

Taubenschlag, Rafał

"Nabataean Inscriptions from Egypt", E. Littman with an introd. and classical notes by D. Meredith, "BSOAS", XV, 1953, 1 ; XVI, 1954, 2 : [recenzja]

The Journal of Juristic Papyrology 9-10, 557-558

1955-1956

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Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

The seven papyri which are here assembled were recovered in the excavations conducted by the University of Michigan at Karanis between 1924 and 1934. They comprise six census declarations and portions of two census registers (cf. my *Law*² 611 ff.). As to their date, they all fall within the thirty years following 145 A.D.

No. 1 census declaration (146—7 A.D.) resembles O. Mich. VI, 370 and 4 in the present series. It is presented by a φροντιστής who may be acting as in P. VI 370 for an absentee owner. See the discussion of declaration on behalf of absentees in the introduction to P. Mich. VI, 370. No. 2 presents the only declaration in which a vacant lot is the subject matter. That the owners were required to make this declaration testifies to the case with which the census was concluded; any property which by its location within a village might be expected to be built up and inhabited was taken in account by the administration. A second peculiarity, which is possibly signified, is that the first declaration in No. 2 also deals with uninhabited property, in this instance a house in which no one resides. The conjunction of the declarations suggests that they may have formed part of a special roll, of a section of a τόμος συγκολλήσιμος which was devoted to the special category of vacant properties. No. 4 (174 A.D.): this declaration like No. 1, was made by a legal representative on behalf of a principal. No. 5 (161 A.D.), like No. 2, declares unoccupied dwelling. No. 7 is a register which presents the substance of the declarations and is without exact parallel.

E. Littman, *Nabataean Inscriptions from Egypt* (with an Introduction and Classical Notes by D. Meredith) (repr. from the *BSOAS* XV (1) [1953] 1—28; II, *ibid.* XVI (2) [1954] 211—246).

The Nabataean inscriptions from Egypt are closely related to the so-called Sinaitic inscriptions, i.e. the graffiti in late Nabataean script and in Nabataean language intermingled with some Arabic words, of which quite a large number were found on the Sinai Peninsula.

The Nabataeans were Arabs who used an Aramaic dialect as their official language; their nationality is proven by the large majority of the names mentioned in their inscriptions. It is note worthy that the Arabs during the first centuries A.D. did not come only

to the Sinai Peninsula, but also to Egypt as we learn now from the present texts. The authors of the Nabataean inscriptions from Egypt seem to have been caravan people who traded with Egypt.

The inscriptions are in relation to Roman roads and stations.

D. Meredith, *Annius Plocamus: two Inscriptions from the Berenice Road* (reprinted from the *Journal of Roman Studies* XLIII [1953] 38—40).

The two inscriptions are cut by a certain Lysas, slave of Publius Annius Plocamus. Their date is 5th July A.D. 6. The editor gives same information about Annius Plocamus whom Pliny describes as a farmer of the Red Sea Taxes.

H. Metzger, *Vier griechische Papyrusurkunden aus der Sammlung Erzherzog Rainer in Wien* (S.A. aus *Schweizer Beiträge zur allgem. Gesch.* XII [1954] 139—148).

The edition comprises: P. Graec. Vindob. 25.800 (224 A.D.), a loan document with the stipulation clause (l. 16—18): Περὶ δὲ τοῦ τα[ῦ]τ[α] ὀρθῶς καλῶς γερον[έ]ναι ἡπηρώτησεν ὁ Μύστη[ς], ὡμ[ο]-λόγησεν ὁ Ὠρείων (cf. about the stipulation my *Law*² 396 ff.). If in our text the formula differs somewhat from the usual pattern, we may perhaps suppose that the stipulation did not yet degenerated. P. Graec. Vindob. 13.107 (300 A.D.) is a private letter which mentions orders. P. Graec. Vindob. 15.312 (III cent. A.D.) — a personal list mentioning (v. 7) a Ἡρακλειδῆς ἀπὸ β(ενε)φ(ικιαρίων), an administrative rank in the prefect's staff; P. Graec. Vindob. 15.542 is a private letter very likely from the V cent. A.D. comprising orders.

R. R. Rees, *An Unpublished Herton Papyrus: Letter from the Senate to the Strategus* (J.E.A. 40 [1954] 88—91).

The papyrus is concerned with the election by the local senate of two officers to superwise the corn-supply at Oxyrhynchus, acting on the orders of the *rationalis*. Such officials were chosen by the βουλή and their nomination then communicated by the *prytanis* to the *strategus*, who gave them their instructions. It is clear that in the present instance some difficulty had arisen, possibly in the form of an objection by the elected men, and that the *prytanis* wishes to enlist the support of the *strategus* in order to deal with it.