

**THE  
OXYRHYNCHUS  
PAPYRI. PART I**

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The Oxyrhynchus Papyri. Part I by Bernard P. Grenfell & Arthur S. Hunt

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**BERNARD P. GRENFELL & ARTHUR S. HUNT**

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*GRENFELL AND HUNT*



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EGYPT EXPLORATION FUND

GRAECO-ROMAN BRANCH

Graeco-Roman Branch

THE  
OXYRHYNCHUS PAPYRI  
PART I

*EDITED WITH TRANSLATIONS AND NOTES*

BY

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## PREFACE

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THE hundred and fifty-eight texts included in this first volume of the Oxyrhynchus Papyri are selected from the twelve or thirteen hundred documents at Oxford in good or fair preservation which up to the present time we have been able to examine, and from the hundred and fifty rolls left at the Gizeh Museum.

The bulk of the collection, amounting to about four-fifths of the whole, has not yet been unpacked. The selected texts have been chosen partly to illustrate the scope and variety of the collection, partly because their comparative completeness rendered the task of editing them less difficult; for the question of time has been a pressing one. We may perhaps be allowed to draw our readers' attention to the fact that the interval between the arrival of the papyri in England and the completion of this book has been less than eleven months, and that besides deciphering and commenting on the texts contained in it we have, at the request of several subscribers to the Graeco-Roman Branch, in most cases given translations. It has of course been impossible in the limited time at our disposal to solve many of the problems of restoration and interpretation which beset any fresh

collection of papyri, and especially one coming from a new site and abounding in novelties of all kinds. The rapidity of its publication will, we hope, be regarded as some excuse for the shortcomings of this volume.

The texts now published fall into two classes, the literary and the non-literary. The examples of the former are probably a good specimen of what may be expected in future volumes. It is not very likely that we shall find another poem of Sappho, still less that we shall come across another page of the 'Logia.' The chances against any individual discovery of great value are always considerable. But we have no reason for thinking that the surprises to come will be much less exciting than those which have gone before.

In editing the new fragments of Greek classical literature, at once the most interesting and the most difficult part of this volume, we have had the assistance of Professor F. BLASS, who visited Oxford last July, and with whom we have since been in frequent correspondence. We tender him here our warmest thanks for his generosity in placing at our disposal his rare combination of profound scholarship, palaeographical skill, and brilliancy of imagination.

Of the non-literary papyri, which range over the first seven centuries A.D. and are of a very miscellaneous character, those of the sixth and seventh centuries have been kept distinct from those belonging to the centuries preceding. Within these groups chronological order has not been observed, but documents have been roughly arranged according to subject. In future volumes we hope to proceed on a more definitely chronological system.

To the hundred and fifty-eight texts here given we have added