

## MUMMY LABEL DATABASE (MLD)<sup>1</sup>

François Gaudard

This has been a major year for the Mummy Label Database on many levels. First of all, the editors of the MLD, namely, Sofía Torallas Tovar, Raquel Martín Hernández, and François Gaudard, would like to thank the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation (MICINN) for awarding them a grant,<sup>2</sup> whose principal investigator is Sofía, to support the development of the database itself as well as a collaborative project on death in Graeco-Roman Egypt involving the Instituto de Lenguas y Culturas del Mediterráneo y Oriente Próximo, Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales – CSIC, Madrid; the University of Chicago; and the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven.

Several new staff members have joined the project: in Leiden (Leiden University), Klaas A. Worp will share with us his expertise on mummy labels; in Paris (IRHT, CNRS), Maria Jesús Albarrán Martínez has started working on Coptic materials; in Barcelona (Universitat Pompeu Fabra), Alberto Nodar will supervise the technical aspects of the database; in Madrid (CSIC), Irene Pajón will participate in the project as well as Alba de Frutos, who is planning a trip to Paris next year in order to identify the mummy labels hosted by the Louvre Museum; in Baltimore (Johns Hopkins University), Marina Escolano will also join the staff; in Chicago (University of Chicago), Christopher Faraone, Janet H. Johnson, David Martinez, Brian Muhs, and Robert Ritner will collaborate by giving their input, and so will Eugene Cruz-Urbe in Monterey Bay (California State University).

As is the case with international projects, running the MLD involves travel and meetings: in December 2011, February and April 2012, Sofía and François met at the Oriental Institute to discuss various aspects of the project; in November 2011, Sofía and Alberto met with Mark Depauw in Leuven to examine the best way to connect the MLD to Trismegistos [<http://www.trismegistos.org/>], once it is online; and in May 2012, Christopher Faraone met with Sofía in Madrid.

Sofía, Raquel, Klaas, and François have continued to complete the database and to edit labels from various collections. The following article by Raquel has been published: “El transporte de momias a través del Nilo: El testimonio de las etiquetas de momia,” in *Esta Toledo Aquella Babilonia: Convivencia e interacción en las sociedades del Oriente y del Mediterráneo Antiguos* (Actas del V Congreso Español de Antiguo Oriente Próximo, Toledo 26–30 octubre de 2009), edited by J. C. Oliva and J. A. Belmonte, pp. 543–53 (Colección Estudios 131; Cuenca: Ediciones de la Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha, 2011). Klaas and Sofía have just completed an article on new Greek labels, mostly from the Durham Oriental Museum and the Museu de Montserrat, which will appear in the next issue of the *Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik* under the title: “New Wooden Labels from Various Collections.” Sofía also wrote “Egyptian Burial Practices in Late Antiquity: The Case of Christian Mummy Labels,” to be published in *Transfer of Knowledge in the Eastern Mediterranean*, edited by J. P. Monferrer and S. Torallas, pp. 15–25 (Cordoba, 2012). François wrote an article entitled “A Demotic-Hieratic Mummy Label in the Museu de Montserrat,” which is now in press and will be published in a Festschrift honoring a colleague Egyptologist. As for Sergio Carro, he started to arrange the fields and photos of the database. We all look forward to seeing the project grow and move ahead.

## Notes

<sup>1</sup> For details on this joint project of the Instituto de Lenguas y Culturas del Mediterráneo y Oriente Próximo, Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales — CSIC, Madrid, and of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, readers can consult the *Oriental Institute 2008-2009 Annual Report*, also available online in Adobe Portable Document Format (pdf): [http://oi.uchicago.edu/pdf/08-09\\_MLD.pdf](http://oi.uchicago.edu/pdf/08-09_MLD.pdf)

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