Flavius Strategius

Some Notes

In a recent volume of this journal a re-edition of SB I 4858 was published by R.S. Bagnall and me. In a note to line 5 we pointed to P. Lond. I 113 5 (c) + BL I 237 for our restoration of the name of the papyrus' addressee as Flavius Strategius. At the time of writing the article the Prosopographia Arsinoitica had not yet been published. Its publication enables me now to make some further progress with papyri in which the name Strategius occurs.

1. Pros. Ars. I 5122 lists a name Στρ( ); in n. 593 it is proposed to resolve this as a patronymic Στρατεύματος following the name of a certain Paul in SB I 4719.6. Likewise, Pros. Ars. I 5128 lists Στρατεύματος as a patronymic belonging to a certain Phoibammon in SPP XX 221.6. Though one may well resolve the abbreviations this way correctly, I would prefer to take στρ( )/στρα( ) as abbreviations of στρατοπέδος rather than as abbreviated patronymics. For a similar correction involving an abbreviation of στραταυτής see J. Gascou in BIFAO 75 (1975) 203-206; cf. I. Fayum II 131.5 Anm.

2. Pros. Ars. I 5123, 5127 and 5129 list 3 persons who are acting in a subscription of the well-known ΩΛΟΥΣ ΤΟΥ ΩΝΟΥ type. It is natural to wonder whether these 3 entries do not refer, in fact, to only 1 person. This hypothesis would seem the more attractive since the subscriptions in SB I 4671 (Pros. Ars. I 5123) and SPP XXX 220 (Pros. Ars. I 5129) are written both in Latin and Greek. Upon my request to Dr. J. M. Diethart and Dr. H. Harrauer to check whether these subscriptions were written by 1 person, Harrauer reports (per litt., d.d. 30. ix. 1983) that this is correct without doubt.

3. A check of the entries for Fl. Strategius in Pros. Ars. I 5472-73 revealed that Pros. Ars. I 5472 = SB I 4718.1 was, in fact, part of SB I 4858 (for the re-edition cf. supra). Once again it is demonstrated that Wessely published too optimistically. The remark in the note to lines 2-4, "The exact date of the contract is now certain" is somewhat too optimistically phrased. Payni 8 = 2 vi. ind. 3 in the Arsinoite nome = 1 vili. 599 / 30 vi. 600, Regnal Mauricius 19 = 13 viii. 600 / 12 viii. 601. The indictional date, therefore, is 2 vi. 600, the regnal year date = 2 vi. 601. The indictional date may be more likely to be correct (cf. BASP 17 [1980] 19-25), but it should be noted that the numeral of the indiction in line 4 is largely restored. A restoration of τέλει [τεράδιτον] rather than τέλει [τῆς τιράδιασ] would solve the conflict between the various dating elements and the date would definitely be 2 vi. 601.

2) Cf. BiOr 39 (1982) 106 where J. Gascou proposes to identify a person mentioned in Pros. Ars. 5130 (cf. infra n. 3) with the addressee of P. Lond. I 113 5 (c) + BL I 237.

fragments separately which can be combined into more informative combinations (cf. ZPE 31 [1978] 127ff., text 1 = SB XIV 12194).

In order to facilitate a comparison of the relevant lines I print Wessely's text of SB I 4718 and the restored portion of SB I 4858.5-11 next to each other.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SB I 4718</th>
<th>SB I 4858</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 φλ(αου(ψ) Στρ(ατηγьψ)</td>
<td>5 [φλ(αου(ψ) Στρατηγьψ] etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 ‘Αρσινοιτών</td>
<td>6 ['Αρσινοιτών] etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Φοιβδύμων</td>
<td>7 [Φοιβδύμων] etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 δι καὶ Πεκ[υσ]</td>
<td>8 [δι καὶ Πεκ[υσ] etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 ἀπὸ ἁμώρ[όδου]</td>
<td>9 [ἀπὸ ἁμώρ]όδου etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Περσέ[ας]</td>
<td>10 [.......]ς etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Ὄμολο[γό]</td>
<td>11 ['Ὅμολο]γόμεν etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There is no problem in the seemingly incompatible readings of SB I 4718.4 / 4858.8 In SB I 4858 the name is securely restored on the basis of the text on the verso; apparently Wessely committed an - easily understandable - confusion of beta and kappa. The new combination allows us to restore in SB I 4858.10 the name of the amphodon as Περσέ[ας].

4. The recently published P.Rainer Cent.125 contains a highly interesting report on the rise of the Nile addressed to a certain Fl.Strategius δ ἐνδοξότατος. Unfortunately it is not stated in the papyrus in what capacity this Strategius received the report, but it is evident that he must have been a high-ranking official. The papyrus is dated by the editor to the VIth century A.D. and in his note to line 1 he remarks that "bei diesem Namen [Strategius] denkt man sofort an ein Mitglied der bekannten Apionen-Familie (vgl. Hardy, The Large Estates, Chapter II). In der Wiener Papyrussammlung gibt es nur wenige Papyri, die aus dem Oxyrhynchos stammen (vgl. CPR V 1, Einleitung. Seither sind noch einige Texte in Wien diesem Gau zugewiesen worden); es ist aber auffallend, daß Strategios ohne seine üblichen Titel angeschrieben wird. ἐνδοξότατος (auch Z.19, 20 und 29. Vgl. Hornickel, Ehren- und Rangprädikate, 8ff.) und ἐνδοξό(τα)της [the { ] are mine, KAW] (Z.4 und 18. Vgl. Zilliacus, Anredeformen) helfen bei der Identifizierung nicht weiter."

Unfortunately, the editor overlooked one element which seems helpful for trying to date the text more precisely. In line 21 one finds:

'Ἡ αὐτῆ ὑπατία Μεσορῆ κς Ἕπιδ(ίκτιονος) Θ/'.

At first sight this does not look too informative, as in the preceding lines no mention whatsoever has been made of any consulate to which line 21 can refer. One is reminded, however, of the curious class of - mostly Oxy-

4) Festschrift zum 100-jährigen Bestehen der Papyrussammlung der Österreichischen Nationalbibliothek (P.Rainer Cent.), Wien 1983.
rhynchite - documents which date from the very end of the sixth / start of the seventh century and which also contain an antecedentless reference to a consulate of the most pious ruler, i.e.

'Υπατείος τοῦ αὐτοῦ εὐσεβεστάτου ἡμῶν δεσπότατος ἐτούς ..

followed by an "iteration" numeral and a mention of month, day and indiction.

This group of documents has first been discussed by Z.Borkowski in 'Alexandrie II: Inscriptions des Factions à Alexandrie', Warsaw 1981, 127ff. (cf. the review by R.S.Bagnall and A.D.E.Cameron to appear in BASP). The pertinent documents are listed in CdE 56 (1981) 129; add now P.Laur.IV 170. The years assigned to the exactly datable texts are A.D.589, 601, 602, 606 and 609. A date in Memphis to Mesore 26, ind.9 could be 19.viii.605 (cf. for the start of the indication in the Memphis Nome on Pachon 1 BASP 16 [1979] 243-244), if one accepts the hypothesis that P.Rainer Cent.125 can be related to the same class of antecedentless consular dates as the other group of texts. In this respect it does not seem an obstacle that P.Rainer Cent.125 does not start with an invocation formula, as might be expected in papyrus texts written after A.D.591. Given the unique nature of the document it is doubtful whether one should have started such a text with the penning down of an invocation as was normal above notarial contracts. Furthermore, the lack of ἐτούς + numeral may be due to some scribal idiosyncracy or error; maybe he thought that the reference to the "same consulate" in combination with a 9th indiction would be sufficiently informative (One wonders then, however, why this numeral was regularly added in the other documents of the same class of antecedentless consular dating formulas.).

Can we then on the basis of a hypothetical dating of the papyrus to A.D.605 identify our Fl.Strategius further? There are a few candidates:

(a) Fl.Strategius III, the son of Fl.Apion III. He is the last known member of the well-known family, but due to scanty information we do not know much about this person. See P.Oxy.XVI, p.29; CdE 41 (1966) 177; ZPE 46 (1982) 245. Given the fact that he was in A.D.600 ca.6 years old (cf. infra), it would seem a bit hard to accept that five years later he, 11 years old, would have been the addressee of P.Rainer Cent.125.

(b) Fl.Strategius, a landholder in the Arsinoite, Oxyrhynchite and Herakleopolite nomes ca. A.D.600-615. His documentation, as far as known to me now, consists of the following texts: ZPE 46 (1982) 244f. (= SB I 4858) + SB I 4718 (Pros.Ars.5472), a.600/601; P.Lond.I 113 5 (c) + BL I 237, a.600; P.Oxy. XVI 1991, a.601 (cf. Z.Borkowski, op.cit., 135 n.31); P.Erl.73, a.604; SB I 5266, a.608; SPP XX 209, a.610 (cf. Z.Borkowski, op.cit. 134 n.26); BGU II 368, a.615; SB I 5271, a.615; SPP VIII 1158 (6th ind. = 602/3 or 617/8 ?); cf. also SPP X 1; VII 1072 and 1228 (ind.11 = 622/23, ind.12 = 623/24 ?) and Pros.Ars.I 5130, Ετρατῆγιος, and 3161, Κυρίλλαος (the latter was a stratilates in Arsinoe between A.D.608-618; in SPP VIII 1228 his heirs are mentioned,
apparently). Lastly I should mention P.Rainer Cent.119.5 where one may restore [φλαου(ψ)]τοκήγαγυς τὸ ὑπερφυεστάτος (for the epithet ὑπερφυεστάτος cf. below; I owe this suggestion of Dr.J.Gascou, Paris).

The latter Strategius has been distinguished from his namesake Strategius III by R.Rêmondon, CdE 41 (1966) 177; this distinction was corroborated by J.Gascou who pointed out to me that Fl.Strategius III, son of Apion III, occurs in a few letters of Pope Gregory the Great as a very young boy between A.D.598 (Reg.ep.VIII 22) and A.D.603 (Reg.ep.XIII 35). According to the texts listed above Strategius held the offices/titles of ὑπάτους, ἡγαράχης, πατρίκιος; one frequently finds the epithets πανεύθυμος and/or ὑπερφυεστάτος used with his name. A date of P.Rainer Cent.125 to A.D.605 would fit nicely into the range of years for which this Strategius is attested (A.D.600, 601, 604, 608, 610, 615 are fixed dates). Moreover, Hornnickel states that the epithet πανεύθυμος is equivalent to ἐνδοξοντάς and can be used without further discrimination while denoting the same person. The use, therefore, of the epithet ἐνδοξοντάς in P.Rainer Cent.125 rather than ὑπερφυεστάτος does not constitute a valid argument against an attempt to identify the Strategius of the Rainer text with the other bearer of this name listed supra sub (b).

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7) SPP VIII 1072 mentions the ἐνδοξος ὁμος of this Strategius.

* I should like to thank Prof.R.S.Bagnall (New York) who corrected an earlier version of this article. Furthermore I should like to thank Dr.H. Harrauer and Dr.J.M.Diethart (Vienna) who checked some papyri for me.