



BULLETIN DE L'INSTITUT FRANÇAIS D'ARCHÉOLOGIE ORIENTALE

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BIFAO 45 (1947), p. 59-60

Girgis Mattha

The [artokopeïon] in demotic texts.

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THE ἈΡΤΟΚΟΠΕΪΟΝ IN DEMOTIC TEXTS

BY

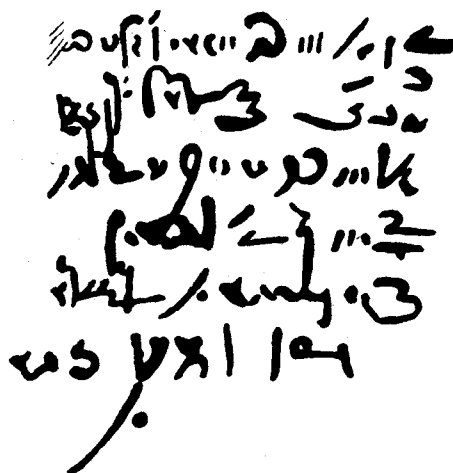
GIRGIS MATTHA.

The reading of the two demotic groups $\xi\mu$, for “bakehouse”, has always been a puzzle, despite their frequent occurrence in demotic texts. The reading *pr tk*, hitherto doubtfully given to them by demotic scholars, has presumably been founded on the coptic $\text{IN} \tau \omega \kappa = \text{ἀρτοκοπεῖον}$, for want of a better reading⁽¹⁾. The text here published shows quite clearly that the two groups in question are but two determinatives used substitutionally for their two respective words, the first being ‘y “house” and the second *psy* “bake”. Hence is the new reading ‘y *psy* “bakehouse”.

Our text is one written on an ostrakon in the collection of the Bodleian Library, Oxford. Its inventory number is Eg. Inscip. 870. It comes from Thebes and dates from the 33rd year (of Augustus). It is an acknowledgement of receipt of a $\frac{1}{3}$ artaba of wheat by a certain *Tymakryns* (apparently a baker) to another Wennofre son of Paēr, who delivered it for use in the bakery for the period from Pachons 30th to Epēp 10th.

THE TEXT.

- (1) *Tymakryns s .?.*
- (2) *p nt d (n) Wn-nfr s Pa-r*
- (3) *te-y mh n p sw $\frac{1}{3}$ (n) p 'y-*
- (4) *psy t tp šm 'lq*
- (5) *š' 'bt-3 šm sw 10 st šp*
- (6) *(n) 'p h-sp 33 'bt-2*
- (7) *sw 10.*



⁽¹⁾ See THOMPSON, *A family Archive from Siut*, p. 23, note 100.

TRANSLATION.

‡ It is *Tmwkryns* son of .? . † who declares to Wennofre son of Paēr :
³ † “I am paid in full the $\frac{1}{3}$ (artaba of) wheat of the † bakery (for the period)
 from Pachons 30 † to Epēp 10. They are received † on account.
 Year 33. Paōne † 10.

COMMENTARY.

Line 3. *te-y mh* “I am paid in full”. This phrase is very common in receipts of the Roman period given by tax-collectors, temple officials or private persons to acknowledge payments in money or in kind. The corresponding *ἐπληρώθην* does not occur in the greek texts until late in the Byzantine period; cf. U. WILCKEN, *Griech. Ostr.*, I, p. 108; and WESSELY, *Stud. Pal.*, XX, 207/1 and 255/4 (VI cent. A. D.).

Lines 3-4. *'y psy*, better *'y (n) psy*, = house of baking or house of cooking = bakehouse or kitchen, * ἰμπίσε.

Lines 5-6. *st šp (n) 'p* “they are received on account i. e. credited as an interim payment”. This sense is ratified by two passages on two early Ptolemaic receipts, the first in the collection of the Bodleian Library, Oxford, invent. n° Eg. Inscr. 1294 and the second in the Berlin Museum, invent. n° P. 10902. In the former the tax-collector, in referring to the sum paid to him by the tax-payer, declares *mte-y ty šp-w s n-k n 'p* “and I shall cause them (sc. 2 kite) to be received on account for thee” (i. e. credited as an instalment). In the latter the phrase is elaborated into *mte-y ty šp-w s n-k n 'p n p hw n 'p 'rm-k nt e-w a 'r-f* “and I shall cause them (sc. 4 kite) to be received on account for thee on the day on which the account will be settled with thee” (i. e. credited on the day of reckoning as an interim payment).

Line 6. *h-sp 33* “Year 33”. The writing and form of the receipt are early Roman. Year 33 cannot be other than that of Augustus.