86. ONE OR TWO SHORT DOCUMENTS

Inv. 82I
Field No. XIXi
Glass Plate 286
Plate CLIX

5 x ca. 50 cm
top margin ca. 4 cm?
right margin 0–0.5 cm
bottom margin 6 cm

6th c.?

Only a strip of some five centimeters of the right side of this text survives. A blank space between the fragments (fr. 16) suggests that there might actually have been two sheets rolled together. However, they were written by the same hand, and there is only one secure join between the layers (frs. 7 and 14), so it is impossible to reconstruct an alternative sequence of fragments based on this hypothesis. Since it remains possible that the writer left a space between two texts in the same roll, we give just a single transcript. It may represent the original order of the fragments, but this is by no means certain. There were several lines of faint text before the first edited line. A number of fragments may belong to the left of the main series, but they cannot be located.

The text was written by a slightly sloping, somewhat clumsy hand with a dull pen, leaving practically no right margin. A few orthographic errors reveal that the writer was not a very experienced professional. As far as can be inferred from the disjointed fragments, the space left between the lines varied considerably. This might of course reflect a situation where the roll consisted of distinct records separated by shorter or longer gaps.

Two personal names appear among the fragments, Theodoros and Nonnos. Several words indicate that the document related to landed property and perhaps first and foremost to taxes: ἐλευθερικῶς (taxation class), ἀμπελικός ("vineyard"), ἰογέρος (iugerum), συντηλει- ("tax"), and an Arabic toponym.

In addition, there was clearly another sheet wrapped around the main roll. The joined height of these fragments was at least 10–15 cm, and they seem to preserve the left side of a text. The extant letters reveal practically nothing of the contents, so we do not edit the wrapping. As the outermost blank layers of the inner roll cannot be separated from the wrapping, the extent of its top margin remains uncertain.

↑

1

[...] [ ]
πεληρ[ε][θα]ι[ ]
traces

... to have been paid ...

4

[τη] [. . . ]
traces

[οιν] [. ] λογ,

[.] [. ]

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5 x ca. 50 cm
top margin ca. 4 cm?
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6th c.?
8 ὑπὲρ τὸ(που) Μαθ . . . for the place Math . . .

9 ἐλευθερικὸς . . . free . . .

12 traces traces traces traces vacat

Θεόδωρος . . . Theodoros . . .

16 ἐλευθερικοῦ . . . free . . .

19 ἐνδεκάτης ἱνδι(κτίωνος) . . . eleventh indiction . . .

20 μενοι χα( ) traces traces traces traces traces

24 οὐ Νόννου . . . of Nonnos . . .

28 ήμενο . [ ] . . . half . . .

32 ονον vacat traces traces traces traces traces vacat

COMMENTARY

8 ὑπὲρ τὸ(που) Μαθ: the same toponym may appear on a verso fragment: τὸ(που) Μαθ Q[ ]

9 ἐλευθερικὸς: for land classed as “free,” which did not mean tax-exempt, see P. Petra I, pp. 76–77, and cf. 19 6–7 with comm.

16 ἐμενοι χα( ): this may alternatively be ἐμενοις χα( ). The abbreviated word might refer to the public archives or their officials thereof (δημόσιοι χάρται, χαρτοφύλαξ, χαρτουλάριος), cf. Index VIII.

24 οὐ Νόννου: as the name is in the genitive, it may also be a patronymic.


26 υπέγραψα †: this must be the end of a signature. The fragments do not reveal any clear change of hands. What follows is too slight to decipher or even to judge whether or not it belongs to the same text.

A. ARIJAVA, M. LEHTINEN