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"A Roman Writing Tablet from Somerset", E. G. Turner, "J. R. S.", XLVI, 1956 : [recenzja]

The Journal of Juristic Papyrology 11-12, 371-372

1957-1958

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the judicial order than in application of its rules; but there are also tablets which reflect the true and proper jurisdictional activity, or explicitly refer to this matter. These tablets, written with ink, belonged to the archives of L. Cominius Primus and L. Venidius Esonyclus with the exception of tablet LXXXV, graffito, the origin of which remains unknown.

E. G. Turner, *A Writing Exercise from Oxyrhynchus* (*Museum Helveticum* XIII, 4 = *Victori Martin Septuagenario* S. [1956] 236—238).

The author publishes a text from the John Rylands Library, which offers new and welcome evidence in three respects. First, its regularity of execution shows that the work aims at professional competence: from such well-written practice pieces it is legitimate to form an opinion of the standards expected of professional calligraphers. Secondly, the text is most reasonably interpreted as written by an apprentice scribe at Oxyrhynchus. Whether it was carried out in a private writing school or under official or semiofficial supervision in a "government" office, it is the first evidence of the presence of apprentice scribes at Oxyrhynchus, though it has been tempting to guess at their presence by extending the inference from P. Oxy. 724, a contract of apprenticeship to a shorthand-writer. Thirdly, the fact that a budding chancery scribe should practice by copying a line of Demosthenes seems to confirm in principle the absence in the ancient world of a sharp division between bookhands and documentary hands.

E. G. Turner, *A Roman Writing Tablet from Somerset* (*J.R.S.* XLVI [1956] 115—118).

The author points out that the find in Roman Britain of a Latin writing tablet bearing a still legible ink inscription is of so unusual a nature that it has seemed worthwhile to offer a provisional account of it to the readers of the *JHS*. The tablet records a sale and has a certain legal and historical interest. Those of its clauses that it has proved possible to recover, follow closely the prescriptions of the *ius civile*. Perhaps this close adherence to the forms of the Roman civil law is to be seen as one of the effects of the *Constitutio Antoniniana*. It is not possible to say, whether the sale was

effected by *traditio* or *mancipatio*. In view, however, of the similarity of the formulae (e.g. the *optimo maximoque iure*-clause expressing complete freedom from servitudes, and the phrasing of the guarantee clause) in the tablet and the Transylvanian triptych, which is expressly stated to have been transacted *per mancipationem*, it is perhaps worth while to call attention to the latter possibility, and to its consequences. In his introduction to the text of the Transylvanian triptych in *Negotia*, p. 289, Arangio-Ruiz states the now accepted view that real property on provincial soil could be regarded as *res mancipii* only if it were situated in the territory of a city that had been granted *ius Italicum*, and that it is unlikely that Alburnus Maior, the place in question, had received this privilege. He concludes that the formulae of *mancipatio* have been wrongly used in that text. The tablet would fall into the same case for the fact that it may have been drawn up after the *Constitutio Antoniniana* is not relevant to the status of provincial soil. The possibilities are twofold: (1) the property to which the sale relates was situated in the territory of a community enjoying *ius Italicum*. Possibly this was not situated in Britain at all. If it was in Britain, could it have been *Aquae Sulis* or *Gleuum*? (2) The formulae are in fact wrongly used. Perhaps the purchaser was not sure whether the land in question was *fundus Italicus* and wished to protect himself in case it was. Or perhaps by application of the forms of *mancipatio* he hoped to assert a *dominium* over a *res nec mancipi* and usurp a better title to it.

J. Schwartz, *Deux ostraca de la région du wādi Hammāmāt* (*Chron. d'Égypte* XXXI, No. 61 [1956] 118—123).

These two ostraca of the Roman epoch concern the army. The first of them confirms the presence of the *cohors Prima Apamenorum* in the zone, where the *ala Vocantiorum* and the *cohors I Flavia Cilicum equitata* have been attested.

The second ostrakon confirms the presence of a curator, a real chief of a cohort of the auxiliary body, in the zone of wādi Hammāmāt. The receiver of the ostrakon seems to live in the environment of the *curator*.

G. Flore, *Un atto di divorzio* (*Studi in on. P. Francisci* I [1956] 395—397).