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NOTE ON A COPTIC OSTRACON

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Note on a Coptic Ostrakon

The editor of the Coptic receipt for poll-tax published in ZPE 14 (1979) 239 no. 14 did not succeed in transcribing its first line completely. He prints:

ⲡ ⲈⲒϢ ⲗ/ ⲕ. . . . ⲗⲕⲧⲗⲗⲘ

Two documents can be adduced for reading the letters he left unread, viz.

Tor. 26: ⲡ ⲈⲒϢ ⲗⲡ ⲗ/ ⲕⲖ ⲗⲕⲧⲗⲗϢ, and

BKU I 89: ⲧ ⲈⲒϢ ⲗⲡ ⲗ/ ⲕⲖⲗ ⲗⲕⲧⲗⲗⲘ.

Read therefore in the first text

ⲡ ⲈⲒϢ ⲗⲡ ⲗ/ ⲕⲖⲗ ⲗⲕⲧⲗⲗⲘ,

i.e. 1 'arithmios' solidus was equivalent to 22¹/₂ carats.

In Tor. 26.5 one may as well read

ⲧ (= ⲧⲘⲖⲒ) ⲈⲒϢⲕ (ⲧ ⲈⲒϢⲕ ed. princ.).