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SURVEY OF THE PAPYRI AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS
CHIEFLY FROM 1951 TILL 1952

BABYLONIAN LEGAL DOCUMENTS

Mariano San- Nicolò, *Babylonische Rechtsurkunden des ausgehenden 8 und des 7 Jhd. v. Chr.* (Abh. Bayr. Ak. d. Wiss. phil.-hist. Kl. N. F. Heft 34, 1951).

When I comment upon this collection of Babylonian legal documents in this magazine, it happens so on account of many analogies with the Greco-Egyptian papyri which these documents show.

N^o 1 (707—6 B. C.) is a deed of adoption where the adoptive father assumes not only the duty to bring up the child but also of bequeathing to him his estate. The contract reminds of P. Meyer, *Jur. Pap.* N^o 10 (335 A. D.) = Oxy 1206 and Lips. 28 = M. Chr. 363 (IV cent. A. D.) cf. my art. *Sav. Z.* 49, 119. — N^o 2 (610—9 B. C.) is a deed of partition between the sons cf. on similar contracts in the papyri my *Law I*, 165. — N^o 3 (721/20 — 711/10 B. C.) is a sale of a building lot cf. about $\psi\lambda\lambda\omicron\iota\ \tau\acute{o}\pi\omicron\iota$ in the papyri Rossi, *Aeg.* 30 (1951) p. 49 ff and the ed. p. 7 note 1. — N^o 4 (677—76 B. C.), in a sale of a building-site is mentioned a *mûsû*, literary an „outlet” (exit) farther „a passage, a corridor” — those narrow lanes and roads of private property which serve not only to help the communication between the neighbourly lots, not surrounded with walls — but furnish also an access to a public high-road (cf. as for the pap. my art. *Arch. f Pap.* VIII, p. 25₃). — N^o 7 (600 B. C.) deals with a sale of a share of a site of 50 hinds. As the editor remarks this reminds of the 50 hinds lots of land in the papyri. — N^o 10 (660—59 B. C.) is a purchase from heirs or from another community. In spite of the plurality of the sellers, there appears only one person as the acting party. This reminds entirely of a heirs-community in the Egyptian national law (cf. Sethe-Partsch, *Äg. Bürgerschaftsrecht* p. 687 ff.) — In N^o 21 (648 B. C.) there is a case where the purchaser bought a lot of land on behalf of a third person but paid out the price of his own revenues; hence the property of

the lot of land devolves on the mandator not only till then the mandator gives back the price to the buyer (cf. for the sale by proxy in Greco-Egyptian law my *Law I* 233, 245). — In N^o 26 (VII cent. B. C.) we have a case in which appears beside the parties in the sale a third person for whom the price has to be covered (cf. about *contractus in favorem tertii* in the papyri, my *Law I* 303). In v. 4 the „enlightenment of the face” is mentioned. Perhaps it is connected as *S a n - N i c o l ò* supposes with an act of establishing the attachment to a social class probably in connection with the first employment of a certain style of hair-dress to mark the close of childhood (cf. on the first-hair-cutting in the papyri *μελλοκουρία* my *Law I* 111₆₆). — N^o 31 (611—10 B. C.) contains perhaps a *datio in solutum* in form of a sale (cf. for the Greco-Egyptian law my *Law I*, 321). — The sale upon oath in N^o 32 (605—604 B. C.) reminds of similar sales in the Greco-Egyptian law (cf. *S e i d l*, *Eid* 90). — The promise of return the price in the case of eviction in N^o 35 (666—65 B. C.) finds its analogy in Greco-Egyptian law (cf. *B e r g e r*, *Strafklauseln* 127, 137, 158). — For the giving in pledge of the son in N^o 53 (651 — 50 B. C.) see my *Law I* 104. — For the *mutua fideiussio* in N^o 55 (652—51 B. C.) and N^o 60 (628—27 B. C.) see my *Law I*, 231—2. For the *obligatio omnium bonorum* in N^o 64 (625—24 B. C.?) and N^o 71 (619—18 B. C.) cf. my *Law I* 212. For the promissory note with an antichresis on apartments in N^o 80 (628—27 B. C.) cf. my *Law I*, 218. — For the bail surety for attendance in court in N^o 82 (616—15 B. C.) cf. my *Law I* 385. — On the *locatio-conductio operis* with regard to the temple guard duty in N^o 83 (618—17 B. C.) cf. my *Law* 284—5. — Finally the reader may be referred to the ordeals in N^o 84 (654—53 B. C.) and N^o 85 (652—51 B. C.).

GREEK PAPYRI FROM THE PTOLEMAIC PERIOD

T. R e c k m a n s — E. V a n ' t D a c k, *A Bodleian Archive on Corn-Transport* (Chronique d'Egypte N^o 53, 1952 p. 148—195).

The documents of this archive date from 163 B. C. and deal with the river transport of grain to the thesauros at Syene, πρὸς τὰ μετρήματα τῶν ἐπὶ τῶν τόπων στρατιωτῶν. The archive brings new data on the state transport of grain by water. It can be summarized in four points: The sitologos who dispatches the wheat sent a certificate of shipment to the consignee of the cargo, the sitologos of