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REGISTER

THREE RECEIPTS
FOR POLL-TAX AND BATH-TAX

STUDIA
PAPYROLOGICA

Tomo XVI
Enero - Junio 1977

PAG. 1º
Three Receipts for Poll-Tax
and Bath-Tax

These three ostraca, all of which apparently concern the
same person, came recently into the collection of Mr. R. De-
marié of The Hague; they were acquired in Luxor. All of
them are damaged, but in all cases the bulk of the missing text
can be restored from parallels. The person, Paeemis son of
Harmiades, grandson of Papis, was not previously attested.

7.5 x 7 cm. A.D. 65

This text is the only one of the three in which the date is
completely preserved. It offers a difficulty with the tax phrase
(see 1-2c.).

[Δαμία]ρει[ος] Ἐπιμέ[ριου] Ἀρχάπταν(ε) δέπ(αρ) βαλ(ατασθανε)ς

πολι[τείας] (δραχμ]άς) δὲ τὸ[ν] (τρο[μ]ος) ἐν (Περίγερας τοι]

[κυρίου τηρ[μανο[ς] καὶ δρα[θ]α]ς] [Date (δραχμ]άς) 8-9]


1. The grandfather's name appears in nos. 2 and 3.

1-2. The writing of the tax name mostly is swiftooth writing which could also be kno, but the lambda written above the line as sign of an abbreviation is very clear. There was almost certainly nothing lost after the break in this line. Bachelor is usually paid as an adjunct to poll-tax or alike-tax, and the amount paid here (4 payments of 4 dr. each) is too large by far to represent only bath-tax, or even bath-tax and alike-tax. We suppose, therefore, that the scribe wrote poll-tax in line 2 in the lacuna; the word order is odd, but the payment of the taxes together is common.


2

7 × 7 cm. Time of Nero

This receipt may be in the same hand as no. 1; it is at any rate very similar.


TWO RECEIPTS

[... (στοιχείο) (δεδακτοί) (γενομένοι) Μεσονονος]
τοι κυρίου Μεσονονος [τοι (στοιχείο) μήν[... (στοιχείο) μήν]
και (δεδακτοί) (γενομένοι) (στοιχείο) (δεδακτοί) (γενομένοι) [date, etc.]
 [... ] ...

Pasemis son of Harmiosis, grandson of Pasin, has paid for poll-tax for Memonania for the ... year, dr x. Year ... of Nero the lord, Mecheir 29 ...

2. The scribe has written Πορσιος here and in no. 3, line 1, very similarly. A tall iota is followed by a horizontal line, then a circle at or above line level. There is no descending stroke for the tax, whether through inadvertence or Verschleifung. We cannot see any alternative reading.

3. Mecheir 29 = 23 or 24 February.

6. The remains look like σγ, followed by another letter and an abbreviation stroke; we do not think σγ(σακρος) likely.

3

5.7 × 4.5 cm. Probably A.D. 56 (or 70)

Since the same taxpayer is probably involved here, a date to Nero is likely, especially given the length of the restoration in line 3, but Vasiasis is not impossible.

[Σημείος του μεταφράσεως]

4 Σωτήριος ὡς διακρίνωμεν [οίκησαν] τον Φαύνων

[... ± 7 -- ] Ερμής ὁ εστις (μετάκεις)

---

[Pausias son of] Harminias, grandson of ἀνίος [has paid] for [poll-tax for Memonia] for the 3rd (?) year of 4, 130 ob., reckoned as 4. Year 3 [of Nero (?)] the 3rd, Phasophi 4. ... 

1. For the writing of the grandfather's name, see note to no. 2, line 2.

3. Given the very probable restorations of lines 1-2, one would expect about 8 letters lost here (the edge is straight but slants slightly from NE to SW). Nero is thus more probable than Vespasian. But it is only fair to admit that a lesser degree of abbreviation in lines 1-2 would allow the 13 letters for Vespasian. Phasophi 4 = 1 October.

5. We have not identified the signor with one previously attested.

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