Two Greek Ostraca from Jeme in Cambridge

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Abstract: Full publication of O.Camb. 114 and 115.

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The ostraca edited in this article were first published in the form of short descriptions by J.G. Tait in *Greek Ostraca in the Bodleian Library at Oxford and Various Other Collections I* (1930), part IV, ‘Ostraca in the Cambridge University Library’, p. 170. Inspection of the originals showed them to be more legible than reported and not without interest.¹ Internal evidence indicates that they both come from Jeme, and thus they join the small number of texts from this area written entirely in Greek.

1. Receipt for *diagraphon*

O.Camb. 115

6.1 (w) × 5.5 (h) cm

24 July c.730

Described as a ‘Tax-receipt, 5 lines, illegible’, this text concerns a payment of $\frac{1}{3}$ solidus for μέρος διαγράφων, due for indiction 11 (727/8). The

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¹ As a decipherer of ostraca of the Ptolemaic and Roman periods, Tait has had no equal, but he had little interest in texts of the later periods (‘Byz[antine] pap[yri] are no good to Tait’, wrote A.S. Hunt to H.I. Bell on 12 April 1924).

date is partly obscured by a scratch on the surface, which has rendered the indiction number illegible, but comparison with other receipts in this format suggests that it was issued in indiction 13 (729/30). One of the signatories is a new *strategos*. The other may be identified with a person who signed numerous tax receipts in Jeme in 727–8 (see below, 5 n.).

The end of the text is lost; one or two further signatures, including that of the scribe, will have followed.

+ ἔσχ(ον) παρὰ σοῦ Πιαμ
 Δαυίδ (ὑπὲρ) μέρ(ο)υ(ς) διαγρ(άφου)
 ια ἰ(ν)δ(ικτίωνος) νο(μίσματος) γ', τρίτον. ἐγρ(άφη) μ(ηνὸς)
 Ἐπιφ λ ἰ(ν)δ(ικτίωνος) . . . ὁ στρ(ατηγὸς) Ἀρὼ(ν)
 5 στ(ου)χ(εῖ). (m.²) π(ε)τρ(ο)ς σ(τ)ηχῇ

1 εσχ 2 γ-μερ^ν διαγρ 3 ^δ ὁ εγρμ^ι 4 ^δ στραρω

‘I received from you, Piam son of David, for part of the *diagraphon* of the 11th indiction, sol. 1/3, one-third. Written in the month of Epiph 30, indiction (13?). The *strategos* Aron agrees.’ (2nd hand) ‘Petros agrees ...’

2 μέρ(ο)υ(ς) διαγρ(άφου). Cf. O.Petr. Mus. 554.2, O.Minor E 6.2, O.Alex. inv. 19940.3 (ed. K.A. Worp, *BSAC* 42 [2003] 99–102).

4 ὁ στρ(ατηγός) Ἀρό(ν). I owe the reading of the name to a suggestion of L. Berkes. There are no other attestations of this *strategos*, but we know of an *ape* of Jeme called Aron, and the terms *ape* and *strategos* are thought to be synonymous (see P.Strasb. Copt., p. 224f.); there is also a *lashane* of this name. See W.C. Till, *Datierung und Prosopographie der koptischen Rechtsurkunden aus Theben* (1962) 63.

In most receipts from this area, especially Coptic, which were signed by *strategoï*, the function follows the name of the official. It precedes it in a few other Greek receipts: O.Camb. 114.4 (see below), O.Heid. 448.4, 449.5, O.Minor E 6.4 (with BL VIII 536), and the account O.Petr. Mus. 595.1, where read στρ(ατηγός) instead of πρ(εσβύτερος) (originally transcribed as τρ/ in O.Petr. 447).

5 πετροϝ[c. The Copticizing hand is most probably the same as that of Petros who appears as a signatory in tax receipts written by Aristophanes son of Ioannes in 727–8, always paired with Andreas; for a (partial) list of occurrences, see Till, *Datierung und Prosopographie* 174. The misspelled *CTHXH* is restored after these other instances.

2. Receipt for *dianome*

O.Camb. 114

9 (w) × 8 (h) cm

28 February 732

Tait's description reads: 'Tax-receipt, 6 lines, beginning + Ἐσχ(ον) παρὰ σοῦ Μ. ρ. . . .² Ἀντωνίου (ὑπὲρ)'. The text is of the same type as O.IFAO inv. 146, ed. J. Gascou in *Mélanges Cécile Morrison (T&MByz* 16 [2010]) 384–5, which is in a bad state of preservation and whose text can be improved in the light of its Cambridge sister-piece. Both receipts concern the same tax and are signed by the same persons, two of whom recur in O.Heid. 448 and 449, both dated Mesore 8, indiction 1 (1 August 732). These are the only two known receipts of this period issued for the supply of items (in this case, a cushion), no doubt in the context of a requisition.

The tax-payer in the IFAO ostrakon has been identified with a known person from Jeme, but even without this indication, Jeme would have been the most likely place of origin.

- + ἔσχ(ον) παρὰ σοῦ Μάρκου
 Ἀντωνίου (ὑπὲρ) διανομῇ(ς) τοῦ
 δημ(οσίου) τυλ(άριον) α, ἕν. + ἐγρ(άφη) μ(ηνὸς)
 Φαμ(ενω)θ γ ι(ν)δ(ικτίωνος) ιε. + ὁ στρ(ατηγὸς) Κῦρις
 5 στοιχ(εῖ). (*m.*²) Κυριακ(ὸς) στ(οι)χ(εῖ).
 (*vac.*)
 (*m.*¹) Δαυιδ ἔγρ(αψα).

1 εσχ 2 γ διανομ^ητ 3 δημ' τυλ' εγρ μ' 4 φαμ^θ ι^δ ετρ 5 στοιχ
 κυριακετ^χ 6 εγρ

‘I received from you, Markos son of Antonios, for the *dianome* of the public (treasury), 1, one, cushion. Written on the 3rd of the month of Phamenoth, indiction 15. The *strategos* Kyris agrees.’ (2nd hand) ‘Kyriakos agrees.’ (1st hand) ‘I, David, wrote.’

2–3 (ὕπερ) διανομή(ς) τοῦ δημ(οσίου). On this collocation see the note to O.IFAO inv. 146.2. On the term διανομή in general, see F. Mitthof, SPP III².2 pp. xxiii–xxiv.

3 τυλ(άριον). τυλάρια occur in the context of requisitions for the fleet, and refer to cushions used by sailors; see F. Morelli, CPR XXII 48.7 n. In O.IFAO inv. 146.2 read τυλ(άριον) α instead of ἀρ(ίθμιον) (νόμισμα ?) α.

4–6 O.IFAO inv. 146.4–6 should now be presented as follows:

ὁ στρ(ατηγός) Κῦρις στοιχ(εῖ).
Κυριακ(ός) στ(οι)χ(εῖ).
Δαυὶδ ἔγρ(αψα).

4 Φαμ(ενω)θ γ. O.IFAO inv. 146 also dates from Phamenoth, but the month-day and indiction figure are not legible.

ὁ στρ(ατηγός) Κῦρις. This official is not known from any other text except for these two ostraca. For the construction see above, **1** 4 n.

5 Κυριακ(ός). The same signatory (same hand) occurs in O.Alex. inv. 19940.7, O.Heid. 448.6, and 449.6.

6 Δαυὶδ ἔγρ(αψα). Cf. O.Heid. 448.7, 449.7.