

## Šu mu-tak<sub>x</sub> and tak<sub>x</sub> at Ebla

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[The Sumerian verb *šu-tak<sub>x</sub>* carries the meaning, "to send", and in the Ebla tablets appears in the frozen forms *šu mu-tak<sub>x</sub>* and *tak<sub>x</sub>*, "to deliver, delivery". Examining their use at Tell Mardikh, it comes out that mainly they exercise the function to indicate the sending of goods to Ebla directly or through one of its officials. That becomes clearer when they occur in association with other economic terms like *mu-túm*, which denotes the surrendering of the dues to the Central Administration, or like *è*, which stresses the action in the opposite direction, i.e. the expenditures of the Palace.]

The term *šu mu-tak<sub>x</sub>* in the Ebla economic texts has been extensively studied by F. Pomponio<sup>1</sup> who has examined its meaning and its occurrences in the various contexts.

In a recent article of mine<sup>2</sup> on the letter of Enna-Dagan<sup>3</sup>, I have briefly discussed *šu mu-tak<sub>x</sub>*, and its apparently short form, *tak<sub>x</sub>*, in their relationship with the other administrative terms used in the tablets of Ebla, and I have shown how *šu mu-tak<sub>x</sub>*, to deliver, delivery, goes together with *mu-túm*, contribution, in pointing to incoming goods to the Ebla Treasury.

1. F.Pomponio, *UF* 17 (1985) 237-252.

Abbreviations:

ARET = Archivi Reali di Ebla, Roma;

MEE = Materiali Epigrafici di Ebla, Napoli;

OA = Oriens Antiquus;

SEb = Studi Eblaiti;

SLE = Studies on the Language of Ebla [Quaderni di Semitistica 13(1984)];

VO = Vicino Oriente

2. Enna-Dagan's Letter to the en of Ebla, in *Liber Annuus* 38 (1988) 227-246.

3. TM 75.G.2367.

Moreover, I have stressed how the latter is basically opposed to *è*, to go out/expenditures, as it is evident from TM 75.G.1353<sup>4</sup>, whose colophon identifies the tablet as: *dub-gar / è / mu-túm / en*, expenditure report of the contributions to the *en*.

In order to make my statement and the purpose of this note clearer, it seems good to me to again propose two texts, where the most used economic terms, *mu-túm*, contribution, *è*, to go out/expenditures, *al<sub>6</sub>-gál*, to be present, *tak<sub>x</sub>*, delivery, *mu-ti*, to be (present)<sup>5</sup>, are found clustered together.

TM 75.G.2314 (ARET I 40)<sup>6</sup>: 2 li-im 5 mi-at 10 túg-túg / 2 mi-at 20 fbx4-túg-ša<sub>6</sub> / 1 li-im 1 mi-at // 74 fbx4-túg-DAR / diri / mu-túm / al<sub>6</sub> / è // al<sub>6</sub>-gál / é-sfg / AB / 1 mi-at 10 'à-da-um-túg-2 / diri / è // al<sub>6</sub> / mu-túm-sù / in / tak<sub>x</sub> túg-túg / mu-ti / DIŠ mu / tu-da / fl-'à-ak-da-mu: 2,510 clothes, 220 I.-garments, 1,174 I.-garments, surplus of contributions over<sup>7</sup> expenditures (that) are present in the "Wool Warehouse"; and/including 110 A.-garments, surplus of expenditures over its contributions among the deliveries of clothes (that are) present. Year of the birth of Ira'k-Damu<sup>8</sup>.

TM 75.G.2059<sup>9</sup> ob.1:1-rv.1:2, presents a report looking at the situation in the "Wool Warehouse" from a different angle: 4[+ x] mi-at 87 túg-túg / 6 'à-da-um-túg-2 / [ ] / 5 fbx3-túg-ša<sub>6</sub>-DAR / è / diri / al<sub>6</sub> / mu-túm / túg-túg / AB / 4 mi-at 95 fbx3-túg-ša<sub>6</sub>-DAR / tak<sub>x</sub> / al<sub>6</sub>-gál / é-sfg: 487? clothes, 6

4. The tablet has been studied by L. Milano [SEb 3 (1980) 12-21], and by A. Alberti [OA 20 (1981) 37-49].

As pointed out by the latter, TM 75.G.1353, on the obverse, reports the itemized amount of disbursements (*è*) of the contributions (*mu-túm*) received by the *en* and ends with the same formula repeated in the colophon: *è / mu-túm / en* [ob.10:3-5. Notice that the remainder of the col.10 has been left blank by the scribe].

The reverse of the tablet instead begins listing the mentioned contributions (*mu-túm*) of silver and gold given to the *en* [rev.1,1-7,2] and then continues with the expenditures (*è*) regarding the mentioned gold [rv.7:3-8:10].

So I agree with A. Alberti suggesting that the clause, *è mu-túm en*, should be rendered: "uscite dal conto delle entrate del sovrano".

5. J. Krecher in *SLE*, 79-81; see also, *Il Bilinguismo*, ed. by L. Cagni, Napoli, 1984, p.142.

For *tak<sub>x</sub> mu-ti*, see also M.G. Biga, *SEb* 4 (1981) 28 and G. Pettinato, *MEE* 2, p.44.

6. A. Archi, *ARET* I, p.202, has correctly pointed out that "le due sezioni del documento presentano i termini amministrativi ... in sequenza invertita:

<i>diri</i>	<i>diri</i>
<i>mu-DU</i>	<i>è</i>
<i>al<sub>6</sub></i>	<i>al<sub>6</sub></i>
<i>è</i>	<i>mu-DU-sù</i>
<i>al<sub>6</sub>-gál</i>	<i>in</i>
<i>é-siki</i>	" <i>taka<sub>4</sub></i> " túg-túg
	<i>mu-ti</i> ."

7. For the meaning of the preposition *al<sub>6</sub>* see G. Pettinato, *MEE* 2, p.13. 173. 274: "sopra --> credito;" and *MEE* 2, p.23: "per conto di." A. Archi, *SEb* 7(1984)66: "su, a carico di" (cf. P. Fronzaroli, *SEb* 3 [1980] 47; M.G. Biga, *SEb* 4 [1981] 27).

8. This PN is written *fl-'à-ak-da-mu* in TM 75.G.1255 ob.8:3; 1273 ob.7:4; 1360 ob.2:21, etc.

Regarding the interpretation of the PN, see I.J. Gelb in *La Lingua di Ebla*, ed. by L. Cagni, Napoli, 198, pp.19.33; H.P. Müller, *ibid.*, p.226; M.F. Fales in *Ebla 1975-1985*, ed. by L. Cagni, Napoli, 1987, p.426 and n. 61; P. Fronzaroli, in *Mesopotamien und seine Nachbarn*, ed. by H.J. Nissen, J. Renger, I, Berlin, 1982, p.134, and M. Krebernik, *Die Personennamen der Ebla-Texte*, Berlin, 1988, p.48.

9. See G. Pettinato, *Or* 53 (1984) 328 [29].

A.-garments, [ ], 5 I.-garments, *expenditures*, surplus over *contributions* of clothes, ...<sup>10</sup> 495 I.-garments *delivered*, (that) are *present* in the "Wool Warehouse".

From the two examples it comes out: [a] *tak<sub>x</sub>* is in direct relation with verbs, i.e. *al<sub>6</sub>-gál* and *mu-ti*, denoting the idea of physical presence (of goods in some storehouse); [b] *tak<sub>x</sub>* specifies the kind of deliveries the tablets are dealing with, namely the *deliveries* of clothes. Notice that in the first tablet, the colophon reports the totals of clothes covering one year<sup>11</sup> period.

To further establish the nature of our terms, it is noteworthy to say that the terms are not found indicating disbursements even when they are in connection with *è*, *expenditures*<sup>12</sup>; on the contrary, several texts show their association with *mu-túm*.

TM 75.G.1587<sup>13</sup> ob.6:1-16: 7 ma-na 10 gín-DILMUN kù:babbar / mu-túm / a-bu<sub>x</sub>-ma / AB / šušana gín-DILMUN kù:babbar / lú / a-ba-ru<sub>12</sub>-du<sup>ki</sup> / wa / ku<sub>5</sub> kù:babbar / lú / sa-du-úr<sup>ki</sup> / lú / a-bu<sub>x</sub>-ma / tak<sub>x</sub> / in / mu-túm-sù: 7 pounds and 10 shekels of silver, *contribution* of Abuma, and/including: 20 shekels of silver of Abarudu and 30 shekels of silver of Sadur, which *to* Abuma have been *delivered*<sup>14</sup>, among/within his contribution.

And later, in the same tablet<sup>15</sup>: 7 ma-na kù:babbar / mu-túm / iš<sub>11</sub>-gi-ba-ir / AB / 1 ma-na kù:babbar / lú / ar-ra / lú iš<sub>11</sub>-gi-ba-ir / tak<sub>x</sub> / in / mu-túm-sù: 7 pounds of silver, *contribution* of PN, and/including 1 pound of silver which *to* PN<sub>1</sub> of PN<sub>2</sub> has been *delivered*<sup>16</sup>, among/within his (Ishgiba'ir's) *contribution*.

10. G. Pettinato, *Or* 53 (1984) 328, renders AB, to be read *èsh*, "ivi compreso."

Unfortunately the totals are broken and do not allow to establish the correct meaning of AB.

11. The colophon also provides the year-name, i.e. the one of "the birth of Ir'ak-Damu."

12. See TM 75.G.1293 ob.1:1-3:1: (silver) / mu-túm / ig-na-da-mu / ul<sup>ki</sup> / 1 gú-li-lum [ ]-GI / (gold) / mu-túm / ti-ir / è / níg-ba / en-na<sup>4</sup>-da-gan / lugal / 2 šu mu-tak<sub>x</sub>: silver, *contribution* of Iqna-Damu of Ul, 1 golden ring, gold, contribution of Tir gone out (as a) gift to Enna-Dagan, the *lugal*, 2 *deliveries* (i.e. those of Iqna-Damu and of Tir).

Notice that Iqna-Damu of Ul and Tir are two well known "great ones" (*lugal*) of Ebla.

Cf. also ob.5:4-6:7 and the comment in my article on the Enna-Dagan's Letter.

13. See G. Pettinato, *Or* 53 (1984) 328 [27].

14. Or: which Abuma has *delivered*.

Our term could point out the silver *delivered* by the two cities, or one of the multiple *deliveries* performed by Abuma to the central Administration of Ebla. Abuma held the position of *lugal* at Ebla.

In an example that I will consider later the text is clearly in favor of the first translation; TM 75.G.1713 (ARET I 18) ob.1:1-2:5: clothes which *to* Ebrum have been delivered by (*áš-du*) Wana in GN. In fact, the clothes are later said to be held in the "sag<sub>x</sub><sup>ki</sup>".

15. TM 75.G.1587 ob.6:18-7:9. See G. Pettinato, *Or* 53 (1984) 328 [28].

16. Or: which PN<sub>1</sub> of PN<sub>2</sub> has delivered.

This translation will indicate that Arra *delivered* his master's *mu-túm* to Ebla, while in the first rendering Iøgiba'ir does not receive the amount of silver/money directly but through one of his helpers, i.e. Arra.

The final remark, in *mu-túm-sù*, reminds the reader whose *mu-túm* the scribe is talking about.

And further on, in the mentioned tablet<sup>17</sup>: 1 ma-na ku<sub>5</sub> kù:babbar / mu-túm / GIGIR-ra-ar / lú / GIGIR-ra-ar / tak<sub>x</sub> / in / mu-túm-sù: 1 pound and 30 shekels of silver, *contribution* of PN<sup>18</sup>, which to PN has been *delivered*<sup>19</sup>, among his *contribution*.

Then if, on one side, it is clear that the terms, marking the two opposite transactions of bringing goods in and of disbursing them out, are *mu-túm* and *è*, respectively; on the other, in the quoted examples, it seems also clear that *tak<sub>x</sub> / šu mu-tak<sub>x</sub>* indicate an incoming delivery.

Moreover, even though, hypothetically, it is not possible to rule out a generic meaning of sending goods (*delivery*) in both directions for *tak<sub>x</sub> / šu mu-tak<sub>x</sub>*, the specific use of these terms overwhelmingly refers to a *delivery to the Palace only*<sup>20</sup>. As, for instance, in the case of TM 75.G.1681 (ARET IV 19) ob.3:15-4:8: 1 'à-da-um-túg-2 // 1 aktum-túg 1 fbx3-túg-ša<sub>6</sub>-DAR / si-in / ÉxPAP / dumu-nita / ar-ru<sub>12</sub>-šum / na-HI<sup>ki</sup> / iš<sub>11</sub>-gi-ba-ir / šu mu-tak<sub>x</sub>: (clothes) for the É.<sup>21</sup>, the son of Arrušum of GN, has delivered to I..

Furthermore, *tak<sub>x</sub> / šu mu-tak<sub>x</sub>* are several times in close association with *mu-túm*, but they are stressing two different operations: the latter denotes the surrendering of the dues, or of the asset share, which has to be handed down to the administration; the first, instead, specifies the action of sending goods to Ebla directly or through one of its officials<sup>22</sup>.

There are few examples, to my knowledge, where *tak<sub>x</sub> / šu mu-tak<sub>x</sub>* seem to point to a delivery going out of the Palace/Treasury.

One of them is TM 76.G.528<sup>23</sup> rv.7:12-8:2: 1 'à-da-um-túg-1 1 aktum-túg / 1 níg-lá-sag 1 ma-na za-gìn / en // lugal ma-rí<sup>ki</sup> / šu mu-tak<sub>x</sub>.

At first glance, it seems that this time the *lugal* of Mari is the one to whom the clothes and the lapislazuli are delivered. But what follows, in the same section, will help to determine the proper meaning and the direction of this transaction. In fact, the text goes on reading: 1 'à-da-um-túg-1 1 aktum-túg 1

17. TM 75.G.1587 ob.8:11-9:4.

See P. Mander in *Ebla 1975-1985*, ed. by L. Cagni, Napoli, 1987, p.400.

18. A. Archi, *VO* 6 (1986) 244, suggests a reading *háb-ra-ar*.

19. Or: which PN has delivered. See above.

20. I disagree with G. Pettinato that "*šu mu-dúb* é uno dei termini tecnici per indicare le 'uscite'", (MEE 2, p.32), and with L. Milano's opinion that *šu mu-tak<sub>x</sub>* could indicate a transaction either coming into or going out of the treasury. See L. Milano (*Studi di Paletnologia in onore di Salvatore M. Puglisi*, a cura di M. Liverani, A. Palmieri, R. Peroni, Roma, 1985, p.308. 310) who supports the idea that "il termine *šu mu-Dúb* ... può indicare tanto una "consegna" quanto uno "scambio" di beni".

21. The ÉxPAP indicates a part of the administration complex at Ebla.

22. While I take the opportunity to thank Miguel Civil for reading this paper of mine and for the precious suggestions provided to me, I must add that he has informed me that, in Sumerian, *šu-tak<sub>x</sub>* carries the specific connotation of sending goods to a distance from the location in which the transaction had been originated.

See the *addendum* at the end of the present article.

23. E. Sollberger, *ARET* VIII, pp.142-145.

níg-lá-sag / en / KU.KU / sagi / mu-túm / itu i-rí-sá<sup>24</sup>. Notice that the two sections present the same sentence structure, which could sound a little unusual; but, since, unquestionably, the *mu-túm* indicates an income to the Palace, I must render the latter: clothes to the *en*, PN, the cup-bearer<sup>25</sup>, has given (as) *contribution*. Month of Iriša.

Then, consequently, I will translate the previous text: clothes, 1 pound of lapislazuli to the *en*, the *lugal* of Mari has *delivered*.

I must stress that the two quoted entries, i.e. the one regarding the *lugal* of Mari and the one regarding KU.KU<sup>26</sup>, the cup-bearer of the same city, represent the second delivery of their contributions (*mu-túm*) to Ebla. In fact, the two deliveries are reported in the same part of the tablet, mentioned and computed under the same total<sup>27</sup>. TM 76.G.528 rv.3:6-10: 1 'à-da-um-túg-1 1 aktum-túg 1 níg-lá-gaba 1 níg-lá-sag 1 fbx3-túg ma-rí<sup>ki</sup> / 12 ma-na za-gìn / 11 ba / mu-túm / KU.KU: clothes, 12 pounds of lapislazuli, 11 turtles, *contribution* of PN; and rv.4:4-12: (clothes) / 3 gu kù-sig<sub>17</sub>(GI) za-gìn / mu-túm / lugal /ma-rí<sup>ki</sup> / en / itu i-si: clothes and 3 threads of gold and lapislazuli, *contribution* of the *lugal* of Mari to the *en*; month of Isi<sup>28</sup>.

TM 75.G.1557<sup>29</sup> displays an interesting new feature showing how the contributions were delivered. The tablet reports 16 *deliveries* for a total of 206.53 pounds of silver and 13 pounds of gold delivered by Mari or by its *lugal*, and covering a minimum time span of three years; its structure follows a very consistent pattern: silver, gold, in *šu mu-tak<sub>x</sub>*, PN, *ma-rí<sup>ki</sup> / lugal* (GN = place of delivery<sup>30</sup>, month-name: silver - gold, among the *deliveries* of Mari/*lugal* to PNs, (in GN).

TM 75.G 1713 (ARET I 18) is a more challenging text. Its peculiarity could be summed up in two features: [a] both forms, *tak<sub>x</sub>* and *šu mu-tak<sub>x</sub>*, occur in the same tablet, [b] *šu mu-tak<sub>x</sub>* followed by the preposition *si-in* could point to a delivery of goods sent out of the Ebla Palace.

24. TM 76.G.528 rv.8:3-8.

25. Regarding the position of the *sagi* in the Mari administration, see Bertrand Lafont, NABU 1987/94 and D. Charpin, *Le clergé d'Ur au siècle d'Hammurabi*, Paris-Genève, 1986, pp.237-240.

26. See TM 75.G.1933 ob.2:14-16.

For the PN, KU.KU, see D. Charpin, *Tablettes Présargoniques de Mari*, MARI 5 (1984) 68, # 2 iii 2; M. Krebernik, *Die Personennamen der Ebla-Texte*, Berlin, 1988, p.238.

27. TM 76.G.528 is partitioned in 6 main sections, each ending with its own total (*an-šè-gú*): [1] ob.1:1-2:7; [2] ob.2:8-4:3, labeled as 2 *níg-ba ma-lik-tum*; [3] ob.4:4-5:8; [4] ob.6:1-rv.1:3; [5] rv.1:4-3:5, both designated as *níg-ki-za en*; and [6] rv.3:6-8:17, which ends with the totals of clothes (rv.9:1-6), and of silver and gold (rv.10:1-7).

28. TM 76.G.528 continues with (rv.4:13-5:5): 1 DùL-túg ma-rí<sup>ki</sup> 1 'à-da-um-túg-1 1 aktum-túg 1 níg-lá-gaba 1 níg-lá-sag // 10 ra-'à-tum 30 ba / mu-túm / NI-zi / na-gàr<sup>ki</sup> / itu i-si: clothes, 10 ..., 30 turtles, *contribution* of NI-zi of/at Nagar.

The text goes on reading (rv.5:6-9): 5 ma-na ša-PI za-gìn / mu-túm / ma-rí<sup>ki</sup> / itu ig-za: 5.40 pounds of lapislazuli, *contribution* of Mari; month of Ig-za (the month next to Isi.)

See also TM 75.G.3191 (ARET III 164) rv.1':1-4: 1 x x x / mu-túm / ma-rí<sup>ki</sup> / in //.

29. ARET VII, 4.

30. It is worth noting that the two GNs mentioned in the tablet, za-àr-zu-ar<sup>ki</sup> and i-ra-KU<sup>ki</sup>, are two of the locations where the Mari's *níg-ba* was normally delivered. See my article "Enna-Dagan's Letter to the *en* of Ebla" in *Liber Annuus* 38 (1988) //, n. 11.

In fact, sect. 1<sup>31</sup> and 2<sup>32</sup> seem to refer to two transactions going into opposite directions: clothes delivered to Ebrium by Wana, in the first, and clothes going to Wana, in the second.

But [1] Wana is a known official in the Ebla Administration; [2] the whole tablet deals with a journey to the city of Alaga by Ebrium and by other Ebla officials. The text also mentions a trip of some of Wana's deputies to Ebla at its end; then, [3] the analysis of the tablet structure will help to solve the puzzle.

TM 75.G.1713 is partitioned in two main sections. The first one deals with three shipments of clothes: two deliveries to Ebrium and to Wana, respectively, and a payload of the same kind of garments received by another official. It ends with the correct totals and informs us that all these items are (kept) in the Treasury/Central Administration of Ebla.

The second half, instead, lists the clothes of 281 people<sup>33</sup> who traveled to Alaga, and the clothes of the *maškims* of Wana who journeyed to Ebla.

In my opinion, the two parts are closely associated even though they are separated by the remainder of the first column in the reverse left blank by the scribe<sup>34</sup>.

The crucial person of the tablet is Wana and, according to the material provided by A. Archi<sup>35</sup>, he was the *ugula*, superintendent of Alaga<sup>36</sup>. A person carrying the same name is recorded as an *ugula* in the Ebla Administration<sup>37</sup>, and held the position of *ugula bir BARAN* of Ebrium<sup>38</sup>.

Further information about the *maškims* of Wana, "travel(ing) to the Treasury/Central Administration (of Ebla)<sup>39</sup>", is provided by TM 75.G.1534<sup>40</sup>. It begins with the list of the names of the 12 *maškim-maškim*<sup>41</sup> of Wana, corresponding to 11 + 1 I-garments and 23 clothes (2 times 11 + 1) mentioned in the final section of our tablet; and ends (rv.2:2-6): an-šè-gú / 12 na-si<sub>11</sub> / šu ba<sub>4</sub>-ti / túg-túg / in <sup>sa</sup>sag<sub>x</sub><sup>ki</sup>: total: 12 peoples? (who) have received clothes at the Treasury.

31. Ob.1:-2:5: (clothes) / lú ib-ri-um // tak<sub>x</sub> / áš-ti / wa-na / in / a-la-ga<sup>hi</sup>: clothes that has been to E. delivered by W. in GN.

32. Ob.2:6-3:7: (clothes) / lú / šu mu-tak<sub>x</sub> / si-in / a-la-ga<sup>hi</sup> / si-in / wa-na, apparently to be rendered: clothes that were delivered to GN for W.

33. Surprisingly the number 281 occurs four times in our tablet: 281 are the *na-si<sub>11</sub>* associated with Ebrium in his trip to Alaga, 281 are the clothes delivered to Ebrium, 280 + 1 are the I-garments and 281 x 2 are the clothes, qualified *túg-mu*, connected with the same persons "(when) they traveled to Alaga".

34. See TM 75.G.1353 and the footnote # 4.

35. A. Archi, ARET I, p.167.

36. See TM 75.G.2045 rv.3:2-3.

37. See TM 75.G.336 ob.3:3. This tablet has been studied by G. Pettinato, *Rivista degli Studi Orientali* 50 (1977) 1-15.

38. TM 75.G.1327 ob.10:2-4 (ARET I, 17); 1467 ob.10:12-14 (ARET IV, 15).

39. *DU.DU si-in* <sup>sa</sup>sag<sub>x</sub><sup>ki</sup>.

40. ARET VII, 121.

41. Note that ob.2:2, should be read má-NE<sup>hi</sup>, instead of si-ne<sup>hi</sup>.

So, it makes me wonder. Since the clothes delivered to Wana in the second section of the first part of TM 75.G.1713 are (kept) at Ebla, the *maškims* of Wana carried them to Ebla and received the I.-garments and 23 clothes as reward/payment<sup>42</sup>. This suggestion of mine is supported by TM 75.G.1933<sup>43</sup> rv.4:9-14: 1 mī-túg / si-mu-du / pa<sub>4</sub>-šeš / <sub>4</sub>KU-ra / si-in/ šu mu-tak<sub>x</sub>: 1 cloth to PN, *pašišu*-priest of DN for the delivery. In any case, unquestionably the *šu mu-tak<sub>x</sub>* of clothes to Wana<sup>44</sup> end at Ebla, and cannot be understood as a delivery going out of the Ebla Palace.

Finally, I have to mention that our terms occur associated with *níg-ba*, "gift." *Níg-ba* could denote either a "gift" granted to the Palace or a "gift" given to gods or to other officials, and, then, considered an expenditure by the administration<sup>45</sup>.

TM 75.G.1354<sup>46</sup> ob.6:3-7,3: 4 ma-na ku3:babbar / níg-ba / i-ti / níg-ba / maškim-maškim-sù / in u<sub>4</sub> / (garments) / 2 LAGAB ì-giš gug<sub>x</sub>-za:gìn / 15 gín-DILMUN gug<sub>x</sub>-za:gìn / šu mu-tak<sub>x</sub> / i-ti: 4 pounds of silver, "gift" of<sup>47</sup> Iti<sup>48</sup> (and) "gift" of his officials, when Iti has delivered the (listed) clothes, a vase of "oil" made of corniola and lapislazuli, and 15 shekels of corniola and lapislazuli.

The same tablet ends reading (rv.8:5-9:1): 5 ma-na kù:babbar / níg-ba / i-ti / maškim maškim-sù / in u<sub>4</sub> / níg-ba / en / šu? mu-x // ÉXPAP: 5 pounds of silver "gift" of Iti<sup>49</sup> (and) his officials, when the "gifts" to the *en* have been delivered<sup>50</sup>, at/to the É.

As a final word I cannot but reiterate what I have stated at the beginning, namely that *tak<sub>x</sub>* / *šu mu-tak<sub>x</sub>* are used at Ebla only to indicate goods sent to the Palace/Central Administration.

42. See TM 75.G.1467 (ARET IV, 15) rv.7:5-9: 1 mī-túg / kak-mi-um<sup>42</sup> / šu mu-tak<sub>x</sub> / geštin: 1 M.-garment to GN (for) the delivery of wine [explained by the end (rv.12:6'): šu-nigin / (clothes) / túg-túg / è: grand-total: clothes, gone out.]

43. ARET IV, 24.

44. TM 75.G.1713 ob.2:6-3:7.

45. See TM 75.G.1293, where the 2 *šu mu-tak<sub>x</sub>*, deliveries, refer to the two contributions of Iqna-Damu and Tir which later have been disbursed (è) as *níg-ba*, gift, to Enna-Dagan. See above.

46. MEE 2, 35, pp. 239-244. The whole tablet is a report of deliveries (*šu mu-tak<sub>x</sub>*) of the "gifts" (*níg-ba*), labeled: *dub-gar / níg-ba / en-na-[<sup>d</sup>]da-gan / [ ] mu*: report of the "gift" of? Enna-Dagan; ... year(s).

47. My rendering "gift of" is justified not only because the same Iti is the one who "delivers" the goods but primarily because of what is said in the last section (see below.)

Notice the position of *i-ti* (subject, at the end) following *šu mu-tak<sub>x</sub>* vs. one of the Ebla officials in sect.1 (ob.1:1-2:1) and 2 (ob.2:2-10); Gadum, Il-Damu, Iš-Damu, Ennani, the judge, and Ilzi-Damu, come before the verb (*šu mu-tak<sub>x</sub>*).

The 4 pounds of silver could be understood as the "amount of money/silver", i.e. the "price, value" of the goods delivered.

48. Iti is a Mari official/merchant (*garasš*) who gives his contribution (*mu-túm*) to Ebla in TM 75.G.1702 (ARET I 30) rv.10:1-7 [Note that the colophon reads: [ ]-'šè'-gú (clothes, silver, gold) / mu-túm / en: total clothes, silver, gold, contribution(s) to the *en* (rv.11:1-6).]

See also TM 75.G.1271 (ARET VII 17) ob.7:6-rv.1:4; 1933 (ARET VII 13) ob.2:3-4; 3706 (ARET III 635) rv.1:4-6.

49. Iti, together with i-KU-wa-an, are the major contributors mentioned in the tablet besides the *lugal*, who is identified as Enna-Dagan at the end, and the elders. Iti and I-KU-wa-an are known as high-officials in the Mari administration, and are mentioned together giving their *mu-túm* to the *en* of Ebla in TM 75.G.1702 (ARET I 30), whose colophon refers to it as *mu-túm en*: contributions to the *en*.

50. The broken case could be restored into '*šu' mu-[tak<sub>x</sub>]*. See, for the same formula, TM 75.G.3263 (ARET III, 227) 3: 1'-5': [ ] / a-du-NE / in u<sub>4</sub> / níg-ba / en / šu mu-tak<sub>x</sub> / [ ] .