

Julia Lougovaya, Computational Workout: Division Tables as Training Exercises.

Mario Capasso, Paola Davoli & Natascia Pellé (edd.), Proceedings of the 29th International Congress of Papyrology. Lecce, 28 July - 3 August 2019 = Quaderni dell'Istituto superiore universitario di formazione interdisciplinare. 2 (Lecce, 2022) II, pp. 661-672.

http://siba-ese.unisalento.it/index.php/29th_ICP/issue/view/1881

Examines ostraka O. Petr. Mus. 64 (= MP3 2309.5; LDAB 7055) and 65 (= LDAB 113882), second half of the 5th cent., Tentyris?), inscribed with division tables for 31 and 57, respectively. Argues that the tables did not serve as ready reckoners and were not copied after a model text, but rather recorded the results of actual computations performed for the purpose of training numerical skills. To facilitate the discussion, first provides a short introduction to the computation of fractional quotients.

2022-0085