Table of Contents

Introduction: Obergurgl 2013, or A New Dawn for the Melammu Project ............ 1

Robert Rollinger
Old Battles, New Horizons: The Ancient Near East and the Homeric Epics ....... 5

Talking to God(s): Prayers and Incantations

Tzvi Abusch (Chair)
Introduction ........................................................................................................ 35

Cynthia Jean
Performing Rituals in Secluded Places: A Comparison of the Akkadian and Hittite Corpus ................................................................. 41

Patrick M. Michel
Worshipping Gods and Stones in Late Bronze Age Syria and Anatolia ............ 53

Alan Lenzi
The Language of Akkadian Prayers in *Ludlul Bēl Nēmeqi* and its Significance within and beyond Mesopotamia ........................................ 67

David P. Wright

Alberto Bernabé
To Swear to Heaven and Earth, from Mesopotamia to Greece ...................... 125

Martin Lang (Respondent)
Response ........................................................................................................ 135

Et Dona Ferentes: Foreign Reception of Mesopotamian Objects

D. T. Potts (Chair)
Introduction .................................................................................................... 143

Giacomo Bardelli
Near Eastern Influences in Etruria and Central Italy between the Orientalizing and the Archaic Period: The Case of Tripod-Stands and Rod Tripods .................................................................................. 145
Winfried Held and Deniz Kaplan
The Residence of a Persian Satrap in Meydancikkale, Cilicia ...................... 175

Joachim Ganzert
On the Archetype of Sacral Rulership Legitimization and the Lower Court
in the Lüneburg Town Hall ........................................................................... 193

Ann C. Gunter (Respondent)
Response ....................................................................................................... 221

‘Fighting like a Lion’: The Use of Literary Figures of Speech

Simone Paganini (Chair)
Introduction .................................................................................................. 227

Sebastian Fink
Metaphors for the Unrecognizability of God in Balağs and Xenophanes .......... 231

Johannes Haubold
‘Shepherds of the People’: Greek and Mesopotamian Perspectives ............... 245

Krzysztof Ulanowski
The Metaphor of the Lion in Mesopotamian and Greek Civilization .............. 255

Amar Annus and Mari Sarv
The Ball Game Motif in the Gilgamesh Tradition and
International Folklore .............................................................................. 285

Thomas R. Kämmerer (Respondent)
Response ....................................................................................................... 297

Mesopotamia and the World: Interregional Interaction

Giovanni-Battista Lanfranchi (Chair)
Introduction .................................................................................................. 307

Reinhard Pirngruber
šulmu jaši libbaka lu ūbka: The Interaction between
the Neo-Assyrian King and the Outside World .............................................. 317

André Heller
Why the Greeks Know so Little about Assyrian and Babylonian History .......... 331

Julien Monerie
Writing Greek with Weapons Singularely Ill-designed for the Purpose:
The Transcription of Greek in Cuneiform ...................................................... 349

Krzysztof Nawotka
Alexander the Great in Babylon: Reality and Myth ........................................ 365
Birgit Gufler and Irene Madreiter  
The Ancient Near East and the Genre of Greek Historiography ............................ 381

Simonetta Ponchia (Respondent)
Response .................................................................................................................. 397


Kurt A. Raaflaub (Chair)
Introduction.............................................................................................................. 413

Kristoffer Momrak
Identifying Popular Power: Who were the People of Ancient Near Eastern  
City-States? .......................................................................................................... 417

Kurt A. Raaflaub
Lion’s Roar and Muses’ Song: Social and Political Thinking in Early Greek  
Poets and Early Israelite Prophets ........................................................................ 433

Sabine Müller
A History of Misunderstandings? Macedonian Politics and Persian  
Prototypes in Greek Polis-Centered Perspective .................................................. 459

Raija Mattila (Respondent)
Response .................................................................................................................. 481

Iran and Early Islam

Lucian Reinfandt (Chair)
Introduction.............................................................................................................. 487

Aleksandra Szalc
Semiramis and Alexander in the Diodorus Siculus’ Account (II 4–20) ........ 495

Tim Greenwood
Oversight, Influence and Mesopotamian Connections to Armenia  
Across the Sasanian and Early Islamic Periods .................................................... 509

Lutz Berger
Empire-building vs. State-building between Late Antiquity  
and Early Islam ...................................................................................................... 523

Josef Wiesehöfer (Respondent)
Response .................................................................................................................. 533

Representations of Power: Shaping the Past and the Present

Sabina Franke (Chair)
Introduction.............................................................................................................. 539
Frederick Mario Fales
Looking the God in the Eye: Sennacherib’s Bond with Destiny,
from Rock Reliefs to Cylinder Seals .......................................................... 543

Dirk Wicke
Assyrian or Assyrianized: Reflections on the Impact of Assyrian Art
in Southern Anatolia ..................................................................................... 561

Rocio Da Riva
Enduring Images of an Ephemeral Empire: Neo-Babylonian Inscriptions
and Representations on the Western Periphery........................................... 603

Christoph Schäfer
Inspiration and Impact of Seleucid Royal Representation ......................... 631

Jonathan Valk and Beate Pongratz-Leisten (Respondent)
Response ..................................................................................................... 643

List of Contributors .................................................................................... 653

Index ........................................................................................................... 657