
Rosetta

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<http://www.rosetta.bham.ac.uk/issue19/Bennett.pdf>

Editorial

Welcome to Issue 19 of the Rosetta Journal, which has been produced with a completely new Editorial Board. My great thanks go to Guy Kirkham-Smith who has done a marvellous job as General Editor, but has decided to hand over the reins to myself. I hope to continue his work and to allow the Rosetta Journal to grow even more.

First, I would like to extend my thanks to the new Editorial Board for ensuring this issue would be launched on time, and for making my job as easy as possible. Without them this issue would have been even later than it already is, and I am extremely grateful for their efforts to get this published on time. I would also like to especially thank our special editors and copy editors, without whom the standard of this journal would not be possible.

By pure chance, this issue has showcased studies into the ancient Near East – studies of which can be neglected in studies of the ancient world. Even more specifically, our articles focus on the relations of power in this exciting region. We begin with Marta Pallavidini's 'The Treaties of Šuppiluliuma II: The Norm and Innovation of the Treaty as Juridical Medium', which discusses two Hittite treaties and then contrasts them with other similar treaties to discover their binding nature despite surprising differences. Pallavidini's article ultimately delivers a new interpretation of the purpose of one of the surviving texts, and demonstrates the flexibility needed in treaties to be both legally binding and able to cover a wide variety of situations.

Following this we have Filipe Soares' 'The titles 'King of Sumer and Akkad' and 'King of Karduniaš', and the AssyroBabylonian relationship during the Sargonid Period'. Here we have another article on ancient Near Eastern politics, this time from a different culture and focussing on the role of royal titles. Soares discusses the use of claiming ownership over the southern areas, and the political use of including these territories in the royal titles of the Assyrian kings. Overall Soares emphasises the importance of discussing royal titles and their use in the political history of Assyria, and the ancient Near East in general

Our book reviews also follow this ancient Near East theme, with Samuels' review 'E-racing Identity in Antiquity: Jeremy McInerney, A Companion to Ethnicity in the

Ancient Mediterranean. Oxford, Wiley-Blackwell, 2014.’, and Simmance’s review of ‘Joan Goodnick Westenholz, Yossi Maurey, Edwin Seroussi (eds.), Music in Antiquity: the Near East and the Mediterranean, De Gruyter, Oldenbourg, Studies of the Jewish Music Research Centre, 2014.’. Samuels is rightly critical of the essentialist approach when discussing race and ethnicity, especially with regards to ancient world, but does say that despite these ‘glaring misinterpretations of race and racism’ (40), the book ‘covers important issues that are constructive for further investigation’ (40), and it is a ‘relevant contribution to the discussion of collective identity in antiquity’ (40). Simmance’s review is on the slightly more tangible subject of musical instruments throughout the Mediterranean and Near East, and concludes that ‘although some of the papers included in this volume are far less accessible to the non-specialist than others, it certainly does much to draw attention to the varied subjects within and applications of the study of music in the ancient Near Eastern and Mediterranean world’ (47).

Finally, we have a blistering review of the film ‘Gods of Egypt’ from Alice Baddeley. As they point out, this ‘dismal film’ (48) did not do well at the box office, and was riddled with controversy due to its casting choices. Baddeley’s review has very little positive comments on the film, which they concluded was due to ‘a complete lack of directorial self-contraint’ (53).

This concludes Issue 19 of the Rosetta Journal, and I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I have.

Eleanor Bennett

General Editor.