

## FOUR GREEK OSTRAKA FROM THE THERMENMUSEUM

(Heerlen)

Taf.X.

In the summer of 1984 I paid a visit to the Thermenmuseum at Heerlen in the Netherlands, where a Roman bathhouse forms the core of a museum in which all kinds of objects from Roman times excavated in the Heerlen region are now located. To my great surprise there were in this museum also a number of ostraka with Greek, Coptic and Hieratic/Demotic texts on display. Upon my enquiry, what had brought these sherds to a museum mostly concerned with objects stemming from local excavations, it turned out that these ostraka had been deposited into the Museum on loan by the Katakombenstichting (Valkenburg); this foundation had acquired them in 1920 through the services of the well-known German archaeologist Prof. C.M. Kaufmann.<sup>1)</sup> The total number of ostraka kept in the museum's collections exceeds 200. About 40 of the c. 80 Greek ostraka deserve to be published in full. The texts on these ostraka come from Ptolemaic, Roman and Byzantine times and they prove that most of the Roman ostraka stem from the Theban region. The texts written in Coptic are now being prepared for publication by Prof. P.J. Sijpesteijn (Amsterdam), whereas the Hieratic and Demotic texts are being studied by Dr. S.P. Vleeming (Leiden). In the present contribution I publish 4 ostraka from Roman Egypt which do not have the Theban region as their provenance.<sup>2)</sup>

SB 18 - 141008

1.

O. Heerlen BL 218

H. 7,2 x B. 7,0 cm

212/13<sup>P</sup>

Outside: light brown flat ostrakon; inside: greyish/black.

Text partly faded.

- 1 "Ετους κα'Λ' ἀριθ(μήσεως) ΤΥΒι.
- 2 {δλ.} διεγράφη Ἄρτε-
- 3 μιδώρου καὶ (μετόχοις) πρᾶκ(τορσι)
- 4 ἀργυ(ρικῶν) κόμης Τεκτύ(νεως)
- 5 πατρ(ων) Πάτρωνος

1) A report (written in Dutch) on these acquisitions is given by L.A.P.M. van den Broeke, *Uit de opgegraven Mena-stad, Opgang. Geïllustreerd weekblad voor godsdienst, wetenschap, kunst, staatkunde, economie, techniek, landbouw, handel, industrie.* 1, no. 27 (20 augustus 1921), pp. 660-663.

2) I hope to publish the remainder of the publishable greek ostraka at some later occasion. I wish to thank Drs. J.T.J. Jamar, Director of the Thermenmuseum at Heerlen, for his kind permission to publish these texts. Furthermore I wish to thank my students H. de Wit, T. v.d. Laan and J. Wisse (with whom I read these texts during a seminar) for their helpful contributions.

6 ζυτ(ηράς) κατ' ἀνδ(ρα)  
 7 ἐπὶ λόγου δραχ(μάς)  
 8 τέσσαρες  
 9 (γίνονται) (δραχμαῖ) δ

2 διέγραψεν 2-3 Ἀρτεμιδώρῳ 4 κώμης

Year 21, on account of Tybi. Pharion, son of Patron, has paid to Artemidoros and his fellow praktores argyrikon of the village Tebtynis for beer-tax due from those listed individually on account four drachmas, total 4 dr.

This receipt for beer-tax (cf. for this tax O.Tebt.Pad. p. 47 ff.; BGU XV 2497-2502) comes from Tebtynis in the Fayum. The praktor Artemidoros has occurred already earlier, viz. in O.Tebt.Pad. 12-17,61 and in O.Oslo 10. The scribe who wrote this receipt is identical with the one who wrote O. Tebt.Pad. I 12 and 13 (cf. O.Tebt.Pad. pl. V; both receipts mention the same regnal year 21 = 212/213 and contain receipts for payment of laographia). The tax-payer Pharion, s.o. Patron, has also occurred before in connection with the payment of beer-tax, viz. in O.Tebt.1 (year 10 mentioned in this text must be A.D. 201/202) and in O.Stras. 165 (year 19 in this text must be A.D. 210/211; for O.Tebt.1 and O.Stras. 165 see O.Tebt.Pad. I 45-46, introd.); in O.Lund. 6 (year 17 = 208/209) he pays laographia.

- 1) ἀριθ(μῆσεως) Τῦβι: cf. O.Tebt.Pad. I 12,1 note.  
 2) For διεγράφη instead of διέγραψεν cf. O.Tebt.Pad. I 13,2 note.

SB 18-14089 2.

O. Heerlen BL 345

H. 5,4 x B. 7,6 cm

24.v.103<sup>P</sup>  
 Edfu

Reddish-brown ostrakon with pitched inside. Flat surface at the outer side, inside slightly ribbed.

- 1 Σαμβ(α)θ(ω)ν ὁ καὶ Ἰησο(ῦς) Παπίου  
 2 Ἰουδ(αικοῦ) τελ(έσματος) ε̅ ε̅τους) Τραιανοῦ  
 3 τοῦ κυρίου (δραχμάς) δ (τετρώβολον). ("Ετους) ε̅ Παχθ(ν) κ̅θ  
 4 Traces of one cancelled line.

Sambathion, alias Jesus, son of Papios, for tax on Jews for year 6 of Traianus the Lord 4 dr., 4 ob. Year 6, Pachon 29.

For the tax-payer cf. below ad O.Heerlen BL 334. For the tax on Jews cf. CPJ

II p. 112 ff., esp. 114-15 on payments of this tax in instalments. Sambathion pays for the same tax also in CPJ II 220. Similar payments of 4 dr., 4 ob. (exactly half of the annual rate of the Jewish tax at 8 dr., 2 ob. + 1 dr. for aparchai) are found in CPJ II 186, 195, 200, 206, 213, 224, 225; cf. also CPJ II 180, 182.

1) Between the traces read as  $\mu\beta$ -,  $\theta$ - there seems no room for even a "verschlifffenes"  $\alpha$ .

A note on the location of the texts mentioning Sambathion alias Jesus: of the 8 ostraka which now mention this man 5 are located now in Vienna where they came through the good offices of H. Junker. They were first published by C. Wessely in SPP XIII p. 8-9, nos. 2, 7, 9, 11, 13 (= CPJ II 405, 298, 304, 311 and 220). The 2 ostraka belonging to the Heerlen collection and published here were acquired from C.M. Kaufmann who presumably purchased them in Egypt from an antiquities dealer. The remaining ostrakon CPJ II 321 belongs to the Berlin collection which acquired it also from an antiquities dealer in Luxor in 1914 (cf. G. Plaumann in Archiv 6, 1920, 220 no. 6).

SB 18 140<sup>10</sup>  
3.

O. Heerlen BL 334

H. 7,1 x B. 9,9 cm

17.vi.98<sup>P</sup>

Edfu

Reddish ostrakon with pitched inside. Flat surface at the outer side (some chips broken off), inside slightly ribbed.

- 1 Σαμβαθίω(ν) ὁ καὶ Ἰησοῦς Παπίου
- 2 χωματικοῦ α (ἔτους) Τραιανοῦ τοῦ κυρίου
- 3 (δραχμᾶς) ς (τετράβολον) βαλ(ανευτικοῦ) (διώβολον) φυ(λακτικοῦ) (όβολόν). ("Ετους) α Παῦνι κγ̄.

Sambathion alias Jesus, son of Papios, for chomatikon for year 1 of Traianus the Lord 6 dr., 4 ob., for bath-tax 2 ob., for phylakitikon 1 ob. Year 1, Payni 23.

For the tax-payer Sambathion alias Jesus cf. CPJ II p. 117, stemma 5, and CPJ II 220, 298, 304, 311, 321 and 405 (where his name is only given as Jesus). See also O.Heerlen BL 345 = No. 2. The range of his attestations is A.D. 96 (CPJ II 298) - A.D. 110 (CPJ II 220). The ostrakon CPJ II 311 (A.D. 101) also concerns a payment for chomatikon and balaneutikon; a payment for phylakitikon is not recorded there, however. For these taxes cf. CPJ II p. 111 and the literature cited there.

- 6 ζυτ(ηράς) κατ' ἀνδ(ρα)  
 7 ἐπὶ λόγου δραχ(μάς)  
 8 τέσσαρες  
 9 (γίνονται) (δραχμαί) δ

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SB 18-17009 2.

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24.v.103<sup>P</sup>  
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 2 Ἰουδ(αικοῦ) τελ(έσματος) ε(τους) Τραιανοῦ  
 3 τοῦ κυρίου (δραχμάς) δ (τετράβολον). (ἔτους) ε( Παχθ(ν) κθ  
 4 Traces of one cancelled line.

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17.vi.98<sup>P</sup>

Edfu

Reddish ostrakon with pitched inside. Flat surface at the outer side (some chips broken off), inside slightly ribbed.

- 1 Σαμβαθίω(ν) ὁ καὶ Ἰησοῦς Παπίου
- 2 χωματικοῦ α (ἔτους) Τραϊανοῦ τοῦ κυρίου
- 3 (δραχμᾶς) ς (τετράβολον) βαλ(ανευτικοῦ) (διώβολον) φυ(λακτικοῦ)  
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2) For the expansion of the abbreviation χω(ματικοῦ) cf. the remarks in ZPE 35, 1979, 135. For the tax see O.Cair. GPW 95-96, introd.

3) It looks as if the scribe combined the abbreviation φυ( ) [φ written in two parts, °)] with the symbol for 1 obol. Maybe the same was done in CPJ II 340,2, where we find φ(υλακτικῶ) (ὀβολόν).

SB 18 14011

4.

O. Heerlen BL 323

H. 7,5 x B. 7,0 cm

28.vi.84<sup>P</sup>

Edfu

Reddish-brown ostrakon with pitched inside. Flat surface at the outer side, inside slightly ribbed. Above line 1, traces of one or two cancelled lines.

]λων Αύλαίου

]δ (ἔτους) Δομιτιανοῦ

(δρ.) ]δ. (ἔτους) δ ἑπέφ δ.

There is good reason to believe that this ostrakon, like O.Heerlen BL 334 and 345, comes from Edfu. The colour is reddish-brown, like these ostraka, the date suits well for the receipts we have from this town concerning payments for the tax on Jews, and the amount paid, 4 drachmas, is often found in payments for the tax on Jews in this place.

K.-A. Worp