

THE GRAZ MUMMY BOOK (Fragm. Graz, UBG Ms I 1946)

- Discovered by Dr Theresa Zammit Lupi on 11 May 2023 at 16.30.
- Catalogue description as found on Sondersammlungen | DIGITAL (<https://unipub.uni-graz.at/obvugrpapyri/content/titleinfo/7951240>):
UBG Ms I 1946: 'Banker's bill for various sums for beer and oil tax and other',
Place of origin: undetermined, Date: 260 BCE, Location found: Hibeh (Egypt).
- Catalogue description of the fragment (referenced as H.113) and transcript of the text found on pp 303-4 of Grenfell and Hunt, *The Hibeh Papyri Part I*, London, 1906 (<https://archive.org/details/hibehpapyri00turngoog>).
- Catalogue description on Trismegistos (TM 8242) (<https://www.trismegistos.org/text/8242>).
- Dimensions (when unfolded): approx. 150 x 250 mm.
- History of the fragment:
 - 1st use: bifolio as part of a notebook in codex format, recording various sums for beer and oil tax and other, written in Greek around 260 BCE.
 - 2nd use: recycled as part of a mummy wrapping (cartonnage) covered in plaster and coloured pigments in the Ptolemaic period (305-30 BCE).
 - Excavated from "Mummy 46" in the Egyptian necropolis of Hibeh (modern El Hiba) south of Fayum by Grenfell and Hunt, who labelled the fragment H.113, in 1902.
 - Donated to the University of Graz in 1909 in return for financial support for the excavation. It was then housed between two layers of glass and labelled "Man. I. 1946 Bankier-Rechnung ca. 260 v. Chr. Hibeh papyri 113. Part I" and has since been stored in the Special Collections of the Graz University Library.
- Codicology:
 - It has been decided to use the terms recto and verso to describe the sides of the fragment as they are currently visible between glass. Recto refers to the side where the text is found, verso where the decoration is

found. The fragment was folded vertically from the recto side, creating a valley fold in the centre.

- Material: papyrus, thread; recto: black ink; verso: plaster and pigments.
 - Recto: to the left of the central fold is one column of Greek text in 18 lines (plus the top line where only descenders are visible). The text is written within clearly defined margins. To the right of the central fold is one column of Greek text, most of which is obscured by damage. Multispectral imaging has revealed 12 lines of text. The handwriting on this side is the same hand as that on the left side of the bifolio.
 - Verso: to the left of the central fold are remains of plaster and pigment from the fragment's use as cartonnage on Mummy 46. The decoration includes triangular motifs with circles within a rectangular border. Alternating spots also appear on the sides and central part. The left bottom side of the verso shows a white head in profile facing right. This figure appears to be wearing a striped garment. The colours used include shades of yellow ochre, burnt Siena, blue-grey, black, white, and a golden yellow. The side to the right of the central fold also shows small remnants of plaster and some pigment. There is no text visible on the verso.
 - There is a pair of pricked holes approximately 7 mm either side of the central fold that have remnants of thread fibres in them. There is a horizontal fold 20mm from the lower edge. There are several symmetrical sets of pricked holes near the edges of the bifolio from one of which emerges on the verso a remnant of thread with a double knot and two loose ends coming off it.
- Damage:
 - There are losses around the edges of the fragment, particularly at the top, and dark stains in the upper half of the fragment. These losses and stains are symmetrical along the central fold, indicating that these occurred when the bifolio was folded.
 - Some of the losses were caused by insects, which is now visible through some frass accumulated in the insect tunnels.
 - Some material was added to the fragment during the course of its history, for example a Glassine paper repair on the recto that was added before the fragment was glazed.

- Conservation:
 - In August 2024, the fragment was removed from its original glazing for the purpose of carrying out material analyses. During conservation treatment of the fragment in September 2024, the Glassine paper repair was removed and the fragment was re-glazed within a cut-out mount and glass with maximum UV protection (see [Conservation Report](#)).

For a detailed description and interpretation of the fragment, see the document 'Observations on 'The Graz Mummy Book', Graz University Library, Austria' by Theresa Zammit Lupi, Lena Krämer, Thomas Csanády and Erich Renhart.

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