

Bericht

Further progress on the Ancient Hebrew Semantics Database project

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This is a long-term, international, cooperative research project reported in 1997 in this journal (10,1, p. 98). We would like to inform interested Hebraists, Semitists and Old Testament scholars on what has taken place since. In brief, the project conducts a systematic and critical survey and evaluation of studies published since around 1950 on select lexical fields or single lexical words of Ancient Hebrew. Individual contributors have an option of presenting their own results.

The following are centres which have been active over the past seven years or so, focusing on various lexical fields:

Cambridge, U.K. – directed by Profs. G.I. Davies, R. Gordon, and G. Khan with Drs J. Aitken and P.G. Williams as co-workers (roads and ways; weapons; salvation; particles; blessing and cursing)

Oxford – directed by Prof. H.G.M. Williamson with Dr A. Salvesen as co-worker (royalty)

Edinburgh – directed by Dr D.J. Reimer with Dr T. Frydrych as co-worker (trust)

Paris – directed by Prof. A. Lemaire with Drs M. Gorea-Autexier, U. Schattner-Rieser, and M. Vartejanu-Joubert (anger)

Firenze – directed by Prof. I. Zatelli with Drs S. Bindi, M. di Giulio, C. Masi, C. Merlini, P. Sciumbata as co-workers (purity; knowledge; beauty; justice; nature and cosmos)

Roma – directed by Prof. G.M. Amadasi with Drs F. Bianchi, C. Moro, C. Peri, F. Scagliarini as co-workers (domesticated animals; metals; perfume; geographical demarcations)

Sydney – directed by Dr. I. Young with Dr D. Jordan as co-worker (alcoholic drinks and viticulture)

Cambridge, U.S.A. – directed by Profs. J. Huehnergard and J. Hackett (writing and writing materials)

Furthermore, Prof. J.E. Hartley of Azusa University, Azusa, USA, has joined the project in individual capacity, and has been working a number of years on the lexical field of colours. The research is nearing conclusion.

With an interim secretaryship of Prof. G.I. Davies (Cambridge), Prof. H.G.M. Williamson (Oxford) has been Secretary since August 2001, with Prof. Muraoka (Leiden) continuing as Chairman of the executive committee.

Results of this project have been published in T. Muraoka (ed.), *Semantics of Ancient Hebrew* (Louvain, 1998) [entries concerning creation, ways, royalty, curses]. There are also articles on aspects of royalty by A. Salvesen in J. Day (ed.), *King and Messiah in Ancient Israel* (Sheffield, 1998), *JSS* 44 (1999); concerning knowledge, by P. Sciumbata in *RBI* 44 (1996), *Henoch* 18 (1996) and elsewhere. There are also doctoral dissertations completed as part of this project on knowledge (Sciumbata; Firenze), on purity (Merlini, Firenze), alcoholic drinks and viticulture (Jordan; Sydney). A volume on blessing and cursing prepared by Dr Aitken is expected to be published shortly in the Supplement series of *Ancient Near Eastern Studies* [formerly *Abr-Nahrain*]. We also aim to make results available electronically – already available in part.

Individual scholars are warmly invited to contact us if they have research projects, whether complete or on-going, conducted by themselves or by junior scholars (e.g. doctoral students) under their supervision with a view to discussing the possibility of writing entries in accordance with our standard format on the basis of their own research. The above-mentioned volume, *Semantics of Ancient Hebrew*, would give a clear idea of the goals of the project and the format of entries.

Further information may be obtained from

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