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Reedition of BGU IV 1018

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Zbigniew Borkowski

REEDITION OF BGU IV 1018*

This text (fig. 1) edited by S c h u b a r t in 1912 was a subject of emendations only in BL I, p. 88. Our minute corrections¹ do not encourage its publishing anew but since it seems that with some new readings it would be more convenient to present the entire document than comment the changed readings, we print it without diplomatic rigors to each line involved.

The date of the document is puzzling. There is no emperor's name and so its dating is based on palaeography, Aurelii speak for the IIIrd cent., the hand fits it too. The date was generally accepted and is beyond any doubt, but there was no comment on why the emperor's name was omitted, thus giving an impression that this was normal. We have probably above 300 of land-leases already published and without pretending to be accurate about all of them I can say that out of 228 leases of the Principate times and some later ones dated to early Byzantine Period (IIIrd-IVth cent.) in the lists of J. H e r r m a n n, *Studien zur Bodenpacht im Recht der gräko-ägyptischen Papyri*, München 1958, pp. 255-273 and 274 ff. this is the only one to be dated in this way².

- Αὐρήλιος Εὐδαίμων ὁ καὶ Ἀμ[ώ-]
νιος Πλουτίωνος Ἀντινοεὺς [Αὐρη-]
λίου Σύρου τοῦ Ἡρωνος μητ(ρὸς) Τεφροσῆ
[καθ]ὼς φησιν ἀπὸ τῆς μητρο[π]όλεως[·]
5. [Βού]λομαι μισθώσασθαι παρὰ
[σοῦ] τὰς ὑπαρχόντας σοι παιρὶ κώμ(ην)
[Κε]ρκαισηφί κλήρον κατοικεικ[οῦ]
[ἀρ]ούρας τέσσαρες τέταρτον ἐὰν
[ῶσαι] ἐὰν ᾧσι ἐν δώπο λεγομέ[ν]ο
10. Χηνᾶ εἰς ἔτη δύο ἀπὸ τοῦ εἰσιόν-]
τος γ (ἔτους) ἐκφορίου καθ' ἔτος[ς πυ-]
ροῦ ἀρτάβας δέκα πέντ[ε εφ']
αἰς λήμψομαι σπερμάτ[ων]

* This paper has been prepared for publication from the manuscript left by Late Z. B o r k o w s k i (eds.).

¹ Made some years ago when the text was read on both photos and original at the papyrological seminar in Warsaw.

² I take H e r r m a n n 's lists as a sample. There is no need to extend the list of documents because it is clear that the way of dating was exceptional.

15. ποιροῦ ἀρτάβας δύο καὶ χλωρο-]
 φόρου ἀργυρίου δραχμὰς [τεσσα-]
 ράκοντα, κλαὶ τὸν φόρον ἀποδώ-]
 σω ἐν μηνὶ Παῦνι αἰφ' ἄλλω τῆς κώμ(ης)
 μέτρο χαλκῷ Ἀββουτᾶτος [τῆς]
 μετρήσεως γενομένη(ς) διὰ τινα
20. τῶν σῶν τὸν δὲ χλωροφόρου
 μηνὶ Φαμενώθ τῶν δημο-
 σίων πάντων πρὸς σέ τὸν γεοῦ-
 χων χωρὶς φλολέτων, καὶ μετὰ
 τὸν χρόνον παραδώσο τὰς ἀρού-
 ρας καθαρὰς ὡς παρέλαβον,
25. ἐὰν φαίνηται μισθώσασθαι
 (ἔτους) β Μεσορῆ κε. Σύρος (ἔτων) ξ
 οὐλῆ ὄφρυνει(α) ἀριστερᾶς.

6. l. περί; 7. l. Κερκεσήφι; 8-9 ἢ [ῥσαι] ἐὰν ὦσι; 9. l. τόπων λεγομένων;
 17. l. ἐφ' ἄλλω, κω ραρ.; 18. l. μέτρο χαλκῷ; 22-23. l. γεοῦχον;
 23. l. χωρὶς φορέτρων; 28. l. ἀριστερᾶ

"To Aurelius Eudaemon also called Ammonius, son of Ploution, Antinoite, from Aurelius Syrus, son of Heron, whose mother is Tephrosas, according to his own statement a resident of the metropolis: I wish to lease from you the plot of catocic land belonging to you in the neighbourhood of the village of Kerkese phis, the size of the plot being $4\frac{1}{4}$ aruras or whatever the size may be, in a place called Khena, for the period of two years beginning from the coming year 3, at an annual rent of 15 artabas of wheat, on account of which I will receive two artabas of wheat seed and forty drachmas for the green fodder crops. I will pay the rent in the month of Pauni on the threshing — floor of the village, measured by the copper measure of Abboutas. The measurement will be done by one of your people. The amount due on green crops (will be paid) in the month of Phamenoth. All public charges will be paid by you to the landlord, except the expenses of transport and, after the lease expires, I will return the aruras clean just as I received them, if the lease is granted. Year 2, Mesore 25. Syrus, aged about 60 years, scar on the left eyebrow."

1-2. Αὐρηλίω Εὐδαίμωνι τῷ καὶ Ἀμμωνίῳ Πλουτίωνος Ἀντινοεῖ : W i l c k e n, Arch. III s. 201, because of the normal order of hypomnema (one could expect that an Arsinoe dweller: was to apply to the citizen of remote Antinoe to rent $4\frac{1}{4}$ arouras and not vice-versa).

2. [π(αρά) Αὐρηλίου κτλ.; W i l c k e n: (παρά) [Αὐρ. probably by an oversight — π' could easily be written in lacuna before crowded letters of Αὐρη-.

3-4. Τεφορσᾶ[4τος]: W i l c k e n, *ibid.* the dotting of the letters is perhaps too cautious — the reading seems certain. The common form of this (and related) names is Τεφορσα- but listing it in NB s.v. Τεφορσᾶς Preisigke disregards the possibility that such a spelling reflects its actual (local) pronunciation. -ως at the end written above the line, so not -[π]ολεω[ς] as in ed. pr.

10. ἐ[ισιόν]τος: BL, *ibid.* after S. W a s z y ŋ s k i, *Bodenpacht*, p. 65 note 2 who corrects the text for general reasons: the contract was concluded at the end of the year (end of Mesore).

17. ἄλω τῆς κώμ(ης): this reading is certain. *Tau* and the first hasta of scarcely damaged *eta* were taken by S c h u b a r t for *nu*. The second semicircular stroke of *eta* was read as *sigma* and pretty complete *sigma* on the edge of lacuna as an *omicron*. Incomplete *kappa* was correctly identified but small point of ink that follows was disregarded being in fact the upper-most of the first stroke of an *omega*. Thus the horizontal line above it was omitted in the transcript as an abbreviation mark while it could legitimately be taken for *mu* of κώμ(ης). The resulting reading suggested an extremely complicated situation of paying the rental in a different and remote village. This resulted in citing this document by D. H o b s o n in *BASP* 21, 1984, p. 103 n. 35, as a troublesome evidence contrary to the clear situation of the Soknopaiou Nesos village as having no permanently cultivated land and thus having no public granary.

19-20. τινα τῶν σῶν: if the rental is to be paid in Kerkesephis the difficulty with Aur. Eudaimon having his representatives at Soknopaiou Nesos disappears.

27. W i l c k e n, Arch. III 301; BL I, loc. cit. inserts (2. H.) before the signature of Syros though the hand is most probably the same. Although this is not stated Syros is illiterate what is shown by his personal description (see G. H ü b s c h, *Die Personalangaben als Identifizierungsvermerke im Recht der gräko-ägyptischen Papyri*, Berlin 1968, esp. p. 107 note 2).

Σύρος (ἔτων) ξ: *sigma* was dotted by W i l c k e n after ed. pr. but is certain. Since the ἔτος sign has an additional oblique line γ it is tempting to resolve it as more common (ὡς ἔτων).

28. The way this line was written leads to several confusions. οὐλή ὀφρναία was read by S c h u b a r t (and accepted by P r e i s i g k e in *WB*, s.v., being the only reference to this text with an equal mark to regular ὀφρύς). We could disregard A. C a l d a r a 's ὀφρυκία (*I connotati personali ...*, Milano 1924, pp. 77 (4), and 120, where, however, we were unable to find the reference to p. 148, note 3 in the book) as being simple misreading of the hand-written and lithographed text of BGU IV (an ill-shaped *alpha* looking as *kappa*). What the scribe had actually written is *οφρυεια* where *epsilon* was written on an unfinished letter which was most probably intended to be an *alpha*. We could only guess that this unfinished redaction was due to the fact that the scribe was inclined to start ἀριστερᾶ after having written *οφρυ* started an *alpha* but he had realized that *οφρυει* is needed so he changed this unfinished letter to *ει* and started to write *αριστερα* again, so he wrote *alpha*. What follows is written with much heavier (thicker) lines, most probably after the scribe dugged his pen in ink. This might have been a good moment to forget that one *alpha* was already shaped and to write it again. This another *alpha* resulted (now almost completely lost in a small lacuna) and the word followed not in dative but in genitive. This was not corrected in BL I, loc. cit., as an obvious error but C a l d a r a, locc. citt. prints it in dative.

[Warszawa]

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