

# Taubenschlag, Rafał

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"Census Documents from Karanis", O.  
M. Pearl, "Chronique d'Egypte", no 56,  
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Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

XI is a significant rescript. It has provided further evidence for illegal tax-farming operations in the age of the Severi. It throws new light on the activities of the pretorian prefect. It has afforded confirmation of a complex development in the edictal action against *publicani*.

XII. From the opening clause of the rescript it is learned that the petitioner has given up (*ἀποστᾶς*) his paternal inheritance. This refusal of Isidorus to accept the inheritance was made when he was a minor, for the rescript goes on to say that the petitioner was not entitled to the benefits accorded those in minority status. The petitioner had undoubtedly changed his mind and wished now to enter into the inheritance in spite of the debts or other obligations which may have been outstanding. In this respect the minor could change his mind. But the benefits of the *lex Laetoria* ceased with the completion of his twenty-fifth year. The most likely basis for the denial of the benefits of the minority by the emperor is that the age of twenty-five had been passed. The major point made in the petition was the assertion, to use the words of the rescript "that the patrimony had been proscribed". Isidorus presumably declined to accept the inheritance in the first place because it was overburdened with outstanding debts. As heir these would be his responsibility. Since no other heir or intestate successor appeared the creditors would seek to have the estate sold in order that their claims might be satisfied. On the "law of sales" (law pertaining to bankrupt sales) cf. Schiller *l.c.* 344 ff. (see also my *Law*<sup>2</sup> 218<sub>4</sub>, 688).

XIII. A guardian, acting in the interests of his wards, wished to recover possession of the property which had been wrongfully occupied by other persons. The property was situated in a locale other than his own residence and he was therefore unable to institute and carry through the necessary litigation. He petitioned the emperor in order to be informed of the proper measures to be taken. He was told by the rescript that if he requested supplemental tutors resident in that locality, as the imperial law permitted, those tutors could in normal fashion apply for the designation of a judge to hear the case. Suit could be brought against the person in the possession of the property in the name of and in the interests of the wards.

The seven papyri which are here assembled were recovered in the excavations conducted by the University of Michigan at Karanis between 1924 and 1934. They comprise six census declarations and portions of two census registers (cf. my *Law*<sup>2</sup> 611 ff.). As to their date, they all fall within the thirty years following 145 A.D.

No. 1 census declaration (146—7 A.D.) resembles O. Mich. VI, 370 and 4 in the present series. It is presented by a φροντιστής who may be acting as in P. VI 370 for an absentee owner. See the discussion of declaration on behalf of absentees in the introduction to P. Mich. VI, 370. No. 2 presents the only declaration in which a vacant lot is the subject matter. That the owners were required to make this declaration testifies to the case with which the census was concluded; any property which by its location within a village might be expected to be built up and inhabited was taken in account by the administration. A second peculiarity, which is possibly signified, is that the first declaration in No. 2 also deals with uninhabited property, in this instance a house in which no one resides. The conjunction of the declarations suggests that they may have formed part of a special roll, of a section of a τόμος συγκολλήσιμος which was devoted to the special category of vacant properties. No. 4 (174 A.D.): this declaration like No. 1, was made by a legal representative on behalf of a principal. No. 5 (161 A.D.), like No. 2, declares unoccupied dwelling. No. 7 is a register which presents the substance of the declarations and is without exact parallel.

E. Littman, *Nabataean Inscriptions from Egypt* (with an Introduction and Classical Notes by D. Meredith) (repr. from the *BSOAS* XV (1) [1953] 1—28; II, *ibid.* XVI (2) [1954] 211—246).

The Nabataean inscriptions from Egypt are closely related to the so-called Sinaitic inscriptions, i.e. the graffiti in late Nabataean script and in Nabataean language intermingled with some Arabic words, of which quite a large number were found on the Sinai Peninsula.

The Nabataeans were Arabs who used an Aramaic dialect as their official language; their nationality is proven by the large majority of the names mentioned in their inscriptions. It is note worthy that the Arabs during the first centuries A.D. did not come only