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—

UNPUBLISHED DEMOTIC OSTRACA

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Abstract

Six unpublished demotic, deal with accounts and lists of personal names at the Cairo Museum. They are dated to the Ptolemaic Period.

Key words :Elephantine-Thebes- Cairo Museum- Ptolemaic period – Demotic – Ostraca – Accounts- Liquid-Money-Salt- Lists- Personal names.

This article has six unpublished demotic ostraca at the Cairo Museum. They have been chosen among large group of ostraca, which are preserved there. They concern two subjects first of all is the accounts of liquid and money, the second is lists of personal names. They are dated to the Ptolemaic Period, according to the style handwriting and the names of the similar published accounts, lists and receipts from the same period.

1 Cairo Museum : Inv.No. /TR.
18953/25-1-55,4.

Dimension: 15cm. X 8.5cm., thickness 1cm.

Color: Reddish brown.

Date: Ptolemaic period.

Description: The writing is clear. The potsherd is broken at the bottom side.

Transliteration:

1 – *Ns-p3-ntr s3 Hkr irp 3*

2 – *Ns-p3-ntr s3 ddj 1*

3 – *T3 w3h-mw T3-wp.t 1*

4 – *T3-šr.t-sbk t3 rmt.t n Pa -tw-ihj*

5 – *r-dj.t šm=f n wtn 1*

6 – *Hr-igš s3 P3-tj-ħr-nsw-t3.wj ꜥꜥ*

Translation:

1 – Espenoutis son of Ekopis 3 (jars of wine)

2 – Espenoutis son of Djedjy 1 (jar of wine)

3 – The water-pourer Tewepet 1 (jar of wine)

4 – Sensobk the wife of Pateehy

5 – what he has given out the offering 1 (jar of wine)

6 – Harkusis son of Petemestous 1 (jar of wine)

Notes:

L.1- The patronymic Ekopis is attested in Demotisches Namenbuch.¹

L.4-5- Sensobk has given out the offering one jar of wine, the scribe checked the item received by a check mark dot.²

L. 6 - The patronymic Petemestous is partly broken.

- The top of broken number refers to number one.

Commentary

The text is an account of liquid. It contains proper names and quantities of wine. It seems that this account belongs to a temple's account depending on some signs in the text, e.g. water-pourer and offering. The handwriting refers to Ptolemaic period. I cannot identify the provenance although the combination of the proper names with the gods' names led us to Gebelen provenance?, but I am not sure.

2 Cairo Museum: Inv.No. /TR. 18953/25-1-55,4.

Dimension: 12 cm. X 6.5cm., thickness 1cm.

Color: Reddish brown.

Date: Ptolemaic period.

Description: The right and the left sides of the potsherd are broken off. The surface is partly dark at its left side.

Transliteration

1 – *in P3-mr-ih s3 Hr-pa -Is.t*

Col. I

1 – ꜥꜥ 1/3 (n)t3 rmt.t

2 – 1 1/3 1/6 sh

3 – h3.t-sp 4.t ht 1/4 kt 1/2

Col. II

1 – ht 1/3 1/6 n ht hm3

2 – Tj-m-htp s3 ꜥ Ns-p3-mtj ꜥ

3 – sh ꜥ ššsb ꜥ

4 – sh P3-šr-Thwtj

Translation:

L.1- Pelaia son of Harpaesis has given .

Col. I

L-1- ꜥꜥ 1/3 1/6 of the woman.

L.2- 1 1/3 1/6 signed.

L.3- year 4 1/4 silver (piece) 1/2 (kite)

Col. II

L. 1- 1/3 1/6 silver (piece) of the salt

L. 2- Imouthes son of ʀ Espemetis¹

L. 3- signed ʀ Shasbat¹

L. 4- signed Psenthotos.

Note

L.1- I cannot find another similar instance for Pelaia son of Harpaesis. I suggest that he is a tax-collector who makes the payments to the treasury.

Col. I

L. 1-2- I do not know, if the numbers and fractions at the beginning of the line, refer to amounts or quantities.

L. 3- The fourth year belongs to Ptolemy III (244-243BC), according to the known scribes of our text.

- The sign kite is rubbed off.

Col. II

L.1- The payment of the salt tax at the beginning of this line belongs to Inouthes son of Espemetis, in the following line.

L.2- The taxpayer Inouthes son of Espemetis, is known at Elephantine provenance. He recurred twice in two published receipts of compulsory labor tax of the years thirty and thirty one of Ptolemy II Philadelphus.³

- The name of patronymic Espemetis is partly broken.

L.3- The scribe Shasbat is well known, from many published receipts dated to the reign of Ptolemy III Ereuges.⁴

L. 4- The scribe Psenthotos is recurred in three published receipts of income of a server tax dated to the reign of Ptolemy III Ereuges.⁵

Commentary

This text represents an account of salt. Its heading includes the name of the tax-collector who made the payments to the treasury. The first column contains amounts and the date of year. The second column has three proper names are well known at Elephantine provenance, as scribes and taxpayers during the reigns of Ptolemy II

Philadelphus and Ptolemy III Ereuges. The fourth year of our text corresponds to, the fourth year of Ptolemy III (244-243 BC).⁶

3 Cairo Museum : Inv.No. /TR. 18953/25-1-55,4.

Dimension: 16.5 cm. X 10 cm., thickness 1 cm.

Color: Reddish brown.

Date: Ptolemaic period.

Description: The potsherd is broken at the top of the right and the left sides.

Transliteration:

1 – (ht) 6

2 – ... Hnsw s3 Ns-p3j=w-t3.wj (ht) 2 kt [5]

3 – P3-tj-Hr-p3-Rc s3 Thwtj-ms (ht) 1

4 – Wsir-wr s3 Hr-p3-ht (kt) 8 kt 5

5 – Hr-wd3 (ht) 1

6 – P3-tj-Imn-nsw-t3.wj s3 P3-šr-Imn-Rc (ht) 3 kt 5

7 – Nht-Mnt s3 Hr-s3-Is.t kt 5

8 – Hr-s3-Is.t s3 P3-šr-Mn (ht) 1

9 – Wsir-wr s3 P3-tj-Imn-htp (ht) 1 kt 5

10 – Tch-ms s3 P3-šr-Wsir (ht) 2

Translation:

1 – ... 6 (silver pieces)

2 – ... Chonsis son of Spotous 2 (silver pieces) [5] kite

3 – Petearpres son of Thotmosis 1(silver pieces)

4 – Osoroeris son of Harpechrates 8(silver pieces) 5 kite

5 – Haruotes 1 (silver piece)

6 - Petemestous son of Psenamounres 3 (silver pieces) 5 kite

7 – Nechthmonthes son of Harsiesis 5 kite

8 – Harsiesis son of Psenminis 1(silver piece)

9 - Osoroeris son of Peteamenothos 1 (silver piece)

10 – Iahmosis son of Psenosiris 2 (siver pieces)

Notes:

L. 1- The proper name is broken except its god determinative.

L .2 – I think the broken part of the first proper name could be (P3-šr-Hnsw, P3-tj-Hnsw).⁷

– The number five is expected after the sign kite.

L . 6 – The number three is very thick and the reading is certain.

L.9- The number five overlaps the determinative of the patronymic.

Commentary

The text deals with accounts of money, each proper name has one silver piece does not have the amount five kite. The surface of potsherd has an innate line from the top to the bottom separated between the signs of the same word, because the scribe does not want to write on it (lines 6-10). According to the writing, the combination of the proper names and the known Theban scribes occurred in lines five⁸ and seven⁹, the text is Ptolemaic in date and its provenance is Thebes. But I do not know, if the rest proper names are scribes or not.

4 Cairo Museum: Inv.No. /TR. 18953/25-1-55,4.

Dimension: 12 cm. X 10 cm., thickness 1cm.

Color: Reddish brown.

Date: Ptolemaic period.

Description: The potsherd is broken at the top and the bottom sides. Some signs are shown by the edge of the left side.

Transliteration:

1 – (mark) *Hrm3n*

2 – *Shp3 ht 5*

3 – *P3-šr-p3-mr-iḥ (ḥt) 8 kt 5*

4 – *Pa -Hnm-iw*

5 – *Pa -Hnm s3 P3-šr-Imn*

6 – *Pa -B3st.t*

7 – *Pa -šr-p3-Mwt*

8 – *Ns-p3-mtj ...*

Translation:

1 – (check mark) Her[man]

2 – Sehpa 5 silver pieces

3- Psenpalaiia 8 (silver pieces), 5 kite

4 - Pachnoumeu

5 - Pachnoumis son of Psenamounis

6 - Pabastis

7 - Psenpmou

8 - 'Espemetis' ...

Notes

L. 1- The broken name could be also read as (*Hrmn*).¹⁰

L.2- The reading of the proper name could be also (*Shk3*).¹¹

L. 8- The proper name Espemetis is partly broken.

Commentary

The text contains an account of money. The check mark was used to distinguish the first proper name.¹² The second and the third proper names have amounts of money and they did not check. It seems that the text is dated to Ptolemaic period depending on the writing style and proper names. Its provenance could be Elephantine? But it is not sure.

5 Cairo Museum: Inv.No. /TR. 18953/25-1-55,4.

Dimension: 11.5cm. X 11 cm., thickness 1cm.

Color: Reddish brown.

Date: Ptolemaic period.

Description: The potsherd is broken at the top side.

Transliteration:

1 – *Hr-s3-Is.t s3 Ns- Mn*

2 – *Pa -Thwtj s3 Ij-m-ḥtp*

3 – *P3-šr-Imn s3 Ns-Mn*

4 – *Ḳlwd s3 P3-hb*

5 – *P3-šr-Thwtj s3 Ḳlwt*

6 – *P3-ḥtr s3 Thwtj-i.ir-tj=s*

7 – *P3-šr-Thwtj s3 P3 šr- Inp*

8 – ... *s3 Pa -Mn*

Translation:

1 – Harsiesis son of Esminis

2 – Pathotes son of Imouthes

3 – Psenamounis son of Esminis

4 – Kolluthis son of Phibis

5 – Psenhotes son of koleto?

6 – Phatres son of Thotortaio

7 – Psenhotes son of Psenenufi

8 - ... son of Paminis

Notes

L.1- The reading Esminis for the patronymic is certain. Its parallel name is found in line three to confirm it.¹³

- L.5- The reading (*Kwlth*) is also possible.
The name is not found in *Demotisches Namenbuch*.
- L. 8- The proper name is rubbed off. Some traces could be shown and read.

Commentary

The text deals with a list of personal names. It is difficult to define the relationship between the persons mentioned in our text, they could be workers, priests, officials or scribes. The style of writing indicates the Ptolemaic period, the combination of the proper names and the names of the gods mentioned with them suggested probably Theban provenance, but I am not sure.

6 Cairo Museum: Inv.No. /TR. 18953/25-1-55,4.

Dimension: 11.5cm. X 13 cm., thickness 1cm.

Color: Reddish yellow.

Date: Ptolemaic period

Description: The potsherd is broken at all sides except the top side.

Transliteration:**Col.I**

1 – Pa -*Hnm*

2 – ...

3 – ...

4 – Pa -*Hnm*

5 – ...

6 - ... *Hr-p3-hrt*

Col. II

1 – *P3-tj-Sbk s3 Pa -Hnm*

2 – *P3-tj-B3st.t s3 Pa -Hnm*

3 – *Hr-p3-bk s3 Hr-Pa -r Is.t* ⤴

4 - *Hr-pa -Is.t* ...

Translation:

Col. I

1 - Pachnoumis

2 –

3 –

4 - ... Pachnoumis

5 -

6 - ... Harpocrates

Col. II

1- Petesobekis son of Pachnoumis

2 – Petebastis son of Pachnoumis

3 – Harpebekis son of Harpa[esis]

4 – Harpaesis [son of ...]

Notes**Col. I**

It seems that the proper names of this column belong to a previous text and the main text is the second column.

Col. II

L.1- The first element (*pa*) of the patronymic overlaps the determinative of the first name.¹⁴

L. 3 – The patronymic is partly broken.

Commentary

It seems that the Ptolemaic period is the date of our list according to the handwriting .I cannot identify its provenance.

Endnotes:

1- E. Lüddeckens, *Demotisches Namenbuch*. Band 1/10 (Wiesbaden, 1991), 766.

2- M. A. Nur-El-Din, 'Checking, Terminal, Stress marks, Partition indications and Margin Lines in Demotic Documents.' *Enchoria* 9 (1979), 54.

3 - S. Wahid El-Din, 'Demotic Receipts of Compulsory Labor Tax', *ASAE* 90 (2017), (nos.4,8).

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7- Lüddeckens, *Demotisches Namenbuch*, Band 1/4 (1984), 256, Band 1/5(1985), 336.

8 – M. Lichtheim, *Demotic Ostraca From Medinet Habu,OIP* 37(Chicago 1957),

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- 54(no.124); M. A. Nur El-Din, *The Demotic Ostraca In The National Museum of Antiquities At Leiden*.(Leiden 1974), 316 (no.412); Vleeming, *Ostraka Varia*, 90-91(no.40).
- 9 - Nur El-Din, *Ostraca Leiden*,60-61(no. 72); Mattha, *Demotic Ostraca*,176 (no. 237).
- 10- Lüddeckens, *Demotisches Namenbuch*, Band 1/10 (1991), 755.
- 11- Lüddeckens, *Demotisches Namenbuch*, Band 1/13 (1995), 937.
- 12 - Nur-El-Din, *Enchoria* 9 (1979), 52.
- 13- Lüddeckens, *Demotisches Namenbuch*, Band 1/9 (1989), 674-77.
- 14 -Lüddeckens, *Demotisches Namenbuch*, Band 1/5 (1985), 340.