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*Fragment of Petition*

P. C.G, 10481SR. 270  
12 X 12.8 cm.  

This papyrus is deposited in the Cairo Museum under S/R 270. It is mounted in glass. This papyrus consists of 7 lines. The lower-hand margin is 7.8 cm, some letters at the left hand margin reach to the extreme edge of this side. Both right and upper margins are lost.

The writing is careful and legible on the verso in a medium-sized cursive. The manuscript has parallels from the 3rd or 4th centuries A.D. see e.g. P. Cairo Mus, 10591 (296 A-D); P. Oxy. 2578 (298 A-D); P. Harr. II, 213 (323 A.D.); Harr. II, 216 (346 A.D.).

It is notable to mention that this papyrus is found by the Egyptian Exploration fund in 1886 by Hunt & Grenfell in Ashmunen (Lycopolis).

The document deals with petition. The petitioner complains of harsh doings (ἕτη χέρσος ἐμώι of line 5) that may have been taken place against him, perhaps by putting his name by error in tax-lists (cf. ἀπογραφὰ of line 1 and ἀπογραφῶν of line 4). Or he might have already previously paid the concerned tax or he might be one of the exempted citizens. He certifies about that (cf. μαρτύρομαι which occurs in line 4). He confirms his testimony by the presence of the public (δημοσια of line 4).

Text:

[δ]ὲ ἔχετω[+11 γε]· ῶπωται αἱ ἀπογραφαί ..... 
ετέρῳ μέρει κατά ἄυτον αἰτεῖ ἄνοιγμα[s] ..... 
γυναίκας εἰ ὁ ἄυτο τῶν ἀπογραφῶν[καὶ] [...
ἔταξεν αὐτὰ ταῦτα μαρτύρουσι καὶ δημοσία[α ....

5 καὶ[[χι]]]πάρεστιν δῆτι ἐὰν γέρος ἐμοὶ ἐπ[ ]......
[[Πρὸς ταύτα]] ταῦτα ταὐτα ἀνοικθήσασι [ ......

Translation:

but let him have……, the declarations become…. to each division in accordance with the demander, the reading…. to get better of the declarations. I testify that he writes down the same (names) and in the presence of the public which was not easy to me. These same (names) should be recognized, in order not to be carried to me as afore-mentioned. That was the matter.

1. [δ]ὲ ἔχετω there are traces of two letters at the beginning of line 1 could be read as -[δ]ὲ The formula of -[δ]ὲ ἔχετω is found elsewhere in papyri cf. P. Flor., vol.2,173, 8 (256 A-D).

1-2 |ετέρῳ μέρει since the initial letter at line 2 could be read as θ, it would be plausible to be restored as μηθέτερῳ μέρει cf P.Cair, Mas. III, 67299, 42 (VI cent A. D). Noting that in some resources μηθέτερος is also written as μηθητέρος see e.g. SB IV, 7404, 2, 52 (117-138 A-D): ἀπὸ τοῦ ν [υ]ν μηθεμία πρὶν ὄψεσθις] μηθήτερος μέρει.

κατὰ ποίαν αἰτεῖ ἄνοιγμα[s] cf, P. Lond. VI 1914 r 4 L21 (335 A-D).

4. αὐτὰ ταῦτα one may suppose that this demonstrative may refer to the names τὰ ταῦτα ονομάτως?

αὐτὰ ταῦτα μαρτύρουμαι καὶ cf., P. Hal I, r. 2, 28, (III cent B.C.)

6. τ<α> αὐτὰ, the reading of this line was perplexing, at the first sight one may assume that the scribe reduplicated mistakenly the pronoun ταῦτα ταῦτα, especially that he wrote actually by mistake and then corrected by erasing [[Πρὸς ταύτα]]; but after referring to the parallel, it is found that the construction occurs elsewhere but this time the scribe forgot to write down the α of τὰ cf. BGU I, 38, 22.