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The young scholar needs no stronger guarantee of the accuracy of this work in representing the present phases of opinion in phonetic matters than the simple fact that, while it was going through the press, Professors Sievers, Storm and Sweet looked over the proof-sheets of it.

At the end of the volume the author gives a dozen pages of phonetic transcription in English, French and German, according to the various systems that have been proposed for these languages. The examples are of interest for purposes of comparison. A good trilingual register at the end makes the use of the book convenient.

A. M. ELLIOTT.

Ueber ein bisher unbekanntes Griechisches Schriftsystem. By THEODORE GOMPERZ. Wien, 1884. 60 pp. with a plate.

The writer has established the hitherto much-doubted point as to the existence of an early Greek Tachygraphy by means of an inscription found in the recent excavations on the Acropolis, and dating from the fourth century B. C. He also endeavors to determine what the particular tachygraphic signs were to which the inscription alludes.

The inscription, which is imperfect, has been already read and partly restored by Ulrich Köhler (*Mittheilungen des deutschen Archäol. Institutes zu Athen*, VIII 359-63). It consists of two columns, only a few letters of the second having been preserved. From what remains of the first column, G. interprets that by means of seven *positions* of a straight stroke with regard to some other graphic symbol, there might be designated the seven consonants ( $\beta, \delta, \mu, \nu, \pi, \tau, \psi$ ) according as the auxiliary stroke is placed above or below, high, low, or middle on the right, or high and middle on the left of the fundamental sign.

The writer then proceeds to assume a correlative system of seven other signs, which he takes to be  $\gamma, \zeta, \kappa, \lambda, \xi, \rho, \sigma$ , differing only from the preceding in that the auxiliary moveable sign is of a different shape, being, perhaps, a curve instead of a straight line. By this means we have the pair of arrangements:

$\pi$		$\mu$	$\kappa$		$\lambda$
$\beta$		$\psi$	$\gamma$		$\xi$
.		$\nu$	.		$\rho$
	$\delta$			$\sigma$	

These represent fourteen of the Greek consonants, the three aspirates being rejected.

It will then be found that G. enlarges upon the beautiful correspondences which exist between the correlated groups, as, for instance, the labials  $\pi, \beta$  and the gutturals  $\kappa, \gamma$ , the double letters  $\psi, \xi$ , etc. And he implies that such a system would be so transparent as to require no memorizing. We have thus the rudiments of a fourth century (B. C.) Greek geometric shorthand. From this point the writer diverges into the wilderness of the different systems of modern stenography, from the monk, John of Tilbury (A. D. 1174), to Benjamin Franklin, Mr. Pitman, and the spelling-reformers; concluding (when he emerges from the wood again) that the Greek system has the advantage, (1) in the simplicity of its signs; (2) in the use of position to denote vocalic value;

(3) in its peculiar mnemonic simplicity. It is to be observed that all of the supposed Greek arrangement given above is Gomperz's own, except the position of six letters in the first group.

The next thing to be noticed is that this system of tachygraphy differs from those commonly in use or remarked in history, in *that the vowel sign is the carrier of the consonant sign*. We have thus a syllabic script of a precisely opposite character to that to which tachygraphy generally tends; and it seems that we must assume a vowel to every consonant, after the Hebrew fashion and some modern systems of shorthand.

And so we come to the part of the inscription which refers to the vowels. The vowel-sign must be of such a length as to admit three distinct positions of the consonant-sign along its right or left sides. And the vowel-sign itself must admit of five (or seven) modifications. Two, if not four of these are described in the inscription, which has a new vowel order, Ι being the fourth vowel, Υ the fifth, and the two long vowels being, perhaps, last, if we may depend upon the restored inscription. G. gives the order ο, α, ε, ι, υ, ω, η, and the appropriate signs, the base of which is a vertical line representing the letter ο.

Finally he disposes of two other questions: (α) how to represent the vowel-less consonants, which might have been done by carrying two consonants on one vowel-stem; (β) how to denote the three aspirates, which were rejected in the beginning of the enquiry. Since these are modifications of three other letters, it is sufficient to assume that their signs were modified in some way to indicate aspiration.

And so we have what one may venture to call the Gomperz tachygraphy of the fourth century before Christ, in which six consonants and two vowels are taken from an inscription, and the rest is a work of imagination of the most brilliant character, in which research has done its uttermost on very scanty materials. This will be seen best by printing the deciphered part of the description which relates to the vowels, as follows:

ζυγὸς ἐπὶ μέ

σου στελέχοϋς ἐνκάρ-  
σιος |· τὸ δὲ πέμπτον  
τῶν φωνηέντων Υ  
τρία μὲν πρὸς τὴν  
ὀρθὴν ἔχει κέρα· τὸ  
δὲ πρῶτον τῶν μακρῶν  
προλαμβάνει μὲν ἔν,  
τὸ δ' ὕστερον δὲ ἐπ' ἄκ-  
ραις κεραίαις<sup>1</sup> ἀμφοτέ-  
ραις τῆς ὀρθῆς ἀπούσ-  
ης· τὴν οὔν φωνὴν μὲν  
δεῖ γράφειν οὔτως

<sup>1</sup> New Testament scholars will be interested to note the word *κεραία* for the stroke at the top of a letter.

We may conclude as to the existence of the system of shorthand with the vowel for its base, and the consonant for the appendage to the vowel: (certainly a most curious system in a language like the Greek, based upon an original vowelless alphabet); and with some probability we may grant a few of the signs represented in the pamphlet. We endeavored to represent, by means of this new alphabet, the sentence *πάσα δόσις ἀγαθῆ κτέ*, but we stuck in the syllable *σις*, not knowing how to repeat a consonant twice on the same vowel-stem, and so came to the conclusion that it was easier to invent shorthand or to re-invent it than to write in it.

J. RENDEL HARRIS.

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Prolegomena ad papyrorum Graecorum novam collectionem edendam. By C. WESSELY. Vindobonae, 1883. 80 pp.

We have gone through these preparatory notices with great interest; the prolegomena are as good in performance as they are rich in promise. It is true that in making an initial review of the Greek papyri which have already been published, the writer does not completely cover the field of past investigation, but then it is plain, from a note in the addenda, that he never had it in his mind to do so: ("Papyrorum editiones quae minoris sunt momenti, enumerandas non curavi"). And it certainly is not to be expected that a scholar should feel himself obliged to defer the results of several years' careful study until he has recapitulated all the details of previous investigations, which are already sufficiently well known and are easily accessible in other quarters.

The study of papyrus may be recommended to any one who loves surprises and can bear disappointments, who has a large fund of patience and a good imagination: surprises, since when a document comes from the earth the effect is practically the same as if it had come down from the skies; disappointments, because the gifts which come from below are often anything but good gifts and perfect gifts, being sometimes most trivial when they are best preserved, and most torn and fragmentary when they are concerned with matters of the greatest interest. And as to patience and imagination, let any one try to read the first facsimile given by Wessely, without reference to the interpretation in the text! The Fayyûm finds are good illustrations of all these points.

Wessely proceeds in the following order: after a brief historical survey, he divides the existing papyri into three time-groups: *a.* Papyri of the period of the Ptolemies: from the second century before Christ. *β.* Papyri belonging to the period of the Roman Imperial rule. *γ.* Papyri written during Byzantine and Arab rule.

It will be seen that this classification is based upon periods of Egyptian history; it is convenient enough as far as concerns our present catalogue, but would become very awkward with a large increase of undated papyri. It is to the third class that the Fayyûm MSS chiefly belong.

We notice in passing, that in the Greek heading to the Papyrus of Boulaq, W. makes a pretty correction to the reading *πασαρχίας* of Egger or *παταρχίας* of Revillout. He reads *παγαρχίας*, which is evidently correct.

He then proceeds to the preliminary notices of the Fayyûm papyri which have recently come into the possession of the Imperial Library at Vienna,