

'Dubious Value' Tablets Deciphered

By Jim Forrest
If at first you don't succeed... file under "Miscellaneous Items of Dubious Value."

And so it was back in 1924 that the officials of the Nebraska State Museum stored a dozen undeciphered clay tablets which were more than 4,000 years old in a shoe box in the basement of Morrill Hall for want of an ex-

pert on ancient cuneiform writing.

Remained Mytery
The messages, written on the tablets from the Babylonian empire some 2,400 years before the birth of Christ, remained a mystery until the arrival in September of Rev. Alan J. Pickering, pastor of the United Campus Christian Fellowship, who studied cuneiform script and documents as a graduate student at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, O.

The tablets, which were acquired by the Museum in 1914 and 1924 from Dr. Edger James Bank, professor of Turkish and Semitic languages at the University of Chicago and American Consul in Constantinople from 1897 to 1898, are being translated by Dr. Pickering.

The biggest of the tablets measures only five by six inches and is believed to be a master record, similar to a ledger, kept by a temple scribe of items sold by the temple, said Dr. Pickering.

It is a loaf-shaped piece of sun-baked clay with the writing divided into columns and lines much as an ordinary newspaper.

Temple Archives
This particular record, he said, came from the temple archives at Drehem—a suburb of ten thousand people of Nippur located southeast of Babylon on the Tigris-Euphrates River Valley.

The second tablet, Dr. Pickering said, was found at Jokha, the central Babylonian city known in ancient times as Umma, and is a formula tablet prescribing an incense, drug or medicine.

The third is a square case tablet—one within another with the outer being the case, explained Dr. Pickering. It acted much as a safety deposit box to protect the docu-



NOT GREEK—CUNEIFORM

Read any good books lately... the Rev. Alan J. Pickering (left) is reading one of the 12 cuneiform tablets dating back to 2400 B.C. which records the delivery of seven sheep and five goats to the temple

(right). To translate them Rev. Pickering must first sketch out each line of symbols, then check them against a special dictionary.

ment inside, usually a contract, from damage.

The pastor said that the fourth is a votive tablet beginning with a dedication to Nana, the goddess of heaven, and then recording a vow to the temple at Warka, which was the Biblical city of Erech noted in Genesis, the first book in the Old Testament. The tablet ends with the seal of the scribe and names of two witnesses, he said.

The remaining tablets are

receipts, said Dr. Pickering, listing produce delivered to the temple. One shows delivery of fish and another reveals the delivery of seven sheep and five goats for sacrifice.

Since their acquisition, the tablets were classified under the category of "Miscellaneous Items of Dubious Value" along with grass skirts from Java, South Sea pottery and war swords, personal property of President Abraham Lincoln, small oil lamps from Greece and Rome and assorted brass junk, said Dr. Pickering.

In regard to their value now that they have been de-

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Holiday Gobbler Must Have Played Cupid

The number of pinnings and engagements announced following the Thanksgiving vacation seems to prove the adage that "absence makes the heart grow fonder"—for these eight couples at least.

Pinnings
Cathy Cronn, Willard alum at Wesleyan from North Platte to Don Epp, Farm House senior in Agriculture from Lincoln.

Pat Tyler, from Creighton to Mylon Filkins, Farm House junior in Agriculture from Creighton.

Artie Gilson from Lincoln to Jim Eno, Delta Sigma Pi junior in Business Administration from Lincoln.

Lois Petty from Grand Island to Ron Whitefoot, Delta Sigma Pi sophomore in Business Administration from Grand Island.

Judy Ann Gray, Pi Beta Phi senior at the University

of Kansas, in radio and television to Al Roots, Sigma Phi Epsilon senior in Business Administration from Kansas City.

Engagements
Karen Hanson, Phi Mu senior in Political Science at Wesleyan from Lincoln to Jim Olson, Sigma Nu grad student in Agriculture from Lincoln.

Annie Olson, Alpha Phi senior in Music from Flagstaff, Ariz., to Jack Holmes, Phi Delta Theta alum from Fort Leavenworth, Kans.

Joan Graf, Zeta Tau Alpha senior in Arts and Sciences from Huntley to Gailard Schroder from Huntley.

Home Ec Award
Delores Ostidiek, freshman in home economics, has been awarded a \$400 scholarship at the National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago.

Nebraskan Want Ads

No. Words	1 da.	2 da.	3 da.	4 da.
1-10	.40	.65	.85	1.00
11-15	.50	.80	1.05	1.25
16-20	.60	.95	1.25	1.50
21-25	.70	1.10	1.45	1.75
26-30	.80	1.25	1.65	2.00
31-35	.90	1.40	1.85	2.25
36-40	1.00	1.55	2.05	2.50

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FOR SALE
January... \$130 & take over payments. Phone IN 6-5157 after 6.
Red Triumph TR-3. See in 1300 block "E" Street. GR 7-8343.

FOR RENT
56th and S. Choice ground floor. Three rooms and bath. New stove, refrigerator. Super clean. See to appreciate. Adults. \$37.50. Phone IV 8-7076.

One bedroom cottage; gas heat; 220. Nice couple; evenings. Call IN 6-5314.
Attractive study-sleeping room for rent walking distance from University. \$25 a month. 1116 G.

EMPLOYMENT
PART TIME JOB! Navy Veterans. Full day's pay for each evening at Naval Reserve. PH. GA 3-3030 evenings.

PERSONAL:
If you don't believe in glorification of militarism, then don't go to the Military Hall in a jeep. Go with your roommate in his civilian vehicle. Everybody's doing it.



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SHULTON

Dr. Miller
Addresses
Nat'l Council

Dr. James E. Miller, Jr., chairman of the English department, cautioned the nation's English teachers against using too many "scholarly aids" in an address to the college section of the National Council of Teachers of English.

Discussing "Putting Scholarship to Work in the Classroom," Dr. Miller explained scholarship is best which is felt and not seen, sensed and not heard.

Dr. Miller added that the teacher who has digested his scholarship brings into some meaningful relationship to the poem or novel he is teaching.

"On an elementary level in literature classes, scholarship in the classroom may be dangerous, while on a more advanced level it should be useful, and on a higher level it is surely essential," Dr. Miller said.

In the advanced course, consisting of graduate students and English majors, the situation is considerably changed.

"But even on these levels, it should be constantly remembered that an original relation is the most lasting between student and literature," explained Dr. Miller.

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LUCKY STRIKE PRESENTS:
DEAR DR. FROOD:

DR. FROOD'S THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: "Life ain't all beer and skittles," as the saying goes—but if enough students got together, maybe skittles could make a big comeback.

Dear Dr. Frood: I don't speak from personal experience, but I understand all the men in this college are wolves. What do you think a respectable girl like me—with a good old-fashioned upbringing—should do about this situation?

Strait Laced

DEAR STRAIT: Drop your handkerchief.

Dear Dr. Frood: I just don't understand the men in this college. Not one of them has ever asked me for a date. I am intelligent and easy to get along with. Enclosed is my snapshot. What do you think is wrong?

Left Out

DEAR LEFT: After considering this problem from every angle, I can only conclude that you have enormous feet.

Dear Dr. Frood: According to my figures over ninety-five per cent of the students here are below average. What is wrong?

Math Major

DEAR MATH: You are obviously going to a below-average college.

Dear Dr. Frood: When I entered college as a freshman this fall, my father gave me a very large sum of money to cover room, board, tuition, books and all other expenses for four full years of college. Because of an unfortunate series of poker games, however, the money is now completely gone. How would you suggest I handle this situation?

Ten High

DEAR TEN: I feel confident that your father will give you another chance if you go up to him like a man, tell him you are sorry, admit your mistake and promise him that your luck will change.

Dear Dr. Frood: Do you think it is safe for a girl to walk home alone from a college dance?

Nervous

DEAR NERVOUS: Safer.

DON'T BREAK TRADITION, WARNS FROOD! One of the proudest traditions on the American campus, reports Dr. Frood, is smoking Luckies. Today college students smoke more Luckies than any other regular. According to Dr. Frood, "Any student who breaks this tradition not only robs himself of the full pleasure of smoking—but also could, conceivably, bring 'the Curse of Frood' down upon the entire student body."

LUCKY STRIKE
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