

*Papyri and Latin Texts: INsights and Updated Methodologies.*

Towards a philological, literary, and historical approach to Latin papyri  
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The aim of the project PLATINUM is to scrutinize Latin texts on papyrus from several points of view in order to highlight their substantial contribution to our knowledge in ancient Roman literature, language, and history, especially in the multilingual and multicultural contexts of the Eastern part of the Empire between the 1<sup>st</sup> century B.C. and 8<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

Coming mainly from Egypt and other Roman provinces (as well as Herculaneum and Ravenna), Latin papyri deserve more scholarly attention not only from papyrologists and paleographers, but also from scholars of Latin language, as well as intellectual and cultural historians of Rome. They have hitherto represented a border-line field of study that has not been fully exploited by scholars of Latin literature and language. Moreover, the obsolete bibliography and the considerable number of unpublished texts make the study of Latin papyri (and bilingual or even trilingual, where Latin is documented) - whether literary, 'paraliterary', or documentary - a challenging task.

Moving from an overall census and towards a new corpus of Latin texts on papyrus, a more thorough study will reveal the untapped potential of these texts for renewing our knowledge of the circulation and reception of Latin language and education, as a cultural engine in Mediterranean societies.

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