

AMAR ANNUS SIMO PARPOLA ROBERT M. WHITING Helsinki

## The MELAMMU Database

The database of the MELAMMU Project for the Intellectual Heritage of Assyria and Babylonia in East and West, which has been under construction in Helsinki since January 2003, is now operational and can be consulted at the Internet address <<http://www.aakk1.helsinki.fi/melammu/>>. As of this writing (April 30, 2004), there are 900 entries on line, written by several authors.

The Helsinki MELAMMU team is now calling for international collaboration to enlarge and develop the database. We hope that scholars around the world will send us materials for the database. If you are willing to cooperate, please send us entries on topics that have been or are the subject of your research and that you would like to see included in the database. These materials will be published in your name, and you can list them as regular (electronic) publications in your *Curriculum Vitae*. You can send us either extracts from scholarly articles written by you, published or unpublished (please note the copyright problem), or (your) translations of ancient texts illustrating the topics listed in the database topic tree. We are well aware that several schools of scholars differ in the way they estimate the legacy of ancient Mesopotamian culture, varying from minimalism to maximalism. In the MELAMMU database there is room for all such schools, the only restriction on the inclusion of data being the use of scientific arguments and methods. The use of the MELAMMU database will always be free of charge to everybody and will serve freedom of scholarship.

Before sending an entry to us, please browse the current MELAMMU database in order to get an idea of its nature. There are two principal types of entries in the database. The first consists of citations from ancient texts. These entries are primary sources and consist of the ancient author's opinions and comments. Such entries have a <Source> line that points to the ancient text, and a <Text> field that contains a translation of the ancient source. If an entry of this type needs a comment in order to be properly understood, the comment can be inserted as <Summary>. The second type of entry consists of modern comparisons between features or phenomena in the ancient world that may show the effects of cultural contact or cultural diffusion. In order to separate the two types, entries of the latter type have an asterisk (\*) before their <Headings>. Entries of this type generally have a <Bibliography> line that points to the scholarly assessment of a connection rather than a <Source> line. However, if ancient sources are important for the connection, there may be a <Source> line as well. The <Text> field will contain an outline of the argument connecting the features or phenomena. For additional information on the MELAMMU database, see <<http://www.melammu.org>>.

After a period of one year, on May 1, 2005, the MELAMMU Project will award gifts to its best contributors. The awarded contributors will be contacted and they will receive one or more books of their choice from the publications of the Neo-Assyrian Text Corpus Project, according to the merit of their contribution. A complete and up-to-date list of NATCP publications is to be found at the project's web site, <<http://www>.

[<helsinki.fi/science/saa/>](mailto:helsinki.fi/science/saa/).

When sending us material, please provide the following information for every entry:

- 1) Heading
- 2) Channel of transmission (if known)
- 3) Summary (if a short explanation is necessary)
- 4) Text
- 5) Source and/or Bibliography
- 6) Name of the contributor

The database editor will add all the other technical details needed, and your contribution will be published as soon as possible. Please send your contribution by e-mail to [<amar.annus@helsinki.fi>](mailto:amar.annus@helsinki.fi). Contributions in hardcopy should be sent to Amar Annus (MELAMMU database), Institute for Asian and African Studies, Box 59, Unioninkatu 38B, University of Helsinki, FIN-00014 Finland.

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