



Cuneiform Tablet

Umma, Sumeria, circa 2100 B.C.



Cuneiform Tablet

Old Babylon, circa 1800 B.C.



Tablet of pre-cuneiform script

South Mesopotamia

Uruk III, end of the IVth millenium BC.

Clay (?sun-baked clay)

H. 7.2 cm

AO 29560

The increasing complexity of transactions, provoked by the volume of exchanges, was at the origin of the invention of means of recording. At the end of the IVth millenium BC. Appeared the first document written on clay tablets. These are accounting documents on which the figures are shown by notches, and the goods by pictograms. This tablet also mentions the names of Uruk and Dilmun, the present island of Bahrain

