Preface

The special issue of this volume “Conflict, Peace, and Religion in the Ancient Near East” goes back to the organized panel within the XIXth Quinquennial World Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR), which was held under the theme “Religion: Conflict and Peace” in Tokyo from March the 24th to the 30th in 2005. The panel was convened by A. Tsukimoto on the 25th. It is without saying that the theme of the panel as well as that of the Congress were chosen in view of the conflicts since 9.11 in 2001. The conflicts must be overcome in order that peace will be realized. The situation in the Near East, however, is still not improved.

The papers read in the panel and included in this volume are:

- E. Frahm, Counter-texts, Commentaries, and Adaptations: Politically Motivated Responses to the Babylonian Epic of Creation in Mesopotamia, the Biblical World, and Elsewhere
- M. Koitabashi, Crises and Well-Being as Expressed in the Teratological Omens of Ugarit
- D. Shibata, Ritual Contexts and Mythological Explanations of the Emesal Šuilla-Prayers in Ancient Mesopotamia
- A. Tsukimoto, Peace for the Dead, or kispu(m) Again
- M. Yamada, The zukru Festival in Emar: On Royal Cooperation with the City

This volume could include three more papers that are written extra for the special issue:

- T. Maeda, Gilgamesh and Agga: A Heroic Story
- S. Hasegawa, The Numbers of the Israelite Army in the Time of Joahaz: Is II Reg 13,7 Derived from an Archival Source?
- K. Takai, Miktâb, Votive Text, and the Prayer of Hezekiah (Isaiah 38:9-20)

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