NIKOLAOS GONIS

TWO DECLARATIONS OF UNINUNDATED LAND REREAD


© Dr. Rudolf Habelt GmbH, Bonn
TWO DECLARATIONS OF UNINUNDATED LAND REREAD

BGU I 198

Karanis

This text was the second of this kind to be published. Two corrections have been registered in the Berichtigungsliste, but there remain several points that invite discussion. The most serious problems relate to whether this declaration had an addressee, and the amount of land that was registered. A photograph indicated that the published text was capable of further improvement; subsequently, the original at Berlin was also examined. A new edition is given below.

For this type of document see the recent study of W. Habermann, 'Aspekte des Bewässerungswesens im kaiserzeitlichen Ägypten I: Die „Erklärungen für nicht überflutetes Land“ (Abrochid-Deklarationen)' in K. Ruffing, B. Tenger (eds.), Miscellanea oeconomica. Studien zur antiken Wirtschaftsgeschichte. Harald Winkel zum 65. Geburtstag (Pharos IX: 1997) 213-83 (hereafter Habermann), who offers a consolidated list on pp. 223-6; add now POxy LXV 4488 (c. 245).1

1 I am indebted to Prof. Gabriella Messeri-Savorelli for her help with this text. My thanks are also due to Dr G. Poethke for providing access to the papyrus (4.8.1997), and for giving me permission to reproduce the photograph here.

2 I have not generally noted cases where letters were bracketed in the ed. pr., but should simply be dotted.

3 The date of this text does not survive. The editor’s ‘c. 244/5’ relies on the dating of POxy XLII 3046 to 244/5 by the ed. pr. That text dates from Year 2 of Philippi, which converts to 244/5. But all dated texts of this kind come from the first half of the Julian year, see below note to l. 12, and apparently for this reason POxy 3046 has tacitly been redated to 245 by G. M. Parássoglou, ČE 62 (1987) 211 (adopted by Habermann 226). Both POxy 3046 and 4488 were submitted following the orders of Aurelius Antoninus, procurator, τάξις ἐπικέφαλς. Inasmuch as this personnage has not turned up in any text with a date other than 245, and the only years of the 240s that have so far produced such declarations are 240 and 245, I would be inclined to place POxy 4488 in the early months of 245.
'From Theano, daughter of Petesouchos, from the village of Karanis, with K[a]mbukis, son of Aunes, as guardian. In accordance with the orders of Annius Syriacus, the most splendid prefect, I register the 1/3 1/16 aroura of a katoikic allotment which belong (to me) at the village of Karanis, but are registered to Zoidous, daughter of Petesouchos, as being uninundated for the current third year of Aurelius and Verus, the lords Augusti. Wherefore I submit (this return).

'I K[a]mbukis, the aforesaid, of around 26 years of age...'

1 The declaration has no address to an official; for a list of declarations without addressees, which are a minority, see Habermann 236 n. 75; PStras IX 834 (190) should perhaps be added to his list, but the edition does not report on whether the papyrus is broken away at the top. One could think that such texts were drafts, or copies kept by the declarants; a similar view has been advanced with relation to census returns without addressees, cf. R. S. Bagnall, Composite roll, and, as I was able to see on a photograph, the declarant added his subscription in his own hand (not reported in the edition). We know that these declarations were prepared in more than one copy, too, see A. M. Harmon, ‘Women and Society in Greek and Roman Egypt. A Sourcebook (1996) 152ff.; also the section on ‘Women and agricultural land’ in J. Rowlandson, Landowners and Tenants in Roman Egypt (1996) 152ff.; also the section on ‘Women and agricultural land’ in J. Rowlandson (ed.), Women and Society in Greek and Roman Egypt. A Sourcebook (1998) 218ff.

2 For declarations concerning very small plots of land, see Habermann 250f.

3 Cf. Habermann 229, commenting on the formula (name of komogrammateus) ἐγὼ τοῦτο τὸ ἵκον εἰς εἰκτάσας or ἐκπρ εἰκτάσας, ‘Wir können vermuten, daß dem Deklaranten eines der ihm angefertigten ἱκατον... als (Einreichungs-)Quittung diente’. It is worth noting that property declarations were prepared in several copies too, see A. M. Harmon, YCS 4 (1934) 160ff.
Two Declarations of Uninundated Land Reread

IV 596.22 (204) has ἐν ἀβρόχεα, but what preceded it is lost in lacuna (note also that in that text line 20 is written in a different hand from line 21, which belongs to the pre-drafted part of the document, see below, n. 6). The phrase seems peculiar to texts from the Arsinoite nome. The supplemented οὐκας ἐν ἀβρόχεα in POSlo III 100.10 (164), which is probably of Oxyrhynchite origin, is no more than a possibility; Oxyrhynchite declarations, but of later date, offer ἕν ἐξὸ ἀβρόγον (vel sim.).

12 The third year of Aurelius and Verus was 162/3. The declaration was probably submitted between January and July of 163, since no such document is known to have been filed before January or after July (see Habermann 259f.).

13 δίο ἐπιδίδομι (l. -µ). The use of this formulaic phrase seems to be restricted to Arsinoite declarations.

14 Κρανίς [Πακব]! Kam!; see above 3 n.

15 [1-2]…[1-2]… in POSlo III 100.10 (164), which is oÎ!a! §n ébrÒxƒ, but what preceded it is lost in lacuna (note also that in that text line 20 is written in a different hand from line 21, which belongs to the pre-drafted part of the document, see below, n. 6). The phrase seems peculiar to texts from the Arsinoite nome. The supplemented οὐκας ἐν ἀβρόχεα in POSlo III 100.10 (164), which is probably of Oxyrhynchite origin, is no more than a possibility; Oxyrhynchite declarations, but of later date, offer ἕν ἐξὸ ἀβρόγον (vel sim.).

This document was included among the descripta of PRyl IV. In spite of the meagre amount of text preserved, several points arouse suspicion, especially when compared with two contemporary declarations from the same region, PAlexGiss 1 (202-4) and PRyl IV 596 (204). Photographs of the two Rylands papyri5 revealed that the hand of 682 is the same as that responsible for lines 2-15 and 22-23 of the other declaration.

The date does not survive. Ed. pr. placed the text in 202-3, presumably on prosopographical grounds. G. Bastianini, J. Whitehorne, Strategi and Royal Scribes of Roman Egypt (PapFlor XV: 1987) 35, 125 dated it to 202, on the assumption that the only overlap in office of the strategos Demetrios and the basilikos grammateus Kanopos alias Asklepiades at this period of the year is in 202. This is very probable indeed, but on present evidence we cannot strictly exclude a date in 203. Demetrios is last attested in office on 25.3.202, but apparently we do not hear of his successor, Agathos Daimon, before 21.4.203 (see Bastianini, Whitehorne, op. cit. 35); so there is an outside possibility that Demetrios was still in office in the early months of 203—unless BGU II 663, which refers to Agathos Daimon, dates from 26.6.202. The same chronological considerations apply to BGU XI 2022, likewise undated, but addressed to the same officials.6

Δημητρίῳ ετυ(ατηγ) Ἀρσιν(όιτο) Ἡρακ(λείδου) μερ[ίδος] καὶ Κανόπῳ τῷ κ(α) Ἀσκληπιάδη [βασιλ(ικῷ)]

5 Supplied by the authorities of the John Rylands University Library of Manchester, by courtesy of which the photography of 682 is reproduced here. I wish to thank Dr P. McNiven and Mr J. Woodhouse for their ready assistance.

6 The layout of 596 suggests that part of the text was drafted in advance, with the details of the uninundated land added at a later stage. On the practice of pre-drafting documents, see R. A. Coles, ZPE 39 (1980) 115, POxy LIV p. 92; cf. also D. Hagedorn, ZPE 21 (1976) 167 (on Musterurkunden).

7 Bastianini-Whitehorne take the two texts to date from the period February-March. This is eminently possible, given that most of the surviving declarations of this type were submitted in the months of Mecheir and Phamenoth; but it is not entirely certain, since we also possess examples with dates in Pharmouthi and Epeiph, see Habermann 259f.
N. Gonis

The same officials are the addressees of BGU I 139 (= W. Chr. 225) and PHamb I 11, both of 202; cf. also BGU XI 2022.

1-3 The same officials are the addressees of BGU I 139 (= W. Chr. 225) and PHamb I 11, both of 202; cf. also BGU XI 2022.

1 Ἡρακλ(είδου) μερ[ιδος: Ἡρακλ(είδου μεριδος) Ἀρχ(υ)ν(του) ed. pr.

3 Καρ[ανίδος: Καρ(ανίδος) ed. pr. The space seems sufficient for the unabbreviated form.

4-5 In the ed. pr. 4-5 run [πα`rå Πτολεμα¤ου ÜVrou ka‹ %i!Ò `[ito! | ]frev! k(a‹) t«n loip `[n. My restorations are modeled on PRyl IV 596, which was filed in 204 παρὰ Πτολεμαίου Πανεφρίμιου καὶ Σισόου Οὐνόφρεως καὶ ἕν τῶν λοιπ(ῶν) συν(ε)γραφ(ῶν) γ(ῆ) κληρουχ(ιας) κά(μις) Καρανίδου (lines 8-11); this text concerns uninundated land at Kerkesoucha, a village in the vicinity of Karanis, which the declarants were obliged to cultivate as epibole. We may also compare PAlexGiss 1.3-4, which has a slightly different wording: παρὰ Σαβθενίου Πτολεμαίου καὶ τῶν λοιπ(ῶν) Ἐπι(τροπ(ῶν) γ(ῆ)ρ(ῶν) κ(αμίς) Καρανίδου εἰς 1 κ(άρμα) ρουχ(ιας). For such declarations submitted by δημοτοί γεωργοί see Habermann 239 with n. 99.

5 [PRyl 596.10 as edited has συν(ε)γραφ(ῶν) δ(ῆ) κληρουχ(ιας). But the active participle of συγγραφῆναι occurs only in Ptolemaic texts, while there are several instances of συγγραφῇ (always spelling) in texts of the Roman period, mainly from the Fayum: Prose sur pierre nos. 49, 16f. et passim (5 BC), 40.3 (6796), PSI IX 1043.20 (103), PStras VI 568.7 (138-47), PBerLeihg I 22.12 (155) . II 44.6, 15 (157/8) (the word is damaged in PAlex 11.8, of 98-138). The photograph also indicates that the number of the kleruchy should be read as 5.

6 [γῶν] ἡ κληρουχ(ιας) κά(μις) Καρανίδου: ἄπωγορφωμέθα κατα ταί καλεσθέντα ed. pr. The reading of the numeral is not certain. What survives is a mere trace at mid-height with a high horizontal above it. One might think of a different numeral and the supralinear stroke that is commonly added above figures, but it receives support from PRyl IV 596.10 (as revised above, 4-5 n.). For the construction cf. the examples cited above, and PAberd 50.1 (202-4) (cf. PRyl IV 596.10 n., which anticipates the correction in Habermann 239 n. 99). For the 94 klerouchies at Karanis, see O. M. Pearl, Akten des XIII. Internationalen Papyrologenkongresses (1974) 325ff., PCollYoutie I 63.

Wolfson College, Oxford

Nikolaos Gonis

8 This declaration was submitted following the orders of Claudius Diognetus, procurator Augustorum. Its editor tentatively assigned it to 202; this was tacitly corrected to 197-203 in PMich VI 366 introd., while C. Préaux, CÉ 38 (1963) 121 n. 2 suggested a 197-204 date, on the assumption that Diognetus’ tenure of office spanned this seven-year period. But although he is attested as proc. Aug. διαδεχόμενος την άρχημαρχίαν on 24.5.197, there is no evidence that his duties at that time encompassed the monitoring of the ἐπιτροπάς. As is now generally accepted, this did not become his responsibility before 202, see G. M. Parássoglou, CÉ 62 (1987) 212f. For this reason the date of PAberd 50 in Parássoglou’s list (this item is no. 38 on p. 210) is 202-4, and it is by this date that one should abide until more evidence becomes available. None of the proposed datings for PAberd 50 has been recorded in the BL (in Habermann’s list one still finds the 197-204 date).