Kierán Meinhardt

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Kierán Meinhardt

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Ἀπ᾽ τὴν μικρή του, στὰ περίχωρα πλησίον, κώμη,
καὶ σκονισμένος ἀπὸ τὸ ταξεῖδι ἀκόμη
ἔφθασεν ὁ πραγματευτής. Καὶ «Λίβανον!» καὶ «Κόμμι!»
«Ἄριστον ἔλαιον!» «Ἄρωμα γιὰ τὴν κόμη!»
στοὺς δρόμους διαλαλεῖ …

— Κωνσταντῖνος Καβάφης, *Τὸ 31 π.Χ. στὴν Ἀλεξάνδρεια*, 1924

Truth is not what is uttered in full consciousness. It is always what "just slips out"—the typing error which gives the whole show away.

— Lawrence Durrell, *Balthazar* (*The Alexandria Quartet* II), 1958

Editorial

It is with much satisfaction that I present hereby a third release within the *DDGLC Working Papers* subset of the *Lingua Aegyptia Studia Monographica* series—Kierán Meinhardt's *The Phonology of Greek Loanwords in Coptic*. The revised version of his M.A. thesis, submitted to *Freie Universität Berlin* in fall 2025 and subsequently honored with the *Award for Academic Excellence* 2026 of the *International Association for Coptic Studies*, this book brings to fruition its young author's broad interests and intense studies in all the relevant subjects.

Kierán Meinhardt graduated at the *Humboldt Universität* (B.A.) and *Freie Universität Berlin* (M.A.) in Historical Linguistics, Greek, and Comparative Linguistics. Besides working as a software developer for companies and several academic projects,[1] language coach for Ancient Greek and Latin in film productions, poet and translator of poetry,[2] his professional experience also includes work as a student assistant on the *DDGLC* Data and Database. This, along with his deep understanding of the Classical languages, Sanskrit, Arabic, and Coptic and his keen interest in computer-based linguistic analysis (the automatic classification of spelling variants employed in *The Phonology of Greek Loanwords in Coptic* was first developed in a seminar paper) has prepared and led him to the kind of scientific challenge he has taken up with the present book. It is one of the hitherto rare pieces of research on the topic, certainly by far the most comprehensive one, and the one based on the largest set of data, the 2024 version of spelling variants compiled in the *DDGLC* database. Employing linguistic, statistical, and digital methodology in a consistently reflected and equilibrated way, based on a profound notion of the two interacting languages and phonological systems, and guided by a keen sense of meaningful research questions, this book offers a great wealth of significant results and intriguing suggestions with an argumentative lucidity and performative elegance which will likewise intrigue and please the valued reader.

Kierán Meinhardt's *The Phonology of Greek Loanwords in Coptic* is the first publication backed by an accessible and searchable set of *DDGLC*-based digital research data.[3] Thanks to the publication funds of *Freie Universität Berlin*, the third volume of *DDGLC Working Papers*, as already the previous one,[4] can again be offered as an open access publication.

Berlin / Leipzig, 20 September 2026 Tonio Sebastian Richter

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1 Such as the DFG project *Altlitauisches Etymologisches Wörterbuch*, the ERC project *ZODIAC*: *Ancient Astral Science in Transformation* and the ERC project *Kalīla and Dimna: Anonym-Classic*.

2 Most recently appeared his German translation of H. P. Lovecraft's sonnets: *Pilze vom Planeten Juggoþ* (ISBN 978-3-565-46830-0), 2026.

3 Kierán Meinhardt, *Greek Loanword Spellings in Coptic*, 2026.09.29+ddglc.2024-05-09, https://zenodo.org/doi/10.5281/zenodo.22172183. This publication grants access to attestation-level data on deviating spellings, which is not yet accessible in the *DDGLC* data recently released through the user interface DIOSKOROS (https://dioskoros.org/).

4 Nina Speransky, *Transitivity and Aspect in Sahidic Coptic*, DDGLC Working Papers 2, LingAeg StudMon 26, Hamburg: Widmaier 2022 <https://doi.org/10.37011/studmon.26>.

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I am grateful to Tonio Sebastian Richter, Lisa Starogardzki, Anne Grischeck, and Johannes Schütz for accompanying it from its earliest beginnings.

The project subsequently grew into a master's thesis in linguistics, supervised by Professors Malte Felix Rosemeyer and Tonio Sebastian Richter. 2025

I thank Malte Felix Rosemeyer, Sonja Dahlgren, Eliese-Sophia Lincke, and my fellow awardee Vincent Walter for guiding the work along its way. I am grateful to the International Association for Coptic Studies for honouring it with its Award for Academic Excellence.

It has now grown further into this book. 2026

I thank the editors of the series, as well as Christian Casey, Carsten Peust, and Ivan Miroshnikov, for their valuable feedback. I am also grateful to my publisher, Kai Widmaier, for the smooth and accommodating collaboration and for trusting me with the book's typesetting. Finally, my thanks go to Freie Universität Berlin, the birthplace of this book, for funding its Open Access publication.

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Berlin-Tempelhof, September 2026 Kierán Meinhardt

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