

SEMANTICS OF ANCIENT HEBREW DATABASE PROJECT

Minutes of the Meeting of the SAHD Executive Committee and Co-Workers held on
Monday 18 July 2011 in the University of Oxford

Present: Committee: M. Amadasi (Rome), G.I. Davies (Cambridge), H.G.M. Williamson (Oxford, Secretary).

Apologies: J.K. Aitken (Cambridge), H. Gzella (Leiden), J. Hartley (Azusa), M. Marrazza (Florence), C. Masi (Florence), A. Pecchioli (Florence), D. Reimer (Edinburgh), K. Spawn (Simpson University), J. Stökl (London), I. Zatelli (Florence).

In the absence of Professor Gzella, Professor Davies took the chair.

1. Minutes of the last meeting (Helsinki 2010)

The Minutes were agreed as a correct record.

2. Matters arising and not taken elsewhere

(a) *Archive* [Helsinki 2 (a)]. By an oversight, no progress had been made with this over the past year. Professor Williamson agreed that he should work with Dr Reimer in preparing an archive that could then be held in Leiden.

ACTION: DR and HGMW

3. Chairman's report

Professor Gzella had written with a number of suggestions as to how the project might be revitalized by the involvement of several other centres and (younger) scholars, including some who adopt alternative semantic methods to those which are currently well represented among our co-workers. These included (i) Kathrin Egger and Christian Stadel, who have been involved with ThWQ and TDOT. It was noted that Classical Hebrew was not their primary area of expertise but that they are very competent in this field. It was agreed that Professor Gzella should sound out the latter while Professor Davies and Dr Aitken should look out for the former when she arrives in Cambridge. (ii) There are several colleagues and students at Louvain whose work might fit with the Project. It was agreed that Professor Gzella should sound them out and report back. In doing so he should be sure to include Professor Vervenne in the hope that he might continue to show the support and interest that he has always expressed. (iii) Regine Hunziker-Rodewald at Strasbourg might also be interested. Again, Professor Gzella should be encouraged to make an approach, and it was noted that Professor Williamson might also be able to liaise via his close

association with Professor Jan Joosten through the Editorial Board of *Vetus Testamentum*. All these possible initiatives were warmly welcomed.

ACTION: HG, GID, JKA and HGMW

4. Reports from centres

(a) *Cambridge*. Professor Davies reported that his own work on an overview of the 'deliverance' entries has progressed as well as analysis of the *prq* group of lexemes. Gaps in some of the other entries have been identified and it is hoped to raise funds during the coming year to secure research assistance to complete these. It was also observed that updating of the websites was essential; some of P. Williams' entries on weapons had not been accessible for a while.

ACTION: GID and DR

(b) *Florence*. Those present were interested to know whether Dr Masi had managed to make any progress with establishing a website in Florence that might be linked with the Project's main website [Helsinki 4 (b)]; it was understood that there had been some delays owing to departmental reorganization during the past year. The entries that Professor Davies had translated into English long ago had been approved by the Project's editor and they should now be mounted on the website. Professor Zatelli had reported on the co-workers' progress while Dr Pecchioli and Masi had written separately to the same effect. Dr Marrazza should submit entries on 'health' and 'illness' in September, Dr Pecchioli has nearly finished *sml* and *tmwnh*, while *dmwt* and '*lm*' should follow soon after, and Dr Masi hoped to complete *tsdyq* and *rsh*' during the coming winter.

ACTION: CM, AP, MM

(c) *Oxford*. Dr Stökl had completed his entries on words for prophets. Professor Williamson had requested some corrections and expansion in one particular and revised forms had just been received. These should therefore soon be ready to send to Professor Gzella for editorial approval.

(d) *Leiden*. Professor Gzella had reported on progress with ThWQ and TDOT ix. Meanwhile W. Dekker has stopped his doctoral research.

(e) *Austin*. No news.

(f) *Rome*. Professor Amadasi agreed to try once again to get F. Scagliarini to submit material for her entry on '*abbir*' even if it was not finally complete so that the work she had undertaken would not be lost. She also agreed to contact A. Gianto about his proposed involvement in the Project.

ACTION: MA

(g) *Azusa*. Professor Hartley's volume on colour terms was published this year and he was to be congratulated. Professor Gzella was asked to approach Peeters to see whether the entries could also be made available electronically on the website.

ACTION: HG

(h) *Edinburgh*. The following report from Dr Reimer was received just after the meeting:

Interest in research related to classical Hebrew semantics remains relatively high in Edinburgh. There is at the moment a PhD dissertation making good progress on the Hebrew lexemes related to "glory". With *kavod* obviously taking pride of place, there are about a dozen lexemes included. (I believe these terms have not been "claimed" by any other centre, but it would be good for the master list to be updated to ensure that efforts are not duplicated.) It is the intention of this researcher that the results should be presented in SAHD format, and so could make a good contribution to our database. There is also a short (15K words) MTh thesis being written on "contested meanings" in biblical Hebrew, with *nefesh* being the worked example. Although this will not translate into a SAHD entry in the short term, it might in the longer term, and is at least indicative of a broader interest in semantics in Edinburgh. We have also had a serious inquiry by a PhD applicant proposing a study of "faith" in the Hebrew Bible. While this would have the potential for SAHD material, it is possible that the applicant might not be able to deal with current UKBA regulations.

(i) *Paris*. No news.

(j) *Sydney*. Professor Williamson had forwarded to Professor Gzella all the material that had been received from Sydney on viticulture but had not yet heard his reactions.

ACTION: HG

(k) *Israel*. No news.

(l) *Dr Kevin Spawn* apologized that he had not made any progress with the preposition *kaph* this past year.

(m) *Bonn*. It was noted that Dr Zanella's book on lexemes for 'gift' had been published. He might be asked if he were willing to prepare any of these for database entries.

ACTION: HGMW and FZ

5. Website and Database

The following report was received from Dr Reimer just after the meeting:

'Without more entries to mount on the website, there is little point in taking things further than we have got to at present. By way of reminder, we have got a stable infrastructure (as demonstrated by a couple of the sample entries already online), and a good XML schema for marking up articles. At previous meetings, we have discussed the possibility of including some "social networking" aspect to the SAHD site, in particular, the facility for informed comment on the entries which could enhance their value. Once again technical progress means that this facility could be added very simply and effectively -- always with the proviso that we have sufficient content for the site attract appropriate traffic and generate interaction at a high level. I (Reimer) am personally beginning to wonder if facilities provided by our host institutions are not lagging behind what could be done by mounting a site independently. This would require a small amount of funding, but might be something to keep in mind for the future.'

Without knowledge of this report, those present at the meeting considered that the lack of updating of the website gave the wrong impression that nothing is happening. The bibliographies of co-workers are now seriously out of date and should be deleted if not updated. A reference to Hartley's new volume should be added. In terms of appearance, the *kly* website might give ideas for improvement.

ACTION: DR

6. The *kly* Project

With input also from Professor Gzella's report, Professors Davies and Williamson summarized how knowledge of the Dutch *kly* project had come to our attention and noted that there had been some unspecified difficulties in relations between previous colleagues in Holland on this subject. These should now be regarded as a matter of history. There was considerable common ground between the projects, but the *kly* project had greater interest in the specifically Biblical world while SAHD included elements that show greater interest in linguistics. Nevertheless, the overlap was sufficient to make clear that it would be foolish to proceed in complete isolation even though it was agreed that the time was not right for any attempt at full amalgamation between the two projects. It was suggested that Professor Gzella might make direct contact with Professor de Moor in a friendly manner to communicate more fully what is being done and is planned to be done in each project, to try to avoid duplication of effort, and to include cross-references to the other project on each of the websites. It was hoped that those not present at the meeting might also consult the *kly* website (<http://www.otw-site.eu/KLY/kly-intro.php>) and send in any further comments or observations.

ACTION: HG and ALL

7. Next meeting

It was proposed that the 2012 meeting should be in Cambridge in September (avoiding 8–11 Sept.) at a date that would be convenient for Professor Gzella. The secretary would consult with him, Professor Davies and Dr Aitken and then circulate the agreed date as soon as possible.

[It was subsequently agreed to meet in Leiden on 14 September.]

ACTION: HG, JKA, GID and HGMW

8. AOB

Professor Williamson reported that Dr Salvesen had drawn his attention to the publication of a book by Daniel C. Leavins, *Verbs of Leading in the Hebrew Bible* (2011) in case it might be relevant to SAHD. He agreed he would look at it and report back to Professor Gzella.

ACTION: HGMW