



Melammu Project

The Heritage of Mesopotamia and the Ancient Near East

Melammu newsletter 1/2015

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Dear colleagues and friends,

I am happy that we are now able to circulate the first newsletter of the Melammu Project. We intend to distribute the newsletter twice a year and to include all relevant information concerning the Melammu Project. I would like to thank Aleksandra Szalc who has accepted to be the editor. I would also like to thank Josef Wiesehöfer and Sara Boysen who have organized a wonderful conference in Kiel. Everybody who attended the meeting did not only enjoy exciting talks and presentations but could also see that Melammu is fostering. A special word of thanks is extended 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 Helsinki and Tartu.

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>.

Melammu-Symposia 9
Helsinki-Tartu 2015
Conceptualizing past, present and future

18-20 May 2015 (Helsinki), 22-24 (Tartu)

Overall Organization and concept: R. Rollinger, S. Fink

Organization Helsinki: R. Mattila, J. Hämeen-Anttila, R. Rollinger

Organization Tartu: Th. Kämmerer, M. Kõiv, Urmas Nõmmik, Ivo Volt

Sunday, May 17: Arrival Day, Helsinki

Monday:

8.45-9.00: Opening address

1. Conceptualizing the past: narratives (John Marincola, Stefano de Martino):

09.00-09.15 Introduction

09.15-09.45 Carolyn Dewald (Classics, Bard College): "How Many Miles to Babylon? Herodotus Narrates the Enormous Eastern City".

09.45-10.15 Mario Fales (Assyriology, University of Udine): Narrativity in Neo-Assyrian Royal Inscriptions: the Worthy King and His Ignoble Enemies --a Further View.

10.15-10.30 Break

10.30-11.00 Emily Baragwanath (Classics, UNC Chapel Hill) : "Xenophon's conception of the past across history and biography".

- 11.00-11.30 Jared Miller (Ancient Near Eastern and Ancient Anatolian Studies, University of Munich): "Toward a Typology of Quoted Speech in Hittite Historiographic Narrative".
- 11.30-11.45 Response
- 11.45-12.15 Discussion
- 12.15-14.00 Lunch

2. Structuring the past: chronology, genealogy, ancestors (Nino Luraghi, Giovanni-Battista Lanfranchi):

- 14.00-14.15 Introduction
- 14.15-14.45 Astrid Moeller (Ancient History, University of Freiburg): Chronology and lists. On the incompatibility of oral tradition and written record.
- 14.45-15.15 Shigeo Yamada (Assyriology, University of Tsukuba): The Neo-Assyrian Eponym List.
- 15.15-15.45 Regine Pruzsinszky (Assyriology, University of Freiburg): "Chronicles and their value for Mesopotamian chronology".
- 15.45-16.00 Break
- 15.00-16.30 Pietro Vannicelli (Classics, Sapienza Rome): Greek Heroes in Achaemenid Anatolia.
- 16.30-16.45 Response
- 16.45-17.15 Discussion
- 17.15-17.30 Break
- 17.30-18.15 Keynote I Max Otte, Historiography and narrative as universal-human phenomena: an amateur's interjection.

Tuesday:

3. Past as an argument: past and present in dialogue (Marc van de Mieroop, Kai Ruffing):

- 09.00-09.15 Introduction
- 09.15-09.45 John Dillery (Classics, University of Virginia): Past and Present in Greek Historiography.

09.45-10.15 Hannes Galter (Assyriology, University of Graz): The “heavy” name Adadnirari. History and politics in Assyria?

10.15-10.30 Break

10.30-11.00 Krzysztof Nawotka (Ancient History, University of Wrocław): Past and present in Roman history writing of the Early Empire.

11.00-11.30 Seth Richardson (Assyriology University of Chicago): The Exoticization of Mesopotamian Knowledge: Practical and Mythical Pasts.

11.30-11.45 Response

11.45-12.15 Discussion

12.15-13.30: Lunch

13.30-13.45: Introduction Poster Session I (Saana Svärd, Sanae Ito)

13.45-14.30: Poster Session I (8 posters)

4. The problem of genres (Martti Nissinen, Kurt Raaflaub):

14.30-14.45 Introduction

14.45-15.15 John Marincola (Classics, Florida State University): Do Genres Matter in Greco-Roman Historiography?

15.15-15.45 Irene Madreiter (Ancient History / Assyriology, University of Innsbruck): TBA

15.45-16.00 Break

16.00-16.30 Jason Silverman (Theology, University of Helsinki): Achaemenid Sources and the Problem of Genre.

16.30-17.00 Martti Nissinen (Theology, University of Helsinki): Genre as the Gateway to Ancient Prophecy.

17.00-17.15 Response

17.15-17.45 Discussion

17.45-18.30 Poster Session I (8 posters)

18:30-19:15 Keynote II, Pierre Briant

Wednesday:

5. Author and audience: The texts and their *sitz im leben* (Rocio Da Riva, Mischa Meier):

09.00-09.15 Introduction

09.15-09.45 Caroline Waerzeggers (Assyriology, University of Leiden): "The Babylonian chronicles: authorship, readership".

09.45-10.15 Oliver Schelske (Classics, University of Tübingen): "Historians, audiences, historical audiences in the 5th century".

10.15-10.30 Break

10.30-11.00 Nicole Brisch (Assyriology, University of Copenhagen): "Kinglists and History: "what's in a list"?"

11.00-11.30 Sabine Panzram (Ancient History, University of Hamburg): "Narrating like a Roman? Function and Use of Roman Historiography".

11.30-11.45 Response

11.45-12.15 Discussion

12.15-13.30: Lunch

13.30-16.30:

6. Islamic Historiographies and their predecessors (Jaakko Hämeen-Anttila/ Josef Wiesehöfer):

13.30-13.45 Introduction

13.45-14.15 Ilkka Lindstedt (Arabic Studies, University of Helsinki): The Abbasid revolution (747-750 CE) and its historiography: the composing of a sacred history.

14.15-14.45 TBA

14.45-15.15 Jaakko Hämeen-Anttila (Arabic Studies, University of Helsinki): Arab-Islamic World Histories: between Persian and Sacred History.

15.15-15.30 Break

15.30-16.00 TBA

16.00-16.15 Response

16.15-16.45 Discussion

16:45-17:00 Break

17.00-17.45: Keynote III: Thomas Kämmerer: Enuma elish and Babylonian Cosmology.

Thursday:

Excursion to Tallinn

Arrival day, Tartu

Friday: Tartu

8.45-9.00: Welcome address

7. The Young Researchers' Workshop (Vladimir Sazonov, Peeter Espak):

08.45-09.00 Introduction

09.00-09.30 Andreas Johandi, Some Remarks about the Beginnings of the God Marduk.

09.30-10.00 Maximilian Raethel, Gyges, Croesus and Beyond Writing and Re-writing Lydian History Throughout the Centuries.

10.00-10.15 Break

10.15-10.45 Ennio Biondi, Conceptualizing the early history of the world: Plato and the flood (Laws III 677a – 680a).

10.45-11.15 Bartłomiej Proc, John Zonaras' Epitome historiarum as a repository of unknown fragments by Ctesias of Cnidus and other ancient authors.

11.15-11.30 Response

11.30-12.00 Discussion

12.15-13.15: Lunch

13.15-13.30: Introduction Poster Session II (Saana Svärd, Sanae Ito)

13.30-14.15: Poster Session II (8 posters)

8. Presocratics and Ancient Near Eastern cosmology (Sebastian Fink, Alberto Bernabé) Part I:

14.15-14.30 Introduction

14.30-15.00 Julia Mendoza (Classics, Complutense University of Madrid): The cosmogonic Monism between India and Greece (working title).

15.00-15.30 Gebhard Selz (Assyriology, University of Vienna): The Mesopotamian path to Abstraction (working title).

15.30-16.00 Ian Rutherford (Classics, University of Reading): Hesiod and the Ancient Near East (working title).

16.00-16.15 Break

16:15-16:30 Response I

16:30-17:00 Discussion

17.00-17.45: Poster Session II (8 posters)

Keynote III

17.45-18.30 Mait Kõiv (Ancient History, University of Tartu): 'Remembering ruling dynasties: conception of past in Greece and the Near Eastern cultures.'

19.30 Dinner

Saturday:

8. Presocratics and Ancient Near Eastern cosmology (Sebastian Fink, Alberto Bernabé) Part II

09.30-10.00 Pietro Mander (Assyriology, University of Naples): "The Magic Duel from Sumer to Grail".

10.00-10.30 Ignacio Márquez Rowe (Assyriology, CSIC Madrid): Presocratic cosmology and alien wisdom. The limits of Babylonisation.

10.30-10.45 Break

10.45-11.00 Marc van de Mieroop (Assyriology, Columbia University): What is the point of the *Babylonian Creation Myth*?

11.00-11.15 Response

11.15-11.45 Discussion

11.45-13.30 Lunch

10. General Melammu Section (Mait Kõiv, Irene Madreiter):

13.30-13.45 Introduction

13.45-14.15 Josine Blok (Ancient History, University of Utrecht) / Julia Krul (Assyriology, University of Leiden): 'Debt and its aftermath: anchoring innovation in Solon's Athens.'

14.15-14.45 Matthias Haake (Ancient History, University of Münster): 'Role Plays: Varius Avitus Bassianus / Marcus Aurelius Antoninus / Heliogabalus as Syrian Priest and Roman Emperor.'

- 14.45-15.15 Saana Svärd (Assyriology, University of Helsinki) / Brigitte Truschnegg (Ancient History, University of Innsbruck): The figure of Semiramis in Roman and Neo-Assyrian texts: Reflections of gender.
- 15.15-15.30 Break
- 15.30-16.00 Amélie Kuhrt (Ancient History, University College London): Babylonia after Alexander: a changed world?
- 16.15-16.45 Martin Lang (Assyriology, University of Innsbruck): Knocking on Heaven's Door: Some Thoughts on the Reception and the Transformation of a Scene from the Gilgamesh-Epic.
- 16.45-17.00 Response
- 17.00-17.30 Discussion

Sunday:

10. Herodotus and the Ancient Near East (Elizabeth Irwin, Robert Rollinger):

- 08.45-09.00 Introduction
- 09.00-09.30 Rosaria Munson (Classics, Swarthmore College): 'Liberalizing Persia: The Shadow of a Greek Dream in Herodotus'.
- 09.30-10.00 Johannes Haubold (Classics, University of Durham): 'Cities and empires in Herodotus and Ancient Near Eastern literature'.
- 10.00-10.15 Break
- 10.15-10.45 Birgit Gufler (Ancient History, University of Innsbruck): Herodotus and the Writing of History.
- 10.45-11.15 Maurizio Giangliulo (Ancient History, University of Trento): "Of predestined rulers and righteous kings. Near Eastern narratives in Orientalizing Corinth".
- 11.15-11.30 Response
- 11.30-12.00 Discussion

12.15-12.45 General Assembly, Election of the new Board

Departure

Language of the Conference: English

The proceedings will be edited by Robert Rollinger and Sebastian Fink in the Melammu Symposia series (Ugarit Verlag).

Accommodation

Trip to Tallinn

On Thursday we will take the ferry to the medieval city of Tallinn and after some hours of sightseeing (we will provide you with more information concerning the transportation and the meeting point in Tallinn in the next circular). We can take the train from Tallinn to Tartu (for more options see below). You can buy your ferry ticket directly at the harbor but it is more convenient to book it online: <http://www.tallink.com/>

Helsinki:

1) The Hotel Arthur is close to the venue, but the prices tend to be between 100-120 euros/night. A hotel often used by University people is Hotel Arthur, (<http://www.hotelarthur.fi/en/>) which is couple of minutes' walk away from the university.

2) Additionally, a more affordable accommodation quite near the conference venue (University Main Building, Address: Fabianinkatu 33) is Euroshostel: <http://www.eurohostel.eu/>

Transportation

Day tickets for public transportation cost about 5 euros per day, so a pass for 4 days costs 20 euros. Single tickets can be bought on the tram and cost 3 euros each. See further <https://www.hsl.fi/en/tickets-and-fares>.

You can get to and from the airport with a public bus, which is the cheapest option (about 6 euros one way, see further <http://www.finavia.fi/en/helsinki-airport/to-and-from/bus-service/>.) A journey by taxi from the airport to the center of Helsinki takes about 30 minutes and costs around 45 to 50 euros.

Tartu

1) London. 35 singles, 80 EUR per night. <http://www.londonhotel.ee/de/>

2) Park Hotel. 10 rooms, 68 EUR per night (these are actually doubles, but the price is for single use). <http://www.parkhotell.ee/>

3) Pepleri hostel. 30 rooms, 35+5 (breakfast) EUR per night (again, double rooms, but the price is for single use). <http://academus.ee/?lang=en>

Of these only London has the reduced price for Tartu University guests.

In all these Hotels our guests have to say that they come to the Melammu conference, and they will pay the reduced price in London (in other two hotels there is no difference).

Transportation

Going directly to Tartu

Tartu has a little airport which is not heavily frequented. The easiest way to get to Tartu is to book a flight to Tallinn and then take the bus or the train to Tartu (see below).

Going to Tartu from Helsinki

If you want to join us on our little Excursion to Tallinn we recommend booking the ferry some weeks in advance (as it is possible that the schedule changes next year we will announce what ferry we will recommend some weeks before the conference).

In Tallinn we will have a guided tour through the city and there are also some hours available for individual exploration of Tallinn's wonderful old town, shopping or drinking coffee and enjoying Tallinn's famous cakes. We will leave Tallinn around 17:00; the trip with the train takes about two hours. All the recommended hotels in Tartu are relatively near the train station and with the taxi you reach them in a few minutes. If you prefer to walk: all of them are in walking distance.

The most comfortable way to get from Tallinn to Tartu is with the train. Here you find all the necessary information <https://pilet.elron.ee/en/>

Additional information can be found on the following website:

<http://www.ut.ee/en/admissions/how-get-tartu>

Minutes of the Melammu General Meeting 2014-11-12

Taken by Sebastian Fink

Robert Rollinger opened the General Meeting with a short overview of the history of the Melammu project which was – after a phase of relative inactivity – restarted with the Melammu conference held at Obergurgl in 2013.

New statutes of the project have been developed in advance and preliminarily discussed by the board members. They were presented to the assembly and read out by Robert Rollinger for discussion and approval.

Jaakko Hämeen-Anttila made a first comment concerning a formulation. In point 2.4.1.4 the word “members“ should be replaced by “scholars“. Several other suggestions of minor corrections of formulations were gratefully acknowledged and are not mentioned in the minutes any more.

Thomas Kämmerer raised the question if the designation “Project“ still seems appropriate for Melammu. This point was discussed but no general agreement was reached, but it was stated that the subtitle “The Heritage of Mesopotamia and the Near East“ should be reformulated, because Mesopotamia is a part of the Near East and so the title is somewhat redundant. Suggestions of better formulations to the board are most welcome.

Jared Miller asked if the terms “external reviewer“ and “editors“ should be defined in the statutes.

Robert Rollinger expressed his view that too strict regulations might lead to problems in the future and so it might be better to keep this point relatively open.

Amar Annus asked why the idea of Melammu as a registered society with membership was given up.

Robert Rollinger stated that he thinks that it might be better in order to keep Melammu an open enterprise not to promote the idea of a closed circle of Melammu-members.

Krzysztof Ulanowski hinted at the possibility that there should maybe be members in order to prevent someone from inviting 100 friends of his to the Melammu meeting and letting himself be elected by them as the chairman of the project.

Robert stated that this is theoretically possibly but that he doesn't see the danger that this really happens.

That led to the next question of Alessandra Gilbert who asked how Melammu is financed.

Robert Rollinger stated that Melammu has no property or any money.

Jared Miller asked if it is necessary to mention in the statutes that Melammu has no financial structure behind it.

→ this question will be taken into consideration and will be discussed at the next general meeting in 2015

Hilary Gopnik proposed to consider if undergraduates should also have the possibility to become members of the board.

→ 2015

After a discussion about Hilary's suggestions Krzysztof Nawotka pointed to the fact that the statutes can be easily altered on the next Melammu Meeting and suggested that we should not change things (except smaller formal things) right now but think the points over and work them out properly.

Lorenzo d'Alfonso took up this suggestion and formulated it the following way: the board should collect these suggestions and if they are found worth considering then the statutes should be changed and voted on in the next meeting. So the procedure should be defined as follows in the statutes

- 1.) vote on the statutes
- 2.) suggestions for optimizing the statutes for next year

Amar Annus made a remark concerning the description of the project and posed the question if the second sentence of the first chapter of the statutes is necessary.

Robert answered that he thinks that the second sentence should be kept in order to prevent people from understanding Melammu as a panbabylonist' undertaking and that the aspect of comparison is essential to Melammu.

Thomas Kämmerer came back to the subtitle and asked if Melammu's interest in the ANE's impact on the west should be mentioned in the subtitle. Amélie Kuhrt stated that the term "heritage" seems to be problematic for her.

→ 2015

Hartmut Kühne asked if the chronological restriction in the project description is necessary.

→ 2015

Next the question was raised if the designation ANE includes Iran but this was confirmed.

Hilary Gopnik stated that the subtitle should point to the interdisciplinarity of the project.

Then it was asked how other disciplines could be involved in the Melammu Project.

Robert's suggestion was that this could be done best by different main topics of further conferences that open up the project for new disciplines.

Finally the vote on the statutes took place. The statutes were accepted and there was no vote against it.

Before closing the General Meeting Robert read out a letter of Cynthia Jean, who asked the organizers of upcoming conferences to send the circular also to all members of the board in order to keep them informed.

End of the General Meeting.

Points for 2015:

- Do we need to mention in the statutes that there is no financial structure behind Melammu?
- Should it also be possible for undergraduate-students to become member of the board.
- The title and subtitle should be discussed.
- Is a chronological restriction for the project necessary?

Melammu Meetings 2014-2020:

Kiel, October 2014: The Iranian World (finished)

Helsinki, May 2015: Conceptualizing Past, Present and Future (fixed)

Kassel 2016: Autumn 2016: The Ideology of War (fixed)

Beirut 2017: 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)

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>

