

**MA In Ancient History, MA In Egyptology,
MA in Early Christian and Jewish Studies, MA in Coptic Studies**

**AHPG880 Documentary Project
ECJS880 Documentary Project**
(Internal or External, first semester or second semester, 4 pg cp)

Handbook entry: A study edition, with historical analysis, of a group of selected artefacts or of Egyptian, Coptic, Greek, Hebrew or Latin Documents.

Guidelines

1. Introduction

The words 'project' in the unit title and 'study edition' in the Calendar entry are used in order to distinguish this unit from the kind of independent research that would be expected in a thesis or research project. However, it is expected that some clarification of the subject will be forthcoming as a result of the detailed study of the selected documents or artefacts.

2. Content

2.1 The documents or artefacts to be studied should form a complete body of material. This will necessarily entail narrow definition of time, place and subject.

- i) all texts from a specific area, of a specific period or by a single author and on a specific topic/subject;
- ii) all documents (inscriptions; papyri) or artefacts from a single site/archive where the body of material is sufficiently small to allow for analysis within the limits of the project;
- iii) pottery from a specific site and period, whether taken as a whole or by systematic sampling;
- iv) artefacts of a specific type from a specific region and period;
- v) the coin issues of a specific year or years, or of a short period or, if not too numerous, a specific place.

2.2 An anthology of unrelated or loosely related texts or artefacts is to be avoided.

3. Presentation

3.1 Where documents are presented, it is not expected that any fundamental editing will be undertaken. However, the presentation of each text should incorporate

- i) a serial number and brief title (unless the texts are repetitive);
- ii) provenance and date (unless common to all those studied);
- iii) reference to *editio princeps*;
- iv) text (incorporating improvements by subsequent editors);
- v) *apparatus criticus* (identifying these variations, and other readings suggested but not incorporated into the text);
- vi) list of subsequent editions, asterisking the one basically followed;
- vii) translation;

- viii) brief discussion of miscellaneous points needing clarification, with references to the most recent literature.
- 3.2 Collections of artefacts should be presented in a catalogue which incorporates
- i) serial number, current location and brief identification;
 - ii) provenance, attribution and date;
 - iii) dimensions;
 - iv) measured profile drawing and/or photographs;
 - v) detailed description, including shape, decoration, materials and techniques of manufacture;
 - vi) initial publication;
 - vii) subsequent treatments of this and comparable material;
 - viii) brief discussion of miscellaneous points needing clarification, with references to the most recent literature.

4. Historical analysis

- 4.1 In addition to the presentation of texts or catalogue of artefacts, the project should include:
- (a) an introductory essay giving, for example, the background to discovery and reasons for choosing the body of material;
 - (b) a concluding systematic discussion of points of interest geared to the defined historical purpose.
- 4.2 Clarificatory notes should be provided text by text or artefact by artefact, but the treatment of any major theme(s) should be reserved for the final systematic section.

5. Length

- 5.1 Where texts are involved, approximately 300-500 words of text in the original language should be considered as a minimum body of material for study. Maximum length will be governed, in part, by the language of the text, its difficulty and its state of preservation. A catalogue of artefacts may well be substantially longer.
- 5.2 The total length of the project should be what, in the supervisor's estimate, is the approximate equivalent of a 6,000-word historical essay.

6. Assessment

The project is to be examined by the supervisor and one other member of the Ancient History staff. Where no suitable internal examiner is available within the ancient History Department a suitable external examiner will be appointed

7. Consultation

It is hoped that, in some instances, Documentary Projects will provide preliminary studies for what may subsequently become thesis research topics (e.g. AHPG882 Ancient History Minor Research Project or MA Hons). With this possibility in mind, close consultation between student and supervisor is essential prior to the commencement of any project.

8. Submission

- 8.1 submission at end of week 13 of semester of enrolment.
- 8.2 two copies of the project must be submitted into the assignment boxes in the foyer of W6A with the Division of Humanities Cover Sheet.
- 8.3 the project may be either soft bound or else submitted unbound but firmly fixed in a spring-back folder with hard covers.
- 8.4 the Department will retain one copy and the other one is to be collected by the candidate.