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The Classical Review / Volume 53 / Issue 02 / October 2003, pp 490 - 491
DOI: 10.1093/cr/53.2.490-a, Published online: 13 April 2006

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The 22nd International Congress of Papyrology will be remembered by its participants for its rich offerings: the varied programme, documented by these heavy volumes of proceedings, and not least the lavish receptions. Such occasions are indicators of where things and people stand in the field, but congress proceedings reproduce only part of the picture, and sometimes might even distort it (not all papers presented are published, and there may be too little of ‘this’ or too much of ‘that’); yet their appearance, usually, and inevitably, delayed, is generally greeted with that joyous curiosity that crowds people together in congress halls.

To a large extent, this curiosity is directed towards texts first published in the proceedings. The
harvest may not be rich, but it nonetheless claims attention. There are some new literary texts: a 'New Fragment of the Metiochos and Parthenope Romance (?)' (J. Alvares and T. Renner); two new comic fragments from Oxyrhynchus (C. Austin; revised editions appear as POxy. LXVIII 4643–46); fragments of a treatise on divination (A. Hurst); a new edition of 'The Illustrated Herbal from Tebtunis' (PTebt. II 679 + PTebt.Tait 39–41; A. E. Hanson); a Greek–Latin glossary (H. Maehler; now republished in J. Kramer, Glossaria bilingua altera, no. 9); two new fragments of the apocryphon of Iannes and Iambres (G. Schmelz); and a liturgical codex with hymns (troparia) relating to Palm Sunday [assigned to VI/VII, but probably of VII/VIII] (G. Grassien); and a hymn for the feast of Hypapante assignable to VIII/IX or later (G. Husson). There are also several articles on Herculaneum, some with new readings: Demetrius Lacon, De forma dei (M. Santoro); Epicurus, De natura (G. Leone) and De tempore (A. D’Angelo); and Philodemus, De bono rege (J. Fish) and Rhetorica (T. Di Matteo, F. Longo Auricchio).

On the documentary side, there are a few new texts: a Ptolemaic royal decree on corn transport (T. Gagos and L. Koenen); two Ptolemaic fragments from the Turku collection (H. Koskenniemi); a letter (PLond. III 1228 desc.) possibly emanating from the archive of the strategos Apollonios (N. Litinas); an account concerning river transportation of cereals, with some interesting details, and attesting a new procurator Neas Poleos [the text merits further study] (C. Dumoulin); a Lycopolite deed of exchange of property dating to 535 (J. Gascou); texts from the archives of Dioscorus of Aphrodisia: a land lease of 526, a receipt for rent, which helps restore a text published previously, and preliminary reports on a register of official correspondence and a Coptic letter (J.-L. Foumet); two marriage contracts, one in Greek, the other in Arabic (A. Hanafi); and six Coptic documents, on papyrus and ostraca (S. Clackson). There are also photographs (without transcriptions) of two papyri found at the Abi’or Cave near Jericho (N. Cohen, Pl. X), and of several papyri (Greek, Coptic, and Arabic) of the Greek Papyrological Society (B. G. Mandilaras, Pl. XLII–XLIV).

Of general studies, we may note: documentary papyrology and ancient history (A. K. Bowman); economic power and land tenure in Ptolemaic Egypt (J. Manning); the office of the Arsinoite nomarch in Roman Egypt, with a re-edition of PBodl. I 34 (F. Reiter); a survey of recent research on the administration of Roman Egypt (J. D. Thomas); and a survey of documents, published in the last two decades, relating to the Christian church before the time of Constantine (E. Wipszycza). Other interesting contributions (because of space limitations I can only pick a few) relate to ‘ethne, taxes and administrative geography in early Ptolemaic Egypt’ (J. Thompson); socio-religious aspects of Ptolemaic Egypt (J. Hengs); ‘Cleopatra’s Carpet’ (J. Whitehome); jewellery on mummy portraits in the light of papyri (G. Schenke); ‘Mapping the South-west Fayyum: Sites and Texts’ (D. Rathbone); ‘Beer, Wine and Oil in Late Roman Egypt’ (P. van Minnen); ‘Ancient Fashion on Papyrus’ (U. Horak); accentuation of Latin loanwords (J. Kramer; there is a very similar paper, by the same author, in ZPE 123 [1998], 129–34); and a Greek ‘educational’ papyrus in Armenian script—perhaps the most intriguing of the texts presented at the congress (J. Clackson; its full publication appears in ZPE 129 [2000], 223–58).

A section of the congress was devoted to work in progress on the Petra papyri: we are offered an overview of the first five years of work (J. Frösen), and preliminary reports on family finances (A. Arjava); dispute settlements (T. Gagos, M. Kaimio); legal matters (L. Koenen); Arabic (R. W. Daniel); prosopography (M. Lehtinen); and ‘theft and taxes’ (M. Vesterinen). A number of the texts presented in this section have now been published in PPetra I.