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"A family archive from Jeme", A. Arthur Schiller, "Studi in onore di V. Arangio-Ruiz", IV : [recenzja]

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central government; he collaborates with the local authorities, with the notables of the city (*curiales*, *defensor*, *curator* etc), with the corporations which are considered as units as far taxes are concerned, with the χωρία, with the *possessores* who still hold fast. Without doubt great changes had taken place in Egypt since the arrival of Arabs and the remote Apollonopolis seems to preserve the Byzantine heritage more faithfully than Aphrodito.

It is not possible to discuss all the documents contained in this collection. Therefore I confine myself to some more interesting documents which are important from the juristic point of view.

No. 37 verso (708—709 A.D.) contains a letter written by Platon, the pagarchos of Latopolis. The letter is addressed to Papas. The first part of the letter deals with a judicial case between a woman and her adversary and concerns slaves. The second part is highly informative about the survival of municipalities. If the letter in No. 41 is written really by a bishop, it confirms the information contained in No 46 that the juridical competence of the bishop still lasts as regards taking securities or the revision of the sentences passed by the magistrates.

No. 57 (708) is a contract of land-lease. The lease is called ἐπι-  
τρεπική μίσθωσις. To our knowledge the formula is not attested.

No. 58 (713/715) is a contract of a loan on mortgage. The act is named παρακλητική ὑποθηκимаία ἀσφάλεια (cf. my *Law I*, 258 ff). It is worth noting that a physician appears as a witness.

No. 61 (703/715) refers to the activity of the pagarch as the justice of peace.

In the letter No. 66 verso (710/711) concerns a slave undoubtedly given as a security, who was sold to the Christians and whose price will serve to reimburse the author of the letter.

No. 72 contains an invitation to a wedding.

A. Arthur Schiller, *A Family Archive from Jeme* (Estrato dagli Studi in onore di V. Arangio-Ruiz IV, 327—373).

This article is a complete revision of the author's M. A. thesis at the University of California, 1926, (*Legal transactions of the Family of Georgios and Abessa of Djeme in Upper Egypt in the VIII-th Century*) and aims to recapture a fragment of the legal life of Eighth-Century Jeme, as revealed by the documents recording the transactions of the inhabitants of the town.

The Jeme papyri were published by Crum: *Koptische Recht-urkunden des achten Jahrhunderts aus Djēme* (Theben), I Band: *Texte und Indices* (1912). Since this publication, a number of scholars have undertaken the study of legal institutions among the Copts. Further the Jeme texts have served as the point of departure for comment upon the host of other papyri and ostraca — Greek, Coptic and Arabic — dating from the same period but stemming from other sides throughout Egypt. Great strides have been made in increasing the understanding of legal doctrines, documentary practices, central (Arabic) and local (Coptic) administration, and the connection of all these sections with their Byzantine models. But the Jeme texts still offer a fertile field for investigation about the legal life of Coptic Egypt.

The author lets the documents speak for themselves, giving a literal translation of the significant portions of each text. The formulae of invocation, of appointment of witnesses and notary, the clause of adjuration, the various penal stipulations, the formula of affirmation and the like, are omitted. These clauses add nothing to the story of the family's legal dealings. The documents are set in five groups. The individual texts are headed by a pre-script stating the type of instrument, the parties and such other information as is relevant to dating the text i. e. protocol, indiction-year, witnesses and notary. The substance of each text is literally translated, with an indication of Greek technical words that have been introduced into the Coptic language. Each text is supplemented by the author's interpretation. Three matters in which these texts afford a fair amount of information serve as a conclusion. They concern three topics: I the parts of a Coptic house; II. the archives of the family, and III. the course of Coptic litigation and arbitration. An appended genealogical chart may help to clarify the somewhat intricate family relationships and a topographical sketch — graphically depicts the position of the property concerned.

J. Varenbergh, *Ventes de parts divisées où indivisées d'immeubles et d'appartement dans les acts coptes* (Arch. d'hist. du droit oriental IV, [1949]).

The article contains a translation of nine known Coptic deeds concerning the purchase of *partes divisae* and *indivisae* of real-estates and apartments. This translation is not supplemented with a commentary.