

## CORRECTION (?) TO P MICH. INV. 3163

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Dr. Elinor M. Husselman presented in *TAPA* 92 (1961) 251–66 under the title “Pawnbrokers’ Account” two hitherto unpublished papyri of the University of Michigan whose content, particularly the second (P Mich. Inv. 3163), consists of objects placed in pawn. The chief interest of these papyri, as Dr. Husselman rightly suggests, lies in their presentation of rare vocabulary forms and Latin loanwords.

In P Mich. Inv. 3163, lines 20–21, we read πορφύρα Ἀλεξανδρῖνα ἐξί|τρα τέσσαρες. The word ἐξί|τρα is noteworthy. Although Dr. Husselman’s observation (p. 260) that “it is tempting to interpret ἐξί|τρα as ἐξίτηλα” (“faded out”) may have some merit, it seems to me at least equally possible to interpret ἐξί|τρα as the numeral “sixty,” i.e., ἐξή|τρα for ἐξήντα (= ἐξήκοντα). The loss of nu before tau is frequently observed both in inscriptions and papyri; the insertion of rho in this numeral may be due either to analogy with many words that exhibit a rho after tau or to the replacement of the lost nu with a liquid (rho) in the following syllable so as to facilitate pronunciation. The termination -άντα and -ήντα replaces, in the colloquial language, certainly of the Byzantine period, if not earlier, the Attic or literary form -κοντα; the Modern Greek forms τριάντα,<sup>1</sup> σαράντα, πενήντα,<sup>2</sup> ἐξήντα, ἑβδομήντα, ὀγδοήντα,<sup>3</sup> and ἑνενηντα undoubtedly were inherited from the late Roman and Byzantine periods.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Cf. τριάντα (IG 4.649; 12(7), 295) and τριανταήμερος, ἡ (*Aesopica*, ed. B. E. Perry, University of Illinois Press, 1952, 120).

<sup>2</sup> Cf. πεντήντα (J.-B. Frey, *Corpus inscriptionum Iudaicarum*, 1 (Rome 1936) 596 = *CIL* 9.6232).

<sup>3</sup> Frey, *op. cit.*, 595.

<sup>4</sup> Cf. K. Dieterich, *Untersuchungen zur Geschichte der griechischen Sprache von der hellenistischen Zeit bis zum 10. Jahrhundert n. Chr.* (Leipzig 1898) 186.