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76
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Collection of Hieratic Ostraca from Mond's Excavation at
Sheikh – Abd – El Qurna in the Egyptian Museum
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Abstract

The group of ostraca¹ studied in my thesis was discovered during Robert Mond's excavations at Sheikh Abd-el-Qurna in the years 1903-1906. Unfortunately only very brief reports about the first two seasons of these excavations were published.² A cursory publication of Mond's papers and photographs at least provides some information on his work during the last two seasons.³

Mond worked mainly in the south-western part of Sheikh Abd-el-Qurna, but a more precise find spot of most of the ostraca is unknown.⁴ According to their style and contents several clearly belong to the written legacy of the Deir el-Medina workforce. The group of ostraca under study includes various topics: some bear administrative reports and others literary texts. One ostrakon is inscribed with a hymn to the solar god, whereas another one bears a hymn to Amun. Further there is one ostrakon with a eulogy for a king (Ramesses III), and one ostrakon with a so-called miscellany text (such texts were used as school training exercises). Some of the ostraca date to 18th Dynasty, while the others are dated to the Ramesside period.

The aim of my research on these ostraca was 1.to establish the nature of the texts, 2.to study the different aspects of the two types of hieratic used – literary script for religious and literary texts and administrative script for documentary texts - and 3.to compare the palaeography of the hieratic writing

¹ Egyptian Museum SR 12177 – 12180 – 12185 – 12188 – 12190 – 12191 – 12197 – 12206 – 12209 – 12213 – 12214 – 12216 – 1979. They all bear the mark C.A.G. = Cheikh Abdel Gurnah.

² In *ASAE* 5 (1904), 99 and *ASAE* 6 (1905), 68-71.

³ Lydia Collins, "The private tombs of Thebes: Excavations by Sir Robert Mond 1905 and 1906", *JEA* 62 (1976), 14-40.

⁴ Collins, *op.cit.* page 36, mentions "two ostraca written with red inscriptions", which may well be SR 1979 and SR 12229 (this object is now completely effaced).

Contents

• List of Abbreviations	viii-ix
• Acknowledgments	x-xii
• Textual signs	xiii
• Introduction	
* What is Ostraca – the site Sheikh Abd El-Qurna	1-5
* The under – study group of ostraca	6-8
• Chapter One: Administrative Texts	
* SR 12177	10-21
* SR 12180	22-39
* SR 12197	40-56
* SR 12213	57-66
* SR 12214	67-99
• Chapter Two: Literary Texts	
* SR 1979	101-112
* SR 12206	113-126
* SR 12191	127-142
• Chapter Three: Religious Texts	
* SR 12188	144-153
* SR 12190	154-170
• Chapter Four: Miscellaneous	
* SR 12185	172-183

* SR 12209	184-192
* SR 12216	193-211
•Paleography	213-268
•Conclusion	269-273
• Arabic Bibliography	274
• English Bibliography	275-295
•Index of vocabularies	296-298
•Index of Concordance	299-301
•Plates	
* Plate I: Plan of the site	303
* Plate II: Catalogue of Unpublished Ostraca	305-322
* Plate III:Catalogue of previously Published Ostraca	324