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[recenzja]

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Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

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

papyri, taking widely into consideration social, economic and even cultural matters illustrated by the texts. The third chapter deals with legal problems. The fourth extensive chapter contains the data concerning Roman army stationed in Dura. The last three chapters, contributed by C. B. Welles, discuss the philological, paleographical and onomastical matters on the basis of the published texts. The importance of this study is evident for every one who remembers the scarcity of parchment and papyrus fragments found outside Egypt. The introduction, conceived as the unseparable part of the commentary, is intended to be read in conjunction with the texts themselves.

The arrangement of the published fragments is by date and category. All the texts are divided into: I. *Civil texts*, II. *Files of the Cohors Vicesima Palmycenorum*, and III. *Aramaic and Iranian Documents*. Under *Civil texts* we find as A. *Literary texts*, including the reedition of a Herodotus fragment, two small pieces of papyrus codex containing Appian's *Bellum Mithridaticum* (the first known papyrus of Appian!), a fragment of Tatian Diatesaron and a Hebrew prayer. For the first time has been published a fragment of glossary or a grammatical treatise of the early second century (No. 3) and six Greek literary fragments, all very small, of the second and the third centuries (Nos. 4—9).

The texts contained in section B. *Civil administration* have already been published (No. 14 in part). The No. 13, from the late first century, edited by C u m o n t (*Fouilles*, pp. 307—9, No. IV) is indentified by C. B. Welles as an application of a tax-farmer.

The part C. *The Registry Office* is divided in 1. *Rolls of Copies* (Nos. 15—17, all reedited) and 2. *Individual Documents*. Here we find published for the first time a loan on security of the borrower's whole property, dated from 133/4 A.D. (No. 22); an acknowledgment of indebtedness of some sort (but not a loan), probably with *antichresis*, of a certain Conon, son of Nicostratus, who belonged to the highest Dura aristocracy, dated from 150/60 A.D. (No. 24); a deed of sale, ca. A.D. 225—240, with a line of Aramaic (No. 27); a deposit, of 251, in which the depositee, Aurelia Gaia, daughter of Saturnilus, belonged to the society grouped about the Roman garrison, while the depositor, Amaththabeile, was certainly a local woman of peasant or Beduin origin, perhaps a freedwoman, to whom the deposited sum of one hundred denarii

might represent life's savings or a dowry (No. 29). No. 30 is a marriage contract, of 232, between a soldier of the Cohors Duodecima Palaestinarum, stationed at a place called Qatna, probably on the Chabur river, and a widow with a Latin name. It was drawn up in the camp of the cohort. The text must be regarded as Roman in the sense that it is an agreement between Roman citizens concluded in a Roman environment under the provision of Roman provincial law issued by the Roman governor. It is evident that what we have here is purely *jus gentium*. No. 32 is a document of 254 which calls itself an ἀποστάσιον but is rather a mutual quit-claim than a divorce, since the latter has already taken place as it is stated in lines 7—8. The greatest interest of this text lies in the name of the city in lines 4—5: ἐν Κολωνείᾳ Εὐρωπ[αίων Σελεύκου] Νειχάτορος [τ]ῆ ἱερῶ [καὶ] ἄ[σὺ]λῳ καὶ α[ὐ]τονόμ[ω]. It is at last proved that Dura in the third century acquired the rank of Roman colonia. It is however astonishing to have the Greek name *Europos* reappear after a half-century, and to have it accompanied by the name of the Seleucid founder and by the proud titles which follow. This, the latest of the surviving contracts from Dura, was drawn up at a difficult and obscure time in the city's history, and it is not impossible that Dura had been rewarded for some demonstration of loyalty to Rome. No. 33, dated at 240—250, is a list or inventory of personal effects, with values or prices expressed in denarii. The Nos. 34—44 are fragments of different contracts (No. 34 is of 116 B.C., all the others of the second and third centuries). Among the *Individual documents* of the part C. there is also a single Syriac text, a deed of sale, of 243 — No. 28.

The part D. contains two letters published for the first time. No. 45, a mere fragment, is probably a copy of an official letter, of the second or third century. No. 46, of the early third century, is a private letter, written by a soldier being at Antioch. He addresses a centurion, who was at Dura. He describes his adventures, both military and personal. Unfortunately, this interesting letter is very fragmentary. Still in its preserved part it throws a little light on the Roman army in Syria in the years before or after A.D. 200. Neither soldier nor centurion had the *civitas*. The soldier seems to have been displeased with his service. Very characteristic is this picture of slack discipline and low morale in the army.

In the part E. *Lists and Accounts* we find one text, No. 47 (Assessment of the Tribe of Zebeinas, of third century) previously

published by Cumont, but the readings of Welles differ so much, that he considered himself obliged to reprint, for the sake of comparison, the text as published by his predecessor. Nos. 48—52 are different lists of names, all of third century, on parchment or papyrus, and No. 53 is a fragment of a waxed tablet, with accounts, of the second or third century.

With No. 54, the famous *Feriale Duranum*, published already by R. O. Fink, A. S. Hoey and W. F. Snyder (*Yale Classical Studies* VII, 1—222), we enter into the *Files of the Cohors Vicesima Palmyrenorum* (Nos. 54—150). The part B. of the Files contains the *Correspondence*. Published under No. 55 we find two large and many small fragments of a single sheet of papyrus. There were at least two columns of text, one written in Latin and one in Greek. It seems to be a file of letters, probably of the years 218—222, concerning breaches of discipline and desertions among the soldiers of the border garrisons.

Among other texts published for the first time in this part there is No. 59, a fragment from a *liber epistularum*. It is a letter from Attius Rufinus, the governor of Syria, to Aurelius ...r. [...] *praepositus* of the Palmyrene cohort, probably of 241. Nos. 61—63 and 65 are very fragmentary Latin letters of the early third century. No. 66, is a *tomos synkollesimos*, containing parts of over fifty letters. Ten of them are addressed to Postumius Aurelianus, the tribune commanding the cohort. Three letters are from Postumius Aurelianus. Fifteen letters are in Greek, the rest in Latin, which was the language regularly used in the army. All the letters belong to the last half of 216 and were filed in order of receipt. A considerable number of the letters refer to the soldiers of the Palmyrene cohort, sometimes naming them; they mention also procurators. The letters were written at a time when Caracalla was passing through Mesopotamia into Adiabene in the opening phase of what promised to be a major war. Therefore it seems probable that the present file was primarily concerned with members of the unit who had been assigned to procurators or were on detached duty elsewhere and who were now being recalled in order that the cohort might be made into more effective combat force. No. 67, of ca. A.D. 223—225, is a copy of a letter with lists of names by centuries and *turmae*, probably of the men detailed for the task. Nos. 68, 70—81 are small fragments of Latin letters of the first half of the third century, No. 69 perhaps a scrap of a roster.

The texts grouped under C. *Reports* and D. *Rolls and Rosters* are concerned with purely military matters. Their understanding is much facilitated by the chapter IV of the Introduction (see especially D.E.F. by R. O. Fink). The documents published for the first time are Nos. 84—87 (morning reports), 90—92 (tabulations), 95 (strength report), 96 (list of names with ranks), 98, 100—102, 105—110, 112 (rosters), 99, 103, 104, 113—120, 122—124 (lists of names and soldiers), 121 (record of accessions by transfer) and 111 (uncertain fragment).

In section E. *Judical Busines* we have editio princeps of four texts published here. No. 125, of 235, is a piece of papyrus cut from a roll, perhaps from an original sententia, from a liber sententiarum or from a copy of an entry in the commentarii of the tribune Laronius Secundianus. No. 126, of 235, written in Greek, is the last column of a sententia-ἀπόφασις of the same tribune. A division of property is mentioned repeatedly. No. 127, is a very small Greek fragment, probably also of a decision of the tribune. No. 128, dated about A.D. 245, are probably fragments of an official journal. It combines the Greek protocol form and the Latin authentication: *legi*, placed, seemingly, after every statement.

No. 129, of 225, is a receipt of money for the purchase of barley, given by two members of the Cohors XX Palmyrenorum, a decurio and an eques.

In the part H. there are published miscellaneous very small Greek (Nos. 132, 140, 141, 144, 146—150) and Latin (Nos. 133—138, 142, 143, 145) fragments.

At the end of the volume, among the Aramaic and Iranian documents, (Nos. 151—155) we find one description of an unpublished Aramaic document, probably a lease, of the third century (No. 152).

The publication is completed by the very exhaustive indices (by C. B. Welles) and by 71 very good plates, invaluable for the Greek and Latin palaeography as showing in many examples the development of writing outside Egypt. [A.Ś.]

A. Gianformagio — M. Vandoni — C. M. Burri —
G. R. Carrara — D. Manfredi, *Dai papiri inediti del, Università di Milano* (Acme 9 (1956) pp. 75—90).

The first editor publishes some Homeric fragments from the I or II cent. A.D. (Pap. No inv. 216 contains A, 28 — 38; 58—68;