# Cultural Plurality in Ancient Magical Texts and Practices 

Edited by<br>LJUBA MERLINA BORTOLANI, WILLIAM D. FURLEY,<br>SVENJA NAGEL, and JOACHIM FRIEDRICH QUACK

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# Cultural Plurality in Ancient Magical Texts and Practices 

Graeco-Egyptian Handbooks and Related Traditions

Edited by<br>Ljuba Merlina Bortolani, William D. Furley, Svenja Nagel, and Joachim Friedrich Quack

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# List of General Abbreviations Used Throughout the Volume 

| ANRW | H. Temporini, W. HaAse (eds.), Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt. Geschichte und Kultur Roms im Spiegel der neueren Forschung, I-XXXVII, Berlin/New York 1972-1996. |
| :---: | :---: |
| AP | Anthologia Palatina. |
| BAM | F. KÖCHER et al., Die babylonisch-assyrische Medizin in Texten und Untersuchungen, Berlin 1963-. |
| BM | British Museum, London (Museum Signature). |
| BoD | Book of the Dead. For the hieroglyphic text cf. the philologically unsatisfactory (but un-superseded) edition of E.A.W. Budge, The Book of the Dead: the Chapters of Coming Forth by Day: the Egyptian Text According to the Theban Recension in Hieroglyphic Edited from Numerous Papyri, with a Translation, Vocabulary, etc., I-III, London 1898. In general, for translations see R.O. Faulkner, The Ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead, London 1985; C. CARRIER, Le Livre des morts de l'Égypte ancienne, Paris 2009; for the papyrus of Ani, including images see E. VON DASSOW, J. WASSERMAN (eds.), The Egyptian Book of the Dead: the Book of Going Forth by Day, San Francisco 1994. |
| BRM | Babylonian Records in the Library of J. Pierpont Morgan, I-IV, New Haven et al. 1912-1923. |
| CAD | A.L. Oppenheim, E. Reiner et al. (eds.), The Assyrian Dictionary of the University of Chicago, Chicago 1956-. |
| CCAG | Catalogus codicum astrologorum Graecorum, I-XII, Brussels 1898-1953. |
| CDD | J.H. Johnson (ed.), The Demotic Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, Chicago 2001. |
| CG | Catalogue général des antiquités égyptiennes du Musée du Caire, Cairo et al. 1901-. |
| CIA | Corpus inscriptionum Atticarum, 1825-. |
| CIL | Corpus inscriptionum latinarum, 1863-. |
| CMAwR | Corpus of Mesopotamian Anti-Witchcraft Rituals (Ancient Magic and Divination 8.1-2), I-II, Leiden/Boston 2011 and 2016. I: T. Abusch, D. Schwemer; II: T. Abusch, D. Schwemer, M. Luukko, G. van Buylaere. |
| CT | Coffin Texts. Synoptic edition of the hieroglyphic texts: A. DE BUCK, The Egyptian Coffin Texts, I-VII, Chicago 1935-1961. An English translation is provided by R.O. FAULKNER, The Ancient Egyptian Coffin Texts, I-III, Warminster 1973-1978. |
| CT (BM) | Cuneiform Texts from Babylonian Tablets in the British Museum, London 1896-. |
| Dend. | Le temple de Dendara, I-XV, Cairo 1934-2008. I-V: É. Chassinat; VI: É. Chassinat, F. Daumas; VII-IX: F. Daumas; X-XV: S. Cauville. |
| Edfou | Le temple d'Edfou, I-XV. I-II: S. CaUVILle, D. Devauchelle [Deuxième édition revue et corrigée], Cairo 1984-1987; III: É. Chassinat, M. DE Rochmonteix, Cairo 1928; IV-XIV: É. Chassinat, Cairo 1929-1934; XV: S. Cauville, D. Devauchelle, Cairo 1985. |
| FGrH | F. Jacoby (ed.), Die Fragmente der griechischen Historiker, $2^{\text {nd }}$ edn, Leiden 1954-1969. |


| GMPT | H.D. BETZ, (ed.), The Greek Magical Papyri in Translation - Including the Demotic Spells, $2^{\text {nd }}$ edn, Chicago/London 1992 [ $1^{\text {st }}$ edn, Chicago 1986]. |
| :---: | :---: |
| IG | Inscriptiones graecae, Berlin 1873-. |
| KAR | E. Ebeling, Keilschrifttexte aus Assur religiösen Inhalts, I-II (Wissenschaftliche Veröffentlichungen der Deutschen Orient-Gesellschaft 28 and 34), Leipzig 1919, 1920/23. |
| LBAT | T.G. Pinches, J.N. Strassmaier, A.J. Sachs, Late Babylonian Astronomical and Related Texts, Providence 1955. |
| LdÄ | W. Helck, E. Оtto (eds.), Lexikon der Ägyptologie, I-VII, Wiesbaden 1972 1992. |
| LGG | C. LEITZ, Lexikon der ägyptischen Götter und Götterbezeichnungen, I-VIII (Orientalia Lovaniensia analecta 110-16, 129), Leuven 2002-2003. |
| LIMC | H.C. ACKERMANN, Lexicon iconographicum mythologiae classicae, Zürich/ Munich 1981-2009. |
| LKA | E. Ebeling, Literarische Keilschrifttexte aus Assur, Berlin 1953. |
| LSJ | H.G. Liddell, R. Scott, H.S. Jones, A Greek-English Lexicon, $9^{\text {th }}$ edn, Oxford 1996. |
| NP | H. CANCIK, H. SChneider (eds.), Der neue Pauly: Enzyklopädie der Antike, IXVI, Stuttgart 1996-2003. |
| OED | Oxford English Dictionary, Oxford 2001-. |
| PDM | Papyri Demoticae Magicae according to the edition of H.D. BETZ (ed.), The Greek Magical Papyri in Translation - Including the Demotic Spells, $2^{\text {nd }}$ edn, Chicago/London 1992 [ $1^{\text {st }}$ edn, Chicago 1986]. |
| PGM | K. Preisendanz, A. Henrichs, (eds.), Papyri Graecae Magicae. Die griechischen Zauberpapyri, I-II [III], 2 ${ }^{\text {nd }}$ edn, Stuttgart 1973-1974 [1941]. |
| PRE | A. PaUly, G. Wissowa (eds.) Paulys Real-Encylopädie der classischen Altertumswissenschaft, I-XXIV, Stuttgart 1894-1963; $2^{\text {nd }}$ Series I-X, Stuttgart/ Munich 1920-1972; Suppl. I-XV, Stuttgart/Munich 1903-1978. |
| PT | K. Sethe, Die altaegyptischen Pyramidentexte nach den Papierabdrücken und Photographien des Berliner Museums, I-IV, Leipzig 1908-1922; trans. R.O. Faulkner, The Ancient Egyptian Pyramid Texts, Oxford 1969; J.P. Allen, The Ancient Egyptian Pyramid Texts (Writings from the Ancient World 23), Leiden/Boston 2005. |
| RAC | T. Klauser et al. (eds.), Reallexikon für Antike und Christentum, I-, Stuttgart 1950-. |
| SEG | Supplementum epigraphicum Graecum, Leiden 1923-71, then Amsterdam 1979-. |
| SGG | A. MASTROCINQUE (ed.), Sylloge Gemmarum Gnosticarum, I-II (Bollettino di numismatica, monografia 8.2.1, 2), Rome 2003-2008. |
| Sm | Smith (British Museum, London), Museum signature. |
| SM | R.W. Daniel, F. Maltomini, Supplementum Magicum, I-II (Papyrologica Coloniensia 16.1-2), Opladen 1990-1992. |
| SMA | C. Bonner, Studies in Magical Amulets Chiefly Graeco-Egyptian (University of Michigan Studies, Humanistic Series 4), Ann Arbor 1950. |
| Sp | Spartoli (British Museum), Museum signature. |
| SpTU | Spätbabylonische Texte aus Uruk, I-V. I: H. Hunger (Ausgrabungen der Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft in Uruk-Warka 9), Berlin 1976; II-III: E. VON WEIHER (Ausgrabungen der Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft in UrukWarka 10, 12), Berlin 1983, 1988; IV-V: E. VON WEIHER (Ausgrabungen in Uruk-Warka, Endberichte 12, 13), Mainz 1993, 1998. |

STT

TLA
TLL

Urk. IV
Ur.

The Sultantepe Tablets, I-II. I: O.R. Gurney, J.J. Finkelstein; II: O.R. Gurney, P. Hulin (Occasional Publications of the British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara 3 and 7), London 1957, 1964. Thesaurus linguae Aegyptiae (http://aaew.bbaw.de/tla). Thesaurus linguae Latinae, editus auctoritate et consilio academiarum quinque Germanicarum Berolinensis, Gottingensis, Lipsiensis, Monacensis, Vindobonensis, I-XI, Leipzig et al. 1900-.
K. SETHE, Urkunden der 18. Dynastie (= Urkunden des ägyptischen Altertums IV), Leipzig 1906-1958.

Throughout the volume, Greek spelling is generally used for the names of Greek deities, divine entities and persons. On the other hand, according to customary practice, Latinate forms are used for the names of ancient authors (abbreviated references mostly follow the LSJ but are sometimes slightly expanded to avoid ambiguity).

# Introduction 

Ljuba Merlina Bortolani/Svenja Nagel

With the second half of the twentieth century and the reawakening of the scholarly interest in ancient magic the amount of valuable publications on the subject has been greatly increasing until today. They encompass editions of magical texts and objects, overarching studies of magic in the ancient world, ${ }^{1}$ as well as monographs on more specific topics. ${ }^{2}$ In particular, scholars had many opportunities to meet and exchange ideas thanks to various international conferences that resulted in significant volumes of Proceedings. ${ }^{3}$ However, despite this growing enthusiasm, the subject is vast and can be explored from numerous different perspectives, so that many aspects have not yet received the attention they deserve and more detailed research still awaits to be conducted.

In particular, as far as the ancient Mediterranean is concerned, the protracted political, cultural and trade contacts between different areas, especially increasing from the Hellenistic Period onwards, inevitably influenced also the religious-magical tradition. Accordingly, magical texts and objects from the ancient Mediterranean often appear to display a gradual rise in the incorporation of 'foreign' elements, i.e. elements of different cultural origin, whether limited to 'foreign' magical words or including 'foreign' deities, mythological references, ritual allusions, etc. Therefore, the final result

[^0]can often look like a cultural amalgam, product of the late Mediterranean melting pot (as it was often considered by early research on the subject).

Scholars should thus face the challenge not only of identifying the possible cultural origin of the single elements, but also of trying to discover which specific cultural background, if any, is hidden behind the multicultural components in order to eventually investigate the dynamics of exchange and shed light on how the mixture functions in context. Therefore, the study of the different facets of transcultural encounters remains fundamental for a deeper understanding of the source material, and thus of ancient magical practice itself. However, up to now, as a consequence of the traditional separation between modern research disciplines, the great majority of the publications have engaged with the subject mostly from one single cultural point of view. Only rarely have some studies attempted to overcome this impasse through the collaboration of scholars of different disciplines or with different expertise ${ }^{4}$ but, though representing an important step in the scholarly attitude and a reference point for future investigations, they were hardly exhaustive because of the vast scope of the material. Therefore, it remains fundamental to keep expanding our views beyond the borders of academic fields and to give to the transcultural perspective the importance it deserves in the study of ancient magic.

This spirit underlies two subsequent projects conducted at the University of Heidelberg: The Magic of Transculturality, which we undertook at the Cluster of Excellence Asia and Europe in a Global Context from 2012 to 2016; and Sexual Dynamis and Dynamics of Magical Practice in Graeco-Roman Egypt: Erotic Spells in the Greek and Demotic Magical Papyri (PGM and PDM) and their Cultural Traditions, funded by the DFG from 2017 until 2020. Through the detailed analysis of the divinatory and erotic rituals of the Greek and Demotic magical papyri from Roman Egypt (see below), the projects attempted to disentangle different cultural elements and to understand the interaction of these elements within the extant spells belonging to these specific genres. During the first project, in order to broaden our perspective, we organised a conference aimed at discussing examples of cultural plurality in ancient magical texts and practices from the Mediterranean and the Near East. This volume collects the papers delivered at this conference, which took place on the $12^{\text {th }}-13^{\text {th }}$ September 2014 in the Internationales Wissenschaftsforum of Heidelberg (IWH) and gathered international specialists in different areas of ancient magic who are often confronted with multicultural influences.

One of the key terms of our projects, and subsequently of the conference title, 'plurality', derives from the notion that discussions of cultural 'hybridity' have by now evolved beyond the naïve assumption that globalisation will result in increasing, and finally total, homogeneity. Still, the complex processes of partial integration of foreign elements clearly need more detailed attention. In principle, even within one culture, there can be a variety of responses to foreign components, depending on the specific discourse and factors such as public visibility or secrecy. Accordingly, different models may be used to describe and analyse these alterity experiences. Therefore, we

[^1]chose to use the heuristic term 'plurality' complemented by the term 'fusion' (as different but often contemporaneous attitudes) since they are less loaded with previous theoretical models. The contemporary presence of elements of different cultural origin can thus be described as 'plurality', while instances in which these elements overlap to such an extent that it is almost impossible to disentangle them can be described as examples of 'fusion'. In detail, cultural plurality and fusion can manifest themselves in a range of different dynamics: from phenomena such as simple borrowing, through advanced adaptation, up to complete assimilation or even distortion of origin and meaning.

As far as these transcultural influences are concerned, an especially rich field of investigation is the corpus of Greek and Demotic magical papyri from Roman Egypt in which, apart from the main Egyptian and Greek components, it is possible to recognise e.g. Jewish, Mesopotamian and Christian elements. Due to their particular textual history (see below), these texts, especially the longer handbooks, offer us the unique opportunity to conduct both a synchronic and diachronic analysis. In particular, the diverse cultural influences displayed in the extant papyri can provide information not only as the reflection of the multicultural society of the period, but also as the result of the employment of earlier ritual or textual sources (and more generally magicoreligious traditions) during the different stages of compilation. Therefore, it is not surprising that the great bulk of contributions in this volume is dedicated, or refers, to this source material addressing many of the issues we set out to investigate. They include research questions such as: when elements originating in different religious traditions are found together, how do they interact among each other? Why were some elements from a specific culture chosen or preserved and others not? And how were they integrated in their new context? Is it possible to identify logical patterns? And how were the different cultural contributions conceived by the compilers of the magical texts? And what about the actual users of the spells? Were they still able to differentiate between various cultural influences? Or was this heterogeneous amalgam conceived as 'mysterious' in itself and thus inherent in the magical nature of these texts? Though often easier to analyse when considering an extensive corpus such as the magical papyri, these research questions apply also to other textual and material sources associated with ancient magic: other magical handbooks, remains of applied magic (see below page 11) and implements or material objects (such as amulets) produced and/or used in connection with magical practice.

The contributions devoted mainly to the rich source material of the magical papyri from Egypt are collected in the central part of this volume. They are framed by two complementary sections, which enrich the discussion by broadening the scope - geographically as well as chronologically - focussing on the analysis of other sources that are either directly or indirectly connected with ancient magic. The first section thus explores examples of different magical/ritual genres, the perception of foreigners and foreign rituals, and possible transcultural exchanges within the earlier magical traditions of Egypt, Mesopotamia and Greece. On the other hand, the essays assembled in the final part trace examples of integration and transformation of the Graeco-Egyptian magical lore in later Jewish and Byzantine formularies.

## Part I

## Egyptian, Greek and Mesopotamian traditions of magic: different genres, perception of the 'other' and possible transcultural exchange

The first three contributions provide insight into three different specific cultural milieus - Egyptian, Mesopotamian and Greek - and their respective magical traditions, especially in correlation with each other or with foreign rituals in general. How was foreign ritual power conceived by the ancient people themselves, and which political, religious or other factors and prejudices played a role in its evaluation? Can the integration or exclusion of foreign practices as described in one culture's own literary output, and thus presented from an emic point of view, be compared with the active admixture of specific foreign elements that appears to characterise religious and magical manuals such as the Greek and Demotic magical papyri from Roman Egypt? ${ }^{5}$ To what extent did earlier or contemporary indigenous apotropaic/magical traditions actually shape these Graeco-Egyptian handbooks? Can we talk of direct transmission or borrowing, or should we just assume looser cultural contacts naturally triggered by the circulation of ideas in the Mediterranean basin? In particular, a closely related phenomenon in Greek and Hellenistic (and later on, Roman) culture is the interplay between magic and mystery cults, which in their turn often incorporated Oriental traditions. This is evident in the famous cases of the cults of Isis and Mithras, which spread in the already quite globalised Hellenistic and Roman worlds, but Near Eastern influences have been hypothesised also for some earlier Greek cults (e.g. Dionysiac-Orphic mysteries). ${ }^{6}$ Apart from the (possible) inclusion of foreign religious concepts and practices, mystery cults share with magical rituals the relevance of the personal communication and involvement of the individual with the gods, as well as the central importance and subsequent instrumentalisation of their myths. ${ }^{7}$ However, to what extent did mystery cults influence the later or contemporary magical lore? In particular, is it possible to find traces of actual continuity between earlier Greek sources and GraecoEgyptian magic?

[^2]In order to better contextualise the contributions of this section in connection with the later developments embodied by the Greek and Demotic magical papyri, it is important to remind that in Egypt foreign cultural elements, language and deities were adapted and integrated into religious texts already in earlier periods. This is especially well attested in the New Kingdom (c. $1550-1070$ BCE), in which the extension of Egyptian power as well as diplomatic and military contacts with other peoples reached a peak. ${ }^{8}$ During this period, the cults of the Northwest-Semitic deities Resheph, Astarte, Baal, Hauron, Anat and Qadesh were installed in Egypt, some of them through the official initiative of Pharaohs like Amenhotep II and Ramses II. ${ }^{9}$ Interestingly, not all of these deities were integrated in the same way: some of them were actually 'needed' to fill certain gaps in the pantheon, since their competences covered also domains that were originally foreign to Egyptian culture and thus not yet under the patronage of an Egyptian deity, e.g. horses and chariots, which were imported from the Levant and accordingly remained assigned to Astarte. ${ }^{10}$ On the other hand, in the case of the newly imported Baal, some parallels in character led to a perceived equivalency or even identity between him and the Egyptian Seth, who thus became, in spite of his Egyptian origins, a deity connected with foreigners and foreignness. ${ }^{11}$ In contrast to the relatively great number of Near Eastern deities that were venerated in Egypt, gods from other neighbouring cultures, like Nubia or Libya, were hardly ever appropriated before the Ptolemaic Period. ${ }^{12}$

However, diverse foreign deities and other elements were actually integrated more freely and frequently within ritual and magical texts of various nature. ${ }^{13}$ This process was obviously relatively independent from the (official) installation of cults of imported deities described above, since also other gods, who did not have a temple cult in Egypt, could be included in these sources together with demons, myths and (at least the concept of) recitations in foreign languages. Thus, in New Kingdom papyri, not only do we find Egyptian magico-medical recipes against the Mesopotamian demon Samanu who was responsible for a skin disease, ${ }^{14}$ but one of them is also written in foreign language, possibly Minoan. ${ }^{15}$ Spells incorporating Semitic, and more precisely Canaanite, incantations appear also in other papyri of this era. ${ }^{16}$ At the same time,

[^3]Nubian or even further South-East African, i.e. Puntite, ritual power and religious traditions seem to have been perceived as especially efficacious, ${ }^{17}$ since they were appropriated even for official temple ritual ${ }^{18}$ and in the Book of the Dead. ${ }^{19}$ In both cases, sections in the (purportedly) respective languages were also included. In addition to these direct sources, Egyptian (narrative) literature often includes vivid descriptions of foreigners as well as foreign rituals.

FRANZISKA NAETHER presents an overview of examples from this material in the first contribution. She analyses Egyptian literary production, in which tales of magic, divine intervention and supernatural wonders abound. ${ }^{20}$ The focus of her paper on the emic, albeit highly stylised, presentation of Egyptian priest-magicians as well as religion and (magical) rituals of neighbouring cultures serves to uncover the ancient Egyptians' own perception of the 'magic of the other', as opposed to their own. Although the selected source material (narrative and instructive literature) certainly had an agenda of its own and represented the - presumably idealised and narratively embellished - views of only a small group of Egyptian society, namely the literate and educated priestly and scribal elite, it grants us valuable insights into the self-reflection and self-representation of this group and their engagement with foreign, possibly inimical or vying powers. However, even if the 'authors' (if we may even call them that) of the written versions of these narratives were certainly from the described social stratum, there is an important debate going on about the probable orally transmitted roots of such stories, which would re-position the attitudes reflected in them within a broader fraction of Egyptian society. ${ }^{21}$ NAETHER's study of literary descriptions of concrete foreign magical practices and ritual experts is embedded in a broader perspective on the representation of foreigners in these texts. The description alone of some of the respective practices demonstrates a certain interest in foreign, exotic and possibly equally effective rituals, even though some of them might have existed only in fiction ${ }^{22}$ and therefore are only examples of a projection of Egyptian ideas of what foreign magic was supposed to be like.

The literary treatment of these themes is not only informed by political and historical experiences, but in a way reflects and elaborates upon actual documentary evidence for the fear of malign influences of foreign magic, such as the 'Oracular Amu-

[^4]letic Decrees' from the Libyan Period ( $21^{\text {st }}-22^{\text {nd }}$ Dynasties). ${ }^{23}$ In some of the texts of this genre, magic of explicitly outlandish origin (Syrian, Bedouin, Libyan and Nubian magic) is warded off next to Egyptian magic. That such worries were shared by the state is demonstrated by a letter of Pharaoh Amenhotep II to his viceroy, cautioning him against Nubian magicians. ${ }^{24}$

In Classical Greece the situation was somewhat similar but also very different. As far as the adoption of foreign deities is concerned, the most famous and certain examples involve Near Eastern female goddesses such as the Anatolian Kybele and the Thracian Bendis, who were first worshipped in Greece around the sixth/fifth century BCE and were perceived as similar and/or identified with the Greek Gaia/Rhea/Demeter and Artemis respectively. ${ }^{25}$ At the same time, foreign origins and/or influences have been hypothesised for various other deities of the Greek pantheon, for example Hekate, who plays an important role in early apotropaic/magical ritual and later magic and for whom an Anatolian origin, more specifically Carian, has been posed. ${ }^{26}$ However, in cases like this, the possible foreign influences are very hard to trace since the earliest Greek sources present the deity as already integrated into the pantheon. ${ }^{27}$ More importantly, even if Hekate had a remote foreign origin, it is unlikely (and impossible for us to confirm) that she was still perceived as foreign by Greek people worshipping her, or invoking her in apotropaic/magical texts. Similarly, the god Hermes who, when providing Odysseus with the herb moly so that he can be immune from Kirke's spells, appears to be one of the first deities displaying 'magical' competences in literary sources (Hom. Od. 10.27), could have hardly had any foreign connotation at the time.

In Homer, as has often been underlined, the fact that e.g. a god can be skilled in the use of wondrous herbs, and that Odysseus himself can perform necromancy to consult with Tiresias (Hom. Od.11), does not seem to imply any explicit foreign influence or, even more importantly, any negative overtones. As a matter of fact, in Homer these practices are not subsumed under one overarching term. However, it is Kirke (the great-aunt of Medea who lives in the mythical island of Aeaea) who, apart from being capable of powerful incantations herself, instructs Odysseus on how to perform necromancy. This detail might already underlie a later notion that will develop in Greece especially from the fifth century BCE onwards together with the concept of magic itself: the tendency to label foreign ritual practice as 'magic' and attribute great magical power to some 'barbarian' lands and people as clearly shown by the evolution of

[^5]the term 'magic' from magos, originally just a Persian religious specialist, ${ }^{28}$ and also by famous literary characters such as Medea from Kolchis. Likewise, Egypt and Egyptian priests became especially renowned for their magical lore ${ }^{29}$ following an attitude partly comparable with what we saw in Egypt itself, e.g. for Nubian and Puntite ritual power.

However, in contrast with Egypt, ${ }^{30}$ the notion of magic appears to have emerged in Greece specifically as a 'third-person attribution'31 with derogatory undertones. For it was used for practices that, when not attributed to alien and potentially dangerous 'barbarians', were connected with specific groups of people (within Greek culture itself) whose activities acquired a nuance of illicitness owing e.g. to fluctuations in socio-cultural views or to displacements from a public to a more private sphere. ${ }^{32}$ Despite the different theories proposed by recent scholarship to explain the emergence of magic as an autonomous category in fifth century Greece, ${ }^{33}$ there is general agreement the notion could be highly dependent on the individual point of view, and thus it often remained fluid and liable to variation. This strategy of self-definition through stigmatisation of the 'Other' might explain why, in early Greek evidence for autochthonous apotropaic/magical rituals, there are no clear traces of foreign influence, such as the adoption of foreign words or deities that we observe in New Kingdom Egypt.

For example, the earliest Greek defixiones (fifth century BCE) are very simple, do not include any foreign element and, when mentioning deities, they stick to the tradi-

[^6]tional chthonic pantheon. ${ }^{34}$ Similarly in Classical literature, while of course we keep finding examples of foreigners engaging with magic, ${ }^{35}$ it is hardly possible to find any clear sign of cultural plurality in the descriptions of magical rituals performed by Greeks. ${ }^{36}$ In fact, as far as Greek documentary, archaeological and literary sources testifying to magical practices are concerned, the clearly recognisable addition and integration of elements from different magico-religious traditions appears to be a later phenomenon, which seemingly started to develop from Hellenistic times onwards.

William D. Furley, in the second contribution, offers an example of the early Greek attitude, focusing on a piece of evidence from Greek apotropaic-magical tradition that does not display any clear sign of transcultural influences: the so-called Getty Hexameters. The author provides a new edition and analysis of this apotropaic Greek metrical text (written on a lead tablet from the fifth century BCE Selinus), whose interpretation is still highly controversial. Thanks to original insights and new parallels, FURLEY reinforces the hypothesis that the text originated in connection with Dionysos' mysteries, in particular with the Orphic-Bacchic myth about the birth and childhood of the god. He also demonstrates how a passage in the text, which was previously interpreted as a Greek adaptation of an Egyptian mythical narrative, can be completely explained within the Greek religious framework and without assuming any foreign influence. Therefore, on the one hand FURLEY's contribution sets the base for comparison with later material, also highlighting some significant characteristics of early Greek apotropaic texts, such as their frequent connection with the mystery cults' milieu and their civic versus private connotation. On the other hand, it reminds us of various aspects of continuity between this early Greek tradition and the later GraecoEgyptian magical texts, such as the use of the so-called Ephesia Grammata, ${ }^{37}$ of specific epithets of Hekate and Apollo, and the prominent role attributed to these deities.

In particular, some verses of the Getty Hexameters are paralleled in two seven/eight hundred years later magical papyri (PGM LXX and SM 49). ${ }^{38}$ This demonstrates not only that the compilers of the later Graeco-Egyptian magical literature had access to much earlier ritual texts that originated in a Greek cultural environment, but also that these texts, with their long history of transmission, though apparently originally belonging to the ritual sphere of the mysteries, were still considered powerful enough to be integrated in the newer, redesigned magical scenario. The persistence of the Getty Hexameters testifies thus to the authoritative power given to earlier ritual texts by Graeco-Egyptian magical literature and provides an example of its possible compositional methods.

[^7]This literature could attribute authoritative power not only to ancient sources but, as already mentioned, also to foreign traditions, especially when they belonged to lands already renowned for their magical lore or when they could strengthen the efficacy of a spell with the addition of an element considered powerful in another culture and/or apt to provide an extra halo of mystery. In fact, some spells of the PDM and especially the PGM do actually in themselves claim to use purportedly Nubian, Persian/Parthian, Jewish or other foreign language for single recitations and divine names, ${ }^{39}$ or attribute the origin of a specific prescription to the established repertoire of 'famous' (or not so famous) magicians of Hebrew, Persian, Syrian, Trojan and Thessalian origin, next to Egyptian and Greek ones. ${ }^{40}$ Thus the texts reflect an international or transcultural selfperception claimed by their authors and/or possibly desired by their users/clients. While these references to foreign magical traditions and ritual power are clearly employed for the purpose of giving additional authority to the spells, ${ }^{41}$ to what extent did the composers have knowledge of foreign practices and mythology? There have already been several studies on the actual presence, quality and meaning of the Jewish elements, voces magicae, ${ }^{42}$ etc. Even if they are generally perceived as being rather abundant in the PGM and PDM, more detailed analyses demonstrate that they are used more superficially than previously thought, since they mainly concern divine names or single words. ${ }^{43}$ Similar problems surround the supposed 'Mesopotamian' influences, names and other elements within the magical texts from Roman Egypt. ${ }^{44}$

[^8]
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Plates


FIGURE 1: Sarapis enthroned with Kerberos (BM 30) (Photo: Christopher A. Faraone)


FIGURE 2A-B: Triple-headed god (BM 173)
(Photo: Christopher A. Faraone)


Figure 3: Pantheos on thunderstone from Roman Ephesos


FIGURE 4: Pantheos on protective amulet (BM 290)
(Photo: Christopher A. Faraone)


FIGURE 5: Triple Hekate statuettes (Reinach)


FIGURE 6: Roman plaque of Hekate (Vienna)


FIGURE 7A-B: Hekate / ORARA (BM 69)
(Photo: Christopher A. Faraone)


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ Just to mention some of the more renowned books, e.g. mainly on Graeco-Roman magic Graf, Gottesnähe; Flint et al. (eds.), Witchcraft and Magic; Dickie, Magic and Magicians; M. Martin, Magie et magiciens; De. Collins, Magic in the Ancient; on ancient Egyptian magic, e.g. Ritner, Mechanics; Koenig, Magie et magiciens; on Jewish magic, e.g. ВОНАК, Ancient Jewish Magic; Harari, Jewish Magic; on Mesopotamian magic, e.g. SChwemer, Abwehrzauber und Behexung; Abusch/van der Toorn (eds.), Mesopotamian Magic.
    ${ }^{2}$ E.g. Merkelbach/Totti (eds.), Abrasax; Dieleman, Priests; Fauth, Helios Megistos; Fauth, Hekate Polymorphos; Fauth, Jao-Jahwe; Zago, Tebe magica; Martinez, Greek Love Charm; Faraone, Vanishing Acts; Faraone, Ancient Greek Love Magic; Pachoumi, Concepts of the Divine; LOVE, Code-Switching; DOSOO, Rituals of Apparition.
    ${ }^{3}$ E.g. Roccati/Siliotti (eds.), Magia in Egitto; Faraone/Obbink (eds.), Magika Hiera; Meyer/Mirecki (eds.), Ancient Magic; Schäfer/Kippenberg (eds.), Envisioning Magic; Jordan/Montgomery/Thomassen (eds.), World of Ancient Magic; Mirecki/Meyer (eds.), Magic and Ritual; Koenig (ed.), Magie en Égypte; Ciraolo/Seidel (eds.), Magic and Divination; Noegel/ Walker/Wheeler (eds.), Prayer, Magic; Bohak/Harari/Shaked (eds.), Continuity and Innovation; de Haro Sanchez (ed.), Écrire la magie; SuÁrez/Blanco/Chronopoulou (eds.), Papiros mágicos griegos; Asirvatham/Pache/Watrous (eds.), Between Magic and Religion; Piranomonte/Simón (eds.), Contesti magici; Gordon (ed.), Magical Practice; Boschung/Bremmer (eds.), Materiality of Magic; cf. also (though not the result of a conference) Jördens (ed.), Ägyptische Magie; KAMLAH/SCHÄFER/WITTE (eds.), Zauber und Magie.

[^1]:    ${ }^{4}$ See e.g. Betz (ed.), GMPT; Merkelbach/Totti (eds.), Abrasax; A. Delatte/Derchain, Intailles magiques; MOYER/DIELEMAN, Miniaturization; CRIPPA/CIAMPINI (eds.), Languages.

[^2]:    ${ }^{5}$ See for the question of such foreign elements in the PGM and PDM, but also in earlier as well as later sources, e.g. Thissen, Nubien; DIELEMAN, Priests, 138-43; WÜTHRICH, Eléments, 16-26 (Nubian elements); the contribution by D. SCHWEMER, in this volume (Mesopotamian elements); Hopfner, Orientalisch-Religionsgeschichtliches; FARAONE, Mystodokos; QUACK, Zauber ohne Grenzen (various elements); in particular, for Jewish elements see below n. 43. Vice versa, on the inclusion of Greek magical texts into Jewish spells, cf. the contribution by G. BOHAK and A. BELLUSCI in this volume.
    ${ }^{6}$ Cf. also the contribution by M. Ristorto in this volume, 238-9, for the so-called 'Oriental Cults'; for the problematic and various aspects of the cults subsumed under this designation see NAGEL/QUACK/Witschel (eds.), Entangled Worlds.
    ${ }^{7}$ On links between magic and mystery cults see e.g. GRAF, Gottesnähe, 96-107 (especially on initiation rites); BETZ, Magic and Mystery.

[^3]:    ${ }^{8}$ For cultural appropriation in pre-Ptolemaic Egypt in general, cf. SCHNEIDER, Foreign Egypt.
    ${ }^{9}$ See e.g. Zivie-Coche, Dieux autres; QuAck, Importing; LipińSkI, Syro-Canaanite Goddesses; Stadelmann, Syrisch-palästinensische Gottheiten; TAZAWA, Syro-Palestinian Deities; Münnich, Reshep, 80-115; Lahn, Qedeschet; Wilson-Wright, Athtart, 27-71; Bonnet, Astarté, 63-7; LILYQUIST, Hauron. The introduction of Resheph and Astarte was initiated by Amenhotep II, the cult of Anat was officially installed by Ramses II.
    ${ }^{10}$ Cf. QUACK, Importing, 264. For another, earlier case of adaptation of this kind (the Nubian god Dedun), ibid., 257.
    ${ }^{11}$ Cf. Zivie-Coche, Dieux autres, 70.
    ${ }^{12}$ Cf. QUACK, Importing, 264-6.
    ${ }^{13}$ Cf. Koenig, Image of the Foreigner; Koenig, Nubie; QuAck, Importing, 262-3 and 266.
    ${ }^{14}$ See the detailed study by S. BECK, Sāmānu, esp. 171-252.
    ${ }^{15}$ In P. BM EA 10059, see S. Beck, Sāmānu, 248; E. Kyriakides, Language of the Keftiw; HAIDER, Minoische Sprachdenkmäler.
    ${ }^{16}$ See e.g. R.C. Steiner, Northwest Semitic Incantations; Schneider, Mag pHarris XII; Leitz, Magical and Medical Papyri, 49-50.

[^4]:    ${ }^{17}$ Cf. Koenig, Nubie; Koenig, Image of the Foreigner, 227; QUACK, Nubisch-meroitische Lexeme.
    ${ }^{18}$ During the Min festival, a ritual text is supposed to be recited by a 'negro of Punt', and some sections transcribe a non-Egyptian language, possibly 'Puntite', into hieroglyphs, see QUACK, Importing, 257; QUACK, Egyptian Writing.
    ${ }^{19}$ In the 'supplementary chapters' BoD 162-5: WÜTHRICH, Eléments, esp. 16-26; WÜTHRICH, Édition synoptique; WÜTHRICH, Abracadabras méroïtiques. Cf. also the reviews by QUACK, Review of WÜTHRICH, Eléments; QUACK, Review of WÜTHRICH, Édition synoptique; and QUACK, Importing, 266.
    ${ }^{20}$ For the prominence of these themes in Egyptian narrative literature in general cf. Hollis, Tales of Magic; SÉrida, Cultural Memory; DIEleman, Priests, 221-38; QuACK, Wer waren. Cf. also the paper by R. PHILLIPS in this volume.
    ${ }^{21}$ See especially the recent study on the Demotic tales by JAY, Orality and Literacy.
    ${ }^{22}$ On magical practices (like transformation) as described in fiction versus actually applied magic cf. also the contribution by R. Phillips in this volume; and LOVE, Ritual Reality.

[^5]:    ${ }^{23}$ Edwards, Oracular Amuletic Decrees; cf. e.g. Lucarelli, Popular Beliefs. See FischerElfert, Magika Hieratika, 82-95, 203-19, 250-52 for further examples.
    ${ }^{24}$ Urk. IV, 1344, 11-12; cf. Koenig, Nubie, 105; Ritner, Mechanics, 140, n. 623; WÜthrich, Eléments, 22. For differing Egyptian attitudes towards different agents and aims of magic see also NAGEL, Narrations.
    ${ }^{25}$ See e.g. Garland, Introducing New Gods, especially 111-14; PaCHE, Barbarian Bond; Janouchová, Cult of Bendis; Roller, Search of God, especially 119-86.
    ${ }^{26}$ And it is now generally accepted, see in particular KRAUS, Hekate, especially 54-64; BERG, Hecate; cf. e.g Strauss Clay, Hecate.
    ${ }^{27}$ See e.g. Hes. Th. 411-52; h.Hom. 2.

[^6]:    ${ }^{28}$ See e.g. Nock, Paul and the Magus; Graf, Gottesnähe, especially 24-31; Bremmer, Birth; OGDEN, Necromancy, 128-48; also HALL, Inventing, especially 143-54.
    ${ }^{29}$ See e.g. Dieleman, Priests, 239-54; Lloyd, Egyptian Magic, especially 99-105; cf. FrankFURTER, Religion, 217-21.
    ${ }^{30}$ In Egypt the native equivalent term for magic, $h k^{3}$, did not have any negative connotation in itself, but embodied the performative force through which the transition from ideal (speech) to actual creation (matter) is achieved. This power, also personified by a deity (Heka), originally emanated from the creator god and it was supposed to be activated by priests as well during ritual performances. It was thus inherent in the creative process and it was not employed only by foreigners or a group of people outside official religion, but by gods and temple priests. See e.g. BORGHOUTS, $3 \mathrm{~h} . \mathrm{w}$ (akhu) and $h k 3 . w$ (hekau); RITNER, Mechanics, 4-28, 217-20, 236-49; Ritner, Egyptian Magical Practice, 3353-5; Ritner, Religious, Social; Koenig, Magie Égyptienne; cf. DICKIE, Magic and Magicians, 22.
    ${ }^{31}$ J.Z. Smith, Trading Places, 18.
    ${ }^{32}$ See e.g. the famous examples of Plato, Resp. 364b-e, Lg. 909a-d, depicting 'beggar priests and prophets' offering every sort of spells as charlatans looking for profit; or Thessalian magicians and witches as a well-acknowledged group with special magical powers, see e.g. O. PhILLIPS, Witches' Thessaly; also Hill, Thessalian Trick; DICKIE, Magic and Magicians, especially 32-3, 103; Ogden, Necromancy, especially 142-7, 202-7.
    ${ }^{33}$ For example it has been suggested that it was a spontaneous phenomenon (DICKIE, Magic and Magicians, 18-46). On the other hand, the rise of the notion of 'magic' has also been explained as the consequence of the development of philosophical theology and medical science, and of the subsequent separation of the natural and divine realms (Graf, Excluding the Charming; Graf, Gottesnähe; Graf, How to Cope, especially 109-14); on the whole subject see also e.g. BRAARVIG, Magic, 37-40; GORDON, Imagining; JOHNSTON, Greek Divination, especially 145-53, also stressing that often the differences between magic and mainstream religion are just in details; cf. e.g. SEGAL, Hellenistic Magic; Versnel, Some Reflections; Hoffman, Fiat Magia; Frankfurter, Dynamics.

[^7]:    ${ }^{34}$ See e.g. GAGER (ed.), Curse Tablets, 5-9, 12-13, cf. 26-7, 76-7 (no. 17), 86 (no. 19), 90 (no. 22), 124-30 (nos. 37-42), 138-42 (nos. 49-51), etc.; OgDEN, Binding Spells, 6-10, cf. 44-6.
    ${ }^{35}$ See e.g. Aesch. Pers. 607-93.
    ${ }^{36}$ See e.g. Pind. Pyth. 4.213-19; Eur. Hipp. 509-15; cf. also the later Idyll 2 by Theocritus.
    ${ }^{37}$ A string of magical words that belongs to Greek tradition; apart from W.D. FURLEY's contribution in this volume, see e.g. McCown, Ephesia Grammata; Bernabé, Las Ephesia Grammata; Bernabé, The Ephesia Grammata.
    ${ }^{38}$ Col. 1, 8 is paralleled in PGM LXX 12 (third/fourth century CE) and col. 1, 8-14 is paralleled in SM 49.64-70 (third/fourth century CE).

[^8]:    ${ }^{39}$ Nubian: PDM xiv 1097-103 (= P. Mag. LL, vs., 20, 1-7); PDM lxi 95-9 (= P. BM EA 10588, 7, 1-5); see Dieleman, Priests, 138-43; Thissen, Nubien. Hebrew/Jewish: PGM III 1-164 (now PGM III.1, see Love, 'PGM III' Archive); PGM V 96-172 (mysteries and true divine name transmitted to Israel). Hebrew and Syrian: PGM V 459-89. Divine name as spoken in various languages: PGM XII 201-69; PGM XIII 1-343 and 343-646 (including animal languages); cf. DIELEMAN, Priests, 165-70.
    ${ }^{40}$ Solomon (PGM IV 850-929); Moses (PGM VII 619-27); Jacob (PGM XXIIb 1-26); Ostanes (PGM XII 121-43); Astrampsouchos (PGM VIII 1-63); Pharaoh Nechepsos, i.e. Necho II (PDM xiv 309-34 = P. Mag. LL, 11, 1-26; for the identification see Ryholt, New Light, esp. 62); Syrian woman of Gadara (PGM XX 4-12); Dardanos (PGM IV 1716-870); Pitys the Thessalian (PGM IV 2140-44); Philinna the Thessalian woman (PGM XX 13-19); cf. Dieleman, Priests, 260-69. PGM IV 3007-86 simply states in the end 'this charm is Hebraic'. The tradition of the powerful 'Thessalian witch' still continues in a Byzantine spell, see the contribution by M. ZELLMANN-ROHRER in this volume.
    ${ }^{41}$ Cf. Dieleman, Priests, 276-80.
    ${ }^{42}$ I.e. sequences of letters apparently without meaning but with a special sound or visual impact whose origin is often to be found in 'foreign' words or divine names, see e.g. BRASHEAR, Greek Magical Papyri, 3429-38 with rich bibliography; TARDIEU/van DEN KERCHOVE/ZAGO (eds.), Noms barbares; QUACK, Griechische und andere Dämonen.
    ${ }^{43}$ BOHAK, Linguistic Contacts, esp. 250-51; BOHAK, Hebrew, Hebrew Everywhere?; FaUth, JaoJahwe; LiDonnici, 'According to the Jews'; Mo. Smith, Jewish Elements; Marcos, Motivos judíos; Leonas, Septuagint; Quack, Alttestamentliche Motive. For more details, cf. also below, part III of this Introduction.
    ${ }^{44}$ Cf. e.g. for divination techniques, BEERDEN, 'Dismiss Me'; FARAONE, Necromancy, esp. 2757; VERGOTE, Joseph, 172-5; for specific magical spells/practices and structural elements FARAONE, Mystodokos; DICKIE, Learned Magician, esp. 183-9; GRAF, Gottesnähe, 154-7. See also the contribu-

[^9]:    Oracular Amuletic Decrees 6-7

[^10]:    ${ }^{1}$ Repr. in Leo Allatius, De templis Graecorum, Cologne 1645, 113-84.

