

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Brendan Haug, assistant professor of classical studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of classical studies, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees

Ph.D. 2012 University of California, Berkeley
M.A. 2005 University of California, Berkeley
B.A. 2004 University of Washington

Professional Record

2014-present Assistant Professor, Department of Classical Studies, and Archivist of the Papyrology Collection, University of Michigan
2013 Papyrologist, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: In addition to courses in ancient history and papyrology, Professor Haug has greatly expanded the humanities curriculum in several ways to reach students who might not otherwise come to Classical Studies. The most notable is his course on the environmental history of the ancient Mediterranean, which builds a bridge between the humanities and the sciences. It is the first cross-listed course between Classical Studies and the Program in the Environment. He has raised the profile of the UM papyrology collection through tours tailored to classes from numerous departments in LSA, as well as presentations to community groups throughout Michigan. He has served on four dissertation committees (one of which he co-supervises), and he has worked with UM's Warrior-Scholar program and MICHHERS.

Research: Professor Haug's research falls into three main categories: the environmental history of ancient and medieval Egypt, the colonial origins of papyrology itself, and the editing and publishing of texts on papyrus. His forthcoming monograph, Garden of Egypt, offers a challenge to the neo-determinist approach of much environmental history, which ascribes major demographic and economic crises to singular environmental events. He uses sources in ancient Greek, Latin, Arabic, and French to elucidate the interplay of human, natural environmental, and political factors and institutions in a fertile region of upper Egypt over a period of 1,600 years. His use of colonialist writings to help recreate the landscape of the Fayyūm is truly innovative, and reviewers feel that the book, which balances the universal with the intensely local, will serve as a model for environmental historians of other times and places. Professor Haug's new project, on the colonial origins of UM's papyrology collection, is at the leading edge of debates about the ethics of acquisition.

Recent and Significant Publications

Garden of Egypt: Irrigation, Society, and the State in the Premodern Fayyūm. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, forthcoming.

"Politics, Partage, and Papyri: Excavated Texts between Cairo and Ann Arbor (1924-1953)." *American Journal of Archaeology* 125, no. 1 (January 2021): 143-63.

"Agriculture in Roman Egypt." In *A Companion to Ancient Agriculture*, edited by D. Hollander and T. Howe, 517-38. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2020.

Berkes, Lajos and Brendan Haug. "Villages, Requisitions, and Tax Districts: Two Greek Lists from the Eighth-Century Fayyūm." *Bulletin of the American Society of Papyrologists* 53 (2016): 189-222.

Service: In addition to a full slate of departmental assignments, including regular service on the executive committee of the Interdepartmental Program in Ancient History and as an undergraduate advisor, Professor Haug has been very active in outreach. His impressive efforts to increase the accessibility of the Papyrology Collection to the local community by offering tours at Hatcher Library and by making presentations to numerous groups off campus are matched by his efforts to make the collection available online to researchers around the world.

External Reviewers

Reviewer (A): "[Professor Haug's] research is spectacular and innovative. It is so because it transcends the traditional boundaries... This is visible in his whole body of work, which testifies to his superb papyrological and historical skills, as well as in his propensity to explore questions, corpora and methodologies that are either occluded or considered beyond the realm of what ancient historians and papyrologists can and should do... He works on a breadth of languages (ancient Egyptian, Greek, Latin, Arabic, modern European languages), themes (water, power, irrigation, labor, State, agrarian economy, toponymy, colonialism, Orientalism, ethics, archival history), primary sources, methodologies and theories that allow him to participate to a wide-ranging array of scholarly conversations."

Reviewer (B): "Along the way, *Garden of Egypt* deftly interprets the Greek documentary evidence, clarifies the meanings of complicated Greek and Arabic technical terms, and describes in comprehensible language the functioning of the Fayyūm's irrigation system. It also reintroduces the state as an interested, if secondary and misguided party to the success of local, humanly maintained irrigation infrastructures. The extent of [Professor Haug's] reading in French and British colonialist literature for the Fayyūm project, when added to his curatorial responsibilities in Hatcher 807, suggests his most recent work on the history of the Michigan papyrus collection and its ethical implications is not so much a 'sharp turn,' as he puts it, but a natural extension, presently controversial because it makes some people uncomfortable—as they should be. A time of reckoning for papyrology has come; in this [Professor Haug] is on the right side of history."

Reviewer (C): "This book represents an original and authoritative contribution to papyrology and ancient history, and a truly groundbreaking contribution to ancient environmental history. Prof. Haug demonstrates remarkable erudition and ingenuity in coming to a better understanding of the environment of the Fayyum, and how this affected both the ways in which people managed its water resources and the constraints that they faced in doing so."

Reviewer (D): "[Professor Haug] demonstrates an enviable ability to master not only different periods but also different languages. The book is destined to have an impact on different fields, well beyond papyrology and classics, despite the fact (or perhaps in virtue of the fact) that the author brings ancient historians back to their core business: textual analysis and interpretation."

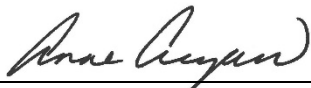
Reviewer (E): "I am very excited by the description of Haug's next book project on the history and ethics of Papyrology as a discipline using Michigan's collection, the largest collection of ancient Egyptian documents in the Western Hemisphere, as both archive and example... The 'hostility' Haug's early offerings of this work received is both unsurprising and a strong indication that he is doing the necessary tough work that the field has long ignored. Like his first book, the conception

here is brilliant—a massive empirical project that will speak to fields far beyond the confines of Papyrology and ancient history.”

Reviewer (F): “This is a book that will have an important impact on several disciplines: papyrologists, but also ancient and medieval historians and specialists of Mediterranean studies more generally. It also offers a landmark contribution to the currently blooming field of environmental history, through its methodological reflections as well as through the impressive array of sources its author has assembled and made available. Professor Haug’s new project...breaks entirely new ground as a research monograph, in a subject that has been very prominent in the press, with the usual lack of precision and background research. Offering a well-documented, archive-based account of the history of the Michigan collection, inserted in its broader political and institutional context, it aims to clarify the origin and status of a flagship western collection, in line with the resolution taken by the International Society of Papyrologists regarding the ethical and legal issues facing antiquities collections.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Haug has expanded the curriculum of the Department of Classical Studies and raised its profile - and that of the UM’s papyrology collection—both on campus and off. His research is innovative in its methods, successfully public-facing, and is helping to transform ancient history and culture, and make it more accessible. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Brendan Haug be promoted to the rank of associate professor of classical studies, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Anne Curzan, Dean
Geneva Smitherman Collegiate Professor of
English Language and Literature, Linguistics,
and Education
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

May 2022