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Egypt in material and mind : the use and perception of Aegyptiaca in Roman domestic contexts of Pompeii

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Eva Martine Mol (25 november 1984, Meppel) grew up in Staphorst and went to High School at RSG Stad and Esch in Meppel. In 2003 she started at Leiden University, obtaining her Bachelor in Archaeology in 2006 and a ResearchMaster degree in Classical and Mediterranean Archaeology in 2009. Her thesis, *Hidden Complexities of the Frankish Castle, Social Aspects of Space in the Configurational Architecture of Frankish Castles in the Holy Land, 1099-1291*, was awarded with the ‘Leidse Scriptieprijs’, for the best Master dissertation written at the University of Leiden in the year 2009. It was subsequently published as a monograph in 2012 within the Archaeological Studies Leiden University Press series.

In april 2010 Eva commenced as a PhD-student in the NWO VIDI project *Cultural Innovation in a Globalising Society, Egypt in the Roman World*, under the directions of dr. Miguel John Versluys at Leiden University.

During this period Eva published several articles, reviews, and a book chapter on the workings of Egypt in the Roman world and on the influence of objects and architecture on Roman rituals and religious experience. She has been a regular researcher at the Dutch Institute in Rome where she, besides working on her thesis, developed and organised a Master-Course ‘Egypt in Rome’ together with the KNIR-staff, which was given in 2011 and 2012. The results of the course were published as a special edition of the Dutch magazine *Roma Aeterna*, where Eva acted as guest editor in chief. She has also been a research fellow at the Dutch-Flemish Institute in Cairo from May-July 2013 and at the Dutch Institute in Istanbul in September 2014. During her PhD, Eva has been involved in several archaeological projects in Italy.

Currently, Eva is employed at the Free University Amsterdam, Leiden University and the University of Amsterdam as a university lecturer.

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The four years I spent on answering a single question about objects from a Roman town in Campania I consider as an occasional struggle, but mostly as an enormous blessing and very enriching experience. As both a blessing and a struggle, they shaped me to a degree I could never have imagined beforehand and I can only look back at the period with an odd mixture of pleasure, amazement and nostalgia. The person who deserves the greatest recognition and gratitude for this overall positive frame of mind regarding the entire process and for successfully finishing the undertaking is undoubtedly my supervisor Miguel John Versluys, who stimulated taking an innovative approach to the dataset and gave me all the freedom to develop this research as I desired and where I desired, which for a large part has been outside the beautiful city of Leiden.

Most of the people I spoke to who had written a PhD dissertation, often experienced the process as a very lonesome quest, and for many PhD candidates this was the most difficult aspect to cope with. I have been incredibly fortunate that my thesis never had to be conceived in such a fashion, as I was in the company of three fantastic people engaged in the same battle. Sander, Maaïke, Marike, I am very grateful to have had you on my side, the discussions on the workings of Egypt in the Roman world have been unbelievably valuable, and the gossip, sharing, and nagging about research, life and love even more so. Moreover, the weeks we spent in Italy during and after the ‘Egypt in Rome’ course count as one of my fondest memories of the entire project.

Marleen Termeer and Rogier Kalkers I also wish to thank in particular. Firstly for being the most intelligent and most critical archaeologists around who were able to lift the work to a level that I could not have accomplished alone. Secondly, and foremost, I want to thank them for being part of my life.

Unquestionably, the highlights of this PhD journey were the trips to unexplored territories: Rome, Pompeii, Molise, London, Macedonia, and Istanbul amongst others, with as its absolute zenith a 3 month stay in Egypt during the turbulent summer of 2013. Here I had the chance to experience a historical revolution in Cairo and truly magical weeks in a completely abandoned Giza, Philae, Thebes, Karnak, and Luxor. In some way, time

travel appears to be possible, and I was able to get stuck in the Romantic Era those weeks, feeling like a true 18th century Grand tourist experiencing an educational rite the passage. It was here that I finally came face to face with the remains of ancient Egypt for the first time, and the visit was vital to my research because of the realisation of two things: the enormous difference that exists between ancient Egypt and ancient Rome in environment, style, objects, and ideas, and the complete impossibility to imagine what Egypt is ‘really’ like without actually having travelled there.

For all this and more I am indebted to many: everyone at the Royal Dutch Institute in Rome and the Dutch-Flemish Institute in Cairo for their trust and hospitality, the staff at the *Soprintendenza Archeologica di Pompei* and the *Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli* for their collaboration, and all the members of our research group of *Isiaci* for their knowledge, help, and support. Furthermore I wish to thank everybody at the Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University and beyond who took the effort to listen and discuss the contents of the dissertation with me over the past years during meetings, workshops, and conferences. In this context I particular wish to express gratitude to Natasha Sojc for her assistance during the initial phases of the research and Raymond Corbey, Nathalie de Haan, Olaf Kaper, and Caroline van Eck for their useful comments in its final stages.

I think I was about seven years old, when my father started to occasionally lift me from my bed during the night and take me to our backyard in order to study the sky through his telescope. The hours we spent in the bitter cold questioning the workings of the stars, our planet, and the universe belong to one of my happiest childhood memories. Although I was far too young to learn we will all perish in due time when the sun expands to consume the Earth’s orbit, I want to thank my father for awakening a curiosity and scientific passion in me that has never ceased from that moment onwards, and for teaching me to always keep asking bigger questions.

Lastly, I wish to thank those in spite of whom I was able to finish the dissertation, but who were nonetheless able to offer emotional, artistic, poetical, musical, and intellectual widenings of scope even more cherished during the seemingly strange, tedious, and trivial occupations one sometimes finds oneself in when writing a dissertation: Lennart Kruijer, Pauline Mol, Tijm Lanjouw, Maartje Alders and the city of Amsterdam.

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