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Theoretical information on astrological houses in P. Carlsberg 71

This paper presents a discussion of astrological theory and technical terminology preserved in the Demotic astrological manual P. Carlsberg 71. This manuscript represents the remains of an example of a treatise on personal astrology; that is the branch of astrology concerned with the fates and fortunes of individuals as opposed to universal astrology, which deals with entire nations and their rulers. The text is one of more than 50 astrological treatises written in Demotic that survive from the temple library of the ancient site of Tebtunis and dates to the Roman period (1st-2nd century CE). The astrological papyri from Tebtunis remain virtually unpublished resulting in a relatively limited knowledge of ancient Egyptian astrology, although considerable scholarly effort has been devoted to the edition of this material over the recent years. P. Carlsberg 71 represents a particularly valuable source, since the surviving fragments contain examples of classifications and explanations of heavenly bodies and astrological concepts. Such emic insights into Egyptian astrology are rare and offer a unique opportunity for expanding the current understanding of Egyptian astrological terminology and theory. This paper will focus on a part of the manuscript dealing with the signs of the zodiac and the astrological houses. It will explore the technical terminology employed in P. Carlsberg 71 with attention to the possible connections between Egyptian, Greek, and Mesopotamian astrology.