Introduction*

Nicola Reggiani

The dark shadows of an unfair Fate prevented Isabella Andorlini from attending – and even being aware of – the international conference, held in Parma on November 2-4, 2016, the proceedings of which are collected in the present volume, and which solemnly concluded the three-year ERC-funded project “Online Humanities Scholarship: A Digital Medical Library Based on Ancient Texts” (DIGMEDTEXT). It is a sorrowful form of unattainable compensation to dedicate to her memory this publication, which she would indeed have loved very much, since it not only gathers so many lifelong colleagues and friends¹ along with her latest disciples, but also collects outstanding papers, in all the official languages of Papyrology, about the main topics around which her scholarly interest focused during thirty-five years of academic career and personal enthusiasm: the medical papyrus texts; their social, cultural, historical context; their collection in a comprehensive digital corpus.

Professor Andorlini’s opening chapter – recovered from a couple of unpublished lectures – masterfully depicts the threefold way of coping with the Greek medical papyri. She moves from the very texts (it is worth noting the valuable re-edition of P.Princ. III 125 recto, in the wake of Louise C. Youtie,² who

* The present volume is published in the framework of the ERC Project “Online Humanities Scholarship: A Digital Medical Library Based on Ancient Texts” (ERC-AdG-2013 DIGMEDTEXT, Grant Agreement no. 339828, Principal Investigator Prof. Isabella Andorlini) funded by European Research Council at the University of Parma (2014-2016; cf. <<http://www.papirologia.unipr.it/ERC>>).

¹ I wish to gratefully thank all the scholars that very kindly accepted my invitation to the conference. A list of them follows in the introduction; I would like to mention here those whose papers have not flown into in this volume, for which a stronger ‘medical’ flavour has been conceived: Roger Bagnall, Todd Hickey, Nick Gonis, Gabriella Messeri, William Furley, Rodney Ast, Holger Essler, Monica Berti, Josh Sosin, as well as Raffaele Luiselli, David Leith, and Antonio Ricciardetto, who have not been able to take part into the publication for different reasons. My heartfelt thanks go also to Guido Bastianini and Paul Heilporn, who chaired a couple of sessions, and to Rosario Pintaui, who would have chaired a session if he was not involved in excavations in Egypt. A thankful mention is deserved also by the supportive help generously provided by Arnaldo Marcone, Amneris Roselli, and Ann Hanson in the scientific organization of the conference, as well as the institutional help provided by the University of Parma, in particular by Fabrizio Storti, then Dean’s Delegate for the International Research. I would also like to thank Fabian Reiter, Bärbel Kramer, and all the other APF-Beihefte and De Gruyter people who have made this publication possible.

² Of Louise Youtie, Isabella Andorlini appears to have been a true heir: in a letter dated 11

had previously republished the verso) to the cultural context of ancient medical science, while the introductory paragraphs are a limpid overview of what has been called ‘Medical Papyrology’ and of its latest developments in terms of research – namely digital – tools.

The section about “Medical Texts” is further enriched by Andrea Jördens’ considerations about the material aspect of medical writings in the time, and by a series of rethinkings about the remarkable *Anonymus Londinensis* by Daniela Manetti, Jacques Jouanna, and Véronique Boudon-Millot. The papyrus transmission of the Hippocratic Corpus is at the centre of Amneris Roselli’s contribution, while Daniela Fausti deals with the medical and pharmacological vocabulary in the papyri from Oxyrhynchus. Andrea Bernini and Anna Maria Kaiser present a general overview of the ancient Roman military healthcare through the testimony of the Latin documents from the army.

The section about “The Doctors’ Context” collects several papers dealing with various aspects of the life and culture of the ancient authors and users of the medical knowledge. The physicians’ own professional work is the subject of Ann Hanson’s (the connection between their medical specialization and their literacy and social reliability) and Vivian Nutton’s (punishing incompetent doctors) chapters, while Julia Lougovaya and Adam Bülow-Jacobsen & Hélène Cuvigny present different medical themes (the learned physicians, health issues in the everyday life) as attested in different sources (verse inscriptions, private letters). The writing skills of medical authors (namely the *Anonymus Londinensis*, again) is analysed, along with samples from different contexts, by Raffaella Cribiore in the light of ‘genetic criticism’. A broader cultural and scientific overview is then introduced in the papers by Gianluca Del Mastro (medical metaphors in the Herculaneum papyri), Lucio Del Corso (Latin as language of technical writings), and Giovanna Menci (tachygraphic language in a Christian physician).

In the third and latest section, the DIGMEDTEXT project is presented by the Parma team that has been led by Professor Andorlini in the creation of the digital corpus of the Greek medical papyri. Rather than a mere description of the project, the papers outline some core aspects of the digital work performed, in the case studies presented by Nicola Reggiani (linguistic and philological variants), Isabella Bonati (the lexicographical work for the *Medicalia Online* platform), Francesca Bertonazzi (the attestations of a surgical instrument), Francesca Corazza (the

December 1981, reproduced in Reggiani, *Introduzione*, x, the US scholar wrote a wonderful acknowledgment of her Italian colleague’s papyrological skills, along with a heartfelt wish for her future work (“I have much admired your detective work! Based as it is on a stringent method of research, the results are always sure. Keep up the good work!”), while on the very same occasion (Professor Andorlini’s first scholarly publication, a revision of the Aberdeen medical papyri), Sir Eric Turner greeted her as the member of a triad together with Louise Youtie and Ann Hanson: “we have at least three women – Mrs Youtie, Mrs Hanson, and now Ms Andorlini – who understand of medical papyri” (cf. Andorlini, *Prescription*, 3 n. *).

Antinoupolis medical texts). A bio-bibliographical profile of Isabella Andorlini, compiled by Luca Iori and Margherita Centenari, closes the part and the volume.

It is worth recalling now, as a proper introductory frame to these proceedings, the main outlines of the DIGMEDTEXT project.³ Stemming from Isabella Andorlini's life-long research interest in the Greek medical papyri, the idea of creating a commented corpus of all published Graeco-Roman papyri dealing with medicine, including the due updates and the edition of unpublished pieces, started as a traditional, printed project. At the 21st International Congress of Papyrology (Berlin, 1995), she sketched such a corpus as a complete compendium of the extant medical texts preserved on papyrus, on the wake of the late antique encyclopaedism.⁴ Pushed by such compelling intents, she outlined the main routes of development of the project: (1) a papyrological perspective, aimed at providing reliable editions of the texts; (2) a philological-critical perspective, devoted to clarify the contribution of the medical papyri to the history of texts and authors of medical literature; (3) a historical-scientific perspective, interested in describing the acquisitions in the field of the history of ancient medical science; (4) a linguistic perspective, focused on the study of the special technical vocabulary of the medical papyri. The project soon materialized in a couple of international workshops with the related proceedings, and just as many printed volumes of the series *Greek Medical Papyri* (a third one is now in progress), forming the core of the corpus itself.

The quick development of the digital tools for managing papyrus texts soon captured her attention: she has been pathbreaking in envisaging the application of the SoSOL editing platform to literary and paraliterary texts.⁵ In 2010 she attended one of the first SoSOL training sessions at the Duke University (Durham, NC) and within a few years she experimented the digitization of complex documentary texts (the Ammon archive) and of the first medical papyri (the Michigan Medical Codex and a significant selection of other texts), together with her collaborators and students at the University of Parma. At the time, digitizations took place in the *Papyrological Editor*, in a special community called "ParmaMed", which avoided the phase of submitting the edited texts to the *Papyri.info* board; when the DCLP challenge started, the Parma medical project became one of the earliest partners to contribute content and to discuss methodologies and technical improvements. The mass encoding of the entire medical papyrus corpus started in 2014 under an Advanced Grant of the European Research Council (agreement no. 339828), with a project titled "Online Humanities Scholarship: A Digital Medical Library Based on Ancient Texts" (also known with its acronym DIGMEDTEXT). The technical features and issues of such an effort have already been described elsewhere; from the methodological and epistemological viewpoint, it is extremely noteworthy to highlight how the digital tools allowed for a full and enhanced fulfilment of the

³ From Reggiani, *Digital Papyrology I*, 273-5. See also Reggiani, *Papirologia medica*.

⁴ Andorlini, *Progetto*.

⁵ Cf. Andorlini/Reggiani, *Edizione*; Andorlini, *Piattaforma*.

original research questions as outlined by Professor Andorlini as early as 1995.

To resume the aforementioned points: (1) from the papyrological perspective, the digital text stems from the comparison and the ‘collation’ of all available printed editions, thus providing the most updated and reliable version; moreover, the digital platform allows for a constant updating of the texts and provides a rigid standard for the critical editions; (2) from the philological-critical perspective, the commentaries provide the basic textual, philological and literary coordinates to frame the texts themselves and their relevance as to our knowledge of ancient literature and medical science; (3) from the historical-scientific and linguistic perspectives, the textual database is interconnected with the online lexical database of medical technical terms, *Medicalia Online*, which provides a wide linguistic, archaeological, and historical-medical overview of the studied items. All is open-access and available online for any scholar or enthusiast of the relevant research fields, and represents a powerful resource for reconsidering, updating, improving, and enhancing the studies in papyrology and ancient medicine – just as the late antique compendiaists claimed.

Over three years, 285 medical fragments – from the shortest labels to the longest treatises – have been encoded, and most of them are already accessible through the DCLP platform (see details at <<https://goo.gl/ZBbHkp>>). Some significant lacks (e.g. the *Anonymus Londinensis*, the *Ärzttekammer Nordrhein* papyri, most of the P.Oxy. LXXX pieces) show that the work is necessarily still in progress – in flux, as is the papyrological discipline itself⁶ –, also because of the live technical transformations and evolutions of the supporting infrastructures; I wish to be able (and plan) to go on effectively, exploring further possible enhancements, like a deep linguistic annotation of the corpus and a thorough consideration of paratext and of the multifarious aspects of materiality.⁷ I would like that the *Digital Corpus of the Greek Medical Papyri* (as this challenge might be called) continue to be a groundbreaking crown jewel of Medical Papyrology, and – overall – medical history and culture,⁸ in the name of its first creator, Isabella Andorlini.

A grateful acknowledgment goes, above all, to Alessia Bovo, whose nearness and whose precious help and proficiency in all the editorial and proofreading tasks has proven invaluable for the book to be successfully published.

⁶ Cf. Hanson, *Papyrology*.

⁷ Cf. Reggiani, *Concept*.

⁸ The cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural potential of ancient medical papyrological studies have been effectively represented by the DIGMEDTEXT International Conference “Parlare la medicina: fra lingue e culture, nello spazio e nel tempo”, held in Parma on September 5-7, 2016, and by its related publications.

Bibliography**

- Andorlini, *Piattaforma* = Isabella Andorlini, *Il corpus dei papiri medici online: la piattaforma editoriale*, in: A. Roselli (ed.), *Atti del VII colloquio internazionale sull'ecdotica dei testi medici greci (Procida, 11-13 giugno 2013)*, Napoli, in press [repr. in Andorlini, *Scritti I*, 380-90].
- Andorlini, *Prescription* = Isabella Andorlini, *From Prescription to Practice: The Evidence of Two Medical Papyri from Roman Egypt*, in: N. Reggiani (ed.), *Greek Medical Papyri: Text – Context – Hypertext. Proceedings of the Final DIGMEDTEXT Conference (Parma, 2-4 November 2016)*, Berlin/Boston 2019, 3-17.
- Andorlini, *Progetto* = Isabella Andorlini, *Progetto per il Corpus dei Papiri Greci di Medicina*, in: B. Kramer / W. Luppe / H. Maehler / G. Poethke (eds.), *Akten des 21. Internationalen Papyrologenkongresses (Berlin, 13-19.8.1995)*, I, Stuttgart/Leipzig 1997, 17-24 [repr. in Andorlini, *Scritti I*, 337-43].
- Andorlini, *Scritti I* = Isabella Andorlini, *πολλὰ ἱατρῶν ἐστὶ συγγράμματα, I. Scritti sui papiri e la medicina antica*, ed. N. Reggiani, Firenze 2017.
- Andorlini/Reggiani, *Edizione* = Isabella Andorlini / Nicola Reggiani, *Edizione e ricostruzione digitale dei testi papiracei*, in: N. Palazzolo (ed.), *Diritto romano e scienze antichistiche nell'era digitale. Convegno di studio (Firenze, 12-13 settembre 2011)*, Torino 2012, 131-46 [repr. in Andorlini, *Scritti I*, 363-75].
- Hanson, *Papyrology* = Ann E. Hanson, *Papyrology: A Discipline in Flux*, in: G. W. Most (ed.), *Disciplining Classics / Altertumswissenschaft als Beruf*, Göttingen 2002, 191-206.
- Reggiani, *Concept* = Nicola Reggiani, *The Corpus of the Greek Medical Papyri and a New Concept of Digital Critical Edition*, in: N. Reggiani (ed.), *Digital Papyrology II: Case Studies on the Digital Edition of Ancient Greek Papyri*, Berlin/Boston 2018, 3-62.
- Reggiani, *Digital Papyrology I* = Nicola Reggiani, *Digital Papyrology I: Methods, Tools and Trends*, Berlin/Boston 2017.
- Reggiani, *Introduzione* = Nicola Reggiani, *Introduzione*, in: Andorlini, *Scritti I*, IX-XVII.
- Reggiani, *Papirologia medica* = Nicola Reggiani, *Isabella Andorlini e la Papirologia medica*, in: N. Reggiani / A. Bovo (eds.), *Papiri, medicina antica e cultura materiale. Contributi in ricordo di Isabella Andorlini*, Parma 2018, 53-62.

** For papyrological texts, the volume follows the current standards of the *Checklist of Editions* (<<http://papyri.info/docs/checklist>>), to which add GMP for *Greek Medical Papyri I & II*, ed. I. Andorlini, Firenze 2001-2009. The current papyrological journals are abbreviated according to the common use (AnPap = “Analecta Papyrologica”; APF = “Archiv für Papyrusforschung”; BASP = “Bulletin of the American Society of Papyrology”; CE = “Chronique d’Egypte”; CErc = “Cronache Ercolanesi”; JJP = “Journal of Juristic Papyrology”; MBAH = “Marburger Beiträge zur Antiken Handels-, Wirtschafts- und Sozialgeschichte”; ZPE = “Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik”).