

## Posudek diplomová práce

vedoucí práce     oponent

Autor: <b>Bc. Diana Míčková</b>	
Název práce: <b>Z papyrů prožraných červy: Texty rakví z hrobky kněze Iufay v Abúsíru (From worm-eaten papyri: Coffin Texts from the tomb of priest Iufaa at Abusir)</b>	
Rozsah: <b>329</b> stran celkem, z toho: <b>140</b> stran textu, <b>13</b> stran bibliografie, <b>176</b> stran příloh	
Posudek vypracoval: <b>PhDr. Filip Coppens, Ph.D. (ČEgÚ)</b>	

### General Evaluation

The topic of the paper, "*Z papyrů prožraných červy: Texty rakví z hrobky kněze Iufay v Abúsíru (From worm-eaten papyri: Coffin Texts from the tomb of priest Iufaa at Abusir)*", and related issues and questions are clearly defined in the introduction to the volume. The subject is appropriately positioned within its historical context as well as in the context of previous research. The author presents, throughout the study, her thoughts in a clear and logical manner, making her line of reasoning easy to follow. The argumentation is moreover duly supported by apt and detailed evidence. Different points of views on specific issues are identified and presented in a clear manner, with the author showing the ability to convincingly argue her chosen point of view.

The transliteration, translation and analysis of the Coffin Text corpora from Iufaa's tomb reaches a very high level, exceeding the general expectations of a MA paper, and clearly illustrates the author's ability to appropriately question and examine ancient documents and modern research in a critical manner, as well as her capabilities to contribute to a better understanding and further development of the study of the Coffin Texts and other, similar text corpora.

**The study conforms, both in form and content, to the requirements expected of a MA paper. As such I would recommend that the study should be accepted for defence in front of the appropriate committee and rated as "výborně".**

## I. Formální kritéria

	výborně	velmi dobře	dobře	dostatečně	nedostatečně
<b>Vědecký aparát</b>					
Jednotnost citací, bibliografie a poznámkového aparátu	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Citování použitých cizích myšlenek (dobrá vědecká praxe)	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Formální stavba práce</b>					
Obsahové členění	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Formální členění (Obsah, nadpisy apod.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Popisky k tabulkám a obrázkům	Not applicable				
<b>Jazyk</b>					
Stručnost a srozumitelnost	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ortografie, gramatika, diakritika	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Odborná terminologie	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Vzhled a přehlednost</b>					
Layout, písmo	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Výběr a kvalita obrázků a dalších příloh (včetně tabulek a grafů)	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Formal aspects of the study

The paper is organized in a comprehensible manner, with the individual chapters marked in a coherent and logical way. Throughout the text the author demonstrates detailed knowledge of the specific terminology associated with the topic of research. The method of referencing, in both footnotes and bibliography, is likewise clear-cut and citations are rendered according to the expected format. The paper is written in a straightforward manner, making it easy for the reader to follow the argumentation and train of thought of the author, without having the need to reread passages several times.

The study is not always as consistent in **style** as one would like, which could have been avoided by a

thorough final check of the finished manuscript. For example:

- The footnotes are not always aligned, giving the study at times a somewhat unfinished look.
- Throughout the text and the bibliography, the author does not use punctuation in a very systematic manner, especially when it comes to having a space (or not) before/after the following punctuation marks “.”; “,”; “-”; “:”; “/”, as well as before/after footnotes.
- In the bibliography, series are most of the time, but not always placed in italic. The place of publication is not always consistent (e.g. Mainz versus Mainz-am-Rhein), nor the date of publication when compared with the footnotes (e.g. Míčková 2015/2016 or Drioton 1954/1955).
- The main body of the text, as well as the footnotes and bibliography, contain some lapses in the orthography as well as misspellings, but they are limited in number and do not detract from the overall quality of the paper or interfere with the communication of ideas. One can for instance mention the following examples: “determinatv” (p. 19), “poovědom” (p. 25), “překldá” (p. 36), “thein” (p. 37), “mító” (p. 58), “oběiny” (p. 73), “konnci” (p. 87), “vaerzích” (p. 99), “variatně” (p. 104), “němm” (p. 105), “tety” (p. 132), and “Morgnelieder” (p. 133).

A few suggestions can still be made to make the volume more user-friendly:

1) The individual Coffin Texts from the tomb of Iufaa are rendered completely in **hieroglyphs** in the study; a time-consuming work that certainly deserves mention. Perusing a number of Coffin Texts, two suggestions came to mind to further improve the rendering of the hieroglyphic texts:

a) It would have been useful to mark how the text was exactly distributed in columns on the walls of the tomb/sarcophagi of Iufaa. In the absence of a drawing or photograph of the text columns, the reader has no means to establish the distribution of the text over the columns.

b) For easier orientation of the end-user, it would also have been helpful if the transliteration and translation of the text would have been marked similarly as it would provide the reader with the possibility to quickly find a specific passage in the hieroglyphic text and check it with the author's transliteration and translation.

2) At the very end of the volume the author added a very extensive and extremely useful **appendix**, providing next to the hieroglyphic texts of the Coffin Text spells from the tomb of Iufaa that do not occur in a single other Late Period tomb also the Middle Kingdom version(s) and, where applicable, the related Pyramid Text(s) for comparison. While the appendix provides the reader with the opportunity

to check the authors' readings and interpretations, it could be improved to make it easier for the user to work with. The appendix would benefit from a table of contents, enabling the reader to find specific spells immediately without having to regularly peruse the entire appendix. Likewise it would have been helpful if a reference to the exact pages of the appendix where a certain spell occurs was also made in the chapters in the main body of the text dealing with that particular spell — or, in the case of Coffin Texts that occur in other Late Period tombs and are not part of the appendix, a reference to the exact pages in L. Gestermann, *Die Überlieferung ausgewählter Texte altägyptischer Totenliteratur ('Sargtexte') in spätzeitlichen Grabanlagen*, (ÄA 68), Wiesbaden 2005.

3) The inclusion of one or two **drawings** illustrating the exact position of the Coffin Texts on the walls of the burial chamber as well as the inner and outer sarcophagus would provide the reader with a better idea of the exact spatial distribution of the texts. In combination with the distribution of other known texts on the walls, it might provide for a better understanding of the position of individual texts and their relation to one another – whether between the Coffin Texts themselves or in relation to other text corpora on the walls of tomb and sarcophagus.

## II. Obsahové hodnocení

	výborně	velmi dobře	dobře	dostatečně	nedostatečně
<b>Struktura a členění práce</b>					
Přehled předchozího bádání (popř. teoretické pozadí)	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Logická struktura textu a jeho prvázanost	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Preciznost argumentace	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Práce s literaturou</b>					
Rešerše a výběr odborné literatury	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Zohlednění relevantní literatury v argumentaci	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kritické zhodnocení odborné literatury	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Metodologie</b>					
Formulace otázek a hypotéz	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Výběr pramenů	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transparentnost kritérií výběru pramenů	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Přiznání možností a hranic práce s materiálem	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Výsledky</b>					
Jasná stavba hypotéz	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Zdůvodnění hypotéz	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Začlenění do stavu bádání	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Evaluation of the content

The topic of the paper and the questions posed by its author are clearly defined in the introduction. The overall structure and organisation of the paper is well thought out and very appropriate to its purpose as the author always kept track of the main research questions. As a result the paper represents a unified text with lucid argumentation supported by apt and comprehensive evidence and source material.

The paper provides a very detailed study of 29 thus far identified Coffin Texts spells from the walls and inner and outer sarcophagi of the tomb of Iufaa in Abusir. This corpus of Coffin Texts is remarkably unique as more than half of the spells found in Iufaa's tomb do not occur in a single other contemporary Late Period tomb. The lack of contemporary comparable material presents an extra challenge for any researcher dealing with the corpus, both in the manner of analysing individual spells as well as dealing with more general questions regarding the transmission and editing of the corpus — a task the author of the present study managed in a most excellent manner.

In the introduction to the volume (pp. 13–17), the author provides an outline of the nature of the Coffin Text corpus in Iufaa's tomb and the questions it poses, as well as a general overview of studies on the Coffin Texts, with a particular focus on the occurrence of the corpus in the Late Period. In the overview of studies on the Coffin Texts on pages 14–15, one would have still liked to see some of the publications by Harco Willems on the topic, e.g. H. Willems, *Les textes des sarcophages et la démocratie: éléments d'une histoire culturelle du moyen empire égyptien: quatre conférences présentées à l'École pratique des hautes études, section des sciences religieuses, mai 2006*, Paris 2008; and H. Willems, *Chests of life: a study of the typology and conceptual development of Middle Kingdom standard class coffins*, (Mededelingen en verhandelingen van het Vooraziatisch-Egyptisch Genootschap "Ex Oriente Lux"), Leiden 1988. Two other studies by Willems are mentioned elsewhere in the volume (Willems 1996 on page 108, note 322, and Willems 2007 on page 107, note 314), but these works are missing in the bibliography. Also, among the several translations of the Coffin Texts mentioned on page 14, the following could still be added: P. Barguet, *Les textes des sarcophages égyptiens du Moyen Empire. Introduction et traduction*, (LAPO 12), Paris 1986.

The first chapter (*Změny textu mezi Střední říší a Pozdní dobou*, pp. 18–30) provides a very detailed and most interesting overview of the many changes that occurred during the transmission of the Coffin Texts spells between the Middle Kingdom and the Late Period, as observed by the author in the Coffin Text corpus from Iufaa's tomb. The author deals in depth with developments and alterations on the level of orthography, grammar and content, as well as the influence of changes in the religious belief system on the interpretation of and changes in the texts.

The largest part of the volume is dedicated to an exhaustive study of the 29 Coffin Text spells that occur in Iufaa's tomb (*Přepis, překlad a analýza jednotlivých textů*, pp. 31–129). Each spell is accompanied by a short introduction, providing information on its content and nature in general and its specifics in Iufaa's

tomb; the hieroglyphic text with its transliteration and translation; and a comprehensive and meticulous analysis of the text in comparison with Middle Kingdom – and where applicable – Late Period versions of the same spell. (An overview of the vast amount of comparable material, with its common abbreviations, is given at the start of the volume (*Seznam zkratek*, pp. 8–11)). In this respect the author surprisingly fails to include the Coffin Text Corpus from the other Late Period tombs in Abusir. While it is understandable that the texts from Menekhibnekau's tomb are not included, since they have not yet been published (but the author does mention when a CT occurs both in Iufaa's and Menekhibnekau's tomb), the tomb of Padihor at Abusir contains the CT spell sequence CT 151 – CT 625 – CT 208 – CT 176 – CT 352 which (with the exception of the latter text that occurs elsewhere on Iufaa's sarcophagus) is similar to the sequence found on the south side of the outer sarcophagus of Iufaa – but no comparison is provided. Despite this oversight, the analysis of the text and its comparison with both contemporary and older material reaches a very high standard, not always found in publications of this type of material, and shows the author's capability to deal with this corpus in a manner that exceeds the level of a standard MA paper.

A few minor remarks can be made in regards to the transliteration and translation of the text:

- \* p. 62: In the translation of Coffin Text spell 716, the author translates as part of the spell “in Heliopolis” – the latter is not attested in text or transliteration.
- \* p. 109: The author systematically translates *Iwnw* as Heliopolis, except for this single instance.
- \* p. 111: *m rnp.t tn* => The expression occurs only once in the hieroglyphic text, but twice in transliteration.
- \* p. 128: *m t3j.t jmj.t t3j.t t3j db3.n=f it.j=f jm=s* => the hieroglyphic text only show *m t3j.t* (i.e. the cloth) *t3j db3.n=f it.j=f jm=s* and not *jmj.t t3j.t*; referring to the city.
- \* In the footnotes the author regularly refers to translations of Coffin Texts by other authors, such as Faulkner, Gestermann or Carrier. Sometimes the translation is given in the original version (i.e. English, French or German), but at times the author provides a Czech translation of the author's translation. The latter practice – a translation of a translation – is far from ideal and should on principle be avoided.

In the conclusion to the volume (pp. 130–140), the author discusses the Coffin Texts in relation to the Pyramid Texts and the Book of the Dead, before tackling the question of the transmission of religious text corpora from one era to the next, focusing for instance on the criteria behind the selection of specific texts, the editorial processes and the function of archives and libraries in Egypt. In the final part the Coffin Text corpus from Iufaa's tomb is placed in its larger historical and social context. The author

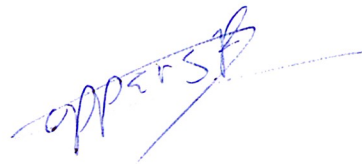
among others focuses on the unique nature of Iufaa's Coffin Text corpora, the specific character of the alterations in the text (e.g. with a focus on Heliopolis and the Delta) as well as the possible criteria behind the choice for these specific Coffin Texts spells.

Following the conclusion, the work contains a detailed bibliography (pp. 141–152) and an extensive and very useful appendix (pp. 153–329), already discussed in the evaluation of the formal aspects of the study.

### **Overall conclusion**

The study conforms, both in form and content, to the requirements expected of a MA paper. As such I would recommend that the study should be accepted for defence in front of the appropriate committee and rated as "výborně".

**Hodnocení:**<sup>1</sup> výborně



13.05.2016

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<sup>1</sup> Škála: výborně – velmi dobře – dobře – neprospěl