

FOREWORD

The Fourth Annual Symposium of the MELAMMU Project held in Ravenna (October 13th-17th 2001), one month after 11th September, was a very special event and not only from a scientific point of view, as on the one hand it was an important occasion to put together scholars engaged in different fields of research in a friendly and warm context of collaboration and debate and on the other hand it was a crucial moment for reflections and considerations about the humane side of this cultural project and its peculiar target, beyond scientific and academic researches, to promote dialogue among different cultures, languages and frames of mind. The results of those debates during this Conference caused the general assembly to decree the foundation of the “International Association for Intercultural Studies of the MELAMMU Project” that was officially and legally established and provided with its own statutes in those days, as already documented in the Proceedings of the Third MELAMMU Symposium (Milano 2002, pp. 257-264).

The Fourth MELAMMU Symposium of Ravenna, whose subject was “Schools of Oriental Studies and the Development of Modern Historiography,” was organized with the important support of the Assyrian American National Federation and the partnership of the “Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna,” more specifically its Office of International Relationships, the Faculty of Preservation of the Cultural Heritage and the Department of Histories and Methods for the Preservation of the Cultural Heritage, the latter two being located in Ravenna, where the sessions took place. We also would like to thank the Istituto Italiano per l’Africa e l’Oriente (IsIAO) and its President, Professor Gherardo Gnoli, the Fondazione Flaminia and the Municipality of Ravenna for their precious collaboration; it is also our pleasure to mention here Dr. Claudia Leurini for her efficient activity in the organizing management of the Conference and Col. Ermanno Calderoni for his kind help too.

The editors are also pleased to express their deep gratitude to Dr. Gian Pietro Basello and to Dr. Federica Crabu (“L’Orientale” University, Naples) for their informatic competence and skilfulness in tidying this fourth volume of proceedings of the MELAMMU Symposium for publication.

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