CHRONOLOGICAL NOTES ON BYZANTINE DOCUMENTS VIII

85. "New Style" Reckoning in the Later Sixth Century

In an important article E. Stein identified a "style nouveau" employed under Justinus II, whereby in some contexts the actual year of the emperor's consulate is numbered as year 1 μετὰ τὴν ὑμναρχίαν or post consulatum, "after the consulate," whereas before this time (and still in many texts of this time), the year after the consulate was usually numbered "one," i.e. the first post-consular year. This "style nouveau" is found already under Justinian, in the count of the postconsular years of Fl. Basilius, but our inquiry in the present case is limited to Justinus II and later reigns.

To put things in tabular form, the difference between "old" and "new" styles is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Orthodox count</th>
<th>&quot;New Style&quot; count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>566 cos. Justinus</td>
<td>p.c. Justinus, year 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>567 p.c. Justinus, year 1</td>
<td>p.c. Justinus, year 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What is peculiar about "new style" is obviously that it combines reference to postconsulate with a numbering which takes its start not from the year after the consulate but from the year of the consulate itself. This type of numbering from the start of the consulate we will refer to as "consular." Stein cited (320-21, nn. 4 and 5) three examples from the papyri among his documentation, which also includes inscriptions, for the New Style: BCD III 838, PSI III 243, and P.Oxy. VII 1042. No more have been found from this reign since he wrote. "New Style" in these three cases, it should be emphasized, consists of the consular count coupled with the phrase

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1 For the purpose of this series and the abbreviations used, see BASP 15 (1978) 233.

2 "Post-consulat et AYTOKPATOPIA," Mélanges Bidez (Bruxelles 1934) 869-912 = Opera Minora Selecta (Amsterdam 1968) 315-58. We cite according to the pages of the latter edition.
μετὰ τὴν ὑπαρχάν.

Stein proceeds to treat the reign of Tiberius. There is only one secure instance of the phenomenon in this reign, viz. P.Oxy. I 144, where the consular number 2 is used in the year after the consulate. But Stein includes along with this document a group of papyri in which we find μετὰ τὴν ὑπαρχάν plus years by consular count (i.e. New Style), but rather ὑπαρχάν, "In the consulate" followed by these consular years (323 n.5). In CSBE 126-27 we largely followed Stein in designating these as New Style. But this is incorrect, for in fact the phenomenon is different from that of New Style: instead of μετὰ τὴν ὑπαρχάν plus consular numbering, we have ὑπαρχάν plus consular numbering.

Stein, having established the existence of New Style under Justinus II and Tiberius, concludes that consulate and postconsulate became interchangeable in the documentary parlance of this period. This conclusion is unwarranted and has had bad results, for it results in a muddling without distinction of two different systems. Once this lumping together is rejected, however, the problem of New Style under Mauricius needs reexamination in full.

One document under Tiberius seems to have the reverse of New Style: PSI VII 786 is dated to regnal year 6, ὑπαρχάν year 2, Tybi 7 of indiction 14. There is some error here (cf. CSBE 66 n.24), as the regnal year and indiction do not match. It seems likely that the date is 31.581 (the indiction is confirmed by lines 13-14) and that the scribes forgot to change the regnal year in December and the consulate early in 581. In this case the consular date gives in fact the number by postconsular reckoning, which is the reverse of New Style. (The postconsular numerals in SPP XX 217 and SB VI 9592 are lost, and the method of reckoning used there cannot be determined.)

A group of four documents early in Mauricius' reign refer to the postconsulate of the deceased emperor Tiberius. Three of them are examples of New Style reckoning: P.Oxy. I 136 and 137, and P.Oxy. XVI 1976. All refer to μετὰ τὴν ὑπαρχάν but use consular count. In P.Genova I 31, the numeral for the postconsulate is lost.

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3 Aegyptus 56 (1976) 69 also belongs to this group, as does P.Grenf. I 60, cf. CNEB II 17. So also does P.Ant. II 103. The reader is asked to delete N.S. in CSBE except for the examples justified in the discussion below.
The documentation referring to the consulate of Mauricius poses a more complicated problem. We list the texts first by categories (including a few texts where the restorations are probable).

A. οὐμαρτιάς counted by consular reckoning, based on Mauricius' consulate in 583, i.e. with 583 = consular year 1.

1. P.Oxy. XVI 1988 (587), regnal 6, cos. 5
2. P.Oxy. XVI 1989 (590), regnal [9], cos. 8
3. P.Sci. 87 (592), regnal 10, cos. 10
4. P.Amb. II 150 (592), regnal 11, cos. 10
5. P.Oxy. I 201 descr. (593), regnal 12, cos. 11
6. PSI I 60 (595), regnal 14, cos. 13
7. P.Oxy. XXVII 2478 (595), regnal 14, cos. 13
8. PSI I 59 (596), regnal [15], cos. 14
9. P.Wash.Univ. 26 (596), regnal [15], cos. 14
10. P.Oxy. XIX 2239 (598), regnal [17], cos. 16

B. μετὰ τὴν οὐμαρτιάν counted by postconsular reckoning, based on Mauricius' consulate in 583, i.e. with 584 = p.c. year 1.

1. P.Sci. 67 (591), p.c. 8
3. SB VI 9153 (596), p.c. 13
4. P.Köln III 158 (599), p.c. 16

C. οὐμαρτιάς counted by postconsular reckoning based on consulate in 583, i.e. counting 584 as consular year 1.

1. P.Oxy. VI 996 (584), regnal 3, cos. 1
2. P.Lond. V 1731 (585), regnal 4, cos. 2
3. P.Oxy. XX 2283 (586), regnal 4, cos. 3
4. P.Monac. 11 (586), regnal 5, cos. 3
5. P.Oxy. XVI 1878 (587), regnal 5, cos. 4
6. P.Oxy. XVI 1993 (587), regnal 5, cos. 4
7. P.Oxy. XVI 1898 (587), regnal 4, cos. 4
8. P.Oxy. XLIV 3204 (588), regnal 6, cos. 5
9. P.Köln III 157 (589), regnal 7, cos. 6
10. P.Oxy. XVI 1990 (591), regnal 9, cos. 8
11. P.Oxy. XVIII 2202 (593), regnal 11, cos. 10
12. P.Monac. 14 (594), regnal 12, cos. 11
13. P.Lond. V 1733 (594), regnal 12, cos. 11
14. PSI III 244 (597), regnal 15, cos. 14
15. P.Vatic.Aphrod. 1 (598), regnal 16, cos. 15 (N.B.: indiction points to 599, probably in error)
16. BGU I 255 (599), regnal 17, cos. 16
17. PSI III 239 (601), cos. 18, ind. 4

D. μετὰ τὴν ὑματίαν counted by consular reckoning from Mauricius’ consulate in 583, i.e. with 584 = p.c. year 2

1. P.Lond. V 1897 (588), regnal 7, p.c. 6

(Several restored texts are left out of account, viz. P.Cair.Masp. I 67111, P.Warren 10, P.Genova I 32, PSI III 248, SB VI 9561.)

Several observations may be offered:

(1) Category A is only Oxyrhynchite, and Category B is only Herakleopolite. Category C, however, includes Oxyrhynchite, Memphite, Syenite, and Apollinopolite (Parva).

(2) There is only one true New Style date, i.e. using consular numbering with reference ostensibly to a postconsular date, viz. P.Lond. V 1897 (Category D). New Style (‘N.S.’) should be deleted in CSHE from all the other places where it occurs for this reign.

(3) Category C represents a reversal of the New Style situation: postconsular numbering is used to refer to a year ostensibly consular. This usage is paralleled hitherto only in PSI VII 786 under Tiberius (see above).

(4) If Categories A, B and D are taken as pointing to reckoning based on an understanding of Mauricius’ consulate as having fallen in 583, and Group C as pointing to a 584 reckoning base, the two bases have an almost equal number of examples (16 and 17).4

(5) Since the Oxyrhynchite is represented in both what we may call the 583 group and in the 584 group, and since these groups are not chronologically disjunctive, we must reject a geographical or chronological explanation of the divergences.

(6) It seems unlikely that the government announced two dif-

4 Stein, 355, is thus wrong to assert that “la trés grande majorité” count 584 as first p.c. year of Mauricius. About half do now; slightly more than half did in Stein’s time.
ferent years as being the base for computing consular dates, within a single nome. These differences must have an origin in scribal practices, and they are too numerous to be mere slips.

Now Mauricius entered his consulate on 25 December 583, just before the end of the Julian year (Stein, 333). The news must have reached Egypt only some weeks or months into 584 (we do not know when: at least after 11.1 [P.Oxy. I 137 still uses Tiberius' post-consulate]; the first evidence of knowledge of it in Egypt is PSI III 248, in October-November, 584). We do not know in what form the proclamation was made, but it must have included the fact that 583 was the consular year, or we would not have some scribes dating by it.

The choices are essentially two: (1) some scribes may at the time of announcement have taken cognizance of the 583 start and therefore computed on its base, while others ignored 583 and started the count only with 584, the year in which they received the news; or (2) some scribes may have chosen (like the scribe of PSI 786) to use p.c. numbering even though they spoke of the ὄρατικας (Group C), while others distinguished accurately between consulate and post-consulate (Groups A and B) and counted accordingly, and still another used the New Style and said post-consulate but used consular counting (Group D).

*P.Monae.* 10 and 13, both dated in January, have consular dates which are lower by one than even the year calculated by Group C's method would be. These are evidently examples of Group C in which the scribe has failed to advance the consular year on 1.1. It does not seem, though, that the Egyptian evidence provides decisive grounds for preferring one of the two explanations set out above.

Some Palestinian evidence, however, alters the balance. *P.Ness.* 29 and 30 provide a further group, in which the date is given by post-consulate. Their evidence is interesting:

*P.Ness.* 29: regnal 9, p.c. 6, year 485 of provincial era, ind. 9 (23.xii.590)


These dates are both internally consistent only on the assumption that the calculation was based on a consular year of 584 and a correct use of the post-consulate (cos. = 584, p.c. 1 = 585, p.c. 6 = 590, p.c. 12 = 596). Scribal confusion of consulate and postcon-
sultate cannot be indicted here. There is in this province thus good
evidence for a scribal belief that 584, when the announcement of
the consulate arrived, was itself the consular year. This evidence
seems to us to point to the correctness of view (1) above, that some
scribes understood 583 as the consular year, others 584.

It thus appears that New Style is in fact limited to documents
in which the phrase μετὰ τὴν ὑπαρχὴν appears, and that overall it
can be found in only eight documents over these three reigns. A con-
fusion of postconsulate and consulate otherwise appears only in PSI
786, which is an ill-drafted piece in any case. Otherwise, scribes
appear to have distinguished accurately between consulate and post-
consulate right through Mauricius' reign, but because of the pecu-
liar circumstances surrounding his consulate, there was a divergence
of views concerning which year was the consular year. 5

86. Officialdom in Prekis, 340-341

The documentation for the officials of the Hermopolite village
of Prekis has recently been augmented by two new Vienna papyri pub-
lished by J. Frösén as CPR VII 16 and 17. Their editor takes the
occasion to offer a reconstruction of the chronology of those Prek-
is documents which lack absolute dates and to offer various com-
ments on these liturgical offices (CPR VII, pp.79-82, Exkurs 2:
"Zur Deutung der liturgischen Ämter des Dorfes Prekis 339-340
n.Chr."). As we find the method and conclusions of Frösén's discus-
sion unacceptable, we will set out the evidence again in some detail
in an effort to clarify matters.

The crucial documents number four, two with consular dates, two
without (see the following chart for a schematic representation of
the information):

5 PSI III 179 contains a date only to Ἰωσὴφ τοῦ εὐρυχ. ἑωρωθηκοῦν
ἡμῶν δεσμότου ἔτους 1, Χοιλαχ. 3, Iωάκονος 5, according to the editor, who
dates "25 Dec. 602?". R. Piantaudi has observed (P.Laur. III 91.1-7n.) that the
letter cannot be stigma, but may be gamma or epsilon. Now 602 would be cos. 20
by the method of our Group A, but December 602 does not match with Indiction 3
or 5.

Piantaudi suggests Heraclius, namely 25.xii.631. But cos. 20 of Heraclius is
630, which matches ind. 4; 631 is p.c. 20, and in this case the scribe has used
the method of our Group C. We do not know what the solution is.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>P.Cair.Preis. 18=19</th>
<th>BGU I 21</th>
<th>P.Vindob.Sijp. 2</th>
<th>P.Cair.Goodspr. 12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Spring 340 ?)</td>
<td>(13.viii.340)</td>
<td>(Spring 341 ?)</td>
<td>(15.viii.340)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ephor</strong></td>
<td>Horos, s.of Ammonianus</td>
<td>Kastor, s.of Taubes</td>
<td>Kastor, s.of Taubes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Komarchs</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Horos, s.of Kastor</td>
<td>Horos, s.of Kastor</td>
<td>Sarmates, s.of Silvanus</td>
<td>Ionis, s.of Ammonios</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Cornelius, s.of Paesis</td>
<td>Cornelius, s.of Paesis</td>
<td>Ionis, s.of Ammonios</td>
<td>Sarmates, s.of Silvanus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Quadrarius</strong></td>
<td>- -</td>
<td>Herakles, s.of Pagenes</td>
<td>- -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sitologi in function</strong></td>
<td>Cornelius, s.of Kastor</td>
<td>Chous, s.of Herakles</td>
<td>Chous, s.of Herakles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poimen, s.of Psonnaus</td>
<td>- -</td>
<td>Phibis, s.of Herakles</td>
<td>Silvanus, s.of Pkylis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polys, s.of Karas</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Polys, s.of Silvanus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silvanus, s.of Pechonis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(officials for the 14th (?) indiction)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(indiction 13)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sitologi nominated</strong></td>
<td>Silvanus, s.of Apollon</td>
<td>Ammonios, s.of Chous</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pekysis, s.of --</td>
<td></td>
<td>Herakles, s.of Phibis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(indication 14)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NB: Names in Italic are not styled as Sitologi in function; in fact no title is given!
(1) *P.Cair.Pris.* 18 = 19 is a liturgical proposal made by the ephor, komarchs, and four *sitologoi* of Prektis for the thirteenth indication, nominating the *sitologoi* for the next indication. The names of those proposed are mostly lost but include a Silvanus son of Apollon and Pekysis (patronymic lost). There is no date preserved.\(^6\) The names of the proposers are:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Cornelius son of Kastor} & \\
\text{Polimen son of Psonnaus} & \\
\text{Polys son of Karas} & \\
\text{Silvanus son of Pechonis} & \\
\text{Horos son of Ammonianos, ephor} & \\
\text{Horos son of Kastor} & \\
\text{Cornelius son of Paesis} & \text{komarchs}
\end{align*}
\]

This group of functionaries, or a part thereof, we will refer to as Group A.\(^8\) Those nominated we will call Group B, functionaries for the next year.

(2) *P.Vindob.Sijp.* 2 is a similar liturgical proposal, again with no preserved date, in which a well-preserved list of proposers again proposes a damaged list of liturgists (*sitologoi*). The proposers are:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Chous son of Herakles} & \\
\text{Phibis son of Herakles} & \\
\text{Ammonios son of Ionis} & \\
\text{Silvanus son of Pkylis} & \\
\text{Kastor son of Teukes, ephor} & \\
\text{Sarmates son of Silvanus} & \\
\text{Ionis son of Ammonios} & \text{komarchs}
\end{align*}
\]

The nominated men are:

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\(^6\) Frösén, 79, gives April-May 339 as the date; but this is only his own proposal advanced later and in our view wrong. Throughout he gives as if facts attested by the documents what is in fact mere hypothesis.

\(^7\) Frösén writes (p. 79), "Das Zahlwort γυ in *P.Cair.Pris.* 18-19,5 dürfte für µι entweder falsch geschrieben oder falsch gelesen sein." On our photographs of *P.Cair.Pris.* 18 and 19 we consider the traces compatible only with γυ, and in 19 to be absolutely certainly this numeral.

\(^8\) It is to be noted that only the *sitologoi* are designated by the indication number. For some new readings in *P.Cair.Pris.* 18 see K.A. Worp, *Bulletin of the Egyptological Seminar* [New York] 1 (1979) 102.
Ammonios son of Chous
Herakles son of Phibis

It is immediately apparent that we have a second group identified as sitologoi of the 13th induction and proposing their successors. Somewhere a scribe has evidently blundered.\(^9\) We call the proposers Group C, the proposed Group D.

(3) The same sitologoi as in \(P.Vindob.Sijp.\) 2 also appear in \(CPR\) VII 17, which has no preserved date.\(^10\) They here apparently act as sureties for a group whose names are only partly preserved and for whom no title is preserved. One is an Am..... (probably Ammonios), another Teukes, another Herakles. It is evident that Ammonios and Teukes would correspond to two of the men in Group D who are preserved in \(P.Vindob.Sijp.\) 2. It is possible that \(CPR\) VII 17 has a connection with the same transaction.

Because of the fact that almost all of the names of Group B are lost, it is impossible to tell if we have four groups of sitologoi or only three, with B and C the same. Because of this fact, any attempt to see the correct order of the documents on this basis cannot stand.

(4) \(BCE\) I 21, dated by consuls to 13.viii.340, is a list of tax payments and expenditures submitted by the following:

- Horos son of Ammonianos, ephor
- Horos son of Kastor
- Cornelius son of Paeasis
- Herakles son of Pagenes, quadriarius

Except for the previously unattested quadriarius, these men are part of Group A. They collect taxes for the months Pachon through Mesore, 340, and report expenditures which include one payment for wine of the thirteenth induction,\(^11\) which unfortunately cannot be brought into connection with their term of office. They are reporting three and a half months after the end of induction 13, but for some months included in induction 14.

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\(^9\) P.J. Stjepsteijn and K.A. Worp, \(ZPE\) 22 (1976) 106 n. 3, propose that the error is in \(P.Vindob.Sijp.\) 2; see below for further comment.

\(^10\) Editor: May-June, 340 (based on his reconstruction).

\(^11\) Frösén, 79; the correction made earlier (independently) in \(CSBE\) 10 n. 3.
(5) P.Cair.Goodsp. 12 is a list of payments of *merismos* for the fourteenth indictment, dated by the consuls to 15.viii.340. The submitting officials are:

- Cornelius son of Ammonas, quadrarius
- Kastor son of Taubis, ephor
- Ionis son of Ammonios
- Sarmates son of Silvanus
- Chous son of Herakles
- Silvanus son of Pkylis
- Polys son of Silvanus

The ephor and komarchs are recognizably officials of Group C, and Chous and Silvanus, though no title is given here, are *sitologoi* of that group. This group is collecting for indictment 14 and during indictment 14, as is the case with the officials in *BGU* 21. The difference, however, is that the *sitologoi* appear in *P.Cair.Goodsp.* 12 where they are absent in *BGU* 21.

To sum up our progress so far: on 13.viii.340, a group of four officials, three of whom were attested in an undated document acting with *sitologoi* of the 13th indictment, are collecting taxes apparently for the first four months of the fourteenth indictment (money taxes, that is). Two days later, on 15.viii.340, a group of seven officials, of whom three may be recognized as ephor and komarchs and two as *sitologoi* styling themselves as the *sitologoi* of the 13th indictment in another undated text, are collecting money taxes for the fourteenth indictment. What is the resolution of this seeming duplication of officials?

We may reject immediately any thought that there were two villages named Prektis in the same pagus as a counsel of desperation and inherently extremely unlikely (they use no phrase to distinguish themselves if so, and the nomenclature is strikingly similar). Nor does it seem plausible to suspect the consular date in either case, for errors in consular dates, aside from confusion of consulate and postconsulate at the very start of the year, are essentially unknown in the fourth century.

There are three more realistic possibilities:

(1) that the group acting on 13.viii.340 consists of officials of indictment 13, whose term of office had ended but whose liability for the taxes was not discharged until the full amount had been paid.
The principal objection to this hypothesis is simply that the taxes they are collecting seem to be those of the 14th induction, not 13th;

(2) that the terms of the officials other than the sitologoi changed on 15 August (this is the hypothesis offered in ZPE 22 [1976] 106, rejected by Frösén, 81). The principal difficulty here is again that the officials seem to be collecting taxes both for induction 14, and that the collections of the first group include Mesore with no indication that they had only half of that month under their jurisdiction. It should of course also be noted that there is no good evidence that other officials, let alone these, had terms ending in the middle of months; and the middle of a Julian month seems an odd dividing point for Egyptian officials in the fourth century. Why not wait until the end of the civil year in two weeks?  

(3) It may be that the officials other than sitologoi continued in office until the end of Mesore, while the sitologoi came into office on 1 May or Pachon 1. In this case the absence of sitologoi from the group of officials on 13.viii would be explained by the assumption that the sitologoi in question had gone out of office some months before. What would be harder to explain is the activity of the officials other than sitologoi (i.e. komarchs etc.) in P.Cair. Goodsp. 12, some two weeks before one would suppose they took office. One could suppose that as they would be responsible for the collections for most of induction 14, they were already assisting in apportioning the merismoi in advance of their actual term. But this explanation also is somewhat awkward.

The presence of the "sitologoi" in P.Cair. Goodsp. 12, at all events, seems to us decisive evidence that they are officials of induction 14 and not 13, and that their self-styling in P.Vindob. Stijp. 2 as of induction 13 is wrong. In CRP VII 17, the editor has restored 13, but of course one cannot know whether the same error was in fact made there or 14 correctly written.

The group leaving office in 340 was thus responsible for P.Cair.

Preis. 18 = 19, and that document must have been written in spring, 340; P.Vindob.Stijp. 2 would then have to fall one year later, in spring 341 (as also CPR VII 17, presumably).

A few further comments may be useful. Frösén comments (p. 80) that the occurrence of the names of the sitoloi of Group C among the taxpayers in P.Cair.Goodsp. 12 for indication 14 shows that they cannot be functionaries for that indication. This is not true: one still had to pay taxes while a liturgist. Compare, e.g., Aurelius Isidoros, sitologos in P.Cair.Isid. 9 and listed in line 154 of that text paying his taxes.

Secondly, Frösén compares the Polys son of Silvynus who appears in P.Cair.Goodsp. 12 as an untitled official of Group B to the Polis son of Silvanus of SPP XX 95 ii, who is there gnoister of a village "dessen Name verloren erwähnt," acting with sitologoi of the 14th and 15th inductions. We have argued (CSBE 11) that column i of this papyrus refers to 327/8 and 328/9, and it will be argued elsewhere that column ii refers to the inductions of 326/7 and 327/8 (in arrears). Worp has read the village (on the original papyrus) as Sinaepe, so the document has nothing to do with Prektis or the indication cycle involved in its documents. Whether the man is the same, we cannot see any way to tell. For SPP XX 95 see now P.Charite 15.

87. CPR VII 39

The editor dates this loan to 406/7. His basis is apparently the repayment clause, which speaks of payment of interest after the expiration:

Αν τοῦ ἐκουμένου Ἄθροι μηνός τοῦ εἰσοδόντος ζήτους πη νή.

Oxyrhynchite era year 83/52 is 406/7; but it is here explicitly called "approaching." We are therefore justified in putting the date of the document in the preceding year, 405/6.

88. P.Laur. III 75

The editor gives the dating clause of this loan as follows:

+ [Βασιλείας τοῦ ἔσσεβ(εστάτου) ἡμῶν δεσπό(του) μεγ(εστού)]

ἐκερηγέτου Φαλούίου [μαρκίου Τιμερίου]

τοῦ αἰωνίου Ἀδωνί(ος) καὶ Ἀδωνικάρτορος

ζήτους [ὑπατείας τοῦ αἰωνίου]
Chronological Notes

γαληνότητος [έτους Ζ . . τῆς η [νδ(λικτόνος).]

He gives the provenance as Hermopolis.

It is clear that we have here a formula with a regnal date followed by a consular one referring to the emperor. This combination is found in no Hermopolite documents of Mauricius' reign, and appears in fact only in the Oxyrhynchite and Memphite formula *RPSE* 58 formula 3. But here the consular phrase is not like this one. It reads ὑπατείας τοῦ αὐτοῦ καθεδριστίου ἡμῶν δεσμότου. So also consular dates under Phocas (*CSBE* 128).

The term γαληνότητος in fact points unmistakably to Justinus II. It is found in *RPSE* 50 formula 4 and 51 formula 5 only. Of these, formula 5 is rare and refers to Justinus' second consulate of 568. Formula 4 is the standard Oxyrhynchite formula and is limited to that name. It does, however, seem a bit long if only one line precedes the editor's line 2. At our request, Rosario Pintaudi examined the original and writes "tra la riga 1 e 2 è possibile un altro riga." We propose to restore as follows:

1 + [βασιλείας τοῦ θεοτόκου καὶ]
1a [ἐκαθεδριστίου ἡμῶν δεσμότου μυγιστού]
2 Ἐσπαργοῦ Φλαουσίου {ὑ 'Ιουστίου}
3 τοῦ αἰωνίου Ἀγορότου αὐτοκράτορος
4 έτους ὥ [ὑπατείας τῆς αὐτῶν]
5 γαληνότητος [έτους θ . . τῆς η [νδ(λικτόνος).]

The indiction number is given as eight in line 24, giving us a date of 574/5, or more precisely in the Oxyrhynchite Nome, 29.viii.574-28.viii.575. The regnal year can only be 9 or 10, and in fact one can see on the photograph a horizontal stroke in line 4 which can only belong to theta. The date is thus 29.viii-14.xi.574.

As the formula is Oxyrhynchite, it seems very likely that that city must be restored as the place mentioned in lines 9-10. In lines 13-14 the village Netneou is mentioned as the home of the acknowledging party. The editor restores 13-14 as follows:

Netne[οῦτος τοῦ Ἐρυσον-]

μολίτου [,], χ[αίσειν.]

But a village of this name is known in the south of the Oxyrhynchite Nome, not in the Hermopolite (see editor's note ad loc.). The μολίτου of line 14, however, excludes restoring Ὑψωργχίτου.
J. Gascou has given us (by letter) the excellent suggestion that we have here an example of the appellation Νέα Ἰουστίνου πόλις for Oxyrhynchos (cf. R. Rémondon, *CJ* 48 [1973] 140-44), found from 571 to the end of Justinus' reign. He restores lines 9-10 thus as ἀκροτήν τῆς Νέας Ἰουστίνου; 110 πόλεως and 13-14 as Νέου Ἰουστίνου; 110 πολίτου νομο(ν)ο(ν), Gascou adds the remark that the subscription by the notary (di' eμυ) is in Latin, also excluding the Hermopolite.

89. *P.Laur.* III 77

This document opens with an invocation by Christ and a regnal formula which the editor restores as one of Heraclius. His date involves regnal year [ἐνά]του, Epeiph 12, induction 7, in Hermopolis. From these he arrives at 6.vii.619 as a date. But in Hermopolis this date would have fallen already in induction 8 (see *CSBE* 25-26), which began on 1 May. Epeiph 12 of induction 7 would be 6.vii.618.

There is another possibility, 6.vii.603, one cycle earlier. Pintaudi rejected this cycle on the grounds of the "diversa finale" of δευτέρου, which he took to be the needed regnal year in 604. But since the induction points to 603 rather than 604, one can restore [ἐνά]του with ease. Pintaudi's note in proof (p. 89, foot) referring to *BGU* XII, pp. 68-69, suggests that he had second thoughts, which we thus confirm. The consequences for the career of Fl. Magistor must be drawn in conjunction with a proper study of the other documents concerning him.

The use of a Christ invocation under Phocas is unusual, but not too surprising near the start of his reign; cf. our remarks in "Christian Invocations in the Papyri," to appear in *CJ*.

90. *P.Mil.* inv. 224

This papyrus, published by Sergio Daris in *SPE* 19 (1975) 291, opens with a date restored as follows:

[Βασιλείας τοῦ Θεοτόκου δεσπότου Ημῶν Φλαουίου
[Μαυρίκιον Νέου Τιμερίου τοῦ αύλαντού Αύγουστου ....
[ν]δι(κτιόνος) τῆς Ἰουστίνου πόλεως

The editor comments, "Non si può valutare con esattezza l'entita della parte mancante: l'integrazione data per le due righe ha solo
funzione indicativa.

Now it will be observed that the restorations of lines 1 and 2 are of rather unequal length (18 versus 26 letters); and the formula does not agree with the standard Oxyrhynchite formula for Mauricius (RFJE 58-59, formula 3), where we get βασιλείας τοῦ θεοτόκου καὶ εὐσεβεστάτου ἡμῶν δεσπότου μεγίστου εὐεργέτου Φλαουίου Μαυρίκιου Νέου Τιβερίου τοῦ αἰώνιου Λύγοστου αὐτωκράτορος (with some variation in the order of Mauricius' names possible). The reversed order of δεσπότου and ἡμῶν, the lack of μεγίστου εὐεργέτου, and the uneven restoration (33 versus 26 letters needed) all make one suspicious.

In fact, the absence of a consulate is further grounds for unease, and one is left with no reason to suppose that this formula concerns Mauricius at all. We see no indication that it is a regnal formula at all. If one restores ὑπατείας (or μετὰ τὴν ὑπατείαν) τοῦ δεσπότου ἡμῶν Φλαουίου we have the start of numerous consular dates by the consulate of an emperor in the fifth and sixth centuries.

We therefore asked Professor O. Monteccevichi for a photograph which she courteously and promptly supplied. It shows (a) that the left margin is almost straight, and (b) that the second line is to be read [τοῦ αἱ]ωνίου Λύγοστου τὸ γ' χρυσόβγ. This is therefore a reference to the third consulate of Justinian in 533; indication 12 is thus 533/4. With a restoration of 17 letters in line 2, and the fact that the consulate is attested only in postconsular references, we can restore [Μετὰ τὴν ὑπατείαν] τοῦ δεσπότου ἡμῶν Φλαουίου [.CustomButton οὐσι]ωνίου Λύγοστου τὸ γ' χρυσόβγ [ἔτος month, day ]γυ(ωτίωνος) ἡ" ἐν Ὠζυρόθοιν τὸλεί. The date is therefore sometime before 16.vii.534, when the consulate of 534 is known (SB VIII 9876).

[An unpublished papyrus described in a catalogue of the London dealer Charles Ede (Writing & Lettering in Antiquity) is dated to 20.x.533 by the third consulate of Justinian, the first example from that consular year. The space in the Milan papyrus, however, nonetheless favors 534, the p.c.] 91. P.Ness. 17

Most of what survives of this contract is the consular date at the start, which the editors restored as follows:
The basis for the restoration was (a) the absence of any mention of a regnal year of an emperor as required by Justinian, Novella 47, hence giving a date before A.D. 537, and (b) the 400 + year of the era in line 2, giving 505/6 as a terminus post quem, plus (c) the evenness of the supposed length of the needed restorations in lines 1 and 2 with Anastasius, compared with an unevenness produced by restoring other emperors. The date assigned is thus 2 ii. 517.

J. Frösen has recently called this date into question in the course of a discussion (CPR VII 40, Exkurs 1, pp. 153-54) of the use of άτοκωράτω in imperial titulature of the fifth and sixth centuries. Calling attention to the use of άτοκηγι alone in ΒΑ Ι 306 (566) and ΣΒ V 9596 (579), both written during the actual consular years of Justinus and Tiberius respectively, he rejects quite properly the editor’s terminus ante quem and points out that the Fl. Anastasius who was consul in 517 was not the emperor in any case, so that 517 is impossible. Up to this point we find Frösen’s argument persuasive.

He proceeds, however, to suggest "in P. Colt. 17, 2 sollte man vielleicht die Regierungsjahre und nicht die Χρ. lesen ... weil άτοκηγι offensichtlich in der Bedeutung 'βασιλείας' steht," comparing ΒΑΣ 306 and ΣΒ 9596. He then suggests μετάτου as a restoration in line 2, referring to 578/9, Tiberius' fifth regnal year. The year 578 has some possibilities, but the method of reasoning is valueless. There is no example in the papyri of the use of άτοκηγι to mean βασιλείας. In ΒΑΣ 306, άτοκηγι refers to the consulate, and no hypothesis of its 'meaning' βασιλείας is needed. In ΣΒ VI 9596, the case is clearer still; as in ΒΑΣ 306, the date ends with έτους πρώτου, and the document comes from the actual consular year (cf. ΕΡΑΣ 55). άτοκηγι does not in any document mean βασιλείας or refer to regnal years (the unified count of years with the expression βασιλείας και άτοκηγι is another phenomenon, for which see \textit{Cass} V 62). The parallels cited, at any rate, would point to the restoration πρώτου in line 2 of \textit{P. Ness}. 17.

A check of the original, however (now located in the Pierpoint
Morgan Library in New York), shows that the editor's reading τα[ is inescapable. Frösen's conclusion is thus excluded. What then are the possibilities? The terminus post quem is that established by the editor, 505/6. But there are five possibilities: Justinus I in 519; Justinian in 528 (his second consulate, but the papyri lack τὸ θ'); Justinus II in 566; Tiberius, 578; Mauricius, 584 (but we have no instance of a date by Mauricius using only the consulate; the examples of postconsulates are limited to the Heracleopolite, cf. RFBE 63). Nessana is indeed otherwise (so far as our limited evidence shows) faithful to Novella 47, and the first two possibilities are to that extent more attractive. But we do not see any other ground for a decision.

92. P.Oslo III 120

This account of grain deliveries lists dates of

(ἐτοις) ἐν Ἑλπιδώνῃ (line 8)
(ἐτοις) ἐν Παύνι (line 10)
(ἐτοις) ἐν Ἑρμιόπολι (lines 12, 15, 18)

The editors assign a date of "A.D. 302, 310, or 324." (The papyrus is not listed in Index II and was thus not registered in RFBE.) It is nonetheless possible to date it, we think.

P.Oslo III 120 stands on the verso of III 83, official correspondence concerning Aegyptus Herculia. III 83 must on this basis be dated ca 315 or later (see J. Lallemand, L'administration civile, 49, 52 n.2), and III 120 must surely be later than III 83: we do not suppose that a register of high official correspondence was written later on the recto of a grain account written first on a verso. The only eighteenth year which can be considered is 323/4, year 18 of Constantine I; Pauni-Mesore would be May/June to July/August, 324. The use of only one numeral instead of the expected 18-16-8 is most closely paralleled by P.AmH. II 138, where year 21 is used in 327 (see RFBE 40), but is generally uncommon except in summary references to past years.

93. sB V 7667

This loan of money for repayment in cumin has a consular date by Constantine Augustus VI and Constantine Caesar I, Mecheir 22, or
17.ii.320. In lines 10–11, the current year is referred to as τοῦ ἔνεστίνος τῷ καὶ καὶ (ἐντούς) | 11 καὶ ζ’. Since 319/20 was in fact year 14–12–4, the editor's text would represent not only a mistaken year, but a rather astonishing scribal blunder of an otherwise unattested sort, putting a larger numeral second. At our request, P.J. Parsons has kindly checked the original and reports that the expected τῷ καὶ καὶ | 11 δὲ is indeed readable. This text may be added to RPSE 40 under 319/20.

94. SB XII 11154

This lease, of which only the opening is preserved, is dated by the consuls to 321. The phrase for the term of the lease is transcribed as follows: ἕνη. χρόνον ἐπα [ὁδο (?) ἀνδ τοῦ ἦ] ἨΝς ὑπο- νό[ς] Ἐνέλε [τοῦ ἔνεστι] ὧν [ἐντος ἐντος ἐντος – – –]. The lease was therefore drawn up in Pauni (May–June) 321. It is a simple matter to determine the number of the regnal year currently in progress as 15–13–5, 320/1 (cf. RPSE 40) and to restore: [τοῦ ἔνεστι] ὧν [ἐντος ἐντος ἐντος ἐντος ἐντος]. P.Wisc. I 28 was the only previously published example of this regnal year.

95. P.Vindob. inv. 25838

This papyrus was first published by E. Boswinkel in the Actes Xe Congrès International de Papyrologie (Warsaw 1964) 118–20, and republished by the same editor as P.Select. (Pap.Lugd.Bat. XIII) 10. In the meantime, Roger Rémondon had written a note based on the first publication, which appeared in cd'Er 40 (1965) 160–97. It is Rémondon’s remarks on p.183 about the date which concern us: "Il est très probable que cet ordre a été donné dans la seconde partie de l’année indictionnelle, c’est-à-dire dans le printemps ou aux approches de l’été d’une des années suivantes: 325, 340, 355, 370, 385, ou 400." The reasoning behind this statement is not explained, and it is not obvious to us. Officials in charge of collections in kind were generally appointed in the spring, it is true, but before the start of the indictional year for which they were responsible. If so, we should expect appointment in the year preceding that given by Rémondon in each instance. On his argumentation, the date would be in 384. (The choice of 325 would be unaltered, because the Pachon indiction was introduced after this year; but Rémondon has shown that
this year is in any case excluded.)

It is possible to argue that the date was not so early as spring. The appointee was a *synapaitetes* responsible for an amount of 400,000 pounds; one could suppose that he was a supplementary or substitute appointee. Even in this case, however, one would expect the appointment to come as early as possible in the indication to allow collection of the dues as soon after the harvest as possible.

Rémondon drew important conclusions from what we think to be an incorrect date: "et le remplacement d'un officier germanique par un officier romain [i.e. Mérobaudes by Eleutherios] ne serait peut-être pas dépourvu de signification: ce serait un élément supplémentaire à apporter au difficile problème de la 'politique gothique' de Théodose." If, however, our papyrus antedates 20.x.384, when we know that Mérobaudes was in office, the order would be the reverse. A bit of caution would seem to be in order in attributing political significance to this papyrus.

96. *CPLat*. 199

This number covers several Vienna inventory numbers published as *SPP* XX 285-287, containing receipts for wine and meat. The editor of *CPLat*. gives 398 as the date, but it was observed already in *ZPE* 26 (1977) 273 n.21 that the consular date, p.c. Honorius IV and Eutychianus, in fact points to 399. This stands in apparent conflict, however with the indication date read by the editors as XIV; indication 14 in this cycle was 400/1. The repeated mention in the text of a supposed number *quantum decimo* was also puzzling.

At our request, J.-O. Tjäder kindly examined a photo of *CPLat*. 199a and the printed plates of *CPLat*. 199b/c, and has verified some suggestions of ours for improved readings, and he has communicated on the basis of these a new transcription of *CPLat*. 199a, as follows:

norì [ 
(5) E(yt)ychiani v.c. p. Sergio a[ctuario ...

He comments, "There is thus no *quantum* at all: *quantum* in the second portion is perfectly clear. To me the only difficulty is the indication number. At first, one is of course inclined to read XIV (especially on Seider's representation of [PERF] 520), but for [March] 399 XII is correct. Now one must take into consideration that at the end of the line, or at the end of a text, some letters could be extended to the right: I have found many instances of $\nu$ and $\eta$, and $\iota$ is also a short letter which ends in quite the same way as $\upsilon$ and $\eta$. On Seider's reproduction, which is perfectly clear, the shape of the last sign is: $\nu$ and this in fact is not even a $\iota$ but something of the symbol for $\nu + \iota$ (Cole) — which of course is quite out of place. And it would be somewhat surprising, if I am not mistaken, if 'fourteen' were expressed by means of subtraction: was not xiii the normal way? At least it seems to have been so in the fifth century. To sum up, the indication number in PERF 519 and in 520 can be interpreted as XII, with the last sign extended to the right."

The days in question may thus be seen to be 18-19.i.ii.399, with all chronological data in agreement. It remains only to add that in lines 3 and 6, the Greek reads (τάλαντα) ωλέα.

We leave it to others to provide a commentary on this interesting but difficult text. For *Caloius*, cf. CP.lat. 267; expand sub c(uita) (?). In the consular phrase, the $p.$ is to be expanded to $p(erpetu)l$. This is the proper equivalent of the Greek $\alphaλωνος$, which is found routinely in formulas of this period; the editor's $p(iii)$ has no Greek parallel.

97. *Pap* 36 (1979) 84

The date of *P.Mil.* inv. 68.75, as given by its editor, is (Εποίκιος) $\rhov \nuv \varepsilon 1\zeta \nub(\chi\iota\iota\nuv)$. About this the editor comments only "tra i due numeri non c'è traccia di alcuna congiunzione" (but this is not at all out of the ordinary). He seems not at all concerned about other elements of the dating formula.

It is very puzzling to think that the document would be lacking either an indication number or a day number, or that an indication number higher than 15 should occur here. A plate of the papyrus is
inexplicably printed in Aegyptus 59 (1979) Tav. 8, with no reference to the publication in ΖΡΣ. On it one can read easily (τούς) ὁπερ ὁμο Ἐκκλησία ἐν Ἐράσι κ.β. (τεθύνοντος), providing as expected the correct date to 11 July 511.

98. PSI IV 316

This sublease of land was dated to the fourth century, with a mark of doubt, by its editors. They read a mention of the [current] year in line 4 as κῷ" καὶ ἐ" but could not identify it: "Nella datazione c'è, crediamo, piú di un errore." In CSBE 36 n.1 we suggested that the text must have a reference to regnal years 23-13-5 = 328/9, and we repeated this surmise in RPBE 40.

Lines 22 and 23, where one would expect a consular date in a document of this period (cf., e.g., P.Oxy. I 103), were described by the editors simply as "tracce." Thanks to a photograph supplied by Dr. R. Pintaudi and to his kindness in examining the original for us, we can now state that line 4 reads κῳ" καὶ ἐ" as expected. Now an Oxyrhynchite lease in and for 328/9 was most likely concluded early in the civil year, i.e. in the last four months of 328. We read and restore the consular date in lines 22 and 23 as follows:

[ὦγγεγαγκάκα τελ. τοῦ τιμίου Ἐκκλησίαν τοῦ Πατρὸς τοῦ Παυλοῦ Πάπαν Ἰωάννου]<br />[καὶ ἐκαθένε ἐκείνου Διοκλήτια τῆς]<br />[λαμπροτάτων, τοῦ δικαστήρου]<br />

The date is thus ins-x.328.

99. Hall IX, 5 (No. 408)

One date by the Era of Diocletian poses a problem in an inscription published in H.R. Hall, Coptic and Greek Texts of the Christian Period ... in the British Museum (London 1905). Pl. IX, 5 (p.10, No. 408) is dated Phamenoth 5, indiction 2, Diocletian 482 (ὑπὸ). Hall, however, rendered the numerals as 472 and thus dated to 756. Diocletian 482 is 765/6, but indiction 2 is 763/4; one has thus a conflict between 1.iii.764 and 1.iii.766.

100. Addenda et Corrigenda

In the course of the composition of these notes and of our other work on chronological problems, we have accumulated a sub-
stantial mass of addenda et corrigenda to CSBE and RFBE, mostly coming from newly published texts or from corrections to texts made by us or by others. In addition, we have found a number of items of evidence overlooked by us. A comprehensive list of these corrections up to 30 June 1981 may be had by any interested scholar by writing to either of us: Bagnall at 606 Hamilton Hall, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027, U.S.A.; Worp at Louise de Colignylaan 9, 2082 BM Santpoort-Zuid, Netherlands. With this installment we bring to an end the present series of notes.

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