MUMMY LABEL DATABASE (MLD)

François Gaudard

The MLD team is pleased to announce that the Mummy Label Database is now available online and is currently being developed further.[1]

Major Upgrades to the Death on the Nile and Mummy Label Database Websites

During the past academic year, significant upgrades were made to improve the Death on the Nile website and the Mummy Label Database webpages. The new URLs are now:

http://deathonthenile.upf.edu/
http://deathonthenile.upf.edu/database/
http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/projects/mummy-label-database-mld

The planning and preparation of these changes required several meetings with the technical support team of Pompeu Fabra University and the INERCIA website programmers to discuss various issues. Sofía Torallas Tovar, Alberto Nodar Domínguez, and Sergio Carro met
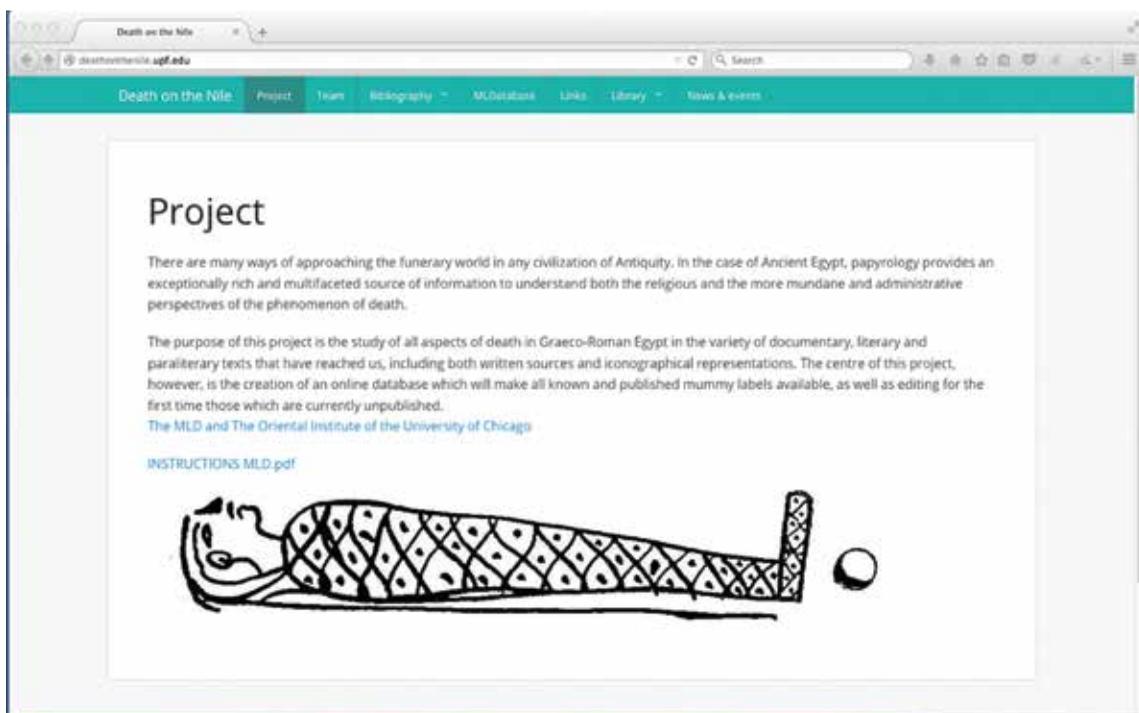

Figure 1. The new homepage of the Death on the Nile project hosting the Mummy Label Database

MUMMY LABEL DATABASE
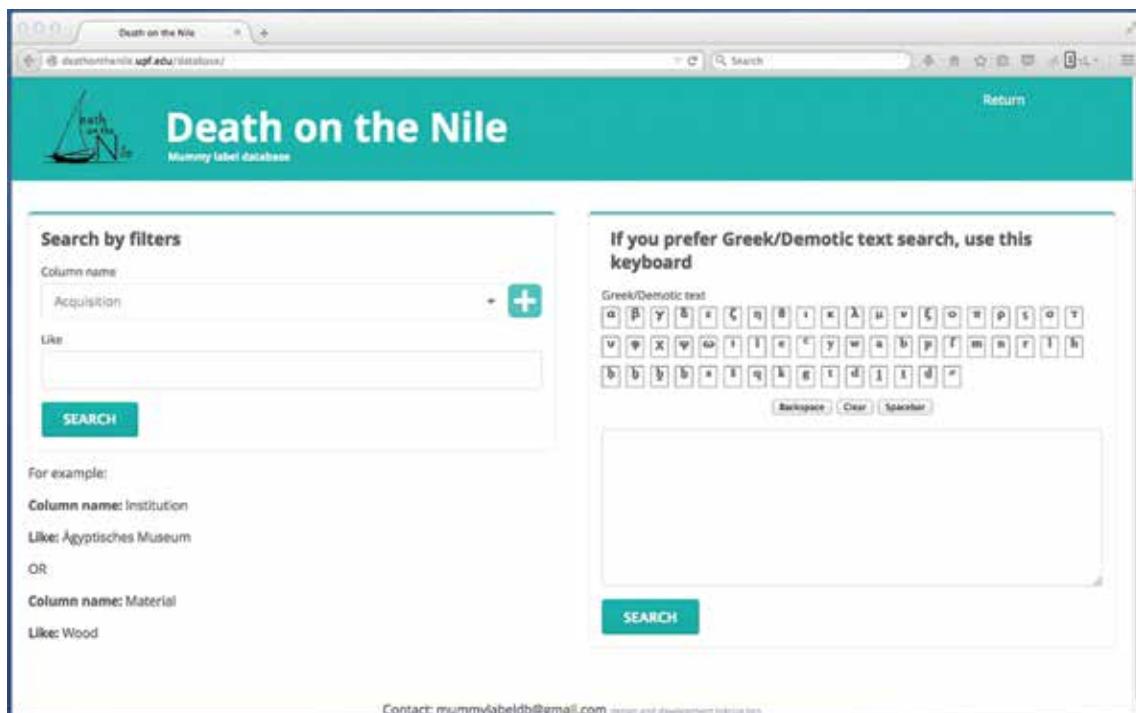
Figure 2. The new homepage of the Mummy Label Database

Figure 3. The new homepage of the Oriental Institute website dedicated to the Mummy Label Database

with them in July and November 2014, and during the latter month, Alberto and Sergio also organized two working sessions with INERCIA, where the encoding system for the text was tested by uploading some XML/HTML files to the database. Then, in March 2015, Alberto and Sergio furthered these talks with the programmers. Later that spring, Sergio moved to Barcelona, and now he is closer to both the technical support team of Pompeu Fabra University and INERCIA.

The main changes to the website consisted in:

- transferring the Death on the Nile website to the Wordpress platform (for operational purposes), which was the most time-consuming task.
- revamping the Mummy Label Database. Now, various search criteria can be used to find, select, and visualize data, and the search results are currently displayed in a more user-friendly manner. Moreover, the database will also be searchable by using a Greek/Demotic keyboard, but it is not operational yet.
- making the bibliography searchable by author, title, journal, and series (general bibliography), or by country (bibliography by country).
- improving and facilitating the addition of new data to the website and the database.

As for the homepage of the Oriental Institute website dedicated to the Mummy Label Database, it has also been revamped by the OI and it includes a description of the project, all the MLD annual reports since 2008–2009 downloadable in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF), as well as a direct link to the Mummy Label Database.

Grant from the Fundación la Caixa for the Papyrological Digitization of Images and Texts

We are also glad to announce that we have been awarded a grant by the Fundación la Caixa, which started in April 2015 and will continue for two years. This grant will support a new project headed by Alberto Nodar Domínguez and called "Tratamiento tecnológico de archivos digitales (imágenes y textos) de documentación papirácea antigua," which deals with the development of technologies to digitize papyri (enhancement of images and texts), and focuses especially on the treatment of carbonized papyri. The MLD will benefit directly from the aspect of the project devoted to the treatment of digital text files of ancient documents, such as, in the case of mummy labels, those written in Greek, in Demotic, or in both languages. This research will involve the close collaboration of expert programmers from the INERCIA team with philologists, especially Hellenists and Demotists. Marina Escolano Poveda has just gotten involved with this aspect of the project, in order to collaborate on the Demotic XML. The part of the project dealing with the treatment of images will focus on reassembling the fragments belonging to the Greek papyri in the Palau Ribes collection.

Virtual Exhibition on Mummy Labels

In November 2014, Sergio Carro and Alba de Frutos García, in collaboration with the Death on the Nile and MLD team, organized a virtual exhibition entitled "At the Gates of Death: Mummy Labels." In addition to presenting several mummy labels from various collections,

there was also an introduction discussing death in Graeco-Roman Egypt, as well as a brief description of the mummification process.

http://expopapiros.wix.com/inicio#!mummy-labels/cev6
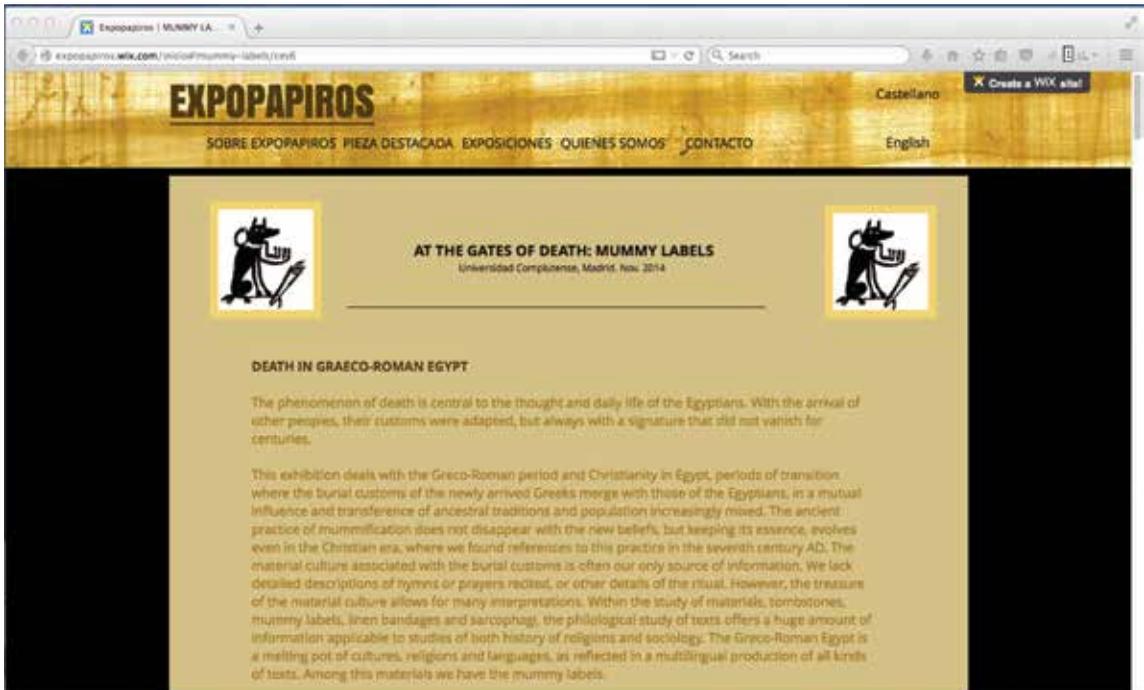
Figure 4. Homepage of the virtual exhibition "At the Gates of Death: Mummy Labels"

Publications by Team Members, Related to the Project

The following articles have been published, or are in press, forthcoming, or in preparation:

- Willy Clarysse, Margaret Maitland, and Klaas A. Worp "Mummy Labels from Graeco-Roman Egypt in National Museums Scotland, Edinburgh," *Chronique d'Égypte* 89 (2014): 356–75.
- François Gaudard, "A Demotic-Hieratic Mummy Label in the Museu de Montserrat." In *Mélanges offerts à Ola el-Aguizy*, edited by Fayza Haikal, pp. 159-68. Bibliothèque d'Étude 164. Cairo: Institut français d'archéologie orientale, 2015.
- François Gaudard, "On a Disputed Aspect of the God Seth," to be published in a Festschrift honoring a colleague (forthcoming).
- François Gaudard, "A Greek-Demotic Mummy Label," to be published in a Festschrift honoring a colleague (in preparation).
- François Gaudard, "Funerary Shrouds from Dendera in the Oriental Institute Museum of the University of Chicago," to be published in a Festschrift honoring a colleague (in preparation).

- Raquel Martín Hernández and Sofía Torallas Tovar, "Unpublished Greek Mummy-labels from the British Museum," *Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik* (in preparation).
- Irene Pajón Leyra, "Little Horror Stories in an Oxyrhynchus Papyrus: A Re-Edition and a Commentary of *P.Oxy.* II 218," *Archiv für Papyrusforschung und verwandte Gebiete* 60/2 (2014): 304–30.

Individual Research by Team Members, Related to the Project

- Alba de Frutos García continued working on her dissertation on the social networks of funerary workers in Ptolemaic Egypt, and, on July 9, 2014, she presented a paper entitled "The Social Networks of Necropolis-workers in Ptolemaic Egypt" at the Copenhagen Associations Project Seminars, University of Copenhagen.
- François Gaudard prepared the publication of more mummy labels from various collections worldwide. He also started a new project focusing on the publication of several Oriental Institute Museum funerary shrouds from the Graeco-Roman period.
- Raquel Martín Hernández and Sofía Torallas Tovar prepared the edition of unpublished Greek mummy labels from the British Museum.
- During the Spring quarter 2015, Sofía Torallas Tovar taught a course entitled "Death in the Classical World" (CLCV 26914) in the Department of Classics at the University of Chicago.

Acknowledgments

Notes

[1] 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*, as well as the other annual reports, available online in PDF format: http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/projects/mummy-label-database-mld.

[2] Grant ACI-PRO-2011-1132.

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