IV. DIMÊ AND ITS PAPYRI: DEMOTIC CONTRACTS OF THE 1st CENTURY A.D.

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With an Appendix by C. H. ROBERTS

DOCUMENT No. 4

P. VINDOB. D.-Gr. 6933 Year 7 of Claudius (= A.D. 47)

P. Vindob. D.-Gr. 6933 is one of the hitherto unpublished demotic documents in the Collection of Papyri in Vienna and belongs to the bulk of Dimê papyri acquired by the Archduke Rainer towards the end of the last century. No further information could be obtained on the history of this papyrus, which is pale brown in colour, made up of thicker and stronger fibres than are usually to be found at that stage of history. It shows a smooth surface, but is not transparent as are most of the late Fayyumic papyri; its joins are much larger than usual. It has suffered damage and its upper portion only has been preserved; this may be conjectured to be about half of the original sheet. The lower portion was torn away and has probably perished; no piece among the numerous fragments of demotic papyri in the Vienna Collection could be identified as belonging to the missing part of the text. Further damage can be seen in the left-hand portion of the surviving sheet where the corner is mutilated and the whole margin broken off. In several places in the right-hand portion the ink has been rubbed off.

The texts have been written on the recto only in the customary way of the late Fayyumic Record Offices. The two demotic deeds, i.e. the deed of conveyance and the deed of renunciation of claim, were endorsed side by side on the same sheet of papyrus extending towards the left. A large margin was left on the right and is occupied by a Greek text. There was certainly an abstract

1 See Studies III, p. 465.
written in Greek and inscribed underneath the demotic text. Of this, however, nothing has survived.

The demotic texts introduce a type of writing unknown at Dimê before the year 7 of Claudius, and markedly different from the demotic record hand of Tiberius' times exemplified, in particular, by P. Ryl. 44\(^1\) as well as from the hand shown in P. Ryl. 45\(^2\) dated the year 2 of Claudius. The general standard of execution in P. Vindob. D.-Gr. 6933 is much lower than in the deeds from Tiberius' times. Its signs are rounded and bold, but uneven, and give an impression of heaviness. As characteristic features of this record hand the following signs may be pointed out: 

\[ h, \] closely similar to the late type of ‘\(n\);

\[ \text{for } \text{imnty}; \]

\[ \text{a very bold type of } -tj-; \]

\[ \text{is the way of writing } h; \]

\[ n^3w \text{ for } n^3. \]

This hand shows in the tracing of \[ = \text{ and } = \] forms which came to be prominent in the Dimê demotic hand at a much later date. A distinct similarity has been noticed with the hand of P. Berlin 7057 of year 8 of Claudius.\(^3\) The similarity is so close that it might be suggested that they were both written by the same man, who may have been employed as scribe in the local Record Office.

Another bold demotic hand in some respects similar occurs in P. Berlin 6857\(^4\) of the year 5 of Claudius. As far as dated demotic documents have survived from Dimê, it is possible to

\(^1\) Cf. Ryl. i, Pl. 84.
\(^2\) Cf. Ryl. i, Pl. 85.
\(^3\) Cf. Spiegelberg, DPB, Pl. 45.
\(^4\) Cf. Spiegelberg, ibid. Pl. 47.
say that this type of bold and rather irregular demotic record hand either originated in or developed by the early years of the reign of Claudius. No evidence of it has yet been found which antedates year 5 of that emperor. There is, however, a distinct possibility that this hand has its roots in the demotic writing known from Dimē records from the times of Ptolemy VIII Euergetes II.1 Unfortunately, no text has been preserved to bridge this gap in time to enable us to demonstrate the gradual development of this Dimē bold record hand.

The agreement endorsed in P. Vindob. D.-Gr. 6933 is concerned with the conveyance of one part-share of an already existing part-share of a real property in Dimē by a woman named *Siy-wry*, whose parentage is uncertain on the evidence of the demotic texts,2 to a Master of Lustration (*nb w'b*), Superintendent of the Lake "Great Green" of Nefer-shaty (*hry šy W3d-wry N3-nfr-ḥr-šty*) named Stotoetis son of Hor and Taneprēmmis. One is tempted to suggest that he may have been the same individual as the one mentioned in P. Ryl 45, l. 17a of year 2 of Claudius. The name Stotoetis, however, was very popular at Dimē and decisive evidence is lacking to confirm their identity.

The formulation of the demotic texts follows the usual style of Roman deeds. It does not really disclose anything new which may help us to outline the history of the property dealt with, which is said to have been in the vicinity of the Dimē dromos, or enable us to study in detail the procedures followed in its sharing. No record could elsewhere be identified which could refer to this particular property and no records having relevance for the history of the house adjacent to it are available. It is also not obvious what the connection was with the loan of money recorded in the Greek deed, when Sowēris, the vendor in this transaction, was the borrower. It should, however, be stressed that in this transaction, which is concerned only with the conveyance of one part-share of a real property unlike the documents previously studied,4 the rights of access to the property have not been referred to in the texts of the contracts.

1 P. Vindob. D. 6855, unpublished.
2 See the Greek text l. 9 in which the names read ὶοὑρης τῆς Σαταβοῦς.
3 See Studies III, p. 490.
4 See ibid. p. 475, n. 36, 485, l. 11-12.
Nevertheless, this much damaged contract has its historical significance insofar as it is the only document among the Dimē demotic records to mention the Dromos of Suchos Lord of the Pāy-land. It thus provides interesting textual evidence to complete the archaeology of Dimē. We know that this Dromos divided the town into two main districts. The picture of the block of private houses which may be reconstructed from this contract shows that the document concerns the western district, and, in particular, a part of the front row of the dwellings which stood alongside the western boundary of the dromos. These may have been houses of the higher class of Dimē society but it is unusual to find that neither titles of Egyptian priests nor of Greek officials are referred to in the text of the contracts. As has previously been noticed, owners of properties were referred to only by their personal names. This may well have relevance for the legal situation at Dimē at that late stage of history.

A further interesting fact disclosed by this document is that one of the main avenues of the town, the King's Street, ran alongside the Dromos of Suchos Lord of the Pāy-land thus separating the dwelling houses from the chief processional road of Dimē.

The texts of P. Vindob. D.-Gr. 6933 are here given in transliterations and translations accompanied by notes to the commentary and a diagram of the original.

**(A) DEED OF CONVEYANCE**

**(Transliteration)**

Date
(1) \( \text{f}^3\text{t-spt}\ f^3\text{ibd}\ p^3\ ntr^4\ ibd\ 3\ p[rt\ ssw\ 2\ Tb]\ yrs\ Klwtys\)**

Contracting Parties
(3) \( \text{dd\ shmt\ Stj-wryt}^3\ s^3t\ n[.\ldots].\)\( mwt.s\ T^3-[-\ldots]\)

-\( \text{R}^4\)\( \text{iw.s}\ dd\ n\ w^5\ r^5n\)

(4) \( \text{nb\ w'b\ hry}^6\ \hat{\text{sy}}\ [W^3d-wryt]\ N^3w-[nfr]-ir-\hat{\text{sy}}\)

(5) \( \text{Stj.w-t}^3-tj-wt^7\ Hr\ mwt.f\ T^3j.n-n^3w-nfr-\hat{\text{my}}\)

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1 Cf. Boak, *Soknopaiou Nesos*, p. 4 and plan 1; *Studies II*, 435.

2 Cf. below p. 230.
Main part of the agreement

(Here the text breaks off)

(Translation)

Date

(1) Regnal year 7, the month of the god,1 Pame[nopet day 2 of Tibe]rius Claudius (2) Kaisaros Sebastos, Germanicus, the god2 Autokrator.

Contracting parties

(3) Hath declared the woman Soweris3 daughter of [............], her mother being Te-[............]-Rē’ (?)4 acknowledging5 to

(4) the Master of Lustration,6 the Superintendent of the Lake [“Great Green”] of [Nefer]-shaty (5) Stotoētis7 son of Hor, his mother being Tanephṛēmmis.

Main part of the agreement

Thou hast paid me in full. Thou hast caused (6) me to agree in full heart to the (amount of) money (equivalent to) the price8 of my [part-share] which makes [one] part out of two parts (7) it being one part-share again of the house [which is built], which is furnished with beams and doors, (8) which is two-storeyed, together with its [courtyard forming] its south-western side in it,9 (9) which is undivided together with
all that pertains to it (as revenues)
which is in the western district of the Suchos Town (10) the
"New Land" of Suchos Lord of the Pāy-land, [the great god],
which is on the [northern] shores of (11) the swampy land
Moēris which is in the division Hylky-(12)-ty of the Arsinoite
nome.
The 12 plots adjacent to (13) house and its courtyard
<aforesaid>, they being (?) as one unit13:
South : the house of Satabous14 (14) and Heriu,15 his brother
North : the house of Paneprēmmis (15) son of Ef-ʾānkh and
his children (?) ...............16.
(16) [East : the dromos of] Sobek Lord of [the Pāy-land, the
great god,] [the King's] Street 18 being between it.19 (Here the
text breaks off)

NOTES TO THE COMMENTARY

1 p3 ibd p3 ntr, "the month of the god"; this document confirms the ex-
tended use of the expression, cf. Studies III, p. 490, 1. —p3, the form of writing
the article p3 is always very small in the Dimē texts, sometimes a mere dot. The
parts of the dating clause which have been rubbed off are completed according
to the second deed, line 1, hereafter referred to as B.

2 p3 Substjs, id. P. Berlin 7057, 1.2 (cf. Spiegelberg, DPB, Pl. 45); unlike
texts from Tiberius' time, the Emperor's title is provided with the definite
article and shows clearly the spelling SBSTJS. The names and titles of the
Roman Emperor are given here the determinative of foreign names:

3 The reading of the A contracting party's name is problematic: -wry as
its second part is certain, but an alternative interpretation may be suggested for
the first group: either Stp- or Sbn-; according to the Greek equivalent the name
should read: Styp-wryt.

4 Her father's name is lost in both instances: in the Greek text it reads:
Satabous. Her mother's name is not complete in either instance and no satisfactory
reading may be offered.

5 For the formula of acknowledgement cf. Studies, III, p. 471, n. 8.

6 The title hry shows a rudimentary form of writing the sign and is
provided with the determinative of the house. In hieroglyphic the title would
read: \[ \text{[graphic]} \]: cf. Studies III, p. 485, n. 6 for another graphic variant of this title.

7 The spelling is here and in B, line 4: \( \text{Stj.w-t3-tj-wt} \) for \( \text{Στοροητίς} \) cf. Studies III, p. 490, n. 5. The rather strange sign \( \text{[graphic]} \) following the name is to be taken as the sign of deity \( \text{[graphic]} \), cf. P. Ryl. 45, line 15. His mother's name is reconstructed from B, line 4.

8 The text reads here as in P. Berlin 6857, 4; 7057, 3: \( \text{hd n sun} \), lit. "money of price" as against a mere \( \text{sun} \) in P. Ryl. 45, 7.

9 For the standardized formulary description of the Dimē properties, cf. Studies III, p. 472, n. 15—473, n. 20. The reading \( n\text{-im.f} \) is ascertained by B, line 6 and is here unusual. It is difficult to decide whether the expression has to indicate the physical position of the courtyard within the property or has to convey the meaning "belonging" or "pertaining to", replacing thus the idiomatic expression \( m\text{-s3} \), cf. P. Berlin 7058, line 11; \( w\text{m-s3 } m\text{-s3-uy} \) "one (place) pertaining to the (building) site of the house", cf. Studies III, p. 485, n. 10.

10 \( T3\text{-my} \), the determinative of deity \( \text{[graphic]} \) was inserted between the sign \( \text{[graphic]} \) and the geographical determinative; id. B, line 7.

11 The same spelling \( \text{Hylkyty} \) occurs in B, line 8 and P. Berlin 6857, line 10, all showing the sign \( \text{[graphic]} \) as determinative. There is no uniformity in the Egyptian rendering of the Greek \( \text{Ἡρακλέιδως} \); and all of them appear phonetically absurd; in P. Ryl. 44, 8, the name reads: \( \text{Hyrky} \); P. Berlin 7058, 8 gives \( \text{Hytkry} \).

12 \( n\text{-w} \) is written instead of \( n\text{3} \), id. B, line 9. Both instances show an interesting manner of writing \( n \): the sign \( \text{[graphic]} \) is superposed by \( \text{[graphic]} \) id. P. Berlin 6857, 10 which is unusual in the record hand.

13 \( w\text{f sp} \) is unusual here; with reference to B, line 10 the clause seems to have been abbreviated, cf. below, p. 227, n. 2.

14 The reading \( \text{Htb} \) is ascertained by B, line 10 and P. Berlin 7057, 3; cf. also Studies III, 491, n. 19.

15 \( \text{Hri} \), see B, line 11, both examples of the name show only the determinative \( \text{[graphic]} \) cf. Studies III, 471, n. 5.

16 The writing is not clear; the reading \( \text{[lw.f-s3]t} \) is ascertained by B, line 11: according to this, what follows is to be read \( \text{irm n3j.f} \); there is some uncertainty
about the reading of the following word. According to the context hrhw may be expected but in B, line 12 the text is damaged and here the traces of writing do not seem to correspond to the usual type of writing of the group hrhw, "children". Moreover, another sign which is completely illegible seems to stand between this group and the word imnty.

17 [Wn-nfr] is reconstructed from B, line 12.
18 The reading given of the very damaged line of text is confirmed by B, lines 12-13. Parts of the words Sbk, hyr, and iwty.f can still be clearly distinguished.
19 The text breaks off at the end of the description of the property conveyed. For the usual closing clauses of this kind of transaction cf. P. Ryl. 44, lines 14-17 and Studies III, p. 469.

(B) DEED OF RENUNCIATION OF CLAIM
(Transliteration)

Date
(1) $h^3 t$-spt 7.t $p^3$ ibd $p^3$ ntr ibd 3 prt $<ssw>$ 2 [Ty]byrs [Klwts Kysls]
(2) $p^3$ Sbstjs Klmnks $p^3$ ntr e-ir mhty

Contracting parties
dd shmt $S[iy\,-wr]$y $s^3t$ n$[\ldots\ldots\ldots\ldots]$ (3) mwt.$[s]$ $T^3$-[\ldots\ldots]$ -R$^c$ iw.s dd $w^c$ r$^c$ n
nb $w^b$ hry $[W^3 d\,-wryt N^3 w]$-nfr-ir-$^-$ (4) -$sd$y $Stj.w\,-t^3\,-tj\,-wt$
Hr mwt.$f$ $T^3 j n.$- $n^3 w$-nfr-imi

Main part of the agreement
[tw]$y$ ww r-r.$k$ t$i j k$ (5) tit-p$^s$e nt ir tit w$^t$ ln$[tit 2.t r w^t$ tit-p$^s$e]$n$ p$^3 j$ 'wy iw.$f$ kd $[iw.$f]$ (6) ggr sy sbe iw.$f$ whm ht 2.t ln$^c$
p$^3 j f$ in$h$ nt ir n.$f$ rsy imnty n-im.$f$ iw.$f$ (7) $n$ w$^s$-p$^s$ ln$^c$ nt nb nkt
nt ln.$f$

iw.$f$ hr $t^3$ ewe imnty $p^3$ dmy Sbk $T^3$-my (8) Sbk nb $P^3 y$ $p^3$ ntr $'t$
nt hr $p^3$ 'd $<mhty>$ t$^3$ hry M$\varepsilon$-wr ln $t n$ t$^3$ tit Hy$-(9)$ -l$kyt$y $p^3$
t$^s$-rsyn$^c$ $n^3 w$ hyn.$w$ p$^3 j$ 'wy irm p$^3 j f$ (10) $i[n h n t]$ hry tit-p$^s$e nt
hry ln.$f$ w$^c$ sp$^2$ rsy p$^3$ 'wy $H t b$ (11) irm Hri p$^3 j f$ sn
mhty p$^3$ 'wy $P^3 j-n^3 w$-nfr-imy 'tw.$f$-'n$h$ irm n$^3 j f$ (12) [hrdw]
imnty p$^3$ 'wy $W n-nfr^3 H r i$
r$^b$t y hfty-$h e$ Sbk nb $P^3 y$ (13) $p^3$ ntr $'t^4$ r $p^3$ hr $p^3$ Pr$-'^s$ iwty.$f$
$<r>$ mh $n^2$ hew $n^3 w$ hyn.$w$ (14) [p$^3 j$ 'wy irm p$^3 j f$ in$h$ nt iw $t^3 j k$
tit-p$^s$e nt hry ln.$f$]
Date
(1) Regnal year 7, the month of the god, Pamenopet day 2 of Tiberius [Claudius Kaisaros] (2) Sebastos, Germanicus, the god Autokrator.

Contracting parties
Hath declared the women S[ower]is, daughter of [........] (3) [her] mother being Te- [...........]-Rē (?), acknowledging to the Master of Lustration, Superintendent of the Lake [“Great Green” of Nefer-(4)-shaty Stotoëtis son of Hor, his mother being Tanephremmis.

Main part of the agreement
[I] renounce claim upon thee in regard to thy (5) part-share which makes one part-share out of [two parts, it being one part-share] again of the house which is built, [which is] (6) fitted with beams and doors, which is two-storeyed together with its courtyard which forms its south-western side in it, it being (7) undivided together with all that pertains to it (as revenues), which is in the western district of the Suchos Town the “New Land” of (8) Suchos Lord of the Pāy-land, the great god, which is on the (northern) shore of the swampy land Moēris which is in the division Hy-(9)-lkty of the Arsinoïte nome. The plots adjacent to this house and its (10) [court]yard aforesaid (even) the part-share aforesaid out of it,1 <it being (?)> as a single unit.2
South : the house of Satabous (11) and Heriu, his brother.
North : the house of Panehremmis son of Ef-'Ankh and his (12) [children.]
West : the house of Onnūphris3 son of Heriu.
East : the dromos of Suchos Lord of the Pāy-land (13) the great god4; the King’s Street being between it, which completes the (survey of the) measurements (and) boundaries (14) [of the house and its courtyard in which is included thy part-share aforesaid6].
NOTES TO THE COMMENTARY

1 The expression is in apposition to p3j 'wy irm p3j.f inh ; for this partitive meaning of hn cf. P. Ryl. 44, line 14 ; P. Berlin 7058, lines 6, 14-15 ; P. Michigan 250, line 4 and Sethe, Bürgsch. p. 12, 12.

2 w' sp, cf. above, p. 224, n. 13. In the first instance, the expression seems to qualify the p3j 'wy irm p3j.f inh and may be taken as describing both the house and the courtyard as a single unit of the property herewith conveyed. Another meaning seems possible in this context by which n w' sp is paralleled by tlt-pš. This suggests that sp has to convey the meaning “remainder” of a property, cf. Thompson, FAS, Gloss. no. 269. If this be the case, it would result that the part-share of the property sold in this transaction was outstanding to the rest. The interpretation would then have to be altered and would read: “(even) the part-share aforesaid out of it as one remainder (of the property).” There is naturally much that is uncertain as we know nothing about the history of the property and the procedures which were followed in its partition.

3 Unlike A, line 15, Wn-𝑛fr is followed by the determinative 𓊱 𓊲 𓊳 𓊴 𓊵.

4 For the dromos of Suchos Lord of the Pāy-land cf. above, p. 221.

5 The formulae which follow could hardly be any other than those which we read in P. Ryl. 44, lines 14-16, cf. Studies III, p. 470.

GREEK TEXT

by C. H. Roberts

DEED OF LOAN

(Transliteration)

"Ετος ἔθδόμου Τιβερίου
Κλαυδίου Καίσαρος Σεβαστοῦ
Γερμανικοῦ Αὐτοκράτορος μηνὸς
Φαμενωθ τέσσαρο ( ) ἐν Σου(κο)κνο-παίου Νήσου τῆς Ἡρακλείδ[ο]ν μερίδος
tοῦ Ἀρσωνείτου νομοῦ. ἐδάνη-
σεν Στοτοῆτις "Ωρον ὡς ἑτῶν τεσ-
σεράκοντα ξέ οὐλή καρπὸ δέξιο
Σουήρις τῆς Σαταβοῦς Περσίνη
10 ὃς ἐτῶν εἰκόσι ὀκτὼ[i] οὐλὴ ἀντικηνή-
μίου ἀριστ(έρψ) μετὰ κυρίου τοῦ ἐατῆς
ἀνδρὸς Ὀννόφριος Ἀρταγάθης ὁς ἐτῶν τεσσεράκοντα δύω[i] οὐλὴ
μετώπου μέσου καὶ Αὐτῆς Ὀν-
νόφριος Πέρος τῆς ἐπιγονῆς οἱ δύ-
ω[i] ἄλληλον ἐνκῦώ εἰς ἐκτεισὶν
ἀργυρίῳ ἐπισήμου κεφαλαίων
νομίσματος δραχμᾶς ὀκτωή-
κοντα τέσσαρες ὃς καὶ εἴλη-
20 χρὸς ἐκς νῦκου τόκου ὃς ἐκ δρα-
χμῆς μμᾶς {τόκος} τῶν μηνα
ἐκαστὸν ὅς καὶ ἀποδόσο ὁ δε-
δανισμένος ὡσπερ πρόκει(ταί) λε-
μ... κεφαλαίου καὶ τοὺς τόκος
τῷ Στοτοὴτι τῶι μηνὶ Μεχιρ
τ[οῖ] εἰσίοντος ἑνάτον ἔτους
Τιβερίου Κλαύδιου Καίσαρος
[Σεβασ]τοῦ Γερμανικοῦ
30 [Αὐτὸ]κράτος ἐὰν δὲ μη ἀπο-
δών καθὰ γέγραπται... [,]... χ... 
[...............]... νπα...[}
The seventh year of Tiberius Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus Imperator, the fourth of the month Phamenoth in Socnopaiou Nesos in the Heracleides division of the Arsinoite nome. Stotoetis, son of Horus, aged forty-six with a scar on his right wrist has lent to Soueris, daughter of Satabous, a Persian, aged twenty-eight with a scar on her left thigh, her guardian being her husband Onnophris son of Harpagathe, aged forty-two with a scar in the middle of his forehead and to Aunes, son of Onnophris, a Persian of the epigone, the two being sureties for each other for repayment, the capital sum of eighty-four drachmas of stamped silver currency which he [sic] has received from him directly by hand from his house, interest being at the rate of one drachma each month. And this sum I the borrower will repay as arranged... the capital and the interest to Stotoetis in the month of Mecheir in the coming ninth year of Tiberius Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus Imperator. And if I do not repay as written above . . . . . . .

[For a diagram of the property see p. 230.]

Note: This papyrus is referred to in C. Wessely, Karanis und Soknopaiu Nesos (Denkschr. Akad. Wien, xlvi. 4), p. 46; see also the index of proper names.
The property dealt with here may schematically be pictured as follows:

Western District of Dimê

- Property of Paneiphimisis
- Property of Sub(1) - way
- Property of Satabus and Heiuw