

## Presentation

The International Group for Comparative Semitics met on May 31-June 2, 2006, this time at Sitges, the seaside resort near Barcelona. The general topic chosen for the meeting was “Semitic morphology” in its comparative perspective. Here we present the Proceedings of the event, thus carrying on the series initiated with the publication of the Proceedings of the first meeting, which focused mainly on general topics of etymology and root structure of the Semitic languages within the broader framework of Afro-Asiatic linguistics<sup>1</sup>. The papers show a balance between general overviews and specific analyses, and between a broad Afro-Asiatic perspective and a more Semitic-centred point of view. Not all the papers delivered at the meeting are reproduced here, since some of them have already been published elsewhere. The interested reader will find the full program with the opportune references next to this presentation.

The meeting focused on the field of Semitic morphology in general. L. Kogan explored **nominal** morphology in a full overview of the deverbal derivational patterns which must be considered proto-Semitic. Two papers focused on the more specific topic of nominal *gender*: W. Watson examined the nominal gender in general, and A. Lonnet discussed the specific problem of the feminine marker /-i/ within the broad Afro-Asiatic perspective. **Verbal** morphology was also analysed by G. Gragg from a general point of view, offering a generative model that may help to shed light on the different patterns developed by each Afro-Asiatic family. Five more papers (not published in these Proceedings) dealt with subjects of verbal morphology: the causative prefix in Semitic (R. Garr); some finite verbal forms in Semitic and Afro-Asiatic (G. Rubio); the preformative *n-/l-* in Aramaic and in Semitic; the ventive/energetic in Semitic (R. Hasselbach); and derived verbs (An. Zaborski). Three papers explored the area of the so-called **particles** in Semitic. F. Pennacchietti developed a new generative and contrastive model that makes clear the semantic implication of each preposition and the specification they achieve in different languages. Two other papers centred on specific items: M. Civil examined the correlation between the Sumerian and Semitic connective particle /u/, while G. del Olmo Lete analysed the presence and functions of the postposition /-m/ in the different Semitic languages. Two other papers ventured into the field of **morpho-syntax**; J. Sanmartín highlighted the radical implication of these two faces of the lexis in general, and F. Corriente traced the steps that decided the evolution of the syntactic patterns of the Arabic language and their markers.

The two previous (from a generative point of view) levels of **lexicography** and **phonology** were also examined at their more radical and comparative levels, reflecting their authors’ academic involvement in those areas: Prof. A. Militarev discussed the Afro-Asiatic root of the Akkadian lexicon, Dr. G. Takács the Proto-Semitic anatomical semantic field, and Prof. R. Voigt two new Proto-Semitic sounds.

On the last day an institutional affairs meeting was held, at which new candidates for membership of the IGCP were proposed and accepted.

G. del Olmo Lete

1. See *Aula Orientalis* 25/1-2, 2005.

**II WORKSHOP ON COMPARATIVE SEMITICS  
SITGES MAY 31 – JUNE 2, 2006**

**PROGRAM**

**31 May Chairman: G. del Olmo Lete**

- 9,30-10,30 A. Militarev, "Genetic Classification of the Semitic Family according to lexicostatistics"  
 10,30-11,30 G. Gragg, "Beyond Semitic: Afroasiatic templatic morphology"  
 12-13 R. Voigt, "Two new Proto-Semitic sounds"  
 13-14 J. Sanmartín, "Defining Semitic words syntactically"

**Chairman: G. Gragg**

- 16-17 W. Watson, "The standard Semitic inflexion system: gender inflexion"  
 17-18 R. Garr (read by Dr. W.G.E. Watson), "The Causative Prefix in Semitic"

**1 June Chairman: R. Voigt**

- 9,30-10,30 A. Rubin, "The Preformative n- / l- in Aramaic and in Semitic"<sup>2</sup>  
 10,30-11,30 A. Lonnet, "Le féminin en 'i' du sémitique"  
 12-13 L. Kogan, "On Proto-Semitic deverbal derivation"  
 13-14 G. Rubio, "On some finite verbal forms in Semitic and Afroasiatic"

**Chairman: L. Kogan**

- 16-17 A. Zaborski, "Derived verbs – a summary of results"  
 17-18 R. Hasselbach, "The Ventive/Energic in Semitic - A Morphological Study"<sup>3</sup>  
 18,30-19,30 F. Pennacchietti, "On prepositions in Semitics"  
 19,30-20,30 F. Corriente Córdoba, "Drift and/or interference in the evolution of syntactical patterns and their markers. The case of Arabic"

**2 June Chairman: A. Zaborski**

- 9,30-10,30 G. del Olmo Lete, "The suffixation in Semitics: the case of enclitic -m"  
 10,30-11,30 G. Takács, "The problems of PSem. Anatomical terminology"  
 12-13 M. Civil Desveus, "The story of U"  
 13-14 Institutional meeting

2. See "On the Third Person Preformative n- / l- in Aramaic, and an Ethiopic Parallel.", *Ancient Near Eastern Studies* 44 (2007) 1-28.  
 3. See "The Ventive / Energic in Semitic: A Morphological Study.", *ZDMG* 156 (2006) 309-328.