JOHN SHELTON

SOME RECENT ABBREVIATIONS

Some Recent Abbreviations

1. O.Eklab 89.3. Between the name and the year of a tax payment and the amount given occur traces the editor read as επ( ). The same abbreviation is found in the corresponding position in e.g. the Cambridge ostraca 42 l. 5 and 53 l. 4 which I published in ZPE 80 (1990) 229. I interpreted it there as ἐπ(ὶ λόγου), which would also suit the Elkab piece; some other abbreviations of similar type are listed in P.Oxy. XLIV 3168.2-3 note. Whether the same explanation would do for O.Elkab 89.4, where the context and palaeography are rather different, I cannot say.

2. P.Freib. IV 53.18, (γίνονται) σ(ύμπαν ?) (τάλαντα) β Ἀψνε. Problematic palaeographically is σ(ύμπαν). The editor writes that "the slash representing (γίνονται) runs into a piece of writing which looks like a sigma, though it might be merely an idiosyncratic end of the slash." I see on the plate not sigma but tau, and over it an ink smudge which represents a degenerate omicron. This is an abbreviation for τὸ (πᾶν). It is common in the Tebtunis tax lists, but not, as it happens, in one of them for which an illustration has been published. Many examples are listed under πᾶς in the indexes to P.Tebt. I and IV.

3. P.Wash. II 76 is identified as an account of landholdings and revenue. The beginning of line 19 helps specify this further: the plate shows λι(βὸς) ἐχό(μεναι), 'adjacent on the west', instead of ε χοί(νικες). The list was therefore made in topographic order and so falls into the category of land survey represented best by P.Tebt. I 84-85 and IV 1116-1123.
I should read the start of l. 20 as (ὧν) ὑπ(ολόγου) instead of ι ὑπ(έρ): the line then contrasts non-productive with grain-bearing land, a common opposition in land lists. In l. 14 I see φα(κῶι) instead of ἀρ(τάβαι). Such a statement of present crop is extremely frequent in surveys and suggests that three passages in which the editor prints χο(ίνικες) should likewise be altered to the crop χό(ρτωι) (ll. 3, 6 and 14). Finally, the context now rather favours δι(ὰ) σχοι(νίου) as opposed to δι(άφορον) σχοι(νισμοῦ) in l. 18. Parallels are cited in the editor's note.

Trier   John Shelton