

[A Sumerian Chrestomathy](#)

Bearbeitet von
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To the memory of

Johannes Jacobus Adrianus van Dijk

(28.1.1915 – 14.5.1996)

and

Hermann Behrens SCJ

(15.7.1944 – 2.8.1996)

teacher and friend



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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.

Fr. Silvano Votto S.J. not only translated the entire manuscript into English but also made a considerable number of improvements. I owe him very special thanks for his invaluable contributions to this book.

During the preparation of *A Sumerian Chrestomathy* André Volk digitized the hand-drawn sign list. Jessica Baldwin was kind enough to assist me in the various stages of updating the manuscript and also made a number of very useful suggestions. Last but not least, I am most grateful to Jana Matuszak for her help in proofreading, to Dr. Barbara Krauß and Julia Guthmüller (Harrassowitz Verlag) for their support in the making of *A Sumerian Chrestomathy*, and to Gerlinde Hoferer-Volk for editing this book in its current format.

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Konrad Volk