

VII.—Two Greek Ostraca ¹

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No. 1

The first ostrakon, 10.5 × 11.2 cm., and of brownish-red color, is part of a land survey list.² The surface on which the writing is found is smooth for the most part, though protruding granules occasionally caused the pen of the scribe to be deflected from its intended course. There is no definite internal evidence as to the locality of the land described, although the name Alexander Serenus, found in lines 6–7, is also found in a papyrus from Oxyrhynchus.³ The latter document is dated in A.D. 235; the ostrakon, on the basis of the writing, probably belongs to the middle or the second half of the second century A.D. This difference in date is almost too great to allow the individuals to be considered identical, especially since the Alexander Serenus of the Oxyrhynchus papyrus is indicated as having a minor son.

The chief value of this ostrakon lies in the light it throws on the word *ἐχόνωμα* ⁴ found in abbreviated form in line 5. Its use here in the phrase *βορρά ἐχόνωμα τοῦ αὐτοῦ κλήρου* definitely equates it with *ἐχόμενα* when used as an adverb with the meaning "next to" or "adjoining."

ιθ

πάτελλα λεγο(μένη) (πρότερον) Πρωτα() 'Αβοίκεως
(ἄρουρα) α καὶ (πρότερον) Πωλίων(ος) Καμήτος
ἀντ' (οὗ) Πακναμαῦ λεγο(μένη) (ἄρουρα) α βορρά

¹ During the period 1927–31 when the writer was a member of the staff of the University of Michigan Near East Research, these ostraca were given to him by the late Dr. D. L. Askren of Medinet el Fayûm. No information regarding their provenance was given by the natives from whom they were obtained.

² For a discussion of the land survey see Wilcken, *Papyruskunde* 1 (*Grundzüge*) 176–9, 205–8; also *PTeb.* vol. 1, Appendix i. For examples of survey lists see *PTeb.* 84–7.

³ *POsl.* 111.169, 172, 215.

⁴ For a full discussion of the word see H. C. Youtie, "A 'Lost' Parallel for *εχονομα*," *CPh* 32 (1937) 155–8; also Stylianos G. Kapsomenakis, "Voruntersuchungen zu einer Grammatik der nachchristl. Zeit," (*Münchener Beiträge zur Papyrusforschung* 28 [1938]) 43.

5. ἐχόνο(μα) τοῦ αὐτοῦ κλήρου Θω λεγο(μένη)
(ἄρουρα) α καὶ (πρότερον) Ἀλεξάντρου Σερή-
νου ἀπὸ βορρᾶ τοῦ αὐτοῦ κλήρου
(ἀρούρας) (ἡμισυ).

Second hand Πλουτίων Λατουειῶς

1. *θ*: since there is no sign designating ἔτους this number must indicate that of a series of ostraca the present one is the nineteenth, or, that the land described made up a tract numbered 19. Similar numbers found in receipts for work on the embankments are interpreted by Youtie ("Notes on *O. Mich.* 1," *TAPhA* 71 [1940] 630) as designating various cleruchies.

2. *πάτελλα λεγο(μένη)*: an interesting parallel to such a designation of a piece of land is to be found in *PRyl.* 137.18–20, *πρὸς τῷ ἐποικίῳ Ληνοῦ λεγομένῳ*, "near the farmstead called that of the Winepress," and *ibid.* 139.16–7, *ὑπὸ τῶν καταγινομένων ἐν τῇ Ληνῷ λεγομένη*, "by the inhabitants of the so-called Winepress."

Πρωτα(): the ostrakon has *Πρωτᾶ*. This might be resolved *Πρωτα*-(γόρου), *Πρωτα*-(ρχίωσος), *Πρωτά*-(ρχου) or *Πρωτᾶ*-(τος). See Preisigke, *Namenbuch*.

Ἀβοίκεως: Preisigke, *Namenbuch* lists *Ἀβύκισ* of which *Ἀβοίκισ* would be a variant.

3. (*ἄρουρα*): roughness of the surface deflected the pen of the scribe and the symbol for *ἄρουρα* here differs somewhat from those in lines 6 and 8.

4. *Πακναμαῦ*: this name is not found in Preisigke, *Namenbuch*. (*ἄρουρα*): an original *β* was changed to the symbol for *ἄρουρα*.

5. *ἐχόνο(μα)*: the ostrakon has *ἐχονῶ*.

Θω: the scribe is consistent in denoting abbreviations elsewhere, and since there is no such indication here *Θω* must be considered a complete word. I can find no meaning for it except as a feminine possessive prefix in Coptic (Bohairic dialect). As such it would regularly have a personal ending, e.g., *θωκ*, "yours." *θο* in the same dialect means "earth" or "world."

6. *Ἀλεξάντρου Σερήνου*: see introductory paragraph.

9. The signature is presumably that of an official verifying the list, perhaps the *komogrammateus*. Cf., e.g., *PTeb.* 826.3.

Λατουειῶς: this name is not listed in Preisigke, *Namenbuch*.

TRANSLATION

19

The so-called Dish formerly belonging to *Prota()*, son of *Aboikis*, one *aroura*; and one *aroura* formerly called that of *Polion*, son of *Kames*, also known as *Pakyamau*; north, adjoining the same allotment, the so-called *Tho*, one *aroura*; and on the north of the same allotment, one half *aroura*, formerly belonging to *Alexander Serenus*.

Ploution, son of *Latou(e)ieus*

No. 2

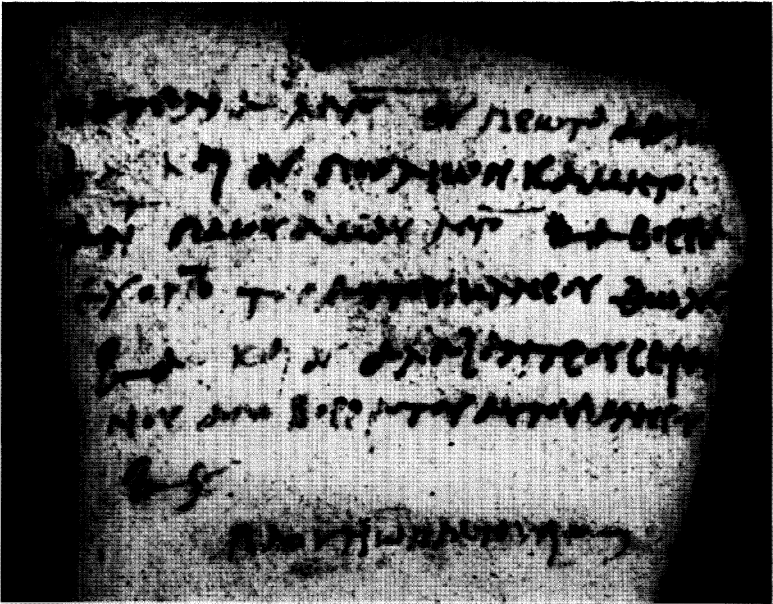
This ostrakon, measuring 5.5×4.3 cm., is of light red color and of rather porous texture. It is a receipt for the payment of the individual beer-tax ⁵ in the village of Tebtunis. On the basis of the writing its date cannot be placed earlier than the second half of the second century A.D., nor later than the first half of the third. This fact, together with the mention of a nineteenth year in line 1, limits the possibilities to A.D. 179 or 211. The hand is more consistent with the later date.

ιβ (ἔτους) ἀριθ(μήσεως) Φαῶφι
 διέγρ(αψε) Ἀπολλῶς
 ὑπ(έρ) ζυτ(ηρᾶς) κατ' ἄνδ(ρα)
 κώ(μης) Τεπτύνεως
 ἄλλας (δραχμάς) δ

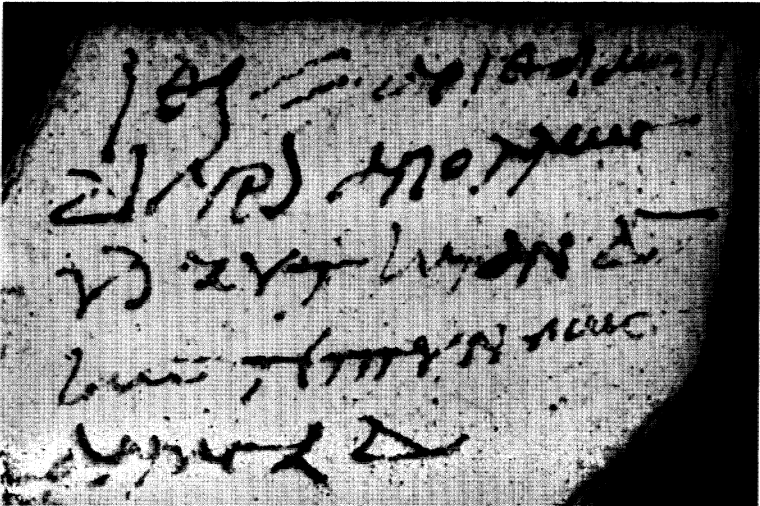
TRANSLATION

The nineteenth year, account (of the month) Phaophi. Apollos has paid on the individual beer-tax of the village of Tebtunis four additional drachmas.

⁵ For a discussion of this tax see A. C. Johnson, *An Economic Survey of Ancient Rome 2 (Roman Egypt)* 563-4.



No. 1.



No. 2 (Enlarged).