

# Taubenschlag, Rafał

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"Two demotic self-dedications", H. Thompson, "Journ. Eg. Arch.", XXVI, 1940 : [recenzja]

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# SURVEY OF PAPYRI PUBLISHED 1939-1945

## I. DEMOTIC PAPYRI OF THE PTOLEMAIC PERIOD

S. R. K. GLANVILLE, *Catalogue of Demotic Papyri in the British Museum*. Printed by order of the Trustees, The British Museum, vol. I, 1939.

The importance of the documents published here is that first, on internal evidence, they all derive originally from a single archive at Thebes, being concerned with the history of a small property (or its owners) over a period of twenty-three years, during which time, no less than nine persons successively acquired some sort of legal interest in it; secondly, they all dated to the reign of Ptolemy I Soter, with the exception of the four short receipts from the first half of the next reign, with which the dossier as now preserved, is completed.

The papyri exhibit no startling divergences from the legal forms already known from early Ptolemaic Demotic documents. Minor variants from the standard formulae, for which the chief sources are Griffith's *Ryland Papyri*, Spiegelberg's *Papyri Hauswaldt* and Sethe's *Bürgschaftsurkunden*, are noted in the commentaries on the individual papyri.

Among the papyri, N° 10,522, 10,526, 10,527 are cessions, N° 10,523 a δάειον on hypothecation, N° 10,525 a typical form of lien in the national law, conceived as a suspensively conditioned sale (cf. Taubenschlag, *Law* 206 note 3), 10,524 a contract containing an arrangement authorizing a person to demand that his neighbor building a house should construct it: *ne ejus luminibus officiatur*. A similar agreement between two veterans about a window is 10,500. N° 10,537, 10,530, 10,536, 10,535, 10,529 are receipts.

W. ERICKSEN, *Ein demotischer Ehevertrag aus Elephantine*. Abh. d. Preuss. Akad. d. Wiss. Phil. hist. N° 8, 1939.

This contract of marriage from 198 B.C. contains provisions concerning the husband's gift to his wife and the wife's gift to her husband (*dos*), further provisions in case of divorce. As the author points out, the contract differs from the normal schema sketched under N° 5 by Möller in his dissertation: *Zwei ägyptische Eheverträge aus vorsaitischer Zeit*, Abh. Preuss. Akad. d. Wiss. Phil. hist. Kl. N° 3, 1918. New is the clause that the wife and her fortune has to be protected against any claims raised by whomsoever.

H. THOMPSON, *Two Demotic self-dedications*. Journ. Eg. Arch. XXVI (1940), p. 68ff.

In a short paper read before the Papyrological Congress at Oxford in

1937 and printed in the *Actes du V<sup>me</sup> Congr. Intern. de Papyrologie*, Brussels 1937, 497-504 the author called attention to a group of Demotic papyri in the British Museum (B. M. Eg. 10618-39) containing dedications by individuals of themselves and their children to a god. About fifteen are dated, the dates ranging from 195 B.C. to 137 B.C. The documents contain petitions to the god, the suppliant (who may be male or female) undertaking to become his servant, together with his children and grandchildren and to pay a monthly sum of money to the priests and he binds himself not to quit the precincts of the temple; and in return for these terms he stipulates that the god shall protect him from those various forms of supernatural influence which continually threatened the life of every good Egyptian. Thus the document forms a sort of moral contract between the suppliant and his god, and the fullest specimens are drawn up on the lines of a legal contract by a scribe, occasionally with a royal protocol and witness. But they were contracts incapable of legal enforcement, except, it may be, by the priests against the suppliant on his promises with regard to payment of a service-rent and the enforced residence within the precincts. The great majority of these documents are concerned with individuals having anonymous paternity. The author edits two of them: B. M. Eg. 10,622 and 10,624 with commentary. The latter contains the clause "If the amount is altered, I undertake to pay the penalty of the ἡμολία."

R. PARKER, *A late Demotic gardening agreement*. Medinet Habu Ostrakon 4038, *Journ. Eg. Arch.* XXVI (1941), p. 84ff.

The papyrus contains a *locatio-conductio operis*. Two parties, Talames and Pefumont, having come to a verbal agreement as to the cultivation of a garden, have met in the presence of a scribe, and possibly one or more witnesses, to have a written record made. This contains statements of the kind of the work to be done, statements regarding payment in wheat, gold and bronze, and provisions for the case, should the gardener be arrested. Talames promises to be surety to him. A statement regarding taxes is also inserted.

### DEMOTIC AND GREEK PAPYRI OF THE PTOLEMAIC PERIOD

THE ADLER PAPYRI, The Greek texts edited by E. N. Adler, J. G. Tait and F. Heichelheim; the Demotic texts by the late F. L. Griffith, Oxford University Press, London, 1939.

The edition contains 21 Greek and 30 Demotic documents belonging