

Four Demotic Ostraca from Dime (Soknopaiuo Nesos) In Cairo Egyptian Museum

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المخلص:

تهدف هذه الورقة البحثية لنشر و دراسة أربعة أوستراكا ديموطيقية من المخزن السابع في المتحف المصري بالتحريير تحت رقم 18953 ، تتعلق الأوستراكا ببعض الأسماء الشخصية ووفقا للناحية الخطية و الصيغ المستخدمة فإن هذه النصوص ترجع الى منطقة ديمة السباع (سكنوبايونيسوس) في الفيوم و يعود تاريخها إلى بداية العصر الروماني.

Abstract:

This paper aims to publish and study four Demotic Ostraca from the seventh storeroom in Cairo Egyptian Museum No. 18953. The ostraca deal with some personal names. According to the Palaeographical features and the formulas , the area of Dime Al-Sabaa (Soknopaiou Nesos) in Fayoum suggested to be the provenance of the texts. Furthermore, they may date back to the beginning of the Early Roman Period.

Keywords:

Dime, Personal names, Demotic Ostraca, Phyle list, Early Roman Period.

الكلمات المفتاحية:

ديمة، أوستراكا ديموطيقي، أسماء شخصية، قوائم القبلي، روماني مبكر

Introduction:

A large group of different Ostraca and Papyri that came out from the Dime Al-Sabaa area were found in various excavations that started from 1890 until 2004¹. in the mud brick houses and public buildings besides the religious and administrative texts that came out of a temple dedicated to Sobek and Isis Nepherses². Those documents spread in many collections all over the world, including, the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, which began to exhibit the materials from the University of Michigan, Dime excavation online in late 1996³. besides many Demotic papyri in the National Library of Vienna that have been published by Migahid (Abd-el-Gawad)⁴. In additional to the huge number of documents in Berlin Museum that are published by Lippert (Sandra) and Schentuleit (Maren) which are related to Dime and dated to Early Roman Period⁵

¹Conner, *Temples as economic agents*, 48.

² See: Davoli, *The Temple of Soknopaios and Isis Nepherses at Soknopaiou Nesos*, 60.

³ Davoli, *Archaeological Research in Roman Soknopaiou Nesos*, 54.

⁴ See: Migahid, BIFAO 98, (1999), 291-301; ZÄS 128, (2001), 142-145; ZÄS 129 (2002), 61-74; ZÄS 128/2 (2002), 122-129; BIFAO 102 (2002), 285-295; BIFAO 103 (2003), 327-336; BIFAO 103 (2003), 341-351; ZÄS 130 (2003), 98-109; BIFAO 104 (2004), 477-490; ZÄS 132 (2005), 138-146.

⁵ See: Lippert and Schentuleit, *DDD I*.

Ostraca no.1 SR. 18953 (Plate I)

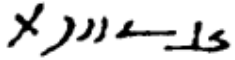
The Ostrakon no. 3 SR. 18953, is 5.5 cm height, 6.5 cm width, Thickness is 0.7cm. According to the script and formula, Dime is suggested for the provenance. The ostrakon is brown potsherd, consists of two lines, and dates back to Early Roman Period. It contains One-Two name of a priest.

Transliteration:1-St_A.t = w t_A. Wty

2-(sA) Sp.2 (sA) Hr - pa - Is.t

Translation:1- st_A. t.= w t_A. wty2- (son of) st_A. t.= w t_A. wty (son of) Hr -pa-Is.t**Comments:**

L.1: St_A.t = w t_A. Wty appears in numbers of Zürich and Berlin ostraca came from Fayoum provenance dated to Early Roman, and published by Sandra Lippert¹. It is a male proper name which means “who (the god) may remove all disaster” as wty.t means distraction¹



, and St_A. means to spin, and can interpreted as who turn away the distraction²


Lüddeckens (Erich) suggested the reading St_A.t.wd_A.t (wty -wd_A.t)³



St_A=w-t_A.wd_A.t⁴

L.2: Sp.2 means (twice or ditto)⁵ it is deliver from the hieroglyphic sign

It used with proper name, to repeat father or grandfather name if it is same.

The name Hr - p_A - Is.t⁶ appears in numbers of Berlin Ostraca from  Dime⁷.

Ostracon no. 2 SR.18953 (Plate II)

The Ostrakon no. 2 SR. 18953, is 4.9 cm height, 6.5 cm width, Thickness is 0.6cm. According to the script and formula, Dime is suggested for the provenance. The ostrakon is brown potsherd, consists of two lines, and dates back to Early Roman Period. It contains One-Two name of a priest.

Transliteration:1- st_A. t.= w t_A. wty

2- (sA) sp (.2) Hr -pa-Is.t.

Translation:1- st_A. t.= w t_A. wty2- (son of) st_A. t.= w t_A.wty (son of) Hr -pa-Is.t**Comment:**

L.1: This is for the same priest of Ostracon no.1, he has many ostraca written with his name in Dime collection.

L.2: In the second line, the scribe erased sp.2 and then wrote it again beside the erased one.

¹ CDD W (August 2009), 197.

² CDD S (November 2013), 496

³ Lüddeckens, DNB 946.

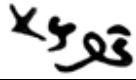
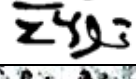

⁴ Ranke II 323, 5

⁵ CDD S (November 2013), 174; EG 425-26.

⁶ Lüddeckens, DNB, 807.

⁷ Lippert and Schentuleit, DDD I, 71-101.

- There is a line above Is.t sign; the writer wrote it by wrong.

Hr - pa - Is.t in Ostraca 1	
Hr - pa - Is.t in Oostraca.2	
Hr - pa - Is.t in O.Zürich 1888 ¹	

Ostracon no. 3 SR. 18953

The Ostracon no. 3 SR. 18953, is 5.8 cm height, 7.8 cm width, Thickness is 0.8cm. According to the script and formula, Dime is suggested for the provenance. The ostracon is brown potsherd, consists of two lines, and dates back to Early Roman Period. It contains One-Two name of a priest.

Transliteration:

- 1- stA. t.= w tA. wty (pA) Hm
- 3- (sA) sp 2 tA. wty (pA) Hm

Translation

- 1- stA. t.= w tA. wty the junior
- 2- (son of) stA. t.= w tA. wty the junior

Comment:

L.1: The name stA. t.= w tA. wty (pA) Hm, occurred in other Dime collection.

stA. t.= w tA. wty (pA) Hm in Ostraca no.3 SR.18953	
stA. t.= w tA. wty (pA) Hm in O.Zürich 1887	

L.2: Sign of sp.2 wrote with different form, as the writer didn't close the round line.

Sp.2

Ostracon no.1 SR.18953



Ostracon no.2 SR.18953



Ostracon no.3 SR.18953



Ostracon No. 4 SR. 18953

¹ Lippert and Schentuleit, DDD I, 72.

The Ostracon no. 4 SR. 18953, is 8.1 cm height, 6.4 cm width, Thickness is 0.9cm. According to the script and formula, Dime is suggested for the provenance. The ostracon is fragment of red-brown potsherd, consist of two columns, col.I consists of 5 lines, Col. II consists of 10 lines , the handwriting is not clear enough and has some overlap signs in the eighth and night lines of the second column, the fragment has broken from all sides.

Col.I

Transliteration:

- 1- ...
- 2- 5
- 3- 38 58
- 4- [sw] 4 rmt.(w) 30
- 5- sw Arky rmt.(w) 51 128

Translation:

- 1- ...
- 2- 5
- 3- 38 58
- 4- [day] 4 people 30
- 5- Day • rky people 51 128

Col. II


Transliteration:

1. ...
2. pa nA-nfr-imy sA
3. pa nA-nfr-imy sA
4. HtbA...
5. Hr-pA-is.t
6. sw 22 r rmt.[w]
7. sw 19 r [rmt.w....]
8. sw 20 [r rmt.w...]
9. sw 21 r rmt 10?..
10. ..

Translation:

- 1- ...
- 2- pa nA-nfr-imy sA
- 3- pa nA-nfr-imy sA
- 4- HtbA
- 5- Hr pA is.t
- 6- day 22 makes people ...
- 7- day 9 makes [people...]
- 8- day 20 [makes people.....]
- 9- day 21 makes people 10?..
- 10- ...

Comment:**Col. I:**

L.2: The only two signs preserved from the line is number 58 .

L.3: number 3 is clear, it probably category of tens and the number of ones is not clear, Then the writer wrote number 58 again.

L.4: the mark after number 53, it might write to indicate the end of the line.

L.5: The scribe wrote no.51 after the people and wrote another number starting with one hundred and twenty-eight.

Col. II

L.2: The personal name pa nA-nfr-imy for a priest name which found in many ostraca of Dime collection published by Sandra.

Pa nA-nfr-imy on some of Dime collection:

Phyle lists



O.Berlin 20091, 6

Personal name list



O.Berlin 20285,Kol 2, 10



O.Berlin 20107,1

Tax receipt

P.Vindob D6823,6¹

O.Berlin 20476,1

-L.2-5: The scribe put marks before the priests' names to recognize it from the rest of lines as a kind of organizing the list. Dime documents known with this feature (marks), scribes used to put some marks like: (X, ● or /). They used these marks to emphasize some points, or before the first line or before personal name or specific goods. In P.Berlin 2345 the scribe used the mark ● before personal names.² In Ostraca O.Berlin 30482³ the scribe used the mark / in most of lines. In O.Berlin 30475⁴ the scribe used the mark X in all the lines.

The checkmarks is not new in demotic lists, it appeared in some hieratic texts with different form as red or black dots, oblique strokes and some individual hieroglyphic signs.⁵

One – Two Name - Ostraca⁶ (Ostraca No. 1 to No.3 SR.18953)

Recording one or two personal names, with filiation. These short texts are written on rather small, roughly sherds (ranging from 3.5 to 8 cm in width, from 3.5 to 9 cm in length, and from 0.6 to 1.6 cm in thickness). This type of ostraca are uncommon in a lot of sites and however the purpose of One – Two -name Ostraca is still not clearly known but there are 90 of them (One- Two name Ostraca) had been found in the Court C of the temple of Soknopaiuo Nesos⁷, which make it probably used for temples purposes and the names are probably for priests.

Lippert (Sandra) thought that it may be used for voting or drawing lots. A lottery is mentioned in the so-called agreements between the temple and priests, Ḥwi kll “to throw the lot”.

Phyle list (Ostraca no.4 SR. 18953)

Phyle were a group of people who worked part-time in temples, labour teams, and the mortuary cults of kings and prominent officials since old kingdom receiving a share of the food and drink offered to the gods in exchange. They were four groups each of whom served for one month before returning to their secular lives until their turn came to serve as a priest again. Many priests only spent three months a year in the temple. In 237 B.C. which Ptolemy III Euergetes announced the addition of a fifth phyle to the system of four phyle.⁸ Temples recorded the list of phyle in more than form, according to what appeared from Dime collection they divided by Sandra as the following:

A) Show personal names without details about the individuals who are recorded.

¹ Migahid: Zwei spätdemotische Zahlungsquittungen aus Soknopaiuo Nesos, 327-339.

² Zauzich: spät-demotische papyrusurkunden, 167.

³ Lippert, and Schentuleit: DDD I, 32.

⁴ Lippert, and Schentuleit: DDD I, 137.

⁵ Nassar: Writing Practices in El-Lahun Papyri, 115- 116.

⁶ Lippert, and Schentuleit, Demotic Ostraca and their use in Egyptian Temple, 184.

⁷ Stadler, Demotica aus Dime, 265-266.

⁸ Roth: *The Egyptian phyles*, 1991, 2.

B) List of names and specification of the phyle.¹

The Phyle list in the paper is following Type B, it is about listing 5 phyle each one followed by the chief of the phyle and provided by the date and the number for each group.

¹ Lippert, and Schentuleit, Demotic Ostraca and their use in Egyptian Temple, 190.

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Plate I

Ostracon no.1 SR. 18953



Plate II

Ostrakon no.2 SR. 18953

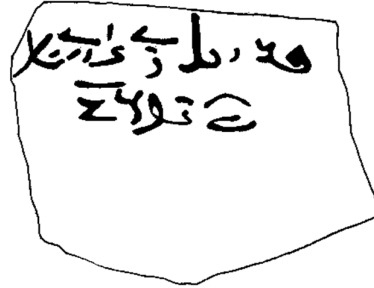


Plate III

Ostracon no.3 SR. 18953

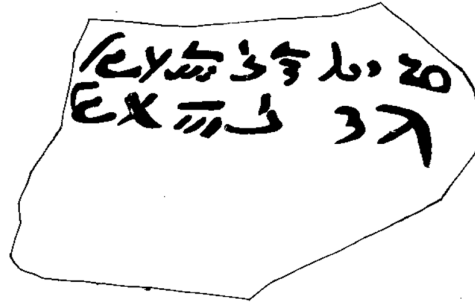


Plate IV

Ostracon no.4 SR. 18953

