

Ancient Hebrew Semantics Database

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The network supported by the European Science Foundation under the leadership of Prof. J. Hoftijzer of Leiden for a three-year period (1992-95) successfully completed its exploratory stage. Following a report on the project written by Hoftijzer and published in the present journal (*ZAH* 5 [1992] 85f.), I have been kindly invited by its editor, Prof. H.-P. Müller, to present a report on the progress of the project since then.

The project entered a new stage in January 1995 when, with the conclusion of the exploratory stage, it was renamed Ancient Hebrew Semantics Database (abbreviated SAHD) project and the executive committee elected Dr. D. Reimer of Oxford as its new secretary and myself as its chairman. On the same occasion an advisory committee consisting of senior academics was also established. Since then four centres have been established, with each centre focusing on a lexical field or fields of its own choice:

Cambridge – directed by Dr. G. Davies, Prof. R. Gordon, and Dr. G. Khan with Dr. J. Aitken as co-worker (roads and ways; particles)

Oxford – directed by Prof. H. Williamson with Dr. A. Salvesen as coworker (royalty)

Firenze – directed by Prof. I. Zatelli and Prof. P. Fronzaroli with Dr. Bindi, Dr. Merlini, and Dr. Sciumbata as co-workers (purity, knowledge, nature and cosmos)

Roma – directed by Prof. G.M. Guzzo with Dr. F. Bianchi and Dr. F. Scagliarini as co-workers (domesticated animals, metals and perfume).

Funding is further being actively sought at Leiden, Leuven and Paris. Prof. B. Levine of New York intends to take part on individual basis.

The centres at Cambridge and Oxford have already completed a number of draft entries by using a computerised input program developed at Leiden.

To mark the conclusion of the initial exploratory stage a one-day symposium was held in July 1994. The proceedings on the symposium together with a history of the project up to then written by Prof. Hoftijzer and a review article by the present writer of D. Clines, *The Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*, vol 1, were subsequently published as T. Muraoka (ed.), *Studies in Ancient Hebrew Semantics* [*Abr-Nahrain* Supplement no. 4] (Leuven: Peeters, 1995).

Further information may be obtained from

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