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FLAVIUS JOHN, SCHOLASTICUS: A NOTE ON PSI 963

PSI 963 is a lease of a vetch-seller's shop (ὀρβιοπωλεῖον); its provenance is Oxyrhynchus, its date 581 A.D. The name, titles and paternity of the lessor take up all of lines 8-13, and the first half of line 14. I reproduce the first three of these lines as they are given in the *editio princeps*:

Φλαουῖω Ἰωάννη τῷ καὶ Λαμπατίω
τῷ σοφωτάτῳ καὶ ἐλλογιμ(ωτάτῳ) σημ[εια-?]
φόρου ταύτης τῆς Ἀρκάδων ἐπαρχί(ας).

The emendations which I shall propose here have been verified against a photograph very kindly provided to me by the Istituto Papirologico G. Vitelli. I begin with some minor observations on line 8, then proceed to a more substantive change in lines 9-10.

Φλαουῖω

Read instead Φλαυῖω. Both spellings are common (cf. Preisigke, *Namenbuch* Col. 466), but requirements of space indicate that the shorter version was written here. Moreover, the traces after *alpha* are identical with the ligatures between the *alphas* and *upsilons*, and with the upper left-hand portions of the *upsilons*, in αὐτοκ(ράτορος) (line 4) and αὐτοῦ (line 5).

Λαμπατίω

Read instead Λαμπαδίω. Λαμπάδιος is the correct form of the name (cf. *Namenbuch*, and Foraboschi, *Onomasticon* s.v.). Although interchange of dentals is common in the papyri,¹ the traces before *iota*, if I interpret them rightly, better conform to *delta* than to *tau*.² I cannot verify the certitude of the final *omega*.

1. E. Mayser, *Grammatik der griechischen Papyri aus der Ptolemäerzeit* I, Leipzig, 1906, pp. 175 ff.; S. G. Kapsomenakis, *Voruntersuchungen zu einer Grammatik der Papyri der nachchristlichen Zeit* (Münch. Beitr. 28), Munich, 1938, pp. 26, 82.

2. The change from Λαμπάτιος to Λαμπάδιος is made tacitly in Foraboschi, *Onomasticon*.

σημ[εια?] | φόρου³

Shortly after the *editio princeps*, Otto Hornickel, citing probability (perhaps having in mind the incongruity of case, genitive where dative was expected), and the standard application of the adjectives ἐλλογιμώτατος and σοφώτατος to men who were orators and men of law (“rhetorisch und juristisch gebildeter Personen”), proposed to read συν[ηγόρ(ω)], i.e. “advocate,” at the end of line 9.⁴ (In the following line φόρου then becomes a separate word, a borrowing of the Latin *forum*, here in the sense of “tribunal.”)⁵

Hornickel’s emendation was not reported in the *Berichtigungsliste*, and has, accordingly, escaped scholarly attention.⁶ It was however, recently noted and accepted by Axel Claus, who observed: “Der συνήγορος Flavios Joannes konnte den Prädikaten σοφώτατος καὶ ἐλλογιμώτατος nach gut ein σχολαστικός gewesen sein.”⁷ Hornickel, insofar as I can tell, neither saw the papyrus, nor a photograph of it. My own inspection of the photograph now confirms that σχ[ολ(αστικῶ)] is, in fact, the correct reading.⁸ The *chi* is slightly obscured because: 1) the right-hand radius of the *lambda* of Λαμπαδίω, from the line above, runs into the upper left-hand radius of the *chi*, and 2) a portion of the lower right-hand radius of the *chi*, toward the crux of the letter, is missing. Nevertheless, the letter, formed exactly like the *chi* in ἀρχόντων (line 11), is certain.

Read then: σχ[ολ(αστικῶ)] | φόρου.

In summary, we may now read PSI 963.8-10 as:

Φλαυῖω Ἰωάννη τῶ καὶ Λαμπαδίω

3. The editor (note *ad loc.*) comments: “Se la prima parte della parola è letta bene, correggi σημεια | φόρω.”

4. *Ehren- und Rangprädikate in den Papyrusurkunden: Ein Beitrag zum römischen und byzantinischen Titelwesen* (Diss. Giessen, 1930), pp. 7-8, esp. p. 7 n. 6. He was also, apparently, influenced by the parallel afforded by SB 7033, which he cites on p. 7, where (lines 21-22) a certain Makarios, ὁ ἐλλογιμώτατος συνήγορος τοῦ Θηβαίων φόρου, is mentioned. See now the republication of part of this text as *P. Princ.* 82.

5. See Collinet, *Rev. Phil.*, ser. 2, 36, 1912, pp. 132 f.

6. So, e.g., PSI 963.9 will still be found in *Spoglio lessicale* III mentioned s.v. σημειαφόρος. Perhaps partly responsible is a misprint in the list of readings emended by Hornickel in his dissertation (above, n. 4), p. 37. There “Soc 936,8” should read “Soc 963,8.”

7. Ὁ ΣΧΟΛΑΣΤΙΚΟΣ (Diss. Köln, 1965), p. 81 n. 2.

8. Or perhaps σχ[ολ(αστικῶ)]. Abbreviation is needed because the lacuna is too small to accommodate the full word. For the common abbreviation σχολ/, cf. *inter alia* *P. Lond.* V 1701.14, 1761.18; *P. Lips.* 100 4.3; *SP XX* 122.11; *BGU* 1094.15.

τῷ σοφωτάτῳ καὶ ἐλλογιμ(ωτάτῳ) σχ[ολ(αστικῷ)]
 φόρου ταύτης τῆς Ἀρκάδων ἐπαρχί(ας),

i.e., “Flavius John *alias* Lampadius, the most wise and most eloquent *scholasticus* of the *forum* of this province of Arcadia.” Although a number of *scholastici* of the *forum* of the Thebaid have previously been known from the papyri,⁹ John is the first known certainly to have been attached to the *forum* of Arcadia.

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9. For full references, Claus (above, n. 7), pp. 30 f., with discussion, pp. 77 ff.