UNPUBLISHED DEMOTIC OSTRACA

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Abstract
Six unpublished demotic, deal with accounts and lists of personal names at the Cairo Museum. They are dated to the Ptolemaic Period.

Key words: Elephantine-Thebes- Cairo Museum- Ptolemaic period – Demotic – Ostraca – Accounts- Liquid-Money-Salt- Lists- Personal names.

This article has six unpublished demotic ostraca at the Cairo Museum. They have been chosen among large group of ostraca, which are preserved there. They concern two subjects first of all is the accounts of liquid and money, the second is lists of personal names. They are dated to the Ptolemaic Period, according to the style handwriting and the names of the similar published accounts, lists and receipts from the same period.

Dimension: 15cm. X 8.5cm., thickness 1cm.
Color: Reddish brown.
Date: Ptolemaic period.
Description: The writing is clear. The potsherd is broken at the bottom side.

Transliteration:
1 – \(Ns-pA-nTr sA \) \( \text{irp} \) 3
2 – \(Ns-pA-nTr sA d dj \) 1
3 – \(T3,wSh-mw T3-wp.t \) 1
4 – \(T3-\text{sr},t-sbk t \) \(mT.t n \) Pa -tw-lihj
5 – \(r-dj.i 3m=f n \) wtn 1
6 – \(Hr-igS sA P3-tj-hr-nsw-t3.wj \) \( r \)

Translation:
L.1- Espenoutis son of Ekopis 3 (jars of) wine
L.2- Espenoutis son of Djedjy 1 (jar of wine)
L.3- The water-pourer Tewepet 1 (jar of wine)
L.4- Sensobk the wife of Pateehy
L.5- what he has given out the offering 1 (jar of wine)
L.6- Harkusis son of Petemestous 1 (jar of wine)

Notes:
L.1- The patronymic Ekopis is attested in Demotisches Namenbuch.¹
L.4-5- Sensobk has given out the offering one jar of wine, the scribe checked the item received by a check mark dot.²
L. 6 - The patronymic Petemestousis is partly broken.
- The top of broken number refers to number one.

Commentary
The text is an account of liquid. It contains proper names and quantities of wine. It seems that this account belongs to a temple's account depending on some signs in the text, e.g. water-pourer and offering. The handwriting refers to Ptolemaic period. I cannot identify the provenance although the combination of the proper names with the gods' names led us to Gebelen provenance?, but I am not sure.

Dimension: 12 cm. X 6.5cm., thickness 1cm.
Color: Reddish brown.
Date: Ptolemaic period.
Description: The right and the left sides of the potsherd are broken off. The surface is partly dark at its left side.

Transliteration:
1 – \(in P3-mr-ih s3 Hr-pa -Ts.t \)
Col. I
1 – \(r \) \(1/3 \) \((n)73 r mT.t \)
2 – \(1 1/3 1/6 s \)
3 – \(h3.t-sp 4.t \) \(ht 1/4 \) \(kt 1/2 \)
Col. II
1 – \(ht 1/3 1/6 n \) \(ht hm3 \)
2 – \(Tj-m-htp s3 r Ns-p3-mtj \)
3 – \(sH \) \(\) \(sShbt \)
4 – \(sH P3-\text{sr}-Tkhtj \)

Translation:
L.1- Pelaia son of Harpaesis has given .
Col. I
L.1- \(r \) \(1 \) \(1/3 \) \(1/6 \) \(\) of the woman.
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L.2- 1 1/3 1/6 signed.
L.3- year 4 1/4 silver (piece) 1/2 (kite)

Col. II

L. 1- 1/3 1/6 silver (piece) of the salt
L. 2- Imouthes son of Espemetis
L. 3- signed Shasbat
L. 4- signed Psenthotes.

Note

L.1- I cannot find another similar instance for Pelaia son of Harpaesis. I suggest that he is a tax-collector who makes the payments to the treasury.

Col. I

L. 1-2- I do not know, if the numbers and fractions at the beginning of the line, refer to amounts or quantities.
L. 3- The fourth year belongs to Ptolemy III (244-243 BC), according to the known scribes of our text.
L. 4- The sign kite is rubbed off.

Col. II

L.1- The payment of the salt tax at the beginning of this line belongs to Inouthes son of Espemetis, in the following line.
L.2- The taxpayer Inouthes son of Espemetis, is known at Elephantine provenance. He recurred twice in two published receipts of compulsory labor tax of the years thirty and thirty one of Ptolemy II Philadelphus.
L.3- The name of patronymic Espemetis is partly broken.
L.4- The scribe Shasbat is well known, from many published receipts dated to the reign of Ptolemy III Ereugetes.

L. 4- The scribe Psenthotes is recurrent in three published receipts of income of a server tax dated to the reign of Ptolemy III Ereugetes.

Commentary

This text represents an account of salt. Its heading includes the name of the tax-collector who made the payments to the treasury. The first column contains amounts and the date of year. The second column has three proper names are well known at Elephantine provenance, as scribes and taxpayers during the reigns of Ptolemy II and Ptolemy III Ereugetes. The fourth year of our text corresponds to the fourth year of Ptolemy III (244-243 BC).

Note

L. 1- The proper name is broken except its god determinative.
L. 2 – I think the broken part of the first proper name could be (P3-šr-Hnsw, P3-tj-{Hnsw}).
The number five is expected after the sign kite.

L. 6 – The number three is very thick and the reading is certain.

L. 9 – The number five overlaps the determinative of the patronymic.

Commentary

The text deals with accounts of money, each proper name has one silver piece does not have the amount five kite. The surface of potsherd has an innate line from the top to the bottom separated between the signs of the same word, because the scribe does not want to write on it (lines 6-10). According to the writing, the combination of the proper names and the known Theban scribes occurred in lines five and seven, the text is Ptolemaic in date and its provenance is Thebes. But I do not know, if the rest proper names are scribes or not.


Dimension: 12 cm. X 10 cm., thickness 1 cm.

Color: Reddish brown.

Date: Ptolemaic period.

Description: The potsherd is broken at the top side.

Transliteration:

1 – (mark) Hrm3n
2 – Shp h 5
3 – P3-šr-p3-mr-iḫ (ht) 8 ḫt 5
4 – Pa -ỉım-ỉw
5 – Pa -ỉım s; P3-šr-ỉmn
6 – Pa –Bʿst.t
7 – Pa -šr-p3-Mwt
8 – Ns-p3-mtj ...

Translation:

1 – (check mark) Her[man]
2 – Sehpa 5 silver pieces
3 – Psenpalaia 8 (silver pieces), 5 kite
4 – Pachnoume
5 – Pachnounis son of Psenamounis
6 – Pabastis
7 – Psenpmou
8 – 'Espematis' ...

Notes

L. 1- The broken name could be also read as (Hrmn).

L. 2- The reading of the proper name could be also (Shk3).

L. 8- The proper name Espematis is partly broken.

Commentary

The text contains an account of money. The check mark was used to distinguish the first proper name. The second and the third proper names have amounts of money and they did not check. It seems that the text is dated to Ptolemaic period depending on the writing style and proper names. Its provenance could be Elephantine? But it is not sure.


Dimension: 11.5 cm. X 11 cm., thickness 1 cm.

Color: Reddish brown.

Date: Ptolemaic period.

Description: The potsherd is broken at the top side.

Transliteration:

1 – Hr-šš-ỉš.t s; Ns- Mn
2 – P3-Thwjt s; ỉj-m-ỉp
3 – P3-šr-ỉmn s; Ns-Mn
4 – Klwd s; P3-ḥb
5 – P3-šr-Thwjt s; Klwt
6 – P3-ḥtr s; Thwjt-iŠt-iṯ=ḥ
7 – P3-šr-Thwjt s; P3 ￼ śr- İn
8 – ... s; P3 –Mn

Translation:

1 – Harsiesis son of Esminis
2 – Pathotes son of Imouthes
3 – Psenamounis son of Esminis
4 – Kolluthis son of Phibis
5 – Psenthotes son of colet?
6 – Phatres son of Thotortaious
7 – Psenthotes son of Psenenufi
8 - ... son of Paminis

Notes

L. 1- The reading Esminis for the patronymic is certain. Its parallel name is found in line three to confirm it.
L. 5 - The reading (QwltH) is also possible. The name is not found in *Demotisches Namenbuch*.

L. 8 - The proper name is rubbed off. Some traces could be shown and read.

**Commentary**

The text deals with a list of personal names. It is difficult to define the relationship between the persons mentioned in our text, they could be workers, priests, officials or scribes. The style of writing indicates the Ptolemaic period, the combination of the proper names and the names of the gods mentioned with them suggested probably Theban provenance, but I am not sure.

**6 Cairo Museum:** Inv.No. /TR. 18953/25-1-55.4.

**Dimension:** 11.5cm. X 13 cm., thickness 1cm.

**Color:** Reddish yellow.

**Date:** Ptolemaic period

**Description:** The potsherd is broken at all sides except the top side.

**Transliteration:**

Col. I
1 – Pa -Hnm 
2 – …
3 – …
4 – Pa -Hnm 
5 – …
6 – … Hr-p3-ht

Col. II
1 – P3-tj-Sbk s3 Pa -Hnm 
2 – P3-tj-Bist.t s3 Pa -Hnm 
3 – Hr-p3-bk s3 Hr-Pa -r Is.t r 
4 – Hr-pa –Is.t …

**Translation:**

Col. I
1 - Pachnoumis 
2 – … …
3 – … …
4 - … Pachnoumis 
5 - … …
6 - … Harpochrates

Col. II
1- Petesobekis son of Pachnoumis 
2 – Petebastis son of Pachnoumis

3 – Harpebekis son of Harpa[esis]
4 – Harpaesis [son of …]

**Notes**

Col. I
It seems that the proper names of this column belong to a previous text and the main text is the second column.

Col. II
L.1- The first element (pa) of the patronymic overlaps the determinative of the first name. 

L. 3 – The patronymic is partly broken.

**Commentary**

It seems that the Ptolemaic period is the date of our list according to the handwriting. I cannot identify its provenance.

**Endnotes:**


3 - S. Wahid El-Din, 'Demotic Receipts of Compulsory Labor Tax', *ASAE* 90 (2017), (nos.4,8).

4 - Wahid El-Din, *ASAE* 90 (2017), (no.13).


8 – M. Lichtheim, *Demotic Ostraca From Medinet Habu, OIP* 37(Chicago 1957),
54(no.124); M. A. Nur El-Din, *The Demotic Ostraca In The National Museum of Antiquities At Leiden* (Leiden 1974), 316 (no.412); Vleeming, *Ostraka Varia*, 90-91 (no.40).


