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The current editorial address for the *Bulletin of the American Society of Papyrologists* is:

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The editors ask contributors to observe the following guidelines:

- Abbreviations for editions of papyri, ostraca, and tablets should follow the *Checklist of Editions of Greek, Latin, Demotic and Coptic Papyri, Ostraca and Tablets* (<http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/papyrus/texts/clist.html>). The volume number of the edition should be included in Arabic numerals: e.g., *P.Oxy.* 41.2943.1-3; 2968.5; *P.Lond.* 2.293.9-10 (p.187).

- Other abbreviations should follow those of the *American Journal of Archaeology* and the *Transactions of the American Philological Association*.

- For ancient and Byzantine authors, contributors should consult the third edition of the *Oxford Classical Dictionary*, xxix-liv, and *A Patristic Greek Lexicon*, xi-xiv.

- For general matters of style, contributors should consult the 15th edition of the *Chicago Manual of Style* or this issue of *BASP*.

When reading proof, contributors should limit themselves to correcting typographical errors. Revisions and additions should be avoided; if necessary, they will be made at the author's expense. The primary author(s) of contributions published in *BASP* will receive a copy of the pdf used for publication.

John Wallrodt and Andrew Connor provided assistance with the production of this volume.

Hélène Cuvigny, *Ostraca de Krokodilô. La correspondance militaire et sa circulation. O.Krok. 1-151. Praesidia du désert de Bérénice 2. Fouilles de l'Ifao, Vol. 51. Cairo: Institut français d'archéologie orientale, 2005. xi + 283 pages. ISBN 2-7247-0370-7.*

This volume is the second in the series of publications of the finds from the excavations carried out at the site of Roman forts in the Eastern desert of Egypt, along the route from Koptos to Myos Hormos on the Red Sea, in 1996-1997.<sup>1</sup> It is the first volume dedicated to the texts unearthed in one of them, the small fort of Krokodilô. We have 151 ostraca that date from the reign of Trajan and the beginning of the reign of Hadrian (mostly 108-118); almost two thirds are military correspondence, while the remaining are dipinti.

Many of the texts included in this volume are unusual; they may appear less so after the publication of the mass of material found in these Roman forts, but this is bound to take a very long time. The excavations at Mons Claudianus have unearthed almost ten thousand ostraca; only a portion, though an important one, has been published in *O.Claud.* 1-4. The forts on the road to Myos Hormos have yielded their own four-digit number; the published crop currently numbers under two hundred. The scholars who have undertaken the publication of these finds are and will probably remain very few, and there are limits to one's output. A further complication is that editing this material requires a fair amount of time spent at the site and in local stores, usually in less than ideal conditions;<sup>2</sup> few, especially among those engaged in teaching, could afford this time, especially in the winter, the time preferred for work in Egypt. One can only wish that those involved in the publication of these finds persevere with their tasks for as long as they are able to.

This volume has already received numerous and occasionally extensive reviews,<sup>3</sup> so that there seems to be little point in summarizing its contents or even indicating "highlights" here, though perhaps I ought to mention what struck me most. Apart from reports of delivery of fish by courier, even during

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<sup>1</sup> The first was H. Cuvigny (ed.), *La route de Myos Hormos. L'armée romaine dans le désert oriental d'Égypte* (Cairo 2002), and provides much background information for the material edited in *O.Krok.* as well as some new texts.

<sup>2</sup> Occasionally further aggravated by the stubborn ignorance of local authorities; cf. p. 65, n. 8.

<sup>3</sup> I am aware of the following: G. Husson, *REG* 119 (2006) 793-795; M. Schentuleit, *OLZ* 101 (2006) 623-625; R.S. Bagnall, *BibOr* 64 (2007) 168-171; J. Bingen, *CE* 82 (2007) 351-354; A.K. Bowman, *JRA* 20 (2007) 635-638; T. Kruse, *BMCR* 2007.01.29; F. Mitthof, *APF* 53 (2007) 91-94; A. Verhoogt, *CR* 58 (2008) 273-275.

the night, and skirmishes with “barbarians” (Bedouins) that result in casualties on all sides, even including civilians, it is the soldier’s dramatic and timeless assertion in 93: “I fear for myself, because we are not many here.”

I append a few minor observations on philological and textual details. The editor is good at drawing attention to points of linguistic interest. Some of the novelties: 4.5, 6.13, and 61.3: συστρέφω in the sense of ὑποστρέφω; a new sense for ἐπέχειν (87.105) and perhaps πυκτεύειν (= Lat. *pugnare*? 47.5, 87.32); new Latin loanwords: τὰ πούπλικα (*publica*) for τὰ δημόσια, “public taxes” (70.4); οὐεσσιγάτου, apparently the supine *vestigatum* (74.6); σουκεσσόρων (96.9-10); *addenda lexicis*: ἰχνιάζω (10.21) and ἐπεργηγορέω (47.51). A few other philological notabilia and queries of my own: if one seeks evidence for Capito’s Latinity,<sup>4</sup> text 13, written in very colloquial Greek, will not provide it. In 14.5, do we have καί + infinitive for a result clause? ἐδόθη in 51.18 may reflect a Latin usage. There is nothing wrong with the juxtaposition of two imperatival futures (καλῶς ποιήσεις δώσεις, in normalized spelling) in 73.9, especially given that the first means little more than “please.” 74.6-7 and 76.7 attest the construction τῆ + day number + μηνός (cf. also 100.11): the omission of the article is inadvertent and may betray bilingual interference. In 76.1-2, ἐρωτηθεῖς ἴνα + subjunctive is a novel construction, though not an abnormal one. In 94.3, do we have ἔρχομαι with direct object, or is it that a preposition was omitted in error? [δέσμ]ην κράμπην in 97.3 is perfectly idiomatic, and the second accusative should not be corrected to a genitive; for this “partitive apposition,” see P.J. Parsons, *PdP* 23 (1968) 289-290.

As the plates show, many of these ostraca are very difficult to read, and the text when broken is often hard to restore, so that textual problems abound. Yet the decipherment could hardly have been taken further (it has already gone far enough). I append some minutiae, mostly dubious. In 13 the loss to the left cannot be great. In 41.74, restore, e.g., ἐπερχόμεν]ον, πορευόμεν]ον, vel sim. If ἀλαβίτης is read in 49.2, could it relate to the fish ἀλάβης? At the beginning of 99.5, could one possibly read χωρίς (adverbially), “he didn’t want to take the two drachmas, but without (them) he wanted to make you a favor”? In 100.7, it is preferable to assume an inadvertent omission of the article to positing a rare personal name (cf. also l. 11); for 11-12, cf. *UPZ* 1.62.26: ἦκει is meant.

Besides the superb editorial job,<sup>5</sup> the care lavished in the presentation and production of the volume ought to be praised; the same applies to the plates.

*University College London*

Nikolaos Gonis

<sup>4</sup> Already doubted by Bowman (above, n. 3) 636-637.

<sup>5</sup> Typos are very few. I record only those I noticed in the Greek: in 8.9, read μηδέ, not μήδε; 41.63 (appar.) ἀγηοχότας, not ἀγηωχότας; 51.21, ἔκτ[η] (in the index wrongly under ἐκτός), not ἐκτ[ῆ]; 87.69, εἶν', not εἴν'.

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