

MAGICAL TEXTS IN THE PAPYRUS COLLECTION OF THE UNIVERSITÉ DE STRASBOURG

AMONG THE COPTIC TEXTS KEPT in the papyrus collection of the Université de Strasbourg, there is quite a number of magical texts. Seventeen inventory numbers (reducing to 15 manuscripts, given that Kopt. 204 can be joined to Kopt. 205, and Kopt. 553 to Kopt. 554) have been identified so far. Both types, formularies ("archive copies", e.g. Kopt. 204+205, Kopt. 550, Kopt. 553+554) as well as documents (amulets for protection and a curse) are represented. Their existence was hitherto unknown to the community of scholars with the exception of a single item, the famous curse upon Shinte (P.Stras. Inv. Kopt. 135), which was edited by W.E. Crum in 1922.¹ In the present volume, six further objects (P.Stras. Inv. WG Kopt. 1, P.Stras. Inv. Kopt. 201, 202, 216, 550 and P.Stras. Inv. Gr. 499) are made available to the public. Their selection was guided by the aims of the Summer School in Coptic papyrology. Texts were thus chosen that are not too long and not too badly preserved (although Kopt. 550 was a challenge). Most of the Strasbourg magical texts that remain unedited at the moment are certainly not less interesting, but more difficult to read and understand. A short description of all texts is given here:

Inv. no.	Object	Writing support	Remarks on content	Edition
WG Kopt. 1	Magical document: amulet	Papyrus, complete	The original folding underscores the magical purpose of NT quotations	5 (ed. A. Kreps)
Kopt.135	Magical document: curse	Parchment, complete	Curse against Shinte son of Tankhew, to afflict impotence on him	Crum, « La magie copte », n° II
Kopt.201	Magical document: amulet	Parchment, complete, "twin" of K202	Protection from certain diseases	6 (ed. D. Burns), cf. excursus by M. de Haro Sanchez
Kopt.202	Magical document: amulet	Pachment, complete, "twin" of K201	Protection from certain diseases	6 (ed. D. Burns), cf. excursus by M. de Haro Sanchez
Kopt.204	Magical formulary	Fragmented papyrus written <i>transversa charta</i> , similar to P.Heidelberg inv. 500 and 501. On recto an Arabic protocoll. Probably +K205	Magical invocations, requests and recipes, a large magical drawing on the verso. Names of powers: ΒΑΡΒΑΡΑ, ΒΑΡΒΑΡΑΘΘ, ΣΑΒΛΑΘΘ, ΠΝΟΥΤΕ ΝΝΕΖΕΡΕΘΕ ("God of the lightnings"), ΗΣΕ ΜΝ ΟΥΣΙΡΕ ("Isis and Osiris")	Unedited

1. CRUM, "La Magie Copte", n° II, p. 541-542; translated: KROPP, *Ausgewählte Zaubertexte*, vol. II, p. 228; MEYER & SMITH, *Ancient Christian Magic*, p. 181, n° 87.

Kopt.205	Magical formulary	Fragments of a sheet of papyrus, similar to P.Heidelberg inv. 500 and 501. Probably +K204	Magical invocations and requests; magical drawings and <i>brillenschrift</i> on the verso; names of powers: ΜΑΝΟΥΗΛ, ΤΑΣΩΝΕΙΗΛ, ΔΕΒΡΑΝΟΥΗΛ, ΤΑΣΩΡΕΙΗΛ, ΣΟΥΡΙ[ΗΛ]	Unedited
Kopt.216	Magical formulary or document	Paper, incomplete	Spell concerning the eyes and the entire face	8 (ed. H. Vela)
Kopt.228	Magical document: amulet	Parchment, complete	<i>Brillenschrift</i> , strings of letters (z), <i>sator rotas</i> formula, etc.	Unedited
Kopt.233	Magical document: amulet	Parchment, complete, ink is faded away	Coptic text and magical drawings	Unedited
Kopt.241	Magical text	Papyrus, tiny fragment	Traces of <i>brillenschrift</i>	Unedited
Kopt.257	Magical document: amulet	Parchment, complete?	Mainly strings of letters: χc and ω (cf. Gr. 546)	Unedited
Kopt.289	Magical document: amulet?	Two fragments: a triangular piece of parchment and a parchment strip; ink badly faded away	Magical invocations and request, names of powers, magical drawings; a person bearing the Arabic name Apoulkasem is mentioned	Unedited
Kopt.550	Magical formulary?	Paper, partly destroyed	Magical invocations, requests and drawings	9 (ed. D.Tibet)
Kopt.553	Magical formulary	Papyrus fragments, probably + Kopt. 554	Magical invocations, names of powers: ΚΕΡΜΑΘ, ΚΕΡΜΑΤΑΤΑ, ΚΕΛΜΑΤ ΚΕΛΜΑΘΑΝ, ΤΡΙΞ, ΤΡΑΞ ΔΗΡΑΤΑΤ[ΔΞ] ΕΚΤΟΚΤΟΡ ΑΚΤΟΕΤΙΝ	Unedited
Kopt.554	Magical formulary	Papyrus fragments, probably + Kopt. 553	Magical invocations, names of powers: ΔΦΡΑΤΟΤΑΧ ΦΡΡΟΝ, ΚΟΜΑΘ, ΤΡΙΞ, ΤΡΑΞ, ΔΒΤΕΜΟΦ, a heading preserved: "A house you wish to put a curse upon"	Unedited
Kopt.666	Magical document, or exercise	Papyrus	Drawing: Twelve dog(?) -headed beings wearing tunics, armed with spears(?). One single name: ΤΡΙΞ	Unedited
Gr.499	Magical document: amulet	Paper	Amulet for protection, probably from fever	7 (ed. T.S. Richter)
Gr.546	Magical document: amulet	Parchment	Mainly strings of letters: χc and ω (cf. Kopt. 499)	Unedited