

# Introduction

In this volume, we publish two ancient Egyptian books of transformations, texts composed primarily of spells intended to allow the deceased to assume various non-human forms in the afterlife: P. Louvre N. 3122 and P. Berlin P. 3162. Relatively little has been written about these texts hitherto. Devéria published a description of the Louvre text in 1881.<sup>1</sup> Vernus published photographs and a description of that papyrus in 1982.<sup>2</sup> Frank-Kamenetzky published a description of P. Berlin P. 3162 with photographs of the text, a hieroglyphic transcription, and an annotated translation in 1914.<sup>3</sup> Kaplony-Heckel published a brief description of that papyrus in 1986.<sup>4</sup> Smith published descriptions and annotated translations of both manuscripts in 2009.<sup>5</sup> The present study is the first comprehensive treatment of the two texts together.

We begin our volume with an account of the history of the manuscripts, their acquisition and present location, before moving on to describe the papyri themselves and the writing on them. Thereafter, we provide details about the scribe who wrote the texts, their date, provenance, owners, contents, context of usage, grammar, and orthography. These are followed by transliterations and translations of P. Louvre N. 3122 and P. Berlin P. 3162, along with a detailed commentary on each text. Next we provide glossaries of the two manuscripts. The volume concludes with a bibliography of works cited, indices, and plates with colour images and hieroglyphic transcriptions of the papyri. The images of P. Louvre N. 3122 show our digital reconstruction and not how the manuscript is currently mounted.

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1 Devéria, *Catalogue des manuscrits égyptiens*, 139–140.

2 Vernus, in *Naissance de l'écriture*, 134–135.

3 Frank-Kamenetzky, *OLZ* 17, 97–102 and 145–154 with plates 1–2.

4 Kaplony-Heckel, *Ägyptische Handschriften* III, 45.

5 Smith, *Traversing Eternity*, 610–626.

