

SEMANTICS OF ANCIENT HEBREW DATABASE PROJECT

Minutes of the Meeting of the SAHD Executive Committee and Co-Workers
held in the Boardroom, Music Hall, Aberdeen University, at 12.30 p.m.
on Friday 9 August 2019

Present: P. Sanders (Amsterdam), who chaired the meeting, J.K. Aitken (Cambridge), M. Burton (Edinburgh), R. de Hoop (Amsterdam), A. Pecchioli (Florence), D. Reimer (Edinburgh), J. Stökl (London); H.G.M. Williamson (Oxford, Secretary) attended by Skype

Apologies: M. Amadasi Guzzo (Rome), G.I. Davies (Cambridge), Alberto Legnaioli (Florence); K. Spronk (Amsterdam); Chiara Stornaiuolo (Florence); M. Vervenne (Leuven), Francesco Zanella (Bonn); and I. Zatelli (Florence)

1. Minutes of the last meeting (Groningen 2018)

The Minutes were agreed as a correct record.

2. Matters arising

A notice about the project was posted on AGADE at the beginning of April, following the publication of the Cambridge 'deliverance' lexemes. Dr Reimer reported that as a result there had been over 300 new visitors to the SAHD site over the following three days.

3. Reports from Centres

(a) Florence. Professor Zatelli reported in writing that a new co-worker, Chiara Stornaiuolo is preparing two entries for the end of September: שֶׁלֶג 'snow' and בָּרָד 'hail'. Another pupil, Alberto Legnaioli, got his PhD with a very good work on the lexicon of time. He will prepare two entries on the lexicon of time for the end of the year.

(b) Cambridge. Dr Aitken reported that, following this year's successful workshop, there was to be a week-long workshop jointly with Yale (15–20 March 2020) combining formal presentations with work in groups on the semantic field of 'keeping' (e.g. שָׁמַר).

(c) Oxford. Professor Williamson reported that Sonja Noll's thesis had been accepted for publication by Brill. Now that she has secured a position in Santiago she hopes to be able to make progress with her entries on 'silence' over the coming year.

(d) *Edinburgh*. Dr Reimer reported that Dr Peters still hoped to produce some further entries on terms relating to 'cooking', that Dr Burton will continue to submit entries related to 'glory', and a current PhD student in New College is showing interest in the semantics of רעע ('evil') which might lead to the preparation of relevant entries. He had no further news from Dr Akiyama on the field of 'friendship'.

(e) Professors Spawn and Zanella had both written to say that they had not been able to make any progress this past year.

4. New Centres

It was reported that Professor Spronk had been in communication with Dr Avi Shveka in Jerusalem who had an interest in preparing entries on the field of 'loans'. There was no further report on possible approaches to Pierre van Hecke (Leuven) and Ellen van Wolde (Nijmegen) (2018 Minutes, item 4).

5. Website and Electronic Database

Dr Reimer commented on statistics of hits on the website, as in the attached report. It was noteworthy that most visitors to the site were first timers rather than return visitors. It was agreed that links of an appropriate nature might be further sought with the UBS's Semantic Dictionary of Biblical Hebrew, the 'Copenhagen Alliance', and AWOL. Co-operation as widely as possible was desirable, but SAHD should maintain its own distinctive identity in all cases. It was further agreed that authors of entries should include them in their Academia.edu (or equivalent) pages. Dr Reimer confirmed that for now there was no difficulty in maintaining the site at ed.ac.uk but that there would be technically no particular difficulty in transferring it elsewhere if desired (see item 6 below).

6. SAHD and *Keli*: report on progress and future arrangements

Much depended on establishing a web-base in the Netherlands. Dr Reimer had had some positive discussions last October initiated by Klaas Spronk with Reinier de Blois (UBS), Robin ten Hoopen (Amsterdam), and Wido van Peursen (Amsterdam), and was encouraged to take these further in order to be able to come forward with a firm proposal next year. It was further noted that Professor Spronk is in touch with Dr Reinier de Blois (United Bible Societies and Nida Institute), about joining the website of SAHD and A Semantic Dictionary of Biblical Hebrew (<http://www.sdbh.org/organization/index.html>). They will apply to the American Bible Societies to fund an assistant for the work on the SAHD for 50% for two years.

7. Officers of SAHD

It was clarified that Professor Spronk was now the editor and so had final responsibility for the approval of new entries. However, he did not wish to undertake all the detailed evaluation etc. himself, and it was agreed that other members of the executive committee would be willing to continue to help with this, as in the recent past. He could recruit others with the necessary expertise to help as well. Professor Williamson stated that he now wished to step down as Secretary and asked that Professor Spronk (with suggestions from others if possible) might seek a suitable replacement over the coming year. Dr Reimer was willing to continue to oversee the database and website until its long-term location was agreed.

8. Next Meeting

Dr Sanders agreed to liaise with professor Spronk to see if a meeting in association with next year's EABS meeting in Wuppertal (3–6 August) might be suitable.

Website Report (2018/19)

The central site remains on the 'ed.ac.uk' domain, and is stable there until arrangements can be made for its long-term future home. The Dokuwiki platform has been upgraded and is presently running the current 2018-04-22b release. On average, the site has 7.2 page views per day, and 3.9 unique visits per day, although return visits are low—not the expected statistic! The AGADE notice in April produced a strong spike in our analytics, and this continues to have an 'echo' from the Ancient Jew Review which included the AGADE notice in its weekly bulletin on 12 April. Our other top 'referrer' is a page of links related to the study of Hebrew Bible maintained at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

In terms of demographics, the distribution over the past four months is fairly representative:

	<i>Page Views</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
1. United States	152	30.4%
2. Brazil	139	27.8%
3. Netherlands	73	14.6%
4. United Kingdom	38	7.6%
5. Italy	19	3.8%
6. Croatia	14	2.8%
7. Israel	10	2.0%
8. Canada	6	1.2%
9. Romania	5	1.0%
10. Germany	5	1.0%

In total, the site had visits from 29 countries over the past quarter, including Russia, Hong Kong, South Africa, Japan, Iraq, and China.