Guide to the Egyptian Book of the Dead fragments
1295 BCE - 200 CE

John Hay Library
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Collection overview

Title: Egyptian Book of the Dead fragments

Date range: 1295 BCE - 200 CE

Creator: 

Extent: 0.25 Linear feet

Abstract: Five (5) fragments of inscribed mummy bandage and seven (7) fragments of inscribed papyrus containing texts in hieratic and hieroglyphs that are part of Chapters 1, 17, 72, 85, 86, 93, 108, 109 of the Egyptian Book of the Dead.

Language of materials: English

Repository: John Hay Library University Archives and Manuscripts

Collection number: MS.Egyptian Fragments.Group 1

Scope & content

A18076: Six (6) fragments on papyrus in large archaistic hieratic characters or cursive hieroglyphs arranged in vertical columns in black ink with yellow ochre and red border lines. The text is from Chapter 17 of the Book of the Dead. These pieces date from perhaps the Nineteenth Dynasty, 1295 BCE – 1186 BCE. The name of the deceased is not preserved in these fragments. The provenance of these fragments is unknown.

A18077: One (1) fragment on papyrus in hieratic characters in black and red ink with 2 incomplete lines of text from the beginning of Chapter 72 of the Book of the Dead. The date of the fragment is tentatively identified as from the Third Intermediate Period, 1069 BCE - 650 BCE. The name Khamhor is in line 1 of the fragment. The provenance of this fragment is unknown.

A18901(1): Three (3) fragments on mummy bandage inscribed with hieratic characters from the same mummy and created by the same scribe all in black ink. The name of the deceased was Pede-imhotep, and he was the son of a woman called Tahut. They date from perhaps the late Persian-Ptolemaic period, 330 BCE – 30 BCE. They were a gift from
the estate of Rev. Lysander Dickerman in 1903 along with A18901(2). It is unknown how Dickerman acquired them.

The first fragment shows a scene along the top from Chapter 17 of the Book of the Dead below which is ten lines of text also from Chapter 17.

The second fragment contains the closing text of Chapter 108 and the beginning text of Chapter 109.

The third fragment contains 6 lines of text from the beginning of Chapter 85. On the left side is a drawing of a swallow perched on a mound which is the vignette of Chapter 86.

A18901(2): Two (2) fragments on mummy bandage inscribed in hieratic characters all in black ink. These two fragments are not from the same mummy. Both were a gift from the estate of Rev. Lysander Dickerman in 1903 along with A18901(1). It is unknown how Dickerman acquired them.

The first fragment has at the top right a vignette from Chapter 93. The text underneath is in 2 columns with a total of 13 lines which form a continuous text for the beginning of Chapter 136A. The name of the deceased is not preserved but rather referred to only with the generic term “this Osiris.” This dates to probably the Ptolemaic period, 330 BCE – 30 BCE

The second fragment contains a scene along the top which is a vignette from Chapter 1. The text is 3 columns of 7 lines each and is a version of Chapter 1. The name of the deceased is Shameky. Based on the handwriting - it dates from roughly Ptolemaic-Roman times, 100 BCE to 200 CE.


Arrangement

Arranged in accession number order.

Biographical/Historical note

The Book of the Dead is an ancient Egyptian funerary text, used from the beginning of the New Kingdom (around 1550 BCE) to around 50 BCE. The original Egyptian name for the
text, transliterated rw nw prt m hrw is translated as Book of Coming Forth by Day. Another
translation would be Book of emerging forth into the Light. "Book" is the closest term to
describe the loose collection of texts consisting of a number of magic spells intended to
assist a dead person’s journey through the Duat, or underworld, and into the afterlife and
written by many priests over a period of about 1000 years.

The estate of Lysander Dickerman donated fragments A18901(1) and A18901(2) in
1903. It is not known how Dickerman acquired the fragments. Dickerman was born June
8, 1825 in the city of Brockton, Massachusetts. He died June 8, 1901. Rev. Dickerman
received his education in the schools of his native town and Phillips Andover Academy. He
graduated from Brown University in the class of 1851. Rev. Dickerman was an assistant
teacher for a short time at Pierce Academy, Middleboro, Mass. He came to Hampton
Falls in February, 1852, and took charge of the Rockingham Academy as principal, where
he remained for six terms. As a teacher Mr. Dickerman was very popular and much
beloved by his pupils. Under his charge the school numbered from sixty to seventy pupils.
He graduated from Andover Theological Seminary in 1857. He settled as a pastor in
Weymouth, Mass., and later in Rindge and Walpole. He then spent three years in Egypt
and at the German universities of Halle and Berlin. In 1873 he was pastor of a church in
Quincy, Massachusetts.

Access & use

Access to the collection: There are no restrictions on access, except that the
collection can only be seen by prior appointment. Some
materials may be stored off-site and cannot be produced
on the same day on which they are requested.

Use of materials: All researchers seeking to publish materials from the
collections of the John Hay Library are requested
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and the materials contained therein, it does not claim
literary rights. It is up to the researcher to determine the
owners of the literary rights and to obtain any necessary
permissions from them.
Administrative information

About the collection

Aquisition:
Fragments A18076 and A18077 were a gift from an anonymous donor circa 1900. Fragments A18901(1) and A18901(2) were a gift from the estate of the Reverend Lysander Dickerman in 1903. It is not known how Dickerman acquired the fragments.

About the finding aid

Author:
Finding aid prepared by Karen Eberhart.

Encoding:
This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit 2016-09-06

Descriptive rules:
Finding aid based on Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS)

Additional information

Related material:
See also: Book of the Dead (Ms.Egyptian 1); Lysander Dickerman lectures (Ms.Dickerman); Lysander Dickerman papers and lantern slides collection (MS.IU.D2)
Search terms

Names: Dickerman, Lysander, 1825-1901

Subjects: Book of the dead
           Egypt--Antiquities
           Egyptian language--Texts
           Hieroglyphics
           Inscriptions, Egyptian

Titles: Book of the dead
Inventory

Accession: A18076, Nineteenth Dynasty, 1295 BCE – 1186 BCE
6.0 fragments
Box 1

Scope and Contents note

Six (6) fragments on papyrus in large archaistic hieratic characters or cursive hieroglyphs arranged in vertical columns in black ink with yellow ochre and red border lines. They are all pieces from the same sheet of papyrus. The text is from Chapter 17 of the Book of the Dead. These pieces date from perhaps the Nineteenth Dynasty, 1295 BCE – 1186 BCE. The name of the deceased is not preserved in these fragments. The provenance of these fragments is unknown.

Accession: A18077, Third Intermediate Period, 1069 BCE - 650 BCE
1.0 fragments
Box 1

Scope and Contents note

One (1) fragment on papyrus in hieratic characters in black and red ink with 2 incomplete lines of text from the beginning of Chapter 72 of the Book of the Dead. The date of the fragment is tentatively identified as from the Third Intermediate Period, 1069 BCE - 650 BCE. The name Khamhor is in line 1 of the fragment. The provenance of this fragment is unknown.

Accession: A18901(1), late Persian-Ptolemaic period, 330 BCE – 30 BCE
3.0 fragments

Scope and Contents note

Three (3) fragments on mummy bandage inscribed with hieratic characters from the same mummy and created by the same scribe all in black ink. The name of the deceased was Pede-imhotep, and he was the sone of a woman called Tahut. They date from perhaps the late Persian-Ptolemaic period, 330 BCE – 30 BCE. They were a gift from the estate of Rev. Lysander Dickerman in 1903 along with A18901(2). It is unknown how Dickerman acquired them.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1,</td>
<td>A18901(1) - First fragment - Chapter 17, Book of the Dead</td>
<td>undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1.0 fragments</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Scope and Contents note</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This fragment shows a scene along the top from Chapter 17 of the Book of the Dead below which is ten lines of text also from Chapter 17.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1,</td>
<td>A18901(1) - Second fragment - Chapters 108 and 109, Book of the Dead</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<td>1.0 fragments</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1,</td>
<td>A18901(1) - Third fragment, Chapter 85 and 86, Book of the Dead</td>
<td>undated</td>
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<td>1.0 fragments</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This fragment contains 6 lines of text from the beginning of Chapter 85. On the left side is a drawing of a swallow perched on a mound which is the vignette of Chapter 86.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Accession: A18901(2), 2.0 fragments**
Scope and Contents note

Two (2) fragments on mummy bandage inscribed in hieratic characters all in black ink. These two fragments are not from the same mummy. Both were a gift from the estate of Rev. Lysander Dickerman in 1903 along with A18901(1). It is unknown how Dickerman acquired them.

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<td>Box 1,</td>
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<td>Ptolemaic period, 330 BCE – 30 BCE</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1.0 fragments</td>
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<td><strong>Scope and Contents note</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1,</td>
<td>A18901(2) - Second fragment, Chapter 1, Book of the Dead</td>
<td>Ptolemaic-Roman times, 100 BCE to 200 CE</td>
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