

PREFACE

The thirteenth fascicle of *Altbabylonische Briefe in Umschrift und Übersetzung* contains 200 letters in the British Museum and is the continuation of fascicle 12 (see the preface to the latter). The letters published below were transliterated during three visits to the museum in 1987 and 1988. In 1990 and 1991, a few more visits were made for collations; the book itself was written in 1992.

As in AbB 12, I have published the texts in the order of their registration numbers. However, letters 1 to 53 have been made into a separate group. Nos. 1 to 45 belong to one collection (1901-5-11) which mainly consists of letters from Hammurabi to Sin-iddinam; nos. 46-53 are letters which were left out of AbB 12; these, too, contain messages from kings (see the introduction).

A number of colleagues have asked me to make the texts transliterated in AbB 12 (and 13) available in copies. Since I agree that a copy is still the best substitute for the original I have decided to copy the letters presented in AbB 12 and 13 (and probably also 15) and to publish them in a separate volume.

I wish to acknowledge the help and assistance received from Christopher Walker during my visits to the museum. The letters contained in this fascicle were identified by him in the museum's collections. I also wish to thank the Trustees of the British Museum for their kind permission to publish these texts.

Professor F.R. Kraus, the initiator of the series and its editor for thirty years (he wrote five fascicles himself), passed away in January 1991. I want to thank him posthumously for all his help during the early stages of the work on these texts. His expertise and his constant support are sorely missed.

Professor K.R. Veenhof, who has taken over the editorship from Professor Kraus, contributed numerous suggestions and corrections, for which I owe him my gratitude. I extend my thanks to Professor M. Stol and to Drs. Th.J.H. Krispijn, E. Woestenburg and B. Jagersma. The latter two also contributed a number of collations.

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I owe a special word of thanks to Mr. M.J.E. Richardson for correcting my English. Any mistakes or inconsistencies, however, remain my responsibility.