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THREE SHORT NOTES ON LATE ROMAN DOCUMENTS
FROM EGYPT

The observations printed below were made in the course of research on social mobility in late Roman Egypt conducted under a Summer Faculty Fellowship for 1976 from Loyola University of Chicago.

1. P.Lond. V 1755, 1756 and 1757

These three documents are receipts for taxes in kind assigned by their editor to the seventh century. They record payments made for the 3rd, 4th and 5th indictions, in all probability of the same indiction cycle and therefore for successive years. Each receipt records, in identical order, the names of the same four taxpayers. The amounts they pay differ from one another, but the individual taxpayers pay the same amounts each year. Their names, as presented in P.Lond. V 1755.6-9, are as follows:

Προτελιος Κυπουλαι /
Παλλης Σερηνο`
Κοριννος Πτολομαιο̄
Φοιβαμμφ Φιλοξενο`. 1)

At first glance it may appear that all four taxpayers are identified simply by name and patronymic. On that assumption the names of the last three pose no problems of significance: Pallês son of Serênos, Korinnos son of Ptolomaïos (sic), Phoibammôn son of Philoxenos. But the name of the first taxpayer, Protelios Κυπουλαι /, poses difficulties (see editor's note ad loc.) that can only be resolved by seeing the "patronymic" here as an exception to the rule followed in the other three instances. In other words, what was thought to be a name is not a name. Instead, it is the bureaucratic title *κυγγουλάριος*,²⁾ probably misread because of the palaeographical similarity, and therefore confusion, between pi and double gamma.

1) Our concern here is only with the first name, which appears as Προτελιος Κυπουλαι / in 1756.9 and as Προτελ / Κυπουλ / in 1757.6.

2) In the papyri singulares appear almost exclusively as officials attached to the staffs of Egyptian provincial governors in the late Roman period. Most of the information available concerns those attached to the officium of the praeses of Arcadia and to that of the duke of the Thebaid (cf. ZPE 11 [1973] 59, n.116). For their special role as messengers, see esp. P.Cairo Masp. III 67282, cf. John Lydus, *De magistratibus* III.7.

At my request, Mr. T.S.Pattie of The British Library's Department of Manuscripts has kindly re-examined the original papyri. He reports in a letter of 22 June 1976: "In each case π is impossible, and double gamma is certain." He proposes the following readings:

1755.6: $\epsilon\gamma\gamma\circ\upsilon\lambda\alpha\rho/$

1756.9: $\epsilon\gamma\gamma\circ\upsilon\lambda\alpha\rho/$

1757.6: $\epsilon\gamma\gamma\circ\upsilon\lambda/.$

The first two instances should be resolved as $\epsilon\gamma\gamma\circ\upsilon\lambda\alpha\rho(\iota\omicron\varsigma)$ and $\epsilon\gamma\gamma\circ\upsilon\lambda\alpha\rho(\iota\omicron\varsigma)$, respectively, and the third as $\epsilon\gamma\gamma\circ\upsilon\lambda(\acute{\alpha}\rho\iota\omicron\varsigma)$. Reference to the ghost-name $\text{C}\iota\pi\circ\upsilon\lambda\alpha\iota()$ may now be struck from Preisigke's *Namenbuch* (col. 385) and these instances of the Latin loanword *singularis* added to S.Daris, *Il Lessico latino nel greco d'Egitto* (Barcelona, 1971), on p.104.

2. P.Lond. I 113.1

This is an extremely long record of an arbitrated settlement between a soldier, Flavius Delmatius alias Valentinus, and one Aurelius Valentinus. The document closes with the signatures and attestations of the two parties and with those of seven witnesses. Of the seven witnesses, three are soldiers belonging to Delmatius's military unit ($\acute{\alpha}\rho\iota\theta\mu\acute{\omicron}\varsigma$).³⁾ The name and title of the third soldier, as read (lines 100-101), are as follows:⁴⁾

100 $\Phi\lambda, \text{Εἰσαπόλλων}^5) \acute{\omicron} \kappa(\acute{\alpha}\iota) \text{Εὐφράντις}$

101 $\Phi\lambda, \beta\dots [\tau\omicron\upsilon\tilde{\iota}] \text{προγεγραμμένου ἄριθμοῦ},$

i.e., "Fl(avius) Isapollōn alias Euphrantis . . . of the above-written *arithmos*."

The problem centers on the reading at the beginning of line 101. It seems clear that a military rank or title of some sort is needed. Wessely, who first edited the text, sensed this; but his suggestion, $\beta\acute{\iota}\alpha\rho\chi\omicron\varsigma$, was rejected by Kenyon (note ad loc.) as not suiting "the traces of the letters which remains." Wessely's suggestion was also objectionable because it failed to account for the $\Phi\lambda$, at the very beginning of the line - unless it

3) The document is of Arsinoite provenance and the unit in question is therefore likely to have been one of those stationed in the Arsinoite metropolis: the *Leones Clibanarii*, the *Transtigritani*, or the *Daci*. See J.Maspero, *Organisation militaire de l'Egypte byzantine* (Paris, 1912), p.141, cf. A.H.M.Jones, *The Later Roman Empire 284-602* (Oxford, 1964), p.661.

4) Accents, breathings, resolutions added for the purpose of this note.

5) Read Ἰσαπόλλων .

were assumed to be a careless repetition from the preceding line. Nevertheless, Isapollōn did not make such a mistake, nor was Wessely wrong in his belief that a military title was required. The title in question is, I am sure, the rarely attested military grade Flavialis,⁶⁾ and the solution to the problem apparently escaped both editors, partly because of damage to the papyrus (some letters after beta are missing; the tops of the rest are missing), but more so because the word had not hitherto been read in the papyri.⁷⁾

Read here then: Φλ(α)βι[άλ]ις.⁸⁾ Details concerning the missing and damaged letters may be disputed, but not (I think) the reading as a whole. The lower half of the final sigma seems quite clear. It is followed by a vertical stroke, probably part of a tau. I would therefore read τ[οῦ] for the editor's [τοῦ].

3. P.Oxy. XXIV 2418

The text, a petition concerning an inheritance assigned to the fifth or sixth century, is addressed (line 1):

[.....]τικῶ τοποτηροῦντι τὰ μέρη ἐπαρχίας [Ἀ]ρκάδιαις.

The damaged word-ending right after the lacuna is probably, as the editor suggests, part of a title or a proper name. If the former alternative is right, then several possibilities arise. The editor suggests by way of examples ὑπατικῶ and πραγματικῶ. Without arguing the appropriateness of these possibilities, I would simply offer another one, one that seems to me to fit better into the administrative scheme of Egypt at this time: *σχολιαστικῶ*.⁹⁾ That is to say, the petition's recipient was a scholasticus who, as legally appointed *topotêrêtês*, was temporarily serving as governor, or exercising gubernatorial authority in Arcadia.¹⁰⁾ I know of no exact parallel to this collocation of titles, but might instance

6) Discussion and examples in *BASP* 10 (1973) 43-46.

7) First read in *BGU* II (publ. 1898), no.369, line 5.

8) See *Atlas to P.Lond. I*. I worked from a microfilm of the pertinent plate which was very kindly sent to me by Professor and Mrs. H.C. Youtie.

9) I am grateful to Dr. John Rea for checking palaeographical details against the original papyrus. He writes (letter of 25 July 1976) regarding the damaged letters after the lacuna: "The sigma is very little damaged; just the very bottom is rubbed away. The edge is frayed where the previous letter stands, but the outline of alpha seems fairly recognizable."

10) For *scholastici*, see Axel Claus, 'Ο ΣΧΟΛΑΣΤΙΚΟΣ (Diss. Köln, 1965); for *topotêrêtai*: Kunderewicz, *JJP* 14 (1962) 33-50. *Scholasticus*, of course, is also found as a personal name; cf. Claus, pp.48-49.

in this connection P.S.I. VIII 963 (581) where a scholasticus fori provinciae Arcadiae¹¹⁾ is described as being a former provincial governor (ἀπὸ ἀρχόντων). In the P.S.I. case, therefore, we have to do with a scholasticus who had finished serving as provincial governor (praeses); in the P.Oxy. case, we may be concerned with a scholasticus temporarily serving as governor, and, perhaps, on his way toward regular appointment as such.

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11) See emendation in *BASP* 9 (1972) 16-18.