

A Ptolemaic Account Regarding Crown Land (P. Mich. Inv. 7075)

Description and Overview: *P. Mich. Inv. 7075* is a sizeable papyrus fragment of Ptolemaic texts regarding Crown land (15.5 x 22.5cm) with writing on both sides. The side with text running across the fibers of the verso preserves intact portions of two columns, with col. i having 27 lines (including a list of tenants of Crown land and perhaps their updated rental/tax payments) and col. ii having 14 lines (a summary account relating to Crown land with the heading, “another account of Teos, son of Horus”). The presence of ink at the top of the left column suggests that more text above col. i has been lost. On the other side of the papyrus, there are also two partially preserved columns with text running along the fibers of the recto. Much more of col. i. has been preserved, but it is missing text on its left-hand side as well as at the bottom. col ii preserves the left side of a tax register column, including personal names at the head of the entries. The papyrus itself is generally in good condition with a few small holes and occasional spaces between papyrus strips. There are places where ink has been lost or abraded and the color of the generally light brown papyrus is variegated.

Acquisition, Provenance, and Date: *P. Mich. Inv. 7075* is part of a sizeable group of Michigan papyri salvaged from mummy cartonnage and acquired by Ludwig Koenen. Loftus and Schwendner (1996, 91) note that “the cartonnage pieces in the Michigan collection are in some way connected to papyri pieces that made their way into European collections at the same time.” Müller (1995, 237) asserts that “the (post) archaeological context of the aforementioned corpus of Michigan texts (6972-7075), as well as two other lots of Michigan papyri (6951-6971; 6925-6950), suggest that they are documents from the financial and police administration of the Arsinoe nome at the end of the 3rd and the beginning of the 2nd century BCE.” The parallels

between P.Mich. Inv. 7075 and other accounts seem to suggest a more localized provenance near the town of Tebtynis. (Clarysse and Thompson, *Counting the People in Hellenistic Egypt*, vol. 1, 2006, 508, note to 231).

Crown Land Accounts: Although it is not exactly clear how the four columns of P.Mich. Inv. 7075 all connect to each other, what we do know is that that they all pertain to the cultivation and rental of Crown land in some way. (1) col. i on the front is a list of tenants on Crown land along with tax or rental payments. We can know this because of the inclusion of οἱ γεωργοὶ κοινῆι (l. 22), a term only appearing in Crown texts from late 2nd century Kerkeosiris and Tebtynis; (2) col. ii on the front (entitled “An Account of Teōs, Son of Hōrus”) utilizes technical language indicative of accounts associated with Crown lands, including words such as ἐκφόριον (ll. 5-6) or land rental fees, and ὑπολογῆσαι (l. 12; Mayser 1.82-85), referencing exemptions for land that cannot be farmed. Moreover, the text cites individual taxes associated with farming Crown land, like the γεωμετρία (l. 1) or the survey fee, and the θη(σαυρο)φυ(λακικόν) (l. 10) or the granary guard tax. (3 and 4) cols. i and ii on the back side, a two-column fragment of a register recording rents and taxes/grain payments, explain tax and rental fees for individuals using Crown land, including γρ(αμματικοῦ) (lines 3 and 19) or scribal fees, and grain cleaning fees. Column 4 also includes a grain deposit made towards an account on specified date (l. 5, Pachōn 5).

Bibliography

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