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P. Petra V 81A-C. Three Documents

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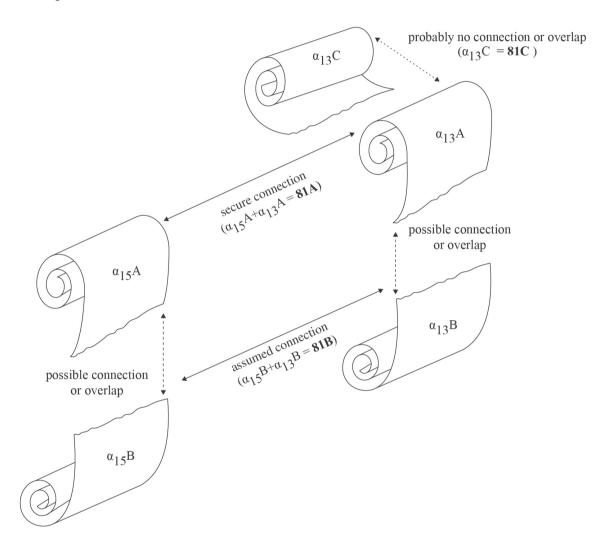
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81. Introduction: Three Documents

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 $\alpha 15A$ and $\alpha 15B$ on top of each other, on the right hand side, similarly roll-pieces $\alpha 13A$ and $\alpha 13B$ on top of each other, and finally $\alpha 13C$ next to the latter two roll-pieces. Each of these five pieces contained the core of a scroll. Roll-piece $\alpha 13C$ rather clearly forms a document of its own (81C), but the reconstruction of the other four roll-pieces is more difficult. The text of 81A shows that $\alpha 15A$ and $\alpha 13A$ belong side by side. Hence, we believe that $\alpha 15B$ and $\alpha 13B$ 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. However, the exact dividing line between the two documents cannot be established with certainty:

^{1.} We have also considered the possibility that one and the same document was rolled from both ends, thus having two cores (α 15A + α 13A being one end and α 15B + α 13B the other end). However, this does not seem possible because α 15B 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.

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 **81A** was somehow folded before it was rolled up (cf. Introduction to **81A**). Therefore, we simply present α 15A + α 13A as one document (**81A**) and α 15B + α 13B as another document (**81B**), 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 **81A** and **81B** 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 **81B** containing the seventh indiction should actually be assigned to **81A** (cf. Introduction to **81B**). 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 Field No. XXIXm1 Glass Plates 105–106 Plates CLIII–CLIV 12 x 73 cm top margin 18.5 cm 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 $\alpha 15A$ (left) and $\alpha 13A$ (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 **81B**.

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. α 15 A30V and α 15 A31R, probably some 22–23 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

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 $\alpha 15 A1$

not a simple receipt, the present case evidently was more complicated. There is an unclear passage that possibly mentions the office of $(\epsilon \pi \alpha v) \circ \rho \theta \omega \tau \dot{\eta} c$, or *corrector* (see l. 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 (l. 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 l. 10) cannot be linked with people known from the papyri.

Selection of Readings from Fragments $\alpha 15A1-6$ (possibly belonging in $\bf 81B$)

m1 κα]θ' ἔτος ὑπὲρ [ἰουγέρων

1

```
2
     ώμο]λογη[θ-
                                                                                      α15 A2
SELECTION OF FRAGMENTS FROM THE FIRST HALF OF THE DOCUMENT (IN UNCERTAIN ORDER)
3
     m2 ] αὐτοῦ [...] αρον[...] | καὶ απ[
                                                                                      α15 A34R
4
     προγ]ε[γ]ραμμένην ς[υν]|τέλιαν αμ [
5
             traces
     ἀκο]λούθως [
6
                                                                                      α15 A15
7
     ] τοῖς ἐμοῖ[ς
                      | ] ι την πρ[
                                                                                      α15 A33V
8
     ] της τι [
                      | κα]θ' ἔτος [
9
             traces
     m3 ] ω Ἰωάννου ρω ςου επι [
10
                                                                                      α15 A37R
11
     κ]ατά απαι [
     ] ...ει των[....]φρονει...[
12
                                                                                      α15 A35V
13
     ] ἐγράφ(η) ε | Αὐδοναίου [
14
     ] ... μην ... ἀξιόςι τ[η]ς ὑπογραφη[ς | ] ςου ορθωτος ετρ(ατιωτ- ) πρ[ογεγραμμ- (?) α15 Α32V + α13 Α7
                                                                                      \alpha15 A16 + \alpha13 A7
15
     m4 ] traces [
                                 άρ]χικ[
16
     πάντα τὰ ἀπαι]τηθέντα καὶ ἐπ[ικλαςθέντα (?)
17
     ] traces [
                                ] τρου καὶ ι[
                                                                                      \alpha 15 \text{ A} 17 + [\alpha 13 \text{ A} 8]
     (?) ἐπι]πέδους .....[
                              | ].[.]. χωρ[ι-
18
19
     m5 'Οβο διανός 'Οβ [ο ]διανοῦ επ [
                                          ] διομολ[ογῶ (?)
                                                                                      \alpha15 A30V + \alpha13 A9
20
     ] λοιπῶν μου ἀδελφ[ῶν
                                                                                      α15 A31R
     πρ]αθέντος αὐτῷ παρ' ἡ[μῶν (?)
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    22 ] μένου το[ῦ] ...[..] .[
    23 ] traces ὑπὲρ [
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END OF THE DOCUMENT

24]ς εἰκοτὸ[c δ]έκατος τοῦ εἰκοςτο[ῦ	$\alpha 15 \text{ A} 29\text{R} + [\alpha 13 \text{ A}]10$
25]ε. τακλ εντα ἐγένη[το	α 15 A19 + α 13 A22
26] εἴδεςιν ἀκολούθως τῆ διοικήςει .[
27]οὐον. ω[.]ωνήιċ ċიν[α 15 A28R + α 13 A11
28	έβ]δόμη ἰνδικ(τίων) ὀγδόης traces [
29	Νών]γου Α[ὔ]ξωνος ἀξιωθέντος παρ' ἐμοῦ [$\alpha 15 \text{ A} 20 + [\alpha 13 \text{ A} 20 + 21?]$
30] καὶ μὴ δ̞ύ̞ν̞α̞c̞θ̞αι τὸ ὄ̞λον πρὸς δι' ἑαυτ[ῶν	$\alpha 15 \text{ A} 27 \text{R} + [\alpha 13 \text{ A} 12]$
31	m6]ος ετρα(τιώτης) ὁ προγεγραμμένος .[
32] ἀπεςτηκὼς ὑπὲρ τῶν πρ[ογεγραμμένων	$\alpha 15 \text{ A} 21 + [\alpha 13 \text{ A} 19]$
33]τω καθ' ἔτος ὑπὲρ ἰουγέρ[ων	
34]του τοῦ ἰκοςτοῦ εἰς ἐμὲ καὶ τὸ[ν	$\alpha 15 \text{ A} 26 \text{R} + [\alpha 13 \text{ A} 13]$
35	αὐτ]οὺς Ἰοάννην κα[ὶ] Πέτρον κα[ὶ	
36] καὶ ἀναγνοςθέντος μοι τ[$\alpha 15 \text{ A} 22 + [\alpha 13 \text{ A} 18]$
	vacat	α 15 A25 + α 13 A14
	vacat	α 15 A23 + α 13 A17
	vacat	α 15 A24 + α 13 A15
	vacat	α13 Α16

1 κατ' ἔτος 4 cυντέλειαν 8 κατ' ἔτος 13 εγραφ/ Pap. Αὐδυναίου (or: Αὐδναίου) 14 ἀξιώςει 25 ἐγένετο 33 κατ' ἔτος 34 εἰκοςτοῦ 35 Ἰωάννην 36 ἀναγνωςθέντος

TRANSLATION

(Lines 1–18) (1. H.) . . . each year for x *iugera* agree . . . (2. H.) . . . the same . . . and . . . above-written 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

3] αὐτοῦ [...] αρον[...]: we have also considered the reading]. νἱὸς [το]ῦ Ἄρον[ος], in which case the traces above the *iota* would 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 **m3** in l. 10 and by **m5** in l. 28. However, this alternative reading would be problematic in that it would assume a spelling mistake before a gap (Ἄρον[ος] instead of the correct Ἄρων[ος]), violating the *lex Youtie*. The name Aron might recur in l. 10, but that reading is equally difficult (see comm. there).

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10 Ἰωάννου ρω: we have also considered the reading Ἰωάννου Ἄρω[voc], 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.).

12]...ει των[....]φρονει...[: perhaps read $\pi\alpha$ cεὶ (l. $\pi\alpha$ cὶ) at the beginning. There is probably some form or derivative of φρονέω at the end.

14 ορθωτος: this form, if correctly deciphered, must be grammatically wrong. Perhaps the scribe intended to write some form of the word \dot{o} ρθωτής. It could be identical with $\dot{\epsilon}$ πανορθωτής, which in Egyptian paptri 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 *LBG* translates \dot{o} ρθωτής as "Beamter für die Wiederherstellung der Besteuerung."

29 [Nών]you A[ů]ξωνος: the digital image might suggest reading Cώζωνος here, not least because the supposed xi is different from the next xi 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. αξιωθέντος παρ' ἐμοῦ: cf. 25 18.

31 cτρα(τιώτης): it looks as if there is an abbreviation sign (a diagonal stroke) connected already to the *rho*, even though the *alpha* still follows.

προγεγραμμένος: the first mu corrected from nu.

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81B. DOCUMENT

Inv. 25b Field No. XXIXm1 Glass Plates 104, 106, 109 6 x 260 cm top margin 10 cm 6th c.?

As explained in the Introduction to 81, we assume 81B to be the remains of a separate document. The main part of 81B consists of roll-piece α 15B. Roll-piece α 13B 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 α 13Ba suggests that the text was folded, which may link at least the fragments in that area to 81A, which was also folded.

Judging by the number of layers of α15B and their range of heights, from 0.9 cm in the core to 3.9 cm on the outside, the original total length of **81B** 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 α13B 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 81B. In contrast to 81A, 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 81A. The mention of a seventh indiction in fragment series $\alpha 13Ba$ is also reminiscent of 81A. 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] ἀκολ[ού]θ[ως	accordingly	Bc6
2 3] κ[α]θ' ἔτο[c π]ροcωπ[each year person	Bb27+Ba26
4 5	ά]γίου ι .[] ὁμο[λογ-	holy (?) agree	Bb24+Ba27
6] ἡμῶν ͺ[our	"Bb23+" + Ba23
7	π]αντὸς .[all	Bb21+Ba20
8] κατὰ τὸ α[ὐτὸ	according to the same	Bb20+Ba19
9] παντὸς [all	Bb17+Ba16
10	γ]ε[ν]ομεν [Bb14+Ba13
11 12 13] . iac . []ατρεψ[] . του κά[ι		Bb13+Ba12
14] κληρονομ[-	heir(s)	Bb12+Ba11
15] διάδοχοι [successors	Bb11+Ba10
16 17] εἰρημ[εν-]ọc ἑπο[μεν- ?	said following (?)	Bb10+Ba9
18	m2 ὑποκ]εῖμαι αὐ[τ-	(2. H.) I am liable to	Bb9+Ba8
19] καὶ ἀνα[Bb5+Ba5
20 21 22	m3]ολα []ος ὑπὲρ . []ον καυ[(3. H.) for	Bb6+Ba4
23 24 25	'Ι]οάννης δεντον[] traces [] χιρὶ ἐ[μῆ	Ioannes with [my own] hand	Bb4+Ba3
26	m4 χ]ειρὶ ἐ[μ]ῆ [(4. H.) with my own hand	Bb3+Ba2
27	m5? τετ]άρτης ἰνδι[κτίωνος	(5. H.?) fourth indiction	В3

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

28	m6?]α εν τη .[in the	Ba2
29 30]τας . [] . ἡμῶ[ν	our	Ba3
31]λόλ[woman (?)	Ba4
32 33 34]λ[ἰο]υγέρου .[][]ηcα[iugerum	Ba6
35] της ἕκτ[ης ἰνδικτίωνος	sixth [indiction]	Ba8
36 37] ἑνὸς ἡμί[coυς] του λα [one [and] a half	Ba22
38] της έβδό[μης ἰνδικτίωνος	seventh [indiction]	Ba24

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

39	ἐπι]κλασθέντ[α	extra taxes	Bb2
40] Θεοὸ[ωρ-	Theodoros	Bb9
] καὶ κομ[]οτ[Bb10

2 κατ' ἔτος 25 χειρὶ

Commentary

12]ατρεψ[: probably a form of διατρέπω ("to turn away") or ἀνατρέπω ("to overturn"); the latter word may also appear in **81C** 20.

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81C. DOCUMENT

Inv. 25c Field No. XXIXm2 Glass Plates 107–109 8 x 276 cm top margin 11 cm 542-45?

This document consists of roll-piece α 13C, which was found next to the two documents published above (see Introduction to **81**). It consists of two alternating fragment series, labeled Cc α and Cc β . 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. Ccα23), 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 $\varepsilon\iota$ and ι 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 ἐποψία (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. ll. 1–4 comm.), the date cannot be later than 545, leaving 542–45 as the most probable range.

1 [† βασιλ]είας τ[ο] θειοτάτου [καὶ εὐσεβεστάτου ἡμῶν δεσπότου Φλ(αουίου) Ἰουστινιανοῦ] 2 [τοῦ αἰ]ων[ίου Αὐγ]ούςτου καὶ [αὐτοκράτορος ἔτους c. 20 [μ]ετὰ [τ]ὴ[ν] ὑπατίαν Φλ[(αουίου) Βατιλίου τοῦ ἐνδοξοτάτου 3 c. 20 ἔτους] 4 [τῆc] ἐπα[ρχ]ίας ψλ [(?)]5 traces 6]οτεροι [7 [καὶ] δόλου καὶ [[and without] treachery and . . . $Cc[\alpha 4]$ 8]αμφ[]κειμενο[... both (?) ... Cca5 9 τέτ]αρτον δ[έκατον (?) ... one fourth, one tenth (?)... Cca6] ἀπὸ ἐποψ[ίας 10 . . . from the inspection . . . Cca7 11] ἔτος [Cca8+ . . . year . . .

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12]. διὰ τοῦτọ [because of this	Cca10
13	ξ]κτον κ[$(?)$	sixth	Cca16
14]ευθε[Cca17
15] καὶ τουτ[and this	Cca19
16	χ]ωρίου ἤγο[υν	plot or	Cca22
17	δι]αδόχων [successors	Ccα22+
18] προειρημένου [the above-said	Cca23
19	(?) θεο]φιλία κ[pleasing of God (?)	Cca28
20	(?) ἀ]νατρ[-		Cca31

3 ύπατείαν

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

1–4 [† βασιλ]είας τ[ο]ῦ θειοτάτου΄ [καὶ εὐσεβεστάτου ἡμῶν δεσπότου Φλ(αουίου) Ἰουστινιανοῦ] | [τοῦ αἰ]ων[ίου Αὐγ]οὑςτου καὶ [αὐτοκράτορος ἔτους c. 20] | [μ]ετὰ [τ]ἡ[ν] ὑπατίαν Φλ[(αουίου) Βασιλίου τοῦ ἐνδοξοτάτου c. 20 ἔτους] | [τῆς] ἐπα[ρχ]ἰας υλ [: thanks to its formulaic nature, this passage can be partly reconstructed. For parallels, see, e.g., 23 1–3 and 25 1–2. The regnal year of Justinian was obviously written, as usual, in full rather than with numerals. Given the space available (ca. twenty letters), it must have been a relatively high number (e.g., ἑβδόμου καὶ δεκάτου would amount to seventeen letters). After the clause containing 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 εἰδοῦς Ἀπριλίοις (attested in 32 4) only has fifteen letters. Next, the year of the provincial era is the most problematic part of our reconstruction. We read the passage as ἔτους] | [τῆς] ἐπα[ρχ]ἰας υλ [, 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 (43n, 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 [καὶ] δόλου καὶ [: this typical formula was often included in the introduction of a document, confirming that it was drawn up in good faith and without any kind of fraud (καὶ δόλου καὶ synonyms χωρίς). However, the exact wording of the formula varies, so it cannot be confidently restored here. For parallels see, e.g., **29** 12–14 with comm.

8]κειμενο[: an alternative but less likely reading would be οἰ]κείας ἐν ὁ[ρίφ ("house in the district"). For the word ὅριον ("district"), cf. **19** 1–2 comm.

10] ἀπὸ ἐποψ[ίαc]: the word ἐποψία refers to an assessment of land and population figures for the purposes of determining the tax rates. It was carried out by an ἐπόπτηc (Lat. *censitor*). The office is mentioned in **50** 110; see comm. there for further details.

20 ? ἀ]νατρ[-: perhaps a form or derivative of ἀνατρέπω ("to overturn"), cf. **81B** 12.

