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guarantees the presence on his fruit farm of Aurelius Pambechius, colonus on the Apion estate.

No. 2479, from the sixth century, is a petition from a runaway colonus to his patron (probably one of the Apion family) begging to be restored to his farm without paying the rent on the land which he had not tilled during his absence.

No. 2480 is a long account for the crop of wine, consisting of the five kollemata of a papyrus roll, dated probably A.D. 565-6.

All three volumes of the *Oxyrhynchus Papyri*, are, according to the long tradition, provided with the exhausting indices and the splendid plates (though one could only regret that they almost never show the documents). All three appeared in all their splendour during two years 1961 and 1962. They manifest not only the incomparable skill but also the indefatigable industriousness of their Editors.

*The Archive of Aurelius Isidorus in the Egyptian Museum, Cairo, and the University of Michigan (P. Cair. Isidor.)* edited by Arthur E. R. B o a k, Herbert Chayyim Y o u t i e. Ann Arbor, the University of Michigan Press, 1960.

The papyrological evidence being in general very haphazard, the more precious are all sets of documents and archives. The Archive of Aurelius Isidorus, is well known already from many fragmentary publications, beginning with 1933. We are still more thankful to the Editors for presenting us now with the whole of it (including sixty two documents reedited and eighty seven hitherto unpublished) in the new volume of the University of Michigan Press.

The Introduction (pp. 3-20) treats in separate chapters (I) the genealogy of Isidorus and his family (p. 6) picturing the family connections of Isidorus; (II) Isidorus as landholder and tenant; (III) liturgies of Isidorus (ten liturgical offices in the course of twenty years, 298/9 to 318/9); the Editors conclude that the documents relating to Isidorus himself cover the years of his young manhood and maturity from 291 to 324, but they do not transmit the full record of his activities over this period; they reveal him only in his relations with village, nome, and provincial authorities, in the performance of liturgical service, in his double role as proprietor and tenant, and as the victim of aggression by more influential villagers. The fourth and last chapter of the Introduction deals with the date of the revolt of Lucius Domitius Domitianus, who was recognized at Karanis at least from the last week of August until November 23 of the same year 296; Lucius Domitius Domitianus, known from papyri and coins, being not identical with the *corrector* Aurelius Achilles, known from the literary sources.

The texts begin with the documents relating to the tax reform and the census (Nos. 1-8; Nos. 6 and 7 being published here for the first time). The most important text in this section is No. 1, the edict of Aristius Optatus, prefect of Egypt, issued on Phamenoth 20, i.e. March 16, 297 A.D., published for the first time in *Et. de Papyr.* 2 (1934) 1-8 and owning already a large literature cited in the introduction to the present edition. The purpose of this edict was to publish and give effect to an edict previously issued by Diocletian in the name of the tetrarchs which introduced important changes in the tax system of Egypt, removing the apportionment from the discretion of local officials and making the individual quotas depend directly on the number of arouras of each landholder, and in the same time imposing a head tax of invariable amount on each male villager who falls within the legal age limits.

No. 2 is a declaration of olive trees (from the 1 December 298 A.D.) and Nos. 3-5 — declarations of land from September, 299 A.D., all addressed to the censor Julius Septimus Sabinus and submitted in accordance with the edict which authorized the census of 297 A.D.; in the first two texts the declarant being Herois, mother of Aurelius Isidorus, in the two other — Aurelius Isidorus himself declaring his property in the village proper (No. 4) and in the *horiodeiktia* of Karanis (No. 6).

No. 6 is a list of landholders of Karanis and their properties, restricted to the land in the village area as distinguished from its *horiodeiktia*, compiled from the returns for the census of Sabinus, dated by its content in the years 300-305 A.D.

For the same census were made also the declarations of Heracles and Alexander, sons of Horion, summarized in the short text published under No. 7 which presents a list of their holdings in the village of Karanis and its *horiodeiktia*.

In contrast to Nos. 2-5, No. 8 is a declaration of persons, not of land, made by Aurelius Isidorus on June 14, 309 A.D., and addressed to Ulpian Alexander, censor of the Heptanomia (cf. P. Strassb. 42 = Wilcken, *Chrest.* 210); the name of Maximian in the official formula of declaration proves that he continued to be recognized as senior Augustus in the territory of Maximinus Daia as late as June 309.

The second section contains the documents relating to taxation, Nos. 9-30 presenting reports and lists, and Nos. 31-61 — receipts, the following texts being published here for the first time: Nos. 9, 11 (partly), 14-17, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25-28, 30-33, 35-44, 46, 50, 51, 53, 69, 60.

No. 9 is a report made by the six *sitologoi* of the village Karanis and its *horiodeiktia*, addressed to the *praepositus* of the fifth pagus of the Arsinoite nome; the 13 columns of the recto contains a declaration of the *sitologoi* and an itemized record of wheat and barely collected as taxes on the harvest of the year 309; the column on the verso consists of notations concerning wheat

and barely delivered by the *sitologoi* to various government agents and the balance on hand on November 30, 309.

A daily record of chaff collected as taxes on the harvest of 310/311 A.D. occupies 11 columns published under No. 10 (one of the two chaff collectors is Aurelius Isidorus son of Ptolemaeus).

No. 11 is a summary report of collection and subsequent distribution of taxes in wheat and barley by the *sitologoi* of Karains and its *horiodeiktia* for the year 308/309, submitted at the request of the *ex-praepositus* Aurelius Heraclides, to whom was addressed also No. 9. The significance of this document, brought out masterfully in its introduction by the Editor, lies in its bearing on the administration of agrarian taxes in Egypt after Diocletian's reform in 297 A.D., showing a strong tendency to reduce the land tax to a uniform quota on each arable or potentially arable *aroura*. The text provides also positive evidence for the survival into the fourth century of the institution variously known under different aspects as *epibole* and *epimerismos*, which is now called *epinemesis*.

With the *epinemesis* of land assigned to the landholders of Karains at Ptolemais, Bacchias and Kerkesoucha Agoras in 313/314 A.D. deals No. 12.

No. 13 is a report submitted in the summer of 314 A.D. by the chaff collectors of Karanis and its *horiodeiktia* (Seuthes son of Heraç and Isidorus son of Ptolemaeus, cf. No. 10), addressed to Aurelius Gerontius also called Apphus who has the unprecedented title *πρετακτάρωρ Ἐπτανομίας* (= *pertractator* = „inspector of accounts”).

We find the same chaff collectors in No. 16, another report of chaff and hay, from 19th February, 314 A.D. Probably they are responsible also for a list of arrears of the chaff levy published under No. 17.

No. 14 is a daybook of tax contributions in grain made by the landholders of Karanis (seven columns of writing); the text is dated by the Editor ca. 311–314 A.D. (cf. the table on p. 131 displaying the names which occur in No. 14, on the one hand, and No. 9, 10 and 12 on the other, their correlations being of basic importance for the date).

No. 15 is a list of caravans used for transporting grain from Karanis to the Nile ports under the supervision of the *sitologoi* of Karanis and their agents (309 or 310 A.D.).

A list of landholders appearing to be a tax list, but being perhaps a *pittakion* record (such as Nos. 24–26) is published under No. 18; an approximate date (ca. 305–311 A.D.) for this text is obtained by the Editor by comparing the names in it with those in Nos. 6, 9, 10, 14 and 12.

All the names appearing in the list published as No. 19 (except the three in lines 3, 5, and 8) are found also in No. 9, 11. 19–35, under the heading *ἀρχόντων καὶ πολιτῶν*; we have here therefore a list of the metropolitans being

landholders in Karanis or its *horiodeiktia*; the text is dated with the help of prosopographic observations after 313/314 A.D.

No. 20, dated by the Editor after 314 A.D., is a list of persons (partly known from Nos. 9, 10, 14 and 12), assigned, as it seems, to different liturgic services.

Under No. 21 is found a record of phaselus beans and other vegetables possibly contributed for the military *annona*, or, as it is suggested by the Editor, a private account of deliveries of beans and vegetables seed made by Isidorus; ca. 314–315 or perhaps later.

Nos. 22 and 23, from 303/304 A.D., deal with the *annona* of meat, Isidorus son of Ptolemaeus being that year one of meat collectors for Karanis.

No. 24 is a list of the *pittakion* („agricultural firm established for joint exploitation of government land” p. 168 n. ad l.1) of Isidorus, consisting of seven names, to each of which is added an amount of money said to be in arreaars. Other lists of the *pittakion* of Isidorus are found under Nos. 25 and 26 (cf. the table on p. 167/168); all three lists are dated the first quarter of 4th century A.D.

Nos. 27 (ca. 311 A.D.) and 29 (1st quarter of 4th cent. A.D.) may refer also to the problem of *pittakia* being respectively a list of different persons with money statments and a raport of money payments addressed to Aurelius Isidorus by Aurelius Ptollas whom the Editor suspects to be the head of a *pittakion*.

No. 28 is a list of payments in money, possibly concerned with collections of arrears of land tax (probably dating ca. 312–313 A.D.).

The subsection of „Reports” (II A) closes with No. 30 (1st quarter of the 4th cent. A.D.), perhaps a list of money payments intended to cover the cost of transporting grains which had been collected as taxes.

Nos. 31 (276 A.D.), 32 (Oct. 25, 283 A.D.), 38 (November 7, 296 A.D.), 39 (November 13, 296 A.D. — Fayum held still by Domitius Domitianus) and 45 (June/July, 307 A.D.) are receipts for tax-corn, issued to (respectively) the veteran Asclepiades (for whom probably the deliveries were made by his lessee, Ptolemaeus father of Isidorus), Ptolemaeus and Thaisarion (father and aunt of Isidorus), Sarapion son of Onnophris to his lessee Isidorus (both Nos. 38 and 39) and to Didymus, son of Proclos, also through Isidorus. The officials issuing the receipt are the *dekaprotoi* and in the last text the *sitologoi* of Karanis.

No. 33 is a receipt, from October 25, 283 A.D., acknowledging the payment of 1400 drachmes by Ptolemaeus, father of Isidorus, to cover the wheat arrears of land-tax.

The three receipts published under No. 34, written on one papyrus-sheet, record payments made in the years 291–294 A.D. for τιμή [πυροῦ and οἴνου by Isidorus, his son, and Sarapion, son of Onnophris (probably also through Isidorus).

No. 35 is a text consisting of three receipts for the *annona* of wine, all written and signed by Horion, collector of this *annona*, who also wrote and signed No. 34, 20-26, on November 18, 294 A.D. what allows to date also the present text in the year 293/294.

The text of No. 36 consists of two receipts for barley, issued to Sarapion, son of Onnophris, who is represented by Isidorus, son of Ptolemaeus, from 295 A.D.

Two receipts for *τιμὴ οἴνου* and transportation charges, from 295 and 296 A.D., found on one papyrus-sheet, are published under No. 37, and No. 40, from 299 A.D. presents a receipt in two parts, crediting to Isidorus (ll. 1-3) and Heroninus (l. 4-5) the delivery of emmer to a bakery.

A roll of small format, consisting of seven fragments on which are written ten columns (col. I-VII: 302-305 A.D.; col. VIII may well belong to 305, col. IX and X are dated in the year 312), containing receipts for various taxes, issued by the *ἀπαιτηταί* (military *annona*) and the *sitologoi*, is published as No. 41.

No. 42 is a receipt issued in October 303 A.D. to Isidorus, who was collector of the *διατύπωσις* (= *delegatio*) for Karanis in 300/301 A.D., crediting him with payments of three talents and 500 drachmas.

Nos. 43 (October 16, 304 A.D.), 44 (305/306 A.D.) and 52 (October 2, 312 A.D.) are receipts connected with the *annona* of meat.

No. 46 is a receipt for chaff issued to two collectors (*ἀπαιτηταί*) at Karanis by an *ἀποδέκτης* at Leukogion, a village, in the Heracleopolite nome which served Fayum as a southern port on the Nile.

The four columns of No. 47 contain a series of seven receipts for barley delivered at the harbours of Kerke and Leukogion by the *sitologoi* of Karanis as part of the *canon*, or grain levy, imposed on the village for the year 308/309.

Nos. 48 and 49 are two receipts for emmer, issued, respectively in August and November 309 A.D., by the *ἀπεδέκται* to the *sitologoi* of Karanis (one of whom is Isidorus).

The text of three columns, each containing a receipt issued on May 16, 310 A.D. by different shipmaster and acknowledging a delivery of wheat to the harbor of Kerke by the *sitologoi* of Karanis, is published under No. 50.

No. 51 is a receipt for transportation charges, issued in the spring of 311 A.D. to Palaemon, son of Ptolemaeus and brother of Isidorus, by two groups of collectors of transportation dues associated with the military *annona*.

The text of No. 53 consists of two columns, with two receipts each, all of them issued in the years 313 and 314 to Kyrillous, daughter of Kopres.

The receipt published as No. 54 is addressed to Antonius Sarapammon, *strategus* of the Arsinoite nome, by the komarchs of Karanis and Isidorus,

*tesserarius* of the same village, who acknowledge that they have received a payment for clothing, consuiting the village quota of a requisition of military clothing for the year 310/311 (cf. No. 72, 16-18 and No. 73).

Two receipts, one for transportation charges on the military *annona* for 312/313, the other for meat for 313/314 are found together on one papyrus, published as No. 55.

No. 56 is a receipt for wood for the *cellarium* or allowance of wood for heating and cooking purposes made to soldiers in the late Empire; from July 315 A.D.

The text of No. 57, from 315 A.D., is arranged in two column, the first of which contains a list of names of κεφαλαιωται of the village of Karanis, i.e. probably foremen in charge of the donkey caravans which moved the barley received in col. II to a river port. The second column consists of two receipts acknowledging three shipments of barely, marked for delivery to the horse-breeder Hephaestion.

In No. 58, the same Hephaestion is described as the leader of the Blue faction in Alexandria, the text being the receipt for money in payment for three deliveries noted in the receipts of No. 57.

No. 59 has two columns of writing, with two receipts in each, all four issued to persons of Isidorus family, for various taxes.

The receipt of No. 60 was issued to Isidorus himself by two collectors of taxes due for the seventh indiction (318/319 A.D.), acknowledging the payments in money and deliveries in kind for taxes assessed on property in the hamlet of Kalos. Under No. 61 are published six receipts from 323 A.D. (distributed over 4 columns), issued to Isidorus by various collectors and *sitologoi*.

Among the petitions (3rd section) the following numbers are published for the first time: Nos. 65-67, 70, 72, 74, 76-79.

The first three documents in this section (Nos. 62-64) are petitions of Taesis (or Thaesion), wife of Heras, brother of Isidorus and Kyrillous, daughters of Kopres (No. 63 being written by Taesis alone), charging their stepmother (No. 62) and their paternal uncle Chairemon (Nos. 63, 64) as having appropriated all movable goods left by their father at his death. The first two petitions are addressed to the *beneficiarius* (296 A.D.), the third — to Aurelius Heron, *strategus* of the Arsinoite nome (ca. 298 A.D.). The most significant feature in this affair of the two sisters is the mention in No. 62 of the *Corrector* Aurelius Achilles, second in command to the usurper Lucius Domitius Domitianus and of his judicial role, which closely resembles that of a prefect of Egypt.

Under Nos. 65-67 are published three petitions submitted by Isidorus, the first one to the same *strategus* Aurelius Heron, the latter two to Aelius Publius, prefect of Egypt in 299 A.D., (No. 67 being a variant draft of No. 66 or a second petition about the same affair) about the fire which has destroyed the grain on Isidorus threshing floor.

In No. 68, petition addressed to the *praepositus* of the fifth *pagus* of the Arsinoite nome, Isidorus complains that the secretary of Karanis and his three associates nominated him to the post of *sitologos*, and now they are trying to substitute him as chaff collector in place of Paesius, who has been properly nominated to that post; the probable date of this document is the year 309/310.

No. 69 is a petition from 310 A.D. submitted to Aurelius Chrestus, *strategus* of the Arsinoite nome, by Isidorus charging Acotas, son of Germanus as having extorted from him certain tax payments for farm land and alleging that he desires to force Isidorus himself to abandon his own property. No. 70 (another petition to the same *strategus*) provides a sequel to No. 69. It seems that the *strategus* had acted on the earlier petition favorably and awarded judgment to Isidorus, but that Acotas fails to comply with the *strategus*' decision and Isidorus now requests his deputy to summon Acotas for a second appearance at court so that the judgment may be duly enforced.

The text of No. 73 is a petition from 314 A.D., addressed to Julius Julianus, prefect of Egypt (who may therefore be placed in the year 314) by Isidorus, *tesserarius* of Karanis, and Palemon, *quadrarius* of the same village, who complain of the conduct of Theodorus, *praepositus* of the *pagus* in which Karanis was situated, and of the komarchs of Karanis. Some notations to this petition are contained in Nos. 71 and 72.

In the year 314/315 Isidorus leased 25 *arouras* on half shares from the brothers Castor and Ammonianus. In addition to fulfilling his contractual obligations, he made loans to the lessors in money and in kind. After the harvest the brothers having appropriated the entire crop, Isidorus reported their delinquency to the *strategus* and *praepositus pagi*, and finally on December 27, 315 addressed a petition to Aurelius Antonius, *praeses Aegypti Herculiae*. This petition is published under No. 74 on the basis of two extant copies. Referred by the *praeses* to the *exactor civitatis* i.e. *strategus*, he sent a petition to the *strategus* on January 30, 316 together with a copy of his earlier petition to the *praeses* (published as P. Merton II 91). No. 76, from July 16, 318 A.D. presents the sequel to the story: After the death of one brother and the disappearance of the other, their property came into hands of their brother-in-law Tomis and his own brother Demetrius, who also failed to meet the debt. Isidorus then submitted a petition to Valerius Ziper, *praeses of Aegyptus Herculia* (petition known from P. Col. Inv. 61, published by N. Lewis in J.J.P. II, 1948, p. 51 ff.) and, directed to present his complaint to the *praepositus pagi*, he addressed to the *praepositus* Aurelius Gerontius the petition published as No. 76.

The text of No. 75 is a petition addressed to the same *praepositus pagi*, on October 24 of the year 316, by Isidorus, who complains that six of his fellow villagers broke into his house and smashed his furniture.



In No. 77, from 320 A.D., Aurelia Tales, probably wife of Isidorus son of Ptolemaeus, requests the *praepositus pagi* to take action against the brothers of her brother-in-law, who are neglecting the land inherited by their nieces after the death of their father.

On January 29, 324, Isidorus submitted to Dioscorus, *praepositus* of the fifth *pagus*, a petition published under No. 78, in which he complains that having sown with much labor only seven out of eighty *arouras* for which he had fiscal responsibility, his crop was eaten by animals which had been put to graze in his field. P. Merton II 92 is another, more detailed petition about the same affair, sent to the same *praepositus* four months later.

No. 79, a petition of Isidorus to the *logistes* or *curator* of the Arsinoite nome, is also concerned with a case of trespass by animals: a certain Melas and his shepherds have grazed sheep over one *aroura* of Isidorus'land. It is already the second petition to the same effect, Isidorus having learned that Melas had on their part filed a complaint against him.

The fourth section: Business documents, is divided into A. Contracts (Nos. 80-106) and B. Receipts (Nos. 107-123), Nos. 83, 85, 87, 89, 92, 93, 96-98, 101, 102, 104-106, 107, 110, 115, 118 and 123 being published for the first time.

Nos. 80-82 relate to liturgies: No. 80, dated in October 296 A.D., is a unilateral chirograph addressed to a resident of Arsinoe by Heron, son of Ptolemaeus and brother of Isidorus, who agrees in return of the wages and other consideration to undertake service as a *symmachos* in place of the other party to the agreement.

No. 81 is a bilateral chirograph, from April 297 A.D., in which Polion and Isidorus agree that the former shall replace Peras, brother of Isidorus, nominated by the village of Karanis to work on the canal known as Trajan's River.

In No. 82, from July 318 A.D., two residents of Karanis, Isidorus and Ptolemaeus, the latter represented in this transaction by his brother Papeis, arrange an exchange of liturgies.

Nos. 83-86 record sales of animals: a horse (No. 83), donkeys (Nos. 84, 86), a mare (No. 85), the buyer being in two cases (Nos. 84, 85) Ptolemaeus, father of Isidorus, in one (No. 86) — Isidorus himself.

To the sale of beans refer Nos. 87-91, No. 92 recording a sale of vegetable seeds. Nos. 87-89 and No. 97 (a loan of beans) were found folded together and tied into a small bundle, all four contracts drawn up in April or May of the year 308, one of the sellers in No. 89 and one of the debtors in No. 97 being Isidorus, son of Ptolemaeus. In No. 90 Heras son of Melas acknowledges to Isidorus the receipt on March 2, 309 A.D., of the price of six *artabas* of beans, which are to be delivered in Pauni (May/June) of the same year.

In No. 91 (from 309 A.D.) it is Isidorus who acknowledges the receipt of the price of 150 *artabas* of beans, which are to be delivered by him to Aurelius

Nilus, a veteran and former centurion, perhaps a purveyor of provisions to Roman troops stationed in Egypt. In No. 92, from December 314 A.D., Isidorus is buying two artabas of vegetable seeds for two talents.

Nos. 93-97 refer to different loans, No. 93 being an acknowledgment (dated in June 282 A.D.) of Kopres, son of Ptolemaeus, that he received in loan 7260 drachmas at the normal rate of interest of 12 per cent; No. 94 — a receipt issued by Sarapion, senator of Antinoopolis to Isidorus, for 30 silver talents which were lent to him under an oral agreement; Nos. 95 and 96, both from 310 A.D., record loans of seed of wheat, granted by Isidorus and his associates in the *sitologia* of Karanis; in No. 97, from April 308 A.D., a group of seven men, including Isidorus, acknowledge that they have received from a certain Achillas one hundred artabas of beans, which they promise to deliver to Achillas in Pauni (May/June) of the same year.

Nos. 98-103 are leases of land. In No. 99, from April 296 A.D., Isidorus son of Ptolemaeus, undertakes to lease from Zoilus, son of Apollonius, three parcels of 4,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  *arouras* respectively at the villae of Kerkesoucha Agoras in the *horiodeiktia* of Karanis. The receipts for the rent on  $4\frac{1}{2}$  *arouras*, issued by Zoilus to Isidorus in the years 309-311, are published under Nos. 117, 118, 120 and 121 in Subsection B.

In No. 100, from October 296 A.D., Isidorus, son of Ptolemaeus, offers to lease from Nemesianus, councilor and former *exegetes* of Arsinoe, four *arouras* of wheat land for a period of three years, and in No. 101 another Isidorus representing his half-brothers, Gemellus and Pasigenes, leases some land from Aurelia Serenilla together with Ptollas and Valas (October 4, 300 A.D.). No. 102 is a fragmentary lease from 303/304 A.D. and No. 103, from September 13, 313 A.D. is an offer to lease five *arouras* of arable land administered by the village of Karanis, for one year, free of rent but with the obligation to discharge all respective taxes.

Nos. 104 and 105 are two agreements between the members of the family of Kopres concerning the division of the property left after his death (November 296 A.D.). Under No. 106 is published a small fragment of a contract of surety, from 306/307 A.D.

With the exception of No. 123 all the texts published in Section IV B are receipts for rent. Nos. 107-110 acknowledge different rent payments made by Ptolemaeus, father of Isidorus in the years 276, 279 and 280/281 (No. 107 without date), the last two issued by Aurelius Aphrodisius, whose letter to Ptolemaeus is published as No. 133. All other receipts acknowledge payments made by Isidorus, holding land in lease (1) from Gemmelus, Pasigenes and their half-brothers Casius and Isidorus, either continually from 292 to 311 or for a large part of that time (Nos. 111, 113, 116, 119); from Aurelia Ptolema from 302/302 to 306/207 (Nos. 114, 115); from Aurelius Zoilus from 309 to 312 (Nos. 117, 118, 120, 121, cf. No. 99) and from Aurelia Ptolemas, daughter

of Appolonius and Serenilla, residing in Arsinoe in the quarter Phremi, in the years 313/314 and 314/315 (No. 122).

In No. 123, from 317 A.D., Tanouphis, daughter of Patas, acknowledges that she has received from Isidorus, son of Ptolemaeus, the wages which her son has earned by acting as a substitute for Isidorus in the performance of a liturgy.

The fifth section: Official Correspondence (Nos. 124, 127, 129–131 published for the first time), opens with a report to Aurelius Heron, *strategus* of the Arsinoite nome, made by his assistant sent to Karanis to inspect certain crops which had been destroyed by fire (No. 124, from 298 A.D.), this inspection being an answer to a request of Isidorus, son of Ptolemaeus (cf. No. 65).

No. 125 is a communication addressed to a *praepositus pagi* by the komarchs of Karanis for the year 307/308, who nominate as their successors for the coming year two persons of suitable qualifications, one of whom is Isidorus. The text is of special importance for the history of the *praepositus pagi*, since it contains the earliest mention of this official and vouches for his presence in the Arsinoite nome at least by the year 308.

Under No. 126 is published a letter of Heraclides, *praepositus* of the fifth *pagus* of the Arsinoite nome, to the *praepositus* of another *pagus*. Heraclides reminds him of an imperial constitution (not preserved in the Codes of Theodosius or Justinian) which requires all strangers found to be residing in the villages to be handed over to the *fiscus*, and establishes a reward of five folles for each person thus surrendered. At the same time he requests his colleague to compel the villages subject to his authority to give up any fugitives who are shown to belong to Karanis.

No. 127 from July 310 A.D., is a declaration, addressed to a *speculator*, being also an ἀπατητῆς χρυσοῦ καὶ ἀσήμου, by Acotas, son of Germanus who states under oath that Isidorus, son of Ptolemaeus, is engaged in cultivating four *arouras* of land, the former property of Horion.

No. 128 is a receipt, from 314 A.D., issued to Isidorus as *tesserarius* of Karanis, by the *tesserarius*, the komarchs and a *demosios* of Buto in the Memphite nome, who therewith acknowledge that four fugitives from Buto were formally surrendered to them.

Three orders for arrest, issued by a centurion,<sup>1</sup> an ἐπὶ τῆς εἰρήνης and a *praepositus pagi* respectively, and addressed to the komarchs and police of Karanis (the first two), and to the *tesserarius* and the *quadrarius* of the same village, are published as No. 129, 130 (both probably from 308/309 A.D.) and 131 (probably from 314 A.D.).

All texts found in the section VI: Private Correspondence, are published here for the first time (Nos. 132–135). No. 133 is addressed to Ptolemaeus, father of Isidorus, by Aphrodisius, whose land Ptolemaeus held in lease (cf. Nos. 109 and 110). Nos. 134 and 135 are letters addressed to Isidorus, a letter

by Zoilus, lessor of the land farmed by Isidorus (see Nos. 99, 117, 118, 120, 121).

Section VII brings two small inventories (Nos. 136 and 137), unpublished till now and in section VIII there are found descriptions of 9 Cairo fragments of texts belonging to the same Archive.

We are deeply grateful to the Editors for giving us in this splendid publication the whole of the Archive of Aurelius Isidorus, together with the most useful commentaries which not infrequently give an exhaustive discussion of the most important problems and formulate new conclusions (e.g. see pp. 101 ff. and p. 117, pp. 255/256, p. 310, pp. 332/333 etc.).

The reeditions of the texts, published previously elsewhere, show the well known masterful touch of Professor Y o u t i e, handling skillfully the seemingly insolvable problems of textual criticism.

Jacques S c h w a r t z, *Les Archives de Sarapion et de ses fils. Une exploitation agricole aux environs d'Hermoupolis Magna (de 90 à 133 p. C.)*, (Institut français d'Archéologie orientale, Bibliothèque d'Etudes. Tome XXIX). Le Caire, Institut français d'Archéologie orientale, 1961, VIII — 381 pp., IX plates.

Professor J. S c h w a r z presents the Archives of Sarapion and his sons, publishing the texts edited previously together with the inedita, the whole preserved in seven different collections (Berlin, Würzburg, British Museum, New York, Heidelberg, Strassbourg and Wien). The subtitle of the publication („Une exploitation agricole aux environs d'Hermouplis Magna") gives the characteristics of the Sarapion's Archives and points to its significance.

In his introduction the Editor describes the actual situation of the texts belonging to Sarapion's Archives and presents his own method of attributing them to the Archives (the negative criteria being the date, geography and collection, the positive ones — onomastics, topography and the category of document) and reconstructs the history of its discovery.

The texts themselves are published in three sections: Documents officiels et contrats privés; Pièces de comptabilité interne; Letters privées.

There are only 7 official documents, among them one complaint addressed to the *strategus*, some declarations and receipts. The private contracts are a few contracts of sale, contracts pertaining to money-business, land leases (in which the members of Sarapion's family appear partly as lessees and partly as lessors, the leased parcels being from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 25 arouras) and contracts made with the harvesters.

The Nos. 42-79 bring different accounts and Nos. 83-103 private letters written to the members of the Sarapion's family, and mostly by them.