

Scientific Report on
Homer Online (Homère virtuel)
an ESF Exploratory Workshop

(Grenoble, Maison des Sciences de l'Homme-Alpes, 19 November 2002)

The Exploratory Workshop held last November in Grenoble not only met our expectations, but allowed us to develop our goals, thanks to Professor Robert Halleux's presence and advice. He helped us finalize a more ambitious project: the construction of a European network on the basis of a four-year scientific program. The details of this programme were discussed and defined during the days following the workshop.

Our objectives for the workshop consisted in presenting the various components of the Homeric Project now available on line. Specific attention was devoted to parts of the project which are essential from a scientific perspective and remain unavailable online for technical reasons. Other projects, either parallel or complementary to Homeric, were also presented during the workshop, and demonstrated the need to establish strong partnerships with other international websites in order to develop Homeric research as a whole.

In the first half of the morning, André Hurst (Université de Genève) and Jan Paul Crielaard (Free University of Amsterdam) presided the session during which Professor Robert Halleux gave a brief presentation of the European Science Foundation, and Professor Françoise Létoublon described the main features of the Homeric Project, and its local and international partners:

- The Online Dictionary of Mythology, coordinated by Professor Ezio Pellizer (University of Trieste), and his team (Daria Crismani, Carla Zufferli et al.). Some articles are already available online, but not in a database format, which will not facilitate access to this dictionary as soon as the number of articles will grow. Articles from U to Z (in Italian) were published in our journal, *Gaia* no 6 (available by November 19), in order to create a discussion on the subject of etymological methodology among the members of the international research team during the workshop;
- The Online Dictionary of Antiquities, elaborated in collaboration with CLIPS/IMAG (Grenoble), is already partially available for consultation and search by articles (approximately 400 are available online). This project will be developed and linked with other similar projects on the Internet;
- The Genealogical Tree of Greek Mythology has been drawn on paper by Denis Faure, a researcher in microbiology (CNRS), who was not able to attend the workshop, but sent us a PowerPoint presentation. According to IMAG specialists in the field, this genealogical tree can be connected to dictionaries by Internet links;
- The Homeric Critical Bibliography of Le Centre d'Etudes Homériques (Grenoble) consists in more than 2000 bibliographical notes on Homeric research (books and articles from 1991 to 2000), with a brief summary of their contents. This bibliography has been collected by Swiss post-doctoral student Martin Steinrueck thanks to a research grant awarded by the Rhône-Alpes Region. Before putting this bibliography online, we have to overcome various obstacles linked to the type of software used, the number of notes, and the necessity to update and to adapt this database to Greek fonts which will be accessible in all systems;

- Homer and Greek Iconography: this section has been elaborated by Odette Touchefeu (Université de Nantes), but, due to health problems, she had to cancel her trip to Grenoble and was represented by her collaborator Gilles Couillet, multimedia engineering specialist and member of the Grenoble research team. It should be noted that the photographs and images pictures available online have been temporarily lent by the Louvre Museum for a fee much too high for our budget;
- Interactive Maps of Ancient Greece Dialects, by René Hodot (Université de Nancy 2). These maps will be linked to the online dictionaries mentioned hereabove;
- Virtual Tours of Homeric Cities: this project is a partnership between IMAGIS/GRAVIR, INRIA-Grenoble, and ARCHEOS Project (INRIA-Sophia-Antipolis), and was briefly described by Isabelle Ratinaud-Lachkar (ERGA), before Joëlle Thollot (INRIA)'s more exhaustive presentation of the project at the Conference.

After discussion on these presentations, other projects and current debates on Ancient History were examined by Jan Paul Crielaard (Free University of Amsterdam). He was followed by a research team from Freiburg, Véronique Dasen and Isabelle Villeveygoux, who, on behalf of Professor Marcel Piérart, research director of the Swiss Virtual Campus Project, demonstrated a History course online which had almost reached a state of completion, and showed how to resort to various disciplines linked to history (paleography, numismatics, etc.).

The rest of the morning was devoted to a discussion on the complex relations between Mycaenology and Homeric Research led by Professor André Hurst (Université de Genève) and his Ph.D. student, Sacha Michon. Sacha's dissertation on the subject will be available online, and should include a detailed scientific typology, and hypertextual links to documents as an annex to each chapter of the dissertation.

The discussion which followed these presentations continued over lunch at Le Magellan Restaurant, next to MSH-Alpes, and Professor Halleux then offered his suggestions and advice.

In the afternoon, Professor Franco Montanari (University of Genoa) presided a session dedicated to the presentation of similar projects available on the Internet. Caroline Eades (Université Stendhal-Grenoble III and University of Maryland, USA) gave a critical presentation of websites on Classical Antiquity. Bruce Heiden (University of Ohio, USA) discussed how to present a literary analysis of Homer within an ideal « virtual companion ».

Georg Danek (University of Vienna) 's presentation, titled « Online bibliographies and the difficulties encountered », described the online bibliography which he has elaborated with his assistant Stefan Hagel and which is currently available on the University of Vienna website. He mentioned the problems linked to the format of such bibliographies, as for instance with the bibliographical site planned in Grenoble (see hereabove). As a first step before an ideal merger between Grenoble and Vienna bibliographies (the latter goes until 1991 and the former starts with 1991 publications), the Austrian bibliography can be accessed through a link from the Grenoble website where our bibliographical journals *Epea pteroenta* are systematically published online.

David Bouvier (Université de Lausanne) described the program that he is currently designing with a specialist in computer technology at the Université de Lausanne in order to produce computerized metrical analysis of Homeric texts.

Although Anna Santoni, Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa, could not attend the workshop, we briefly discussed the SNS program which provides a quick and efficient search of Thesaurus Linguae Graecae (University of California at Irvine) available on CD-Rom and online (for subscribers only, but any user can access a free demonstration of the site).

Eric-Olivier Lochard, a researcher in mathematics and computer science (Université de Montpellier, CNRS), presented the state of the art in electronic publications, and demonstrated the Arcane Program he designed on « Port Royal » (not available for sale). Thanks to its speed and power, and its ability to display texts, pictures and sounds, and to produce statistics, this program could bring a useful contribution to the completion of the Homeric Project.

Thomas Schmidt (Université Laval, Québec) concluded the afternoon presentations with a description of the program he elaborated with Professor Marc Huys (Papyrus Mythologiques Online) when he was at Leuven.

Franco Montanari described the LGGA program on Ancient Grammatical Lexicographs made available online at the University of Genoa under his leadership. His presentation had not been planned but brought up new and interesting connections with the Homeric Project.

The lack of time did not allow us to present our project on the representation of the Trojan War in Books XIII et XIV of Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, as planned. This project is developed in Grenoble by Hélène Casanova, a specialist of Ovid and his legacy until the Renaissance, as well as in Italy by a research team led by Alessandro Barchiesi (University of Siena). We have acquired a number of ancient editions of Ovid's text, through personal or research funding, in order to scan their unique illustrations with *Bookeye*, a scanner which has been specifically designed for rare books.

The formal debates ended at 7:30 pm, but all the participants convened later on in a downtown restaurant in order to continue the discussion.

In spite of the absence of a certain number of invited scholars such as Alessandro Barchiesi, John M. Foley, Ahuvia Kahane, Antonios Rengakos, Joseph Russo, the workshop proved to be a real success thanks to the contribution of all participants, including scholars that were not part of the official program, such as Michel Briand (Université de Poitiers), Pablo Cavallero (University of Buenos Aires), Paola Ceccarelli (Università dell'Aquila), Sidy Diop (Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar), Matthew Fox (University of Birmingham), Dagmar Muchnova (Univerzita Karlova, Prague), Cashman Kerr Prince (Wesleyan University), Martin Winkler (George Mason University), and members of the local research team who took an active part in the discussions (Jean Alaux, Hélène Casanova, Alain Fouchard, Odile Lagacherie, Christelle Laizé, Jean-Luc Lamboley, Isabelle Ratinaud, Eva Riveline, Frédéric Saby).

Many other fruitful discussions around the Homeric Project took place during the International Conference *Homer Online* which was attended by more than one hundred participants over the next three days and which we felt compelled to organize in order to satisfy the overwhelming response of a larger audience to the Exploratory Workshop Project. This series of events comforted us in the idea that our project of a European network could meet many expectations already expressed by the workshop planning committee members and discussed by all participants during the workshop.

Grenoble, January 18 2003

Françoise Létoublon

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