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SB I 5802: A REEDITION

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SB I 5802 has in last instance been reedited and dealt with by E. Bernand, *Recueil des inscriptions grecques du Fayoum. I. La "mérés" d'Hérakleidès*, Leiden 1975, no. 27 (pp. 76f.). Bernand calls this inscription of seven lines which is only complete at the top and at the bottom "Dédicace à Sarapis πατροπάτωρ". The editor of the SB dated this inscription to "Zeit des Claudius?", Bernand prefers "règne de Tibère ou de Claude".

In line 3 Bernand reads, albeit with a questionmark, [Π]οστόμου instead of]ιστόμου of the SB. As Bernand's translation shows he had no further thoughts about this (isolated) proper name. However, since the inscription dates from the reign of either Tiberius or Claudius and since the prefect of Egypt is mostly mentioned in this kind of inscriptions, one is immediately reminded of Gaius Iulius Postumus, prefect of Egypt from A.D. 45 through A.D. 47/48 (cf. G. Bastianini, ZPE 17, 1975, 272).

I would propose the following reconstruction of this mutilated inscription:

[ὑπὲρ Τιβερίου Κλαυδίου Κα]ίσαρος [Σεβαστοῦ]
 [Γερμανικοῦ Αὐτοκράτορος καὶ παντ]ὸς οἴκου]
 [αὐτοῦ ἐπὶ Γαίου Ἰουλίου] Ποστόμου Ἀγαθῶ [Δαίμονι]
 4 [καὶ Σούχῳ θεῶ μεγάλῳ μεγάλῳ] πατροπάτωρι Σαραπ[
 [± 20 letters καὶ ἐ]π' ἄλλων τάξεων οἰκοδόμη-]
 [σε ± 20 letters ἐ]π' ἀγαθῶι. (ἔτους) ε Τιβερίο[υ Κλαυδίου]
 [Καίσαρος Σεβαστοῦ Γερμανικοῦ] Αὐτοκρ[άτορος Month, Day.]

Notes:

- 3 It is noteworthy that Postumus is not given his title ἡγεμών / ἑπαρχος, but OGIS II 657 = SB V 8897 = Inscr. Philae II 140 (13/12 B.C.) offers a parallel (cf. G. Bastianini, ANRW II 10.1, 592f.).
- 4 Σούχος (cf. G. Ronchi, *Lexicon theonymon rerumque sacrarum et divinarum ad Aegyptum pertinentium* V, Milano 1977, 1013ff.) is the nome-god of the Arsinoite nome and possessed a temple at Krokodilopolis-Arsinoë where the most important part of his cult was performed (cf. W.J.R. Rübsam, *Götter und Kulte in Faijum während der griechisch-römisch-byzantinischen Zeit*, Bonn 1974, 26ff.). To date the epitheton πατροπάτωρ seems to be only attested for the god Suchos (F. Preisigke, WB III, Abschn. 20 s.v. cites also - wrongly - Chr. I 96 VI 23 where, however, the correct reading is [κροκοδείλ]ωπος. Cf. W.J.R. Rübsam, op. cit., 51).
- 4-5 Sarap[is the dedicant. His name (Σαραπίων, Σαραπάμμων, Σαραπόδωρος are the most likely candidates) will have been followed by the name of his father and his function. We cannot decide whether he was a civil servant, a priest, an officer or occupied yet another function.
- 6 In the lacuna at the beginning of this line the object which the dedicant built in honor of the emperor Claudius and his whole household.
 SB I 5802 has, therefore, to be dated to the reign of the emperor Claudius, more specifically to A.D. 44/45. It is from early in the prefecture of C. Iulius Postumus.