



Melammu Project

The Heritage of Mesopotamia and the Ancient Near East

Melammu newsletter 2/2015

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Dear colleagues and friends,

This is the second Newsletter of the Melammu Project. We experienced a stimulating and exciting double conference at Helsinki/Tartu where a new board was elected for 2015-2017 and where the upcoming Symposia for 2016 and 2017 were fixed. Moreover, with annual “Melammu Workshops” we decided to introduce a new format apart from the symposia which will hopefully stimulate and foster future research and discussion under the umbrella of the Melammu spirit. I would like to thank all former members of the Board 2013-2015 for their input, help and assistance. Once more I would like to express my special gratitude to Thomas Kämmerer and the Ugarit publishing house without whose permanent assistance Melammu would not look like it does now. I hope to see you all very soon at the next Melammu meeting in Kassel.

Yours

Robert Rollinger, chair

P.S.: For further information about the Melammu Project and its history and structure, and about past and future meetings, please visit the website: <http://www.aakkl.helsinki.fi/melammu>.

General Assembly Melammu, Tartu September 23. 2015

Minutes (taken by Martin Lang)

The main tasks of this General Assembly were the approval of the articles in the statutes that had to be changed and the election of a new board for the period 2015-2017. Robert Rollinger opened the General Assembly with an outlook on the upcoming activities of the Melammu project in the next two years.

1. Symposia / Workshops in the Future

The Melammu *Symposia* already planned will be:

- Melammu Symposium 10: Societies at War, Kassel (Kai Ruffing, Kerstin Dross-Krüpe, Louisa Thomas) 2016-09-25 to 2016-09-29
- Melammu Symposium 11: TBA, Beirut (Raija Mattila in late April 2017)

The Melammu *workshops* are a new format that is introduced in order to enable scholars to organize smaller Melammu meetings:

- Devoted to a clearly defined topic
- Conference Language: English
- New Series „Melammu Workshops“ with Ugarit Verlag (Peer reviewed)
- Maximum: 2 Workshops a year

For the next years the following workshops are planned:

- Melammu Workshop 1: Representing the Wise: A Gendered Approach, Lille, April 4-5 2016 (Stéphanie Anthonioz, Sebastian Fink)
- Melammu Workshop 2: Towards a Theory of Change in Literary texts: Transfers via Time and Space, Innsbruck, Autumn 2016 (Martin Lang, Sebastian Fink)
- Melammu Workshop 3: Routes and Travelers between East and West: Cultural Exchange in the Ancient World, Barcelona, March 20-21 2017 (Rocio da Riva)
- Melammu Workshop 4: Slavery between East and West, Besançon, 2017 (Ennio Biondi)

As Robert Rollinger stated, the organization and publication of symposia and workshops is the main activity of Melammu. Therefore he proposes that all the organizers are included in the board.

2. Changes in the statutes (open issues from the general assembly in Kiel)

Several points discussed in the general assembly in Kiel (see the minutes) were discussed in the board and the following solutions were proposed:

- Do we need to mention in the statutes that there is no financial structure behind Melammu?
 - proposal for a change in the statutes, mentioning that there is no permanent financial structure behind Melammu, unanimous assent, now mentioned in 2.2
- Should it also be possible for undergraduate students to become member of the board?
 - only PhD students, unanimous assent, now mentioned in 2.4.1.2
- The title and subtitle of the Melammu project (hitherto: “The Heritage of Mesopotamia and the Ancient Near East”) should be discussed // Is a chronological restriction for the project necessary?
 - The board discussed several titles but found no ideal solution, therefore Robert Rollinger proposed to send suggestions to Sebastian Fink (sebastian.fink@uibk.ac.at). Kurt Raaflaub recommended to send out a collection of those subtitles before the next general assembly to shorten discussion.
- Establishment of an advisory board
 - During the board meeting the board suggested to create an advisory board for members of the board who are an important part of Melammu but who will usually not take part in daily business anymore. The term “Advisory Board” was discussed, but finally no better designation was found.

The members of the advisory board are:

Simo Parpola, Tzvi Abusch, Giovanni Lanfranchi

- unanimous assent

- Further updates in the statutes (e.g. definition of Workshops and Symposia) were also accepted unanimously

3. Election of the board

During the board meeting a suggestion for the new board was put forward, with the main aim to have an active board, in which every board member has a well-defined task for the next two years. These tasks are given in the list below.

Melammu Board 2015-2017

Stéphanie Anthonioz (stephanie.anthonioz@orange.fr) – Organisation of MW 1

Ennio Bondi (ennio.biondi@univ-fcomte.fr) – Organisation of MW 3

Elena Devecchi (elena.devecchi@unito.it) – Link to Hittite studies

Kerstin Droß-Krüpe (kerstin.dross-kruepe@uni-kassel.de) – Organisation of MS 10

Sebastian Fink (sebastian.fink@uibk.ac.at) – (Co)Organisation of MW 1,2

Ann Gunter (a-gunter@northwestern.edu) – Member of the Editorial board

Johannes Haubold (j.h.haubold@durham.ac.uk) – Member of the Editorial board

Martin Lang (martin.lang@uibk.ac.at) – Organisation of MW 2

Raija Mattila (raija.mattila@helsinki.fi) – Organisation of MS 11

Krzysztof Nawotka (krzysztof.nawotka@gmail.com) – Member of the Editorial Board

Simonetta Ponchia (simonetta.ponchia@univr.it) – Member of the Editorial Board

Beate Pongratz-Leisten (bpl2@nyu.edu) – Member of the Editorial Board

Rocio Da Riva (rocio.dariva@gmail.com) – Organisation of MW3

Robert Rollinger (Chairman) (robert.rollinger@uibk.ac.at) - Chairman

Kai Ruffing (kai.ruffing@uni-kassel.de) – Organisation of MS 10

Aleksandra Szalc (aleksandra.szalc@gmail.com) – in charge of the Melammu newsletter

Erik van Dongen (Vice-Chairman) (erik.vandongen@helsinki.fi) – Vice-chairman, web-admin

Josef Wiesehöfer (JWiesehoefer@email.uni-kiel.de) – Publishing MS 8

- unanimous assent

Kurt Raaflaub remarked that the board is dominated by Assyriologists and that it would be good to include more Ancient Historians / Classicists. Especially when the subtitle of the project will be changed into “interactions etc.” it will be out of balance and might give a wrong impression.

Robert Rollinger pointed out that there are already several Ancient Historians in the board (eight) and that the idea of an active board – that includes all the conference-organizers - should mirror Melammu activities quite well, but hopefully even more Ancient Historians will join Melammu in the future.

4. Further small issues

- Carolyn Dewald suggested to include a list of the speakers and their main research fields in the program of the next conference. Abstracts would also be nice for orientation.
- The format of the conference was already discussed before the meeting. Several people made their suggestions, but all were convinced that we should add some time for discussion directly after the paper. This suggestion will be made to the organizers of the next conferences, but they should be free in their choice of the format.

5. Deadline articles / responses for the publication of Melammu 2015

As a last point Robert Rollinger informed the speakers about the deadlines for Melammu Symposia 9, but an email with further details will follow soon:

- 2015-12-01 for the articles
- 2016-02-01 for the responses

Melammu Symposia 2016-2020:

Kassel 2016: 25-29 September: *Societies at War*

Beirut 2017: Late April: Topic and date to be chosen (fixed)

Innsbruck 2018: as part of the RAI ("Intellectual Heritage of the Ancient Near East" (fixed)

Los Angeles 2019: Topic and date to be chosen (scheduled)

Wrocław 2020: Topic and date to be chosen (scheduled)

Representing the Wise - A Gendered Approach

Melammu Workshop 1

Université Catholique de Lille

April 4-5, 2016

(Stéphanie Anthonioz, Sebastian Fink)

The First Melammu Workshop “Representing the Wise - A Gendered Approach” will be held on April 4th-5th, 2016, at the Catholic University of Lille. The aim of the one-and-a-half-day workshop is to reflect not so much on the nature of wisdom in the ancient East and Mediterranean but to offer different views and portraits of male and female sages in a voluntarily gendered approach. Both human and divine sages will be taken into account. The study of their representations in texts and images might lead to some kind of typology and reveal links not brought to light before. Clearly the expected result is a better understanding of wisdom through the witnesses of sages in different times and places.

Various short sessions will be held on the following subjects:

Monday April 4th, 2016

8:45-9:00 Welcoming addresses and opening

- Female and Male Sages in Sumerian Literature

9:00-9:30 Gebhard Selz (Vienna): Female Sages in Sumerian Literature

9:30-10:00 Peeter Espak (Tartu): Male Sages in Sumerian Literature

Coffee break 10:00-10:30

- Female and Male Sages in Akkadian Literature

10:30-11:00 Saana Svärd (Helsinki): Female Sages in Akkadian Literature

11:00-11:30 Raija Mattila (Helsinki): Male Sages in Akkadian Literature

- The Wise Woman and Man in Egypt

11:30-12:00 Christian Cannuyer (Lille): Female Sages in Egyptian Literature

12:00-12:30 Pascal Vernus (Paris): Male Sages in Egyptian Literature

Lunch at the University Restaurant

- Female and Male Sages in the Levant

14:30-15:00 Ingo Kottsieper (Göttingen): Female and Male Sages in Aramaic Literature

15:00-15:30 Ehud Ben Zvi (Alberta): Female and Male Sages in the Bible

- Female and Male Sages in India

15:30-16:00 Aleksandra Szalc (Wroclaw): Female and Male Sages in India

Dinner in the city 19:30



Tuesday April 5th, 2016

- Female and Male Sages in Greece

9:30-10:00 Ennio Biondi (Franche-Comté): Female Sages in Greek Literature

10:00-10:30 Cathy Leblanc (Lille): Male Sages in Greek Literature

Coffee break 10:30-11:00

- Female and Male Sages in Rome

11:00-11:30 Kordula Schnegg (Innsbruck): Female Sages in Roman Literature

11:30-12:00 Claudia Horst (Bremen): Roman Sages and New Formations of
Masculinity

- Comparative thoughts and final discussion

12:00-12:30

Stéphanie Anthonioz (stephanie.anthonioz@orange.fr)

Sebastian Fink (Sebastian.Fink@uibk.ac.at)

Suggestions, ideas, calls for papers and other announcements concerning the Melammu Community and events related to the Project's idea, please send to:

aleksandra.szalc@gmail.com

Melammu Project website: <http://www.aakkl.helsinki.fi/melammu/project/prname.php>

