ILLUSTRATED PAPYRUS SCROLLS (Ch. VII, n. 13)

There are many surviving examples of illustrated religious texts, Books of the Dead etc. Naturally the number of illustrated secular texts which have been preserved, is much smaller, because these were used in daily life; mathematical and didactic papyri provide good examples. The illustrations come in all shapes and sizes, varying from period to period and depending on the nature of a text. In religious papyri small illustrations are often set within the text. There are also larger illustrations which fill the height of the papyrus. Other illustrations may appear in frieze-like form above or below the text. Finally there are examples of frieze-like compositions which fill almost the entire scroll and are accompanied by a minimal text; the result, to all intents and purposes, is a painted scroll. The same forms of illustration occur in secular texts. In this genre we sometimes find examples of small illustrations in the text. Examples of fully painted scrolls with frieze-like compositions appear in a satirical papyrus in London and in an erotic-satirical papyrus in Turin. Of special interest for our enquiry is a geographical-geological papyrus in Turin, dating from the end of the 13th century B.C., which shows a map of the area of Wadi Hammat, lying between Koptos on the Nile and Kosseir on the Red Sea coast. This papyrus, which measures c. 270–40 cm depicts the roads of the area running between reddish granite

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1 For illustrated papyrus scrolls in general see LA III, 137 ff., s.v. Illustration; Weitzmann, 47 ff., 57 ff.
2 See e.g. Weitzmann, figs. 48, 51, 52; 45 b, 46, 53; 47 and 54.
3 See e.g. G. Robins, Ch. Shute, The Rhind Mathematical Papyrus, an Ancient Egyptian Text (1987) e.g. pl. 17.
4 See respectively Weitzmann, fig. 54; col. pl. in Il papiro di Siracusa, Atti del primo convegno internazionale sul Papiro di Siracusa, 1984 (1985) 25; and J. Omlin, Der Papyrus 55001 und seine satirisch-erotischen Zeichnungen und Inschriften (1973) pl. I.
rocks and dark basalt rocks; while the roads are depicted from above, as in a map, the rocks are seen from the normal horizontal viewpoint. Also indicated are the sites of the goldmines, as well as the village of the miners, and a commentary accompanies the various parts. This papyrus is a rare example of its kind, but more may have existed. Compare a papyrus, also in Turin, which depicts the plan of the tomb of Ramses IV lying amidst the rocks of the Valley of the Kings.

If we turn to the Hellenistic period we find that the only illustrated scrolls which have survived are those with small illustrations in the text columns. It has frequently been assumed in the past that painted scrolls with a continuous composition existed in the Graeco-Roman period, but all evidence is lacking. Still we must take account of the fact that this period has yielded only a small number of illustrated papyrus scrolls anyway. The existence of painted scrolls in this period, serving for instance as maps or as study material for artists, like the two papyri at Turin, need not be excluded. A memorandum from the 3rd century B.C. concerning the overflowing of an irrigation canal, is of interest in this respect. At the bottom of the text there is a drawing, which shows in a schematic way, both the canal and a circular palisade which is recommended for the protection of the farm animals.

In connection with the possibility that illustrated papyrus scrolls were used as models for the Nile Mosaic, the first option is the scroll with smaller illustrations in the text columns, a method of illustration which may be found both in ancient and Ptolemaic Egypt. The existence in the late Hellenistic period of herbals

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6 See LÄ I, 415, s.v. Architekturdarstellung, fig. 4; 662 s.v. Baupläne; col. pl. in Il papiro di Siracusa (o.c. in n. 4) 24.

7 For illustrated scrolls from the Hellenistic period see Weitzmann 47 ff., e.g. pls. XIII–XV. For the first view see e.g. Th. Birt, Die Buchrolle in der Kunst (1907) 269 ff.; and Schefold ill. ca. in Ch. VII, n. 7; for the opposite view see extensively Weitzmann 123 ff.

8 For models and sketches for artists in general see R.W. Scheller, A Survey of Medieval Model Books (1963) 45 ff.; LÄ IV, 244 f., s.v. Musterbuch; Vassilïka 7 ff. There is only evidence for the existence of Egyptian pattern books for religious objects but that does not exclude the possibility that pattern books for secular arts existed also; compare the sketches of animals on small lime-stone slabs reproduced in Michalowski, figs. 762–764.

9 See C.C. Edgar, Zenon Papyri in the University of Michigan (1931) pl. VI; also reproduced in Lewis (o.c. Ch. III, n. 205) fig. 3, and Bowman, fig. 38.