Novel Perspectives on Communication Practices in Antiquity

Papyrologica Lugduno-Batava

Edidit

Institutum Papyrologicum Universitatis Lugduno-Batavae

Moderantibus

W. Clarysse, K. Donker van Heel, F. A. J. Hoogendijk, S. P. Vleeming

VOLUMEN XLI

The titles published in this series are listed at brill.com/plb

Novel Perspectives on Communication Practices in Antiquity

Towards a Historical Social-Semiotic Approach

Edited by

Klaas Bentein Yasmine Amory



Cover illustrations: Papyrus drawing from M. J. Raven, *Papyrus van bies tot boekrol* (1982), p. 24; A second-century tax receipt, BGU III 718 (103 CE). © Staatliche Museen zu Berlin—Ägyptisches Museum und Papyrussammlung, Photo: Sandra Steiß, P 7882.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2022043636 LC ebook record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2022043637

Names: Bentein, Klaas, editor. | Amory, Yasmine, editor. | Novel Perspectives on Communication Practices in Antiquity: Towards a Historical Socio-Semiotic Approach (Conference) (2019 : Ghent, Belgium) Title: Novel perspectives on communication practices in antiquity: towards a historical social-semiotic approach / edited by Klaas Bentein, Yasmine Description: Leiden; Boston: Brill, [2023] | Series: Papyrologica lugduno-batava, 0169-9652 ; volumen XLI | "This volume contains selected and thoroughly revised versions of papers presented at the international conference "Novel Perspectives on Communication Practices in Antiquity: Towards a Historical Socio-Semiotic Approach." Held at the cultural center Het Pand in Ghent from October 3 to 5, 2019" | Includes bibliographical references and index. Identifiers: LCCN 2022043636 (print) | LCCN 2022043637 (ebook) | ISBN 9789004526518 (hardback; acid-free paper) | ISBN 9789004526525 Subjects: LCSH: Manuscripts, Classical (Papyri)—Congresses. | Communication —History—To 1500—Congresses. | Semiotics—Social aspects—Congresses. | LCGFT: Conference papers and proceedings. Classification: LCC PA3343 .N68 2023 (print) | LCC PA3343 (ebook) | DDC 302.2093—dc23/eng/20221006

Typeface for the Latin, Greek, and Cyrillic scripts: "Brill". See and download: brill.com/brill-typeface.

ISSN 0169-9652 ISBN 978-90-04-52651-8 (hardback) ISBN 978-90-04-52652-5 (e-book)

Copyright 2023 by Klaas Bentein and Yasmine Amory. Published by Koninklijke Brill ${\tt NV}$, Leiden, The Netherlands.

Koninklijke Brill NV incorporates the imprints Brill, Brill Nijhoff, Brill Hotei, Brill Schöningh, Brill Fink, Brill mentis, Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, Böhlau, V&R unipress and Wageningen Academic. Koninklijke Brill NV reserves the right to protect this publication against unauthorized use. Requests for re-use and/or translations must be addressed to Koninklijke Brill NV via brill.com or copyright.com.

This book is printed on acid-free paper and produced in a sustainable manner.

Contents

Acknowledgments VII Notes on Contributors Editorial Notation IX

Introduction: Developing a Historical Social-Semiotic Approach to Communication Practices in Antiquity 1 Klaas Bentein and Yasmine Amory

PART 1

A Novel Approach to the Visual and Material Characteristics of **Ancient Documents**

- Beyond the Text or the Contribution of "Paléographie signifiante" in Documentary Papyrology: The Example of Formats in Late Antiquity 17 Jean-Luc Fournet
- BIG & Small: The Size of Documents as a Semiotic Resource for Graeco-Roman Egypt 29 Marco Stroppa
- Notes on Ostraca and Scribal Practice 39 3 Sofía Torallas Tovar
- Visual Signs of Deference in Late Antique Greek Letters on Papyrus 54 Yasmine Amory
- The Spread and Persistence of Roman Features in Some Greek Papyrus Letters of 5 the High Chancery 65 Eleonora Angela Conti
- Applied Category Analysis for Interpreting a List in the Late Antique Documentary Tradition: Some Preliminary Considerations 72 Antonella Ghignoli

PART 2

A Multi-Modal Approach to Ancient Sources

- The Textualization of Women's Letters from Roman Egypt: Analyzing Historical Framing Practices from a Multi-Modal Point of View 89 Klaas Bentein
- Towards a Socio-Semiotic Analysis of Greek Medical Prescriptions on Papyrus 113 Nicola Reggiani

VI CONTENTS

9 Imagining Faith: Images, Scripts, and Texts of Early Christian Inscriptions from the Roman Near East 131 James Wolfe

The "Exposed Writings": Semiotic Contributions to the Analysis of Linguistic Variability in Archaic Greek Inscriptions 146
Sarah Béthume

PART 3

A Quantitative Approach to Linguistic Variation in Papyri

- 11 'Οκτώ or ὀκτώι: Reconsidering Orthographic Hypercorrection in Antiquity 171 Geert De Mol
- 12 Word-Split Frequency in Greek Documentary Papyri (with an Appendix on Syllabification) 184

 Mark Depauw

Index of Passages Cited 191 Index of Subjects 196

Acknowledgments

This volume contains selected and thoroughly revised versions of papers presented at the international conference "Novel Perspectives on Communication Practices in Antiquity: Towards a Historical Socio-Semiotic Approach." Held at the cultural center Het Pand in Ghent from October 3 to 5, 2019, the conference occurred in the context of the ERC project "Everyday Writing in Graeco-Roman and Late Antique Egypt: A Socio-Semiotic Study of Communicative Variation" and benefitted from the financial support of the *Historical Sociolinguistics Research and Training Program Research Network* (FwO) as well as Brill. Various junior colleagues provided practical help during

that conference, for which we would like to express our gratitude. We would also like to thank all the people who have been involved in bringing this book project to its completion, including Giulia Moriconi, associate editor for Classical Studies at Brill, for her patience and support; Melinda Johnston, our copy-editor, for the invaluable help she provided in formatting and proofreading the individual chapters; the anonymous reviewer at Brill, for their useful comments and suggestions; and last but not least, our contributors, for the enthusiasm and attentiveness they displayed at the conference, and the eagerness with which they contributed to this volume.

Klaas Bentein & Yasmine Amory Ghent, June 2022

Notes on Contributors

Yasmine Amory

PhD (2018), École Pratique des Hautes Études, is a postdoctoral research fellow at Ghent University. She has published many articles on communication practices in antiquity and compiles editions of unpublished papyri from different collections around the world.

Klaas Bentein

PhD (2012), is an associate research professor at Ghent University and PI of the ERC project EVWRIT (www .evwrit.ugent.be). He has published widely in the fields of Ancient Greek linguistics and papyrology, including *Verbal Periphrasis in Ancient Greek: Have- and Be- Constructions* (OUP 2016).

Sarah Béthume

PhD (2022), is a lecturer at UCLouvain (Belgium). She studies the correlation between socio-orthographic and dialectal variability and the pragmatic dimension of the archaic inscriptions from Argolid.

Eleonora Conti

PhD (2010), worked for many years at the Istituto Papirologico "G. Vitelli," University of Florence, with which she still collaborates. She deals with literary papyrology (attic oratory) and documentary papyrology, most of all with the study of Ancient Greek letters and paleography.

Mark Depauw

is a full professor of Ancient History at KU Leuven. Originally a specialist in Demotic Egyptian, he now spends most of his time directing the research platform Trismegistos (www.trismegistos.org), on the basis of which he builds his quantitative research.

Geert De Mol

is a PhD candidate at Ghent University and collaborator of the ERC project EVWRIT. His research focuses on the social meaning of spelling variation—more specifically, on orthographic hypercorrection in Ancient Greek papyri.

Jean-Luc Fournet

is a professor at the Collège de France, which created its first chair of papyrology, "Written Culture in Late Antiquity and Byzantine Papyrology," for him in 2015. He is also a professor at the École Pratique des Hautes Études. He is a French papyrologist and has a special interest in the culture of late antiquity—particularly poetry, multilingualism, and modalities of written culture.

Antonella Ghignoli

is a full professor in palaeography at Sapienza University of Rome and PI of the ERC project NOTAE. Since 1991 she has published extensively in the fields of Latin palaeography and diplomatics, covering a wide range of topics from the early Middle Ages to the Renaissance. Her current research is focused on literacy and written culture in late antiquity and the early Middle Ages.

Nicola Reggiani

is a research fellow (Ricercatore) in papyrology at the University of Parma. His main current research interests are unpublished papyri from Tebtunis (he is editing P.Tebt. vol. VII); digital papyrology, including authoring *Digital Papyrology II* (De Gruyter 2017) and editing *Digital Papyrology II* (De Gruyter 2018); and Greek medical papyri, which he studies from a material viewpoint.

Marco Stroppa

PhD (2015), is employed at the Papyrological Institute "G. Vitelli" of the University of Florence. He has published widely in the field of papyrology, including *I bandi liturgici nell'Egitto romano* (FUP 2017), especially first editions of literary and documentary Greek texts.

Sofía Torallas Tovar

PhD (1995), is a professor of classics at the University of Chicago, curator of the papyrus collection at the Abbey of Montserrat, and co-PI of the project "Transmission of Magical Knowledge: Magical Handbooks on Papyrus." She has published widely on different aspects of papyrology, including linguistics, early Christianity, and the materiality of books and documents.

James Wolfe

PhD (2020), is the Alex and Marie Manoogian postdoctoral research fellow in Armenian history at the Center for Armenian Studies and Department of History at the University of Michigan. His research focuses on the experiences of Armenian and Syriac-speaking communities in the late antique and medieval Middle East. In multiple forthcoming publications, he explores issues of genre and literary composition in Armenian and Syriac historiography.

Editorial Notation

separating vertical stroke, etc).

The transcription of Greek texts employs the following editorial conventions (the so-called "Leiden system"):

dots under letters $(\alpha\beta\gamma)$ indicate uncertain letters, plain dots (\ldots) indicate the approx-
imate number of illegible or lost letters
() indicates the solution to an abbreviation or symbol
[] indicates a lacuna in the original
$\langle \hspace{0.1cm} angle$ indicates an omission by the ancient scribe
{ } indicates a cancellation by the editor of the text
indicates a deletion by the ancient scribe
/ indicates an interlinear addition
In addition to that,
denotes the start of a new line on the papyrus where we have not printed the text in
the same configuration as on the papyrus
The transcription of inscriptions employs a similar system of symbols.

- <u>αβ</u> indicates letters seen by an earlier editor but no longer visible on the stone
- [---] indicates lost lines of an uncertain number | denotes the start of a new line on the stone where we have not printed the text in the same configuration as on the stone. Note that the vertical stroke also occurs as reproduction of a sign in the inscription (sign or symbol with undetermined function, trace,