

Further Abstracts

Ana Isabel Blasco Torres, Leuven

Greek (Loan-)Words in the Demotic Ostraca from Narmuthis

The archive of Narmuthis, uncovered in 1938 at Medinet Madi during the second excavation campaign under the directorship of A. Vogliano, contains approximately 1500 ostraca mainly written in demotic and Greek. These texts reflect the linguistic situation at the Narmuthis temple in the second and the third centuries AD and reveal the role of the Hieroglyphic and Hieratic writings in this period, the supremacy of Greek as administrative and official language and the consequent origin of the Coptic writing. Approximately 20 % of the published texts from Narmuthis are mainly written in demotic and contain isolated Greek terms, 1 % are documents written in Greek with some demotic words included, and 5 % have been equally written in demotic and Greek. In this paper, a lexical analysis of the isolate Greek terms syntactically integrated in the demotic texts from Narmuthis will be presented.

Christian Casey, Brown

Digital Demotic: Opportunities and Challenges

At present, no method exists for digitizing demotic texts. It may seem obvious to suggest a Unicode encoding for demotic, but this is easier said than done. Despite its similarity and deep relationship to the Hieroglyphic and Hieratic scripts, demotic presents many unique challenges to anyone attempting to codify it. As a result, an encoding of demotic must gracefully navigate many serious obstacles, such as the need to be useful to those who specialize in the study of palaeography and the evolution of writing, while serving primarily to represent the script in standardized manner so that data can be organized and searched. This paper will showcase new methods and tools for encoding demotic texts, which have been developed as part of this project. The process of collecting and organizing original manuscript data and the various algorithms that make this possible will be illustrated with a special focus on visualization. Also, several methods for inputting demotic text and identifying demotic signs will be presented in the hope that input from the scholarly community will identify the best solutions to this complex problem. Information for accessing these tools and source data online will be included for readers.

Koenraad Donker van Heel, Leiden

Papyrus Louis de Vaucelles: What Was Accounting Like in the Reign of Taharqa?

Papyrus Louis de Vaucelles was put up for auction at Sotheby's in November 2016, and is now safely in the British Museum, where it has been restored to its former glory under the inventory number BM EA 87512, 1–2. The Count Louis de Vaucelles travelled in Egypt and Nubia in 1829, buying some ancient Egyptian antiquities on the way, including a long Abnormal Hieratic account from years 12 and 13 of Taharqa (this papyrus being the second of its kind, with P. Queen's College verso being the first), which had been kept – and kept very secret – at his chateau in Normandy since his purchase. The work on this papyrus has only just started, but we can already say that it may shed some more light on the remarkable role played by the women of ancient Egypt. The Papyrus Louis de Vaucelles will eventually be published by an international team supervised by Cary Martin and Koenraad Donker van Heel.

Petra Hogenboom, Leiden

Where is this going? The Relationship between Abnormal Hieratic and Demotic

The fragmentation of third Intermediate Period and Late Period Egypt, which lasted for centuries prior to the reunification of the country by Psamtik I in 656 BC, had led to the development of two separate administrative writing systems. As such, at the beginning of the 26th dynasty, two different scripts were in use simultaneously, demotic in the north and late cursive or Abnormal Hieratic in the south of Egypt. But where did these scripts come from? How did they react to each other when they met?

This paper discusses the origin and development of Abnormal Hieratic and demotic and examines the relationship between both writing systems, by exploring their fundamental differences and similarities in both palaeography and legal formulary. Particular attention will be given to the interaction between the two scripts in 6th century BC Thebes, where they existed side by side during 50 or more years after demotic gradually made its way to the south and before Abnormal Hieratic eventually went out of use.

Jannik Korte, Heidelberg

New Insights into the Early Demotic Asyut Archive

The early demotic Asyut-archive contains several legal contracts and accounts from the reign of Amasis and Cambyses. Despite the fact that a lot of the material has been published, a vast amount of information remains to be dealt with, e.g. concerning the interrelations of the documents. Focusing on the legal contracts in the archive, this paper will present a variety of new insights into the material. Approaching the problem of what makes this archive an archive, i.e. the connections between the documents, a variety of points will be addressed. This will include the legal background, the search for the owner of the archive and the question why parts of one of the documents were cancelled. Some interesting observations and interpretations will be presented, covering particular readings, family relations, archival procedures and a criminal case which remained undetected for over 2500 years.

Renata Landgráfová and Diana Míčková, Prague

Some News from an Old Text: A New Look at Setne I

Despite the fact that Setne I has been known and studied in detail since the 1900 publication of F. Ll. Griffith, a detailed look at the lexicography and context can still lead to interesting and important observations.

The contribution is part of a project aiming at a reanalysis of demotic narratives in view of general ethnological and cultural-anthropological themes and motifs. Such a view can bring light both onto some uncertain words and phrases and onto the general meaning of the story as a whole.

Claudia Maderna-Sieben, Heidelberg

Papyrus Carlsberg 158 recto. A Demotic Descriptive Commentary of Mythological Handbooks and Manuals of Egyptian Nomes

Recto and verso of the papyrus Carlsberg 158 contain highly discursive demotic texts, which represent fragments of a formally extensive collection of explaining commentaries regarding religious manuals. Most likely, both texts were written by the same scribe. The proposed dating is the first half of the 2nd century AD.

The verso, which will not be presented in this lecture, shows a *subscriptum* “Because: so it happened, that the intercourse with vulvae occurred” and deals with the so called theology of the donkey that is identified with Seth and shows phraseological parallels to the Hieratic “Myth of the Delta” and the demotic P. Wien D 6920–22.

The recto is a demotic descriptive commentary of mythological handbooks of Egyptian nomes, until now only known in Hieratic. The complex phraseology refers not only to one specific original but seems to be a demotic commentary with the exception of several Hieroglyphic and Hieratic mythological handbooks or manuals like P. Florenz PSI I 72, the “Gaumonographien in Edfu”, the “Delta papyrus” and P. Jumilhac.

Diana Míčková, Prague

See Renata Landgráfová.

Jan Moje, Berlin

Collecting and Researching Demotic Texts from Elephantine: The Bilingual Sources

This paper briefly introduces the current state of the author’s research on demotic material from Elephantine scattered over several museums worldwide within the ERC Starting Grant Project “Elephantine”. A focus will be set onto the bilingual sources, mainly demotic-Greek texts, and their actual analysis concerning interdependency of the different text parts.

Jos Paulissen, Leuven

Dating Early Ptolemaic Salt Tax Receipts: The Egyptian Tax Year

A striking feature of third-century BC Egypt is the complex dating practice applied in documentary papyri and ostraca. Under the reigns of Ptolemy II, III and IV, no less than three calendars were in operation simultaneously: the Macedonian, the (Greek) financial and the Egyptian civil calendar. In 1994, while studying a number of early Ptolemaic tax receipts from Elephantine, S. P. Vleeming discovered a fourth kind of time reckoning. For in the demotic (part of the) text, the years *for* which and *in* which a certain payment has been made often do not match and the phenomenon cannot

be explained by assuming payments in arrears or advance. An Egyptian tax year must have existed, differing from the years according to the already known dating systems. Considering its potential, Vleeming's find has received surprisingly little attention. In this paper, his "dating theory" will be applied upon a corpus of more than 300 salt tax receipts and additional argumentation will be provided. As a consequence, the commonly accepted view that the Greeks introduced the financial calendar in Egypt, is challenged, since an Egyptian fiscal calendar must have been in operation earlier.

Christopher Waß, München

A new Approach to the Analysis of the Use of Demotic and Hieratic Script in the London-Leiden Magical Papyrus

The mixed use of demotic and Hieratic script within the same text has often been noted by scholars working on the *Papyri Demoticae Magicae* (PDM). While most studies on the PDM tend to focus on the content, observations on the juxtaposition of the two Egyptian writing systems have often been neglected or reduced to brief remarks. In my ongoing PhD thesis, I want to re-evaluate the reasons behind the mixed use of demotic and Hieratic script in one single text. To study the nearly 100 individual texts preserved in the London-Leiden Magical Papyrus, I have created a database and adopted methods established by scholars working in the field of modern Corpus Linguistics to analyse these texts. These methods allow us to study the writing systems as well as the language phase(s) utilised. Additionally, the format of the individual texts can be studied. This lecture will offer an overview of the methods borrowed from modern Corpus Linguistics, discuss their benefits and limits and present some preliminary remarks on the analysis of the individual texts of the London-Leiden Magical Papyrus.

Fabian Wespi, Heidelberg

Some Remarks on Papyrus Florence PSI inv. D 102 and the "Law of the Temples"

Among the large collection of papyri found by Carlo Anti in the spring of 1931 at Teb-tunis, Giuseppe Botti soon discovered "diverse parti del regolamento e delle costituzioni dei templi egiziani" which are dealing with the administration and organisation of life at the late Egyptian temple. This once extensive demotic manual, as usual, is only partially preserved, but its most valuable sections are not only including a new copy of the famous decree by Cambyses concerning the revenues of the Egyptian

temples, but also are relating to rules and instructions on how to copy the sacred papyri of the temple library and on how to appoint new priests. While the papyrus belongs to the second century AD, the text itself was definitely quite old when it was written down. It is presumably to be identified with the so-called “law of the temples” which was part of the Egyptian law codification collocated by the Persian king Darius I some six hundred years before. In my paper, I will present this interesting new text and report on its decipherment, reconstruction and interpretation.

Andreas Winkler, Oxford

Astrology in the Time of Cleopatra

The paper discusses seven horoscopes that record the earliest attested nativities in Egypt; the oldest one dates to year five of Cleopatra (48 BC). The texts are unusual because of their relatively early date and because of the fact that they are written in a mixture of demotic, Hieratic, and hieroglyphs. It is also noteworthy that the texts are among the more advanced horoscopes written in Egyptian, having some similarity to the so-called deluxe horoscopes in Greek, which usually date to a somewhat later period.

One of the texts has already been published (Neugebauer/Parker, in: *JEA* 54 [1968], 231–234) but the edition is in need of some improvement. Though the provenance cannot be established with certainty, there are good reasons to suppose that the pieces come from Western Thebes and that they were written by the same person. The presentation focuses on three main questions elucidated by this material. The first one relates to the astronomical knowledge of an astrologer, the second question concerns how horoscopes were structured in Greek and demotic, and the third relates to the social status of the practitioners; one piece may preserve the name and title of the astrologer who compiled the texts.

Steffie M. T. van Gompel, Leiden

Linking Egyptian Marriages to Family Systems – Marital Property Settlements Revisited

The demotic and Abnormal Hieratic marital property settlements have been extensively studied by E. Lüddeckens (1960) and P. W. Pestman (1961). However, following their seminal publications, new documents have emerged – bringing the number of texts and fragments to over 150, which is almost double the material that Lüddeckens and Pestman had access to. At the same time, theory on the structure and practices

of family and household systems in pre-modern times has advanced greatly in recent decades. Combining anthropology and historical demography, the field that studies the history of the family aims for a globally applicable comparative method, although antiquity is rarely taken into account. For my PhD research, I intend to study the marital property settlements through the lens of family and household systems, connecting Egyptian marriage practices with those of household formation and inheritance. A curious geographic distribution of types of marital property settlement seems to suggest real regional differences. A special point of interest is the position of Egyptian wives who, as Pestman has established, occupy an important position in property management and transfer in Egyptian households.

