Exact selected artifact

Penn Museum CBS 9090 • CDLI P264520 • ORACC Q005365 exemplar 1



Identity controls

CDLI P264520 names CBS 09090. The photograph itself carries the 9090 label. ORACC Q005365 lists CBS 9090 as exemplar 1, and the current RINBE catalogue identifies it as the complete Etemenanki inscription.

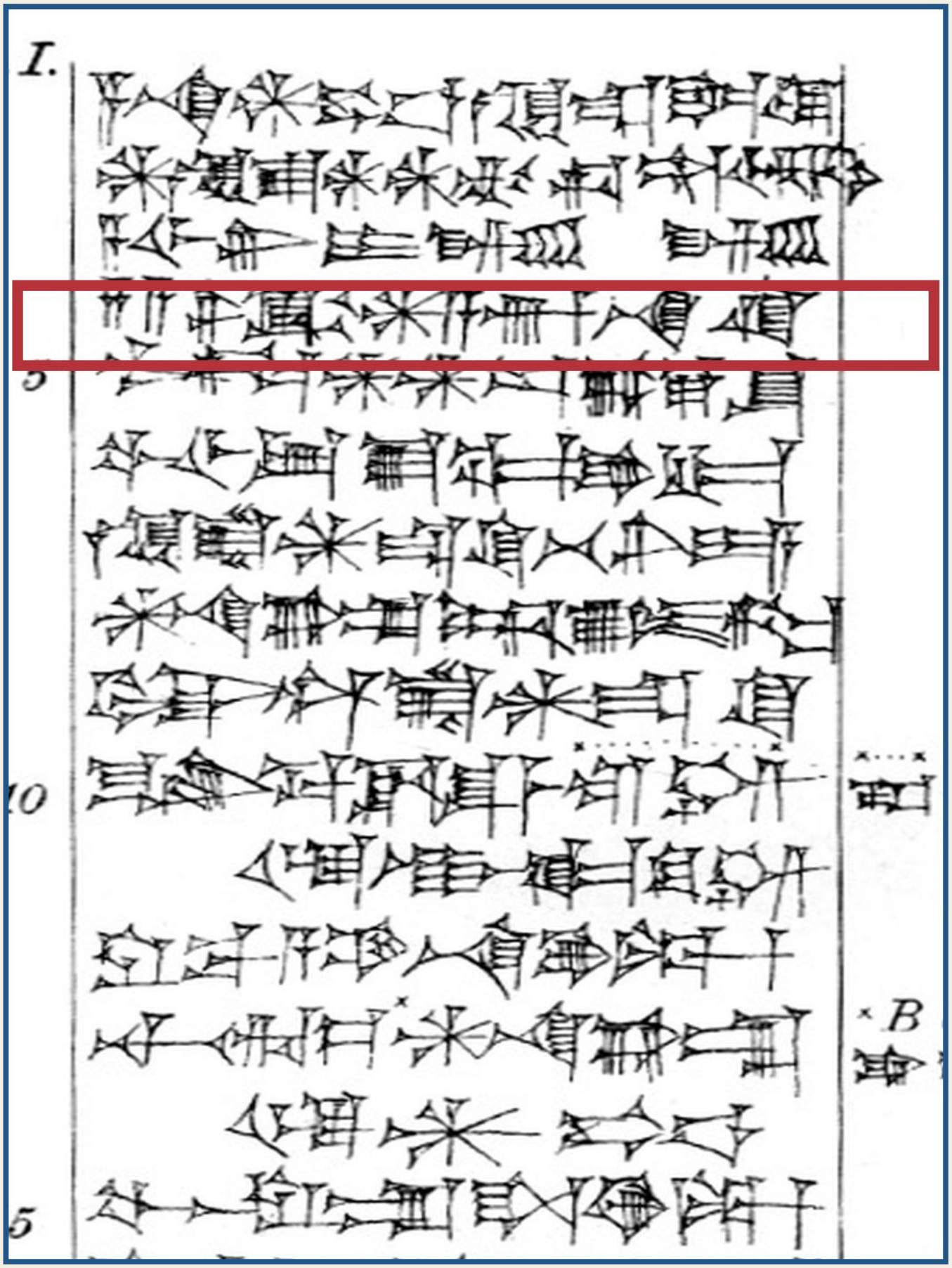
Inspected features

A hollow, round-ended clay cylinder with a flat perforated top. Dense archaizing cuneiform covers the curved surface. The object label 9090 is visible; the inscription is substantially preserved but hard to read sign-by-sign in the photograph.

Exact-photo claim: this image verifies CBS 9090 / P264520 identity, form, and preservation. Sign-level alignment below uses CDLI’s exact-object line art; the photo alone is not presented as a fresh sign decoding.

Exact line-to-text alignment

CDLI P264520 line art • column I lines 1–7 • core line i 4



Edition alignment

i 1 a-na {d}AMAR.UTU EN
ra-bí-ù i 2 {d}EN.LÍL
DINGIR.DINGIR mu-uš-ta-ar-ḫa i
3 a-ši-ir <{d}>i-gi₄-gi₄ i 4
sà-a-ni-iq {d}a-nun-na-ki i 5
nu-úr DINGIR.DINGIR
ab-bé-e-šu i 6 à-ši-ib é-sag-íl i 7
EN KÁ.DINGIR.RA.KI be-lí-ia

Red: exact column I line 4. CDLI’s line art visibly preserves the line and its sign cluster. ORACC reads the Anunnakū spelling without brackets, damage marks, or restoration. Line i 3 has an editorially supplied divine determinative for Igīgū; that restoration does not affect i 4.

Cautious translation: “Marduk, the one who directs the Igīgū gods, the one who controls the Anunnakū gods…” The exact copy supports location and unbroken signs; ORACC controls normalization, grammar, and translation.

Image-to-text evidence table

Photograph, exact copy, edition, damage, and restoration kept separate

Image location	Exact CBS 9090 / P264520 line art, column I, lines 1–7; core line i 4
Edition transliteration	i 4: sà-a-ni-iq {d}a-nun-na-ki
Published sense	ORACC: Marduk is “the one who controls the Anunnakū gods.”
Working translation	“The one who exercises oversight/control over the Anunnakū gods.”
Photo-visible	Exact artifact, museum label 9090, curved inscribed surface, and preservation; no claimed photo-only word reading
Exact copy visible	CDLI P264520 exact line art visibly maps column I line 4 and its unbroken sign cluster
Unbracketed signs	All signs in core i 4 are unbracketed; no damage or restoration markers
Damaged/restored	None in i 4. The adjacent Igīgū determinative in i 3 is editorially supplied and kept separate
Parallel/composite	No parallel or composite supplies the thesis-critical Anunnakū term
Classification	exact_line_art_or_squeeze_visible; photograph confirms exact-object identity/preservation
Confidence/limit	High identity, line locus, sign-copy, and edition status; edition-guided translation, not fresh photo collation

Etemenanki planning and labor dossier

Q005365 i 28–ii 49 and iii 5–29

i 28–36	Marduk commands the Etemenanki foundation to be secured on the netherworld and its summit to rival heaven.
i 37–ii 8	Hoes, spades, brickmolds, levied workers, mud bricks, baked bricks, bitumen, and river transport.
ii 9–23	Ea’s knowledge, Marduk’s insight, Nabû/Nisaba wisdom; trained experts, survey team, measuring rod, ropes, and ground plan.
ii 24–30	Divination checks dimensions; the great gods communicate through the outcomes.
ii 31–48	Purification, original socle, foundation deposits, aromatics, brickwork, and royal basket-carrying statues.
ii 49–iii 24	The king and his sons personally carry mud, hoes, spades, and ceremonial baskets.
iii 25–29	The temple is built as a replica of Ešarra and raised like a mountain.

Result: the inscription joins divine authority to recognizable human expertise, surveying, standard dimensions, tools, logistics, brickwork, and ritual. It supports organized civilization-building ideology—not unknown machinery.

Corpus result and limits

Anunnakū control followed by exact planning, measurement, and building labor

Supports

- An unbracketed Anunnakū spelling on exact-object line art tied to photographed CBS 9090 / P264520.
- Marduk as the one who directs the Igīgū and controls the Anunnakū.
- A major construction dossier: tools, workers, bricks, bitumen, surveying, measuring rod, ropes, ground plan, foundation deposits, and royal labor.
- Ea, Marduk, Nabû, and Nisaba wisdom explicitly linked to planning and measurement.

Does not prove

- Extraterrestrials, Nibiru, spacecraft, genetics, mining machines, or recoverable modern technology.
- That the Anunnakū designed or physically built Etemenanki; human experts and work crews perform the stated tasks.
- A neutral engineering report: this is a royal building inscription with theology, divination, and ritual.
- Independent photo-level sign decipherment; sign recognition uses CDLI’s exact-object copy, controlled by ORACC.

Daily improvement: distinguish three claims in construction texts—divine authorization, human technical procedure, and ritual validation—and require every line note to name which layer it supports. This prevents divine titles from being misread as the actors in human survey or masonry clauses.