

Sept 14,

1944

Chicago

Son-Twin's

Oriental Institute to get 6 ancient tablets today

By ION GRAHNKE
EDUCATION REPORTER

Six ancient tablets, ranging from 2,500 to 4,000 years old, will be presented today to the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute by the Geographic Society of Chicago.

Carl Sholeen, president of the 101-year-old society, estimated the value of the tablets at \$10,000.

Henry Patten, a wealthy grain trader and a member of the society, bought the tablets in Iraq 73 years ago, when trading in ancient artifacts was still legal, and presented them to the group. The tablets are about the size of a page.

The cuneiform markings on the tablets are mostly records of com-

mercial transactions involving flour, barley grains, garments and wages in ancient Babylon. The oldest tablet dates to 2047 B. C.

Patten's tablets arrived in a custom-made, black-leather-covered, glass-fronted box, with each tablet nestled in its own red velvet niche.

The public will have to wait at least a year to view the tablets, said John Brinkman of the Oriental Institute. "They won't be on display until we reopen the Mesopotamian Gallery," he said.

The tablets "are interesting for their dates," Brinkman said. "Beyond that, there's nothing very sensational."

The lists, notes and seal impressions are "not of world-shaking significance," Brinkman said.

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Southwest

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