

Massimo Maiocchi

In the last year, **Massimo Maiocchi** kept working on the Writing in Early Mesopotamia (WEM) Project, expanding the text corpus and adding new features to the WEM database, in order to perform effective queries on both phonemic and morphemic levels. The beta version of it is planned to be freely available online by the end of the year.

In October 2013, Massimo took part in the Venice-Naples-North Kurdistan Project (VeNaNKu), which just started under the supervision of Lucio Milano (Ca' Foscari University, Venice) and Carlo Zaccagnini ("L'Orientale" University, Naples). The aim of the project is to achieve a better understanding of the history of the ancient Kurdistan region, with special focus on the late third and early second millennia BC. The available data for this period are scanty, but contemporary sources from southern Mesopotamia suggest that the region was politically important already before the rise of Assyria in the early second millennium BC. This year, the project focused on a preliminary survey of several sites in the areas of modern Erbil, Dohuk, and Sulaymaniyah.

In 2014, Massimo published the book review of *Seven Generations Since the Fall of Akkad*, by Harvey Weiss (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2012), which appeared in the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* no. 73. He also submitted the article "A Sketch of Political History of the Early Tigridian Region," which will shortly appear in *Tigridian Region*, edited by P. Bieliński and E. Rova, Associated Regional Chronologies for the Ancient Near East 5 (Turnhout: Brepols). The evidence discussed there and the preliminary results were anticipated in a brown bag lecture held at the Oriental Institute on November 13, 2013.

In addition, Massimo devoted some of his time to improve the EbDA database (Ebla Digital Archives: <http://virgo.unive.it/eblaonline/cgi-bin/home.cgi>), as associate editor. This is the most up-to-date electronic edition of thousands of Ebla texts, including literary, lexical, and administrative tablets.

In June, he started working on a paper titled "Women and Production in Sargonic Adab," which will be presented at the REFEMA (Rôle Économique des Femmes en Mésopotamie Ancienne) conference, held in Nanterre (France), November 5-7, 2014. Also, he is preparing an article on some remarkable features of early cuneiform writing, as part of the research project entitled Signs of Writing: The Cultural, Social, and Linguistic Contexts of the World's

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First Writing Systems, led by Christopher Woods of the Oriental Institute and Ed Shaughnessy of East Asian Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago.
