Sara Nabil Hafiz

Four Demotic Ostraca from the Cairo Museum
Dealing with Dowry Lists

The group of the published texts in this study is a part of a collection of
demotic ostraca from the Cairo-Museum, kept on the third floor 23 East. It
bears the Special Register number 18953. Nothing is known about the
origin and the date except Ost. Nr. 300 (R&W.). It is from Gebelen as stated
on the shred.

Depending on what stated on Ost. Nr. 300 (R&W.) and comparing the
palaeographical point of view and the characteristics of the handwriting, it
seems that all the present texts here are from Gebelen and they were
Ptolemaic in date.

Ost. Nr. 1 Plate I

DO Cairo 300 R & V. Potsherid, brown
7.5 X 9cm., thick. 0.8-1 cm. Provenance: Gebelen
Date:Late Ptolemaic

Description: The text is incomplete as the ostracon is broken at the right
side and at the bottom. The surface is rubbed off at the top of the left side of
the Verso. The ink is heavy in the first line in both sides, while it is faint in
the rest of the text. The handwriting is thick, big and neat.

Transliteration:

Recto

0) [wś] "kl" r ḫt 3.t
1) [ ] "msn (n) kmj ḫr s3 ḫr-sm3-t3.wj
2) [mwt=f] "...n s.hm.t
3) [.....ta P2-] "ṣn-ttw[mwt=s.....]
Four Demotic Ostraca from the Cairo Museum Dealing with Dowry Lists

4) [mwt=s .....]

Verso

1) tw=s p3 wn (n n3) nkt.w n s hm.t
2) w sn r ht [ ...]
3) w sl r ht [ ...]
4) w s s r h l [ ...]
5) w [ ...]

Translation:

Recto

0) [one] l-1 necklace makes 3 silver (pieces)
1) [ ...] l-born (in) Egypt Hr son of Hr-sm3-t3.wj
2) [his mother] l-...l to the woman
3) [..... daughter of P3-] l-twtw
4) [her mother .....]

Verso

1) Behold, the list (of the) l-properties [of the woman]
2) one l-n-wig makes l-...l silver (pieces) [ ...]
3) one l-l-necklace makes l-...l silver (pieces) [ ...]
4) one l-bowl makes [ ] l-silver (pieces) [ ...]
5) l-one [ ...]

Notes:

It is interesting to know that the present text is a marriage contract written on the Recto between Hr son of Hr-sm3-t3.wj and the daughter of

154
Four Demotic Ostraca from the Cairo Museum Dealing with Dowry Lists

[P3]-ṣr-twtn.(1) There is no enough space on the Verso, so the scribe written the last item of the dowry list on the top of the Recto.

Ost. Nr. 2 Plate II

DO Cairo 302
12 X 9 cm., thick. 0.6-1 cm.
Date: Late Ptolemaic
Potsherd, brownish
Provenance: Gebelen (?)

Description: The text is incomplete as the ostracon is broken at the left side and at the bottom. The ink is refilled in the beginning of the lines. The handwriting is straight, neat and regular.

Transliteration:

1) \(tw=s\ p3\ wn\ (n)\ n3\ 'nkt.w\ [n\ s.hm.t]\)
2) \(w^c\ in^sm\ [\ ]\)
3) \(w^c\ .t\ \h t\ n\ (ht)\ 49(?)\ 'n...\ [\ ]\)
4) \(w^c\ s^s\ [\ ]\)
5) \(w^c\ .wj\ n\ w\b^3\ [\ ]\)
6) \(w^c\ kll\ [\ ]\)
7) \(w^c\ ll\ n\ h\ t\ '44\]
8) \(w^c\ .t\ \h p\s\ [\ ]\)
9) \(w^c\ .t\ \kndw\ [\ ]\)
10) \(w^c\ .t\ 'tr\z\ [\ ]\)
11) \(w\c\ .t\ 'h\lk\ [\ ]\)
12) \(w^c\ 'n...\ [\ ]\)
13) \('n...\ [\ ]\)

(1) We have only one published marriage contract recorded on ostraca see: Ursula Kaplony-Heckel, "Pathyris 2", in: Enchoria 21, (1994), nr. 46.

155
Four Demotic Ostraca from the Cairo Museum Dealing with Dowry Lists

Translation:

1) Behold, the list (of) the ḫ properties [of the woman]
2) one inšn-wig [ ]
3) one ḫt-seal (?) to (the value of) 49 (?) (silver pieces) ḫ... [ ]
4) one ḥḥ-bowl [ ]
5) one pair of ḫḥ3 [ ]
6) one ṇl-necklace [ ]
7) one ṇl-necklace to (the value of) ḫ44 silver (pieces)
8) one ḫpḥ-bracelet [ ]
9) one ḫnw-basin [ ]
10) one ḥt3-axe ḫ... [ ]
11) (one) ḫlnk3-ring [ ]
12) one ḫ... [ ]
13) ḫ... [ ]

Notes:

Here the text tells us thirteen objects of the dowry lists, but because of the incompleteness of the text, the value of most of these objects is lost.

L.3. ḫt: means "seal". (1) This item does not occur in Lüdecken's (2) list.

L.11. ḫlk: ring(3). It is usually preceded by indefinite article wṯ, which is not written above.

(3) Erichsen, op. cit., p. 281; Lüdeckens, op. cit., p. 296.

156
Ost. Nr. 3 Plate III

DO Cairo 329  
Potsherd, brownish
10.5x5.5 cm., thick. 0.6-1 cm.  
Provenance: Gebelen (?)

Date: Late Ptolemaic

Description: The text is incomplete as the ostracon is broken at the left side. L.1-2, 5-6 are faded. The spaces between the last three lines are bigger than that between the preceding lines. The handwriting is straight and neat.

Transliteration:
1) \( w^{c}.t \) \( t{glt}^{\gamma} \) [   ]
2) \( w^{c}.t \) \( t{gtn}^{\gamma} \) [   ]
3) \( w^{c}\) \( ts \) [   ]
4) \( w^{c}.t \) \( swh \) [   ]
5) \( w^{c}\) \( ll \) [   ]
6) \( w^{c}\) \( kll \) [   ]
7) \( w^{c}.t \) \( kn\text{}dw \) [   ]

Translation:
1) one \( {glt}^{\gamma} \) - wig [   ]
2) one \( {gtn}^{\gamma} \) - garment [   ]
3) one \( ts \) - oven [   ]
4) one \( swh \)-egg [   ]
5) one \( ll \) - necklace [   ]
6) one \( kll \) - necklace [   ]
7) one \( kn\text{}dw \)-basin [   ]
Four Demotic Ostraca from the Cairo Museum Dealing with Dowry Lists

Notes:

Six items are mentioned here, but unfortunately, their values are broken.

L.4. 2!4 swh: "egg"(1) This word is usually written with copper or silver determinative,(2) but here it is written without a determinative.(3)

Ost. Nr. 4 Plate III

DO Cairo 336  Potsherd, yellowish
9.5 x 11.5 cm., thick. 0.4-0.6 cm.  Provenance: Gebelen (?)
Date: Ptolemaic (2nd cent. B.C.)

Description: The text is incomplete as the ostracon is broken at the left side and at the bottom. There are some spots at the middle of the ostracon, while they are not shown in the facsimile. The ink is partly faint, while it is heavy in some places. The handwriting is thick and neat.

Transliteration:

1) w[^] inšn (r) ht 1100
2) w[^] g[i] (r) ht 400 ₣ [ ]
3) w[^] gtn (r) ht ₣600 (?)[ ]
4) w[^] kb3 (t) (r) ht [ ]
5) w[^] kl[N] (r) [ht ...]

Translation

1) one inšn-wig (makes) 1100 silver (pieces)
2) one g[i] (makes) 400 silver (pieces) ₣ [ ]
3) one gtn-garment (makes) ₣600 (?)silver (pieces)[ ]

(1) Erichsen, op.cit., p. 417; Lddeckens, op. cit., p. 398.
(2) ibidem.

158
Four Demotic Ostraca from the Cairo Museum Dealing with Dowry Lists

4) one ḫb3(.t)-cloth (makes) [    ] silver (pieces)
5) one ḫl^n-necklace (makes) [.... silver] (pieces)

Notes:

It is a dowry list of five items. Depending on what stated by Pestman that the value of the inšn could determine the date, one could determine that the text is dated to the second century B.C.\(^{(1)}\)

---

\(^{(1)}\) Pestman, Marriag and Matrimonial Property in Ancient Egypt, Leiden, 1961 (Papyrological Lugduno Batava 9), p. 95.
Plate 1

Ost. Nr. 1, DO Cairo 300R

Ost. Nr.1, DO Cairo 300V

160
Ost. Nr. 2, DO Cairo 302

Plate II

Ost. Nr. 3, DO Cairo 329

Plate III

161
Four Demotic Ostraca from the Cairo Museum Dealing with Dowry Lists

Ost. Nr. 4, DO Cairo 336

Sara Nabil Hafiz Ahmed
مدرس مساعد بكلية الآداب - قسم الآثار - جامعة عين شمس
محمول 0124052345
Sara79191@gmail.com

162
Sohair Saeed A. Ahmed

Four Coptic Ostraca from Kharga Museum

In this paper are published and studied the only four Coptic ostraca kept in the Kharga Museum of the Kharga oasis under serial numbers 1123-1126. They are all potsherds and completely unpublished and found in a place called "El-hesn" ("the fortress") which lies about two kilometers north of "Ain Waqfa" at Ezbet "Maks Qibli" (south of El-kharga). The Photographs were taken by me in November 2008.

The preservation numbers, the dimension, the finder, the provenance and the general description of these ostraca are copied here from the registration file of the Museum but I added a description of both content (which was unknown) and script. Also I suggested the date and made paleographical tables of the letters.

Hereunder marks used in both transcription and translation:

[ ]   Lacuna in the ostracon.
[ʌɛ.ɾɪ]   Lacuna with restored text.
(ʌɛ.ɾɪ)   In transcription: letters erased entirely and suggested.
(abc)   In translation: words not written in the Coptic text.
< >   Letters omitted by the scribe.
{ʌɛ.ɾɪ}   Letters incorrectly written by the scribe.
...   Letters which could not be read.
ʌɛ.ɾɪ   Letters not clear entirely in the text.
?   Uncertain reading.
O. Kharga Mus.1

Serial number: 1123.  Excavator's No.: 2266/3.
Dimension: 14 x11.5 cm.  Thickness: 8 mm.

Finder: The Egyptian Excavation of Elwadi Elgedeed archaeological site under supervision of Adel Hussien (1986).

Provenance: MAKS QIBLI-ELHESN, east of the fortress- the 2nd level.

Description: A complete ostracon, brown pottery- ribbed in the outer part, 10 lines on verso with black ink.

Script: large, regular & the letters are long.

Content: A private letter from "Yuhannes" to ask "Martais" to go to a woman in the north and search for a servant for her because she is sick. For this favor "Martais" will receive hire from the sender.
Four Coptic Ostraca from Kharga Museum

Transcription

Verso

1 - Π Ἀνοκ
2 - ιωζαννη(ς)
3 - εἰςελιν ἐξου(ν) ἔως-
4 - θης ἀπίθνητος
5 - κέλει εἴηθ κέννην οὐρή-
6 - τρωπετε κενηάτε
7 - μὴν εκμώροι ἑτᾶτε
8 - πεκρεκει πᾶκ ἑς ἔτικ
9 - ὑπάκων ἔστεβν νεμά[ι]
10 - ετᾶην

Translation

1 - Π: I
2 - "Yuhannes"
3 - I write greeting "Mar-
4 - tais", do brotherhood
5 - and come to north and bring a ser-
6 - vant for "Kenaite"
7 - for she is ill and I will pay
8 - your hire to you in the way which you
9 - desire (and) she (will) pay it with [me]
10 -

Comment

1.5-6: εἰςτρωπήτε: It is probably the Greek word ὑπηρέτης means
"servant" because "H. Förster" mentioned this word written in Coptic
as εἵπερθης (Wörterbuch, s.834) and I think that it was written
as εἵπερθης or εἵπερτος as here.
1.6: κενηάτε: It is probably a fem. proper name from the Greek word
κένεότης which means "empty space" (see: LSJ, p. 938 a) or perhaps
equal κενή[ (in: Hasitzka, Namen, s.49), anyway it seems to be uncommon in Coptic.

1.7: μιμον means "for or verily" before tenses & imperative verbs (see: CD, p. 169 a).

τε = τ inf. means "give, pay".

1.9: οὐκαγε: the writer wrote ξ instead of ω as a mistake but he corrected it.

1.7-9: πτατε πεκακε μακ πος εταουαμει means "I will pay your hire to you in the way which you like" namely he will give the hire to him personally or send it to him.

1.10 χαθη: There are more than one probability for the meaning of this word here as either var. of ξιτολεν- "beside, next", γαλεν- "before" (of time) and ατελε- "without" (see: DI, 91, CD, 444b, 758a, 25b) or χα(ξ)τη: as compound preposition plus suffix pronoun means "with/ beside us" (Layton CG, p. 169).
Four Coptic Ostraca from Kharga Museum

O. Kharga Mus.2

Serial number: 1124.  Excavator’s No.: 2281/18.
Dimension: 18 x 10 cm.  Thickness: 1.3 cm.

Finder: The Egyptian Excavation of Elwadi Elgedeed archaeological site under supervision of Adel Hussen (1986).

Provenance: MAKS QIBLI–ELHESN, the western chamber – the 3rd level.

Description: An ostracon was divided into 4 parts then it was restored, pottery, a part of bowl - orange color - 6 lines on recto & 8 lines on verso written with black ink.

Script: Regular, large and thick.

Content: A non-complete private letter sent from two persons called "Psumenais" and "Kanah" to a man seems to be a monk; his name is "Phibamon" and lived in "Tamoii". On verso where the text is starting, the senders inform the recipient that don’t send the golden piece, called tremession, by someone (I read his name as "Ouno-um") as they deal before because they don’t confide in him and they ask to send by another person called "Thomas", also they mentioned that (on recto) they will give the tremession? to a man called "Praeiske" at south.
The bottom part of verso

The lift side of recto

The middle part of recto

168
Four Coptic Ostraca from Kharga Museum

The right side of recto

Transcription

Verso
1. Ἠανον Ἰούχηνης ἠ kapsαν ἔν(κα-) 
2. ἡ ἐνυρίζε ἐπένηπτης ἡ ὀν Χ(η) φιάλαμνη 
3. ἦταν ἴχ θε ἐγναίρε κοοὐν ἴχ ἢ μακ-
4. τὴν οὐ τοπομηχιον ἄνα ἢ τῇ ἰ 
5. ὑνοίκη ἄν τὴν οὐ τοπομηχιν ἄν ἢ τῇ 
6. τοῦτο ἴηθέντα ἓ[η] ἐπίδα? τῇ ἰ 
7. [Π]οτ η τενετ[ 
8. ἴηθο[η] ἴπτην οὐ τοπομηχιν ἴπτηνοι 

Recto
1. ὤν ἴπτε τε ἐκ ἴπτν ἴπτν 
2. ἴηθο[η] ἴπτνοι ἵπτενοι 
3. ποούν πεξ[ι] ἀκάμαμε η τα种种 2α- 
4. ποκ ἴηθον τὴν οὐ τοπομηχιον? ἴπτεν οὐρή οὐ 
6. . . . τρι(η)χιον [ 

169
Translation

Verso:
1 - ⦀ We "Psumainais" and "Kanah" we wri-
2 - te we greet our dear brother Apa "Phibamwn"
3 - of "Tamoi": if you know that you will
4 - send the tremession to us by
5 - "Ounoum" give it (and) send it to us
6 - by "Thomas" [ whereas ?] we
7 - fear to confide [in him?]
8 - verily don’t send the tremessi-]

Recto:
1 - on by his hand see! Three
2 - times I sent (and) agree upon them (with him)
3 - Today, it is him (that) sa[ys] (that) you seized the wage ,for
4 - him verily send [the tremession?] and we will come south (and) we
   (will)
5 - give (or pay) it to "Prae[-iske"
6 - ... tremission [

Comment

Verso

1.1: ΨΟΥΜΗΠΕ is a proper name (masc.) and equal to ΨΕΜΙΠΣ (in
   Greek) of an Egyptian origin means "the son of Min" (see: DN, p. 246)
   and I think that it was uncommon in Coptic.

1.2 Άηξ: it was written above the line and n is missing.

1.3 ΤΑΜΟΙ seems to be the ancient name of the place of "El-hesn" but I
   ignore that if this region included "Ain Waqfa" in Antiquity or not
   especially this name is similar to ΤΑΜΟΙ: which means "spring" (CD,
   p.198b), in Arabic "Ain" .There is a reference to a place name as
   ΤΑΜ[...] which may refer to ΤΑΜΟΙ (see: Hall , p.122).

1.5: ΟΥΝΟΥΜ: I think that it was the Egyptian personal name wnml (Ägy.
   PN, s.79 (16), this word means "right/ right side/ right hand" and known

170
Four Coptic Ostraca from Kharga Museum

in Coptic as ΟΥΝΑΗ (Wb I, s.322), "Crum" mentioned ΟΥΝΟΗ as one of the Saithidic dialect forms of this word (CD, p. 483b) so ΟΥΝΟΗ > ΟΥΝΟΥΜ here (with addition of the letter Υ only). Until now in Egypt, there is the masculine personal name "Ayman" means "right" (as adjective of the masculine words) also the feminine personal name "Yumna" means "right" (as adjective of the feminine words).

Recto

1.1: εν = ειη (CD, p. 85 a), it is equal the word "bos" which is said until now in Egypt to pay attention before the information (O. Cairo Mus., p. 18).

1.2: ΕΜΑΤΕΝΟΥ: consisting of ε+ΜΑΤΕΝ+ΟΥ (Preposition+ infinitive + suffix pronoun (Plural)), this infinitive means "rest" or "agree upon" & the Preposition ε written usually when there is another infinitive written before it (see: CD, p. 195b), ΜΑΤΕΝ was written here in a dialect similar to ΜΟΤΕΝ in B & ΜΑΘΝ in F, it was probably a dialect associated with the Kharga oasis in the case of the senders lived in this oasis.

1.3: ΤΑΕΟΥ: I think that the writer means here the word ΤΟΥ(Ε)ΙΟ which means also "wage" (see: CD, p.444b).

1.3-4: ΕΑΡΟΙ: Equal here two expressions are said by the Egyptians until now as "ashan khatroh" means "for his sake" or "ashan keda" means "for that" which are proceeded always by a reason, like this text.

1.5: ή is not assimilated to ι before Πι,

ΠΡΑΣΙΚΕ: A proper name is mentioned in: PN, s. 102.

1.6: there are some letters (about 5 letters) written under the word ΤΡΙΜΣΙΟΝ, they are not clear and represent a word difficult to read.

171
O. Kharga Mus.3

Serial number: 1125.  
Excavator's No.: 2282/19.  
Dimension: 13.3 x13.1 cm.  
Thickness: 1.3 cm.

Finder: The Egyptian Excavation of Elwadi Elgedeed archaeological site under supervision of Adel Hussen (1986).

Provenance: MAKS QIBLI-ELHESN, eastern north corner - the 3rd level.

Description: An ostracon was divided into two parts then it was restored, pottery, light brown color, 11 lines with black ink.

Script: Regular, thin and large (except the letter o written very small also sometimes p and c).

Content: A list of men's names maybe of some villagers, 18 names still remaining, the names of the fathers are also given but some father's names are missing.
Four Coptic Ostraca from Kharga Museum

Transcription

Recto

1 - ḡn[i]c
2 - ṥw[r]pe Ṯll
3 - κλάε
4 - γɛw[re] Ṯlly
5 - ṭakпе
6 - ḫate
7 - ṭɛ][p][h]mac Ṯpetrɔc
8 - ṭzhrarίa ṭlak/
9 - Ṯetrɔc ṭɛ[φ[]
10 - Ṯetrɔc Ṯw2[amnnc]?
11 - ṭfrəmwn "n> ṭzhrarίa

Translation

Recto:

1 - Helias
2 - Un-nefer (son) of Hal
3 - Colthe
4 - Gewrge (son) of Hoou
5 - Makare
6 - Psate
7 - Elr[e]mas (son) of Petros
8 - Zacharia (son) of Iakwb
9 - Petros (son) of Peph[ani?
10 - Petros (son) of Yuh[annes?
11 - Phbamwn (son) < of > Zachar[ia

Comment

The origin of the proper names is various between native Egyptian (pagan), Greek and Hebrew especially associated with Christianity. And the majority is known in the Thebaide Nome and Elephantine.

1.2: ṭw[r]pe "Unnefer", an epithet of "Osiris" (Hall, p. 110).
1.7, 9: the letter ꞏ is written closed, similar to the o
1.8: "Iakwb" is written abbreviated.
1.11: the letter ꦍ is written with an open circle. The writer omitted genitival ꦖ because the name written before it ended with the letter ꦖ and this matter was remarkable in the lists of names.

**O. Kharga Mus.4**

Serial number: 1126.  Excavator's No.: 2286/23.
Dimension: 6.4x5.4 cm.  Thickness: 1 cm.

Finder: The Egyptian Excavation of Elwadi Elgedeed archaeological site under supervision of Adel Hussien (1986).

Provenance: MAKS Qibli - Elhesn, eastern north of the site.

Description: A part from an ostracaon, pottery, reddish brown color, remains of 8 lines on both recto & verso (the text is more destroyed on verso) written with black ink.

Script: Large, thick and regular.

Content: A small fragment difficult to determine its topic (maybe a part of a letter or a business text or perhaps a legal). The writers are more than one person.
Transcription

Recto
1 - o]rɔnɔn? n[
2 - ]tɔtɔn nno.[
3 - ]w nɛk'[
4 - e]nɔnɔn n[
5 - ]b nɔktɔ][
6 - ], tnta][
7 - ]tnt][
8 - ]

Verso
1 - ], oɔnɔ?[ [
2 - ]nɔ[ [
3 - ]n[ [
4 - ] [ [
5 - ] [ [
6 - ] [ [

175
Four Coptic Ostraca from Kharga Museum

7 - ]ων. [  
8 - ]ο [  

**Translation**

**Recto**

1 - ο[rganon? of[  
2 - ] the hand of us to... [  
3 - ] your?[  
4 - ] if we want to...[  
5 - ] [  
6 - ] [  
7 - ] [  
8 - ] [  

There is no suggested translation for verso.

**Comment**

**Recto**

1.1 I read the first word as οργανων which is a Greek measure οργον or οργανον as a dry measure also for cheese and wine (WS, p. 25), it is written here unusually in the same form of the Greek οργανοι. I think that ο was followed here by either a number or the measured object or an adjective like μος to describe the measure (see: Wörterbuch, ss. 586-587).

1.2: τοον may be ευτοον means "these are in the hand of us" as an expression of possession (O. Cairo Mus., p. 49) or μετοον or ειτοον mean "by us".

1.5: κατα may be the Greek conjunction κατα or beginning of a Greek word (see: Wörterbuch, ss. 384-396).

**Verso**

1.1 It can be read as ειπε means "if".

176
The date

It is unknown, but I estimate to be the Islamic period between the 7th century and the beginning of the 9th century AD according to the following matters:

**O. Kharga Mus. 1:**

* The preface formula (combined with the greeting) and the monogram $\Gamma$ were written in the Coptic letters between the 4th and the 8th century (see: Briefformular, s. 44 & O. Cairo Mus., p. 15).

* The begging formula $\text{ΔΡΙ ΤΜΝΤΚΩΝ}$ which was known in the 7th / 8th century (Briefformular, ss. 34-35).

* The paleography can be dated from the 8th century especially the $\varepsilon$ letter (Stegmann, ss. 12-13).

   It means that this text may be ascribed to the 7th / 8th c. or the 8th century.

**O. Kharga Mus. 2:**

* The "tremession" is written in the Coptic texts in similar forms to $\text{ΤΡΟΜΗΣΙΟΝ}$, written here, from the 7th or the 7th / 8th or the 8th century (see: Wörterbuch, ss. 820-822).

* The red – slip wares were extant in 695 AD – the 9th century (Rodziewicz, p. 74).

* The paleography of many letters such as $\alpha$, $\varepsilon$, $\iota$, $\omicron$, $\omicron$, $\varepsilon$, $\zeta$ can be ascribed to the 8th century (see: Stegmann, ss. 11-13) also the impenetrable $\omicron$ can be dated from the 7th / 8th or the 8th century (see: O. Cairo Mus., nos. 1, 9) and the ligatures with $\varepsilon$ was so common in the 8th century texts from Djeme (Green, p. 62). All these matters can ascribe the text to the 7th / 8th - 9th century.

177
**Four Coptic Ostraca from Kharga Museum**

**O. Kharga Mus. 3:**

* Most of the names written in this list are mentioned in the collection that studied by "Hall" and he said that they were in vogue in the 7th and the 8th century (Hall, p.x).

* The forms of the proper names as Ἐκάρια, κολῆα, μακάρε, πετρος and φιδάμων are mentioned in lists of names ascribed to the end of the 8th century (see: Hall, pp.18-19).

* The paleography of some letters such as α, β, κ, η, π, γ can be ascribed to the 8th century (Stegmann, ss.11-13).

It means that this text can be ascribed to the 7th-8th century.

**O. Kharga Mus. 4:**

* The Greek measure ὄργων was used in the Coptic texts between the 6th / 7th - the 8th century (Wörterbuch, ss.586-587)

* The raised apostrophe written after the letter κ in the 3rd line (on recto) which is written in the official Greek correspondence of the 7th century (see: Green, p. 111).

So this text can be ascribed to the 7th-8th century.

178
Four Coptic Ostraca from Kharga Museum

Bibliography:

- B = Bohairic.
- F= Fayyumic.
- Green=M. Green, "A private archive of Coptic letters and documents from Teshlot" OMRO 64 (1983).
- Hall = H. R. Hall, Coptic and Greek Texts of the Christian Period from Ostraka, Stelae, etc. in the British Museum, Oxford 1905.
- OMRO = Oudheidkundige Mededelingen uit het Rijksmuseum van Oudheden te Leiden
- Stegmann = D. Stegmann, Koptische Paläographie ,Heidelberg 1936.
  - WS = W.E. Crum and H.I. Bell, Wadi Sarga Coptic and Greek Texts,
The paleographical tables (the 7th - 9th century AD):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The letter</th>
<th>The multiple forms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>A A A A A A A A A A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a a a a a a a a a a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>g - d a a a (a+k)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a a a a a a a a a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a a a a a a a a a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| b          | B B B |

| r          | r r r |

181
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The letter</th>
<th>أشكاله المتعددة</th>
<th>The multiple forms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>⍳</td>
<td></td>
<td>$\bar{c} \bar{c} \bar{c} \bar{c} \bar{c} \bar{c}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$\bar{c} \bar{c} \bar{c} \bar{c} \bar{c} \bar{c}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$\bar{c} \bar{c} \bar{c} \bar{c}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$\bar{c} \bar{c} \bar{c} \bar{c}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$\bar{c} \bar{c}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$\bar{c}$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ligatures of ⍳ with the letters $i, \mu, x, \pi, n, \nu, p, s$ and $\tau$.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>⍲</th>
<th></th>
<th>⍲ ⍲</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>⍳</th>
<th></th>
<th>⍳ ⍳</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>⍰</th>
<th></th>
<th>$\theta \circ \theta \circ \theta$ (θ + ⍳)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>⍱</th>
<th></th>
<th>11111 1 11 1 1 1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

182
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The letter</th>
<th>أشكالته المتعددة</th>
<th>The multiple forms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ꞑ</td>
<td>$\text{optic}$ $\text{or}$ $\text{kharge}$ $\text{museum}$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ꞑ</td>
<td>$\text{or}$ $\text{kharge}$ $\text{museum}$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ꞑ</td>
<td>$\text{or}$ $\text{kharge}$ $\text{museum}$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ꞑ</td>
<td>$\text{or}$ $\text{kharge}$ $\text{museum}$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ꞑ</td>
<td>$\text{or}$ $\text{kharge}$ $\text{museum}$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The letter</td>
<td>The multiple forms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>٠</td>
<td>٠ ٠ ٠ ٠ ٠ ٠ ٠ ٠ ٠</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>٠ ٠ ٠ ٠ ٠ ٠ ٠ ٠ ٠</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>٠ ٠ ٠ ٠ ٠ ٠ ٠ ٠ ٠</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>١</td>
<td>١ ١ ١ ١ ١ ١ ١ ١ ١</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>٢</td>
<td>٢ ٢ ٢ ٢ ٢ ٢ ٢ ٢ ٢</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>٣</td>
<td>٣ ٣ ٣ ٣ ٣ ٣ ٣ ٣ ٣</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>٤</td>
<td>٤ ٤ ٤ ٤ ٤ ٤ ٤ ٤ ٤</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>٥</td>
<td>٥ ٥ ٥ ٥ ٥ ٥ ٥ ٥ ٥</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>٦</td>
<td>٦ ٦ ٦ ٦ ٦ ٦ ٦ ٦ ٦</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>٧</td>
<td>٧ ٧ ٧ ٧ ٧ ٧ ٧ ٧ ٧</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>٨</td>
<td>٨ ٨ ٨ ٨ ٨ ٨ ٨ ٨ ٨</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>٩</td>
<td>٩ ٩ ٩ ٩ ٩ ٩ ٩ ٩ ٩</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

184
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The letter</th>
<th>The multiple forms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ت</td>
<td>ت ت ت ت ت ت ت ت</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ت ت ت ت ت ت ت</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ف</td>
<td>ف ف ف</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>خ</td>
<td>خ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ة</td>
<td>ة ة</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>م</td>
<td>م م م M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

185
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The letter</th>
<th>The multiple forms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ﯼ</td>
<td>ﯼ ﯼ ﯼ ﯼ ﯼ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ﯽ</td>
<td>ﯽ ﯽ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ﯽ</td>
<td>ﯽ ﯽ 2 2 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ﯽ</td>
<td>2 2 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ﯼ</td>
<td>ﯼ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| ﯼ          | 2