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SB I 4331

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## SB I 4331

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. (?)  $\Theta_{\eta\sigma}(\alpha \upsilon \rho o \hat{\upsilon}) \mu_{\eta}(\tau \rho \sigma n \delta \lambda \epsilon \omega \varsigma)$ . Έπειφ δ.  $\Sigma \epsilon \upsilon \sigma \epsilon \chi \hat{\omega}(\upsilon \sigma \iota \varsigma) \Pi \epsilon \tau \epsilon \chi \hat{\omega}(\upsilon \sigma \iota \varsigma \varsigma)$ .  $T\iota \beta(\epsilon \rho i \sigma \upsilon) K \lambda \alpha \upsilon \delta(i \sigma \upsilon) \kappa \upsilon \rho i [\sigma \upsilon]$ .  $\iota \gamma$  (έτους).

1. θησ(αυρῷ) Goodspeed, θησ(αυροῦ) Pr.2. Am Ende der Z. 2 ein Sigel, das nach Goodspeed vielleichtπυροῦ 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 Tißépioç and K $\lambda\alpha$ ύδιος 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  $\theta\eta$ - σαυρὸς μητροπόλεως, 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  $(\pi \upsilon \rho o \hat{\upsilon})$  and which appears as dots in the Sammelbuch, was printed as  $\mathfrak{T}$  in the first edition. That is a typical Theban writing of  $\delta_{\iota} \dot{\alpha}$  (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 διὰ 3 Πικῶτο(ς) ΄΄Ωρου [ ] ιγ (ἤμισυ).

The gap after ' $\Omega$ pov will have named the product paid: probably wheat, written with the usual sign, but something like  $\kappa \rho(\iota \theta \hat{\eta} \varsigma)$  might do as well. Nothing is expected after  $\delta\iota \dot{\alpha}$  in 1. 2 and I see no ink there. The curved stroke at the end of 1. 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  $\Sigma \epsilon v \sigma \epsilon \chi \hat{\omega}(v \sigma \iota \varsigma)$  is known only from this text. Palaeographically  $\Sigma \epsilon v \sigma \alpha \chi \omega \sigma( \ )$  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.