L. KOENEN

# THE DOUBLE DATE OF P. SORB. INV. 2407

aus: Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik 76 (1989) 255–256

## The Double Date of P. Sorb. Inv. 2407

In the preceding article, S. Stephens explains the date of P. Mich. 6957,6 (year 5, Audnaios 4, Pauni 4) as referring to the first assimilation of the Macedonian to the Egyptian Calendar as it was used during the reign of Philopator. The existence of this "first" assimilation was established in my paper at the International Congress in Athens.[1] I hope to discuss this matter in full at a later time, but for now I take this opportunity to draw attention briefly to P. Sorb. inv. 2407 (YCS 28, 1985, 63-64).

Jean Scherer's reading of the date of the Sorbonne Papyrus is essentially correct:

(ἔτους) α Ἀπελλ[α]ίου ... χ . ν̄

His note implies why he was diffident of what his eyes saw: "le déchiffrement (of the double date) est uncertain: Apellaios correspondant à Pachôn?" We know that in Philopator's first year the Carlsberg Cycle was still in use.[2] According to this we would have to equate a date in Apellaios with Phamenoth and Pharmuthi (1 Apellaios = 12 Phamenoth), not with any date in Pachon. But the equation Apellaios/Pachon is precisely what we expect according to the first assimilation (see above, p. 283). In fact, on the plate of the first edition I read confidently:

(ἔτους) α Ἀπελλ[α]ίου . Παχὼν ̄

The spacing seems to indicate that both numbers after Ἀπελλ[α]ίου and Παχὼν were written with a single Greek letter (1-10, 20, and 30), and the trace after Ἀπελλ[α]ίου suits a θ best, although, on the basis of the plate, I do not wish to exclude any other single letter, in particular α, λ, δ. After Παχὼν only a high dot is extant, as it is printed in J. Scherer's edition. It may easily be a trace of the number. The same number will have appeared after Ἀπελλ[α]ίου and Παχών.

Hence, the first assimilation of the Macedonian to the Egyptian Calender was introduced in the first year of Philopator (222/1), at the latest by approximately June 22, 221 (Pachon 9). But other equations continued to be used as well. Under Epiphanes, a second schematic equation was used, in which Thoth, the first month of the Egyptian year, was equated with

---

[1] Above, p. 283f. and n. 4. For reasons of my own bad timing, my paper will not be included in the Proceedings of the Congress.

[2] Gorpiaios 23 = Tybi 12 in *P. Ent.* 83 (*et al.*) and Gorpiaios 30 = Tybi 13 (an equation for the evening (*P. Ent.* 8); cf. J. Bingen and P.W. Pestman (et al.) *l. c.* (above, p. 283, n. 3) and p. 263.

Dystros, the months in the course of which Ptolemaic kings almost invariably began the Macedonian regnal year.[3]

Ann Arbor, Michigan L. Koenen

[3] This is A. E. Samuels "first" assimilation; see above p. 283, n.4.