

"Even the ruins have perished," wrote Peter Parsons of Oxyrhynchus, conspicuous by its lack of archaeological remains. Yet Grenfell and Hunt, over a ten-year period, sifted millions of papyrus fragments bearing the city's written record, private and public, literary and documentary, from the late Ptolemaic period to the Arab conquest and beyond. A hundred years of patient work and publication later, the majority—the work of generations to come—remain to be examined. The future thus holds its secrets, and the site, despite its thin archaeological footprint, has not yet given up all its ghosts. The present paper reviews the modest accessions of recent years and their rationale of survival: a preponderance of documents, public and private, continue to yield valuable economic, social, and legal data; a range sub-literary texts from magic and mime to cook-books and sex-manuals illustrate a literary survival-of-the-fittest in which Empedocles, Sophocles, and Menander, but also Dictys of Crete and a new Ass-novel come out on top—while previewing those of the coming five years, among them a new lost gospel, Bacchylides, and a new text prepared specially for this panel.