De novis libris iudicia, Mnemosyne, ser.4:45:2 (1992) p.241


With *Les Papyrus de Genève (P Gen II)*) Claude Wehrli, professor of papyrology at the University of Genève, published the second volume of papyrus editions from the Geneva collection. The book appeared eighty years after the completion of the first volume, *P Gen I*), of which it continues the numbering of the texts. Many of the texts of *P Gen II* had been studied by Wehrli together with his predecessor and teacher Victor Martin, whose photograph forms the frontispiece of the book.

*P Gen II* contains 36 texts of which 17 had been published before in journals by J. Nicole (1894), V. Martin (1932, 1950), N. Lewis (1963) and Cl. Wehrli (1970 and later). The formerly published texts have now been made handy accessible and the commentary has been made up-to-date. The texts are given with a translation (where possible) and a brief commentary and all are represented in a set of loose plates (some of which, regrettably but understandably, had to be reduced to sometimes half of the original size of the papyrus).

Nos. 82-85 are literary texts, which have all been published earlier. 82 contains a faulty copy of vv 146(?)-165 of Homer, *Odyssey* 21 from the 2nd cent. BC. Seven verses are completely incompatible with the standard text; one of these is recognized as belonging to the *Iliad* 83 preserves the 3rd and 4th column of a papyrus roll of only half height (20 cm) with Homer, *Iliad* 7, 63-124 [2nd cent. BC]. If the roll once contained the whole of book 7, it must have measured c. 2,90 m in width. 84 contains Homer, *Iliad* 15, 318-327, on the verso of the remains of a document (not a *scholion*, cf. Harrauer, see note 2). The text is dated to the 6th-7th cent. AD by the editor, but an earlier date (4th cent.? ) as suggested by Harrauer is to be preferred. 85 is a small fragment of the Ninus romance, belonging to the same papyrus as P. Berol. 6926, which is one of the two papyri on which this romance is preserved [1st cent. AD].

Nos 86-117 are documentary texts from the 2nd cent. BC to about AD 250, arranged in chronological order. Most of them deal with various aspects of taxation in Graeco-Roman Egypt, of special interest are 86, containing (part of) three receipts for a tax in kind.

from the second century BC. The second receipt is in Demotic, and seems to be the subscription to the first. The third receipt is the only one mentioning the tax the hitherto unknown ἐκόνων ἐσαρφόρα, probably originally meant as a contribution for the statues offered to the king on special occasions, which had, like the comparable στέφανος-tax, soon become an annual grain levy. The reversed order of the year numeral (θ instead of ϊ for 19) is ascribed to the influence of Demotic which is written from right to left, 88, a quittance, in the form of a letter, for payment of the harvest of lands entrusted to the ἱδως λόγος, being, in 124/3 BC, the king’s private account; 94, a copy of a declaration on oath by a father, of the ἀναχώρησις (flight for the taxes) of his son [Oxyrhynchus, AD 63/4]

The other texts include 87, beginning of a document (not. modèle d’intitulé, cf Balconi, see note 2) with the dating formula of Cleopatra II and Ptolemy VIII [145/4 BC], 89, receipt for advance payment on delivery of wheat, afterwards cancelled by crossing through, the text belongs to the archive of Harthotes [5 BC], 91, list of three ex-praktors of the laographia who were not registered as exempt from liturgies, μὴ ὤν ἐν λευκώματι [AD 50/1]; 99, incomplete report to the strategos of the Hermopolite nome, in a case of violated boundaries [AD 122], 100-102, three texts dealing with the administration of the property of a certain Harpagathes, στολόγος of Socnopaiou Nesos but living in Apias, a village in another district; the commentary is elicited by a convenient chronological table of the events mentioned in the texts (p 73) [AD 125-129], 103-104, belonging to a dossier on an interesting case of guardianship. In AD 147 a certain Petronilla petitions the iuridicus to appoint a guardian for her two children, one of whom is yet to be born, since their father, a Roman citizen, had recently died 104, though very defective, shows Petronilla being accused by relatives of having conceived the second child after her husband’s death; 106, contract of loan; in the case of non-payment the creditor will receive 5/6 of an oil press [AD 152/3, not 153/4, cf Balconi, see note 2], 107, petition to the strategos on damage caused to two palmtrees [AD 164], 111, remarkable text, first published in 1932, constituting a report of the questions asked from a candidate for the ἐπεβεβα and the answers to them, e.g. § 4-11: τίς ἡ τέχνη; γράμματα. τίς σου ἡ μήτηρ; Λυκαρίανα Εὐδαίμωνα. τίς σε εἰδιάγει; ἄδελφος Νεμεσιανός. τίνες σε γνωστούσι (1 γνωστ.); ἄδελφος μητρὸς Μητρόδωρος καὶ ἅνεφος μητρὸς Σαραπάμων. ποῦ οἰκίας (1 -ετς), ἐν τῷ Ἐδριανῷ κτλ. [AD 137 or 158], 116, contract of sale and cession of
houses and land between two women, one of whom acting without a guardian in virtue of the us trium liberorum. It is remarkable that the price is stated as 7400 drachmas in the main text, but as 8000 drachmas in the subscription on behalf of the seller. In the commentary, a ground-plan illustrates the situation of the houses [AD 247; 117, letter belonging to the Heroninus archive [mid 3rd cent. AD].—The book ends with the usual indexes.

In general it can be said that with P. Gen. II we have a useful edition or re-edition of Geneva papyri. Some misprints and other inaccuracies (in the dates, for example) are annoying. In the physical description of the texts more details might have been given (like the position of sheet joins, etc.) and what is worse: in the critical apparatus of republished texts not all the differences with former editions are accounted for. Moreover, the brevity in the commentaries to the texts has sometimes been pushed too far. One would, for example, have liked to hear more about the interest of certain texts in the light of the dossier or archive it belongs to. But every time one checks a doubtful reading on the photographs, the admiration for the decipherers of these texts grows, since many of them turn out to be either much damaged or written in a careless and very verschliffen handwriting. The author has done a good task by uniting the widely spread publications of Geneva texts since 1892 in a real and well got-up papyrus edition, as well as by publishing the new documents. It is to be hoped that the third volume of Geneva texts will not have to be waited for another eighty years.

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1) This abbreviation should not be used for J. Nicole, Textes grecs inédits de la Collection papyrologique de Genève, nos 1 à VI (Genève 1909) which is usually cited as ‘P. Gen. inéd.’


4) Nine of which were in the meantime republished in the Sammelbuch griechischer Urkunden aus Ägypten. The Sammelbuch number of two of them is not mentioned in P. Gen. II, viz. SB XIV 11475 = P. Gen. II 87 and SB XVI 12715 = P. Gen. II 104 (and P. Gen. II 97 is the re-edition of SB V 7620, not 7260!)


In orbe Romano qui sunt ex constitutione imperatoris Antonini cives Romani effecti sunt. Thus Ulpian (D. I 5, 17) summarizes in his typical manner what seems to us the most important constitution ever issued by a Roman emperor. As an ancient historian Buraselis (= B.)—who is already known from Das hellenistische Makedonien und die Ägäis (München 1982)—is interested in the political background and the social impact of the constitution by which Caracalla granted Roman citizenship to every inhabitant of the empire, most likely in A.D. 212. Unfortunately most ancient sources are in this respect even less eloquent than Ulpian—with the possible exception of Cassius Dio, who claims that Caracalla wanted to increase the income from the inheritance tax (LXXVII [LXXVIII], 9, 5), a suggestion rightly rejected by B. in his introduction (p. 11-24). This leaves us with the fragmentary text of the constitution itself, preserved on a papyrus first published in 1910 as P. Giss. 40 I and assiduously studied ever since. B. contributes little to the text—he does not even refer to J.M.-Modrzejewski’s edition in Les Lois des Romains (Camerino 1977), 478-490; see now also J.H. Oliver, Greek Constitutions of Early Roman Emperors from Inscriptions and Papyri (Philadelphia 1989), 496-505. But B. furthers our understanding of the text by stressing first and foremost its theological character and making this the focus of his subsequent discussion on the background of the constitution. In short, Caracalla presents his

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