

Thomas Young an Wilhelm von Humboldt, 22.09.1825

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Åkerblad, Johan David Bankes, William John Champollion, Jean-François le jeune Friedrich August I., König von Sachsen Grey, George Francis Seyffarth, Gustav Spohn, Friedrich August Wilhelm Struve, Ludwig August Anonym [Young, Thomas] (1823): Letters relating to Mr. Champollion's Discoveries in Egyptian Literature. In: The Quarterly Journal of Science, Literature, and the Arts 14, S. 255–261 Spohn, Friedrich August Wilhelm / Seyffarth, Gustav (1825): De lingua et literis veterum Aegyptiorum cum permultis tabulis lithographicis literas Aegyptiorum tum vulgari tum sacerdotali ratione scriptas explicantibus atque interpretationem Rosettanae aliarumque inscriptionum et aliquot voluminum papyraceorum in sepulcris repertorum exhibentibus. Accedunt Grammatica atque Glossarium Aegyptiacum, Pars 1, Leipzig: Weidmann / G. Reimer

MY DEAR SIR,

London, 22 Sept., 1825.

I HAVE to thank you for the favour of your letter sent me by [Mr. Struve](#): I have delayed making this acknowledgment, until I could return you some answer on the subject of [Mr. Spohn](#), whose posthumous work you mention as having engaged your attention. We might suppose it to be almost impossible that a man possessed of any talents should spend some years of his life in a field of literature not wholly barren, without obtaining some few fruits of his labour, which had escaped the researches of others; but I have looked in vain for any one addition to what even [Mr. Akerblad](#) had made out, more than thirty years ago, that can justify the pomp and ceremony with which [Professor Seyffarth](#)'s *Prodromus* is issued into the world. The most satisfactory evidence on this subject is that of the papyrus of Casati, which I discovered to be the original of [Mr. Grey](#)'s Greek antigraph^[a], a little *after* I had printed, and distributed among a few friends, my attempt to translate some parts of the original, which appeared in the *Philosophical Journal* for January, 1823^[b]

a) [Editor] Abgebildet auf Tafel 33 in Thomas Youngs *Hieroglyphics*; siehe auch [Johann Gottfried Ludwig Kosegarten](#) in seiner Rezension von Spohns *De lingua et literis veterum Aegyptiorum* in der *Allgemeinen Literatur-Zeitung* Nr. 160 vom Juli 1825, Sp. 441–447. [FZ]

b) [Editor] Gemeint ist damit das *Quarterly Journal of Science, Literature, and the Arts* (diese Zeitschrift wird häufig auch als "Brande's Philosophical Journal" bezeichnet). [FZ]

. You will find in it *Nebonenchus*^[c] as a proper name, twice over; Apollonius, Antimachus, and Antigenes: the three last having been read nearly in the same manner by [Champollion](#). There is also a phrase, *et liberis ejus, hominibus ejus*, frequently repeated.

Of these, [Professor Spohn](#) has made out the letters *nebonen*, and *etplonies*, without marking them as proper names; and he has put down Antimaus and Antigenes as a part of his translation: but he has not attempted any explanation of the phrase, which is repeatedly rendered in the antigraph, *with his children and all his family*, nor has he rightly translated a single word besides, after the preamble, which is not in the Greek.

With respect to his mode of reading the words, by an alphabet, which, the newspapers tell us, is like the Armenian, this manuscript affords an undeniable criterion of its accuracy, as it consists almost entirely of proper names, originally Egyptian, not one of which has been read by [Professor Spohn](#) in any way at all approaching to the truth. For example, instead of Maesis Mirsios, he gives us Eumolme Nnelleme; for Peteutemis Arsiesios, Ischre pepo eepô nenee; and for Petearpocrates Hori, Nearschneoe hne. If his Egyptian dedication to the [King of Saxony](#) is equally happy with these specimens, it may happen to pass current in the other world for an address to Sesostris or to Osiris himself, or for a confession of faith in all the gods and goddesses of Ombos and of Tentyra; and thus to have procured him admission into the blessed communion of those deified Egyptian kings, who are occasionally represented, according to [Mr. Bankes](#)'s drawings, as *offering sacrifices to themselves*.

c) |Editor| Siehe dort S. 260. [FZ]