

kú eat	šah pig	mušen bird	gi reed	sag head	kirig orchard

gin/gub walk/stand	anše donkey	gu <sub>4</sub> ox	dug pot	šu hand	gisimmar date-palm

še barley	ud day	áb cow	pú well	a water	ku <sub>6</sub> fish

4 Table of cuneiform signs showing for each sign the pictographic form (c. 3000 BC), an early cuneiform representation (c. 2400 BC), and the Late Assyrian form (c. 650 BC), now turned through 90 degrees, with the Sumerian phonetic equivalent and meaning.

The inscriptions on these signs for the instruction of traders say the sign for an ox looks like a pig, and the sign for a date palm looks like a reed (see front cover for pictures quickly take on a cuneiform system, which is enough to identify notes or inventories). An inscription from the University of Berlin from a tablet showing an understanding of the meaning of the signs, although we are still unable to interpret them.

Eighty-five per cent of the tablets are concerned with the income of the temple, stock and textiles. Remarkable names known from the later texts including Kish and Eshnunna and Dilmun (modern Bahrain) names of various commodities compiled to establish and to record. Significantly, exactly the same signs showing the strength of the system, showing the strength of the system, showing the strength of the system. Popular books on cuneiform early signs is easy; in fact they are easily identifiable, but there are many difficulties by working back from the later texts.

As soon as we are able to read the early texts are in order – that came later – but together in a box (see front cover for matter of interpretation).

#### Syllabic writing

The texts from Uruk and Jemdet Nasr are more linear or cuneiform script. One sign or sign-group for each syllable. Even the nature of a transaction is recorded out of the temple? We do not know how to represent an ox is still dead? How do you record the name of the person who brought or to do more than draw pictures. To record a spoken language. The first scribes used syllables instead of pictures.

This syllabic stage of the script is the first stage of the script. The sign for 'ur' corresponding to the arch