

Beiträge zum Alten Ägypten 1

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Totenbuch-Papyrus Neuchâtel Eg. 429  
und Princeton Pharaonic Roll 2

Zur Totenbuch-Tradition  
von Deir el-Medina

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## Beiträge zum Alten Ägypten (BAÄ) vol. 1:

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## SUMMARY

This publication is divided into two parts: The first edition of the anonymous Book of the Dead papyrus Neuchâtel Eg. 429 and papyrus Princeton Pharaonic Roll 2 together with some other unpublished and comparative material, and a more general investigation about the Book of the Dead tradition in Ramesside Deir el-Medina.

One of the principal results is that both the Neuchâtel and Princeton papyri can not only be accurately dated to the time of Ramesses II, but that their provenance (Deir el-Medina) and most probably even the atelier they were created are identifiable. A series of papyri, including the famous papyrus of Neferrenpet, is presented and discussed. These papyri show such striking similarities in vignettes, texts and palaeography that they must all have been produced by the same workshop. Some of them are genuine doublets and perhaps even the work of the same scribal hand.

Furthermore, the close analogies in texts and vignettes of the individual papyri may also be compared to other material produced in Deir el-Medina, such as texts and decorative elements in the workers' tombs and on their coffins, stelae, and other funeral equipment.

From the investigations reported in this book, it is clear that there was not only a specific iconographic tradition in Deir el-Medina, as has been shown by several scholars previously, but also a textual one. In other words, the versions of Book of the Dead texts found on tomb-walls, as well as those on papyri and other items of funerary equipment from Deir el-Medina, differ significantly in several respects from comparative versions produced outside these local workshops. These variants clearly point to a specific editing centre for the Book of the Dead in Ramesside Deir el-Medina. Such factors shed new light on the high level of literacy in the local workmens' community, and also provide new criteria for more accurate dating and provenancing of New Kingdom Book of the Dead papyri.