

Greek *Ostraka* in the British Library*

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Abstract

The British Library holds one of the largest collections of Greek *ostraka* outside Egypt. The paper presents the history of the collection from its beginnings in the early 19th century up to its present status, surveying the various attempts to catalogue it from early facsimiles to digitized images. It highlights the crucial importance of cross-institutional collaboration for future research on the collection with examples of successful projects.

Keywords

Greek *ostraka*, collection history, cataloguing

The thousands of inscribed pottery or limestone sherds and bones, collectively preserved as *ostraka* in museum collections across the world illustrate the ultimate economic thinking of the ancient world to recycle waste as cheap writing support. Although fragments, mainly of stone or pottery, were used for writing from very early on in Egypt, the practice of a mass reuse of pottery waste is documented from the Ptolemaic period onwards. The institutional use of pottery pieces for writing, mainly by fiscal administration and later by private households resulted in tens of thousands of Demotic Egyptian, Greek and also some Latin *ostraka*, with tax documents, private letters, school texts and occasionally even literary texts preserved on them.¹ The first Greek *ostraka* to be recorded in scholarship were found in Pselkis, in Nubia by the French architect, Francois Gau, who published 38 of them in his 1822 account of his journeys in Nubia. The facsimiles, some

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¹ For *ostraka* in Pharaonic Egypt, see Helck 1982 and for their later history Wilcken 1899, 3-19 and Bagnall 2011, 117-137.

exceptionally clear drawings of the *ostraka*, which are the first ever *ostraka* publications, were accompanied by historical explanations by the historian Barthold Georg Niebuhr himself.²

It was at the same time, in the first two decades of the 19th century, that travelers started to acquire Greek *ostraka* from what has later become one of the richest sites to supply *ostraka*: the Island of Elephantine and the neighboring town of Syene/Aswan in Upper Egypt.³ In the 1820's there were more and more Greek and also some Coptic *ostraka* appearing in collections across Europe deriving mainly from Elephantine. Some of the earliest *ostraka* acquired by the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin,⁴ were purchased from the Prussian official Johann Heinrich Benjamin Menu Minutoli (1772-1846), who brought them from Elephantine. Two of these pieces were published in his 1824 travelogue with elaborate facsimiles, which are amongst the earliest *ostraka* publications.⁵ The earliest acquisitions of the Leiden Museum in the Netherlands, some of which were published in an 1830 letter by the Dutch Egyptologist Caspar Jacob Christiaan Reuvs to Antoine Letronne, also came from Elephantine.⁶ Two pieces recorded by Lenormant in Greek private collections in the 1860's were also said to have been acquired earlier from that site.⁷

***Ostraka* in the British Museum**

In close accordance with these wider European trends, the earliest *ostraka* appearing in British collections are also from Elephantine. Almost 200 items, seven of which were published in an 1835 collection of inscriptions by Peter Paul Dobree, were acquired at this site by the famous explorer William John Bankes, discoverer of the largest Homer papyrus to survive.⁸ Unsurprisingly, therefore, the first Greek *ostraka* to enter the British Museum collections, were also from Elephantine. The ca. 47 Greek *ostraka*, acquired by Henry Salt during the early period of his consulship in Egypt (1816-1823) and sold to the British Museum in 1823, in his so-called «First Sale», all derive from Elephantine.⁹ As Salt's collection was sent to London for valuation slightly earlier than the actual sale took place, British Museum experts had a chance to study them

² Gau 1822, Plate VIII-IX with Niebuhr's commentary on pp. (18)-(20). These *ostraka* (TM 45118-45136) are currently considered lost.

³ For the importance of Elephantine for the early study of *ostraka*, see Sayce 1890, 400.

⁴ P.Berol. 314-320.

⁵ Toelken 1824, Plate xxxii no. 17 and 18, both of which are in Berlin today as TM 76608 and 76804, together with further 14 pieces.

⁶ Reuvs 1830, 56-58, which are today TM 43567 and TM 44263.

⁷ Lenormant 1867, which are today TM 100067 and TM 76797 both of them at unknown locations.

⁸ Cf. Dobree 1835, 1-5. All these *ostraka* are now in the possession of the National Trust and were published in Worp 2016.

⁹ These are now BL Ostrakon 5790-5828; 5830-5834; 5836; 5839-5842; 5847 + 5848; 5850; 5851. For the Salt collection and its complicated first sale to the British Museum, see: Bosworth 1974/75, 88-89 and the detailed documentation published in Halls 1834, vol. 2, 292-386.

beforehand. This is how the Egyptologist Thomas Young (1773-1829) could publish 28 Greek *ostraka* from the Salt Collection in high-quality facsimiles in his 1823 *Hieroglyphics*, which is the second earliest *ostrakon* publication in the world and the first ever from the British Museum and from Britain, too.¹⁰

This first purchase was soon followed by a number of similar acquisitions. Various Egyptian antiquities were purchased from, the Egyptologist John Gardiner Wilkinson (1797-1875) in 1834, which included many *ostraka*, mainly Ptolemaic pieces in Demotic from Thebes and Karnak, and only a few in Greek.¹¹ Another, smaller acquisition of *ostraka* came with the collection of Joseph Sams (1784-1860) in 1834, which contained some Hieratic and Coptic items and only one in Greek (BL Ostrakon 5845). One of the most important and decisive acquisitions of Egyptian archaeological objects by the British Museum was made in September 1839 when the Museum purchased the collection of Giovanni Anastasi (1780-1860), Swedish consul General to Egypt.

During his long life spent as a diplomat in Egypt, Anastasi assembled an extraordinary collection of antiquities, which he sold in various batches to some of the most important collections in Western Europe, including Leiden, Paris and the British Museum, contributing to the development of not only the field of Egyptology but also of these large museum collections.¹² The British Museum's acquisition of Anastasi's so-called «second sale» in 1839 added a number of immensely important papyri and Egyptian antiquities to the collection.¹³ Apart from these highlights, the Anastasi collection contained a number of Hieratic and Coptic *ostraka* as well as 4 pieces in Greek, which contain Christian literary, mainly liturgical, texts some of which are still unpublished.¹⁴

These early-19th-century acquisitions of *ostraka* had an important impact on the evolution of their study, too. After the first publications of these early acquisitions from Berlin, Leiden and London, the items were republished and reassessed by others.¹⁵ *Ostraka* were gradually removed from the field of epigraphy and instead of being considered as “inscriptions”, they started to be termed as *ostraka* and were regarded to be more related to papyri.¹⁶

After the acquisition of the Anastasi collection housed at the Museum's Department of Antiquities (established in 1803), the growth of the collection of artifacts from Egypt led to the

¹⁰ Young 1823, Pls. 53-55 with a publication of 26 Greek *ostraka* from Salt's collection acquired in Elephantine and two others presented by Belzoni probably from the same site.

¹¹ The two Greek *ostraka* I found in the lot purchased from Wilkinson are the unpublished BL Ostrakon 5844 and 5849, both from Thebes.

¹² For Anastasi and his career, see Dawson 1949, 158-160. In his footnotes, Dawson confuses the 1839 Anastasi sale with the 1837 D'Athanasia sale.

¹³ The papyri acquired from Anastasi are all listed in *Additions* 1843, 17-22.

¹⁴ Greek *ostraka* from the Anastasi collection are BL O 5852 (TM 65323); BM EA 5853 (TM 65435); BL O 5867 (under publication); BL O 5868 (under publication); BL O 5872 (unpublished); BL O 5878 (under publication); BL O 5879 (unpublished); BL O 5884 (unpublished, joining 5879); BL O 5893 (unpublished).

¹⁵ An important re-edition is Böckh 1835, num. 4863-4891 and 5109/1-37.

¹⁶ Egger 1887. Egger is one of the first scholars advocating the use of the term *ostrakon* over the earlier *inscription* or *apocha*.

creation of first an Egyptologist curatorial position, taken by Samuel Birch (1813-1885) in 1836, and later a separate Department of Oriental Antiquities in 1866 with him as its keeper.¹⁷ As a result, acquisitions of Egyptian antiquities became more systematic and much larger in scale, including large numbers of Greek and Coptic *ostraka* coming to the British Museum each year. One of the most important sources of these items was the Reverend Greville John Chester (1830-1892).

Chester was a British clergyman who, after serving several years in various parishes in England, due to ill health, retired from the service in 1865. After his retirement, he made long winter visits to Egypt every year for many decades and explored various parts of the country building excellent relationships to local dealers. He acquired some Egyptological expertise and assembled a large collection of papyri, *ostraka*, gems and smaller sculptures, which he regularly presented to the British Museum.¹⁸ The Museum purchased massive amounts of Greek *ostraka* from him. The first three batches containing hundreds of Greek items, purchased in May 1875, November 1878, December 1882, were all acquired by Chester in Elephantine. Later purchases from Chester, arranged in October 1883 are apparently from Karnak and the one from July 1885 is from Thebes. Chester continued to present his collections to the British Museum up to his death and enriched the collection with further *ostraka* acquired in Thebes, Medinet Habu and Karnak in 1886, 1889, 1890 and 1891.

As the size and importance of the collection grew, the Museum started to make its acquisitions directly. With the appointment of E. A. W. Wallis Budge (1857-1934) as Keeper of the reorganized Department of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities in 1886, there were more and more acquisitions made in Egypt. Budge travelled to Egypt on a number of occasions returning with large numbers of Greek *ostraka* mainly said to be from Karnak. He presented a batch of more than 1500 *ostraka* to the Museum in 1887 and several hundreds more in 1888 and 1889. Another very large acquisition was made in May 1893 containing around 1200 *ostraka* through the company of Robert Johnston Moss, based in Alexandria between 1861-1921 acting as Budge's agent in Egypt. The Museum's largest purchases of *ostraka* were arranged by this firm, between 1893-1901, allowing the BM to add around 2200 Greek, Demotic and Coptic *ostraka* to its collections.

Beside acquisitions through dealers and companies and the purchases arranged by Budge, after the creation of the Egypt Exploration Fund in 1882, the Museum was involved in systematic archeological excavations, too. The EEF presented more than 3000 (Coptic and Greek) *ostraka* to the Museum in various batches in 1900, 1904, 1906 and 1907, excavated mainly in Deir el-Bahri, Oxyrhynchus and a few in Abydos and Medinet Habu.¹⁹ Due to these large additions, by the time of

¹⁷ For the development of the British Museum's collections, see Moser 2006, 125-126 and 141-143, and James 1991, 262.

¹⁸ For Chester, see Seidmann 2006 a, and Seidmann 2006 b.

¹⁹ Greek *ostraka* excavated by the EEF in Abydos are listed and examined in Almasry-Martin 2020. 12 Greek *ostraka* from the The Oxyrhynchus Racing Archive (TM Archive id 343), excavated by EEF in 1910/1911 are being published by Federica Micucci.

the 1920's, the Museum's collection of *ostraka* grew into one of the most significant of its kind in the world.

The *Ostraka* Collection of the British Museum

As *ostraka* came exclusively from Egypt as parts of acquisitions containing Egyptian artifacts, Greek *ostraka*, together with Demotic and Coptic items, were acquired by the Department of Antiquities. After the foundation of the Department of Oriental Antiquities in 1866, they were handed over to the collection of Egyptian Antiquities and received a register number (the long number) together with all the items curated by that Department. This consisted of the acquisition date of the object, as e.g. 78-11-9-152 where the first three groups refer to the acquisition date 9 November 1878 and the last one is the number the item was labeled with upon its accession. Today, BM registration numbers are consistently rendered for digital access (e.g., 1878,1109.152). These numbers were often recorded on the *ostraka* themselves, on their boxes, or both.²⁰

Later, objects were also assigned a running inventory number inside the collection of Egyptian Antiquities hence it is called EA number. The acquisition policy of the early 19th century was that objects acquired as part of a lot received the same EA number with a letter added at the end. This resulted in long series of items under the same number, such as 5790 a, b, c, d, up to double xx or even more items under one number if they ran out of the letters of the alphabet. By the late 1860's this system may have become so confusing that a decision was made for a major restructuring. Series of items with same EA number + combinations of letters were renumbered and included into the running order of EA items. EA5819 g, for example, has become EA14154 resulting in a double numbering of many of these objects having both 5819 g and 14154. Despite this renumbering, Egyptian (Hieratic, Demotic, Coptic and Greek *ostraka*) coming from the same site or at least from the same lot, were kept together sometimes preserving traces of their original archaeological contexts.

A change in this policy happened in 1932 when a decision was made that Greek and only Greek, *ostraka* should be transferred to the Library and, together with Greek and Latin papyri, be placed at the Department of Manuscripts. As a result, 3233 Greek *ostraka* were removed from the EA department and added to the Manuscripts. It was after this first and major transfer that the last addition to the collection of Greek *ostraka* was made when the Department of Manuscripts acquired 15 more items, coming mainly from Elephantine, from the dealer Ernst Ohly in two batches with 9

²⁰ For a useful overview of the current numbering system, see:
[https://research.britishmuseum.org/research/collection_online/collection_search_guide.aspx]

pieces purchased in 1962 and another 6 in 1966. As these *ostraka* were bought by using the Bridgewater Fund bequeathed to the Library by Francis Henry Egerton in 1829, they are now called Egerton *Ostraka*.²¹

Another move of about 1000 Greek *ostraka* from the Department of Egyptian Antiquities happened in 1967. With the physical move of the entire library to its new site at St Pancras in 1998, the last step of this long separation procedure was made. This meant that all Egyptian (Hieratic, Demotic and Coptic) *ostraka* remain at what is now the Department of Ancient Egypt and Sudan of the British Museum²² and Greek *ostraka* are now part of the collections curated by the Ancient and Medieval Manuscripts section in the British Library's Western Heritage Collections Department.

Currently, the collection of Greek *ostraka*, stored at the Library's St Pancras site, comprises 4179 items, 4164 of which retained their original EA number with a prefix Ostrakon added to it at the beginning and 14 are known as Egerton Ostrakon 1-15. Due to the fact that these numbers are running numbers of the EA collection, which incorporated many other items in the British Museum not moved to the British Library – there are large gaps in these numbers, so current *ostraka* numbers are not consecutive numbers. They are rather batches followed by a gap of often a thousand of items that remained in the Museum and then by another batch of hundreds of Greek *ostraka* in the BL. Selection of the Greek material, however, could not be and was consequently not completely accurate. Despite the admirable efforts of curators of the time, there are a number of items described as Greek in the various registers that were and left in the British Museum and there are also some Coptic *ostraka* that seem to have come over to the British Library.²³

Cataloguing Greek *Ostraka* in the British Museum

Inventorying and cataloguing this massive collection has never been easy. The first publication of some Greek *ostraka* from the British Museum was the drawings of the first acquisitions published by Thomas Young in his 1823 *Hieroglyphica*.²⁴ After a series of further publications by Keeper Samuel Birch²⁵ and Alfred Wiedemann²⁶ and Archibald Sayce,²⁷ the first ever attempt for a

²¹ All 15 Egerton *Ostraka* are now digitized and published on the British Library's online viewer "Digitised Manuscripts" with fresh catalogue records provided by the ERC-funded "Elephantine: Localizing 4000 Years of cultural history. Texts and scripts from Elephantine Island in Egypt" [<http://www.smb.museum/en/museums-institutions/aegyptisches-museum-und-papyrussammlung/collectionresearch/research>].

²² For the *ostraka* that remained in the British Museum, see Bierbrier 1994 and more recently O'Connell 2019.

²³ For Greek *ostraka* left at the British Museum, see Almasy-Martin / Duttenhöfer 2019.

²⁴ See above n. 10.

²⁵ Birch 1883 a, 1883 b and 1883 c with editions of many of the pieces acquired from Chester in previous years.

²⁶ Wiedemann 1884.

²⁷ Sayce 1885 editing one item from the British Library (O16456-TM 76974).

systematic study and publication of Greek *ostraka* from the British Museum and in general came from Ulrich Wilcken in 1899.²⁸

Out of the approximately 3000 Greek *ostraka* then preserved at the British Museum, still lacking the large acquisitions from the EEF, Wilcken published 318.²⁹ Although Wilcken's book was a seminal contribution to the field, he regarded it only as a prompt to highlight the importance of *ostraka* for further research and he closed it with an open call to: «Everyone who has *ostraka* in their collections, especially museums, that they should publish them all as soon as possible, before it is too late ...».³⁰

More than 120 years after Wilcken's call, however, the situation is not much different from what he described: only a few new *ostraka* were published of the Library's large collection.³¹ Fully aware of the size and importance of the collection, the British Library made repeated arrangements for its full cataloguing. Leading experts were contacted in the late 1970's who agreed to publish the items on the basis of microfilms. Consequently, by the early 1980's, the entire collection was microfilmed and microfilms were sent to the United States. Due to a number of reasons, however, this project was never carried out fully and there were only 21 Greek *ostraka* published in a 2007 Festschrift.³² In 2010, the microfilms were handed over to another project in Europe, planning to publish a selection of some 700 of the Library's Greek *ostraka* but this project was not realised either. Including the editions of some single pieces from the first half of the twentieth century, therefore, there are only 355 *ostraka* out of 4179 published properly with the rest lying almost hidden.

The main reason why this situation emerged and continues is a vicious circle in which, having no research pursued on the *ostraka*, the Library and curators were unable to offer any information about the collection for external researchers. As a result, there was hardly any research done on the BL *ostraka*, so that curators cannot catalogue and make them available for research. There are two possible ways to remedy this situation: one is to survey the pieces one by one in the Reading Rooms and create a handlist of the holdings, which, given the current workload on collection management and reading room services, would be practically impossible. The other is a systematic survey of the old black-and-white microfilms of each item to identify manageable batches for potential editorial projects. This approach, however, would – by its very nature – be very selective: no one can be

²⁸ Wilcken 1899.

²⁹ For a list of the 318 items from the British Museum published in his monograph, see Wilcken 1899, vol. 1, 40-45.

³⁰ Wilcken 1899, vol. 1, 55: «Jedermann, der Ostraka besitzt, im Besonderen auch jedes Museum, so schnell wie irgend möglich die Texte der Oeffentlichkeit übergebe, noch ehe es zu spät ist».

³¹ Hall 1904 with the edition of three Greek *ostraka* (O 18711; 26011; 31631 and some corrections to 14116). Another three Greek Christian *ostraka* (O 5852; 5891; 27421) were published in Hall 1905, 16-18. Another 6 Greek *ostraka* (BL O 63855-63860), deriving from the Bucheum area in Armant, were published by Skeat 1934, 75-78.

³² Bagnall 2007.

expected to do this work on a general level and identify literary or school *ostraka* as well as Ptolemaic or Roman tax receipts or private letters from Karnak, Elephantine, Abydos or Oxyrhynchus at the same time. Understandably, researchers would want to focus on items that are relevant to their own projects.

The task of opening up the collection through some general survey is, therefore, probably one for the collections and curators who have not been able to cope with it yet. The reason is very simple: *ostraka* are one of the few or maybe the one and only layer of the BL's vast collections, whose documentation and records were not transferred to the Library with its move from the British Museum. As *ostraka* were so intimately embedded in the Egyptian Antiquities collections, it was impossible to separate the documentation from that of the rest of the collection that stayed in the BM. More than twenty years after the move to St Pancras, the memory that something may have been left behind has faded.

Shared histories, separate archives: BL/BM

This is exactly why discussions and conversations between the two institutions are so crucial. They helped us realise that the archives of the British Museum's Egypt and Sudan (ES) Department may be able to help us with the *ostraka*. Together with colleagues from the Department, we have managed to find the "missing" documentation of the British Library's Greek *ostraka*. Explorations in the departmental archive led us to discover two types of records for the Library's Greek *ostraka*.

One is the old hand-written register books recording the acquisition of the material held by the ES department. These register books contain information about all the *ostraka* (Hieratic, Demotic and Coptic), including the Greek ones currently preserved at the British Library. They record the date and source of acquisition, dimensions and conditions of the single pieces and, in many cases, the provenance of the items within Egypt and sometimes even some notes about their date and content and, sporadically, even some transcriptions.³³ From time to time, these records refer to another document called «Birch Slips», which also survive in the Archives.

The Slips, known also as the *Catalogue of the Egyptian Saloon*, recorded in the neat hand of Samuel Birch himself and later bound into 38 blue volumes, contain one-page descriptions and, in most cases, full transcriptions of a very large number of the so called Egyptian Inscriptions

³³ We have identified 13 volumes of these registers, spanning the years between 1861-1971 and an extra volume recording early acquisitions. Entries in the books are recorded in chronological order of the acquisitions according to the long number of the items. In separate columns next to their numbers, there are short descriptions of the single items, recording the material, age and size of the items, the source of acquisition, some provenance information and further comments, where sporadically transcriptions, names and dates are recorded.

(Hieroglyphic, Hieratic, Demotic and Coptic inscribed material), including Greek *ostraka* – many still unpublished.³⁴

Another step in the collaboration between the British Library and British Museum was that the Museum generously agreed to share their digitised register books with us in PDF format, so we could start checking what these documents could offer for our *ostraka* collection. As a further stage in the co-operation, we set up a small-scale project to digitise and share the Birch Slips. Fortunately, all bound volumes of the Slips were accurately microfilmed in the 1970's, which were easy to digitise in the British Library. The project has now finished and the newly created PDFs are now shared between the two institutions with each of them having a copy.

Equipped with this twofold documentation, register book on the one hand and the Birch Slips on the other, we could finally start collecting more information about the Greek *ostraka* in the Library's collection. Although this part of the project has not come to end yet, it already transpires that the Library's Greek *ostraka* look far more interesting than presumed, and were not exploited by previous editorial projects. Preliminary surveys of the newly digitised archival material already yielded some fascinating results: we have gained full transcriptions of 90 unpublished items which will help us date and localise these and provide some information about their content and nature for future research projects. Many of these newly identified pieces turned out to be *ostraka* with literary and school texts, some of them bearing Christian liturgical content, of which I am editing three items separately. Provenance details, occasionally recorded in the Slips and unrecorded in register books have shed new light on 15 hitherto unknown and unpublished pieces from Elephantine, and a number of items from Abydos and Oxyrynchus. The plan is, therefore, that we survey all the newly received archival evidence from the perspective of Greek *ostraka* and try to extract as much information as possible from them creating a new hand-list of the Greek *ostraka* in the British Library. This information could then provide some guidance or even the very basis for future research projects to catalogue, digitise and publish more of the Library's Greek *ostraka*.

A model for collaboration

An example of how we envisage collaborative projects is presented by a trilateral co-operation between the Museum, the Library and the Berlin-based project "Elephantine: Localizing 4000 Years of cultural history. Texts and scripts from Elephantine Island in Egypt" funded by the

³⁴ Out of the 38 volumes, it is currently volumes 25-26 that were found to be relevant for *ostraka*, containing descriptions and transcriptions of many pieces in the realm of O 5790-O 14910 of the British Library's Greek *ostraka*.

European Research Council.³⁵ The project first contacted us in 2017 with a request for images of those *ostraka* that were published by Wilcken as coming from Elephantine. Realising the mutual benefits of further collaboration, we set off to explore more Elephantine-related material in the Library's collections. With the generous approval of the British Museum, we shared the old register books of *ostraka* with the partners in Berlin. On the basis of the acquisition notes in these registers, they identified another 100 new, hitherto unknown and unpublished items from Elephantine. Further checks of this newly identified material confirmed the assumption that these items were also from Elephantine. At this point, Berlin swiftly consented to digitise and catalogue these additional 100 hitherto unpublished Greek *ostraka*, together with all 15 Egerton *ostraka* of the British Library. The partners then agreed that digital images would be published both in the project's database and in the Library's online catalogue. Catalogue records and images, accompanied by metadata provided by the partners, would appear first in the Library's catalogue to be followed by full editions in print and/or online at other platforms. As a result 231 Greek *ostraka* have been fully digitised, catalogued and, published in the Library's online catalogue, including 82 unpublished items.³⁶ Publishing this batch, which would not have been possible without the input from the Museum's archives and the collaboration with the Berlin project, represents the first time, *ostraka* become available in any of the Library's online platforms. Following their presence on the web, Greek *ostraka* have become much more visible reaching wider audiences than ever before. Greek *ostraka* have become an integral part of the Library's cultural events, exhibitions and show and tells alike, and feature regularly in blogposts and other social media content with surprising success.³⁷

We strongly believe, therefore, that a triangle of cross-institutional co-operation between the British Library, the British Museum and external research projects is a realistic pattern to open up the rich holdings of Greek *ostraka* in the Library and fulfil Wilcken's 1899 call for a full publication and cataloguing of the material, hopefully in the not-so-distant future.

³⁵ Staatliche Museen zu Berlin. Ägyptisches Museum und Papyrussammlung. Elephantine: Localizing 4000 Years of cultural history. Texts and scripts from Elephantine Island in Egypt [<http://www.smb.museum/en/museums-institutions/aegyptisches-museum-und-papyrussammlung/collectionresearch/research>].

³⁶ For a full view of the entire digitized material, see [<http://www.bl.uk/manuscripts/BriefDisplay.aspx?source=advanced>].

³⁷ See Federica Micucci's blogpost [<https://blogs.bl.uk/digitisedmanuscripts/2019/08/ancient-recycling-writing-on-potsherds.html>] and one of the most successful tweets from the Library's ancient and medieval manuscripts section [<https://twitter.com/BLMedieval/status/1112659831268261888?s=20>].

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