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To the Members and Friends of Melammu:

I am writing to you now as chairman of Melammu to report on events pertaining to Melammu that took place during the International Conference “The Body of the ‘King’: The Staging of the Body of the Institutional Leader from Antiquity to Middle Ages in East and West” at the University of Padua, July 6-9, 2011. This conference, while not a Melammu conference, was organized by members of Melammu and was meant to prepare the ground for the Melammu conference scheduled for 2012. Accordingly, several members of the Melammu leadership participated actively in the Padua conference. These Melammu members included Antonio Panaino, Simo Parpola, Robert Rollinger, Giovanni Lanfranchi, and Tzvi Abusch.

A Melammu conference that was to have taken place in Innsbruck in 2010 was deferred to 2012 because the organizers were involved in a European project and suggested that the Melammu conference be the second in a series of two conferences, the first of which would take place in Padua in 2011. Robert Rollinger, who was to have been the convener of the conference in 2010, agreed to organize the 2012 Melammu conference. This conference was to take place in Innsbruck. However, in the meantime, Robert has accepted a five-year professorship in Finland and will move to Helsinki this autumn. The Innsbruck location is therefore no longer viable, but Robert has now received the approval of the relevant Finnish institutions to organize the conference in Finland in 2014.

Several members of the Melammu leadership present in Padua met to discuss these new developments as well as the future of Melammu. I suggested that Robert Rollinger take over the office of chairman from me, an office that I have held since 2008. In light of his role as convener of the next meeting, Rollinger's appointment as chairman would be the most appropriate course of action and would benefit the organization. Usually in the past the convener of a Melammu conference would be elected chairman by the preceding conference, but in the absence of such a conference, I hope that you agree that this ad-hoc procedure is in the best interest of Melammu.

It has been an honor to serve as the chairman of Melammu. I hope that I will see you at the next conference.

Respectfully yours,

Tzvi Abusch