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Fragment of Petition

P. C.G, 10481SR. 270 12 X 12.8 cm. 3rd or 4th cent. A.D. Lycopolis?

This papyrus is deposited in the Cairo Museum under S /R 270. It is mounted in glass. This papyrus consists of 7 lines. The lower-hand margin is 7.8 cm, some letters at the left hand margin reach to the extreme edge of this side. Both right and upper margins are lost.

The writing is careful and legible on the verso in a medium-sized cursive. The manuscript has parallels from the 3rd or 4th centuries A.D. see e.g. P. Cairo Mus,10591 (296 A-D); P. Oxy. 2578 (298 A-D); P. Harr. II, 213 (323 A.D.); Harr. II, 216 (346 A.D.).

It is notable to mention that this papyrus is found by the Egyptian Exploration fund in 1886 by Hunt & Grenfell in Ashmunen (Lycopolis).

The document deals with petition. The petitioner complains of harsh doings (εἰη χέρσος ἐμοὶ of line 5) that may have been taken place against him, perhaps by putting his name by error in tax-lists (cf. απογαρφαί of line 1 and απογραφών of line 4). Or he might have already previously paid the concerned tax or he might be one of the exempted citizens. He certifies about that (cf. μαρτύρομαι which occurs in line 4). He confirms his testimony by the presence of the public (δημοσι[α of line 4).

For parallels see, P. Mert. III, 104 (1st cent. A.D.); P. P. Oxy XII, 1472 (136 A-D), P. Ryl, I, 76 (201 A-D). Lond. vol VI, 1914 r, 21 (335 A-D); Segré. A, Note sul documento esecutive Greco-Egizio, (Aeg. VIII) 1927, 289 ff.; Boak, Arther, E. R. "A fourth century petition for relief from extortion" 1 (1946), 7-12; Thomas, J. D.,"A petition to the prefect of Egypt and Related Imperial Editcts", Journal of Egyptian Archaeology 61 (1975) 201-221.

Text:

[δ] ε εχετω[+11 γε]νωνται αι απογ[ραφαί ετέρω μέρει κατά ηοίν αιτει άναγνο[ύς γινέσθαι εἡι τὸ αὐτο τῶν ἀπογραφῶν[κα]ι [.... έταξεν αὐτά ταῦτα μαρτύρουαι και δημοσί[α

5 καὶ[[χι]]πάρεοτιν ὅτι ἐιη χέρσος ἐμοὶ ἑη[...... [[προς ταυτα]] τ<α> αὐτα ταῦτα γνωσθῆναι [..... ινα μὴ δη ἐμοι προ[κε]ιμενα ἐνέγκη, ἡτουν

Translation:

but let him have....., the declarations become.... to each division in accordance with the demander, the reading.... to get better of the declarations. I testify that he writes down the same (names) and in the presence of the public which was not easy to me. These same (names) should be recognized, in order not to be carried to me as afore-mentioned. That was the matter.

- 1. [δ]ὲ ἐχετω there are traces of two letters at the beginning of line 1 could be read as -[δ]ε The formula of -[δ]ε ἐχετω is found elsewhere in papyri cf. P. Flor., vol.2,173, 8 (256 A-D).
- 1-2 |ετέρω| μέρει since the initial letter at line 2 could be read as θ, it would be plausible to be restored as μηθετέρω μέρει cf P.Cair, Mas. III, 67299, 42 (VI cent A. D). Noting that in some resources μηθετέρος is also written as μηδετέρος see e.g. SB IV, 7404, 2, 52 (117-138 A-D): ἀπὸ το [ῦ ν [ῦ]ν μηδεμία π [ρ] όφασι[ς] μ[ηδετέρω μέ]ρει. κατὰ ποίαν αἰτεῖ ἀναγνο[μς cf, P. Lond. VI 1914 r 4 L21 (335 A-D).
- αὐτὰ ταῦτα one may suppose that this demonstrative may refer to the names τά ταὺτα ονομάτα?
 αὐτὰ ταῦτα μαρτύρομαι και cf., P. Hal I, r. 2, 28, (III cent B.C.)
- 6. τ<α> αὐτα, the reading of this line was perplexing, at the first sight one may assume that the scribe reduplicated mistakenly the pronoun ταύτα ταύτα, especially that he wrote actually by mistake and then corrected by erasing [[προς ταύτα]]; but after referring to the parallel, it is found that the construction occurs elsewhere but this time the scribe forgot to write down the α of τὰ cf. BGU I, 38, 22.

