (“Ur III Period”), 2100-2000 BC.

This clay tablet is an administrative account of various copper tools and their weights, items which were issued under the seal of the governor of the city Umma. The tablet is dated to the first year of the reign of king Amar-Suen of Ur. There are a number of related tablets dealing with copper tools known

It is written in Sumerian language, 12 lines of cuneiform script, with impression of a cylinder seal. Nearly complete, with chip off the lower edge. Glossy black patina, unbaked.

Translation:

71 copper hoes weighing  $39 \frac{5}{6}$  minas, 4 shekels;

21 copper tools (weighing) 15 shekels (each)

11 copper tools (weighing) 12 shekels (each)

their (the two previous lines total) weight is 7 minas 27 shekels.

2 copper lances weighing  $1 \frac{2}{3}$  minas, x shekels.

Finished work for (the town) Apishal,  
(received) from Ur-Zabalam.

Ur-ee has weighed out.  
Seal of the governor.

year (named the year:) “Amar-Suen (became) king.”

Seal impression:

Shulgi, mighty king, king of Ur, king of the Four Quarters (=the world),  
Ur-[Lisi], governor of Umma, is your servant.

(The calculation of the total of the 21+11 copper tools is correct;  $21 \times 15 = 315$  shekels +  $11 \times 12 = 132$  shekels = 447 shekels. There are 60 shekels in a mina, so the total is 7 minas, 27 shekels.)

*Translation by Dr. Renee Kovacs*