Les Carnets de l'ACoSt

Association for Coroplastic Studies

20 | 2020

Varia

Two Collaborative Projects for Coroplastic Research, V. The Work of the Academic Years 2018–2019

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Electronic version

URL: <http://journals.openedition.org/acost/2391>

DOI: 10.4000/acost.2391

ISSN: 2431-8574

Publisher

ACoSt

Electronic reference

Arthur Muller and Jaimee Uhlenbrock, « Two Collaborative Projects for Coroplastic Research, V. The Work of the Academic Years 2018–2019 », *Les Carnets de l'ACoSt* [Online], 20 | 2020, Online since 30 March 2020, connection on 28 April 2020. URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/acost/2391> ; DOI : <https://doi.org/10.4000/acost.2391>

This text was automatically generated on 28 April 2020.

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Two Collaborative Projects for Coroplastic Research, V. The Work of the Academic Years 2018–2019

Arthur Muller and Jaimee Uhlenbrock

- ¹ From 2013 to 2018 a team from the Association for Coroplastic Studies that has comprised Marina Albertocchi, Christine Aubry (University of Lille), Stéphanie Huysecom-Haxhi (CNRS, formerly Lille, now Paris), Arthur Muller (University of Lille/IUF), Marion Muller-Dufeu (University of Lille), Antonella Pautasso (IBAM-CNR Catania), and Jaimee Uhlenbrock (State University of New York at New Paltz) has met twice a year, either at the University of Lille or at the University of Catania, in order to prepare two didactic projects for coroplastic research. As reported in previous issues of *Les Carnets de l'ACoSt*¹ the first project consists of an aid for the study of Greek figurative terracottas tentatively titled *The Handbook for Coroplastic Research*, and the second is a searchable database for Franz Winter's *Die Typen der figürlichen Terrakotten* (1903), referred to as "Winter On Line." Both of these projects have been underwritten by the University of Lille and the University of Catania, and for this the team is most grateful.

Handbook for Coroplastic Research

- ² The most recent meeting took place in Aix en-Provence in April 2019 on the occasion of the International Colloquium "When the clay is under the fingernail." Modelling in the Ancient Greek World" at the Centre Camille Jullian, Aix-Marseille University. For this we extend our gratitude to Helene Aurigny for organizing a meeting space for our discussions at the university prior to the colloquium. Our handbook project dominated most of our discussions, as several newly submitted completed chapters were reviewed. These concerned terracottas in the architectural context, including a discussion of the ritual gesture, terracottas in the natural environment, the stylistic approach, fingerprints in coroplastic research, terracottas and writing, a revised chapter on the anthropological approach, and an annotated list of exhibitions dating from 1878 to

2019, within which Greek figurative terracottas were featured. An annotated list of fixed chronological points useful for coroplastic research also was discussed, as well as the reliability of these chronological points. Newly submitted chapters will be reviewed and discussed by the team at a meeting in April 2020 in Albi, France.

- 3 As already reported, initially this handbook project was conceived as an open access, print on demand publication, whose chapters were to have been serialized in *Les Carnets de l'ACoSt* as they were completed.² However, as we were concerned about the lack of adequate distribution and publicity that always accompanies a self-published book, it was decided to submit a proposal to Oxford University Press for the publication of the handbook. This was accomplished this fall with the submission of three complete chapters and an outline of the contents of the book. We are pleased to report that Oxford University Press has expressed a strong interest in this publication, although we currently are negotiating in which series this handbook will appear. This prospect of publication by an important academic publisher gives a new, more ambitious dimension to our project. It also will require that all contributions be translated into English.

Winter On-Line

- 4 While the *Handbook for Coroplastic Research* has seen significant progress, the same cannot be said for our second project "Winter on-Line." In 2017 a database was prepared by Christine Aubry of the University of Lille using FileMaker Pro that was based on the iconographic features of the figurines in Winter's catalogue. Over the course of 2018 a trial of this database was conducted by uploading images and matching data, with some 100 records added. Unfortunately, this revealed a number of technical issues that still have to be resolved, and the trial was temporarily suspended. Because of this, the team has made the *Handbook* project a priority. Once this is completed, the team will devote itself entirely to "Winter on-line."

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NOTES

1. Muller, Uhlenbrock 2014; Muller, Uhlenbrock 2015; Muller, Uhlenbrock 2016; Muller, Uhlenbrock 2018.
2. Uhlenbrock 2016a, 2016b; Jeammet 2017.

ABSTRACTS

An international team of 7 researchers has been meeting biannually to collaborate on two projects that are envisaged as aids for coroplastic research. The first is provisionally titled *The Handbook for Coroplastic Research*, a tool designed for those new to the field of coroplastic studies. The second project has been nicknamed “Winter On-Line.” This concerns the creation of a searchable version of Franz Winter, *Die Typen der figürlichen Terrakotten*, (1903), in a wiki format

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Keywords: Handbook for Coroplastic Research, coroplastic studies, Greek terracottas, Greek terracotta figurines, searchable database, Franz Winter

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