

MUMMY LABEL DATABASE (MLD)

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The highlight of the past year was the launching of both a Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC) website (fig.1) and an Oriental Institute webpage (fig. 2) dedicated to the Mummy Label Database:

<http://www.proyectos.cchs.csic.es/death/node/1>

<http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/projects/mld/>



Figure 1. The homepage of the CSIC website dedicated to the project Death on the Nile, hosting the Mummy Label Database

The CSIC website, appropriately named “Death on the Nile,” is dedicated to the study of all aspects of death in Greco-Roman Egypt. At the center of this project is the Mummy Label Database. We have included downloadable instructions that will help the user navigate through the database efficiently:

http://www.proyectos.cchs.csic.es/death/sites/default/files/INSTRUCTIONS%20MLD_0.pdf

The website also includes a description of the project, a list of collaborators, a general bibliography and a bibliography organized by country, links to relevant institutions, and an online library providing free downloadable PDF documents of scholarly works by the editors

of the project and team members. This library already includes a survey of Greek, Greek/Demotic, and Demotic mummy labels by K. A. Worp, as the first volume of the series *Death on the Nile* Online Publications:

<http://www.proyectos.cchs.csic.es/death/node/15>

In addition, a list of past and future events will inform the users about conferences and meetings related to the project.

As for the Oriental Institute MLD webpage, it includes a description of the project as well as downloadable PDF documents of all the MLD annual reports since 2008–2009. Both websites and the database will be updated on an ongoing basis. Moreover, our aim is to have a preliminary version of the database, with approximately five hundred items, uploaded by the end of October 2013.



Figure 2. The homepage of the Oriental Institute website dedicated to the Mummy Label Database

This year, the staff of the project consisted of the editors of the Mummy Label Database, namely, Sofía Torallas Tovar (CSIC, Madrid), Raquel Martín Hernández (Universidad Complutense, Madrid), Klaas A. Worp (Leiden University), and François Gaudard (University of Chicago), as well as Sergio Carro (CSIC, Madrid), Marina Escolano Poveda (Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore), Alba de Frutos García (CSIC, Madrid), Alberto Nodar (Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona), María Jesús Albarrán Martínez (IRHT and CNRS, Paris), and Irene Pajón Leyra (CSIC, Madrid).

As always, team members convened on several occasions: at the Oriental Institute, Sofía, María Jesús, and François met in November 2012, and Sofía, Raquel, and François met again in February 2013. In order to clarify technical issues and discuss the interface of the data-

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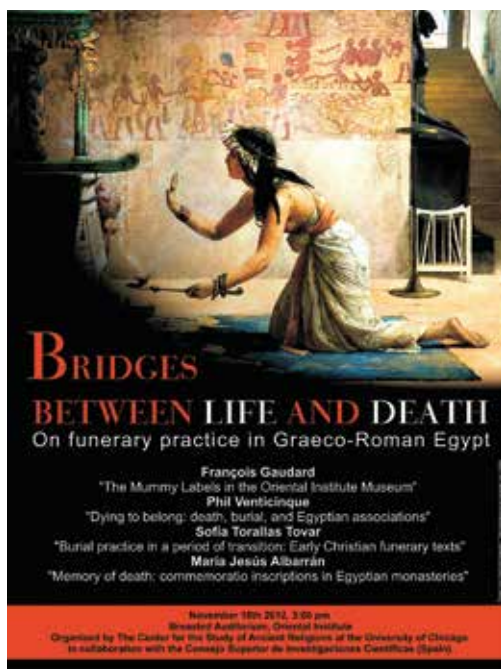


Figure 3. Poster of the first “Bridges between Life and Death” conference, hosted by the Oriental Institute on November 16, 2012

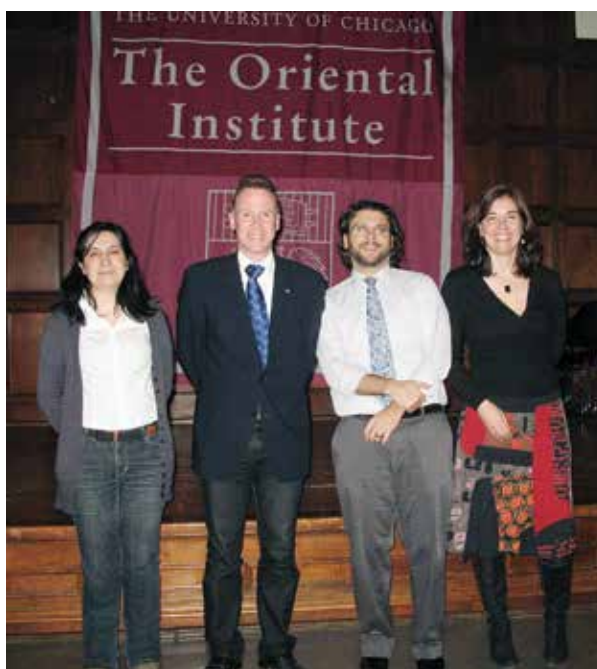


Figure 4. Participants in the first “Bridges between Life and Death” conference (left to right): María Jesús Albarrán Martínez, François Gaudard, Phil Venticinque, and Sofía Torallas Tovar

base on the internet, Raquel and Sergio met with the website programmers of Pompeu Fabra University in June 2013.

Sofía, Raquel, Klaas, and Sergio worked on the CSIC website, while François developed the Oriental Institute MLD webpage. At the beginning of April 2013, Raquel visited the British Museum in order to study unpublished Greek mummy labels.

As an ongoing part of the project, we have launched a new series of conferences entitled Bridges between Life and Death: On Funerary Practice in Graeco-Roman Egypt.¹ The first conference was organized by the Center for the Study of Ancient Religions at the University of Chicago, in collaboration with the CSIC, and hosted by the Oriental Institute on November 16, 2012 (figs. 3 and 4). Papers were presented in the following order:

- François Gaudard (University of Chicago), “The Mummy Labels in the Oriental Institute Museum”
- Phil Venticinque (Cornell College), “Dying to Belong: Death, Burial, and Egyptian Associations”
- Sofía Torallas Tovar (CSIC), “Burial Practice in a Period of Transition: Early Christian Funerary Texts”
- María Jesús Albarrán Martínez (CSIC), “Memory of Death: Commemoratio Inscriptions in Egyptian Monasteries”

The second conference, namely, Bridges between Life and Death: On Funerary Practice in Graeco-Roman Egypt II, was hosted by the Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales in Madrid, on February 25, 2013 (fig. 5). Papers were given as follows:

- José Manuel Galán (CSIC): “Re-use of Tomb Chapels in the Ptolemaic Period in Dra Abu el-Naga (Luxor)”
- Raquel Martín Hernández (Universidad Complutense, Madrid): “Material, Text, and Context of Mummy Labels”
- Alba de Frutos García (CSIC): “Organisation of Necropoleis-Workers in Ptolemaic Egypt”
- Phil Venticinque (Cornell College), “Dying to Belong: Death, Burial, and Egyptian Associations”
- Irene Pajón Leyra (CSIC): “Funerary Practice of Barbarian Peoples in a Roman Papyrus”
- Sofía Torallas Tovar (CSIC): “Funerary Practice in Transition: On Embalming in Late Roman Egypt”



Figure 5. Participants in the second Bridges between Life and Death conference (left to right): Phil Venticinque, Raquel Martín Hernández, José Manuel Galán, Alba de Frutos García, Sofía Torallas Tovar, and Irene Pajón Leyra

Sofía also delivered a paper entitled “Egyptian Burial Practice and the First Christians in Egypt” at the conference Cultural Transfer in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages, held in Córdoba, from November 29 to 30, 2012.

The following publications by team members, which are related to the project, have been published, are in press, or are forthcoming:

- François Gaudard, “A Demotic-Hieratic Mummy Label in the Museu de Montserrat,” which will be published in a Festschrift honoring a colleague
- Sofía Torallas Tovar, “Egyptian Burial Practices in Late Antiquity: The Case of Christian Mummy Labels,” in *Cultures in Contact: Transfer of Knowledge in the Mediterranean Context; Selected Papers*, edited by Sofía Torallas Tovar and Juan Pedro Monferrer-Sala, pp. 13–24. Series Syro-Arabica 1. Córdoba: Oriens Academic, 2013
- Sofía Torallas Tovar and Klaas A. Worp, “An Interesting Mummy Label in Leiden,” *Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik* (2013) (forthcoming)
- Sofía Torallas Tovar and Klaas A. Worp, “New Wooden Labels from Various Collections,” *Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik* 184 (2012): 257–70
- Klaas A. Worp and Raquel Martín Hernández, “‘Goldfinger’ on a Leiden Mummy Label?” *Bulletin of the American Society of Papyrologists* (2013) (in press)
- Klaas A. Worp, “Some Mummy Labels Identified,” *Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik* 182 (2012): 273–74
- Klaas A. Worp, *A Survey of Greek, Greek/Demotic and Demotic Mummy Labels Texts*. Death on the Nile Online Publications. Version 1.0 (September 2012), Madrid. Available online at http://www.proyectos.cchs.csic.es/death/sites/default/files/Greek%20GreekDemotic%20and%20Demotic%20Mummy%20Labels%20A%20Survey.%20K.%20WORP_0.pdf

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Notes

* 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 *2008–2009 Annual Report*, available online in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) at: http://oi.uchicago.edu/pdf/08-09_MLD.pdf

¹ On April 23–24, 2009, we had already organized a first related conference, entitled Bridges between Life and Death: Dionysus, Mysteries, and Magic in the Ancient Greek and Roman World, which was held at the University of Chicago, in the Department of Classics.

² Grant ACI-PRO-2011-1132.
