

## François Gaudard

This has been a busy and productive year for **François Gaudard**. Besides working as a Research Associate for the Chicago Demotic Dictionary (see separate report), he devoted part of his free time to the Mummy Label Database (see separate report). Gaudard attended the 10th International Congress of Demotic Studies, held in Leuven and Brussels from August 26 to 30, 2008, where he delivered a paper entitled “An Update Report on P. Berlin 8278 and Its Fragments,” in which he presented his latest discoveries. Indeed, this very interesting text gives us an attestation of the celebration of the Osirian Khoiak festival in the Fayyum and provides new material for its study — including new mythological episodes — expanding our knowledge of Egyptian religion during the Ptolemaic period. In the fall of 2008, Gaudard taught an advanced language class: Demotic Texts IV, with a focus on funerary, magical, and literary texts. He also wrote two articles, namely “Le P. Berlin 8278 et ses fragments: Un ‘nouveau’ texte démotique comprenant des noms de lettres,” and, together with Janet H. Johnson, “Six Stone Mummy Labels in the Collection of the Oriental Institute Museum.” Both articles are now in press and will be published in festschriften honoring European scholars. On April 27, at the Oriental Institute, Gaudard, together with Sofía Torallas Tovar and Raquel Martín Hernández, delivered a lecture entitled “Introducing the Mummy Label Database,” in which the aims and guidelines of the project were presented to the University of Chicago scholarly community. The highlight of Gaudard’s year was his identifying a papyrus as a still-unknown Late Ramesside letter. The famous corpus of more than sixty hieratic papyri known as *Late Ramesside Letters* tells us about events that took place in the last years of the reign of Ramesses XI (1099–1069 B.C.), when the Theban area was under the military control of General Piankh. This manuscript, acquired in the nineteenth century and housed in a private collection, has been entrusted to Gaudard for identification and publication. It consists of a letter sent from Nubia during a military expedition, as is the case with several letters in this corpus. The original provenance of this letter is ensured by the mention of the god Horus, lord of Kuban. This text also mentions an individual named Payishu[...], who is most likely to be identified with Payshuuben, an agent of General Piankh known from other letters. Unfortunately, only the left side of the letter is preserved. The preparing of this quite advanced text for publication has been delayed by the fact that the verso of the papyrus has been covered with “vegetable paper” that hides at least five lines of text and probably cannot be removed now without serious damage to the manuscript. The help of a conservator will therefore be required. Gaudard is also working on publishing a major copy of *The Book of the Dead* from the Ptolemaic period, a Demotic priestly taxation list, two fragments of *The Book of the Dead* from the Late Period, as well as various mummy labels and Coptic texts.

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