

Sara Nabil Hafiz

Four Demotic Ostraca from the Cairo Museum Dealing with Dowry Lists

The group of the published texts in this study is a part of a collection of demotic ostraca from the Cairo-Museum, kept on the third floor 23 East. It bears the Special Register number 18953. Nothing is known about the origin and the date except Ost. Nr. 300 (R&V). It is from Gebelen as stated on the shred.

Depending on what stated on Ost. Nr. 300 (R & V.) and comparing the palaeographical point of view and the characteristics of the handwriting, it seems that all the present texts here are from Gebelen and they were Ptolemaic in date.

Ost. Nr. 1 Plate I

*DO Cairo 300 R & V.
7.5 X 9cm., thick. 0.8-1 cm.
Date: Late Ptolemaic*

*Potsherd, brown
Provenance: Gebelen*

Description: The text is incomplete as the ostracon is broken at the right side and at the bottom. The surface is rubbed off at the top of the left side of the Verso. The ink is heavy in the first line in both sides, while it is faint in the rest of the text. The handwriting is thick, big and neat.

Transliteration:

Recto

- 0) [w^c] ꞀklꞀ r ht 3.t
- 1) [] ꞀmsꞀ (n) kmj Hr sꞀ Hr-smꞀ-tꞀ.wj
- 2) [mwt=f] Ꞁ...Ꞁ n s.hm.t
- 3) [.....ta PꞀ-] ꞀšrꞀ-twtw[mwt=s.....]

4) [mwt=s.....]

Verso

1) tw=s p3 wn (n n3) ṛnkt.wṛ [n s.ḥm.t]

2) w^c inšn r ḥt ṛ...ṛ []

3) w^c ṛṛl r ḥt ṛ...ṛ []

4) w^c šš r ṛḥtṛ []

5) ṛw^c ṛ...ṛ []

Translation:

Recto

0) [one] ṛḳlṛ -necklace makes 3 silver (pieces)

1) [] ṛbornṛ (in) Egypt Ḥr son of Ḥr-sm3-t3.wj

2) [his mother] ṛ...ṛ to the woman

3) [..... daughter of P3-] ṛšrṛ -twtw

4) [her mother]

Verso

1) Behold, the list (of the) ṛpropertiesṛ [of the woman]

2) one inšn-wig makes ṛ...ṛ silver (pieces) []

3) one ṛṛl-necklace makes ṛ...ṛ silver (pieces) []

4) one šš-bowl makes [] ṛsilverṛ (pieces) []

5) ṛoneṛ ṛ...ṛ []

Notes:

It is interesting to know that the present text is a marriage contract written on the Recto between Ḥr son of Ḥr-sm3-t3.wj and the daughter of

[P3]-šr-twtw.⁽¹⁾ There is no enough space on the Verso, so the scribe written the last item of the dowry list on the top of the Recto.

Ost. Nr. 2 Plate II

DO Cairo 302

12 X 9 cm., thick. 0.6-1 cm.

Date: Late Ptolemaic

Potsherd, brownish

Provenance: Gebelen (?)

Description: The text is incomplete as the ostracon is broken at the left side and at the bottom. The ink is refilled in the beginning of the lines. The handwriting is straight, neat and regular.

Transliteration:

- 1) *tw=s p3 wn (n) n3 ʿnkt.wʿ [n s.ħm.t]*
- 2) *wʿ inšn []*
- 3) *wʿ.t ħt n (ħt) 49(?) ʿ....ʿ []*
- 4) *wʿ šš []*
- 5) *wʿ ʿ.wj n wh3 []*
- 6) *wʿ kll []*
- 7) *wʿ ll n ħt ʿ44ʿ*
- 8) *wʿ.t ħpš []*
- 9) *wʿ.t kndw []*
- 10) *wʿ.t ʿtr3ʿ ʿ...ʿ []*
- 11) *(wʿ.t) ʿhllkʿ []*
- 12) *wʿ ʿ...ʿ []*
- 13) *ʿ...ʿ []*


(1) We have only one published marriage contract recorded on ostraca see: Ursula Kaplony-Heckel, "Pathyris 2", in: *Enchoria* 21, (1994), nr. 46.

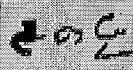
Translation:

- 1) Behold, the list (of) the 'properties' [of the woman]
- 2) one inšn-wig []
- 3) one ht-seal (?) to (the value of) 49 (?) (silver pieces) '...' []
- 4) one šš-bowl []
- 5) one pair of wh3 []
- 6) one kll-necklace []
- 7) one ll-necklace to (the value of) '44' silver (pieces)
- 8) one hps-bracelet []
- 9) one knḏw-basin []
- 10) one 'tr3'-axe '...' []
- 11) (one) 'hlk'-ring []
- 12) one '...' []
- 13) '...' []

Notes:

Here the text tells us thirteen objects of the dowry lists, but because of the incompleteness of the text, the value of most of these objects is lost.

L.3.  ht: means "seal".⁽¹⁾ This item does not occur in Lüdeckens's ⁽²⁾ list.

L.11.  hlk: ring⁽³⁾. It is usually preceded by indefinite article w^c.t, which is not written above.

(1) Erichsen, Demotische Glossar, Kopenhagen, 1953, p. 371.

(2) Lüdeckens, Agyptische Eheverträge, Wiesbaden, 1960 (Agyptologische Abhandlungen 1), p. 289 ff.

(3) Erichsen, op. cit., p. 281; Lüdeckens, op. cit., p. 296.

Ost. Nr. 3 Plate III

DO Cairo 329

10.5x5.5 cm., thick. 0.6-1 cm.

Date: Late Ptolemaic

Potsherd, brownish

Provenance: Gebelen (?)

Description: The text is incomplete as the ostracon is broken at the left side. L.1-2, 5-6 are faded. The spaces between the last three lines are bigger than that between the preceding lines. The handwriting is straight and neat.

Transliteration:

1) *w^c.t ḡlj^ḡ []*

2) *w^c.t ḡtn^ḡ []*

3) *w^c ḡš []*

4) *w^c.t swḥ []*

5) *w^c ll []*

6) *w^c kll []*

7) *w^c.t knḏw []*

Translation:

1) one ḡlj^ḡ - wig []

2) one ḡtn^ḡ - garment []

3) one ḡš - oven []

4) one swḥ-egg []


5) one ll - necklace []

6) one kll - necklace []

7) one knḏw-basin []

Notes:

Six items are mentioned here, but unfortunately, their values are broken.

L.4.  swḥ: "egg"⁽¹⁾ This word is usually written with copper or silver determinative,⁽²⁾ but here it is written without a determinative.⁽³⁾

Ost. Nr. 4 Plate III

DO Cairo 336

9.5 x 11.5 cm., thick. 0.4-0.6 cm.

Date: Ptolemaic (2nd cent. B.C.)

Potsherd, yellowish

Provenance: Gebelen (?)

Description: The text is incomplete as the ostracon is broken at the left side and at the bottom. There are some spots at the middle of the ostracon, while they are not shown in the facsimile. The ink is partly faint, while it is heavy in some places. The handwriting is thick and neat.

Transliteration:

- 1) w^c inšn (r) ht 1100
- 2) w^c.t glj (r) ht 400 ṛ...ṛ []
- 3) w^c.t gtn (r) ht ṛ600ṛ (?) []
- 4) w^c.t kbʒ(.t) (r) ht []
- 5) w^c ṛklṛ (r) [ht ...]

Translation

- 1) one inšn-wig (makes) 1100 silver (pieces)
- 2) one glj-wig (makes) 400 silver (pieces) ṛ...ṛ []
- 3) one gtn-garment (makes) ṛ600ṛ (?)silver (pieces)[]

(1) Erichsen, op.cit., p. 417; Liddeckens, op. cit., p. 398.

(2) ibidem.

(3) cf. Ursula Kaplony-Heckel, op. cit., nr. 49, col. 1, L. 26.

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4) one ꜥb3(.t)-cloth (makes) [] silver (pieces)

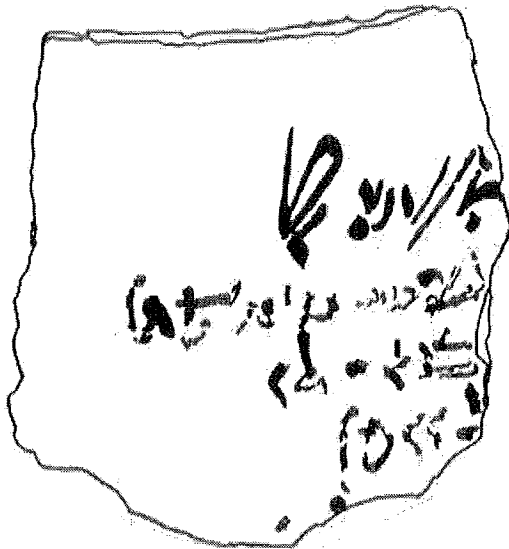
5) one ꜥꜥllꜥ-necklace (makes) [... silver] (pieces)

Notes:

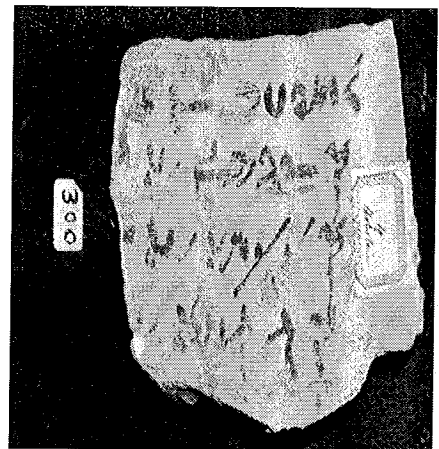
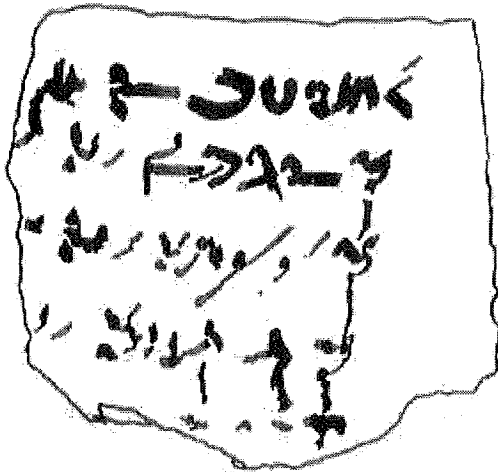
It is a dowry list of five items. Depending on what stated by Pestman that the value of the inšn could determine the date, one could determine that the text is dated to the second century B.C.⁽¹⁾

(1) Pestman, *Marriage and Matrimonial Property in Ancient Egypt*, Leiden, 1961 (Papyrological Lugduno Batava 9), p. 95.

Plate 1



Ost. Nr. 1, DO Cairo 300R



Ost. Nr.1 , DO Cairo 300V

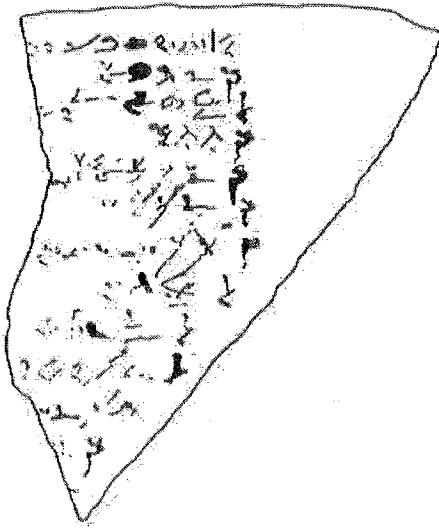
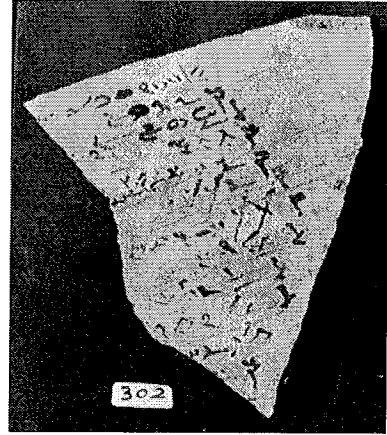


Plate II



Ost. Nr. 2 ,DO Cairo 302

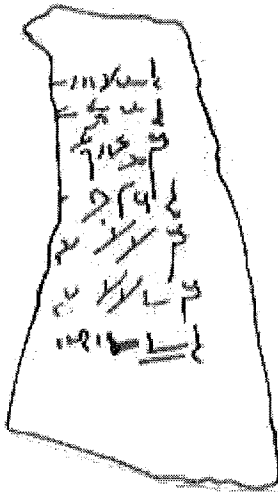
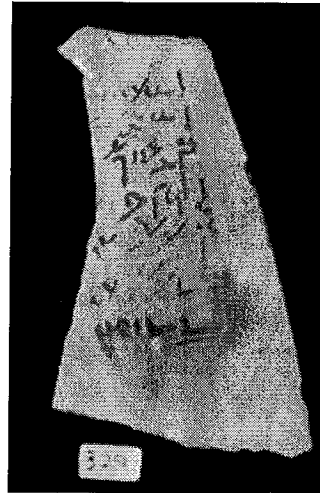
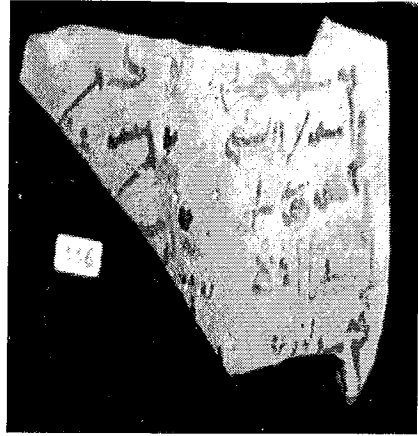
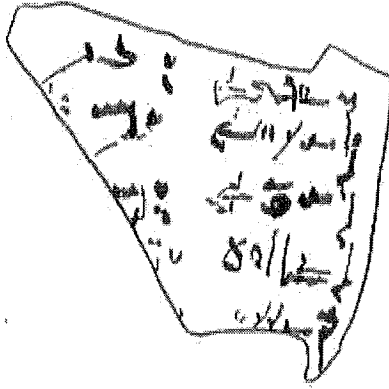


Plate III



Ost. Nr. 3 ,DO Cairo 329



Ost. Nr. 4, DO Cairo 336

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Four Coptic Ostraca from Kharga Museum

In this paper are published and studied the only four Coptic ostraca kept in the Kharga Museum of the Kharga oasis under serial numbers 1123-1126. They are all potsherds and completely unpublished and found in a place called "El-hesn" ("the fortress") which lies about two kilometers north of "Ain Waqfa" at Ezbet "Maks Qibli" (south of El-kharga). The Photographs were taken by me in November 2008.

The preservation numbers, the dimension, the finder, the provenance and the general description of these ostraca are copied here from the registration file of the Museum but I added a description of both content (which was unknown) and script. Also I suggested the date and made paleographical tables of the letters.

Hereunder marks used in both transcription and translation:

[]	Lacuna in the ostracon.
[α.β.γ]	Lacuna with restored text.
(α.β.γ)	In transcription: letters erased entirely and suggested.
(abc)	In translation: words not written in the Coptic text.
< >	Letters omitted by the scribe.
{ α.β.γ }	Letters incorrectly written by the scribe.
...	Letters which could not be read.
αβγ	Letters not clear entirely in the text.
?	Uncertain reading.

O. Kharga Mus.1

Serial number: 1123.

Excavator's No.: 2266/3.

Dimension: 14 x 11.5 cm.

Thickness: 8 mm.

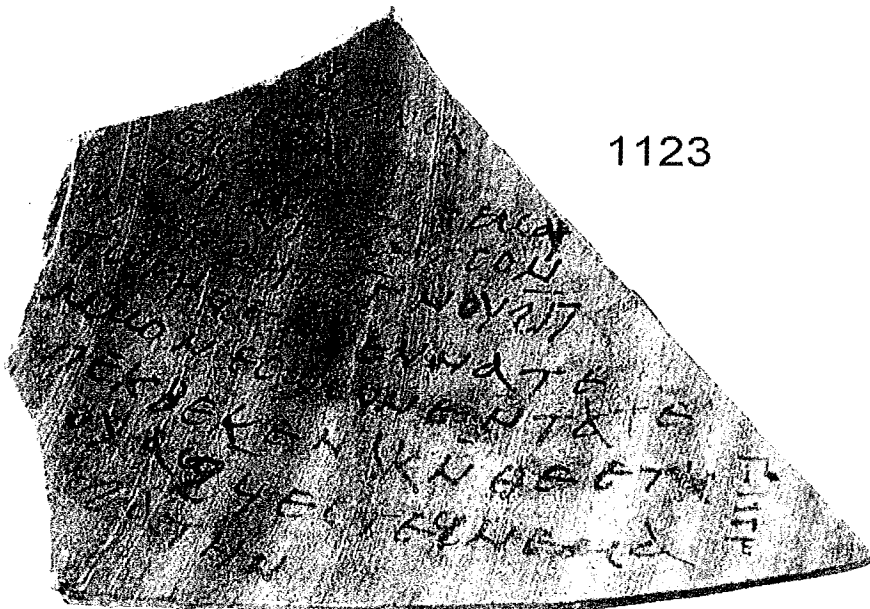
Finder: The Egyptian Excavation of Elwadi Elgedeed archaeological site under supervision of Adel Hussen (1986).

Provenance: MAKS QIBLI-ELHESN, east of the fortress- the 2nd level.

Description: A complete ostracon, brown pottery- ribbed in the outer part, 10 lines on verso with black ink.

Script: large, regular & the letters are long.

Content: A private letter from "Yuhannes" to ask "Martais" to go to a woman in the north and search for a servant for her because she is sick. For this favor "Martais" will receive hire from the sender.



Transcription

Verso

- 1 - ⲛⲓ ⲁⲛⲟⲕ
- 2 - ⲓⲱⲗⲁⲛⲛⲏⲓ(ϸ)
- 3 - ⲈⲒϸⲗⲓ ⲈⲒⲱ(ⲒⲚⲈ) ⲈⲘⲁⲣ-
- 4 - ⲐⲘϸ ⲁⲒⲒⲐⲘⲛⲦϸⲐⲐⲐ
- 5 - ⲚⲦ̄ⲈⲒ ⲈⲗⲏⲐ ⲚⲦ̄Ⲛ ⲐⲱⲗⲐ̄-
- 6 - ⲐⲱⲣⲏⲐⲈ ⲚⲕⲈⲛⲏⲏⲁⲐⲈ
- 7 - ⲘⲘⲐⲐ ⲈϸⲱⲱⲛⲈ Ⲛ̄ⲐⲁⲐⲈ
- 8 - ⲡⲈⲕⲖⲈⲕⲈ Ⲛⲁⲕ Ⲛ̄ⲐⲈ ⲈⲐⲕ
- 9 - Ⲑⲱⲗⲱⲕ ⲈϸⲐⲈϸ ⲚⲈⲘⲁ[Ⲓ]
- 10 - ⲗⲁⲐⲏⲛ

Translation

- 1 - ⲛⲓ I
- 2 - "Yuhannes"
- 3 - I write greeting "Mar-
- 4 - tais", do brotherhood
- 5 - and come to north and bring a ser-
- 6 - vant for "Kenaite"
- 7 - for she is ill and I will pay
- 8 - your hire to you in the way which you
- 9 - desire (and) she (will) pay it with [me]
- 10 -

Comment

1.5-6: ⲗⲐ̄ⲐⲱⲣⲏⲐⲈ: It is probably the Greek word ὑπηρέτης means "servant" because "H. Förster" mentioned this word written in Coptic as ⲗⲏⲡ[ⲈⲣⲈⲐⲏ]ϸ (Wörterbuch,s.834) and I think that it was written as ⲗⲏⲡ[ⲐⲱⲣⲈⲐⲏ]ϸ or ⲗⲏⲡⲐⲱⲣⲈⲐⲈ as here.

1.6: ⲕⲈⲛⲏⲏⲁⲐⲈ: It is probably a fem. proper name from the Greek word κενεότης which means "empty space" (see: LSJ, p. 938 a) or perhaps

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equal κενν[(in: Hasitzka, Namen, s.49), anyway it seems to be uncommon in Coptic.

l.7: *ⲙⲙⲓⲟⲛ* means "for or verily" before tenses & imperative verbs (see: CD, p. 169 a).

ⲧⲉ = ⲧ inf. means "give, pay".

l.9: *ⲟⲩⲁⲱϣ*: the writer wrote *ϩ* instead of *ϣ* as a mistake but he corrected it.

l.7-9: *ⲛⲧⲁⲧⲉ ⲛⲉⲕⲃⲉⲕⲉ ⲛⲁⲕ ⲛⲉⲉ ⲉⲧⲁⲟⲩⲁⲱϣ* means "I will pay your hire to you in the way which you like" namely he will give the hire to him personally or send it to him.

l.10 *ϩⲁⲧⲏⲛ*: There are more than one probability for the meaning of this word here as either var. of *ϩⲓⲧⲟⲩⲉⲛ* - "beside, next", *ϩⲁⲭⲉⲛ* - "before" (of time) and *ⲁⲧⲭⲉⲛ* - "without" (see: DI, 91, CD, 444b, 758a, 25b) or *ϩⲁ(ϩ)ⲧⲏⲛ*; as compound preposition plus suffix pronoun means "with/ beside us" (Layton CG, p.169).

O. Kharga Mus.2

Serial number: 1124.

Excavator's No.: 2281/18.

Dimension: 18 x10 cm.

Thickness: 1.3 cm.

Finder: The Egyptian Excavation of Elwadi Elgedeed archaeological site under supervision of Adel Hussien (1986).

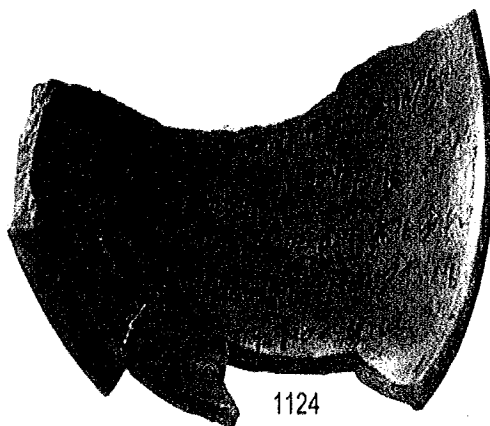
Provenance: MAKS QIBLI-ELHESN, the western chamber – the 3rd level.

Description: An ostracon was divided into 4 parts then it was restored, pottery, a part of bowl - orange color - 6 lines on recto & 8 lines on verso written with black ink.

Script: Regular, large and thick.

Content: A non-complete private letter sent from two persons called "Psumenais" and "Kanh" to a man seems to be a monk; his name is "Phibamon" and lived in "Tamoi". On verso where the text is starting, the senders inform the recipient that don't send the golden piece, called tremession, by someone (I read his name as "Ounoum") as they deal before because they don't confide in him and they ask to send by another person called "Thomas", also they mentioned that (on recto) they will give the tremession? to a man called "Praeiske" at south.

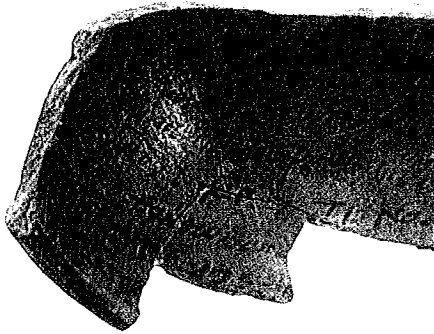
Verso



1124

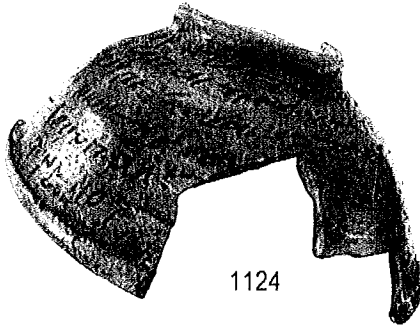
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1124



The bottom part of verso

1124

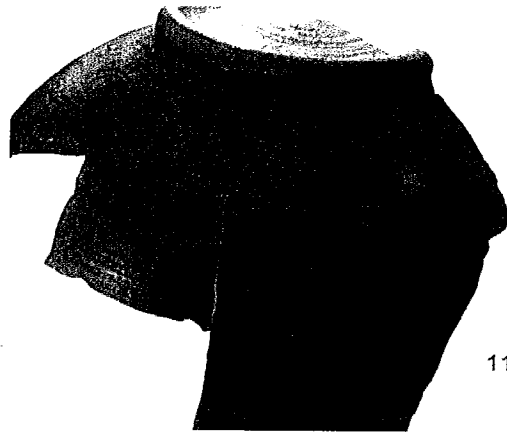


The left side of recto

1124



The middle part of recto



1124

The right side of recto

Transcription

Verso

- 1 - ⲪⲁⲚⲒⲚ Ⲡⲟⲩⲙⲏⲛⲏⲥ ⲙⲎⲃⲁⲛⲁⲗ ⲉⲛⲓ(ⲥⲗ-)
- 2 - ⲁⲓ ⲉⲛⲱⲛⲉ ⲉⲡⲉⲛⲙⲉⲣⲓⲧ ⲛⲥⲒⲚ ⲁ(ⲓ)ⲁ ⲫⲓⲃⲁⲙⲱⲛ
- 3 - ⲛⲧⲁⲙⲒ ⲭⲉ ⲉⲱⲱⲡⲉ ⲕⲥⲒⲒⲱⲛ ⲭⲉ ⲱⲁⲕ-
- 4 - ⲧⲛⲛⲒⲒⲟⲩ ⲡⲧⲉⲣⲒⲙⲏⲥⲒⲒⲒⲚ ⲛⲁⲛ ⲗⲓⲧⲛ
- 5 - ⲟⲩⲛⲒⲒⲙ ⲙⲁⲥ ⲧⲛⲛⲒⲒⲟⲩⲥ ⲛⲁⲛ ⲗⲓ-
- 6 - ⲧⲒⲒⲧⲥ ⲛⲉⲱⲙⲁⲥ ⲭ[ⲉ ⲉⲡⲓⲁⲛ?] ⲧⲛ
- 7 - [ⲡ]ⲗⲒⲟⲧ ⲛⲧⲉⲛⲗⲉⲧ[
- 8 - ⲙⲙⲒ[ⲛ ⲙⲡⲓⲣⲧⲛⲛⲒⲒⲟⲩ ⲡⲧⲉⲣⲒⲙⲏⲥⲓ-]

Recto

- 1 - ⲒⲒⲛ ⲙⲧⲒⲒⲧⲥ ⲉⲥ ⲱⲟⲙⲧ
- 2 - ⲛⲥⲒⲒ ⲁⲓⲧⲛⲛⲒⲒⲟⲩ ⲉⲙⲁⲧⲉⲛⲒⲟⲩ.[
- 3 - ⲡⲒⲒⲟⲩ ⲡⲉⲭ[ⲉⲥ] ⲁⲕⲁⲙⲁⲗⲧⲉ ⲙⲧⲁⲉⲟⲩ ⲗⲁ-
- 4 - ⲣⲒⲥ ⲙⲙⲒⲛ ⲧⲛⲛⲒⲒⲟⲩ [ⲡⲧⲉⲣⲒⲙⲏⲥⲒⲒⲒⲚ? ⲛ]ⲧⲛⲉⲓ ⲉⲣⲏⲥ ⲧⲛ-
- 5 - ⲧⲁⲁⲥ ⲛⲡⲓⲣⲁⲉ[ⲓⲕⲉ] ⲉⲕⲱⲁⲛ ⲧⲛⲛⲒⲒⲟⲩ
- 6 - .. ⲧⲣⲙ(ⲏ)ⲥⲒⲒⲒⲚ []ⲁⲕ ⲁⲓⲧ

Translation

Verso:

- 1 - ⲕ We "Psumainais" and "Kanh" we wri-
- 2 - te we greet our dear brother Apa "Phibamwn"
- 3 - of "Tamoi": if you know that you will
- 4 - send the tremession to us by
- 5 - "Ounoum" give it (and) send it to us
- 6 - by "Thomas" [whereas ?] we
- 7 - fear to confide [in him?
- 8 - veril[y don't send the tremessi-]

Recto:

- 1 - on by his hand see! Three
- 2 - times I sent (and) agree upon them (with him)
- 3 - Today, it is him (that) sa[ys] (that) you seized the wage ,for
- 4 - him verily send [the tremession?] and we will come south (and) we
(will)
- 5 - give (or pay) it to "Prae[-iske"] if you want to send
- 6 - ... tremession []... ..

Comment

Verso

- 1.1: Ⲫⲟⲩⲙⲏⲛⲏⲥ is a proper name (masc.) and equal to Ⲫⲉⲙⲓⲛⲓⲥ (in Greek) of an Egyptian origin means "the son of Min" (see: DN, p. 246) and I think that it was uncommon in Coptic.
- 1.2 ⲁⲛⲁ: it was written above the line and ⲛ is missing.
- 1.3 ⲧⲁⲙⲟⲓ seems to be the ancient name of the place of "El-hesn" but I ignore that if this region included "Ain Waqfa" in Antiquity or not especially this name is similar to ⲧⲙⲟⲩⲙⲓ which means "spring" (CD, p.198b), in Arabic "Ain" .There is a reference to a place name as ⲧⲁⲙ[...] which may refer to ⲧⲁⲙⲟⲓ (see: Hall , p.122).
- 1.5: Ⲑⲩⲛⲟⲩⲙ: I think that it was the Egyptian personal name *wnmi* (Ägy. PN, s.79 (16), this word means "right/ right side/ right hand" and known

in Coptic as ΟΥΝΑΜ (Wb I ,s.322) , "Crum" mentioned ΟΥΝΟΜ as one of the Saihidic dialect forms of this word (CD, p. 483b) so ΟΥΝΟΜ > ΟΥΝΟΥΜ here (with addition of the letter γ only). Until now in Egypt, there is the masculine personal name "Ayman" means "right" (as adjective of the masculine words) also the feminine personal name "Yumna" means "right" (as adjective of the feminine words).

Recto

- 1.1: εϛ = εϛϛ (CD, p. 85 a), it is equal the word "bos" which is said until now in Egypt to pay attention before the information (O. Cairo Mus., p. 18).
- 1.2: εμματαϛου: consisting of ε+μματαϛου {Preposition+ infinitive + suffix pronoun (Plural)}, this infinitive means "rest" or "agree upon" & the Preposition ε written usually when there is another infinitive written before it (see: CD, p. 195b), μματαϛ was written here in a dialect is similar to μοτεϛ in B & μματαϛ in F, it was probably a dialect associated with the Kharga oasis in the case of the senders lived in this oasis.
- 1.3: ταεου: I think that the writer means here the word του(ε)ιο which means also "wage" (see :CD, p.444b).
- 1.3-4 : εαροϛ : Equal here two expressions are said by the Egyptians until now as "ashan khatroh" means "for his sake" or "ashan keda" means "for that" which are proceeded always by a reason, like this text.
- 1.5: η is not assimilated to μ before π,
πραεϛκε: A proper name is mentioned in: PN , s. 102.
- 1.6: there are some letters (about 5 letters) written under the word τρμϛϛϛϛ, they are not clear and represent a word difficult to read.

O. Kharga Mus.3

Serial number: 1125.

Excavator's No.: 2282/19.

Dimension: 13.3 x13.1 cm.

Thickness: 1.3 cm.

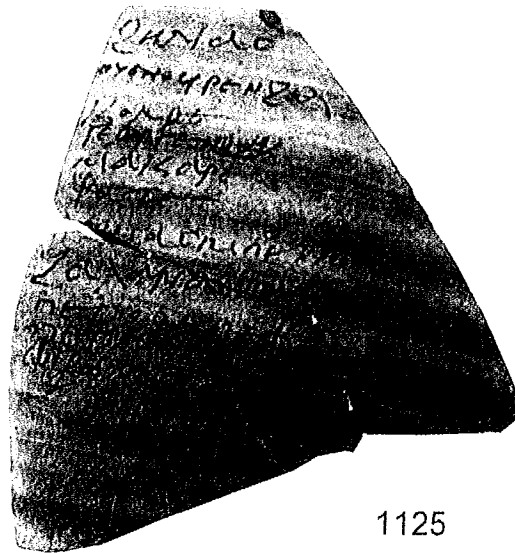
Finder: The Egyptian Excavation of Elwadi Elgedeed archaeological site under supervision of Adel Hussen (1986).

Provenance: MAKS QIBLI-ELHESN, eastern north corner - the 3rd level.

Description: An ostracon was divided into two parts then it was restored, pottery, light brown color, 11 lines with black ink.

Script: Regular, thin and large (except the letter o written very small also sometimes ρ and ε).

Content: A list of men's names maybe of some villagers, 18 names still remaining, the names of the fathers are also given but some father's names are missing.



1125

Transcription

Recto

- 1 - ρΗΛΙΑϸ
- 2 - ΟΥΟΝΟϸΡΕ ΝϨΑΛ
- 3 - ΚΟΛΘΕ
- 4 - ΓΕΩΡΓΕ ΝϨΟΟΥ
- 5 - ΜΑΚΑΡΕ
- 6 - ΨΑΤΕ
- 7 - ΙΕ]Ρ[Η]ΜΑϸ ΜΠΕΤΡΟϸ
- 8 - ΖΑΧΑΡΙΑ ΜΙΑΚ/
- 9 - ΠΕΤΡΟϸ ΜΠΕΦ[
- 10 - ΠΕΤΡΟϸ ΜΙΩϨ[ΑΝΝΗϸ ?
- 11 - ΦΙΒΑΜΩΝ <Ν> ΖΑΚΑΡ]ΙΑ

Translation

Recto:

- 1 - Helias
- 2 - Un-nefer (son) of Hal
- 3 - Colthe
- 4 - Gewrge (son) of Hoou
- 5 - Makare
- 6 - Psate
- 7 - E]r[e]mas (son) of Petros
- 8 - Zacharia (son) of Iakwb
- 9 - Petros (son) of Peph[ani?
- 10 - Petros (son) of Yuh[annes?
- 11 - Phibamwn (son) < of > Zachar[ia

Comment

The origin of the proper names is various between native Egyptian (pagan), Greek and Hebrew especially associated with Christianity. And the majority is known in the Thebaide Nome and Elephantine.

1.2: οϨονοϸρε "Unnefer", an epithet of "Osiris" (Hall, p. 110).

Four Coptic Ostraca from Kharga Museum

1.7, 9: the letter ς is written closed, similar to the \omicron

1.8: "Iakwb" is written abbreviated.

1.11: the letter ϕ is written with an open circle. The writer omitted genitival κ because the name written before it ended with the letter κ and this matter was remarkable in the lists of names.

O. Kharga Mus.4

Serial number: 1126.

Excavator's No.: 2286/23.

Dimension: 6.4x5.4 cm.

Thickness: 1 cm.

Finder: The Egyptian Excavation of Elwadi Elgedeed archaeological site under supervision of Adel Hussen (1986).

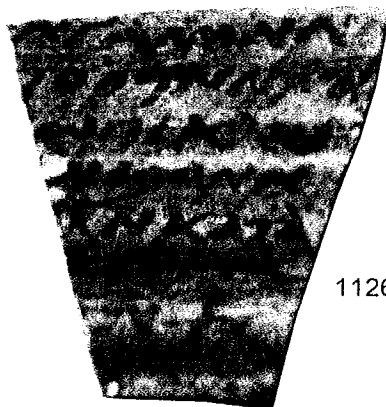
Provenance: MAKS QIBLI -ELHESN, eastern north of the site.

Description: A part from an ostrakon, pottery, reddish brown color, remains of 8 lines on both recto & verso (the text is more destroyed on verso) written with black ink.

Script: Large, thick and regular.

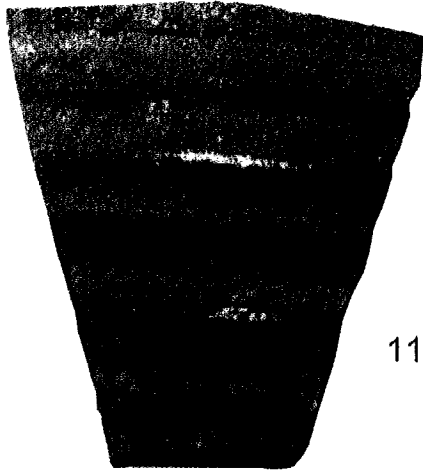
Content: A small fragment difficult to determine its topic (maybe a part of a letter or a business text or perhaps a legal). The writers are more than one person.

Recto



1126

Verso



1126

Transcription

Recto

- 1 - Ο]ΡΓΑΝΟΝ? Ν[
- 2 -]ΤΟΟΤΗ ΝΝΟ.[
- 3 -]Ω ΠΕΚ' .[
- 4 - Ε]ΝΩΔΗ Ν[
- 5 -]Β ΝΚΑΤΑ[
- 6 -]. ΤΗΤΑ[
- 7 -]ΤΗΤ[
- 8 -] [

Verso

- 1 -]. ΕΩΧΕ? [
- 2 -]ΝΔ [
- 3 -]Ν [
- 4 -] [
- 5 -] [
- 6 -] [

7 -]ΝϞϥ. [

8 -]Μ [

Translation

Recto

1 - o]rganon? of[

2 -] the hand of us to... [

3 -] your?[

4 -] if we want to..[

5 -] [

6 -] [

7 -] [

8 -] [

There is no suggested translation for verso.

Comment

Recto

1.1 I read the first word as ΟΡΓΑΝΟΝ which is a Greek measure οργον or οργανον as a dry measure also for cheese and wine (WS, p. 25) , it is written here unusually in the same form of the Greek οργανον. I think that η was followed here by either a number or the measured object or an adjective like ηος to describe the measure (see: Wörterbuch, ss. 586-587).

1.2: ΤΟΟΤΗ may be ΕΥΤΟΟΤΗ means "these are in the hand of us" as an expression of possession (O. Cairo Mus., p. 49) or ΗΤΟΟΤΗ or ΣΙΤΟΟΤΗ mean "by us".

1.5: ΚΑΤΑ may be the Greek conjunction ΚΑΤΑ or beginning of a Greek word (see: Wörterbuch, ss. 384-396).

Verso

1.1 It can be read as ΕΩΧΕ means "if".

The date

It is unknown, but I estimate to be the Islamic period between the 7th century and the beginning of the 9th century AD according to the following matters:

O. Kharga Mus. 1:

- * The preface formula (combined with the greeting) and the monogram ⲉⲓ were written in the Coptic letters between the 4th and the 8th century (see: Briefformular, s. 44 & O. Cairo Mus., p. 15).
- * The begging formula ⲁⲣⲓ ⲧⲏⲛⲧⲟⲛ which was known in the 7th /8th century (Briefformular, ss. 34-35).
- * The paleography can be dated from the 8th century especially the ⲉ letter (Stegmann, ss. 12-13).

It means that this text may be ascribed to the 7th /8th c. or the 8th century.

O. Kharga Mus. 2:

- * The "tremession" is written in the Coptic texts in similar forms to ⲧⲣⲟⲙⲛⲥⲓⲟⲛ, written here, from the 7th or the 7th /8th or the 8th century (see: Wörterbuch, ss. 820-822).
- * The red – slip wares were extant in 695 AD – the 9th century (Rodziewicz, p. 74).
- * The paleography of many letters such as ⲁ, ⲉ, ⲛ, ⲟ, ⲣ, ⲥ, Ⲯ, Ⲛ can be ascribed to the 8th century (see: Stegmann, ss. 11-13) also the impenetrable ⲟ can be dated from the 7th / 8th or the 8th century (see: O. Cairo Mus., nos. 1, 9) and the ligatures with ⲉ was so common in the 8th century texts from Djeme (Green, p. 62). All these matters can ascribe the text to the 7th/8th- 9th century.

O. Kharga Mus. 3:

- * Most of the names written in this list are mentioned in the collection that studied by "Hall" and he said that they were in vogue in the 7th and the 8th century (Hall, p.x).
- * The forms of the proper names as ζαχαρια, κολθε, μακαρε, πετρος and φιβαμων are mentioned in lists of names ascribed to the end of the 8th century (see: Hall, pp.18-19).
- * The paleography of some letters such as α, β, κ, λ, π, Ϛ can be ascribed to the 8th century (Stegmann, ss.11-13).

It means that this text can be ascribed to the 7th- 8th century.

O. Kharga Mus. 4:

- * The Greek measure οργον was used in the Coptic texts between the 6th / 7th - the 8th century (Wörterbuch , ss.586-587)
- * The raised apostrophe written after the letter κ in the 3rd line (on recto) which is written in the official Greek correspondence of the 7th century (see: Green, p. 111).

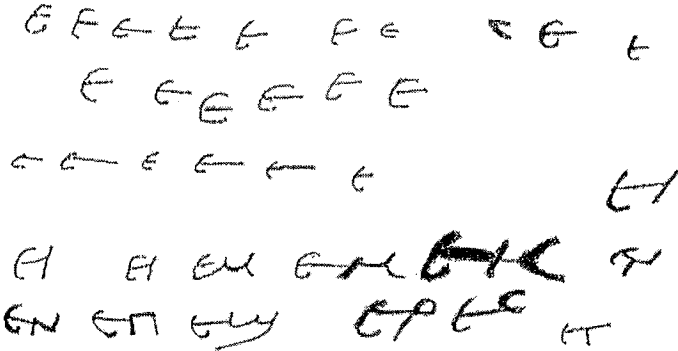

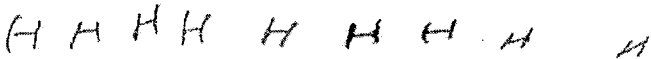


So this text can be ascribed to the 7th -8th century.

Bibliography:

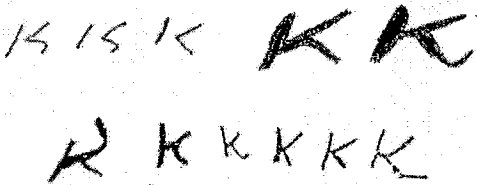

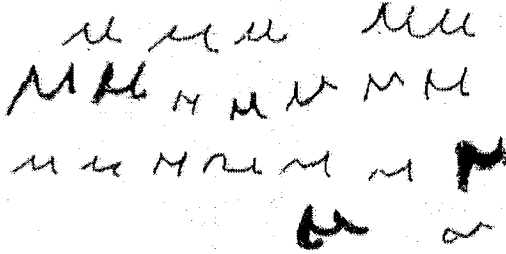
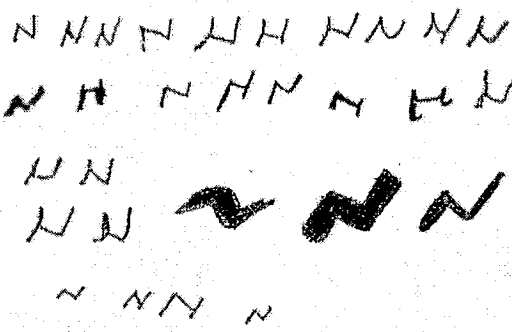
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Four Coptic Ostraca from Kharga Museum


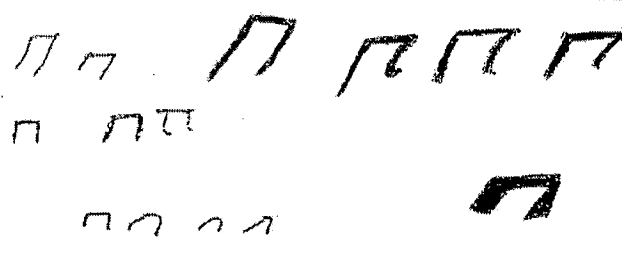
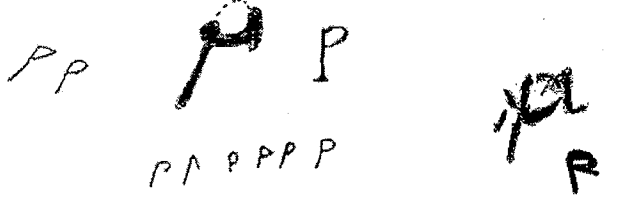
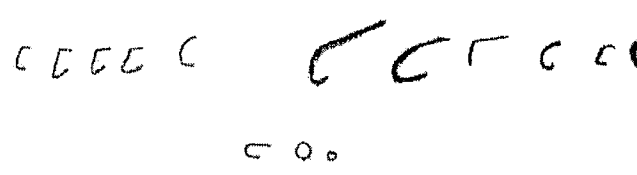
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الحرف The letter	أشكاله المتعددة The multiple forms
<p>ⲉ</p>	 <p>Ligatures of ⲉ with the letters ⲓ, ⲙ, ⲕ, ⲛ, ⲛ, ⲣ, ⲥ and ⲧ.</p>
<p>ⲛ</p>	
<p>Ⲉ</p>	
<p>Ⲑ</p>	
<p>ⲓ</p>	

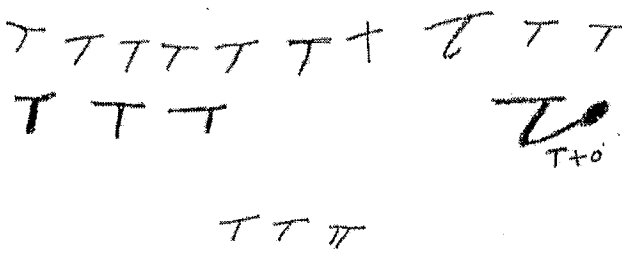



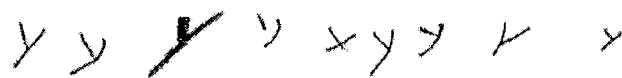

Four Coptic Ostraca from Kharga Museum

الحرف The letter	أشكاله المتعددة The multiple forms
K	
λ	
μ	
π	

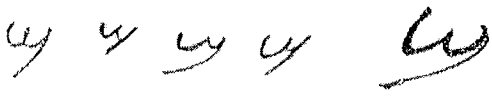
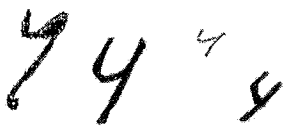
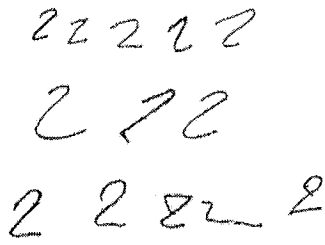
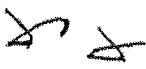
Four Coptic Ostraca from Kharga Museum

The letter الحرف	The multiple forms أشكاله المتعددة
<p>o</p>	
<p>π</p>	
<p>p</p>	
<p>c</p>	

Four Coptic Ostraca from Kharga Museum

الحرف The letter	أشكاله المتعددة The multiple forms
ⲧ	
ϣ	
ⲭ	
ϣ	
ϣ	
ω	

Four Coptic Ostraca from Kharga Museum

The letter الحرف	The multiple forms أشكاله المتعددة
ϣ	
ϥ	
ϧ	
Ϩ	
ϩ	