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P.BEROL. INV. NO. 8785: A PENTHEMEROS-CERTIFICATE

aus: Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik 76 (1989) 93–94

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A perfectly preserved papyrus (9.7 x 7.2 cm.) regularly cut off at all sides. The text runs along the fibers. It was cut from a roll with similar texts (at the left we can still see the ends of prolonged letters of the preceding certificate; at the right the large epsilon of ἔτους of the following certificate is still visible). The first hand of the Berlin papyrus is identical with the first hand of P. Tebt. 655 descr. = SB X 10546¹ (cf. BL VI 169; a photograph in BASP 6,1969,127) as D. Hagedorn discovered.²

This text deserves some attention, since we are dealing with a second penthemeros which seems usually to have covered a period of two days (cf. P.J. Sijpesteijn, ZPE 64,1986,127f.) and an extraordinary expression is used in lines 5-6.

The performer is known from several other penthemeros-certificates: P.J. Sijpesteijn, Penthemeros-Certificates in Greco-Roman Egypt, PLBat. XII, Leiden 1964, no.17 (A.D. 152), no.18 (A.D. 153), no.19 (A.D. 153), no.21 (A.D. 154), no.33 (A.D. 161), no.34 (A.D. 161) and P.Mich. XV Appendix I no.24a (A.D. 157/158), no.37a (A.D. 163).³ We may assume that Stotoëtis, son of Apynchis and Tekiasis, grandson of Stotoëtis, an inhabitant of Soknopaiou Nesos,⁴ performed the penthemeros-corvée also in the years for which to date we do not have a published penthemeros-certificate, and it is more than likely that several unpublished penthemeros-certificates handed out to our Stotoëtis lie still unpublished in various collections.

Ἔτους ἰ / Αὐτοκράτορος Καίσαρος cf. Tafel Xa
 Μάρκου Αὐρηλίου Ἀντωνίνου Σεβαστοῦ
 Ἀρμενιακοῦ Μηδικοῦ Παρθικοῦ μεγίστου.
 4 εἶργ(ασται) ὑπ(έρ) χω(μάτων) θ(ἔτους) Θῶθ θ- ἔω(ς) ἰ- τὴν κ(ελευσθεῖσαν)
 β πενθ(ήμερον) ἐν τῇ Ἀράβω(ν) κώ(μη) - οὐ προσχρή-
 σῃ ἑτέρῳ συμβόλ(ω) διὰ τὸ φάσκ(ειν) παραπεπτωκέναι -
 Σοκνοπ(αίου) (2nd hd.) Στοτοῆ(τις) Ἀπύγχ(εως) το(ῦ) Στοτοῆ(τιος)
 8 μη(τρὸς) Τεκιάσιο(ς).

* I wish to thank Dr. habil. G. Poethke for his kind permission to publish this text here.

¹ It should be noted that in the SB-versions of the ten dike certificates from Tebtunis published in BASP 6,1969, 119ff. = SB X 10541-10550 each line which is indented in the original publication (by which the editors wanted to indicate that the part so printed belongs to the preceding line) has been given a separate number. In the SB-versions the impression is, therefore, given that these papyri contain more lines than they actually do.

² It is not to be excluded that a second hand starts in line 5 with Τεβτύ(νεως), where the papyrus has τεβτυ() instead of τεπτυ(). In SB X 10541,5 the papyrus has τεβτυνεω() instead of τεπτυνεω(), and Ταορσενούρεως in line 6 is only a misprint for Ταορσενούφεως. In SB X 10544,6 the papyrus has τεπ() instead of τεβ(), and in line 5 of this papyrus possibly Ἐπὶφ instead of Σεβ(αστοῦ) ἄφ' to be read. For SB X 10550,6 see ZPE 64,1986,126 footnote 5. At the beginning of line 5 of SB X 10546 a reading ἐ(ν) τῇ seems preferable to me (cf. ἐ(ν) in P.Mich. VI 380,7).

³ The same person (as well as members of his family) appears perhaps in several other penthemeros-certificates (cf. P.J. Sijpesteijn, op.cit., 50f.). They often perform penthemeros-duty for other persons.

⁴ The present text proves once more - a fact already known - that an inhabitant of a certain Fayumic village did not necessarily perform his penthemeros-duty in the village where he lived.

Translation

Year 10 of Emperor Caesar Marcus Aurelius Antoninus Augustus Armeniacus Medicus Parthicus maximus. Has worked on the dikes for year 9, Thoth 9 to 10, the required 2nd penthemeros in the village of the Arabs – you shall not avail yourself of another (i.e. previous) certificate, since you say that it got lost – on behalf of Soknopaiu (Nesos) (2nd hd.) Stotoëtis, son of Apynchis, grandson of Stotoëtis, his mother being Tekiasis.

1-3 The imperial titlature is, as is usual, written with extreme *Verschleifung* (cf. R.A. Coles ad BGU XV 2473 in JEA 73,1987,254).

4 Θὼθ θ⁻ ἔω(ς) ι⁻ of the 10th year of Marcus Aurelius = September 6-7, A.D. 169. The reading τὴν κ(ελευσθεῖσαν) instead of my original reading ὑπὲρ is due to D.Hagedorn.

5 Ἀράβω(ν) κώ(μη): Cf. A.Calderini, *Dizionario dei nomi geografici e topografici dell'Egitto greco-romano* I.2, Madrid 1956, 188ff. It is noteworthy that no specific locality in the village of the Arabs where the work has to be performed is indicated. Perhaps we should, as B.Kramer suggests, print ἐν τῇ Ἀράβω(ν) κώ(μης) (sc. διώρυγι). Cf., e.g., ἐν τ(ῇ) Ἐπαγ(αθιανῇ) (sc. διώρυγι) in SB XII 11068,5.

5-6 οὐ προσχρήση - - - παραπετωκέναι: The same expression albeit with μή + conj. aor. instead of οὐ + ind. fut.⁵ occurs in another penthemeros-certificate issued to the same person: P.Lond. II 316a (p. 104),6-7. The explanation given of these words by U. Wilcken, *Griechische Ostraka I*, Leipzig und Berlin, 1899, 79 has to be rejected. Neither is the interpretation given by F. Preisigke, *WB II* s.v. προσχράομαι 2 correct. The editors of P. Fay. 54 in their note on line 3 hit the mark with their explanation of this expression which occurs also in other contexts (another, incomplete example in CPR VI 38, 3-4). Cf. also H. C. Youtie, *Scriptiunculae II*, Amsterdam, 1973, 934ff. (see also P. Oxy. XLIX 3497, 11-12 n.).

7 A second hand may already start with Σοκνοπ(αίου) and a third one with Στοτοῆ(τις).⁶

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⁵ Since other instances of this expression use μή + conj. aor., my first idea was that οὐ was here used instead of prohibitive μή although A.N. Jannaris, *An Historical Greek Grammar*, London 1897, § 1819, can refer for this phenomenon only to LXX Exod. 21,21. D.Hagedorn came up with the proposal to take προσχρήση as ind. fut. med. In the 2nd p. sg. med. of the pres. ind. (and also fut. ind.) the endings -ει and -η were optional variants, but after the phonetical value of η had changed from [e] to [i] the difference was only orthographical (cf. G. Mussies, *The Morphology of Koine Greek*, Leiden 1971, 280). Cf. also E.Mayser-H.Schmoll, *Grammatik der griechischen Papyri aus der Ptolemäerzeit* I.12, Berlin 1970, 100ff. (esp. p. 102); F. Th. Gignac, *A Grammar I*, Milano 1976, 242ff. We must assume that the issuer of the above certificate addressed the performer of the penthemeros-duty more personally by using the ind. fut.

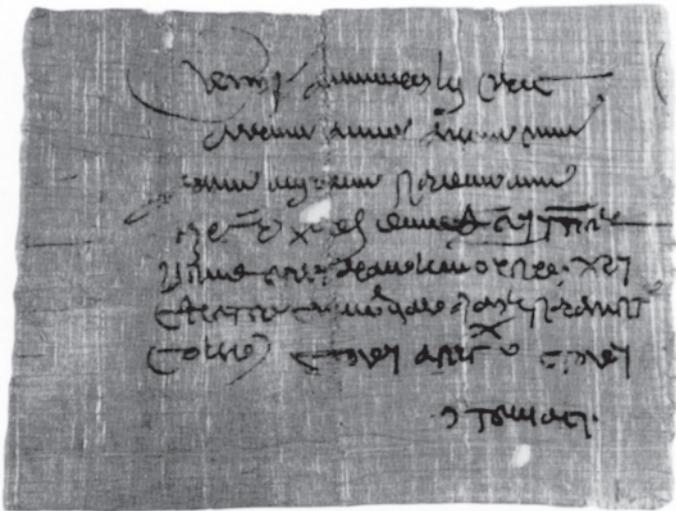
⁶ I use the opportunity to make some corrections on some penthemeros-certificates published in P. Lond. II. I checked these certificates with the help of the micro-film.

316a (p. 104), line 5: διο() παρ.; line 8: read μη(τρός) instead of η;

321a (p. 104f.) lines 4-5: read --- Παῶνι ,βξ ἐν τῇ | B[o]υβ(άστου) διώ(ρυγι) Σοκ(ν)οπ(αίου); line 7: read μη(τρός) Τώλιος;

321c (p. 105), lines 7-8: read ὑπ(ὲρ) Πετσίριος Πετεσούχ(ου) | μη(τρός) Ἐριέως (delete the unique proper name Τερτεῦς in F.Preisigke, NB 429);

325b (p. 106), line 8: read - - - Στοτοῆ(τις) [μη(τρός)] Τεκιάσιος.



Penthemeros-Quittung (P.Berol. 8785)