

<p>Place Date Language Material Number of texts Type Collections Find/Acquisition</p>	<p>Cell A in the monastery of Epiphanius</p> <p>Thebes, Memnoneia, Monastery of Epiphanius, Cell A AD 600 - AD 699 Coptic and Greek Ostraka (and maybe two papyri) 40, of which 14 were found together on a mat Private archive and library of one or more monks New York, Metropolitan Museum; Cairo, Egyptian Museum; London, British Museum Most texts were found during excavations by Winlock in 1912 and 1914</p>
<p>Bibliography</p> <p>Description</p>	<p>S. BUCKING, <i>Scribes and schoolmasters? On contextualizing Coptic and Greek ostraca excavated at the Monastery of Epiphanius</i>, <i>Journal of Coptic Studies</i> 9 (2007), p. 21-47.</p> <p>When excavating the Monastery of Epiphanius in Western Thebes H. Winlock also systematically noted the findplaces of papyri and ostraca. The texts were published within their archaeological contexts in 1926 by Crum and Winlock. One of the outlying cells, some 50 m to the NorthWest of the monastery, was a Middle Kingdom tomb, adapted for residential use by some monks in the late 6th and 7th centuries (H.E. Winlock and W.E. Crum, <i>The Monastery of Epiphanius I</i> 1926, p. 41-43) [see plate 1]. The monks build benches along the walls, dug two loom pits, paved the floor with broken chips of limestone tomb reliefs and added a square mud brick room (about 3 x 3 m) and a walled courtyard in front of the tomb. The area was apparently used for living, weaving and coming together. Some remains of baskets, leather working and dyeing show the economic activities. A few plaster fragments with a dogmatic texts painted in red ochre attest the link with the monastery (658 and 659)¹, as do a mass of potsherds with literary texts.</p> <p>A typical feature of this cell are the nearly 40 literary ostraca. One group of fourteen ostraca (including one on limestone) were found on a mat on the floor of mud brick room. They were apparently all written by the same hand, which the editors tentatively identified with that of the monk Moses who is the author of a Coptic letter among this group [see plate 2]. The texts are written both in Coptic and in Greek. Most Coptic texts are passages of the Old Testament, especially the psalms; the three Greek texts are apparently liturgical prayers. Other similar ostraca were found elsewhere in the cell, partly also written by this same hand, partly by other hands. The irregular spellings and some copticisms in the Greek texts suggest that "Moses" was a Copt, with a limited command of written Greek (S. Bucking, <i>JCS</i> 9, 2007, p.29). This is confirmed by the Coptic letter written by him (400) and another one addressed to him (386). In the latter text Moses is requested to write something for his correspondents and the cell may well have functioned as some kind of scriptorium. In 501 Apa Moses is included among those receiving greetings. Similar Coptic and Greek ostraca, containing psalms, prayers and even some Menandrian monostichs and a few pen trials with the first line of the Iliad were written by other occupants and have here been included in the "archive-library".</p> <p>Not all texts, however, found in cell A do necessarily belong to a closed group. Where there is no link with the religious copies or their scribe, we have not included them here, (these texts can be found by searching "Epiphanius cell A" in the field "provenance"), e.g. at least ten letters written to and by Epiphanius, perhaps the abbot of the monastery (206; 259; 329; 336; 374; 382; 394; 397; 408; 424; 445; 463). Nearly all texts are written on potsherds, with a few exceptions on limestone and on papyrus (268 and 463).</p>

¹ Reference is bold refer to the numbers in Winlock-Crum, P. Monast. Epiph. II.

Table

LDAB Nr	Text	Language	Place	Hand
108513	Exodus 15	Coptic	on mat	Moses
108517	02 Kings 1-2	Coptic	on mat	Moses
108518	Job 29-30; Isaias 38	Coptic	cell A	Moses
108520	Psalms 18	Coptic	cell A	-
108521	Psalms 21	Coptic	cell A	(limestone)
108522	Psalms 23; 35; 105	Coptic	cell A	-
62216	Psalms 45 + doxology	bilingual Greek + Coptic	cell A	(on the back of a Moses text)
108523	Psalms 40	Coptic	cell A	-
108524	Psalms 50	Coptic	on mat	Moses
108525	Psalms 35; 57; 70; 73; 75; 137; 142; 138	Coptic	on mat	Moses
62219	Psalms 88 + Matthew 16.18 + Hebrews 5.6	Greek	cell A	-
108526	Psalms 135	Coptic	on mat	Moses
112707	Ezechiel 3	Coptic	on mat	Moses
62170	Ode 8 (Daniel)	Greek	cell A	-
65215	acrostic hymn on passion	Greek	cell A	-
112418	prayer A	Coptic	on mat	Moses (limestone)
112419	prayer A	Coptic	on mat	Moses
112421	prayer A	Coptic	cell A	-
65222	trishagion	Greek	cell A	-
65218	trishagion	Greek	cell A	-
65213	trishagion, troparia, with psalm 95	Greek	cell A	-
61459	troparion with Matthew 1.23	Greek	cell A	-
112420	liturgical text	mixed Greek-Coptic	cell A	-
65211	troparion quoting psalm 50 and Ode Daniel	Greek	cell A	-
65216	troparion	Greek	cell A	-

65217	troparion	Greek	cell A	-
65219	troparion	Greek	cell A	-
65220	troparion ?	Greek	cell A	-
65221	troparion ?	Greek	cell A	-
87091	list of Biblical books	Coptic	cell A	-
61312	gnomic anthology, including Menander sententiae and Proverbs 1.7	Greek	cell A	-
65225	vocabulary	Greek-Coptic	cell A	-

Plate 1

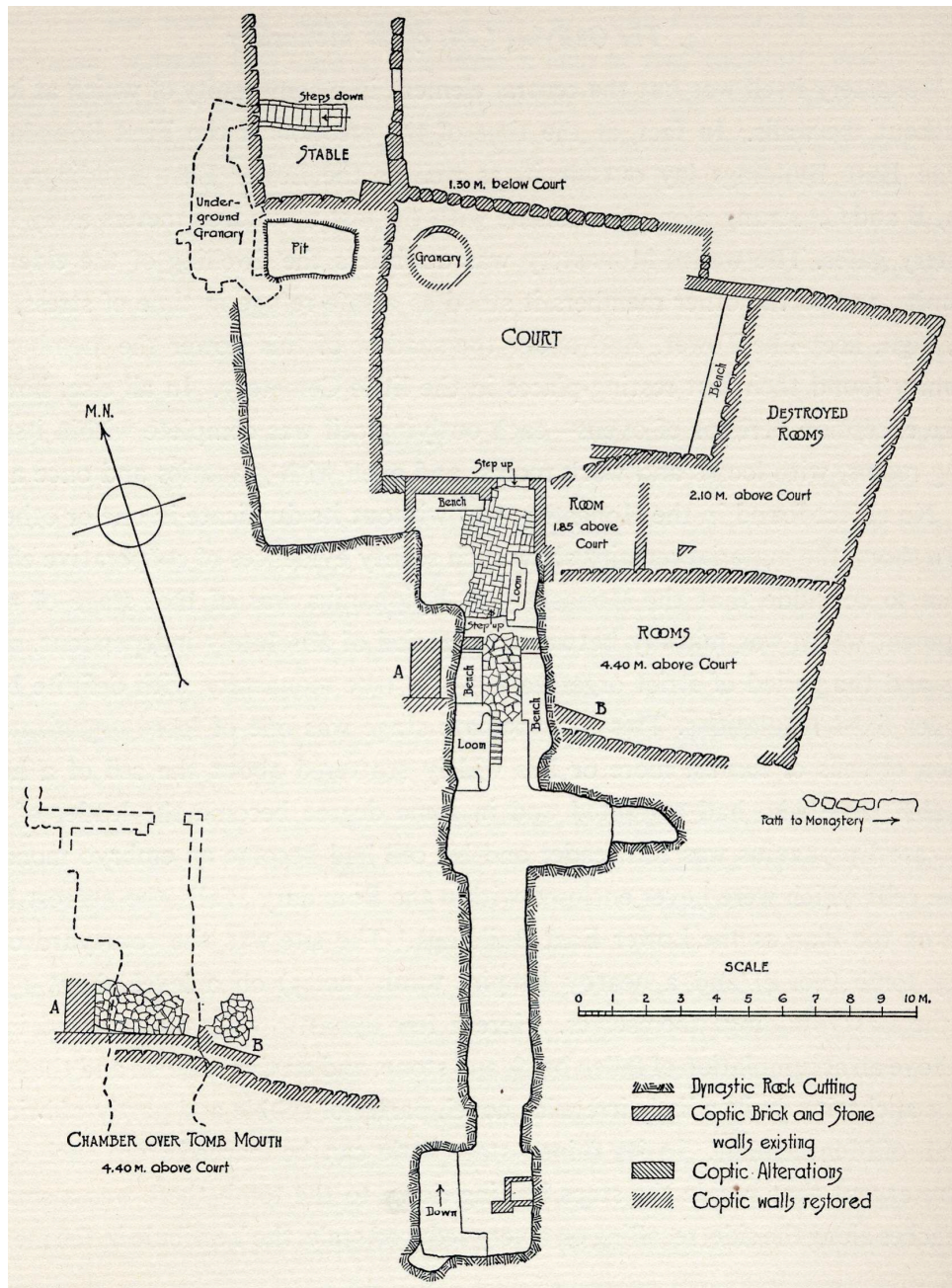


Plate 2

