

31. A COPTIC GRAFFITO FROM THE VALLEY BUILDING AT DEIR MUSTAFA KASHEF

(Roger S. Bagnall)

This graffito stands on the west wall of the large central room of the valley building; for the context, see above, p. 4.

ΠΝΟΥΤΕ ΜΠΑΡΧ
ΔΓΓΕΛΟC ΓΔΒΡΗΛ
[Ε]ΚΔΡΟΥΝΔ ΜΝΓΕΩΡΓΙΟC
4 ΠΩΗΝ ΔΘΑΝΔCΙΟC
ΠΡΜΤΠΟΛΙC ΘΗΒ
ΜΕΝΟC ΧΟΙΔΚΘ
ΙΓ ΙΝΔΙΚΔ ΠΡΩ^Τ S P

God of the archangel Gabriel, have mercy on Georgios the son of Athanasios, the man of the city of Hib. Month of Choiakh 13th, first indiction. (cross)

Similar expressions can be found, for example, in *SBKopt.* I 389 (Monastery of St. Antony, southwest chapel of old church) and *Graff.Mon.Epiph.* 643 (Monastery of Epiphanius at Thebes II, pp. 141 and 326). For the verb form, cf. H.J. Polotsky, *Grundlagen des koptischen Satzbaus* II. ASP 29.2 (Atlanta 1990) 193-94: "Das **e=f-e-sôtm** is einerseits die normale Wiedergabe des griech. Optativs. In dieser Funktion kann es gar nicht besser als durch *euktiké* charakterisiert werden: es ist die Form des *indirekten Gebets*." Cf. W. Till, *Koptische Dialektgrammatik* (Munich 1931) 53 for the dialect form ("subachmimisch") with alpha instead of epsilon after kappa in the "Futurum III."