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"The Merton Papyri. A Descriptive Catalogue of the Greek Papyri in the Collection of Wilfred Merton", vol. II, B. R. Rees, H. I. Bell, J. W. Barns, Dublin 1959 : [recenzja]

The Journal of Juristic Papyrology 14, 159-167

1962

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concern private law, penal law and legal procedure. The rest of the documents concern administration, taxes, army etc. Each part is preceded by a useful index which enables the reader to make the best possible use of the compiled material. This volume is especially wellcomed because it brings the documents published during the last war and therefore at present hardly accessible. [H.K.]

Sergio D a r i s, *Intorno a due papiri mitografici (Aegyptus 39 (1959) pp. 18—22).*

The author gives an interpretation of P. Strasb. W. G. 332 (J. Schwartz, *Studi in onore di A. Calderini e R. Paribeni* vol. II, pp. 151—156) and of PSI 1398. [A.Š.]

Sergio D a r i s, *Dai papiri inediti della raccolta milanese (Aegyptus 39 (1959) fasc. 1—2 pp. 9—17).*

The edition contains 5 papyri. No. 50 (II cent. A.D.) is a fragment of the Iliad H, 427—441; Nos 51 (87/88 A.D.) and 52 (I cent. A.D.) are loans of money; No 53 (II cent. A.D.) is a fragment of a receipt drawn by a certain *libertus* Theonos, Πέρισης τῆς ἐπιγονῆς for his *patronus*. The money is paid by means of the *τραπεζίται*. The pap. no. 54 (7 Nov. 449 A.D.) is a fragment of a petition to a *riparius*. [H.K.]

B. R. R e e s, H. I. B e l l and J. W. B a r n s, *The Merton Papyri. A Descriptive Catalogue of the Greek Papyri in the Collection of Wilfred Merton*, vol. II. Dublin. Hodges Figgis and Co. Ltd. 1959, pp. XIV+209, pl. 46.

The fifty papyri composing this volume — the continuation of the volume I of the Merton Papyri edited in 1948 by H. I. Bell and C. H. Roberts — belong to the collection of the late Mr. Wilfred Merton. The whole collection of the papyri, published and unpublished, was purchased before the owner's death by Sir Chester Beatty and now forms part of the Chester Beatty Library in Dublin.

The second volume of the Merton Papyri, like the first one, has been edited in consideration of the needs of the paleography of the

Greek papyrus documents and includes the excellent collotype facsimiles of all the texts.

The first eight papyri are literary texts. No. 51 is a small fragment of the codex (III cent. A.D.) written on the recto and the verso, probably a fragment of a Christian homily or exegesis concerned particularly with Luke VI and VII or perhaps a part of an uncanonical gospel. No. 52 is the end of a very fine roll of the second book of the Odyssey from the late first century B.C. Only the ends of the first twelve lines of one column and five complete lines of the second survive. The last line of the Book 2 is followed immediately by the first line of the Book 3, preceded by a paragraphus. Below l. 1 of the Book 3 are some not quite comprehensible notes. On the verso there are similar notes, the first of which contains a date: the 25th year of Caesar (=26 May — 24 June, 5 B.C.). No. 53 contains Odyssey XXI ll.327 — 342 written in the literary hand of the Roman period on the verso of a roll previously used for a land register or an account of corn, which seems to be of the second half of the second century. It shows no textual variants from the vulgate text. Perhaps it was a copy intended for school use. No. 54: Euripides Phoenissae ll. 768—89, 793—806 on the verso of a κατ' ἄνδρα list probably connected with a village in the Arsinoite nome. The recto from the middle of the second century, the verso probably — the second half of that century. The hand of the Euripides text may be, according to the suggestion of Mr. Lobel, the hand of a schoolboy learning to write for literary purposes. For textual criticism the text does not offer anything new besides perhaps two suggestive omissions of lines ll. 778 and 800. No. 55: the beginnings of fifteen lines in a literary hand of the second century, perhaps a fragment of Lysimachides from his Περὶ τῶν Ἀθηναίων μνημῶν. No. 56: a fragment of an unidentified work on ἀποτελεσματικά in an uncial hand of the second century. No. 57: the remains of two columns of astrological prognostications. No. 58: the magical charm of a familiar type, mentioning unusual names of divine or semidivine personages, which indicate its gnostic character.

No. 59 is a document dated in the twenty-seventh year of either Ptolemy VI Philometor or Ptolemy VIII Euergetes, i.d. in the year 154 or 143 B.C. Asclapon has instituted proceedings against his wife Antigone. In the meantime, however, the parties had agreed to a διάλυσις: Antigone was to get back her dowry, Asclapon was to be released from the terms of the marriage-contract, but

he had to produce her slave-girl by the end of the month or her equivalent in cash. The ξενικῶν πράκτωρ has to be notified of the terms of the agreement and to see that Asclapon should carry them out. The text is written in three hands: the second one is that of the scribe employed by Asclapon and Antigone, to write the necessary number of copies of their δίαλυσις. The third one is the hand of the εἰσαγωγεὺς who read through and signed. Then the secretary of the chrematistae signed it for the parties, adding the date and circumstances of the case (1nd h. ll. 29—31). Next, upon the approval of the chrematistae, the secretary added the final words (2nd h. ll. 32—35) and the address to the *xenicon practor*.

This document is an important contribution to the history of the synchoreisis. It gives also a hitherto unrecorded demoticon: Κρατεραιεύς.

No. 60, the second and the last of the Ptolemaic documents of this volume, dated about 100 B.C., is a veritable puzzle. In five lines and seven words it contains three riddles: 1. περιέλ(υσα) ἐκ or περιέλε (ἐ)κ (S k e a t) in the l. 1; but still more important are riddles 2. and 3.: Should we read ἐπι(στάτην) in the l. 5 and translate γραφή in the l. 2 as „list”, we may assume this to be a certificate of the release of an epistates Philip from a list of persons designated to public service. On the other hand if we read ἐπι(στάτης) in the l. 5 and translate γραφή as „indictment”, it is a certificate issued by an epistates and concerns the release of a certain Philip son of Philip from an indictment.

No. 61 is a receipt for an unspecified tax of the 10th August, 8 B.C.

No. 62, a typical Greek letter of introduction of the year 6 A.D. is adressed to a certain Sarapion, described as στρατηγός καὶ γυμνασίαρχος. It would seem then that about that time not all points of Augustus' plan of administration in Egypt were already enforced, and it was still possible for Sarapion to be strategus in his *idia*, and so to combine the offices of strategus and gymnasiarchus.

No. 63 is a badly mis-spelt letter from Herennia known already from the *Three Private Letters from the Oslo Collection* published by S. Eitrem and L. Amundsen in *Aegyptus* XXXI (1951), 177 ff. The writer informs her father Pompeius that an εὐσέβεια — probably an irregular contribution levied on special occasion — is being sought from the highest classes of residents in the Arsinoite nome for the sanctuary of Souchos. The extension of the levy to

the privileged classes, Ῥωμαίους καὶ Ἀλεξανδρεῖς καὶ κατοικοῦντας ἐν τῷ Ἀρσινοίτῃ, might perhaps be interpreted as one more indication of a severe economic depression suffered at that time in Egypt.

No. 64 is a copy of the receipts for γε: διακόν for the year 104/5, issued by the ἐκλήμπτορες ὠνῶν of Tebtunis to Cronion son of Cheuem().

No. 65 is a badly legible petition adressed to Apollonides, strategus of the division of Polemo of the Arsinoite nome by Panesneus, a weaver of the village of Narmouthis in the Fayyum, complaining of a robbery. A.D. 119.

No. 66: a private letter of the early second century written by Dionysius to his friends about the progress of a certain affair of business.

No. 67, a bank-διαγραφή of a contract of deposit without any unusual features, from the well-known bank of Apolonius and Sabinus in the Treasuries Quarter of Arsinoe (cf. Preisigke, *Girowesen*, 27 ff., Calderini, *Aegyptus* XVIII, 255), A.D. 130.

No. 68 is an application for lease of 7 3/4 arouras of agricultural land in Kerkeosiris, dated the 5 July A.D. 137, in the form of a hypomnema. From a third to a half of the papyrus has been lost on the left-hand side.

No. 69 is a certificate of performance of dike *corvée* from Bacchias for the 25—28 May A.D. 147.

No. 70, of the 28 October 159, a monthly account from the 1st to the 30th of Phaophi drawn up by the inspectors of the boat-hire contract for the fullers, is the first testimony of the existence of the ὠνή ναύλου γναφέων, a farmed tax on the transport of natron for the use of fullers, and its ἐπιτηρηταί.

No. 71 is a list of articles deposited by different persons, from the years 160—3. The list gives the prices which are on the whole higher than the prices of the second century recorded elsewhere.

No. 72 is the beginning of a marriage contract from Tebtunis, from the year 162, which has already been published as PSI 1116.

No. 73 from Oxyrhynchos, A.D. 163—4, is a very interesting document, unfortunately badly legible and very fragmentary. Its recto contains the fragments of the two columns of a land-register. On the verso we have a draft of a declaration made by Taophryonis, a sacred virgin, represented by a priest of Athena Thoeris and Isis and other divinities, perhaps, as suppose the editors, of Sarapis and the associated goods. A most probable supposition is that,

either as a part of the normal routine maintained by the financial administration of the nome or as a result of some special inspection, the priestess Taophryonis was called upon to render a statement of her revenue under its various headings and of her contributions to the exchequer over a certain period. It is interesting to note that she was chosen by the corporation of the priests for some specific duties in the procession in honor of the Emperors (ll. 3—4). The meaning of the word $\kappa\omega\pi\epsilon\tilde{\omega}\nu\epsilon\varsigma$ in the l. 18 has been explained recently by P. Reinach 2065 recto l. 33 ff. (*The Journal of Juristic Papyrology* XI—XII, p. 66, cf. also p. 70—71): they are the handles of the hand-barrows used in the temples in the processions to carry the cult objects, like statues, momies of sacred animals, shrines etc.

No. 74 is a fragment of an account of rents in barley from holdings in two villages, Serenou and Talao, in the Oxyrhynchite nome, about A.D. 180.

No. 75 is an application for opening of the will of a certain Demetria, which will take place in the Hadrianeum of Oxyrhynchus. The text is dated 2th July 181.

No. 76, dated 22th November 181, is a lease of a workshop, probably a $\kappa\epsilon\rho\alpha\mu\epsilon\tilde{\iota}\omicron\nu$ (l. 9) in the Heroum Quarter of Oxyrhynchus. Only the left-hand half of the text is preserved.

No. 77, from 3th November 182, is a report by the sitologi of Karanis to Appianus, strategus of the division of Heracleides of the Arsinoite nome (the name of the strategus does not figure in H e n n e, *Strateges*).

No. 78 is a document of six-witness type, from Herakleopolis, A.D. 191, which records a loan of 600 drachmas between persons whose names are lost. The interest is at common rate of a drachma per mina per month.

No. 79, a letter of Chairemon to Diogenes, written in a second century hand, offers many points of interest and it seems possible to clarify still more precisely the readings and the interpretation. In the line 5 I would read $\acute{\epsilon}\pi\acute{\epsilon}\beta\eta\sigma\alpha\nu$ instead of $\acute{\epsilon}\zeta\acute{\epsilon}\beta\eta\sigma\alpha\nu$. The numbers $\bar{\eta}$ and $\bar{\vartheta}$ in ll. 5—6 seem to be rather the days of the month than the numbers of allotments: the $\kappa\lambda\tilde{\eta}\rho\omicron\iota$ used to be numbered, but not the crown-land. In the l. 9 perhaps the word $\delta\alpha\pi\alpha\nu\tilde{\alpha}\tau\alpha\iota$ may better fit the text.

The following three numbers Nos. 81—83 are other private letters from the second century. No. 81 is written by Epoeris to her son Demetrius, who is absent from home and, apparently,

contemplating a journey to Rome. The papyrus is in a very bad condition, so much so that no single line is complete. No. 82 is written by Nice to her „sister” Berenice in reply to a letter from the later, who had reproached Nice for neglecting to write to her. No. 83 is a letter of Taos to Agathopous about different subjects, but in the first place about a lady called Taarmiusis, who accused the two friends and some other persons of taking some gold pieces from her.

No. 84 is a notification of death addressed to the γραμματεὺς πόλεως of Oxyrhynchos in the year 201.

No. 85 is a letter of Hermes, probably to his brother. The palaeography points to the third century and the mention of the dates in the line 21 indicates that the reign of Severus Alexander belongs already to the past. The writer's brother intends to make a claim in connection with a piece of property; he is advised to approach an official in the βιβλιοθήκη ἐγκτήσεων, who will assist him in securing the necessary documents from the archives, and he is further advised to get a signed declaration of some kind (ὑπογραφή) from his relatives.

No. 86 is a receipt dated in the year 296, addressed to a butcher, for payment of part of the price of a calf. The price itself, exceedingly high, points to the inflation which attacked Egypt in the latter part of the third century.

No. 87, from the third century, is an account of private expenditure, mostly on provisions, covering five days of a month not specified. It is a new evidence of the simplicity and poor living conditions among the lower-class population in Egypt.

No. 88 is a roll of tax-receipts, probably copied at the instigation of Aurelius Isidorus, his relatives and those intimately connected with his family. Quite possibly it belonged to the archives of Isidorus. It is dated 289—301. The places mentioned are in the first place Karanis, then Kome Hiera, Kerkesoucha and Ptolemais Nea (all near Karanis). The roll on the whole is well preserved (16 columns, 13 or even 18 hands, the writing is only on the recto). It contains: granary receipts, adaeratio payments, annona militaris, other payments in kind, payments in money ὑπὲρ θείας διατυπώσεως and other money payments (οἱ ὀβολοὶ καὶ τὰ ἀργυρικά in col. III) Similar texts are P. Lips. 84 and E. H. Kase's, A Papyrus Roll in Princeton Collection (=SB. 7621).

With the person of Aurelius Isidorus son of Ptolemaeus, are also connected the numbers 89, 91 and 92. No. 89 of A.D. 300, is a certificate issued by an ὑπηρετῆς τῆς στρατηγίας concerning injuries suffered by Isidorus, son of Ptolemaeus, *pediophylax* of the village Karanis. The document, adressed to Aurelius Heron, strategus of the Arsinoite nome (not in Henne, he occurs in P. Cairo Boak 22, and P. Cairo Inv. 57366 and 57065), differs from the usual procedure as the official is sent to inspection alone, not accompanied by a physician. No. 91 is a petition composed on 30th January 316 by Isidorus son of Ptolemaeus of Karanis against two residents of Bubastus, Castor and Ammonius who have broken their contract leasing to Isidorus twenty-five arouras of seed-land by appropriating the entire produce of the plot, which they had previously undertaken to share with him on a fifty-fifty basis. The present petition is adressed to Aurelius Octavius, strategus of the Arsinoite nome, but it encloses a copy of an earlier petition of Isidorus sent on 27 December 315 to Aurelius Antonius, praeses of Aegyptus Herculia (of this latter petition there exist two other copies, P. Cairo, Journal d'entrée 57063 and 57385, considered in the edition of No. 91) who instructs the exactor in favour of the petitioner and requests that the necessary action should be taken. The present, second petition, brought apparently the matter to a relatively speedy conclusion, for P. Col. Inv. No. 61 (N. Lewis, *Journal of Juristic Papyrology* II, 51 ff.) reveals that a settlement was made in February/March 316. At last, No. 92 is a petition of the same Isidorus presented to the praepositus on 31st May 324. It is directed against certain individuals who have let their beasts loose on the crops of the petitioner who refers also to an earlier incident of the like nature. On this occasion Isidorus had also petitioned the praepositus and it seems that P. Cairo, Journal d'Entrée 57368 is the original or a copy of this earlier petition. It is noteworthy that Isidorus in 324 was able to sow no more than a tenth of his land, which — due allowance made for exaggeration — may be yet another confirmation of the difficulties of the times.

No. 90 is connected only indirectly with the archives of Isidorus, namely by the fact that one of the petitions from Aurelius Isidorus (Cairo, Journal d'Entrée 57049) made it possible for the editors to date the text in question about A.D. 310 (and not about A.D. 300, as it was dated when first published in *JEA* 40, 1954, 88 ff.) The very fragmentary document is concerned with the election by the

local senate of two officers to supervise the corn-supply at Oxyrhynchus, acting on the orders of the catholicus. The commentary brings the discussion of the fonctions of catholicus, embolarches (l. 11 ἐμβολαρχίαν: a verbum novum) and of the usage of the title of epitropus.

No. 93 is a Christian letter of the fourth century, perhaps a reply of an ecclesiastic directed to a soldier or another person connected with the army who sought his advice.

No. 94 is a receipt for a payment of corn for the annona civica, subsequently cancelled, of the fifth century from Karanis (one of the latest documents from this village).

No. 95, of the fifth century, is an order for payment made out in connection with some local building or decorating work.

No. 96, of the sixth century, is a letter from a γεοῦχος (probably a member of Apion family as it is shown by the names of places Pempo and Meskanounis) to a subordinate telling him to come to the city (Oxyrhynchus) in connection with the ἐορτικά.

No. 97, sixth century, is a receipt in the form of an agreement. In itself nothing unusual, but with strong emphasis placed on the aspect of agreement.

No. 98 is a contract of surety, of the late sixth century, probably from Oxyrhynchus, as its formulas agree in almost every particular with those found in previously published deeds from this city.

No. 99 brings two receipts of the seventh century, from Kerkesouchon Oros.

No. 100, of the 22 October 699 published already in *Aegyptus* XXXI, 307 ff., is an ἐπίσταλμα, which belongs to the same class as the *entagia* preserved in the Aphrodito papyri. It is issued by the pagarch, probably of the Arsinoite nome, who has transmitted a requisitioning order presumably received from either the topotetes of the amir Jordanes or from the amir himself, being the Duke not only of the Thebaid but also of the Arcadia (cf. R. Remondón in P. Apoll.).

It is certain that the second volume of the Merton Papyri will be received with the same appreciation as has been the first volume. Perspicuous commentaries, a thorough bibliography attached to each text and a detailed account of actual lore and historical data, as well as the fact that paleographical problems have been more widely attended to than in the majority of other similar publications are the principal values of this edition. Excellent facsimiles to the

Merton Papyri enhance the perfection and usefulness of this volume for all papyrologists and students of paleography. [A. S]

The Excavations at Dura-Europos conducted by Yale University and the French Academy of Inscriptions and Letters, edited for the Department of Classics by Ann Perkins, Final Report V, Part b: "*The Parchments and Papyri*", by C. Bradford Welles, Robert O. Fink and J. Frank Gilliam with an Account of the three Iranian Fragments by W. B. Henning, New Haven, Yale University Press 1959 pp. XXVIII + 457 pl. 71.

This splendid volume deserves to be called a masterpiece of editorial, philological and historical work, to be put side by side with Wilcken's *Urkunden der Ptolemäerzeit*. It presents for the first time assembled together all the parchments and papyri found at Dura in the French excavations of 1922/23 and in those of Yale University commenced in the spring of 1928. About one third of the texts was already published before by F. Cumont (chiefly *Fouilles de Doura-Europos*, 1926), C. B. Welles, R. O. Fink, J. F. Gilliam, M. Rostovtzeff and others. Here they are reedited, not infrequently with substantial corrections. Many texts published for the first time are very small, some of them are more scraps, but they all contribute to the whole picture. Thanks to the indefatigable work of Mr. Welles and his collaborators we get a closed body of material from an excavation of a quite unique character. An exhaustive introduction, which is a synthesis of the historical and philological data, and equally exhaustive commentaries to the particular texts make of this volume not only a reedition of old and edition of new fragments, but a really fundamental work on the history of Dura Europos in Hellenistic and Roman times, and in general on the scope and span of Graeco-Roman culture in the East.

The fourth of the seven chapters of the Introduction is written by J. F. Gilliam and R. O. Fink (*The Roman Army in Dura*) the other six by C. B. Welles. The first chapter brings information about the place and the date of the discovery of the texts, the writing material used at Dura, the origin of the texts and the character of the Archives of Dura. The second chapter presents the history of Dura as preserved in the parchments and