

P.RYL. IV 709: A NOTE

According to the editors of P.Ryl. IV 709 this papyrus has to be dated to the early fourth century A.D. In a note to line 8 they state that "the regnal years should be those of Diocletian and Maximian, with their respective Caesars; if they are, the writer has miscalculated, or placed the years in the wrong order".

Line 8 reads:]ζ'' καὶ ιζ'' καὶ γζ'' καὶ ιβζ'' καὶ [

Now it is clear that the ζ belongs to the numeral marking. We are thus dealing with a xth year, a 10th year, a 3rd year and –surprisingly– a 12th year. However, nothing prevents us from making a division somewhere in this sequence of years. Therefore, if we divide between the 3rd and the 12th regnal years and we restore at the beginning of this line ιζζ'' we are dealing with years 11, 10 and 3 of Diocletian, Maximian and the Caesars (= 294/5 A.D.).¹⁾ Likewise, ιβζ'' καὶ [can be supplemented to ιβζ'' καὶ [ιζζ'' καὶ δζ'', i.e. years 12, 11 and 4 (= 295/6 A.D.).

In line 2, the restoration Εὐ[ρεβῶν is out of place after Κλαίσαρων. I think it more likely that after the mentioning of the rulers the name of the month should follow, i.e. Ἐπίτεφ, of –less likely– Ἐπίγαομένων.

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1) See J.D.Thomas, Cde 46, 1971, 174ff.