

Acknowledgments

The creation of this collection has been a collaborative venture of the authors, but it has also involved help from many others. We are deeply indebted to all those who have supplied photographs, slides, and digital images of the papyri included here and who have given permission for them to be included in this work. These include particularly Revel Coles and Gideon Nisbet for the Oxyrhynchus Papyri and other papyri of the Egypt Exploration Society in the Sackler Library; Rosario Pintaudi and Franca Arduini for the Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana; and Günter Poethke for the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin (Ägyptisches Museum und Papyrussammlung). Some of the digital photography (at Berkeley, Columbia, and Michigan) was made possible as part of the Advanced Papyrological Information System (APIS), which has been funded in large part by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Much of the work of converting our files into a form usable over the Web was carried out by Stamenka Antonova, Ceylan Tözeren, and Evie Ahtaridis, graduate students at Columbia University, to whom we are grateful. This work was financed by the Faculty Cluster for Information Technology and by the Stanwood Cockey Lodge Foundation of Columbia University. Once the project was accepted for inclusion in the American Council of Learned Societies' History E-Book Project, Nancy Lin of the New York University Press helped define the final database format for us. Our graduate assistants Jinyu Liu and Giovanni Ruffini helped with many tasks, including rounding up the images not yet obtained, checking images systematically against the database, and reading the database and introduction. Phyllis Lee, an undergraduate assistant, also helped in final checking of the database and images. Without the help of these sharp eyes, many more of our errors would have survived.

The Stanwood Cockey Lodge Foundation bore the cost of most of the imaging work necessary for the project; additional help came from the Dunning Fund of the Department of History, Columbia University.

Part of the texts were ready in time to be used in a Summer Seminar for College Teachers directed by Roger Bagnall in the summer of 1999. This

seminar, “Culture and Society in Roman Egypt,” was funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. We are grateful to the endowment and the participants in the seminar for serving as a testing panel, whose comments, both during and after the seminar, helped us to shape the commentaries and introduction.

We also owe a debt of gratitude to those who afforded us audiences for discussing this project as it developed. The intellectual biography of the book is described in chapter 1. Those who figure in it without being named are among our creditors, including Diana Kleiner and Susan Matheson for the invitation to speak at Yale in the I, Claudia symposium and Janet Martin and her colleagues for the ability to do so at Princeton.

Part or all of the book has been read by various colleagues, to whom we are very grateful for their time, critical engagement, and numerous improvements: Adam Bülow-Jacobsen, Julie Crawford, H  l  ne Cuvigny, Nikolaos Gonis, Kim Haines-Eitzen, AnneMarie Luijendijk, George Par  ssoglou, and Terry Wilfong. Mark Depauw, Ursula Kaplony-Heckel, and Brian Muhs also offered valuable advice on Demotic texts. As always in a work of this scale and complexity, we know that even with the help of all of these colleagues we have undoubtedly been responsible for many sins of omission and commission. We will appreciate readers’ comments that may improve subsequent versions of the electronic publication and the book.

August, 2003