Two Loan Repayments from Second-Century Tebtunis

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TWO LOAN REPAYMENTS FROM SECOND-CENTURY TEBTUNIS¹)

The type of document commonly referred to as the repayment, or return, of a loan has been recently discussed in the introduction to P. Yale 63. The editors there conclude (p. 198) that "written repayments of loans were not given for repayment itself, but to cover peculiar circumstances" (spaced by me), such as the decease of the original creditor or debtor, or occasions when repayment was made in a place different from that in which the loan was taken out. The two papyri presented below lend confirmation to this conclusion: No. 1 is the repayment in Tebtunis of a loan originally drawn up in the record office (grapheion) of Theogonis; in No. 2 repayment is made in behalf of a deceased debtor by his sister. For further discussions and details, see P. Yale 63 introduction, with the list of repayments given, pp. 196 - 97. To this may be added P. Teb. 596 descr. (in BASP 6 [1969] pp. 31ff.).

1

P. Teb. 537 descr. 10 x 11,6 cm. Aug. 20, 137 A.D. Plate IIa

Acknowledgement of the repayment of 132 drachmas owed by Pakebkis son of Marepsemis to Heron son of Souchas. Pakebkis is quite possibly identical with the original debtor of the following text (No. 2, line 15).

'Ετους πρώτου καὶ εἴκοστοῦ Αὐτοκράτορος
Καίσαρος Τραιανοῦ Ἀδριανοῦ Σεβαστοῦ
…
Μεσορῆ βετίμιν τῆς Πολέμων ἐμεί-
δος τοῦ Ἀρσινοείτου νομοῦ. Ὑμολογεῖ Ὡρων
Σουχᾶ άς ἐτῶν τριάκοντα δύο ὀσύληι

1 The papyri edited here were summarily described at the back of the Tebtunis Papyri Vol. II. They are part of the Tebtunis collection owned by the University of California and housed in the Rare Books Department of the Bancroft Library. I am grateful to Prof. Hagedorn and Prof. Koenen for proposing some improvements in the reading of both texts.
χειρὶ ἀριστερᾷ Παχήβκι Μαρεψῆμεως
ως ἐτών εἰκοσι δικτὼ σφάλη παρ’ ἀντικινή-
μιον [δ]ὲξιδὸν ἀπέχειν παρ’ αὐτοῦ
Παχήβκεως [δὶ]ὰ χειρὸς ἀργυρί[ου] δρα-
χμᾶς ἔκατον τριάκοντα δύο η[αί] τοὺς
tόκους δὲς ὕφειλεν ὁ Παχήβκις τῷ

12 "Ἡρωνι καθ’ ὄμολογίαν χρῆσεως τε-
tελειομένην [δ]ὶὰ τοῦ κώμης θεογο-
νίδος γραφεῖον τῷ ἑνεστῶτι ἐτὶ μη-
νὶ Φαμενώ(θ) τεσσαρεσαπεδήλῃ ἦν καὶ

16 [δεκά]τῃ ἦν καὶ] ἄν[α]δέδωκεν αὐτῷ ἢ[ς] ἄθε-
[τοι]ν καὶ ἄκθ[ρωι]ν καὶ μὴ ἐπελεύσασθαι

4 Ἀρσινοίτου 5 σφάλῃ 7 δικτῶ 13 τετελειωμένην 14 ἐτεί

Twenty-first year of Imperator Caesar Traianus Hadrianus Augustus,
Mesore 27, at Tebtunis of the Polemonos Meris of the Arsinoite Nome. Heron,
son of Souchas, about thirty-two years old, with a scar on his left hand, ack-
nowledges to Pakebkis, son of Marepsemis, about twenty-eight years old,
with a scar along his right shin, that he has received from him, Pakebkis,
from hand to hand, one hundred thirty-two silver drachmas plus interest which
Pakebkis owed Heron according to the terms of a contract of loan drawn up by
the record office of the village Theogonias in the present year on the fourteenth
day of the month Phamenoth; and he has turned over this contract to Pakebkis
for cancellation and invalidation. Nor shall Heron take action against Pakeb-
kis with respect to what he has received, as stated above . . . .

1 - 3 The date is Aug. 20, 137 A.D.
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4 - 5 "Πρων Σουχᾶ : Person(s) of this same name occur in P. Teb. 318, 6 (166 A.D.) and 320, 3 (188 A.D.).

13 - 14 [δ]ὰ τοῦ Νάμησ Θεογονίδος γραφείου : Theogonis was one of the small villages in the Fayum's Gharaq basin; on its location see P. Teb. II p. 379; G.S. Crotti, Aegyptus 42 (1962) pp. 110 - 13; Dorothy J. Crawford, Kerkeosiris: An Egyptian Village in the Ptolemaic Period (Cambridge 1971) pp. 46 - 50. The fullest discussion of its relationships with, and, in the Roman period, its dependence upon Tebtunis is that of Crotti, pp. 103 - 13. In the first century A.D. its grapheion is found united with that of the village Tali (P. Mich. V 287, 2); but by the second century Theogonis was maintaining its own independent record office. Loans originally drawn up at the Theogonis grapheion were sometimes repaid at Tebtunis, with attendant contracts being drawn up and registered by the Tebtunis grapheion (P. Fam. Tebt. 9 and the present text), and vice versa (P. Teb. 596 descr. in BASP 6 [1969] pp. 31 ff.). See also PSI X 1145 where a pastophorion located in Tebtunis is ceded by means of a contract drawn at the record office of Theogonis.

14 - 15 The date is March 10, 137 A.D.


2

P. Teb. 447 descr. 11 x 21 cm. July 15, 155 A.D.
Plate I a

Psenkebkis son of Marepsemis acknowledges to Thenmarsisouchos daughter of another Marepsemis that he has received from her the 460 drachmas owed him by her brother Pakebkis. Presently mounted to lower left of this document is a small fragment (2, 5 x 6 cm), written in a hand similar to, if not the same as, that which wrote the body of the loan repayment:

\[ \sigma \]
\[ \\varnothing \rho \omega \xi \sigma \]
\[ \\varnothing \rho \omega \pi \]
\[ Μά, ξιμος \]
\[ ϖρος \sigma \]
\[ ϖρος \pi \]
It seems to be some kind of name list (with names ending in -ωρος in lines 2 - 3, 5 - 7, Μᾶς [ξ]υμος in line 4) including patronymics (e.g. Κρον[ξυνος aut sim. in line 7). The fragment has no apparent connection with the following contract.

Ετοις ἀκτωκαίδεκάτου Ἀυτοκράτορος
Καίσαρος [Τ]ίτου Αἰλίου Ἀδριανοῦ
 Ἀντωνίνου Σεβαστοῦ Ἐυσεβοῦς Ἔπειφ

καὶ ἐν Τεπτύνει τῆς Πολέμωνς μερίδος τοῦ
 Ἀριστο[ε]ίτου νομοῦ, ὁμολογεῖ Ψενηῆκις
Μαρεφήμεως ὡς ἔτων τριάκοντα πέντε
ἄσημος Θεομαρκισσὼχώι ἔτερου Μαρε-

ψήμεως ὡς ἔτων τριάκοντα ἐπτὰ ἄσημὸν ψ'
μετὰ κυρίου τοῦ ἄνδρος Παρῆκμιος
τοῦ Ἀρποκρατίωνος ὡς ἔτων τεσ-
σαράκοντα πέντε ἄσημον ἀπέχειν

παρ' αὐτῆς Θεομαρκισσὸχου διὰ χειρός
ἀργυρίου δραχμᾶς τετρακοσίας

ἐξήμοντα διειληθείσας ὑπὸ τοῦ
ἀδελφοῦ αὐτῆς Παρῆκμιος τῶι

[Ψε]νηῆκι καὶ ὁμολογίαν χρὴ-
σεως γεγο[ν]υῖαν διὰ τοῦ αὐτοῦ γραφείου
τῷ δ[ωδε]κάτῳ ἔτει Ἀντωνίου
Καίσα[ρος τοῦ] κυρίου [Φαρ]μοῦθι α ᾗν καὶ
Eighteenth year of Imperator Caesar Titus Aelius Hadrianus Antoninus Augustus Pius, Epeiph 21, at Tebtunis of the Polemonos Meris of the Arsinoite Nome. Psenkebkis, son of Marepsemis, about thirty-five years old, with no distinguishing mark, acknowledges to Thenmarsisouchos, daughter of another Marepsemis, about thirty-seven years old, with no distinguishing mark, with her husband Pakebkis, son of Harpokration, about forty-five years old, with no distinguishing mark, as guardian, that he has received from her, Thenmarsisouchos, from hand to hand, four hundred sixty silver drachmas owed to him, Psenkebkis, by her brother Pakebkis according to the terms of a contract of loan drawn up by the same record office in the twelfth year of Antoninus Caesar the lord, Pharmouthi 1; and he has turned this contract over to her for invalidation and he, Psenkebkis, will not take action concerning these (i.e., the 460 drachmas in principal) or the interest on these,
since this also has been repaid, or concerning any other matter whatsoever down to the present day.

(2nd hand) I, Psenkebkis, son of Marepsemis, have received from Thenmarsisouchos the four hundred sixty drachmas plus interest which she owed him (sic) and will not take action, as stated above. I, NN, have written for him because he is illiterate.

(3rd hand) Registered by the record office in Tebtunis.

1 - 4 The date is July 15, 155 A.D.

9 - 10 Pakebkis son of Harpokration is possibly identical with the Pakebkis son of Harpokration who is receipted for having paid the poll-tax in P. Teb. 306, lines 1 - 4 (163 A.D.). He was probably a priest (so P. Teb. 306 intro.) and may have been the father of Kronion, the deputy prophet (διάδοχος προφητείας) of P. Teb. 293, lines 1 - 2 (about 187 A.D.).

17 τοῦ αὐτοῦ γραφείου: i.e., the Tebtunis grapheion. Its operations have been most recently and most fully discussed by Elinor Husselmann, "Procedures of the Record Office of Tebtunis in the First Century A.D.", Proceedings of the Twelfth International Congress of Papyrology (Toronto 1970) pp. 223 - 38.

18 δ[ωδεκά]τωτό: Fills the lacuna better than δ[ξε]τωτό. The twelfth year of Antoninus is 148/9 A.D.

19 Pharmouthi 1 of the 12th year of Antoninus is March 27, 149 A.D.

21 - 23 For the restoration of these lines cf. P. Ryl. II 174, lines 16ff.

23 - 24 For the restoration cf. inter alia P. Fam. Tebt. 9, line 18.

28 [α]ὑτός: μοι is expected. The use of ἀντίς is presumably a psychological slip on the part of the man who wrote in Psenkebkis' behalf.

30 The name of the man who wrote for Psenkebkis is either very short (3 - 4 letters) or ἔγραφα has in some way been abbreviated. Cf. ἔγραφα (φα) in P. Teb. 397, line 34. ἄγραμμάτου must have been abbreviated since the lacuna before the grapheion docket is not sufficient to accommodate the word written in full.

31 The restoration is modelled on PSI X 1140, 34; P. Teb. 312, 25 - 26; P. Fam. Tebt. 7, 29; 27, 28 - 29.

Berkeley  
James G. Keenan
a) Repayment of a loan (P. Teb. inv. nr. 447), zu J. G. Keenan S. 87
c) Anweisung an die Totengräber (P. Colon. inv. nr. 3004), zu L. Koenen S. 20.
d) Namenliste (P. Amsterdam inv. nr. 27), zu P. J. Sijpesteijn S. 47 f.
a) Repayment of a loan (P. Teb. inv. nr. 537), zu J. G. Keenan S. 85 ff.

b) Lease of vaults (P. Yale inv. nr. 156 verso), zu J. Rea. S. 1.

c) Delivery to a granary (O. Leiden 144), zu J. R. Rea S. 2 ff.