

## Astrological Manuals Concerning Women from the Tebtunis Temple Library, Egypt

My talk investigates two unpublished Demotic astrological manuals concerning women (*PSI* inv. D 35 + *P. Carlsberg* 684 and *P. Carlsberg* 100 referred to below as the “Women’s Astrological Manuals”). These manuals belong to a corpus of astrological treatises from the Tebtunis Temple Library, Egypt (2nd century C.E.), and their predictions are based on the correspondence between the Moon and the “decans” – a sequence of 36 stars rising at a one-hour interval throughout the year. They were first attested in Egypt in the early 2nd millennium BCE, and became integrated into the zodiac system between the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BCE and the 1<sup>st</sup> century CE.

Intriguingly, Hellenistic astrologers from later periods, such as Hephaestion of Thebes and Teucer of Babylon (the latter excerpted from Rhetorius), wrote about decanal astrological practices similar to those in these Women’s Astrological Manuals. The connection between the Women’s Astrological Manuals and the Hellenistic treatises indicate a multi-centered astrology tradition in Graeco-Roman Egypt, which thrived in both the Greek *poleis* and the Egyptian provinces. Additionally, that connection challenges the previous belief that Greeks had nothing to learn from Egyptians on the topic of astrology.

### Bibliography

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