

Sources Cited in the Episode + vocabulary key

Bagnall, Roger S., and Raffaella Cribiore. *Women's Letters from Ancient Egypt, 300 BC-AD 800 / Roger S. Bagnall and Raffaella Cribiore; with Contributions by Evie Ahtaridis*. Michigan: University of Michigan Press, 2006.

Vocab

1. **Agora** – A public open space used for assemblies and markets in ancient cities (Greek context).
2. **Serapeion (or Serapeum)** – A temple dedicated to the Greco-Egyptian god Serapis, often used for sanctuary or learning.
3. **Demotic** – A script and stage of the Egyptian language used from around 650 BC onward.
4. **Coptic** – The latest stage of the Egyptian language, written using the Greek alphabet with some additional letters, used in Christian Egypt.
5. **Bilingual temples** – Temples where both Greek and Egyptian were used, especially from the Ptolemaic period onward.
6. **Ptolemies / Ptolemaic period** – The Greek ruling dynasty in Egypt after Alexander the Great (323–30 BC).
7. **Hellenistic** – Relating to Greek culture after the time of Alexander the Great, often blended with local cultures like Egyptian.
8. **Documentary hand** – A style of handwriting used for official or everyday documents.
9. **Ligature** – The connecting of letters in handwriting.

10. **Phonetic spelling** – Spelling based on sound rather than standard spelling rules.
11. **Interlinear addition** – Text added between the lines after the initial writing.
12. **Corpus** – A collection of written texts (in this case, a collection of ancient letters).
13. **Addressee** – The person a letter is addressed to.
14. **Formulaic greeting/structure *typically*** – name of person writing (author of the letter), relationship to the person they are writing to using the third person plural such as “her”, stating of hopes that the addressee is well, reference to the gods and prayer that the author prays to the gods that the addressee is well, stating that the author is well. This order varies depending on the author of the letters & how much of the letter survives i.e. if the greeting is still intact or not.

Example: from Dionysia to Theon 127 BC. Page 107 of Bagnall and Cribiore

“Dionysia to Theon her lord, greetings and health. I continually keep the best remembrance of you for all good, and I pray to the gods that I may receive you healthy in many ways, because you both rescued us from enemies and again left us and went away against enemies.”

15. **Household management** – The activities involved in running a home, often discussed in women's letters.
16. **Manet of dried figs** – A **manet** (or **mina**) was an ancient unit of weight used to measure goods like food.
17. **Slave boys** – Enslaved children trained for various labor or skills, often referenced in letters regarding household or medical duties.

18. **Enema doctor (Falo)** – Likely a reference to a specialized medical practitioner;

"Falo" could be a transliteration or placeholder name.