

MUMMY LABEL DATABASE (MLD)

François Gaudard

During the past academic year, the editors and collaborators of the Mummy Label Database and the Death on the Nile projects kept busy in many ways:¹

Sergio Carro Martín has been adding the html text to more than 300 mummy labels in the database. Sofía Torallas Tovar, Alberto Nodar Domínguez, Raquel Martín Hernández, and Alba de Frutos García edited the catalog of the exhibition *Pharaoh's Reeds: A Papyrus Journey up The Nile*, which coincided with the 28th International Congress of Papyrology and took place in Barcelona from April 21 to September 25, 2016, at the Archive of the Crown of Aragon (Arxiu de la Corona d'Aragó, Palau del Lloctinent). Raquel Martín Hernández wrote the catalog chapter for the section of the exhibition dedicated to the funerary world of ancient Egypt (see "Publications by Team Members," below) and, together with Marina Escolano Poveda and Alba de Frutos García, prepared the following catalog entries:

Cat. 49. "Declaration of Death," p. 110.

Cat. 50. "Funerary Papyrus," pp. 110–11.

Cat. 51 "Linen Bandages with Hieratic Book of the Dead," p. 111.

Cat. 52 "Greek Mummy Label," pp. 111–12.

Cat. 53 "Demotic-Hieratic Mummy Label," p. 112.²

Cat. 54 "Fragments of a Cartonnage Mummy Mask," pp. 112–13.

Cat. 55 "Mummy Mask," p. 113.

Cat. 56 "Mummy Mask," pp. 113–14.

Klaas Worp and François Gaudard kept tracking lost mummy labels in several museum and private collections around the world. Among other things, their efforts focused on the following labels: the locations and inventory numbers of which were uncertain or unknown. Here are the results of their investigations:³

- TM 8717: This wooden Greek mummy label is housed in the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology in Oxford, with the inventory number 1888.791.
- TM 26003 and TM 26004: According to Trismegistos, these two wooden Greek mummy labels used to be part of the Prime collection in New York and were bought by Prime in 1855. William Cowper Prime (1825–1905) was an American attorney, journalist, and art historian. In 1874, he was elected as the first vice president of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. In 1890, he donated his collection of pottery and porcelain to the Princeton University Art Museum. Contrary to all expectations, neither of these two museums houses the labels in question. Their current locations and inventory numbers are still unknown.
- TM 29389: This wooden Greek mummy label is housed in the Albertinum in Dresden, with the inventory number ZV 1561, Aeg. 801.

- TM 32108: This wooden Greek mummy label was formerly part of the Fouquet collection in Cairo. Daniel Marie Fouquet (1850–1914) was a French physician living in Cairo, whose extensive collection of antiquities was auctioned at the Hôtel Drouot in Paris, in June 1922. The current location and inventory number of this label are still unknown.
- TM 117641: According to Trismegistos, this wooden Demotic-Greek mummy label was formerly part of the Wiedemann collection, with the inventory number Wiedemann 3s. Alfred Wiedemann (1856–1936) was a German Egyptologist, who served as a professor at the University of Bonn. His collection was originally located in Bonn before being transferred to the Ägyptisches Museum und Papyrussammlung in Berlin. However, it turns out that there is no trace of this mummy label in this museum. Further investigations revealed that it is neither part of the collection of papyri and ostraca of the Seminar für Alte Geschichte (Bonn University), nor of that of the Ägyptisches Museum (Bonn University). Its current location is still unknown.

In addition to completing the Mummy Label Database, the present research provides us with material to update Klaas Worp’s checklist of mummy labels, entitled *Greek, Greek/Demotic and Demotic Mummy Labels: A Survey*,⁴ which is downloadable for free on our “Death on the Nile” website: <http://www.proyectos.cchs.csic.es/death/node/15>.

Publications by Team Members Related to the Projects

The following articles have been published, submitted, or are in press:

- Raquel Martín Hernández, “The Funerary World in Egypt / El món funerari a Egipte / El mundo funerario en Egipto.” In *Pharaoh’s Reeds: A Papyrus Journey Up The Nile / Les Flors del Faraó: Un viatge pel Nil a través dels seus papirs / Las Flores del Faraón: Un viaje por el Nilo a través de sus papiros*, pp. 52–57, 165–70, 262–67. Barcelona: European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed.), 2016.
- Sofía Torallas Tovar, “Nota a dos inscripciones griegas de la Tingitana y la lengua de las comunidades judías en el Norte de África.” In *Τί ἡμῖν καὶ σοί; Lo que hay entre tú y nosotros: Estudios en honor de Victoria Spottorno*, edited by María Jesús Albarrán Martínez and Amalia Zomeño Rodríguez, pp. 211–22. Córdoba: UCOPress, 2016.
- Sofía Torallas Tovar, “Nota sobre una etiqueta de momia cristiana del Louvre.” In *Estudios Papirologicos: Textos literarios y documentales del siglo IV a.C. al IV d.C.*, edited by María Jesús Albarrán Martínez, Raquel Martín Hernández, and Irene Pajón Leyra, pp. 189–196. Cuadernos de la «Fundación Pastor». Madrid: Fundación Pastor de Estudios Clásicos, 2017.
- François Gaudard, “A Greek-Demotic Mummy Label in the University of Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology,” to be published in a Festschrift honoring a colleague (in press).
- François Gaudard, “Funerary Shrouds from Dendera in the Oriental Institute Museum of the University of Chicago, Part I: OIM E4786,” to be published in a Festschrift honoring a colleague (submitted).

- François Gaudard, “On the Immortality of the God Seth.” In *Illuminating Osiris: Egyptological Studies in Honor of Mark Smith*, edited by Richard Jasnow and Ghislaine Widmer, pp. 93–98. Material and Visual Culture of Ancient Egypt 2. Atlanta: Lockwood Press, 2017.

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- Andreas Dorn, curator, Ägyptisches Museum, Bonn.
- Kordelia Knoll, Oberkonservatorin, Albertinum, Dresden.
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- J. Michael Padgett, curator of ancient art, Princeton University Art Museum.
- Winfried Schmitz, Papyrus- und Ostrakonsammlung, Institut für Geschichtswissenschaft, Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität, Bonn.
- Alice Stevenson, curator, Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, University College, London.
- Special thanks go to professor Geoffrey T. Martin for his unfailing support to the project and for drawing our attention to mummy labels in various collections worldwide, as well as to Knut Boehmer, our IT specialist at the Oriental Institute, for his technical advice and efficiency.

Notes

¹ For details on these joint projects of the Instituto de Lenguas y Culturas del Mediterráneo y Oriente Próximo, Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales – CSIC, Madrid, and of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, readers can consult the 2008–2009 *Annual Report*, as well as the other annual reports, available online in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF): <http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/projects/mummy-label-database-ml-d>.

² See F. Gaudard, “A Demotic-Hieratic Mummy Label in the Museu de Montserrat.” In *Mélanges offerts à Ola el-Aguizy*, edited by Fayza Haikal, pp. 159–168. Bibliothèque d’Étude 164. Cairo: IFAO, 2015.

³ The *Trismegistos* reference numbers cited are prefixed TM: <http://www.trismegistos.org/index.html>.

⁴ This checklist also includes late hieratic mummy labels.