

The Project:
„Animal Sacrifice
in Ancient Greece in the Light
of Philological Testimonies”

March 2014 – July 2017

(Archaic and Classical Periods)

(UMO-2013/09/B/H52/01208)



The Team:

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International Experts

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Objectives (1-3) Updated.

1: The *Corpus*.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The main objective is to prepare and **publish a Corpus** of the source texts concerning the animal sacrifice **in Greek religion** with **philological and historical commentary** (literary texts and inscriptions from the Archaic and Classical period until the death of Alexander the Great).

Our aim is to create a comprehensive collection of source texts accompanied with in-depth, multifaceted interpretation of animal sacrifice that make up the complex web of cultural representations.

According to the recently adopted editorial standards all Greek texts will be accompanied by **Polish translation**.

UPDATE AND COMMENTS:

- The structure of the *Opus* and division of the material.
- „To publish a Corpus“ – 1) several volumes, not one book; 2) we overestimated our possibilities and we underestimated quantity and massiveness of the material.
- „Philological and historical commentary“ – the structure of the separate *line* or *passus* and the structure of the comprehensive view of one „title“. We have underestimated the function of the sacrificial scenes in the structure of a integral text, as well as the relation between „real life“ and its performance and appearance in the literary structure.
- „Literary texts and inscriptions“ – we decided to drop out the inscriptions in front of the „Collection of Greek Ritual Norms“ project (<http://cgrn.ulg.ac.be/>).
- „In Greek religion“ – rather: in Greek culture, taking into account a multiform and complex presence and function of the sacrificial vocabulary and sacrifice *ekphrasis* in Greek literary texts.
- „Polish translation“ – still important (we addressed to Polish students and translators of the Greek literature) but we have realized the international value of the research.

Objectives (1-3) Updated.

2: The *Lexicon* of Sacrificial Terminology

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Lexicon of key themes of animal sacrifice.

An obvious lack of terminological precision on such key themes as sacrifice in Greek culture; the terminology is uncertain and not unified (which is also the case of translations into other languages). For this reason, it is necessary to develop a lexicon for such terminology. It will take as a basis already existing studies, but the main premise will be the fact that its functions will go beyond purely lexicographical.

Individual lexems are discussed in terms of grammar and dialectology, and data concerning their possible etymologies are presented. The next step is pointing at equivalent words and translations already existing in Polish translational practice; in case of obvious contradictions the authors of the lexicon propose the option preferred according to the current state of research. Also, all the occurrences of the key words within the corpus of the texts analysed in the project will be listed. In addition to typical dictionary information, the entries will contain encyclopaedic information with particular emphasis on literature, with, possibly, drawings and photographs of archaeological sites and reproductions of their representations in ancient art.

UPDATE AND COMMENTS:

- Such Lexicon has never been created: 1) on the very beginning of our work we realized that such a lexicon can be successfully accomplished after close reading of the complete corpus of the Greek literature till the end of Imperial period and: 2) the lexicon must remain virtually open as a work in progress, on-line and be transformed in a sophisticated and advanced digital tool.
- The structure of the each *lemma* of the lexicon (example).
- The list of lexems – remains open.

Objectives (1-3) Updated.

3: *The Bibliography of Sacrifice*

- Technical problems.
- A need of the international network for such database.

Methodology

- The fundamental and basic method of analysis within the scope of this project is the philological method, which includes the analysis, translation and philological commentary.
- Only the results of its implementation can give the researchers a safe and stable basis for historical and semiotic methods. It should be noted that the majority of existing studies on Greek religion used a deduction on an equal basis, or even more often, than inductive methods, moving from existing anthropological models to their application within different cultures, including Greek culture. For this reason, it is easy to notice the need for Geertz's "thick description". It takes into account all the data that emerge from the study of material, including the structural elements of the significant elements of social action and all the meanings attributed to them;
- The consistent application of philological method allows a scholar to abstract from the textual material the entirety of significant elements, along with their meanings. Only from such description of cultural reality one can move towards comparative analysis: to diachronic or diatopic approaches, or to the verification of more general theories postulating the universality of certain anthropological categories.

Methodology – Update:

- Focus on the vocabulary and language, not anthropological theories of the sacrifice.
- Meaning of the key terms in context.
- Advantage of a team work.
- Interdisciplinarity.
- Continuity and cooperation.
- Internationalisation.

Activities *ad intra*:

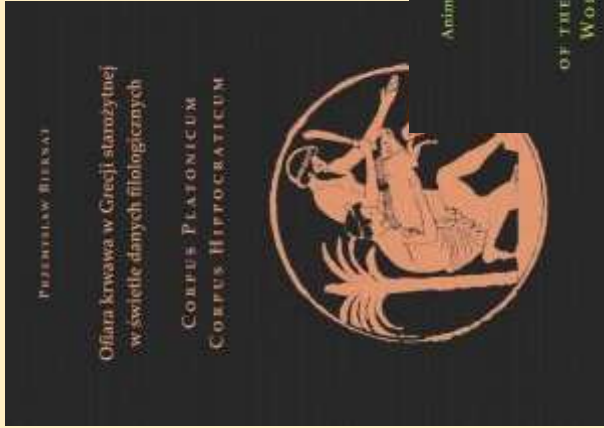
- systematic, day by day, individual research of each member of the team, reviewed by other members and discussed during seminar meetings (update: systematic research of members of the international team, scheduled for perspective of milestones – three-five-seven years);
- working visits and research stays in the leading accademical centres and libraries, individual consultations (update: permanent, regular workshops and conferences circulating among international partners of the global project and centers of study);
- collecting of the thematic library (update: virtual library and advanced digital bibliographical tool including open-access collections and thematic data-bases);
- (update): collective applications for international grants (e.g. ERC) in short perspective (i.e. year or two).

Activities ad extra:

- Open seminars;
- Visiting lectures and open discussions;
- Participation in and organization of the conferences;
- Official reports, newsletters;
- Podcasts and social media;
- Workshops;
- Partnerships;
- Publications: collected papers and monographies describing and reporting following stages of the project.

Results:

- - 4 monographies containing extensive philological commentary on the texts of Archaic and Classical periods focused on the problem of animal sacrifice (Greek Epic, Greek Tragedy, Attic Comedy, Plato); abdate: possible translation of these monographies.
- - two series of workshops with experts in Kraków and international conference on sacrifice in Changchun, China, September 2017;
- - two volumes of Proceedings of International Workshops on animal sacrifice (the second volume forthcoming next year);
- - a series of lectures and presentations of the research results by team members on the international conferences (Lublin, Kraków, Stokholm, Cagliari, Palermo, Changchun, Exeter and others);
- - series of visiting lectures and international consultations (prof. Jan Bremer, prof. Renate Schlesier);
- - web-page of the project with work-in-progress part of the project: lexicon of the sacrificial vocabulary;
- - formal cooperation with The CGRN project in Liege, providing a new Collection of Greek Ritual Norms;
- - a series of open and visiting seminars on the sacrifice (Kraków, Warsaw, Gardzienice).



- A comprehensive tool for the interdisciplinary research of sacrifice
- A Network
- Perspectives. Cooperation. Teams.

Info:

- Web-page:

www.sacrificium.filg.uj.edu.pl