

Tomasz Derda, Adam Łajtar, Jakub Urbanik

From the Editors

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Artykuł został opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej bazhum.muzhp.pl, gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

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FROM THE EDITORS

THE 27TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PAPYROLOGY, under the High Patronage of the President of the Republic of Poland, gathered more than 300 scholars from our field in Warsaw. Its organisation was possible thanks to the generous funding of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Poland, the Foundation of the University of Warsaw, the Faculty of Law and Administration of the University of Warsaw, the Raphael Taubenschlag Foundation, and the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology of the University of Warsaw.

The five decades since the first Polish congress, held in Warsaw and Cracow in 1961, have seen the fall of the political barriers dividing the world; they had fortunately never managed to completely separate papyrologists on either side of the Iron Curtain despite obstructing research and contacts between them. Even so, throughout this period, more and more fences were built between the various branches of our discipline. Legal historians parted ways with general historians; archaeologists leapt stadia away from philologists. The once-existing general concept of Classics seems to have almost completely gone. Ours has not been a wholly different fate. Papyrology, already a rather hermetic skill in itself, has been subject to increasing fragmentation. As if the division between documentary and literary papyrologists were not enough, additional frontiers were drawn between these who study carbonised texts preserved by the Volcano and the experts on scientific treatises from Egypt; between the editors of the documents and the interpreters of their legal content (of whom only few have remained).

It has become almost impossible to embrace our trade in its entirety and wholeness, to produce a comprehensive treatment thereof from which non-experts may draw. Naturally, attempts have been made, no longer written single-handedly by one of the sacred monsters of the discipline but by a team of scholars from all over the world (the most recent example of which is Bagnall's *Oxford Handbook of Papyrology*).

The consideration of these circumstances led us to return to the tradition of keynote speeches at the Congress. In these papers the experts in singular fields of papyrology were called upon to present the rest of our community with the novelties and curiosities rather than with a comprehensive and tedious list of the most recent literature. And so each morning of our five-day Congress was dedicated to one of the more general branches of papyrology; a common topic that would bring together a number of papers in which the speakers aimed to bring back the integrity to the shattered picture of papyrological science. We have decided to publish these snapshots of the discipline AD 2013 before the general *Proceedings*, creating thus a special issue of the Journal. We hope that in such a way these images would become more accessible to the scientific world of Classics. As it is a special issue, we have departed from the usual alphabetic grouping of the texts, opting rather for a thematic one (and keeping the original sessions distribution). The participants will notice a few gaps in the text. Ewa Wipszycka's treatment of the ecclesiastical papyrology made it to her newest book, *The Alexandrian Church. People and Institutions*, just published as the *JfurP Supplement 25*. Obbink's essay on the news in literary papyrology has been published elsewhere. We have also decided to add a study exclusively devoted to the Herculaneum papyrology.

Presenting you with this volume, we daresay we may have succeeded in bringing back various views on papyrology, and we proudly say that Warsaw became for that hot first week of August 2013 the capital not only of our, still rather hermetic, science, but also, more generally, the point of reference for the studies on Antiquity, of which this Journal may be a lasting souvenir.

*Tomasz Derda
Adam Łajtar
Jakub Urbanik*