
L'anonyme de Londres (P. Lit. Lond. 165, Brit. Libr. Inv. 137). Édition et traduction d'un papyrus médical grec du Ier siècle by Antonio Ricciardetto

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Important information on medical ideas that were current in the fifth and fourth centuries BC is to be found in a papyrus dating from the first century AD, conventionally known as Anonymus Londinensis. Despite this late date, the ideas seem to be derived, at least to some extent, from a history of medicine compiled by Aristotle's pupil Menon. The clumsy name arises from its location in London (previously in the British Museum, now in the British Library) and its anonymous character. The discovery of the papyrus was announced at the end of the 19th century; it was edited soon afterwards and an accessible, if not entirely reliable, commentary followed [see [Kenyon 1892](#), [Diels 1893](#), [Jones 1947](#)]. The compilation, devoted in large part to a summary of different views of the aetiology of disease, addresses the views of some 25 named doctors. Those named include Hippocrates as well as many figures previously unknown and several—including Plato—known to us not as medical but as philosophical writers, among them many Pythagorean thinkers such as Philolaus. The Anonymus Londinensis is the longest Greek medical papyrus known to have survived. As such, it has for many decades interested medical historians and papyrologists alike. Foremost among those has been Daniela Manetti, whose Teubner edition [see [Manetti 2011](#)], reviewed at length by Ricciardetto for *Aestimatio* [2013], was preceded over a period of some 20 years by a long series of distinguished scholarly contributions.

In a preface by Marie-Hélène Marganne, the important work of Manetti is fully acknowledged but the independent contribution of Ricciardetto is also rightly stressed. There are many differences in detail, especially in restoration of the difficult fragmentary text. In addition, Ricciardetto more fully contextualizes the complete content of the papyrus, both recto and

verso, with particular attention to a copy of a letter of Marcus Antonius to the *koinon* of Asiatic Greeks.

Ricciardetto provides a long and detailed introduction [xiii–lxviii], first commenting on the circumstances surrounding the discovery and acquisition of the papyrus, then dealing in detail with palaeographical questions (such as the use of abbreviations and punctuation) and with language and orthography. The content is closely analyzed and the doxography addressed with careful attention to detail. A digest is offered of scholarship on the papyrus from the time of its discovery to the present day; and finally a bibliography is included, covering all aspects of the *Anonymus Londinensis*.

The text and translation are then presented: Greek text with French translation on the facing page [1–39]. There is at this point no critical apparatus. Instead, ensuing pages [41–105] are devoted to detailed ‘notes critiques et grammaticales’. This layout greatly enhances the attractive appearance of the volume and the clarity of its exposition. A second bibliography [107–118] comprehensively covers primary sources (ancient texts) and secondary material (modern scholarship). There is an index of proper names, of Greek words and (in French) of subject matter. A fine set of colored plates completes the volume.

Ricciardetto has made a substantial contribution to modern understanding of *Anonymus Londinensis*, a papyrus text as challenging as it is important.

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