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SURVEY OF THE POPYRI

by

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GREEK POPYRI FROM THE PTOLEMAIC AND ROMAN PERIOD

Mustafa el - Amir, *A Demotic Papyrus from Pathyris (Études de Papyrologie t. 8 (1957) pp. 59—67,6 plates).*

This large and very well preserved roll (2m. 34 cm. × 33 cm.) belonging to the Egyptian Society of Papyrology comes from Gebelen or its neighbourhood and is dated in the 5-th year of Ptolemy VI (176 B.C.). On the recto the text contains a contract of sale and a contract of cession of high land by the sisters Tadjeme and Tapewer to Pawher, a herdsman of Montu. The sale contract is docketed. On the verso there are two lists of witnesses. [C.K.]

The Oxyrhynchus Papyri, Part XXIV, edited with translations and notes by E. Lobel, C. H. Roberts, E. G. Turner, J. W. B. Barns, London, Egypt Exploration Society, 1957, Graeco-Roman Memoirs No. 35 p. XII + 216 + 16 plates.

The Oxyrhynchus Papyri, Part XXV, edited with translations and notes by E. Lobel, E. G. Turner and R. P. Winnington-Ingram, London, Egypt Exploration Society, 1959, Graeco-Roman Memoirs No. 36 p. XII + 131 + 14 plates.

From the forty three texts published in the volume XXIV (Nos. 2383—2425), 23 texts are literary fragments.

The first three texts are small fragments of papyrus codices of Gospel according to St. Luke XXII (2383), and of St. Matthew XI, XII (2384) and XIX (2385), from the III and IV centuries. The text of 2383 is idiosyncratic. The scribe seems to be careless and to commit many faults. An interesting variant is found perhaps in v. 61 according to which when the cock crew after St. Peter's denial, St. Peter turned and looked at it.

No. 2386 is a fragment of a papyrus roll of the fourth or fifth century containing on the recto the end of Psalm 83 (84) and the beginning of 84 (85). On the verso (in a different hand and upside down in relation to the recto) are a written three lines, probably part of a private letter.

Nos. 2387—2400 are new classical fragments. No. 2387 of the later part of I.B.C. or earlier I.A.D. contains 33 fragments, most of which are quite small, attributed to Alcman, Παρθενία. Equally to Alcman are attributed 22 fragments of No. 2388 (probably of the second half of the second century). Nos. 2389 (of the second half of the first century) and 2390 (of the second century) bring us respectively 35 and 50 fragments of commentaries to Alcman, but do not give any specific information about the missing works of the Lesbian poet. No. 2391 contains 36 very small and insignificant fragments, of the first century, perhaps also from a commentary to Alcman.

No. 2392 was identified by the editors as the colophon of the commentary on Alcman, Μέλη Bk. IV, of an unknown Dionysios.

No. 2393 (2 fragments) is a list of Doric words and phrases of poetic character with their interpretations, in a hand of the second century, identified by the editors as fragments of an Alcman lexicon.

No. 2394: 14 very small fragments, of the late second or third century, of a choral lyric in the Doric dialect. We find also lyric verses with some Doric features in the dialect in the two fragments of No. 2395, assigned to the early part of the third century.

No. 2396 is a label of the work on the Spartan dialect, written by the grammarian Tryphon, known to us from the Liber Suda. It is a strip of parchment, inscribed on its front right-hand side with the title of a book, which was attached by its under left-hand side to the back of the top left-hand corner of the roll to which it applies.

No. 2397 contains 15 fragments of a commentary on Iliad XVII.

No. 2398 brings the fragments of 17 lines of Callimachus, Hecale, written on the verso of a document, in which figures and a mention of baked brick can be recognized, of the first half of the second century. The recovery of the beginnings of the verses of which a large part was preserved in P. Oxy 2217 resolves the problems presented by the lines 8—11 of this fragment in an unexpected way, what is not an encouragement to embark on a further conjectural

supplementation. The new fragment permits also to identify definitely fr. 260, 46 and fr. 346 of Callimachus.

No. 2399 is a fragment of a historical work, from which it gives us four columns and six unplaced scraps. The hand allows to assigned the text to the first century B. C. In the first column an attack by Carthaginians on Albus Tunes which harassed Agathocles is described. It seems that we have here the source of Diodorus XX 17, 2—4 and 18, 1—2. The rest of the piece, including the fragments, is a vivid account of an incident in Syracuse. It relates how one Diognetus, a creature of Hamilcar and the Syracusan exiles, attempted to start a riot in the city, and he was treated by the brother of Agathocles, Antander. Diodorus, who does not mention the incident, helps us however to place it in the autumn 310 B. C. during the Agathocles' expedition in Africa (cf. Diod. XX 15—16). The most probable author of the work in question seems to be one of the famous historians of Sicily, not Timaeus of Tauromenium (as he was an exile and a bitter enemy of Agathocles), but Duris of Samos, who devoted a separate work in four or more books to Agathocles. He was the main source of Diodorus' narrative of the history of Agathocles, and also what we know of his style does agree with the style of this Oxyrhynchus fragment.

No. 2400, of the third century, a text of 18 lines, is a list of subjects for rhetorical exercises.

The part „Extant Classical Authors” is opened by the only Latin text in this volume: No. 2401, two leaves of a papyrus codex, probably of the fourth century, which contains Terence, *Andria*, 602—978. The text of the papyrus is in general not very good and give not very much to the textual criticism.

No. 2402 brings two fragments of Aristotle, *Ethica Nicomachea* VI, of the middle second century. Though not without faults, it offers a good text, and one substantially in agreement with that of the medieval codices.

No. 2404, of the second century, is a fragment of Aeschines, *In Ctesiphontem* (51—53, two columns). The text, superior to that of the medieval codices, is of interest for two variants from their tradition (ll. 7, 44—45); in l. 48 a transposition made by Cobet is confirmed.

No. 2405, the last of the literary papyri, is a Glossary to Homer, *Iliad* I, written in a plain, documentary hand of the second/third century on papyrus of very poor quality, doubtless a product of

the schoolroom. The orthography is bad and corrections are frequent.

No. 2406 is a complete novelty among Greek papyri: a ground-plan of a house, probably not an architect's drawing for the use of building workmen, but intended to accompany other legal documents, to illustrate a division of house property. The house is rectangular in shape, and has a rectangular extension in width at the end farthest from the door, which gives the building the shape of the Greek letter Γ (cf. [οικία] γαμμοειδής of BGU 1037,8). It is a house of the atrium-type, characteristic of Italy, not found yet in the excavation in Egypt, perhaps the house of a Roman citizen or of a Romanized veteran.

The text of No. 2407, of the late third century, consists of the memoranda of a meeting of a public body. We find there a σύνδικος named Menelaus, some persons designated as past holders of the office of hypomnematographus or of unspecified ἀρχαί, of the „members of the first and second tribes” and of an assembly called σύλλογος. The editors suppose that it was perhaps to large to be designated as βουλή and they compare P. Oxy 41, where the δῆμος, not the βουλή, is in evidence. The syndic appears as a most important person in this text. We observe his close connexion with the prefect and his immediate responsibility to the latter, between whom and the assembly he acts as a medium. He has evidently much influence in fiscal matters and over the appointment of the ἄρχοντες.

No. 2408, of 397, is a copy of a letter acknowledging the receipt of 2000 artabae of corn, from a Prefect of the Annona of Alexandria to the Exactor (of the Oxyrhynchite nome).

No. 2409, of the late second century, brings short private memoranda on a variety of official matters written on the verso of an unpublished register of loans, originating perhaps at Thebes.

No. 2410, of A.D. 120, is a petition, out of which the second and the third, are partly preserved and the rest of the first. The second and the third columns contain two copies of an identical text: two petitioners complain of the aggressive behaviour of a neighbour, who has hindered them from making use of the village irrigator, which was at their disposal from the time of their ancestor and who been has acquiring the land exploited till then by the petitioners. The land in question it is in the first place “our crown land” (βασιλικῆς ἡμῶν γῆς), which expression at such an early date is surprising; and the pastures from Nicanor' ousia, which appears

here for the first time, perhaps, as suppose the editors, belonged to Nicanor, one of the sons of the philosopher Areus, who, according to Suetonius (Div. Aug. 80) was like his father a personal friend of Augustus.

No. 2411, probably c. A.D. 173, is a document, out of which are preserved the remains of three columns. (On the verso is P. Oxy 2414). It is a petition analogous with P. Oxy 237 (the Petition of Dionysia) in its free citation of previous cases. It comprises an extensive exchange of correspondence between officials.

No. 2412 is an account recording money payments extending over three years, from the 14th to the 12th of Tiberius (A.D. 28/29) — for poll-tax and various trade taxes, and for "the price of wheat", from six villages, out of which four are known to be in the Heracléopolite nome.

No. 2413 is a list of arrears in money payments. It contains entries in retrospective order from the second year of Antonius Pius to the fifteenth of Hadrian. Headings indicate past Prefects of Egypt to whose periods of office the years belonged. The chief value of the text lies in its mention of the prefect Baienus Blas-tianus, most probably identical with the unplaced prefect. Bla.. cited by Stein in *Die Prefekten von Aegypten* p. 161. From the present text it appears that Baienus was immediate successor of Flavius Titianus, whose known dates are 20/3/126 — 27/3/133 (cf. Stein o.c. pp. 65 ff., 192).

No. 2414 is an account of taxation, written on the verso of No. 2411, in a literary hand, probably of the late second or early third century.

No. 2415, written on the recto of a papyrus, on the verso of which is No. 2425, of the late third century, is a list of vessels, stating under whom each is sailing with a total in artabas at the end of each entry.

No. 2416, of the sixth or seventh century, is a note about an inheritance, in which the writer explains his administration of the division of some money left by his sister among her three daughters.

Under the title "Minor Documents" nine texts are published: No. 2417, of A.D. 286, memoranda of proceedings of the Senate, recording perhaps the election of magistrates; No. 2418, of the fifth or sixth century, a petition to an authority acting as τοποτηρητής to "the regions of Arcadia"; No. 2419, a declaration of the sixth

century; No. 2420, a deed of surety, from the Apion archive, dated 610; No. 2421 (verso of No. 2422), an account of payments in kind, of the early fourth century; No. 2422, A.D. 290, an account of beef and pork, no doubt as requisitions for military provisions; No. 2423, of the second or third century, private account from Choiach 1st to the 24th; No. 2424, on the recto a list of articles, second to third century; the list is followed, on the same side, by a much damaged tachygraphic text, similar to that on the verso; No. 2425, a private account, on verso of No. 2415, upside down in relation with it.

The papyri published in the part XXV are all literary texts (we may count here also No. 2435, which is without doubt a fragment of the political literature analogous to *Acta Alexandrinorum*).

No. 2426 brings us the titles of five plays of Epicharmus: Promatheus or Pyrrha, Odysseus automolos and (probably) Odysseus nauagos, Medeia, and — very uncertainly read — Persai.

No. 2427 contains 67 fragments of Epicharmus plays. It is a pity that they are so small and insignificant, that even Mr. Lobel cannot identify them nor guess their contents. He tentatively suppose only that fr. 27 may have come from the Ἡβας γάμος or the Μοῦσαι and that fr. 8 represents the Σφίγξ. In fr. 1 three characters, Prometheus, Deucalion and Pyrrha appear to be simultaneously on the stage, which seems to confirm the use of three actors by Epicharmus.

No. 2428 brings 7 very small fragments, attributed by the editor to Doric Comedy, perhaps also Epicharmus.

No. 2429 is a commentary on Epicharmus, Ὀδυσσεὺς αὐτόμολος and perhaps still another play, in 7 fragments. It confirms the ascription of the fragment published in *Mittheilungen aus den Papyrus Erzherzog Rainer V* to the Odysseus automolos of Epicharmus. The general character of the exposition is similar to what is ordinarily found in such commentaries, a mixture of lexical, critical and interpretative notes.

No. 2430 contains 165 very small fragments of choral lyric in the Doric dialect, among which the remnants of at least five unrelated texts were distinguished by the editor, who tentatively ascribes them to Simonides. Under No. 2431 we find 6 fragments perhaps from Simonides Epinicia.

No. 2433 is a puzzling piece of papyrus with the title: Σιμωνιδείων ὑπ(όμνημα).

Under No. 2434 seven fragments are grouped, out of which the first only is of sufficient extent to warrant the expression of an opinion. It contains a part of a commentary of considerable amplitude on a lyrical composition (the editor supposes that it might have been a composition of Simonides).

No. 2435 published by E. G. Turner under the title "Acta Alexandrinorum?" (with the question mark) is a text of great interest, in the first place for the history of the class of literature known to us as Acta Alexandrinorum. The recto of the papyrus contains one complete column of writing and traces of a succeeding one in a hand assigned by the editor to the first part of the first century A.D., and certainly not later than A.D. 50. We find there a speech, punctuated by applause, made to the citizens of Alexandria by an unnamed emperor, identified by the editor with Germanicus Caesar. The papyrus furnishes a lively picture of Germanicus' personality and an interesting commentary on Tac. Ann. II 59. Germanicus' Egyptian visit was attested already by an ostrakon dated 26th Jan. A.D. 19 (Wilcken, Chr. 413) and by the two decrees issued by him surviving in a well-known Berlin Papyrus (SB Berlin 1911, 794 f.). The new text seems to be an account of the very moment of his arrival in Alexandria.

The text on the verso offers in correct official form the minutes of an audience before Augustus in Rome given to the ambassadors from Alexandria. The body that gives the audience is, as supposes the editor, the select council of 20 which Dio Cassius LVI 28 says was organized by Augustus in the year A.D. 12. It seems probable that one purpose of the concilium was to facilitate the transfer of power from Augustus to Tiberius. The delegation of the Alexandrians had come to congratulate Livia and Tiberius (cf. II. 45—46), but it might have proposed a serious end for itself as well. The editor seems to be right in making "an interesting *rapprochement*" between this text and PSI 1160.

It is noteworthy that the recto and the verso of the same roll were used to carry material relating to the same theme, the relationship of Alexandria and Rome. Very important is also the apparent analogy between the text on the verso and the Acta Alexandrinorum of later date. So it is very probable that the texts published under No. 2435 do not represent a merely private piece of reportage, but were intended to have a wider circulation and a political purpose. The point of greatest interest is that they are practically contem-

porary with the events they describe. If they do belong to the Acta literature, they supply a concrete example that the Acta Alexandrinorum were originally written at the same time as the events they describe (such was the supposition of H. Musurillo). And even if they do not belong to this class of literature, they might still have formed a model for them in spite of the difference of tone (the Acta are always antiimperial).

No. 2436, a monody with musical notation, is published jointly by E. G. Turner, who gives the transcription and account of the text, and by R. P. Winnington-Ingram, who gives the account of the music. From the text of the early second century only the second column is better preserved. It contains a monody addressed to a chorus which is bidden to dance. The editor supposes that we have here a pre-Hellenistic lyric, probably a lyric from a satyr-play. It seems that the text is classic but the music that of a later epoch, and so the papyrus is perhaps part of a book of extracts for singing (like the Oslo Papyrus published *Symbolae Osloenses* XXXI, 1—87).

The last text in this volume, No. 2437, is a small fragment of Callimachus, Hecale, supplementing P. Oxy 2217 and 2398.

Those two new volumes are a worthy continuation of the long series of the Oxyrhynchus Papyri. The scholars are greatly indebted to the editors for preparing so promptly this splendid publication accompanied by penetrating commentaries and excellent plates. [A. Ś.]

P. M. Fraser, *A Ptolemaic Inscription from Thera* (*The Journal of Egyptian Archeology* vol. 44 (1958) pp. 99—100).

The author publishes the preamble of a decree of the normal honorific type engraved on the upper part of a stele of grey marble belonging to the Museum in Thera, and expresses opinion that this inscription may be assigned to the times of Philopator or Epiphanes. [C. K.]

PAPYRI FROM ROMAN PERIOD

Emil Kiessling, *Sammelbuch griechischer Urkunden aus Ägypten* (VI Bd. Heft 1 (1958), Heft 2 (1960).

The first and second parts of volume 6 contain 327 documents (Nos 8964—9290). The one third of them contains the papyri that