

Lutz Popko

Publishing a masterpiece, from Stone Age to Digital Age, and back to the
analog world: The Papyrus Ebers replica

The Ebers Papyrus, now kept in the “Papyrus- und Ostrakasammlung” of the University Library of Leipzig, Germany, has been the flagship of ancient Egyptian medicine for more than a century due to its length, content, state of preservation, and age. At the time of its discovery it was perfectly preserved, only a few columns were lost in the aftermath of the Second World War. In this talk, I will give a brief overview of the publication history of this masterpiece, starting with the amazing lithographic facsimile edition made in 1875, which still preserves the columns that are lost today, to the making of the replica that is on display in the University Library. A subsequent visit to this replica will give the speakers of this workshop an impression of what this papyrus once looked like, before it was cut into pieces, and even long before it was found.