P. Petra V 81A-C. Three Documents

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## 81. Introduction: Three Documents

In the following, we present the fragments of three poorly preserved documents that were found close together. Because the attribution of the fragments to the individual documents is partly difficult, an overview of the situation is presented first:


The three documents are put together from five roll-pieces. There are, on the left-hand side, roll-pieces $\alpha 15 \mathrm{~A}$ and $\alpha 15 \mathrm{~B}$ on top of each other, on the right hand side, similarly roll-pieces $\alpha 13 \mathrm{~A}$ and $\alpha 13 \mathrm{~B}$ on top of each other, and finally $\alpha 13 \mathrm{C}$ next to the latter two roll-pieces. Each of these five pieces contained the core of a scroll. Rollpiece $\alpha 13 \mathrm{C}$ rather clearly forms a document of its own (81C), but the reconstruction of the other four roll-pieces is more difficult. The text of $\mathbf{8 1 A}$ shows that $\alpha 15 \mathrm{~A}$ and $\alpha 13 \mathrm{~A}$ belong side by side. Hence, we believe that $\alpha 15 \mathrm{~B}$ and $\alpha 13 \mathrm{~B}$ as well must belong side by side, even if they are too fragmentary for the join to be verified. Since both the A and B pieces have cores of their own, they must represent two separate documents found on top of one another. ${ }^{1}$ However, the exact dividing line between the two documents cannot be established with certainty:

[^0]it does not necessarily tally with the present division between the roll-pieces (that is, stacks of layers) as they had been broken and then labeled by the conservator. There is an additional difficulty that at least $\mathbf{8 1 A}$ was somehow folded before it was rolled up (cf. Introduction to $\mathbf{8 1 A}$ ). Therefore, we simply present $\alpha 15 \mathrm{~A}+\alpha 13 \mathrm{~A}$ as one document $(\mathbf{8 1 A})$ and $\alpha 15 B+\alpha 13 B$ as another document $(\mathbf{8 1 B})$, only drawing attention to the possibility that part of the fragments might be assigned differently.

There are certain similarities in the contents of all the three papyri. They all seem to deal with taxes and landed property. Especially $\mathbf{8 1 A}$ and $\mathbf{8 1 B}$ may concern the same subject matter, as both mention the name Ioannes and a seventh indiction, even if we cannot exlude the possibility that the fragment in $\mathbf{8 1 B}$ containing the seventh indiction should actually be assigned to $\mathbf{8 1 A}$ (cf. Introduction to $\mathbf{8 1 B}$ ). This may well have been a case where multiple documents dealing with the same subject matter were stored closely together, perhaps bound together with the strings that are mentioned in the conservator's report.

M. Buchholz

## 81A. Agreement on Taxes

Inv. 25a<br>Field No. XXIXm1<br>Glass Plates 105-106<br>Plates CLIII-CLIV

$12 \times 73 \mathrm{~cm}$<br>top margin 18.5 cm<br>bottom margin 6.5 cm

mid/late 6th c.

As explained in the Introduction to 81, this document, written transversa charta across the fibers, consists of roll-pieces $\alpha 15 \mathrm{~A}$ (left) and $\alpha 13 \mathrm{~A}$ (right), which can be securely joined. The end, featuring a bottom margin of up to 6.5 cm , is the best-preserved part of the document. In the beginning, there is an extensive empty space, probably representing the top margin. It must originally have measured at least 18.4 cm , approximately one fourth of the document's total length, ca. 73 cm , including the gaps, but excluding fragments $\alpha 15$ A1- 6 , which appear to come from before the top margin; they may simply be misplaced, possibly belonging in $\mathbf{8 1 B}$.

The first part of the document presents serious difficulties for the reconstruction, mainly because it was somehow folded before it was rolled up. To complicate things further, the fragment codes do not seem fully reliable. One of the spots where the document was folded seems to have been between frs. $\alpha 15$ A30V and $\alpha 15$ A31R, probably some $22-23 \mathrm{~cm}$ from the bottom. Unable to establish the fragments' original order in this part, we have only roughly grouped them together based on handwriting. By contrast, we are relatively confident in our reconstruction of the end, even if the resulting text is, in parts, difficult to interpret. However, even in the end, the extant fragment assembly only measures up to 11.7 cm in width, with text missing both on the left and the right. If the original width of the scroll was ca. 27 cm (cf. P. Petra III, p. 2), more than half of each line is missing.

Several hands can be recognized, all of which seem to represent the contracting parties. The document is apparently a cheirographon (cf. P. Petra III, pp. 3-4), as there is no evidence of a notary or witnesses and it is much shorter than the notarial deeds. The text deals with taxes and landed property (probably including houses), but its exact purpose remains obscure. We assume that it is somehow connected with the Petra practice of paying the taxes for a certain plot to the previous owner, who in turn paid them to the authorities. Since the document is
not a simple receipt, the present case evidently was more complicated. There is an unclear passage that possibly mentions the office of ( $\dot{\varepsilon} \pi \alpha v$ ) o $\theta \omega \omega \tau$ ́c, or corrector (see 1.14 with comm.).

The exact date cannot be established. A seventh indiction is mentioned, as well as the fifth day of Audnaios, both in a lacunose context. Otherwise, we have to rely on prosopographical considerations, which point to the mid to late sixth century. One of the persons involved was probably Nonnos, son of Auxon, who appears also in 37 (565-75). Perhaps significantly, he wrote 37 on behalf of someone else, and in the present document he has again been asked to do something (1.29). While Nonnos may have served in the military as prior, he is probably not the soldier who wrote the last subscription, as it looks different from Nonnos' hand in 37. Among the other persons involved was Obodianos, son of Obodianos. The Petra papyri attest to two persons of that name (see Introduction to 55). The younger one, the testator of 55 from the year 573, might be the man we are dealing with here. The rest of the persons mentioned (Petros, Ioannes, and possibly Aron, as the latter's father, cf. comm. to 1.10) cannot be linked with people known from the papyri.

Selection of Readings from Fragments $\alpha 15 \mathrm{~A} 1-6$ (possibly belonging in 81B)


Selection of Fragments from the First Half of the Document (in uncertain order)

```
22 ].\mu\varepsilońvọ̣u \tauo[\imath`] . . .[. .] .[
    \alpha15 A18 + \alpha13 A23
```



## End of the Document















$$
36 \text { ] кגì } \alpha v \alpha \gamma v o c \theta \varepsilon ́ v \tau o ̣ c ~ \mu o \imath ~ \tau[
$$ vacat vacat vacat vacat

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \alpha 15 \mathrm{~A} 29 \mathrm{R}+[\alpha 13 \mathrm{~A}] 10 \\
& \alpha 15 \mathrm{~A} 19+\alpha 13 \mathrm{~A} 22 \\
& \alpha 15 \mathrm{~A} 28 \mathrm{R}+\alpha 13 \mathrm{~A} 11 \\
& \alpha 15 \mathrm{~A} 20+[\alpha 13 \mathrm{~A} 20+21 ?] \\
& \alpha 15 \mathrm{~A} 27 \mathrm{R}+[\alpha 13 \mathrm{~A} 12] \\
& \\
& \alpha 15 \mathrm{~A} 21+[\alpha 13 \mathrm{~A} 19] \\
& \alpha 15 \mathrm{~A} 26 \mathrm{R}+[\alpha 13 \mathrm{~A} 13] \\
& \\
& \alpha 15 \mathrm{~A} 22+[\alpha 13 \mathrm{~A} 18] \\
& \alpha 15 \mathrm{~A} 25+\alpha 13 \mathrm{~A} 14 \\
& \alpha 15 \mathrm{~A} 23+\alpha 13 \mathrm{~A} 17 \\
& \alpha 15 \mathrm{~A} 24+\alpha 13 \mathrm{~A} 15 \\
& \alpha 13 \mathrm{~A} 16
\end{aligned}
$$




## Translation

(Lines 1-18) (1. H.) . . e each year for x iugera . . . . agree . . . (2. H.) . . . the same . . . and . . . abovewritten tax . . . . . accordingly . . . . . my . . . . . each year . . . (3. H.) . . . Ioannes . . . . . it was written on the 5th of Audnaios . . . . . request for subscription . . . corrector (?), [above-written] soldier (?) . . . (4. H.) . . . official . . . [all the] exacted and extra [taxes (?)] . . . . . ground-floor (?) . . . land . . .
(Lines 19-30) (5. H.) [I, Obodianos, son of Obodianos, . . . agree (?) . . . my remaining brothers . . . sold to him by [us?] . . . . . twentieth, tenth, of the twentieth . . . . . products according to the administration . . . . . seventh indiction, eighth . . Nonnos, son of Auxon, who was asked by me . . and not to be able to . . . the whole for the . . . between themselves (?) . . .
(Lines 31-36) (6. H.) [I, N], the above-written soldier . . . having renounced on behalf of the [above-written (plural)] . . . each year for x iugera . . . twentieth (?), to me and to . . . the same Ioannes and Petros and . . . and after . . . has been read to me . . .

## Commentary

 need to be interpreted as a trema. Word-initial tremata (which, in diphthongs, are placed above the second letter) were often used in the Petra papyri, and, in the present document, also by $\mathbf{m} \mathbf{3}$ in 1.10 and by $\mathbf{m 5} \mathrm{in} 1.28$. However, this alternative reading would be problematic in that it would assume a spelling mistake before a gap ('A $\rho o v[\mathrm{oc}]$ instead of the correct 'A $\rho \omega v[\mathrm{oc}]$ ), violating the lex Youtie. The name Aron might recur in 1. 10, but that reading is equally difficult (see comm. there).

10 'I $\omega \alpha ́ v v o v . \rho \omega \mid$ : we have also considered the reading 'I $\omega \alpha{ }^{\prime} v v o v$ 'A. $\rho \omega[v o c]$, but there is no space for [voc], unless the fragments are moved farther apart from one another. The name Aron might recur in line 3, but that reading is equally uncertain (cf. comm.).
 the end.

14 op $\theta \omega \tau$ tọc: this form, if correctly deciphered, must be grammatically wrong. Perhaps the scribe intended to write some form of the word ỏ $\rho \theta \omega \tau \eta$ 亿. It could be identical with $\varepsilon \in \pi \alpha v o \rho \theta \omega \tau \eta ́ c$, which in Egyptian papyri refers to the office of corrector, a relatively high position in the provincial administration (cf., e.g., P. Oxy. XLIII 3111.5, with introduction; P. Bingen 113.2-3, with introduction). The $L B G$ translates ob $\rho \omega \tau \eta$ ́nc as "Beamter für die Wiederherstellung der Besteuerung."
 the next $x i$ on the same line. However, the image is misleading, and we have verified the reading from the original. What appears to be the lower curve of a sigma in the image is not ink at all. The gap hiding the upsilon is a damage in the papyrus' surface.


31 c $\tau \rho \alpha(\tau 1 \omega ́ \tau \eta c):$ it looks as if there is an abbreviation sign (a diagonal stroke) connected already to the rho, even though the alpha still follows.
$\pi \rho о \gamma \varepsilon \gamma \rho \alpha \mu \mu \varepsilon ́ v o c:$ the first $m u$ corrected from $n u$.

M. Buchholz

## 81B. Document

Inv. 25b
Field No. XXIXm1
Glass Plates 104, 106, 109
$6 \times 260 \mathrm{~cm}$
top margin 10 cm

As explained in the Introduction to 81 , we assume 81 B to be the remains of a separate document. The main part of 81 B consists of roll-piece $\alpha 15 \mathrm{~B}$. Roll-piece $\alpha 13 \mathrm{~B}$ should belong to the right, but it is too fragmentary for the join to be verified. The latter roll-piece, for its part, has been broken into two fragment series (a and b), and not even these can be confidently joined. The presence of fragment codes ending in "V" in fragment series $\alpha 13 \mathrm{Ba}$ suggests that the text was folded, which may link at least the fragments in that area to 81 A , which was also folded.

Judging by the number of layers of $\alpha 15 \mathrm{~B}$ and their range of heights, from 0.9 cm in the core to 3.9 cm on the outside, the original total length of $\mathbf{8 1 B}$ must have been at least 260 cm , written transversa charta. All that is preserved are fragments coming from a narrow strip with a maximum width of 5.7 cm (not counting the $\alpha 13 \mathrm{~B}$ fragments, which are even smaller). The beginning of the text, containing an upper margin of approximately 10 cm , was in the core. Toward the end of the text, one can distinguish various hands, indicating signatures and some empty layers, possibly representing the bottom margin and thus the end of the document, even though there is some writing again in the few very last layers. In the following transcript, the line numbering is constructed for indexing purposes only.

Little can be said about the contents of $\mathbf{8 1 B}$. In contrast to $\mathbf{8 1 A}$, it may have been a notarial document. The main text was apparently written in the first person plural. Fragments of three or four signatures are preserved, one of which mentions the name Ioannes, suggesting a connection with $\mathbf{8 1 A}$. The mention of a seventh indiction in fragment series $\alpha 13 \mathrm{Ba}$ is also reminiscent of $\mathbf{8 1 A}$. Furthermore, one encounters the name Theodoros and expressions relating to landed property and taxes.

Selection of Readings from the Main Document (Fragment Series $\alpha$ 15B)

| 1 |  | . . . accordingly . . . | Bc6 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 |  | . . . each year . | $\mathrm{Bb} 27+\mathrm{Ba} 26$ |
| 3 | $\pi] \rho$ ос $\omega \pi$ [ | . . . person . |  |
| 4 |  | . . . holy (?). . . | $\mathrm{Bb} 24+\mathrm{Ba} 27$ |
| 5 | ] $¢$ | . . . agree . . |  |
| 6 | ] $\mathfrak{j} \mu \mathrm{\omega} \nu$. . | . . . our . . | "Bb23+" +Ba 23 |
| 7 | $\pi]$ Q $\downarrow$ ¢òc . [ | . all | $\mathrm{Bb} 21+\mathrm{Ba} 20$ |
| 8 | ] $\kappa \alpha \tau \alpha$ đò $\alpha[0$ đò | . . . according to the same . . . | Bb20+Ba19 |
| 9 | ] $\pi$ ¢̣viòc [ | . all . | Bb17+Ba16 |
| 10 | $\gamma] ¢[v]$ ou $\varepsilon v .[$ |  | $\mathrm{Bb} 14+\mathrm{Ba} 13$ |
| 11 | ]. $\mathrm{mac}^{\text {. [ }}$ |  | $\mathrm{Bb} 13+\mathrm{Ba} 12$ |
| 12 | ] $\alpha$ ¢ $\rho \varepsilon \psi[$ |  |  |
| 13 | ]. $\operatorname{\tau ov} \kappa \underline{\sim}$ [ı |  |  |
| 14 | ] клппогои[- | $\ldots$. . heir(s) . . | $\mathrm{Bb} 12+\mathrm{Ba} 11$ |
| 15 | ] Sıádo ${ }^{\text {cor [ }}$ | . . successors | $\mathrm{Bb} 11+\mathrm{Ba} 10$ |
| 16 | ] cipṇ $\mu$ [ $\varepsilon$ v- | . said | $\mathrm{Bb} 10+\mathrm{Ba} 9$ |
| 17 | ]ọc $\dot{\varepsilon} \pi$ ¢ọ $[\mu \varepsilon \nu-?$ | . . . following (?) |  |
| 18 |  | (2. H.) . . I am liable to | Bb9+Ba8 |
| 19 | ] каıl $\alpha$ vọ ${ }^{\text {[ }}$ |  | $\mathrm{Bb} 5+\mathrm{Ba} 5$ |
| 20 | m3 ]o ${ }^{\text {a }}$. . [ |  | Bb6+Ba4 |
| 21 | ]oc ט́лغ̀р .[ | (3. H.) . . . for . . . |  |
| 22 | ]ov к $\alpha v[$ |  |  |
| 23 |  | . . Ioannes | $\mathrm{Bb} 4+\mathrm{Ba} 3$ |
| 24 | ] traces [ |  |  |
| 25 | ] đı̣̂ êch | . . . with [my own] hand . . . |  |
| 26 | $\mathbf{m 4} \chi$ ]çıpì $̇$ [ $\mu$ ]!̣̂ [ | (4. H.) . . . with my own hand | $\mathrm{Bb} 3+\mathrm{Ba} 2$ |
| 27 |  | (5. H.?) . . . fourth indiction . . | B3 |

Fragment Series $\alpha$ 13Ba (Right side of the text, unless belonging in 81A)

| 28 | m6? ] $\alpha$ £̇v tก̣ .[ | $\ldots$. . in the . . | Ba2 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 29 |  |  | Ba 3 |
| 30 | ]. $\dot{\eta} \mu \hat{\omega}[v$ | . . . our |  |
| 31 | ] $\gamma$ ¢ y [ | . . . woman (?) | Ba 4 |
| 32 | ] $\lambda$ [ |  | Ba6 |
| 33 | ıo]vүદ́pov .[ | . . . iugerum |  |
| 34 | ]. .[. .] $]>\alpha$ [ |  |  |
| 35 |  | . . . sixth [indiction] . . | Ba8 |
| 36 | ] ¢̣vò̀ $\dot{\eta} \mu \mathrm{L}$ ícove | . . . one [and] a half . . | Ba22V |
| 37 | ]. $\tau 0 \cup$ ¢ $\lambda \alpha .[$ |  |  |
| 38 |  | . . . seventh [indiction] . | Ba24 |

Fragment series $\alpha$ 13Bb (Right side of the text, unless belonging in 81A)

| 39 |  | extra taxes . . | Bb2 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 40 | ] $\Theta$ ¢ $\varepsilon 0 ¢ \bigcirc[\omega \rho-$ | Theodoros | Bb9 |
| 41 | ] каì коц[ |  | Bb10 |
| 42 | ]. . o ¢ ${ }^{\text {c }}$ |  |  |



## Commentary

$12] \alpha \tau \rho \varepsilon \psi[$ [ probably a form of $\delta 1 \alpha \tau \rho \varepsilon ́ \pi \omega$ ("to turn away") or $\alpha$ 人 $v \alpha \tau \rho \varepsilon ́ \pi \omega$ ("to overturn"); the latter word may also appear in 81C 20.

## 81C. Document

Inv. 25c
Field No. XXIXm2
Glass Plates 107-109
$8 \times 276 \mathrm{~cm}$
top margin 11 cm

This document consists of roll-piece $\alpha 13 \mathrm{C}$, which was found next to the two documents published above (see Introduction to 81). It consists of two alternating fragment series, labeled $\mathrm{Cc} \alpha$ and $\mathrm{Cc} \beta$. A third fragment series, labeled Cb , should somehow belong on either side of the two former series, but it is too badly preserved to be reconstructed. On the glass plates, the fragments need to be read from bottom to top.

The originally quite long document is poorly preserved. It was written transversa charta and rolled in such a way that the beginning of the text, which includes an upper margin of ca .11 cm , was in the core. Judging by the number of the extant layers and their heights, which range from 1 cm in the core to a preserved maximum of 2.5 cm (fr. Cca23), the document had an original length of at least 276 cm . Since it is impossible to say whether the last fragments indeed preserve the end, the papyrus may have been even longer. Just a narrow strip with a maximum width of ca. 8 cm , coming from the document's left-hand side, is extant. However, the formulaic-and therefore easily reconstructable-beginning shows that the roll's original width conformed to the Petra standard of ca. 30 cm (cf. P. Petra III, p. 2). Most fragments only preserve a couple of letters. Therefore, our transcript is very selective, and the line numbering is constructed purely for indexing purposes.

In the extant fragments, it is not possible to confidently identify any other hands than that of the main scribe. The only apparent orthographical irregularity is the confusion of $\varepsilon 1$ and $t$ in line 3.

Almost nothing can be said about the document's contents, except that it deals with landed property and taxes. Probably the most interesting passage is 1.10 , mentioning the term $\dot{\varepsilon} \pi \sigma \psi i ́ \alpha$ (cf. comm.). By contrast, the date can be narrowed down. From the fact that there is a regnal year, we can conclude that it is no earlier than 537 (cf. P. Petra I, p. 17) and, since there is also a postconsular dating, probably no earlier than 542 (cf. Updated Synoptic Chronological Table, p. 56). If the year of the provincial era is indeed within the 430s (cf. 11. 1-4 comm.), the date cannot be later than 545, leaving 542-45 as the most probable range.

| 1 |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2 |  | токра́торос है́тоис | c. 20 |  |
| 3 |  | ) Bacı入íov 七ov̂ غ̇v | c. 20 | ع̌íouc] |
| 4 |  |  |  |  |
| 5 | traces |  |  |  |
| 6 | [ ]otepor..[ |  |  |  |
| 7 | [каì] ¢̣ólov каı̀ [ | [and without] treachery and |  | Cc [ $\alpha 4]$ |
| 8 | ] $\alpha \mu \varphi[\quad \mid \quad] \kappa \varepsilon \mu \mu \varepsilon \nu о$ [ | . . . both (?) |  | Cca5 |
| 9 | $\tau \varepsilon ́ \tau] \alpha \rho \tau о \vee \delta[\varepsilon ́ \kappa \alpha \tau о \vee ~(?) ~$ | . . . one fourth, one tenth (?) |  | Cca6 |
| 10 |  | . . . from the inspection . . . |  | Cca7 |
| 11 | ] Ětoc [ | . . . year . |  | Cca8+ |



3 ن̊ $\pi \alpha \tau \varepsilon$ í $\alpha \nu$

## TransLation

(Lines 1-4) [In the . . . year] of the reign of [our] most divine [and pious Lord Flavius Justinianus], eternal Augustus [and Emperor], after the consulship [of the most glorious] Flavius [Basilius] . . . [in the] 43[n]th [year] of the province...

## Commentary


 ب̣ .[: thanks to its formulaic nature, this passage can be partly reconstructed. For parallels, see, e.g., $231-3$ and $251-2$. The regnal year of Justinian was obviously written, as usual, in full rather than with numerals. Given the space available (ca. twenty letters), it
 Basilius' post-consulate, there must have followed the date according to the Roman calendar, for which our reconstruction allows for ca. twenty letters. Many parallels are much longer, but a date like $\varepsilon$ i $\delta o i ̂ c ~ ' A \pi \rho i \lambda i ́ o i c ~(a t t e s t e d ~ i n ~ 32 ~ 4) ~ o n l y ~ h a s ~ f i f t e e n ~ l e t t e r s . ~ N e x t, ~$ the year of the provincial era is the most problematic part of our reconstruction. We read the passage as है́rovc]|[ $\tau \eta \mathrm{n} c] \dot{\varepsilon} \pi \alpha[\rho \chi]$ íac ụ $\lambda$.[, which would make this the only Petra document where the year number in the initial dating formula was not written with full words but with numerals ( 43 n , the last digit being unknown). Doubtful as this seems, it is difficult to come up with a better way of explaining the traces. Finally, there must have followed the date according to the Macedonian calendar, the indiction year, and the place of writing.

7 [кגi] ¢̣ó $\lambda$ ov каì [: this typical formula was often included in the introduction of a document, confirming that it was drawn up in
 cannot be confidently restored here. For parallels see, e.g., 29 12-14 with comm.
 cf. 19 1-2 comm.
$10] \dot{\alpha} \pi o ̀ ~ \dot{\varepsilon} \pi \sigma \psi[\hat{1} \alpha c]:$ the word $\dot{\varepsilon} \pi \sigma \psi i ́ \alpha$ refers to an assessment of land and population figures for the purposes of determining the tax rates. It was carried out by an $\dot{\varepsilon} \pi$ ó $\pi \tau \eta \mathrm{c}$ (Lat. censitor). The office is mentioned in $\mathbf{5 0} 110$; see comm. there for further details.

20 ? $\dot{\alpha}] v \alpha \tau \rho[-:$ perhaps a form or derivative of $\dot{\alpha} v \alpha \tau \rho \varepsilon ́ \pi \omega$ ("to overturn"), cf. 81B 12.


Plate CLIV
P. Petra V 81A lines 19-36




[^0]:    1. We have also considered the possibility that one and the same document was rolled from both ends, thus having two cores $(\alpha 15 \mathrm{~A}+$ $\alpha 13 \mathrm{~A}$ being one end and $\alpha 15 \mathrm{~B}+\alpha 13 \mathrm{~B}$ the other end). However, this does not seem possible because $\alpha 15 \mathrm{~B}$ appears to preserve the total length of one document, with an upper margin in the core and subscriptions and a bottom margin on the outside.
