

Four Demotic Ostraca of Accounts

Soheir M. Wahid El-Din

ملخص:

The article deals with four demotic ostraca that belong to the collection of the Egyptian Museum at Cairo. The provenance is unknown, and the date is Ptolemaic period. The ostraca concern accounts of grain, goods, and unidentified accounts whose names are accompanied by figures which are not preceded by any units of currency or anything in kind. The first text contains an account of wheat; the second text is an account of goods (oil, cloth, and incense), and the third and fourth texts are unidentified accounts. The third apparently deals with some persons who are attached to temples, and the fourth contains proper names and numbers.

These four demotic ostraca belong to the collection of the Egyptian Museum at Cairo. This collection was registered in the inventory of books at the Museum in 1955, and is preserved on the third floor P. 23 East. Their number is: Inv. No./TR. 18953/25-1-55/4. All ostraca of the collection are kept in many boxes. Nothing is known about their provenance or their date. Some boxes have a note stating their provenance. Few varied texts of Coptic, Greek, hieratic, and hieroglyphic origin are excluded in special boxes.

The provenance of our four demotic ostraca is unknown, and their writing refers to the Ptolemaic period. The ostraca concern accounts of grain, goods, and unidentified accounts.

1- Museum Number: Inv. No./TR. 18953/25-1-55/4

Dimensions: height 7.5 cm.; width 4.5 cm.; thickness 0.5 cm.

Color: Yellow.

Provenance: Unknown .

Date: Ptolemaic

Transliteration

1- *Mtw = n*

- 2- *Mw.t-hrrj*
- 3- *P3-tj-Sbk s3* 「*Nht-Mn*」
- 4- *Pa - Gb s3* 「*P3-mr-ih*」
- 5- *T3-^cLw3.t*
- 6- *N3-nht=f* 「*s3*」
- 7- *sw 1/8 5/6 Pa -*
- 8- *sw 1/3 1/8*
- 9-

Translation

- 1- We have paid.....
- 2- Muteherri
- 3- Petesobk son of 「Nechetmin」
- 4- Pegeb son of 「Pelaia」
- 5- Taalouat
- 6- Nechtef 「son of 」
- 7- *1/8 5/6* (artabas of) wheat *Pa -*
- 8- *1/3 1/8* (artabas of) wheat
- 9-

Comment

The shred is partly broken at the top and left sides. The text is an account of wheat.

- L.1- The traces which follow ‘*mtw = n*’ indicate the reading ‘*sw*’ wheat, if it is compared with the same word at the line ‘8’.
- L.2- There is no other instance of this proper name.
- L.3- The name of the father is partly broken, the reading as ‘*nht-Mn*’ Nechetmin is expected¹.
- L.4- For the complete written of the father's name ‘*P3-mr-ih*’ Pelaia, see Demotisches Namenbuch².
- L.6- The father's name is broken.
- L.7- The word ‘*sw*’ wheat is smudged with ink spot at the beginning of the line.
- The proper name is broken at the end of the line.
- L.8- The fraction *1/8* is corrected from the first sign

of the name 'Nht' Nechet.

L.9- The line seems to be washed off, so I am unable to read the signs.

2- Museum Number: Inv.No./TR. 18953/25-1-55/4

Dimensions: heigh 6.5 cm.; width 5 cm.; thickness .5cm.

Color: Red.

Provenance: Unknown .

Date: Ptolemaic

Transliteration

- 1-「W^r」 「S...p...」
- 2- T3-šr:t-p3-tj-Hr W^r ḥbs
- 3- Pa - nfr-ḥtp W^r 「nhḥ」
- 4- Bj-ḥ
- 5- W^r.....
- 6- 3mnjs (s3) Is.t
- 7- ḥn P3 wnj
- 8- P3 -šr-P3-wr P3-ḥm

Translation

- 1-one 「S...P...」
- 2- Tashenpetehor one cloth
- 3- Peneferhotep one oil
- 4- Beonech
- 5- One
- 6- Amenis (son of) ēse
- 7- Incense of the wnj tree
- 8- Peshenpewer the young.

Comment

The shred is broken at three sides, the top, the bottom, and the left. The text concerns an account of goods.

L.1- This line is partly broken, a proper name is expected at the first part of the line, and the

second part contains a name of goods, the short vertical stroke refers to the word 'W^r' one, and the last broken word begins with the sign 's', and the third sign is probably 'P'.

L.3- The word 'nhḥ' oil, is partly broken³.

L.5- I am unable to identify the word which follows 'W^r' one, it could be read as 'mh-stwt' or 'š-stwt'.

L.7- For the word 'wnj' a tree, see Demotisches Glossar⁴.

3- Museum Number: Inv.No./TR. 18953/25-1-55/4

Dimensions: heigh 9.5 cm.; width 8 cm.; thickness .5cm.

Color: Red.

Provenance: Unknown.

Date: Ptolemaic

Transliteration

- 1- Ta-Imn t3-šr:t G-d3d3 1/12
- 2- T3J=mLs t Nw3 (mark) 1/4 1/20
- 3- T3-šr:t-P3-ḥpsw (mark) 1 T3-ḥtr s3 5-nw
- 4- (mark) T3-Gḥtpwnw 1 T3-ḥtr
- 5- (mark) llw3 (mark) 1 T3-ḥtr
- 6- N3-ḥt.w (mark) 1 T3-šnt-rh.t
- 7- Pa -ḥj (mark) T3-šr:t-Hr-s3-Is.t (mark) 1
- 8- T3-šr:t-Gmt-whj
- 9- (mark) 1

Translation

- 1- Taamun the daughter of Gdjedje 1/12
- 2- Taiuomels the daughter of Noua (mark) 1/4 1/20
- 3- Tashenpeapebsou (mark) 1 Taheter (the) 5th phyle
- 4- (mark) Tagatepoumu 1 Taheter

- 5- (mark) leloua (mark) 1 Taheter
- 6- Nachetou (mark) 1 Tashenrechet
- 7- pechi (mark) Tashenhorseēse (mark) 1
- 8- Tashengemtuohi.
- 9- (mark) 1

Comment

The shred is scratched at the top of the left side. The horizontal stroke and the dot are used as checking marks ⁵. The text apparently deals with some persons who are attached to temples

- L.1- The sign ‘Ta’ is thick, as in the following line.
 - The last part of the father’s name is written at the dark part ⁶.
 - The dark part at the end of the line contains the fraction 1/12.
- L.2- The first proper name could be read also as ‘T3-smls’ ‘Tasemles’.
 - The dot is used before the fractions 1/4, and 1/20, as checking marks.
- L.3- The sign ‘T3’ at the beginning of the line is corrected from the sign ‘Pa’.
 - There is no other instance of the proper name ‘p̄bsw’ ‘apebsou’.
 - The horizontal stroke is used to separate between the name and the number.
 - The sign ‘T3’ of ‘T3-ht̄r’ ‘Taheter’ is very faint, for this name, see Demotisches Namenbuch ⁷.
 - If the reading of the 5th phyle is correct, the proper names of this text belong to phyle of a certain temple ⁸.
- L.4- There is no other instance of the name ‘T3-Ḡtpwmw?’ ‘Tagatepoumu’.
 - Number one after the name is very faint.
- L.6- For the written of ‘rh.t̄’, see Demotisches Glossar ⁹.

L.8- The proper name ‘whj’ is known ¹⁰, but there is no other instance of the combination of ‘Gm̄t-whj’ ‘Gemtuohi’.

L.9- I think number one of this line belongs to the name of the previous line.

4- **Museum Number:** Inv. No./TR. 18953/25-1-55/4

Dimensions: Height 10.5 cm.; width 4 cm.; thickness .7cm.

Color: Red.

Provenance: Unknown .

Date: Ptolemaic

Transliteration

- 1- (mark) ᵀP3-ᵀ
 - 2- ᵀP3-mr-ih̄ᵀ
 - 3- P3 r̄-wh̄3
 - 4- (mark) Hr-nh̄tt
 - 5- (mark) Pa-n3-ht̄w
 - 6- (mark) P3-tj-irj- ᵀhms ᵀ
 - 7- (mark) N3-nh̄t̄=f
 - 8- (mark) P3-šr- Hnm
 - 9- r 10 r 17
 - 10- r 189

Translation

- 1- (mark) ᵀP3 ᵀ.....
 - 2- ᵀpelaia ᵀ
 - 3- The debt
 - 4- (mark) Harnechet
 - 5- (mark) Penechtou
 - 6- (mark) Peteri ᵀhemes ᵀ
 - 7- (mark) Nechtef
 - 8- (mark) Peshenkhnum
 - 9- Make 10 to 17
 - 10- Make 189

Comment

The shred is broken at the top and left sides. The oblique stroke is used as checking marks¹¹. The text concerns an unidentified account.

- L.1- The trace after the oblique stroke refers to the article ‘P3’ of the broken proper name.
- L.2- The determinative of the proper name is partly broken.
- L.3- This line has a heading of the following names, a heading of the two lines (1-2) is expected at the top side of the broken part.
- L.6- The determinative of the proper name is partly broken.
- L.9- The numbers of this line may be refer to the persons who are debtors.
- L.10- The total number could be persons, sums, or anything in kind.

- I cannot identify the last word which is used in other text that deals with an account of grain¹². It may be used at the end of the account texts to refer to installments in money or in kind or debts of persons.

9 Erichsen, *Demot. Glossar*, 253.

10 Lüddeckens, *Demot.Nb.*, 1/2 (1981), 123.

11 Nur El-Din, *Enchoria* 9, 50.

12 M.A. Nur El-Din, *The Demotic Ostraca in the National Museum of Antiquities at Leiden*, (Leiden, 1974), 131-32, no. 159 V.7.

Notes

- 1 E.Lüddeckens and others, *Demotisches Namenbuch*, Band 1/9, (Wiesbaden, 1989), 649.
- 2 Lüddeckens, *Demot. Nb.*, 1/3 (1983), 189.
- 3 W.Erichsen, *Demotisches Glossar*, (Kopenhagen, 1954), 224.
- 4 Erichsen, *Demot. Glossar*, 90.
- 5 M.A. Nur El-Din, ‘Checking, Terminal, stress marks, Partition indications and Margin lines in Demotic Documents’, *Enchoria* 9 (1979), 53-4.
- 6 Lüddeckens, *Demot.Nb.*, 1/14 (1996), 1014.
- 7 Lüddeckens, *Demot.Nb.*, 1/14 (1996), 1080.
- 8 S.L. Lippert & M. Schentuleit, *Demotische Dokumente aus Dime, Ostraka*, Band 1, (Wiesbaden, 2006), 9-36.

