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Textile and Fish Accounts from the Palace Administration of Ramesses II in Gurob

Fragments of Ramesside Administrative Documents in the Museum Kulturen in Lund

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ABSTRACT

For more than 100 years, the Museum Kulturen in Lund has possessed fragments of an administrative papyrus that exhibits close parallels with administrative texts found at Gurob and belonging to the palace administration of Ramesses II. The arrangement of the fragments, which mainly record fish and textiles, is quite problematic: more than ten fragments are incorrectly arranged on paper, some even upside down, which makes them difficult to read in places. A provisional publication of the papyrus is given here in the hope that greater awareness of the papyrus' existence may lead to its restoration and a subsequent proper edition.

1. HISTORY OF THE NEW KINGDOM HIERATIC PAPYRUS FRAGMENTS IN THE COLLECTION

Several years ago, one of the present authors was informed about the existence of some papyrus fragments in the Museum Kulturen in Lund with inventory number KM 21935. The fragments form

part of the so-called Gurob papyri,¹ and originally belonged to the collection of Adalbert von Lanna,² which was sold at several auctions in the early 20th century. The fragments of the Gurob papyri, as well as two *Book of the Dead* papyri,³ were bought in one of these auctions by Johan Lundgren in 1912 and given to the museum.

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- 1 A black and white photocopy of the papyrus was provided some years ago by Sofia Häggman to Robert J. Demarée. We would also like to thank Charlotte Åkerman, head of the Museum Kulturen's Department for Collections and Production, and Nelly Herberg, photographer, for permission to publish the papyrus and for the recent colour photograph.
 - 2 Adalbert von Lanna (1836–1909) was a Czech industrial who built a large and valuable collection of all kinds of objects, including antiquities.
 - 3 Kulturen KM 21933, papyrus of Ashahat (19th Dynasty), see Totenbuchprojekt Bonn, TM 134369 (<https://totenbuch.awk.nrw.de/objekt/tm134369>); Kulturen KM 21934, papyrus of Amenhotep (18th Dynasty), see Totenbuchprojekt Bonn, TM 133549 (<https://totenbuch.awk.nrw.de/objekt/tm133549>; both accessed 23.06.2022).

2. PAPYRUS LUND KM 21935

- a. Number:
1 papyrus consisting of at least 15 fragments.
- b. Provenience:
Based on provenienced parallels: Gurob.
- c. Distribution according to genre:
Fragments of administrative texts belonging to the day-book genre, forming part of palace archive documents.⁴
- d. Material published vs. unpublished:
The papyrus fragments are available online in the Carlotta database, but remain unpublished.

3. THE UNPUBLISHED HIERATIC RAD-FRAGMENTS FROM LUND

Despite the poor condition of the fragments, it is clear that they belong to the same group of papyri as the Gurob fragments published by A.H. Gardiner in his *Ramesside Administrative Documents*.⁵ In the section on Gurob in his book *Kahun, Gurob and Hawara*, W.M.F. Petrie (1890: 36) writes: 'Of papyri a few were found, but none in such fine state as those of Kahun. The only royal name is that of Ramesses II. None of the rolls were sealed, and many were crushed up as waste paper.' The fragments of KM 21935 may be similarly described. They are fixed onto paper at random, while some fragments are joined incorrectly together and even placed upside down. The measurements of the 'papyrus' are 34 × 35 cm; the

frame is 43 × 42 cm. At least 15 different fragments are identifiable. Of these, fragments 1, 5, 6, 10, 11, and 13 are presented below in full.⁶ The other fragments—separated out from their mount (fig. 1)—are added at the end of the contribution in order to demonstrate that they do not connect with the others and that they should be placed elsewhere.⁷

On the right are two fragments (1 and 6) that reflect a kind of Excel spreadsheet listing distributions of garments to a house/palace; they are similar to the Gurob Fragments G, T, and U (Gardiner 1948: 20–24). In the middle is a fragment that lists pieces of cloth and garments and on the left is a fragment, recording deliveries of large quantities of *šn'*-fish that is similar to the Gurob Fragments J, W, and N (Gardiner 1948: 26–28). The deliveries were probably intended for several houses/palaces of Usermaatse-Setepenre-Meriamun (Ramesses II). Further to this, at least two royal daughters are mentioned, though only the name of the second daughter can be read: Nebettawy, the fifth daughter of Ramesses II, who later became his wife; she was eventually buried in QV60.

3.1. Fragment 1

List of royal linens consisting of pieces of cloth and garments of differing quality. The empty space above line 1 makes it plausible to suggest that the line forms part of the upper border of a papyrus scroll.

⁴ For a general description of the Gurob papyri and their classification, see Hagen & Soliman (2018: 105–108).

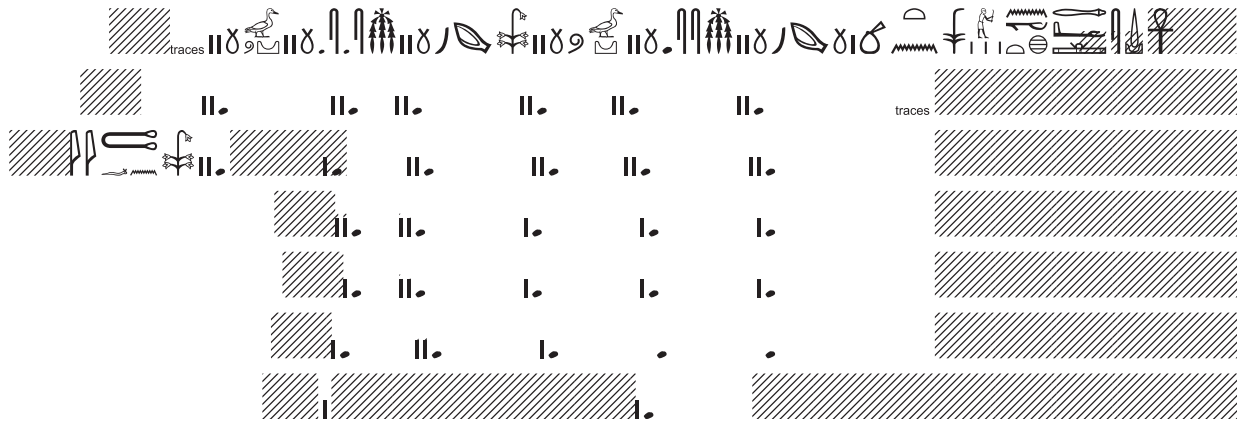
⁵ Gardiner (1948: 20–22, 26–27).

⁶ A full study of the Gurob fragments, including transcriptions, translations and comments, is still needed; see Hagen & Soliman (2018: 106, fn. 122, 123).

⁷ A search for joins with, or attributions to, other Gurob fragments was not done here, partly because of the state of publication of these other fragments, and partly because the primary intention of this volume is to provide an overview of various collections around the world.



Fig. 1. Papyrus Lund KM 21935, with added fragment numbers



- (x+1) [...] /// *nḥ wḏ³ snb* ³-*nḥt.w sšr nsw.t idg 2 mss 2 sḏw 2 šm^c idg 2 mss 2 sḏw 2* /// [...]
- (x+2) [...] /// ditto 2 ditto 2 ditto 2 ditto 2 ditto 2 ditto 2 /// [...]
- (x+3) [...] /// ditto 2 ditto 2 ditto 2 ditto 2 ditto 2 ditto 2 *1[+1] ditto 2 šm^c tnf* /// [...]
- (x+1) [...] /// [House/palace of Usermaatse-Setepenre-Meriamun], l.p.h. Great of Victories^a. Royal linen: 2 *idg*-headcloths, 2 *mss*-tunics^b, 2 *sḏw*-loincloths. Thin quality: 2 *idg*-headcloths, 2 *mss*-tunics, 2 *sḏw*-loincloths /// [...]
- (x+2) [...] /// ditto 2 /// [...]
- (x+3) [...] /// ditto 2. Thin quality: 1 *tnf*-cloth /// [...]

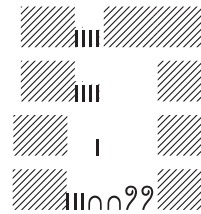
Comments

- a) The epithet 'Great of Victories' allows the reconstruction of the place name House/palace of Usermaatse-Setepenre-Meriamun, which was identified with Piramesse by Gardiner (1918: 136–137).
- b) The scribe wrote a dot after the *s* both here and on fragment 6. Here, in the next *mss* entry even after each *s*. This habit of adding

a dot after each *s* is unusual, though it can be found on other Gurob fragments (e.g., Fragment Y, Gardiner 1948: 25, 2–5), as well as on the younger Mallet papyrus (= Louvre E 11006; photos accessible online; see also Maspero 1870: pl. 1, l. 8), which is dated to the reign of Ramesses IV and is of Theban origin.⁸

3.2. Fragment 5

Numbers and a total (?).

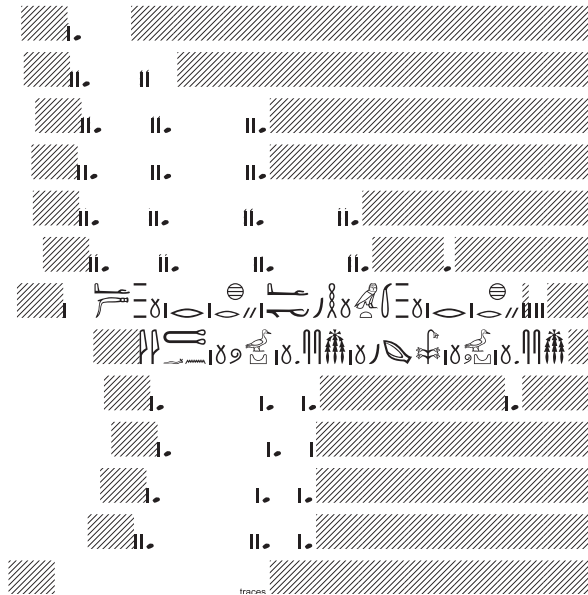


- (x+1) [...] /// 4 /// [...]
- (x+2) [...] /// 4 /// [...]
- (x+3) [...] /// 1 /// [...]
- (x+4) [...] /// 223 [+1?] /// [...]

⁸ We would like to thank F. Hagen for the references.

3.3. Fragment 6

Mention of bolts or threads, as well as pieces of cloth and garments of differing quality.



- (x+7) [...] /// 4 *hrr.w tm.t hw^c 1 hrr.w^c-mh 1 [...]*
- (x+8) [...] /// *mss 1 sdw 1 šm^c idg 1 mss 1 sdw 1 tnf*
/// [...]
- (x+7) [...] /// 4, bolts^a of textile [for] 1 *tm.t*-textile^b [for] *hw^c*-wood, bolts of cloth, cubit 1^c [...]
- (x+8) [...] /// 1 *mss*-tunic, 1 *sdw*-loincloth. Thin quality: 1 *idg*-headcloth, 1 *mss*-tunic, 1 *sdw*-loincloth, /// *tnf*-cloth /// [...]

Comments

- a) Or: 'threads'.
- b) Most probably to be identified with *tm.t*; see Wb 5, 306: 'textile for wrapping.' The sign after the 3 plural strokes may be read as *nfr*, but the rendering *ti* (for the beginning of *tim.t*) is more likely as the following ligature hardly reflects the sequence *t-m-t*. In the Gurob Fragment G r° 1 and 5 (Gardiner 1948: 20, 4 and 8), *hrr.w* is an independent entry; this may also be the case here, leading to the following translation: 'threads for 1 *tm.t*-textile [to wrap the unknown piece of

furniture that follows].' For a further attestation of *hrr* in the Gurob papyri, see fragment G r° 1 (Gardiner 1948: 20, 4).

- c) The combination of D36 + Y1 is considered another rendering for 'cubit.'

3.4. Fragment 10

End of Ramesses II's cartouche, followed by an epithet.

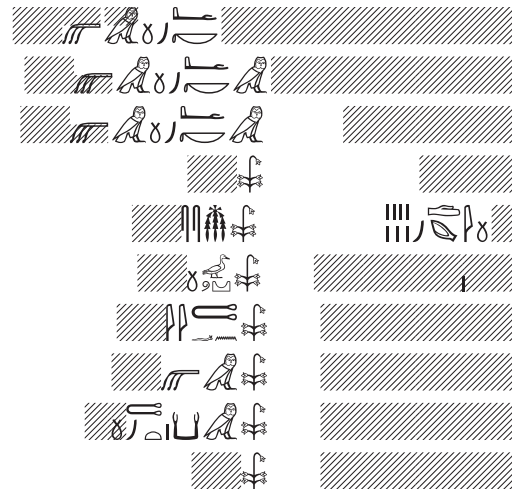


(x+1) [...] /// 'nh wd³ snb dr psd.wt 9 /// [...]

(x+1) [...] /// l.p.h. who expels the 9 bows /// [...]

3.5. Fragment 11

List of pieces of cloth and garments in black, as well as different qualities.



	Col. 1	Col. 2
(x+1)	[...] ///	[m]kw m km /// [...]
(x+2)	[...] ///	mkw m km /// [...]
(x+3)	[...] ///	mkw m km /// [...]
(x+4)	[...] ///	šm ^c /// [...]
(x+5)	[...] /// idg 7	šm ^c mss /// [...]
(x+6)	[...] ///	šm ^c sdw /// [...]
(x+7)	[...] ///	šm ^c tnf /// [...]
(x+8)	[...] ///	mkw m km /// [...]
(x+9)	[...] ///	šm ^c m ktt /// [...]
(x+10)	[...] ///	šm ^c /// [...]

3.7. Fragments 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 12, 14, 15, and 16

Some of these small fragments consist in turn of more than one piece (fr. 2, 8, 16). Fragments 3, 4 and 7 (mounted at 90° to the proper orientation of the writing) form part of ditto+number-lists. Only parts of the signs on fragments 2, 15 (*ms*), 12, and 16 (100+x; 20) are preserved. Not enough text is preserved on fragments 8 and 9 (fr. 9 mounted at 180° to the proper orientation of the writing) and on fragment 14 to propose a proper reading. All figures not to scale.



Fig. 2. KM 21935 Fragment 2



Fig. 3. KM 21935 Fragment 3



Fig. 4. KM 21935
Fragment 4



Fig. 5. KM 21935
Fragment 7 (turned 90°)



Fig. 6. KM 21935 Fragment 8



Fig. 7. KM 21935
Fragment 9 (turned 180°)



Fig. 8. KM 21935
Fragment 12



Fig. 9. KM 21935
Fragment 14



Fig. 10. KM 21935
Fragment 15

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