

**Statement prepared by the supervisor of Mgr. Diana Míčková relating to their studies and dissertation entitled "Translation, analysis and interpretation of texts of the inner side of the outer sarcophagus from the tomb of priest Iufaa at Abusir" submitted in 2023 at the Czech Institute of Egyptology, CU FA**

**I. Overall evaluation of PhD studies**

Throughout her studies, Diana Míčková has always shown great talent and passion for Egyptian texts and their interpretation. For several years now, she has actively participated at the field works of the Czech Institute of Egyptology at Abusir. Her work here resulted in several independent and co-authored publications, most notably her co-authorship of the volume of the texts from the shaft tomb of Menekhibnekau (Abusir XXIX, with the supervisor and L. Bareš).

Diana Míčková completed most of the required attestations in the first part of her PhD studies, and the PhD state exam in the academic year of 2018/19. In the last four years, she concentrated on the analysis of the more difficult texts from the sarcophagus of Iufaa, took part at several conferences (Abusir and Saqqara in the year 2020; XI. Ägyptologische Tempeltagung, CRE at the Universities of Naples and Alcalá, or the interdisciplinary conference on ancient plants in Bologna) and published extensively. Together with her colleague Dorotea Wollnerová, she was awarded GAUK (Grant Agency of the Charles University) funding to study the main works of Middle Egyptian literature and published their up-to-date commented translations in Czech. The resulting book, *Poslyš vyprávění z časů tvých otců. Příběhy ze starého Egypta (Hear the tales from the times of your fathers. Stories from ancient Egypt)*, published in the Academia publishing house in 2019, has earned them the Jan Palach prize in 2020.

In the course of her PhD studies, Diana Míčková also taught several courses on Egyptian language and literature, at first under my supervision, and later independently as well. She has successfully tackled all problems, including the need to transfer all teaching to the online environment during the COVID pandemic. In 2018, she visited Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg in terms of an ERASMUS+ exchange, to use the local library and discuss the more problematic passages of Iufaa's sarcophagus with the scholars, above all Joachim-Friedrich Quack.

Since 2021, Diana Míčková is a valued member of the project *Alchemies of Scent* at the Institute of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Sciences, and in 2023, she has been tasked with the translation of mummy labels from the excavations of the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities at Gebel el-Haridi.

**II. Overall evaluation of the dissertation**

The topic of Diana Míčková's dissertation was carefully chosen after some discussion with both the supervisor and the head of the excavations of the Abusir shaft tomb cemetery, Ladislav Bareš. Despite that fact that the texts on the inner side of the outer sarcophagus are often unique and extremely difficult to interpret, the candidate has tackled it successfully, putting a lot of time and effort into the work. The work is well structured, including short introductions on the tomb and person of Iufaa to provide context for the textual programme, but not dwelling unnecessarily long on these (published) topics. Translations and interpretations of the texts follow, structured from the head to the feet and bottom. The ordering of the individual texts, and the related "order" of their reading, has been a matter of long discussions between the student and the supervisor, both related to the dissertation and the volume of the texts of Menekhibnekau's tomb, and it appears to be impossible to resolve with any success. The way chosen by the candidate is reasonable, and she admits its limitations.

The texts are presented in a clear and user-friendly way. Each has hieroglyphs transcribed in JSESH, followed by transliteration and annotated translation, as well as a detailed commentary on the content. The vignettes, where present, are shown in photographs and line drawings (the latter are preliminary field sketches, but helpful in cases when high-quality, comprehensible photos are lacking). The future publication of the dissertation will undoubtedly be very useful for Egyptologists working with Late Period texts. The general conclusion is concise, as most comments are already present in the partial conclusions to the main topics.

The translations and analyses themselves reflect great care put into them. The candidate has consulted the relevant literature, but also specialists working on related and yet unpublished texts and vignettes (such as Daniel Mendel Leitz in case of the bull sarcophagi from Kom Abu Yassin). At the same time, Diana Míčková is well aware of the limitations of first-edition translations and interpretations, and able to admit uncertainty and even impossibility to provide a translation at places. Thus, where translations are offered, they are well substantiated.

In the course of the work on the dissertation, Diana Míčková has worked in all the relevant comments of the supervisor, and thus no (immediate) questions remain. Perhaps one comment, related to the missing indices. These are extremely useful to any reader and/or user and will undoubtedly have to be present in the future publication of the thesis.

### III. Conclusion

In view of the evaluation above, I provisionally classify the submitted dissertation as *passed*.

September 18, 2023

  
Renata Landgráfová