

Latin, which was probably the most common practice during the 19th century, or, by translating it into English, may be read as "and so forth." Accadian writing has an added feature. Since a sign that stands for a word might sometimes be pronounced in different ways, a sign is often added to indicate the last two or three sounds of the word as pronounced. This is called a phonetic complement. In transliteration it is often represented by raised (or parenthetical) letters following the word-sign, which may be transliterated either by writing the Sumerian word in caps or by writing the Accadian word itself.

In learning the signs it is good to start with the Assyrian forms, since the modern sign-lists have been arranged on this basis. When the study of cuneiform is begun with the laws of Hammurabi, sometimes they are read in a transliteration into the type of signs used in the Assyrian time, instead of in the original signs, as used in Early Babylonian times. Since the systems are quite similar it is not very difficult to learn the Early Babylonian signs after one has learned the Assyrian forms. It is better at first to stick to one system.

Several hundred rare signs occur in cuneiform writing. About 300 signs occur much more frequently. About 100 of these represent either a vowel alone or a vowel and one consonant. It is highly desirable to learn these hundred signs thoroughly, for two reasons: (1) Because they occur so often. (2) If they are learned in the sequence in which they appear in the sign lists it gives a basis into which to fit other signs as one comes across them.

The system of arranging signs in lists was worked out by the early students of Assyriology. Although it has some imperfections it is very helpful and the student is advised to familiarize himself with it. In order to do this, he will find it helpful thoroughly to memorize the attached sheet, which lists the commonest use of each of these hundred signs in the order in which they are arranged according to their different elements. The syllables should be so memorized that they can be repeated rapidly. This should not be