

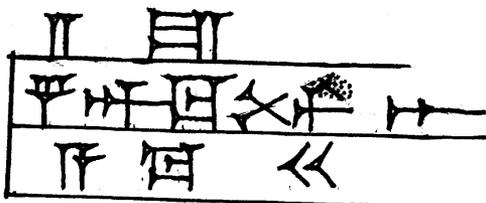
**Another inscribed weight** — About a decade ago an anonymous North-American collector asked a friend visiting England to seek my help in reading a cuneiform inscription on an object which was brought along. It was a piece of brown stone of roughly spherical shape with one side flattened to form a base, 20 × 22 × 15.5 mm. A hole was pierced from top to bottom and a three line inscription ran over the top of the object :

2 <i>šiqlū</i> (gín)	2 shekels,
šá <sup>d</sup> KU-PAP-DÙ ḪAL	of Marduk-aha-ibni, seer,
<i>mār</i> (A) KU-20	son of Tukulti-Šamaš.

It is thus a weight, most probably to be dated c. 1000-800 B.C., and from Babylonia. It is extremely concisely written, indeed one might almost speak of cryptography. The least well known item is KU for Marduk. A list of Marduk names, K 4209 ii 9 (CT 25 34) include <sup>d</sup>KU-a, and the -a calls to mind the barge of Marduk <sup>giš</sup>má-KU-a/má-u<sub>5</sub>-KU-(a), and his cella in Esagil called é-KU-a. For these and for the reading of KU as tuš see the present writer in *RA* 91 (1977) 74. Another possible case of KU for Marduk occurs in the Assur Stelenreihen 98 :3 : KAR-<sup>d</sup>KU, read Šüzub-Marduk by A. Ungnad in *RLA* II 438, but less confidently so by C. Saporetti, in his *Onomastica Medio-Assira* I (Roma, 1970) 474, who considered : *Šüzub*-<sup>d</sup>ku-<be> equally possible.

That a seer was responsible for standards of weights is confirmed by two other weight inscriptions of Babylonian origin and early Neo-Babylonian date, see the present writer, “An Inscribed Weight,” in K. Van Lerberghe and A. Schoors, ed., *Immigration and Emigration within the Ancient Near East. Festschrift E. Lipinski* (Leuven, 1995) pp. 135-138.

This ‘new’ stone weighs 16.043 grams, wich is correct for the Babylonian shekel of about 8.333 grams.



W.G. Lambert (15-09-00)  
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