

Taubenschlag, Rafał

"Two private letters of the Byzantine period", H. I. Bell, [w:] "Coptic Studies in honor of Walter Living Crum", 1950 : [recenzja]

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PAPYRI FROM THE BYZANTINE PERIOD

H. Gerstinger, *Eine Grunderwerbsapographe bei der Bibliothek der Enkteseon von Hermupolis Magna aus dem Jahre 319 n. Chr.* (S.A. aus dem Anzeiger der phil.-hist. Klasse der österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, Jahrgang 1950, N^o 20, 1951).

The contents of this papyrus is as follows: Septimia Aurelia Dionysia had acquired in the years 312/3 from her since deceased husband an estate by the means of *δισσὴ ἀσφάλεια* drawn up ὑπὲρ λόγου ἀφελίκων, that is in favour of her children (cf. on the legal position of the mother as far as property relations are concerned my *Law I*, 115). Six years later that is 319 A.D. Septimia Aurelia Dionysia sold by *καταγραφὴ* (on *καταγραφὴ*, see my *Law I* 247) 3 arourae from this estate to Aurelios Hermes, which contract was signed by herself, her ἐντολικάριος (cf. on representation my *Law I* 234, 235) and in the same time her βεβαιωτῆς and πιστικελευστῆς Aurelios Epiphanius. This contract of sale was presented to the βιβλιοθήκη ἐγκτήσεων together with the ἀπογραφὴ for παράθεσις (cf. my *Law* 170-1). The βιβλιοφύλακες executed the παράθεσις but without prejudice to the πρωτοπραξία of the fisc (cf. on πρωτοπραξία my *Law I* 10).

The papyrus shows the βιβλιοθήκη ἐγκτήσεων still in force in 319 A.D. (see however Woess, *Urkundenwesen* 126), and has so far be the only „complete” ἀπογραφὴ which contains not only the ὑπόμνημα proper concerning ἀπογραφὴ but all necessary annexes.

H. I. Bell, *Two private letters of the Byzantine period (Repr. from Coptic Studies in honor of Walter Ewing Crum (1950).*

The first letter derives from the 5-th century A. D. As Bell remarks the writer, an *exceptor* in the *officium* to the prefect, was seriously annoyed with his correspondent, perhaps a *beneficiarius* for the terms of a letter written to another official and tears unpleasant consequences to himself and others, but it is not possible to discover whether it was the wording of the letter or its substance which he regarded as its proper. For a jurist this document possesses a interest as it mentions members in the *officium* of the prefect (*exceptor*, *beneficiarius*).

In the second letter (VI—VII cent. A. D.) — the writer announces the despatch of a wedding present: the ducks. The bride is called *νύμφη* and the writer wishes (v. 3—4) „may God preserve you and

multiply your years with your bride and grant you the gift of many children" Wedding presents are so far not mentioned in the papyri; On other gifts cf. my *Law* I 96—7.

T. C. Skeat, *Britain and the Papyri* (*Aus Antike u. Orient, Festschrift Wilhelm Schubart zum 75 Geburtstag her. von. S. Morenz, Leipzig Otto Harrasowitz 1950* pp. 126—132).

The author publishes in this article P. Lond. 878 of which a brief description is given in vol. III of the Catalogue p. XLII but which has never been published in full. The *recto* contains a copy of a petition to the reigning Emperors from the city of Antinoe, which was probably concerned with taxation; the *verso* may be a petition in which the petitioner is stressing his record of past „military” services, v. 25 on the *verso* mentions the „British sea” — the present English Channel (cf. p. 130).

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