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A COMPANION TO
**GRECO-ROMAN
AND LATE
ANTIQUITY EGYPT**
EDITED BY KATELIJN VANDORPE



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AND LATE ANTIQUE EGYPT**

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Contents

Illustrations and Tables	ix
Note on Contributors	xiii
Preface	xxi
Acknowledgments	xxv
Abbreviations	xxvii
Chronological Outline	xxix
Maps	xxxvii
PART I Greco-Roman Egypt Explored	1
1 Unique Sources in an Unusual Setting <i>Arthur Verhoogt</i>	3
2 Modern Scholars at Work in a Digital and Multidisciplinary Setting <i>Mark Depauw and Dorota Dzierzbicka</i>	15
PART II Egypt as Part of a Globalizing World	33
3 The Last Pharaohs: The Ptolemaic Dynasty and the Hellenistic World <i>Anne-Emmanuelle Veïsse</i>	35
4 A Roman Province in the Eastern Mediterranean <i>Tomasz Derda</i>	51
5 Egypt in the Byzantine World <i>Cornelia Römer</i>	71
6 Life Portraits: Royals and People in a Globalizing World <i>Alexander Meeus</i>	89

PART III	Governing a Country with a Past: Between Tradition and Innovation	101
7	The Ptolemaic Governmental Branches and the Role of Temples and Elite Groups <i>Joseph G. Manning</i>	103
8	The Branches of Roman and Byzantine Government and the Role of Cities, the Church, and Elite Groups <i>Thomas Kruse</i>	119
9	Policymakers in a Changing World <i>Bernard Legras</i>	139
10	Taxation and Fiscal Reforms <i>Andrew Monson</i>	147
11	Security and Border Policy: Army and Police <i>Christelle Fischer-Bovet and Patrick Sanger</i>	163
12	Immigration, Globalization, and the Impact on Private Law: The Case of Legal Documents <i>Uri Yiftach and Katelijn Vandorpe</i>	179
13	Life Portraits: People and their Everyday Papers in a Bureaucratic Society <i>Sofie Waebens</i>	199
PART IV	Developing the Economic Strength of the Nile Country	215
14	Monetization of the Countryside <i>Sitta von Reden</i>	217
15	Stimuli for Irrigation, Agriculture, and Quarrying <i>Colin Adams</i>	233
16	Economic Growth and the Exploitation of Land <i>Peter van Minnen</i>	251
17	Life Portraits: People at Work <i>Katelijn Vandorpe</i>	269
PART V	Identity in a Multicultural Environment	281
18	Social Identity and Upward Mobility: Elite Groups, Lower Classes, and Slaves <i>Sandra Scheuble-Reiter and Silvia Bussi</i>	283
19	Ethnic Identity: Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans <i>Willy Clarysse</i>	299

20	Ethnic Minority Groups <i>Sylvie Honigman</i>	315
21	Family and Life Cycle Transitions <i>Jane Rowlandson and Sandra Lippert</i>	327
22	Gender Issues: Women to the Fore <i>Maren Schentuleit</i>	347
23	Cultural Identity: Housing and Burial Practices <i>Anna Lucille Boozer</i>	361
24	A Sound Body and Mind <i>Amin Benaissa and Sofie Remijsen</i>	381
25	Life Portraits: People of a Multicultural Generation <i>Yanne Broux</i>	395
PART VI Traditional Religious Life Challenged		405
26	Cults, Creeds, and Clergy in a Multicultural Context <i>Katelijjn Vandorpe and Willy Clarysse</i>	407
27	A Successful Ruler and Imperial Cult <i>Stefan Pfeiffer</i>	429
28	New Deities and New Habits <i>Franziska Naether</i>	439
29	Egypt's Role in the Rise of Christianity, Monasticism, and Regional Schisms <i>Malcolm Choat</i>	449
30	Life Portraits: People in Worship <i>Gwen Jennes</i>	473
PART VII Creative Minds in Theory and Praxis		483
31	Languages, Scripts, Literature, and Bridges Between Cultures <i>Sofia Torallas Tovar and Marja Vierros</i>	485
32	Encounters Between Greek and Egyptian Science <i>Sydney H. Aufrère and Marie-Hélène Marganne</i>	501
33	New Architectural Practices and Urbanism <i>Bérangère Redon</i>	519
34	Creativity in Visual Arts <i>Martina Minas-Nerpel</i>	533

PART VIII Epilogue	551
35 The People of Greco-Roman Egypt: Quality of Life <i>Valérie Wyns and Katelijn Vandorpe</i>	553
36 Egypt's Specificity and Impact on Hellenistic History <i>Brian McGing</i>	565
37 Egypt's Specificity and Impact on Roman History <i>Michael A. Speidel</i>	573
38 New Testament Studies <i>John S. Kloppenborg</i>	581
39 New Voices and New Challenges <i>Rodney Ast</i>	587
Digital Resources and Bibliography	595
Digital Resources	595
Bibliography	597
Index	715

Illustrations and Tables

Maps

1	Greco-Roman and Late Antique Egypt	xxxvii
2	The Fayum	xxxviii

Figures

1.1	Daily record of lamp oil for the retinue of the minister of finances	9
1.2	Mummy label in Egyptian Demotic having the shape of a stele	11
3.1	Portraits of dignitaries on clay seal impressions, identified as Ptolemy VI and VIII, Cleopatra VII and Caesar	46
4.1	Signature of Cleopatra?	53
4.2	Allegorical mosaic of Rome and its main provinces in a luxurious residence at Thysdrus in Roman Africa	66
5.1	The mountain at Naqlun	75
11.1	Ptolemaic infantry units	165
13.1	The family of Tefhape from Lykopolis	201
13.2	The family of Peteharsemtheus from Pathyris	202
13.3	The family of Tryphon from Oxyrhynchos	207
13.4	The family of M. Lucretius Diogenes from Philadelpheia	209
14.1	Silver tetradrachm of Ptolemy I	220
14.2a,b	Bronze drachm(?) of Ptolemy II and post-reform bronze coin of Ptolemy V	221, 226
14.3a,b	Billon tetradrachm of Tiberius and bronze <i>nummus</i> issued by Maximian	228, 231
15.1	A shaduf	236
15.2	Map of ancient quarry sites	245
15.3	Diocletian's Pillar" (Aswan Granite) and sphinx	246
15.4	Excavations at Myos Hormos	246
16.1	Accounts of a textile establishment	264
17.1	A Picasso <i>avant la lettre</i> . Tapestry wall-hanging showing a mythological scene with Greeks warriors and Amazones on horseback	271
17.2	Mons Claudianus. The fortified camp seen from the north	277

19.1	Greek and non-Greek ancient books	312
19.2	Use of the roll, the codex, and the single sheet for Greek texts	313
21.1	Greek kinship terms used in Egypt	331
21.2	The Philsarapis family from Tebtynis/Antinoopolis	333
21.3	An Egyptian family from Early Roman Egypt	334
23.1	Polis from Trimithis (Amheida) House B1	370
23.2	Plan of House B2, Trimithis (Amheida)	371
23.3	Tomb of Petosiris, Qaret el-Muzawwaqa	377
25.1	Plan of “the House of the Cow” district in Thebes	396
25.2	Family of Dryton and Apollonia from Pathyris	398
26.1	The Roman-era temple of Isis at Shenhur	411
26.2	The “Pax Romana at Dendara”	425
27.1	Architrave of the portico from the Hermopolis precinct of Ptolemy III	431
27.2	Simulated reconstruction of the emperor cult temple in front of the first pylon of the Amun precinct of Karnak.	436
28.1	The sphinx god Tutu, his mother Neith/Athena and the griffin of Petbe/Nemesis	442
28.2	The Leiden magical papyrus	445
29.1	Order for arrest of the Christian Petosorapis	459
29.2	Church of the White Monastery, built in Shenoute’s lifetime	467
30.1	Family of Ammon <i>Scholasticus</i>	478
31.1	Development of 11 signs in Hieroglyphic, Hieratic and Demotic Egyptian	486
32.1	Kom Ombo, Temple of Sobek and Haroeris, Emperors’ corridor with scene of surgical instruments aiding the healing of the mythical eye of Horus	517
33.1	Reconstruction of hip-bathtubs, Taposiris Magna	525
33.2	A perfect example of the Greco-Egyptian bath type, Bouto East	525
33.3	Hypothetical reconstruction of the thermae, Karnak	528
33.4	Double Byzantine baths, general view of the central block from the west, Marea	529
34.1	The Satrap Stele, showing Pharaoh Alexander IV or Satrap Ptolemy offering to Harendotes and Wadjet	537
34.2	The Gallus Stele, showing Egypt’s first Roman prefect in a Hellenistic pose	538
34.3	Kiosk of Qertassi, composite capital with different vegetal elements	541
34.4	Faience wine-jug or <i>oinochoe</i> , showing Arsinoe II	544
34.5	Relief from San el-Hagar (Tanis), showing Ptolemy II Philadelphus and Arsinoe II Philadelphus	547
35.1	The taxonomy of quality of life, as described by Veenhoven	554
Tables and Information Boxes		
1.1	Geographical spread of the documentation in the Mediterranean world	6
3.1	Ptolemaic Royals, Olympic and Other Greek Games	38
6.1	“Wandering” Orators and Poets in Late Antique Egypt	98
7.1	The main Ptolemaic officials.	109

8.1	The main officials in Roman Egypt (c. 30 BC – c. AD 284)	124
8.2	The provinces of Late Antique Egypt (after Palme 2007: fig. 12.1)	135
8.3	The main officials in Late Antique Egypt (c. AD 306 – 400)	136
10.1	“State monopolies”	151
11.1	Army organization in Ptolemaic Egypt	167
11.2	Troop strength in Roman and Late Antique Egypt	172
12.1	Legal Documents of the <i>chora</i>	180
13.1	Survey of transactions in relation to four plots of land in the plain of Pathyris	204
13.2	Bronze military diplomas for fleet and auxiliary soldiers	209
14.1	Ptolemaic coinage	218
15.1	Agricultural calendar	238
17.1	Textiles and Textile Archaeology	270
19.1	“Coptic”: A Terminological Muddle	309
20.1	The Jewish Revolt of AD 116–117 and the Nome Governor Apollonios	323
25.1	Dioskoros’ Greek-Coptic glossary: an extract	402
25.2	From <i>Halabam</i> to alphabetical order	403
26.1	Selection of Egyptian priestly titles in Greek and Demotic	417
26.2	The <i>interpretatio Graeca</i> . Some examples	420
29.1	An expanding Egyptian Church	453
29.2	An expanding monastic movement	464
31.1	“I Will Tattoo on Your Head...”. New Ancient Books	495
35.1	Index of quality of life for Greco-Roman Egypt	557

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Katelijan Vanderpe is Professor of Papyrology and Ancient History at the KU Leuven University, Belgium, and a member of the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium. Her main research field is Greco-Roman Egypt, and her publications include text editions (P. Dryton and, with S.P. Vleeming, P. Erbstreit), archival research, studies on seals, onomastics, institutions, and socioeconomic aspects of this multicultural society.

Peter van Minnen is Professor of Classics at the University of Cincinnati. He specializes in documentary papyrology and the social and economic history of Greco-Roman Egypt. The author of numerous publications, recipient of several awards, and editor of *BASP*, he is currently working on an edition of a family archive from Hermopolis and a guide to Alexandria in the age of Augustus.

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Marja Vierros is a postdoctoral scholar in the project Act of the Scribe. Transmitting Linguistic Knowledge and Scribal Practices in Greco-Roman Antiquity (Academy of Finland, University of Helsinki). She is the author of *Bilingual Notaries in Hellenistic Egypt. A Study of Greek as a Second Language* (2012). Her areas of expertise are Greek papyrology, historical (socio)linguistics, and linguistic annotation (dependency treebanks).

Sitta von Reden is Professor of Ancient History at the University of Freiburg, Germany. She has published widely on both Hellenistic Egypt and the ancient monetary economy. Her monographs include *Money in Ptolemaic Egypt* (2007), *Money in Classical Antiquity* (2010), and *Die antike Wirtschaft* (2015).

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Three younger colleagues of the University of Leuven research group of Ancient History have collaborated on this volume: **Gwen Jennes** graduated in Egyptology (with a minor in Archaeology) at the KU Leuven University, where she also obtained her PhD; her research focuses mainly on the relation between personal names and reli-

gion in Late Period, Greco-Roman, and Late Antique Egypt. **Valérie Wyns** graduated in Ancient History, and is currently a PhD student studying the impact of Ptolemaic government on the quality of life. **Nico Dogaer** graduated in Ancient History, and is currently a PhD student researching the Ptolemaic system of monopolies.

Preface

When as a student I was introduced to the field of Greco-Roman Egypt, I was fortunate to rely on a rarely used introduction, the Dutch *Papyrologisch Handboek* by Willy Peremans and Jozef Vergote (1942), which already fully included Egyptian (Demotic and Coptic) material and also focused on broader issues such as Administration and Religion, even though it was no longer up to date in all areas. Already at that time, I silently cherished the ambition to present such a manual to an international audience.

When, a few years ago, I was offered the chance to edit *A Companion to Greco-Roman and Late Antique Egypt*, I had some doubts. The situation had completely changed. While more publications than ever were appearing in the field and some guidance was undoubtedly needed, several excellent companions were already available – companions in which I had taken part and which, as I am writing this introduction, are piled up on the table in front of me. What more could I offer? Should I accept this invitation? Over the course of this project, my answer has changed from a cautious to a full-blown “yes.” I have tried to compose a companion that still provides basic information for students and, I hope, their professors, but at the same time is sufficiently different from the handbooks already in existence.

Egypt: from Alexander to the Copts. An Archaeological and Historical Guide (2004), edited by Roger S. Bagnall and Dominic W. Rathbone, was the first handbook with a strong archeological focus, of which a revised electronic edition is now available. The *Oxford Handbook of Papyrology* (2009b), edited by Roger S. Bagnall, obviously emphasizes the papyrological source material (including ostraca and wooden tablets) and focuses on the Greek and Latin sources, although several chapters also deal with Egyptian, Aramaic, Persian, and Arabic documentation and with broader issues such as Law, Religion, and Science. The *Blackwell Companion to Ancient Egypt* (2010), edited by Alan B. Lloyd, is a two-volume handbook with a pharaonic and Greco-Roman component to all its themes, the stated aim of which is to “recognize differences but also emphasize the continuities of Pharaonic Egyptian civilization” thus providing “valuable perspectives and data both to Egyptologists and Graeco-Roman specialists” (p. xxi). The major themes that are addressed include State and Economic Structures, Social Order, Language and Literature, Visual Arts, and Reception Studies. *The Oxford Handbook of Roman Egypt*

(2012), edited by Christina Riggs, aims to exceed the disciplinary boundaries for that specific period. Within the major themes (Land and State; City, Town, and *Chora*; People, Religion, Texts, and Language; Images and Objects; and Borders, Trade, and Tourism), the editor presents chapters written by authors with a variety of disciplinary profiles. The archeological component is explicitly present in several parts.

It was a big challenge to present a new thematic perspective. Apart from the case of *Egypt: from Alexander to the Copts*, our chronological scope is of course different from that of other comparable works. Here, we cover almost 1000 years of Egyptian history, starting with its liberation from Persian rule by Alexander the Great in 332 BC and ending in AD 642, when Arab rule began.

We have further pursued the following objectives. In the first place, we wanted to offer a comprehensive overview, which is the main objective of a companion. For this, we have chosen a largely sociological approach: the “Life Portraits” at the end of each part, the theme of “Identity in a Multicultural Environment,” and Chapter 35 on the quality of life of Egypt’s inhabitants are clear examples of this aim. Furthermore, we wanted to emphasize the changes that occurred in the Greco-Roman and Late Antique Periods, as illustrated in thematic titles such as “Governing a Country with a Past: Between Tradition and Innovation,” “Traditional Religious Life Challenged,” and “Creative Minds in Theory and Praxis.”

Also in this volume we have sought to exceed disciplinary boundaries, especially those between Greek papyrology on the one hand and Demotic and Coptic studies on the other; we hope that we have realized this in a reasonably systematic manner, which is new for this type of handbook. Thus, we opted against presenting separate chapters on, for example, Greek literature, Latin literature, Egyptian Demotic literature, and so on, or on Egyptian or Greek sciences, as these are already available in other handbooks. Here, rather, we have brought together specialists who discuss the multilingual sources on, for example, literature, in one chapter jointly presented. For this, we have put together authors from different backgrounds in a variety of chapters: Greek papyrologists and demotists/Egyptologists (Chapters 21, 31, and 32); historians and archeologists (Chapter 2); scholars of the Ptolemaic, Roman, and/or Late Antique Periods (Chapters 11, 12, and 18); and other specialisms (Chapter 24). Except in our Chapters 2, 15, and 33, the archeological component here is less clearly present than in *Egypt: from Alexander to the Copts* or in the *Oxford Handbook of Roman Egypt*, which provide detailed data according to region. Finally, we have not included chapters on the reception of Greco-Roman Egypt, which is widely discussed in the *Blackwell Companion to Ancient Egypt* (Part VII), but have chosen to emphasize the possible impact of the study of Greco-Roman Egypt on other fields of research, such as Hellenistic and Roman History more generally, and New Testament Studies (Chapters 36–38, but see also Chapters 3–6) – an area that does not always receive due attention.

All these ambitious goals are hopefully realized. The main themes are preceded by an introductory section: I. Greco-Roman Egypt Explored, focusing on the sources in their physical context and presenting the research fields in a digital and multidisciplinary context. The following main themes of this volume are: II. Egypt as Part of a Globalizing World, that is the Hellenistic, Roman, and, finally, Byzantine worlds; III. Governing a Country with a Past, focusing on traditions and innovations in the administration, policy

fields, fiscal system, army and police, and private law; IV. Developing the Economic Strength of the Nile Country, presenting chapters on monetization, stimuli for irrigation, agriculture and quarrying, and the economic growth and exploitation of land; V. Identity in a Multicultural Environment, including social, class, and ethnic identity, familial and gender identity, and cultural identity; VI. Traditional Religious Life Challenged, discussing religion in a multicultural context, the ruler and imperial cults, new deities and new cults, and Egypt's role in the rise of Christianity, monasticism, and regional schisms; and VII. Creative Minds in Theory and Praxis, a theme in search of new developments in language and literature, science, architectural practices, urbanism, and the visual arts.

The Epilogue presents chapters on sociologically inspired thoughts concerning the quality of life in Greco-Roman Egypt, the research impact of work on Greco-Roman Egypt on other domains, and a discussion of the future of our studies. The detailed Chronological Outline is complementary to that of the *Blackwell Companion to Ancient Egypt*, which has a strong focus on Pharaonic Egypt. The Bibliography is inevitably preceded by a long list of digital resources, referred to throughout the volume. For the photographs, we have preferred illustrations of less well-known texts, objects, and structures.

We have tried to be innovative by introducing at the end of each theme a chapter on "Life Portraits," which takes advantage of archival material and shows how individuals responded to the various aspects presented in the preceding chapters. These include portraits of both royals and more ordinary people in a globalizing world, of individuals and their everyday papers in a bureaucratic society, of people at work, of people of a multicultural generation, and of people in worship. The Life Portraits have been written by members or former members of the KU Leuven research unit of Ancient History. Some topics are highlighted in "Information Boxes." Among such boxed topics, one can find, for example, "Wandering' Orators and Poets in Late Antique Egypt," "Textiles and Textile Archeology," and "I Will Tattoo on Your Head ...': New Ancient Books." More complex or detailed information is made available in a series of tables.

For common personal and place names, we have used the Latinized or English form (the god Horus, Ptolemy, Homer), while non-common names are simply transliterated (an otherwise unknown individual is called Horos or Paniskos). For the titles of the works of classical authors, we have largely relied on the Oxford Classical Dictionary, although we have not abbreviated them in this volume. Egyptian Hieroglyphic/Hieratic, Demotic, and Coptic words are presented in transliteration formats typical of the respective fields of research.

It has really been a pleasure and an honor to cooperate with so many excellent colleagues and scholars. I hope the reader will enjoy reading or consulting this companion.

Katelijn Vandorpe
Heverlee, May 2017

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Abbreviations

Abbreviations of papyrological and inscriptional sources are too numerous to be listed here.

- For abbreviations of papyrological sources (P., O., etc.), see J. F. Oates, R. S. Bagnall, S. J. Clackson, A. O'Brien, J. D. Sosin, T. G. Wilfong, and K. A. Worp, *Checklist of Greek, Latin, Demotic and Coptic Papyri, Ostraca and Tablets*. ed. 5. Bulletin of the American Society of Papyrologists, Supplement 9. Oakville and Oxford 2001, regularly updated in the online version: <http://www.papyri.info/docs/checklist>
- For abbreviations of inscriptional sources (I., CIL, etc.), see http://www.antiquite.ens.fr/IMG/file/pdf_guide_epi/abbreviations_guide.pdf
- For abbreviations of both papyrological and inscriptional sources, see additionally <http://www.trismegistos.org/tm/search.php>

AE	<i>L'Année épigraphique</i> , since 1888
ANRW	<i>Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt. Geschichte und Kultur Roms im Spiegel der neueren Forschung</i> , since 1970
BL	<i>Berichtigungsliste der griechischen Papyrusurkunden aus Ägypten</i> , since 1922
BullÉp	<i>Bulletin épigraphique</i> , in <i>Revue des études grecques</i> , since 1888
DDbDP	<i>The Duke Databank of Documentary Papyri</i> , available via papyri.info
DNP	<i>Der Neue Pauly</i> . Enzyklopädie der Antike. 16 vols. Stuttgart-Weimar 1996–2003
FGrHist	<i>Die Fragmente der griechischen Historiker</i> , Parts I–III, edited by Felix Jacoby, Berlin 1923–1930, Leiden 1940–1958; <i>Die Fragmente der griechischen Historiker continued</i> , Part IV, edited by Guido Schepens, Leiden 1999–2008, by Stefan Schorn, Leiden since 2009, accessible online at www.brillonline.com
LDAB	Leuven Database of Ancient Books. http://www.trismegistos.org/ldab/
Pros. Ptol.	<i>Prosopographia Ptolemaica</i> , 10 vols. Leuven 1977–2002

- SEG *Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum*, since 1923
Suppl. Hell *Supplementum Hellenisticum*, edited by Hugh Lloyd-Jones and Peter Parsons. Berlin-New York 1983
- TM Trismegistos: an Interdisciplinary Portal of Papyrological and Epigraphical Resources. <http://www.trismegistos.org/>
- TM Arch TM arch (followed by identification number of the archive). Database and descriptions of Papyrus Archives in Greco-Roman Egypt. <http://www.trismegistos.org/arch/index.php>
- TM Geo TM geo (followed by identification number of the place name). Database and descriptions of Papyrus Archives in Greco-Roman Egypt. <http://www.trismegistos.org/arch/index.php>

See also the digital resources at the end of the volume.