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SOME REMARKS ON *SB* V 8368 AND 8369

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In an article entitled “The Soter Family : Genealogy and Onomastica”, *P. L. Bat. 27* (Leiden 1995) 69-82 K. van Landuyt deals with the Demotic and Greek texts connected with the Soter family whose tomb is described by L. Kákosy in the same volume on pp.61-68 (“The Soter Tomb in Thebes”). On pp. 76-77 she does not only give a transcription and a translation of *SB V 8368* and *8369*¹ but also of both texts a most welcome facsimile². From the facsimile which Miss van Landuyt provides of *SB V 8369 = CIG 4826 = IGRR I 1234* it becomes clear that this text has never been correctly transcribed. I, therefore, shall first give a transcription of this text of three lines which is written on the footend of a coffin³ based on the photograph of this coffin which is exposed in the room of graeco-roman antiquities at the British Museum kindly put at my disposal by Miss van Landuyt.

ταφή Τφοῦτος Ἡρακλείου ᾨωτήρος μητρὸς Ἐραποῦτος· ἐγεν(ν)ήθη τῶι ε (ἔτει) Ἀδριανού⁴
 τοῦ κυρίου Ἀθῦρ ςβ καὶ ἐτελεύτησεν τῶι ια (ἔτει) μηνὶ Τῦβι κ̄, [. .] ἐτῶν ἕξ, μηνῶν δύο, ἡμερῶν
 ἦ καὶ ἐτάφη τῶι ιβ (ἔτει) μηνὶ Ἀθῦρ ιβ.

If we take the text at face value Tphus was born on October 29, A.D. 120; she died on January 15 (*not* 16), A.D. 127; and she was buried on November 9 (*not* 8), A.D. 127 (the 12th regnal year of the emperor Hadrian was a leap year!). Tphus, so the text says, lived six years, two months, and 8 days⁵ but we arrive at such a span of life only if we change Ἀθῦρ β in line 2 to Ἀθῦρ ςβ. This implies that Tphus was actually born on November 8, A.D. 120⁶.

SB V 8368 = SB I 3931 = CIG 4825 = IGRR I 1230 (*cf. BL VIII 334*⁷) presents another problem. According to the text the deceased, Petemenophis, lived 4 years, 8 months, and 10 days. Since he was born on December 20, A.D. 118 (*not* 119) and died on August 27, A.D. 123, his span of life was 4 years, 8 months, and only 8 days. The number of days, *i.e.* 10, is confirmed by the Demotic text written on the coffin-lid (the Greek text is written on the footend of the coffin). A look at the facsimile in *P. L. Bat. 27*, p.76 convinces one immediately that the last letter(number) in line 5 is ι. One can also see that this iota resembles the left part of the letter(number) η in the same line. I assume that the person who wrote (first) the Greek text on this coffin had in front of him an example of this text which had at the end of line 5 a not too clear η which he mistook for a ι⁸.

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¹ Obviously Miss van Landuyt took over the text of *SB V 8369* and then translated this text as it should run according to her.

² Of *SB V 8368* a facsimile can be found in G. di Cordero San Quintino, *Lezioni archeologiche ...*, Torino 1824, plate I; of *SB V 8369* a facsimile was given by Th. Young, *Hieroglyphics collected by the Egypt Society*, London 1823-1828, plate 35.

³ Miss van Landuyt warned me in her letter dated October 20, 1995 that a small mistake crept into her article cited in the text. Her text no.9 regarding Phaminis, son of Herakleios is written on a coffin-lid; the text republished here, however, on the footend of a coffin.

⁴ Ἀδριανού : α *ex corr.* (*ex τ*?).

⁵ It is a common feature in funeral inscriptions that giving the life span of the deceased some elements show the numeral written out in full while others have a letter-number.

⁶ Her burial fell more than ten months after her death, both occurred on a 12th Hathyr although according to our calendar her birthdate was November 8 but the date of her burial November 9. *Cf.* Miss van Landuyt, *op. cit.*, 77, footnote 35. Mummies were often kept waiting a long time for their actual burial (*cf.* S.P. Vleeming, *P. L. Bat. 27*, 246f.).

⁷ *BL VIII 334* gives a reference to *SEG XXXII* (1982) 1592 where one can read that B. Boyaval (Lyon) has announced a study in which he will show that *SB V 8368* is a forgery based on the text of the mummy-label *SB I 3931*. B. Boyaval, who dealt with *SB V 8369* (and made a passing remark on *SB V 8368* on p. 36) in *Anagennesis* 2, 1982, 31ff., informs me *per litteras* (October 28, 1995) that he withdrew his article on *SB V 8368* announced *loc. cit.*, 36 to appear in *BASP* 18, 3-4.

⁸ Since text 7 (*loc. cit.*, 75) with which Miss van Landuyt deals only gives the day of the death of Sensaos (Epeiph 21 of year 12 of Trajan, *i.e.* July 15, A.D. 109) and the span of life of the deceased (16 years, 2 months, and 9 days), Sensaos was born on May 7 (*not* 8), A.D. 93.