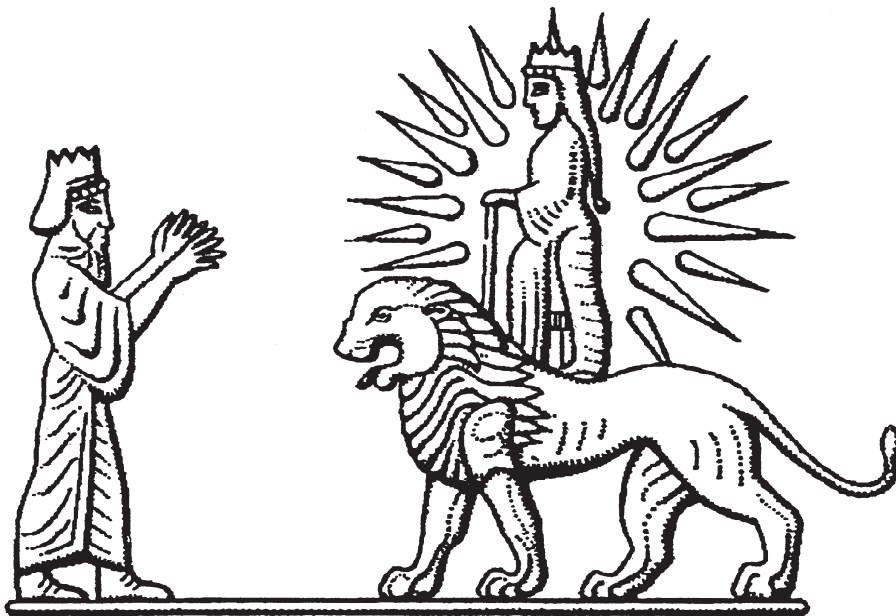


# Conceptualizing Past, Present and Future

Proceedings of the Ninth Symposium  
of the Melammu Project Held in Helsinki / Tartu  
May 18–24, 2015

Edited by  
Robert Rollinger



# Melammu Symposia 9

Edited by Robert Rollinger

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## Introduction

*Sebastian Fink – Robert Rollinger*

This book contains the proceedings of the 9<sup>th</sup> Melammu Symposium which took place in Helsinki and Tartu from May 18-24, 2015. The meeting was part of Robert Rollinger's "Finland Distinguished Professorship", a position he held from 2010-2015 at the Department of World Cultures, University of Helsinki where he was Research Director of the project "Intellectual Heritage of the Ancient Near East". One of the major tasks of this position was to revitalize the Melammu Project, thus encouraging international, transdisciplinary research in studies of the Ancient World. The 9<sup>th</sup> Melammu Symposium was a kind of final event of the "Intellectual Heritage of the Ancient Near East" project which was conceptualized, planned, and organized by the two editors of this volume together with an international committee of renowned scholars who were in charge of the different thematic sessions of the meeting.

The dense program of the conference consisted of 42 papers and 15 poster-presentations, which, in particular, enabled young scholars to present their research to an international audience of specialists in different fields. The main aim of this specific Melammu Symposium was to foster collaboration between Classicists and Assyriologists. Accordingly, we conceptualized eight thematic sessions, which were organized by two session organizers, one of them a classicist, the other an Assyriologist (or Hittitologist). In addition, a general session and a young researcher's workshop took place. The session organizers invited the participants for their sessions and discussed the topics with them. All the sessions were framed by a general introduction to the topic and a response to the papers by the session organizers.

We think that this was a successful structure for the conference, but publishing the proceedings in this way turned out to be complicated, as we first had to assemble all the articles for a session and then return them to the session organizers, who had to read them and send us their introductions and responses. Some session organizers decided to write a joint paper, thus fostering an approach beyond the strict boundaries of different scientific disciplines. This process obviously took some time – more than initially planned – but we think that the efforts of the session organizers to discuss the articles from the perspectives of two different disciplines paid off.

Obviously, such an undertaking would not have been possible without the help of many people. While we coordinated the organization of the overall meeting, Raija Mattila and Jaakko Hämeen-Anttila took care of the local organization in Helsinki and Thomas Kämmerer, Mait Kõiv, Urmas Nõmmik, and Ivo Volt formed the Tartu-organization-team. We are indebted to all of them not only for providing us with the necessary infrastructure for the conference, but also for turning this conference into a wonderful and enjoyable social event.

Lastly, we are grateful to all the session-organizers for taking care of the invitations, reading the papers, and writing the introductions and responses for their sessions as well as to all the participants of the conference.

This undertaking received financial support from the Helsinki-based Intellectual Heritage of the Ancient Near East (IHANE)-project, the Finnish Institute of the Middle Near East, and the Ugarit publishing house. We thank all of them for making this conference possible and hope that the proceedings will provide a useful tool for further studies in “Conceptualizing Past, Present and Future.”

Helsinki/Innsbruck, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Sebastian Fink and Robert Rollinger