

# 1. THE COLLECTION OF GREEK RITUAL NORMS PROJECT (CGRN)

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## **Abstract (2982 chars without spaces)**

The presentation concerns a digital undertaking entitled *A Collection of Greek Ritual Norms* (abbreviated *CGRN*), in development at the University of Liège, along with its major features and deliverables. The project, begun in 2012 and scheduled for completion at the end of 2015, assembles a selection of more than 200 Greek inscriptions which are usually called “sacred laws” in current scholarship. This misleading rubric is in fact comprised of a substantial variety of epigraphic documents concerned with Greek cult, including decrees, calendars, boundary stones, etc. Instead of conforming to these received ideas, the project focusses on two themes shared by this widespread documentation—sacrifice and purification—and has chosen to offer a selection of representative inscriptions.

The main outcome of the project is a practical website containing the republication of these collected inscriptions. The texts have been encoded using the current Epidoc XML standards. But since our collection is of a quite manageable size, we have also allowed for some variation and expansion on standard Epidoc practices. Our target audience consists of scholars of Greek and other ancient religions, as well as classicists more generally, rather than epigraphers per se. Therefore, we have chosen to privilege certain aspects of the edition of the inscriptions over others: essential but brief description of the monuments; standard versions of the inscribed texts, or new ones with minimal restorations; lucid translations in both English and French; helpful but succinct bibliography and commentary; no self-standing apparatus criticus.

One of the end goals of the project is to obtain a clearer insight into the vocabulary of sacrifice and purification. Beyond the standard lemmatisation of lexical forms (using the <w> element), we have accordingly opted to

maximise searchability of the collection by tagging thematic words using a series of name-types (encoded <name type="x">). For example, in sacrificial regulations, we encode lemmata indicating people on whose behalf the sacrifice is carried out ("groups" such as *demes* or families), as well as the cult "personnel" which performs it; the sacrificial "animal" (including for example its "gender", and "age"); words and phrases denoting the act of "sacrifice"; and other key concepts such as the relevant "deity". More generally, "structures" (such as temples or altars), "localities" (such as an agora or acropolis) and "authority" statements (κατὰ τὰ πάτρια, νόμος) are also tagged. Users will be able to search for these name-types, and to see a full list of instances of a particular theme in the corpus.

Coming near the conclusion of this first phase of the CGRN project, we are keen to develop it further. As a fundamental part of this process of continuity and expansion, we wish to integrate our small project into the wider framework of the EAGLE network and to form a part of the European e-library. To enlarge the data sets generated by the CGRN project, we would be particularly interested in cooperating with other research groups working on lexical semantics or with other corpora which include religious inscriptions. As part of the wider open-source initiative, we also hope to encourage other researchers to import identical or similar name-types into their XML-coding. More generally, we propose that this system of tagging may be interesting to other scholars with an interest in the semantic (and not only lexical) entities that make up their research corpus.

## Keywords

Epidoc tagging, semantic entities, lexical entities, Greek cult, Greek inscriptions, sacrifice, purification.