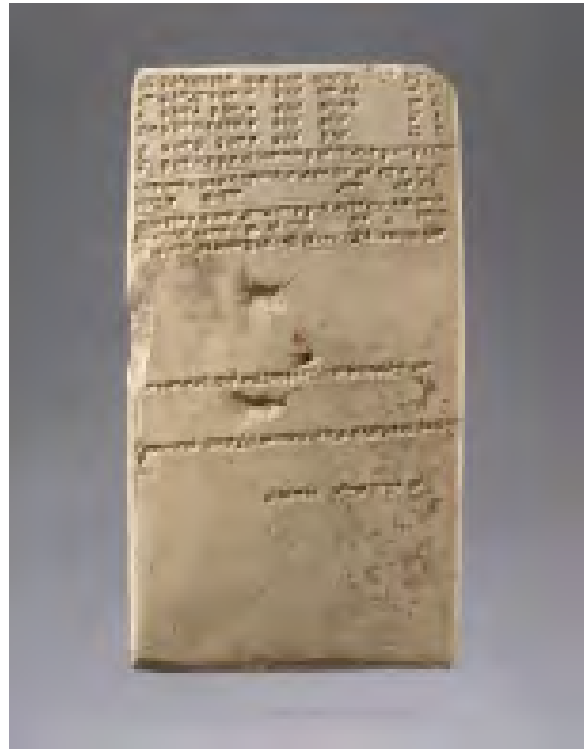
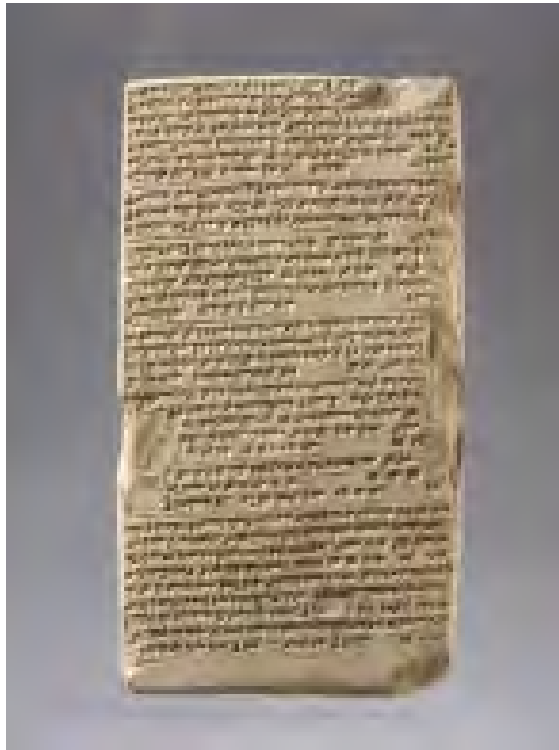


The "Esagila" tablet or Tablette dite " de l'Esagil "

<https://www.louvre.fr/en/oeuvre-notices/esagila-tablet>

Skyscrapers Inquiry Unit



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"The "Esagila" tablet is a neo-Babylonian mathematical text that has come down to us in the form of a later copy made at Uruk (Mesopotamia) in 229 BC. ...

The text, copied from an earlier document, describes the temple of the god Marduk in Babylon as reconstructed by the kings of the Babylonian dynasty of Nabopolassar (625-605 BC) and Nebuchadrezzar II (605-562 BC). This temple was called Esagila, "the temple that raises its head". The text first gives a double description of the base of the multi-tiered tower built inside the city walls or ziggurat, then describes the main temple, and, finally, gives the measurements of the multi-tiered tower, called Etemenanki, "House of the Foundation of Heaven and Earth" - the "Tower of Babel" in the Bible (Genesis 11, 1-9). This tower seems to have had seven stories, built in the form of terraces, and was surmounted by a temple. German excavations have confirmed the dimensions of the square base: over 91 m along each side. They have also shown that three large stairways, resting on the south facade, provided access to the first story, higher than the others, and to the second story. Smaller staircases led to the top, probably situated at a height of 90 meters."

The "Esagila" tablet
Musée du Louvre
Department of Near Eastern Antiquities: Mesopotamia

Author(s): Iselin Claire

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