

SEMANTICS OF ANCIENT HEBREW DATABASE PROJECT

Minutes of the Meeting of the SAHD Executive Committee and Co-Workers held on
Wednesday 22 August 2018 in Groningen

Present: J.K. Aitken (Cambridge), who chaired the meeting, M. Dijkstra (Utrecht), R. de Hoop (Oudewater), M. Korpel (Groningen), P. Sanders (Amsterdam), K. Spronk (Amsterdam), and H.G.M. Williamson (Oxford, Secretary),

Apologies: M. Amadasi Guzzo (Rome), G.I. Davies (Cambridge), A. Gray (Cambridge), D. Reimer (Edinburgh), R. Vergari (Florence), M. Vervenne (Leuven), and I. Zatelli (Florence)

1. Minutes of the last meeting (Cambridge 2017)

The Minutes were agreed as a correct record.

2. Matters arising

Professor Spronk reported that he now had most of the project's archives in Amsterdam. The secretary should supply him with the more recent items.

3. Reports from Centres

(a) *Florence*. Professor Zatelli reported in writing that Chiara Stornaiuolo is working on lexemes relating to atmospheric phenomena. It was hoped that she, Dr Funelli ('prayer'), and Dr Legnaioli ('time') would all be able to submit some entries before the end of the year. Meanwhile Stefano Bindi had withdrawn from active work on the project.

(b) *Cambridge*. Dr Aitken reported that the 'deliverance' group of lexemes was now more or less complete. Some of the entries had already been read by other colleagues and required only small improvements; the remainder would be sent very soon, together with Graham Davies's introductory summary. Colleagues present agreed to help with reviewing these when asked. Colleagues in Cambridge were asked to reconsider together whether this might appear as a printed volume as well as online (Peeters were reported to be supportive of such combined forms of output). While this would be Professor Davies's last contribution to the project, Cambridge was keen to continue its active involvement in future. A successful workshop on semantics had been held in May, with some 30 people attending, and this would become an annual event. Collaboration with a colleague in Yale on this was active, and Professor Spronk was keen to be kept informed as there could also be Dutch co-

operation. The Secretary was asked to write to Professor Davies on behalf of all colleagues to express their deep appreciation for all his work on SAHD over the many years since its inception.

(c) *Oxford*. Professor Williamson reported that Sonja Noll had successfully completed her doctoral thesis on the semantic field of silence. Although his grant application had not been successful, she was still keen to produce database entries on the relevant lexemes. Once this was completed Professor Williamson would step down from the project, but he would speak to colleagues in post in Oxford to see if anyone was willing to assume leadership of the Oxford centre.

(d) *Edinburgh*. Dr Reimer reported in writing that he had left the University in January but had since been appointed as Honorary Senior Lecturer at St Andrews. Both Drs Burton ('glory') and Peters ('cooking') remained interested in completing their lists of assigned lexemes. The meeting saw no reason why Dr Reimer should not continue as the co-ordinator of the Edinburgh centre for the time being (it was not a requirement to have a university attachment) while understanding that this might move to St Andrews in due course.

(e) No reports had been received from Drs K. Spawn or F. Zanella.

4. New Centres. There was agreement that Professor Spronk might approach Pierre van Hecke (Leuven) and Ellen van Wolde (Nijmegen) to see if they might like to set up centres at their universities.

5. Website. Dr Reimer reported that despite his move the SAHD website remained intact and secure at present, so that there was no urgent need for action. It had been updated as appropriate over the past year. The committee agreed that the best long-term host for the website would be the Dutch OTW site, as *keli* is at present. Dr Reimer would be encouraged to consult with Spronk and Korpel about how the move might best be effected. It was important for the international profile of the project that the site should remain easily accessible without having consciously to navigate through the Society address. Professor Williamson agreed to press again for the restoration of access to the electronic-only Oxford entries, and Dr Aitken agreed that he would need to do the same for some of the earlier Cambridge entries.

6. Report on *keli* progress. Dr de Hoop reported that there had been agreement that the *keli* project should be revived and that about half of those who had previously contributed were willing to revise their entries to conform to the SAHD format. In response to comments that had been made to two trial entries, he agreed that most points could be easily taken on board. There were two matters requiring decision, however. (i) Abbreviations. He accepted that the *keli* list was not suitable for SAHD. It was agreed that the SBL list should be adopted for all future entries. (ii) Footnotes/

endnotes. Although it had been claimed that no such notes should be used, he pointed out that previous SAHD entries were far from consistent on this matter. He also demonstrated that in modern electronic files readers could switch by touch to and from notes and he considered that this was preferable for long lists of references etc. In discussion it was agreed that such usage would be acceptable but that notes should not be used for discussion of any matters of substance (even if minor)—they should be included in the text (perhaps as a 'B' entry if appropriate).

7. Editor. Following previous informal discussion it was agreed that Professor Spronk should assume the role of Editor in succession to Professor Holger Gzella. The meeting agreed with his proposal to continue the recent policy of sharing among colleagues the work of final editing of submitted entries. Professor Williamson was willing to continue as Secretary for the time being but expressed his wish that somebody should be found to succeed him before too long.

7. AGADE notice. It was reaffirmed that, as previously agreed, it would be worthwhile putting a notice on the AGADE circulation list when the 'deliverance' lexemes were published and that perhaps by the same time the new setting of the website could be announced.

8. Next Meeting. It was agreed that it would be sensible to have the next meeting at the same time as next year's Cambridge workshop in May. Dr Aitken and Professor Spronk would liaise about precise date and time and let the secretary know in good time to inform others.

All present thanked Professor Spronk for arranging the venue for the meeting and for providing the lunch that had been enjoyed during it.