JOHN SHELTON

SB I 4331

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This ostracon from the neighborhood of Thebes was published by E. J. Goodspeed in AJP 25 (1904) 47-48. The text reads in SB I:

(4331) S. 47 Nr. 6.  53 n. Chr. (?)  
\[ \text{\text{Θησ}(αυρωδ\text{\vnu}) \, \text{μη}(\text{τροποπ\acute{\alpha}λεως}) \, \text{\'Επειφ \=d}.} \]  
\[ \text{\Sigma\text{ενσεχ\acute{\omicron}ο}(\nu\text{σι})\text{ς} \, \text{Πετεχ\acute{\omicron}ω}(\nu\text{σι})\text{ς}} \]  
\[ \text{\T\'ιβ(ερ\text{\acute{\iota}})\, \text{Κλαυδ\acute{\iota}}(\text{\iota}) \, \text{κυρ\text{\acute{\iota}}}(\text{\iota}) \text{ιγ} \, \text{(\=του\vnu}).} \]

1. \(\text{\text{Θησ}(αυρωδ)}\) Goodspeed, \(\text{\text{Θησ}(αυρωδ)}\) Pr.  2. Am Ende der Z. 2 ein Sigel, das nach Goodspeed vielleicht \(\text{πυρωδ}\) bedeutet, dahinter scheinbar die Spur einer Zahl.

This is not a granary receipt in standard form, but it may be a private memorandum. Several features arouse suspicion:

(1) The name of the emperor is apparently otherwise unattested in this form; at any rate, Bureth cites no other example.

(2) The elements \(\text{T}i\text{β}\epsilon\text{ρ}i\text{o}z\) and \(\text{Κ}l\text{αυδ}\acute{\iota}z\) together nevertheless indicate the reign of Claudius, in which case the date would be 28 June, AD 53. This would be much the earliest mention of the \(\text{Θησ}(\text{αυρωδ})\, \text{μη}(\text{τροποπ\acute{\alpha}λεως})\), which does not occur regularly in texts from Thebes until the 11th year of Trajan, 107/108 AD.

(3) The sign at the end of line 2, which Goodspeed doubtfully suggested might mean \(\text{πυρωδ}\) and which appears as dots in the Sammelbuch, was printed as \(\text{ς}\) in the first edition. That is a typical Theban writing of \(\text{δι}a\) (see ZPE 20, 1976, n. 20) and so of course must be followed by a name and not a date or a figure.

A reproduction of the text kindly sent to me by the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago reveals a further anomaly: the handwriting apparently belongs to the second century rather than the mid-first. I give a new text according to the reproduction:

2  \(\text{δι}a\)  
3  \(\text{Πικ\text{\acute{\omicron}ω}το}(\text{\omicron}) \, \text{"Ωρου} \, \text{[\,] \text{ιγ}} \, \text{(ήμισυ}).\)

The gap after \(\text{"Ωρου}\) will have named the product paid: probably wheat, written with the usual sign, but something like \(κρ(\text{θ})\) might do as well. Nothing is expected after \(\text{δι}a\) in l. 2 and I see no ink there. The curved stroke at the end of l. 3 which Goodspeed took to be the sign for “year” stands here for “\(\frac{1}{2}\)”. Translate: «Granary of the metropolis, Epeiph 4. Sensechonsis, daughter of Petechonsis, through Picos, son of Horus: 13 \(\frac{1}{2}\) (artabs) of . . . .».

The tax payer does not appear to be known elsewhere and the name \(\text{Σενσεχ\acute{\omicron}ο}(\nu\text{σι})\text{ς}\) is known only from this text. Palaeographically \(\text{Σενσαχ\text{\acute{\omicron}ο}(\nu\text{σι})\text{ς}}\) is perhaps preferable, but this too would be unique. Picos, the son of Horus, may be the man otherwise known from two second-century name lists, O. Tait II 1890.4 and O. Stras. 530.7.

Trier  John Shelton