Michael Gronewald, John Lundon, Klaus Maresch, Gesa Schenke, and Philipp Schmitz: Kölner Papyri (P. Köln), Band 13 [Book review]

Vierros, Marja Kaisa

2016


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John Wallrodt, David Schwei, Kyle Helms, and Nick Granitz provided assistance with the production of this volume. David Schwei was supported by a grant from the Graduate School of the University of Cincinnati, the other three by the Semple Fund of the Department of Classics.

The Greek and Coptic font used is IFAOGrec Unicode (http://www.ifao.egnet.net/publications/publier/outils-ed/polices/#grec).
The thirteenth volume of papyri from the Cologne collection includes 55 new texts (nos. 496-550). All but three are written in Greek (one text is in Demotic and two parchment codex fragments are in Coptic).

The literary papyri include two fragments of Homer’s *Odyssey* from the second century CE (496: Od. 15.329-334 and 497: Od. 17.484-488) and a fragment of nine lines from Demosthenes’ *De Corona*, also from the 2nd century CE (498). 499 presents a new edition of Plutarch’s *Vita Caesaris* 1.1-6, including Cologne fragments previously edited by B. Kramer (P.Köln 1.47) and ten fragments from the papyrus collection at Duke University. The text receives a thorough treatment by John Lundon. The copy was of high quality, dated by the handwriting to the third century CE, and includes some *Lesezeichen*, such as rough breathings, acute accents, apostrophes, and punctuation. Some of these marks were probably added by a second hand in different ink. Since the fragments come from the very beginning of the *Vita Caesaris*, they add to the discussion of whether the manuscript tradition is incomplete at the beginning, but they do not provide a clear answer, because the first word surviving is the same as in the manuscripts, but it is located at line end. All literary texts in this edition are of unknown provenance, but Lundon does try to trace the origin of the Duke and Cologne fragments. He suggest Oxyrhynchus as one possible find spot, which would be supported by the handwriting.

The remainder of the literary papyri (500-514) are unidentified fragments from the first to fourth century CE with the exception of a cartonnage text from the first century BCE, no. 513. 503 is possibly medical and 514 perhaps grammatical. All the literary texts apart from the Plutarch text have been edited by Michael Gronewald.

The Greek documentary section follows, presented in chronological order. Thirteen texts come from the Ptolemaic, eleven from the Roman, and ten from the Late Antique period. The majority of these are edited by Klaus Maresch. It is peculiar to find that the one Demotic text (517), written on the verso of a Greek petition (516), is placed under the heading ”Griechische Urkunden” in the table of contents. This pair of documents comes from mummy cartonnage; the Greek side is a petition to the king that survives only in part and the Demotic back (edited by H.-J. Thissen) lists deliveries of food supplies to a temple. Another text from cartonnage is a longer account of distribution of field and irrigation work performed in the summer months Pharmouthi and
Pachon (edited by Philipp Schmitz, who dates the handwriting of the papyrus to the third century BCE), where a worker’s daily wage was three obols. Many different job assignments include weed removers, wood collectors, water bearers, etc. 520 and 521 also come from cartonnage and can be connected to the Heracleopolite nome; they are both petitions from the third/second century BCE, but unfortunately they are not well preserved. 520 is addressed to a Komanos who may be identified with Komanos “of the first friends” and the Komanos who was sent to Rome with Ptolemy VIII in 161/162 BCE.

Further cartonnage texts are 525 and, on its verso, 526. They seem to date to the end of the second century BCE according to the handwriting and the prices of food in the list on the verso. 525 is labeled as a “school exercise and metrological table.” It lists first the numeral signs from 1 to 9,000 and then some choinix to artabe equivalencies in the first column of which only the end of lines survive. The second column is better preserved and more interesting, listing money unit equivalencies. The list gives us a formerly unknown use of χρυσοὶ χάλκινοι, bronze gold, five of which equal one mina. I do not see anything in the physical appearance of this text to support its identification as a school exercise. This identification is possibly derived from the contents: a table of the type that may have been taught in school. However, it may just as well be a private note or memorizing table of a clerk who had to work with such measurements.

No. 519, edited by Eva Käppel, is an interesting small text from 158 BCE, which Inaros, a police official (phylakites), has written in an unpractised hand. The text, addressed to one Ptolemaios, subordinate of the toponymmateus Horos, is a security that Inaros has received the village scribe Petous under his custody and will take him to the royal scribe Dionysios. The places mentioned are in the Heracleopolite nome.

Klaus Maresch edits several accounts and manages to make sense of difficult figures. 522-523 are accounts of a cult(?) association datable to after the middle of the second century BCE. The price of a keramion of wine appears to be ca. 5,000 drachmas in both accounts. The following account, 524, is interesting as it deals with sums in silver that were changed into bronze (the currency actually used). The exchange rate was not constant, though. The account is dated to 130 to 127 BCE according to the price of oil (200 drachmas for a kotyle). 527 from the Hermopolite nome appears to have been written in the bank and lists bank transactions of people including village scribes, bankers, goldsmiths, and some whose profession is not specified.

The following eleven texts date from the Roman period. The first two are census declarations, 528 from Syron kome (Oxyrhynchites) written in 104/105 CE and 529 from Oxyrhynchus written in 119 CE. 528 is addressed to the
strategos Apion and declares a large family of people with Egyptian names, including some double names like Harmiysis-Artemon and Harmiysis-Postumus. 529 is addressed to the strategos Demetrios and mentions the prefect (Q.) Rammius Martialis.

The next four texts, from the second and third centuries, are a change in land ownership (530), bath expenses (531), an account of grain income (532), and a list of names (533). They are presented without translations, which is an odd deviation from the practice of the edition as a whole. Among the Roman period texts 536 (edited by Adam Łajtar) stands out, a short letter mentioning medical supplies. The sender of the letter may have been a doctor. There is also a small writing exercise (538) with words beginning with ζ and η dated to the second/third century.

The Late Antique papyri range from the fourth to the seventh century. The first (539) concerns the annona militaris for the legio III Dioecletiana in 361 CE. The last ones are a receipt of wheat (547), written by a priest, for the annona civica, and a surety document (548), addressed τῷ δημὸς[οσίῳ λόγῳ, both from the 7th century CE. In between there are an order for payment (541), an account (542), documents relating to wine (543 and 544), a note to a supervisor of workers (545), and a fragment of a contract or receipt (546), where apparently the garbage collector of Oxyrhynchus is mentioned (the rare word ὀνθομεταφόρος). In 545, line 3 I would not read πόλει but rather the word abbreviated as πο(λει), since the stroke after the omicron does not look like the downward strokes of other lambdas in the text but resembles an abbreviation mark.

The volume is wrapped up by two Sahidic Coptic texts edited by Gesa Schenke. They are parts of parchment codices, the former belonging to a Gospel of Matthew from the eighth/ninth century (549) and the latter consisting of a Gospel of John from the sixth century (550). The page numbers in both texts allow the editor to make some estimates regarding the size of each codex.

At the end there are indices and good-quality images of all texts. This is a typical edition of papyri from a large collection with no specific theme in the texts selected for publication.

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