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Παράδοξοι

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Παράδοξοι

The adjective παράδοξος is common as a title applied to victorious athletes, perhaps designating those who won in at least two events or two age groups on the same day.¹ In the *Namenbuch* and the *Onomasticon Alterum* there are also several passages cited for its use as a proper name.

One of these, P.Harr. I 140, can be eliminated. Παράδοξος there, in a text only described, is supposedly one of three parties to a contract: a photograph of the papyrus kindly provided by the Central Library of Selly Oaks Colleges shows that more is legible. The line concerned reads Ἰν ἱερωνίκης πλιστονίκης παράδοξος: a victor in the sacred games then, and not a man named Paradox.

The other passages cited for the name Παράδοξος are also open to other interpretations. SPP XX 85r I 30 reads Ἰδίη Παραδόξω; the title would plainly do instead, and would be particularly appropriate in a context involving festival expenditures for such persons as cooks and mimes. Similarly in BGU II 362 xiv 10 Aurelius Callimachus could as well be a παράδοξος as a son of Παράδοξος. In P.Oxy. IX 1205.4, which is cited for the proper name in the *Namenbuch*, the edition prints and indexes the title. A similar correction to P.Oxy.Hels. 28.3-4 has been proposed in the note to P.Oxy. LV 3787.58.

Finally, there are three instances of Παράδοξος in the Michigan tax rolls. In P.Mich. IV 223.1852 and 224 1524 payments of land taxes owed by Petheus, son of Apollonius, are in fact made by one Herais. This person is glossed in brackets as ἡ τοῦ Παραδόξου. In both cases it would be possible here too to read the title, but in this context ‘nickname’ would probably be a fairer term. The tax rolls record such oddities as Τάλαντον and Καμηλοφάγος;² Παράδοξος is no doubt to be seen in the same light as these. So also for the last of the Παράδοξοι known to me from the papyri: P.Mich. 223.2838 applies the word to one Melanas. His real name was Melanas, the son of Pakysis (P.Mich. 224.2018); παράδοξος, whether one capitalizes it or not, was, I think, only an informal description.

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¹ P.Frisch, *Zehn agonistische Papyri* (Opladen 1986 = Pap. Col. XIII) p. 40.

² See H.C. Youtie, “Callimachus in the Tax Rolls”, *Proceedings of the Twelfth International Congress of Papyrology* (Toronto 1970) 545-551; cf. T. Derda, *ZPE* 65 (1986) 188-9.