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Note on a Coptic Ostracon


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The editor of the Coptic receipt for poll-tax published in ZPE 14 (1979) 239 no. 14 did not succeed in transcribing its first line completely. He prints:

\[ + eis \text{ C C C C a} / k \text{ C C C aCkCtCaau} \]

Two documents can be adduced for reading the letters he left unread, viz.

Tor. 26: \[ + eis \text{ ar y a} / kb \text{ aktaaƒ} \]
BKU I 89: \[ † eis \text{ ar y a} / kb \text{ aktaau} \]

Read therefore in the first text

\[ + eis \text{ aCrC y a} / kbC aCkCtCaau \]

i.e. 1 ‘arithmios’ solidus was equivalent to 22\frac{1}{2} carats.

In Tor. 26.5 one may as well read

\[ † (= T Y B i) \text{ eI} \text{ C\ldots}K († eI C\ldots K ed. princ.) \]

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