

Świderek, Anna

"Greek Papyri : an Introduction", E. G. Turner, Oxford 1968 ; "Greek Manuscripts of the Ancient World", E. G. Turner, Oxford 1971 : [recenzja]

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Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

Kulturgeschichte des Hellenismus is all in all a very useful and stimulating book. One of its chief merits is its originality of thought and its profusion of new ideas, controversial or not. The reader is advised to use it cautiously, however, and not place too much reliance on some of the detailed facts given there.

[Warszawa]

Anna Świderek

E. G. Turner, *Greek Papyri: an Introduction*, Oxford, at the Clarendon Press 1968, pp. 220, 8 plates.

E. G. Turner, *Greek Manuscripts of the Ancient World*, Oxford, at the Clarendon Press 1971, pp. 132, 71 plates.

In *Greek Papyri*, which appeared in 1968, Professor Turner promised its companion volume, *Greek Manuscripts of the Ancient World*. This was published also by the Clarendon Press, in 1971. These volumes are complementary, and for that reason, should, I think, be reviewed jointly in order to do them justice. In both books the author was aiming primarily at the non-specialist classical scholar, but it is worth pointing out that also the professional papyrologist will find them a mine of valuable observations and suggestions. In the first of these two books Professor Turner wishes, as he himself expresses it in the *Preface*, "to facilitate a profitable approach to the originals (in the manner of W. Schubart's *Einführung in die Papyruskunde*, Berlin, 1918), rather than to summarize and codify the findings of past scholars" (p. V.) In the next volume, on the other hand, his aim is to provide the reader with "a representative body of material illustrating Greek manuscripts written in antiquity", and to explain how a manuscript was turned into a book, at a period when a book was always a manuscript. Thus the two books taken together constitute an introduction to the world of Greek papyri, although only the first of them bears such a subtitle.

For a start it should perhaps be said that although in *Greek Papyri* Professor Turner refers to W. Schubart's *Einführung* as more or less his model, he diverges from that model to quite a considerable extent, even in the very essence or principle of his book. For, unlike Schubart, he treats his material mainly, and even, one is tempted to say, solely, from the point of view of the philologist. He puts great stress, it is true, on the importance of papyrus documents, and is strongly against undervaluing them, but to him their importance lies principally in the fact that they "describe the conditions under which literature was studied and copied". Only the last chapter of the book, headed *Types of Papyrus Document*, is devoted to the documentary papyri themselves

— even the title of the chapter indicating the limitation of the subject (this does not hinder the reader from finding therein very useful remarks which are also very precious from the point of view of method — for instance, the author draws attention to the need for caution when drawing conclusions from fragmentarily preserved documents, draft documents, or documents whose character is not exactly known, etc.). In his *Preface to Greek Manuscripts of the Ancient World*, Professor Turner clearly states that his book will be a study of Greek books and their various forms in ancient times, whereas in his *Preface to the Greek Papyri* he is less explicit, so readers who are either historians or jurists may be a little disappointed in not finding all they expected in that book. A few words of additional explanation would no doubt have removed this misunderstanding, and would have put the reader in a position to assess the book according to the intentions of the author.

Greek Papyri and *Greek Manuscripts of the Ancient World* make fascinating reading. Despite the immense erudition of the author, they read easily, which is also due in no small part to his individual style, which is so straightforward that the reader has the impression that the author is chatting to him.

The first chapter in *Greek Papyri* provides an excellent compendium of all we know about the writing materials of Antiquity, about writing tools, and the types of books and ways of producing them. This chapter is implemented to a large extent by the introductory essay to *Greek Manuscripts of the Ancient World*, where we find additional information and original observations on, for example, what the writer does, about his various attitudes, his tools, the way he wrote, the arrangement of the text in the book, punctuation, etc. Much of this information is here given for the first time in a convenient, handy way. Professor Turner also devotes considerable space to defining “book-hand” precisely. He provides us with a definition which, we hope, will finally put an end to the terminological inexactitudes in this matter. He writes: “Book-hand is a handwriting in capitals strictly or roughly bilinear, usually made slowly” (*Greek Manuscripts of the Ancient World*, p. 4). One virtue of this definition is that it permits us to include as book-hand the script of some documents such as the private letter reproduced on Plate 68. The unique photographs 1—3 (showing the production of papyrus!) and 6—10, all in *Greek Manuscripts of the Ancient World*, are invaluable illustrations to Chapter I of *Greek Papyri*.

The next two chapters of *Greek Papyri* are taken up with the history of the discovery of papyri. The resulting conclusions are presented in Chapter IV where Professor Turner studies the geographical distribution of the finds, as well as the place of origin and place of writing of the documents (very important observations!). The author’s remarks on texts which originated outside Egypt but were discovered there, his account of the difficulties in establishing their origin (for instance see his interesting comments on the texts from Pano-

polis, pp. 52—53), and his notes on the importance of the so-called archives are all outstanding features of this chapter.

Chapter V (*How a Papyrus Text Is Edited*) is an especially fascinating one, in various parts of which we catch intriguing glimpses of the personality of the author. We learn about the stock-in-trade of the papyrologist-editor. We are told about his method of work, and about the difficulties and pitfalls. Before Turner and H. C. Youtie no other great papyrologist has been willing and able to let us into the secrets of his work! It should be added that author's comments here on the dating of the papyrus manuscripts are expanded in his introductory essay to *Greek Manuscripts of the Ancient World* (pp. 21—24), where incidentally we also find an extremely interesting classification of book-hands used in the 1st to 4th centuries A.D.

Chapter VI is concerned with the people who owned the papyri in antiquity (it should be noted that by "papyri" the author here means these books, large or small fragments of which were found in the sand of the Egyptian desert). The second part of this chapter, headed *The Evidence from Palaeography*, is especially worthy of attention, for in it Professor Turner differentiates between "school hands" and "scholars' texts". This distinction is very important when considering the value of a given manuscript (for illustrations of "school-hands" see for instance Plates 4 and 5 in *Greek Manuscripts of the Ancient World*).

Chapter VII of the book *Greek Papyri* bears the rather general title *Papyri and Greek Literature*. In the early part of this chapter the author demonstrates the importance of the new texts of the classics. He says there on pp. 98—99: "The reason par excellence why papyrus finds, even when fragmentary, have been so fruitful is that they have given us a new conception of the way these texts have come down to us. We can now form an idea of what ancient books were like". This whole chapter is really a development of this sentence, and the book *Greek Manuscripts of the Ancient World* is its splendid illustration. The illuminating comments on the edition and *hypomnema*, and likewise the contents of the *hypomnemata*, are made clearer by the author's detailed discussion of the lectional signs in his introductory essay to *Greek Manuscripts of the Ancient World*, and by the splendid photographs in that book (e.g. Plates 47, 59, 61). A very important point for future scholars is the distinction the author has drawn between *hypomnemata* (commentaries) and *syngrammata* (monographs), as well as between scholia and *hypomnemata*. The consequences of all these points for textual criticism are conveniently summed up in the *Postscript: Greek Papyri and Textual Criticism*.

Greek Papyri concludes with a very useful discussion of the principal editions of papyri. A list is given of these editions, containing all the abbreviations currently used.

Greek Manuscripts of the Ancient World is not only a valuable companion

volume to *Greek Papyri*, but is also in its own right a superb palaeographic album containing numerous reproductions of interesting manuscripts that have seldom, and in some cases never, been reproduced before (apart from the photographs mentioned above, see also, e.g. Plates 25, 46, 51, 57, 68, 69, 72). The only objection that might be raised is that the plates are not arranged in chronological order (the *Chronological Table of Manuscripts* given on p. 127 cannot replace it). Even if we concede that it was right to arrange the plates according to literary genres, it might perhaps have been better to keep to a chronological sequence within each genre, instead of arranging the manuscripts according to author.

The inclusion, in the illustrations, of as much as possible of the unwritten areas of the originals is a complete innovation, and is most useful as it gives the reader an idea of the physical properties of the book. An invaluable feature of the book reviewed here is the ample index giving palaeographical terms and points of scribal practice. These are discussed both in the *Introduction* and in the short descriptions of the Plates, which are a real treasure-store of important comments, observations and information.

All in all, these two books by Professor TURNER constitute a unique, masterly introduction to the world of literary papyri.

[Warszawa]

Anna Świderek

Dorothy J. Crawford, *Kerkeosiris, an Egyptian Village in the Ptolemaic Period*, *Cambridge Classical Studies*, Cambridge, at the University Press 1971, pp. 238.

This book by Mrs Crawford is not only valuable for its subject-matter, but also interesting and instructive as regards method as well. Although the author takes as her starting point the very well-known documents from the archive of Menches, village scribe of Kerkeosiris from 120—111 B.C., nevertheless she makes an original contribution (following the line indicated in the *Preface*, p. XI, and the *Introduction*, p. 1) by relating them to the broad context of the ancient Egyptian traditions and the entire history of Ptolemaic Egypt. Owing to the systematic application of this method, this book is not a mere agglomeration of artificially isolated facts about Kerkeosiris, but a true (although of course not exhaustive) account of life in the Egyptian countryside during the reigns of the Ptolemies, when the old was intertwined at every step with the new, and no village was insignificant enough to be cut off completely from the neighbouring villages, or from Alexandria, or from the rest of the country.