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VBP II 10 AND P.LOND. III 682 REASSEMBLED

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This text is made up of a number of separate fragments. Some of these landed in Heidelberg, some in London. P.Heid. Inv. G 1283 now contains two fragments mounted on a beige card on which the missing letters between the two sections have been filled in to establish the distance between the two pieces. In pencil there is the following note “Fragmenta quinque [? D.¹] coniunxit et supplevit Ricci”.² These fragments were recognised as belonging to P.Heid. Inv. G. 1300 by Bilabel and published by him as VBP II 10 in 1923. In London three small fragments were joined together and published in 1907 as P.Lond. III 682 (p.18) in the hope that they might prove to join with papyri in another collection.³ During his work on agoranomoi in Krokodilopolis and Pathyris⁴ P.W. Pestman noted that VBP II 10 and P.Lond. III 682 belonged to one and the same text (BL VII, 86 on P.Lond. III 682); he gave the text the number 109 in his list of agoranomic documents. As improvements to the text can be made it seems to me to be desirable to publish the text anew along with a photograph of all the pieces set together. In the following sketch I have indicated the inventory numbers of the various fragments which go to make up this document within the outlines of the fragments.⁵

¹ Possibly an annotation made by Deissmann.

² On the back of the piece of card is the same content but with the extra entry “anno 97 (?)”. The date 1897 can scarcely be correct as Seymour de Ricci says himself in SPP IV, p. 53 that he was in Heidelberg in August 1899 with Eisenlohr “qui m’a aidé avec une obligeance extrême à réunir les cinq fragments du papyrus et ensuite à les déchiffrer. La tâche était d’autant plus pénible pour moi, que c’était la première fois que je copiais un papyrus”. It should be noted that it is chance that in the case of P.Heid. Inv. G 1283 there were five fragments, just as there were five fragments in the case of SPP IV, p. 53 Fragment 1. The two texts are quite separate from one another.

It is difficult to say when P.Heid. Inv. G 1283 came to Heidelberg. Quite possibly with the lot that arrived in May 1899 (see R. Seider, *Aus der Arbeit der Universitätsinstitute, Die Universitäts-Papyrussammlung*, Heidelberger Jahrbücher 1964 VIII, pp. 147-148). In a letter from various professors, who were at Heidelberg at that time and wrote a letter of reference (dated 26 May 1899) in support of buying the pieces for the Heidelberg collection, there is mention of about 50 Greek pieces, some of them from the Ptolemaic period and with seals, which can still be made out. The mention of seals makes this a plausible assumption.

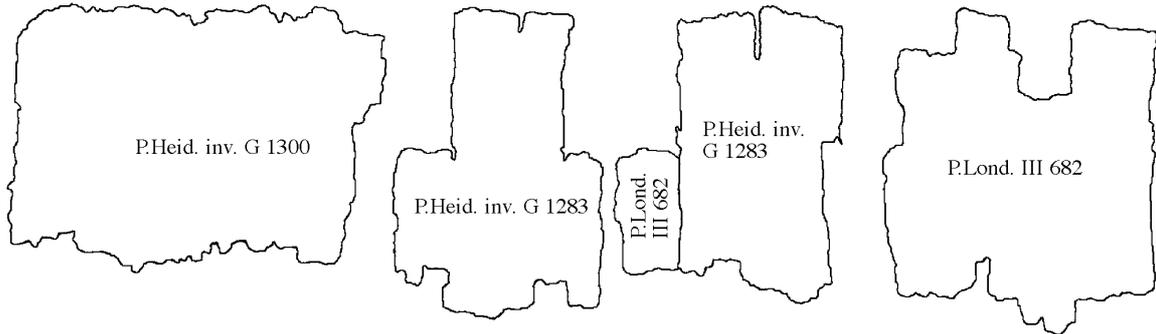
It is also possible that the pieces were already in Heidelberg in 1897, because the inventory numbers 1100-1376 include many pieces which arrived in 1897 (Seider p. 169).

³ See the introductions to P.Lond. III 682 (p. 18) and P.Lond. III 1205 (p. 15). P.Lond. III 682-687 “were presented by Dr. B. P. Grenfell, being fragments belonging to the same collection as Papp. 605-650” (P.Lond. III, p. xxv). P.Lond. III 605-650 “were acquired from Dr. B. P. Grenfell, who purchased them in Egypt in the winter of 1894-1895” (P.Lond. III, p. xix). See also P.Lond. III p. 5 in the introduction to P.Lond. III 879 (p. 5).

⁴ P.W. Pestman, *Agoranomoi et actes agoranomiques. Krokodilopolis et Pathyris 145-88 av. J.-C.*, P.Lugd. Bat. XXIII, pp. 9-44.

⁵ For permission to use photographic material from a microfilm of the London fragments in order to produce the photographic montage in Tafel IV. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Dr. Scot McKendrick, the curator of Classical, Byzantine and Biblical Manuscripts in the British Library. For the preparation of the said photographic montage as well as the outlines of all the fragments concerned I would like to thank Elke Lay for her expertise. Digitalised images of the Heidelberg fragments as well as a montage of all the fragments together (for permission to reproduce the London pieces in this form thanks are again to Dr. Scot McKendrick) may be found at

<http://www.rzuser.uni-heidelberg.de/~gv0/Papyri/VBP_II/010/VBP_II_10.html>



This is an example of an agoranomic contract of sale. On the format of such documents see K. Vandorpe, *Breaking the Seal of Secrecy, Sealing-Practices in Greco-Roman and Byzantine Egypt Based on Greek, Demotic and Latin Papyrological Evidence*, Leiden 1995, pp. 6-7, where literature on this type of document is supplied. The katagraphe certificate, a summary of the contents of the contract (column 1, 5.5 cm in width, the so-called scriptura interior), preceded the full contract (column 2, between 20 and 21 cm in width, the so-called scriptura exterior). The summary was then rolled up and sealed. The remains of where the seal was applied in the present text may possibly be seen on the left hand margin on the level of line 2. The seller sold land on a sandbank or tongue of land (ταινία) in the Pathyris neighbourhood. The detailed description of where the piece of land lay is only partially extant (lines 10-11). After this the name of the buyer, the sum paid for the purchase and the clause concerning previous ownership and warranty as well as the final underwriting of the document through the agoranomos will have followed. None of these is preserved. They may originally have run into a third column. Sometimes such documents contain the receipt for the tax on sales (τὸ ἐγκύκλιον), sometimes not, cf. P.Köln I 50, pp. 113-114. The overall length of what remains gives no clue as to whether there may have been a third column in the present text.

VBP II 10
+ P.Lond. III 682 (p. 18)

26 x 7 cm⁶
Pathyris

20 November 98 BC

Column 1

- 1 Ἔτους ιζ, Ἀθὺ(ρ) ἔ. Ἀπέδοτο
 - 2 Σισοῦ(χος) Φίβιος τὴν ὑπ(άρχουσαν) αὐτῶι
 - 3 γῆν ἥπ(ειρον) ἐν τῆι ταινίᾳ Παθύ(ρεως)
 - 4 [± 4] ἡ ἐπ[ρίατο Name]ουτος
-

Column 2

- 5 Βασιλευόντων Π[τ]ολεμαίου τοῦ ἐπικ[αλουμ]ένου Ἀλεξάνδρου καὶ Βερ[ενίκης τῆς Ἀδελφῆς]
- 6 θεῶν Φιλομητόρ[ω]ν, ἔτους ιζ, ἐφ' ἱερείω[ν καὶ] ἱερε[ι]ῶν καὶ κανηφόρου τ[ῶν ὄντων καὶ οὐσῶν,]
- 7 μηνὸς Ἀθὺρ ἔ, ἐν Παθύρει, ἐπ' Ἀμμων[ίου το]ῦ παρὰ Πανίσκου ἀγοραν[όμου.]
- 8 Ἀπέδοτο Σισ[οῦ]χος Φίβιος Πέρσης τ[ῶν] ἐκ Παθύρεως τεκτόνω[ν ὡς (ἔτων) Χ μέσος],

⁶ The length is an estimate, as allowance has to be made for the gaps which remain in the text. Particularly difficult to estimate is the gap between the first column and the second. The first portion of the text would have been rolled up and sealed.

9 μελίχρως, τε[τ]ανός, μα[κρ]οπρόσω[πος,] εὐθύριν τὴν ὑπάρχουσ[αν αὐτῶι γῆν
ἥπειρον]
10 σιτοφό[ρον ἐ]ν τῆι ταινίαι Πα]θύρεω[ς, ὡς]εἰ ἀρου(ρῶν) η [ὄ]σον ἂν ἦ γείτονε[ς
νότου ± 9]
11 [± 25] ποταμός, λιβός [± 15]
12 [± 28] ρσ[± 21]

1 αἰ pap. 2 αἰ pap. 3 π, παἰ pap. 6 read ἱερέω[ν 10 αἰ pap.

In year 17, Hathyr 5, Sisouchos son of Phibis sold the land above inundation level belonging to him on the sandbank of Pathyris 8 [arourai. X son of ---]ous bought it ...

In the reign of Ptolemaios called Alexander and Berenike his sister, gods Philometores, in the 17th year under the priests and priestesses and the kanephoros now in office, on the 5th of the month Hathyr, in Pathyris, before Ammonios, representative of Paniskos the public notary. Sisouchos son of Phibis, Persian, of the carpenters of Pathyris, [x years old, of middling size], honey-coloured, with long straight hair, long-faced, straight-nosed, sold the cornbearing land above inundation level belonging to him on the sandbank of Pathyris about eight arourae or whatever (the size of that share) may be, the adjacent areas being [on the north ...] the river, on the west [...] ...

- 1 The date here (repeated in lines 6-7) corresponds to 20 November 98 BC.
- 2 Σισοῦ(χος) Φίβιος; PP V 13282 lists the name of the father, Φίβις, known at that stage only as Φι[.
- 3 ἥπ(ειρον): ed.pr. has (σιτοφόρον). It is difficult to see anything which looks like an abbreviation of the component parts of the word σιτοφόρον. Comparison with P.Adler 21.5, Plate V (written on the same day in the same bureau) makes it clear that the reading should be γῆν ἥπ(ειρον), cf. also P.Lugd.Bat. XIX 6.3, Planche V (= BGU III 995). The abbreviation can now be explained relatively easily: it is composed of an Eta written like a flat N back to front (unlike the other Etas in lines 1-4) with a long round Pi over the top of it. This way of abbreviating Pi can be seen in line 2 ὑπ(άρχουσαν).

On the meaning of this word see D. Bonneau, *Le fisc et le Nil. Incidences des irrégularités de la crue du Nil sur la fiscalité foncière dans l'Égypte grecque et romaine*, Paris 1971, pp. 79 and 115. γῆ ἥπειρος apparently signifies arable land on natural sandbanks (ταινίαι) thrown up by the river. The adjective σιτοφόρον was left out in the scriptura interior, cf. P.Lond. III 881.4 (p. 12) in contrast to line 20; P.Lugd.Bat. XIX 6.3 in contrast to line 18 (= BGU III 995). ἐν τῆι ταινία Παθύ(ρεως): ταινία: "a tongue of land or sandbank" (P.Grenf. I 34.5 note). See P.W. Pestman in P.Lugd.Bat. XIV, p. 54 note 63 and p.103 where the demotic equivalent *t3 sbt* is discussed and D. Bonneau, *Le régime administratif de l'eau du Nil dans l'Égypte grecque, romaine et byzantine*, Leiden-New York-Köln 1993, pp. 49-50.

In and around Pathyris we know of three such places, which are probably distinct from one another. There is ἡ ταινία Παθύρεως, which is mentioned in: P.Grenf. I 34.5; II 28.10; 32.6; P.Lond. III 1209.8, 13 (p. 20); P.Lips. 1.5, 6; 2.7; BGU VI 1259.6, 13; VBP II 4.4.

ἡ μέση ταινία Παθύρεως appears in: P.Lond. III 880.21 (p. 8); P.Stras. II 85.20; BGU III 997 I 7-8, II 7.

ἡ μέση ταινία λεγομένη Τεβῶθε is mentioned in P.Stras. II 83.18.

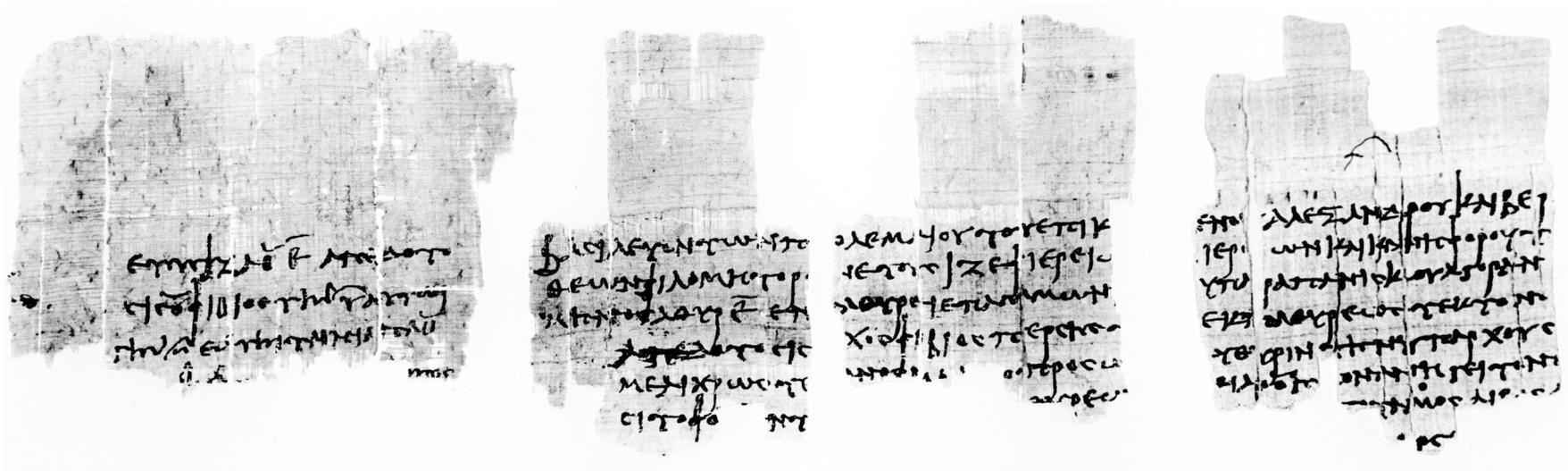
- 4 [± 4] η ἐπ[ρίατο Name]ουτος; ed.pr. ηασ [. . .] ε . . . [] . ος.
After the hole in the text there is an upward squiggle. At the top of it but not joined to it is a little upside down V-shape. This is perhaps connected to the downward stroke of the Eta, which is quite clear.
The first trace looks most like a final Nu as in line 2 (τῆν) and 3 (γῆν), where the last stroke of the letter is drawn upwards and ends high. One would expect ἀρουρῶν to be abbreviated as it is in most of the extant katagraphe certificate that have survived. There is, however, the exception in P.Lond. III 1209.7 (p. 20) ἀρούρας. If the supplement [ἀρουρῶ]ν η is correct then the letters must be quite small to fit the space available. Each line starts a little further to the left of the one above in this column so the suggestion is quite plausible.
Other possibilities are [ἀρο]υ(ρῶν) η or [ώσεἰ] (ἀρουρῶν) η. The first suggestion is a bit short for the space and I would expect to be able to see more of the slightly raised Upsilon which would indicate an abbreviation for ἀρου(ρῶν) as in line 10 of this text. The second would fill the hole better. Perhaps what we have is some sort of abbreviation for ἀρουρῶν.

Above what I take to be the Epsilon of ἐπ[ρίατο there is a trace of ink which I can not explain. Of the Pi there are only traces of the horizontal portion of the letter.

ουτος: end of a proper name such as Πατοῦς, the name of the buyer's father.

There may have been a line following this one. If so, it may well have been shorter in length in as much as it may only have contained an abbreviation for χαλκοῦ τάλαντων X (cf. P.Adler 3.8-9), the price paid.

- 6 ἱερείων for ἱερέων is customary in Pathyris, see P.W. Pestman in JEA 55, 1969, p. 138 on line 8 (= P.Lond. VII 2191.8).
- 7 Ammonios: PP III 7686 = 7650. See PP IX 7650 for further literature. For Ammonios' period as representative of Paniskos (PP III 7678) from 14. Oct. - 20 Nov. 98 (this text), see P.W. Pestman in P.Lugd.Bat. XXIII, pp. 22-23, nos. 108-110. G. Messeri, Pap.Flor. 7, 1980, 226-227 dated P.Adler 11 (no. 108 in P.W. Pestman in P.Lugd.Bat. XXIII, pp. 22-23) wrongly to 101 BC and thus made Ammonios representative of Paniskos for too long a period (p. 260).
- 8 The indentation of the body of the text occurs not infrequently in such texts, e.g. P.Lond. III 881 (p. 11) with facsimile 6, 882 (p. 13) with facsimile 7 and 1207 (p. 16) with the facsimile 9.
τεκτόνω[v: ed.pr. has τεκτονο[ς. Omicron seems a good reading, but the surface may well be rubbed at the edge of the papyrus, so that to assume an Omega, which is needed, is no great problem. By comparing P.Lond. III 1207, 17 τῶν ἐκ Παθύρων σιδηρουργῶν and P.Grenf. II 15 Col. 2.7 τῶν ἐκ Π[αθύ]ρεως ἰβιστιάφων, the reading Σι[σ]δ[ω]χος Φί[β]ιτος Πέρσης τ[ῶν] ἐκ Παθύρων τεκτόνω[v seems best.
The statement of Sisouchos' age will have preceded the description of his features. This also provides the right number of letters to fill the missing space. The two extra letters provided by ὡς as well as the abbreviation for ἔτους followed by probably two letters representing numerals to indicate his age (these letters were often written somewhat larger than the letters of the text) fill up the space required (see below).
- 9 γῆν ἡπειρον]: As the reading ἡπ(ειρον) in line 3 has now been established, one would expect ἡπειρον to appear in the equivalent place in the main text. Indeed with the letters of the words ὑπάρχουσ[αν αὐτῶι γῆν] we have only 10 letters in brackets. From lines 1 and 2, which have respectively 16 and 15 letters in the brackets, we would expect around 15 letters here. One must remember that the right hand margin was not always as regular as the left hand margin and thus a bigger fluctuation is to be expected when counting letters in order to fill missing sections of text. Usually the words in the main text are not abbreviated. In the case of γῆ ἡπειρος σιτοφόρος which is a standard way of describing portions of land in many documents from Pathyris from the turn of the second century BC, there are examples of the abbreviation of ἡπειρος in P.Lond. III 881.20 (p. 11) and 1208.10 (p. 19). If ἡπειρον were abbreviated in this text the letter count for the bracket would be 12. If ἡπειρον were written in full the letter count would be 17. It is not easy to say which solution should be preferred.
- 10 ὡς]εἰ ἀρου(ρῶν) η [ὄ]σον ἄν ἦ: ed.pr. has]ει αρο^υ η [ο]σον αν η.
ὡς]εἰ ἀρου(ρῶν): cf. P.Adler 21 Col. ii 6 ὡςεἰ ἀρού(ρας) [, where one should probably prefer the genitive ἀρου(ρῶν) instead of the accusative ἀρού(ρας). For this use of ὡσεἰ to indicate approximation in relation to measurements see Mayser, Grammatik II, 3, p. 167.
[ὄ]σον ἄν ἦ: Here we have some form of the phrase ἦ ὅσαι ἐὰν ὄσιν. On this phrase see H.H. July, *Die Klauseln hinter den Massangaben der Papyrusurkunden (Insbesondere die Klausel ἦ ὅσαι ἐὰν ὄσιν und ihre Synonyme)*, Diss. Köln 1966, pp. 74-76 with a table of occurrences of formulas similar to the one found here on p. 76. As it stands in the text one would assume the singular form [ὄ]σον. One would expect the nominative plural as it refers to a number of arourai or genitive plural through attraction (P.Köln I 50.21, P.Stras. II 81.7, 20; 82.3-4 ἀρουρῶν ὄσων ἄν ὄσιν (or ὄσι) and P.Adler 13.6 ἀρουρῶν ὄσων ἄν ἦ, note the singular form of the verb). Easiest in the present case to think of [ὄ]σον as a mistake for [ὄ]σων with the verb in the singular, as just noted. Also possible in analogy to P.Cair.Goodsp. 6.5 ἀρουρῶν ις ἦ ὄσου ἄν ἦ is to leave it as it is as neuter singular, which is not particularly attractive considering the fact that it refers to arourai.
Are we to read ὡς]εἰ ἀρου(ρῶν) η and then [ὄ]σον ἄν ἦ or ὡς]εἰ ἀρου(ρῶν) and then ἦ [ὄ]σον ἄν ἦ? I think that the best explanation is as follows: ὡς]εἰ ἀρου(ρῶν) η <ἦ> [ὄ]σον ἄν ἦ, whereby the lack of a second Eta can be explained quite convincingly in terms of haplography. The presence of the word ὡς]εἰ, which is, I think, as good as certain makes it almost essential to supply a numeral after ἀρουρῶν. Comparison with the other examples of the phrase ἦ ὅσαι ἐὰν ὄσιν and its variants in the papyri of the Ptolemaic period makes clear that if a specific number of arourai is stated then the particle ἦ is always included in the phrase, whereas when no specific number of arourai is stated then the phrase appears as ὄσων ἄν ὄσιν (ἦ), cf. P.Köln I 50.21 note.
- 10-11 For the content of these lines see the introduction.
- 11] ρσ]: As the combination ρσ is not that common in Greek it is fairly certain that one of the following possibilities is correct. ρσ belongs to the proper name of the buyer or the name of the buyer's father. This is less likely as there is a lot of space to be filled, but long Egyptian names such as Πετεαρσεμθευς might stretch as far as this in the line. ρσ belongs to Π]έρσ[ης with or without the additional τῆς ἐπιγονῆς, which is used in connection with a number of buyers and sellers in the agoranomic documents of this sort from Pathyris, cf. P.Adler passim. For the use of Πέρσης τῆς ἐπιγονῆς in the context of documents from Pathyris (cf. line 8 of the present document) see particularly P.W. Pestman, *A proposito dei documenti di Pathyris II*, Aegyptus 43, 1963, pp. 15-53; see also CPR XVIII pp. 70-73, where the extensive literature on this topic is cited.



P. Heid. inv. G 1300 + 1283 + P. Lond. III 682; J. Cowey, pp. 159–162
Photomontage: E. Lay