

STUDIES IN THE LATE EGYPTIAN DOCUMENTS
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IV. DIMÊ AND ITS POPYRI:
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 D.-Gr. 6933¹ is one of the hitherto unpublished demotic documents in the Collection of Papyri in Vienna and belongs to the bulk of Dimê papyri acquired by the Archduke Rainer towards the end of the last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.² 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.

² Cf. Krall, *WZKM*, 18, 116-17 for a brief report on the discovery.

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. 44¹ as well as from the hand shown in P. Ryl. 45² 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 ;

 for *imnty* ;

 a very bold type of *-tj-* ;

 is the way of writing *h* ;

 *n³w* for *n³*.

This hand shows in the tracing of  =  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 6857⁴ 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 Dimê 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 Dimê 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 Dimê 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-ir-šty*) named Stotoētis son of Hor and Tane-phrēmmis. One is tempted to suggest that he may have been the same individual as the one mentioned in P. Ryl 45, l. 17³ of year 2 of Claudius. The name Stotoētis, however, was very popular at Dimê 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 Dimê 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 *Σουήρις τῆς Σαραβοῦς*.

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 Dimê demotic records to mention the Dromos of Suchos Lord of the *Pāy*-land. It thus provides interesting textual evidence to complete the archaeology of Dimê. We know that this Dromos divided the town into two main districts.¹ The picture of the block of private houses which may be reconstructed from this contract² 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 Dimê 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 Dimê 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 Dimê.

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) *h³t-spt 7.t p³ ibd p³ ntr¹ ibd 3 p[rt ssw 2 Tb] yrs Kłwtys (2)*
Kysls p³ Sbstys Krmnks p³ ntr² e-ir mhty

Contracting Parties

(3) *dd šhmt Siy-wry³ s³t n[.....]mwt.s T³-[.....]*

-R^c (?)⁴ iw.s dd n w^c r³⁵n

(4) *nb w^b hry⁶ šy [W³d-wryt] N³w-[nfr]-ir-šdy (5) Stj.w-t³-
 tj-wt⁷ Hr mwt.f T³j.n-n³w-nfr-imy*

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

² Cf. below p. 230.

Main part of the agreement

mḥ.k tj.y dj.k mty (6) *ḥ³ty.y n swn⁸ t³j.y [tit-pše] nt ir tit [wˈt] ḥn tit 2.t* (7) *r wˈt tit-pše ˈn p³ ˈwy [nt kd] iw.f grg sy sbe* (8) *iw.f whm ht 2.t ḥnˈ p³j.f [inh nt] ir n.f rsy imnty n-im.f⁹* (9) *iw.f n wš-pše ḥnˈ nt nb nkt nb nt ḥn.f iw hr [t³] ewe imnty p³ dmy* (10) *Sbk T³-my¹⁰ Sbk-nb-P³y [p³ ntr ˈ³] nt hr p³ ˈde [mḥty]* (11) *t³ ḥny Me-wr nt ḥn t³ tit Hylky-* (12) *-tjy¹¹ p³ tš ³rsn[ˈ]* *n³w¹² hynw* (13) *<p³>ˈwy irm p³j.f inh <nty hry> n wˈ sp¹³ rsy p³ ˈwy Hdb¹⁴* (14) *irm Hri¹⁵ p³j.f sn mḥty p³ ˈwy P³j-n³-nfr-imy* (15) *ˈIw.f-ˈnh irm n³j.f hr dw (?)¹⁶ imnty p³ ˈwy [Wn-nfr]¹⁷ Hri* (16) *[i³bty ḥfty-ḥe] Sbk nb [P³j p³ ntr ˈ³ r p³] ḥyr¹⁸ [Pr-ˈ³] iwty.f¹⁹*
(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 Sowēris³ daughter of [.], her mother being Te-[.]-Rēˈ (?)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 Tanephrēmmis.

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"¹⁰ 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)-ty¹¹ of the Arsinoite nome.

The ¹² plots adjacent to (13) <the> 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 Panephrēmmis (15) son of Ef-‘ānkh and his children (?)¹⁶.


West : the house of [Onnūphris]¹⁷ son of Heriu.

(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 extended use of the expression, cf. *Studies III*, p. 490, 1. —*p³*, the form of writing the article *p³* is always very small in the Dimê 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*.

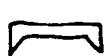
² *p³ Sbstjs*, *id.* P. Berlin 7057, 1.2 (cf. Spiegelberg, *DPB*, Pl. 45); unlike texts from Tiberius' time, the Emperor's title is provided with the definite article and shows clearly the spelling *SBSTJS*. The names and titles of the Roman Emperor are given here the determinative of foreign names:


 ; -*p³ ntr* only occurs instead of *p³ ntr p³ šri p³ ntr*, *id.* P. Berlin 7057, line 2, and precedes the title of Autokrator.


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: *Siy-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 :  ; cf. *Studies III*, p. 485, n. 6 for another graphic variant of this title.

⁷ The spelling is here and in *B*, line 4 : *Stj.w-t3-tj-wt* for *Στοτοῆτις* cf. *Studies III*, p. 490, n. 5. The rather strange sign  following the name is


to be taken as the sign of deity  , 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 : *ḥd n swn*, lit. " money of price " as against a mere *swn* in *P. Ryl. 45*,7.



⁹ For the standardized formulary description of the *Dimê* properties, cf. *Studies III*, p. 472, n. 15—473, n. 20.

The reading *n-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-s3*, cf. *P. Berlin 7058*, line 11 ; *w^c m-s3 m^c-wy*, " one (place) pertaining to the (building) site of the house ", cf. *Studies III*, p. 485, n. 10.

¹⁰ *T3-my*, the determinative of deity  was inserted between the sign

 and the geographical determinative ; *id. B*, line 7.

¹¹ The same spelling *Hylkyty* occurs in *B*, line 8 and *P. Berlin 6857*, line 10, all showing the sign  as determinative. There is no uniformity in the Egyptian rendering of the Greek *Ἡρακλείδου*; and all of them appear phonetically absurd ; in *P. Ryl. 44*, 8, the name reads : *Hyrky* ; *P. Berlin 7058*, 8 gives *Hytkrty*.


¹² *n3w* is written instead of *n3*, *id. B*, line 9. Both instances show an interesting manner of writing *n* : the sign  is superposed by  *id. P. Berlin 6857*,

10 which is unusual in the record hand.

¹³ *n w^c 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 *Htb* is ascertained by *B*, line 10 and *P. Berlin 7057*, 3 ; cf. also *Studies III*, 491, n. 19.

¹⁵ *Hri*, see *B*, line 11, both examples of the name show only the determinative

 cf. *Studies III*, 471, n. 5.

¹⁶ The writing is not clear ; the reading *'lw.f-nh* is ascertained by *B*, line 11 ; according to this, what follows is to be read *irm n3j.f* ; there is some uncertainty

about the reading of the following word. According to the context *hrdw* 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 *hrdw*, "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*, *hry*, and *iwtj.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) *h³t-spt 7.t p³ ibd p³ ntr ibd 3 prt <ssw> 2 [Ty]byrs [Klwtjs Kysls]*
 (2) *p³ Sbstjs Klmnks p³ ntr e-ir mhty*

Contracting parties

- dd šhmt S[iy -wr]y s³t n[.] (3) mwt.[s] T³-[.]*
-R^c iw.s dd w^c r³ n
nb w^b hry šy [W³d-wryt N³w]-nfr-ir- (4) -šdy Stj.w-t³-tj-wt
Hr mwt.f T³j.n- n³w-nfr-imy

Main part of the agreement

- [tw].y ww r-r.k t³j.k (5) tit-pše nt ir tit w^ct hn [tit 2.t r w^ct*
tit-pše]‘n p³j ‘wy iw.f kd [iw.f] (6) grg sy sbe iw.f whm ht 2.t hn^c
p³j.f inh nt ir n.f rsy imnty n-im.f iw.f (7) n wš-pš hn^c nt nb nkt
nbt nt hn.f
iw.f hr t³ ewe imnty p³ dmy Sbk T³-my (8) Sbk nb P³y p³ ntr ‘³
nt hr p³ ‘d <mhty> t³ hny Mē-wr nt hn t³ tit Hy-(9) -lkyty p³
tš³rsyn^c n³w hyn.w p³j ‘wy irm p³j.f (10) i[nh nt] hry tit-pše nt
hry hn.f¹ w^c sp² rsy p³ ‘wy Htb (11) irm Hri p³j.f sn
mhty p³ ‘wy P³j-n³w-nfr-imy ‘Iw.f-‘nh irm n³j.f (12) [hrdw]
imnty p³ ‘wy Wn-nfr³ Hri
izbty hfty-ḥe Sbk nb P³y (13) p³ ntr ‘³⁴ r p³ hr p³ Pr-‘³ iwtj.f
<r> mh n³ hew n³w hynw (14) [p³j ‘wy irm p³j.f inh nt iw t³j.k
tit-pše nt hry hn.f]⁵

Date

(1) Regnal year 7, the month of the god, Pamenopet day 2 of [T]iberius [Claudius Kaisaros] (2) Sebastos, Germanicus, the god Autokrator.

Contracting parties

Hath declared the women S[owēr]is, daughter of [.....] (3) [her] mother being Te- [.....]-Rē^c (?), acknowledging to the Master of Lustration, Superintendent of the Lake ["Great Green" of Ne]fer-(4)-shaty Stotoētis son of Hor, his mother being Tanephre^mmis.

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) -lkyty of the Arsinoite 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 Panephre^mmis son of Ef-^cĀnkh 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 aforesaid⁵].

NOTES TO THE COMMENTARY

¹ The expression is in apposition to *p̄j wy irm p̄j.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 *p̄j wy irm p̄j.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 *tit-pše*. 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 $\square\text{I}$.

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)

Ἔτους ἑβδόμου Τιβερίου
 Κλαυδίου Καίσαρος Σεβαστοῦ
 Γερμανικοῦ Ἀυτοκράτορος μηνὸς
 Φαμενώθ τέσσαρο () ἐν Σουζοκνο-
 5 παίου Νήσου τῆς Ἡρακλείδ[ο]υ μερίδος
 τοῦ Ἀρσινοείτου νομοῦ. ἐδάνη-
 σεν Στοτοῆτις Ὠρου ὡς ἐτῶν τεσ-
 σεράκοντα ἕξ οὐλῆ καρπὸ δεξίῳ
 Σουῆρις τῆς Σαταβοῦς Περσίνη

10

ὡς ἐτῶν εἰκόσι ὀκτώ{ι} οὐλή ἀντικνη-
 μίου ἀριστ(έρω) μετὰ κυρίου τοῦ ἑατῆς
 ἀνδρὸς Ὀινόφρις Ἀρπαγάθης ὡς
 ἐτῶν τεσσεράκοντα δύο{ι} οὐλή
 μετώπου μέσου καὶ Αὐνής Ὀν-

15

νόφρις Πέρσης τῆς ἐπιγονῆς οἱ δύ-
 ω{ι} ἀλλήλον ἐγκύω εἰς ἔκτεισιν
 ἀργυρίου ἐπισήμου κεφαλαίου
 νομίσματος δραχμὰς ὀκτωή-
 κοντα τέσσαρες ἄς καὶ εἴλη-

20

φεν παρ' αὐτοῦ παραχρῆμα διὰ
 χιρὸς ἐκζ υἱοῦ τόκου ὡς ἐκ δρα-
 χμῆς μιᾶς {τόκον} τῶν μῆνα
 ἕκαστον ἄς καὶ ἀποδόσο ὁ δε-

25

δανισμένος ὡσπερ πρόκει(ται) λε-
 μ . . . κεφαλαίου καὶ τοὺς τόκους
 τῷ Στοτοῆτι τῷ μηνὶ Μεχὶρ
 τ[οῦ] εἰσίοντος ἐνάτου ἔτους
 Τιβερίου Κλαυδίου Καίσαρος
 [Σεβασ]τοῦ Γερμανικοῦ

30

[Αὐτο]κράτορος ἐὰν δὲ μὴ ἀπο-
 δῶι καθὰ γέγραπται . . . [.]χ . . .
 [.] . . . νπα . . . [

- - - - -

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| l. 4. τετάρτη | l. 6. ἐδάνεισεν | l. 8. καρπῶ δεξίω |
| l. 10. ἀντικνημίω | l. 11. ἑαυτῆς | l. 14. μετώπῳ μέσῳ |
| l. 15. Περση τοῖς δυσι | l. 16. ἀλλήλων ἐγγύοις | l. 18. ὀγδοήκοντα τέσσαρας |
| l. 21. ἐξ οἴκου | l. 22. τὸν | l. 23. ἀποδώσω |
| l. 25. τόκους | l. 31. ἀποδῶ | |

(Translation)

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. Stotoëtis, 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 *epigonē*, 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 Stotoëtis 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 Soknopaiou Nesos* (*Denkschr. Akad. Wien*, xlvii. 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

