

Andrea FANCIULLI, Kathrin GABLER, Jessica IZAK, Martina LANDRINO, Matthias MÜLLER, Renaud PIETRI, Stéphane POLIS, Nathalie SOJIC, Stephan M. UNTER

New Kingdom Hieratic Collections From Around the World. Introduction

in

Crossing Boundaries (ed.), *New Kingdom Hieratic Collections From Around the World*, Vol. 2, Liège, Presses Universitaires de Liège, 2024 (= *Ægyptiaca Leodiensia*, 13.2), p. 11–12.

DOI 10.25518/978-2-87562-432-1.01

New Kingdom Hieratic Collections From Around the World (vol. 2)

Introduction

Andrea FANCIULLI, Kathrin GABLER, Jessica IZAK,
Martina LANDRINO, Matthias MÜLLER, Renaud PIETRI,
Stéphane POLIS, Nathalie SOJIC, Stephan M. UNTER

This book is the second of a series of volumes designed to provide a detailed overview of the diverse New Kingdom hieratic materials preserved in various museums and public collections around the world. The endeavour is directly connected to the interdisciplinary project *Crossing Boundaries: Understanding Complex Scribal Practices in Ancient Egypt*. This project is a joint venture of the University of Basel, the University of Liège, and the Museo Egizio. Between 2019 and 2023, it was financed by the SNSF in Switzerland and the F.N.S.-FNRS in Belgium, as well as supported financially by the Museo Egizio.

The *Crossing Boundaries* project has targeted the rich papyrological materials from the village of Deir el-Medina (c. 1350–1050 BCE) held in the Museo Egizio, seeking to enhance our understanding of the scribal practices that lie behind the production of the texts from this community. The driving methodological motto of *Crossing Boundaries* has always been to adopt a *contextualized* approach to these written materials; as we progressed on the Deir el-Medina materials, the need to develop a clearer picture of *all* the hieratic materials available from the same period quickly became evident. This led to the present publication, the existence of which allows us to expand our perspective on Deir el-Medina and to situate

our results from the *Crossing Boundaries* project against a much broader background.

Initially, we planned a single volume that would offer both historical and quantitative overviews of the New Kingdom hieratic materials held in various collections around the world, as well as a series of case-studies discussing unpublished documents from these institutions. The scope of the project quickly grew, however, as we began to receive enthusiastic responses to our call for papers from numerous colleagues around the world. As a result, the contributions to this project have been divided across several volumes.

Each volume is arranged geographically and proceeds in alphabetic order—continent by continent and country by country. The second volume contains overviews (and case studies) of 13 European museums and collections (see the Table of Contents), including the French National Library (BnF, Paris), the Louvre (Paris), the Museo Egizio (Turin), the Rijksmuseum van Oudheden (Leiden), and the Vatican Museums. We should stress that we have only targeted official institutions holding hieratic materials; our coverage does not include private collections; nor does it necessarily address materials found in excavations that remain to be published.

All of the contributions to these volumes have been subjected to internal and external review processes. During the internal process, each of the articles were assigned to two editors from our team of nine; these editors worked together on these articles as main- and co-editors. These two-person teams acted independently and were supported by Jessica Izak. During the external process, international experts who were not contributing to the volumes were consulted in order to assess the quality of the articles.

We are very grateful to Rob Demarée (Leiden) for his continuous support and the many insights that he shared throughout the publication process; to Daniel Waller for copy-editing all of the abstracts and some of the papers; to Baudouin Stasse (ULiège Press), for his patience and professionalism in preparing this complex publication; and to Serge Rosmorduc (Paris), who has provided the hieroglyphic text editor JSesh to the Egyptological community for so many years. This tool was used to produce the hieroglyphic transcriptions in this volume.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge that the open-access publication of these volumes was made possible by support from the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) for the publication of scientific books, and from the Research Unit “Mondes Anciens” at the University of Liège. We are grateful to these funding bodies for enabling us to make this publication freely available to as wide an audience as possible.

This volume is dedicated to the memory of Juan José Jaime Aloísio Archidona Ramírez (1992–2024), who sadly passed away last February. As a promising Egyptologist, Juan contributed significantly to the success of the *Crossing Boundaries* project. In 2019, he participated as an intern at the Museo Egizio in Turin, where his contributions were crucial to the encoding of numerous texts in the TPOP database that are integral to our project. We are honoured to acknowledge his invaluable contributions.