

**SUMERIAN  
GRAMMATICAL  
TEXTS. VOL.XII, NO.1**

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Sumerian Grammatical Texts. Vol.XII, No.1 by Stephen Langdon

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**STEPHEN LANGDON**

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BY  
STEPHEN LANGDON

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- AJSL. American Journal of Semitic Languages and Literatures.  
 ALP. Assyrische Lesestücke (third edition), by FRIEDRICH DELITZSCH.  
 ASKT. Akkadische und Sumerische Keilschrifttexte, by PAUL HAUPT.  
 BE. Babylonian Expedition of the University of Pennsylvania,  
 edited by H. V. HILPRECHT.  
 BM. British Museum, Assyrian Collection.  
 Boissier, Choix. Choix de Textes relatifs à la Divination, by ALFRED  
 BOISSIER.  
 Br. A Classified List of Sumerian Ideographs, by RUDOLF BRÜNNOW.  
 Clay, Miscel. Miscellaneous Inscriptions in the Yale Babylonian Collection,  
 by A. T. CLAY.  
 CT. Cuneiform Texts in the British Museum, by PINCHES, KING and  
 THOMPSON.  
 DA. Documents Assyriens, by ALFRED BOISSIER.  
 Del. H.W. Assyrisches Handwörterbuch, by FRIEDRICH DELITZSCH.  
 DP. Documents Pré-sargoniques, by ALLOTTE DE LA FUYÈ.  
 Historical and Religious Texts. Volume 31 of BE., by S. LANGDON.  
 KTA. Keilschrifttexte aus Assur, Wissenschaftliche Veröffentlichungen  
 der Deutschen Orient-Gesellschaft.  
 KL. See Zimmern, K.L.  
 Maqlu. Die Assyrische Beschwörungsserie Maqlu, by KNUT L.  
 TALLQUIST.  
 MDOG. Mitteilungen der Deutschen Orient-Gesellschaft.  
 MVAG. Mitteilungen der Vorderasiatischen Gesellschaft.  
 OLZ. Orientalische Literaturzeitung.  
 PBS. Publications of the Babylonian Section of the University Museum.  
 Indicates the new series, replacing BE.  
 PSBA. Proceedings of the Society of Biblical Archaeology.  
 R. I, II, III, IV, V R. or Raw., refer to the five volumes of the  
 Cuneiform Inscriptions of Western Asia, founded by H. C.  
 RAWLINSON continued by NORRIS, GEORGE SMITH and  
 PINCHES. IV R. refers always to the second edition by  
 PINCHES.  
 RA. Revue d'Assyriologie.

- Radau, Miscel. Miscellaneous Sumerian Texts from the Temple Library of Nippur, by HUGO RADAU in the Hilprecht Anniversary Volume.
- REC. Recherches sur l'Origine de l'Écriture Cunéiforme, by FR. THUREAU-DANGIN.
- RT. Recueil de Travaux relatifs à la Philologie Egyptienne et Assyrienne.
- RTC. Recueil de Tablettes Chaldéennes, by FR. THUREAU-DANGIN.
- S<sup>a</sup>. Syllabar A, published in CT. XI.
- S<sup>b</sup>. Syllabar B, published in CT. XI.
- SAI. Seltene Assyrische Ideogramme, by BRUNO MEISSNER.
- SBP. Sumerian and Babylonian Psalms, by S. LANGDON.
- Sum. Gr. Sumerian Grammar, by S. LANGDON.
- TSA. Tablettes Sumériennes Archaïques, by H. DE GENOUILLAC.
- WZKM. Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes.
- ZA. Zeitschrift für Assyriologie.

## INTRODUCTION

The present volume includes the greater portion of the grammatical texts in the Nippur Collection of the University Museum which have not been published by DR. POEBEL in Volume V of this series. The author has examined the entire Nippur Collection in Constantinople and Philadelphia, wherefore he is able to state that the volume nearly completes the publication of this class of documents. The preceding statement refers only to grammatical texts in the strict sense of the term. A large number of lexicographical tablets usually designated as "lists" will be published soon by DR. CHIERA. A few religious texts and other miscellaneous material have been included here, having been copied for lexicographical purposes.

The grammatical texts belong chiefly to a large group of tablets known as school texts. They represent the pedagogical books and pupils' exercises of a Sumerian college. In many cases, as for example Numbers 15, 16, 17, 18, the teacher's copy on the left side of the tablet has been severed with a sharp instrument from the scholar's copy on the right. The right half of the tablet containing the scholar's work was probably remoistened and remolded to be utilized for other school work. Numbers 16 and 18 are particularly interesting and important, since they contain the Sumerian original of part of the standard Babylonian and Assyrian bilingual lexicographical work known as *ana itti-šu*. This series of lexicographical and grammatical text books seems to have been written by the Sumerian schoolmen to instruct the learner in business formulæ, legal terms and about words employed in practical life. The Semitic teachers



then edited the series with a translation into their vernacular. The bilingual edition has been found in use in all parts of Babylonia and Assyria. It was much more comprehensive than has been supposed and scholars from time to time have succeeded in proving that many well known grammatical tablets really belong to this great legal text book. In recent numbers of the *Revue d'Assyriologie* several important sections have been published and edited from the remains of the Assyrian edition in the British Museum.

Number 17 reveals a Sumerian text book which was known in later Babylonia and Assyria as *garra-ḫubullu*, i. e., Sumerian *garra* means *ḫubullu*, "money loaned for interest." This series was equally important, forming a huge text book on words connected with various sciences or crafts such as geology, zoölogy, botany, the crafts of the carpenter, cabinet maker, etc. Possibly Number 14, a study in geology, belongs to this series. The collection possesses one large tablet which carries a list of over 200 names of stones and objects made of stones. Many lists of this kind, dealing with the sciences and crafts of Sumer and Babylonia, will be made accessible in another volume.

Numbers 5, 11 and 54 represent the kind of school book known as a syllabar, or a list of all the Sumerian ideograms arranged either with reference to their forms ( $S^b$ ) or to their phonetic values ( $S^a$ ).<sup>1</sup> The former seems to have been followed by the latter in the completed work, employed as a text book on the signs, their forms and the various phonetic values of each sign. In the Semitic editions of these syllabars,  $S^b$  is edited with the Sumerian values at the left and the Semitic

<sup>1</sup> The principle on which Syllabar A, represented by No. 5, was constructed is obscure. The statement made above is only partially correct. In fact the signs in this syllabar do not follow each other in phonetic order for we know from numbers 19, 20 that the Sumerians had not discovered the phonetic relation of the consonants.

meanings on the right. S<sup>a</sup> is edited with Sumerian values on the left and the Sumerian name of each sign on the right. It is difficult to understand what object the Sumerian teacher had in mind in writing S<sup>a</sup> unless it was to teach the numerous syllabic values of each sign. S<sup>b</sup> is originally designed as a work in epigraphy. By means of this list of the signs employed in the Sumerian system of writing and arranged according to their forms, the student was enabled to find at once any sign whose value he had forgotten or which he was unable to identify. Sumerian text books aimed to instruct in the art of writing and the various sciences. Most of the works on these subjects are represented in greater or less degree in the Nippur Collection.

The author has transliterated and translated all of the important texts. In case of material of this kind Assyriologists will I trust give preference to such treatment of the material, which renders an index dispensable.

