

R.I.P.

Prof. R.P. Werner MAYER, S.J.



The **Reverend Fr. Werner R. Mayer, S.J.** passed away peacefully in the early afternoon of December 15, 2025, in Rome, after a long illness.

Born on November 5, 1939, in Bonbruck, Germany, Werner R. Mayer entered the Society of Jesus on April 26, 1958, and was ordained a priest on December 20, 1969. Following his priestly formation, he pursued advanced studies in Assyriology, earning a doctorate under the supervision of Wolfram von Soden at the University of Münster in 1975, with a dissertation entitled *Untersuchungen zur Formensprache der babylonischen Gebetsbeschwörungen* (Studia

Pohl, series maior, 5; Roma 1976).

Soon after completing his doctorate, he began his distinguished **teaching and research career in Assyriology at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome**. A Festschrift in his honor was published in *Quaderno di Vicino Oriente V* (2010): Ana turri gimilli. Studi dedicati al Padre Werner R. Mayer, S.J., da amici e allievi, edited by M. Liverani e M. G. Biga.

Professor Mayer played a significant role in shaping editorial standards within the field of Ancient Near Eastern studies. From 1977 to 1989, he served as Associate Editor of the journal *Orientalia*, and from 1989 until 2018, he held the position of Editor. He also served as Series Editor for two major academic series: *Studia Pohl* and *Analecta Orientalia*. In 2023, due to health concerns, he relocated to a retirement residence for senior Jesuits in Rome.

The publications of Professor Mayer include seven books—often in collaboration with other Assyriologists—published between 1976 and 1999 and fifty-five articles that appeared between 1978 and 2022.

Most are listed at <<https://tinyurl.com/4dunrbv6>>



A Funeral Mass will be celebrated at the Chapel of the Curia Generalizia (Society of Jesus), Borgo Santo Spirito 4, 00193 Rome, on Wednesday, 17 December 2025, at 10:00 AM.