

Foy Scalf

Foy Scalf had a very busy and productive 2007–2008. In addition to taking over for Dr. Magnus Widell as Head of the Research Archives in October and defending his dissertation proposal entitled “Passports to Eternity: Formulaic Demotic Funerary Texts from Roman Egypt” in November, Foy presented a number of papers in the United States and abroad. In July, he presented a paper entitled “Unpublished Demotic Funerary Papyri from the Louvre” at the 25th International Congress of Papyrologists in Ann Arbor, Michigan. This paper presented information on a group of unpublished Roman period funerary papyri housed in the Louvre, which he had examined on a research trip in 2006. Foy participated in the panel “Culture and Society in Graeco-Roman Egypt” sponsored by the American Society of Papyrologists during the January meeting of the 139th American Philological Association meeting in Chicago where he presented a paper entitled “The Religious Significance of the Formulaic Demotic Funerary Texts,” seeking to re-orient the cursory manner in which past scholars have disregarded the importance of the last funerary texts to be written in the Egyptian tradition. During a research trip to the United Kingdom in May, he presented a paper entitled “Did the Book of the Dead Die?: The Funerary Literature of Ptolemaic and Roman Egypt” for *Portus: Liverpool Classics Research Seminars* in the Department of Classics and Ancient History of the University of Liverpool. In this lecture, Foy emphasized the creativity and vitality of the funerary text tradition in post-New Kingdom Egypt, addressing the questions of when the Book of the Dead disappeared and what replaced it.

A research trip to the Hesburgh Library of the University of Notre Dame provided Foy the opportunity to examine two Ptolemaic period linen fragments once used in mummification, which are inscribed with Book of the Dead spells in the hieratic script. These texts would have been written on long strips of linen used to wrap the mummy. They belonged to two men and further fragments from these strips have been identified in the British Museum. Foy also began work on an edition of a Roman period Book of Breathing, a hieratic funerary composition dating to the first or second centuries A.D., housed in the John Rylands Library in Manchester, England. Papyrus Rylands Hieratic 6, a copy of the First Book of Breathing, was written for a woman who is given the epithet “Hathor” throughout the text. A complete edition of this manuscript is planned for publication in 2009. Along with colleague Jackie Jay, Foy has developed a database for the Demotic ostraca kept in the collection of the Oriental Institute Museum that will go online in the fall of 2008. The Oriental Institute Demotic Ostraca Online (O.I.D.O.O.) project will make available to scholars all the Demotic ostraca in the Oriental Institute Museum through a series of

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quarterly updates over the next few years. An initial launch of the database containing roughly 300 texts will be announced at this summer's Demotic congress in Leuven, Belgium. Foy had his publication of the magical bricks housed in the Oriental Institute Museum, "The Magical Bricks of the Oriental Institute Museum," accepted for publication in *Studien zum altägyptischen Kultur* 39 (2009). In June he submitted an article to *Lingua Aegyptia* entitled "Statements of Identity and the M of Predication." This article argues against a long-held grammatical rule, which until now has never been proved or tested. He also submitted several reviews for the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*.
