

Narrating Inventions – Inventing Narrations: The Poiesis of ‘First Inventors’ (*prótoi heuretaí*) in Ancient Literature

B01 (Strand “Narrating Ideas”)

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Summary

The project aims to contribute to our understanding of implicit poetics in ancient Greek and Latin literature. As ‘first inventors’ and the narrations about them mutually authorise, disseminate, and establish each other, narratives of ‘first inventors’ are approached as a particularly interesting part of the ancient poetological discourse. It will be investigated how they situate themselves in the (self-created) literary tradition, showcase their literary inventions, and compete with other narrations in an agonistic way.

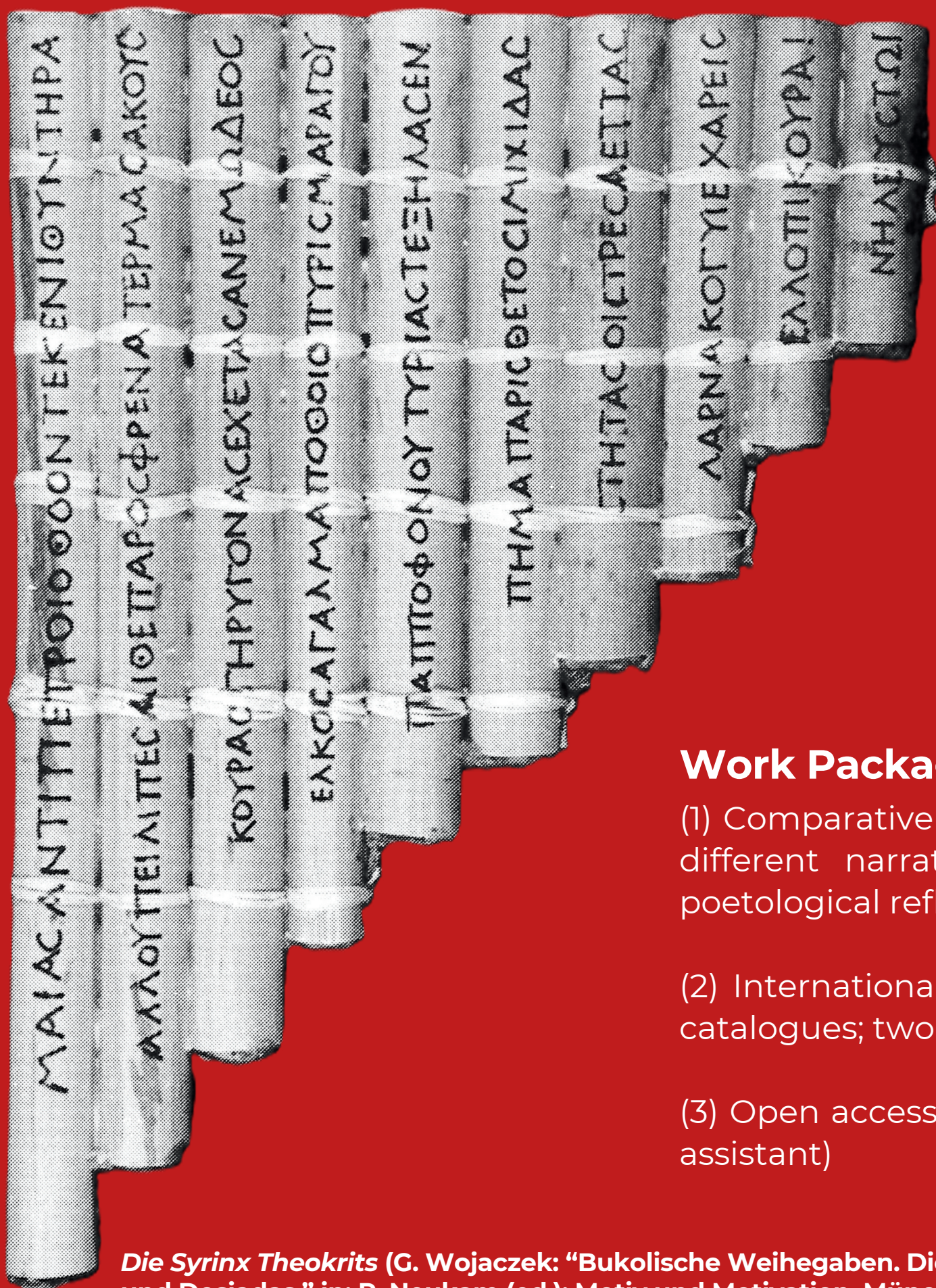
Objectives

B01 focusses on ‘first inventors’ which are embedded in texts that programmatically break ground for their literary inventions by way of questioning, extending, or hybridising the existing literary tradition. In particular, we

- (1) connect these narrations to their literary or cultural frameworks to find out about their strategies of anchoring the invention.
- (2) analyse their history of reception: Were they successful? Do other texts recognise their intentions and/or reflect on them?
- (3) compare the narrations with aetiological and genealogical texts and inventor lists.

Work Packages

- (1) Comparative study of ancient narratives of ‘first inventors’ which discloses different narrative strategies of shaping and using ‘first inventors’ for poetological reflections. (doctoral researcher)
- (2) International conference on the reception history of ancient Heuremata catalogues; two articles on the (geo)poetics of lists in ancient literature. (PI)
- (3) Open access database of all narrations of ‘first inventors’. (PI and research assistant)



Die Syrinx Theokrits (G. Wojacek: “Bukolische Weihegaben. Die Figurengedichte von Simias, Theokrit und Dosiadas,” in: P. Neukam (ed.): Motiv und Motivation, München 1993, 125–176; 164, Abbildung 3)