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THE MICHAELIDES MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION

aus: Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik 100 (1994) 223–226

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THE MICHAELIDES MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION¹

This article deals with the current location of part of the collection of Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Armenian, Coptic, Demotic, Hieratic, Greek and Latin manuscripts originally owned by the late George Michaelides, and appeals for information on manuscripts, especially Coptic, Demotic and Greek, from this collection which are not now in the British Library (BL), British Museum (BM) or Cambridge University Library (CUL).

My primary interest in this collection lies with the Coptic manuscripts now in the BL and CUL which I have been cataloguing and editing and which I have already discussed elsewhere.² As one of the Coptic,³ and some of the Arabic, Demotic and Greek (see below), manuscripts from this collection are not now in the BL, BM or CUL, it may be useful to give a short report on the Michaelides manuscripts in these institutions.⁴

Accession details

The manuscript collection of George Michaelides, who died in 1973,⁵ is well known to students of Arabic, Demotic, and Greek papyrology. Artefacts from his collection are now to be found in museums all over Europe, but the manuscripts are now mainly in two British collections. CUL acquired a large part of this collection in two instalments in May and October 1977, comprising texts written in Arabic (see below), Persian, Turkish,⁶ Coptic, Demotic (see below), Hieratic, Greek (see below), and Latin. It must be pointed out that the inventory numbers given in this article for CUL material are only temporary, and that, in most cases, they represent the Michaelides numbers recorded on the manuscripts when they were acquired by the library.⁷

In 1976 the Department of Egyptian Antiquities of the BM acquired a number of Michaelides Demotic papyri (including BM EA 10845-59).⁸ In April 1979 the Oriental Collections of the BL

¹ I am grateful to Mrs Jill Butterworth of Cambridge University Library for help with the compilation of this article, and to the Syndics of Cambridge University Library and the British Library Board for granting me permission to study and publish their manuscripts.

² S.J. Clackson, "The Michaelides Manuscript Collection in the Cambridge University Library and British Library", in *Proceedings of the Fifth International Congress of Coptic Studies, Washington D.C., August 12-15 1992* (forthcoming).

³ Referred to in J. Drescher, "A new Coptic month", *JEA* 46 (1960), 111.

⁴ See L.S.B. MacCoull, "Coptic Egypt during the Persian Occupation. The papyrological evidence", *Studi classici e orientali* 36 (1986), 310 n. 14 for a query as to the whereabouts of this collection.

⁵ See the entry for him in the forthcoming new edition by M. Bierbrier of *Who was who in Egyptology*. I wish to acknowledge my thanks to Dr Bierbrier and Peter Clayton for helping me with my enquiries about the late Mr Michaelides.

⁶ The Turkish material consists of a handful of letters. There are also a few papyrus fragments with what looks like Armenian script on them.

⁷ It is possible that numbers were changed while still in the possession of Mr Michaelides. Numbers beginning with the letter Q have been temporarily assigned by CUL in the absence of the original Michaelides number.

⁸ For accession details, see J. Bourriau, "Egyptian antiquities acquired in 1976 by museums in the United Kingdom", *JEA* 64 (1978), 126 no. 84, and id., "Museum acquisitions, 1977. Egyptian antiquities acquired in 1977 by museums in the United Kingdom", *JEA* 65 (1979), 153-4 nos. 55-68.

acquired Arabic (BL Or. 13884), Armenian (BL Or. 13889), Coptic (BL Or. 13884, 13885, 13886, 13888), Demotic (BL Or. 13884), and Hebrew (BL Or. 13887-13889) manuscripts from this collection.⁹ The Department of Western Manuscripts of the BL acquired Greek (see below) and Latin manuscripts at around this time.¹⁰

Michaelides Arabic manuscripts in CUL¹¹

The Arabic material forms the bulk of the Michaelides collection acquired by the library, consisting of over 700 papyrus and 600 paper manuscripts, as well as five linen and four wood items, and some tiny fragments of inscribed silk.¹² Most of the manuscripts are of non-literary content, predominantly business and private letters, but there is also a substantial number of legal documents and literary texts.¹³ Only a small proportion of this material has been published.¹⁴ All periods are represented, the earliest dated document being a bill of release from Rajab 88 A.H. (707 A.D.). One text is a trilingual (Arabic, Coptic and Greek) *πιττάκιον*, with an Arabic date of Jumada II A.H. 136 (December 753-4 A.D.). There are five linen envelopes for letters bearing the names of the senders and recipients, and six examples of block-printing on paper, two printed in two colours. P. Michaelides 32, a manuscript published in 1958, is not to be found in the BL or CUL collections.¹⁵

For descriptions and publication details, see *Lexikon der Ägyptologie (LÄ)* IV (1982), coll. 838-50 "Papyri, Demotische, London, British Museum (BM)", nos. A3, B4-5, C4, D4-6, D12, E3-5, F12, F17-18a and b. BM EA 10849 has since been published in E. Cruz-Urbe, C.F. Nims, "Troubles with a debt: an Egyptian papyrus document", *JNES* 49 (1990), 281-90; and BM EA 10857 was published in Abd-El-Gawal Migahid, *Demotische Briefe an Götter von der Spätzeit bis zur Römerzeit. Ein Beitrag zur Kenntnis des religiösen Brauchtums im alten Ägypten* vol. 1 (Würzburg, 1987), 122-9 Urk. 10 (and BM EA 10845 was re-edited, pp. 115-21 Urk. 9).

⁹ For information, apply to the Oriental and India Office Collections of the British Library, 197 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NG.

¹⁰ For information, apply to the Department of Western Manuscripts, British Library, Great Russell Street, London, WC1B 3DG.

¹¹ I am grateful to Dr Geoffrey Khan for providing me with information on these manuscripts.

¹² Note that almost a thousand items have been added to this collection since they were mentioned in A. Grohmann, *Papyrusurkunden (Handbuch der Orientalistik. ed. B. Spuler, Abteilung 1, Ergänzungsband II, Halbband 1.2; Leiden/Cologne, 1966)*, 67-8. The silk items are referred to in Grohmann, *Arabische Paläographie I (Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften. Phil.-hist. Klasse. Denkschriften 94, vol. 1. Forschungen zur islamischen Geschichte 1; Vienna, 1967)*, 106a.

¹³ An informal seminar of four scholars made an initial sorting of the Arabic material into various categories, and an incomplete, unpublished card catalogue of the Cambridge material was compiled by S.A. Hopkins. Further information on this material may be obtained from the Near Eastern and Indian Section, Cambridge University Library, West Rd, Cambridge, CB3 9DR.

¹⁴ Most recently G. Khan published CUL Michaelides P. 1397, A. 43, and A. 767 in "The historical development of the structure of medieval Arabic petitions", *BSOAS* 53 (1990), 8-20; and CUL Michaelides (charta) A. 169 in "A petition to the Fāṭimid Caliph Al-ʿĀmir", *JRAS* 1990 no. 1, 44-54.

¹⁵ See A. Grohmann, "The problem of dating early Qurʾāns", *Der Islam* 33 (1958), 213-31, esp. 222-9; this text has recently been reproduced in B. Gruendler, *The development of the Arabic scripts from the Nabatean Era to the First Islamic Century according to dated texts (Harvard Semitic Studies 43; Atlanta, Georgia, 1993)*, 169.

Michaelides Greek manuscripts in CUL

There are about 100 inventory numbers for manuscripts bearing Greek text of which the following six and a half were published in D.S. Crawford, *Papyri Michaelidae* (Aberdeen, 1955) (*P. Michael.*):¹⁶

<i>P. Michael.</i>	CUL Michael. no.	<i>P. Michael.</i>	CUL Michael. no.
12	1263	28	859
20	858	45 ll. 23 -76	"pink" 2
25	1085	51	857
27	1280		

The provenance of the unpublished Greek texts is unknown.¹⁷ They date from the Ist - VIth Century A.D. and comprise mainly non-literary fragments on papyrus, although there is some literary material, and one paper text. Just under a quarter of them are lists or accounts. CUL Michael. 1073 contains recipes for ophthalmic preparations, including one for psorophthalmia. CUL Michael. 1048/2 mentions a monastery of Apa Apollo.¹⁸

Michaelides Greek manuscripts in the BL

Among the Greek manuscripts from this collection the BL possesses are the following twenty-four and a half manuscripts published in *P. Michael.*:¹⁹

<i>P. Michael.</i>	P. Lond. inv. no.	<i>P. Michael.</i>	P. Lond. inv. no.
7	3100	38	3110
8	3100	39	3111
9	3101	44	3112
13	3102	45 ll. 1-22	3113
16	3103	46	3084
17	3103	47	3114
18	3104	48	3115
23	3105	49	3114
29	3106	55	3116
33	3107	56	3117
35	3108	57	3114
37	3109	59	3114

P. Michael. no. 62 is now BL Add. ms. 60496.

¹⁶ I wish to thank Dr Dorothy Thompson for compiling this list and passing it on to me.

¹⁷ The only clue to provenance I have found is in an article written by George Michaelides in 1952 which refers to fellahin bringing him Greek and Coptic papyri from the Faiyum, see G. Michailides, "Papyrus contenant un dessin du dieu Seth à tête d'âne", *Aegyptus* 32 (1952), 45.

¹⁸ I am currently working on a doctoral thesis at University College London on the subject of Coptic and Greek documents relating to the monasteries of Apa Apollo.

¹⁹ I am grateful to T.S. Pattie for compiling this list which was included in a letter to D.J. Thompson 29/vi/79.

Together the BL and CUL lists given above represent only 31 of the 127 items published in *P. Michael*. I would be most grateful for any information on the current whereabouts of the other 96 items.

Michaelides Hieratic and Demotic manuscripts in CUL²⁰

The library has 24 inventory numbers for papyrus, wood and linen items bearing Hieratic or Demotic text from this collection. Only three of the Demotic items have been published: two papyri, CUL Michael. 1167,²¹ and 1168,²² and a wood item, CUL Michael. x4.²³ I do not know the whereabouts of five published Demotic manuscripts from the Michaelides Collection.²⁴

Addendum

The following information came to my attention after submitting the above article for publication.²⁵

In Januar 1967 the Papyrological Institute at Leiden acquired *P. Michael*. 52 (now Pap. Inst. Leiden inv. 247) from the dealer J. Möger of Soestdijk in the Netherlands. Other manuscripts purchased by the Institute from Möger in 1966 and 1967 may also have come from the Michaelides Collection. These include two unpublished Demotic manuscripts; a few unpublished Greek fragments; and the following published Greek Manuscripts:

P.L.Bat. XVII 4; *P.L.Bat.* XIX 21; and *P.L.Bat.* XXV 6, 9, 19, 21, 32, 38, 42,²⁶ 44, 55, 56, 38, 62, 66, 67, 69, 81, 82, 84,²⁷ 86, 87, 88, 90, 93, 98, 99, and 107.

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²⁰ For accession details, see Bourriau, *JEA* 65 (1979), 153 n. 2.

²¹ No. 7 in *LÄ* IV (1982), col. 853 "Papyri, Demotische, Slg. Michaelides".

²² No. 8 in *LÄ* loc. cit.

²³ Edited by M. Malinine, "Une lettre démotique à Aménothès, fils de Hapou", *Revue d'Égyptologie* 14 (1962), 37-43, pl. 2; and re-edited in Migahid, op. cit., 134-6 Urk. 12.

²⁴ These are described in *LÄ* loc. cit. nos. 2-6.

²⁵ I am grateful to Dr Francisca Hoogendijk for compiling this information; to Professor Dieter Hagedorn for sending it to me; to Dr. Swen Vleeming for sending me a list similar to the one given here. Mr Peter van Minnen also deserves thanks for pointing out the existence of ex-Michaelides Collection manuscripts in the Papyrological Institute at Leiden.

²⁶ Note that the accession date given in the edition of this text is 1939.

²⁷ See note 26.