

## **Gifts from Ancient Times: The Sumerians**

(to the tune of "Happy Birthday to You")

The Sumerians gave gifts  
that we use today.  
They controlled their twin rivers  
that flooded each spring.

They built levees with soil  
and irrigated their crops.  
It took a lot of planning,  
so they got more organized.

They set up governments  
to make laws all would obey.  
With a growing population,  
they built cities with mud bricks.

Priests and merchants were rich.  
They were in the upper class.  
Their houses had two stories  
in the middle of town.

Middle class homes had one story  
for shopkeepers and officials  
and also for artisans—  
the skilled workers of the day.

The lower class was poor  
and lived at the edge of the town.  
They were farmers and fishermen  
and unskilled workers.

The oldest written records  
are Sumerian cuneiform.  
They made the first wheel and the first plow  
and the first sailboat!

## **Gifts from Ancient Times: The Babylonians**

(to the tune of "Happy Birthday to You")

The Babylonians gave gifts  
that we use today.  
They improved irrigation  
by building canals.

Their leader, Hammurabi,  
reformed taxes and laws.  
He took laws from the city-states  
and made one code for all.

He punished those who lied in court  
and appointed judges who answered to him.  
"Innocent till proven guilty"  
goes back to his day.

Under his rule  
trade increased in Babylon.  
From China and India  
traders bought their surplus goods.

The Babylonian calendar,  
based on phases of the moon,  
had 12 months and marked out  
times for planting and festivals.

They did complex math  
with a unique number system.  
We get 60 minutes in an hour  
and 60-second minutes from them.

360—  
the degrees in a circle—  
that comes from them, too.  
Besides that, they made a clock.