



Faculty of Arts
Dept. of Ancient European
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“An Edition of Unpublished Greek Papyri and Ostraca
From Cairo Museum and Michigan
University: Study and Investigation”

A Thesis

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*In the Name of Allâh
The Most Gracious, the Most
Merciful*

*“And of His signs are the creation
of the heavens and the earth, and
the difference of your languages
and colours. Lo! Herein indeed are
portents for men of knowledge.
(22) ”*

Truth of God Almighty

Al-Rom (22) (The Romans): 22]

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The Methods of Publication

The editorial signs employed in this thesis are in the whole those in common use in editions of papyri.

..... Dots indicate letters too mutilated or misshapen to be Read.

..... Dots placed under letters indicate uncertain reading.

[±] Dots within brackets, or numerals within brackets, indicate the approximate extent of lacuna.

[] indicate a lacuna in the papyrus; the text is supplied by the editor.

() indicate the resolution of an abbreviation or symbol

[] indicate a deletion in the papyrus.

< > indicate an omission in the papyrus.

{ } indicate superfluous letters in the papyrus.

` ' **indicate** superliner additions in the papyrus.

Vac. For vacate; indicates that the papyrus is blank at that point.

All accents, breathing marks, iota subscripts, and punctuation have been added by the editor. Dieresis, hooks, and iota adscript are used only where found in the original.

Abstract

The present edition of Greek papyri and ostraca comprises fourteen hitherto unpublished texts. Each text is elaborated in a traditional format, consisting of introduction, transcription, translation, and commentary.

The present edition is divided into two main parts:

- ✓ **Part One:** Contains nine unpublished Greek papyri, seven papyri from the Egyptian Museum in Cairo and two papyri from Michigan University they are P.Mich.inv.1658 and P.Mich. 1644_v. The collections of papyri in the Egyptian Museum are:
 - P.Fay 330_descr =P. Cairo Cat.10855_descr.
 - P. Cairo Mus. C.G. 10819= P.Fay 221_descr
 - P.Fay. 318 = Cat.Gen.10849
 - P. Cairo Mus. C.G. 10838=P.Fay 289_descr
 - P. Cairo. Mus.SR3049_55
 - P.Cairo.Mus.SR3049_111
 - P.Cairo.Mus. JdE_46253.

- ✓ **Part Two:** Contains five unpublished Greek Ostraca, three from the Egyptian Museum and two from Columbia University; The collections of ostraca in the Egyptian museum are registered under the special number 18953. The other two are O.Col.inv. 15 (acc.1.16) and O.Col.inv.7.1 the Egyptian Museum, Michigan University and Columbia University gave me a permission to photograph these papyri and ostraca for studying and editing.

These papyri and ostraca are dealing with various subjects, dated to the Roman and Byzantine periods. The researcher published and commented the fourteen pieces of papyri and ostraca and arranged them chronologically.

➤ **Part one: Papyri**

**I. Receipt for *Arithmetikon* and *Naubion Katoikon*:
(Arsinoites; 111-112 CE.)**

This document is a receipt for the ἀριθμητικοῦ κατοίκων; it is a tax for the numbering of *catoecic* such tax is attested in the Roman period from 9 BCE to the end of the second century of our era. This tax is considered as a capitation tax falling upon all owners of *catoecic* land. This document is dated in the fifteenth year of the emperor Trajan (111/112 CE). Wilcken supposed that the ἀριθμητικόν was collected to pay for the services of ἀριθμηταί employed by the government to check the reports of the landholders.

**II. Penthemeros Certificate on behalf of *Athenas Kome*:
(Euhemeria; 161 CE)**

This text is a Certificate for the performance of the πενθήμερος the five days -from 3rd to 7th of August - work at the embankments. The compulsory labor performed on the Nile dikes, in the Fayoum; it is issued to Orseus, son of Heron the son of Pabetheus, his mother Thentouapius. It is dated back to the first year of Emperor Marcus Aurelius Antoninus Augustus and

Emperor Lucius Aurelius Verus Augustus 161 CE.

III. Receipt for Tax Payment in Kind:

(Theadelphia; 184 CE)

This document is a receipt for a payment of wheat; paid from Aurelius son of Abos grandson of Ephonychos to Satyros the collector of corn revenues at Theadelphia.. Dated in the twenty-fourth year of M. Aurel. Commodus Antoninus Aug.

IV. Penthemeros Certificate on behalf of *Psenyris*:

(Euhemeria; 192 CE)

The papyrus is a certificate for the compulsory labor performed on the Nile dikes, in the Fayoum; from 28th of Pachon to the second day of Payni. This is the first time we have a penthemeros certificate from the Psenyris village and on the Psyon canal.

V. A Business Letter: (Oxyrhynchus; 2nd century CE.)

This papyrus is a business letter sent by Ophellius to Ptolemaios concerning agricultural matters such as wheat, vegetable seed and chaff-heap. The greeting formula is in line 9, and then the scribe made an afterthought about their necessity of sending another ship of chaff-wheat. At the end, the scribe put the date, which is a rare feature in these kinds of documents. ; it is the 3rd year of an unnamed emperor; it could fall within the reign of Antoninus Pius 140 CE, or Lucius

Verus and Marcus Aurelius 163 CE or Commodus 179 CE . This papyrus from Oxyrhynchus according to the mention of the villages of Ptolema and fro Bassias.

VI. A Cession of *Catoecic* Land:

(Oxyrhynchus; 3rd cent. CE)

This document is an agreement of sale and cession of one plot of *catoecic* land; its measure is four; $\frac{1}{8}$, $\frac{1}{16}$ arourai. It is a vine land situated in a spot called Isieion Panga in Oxyrhynchus. The land belonged to Sarapas, son of Sarapas, son of Sarapion. The name of the purchaser is Horion, alias Kolylis, son of Ammonius, son of Kolylis, his mother being Arsinoe daughter of Sarapion. The price of the sale is not preserved in the text as well as the date of the agreement.

VII. A fragment of a Letter:

(Arsinoites; Late 2nd cent. CE)

This document is a private letter; both the sender and the addressee names are lost at the upper portion of the papyrus. The provenance is (Arsinoites) according to the mention of ἀμφόδου Βουβαστείου in line 8. Depending on the paleography ground, the papyrus could be easily dates back to the second half of the second century of our era.

VIII. A Private letter:

(Karanis; late 3rd - early 4th cent. CE)

This private letter is addressed from Dioskoros to his father Dionysios. The subject of this letter is obscure; there is a mention to the *ἐξηγητής* cf.l.9 and *πραιπόσιτος* cf.l. 12. The verso contains only the address.

IX. Account of Payments:

(Aphroditopolis; 6th -7th cent. CE)

This papyrus consists of 3 columns with 30-32 lines per the first and second column and only 4 lines per the third one. The text records proper names of people belonging to the Byzantine era followed by different amounts with *keration*. Most of these names have Egyptian origins such as *Παβίκιος*; *Ψενθαήσιος*; *Προμαώς*; *Σανσνεύς*; and *Θαῆσις*. as well as there are names of Semitic origins cf. *Ἑλισαβέτ*; *Ῥαχήλ*; *Ἰακύβιος*.

➤ Part two: Ostraca

I. Memorandum for delivering Wine:

(Thebes; 1st cent.-3rd cent. CE.)

This ostrakon is a memorandum mentioning delivery of three hundred and eleven jars of wine. It consists of 2 lines. The text occupies the upper part of the ostrakon.

II. Receipt for Bath tax: (Thebes; 131-132 CE)

This earthenware is a receipt of the Bath tax that was