

# Taubenschlag, Rafał

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"Two Byzantine Documents", T. C. Skeat,  
"The British Museum Quarterly", XVIII,  
1953, no 3 : [recenzja]

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The Journal of Juristic Papyrology 9-10, 576

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1955-1956

Artykuł został zdigitalizowany i opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej [bazhum.muzhp.pl](http://bazhum.muzhp.pl), gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

he quotes a precedent: the same Heron had once before annulled the confiscation of Komons boat when it was detained in Heracleopolis.

T. C. Skeat, *Two Byzantine Documents* (repr. from *The British Museum Quarterly* XVIII, No. 3 [September 1953] 71—73).

Constantine the Great after the defeat of his last remaining competitor Licinius, at the battle of Chrysopolis at 18 Sept. 324, issued to his newly acquired subjects in the Eastern provinces a lengthy proclamation, restoring to the Christians the losses of property which they had sustained in the persecutions, and enlarging upon the moral and material bankruptcy of the pagan system. The text of this extraordinary manifesto has long been familiar from its inclusion in Eusebius' *Life of Constantine*. Doubts have indeed repeatedly cast upon its authenticity, but the balance of critical opinion has remained in its favour, and the soundness of this verdict has now been confirmed by the brilliant discovery of Prof. A. H. M. Jones who, at the Patristic Congress at Oxford in Sept. 1951, announced that he had identified a fragment of a contemporary copy of the proclamation in a papyrus of the British Museum. By a remarkable coincidence this fragment (Pap. 878 verso) preserves the very passage in which the Emperor speaks with this characteristic tortuous verbosity, of the British origin of what he regarded as his divine mission. Thus an unprepossessing scrap of pap. which has lain for many years unidentified in the Museum's collections, has suddenly proved to be an historic document marking a decisive stage in the adoption of christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire and the dawn of the Byzantine state.

The second document, is written in Greek of a very different character over eleven hundred years later and not on papyrus but on its supplanter, paper. This is the original grant of privileges by Mahomet II, the conqueror of Constantinople, to the Genoese inhabitants of its suburb Pera.

E. Balogh — P. E. Kahle jr., *Two Coptic Documents relating to Marriage* (*Aegyptus* XXXIII (2) [1953] 331—340).

It is surprising that in the large number of Coptic legal documents only five contracts relating to marriage have so far become