

To the memory of

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Preface

A Sumerian Chrestomathy contains 44 texts of varying contents: royal inscriptions, legal, and economic documents. For pedagogic reasons literary texts are not included. Some texts are accompanied by a transliteration and/or a version in Neo-Assyrian script, so that the students can learn the Neo-Assyrian forms, which are of fundamental importance for the use of the sign list in this book and, in general, for most Assyriological sign lists.

Each inscription is to be studied with the help of the sign list, the list of phonetic values, and the glossary. In this *A Sumerian Chrestomathy* I have intentionally not dealt with questions of grammar. Instead, the reader is referred to three rather recent publications on the subject: P. Attinger, *Éléments de linguistique sumérienne. La construction de du₁₁leldi «dire»* (Fribourg/Göttingen 1993 [= Orbis Biblicus et Orientalis; Sonderband]); D.O. Edzard, *Sumerian Grammar* (Leiden/Boston 2003 [= Handbook of Oriental Studies. Section 1, Near and Middle East, vol. 71]); A.H. Jagersma, *A Descriptive Grammar of Sumerian* (<https://openaccess.leidenuniv.nl/handle/1887/16107>).

For a general introduction to Sumerology, W.H.Ph. Römer, *Die Sumerologie. Einführung in die Forschung und Bibliographie in Auswahl* (Münster 1999 [= Alter Orient und Altes Testament 262]) is highly recommended.

This book began as a manuscript called “*Sumerische Chrestomathie. Texte zusammengestellt, teilweise transkribiert, in neuassyrische Zeichenformen übertragen und mit Glossar und Zeichenliste versehen*” (Eschbach 1978). It proved to be a very useful and much requested tool for many beginners. Over the years, a good number of both teachers and students who used my *Sumerische Chrestomathie* gave me their personal notes, corrections, and improvements, for which I am very grateful. I would like to thank the following persons for providing such help: P. Attinger; J. Bauer; H. Behrens; J.S. Cooper; J.J.A. van Dijk; D.O. Edzard; D. Foxvog; M.J. Geller; J. Keetman; B. Kienast; W.G. Lambert; W.R. Mayer; H. Neumann; G. Rubio; W. Sallaberger; G.J. Selz; H. Steible; M.P. Streck; C. Wilcke; A. Zgoll.

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