



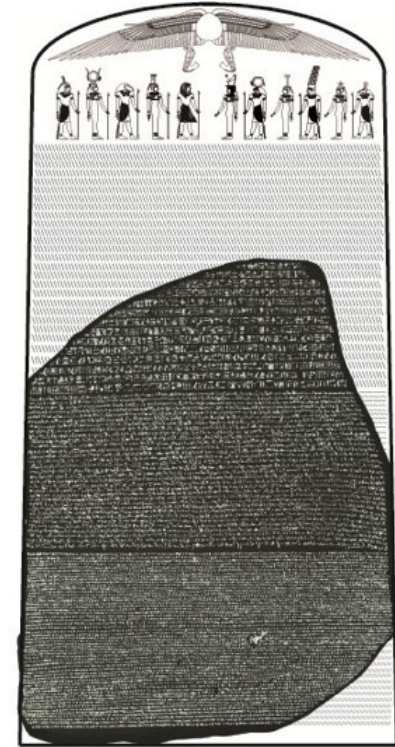
The Digital Rosetta Stone: textual alignment and linguistic annotation

Monica Berti (Leipzig)
Franziska Naether (ISAW New York / Leipzig)
Julia Jushaninowa (Leipzig)
Giuseppe G.A. Celano (Leipzig)
Polina Yordanova (Sofia)



The Rosetta Stone

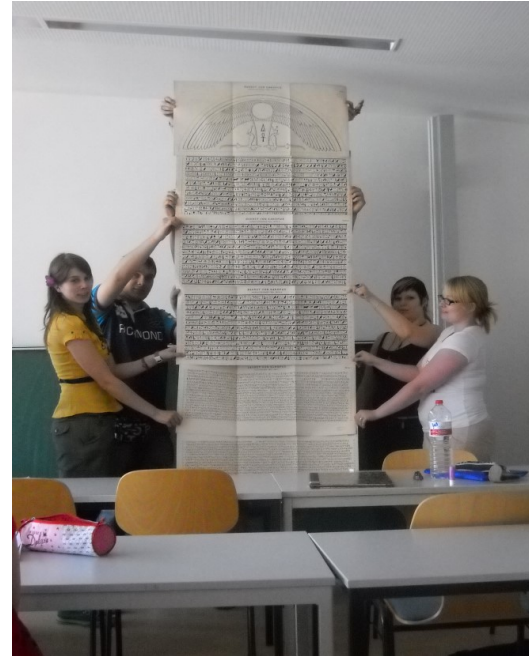
- Many people know it... but who knows what's written on it?
- Landmark of deciphering of Egyptian (Champollion 1822, iconic object of the British Museum)
- Content: Decree with decisions of a priestly synode, similar documents known from Ptolemaic Egypt
- Trilingual: Hieroglyphic, Demotic, Greek
- rarely included in teaching
- Humboldt Universität Berlin: creation of a digital transliteration and translation (XML) with interlinear morphemic glossing (Leipzig Glossing Rules): the [Rosetta Stone Online](#)



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Facts & Figures

- Date: 196 BC
- Ruler: time of king Ptolemy V (in his first year of reign, 13 years old)
- Findspot: Rosette (town in the Nile Delta, Lower Egypt)
- Material: granodiorite
- Measurements today: $114.4 \times 72.3 \times 27.93$ cm
($45 \times 28.5 \times 11$ in), maybe ca.150cm/59 high in total
- Other names: Rosettana, The Memphis Decree
- BM EA 24, OGIS 1, 90, TM 8809



Students from Leipzig with plates (original size) from the edition of Lepsius of the Kanopos decree); photo: Naether

- found: August 1799 by the French general Boussard
- erected in the fort
- kept 2 years in the private house of the governor in Alexandria
- 1799-1801/2: Egyptian campaign of Napoleon
- first facsimile in ink
- 1801: fell into the possession of the major general Turner (UK)
- since 1802 in the British Museum



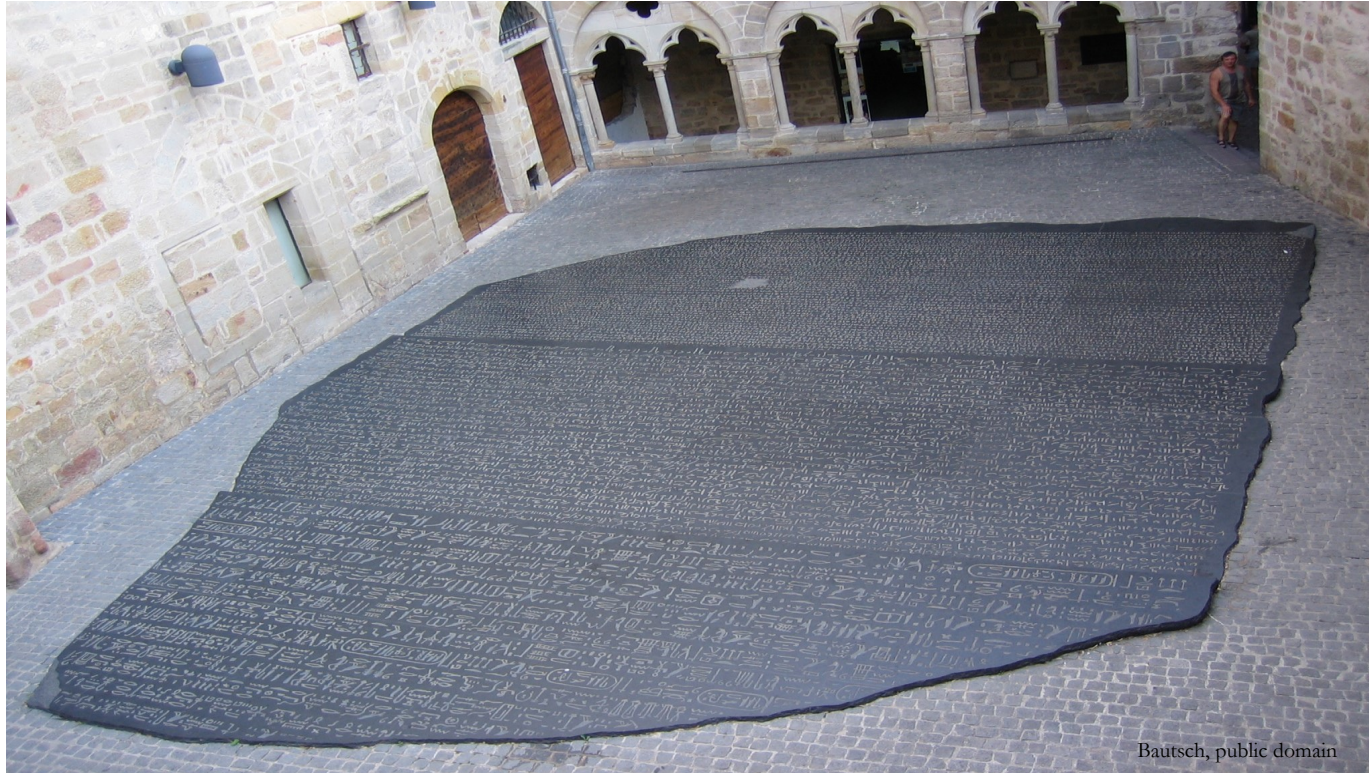
Copy in London, Copy in Rosetta



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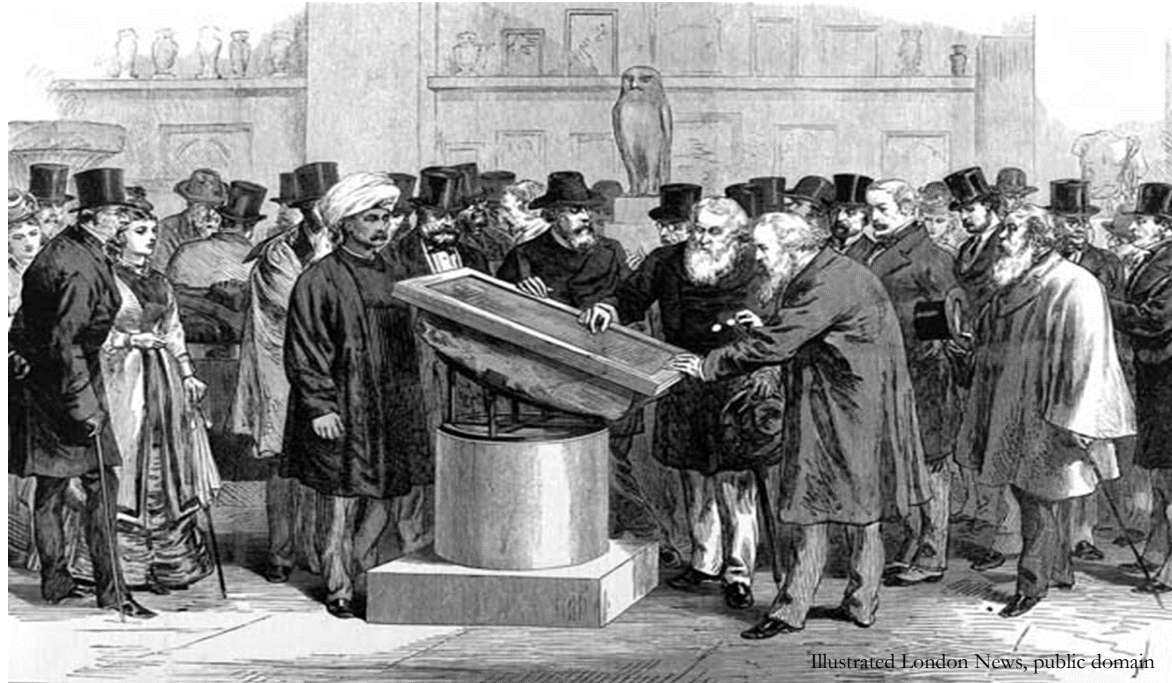
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Bautsch, public domain

Reproduction in Champollion's hometown Figeac (near Grenoble)

International Congress of Orientalists, 1874



Deciphering the hieroglyphs

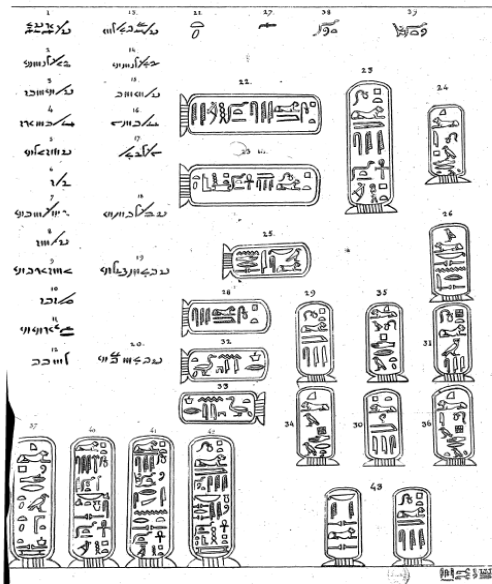
α... 3... 3... (a, kay)	ο... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3...
β... 4...	τ... 3... 3... 3...
γ... 5... (κ)	υ... 1... 2... 3...
δ... 6... (τ)	φ... 3... 3... 3... 3... mod.
ε... 1... 2... 3... (a, b, c)	χ... 3...
ζ... 3... 3... 3... (a, b, c)	ψ... 2... 3... (a, b, c)
η... 3... 3... 3... 3... (a, b, c)	ω... (a, b, c) 3... 3... 3...
θ... 3... 3... 3... 3...	ϙ... 3... 3... 3... 3...
ι... 3... 3... 3... 3...	ϛ... 3... 3... 3... 3...
κ... 3... 3... 3... 3...	ϝ... 3... 3... 3... 3...
λ... 3... 3... 3... 3...	ϟ... 3... 3... 3... 3...
μ... 3... 3... 3... 3...	Ϡ... 3... 3... 3... 3...
ν... 3... 3... 3... 3...	ϡ... 3... 3... 3... 3...
ξ... 3... 3... 3... 3...	Ϣ... 3... 3... 3... 3...
ο... 3... 3... 3... 3...	ϣ... 3... 3... 3... 3...
π... 3... 3... 3... 3...	Ϥ... 3... 3... 3... 3...
ρ... 3... 3... 3... 3...	ϥ... 3... 3... 3... 3...

J. D. Akerblad (DK), like Th. Young (UK) mainly working on the Demotic version

*Tableau des Signes Phonétiques
Des Écritures Hiéroglyphique & Démotique des anciens Égyptiens*

Lettes Romaines	Signes Démotiques	Signes Hiéroglyphiques
A	3... 3...	3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3...
B	3... 3...	3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3...
Γ	3... 3...	3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3...
Δ	3... 3...	3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3...
E	3... 3...	3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3...
Z	3... 3...	3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3...
H	3... 3... 3... 3...	3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3...
Θ	3... 3...	3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3...
I	3... 3...	3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3...
K	3... 3... 3... 3...	3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3...
Λ	3... 3... 3... 3...	3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3...
M	3... 3...	3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3...
N	3... 3... 3... 3...	3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3...
Ξ	3... 3...	3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3...
O	3... 3... 3... 3...	3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3...
Π	3... 3... 3... 3...	3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3...
P	3... 3...	3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3...
Σ	3... 3... 3... 3...	3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3...
T	3... 3... 3... 3...	3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3...
Υ	3... 3...	3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3...
Φ	3... 3...	3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3...
Χ	3... 3...	3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3...
Ψ	3... 3...	3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3...
Ω	3... 3...	3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3... 3...

Jean-François Champollion (1822); Lettre à M. Dacier



Source gallica.bnf.fr / Bibliothèque nationale de France



Champollion (1790-1832)

[Joconde database](#): entry [000PE000522](#), public domain

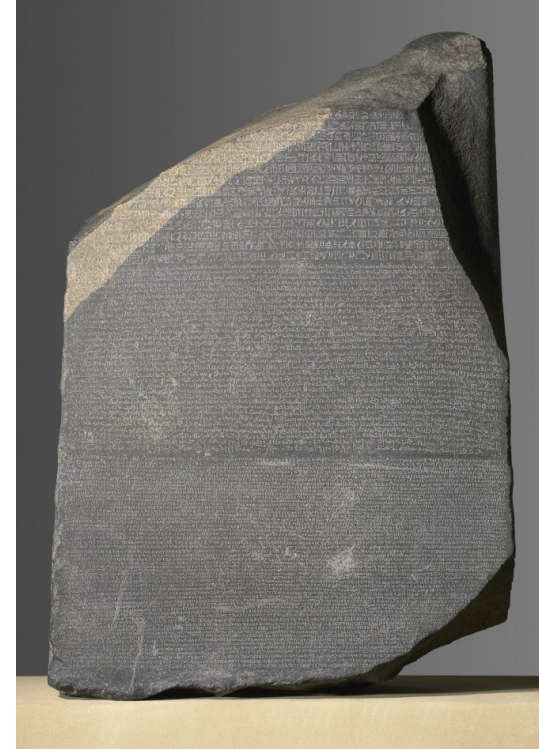
Greek Epigraphy was much quicker!

ΕΝ-----28
ΟΟΟΝΙ-----29
ΟΙΣΕΛΕ-----30
ΝΤΩΝΕΙΣ-----31
ΙΣΟΜΕΝΩΝ-----32
ΕΚΑΙΛΥΤΡΙ-----33
ΟΥΣΙΝΕΙΣΤΟ-----34
ΑΡΑΠΑΝΤΑ-----35
ΛΥΤΙΜΙΑΤΕΛΕΙΝ-----36
ΡΕΤΩΝΚΑΙΤΑ-----37
ΝΑΝΕΣΤΑΤΩΤΟΝ-----38
ΝΑΤΟΝΕΠΙΧΩΡΙΟΝ-----39
ΕΝΔΕΟΡΤΑΙΣΚΑΙΠΑ-----40
ΧΡΗΣΟΥΝΕΚΑΣΤΩΤΩΝ-----41
ΕΥΚΑΡΙΣΤΟΥΝΑΟΝΕΥΝΕ-----42
ΙΣΚΑΡΑΙΕΡΚΑΙΕΠΙΠΑΣΩΝ-----43
ΜΟΞΙΑΠΕΙΟΝΟΠΛΕΣΧΥΝ-----44
ΧΡΥΣΑΕΝΟΙΣΓΕΓΡΑΦΕΤΑΙΔΙΟ-----45
ΚΑΙ ΤΗΝ (ἀρίστη: ὁ μὲν καὶ ἡ ἡμέρα)-----46
ΡΤΗΝΚΑΙΠΑΝΗΓΥΡΙΜΕΝΤΟΙΣΚΑΤΑΙ-----47
ΟΡΕΣΙΣΔΙΔΟΝΔΙΤΟΙΣΙΕΡΕΥΣΙΝΤΟΙΣΤΑ-----48
ΝΙΑΥΤΟΝΚΑΤΑΤΗΝΤΕΑΝΩΚΑΙΤΗΝΚΑΤΩ-----49
ΕΥΕΙΝΔΕΤΟΥΣΙΕΡΕΙΣΤΟΥΤΕΛΙΩΝΟΒΙΟΥ-----50
ΥΣΕΙΓΜΑΤΙΣΜΟΥΣΤΟΥΣΑΝΗΚΟΝΤΑΣΕΙΣΤΗΝ-----51
ΛΟΥΝΤΑΣΤΑΠΡΟΣΗΚΟΝΤΑΝΟΜΙΜΑΕΝΤΑΣΕΟΡΤΑΙΣ-----52
ΕΣΤΙΝΤΟΔΕΥΗΦΙΣΝΑΤΟΥΤΟΑΝΑΓΡΑΨΑΙΕΙΣΤΗΝΑΝΜΕΑ-----53
ΩΓΕΩΝΙΕΡΛΙ-----54

First
reconstruction of
the Greek version
by R. Porson
(1803)

The Digital Rosetta Stone

- Why not making the Rosetta Stone a “poster boy” to show what DH can do by including all languages?
- Collaboration with HU Berlin, exchange of data
- Next step: collaboration with the British Museum, high-res photos
- Goals:
 - annotating the picture
 - aligning the three versions of the text
 - annotating morphology and syntax
- within the framework of LOFTS (Leipzig Open Fragmentary Texts Series, <http://www.dh.uni-leipzig.de/wo/lofts/>)



http://www.britishmuseum.org/research/collection_online/collection_object_details.aspx?objectId=117631&partId=1

Digital Rosetta Stone: textual alignment

□ manual word alignment using Perseids



A COLLABORATIVE EDITING PLATFORM FOR SOURCE DOCUMENTS IN CLASSICS

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NEWS & UPDATES

INSTRUCTIONS ▾

PROJECTS ▾

WORKFLOWS ▾

MEETINGS ▾

The Perseids platform allows students and scholars to collaborate on digital editions and annotations. After successfully completing a first phase of development, Perseids is now poised to support the elal the Humanities in the US and abroad. The cornerstone of this initiative is the integration of teach emulating the way students participate in research teams in the natural sciences. In order to rea areas:

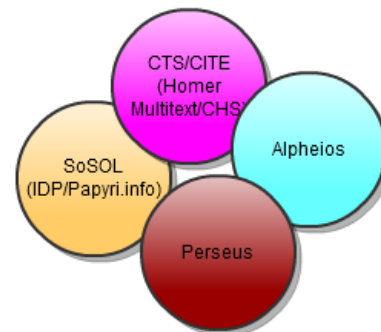
- 1) Collaboration, sharing, and reuse
- 2) Assessment methods
- 3) Data ownership and quality control
- 4) Complex annotation and publication workflows

Read more here, or just [login](#) and try it out!

This project has received support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Tufts University, the [HD-51548-12] and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.



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-New

Publication	Passage Text	Transcription Text (EpiDoc)	Translation Text (EpiDoc)	Text Annotations	Commentary Annotation	Treebank Annotation	Alignment Annotation	Annotation	Annotation (JSON-LD)
Translation Alignment Collection/20151027/3	-	-	-	-	-	-	Rosetta stone Germ-Engl line 7-8	-	-
Translation Alignment Collection/20151027/2	-	-	-	-	-	-	Rosetta stone Hierogl. part line 8	-	-
Translation Alignment Collection/20151027/1	-	-	-	-	-	-	Rosetta stone Hierogl. part line 7	-	-
Translation Alignment Collection/20151026/2	-	-	-	-	-	-	Rosetta stone Hierogl. part line 7-8	-	-
Translation Alignment Collection/20151013/4	-	-	-	-	-	-	Rosetta part 2.1	-	-
Translation Alignment Collection/2015914/7	-	-	-	-	-	-	test1_rosetta	-	-

Enter Metadata:[Switch to prior version of this form](#)

Alignment title:*alignmenttitlehint*

Enter Text in Language 1:
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Language 1:

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*Please use ISO 639-2 or ISO 639-3 three-letter codes for any other languages

Other*:

Language 2:

[Click to toggle advanced options...](#)

Other*:

Rosetta stone, hieroglyphic part, line 7-8

- ❑ shrine + statue in every temple → royal cult
- ❑ testifies the establishment of the cult of Ptolemy V



Navigation controls: buttons for first, previous, next, last, and a text input field for "Go to sentence number" with a "Sentence list" button.

Action buttons: "Save sentence", "< Undo", "Redo >", "Add Comment", "Export XML", and "Export Display".

☐ Show interlinear text

Und man soll ein Kultbild des Königs von Ober - und Unterägypten Ptol [emaios ...] erschaffen [...] [und einen] prächtigen [Naos] aus Elektrum , mit jedem wahren Edelstein ausgelegt , in allen betreffenden Tempeln , der im heiligen Raum mit den Schreinen der Gaugötter ruht .

And they are to fashion a cult statue of the king of Upper and Lower Egypt Ptol [emy...] [...] [and an] august [shrine] in electrum , inlaid with every true precious stone , in all temples in question , to rest in the sacred room with the shrines of the nome gods .

□ Alpheios alignment editor - basic functionalities

 **ALPHEIOS**

⏮

⏪

1

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Go to sentence number

Sentence list

Save sentence

< Undo

Redo >

Add Comment

Export XML

Export Display

☐ Show interlinear text

mtw =tw ms (. t) shm n (. j) (n) sw - bjt
Ptwl [mys ...]

And they are to fashion a cult statue of the king of Upper and
Lower Egypt Ptol [emy...]

 **ALPHEIOS**

⏮

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1

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Go to sentence number

Sentence list

Save sentence

< Undo

Redo >

Add Comment

Export XML

Export Display

☐ Show interlinear text

[...] šps m đam mh m a. At nb n (. j) mAa m r
' . (w) - pr nb hr m =f htp m bw - đsr hna kAr .
(w) n (. w) ntr . (w) spA . t . (. jw)

[...] [and an] august [shrine] in electrum , inlaid with
every true precious stone , in all temples in question , to rest
in the sacred room with the shrines of the nome gods .

□ Alpheios alignment editor - aligning one word with one word

 **ALPHEIOS**

1 1 1 1 Go to sentence number [Sentence list](#)

[Save sentence](#) [Undo](#) [Redo](#) [Add Comment](#) [Export XML](#) [Export Display](#) ☐ Show interlinear text

mtw =tw ms (. t) shm n (. j) (n) sw - bjt	And they are to fashion a cult statue of the king of Upper and
Ptwl [mys ...]	Lower Egypt Ptol [emy...]

 **ALPHEIOS**

1 1 1 1 Go to sentence number [Sentence list](#)

[Save sentence](#) [Undo](#) [Redo](#) [Add Comment](#) [Export XML](#) [Export Display](#) ☐ Show interlinear text

[...] šps m dam mh m a. At nb n (. j) mAa m r	[...] [and an] august [shrine] in electrum , inlaid with
' . (w) - pr nb hr m =f htp m bw - dsr hna kAr .	every true precious stone , in all temples in question , to rest
(w) n (. w) ntr . (w) spA . t . (. jw)	in the sacred room with the shrines of the nome gods .

□ Alpheios alignment editor - aligning one word to two words

 **ALPHEIOS**

1 1 Go to sentence number [Sentence list](#)

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mtw =tw ms (. t) shm n (. j) (n) sw - bjt		And they are to fashion a cult statue of the king of Upper and
Ptwl [mys ...]		Lower Egypt Ptol [emy...]

 **ALPHEIOS**

1 1 Go to sentence number [Sentence list](#)

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[...] šps m dam mh m a. At nb n (. j) mAa m r		[...] [and an] august [shrine] in electrum , inlaid with
' . (w) - pr nb hr m =f htp m bw - dsr hna kAr .		every true precious stone , in all temples in question , to rest
(w) n (. w) ntr . (w) spA . t . (. jw)		in the sacred room with the shrines of the nome gods .

□ Alpheios alignment editor - aligning multiple words with multiple words

 **ALPHEIOS**

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mtw =tw ms (. t) shm n (. j) (n) sw - bjt		And they are to fashion a cult statue of the king of Upper and
Ptwl [mys ...]		Lower Egypt Ptol [emy...]

 **ALPHEIOS**

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[...] \$ps m dam mh m a. At nb n (. j) mAa m r		[...] [and an] august [shrine] in electrum , inlaid with
' . (w) - pr nb hr m =f htp m bw - dsr hna kAr .		every true precious stone , in all temples in question , to rest
(w) n (. w) ntr . (w) spA . t . (. jw)		in the sacred room with the shrines of the nome gods .

□ Alpheios alignment editor - examples showing cross-linking

 **ALPHEIOS**

1 < 1 > 1 < 1 >

Go to sentence number

Sentence list

Save sentence

< Undo

Redo >

Add Comment

Export XML

Export Display

☐ Show interlinear text

Und man soll ein Kultbild des Königs von Ober - und Unterägypten Ptol [emaios ...] erschaffen [...] [und einen] prächtigen [Naos] aus Elektrum , mit jedem wahren Edelstein ausgelegt , in allen betreffenden Tempeln , der im heiligen Raum mit den Schreinen der Gaugötter ruht .

And they are to fashion a cult statue of the king of Upper and Lower Egypt Ptol [emy...] [...] [and an] august [shrine] in electrum , inlaid with every true precious stone , in all temples in question , to rest in the sacred room with the shrines of the nome gods .

 **ALPHEIOS**

1 < 1 > 1 < 1 >

Go to sentence number

Sentence list

Save sentence

< Undo

Redo >

Add Comment

Export XML

Export Display

☐ Show interlinear text

mtw =tw ms (. t) šhm n (. j) (n) sw - bjt
Ptwl [mys ...] [...] šps m đam mh m aA . t nb n
(. j) mAa m r ' . (w) - pr nb hr m =f htp m
bw đsr hna kAr (. w) n (. w) ntr (. w) spA .
t . (. jw)

And they are to fashion a cult statue of the king of Upper and Lower Egypt Ptol [emy ...] [...] [and an] august [shrine] in electrum , inlaid with every true precious stone , in all temples in question , to rest in the sacred room with the shrines of the nome gods .

□ Issues:

- add additional features for textual annotation → e.g. comments on grammar
- feature allowing to change the translation after entering the alignment editor
- arrangement of interlinear text + labelling of symbols such as lacunae, brackets, characters etc.
- Unicode + implementation of hieroglyphs

ID no.	Concordance	Original spelling	Spelling analysis	Traditional transliteration	Glossing transliteration	Linguistic gloss	Word by word	Wort für Wort	Translation				
00	PTOL_1305	PTOL_1310	PTOL_1315	PTOL_1320	PTOL_1325	PTOL_1330	PTOL_1335	PTOL_1340	PTOL_1345	PTOL_1350	PTOL_1355	PTOL_1360	PTOL_1365
PART_240: DEM GR													
	m-w-t	w-t	ms-s	s-xxx	n	sw-t-BEE/bjt-t	CL-p-t-w-ḥt-mḥ-[y-s-CL]		NOBLE/šps-s	m	ḡ□m	mḥ	
	mtw	=tw	ms(t)	sḥm	n(t)	(n)sw-bjt	Ptw[mys]	[...]	x+8[...]	šps	m	ḡ□m	mḥ
	mtw	-tw	ms	sḥm	nī	nsw_bjt	Ptwlmys			šps	m	ḡ□m	mḥ
	COORD	-IMPRS	give_birth:INF	(divine)_image(M)[SG]	of	King_of_United_Egypt(M)[SG]	Ptolemy(M)		noble(M.SG)	in=	electrum(M)[SG]	inlay:PTC	
	and	one	create	divine_image	of	King_of_United_Egypt	Ptolemy		noble	of=	electrum	inlayed	
	und	man	erschaffen	Götterbild	von	König_des_Vereinigten_Ägypten	Ptolemaios		prächtiger	aus=	Elektrum	eingeleget	

and they are to fashion a cult statue of the king of Upper and Lower Egypt Ptolemy... (8) [...] an august [shrine] in electrum, inlaid with every true precious stone, in all the temples in question,



Alpheios alignment editor - interlinear text

1 1 1 1 Go to sentence number Sentence list

Save sentence < Undo Redo > Add Comment Export XML Export Display

☒ Show interlinear text

mtw =tw ms (. t) shm n (. j) (the king of Upper and Lower Egypt) the king of Upper and Lower Egypt) the king of Upper and Lower Egypt) the king of Upper and Lower Egypt) the king of Upper and Lower Egypt) the king of Upper and Lower Egypt) Ptwl [mys ...]

And they are to fashion a cult statue of the king of Upper and Lower Egypt Ptol [emy...]

[...] sps august m dam mh inlaid m a precious stone At precious stone nb every n (. j) mAa m r temples ' temples temples (temples w temples) temples - temples pr temples nb

hr m =f htp rest m bw the sacred room - the sacred room dsr the sacred room hna kAr the shrines the shrines (the shrines w the shrines) the shrines n (. w) ntr the gods the gods (the gods w the gods) the gods spA . t . (. jw)

[...] [and an] august [shrine] in electrum , inlaid mh with every true precious stone , in all temples in question , to rest in

the sacred room with the shrines of the nome gods .
bw bw bw
dsr dsr dsr
the (w w) kAr kAr
the (w w) ntr ntr

Digital Rosetta Stone: linguistic annotation

Basic statistics for the Ancient Greek text

- 29 sentences
- 1681 tokens
- 1514 words
- 52.28 words per sentence (average)

Linguistic annotation for the Ancient Greek text

Three levels of linguistic annotation

- morphology
- syntax
- semantics

Annotation example for the 1st sentence of the Greek text of the Rosetta Stone
<http://www.perseids.org/tools/arethusa/app/#/perseids?chunk=1&doc=26671>

ARETHUSA

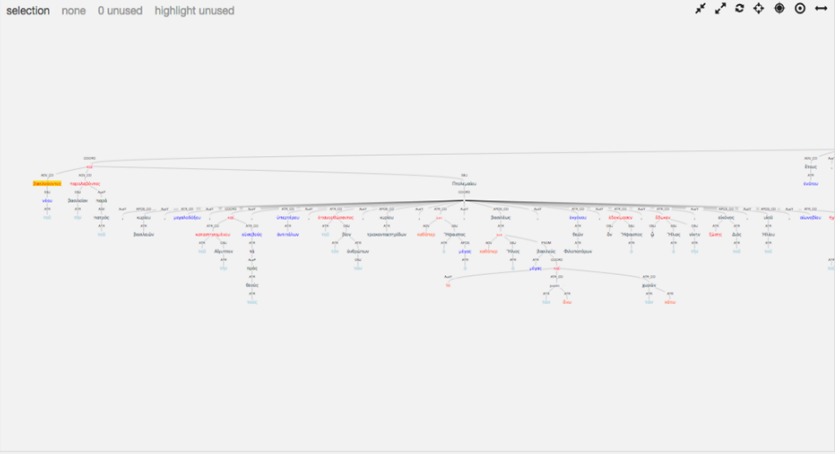
Search for documents

1

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βασιλεύοντος τοῦ νέου καὶ παραλόντος τὴν βασιλείαν παρὰ τοῦ πατρὸς, κυρίου βασιλείων, μεγαλοδόρου, τοῦ τὴν Αἴγυπτον καταστησαμένου καὶ τὰ πρὸς τοῦς θεοὺς εὐσεβοῦς, ἀντιπάλων ὑπερτέρου, τοῦ τὸν βίον τῶν ἀνθρώπων ἐπανορθώσαντος, κυρίου τριακονταετηρίδων, καθάπερ ὁ Ἥφαιστος ὁ μέγας ἐστὶ, βασιλεὺς καθάπερ ὁ Ἥλιος μέγας βασιλεὺς ἐστὶ τῶν τε ἄνω χωρῶν καὶ τῶν κάτω χωρῶν, ἐκγονοῦ θεῶν Φιλοπατόρων, δν ὁ Ἥφαιστος ἐδοκίμασεν, ὃ ὁ Ἥλιος ἔδωκεν τὴν νίκην, εἰκόνας ζώσης τοῦ Διὸς, υἱοῦ τοῦ Ἥλιου, Πτολεμαίου αἰωνοβίου, ἡγαπημένου ὑπὸ τοῦ Φθὰ, ἔτους ἐνάτου, ἐφ' ἱερῶς ὅπως Ἀέτου τοῦ Ἀέτου Ἀλεξάνδρου καὶ θεῶν Σωτήρων καὶ θεῶν Ἀδελφῶν καὶ θεῶν Εὐεργετῶν καὶ θεῶν Φιλοπατόρων καὶ θεοῦ Ἐπιφανοῦς Εὐχαρίστου, ἀλλοφόρου Βερενίκης Εὐεργετίδος ὅσας Πύρρας τῆς Φιλίνου, κανηφόρου Ἀρσινόης Φιλαδέλφου ὅσας Ἀρείας τῆς Διογένους, ἱερείας Ἀρσινόης Φιλοπάτορος ὅσας Εἰρήνης τῆς Πτολεμαίου, μνηδὲς Ξανδικοῦ τετράδι, Αἰγυπτίων δὲ Μεχρίρ ὀκτωκαιδεκάτῃ, ἐφημέριον ψήφισμα.

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βασιλεύοντος¹⁻¹

• verb

• participle

• adjective participle

• circumstantial

• time

• simultaneous location

Select Smyth Categories

2061

Time.—The time denoted by the participle is only relative to that of the governing verb, and is to be inferred from the context. Each participial form in itself expresses only stage of action (1850).

ἀκούσας τοῖς στρατηγοῖς ταῦτα ἔδοξε τὸ τράτευμα συναγαγεῖν *on hearing this i<-> seemed best to the generals to collect the troops* X. A. 4.4,19.

a. Several temporal participles have an adverbial force: ἀρχόμενος *in the beginning, at first*, τελευτῶν *at last, finally*, διαλιπὼν (or ἐπισχὼν) *χρόνον after a while, διαλείπων χρόνον at intervals, χρονίζων for a long time*. Thus,

ἀπερ καὶ ἀρχόμενος εἶπον

as I said at the outset (T. 4.64)

,

τελευτῶν ἐχολέπαινε

at last he became angry (X. A. 4.5.16)

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Thank you!