

A Fragmentary Ptolemaic Tax List, Some Rarely Attested Names,
and New Archival Connections (P. Mich. Inv. 7023a)

P. Mich. Inv. 7023a is an unpublished papyrus from Ptolemaic Egypt that is likely from the 2nd century BCE. It is one of the many documentary texts in the University of Michigan's collection that was acquired from Michael Fackelmann, an Austrian papyrus conservator and antiquities dealer active in the 1970s-1980s. These documentary texts come from mummy cartonnage and pertain to matters from the Herakleopolite and Arsinoite nomes. Unfortunately, as is the case with the provenance (history of ownership) of many of these papyri, the information is incomplete. Following ASP/AIP protocol, my paper will begin by presenting all the information that we currently have concerning the acquisition of P. Mich. Inv. 7023a, including Ludwig Koenen's letters to various people in the University of Michigan library system during the summer of 1982, Arthur Verhoogt's brief overview of Fackelmann acquisitions (2017, 13), and Martin Müller's summary remarks about three different lots of mummy cartonnage papyri obtained by Michigan during this period (1995, 237). Loftus and Schwendner (1996, 91) note that "the necropolis from which the cartonnage came cannot be precisely established," (which is problematic for its provenance) despite the fact that "informed speculation at the time of the find had it that the cemeteries at Abusir al-Malaq or al-Lahûn were likely candidates." They also observe 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, an important observation for my paper, since I will be making the case that P. Mich. Inv. 7023a is closely connected to P. Moen 7, which was originally part of a Dutch private collection, though now it seems to be part of the papyrology collection at the University of Texas at Austin (see TM 4083).

P. Mich. Inv. 7023 consists of two separate pieces, 7023a and 7023b. (1) For this presentation, I will be focusing on 7023a, a daily tax register which includes a long list of names, some of which have check strokes to their left side. The fact that no payment totals are listed next to names might suggest that each individual is being levied a charge of the same amount (cf. P.Tebt. 4.1143, 115/114 BCE). The infrequently attested village names, Magais (l. 2) and Andromachis (l. 23), each from the meris of Themistos, affirm that the collection of taxes here is from the Arsinoite nome.

(2) A number of the names on the tax register are unattested or rarely attested elsewhere, e.g. Ἀρεγάτης (l. 16) and Τουγῆς (l. 18). Moreover, there are quite a few peculiar Ptolemaic name variants, e.g. Στου[γ]ῆτις (l. 20), Ψουσνεῦς (l. 24), and Ὀρπότης (l. 38). The scarcity and idiosyncracies of some of the names that appear in P. Mich Inv. 7023a link it to P. Moen 7 (P.J. Sijpesteijn 1979), a mummy cartonnage papyrus dating to the 2nd c. BCE and also comprised of a list of names. Though it also includes check marks next to most of its names, it does not seem to be a daily tax register.

(3) But P. Moen 7 has other traits in common with P. Mich. Inv. 7023a as well. At the top of one of the columns it references the Arsinoite village, Philagridos, which is very close to Magais and Andromachis, the villages cited in our text. Additionally, Sijpesteijn notes how many times in this text the patronymic is not given in the genitive case, which would be expected, but instead in the nominative, something which we also see with P. Mich. Inv. 7023a. Moreover, he highlights that the text has been written by an untrained scribe, some of whose tendencies seem to be present on front side of P. Mich. Inv. 7023a. Given these commonalities, especially the number of very rare names and name variants that these two texts share, it would appear that P. Mich. Inv. 7023a

and P. Moen 7 have some kind of an archival relationship even if they are not part of the same document.

Works Cited

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