

# The World's Oldest Literature



## The World's Oldest Literature

*Studies in Sumerian Belles-Lettres*

William W. Hallo

CULTURE & HISTORY OF THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST

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Literature begins at Sumer, we may say. Given that this ancient crossroads of tin and copper produced not only bronze and the entire Bronze Age, but also by necessity, the first system of record-keeping and the technique of writing. Scribal schools served to propagate the new technique and their curriculum grew to create, preserve and transmit all manner of creative poetry. In a lifetime of research, the author has studied multiple aspects of this most ancient literary oeuvre, including such questions as chronology and bilingualism, as well as contributing fundamental insights into specific genres such as proverbs, letter-prayers and lamentations. In addition, he has drawn conclusions for the comparative or contextual approach to biblical literature. His studies, widely scattered in diverse publications for nearly fifty years, are here assembled in convenient one-volume format, made more user-friendly by extensive cross-references and indices.

作者介绍:

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