

MUMMY LABEL DATABASE (MLD)

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During the past academic year, the editors and collaborators of the Mummy Label Database and Death on the Nile projects continued to make progress with various tasks, including completing the database, tracking lost mummy labels, and preparing text editions of unpublished ones. Moreover, they also kept working on subjects related to death in antiquity. For information on these joint projects of the Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona), the Universidad Complutense (Madrid), and the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, readers can consult previous annual reports, available online in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF):

<https://oi.uchicago.edu/research/projects/mummy-label-database-mld>

On September 20, 2017, Raquel Martín Hernández delivered a lecture entitled “La experiencia de la muerte como proceso iniciático. El caso de los misterios griegos,” as part of the summer course “Morir antes de morir: sociedades y experiencias iniciáticas a lo largo de la Historia,” at the UNED (Madrid). In addition to conducting research at the Universidad Complutense, she is supervising a PhD thesis entitled “La identificación del muerto con Osiris en el Egipto ptolemaico.”

Alba de Frutos García (Universidad Complutense) is currently finishing her PhD thesis, entitled “Profesionales de las necrópolis en el Egipto ptolemaico” (“Funerary Workers in Ptolemaic Egypt”), under the supervision of Sofía Torallas Tovar (University of Chicago) and Alberto Bernabé (Universidad Complutense). It consists of a study of all the family archives belonging to funerary workers, in order to understand the social context in which they lived. Alba also gave the two following lectures: “Los profesionales de las necrópolis en el Egipto ptolemaico,” delivered on June 30, 2017, at the IV Jornadas de Doctorandos de Filología Clásica, Facultad de Filología, Universidad Complutense; and “¿Quién entierra al enterrador? Sobre las costumbres funerarias de los profesionales de la muerte en el Egipto ptolemaico,” delivered on July 14, 2017, at the VII Jornadas de Papirología, Universidad del País Vasco (San Sebastián).

Drawing up a list of lost mummy labels and updating it, as well as contacting museums and private collections around the world to track such labels, took a significant amount of time for Klaas Worp and François Gaudard. They also contacted Trismegistos (<https://www.trismegistos.org/>) to share the results of their investigations. At this point, they still expect to hear from various institutions. The most difficult labels to track include those which were part of private collections, were sold at private auctions, or disappeared, for example, during WWII. In this regard, François established interesting contacts for the MLD by attending the annual meeting of CIPEG (International Committee for Egyptology), dedicated to “The Role of Curators in Museum Research and Exhibits: Tradition, Change, and Looking to the Future,” and held at the Oriental Institute of the University Chicago from September 5 to 8, 2017. He also continued to work on the edition of the Oriental Institute Museum funerary shrouds from the Graeco-Roman period.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS BY TEAM MEMBERS

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

- Sofia Torallas Tovar, “A lexical Note on the Life of Pisentios.” In *Labor omnia uicit improbus: Miscellanea in honorem Ariel Shisha-Halevy*, edited by Nathalie Bosson, Anne Boud’hors, and Sidney H. Aufrère, pp. 373–380. *Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta* 256. Leuven; Paris; Bristol, CT: Peeters, 2017.
 - Raquel Martín Hernández, “Faience Mummy Labels Written in Greek,” to be published in the forthcoming issue of the *Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik* (submitted).
 - François Gaudard, “A Greek-Demotic Mummy Label in the University of Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.” In *Hieratic, Demotic and Greek Studies and Text Editions. Of Making Many Books There is No End: Festschrift in Honour of Sven P. Vleeming*, edited by Koenraad Donker van Heel, Francisca A. J. Hoogendijk, and Cary J. Martin, pp. 309–13. *Papyrologica Lugduno-Batava* 34. Leiden, Boston: Brill, 2018.
 - 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 (in press).
 - François Gaudard, “Funerary Shrouds from Dendera in the Oriental Institute Museum of the University of Chicago, Part II: OIM E4789,” to be published in a Festschrift honoring a colleague (in preparation).
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