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1962
reading of the P. Lond. 165 a—c, line 2 as well as of the P. Bon. 31, lines 4-5 [C.K.]

PAPYRI FROM THE BYZANTINE PERIOD


This papyrus from the 5th cent. B.C. is a private letter addressed to a certain Joshibiah by his servant. [H.K.]


The first document is a testament or a *codicillus ab intestato* analogous to the *codicillus* preserved in P. Lips. 29=M. Chr. 318. The document was drawn before three witnesses although C.J. 6, 23, 31, 3; 38, 8, 3 require the presence of five witnesses. It seems that the corresponding rules of the Justinian law did not find application in the legal practice of Egypt. This evidence, too, is brought by Coptic testaments from the same period where not infrequently the last will would be attested by three witnesses (see Till, *Erbrechtliche Untersuchungen* 68; Steinwenter, *Das Recht der koptischen Urkunden* 48).

As it is known, the Byzantine law required the presence of three witnesses for the validity of a *testamentum ruri conditum* (see Ecloge 5, 4; Epanagoge 29, 16 and Zachariae von Lingenthal, *Geschichte d. griech. -röm. Rechts* 155). It will not be correct, it seems, to exclude a possibility, that the decrease in number of witnesses from five under the Justinian law to three in the quoted Byzantine sources took place owing to the influence of the local practice of Egypt.

The P. Graec. Vindob. 26270 is a declaration under oath confirming the receipt of a whole bequeathed estate. [H.K.]


This is a re-edition of the papyrus published by I. Szymbarska in *JJP* II pp. 115—119. Mr Youtie suggests some improvements in the reading of this text. [C.K.]