

PETRA POPYRI

by

Traianos Gagos and Jaakko Frösén

The University of Michigan team in 1997, consisting of Ludwig Koenen, Robert W. Daniel, Donka Markus, Robert Caldwell, and Traianos Gagos, continued its work on the papyri by establishing a revised text for inv. 10 (Papyrus Petra Khaled and Suha Shoman), dealing with the historical and cultural implications of the information contained in that document, and producing transcripts for almost all of the other most important rolls.

Inv. 10

In addition to the main pieces of the papyrus that produce a more or less continuous text, there are 450 fragments, mostly the size of postage stamps, that provide snippets of information from various parts of the document, including its lost beginning. Several of the fragments come from the surviving part of the document. L. Koenen succeeded in placing a large number of these fragments onto the right side of the main text. This resulted not only in new information but also in confirmation of many restorations as well as the rejection of some. In several cases, the placement of fragments solved problems on which the team had spent much time. It also turned out that 95% of the team's supplements were confirmed by the newly placed fragments. This is an unusually high rate of success (30-50% is regarded as very good) which is mostly due to the formulaic character of the document.

As reported before, inv. 10 is a division of property among three brothers named Bassos, Epiphanius, and Sabinos. The property consists of houses in the metropolis of Petra and in the nearby village of Seril, as well as land in the surrounding countryside.

Study of the other documents in the archive suggests that inv. 10 is the oldest document in the archive, predating the earliest securely dated document of AD 528. Unfortunately, this cannot be proven since the dating formula that was at the beginning of the roll has been destroyed altogether.

The only link that connects inv. 10 with the rest of the archive is the name of one brother, Bassos, who does not come from the family of Theodoros son of Obodianos, the principal person of the archive. Rather, Bassos is the grandfather of Theodoros's wife Stephanos. This might explain why inv. 10 was found among the papers of Theodoros. Bassos' son, Patrophilos (father-in-law of Theodoros), appears as a party in pre- or post-nuptial agreements with Theodoros (e.g., inv. 63+65 and inv. 68) and possibly in other documents that Stephanos brought into the family.

Inv. 10 is an interesting document both on its own and within the larger context of the archive, because it provides unique information on property ownership and inheritance and because it sheds light on the nature of Petra's economy and its hinterland.

Above all inv. 10 is a monument in the history of the Arabic language. This is due to its wealth of Semitic (mostly Arabic) names for places, houses (e.g., line 85-86: Gr. Darath al-Ebad = Ar. Dārat al-'Ebād, "House of the Worshippers"), and parts of houses (e.g., line 86: Gr. Elliath Aphthonis = Ar. 'Alyyāt Afthonis, "Upper-story quarters of Aphthonios"). About 50 such names appear in roll 10, perhaps another 30 in the rest of the archive. Most of the names are in a form of pre-Islamic Arabic. The few unquestionably authentic remnants that we

have of pre-Islamic Arabic are written in other, non-vocalized Semitic scripts. In these papyri, however, the Greek vowels render the Arabic vowels.

The many Arabic toponyms that appear in inv. 10 are of particular interest because several of them are still in use in the greater Petra area. With the help of several linguists, archaeologists, and local residents it has been possible to identify several of them with still-existing modern places. A few examples may suffice here: al-Bassa and Xaphphath al-Ḥawāwer are names based on words meaning “moist place” and “pan (in the topographical sense) of white earth”. They were identified with two existing places in the town of Wādī Mūsā, next to Petra. Some five other places in the same town have names identical with or closely similar to place names in inv. 10. Some 5 km north of Wādī Mūsā, high in the hills overlooking Bayḍā, is an elevated area

called Umm al-Lawza (“Mother of Almond Trees”), and contiguous with it a part of the hillside is called al-Rafid. In Roll 10 are mentioned places called Math al-Lawza and al-Raphida, names that may be referring to the very same places. Clearly, the family of the archive owned much property in the prime farmland around what is now Wādī Mūsā, and they probably owned land to the north, around Umm al-Lawza, which is still an agricultural region today.

Other Rolls

The team also studied nearly all of the other priority rolls, some on the basis of existing partial transcriptions (1996: inv. nos. 8, 47, 60, 67 and 71; 1997: inv. nos. 63+65,¹ 64+66, 65, 67, and to a lesser degree 48). All those with inv. nos. over 60 come from field inv. 34, which was excavated as a group.² The overwhelming majority of the rolls in this group deal with

1. The two inventory numbers were originally considered to be two separate papyri. In the summer of 1997 and, as this report was being prepared, I managed to establish that in fact the two pieces are part of the same papyrus. Inv. 65 contains the left and inv. 63 the right portion of text. Suspicions arose when R. Caldwell was transcribing inv. 65 and the author was working on inv. 63. The identification was confirmed when it was established that several lines of the signatures at the foot of inv. 65 joined physically with lines in inv. 63. The document, as many others in the archive, is written *transversa charta*. The papyrus broke into two parts, either before or, much more likely, during the fire when it fell from the shelf where it was stored. The two pieces were found in very close proximity to each other as the archaeological locus shows. Similar is the case of inv. 64 and 66: the former contains the document proper and the latter contains the signatures. It is likely that we will establish more such connections in the future.

2. During the excavation of the papyri, each find was assigned a field inventory number. Several of the field inventory numbers consisted of one roll, but in some cases there were more. During conservation, the rolls were separated and each given a unique inventory number in the descriptive catalogue, using the Arabic number system. This latter inventory system is the one used for the sake of reference in publications. The inventory cat-

alogue at its present (and final stage) numbers 103 items. When field inv. 34 was excavated, the rolls were placed in an old and deep desk drawer, the most secure container that could be found. The conservation by the team from Finland began in Sept. of 1994. Because this was one of the best preserved finds, it was decided to leave the group to be opened during the holiday season and thus it was dubbed the “Christmas Box.” Expectations were not proven wrong and inv. 34 yielded the majority of the best preserved rolls of the entire find. Because field inv. 34 consisted of many rolls, the individual items were renumbered with the letters of the Roman alphabet (a-r plus fragments) which yielded inv. nos. 60-77 in the descriptive catalogue. For the record, it should be noted that the division of the rolls for publication purposes between the Finnish and the University of Michigan team was done by lot on the basis of even and odd field numbers to secure an unbiased and fair distribution among the teams before they were opened. The Michigan team was allotted the odd numbers and the Finnish team the even numbers. However, in the agreement among all parties, field inv. 34 was held aside as a separate item. With the common agreement of J. Frösén, L. Koenen, and the American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR) the rolls from field inv. 34 were distributed between the two teams. In order to secure constant communication about progress not only on shared field inv. nos., such as 34, but also

property matters such as the transfer of property rights through cession, sale, or transfer of tax responsibilities. Three of the documents deal with the dowry and other property that Stephanous brought into the family. It is likely that field inv. 34 forms a separate set of documents that all concern Theodoros and that all pertain to his land holdings. Two of these texts can be briefly described here:

Inv. 60

This consists of 14 complete lines and four substantial fragments from the foot of that roll. The document deals with the registration of a vineyard called Malouda that is situated in a deserted hamlet called Baith Tall al-Keb. It records the transfer to Theodoros son of Obodianos, of the responsibility for paying taxes on that property to the local authorities. For reasons that are obscure, Theodoros and his father paid the taxes in the past to a municipal official, Flavios Leontios and his father, Valens. The text can be securely dated to January/February AD 540. The taxes for land that previously had been registered in the land register of Augustopolis are now being collected by the tax-office in the metropolis of Petra. The vineyard fell under the fiscal authority of the city (it is called "free" land, meaning free from the fiscal authority of the imperial administration; in other words, land that was under the control of the city). The rate of taxation is high, 47.5%, a rate corroborated by other documents in the archive that seem to record even higher rates.

Inv. 67

Papyrus Petra Selz Foundation II was reconstructed like a jigsaw puzzle – first by arranging the photographs and then arranging the original fragments – from more than 120 fragments of varying sizes. Seventeen lines of text were recovered. Only three or four of

them are not complete and the signature, probably that of the local official, is missing. The document is addressed by Flavios Dusarios son of Valens, who had been prefect of *Kastron Ammatha* (modern *al-Hammam*, a settlement SE of Petra and near the modern city of *Ma'ān*), to *Alpheios* son of Valens, the keeper of the public records, probably in Petra. Dusarios had held a post in *Ammatha*, as the document informs us, but was a citizen of Petra. In this document, he requests the keeper of the public records to transfer tax responsibility for a piece of land (part of which was a vineyard) to Theodoros son of Obodianos. The property was located near *Kastron Zadakathon* (modern *Sadaqa*, approximately 20 km SE of Petra) in an uninhabited hamlet. As in many of the other documents from Petra, the plot of land bears an Arabic name.

It is too early to draw general historical conclusions, but it is certain that in the sixth century Petra's agricultural economy was still functioning and that the city maintained economic and administrative ties with several other communities in the area, including *Augustopolis*, *Ammatha*, and *Zadakatha*. Furthermore, the documents inform us that at least the local administration (both in Petra and *Augustopolis*) was still fully functional in the middle of the sixth century.

T.Gagos

The team from the University of Helsinki continued its work on the Petra papyri during 1997 by reconstructing and transcribing some of the better preserved rolls. A large number of small fragments of various inv. numbers were placed onto the main texts. This resulted in new readings and a better understanding of the documents. Seminars were arranged every week for a discussion of the new transcripts. The work continued in Helsinki and seminars during

= on the entire archive, the two teams have set up electronic data files that are shared among the two

teams and other scholars that participate in the edition and historical study of this archive.

the fall term of 1997. In early 1998 the work continued at ACOR. Some of the documents will be presented at the XXII International Congress of Papyrologists (Florence, August 1998); some will be ready for prepublication by the end of 1998. At the same time work has been done for a prosopography of the Petra archive by Marjo Lehtinen and for a study on the officials and municipal administration by Mari Mikkola.

The 1997-98 University of Helsinki team consisted of senior fellows Jaakko Frösén, Antti Arjava, Maarit Kaimio and Jorma Kaimio; junior fellows Marjaana Vesterinen and Marjo Lehtinen; as well as students Mari Mikkola, Mari Mustonen, Tiina Ränkinen and Marja Vierros. Zbigniew T. Fiehma took part in the seminar discussions in Amman. In Helsinki, junior fellows Tiina Purola and Erja Salmenkivi participated in the seminars.

Inv. 4

Jaakko Frösén worked on Papyrus Petra P.E. MacAllister, a sworn settlement about a division of inherited property written in Gaza, May 10th, AD 538. More than 18 cm of the left part of the roll is preserved in irregularly broken pieces and some loose fragments. Tree roots (a species of *Populus*) had penetrated through and between the papyrus layers. That made the process of opening the roll very difficult and sometimes the layers were just inseparable, but work continues on separation. In early 1998, the fragments were rearranged and the beginning of the document reconstructed. The beginning of the document with the date is preserved in the core of the roll as it had been rerolled with the beginning inside. The text is written with a thin kalamos in *transversa charta*, across the fibers, in a very large, rounded and practiced hand without any clear parallels in our archive. The original width of the roll seems to have been slightly more than 20 cm. The outer part of the roll, that is the end of the document with

signatures, is not preserved. The remaining length of the opened roll is some 8.5 m. Three loose small bundles, together with some other loose fragments, were found separately without a Field Number. They were joined to inv. 4 as they have the same handwriting and the same content (same names). The document was written in Colonia Gaza. The fragmentary date can be reconstructed as May tenth, AD 538, the 12th regnal year of Justinian, the Eternal and Emperor, the consular year of Flavius Johannes, gloriosissimus (or illustris) and excellentissimus, the year 895 (!) of the era of Gaza [the year numerals of the era of Gaza are, as usual, rendered from units to hundreds (895 = 598)], the first year of the indiction. Other documents dated to the same year, AD 538, in the archive are inv. 13 (24 Aug.) and inv. 14 (9 Sept?). From the previous year, AD 537, there is only one document preserved with a date, inv. 68 (23 May), and that one is dated before Nov. 47 of Justinian (issued on 31 August, AD 537).

Inv. 6a

Jaakko Frösén also continued work on Papyrus Petra Daniel C. and Nancy E. Gamber, a donation or will by Obodianos, son of Obodianos. In 1997 most of the loose fragments were put on their right places. The roll was found with pieces of wood and a piece of textile string underneath. It consists of remnants of eight large columns with an original length of some 4.35 m. The text was written in a sloping cursive hand. There is a fragmentary date in the first column, most probably AD 528. The document was compiled in Petra, Metropolis of Palaestina Tertia Salutaris by a presbyteros (and superior?), Leontios son of Obodianos. After the date and place of issue, there are two very fragmentary lines written in Latin in a slightly larger rounded hand. In the body of the document there are six copies of a donation (last will?) by Obodianos son of Obodianos who is lying sick

and promises all his belongings to: the Monastery (Holy House) of the Saint High Priest Aaron, location not mentioned, and the Hospital/Hostel of the Saint Martyr Cyricus in the city of Petra. The receiving parties are represented by: Cyricus, son of Petros, presbyter and superior of the monastery, and Theodoros son of Obodianos, brother of Obodianos for the hospital or hostel. There is also a condition that from the donated belongings the mother of the donor, Thaaious, should be nourished and clothed as long as she lives. Three more people have gotten or will get amounts of money after the death of the donor (therefore there are six copies of the document).

Because all copies are still preserved in the same papyrus roll, the testator/donor recovered from the illness. There are some interesting points dealing with religion in Petra because, in addition to being the earliest mention of the Monastery of Aaron (probably that on Jabal Hārūn), some importance must be given to the rendering of the "Church of our Blessed and All-Holy Sovereign, the Glorious God-bearer and Ever-Virgin Mary."

Translation (partial: (ll. 5-16):

(ll. 5-16) "... I, Leontios son of Obodianos, priest and superior of the Church of ... and Valen(tino)s son of Samiabion, deacon, and Gesios son of Euthenios ... and Gesios son of Obodianos, priest of this Church of our Blessed and All-holy Sovereign, the Glorious God-bearer and Ever-Virgin Mary, and in our presence, he said as follows. "It is true that it has first to lead my hope in Lord and Benevolent God who has the power over living people and dead bodies, therefore, as one can see, because I am lying in bed, and no one among all can oppose the command of God, wherefore, having the human destiny in my mind, I wish and direct in your presence that, if indeed I do pass from this present life through the illness I

am suffering from, all my belongings whatsoever which I leave behind should be administrated by Cyricus son of Petros the Most Holy Presbyter and Superior of the Saint High Priest Aaron and by the aforementioned Theodoros son of Obodianos, the Most Beloved of God, Orthodox and Christ-loving, and that by them who are taking care, from those (belongings) my mother Thaaious should be nourished and clothed during the whole time of her life, and after her death from what will be left of my mentioned belongings whatsoever which I leave behind, one half passes to the mentioned Holy House of our Lord the Saint High Priest Aaron and the other half to the Most Holy Hospital of the Saint and Gloriously Triumphant Martyr Cyricus situated in this same city ..."

Inv. 9

Inv. 9 is (most likely) a written contract concerning sale of real property, including a right to pasture. It is being studied by Tiina Rankinen. The document is very fragmentary and only beginnings of the lines are preserved. Some fragment groups have been connected giving new information, but only a slight amount.

Invs. 13 and 17

Marja Vierros worked on invs. 13 and 17. The situation in inv. 13 (AD 538) is that Patrikios son of Difilos wants that his account and person should be burdened with the taxes of the land that Panolbios owns/has owned (but which Patrikios has rented?) The parcels of land in question are in Petra and Augustopolis. Inv. 14 deals with the same matter. In inv. 17 same Patrikios and Panolbios are the leading figures, also the land measures are the same. But inv. 17 is so fragmentary that no continuous text can be formed.

Invs. 14 and 15

Tiina Rankinen continued work on Pa-

papyrus Petra Zbigniew T. Fiema and Deborah Kooring (donated by Pierre and Patricia Bikai). Invs. 13 and 14 deal with the same issue; inv. 14 (AD 538) is a registration of an agreement concerning real estate. The document deals with tax payments by Panolbios and probably Patrikios son of Difilos, that is, who should pay which back taxes and who will pay the taxes in the future. The document was received by a tax official, Euthenios son of Dousarios. Most of the previously unplaced fragments have now been placed. Tiina Rankinen also began work on inv. 15. The results are few at the moment. The document probably concerns the sale of an inherited half of a house.

Inv. 20

In early 1998 Mari Mikkola worked on Papyrus Petra Selz Foundation I, which is some type of sales contract or settlement concerning family property. The document includes also a settlement of a debt. The roll is ca. 4 m long, partly well preserved. No actual date has been preserved, but the document can be dated on the grounds of the content to AD 556-92. The contracting parties are the key parties of the whole archive: Theodoros son of Obodianos and his father-in-law Patrophilos son of Bassos. Many fragments have been placed, but the reconstruction is still far from complete.

Inv. 22

In 1997 and 1998 Tiina Rankinen worked on 22, work begun in 1996 by Erja Salmenkivi and Tiina Purola. The document deals with buying/selling of a courtyard/house. It may be dealing with the same or similar matter as inv. 15.

Inv. 24

During 1997 and 1998 Mari Mikkola worked on inv. 24. In the inventory list, inv. 24 has been divided into two separate rolls (inv. 24.1 and 24.2). In inv. 24.2 there is the

beginning of document (the date), and in inv. 24.1, the middle and the end of the document (signatures). Because both of the rolls are written in same hand and same persons are mentioned, it can be suggested that these two parts belong to the same roll. The correct order of the fragments has not yet been established and placement of fragments is not complete. Inv. 24 is a contract of sale of real property dated to AD 540. The contract involves also involved taxes. The exact subject of the sale is unknown, but there are indications that it is some kind of a real property or estate. The document is signed by five different, more or less cursive signatures and the last of these is of Alfeios, son of Valens, who is probably the notary.

Invs. 68; 63 and 65

Papyrus Petra Thomas and Francesca Bennett was studied in 1997 and 1998 by Antti Arjava. It is a signed settlement between Patrophilos and Theodoros, drawn up in 537, presumably soon after the latter's marriage to the former's daughter, to clarify various financial aspects which for some reason had not been sufficiently dealt with in the marriage contract itself (the marriage contract is not among the preserved papyri of the archive).

The document (ca. 100 lines in length) was broken into three sections of almost equal size. It will be presented in the Papyrological Congress. Additionally, a working transcript of inv. 63+65 was prepared in early 1998, after T. Gagos was able to link the two documents. The transcript covers only the signatures but already reveals a number of important facts about the family of Patrophilos and Theodoros and the marriage which connected them.

Inv. 69

During the 1997 and 1998 seasons, Manna Vesterinen studied this group of several short documents. Five of them are tax re-

ceipts of Patrophilos son of Bassos and were written in transversa charta. One is a column text stating that Hierios (probably son of Patrophilos) has stolen some objects from Epiphanius. That text (inv. 69.6) is the only completely preserved document in the Petra archive. All these documents were rolled separately, piled together, and around them was a column-text, inv. 69. 8 in which Patrophilos is mentioned also and thus he would be the common factor in the documents under inv. 69.

Inv. 72

Marja Vierros worked on Papyrus Petra Gladys J. and Frank J. Vocci in early 1998 and the most important discovery was the fact that inv. 79 is part of the same document. Inv. 79 was originally classified as a text which did not offer much information in itself, but when it was combined with the fragments of inv. 72, there will perhaps be more information. Inv. 72 is a very long document, dated to AD 582-91, and a lot of it is missing. The document deals with various topics, a house and taxes are mentioned, something has been given away to Hierios, a dowry is mentioned, as are Augustopolis and a spring, Ain Tollat. Among the persons involved are Panolbios and Theodoros son of Obodianos.

Inv. 83

Papyrus Petra HM King Hussein bin Talal and HM Queen Noor al-Hussein was studied by Maarit Kaimio and Jorma Kaimio (see *ADAJ* XVI [1997]: 461-62). The roll contains a very long settlement of a dispute, made with the help of two arbitrators, between Theodoros son of Obodianos and Stephanos son of Leontios. The dispute concerns rights of drawing water from a spring and leading it through neighboring houses, the building of water channels and drains, and similar disagreements that have arisen between the owners of two neighboring houses in Zadakatha. During 1997-98 work

on inv. 83 concentrated on the reconstruction of the roll. Previously about 3/4 of the fragments had been placed, but there remained several series of fragments. In January 1998, we succeeded in identifying the place of more than hundred fragments, and in very many cases to link them together, so that continuous words could be read. On the basis of this work, the amount of the readable text in the document has been considerably increased. It has also become possible to form a more accurate picture of the physical form of the roll. Even in the upper layers of the roll, the fragments join together rather closely, so that there are not many lines missing between the fragments. This improved overall view of the layout of the document has made it possible to estimate much more accurately the placing of the fragments and the continuity of the lines of the text. A new, much enlarged version of the text is now under preparation, which will hopefully shed new light on the problems of the document, especially on the mystery of the koprodochion (dunghill? drain? toilet?), which is hotly debated by the litigants of the document. The new text will form the basis for the reappraisal of the document which will be presented in a preliminary form in the International Congress of Papyrologists August 1998.

Inv. 84

Marjo Lehtinen began reconstruction of this roll in January 1998. Many fragments contain supraposti that make the reconstruction somewhat cumbersome and this will require more work. This registration of a contract or agreement of as yet unknown kind (real property is involved) is written in transversa charta. The body of the document is written in a relatively small, upright and brushlike hand. Two other hands occur also, possibly as the subscriptions of the participants, but this remains to be seen as reconstruction proceeds. The approximate date of this document can

be likely established as the formula clearly indicates Justin, as well as the years of local era (463 or 473 depending on how much is missing between the fragments that contain the hundreds and fragmentary tens). Some points of interest in inv. 84: Toponym(s): Zadakathon (kastron), anonymous kome, likewise an anonymous polis (very likely Petra is meant); and persons: NN son of Valens, NN son of Obodianos (Theodoros no doubt), and Elafia (familiar from inv. 74).

Inv. 86

Papyrus Petra Patricia M. Bikai and Pierre M. Bikai (donated by the Joukowsky Family Foundation) is a roll written on both sides. In January 1997 the preliminary readings were done by Marjo Lehtinen for both of the documents. In January 1998 Marjo Lehtinen finished the photomontage of the two main texts, and also reconstructed the two minor documents (inv. 86 a and b) that were written on a separate piece of papyrus, also on both sides of it. The length of the existing roll, measured from the photomontage is ca. 2.5 m. Besides creating a more accurate reconstruction, the focus been to establish as accurate a decipherment as possible of the text now visible. The fragments will then be turned and those now not visible will be studied. The earliest text in recto is written in transversa charta in a large upright professional hand, similar to the hands in invs. 20 and 72 *et al.* It is a document dealing with an emphyteusis, "perpetual lease" of land. The lessor is Patrikios and the lessee Gessios. The beginning of the document has been cut away, so there is no preserved dating formula. However, in the beginning, "the present seventh year of indiction" is mentioned, very likely defining the beginning of the contract. The only additional information as to the date is the beginning of the name of the emperor in the oath-formula. Also the Trinity appears in the oath-formula, dating it to the Justinian's

reign or later. Unfortunately, the reading of the emperor's name is ambiguous (Fl. Ioustin-). The existing oath formula parallels need to be checked for more precise relative date (= seventh indiction during the reign of Justinian or Justinus).

Despite the fact that the document contains numerous standard long-winded legal formulae, details about the real property leased are unfortunately not preserved. The text ends abruptly, although the subscriptions are mentioned in the preserved end, they do not exist, and this may mean that the document was just a draft or had lost its validity as a legal document. Considering the nature of the lease, this is quite surprising. The fragmentary left side of the document is still under reconstruction and most of the roll is preserved except for a few centimetres of the right side. Only four of this type of lease contract are known from Egypt of this period (only one of them complete), but with the help of those parallels, most of the gaps in the text can be restored. Of interest, is that in all the existing parallels, the lessor is always an ecclesiastical institution, whereas here, it seems, the contract is made between two private citizens.

The text in the verso is still somewhat of a mystery and seems to begin with a prayer instead of the expected dating formula. The hand is generally relatively small although it varies in size and form; quite a few lines have corrections made by the writer. The text full of religious expressions that do not appear in papyri elsewhere; in addition the writer has problems with his vowels, hence the decipherment is somewhat difficult in places. The writer has, at some point, donated a hospital to a monastery, possibly in Zadakathon(?), or at least property situated there is mentioned. References are made to "therapy beneficial to the soul", "guardianship of the sacred vessels", a monastery and possibly monks. The name of this pious donator is not preserved, but his father's name

may be Simiabion. The end of the document becomes very obscure, money and possibly jewelry are mentioned several times. Since there is no indication of signatures, and considering the sloppy general characteristics of the document, it is reasonable to assume this may have been a draft also, perhaps made for private use only.

Under the roll was folded a separate papyrus piece written on both sides as well. A photomontage reconstruction has now been made of these two documents. Both of them appear to be somehow connected to the main verso-text, since a proestos of a monastery appears, and a reference is made to Aaron, so perhaps the monastery on Jabal Hārūn was meant. The other text, inv. 86a (small sloppy hand, thick stilus) has been canceled by criss-crossing diagonal lines. The other text, inv. 86 b, (largish cursive hand, fine stylus) mentions also Theodora (cf. the deceased Theodora in inv. 88), daughter of a female NN.

Inv. 88

Papyrus Petra Jaakko Frösén was studied by Mari Mustonen. The layers of the papyrus are partly unseparated. In 1998, Mari Mustonen tried to separate some of these layers, but it was not successful. The docu-

ment seems to be some kind of declaration concerning an inheritance in which several persons appear as testators or as heirs. Patrikos son of Diphilos seems to be one of the heirs. Other persons involved are: Alpheios son of Aphtaos, Akhzamos (a father's name?), Panolbios, Sabinos, Thekla?, Theodora (or Theodoros?). Skrinarios is mentioned in the beginning of the document, and occurs here most likely *ex officio* rather than as one of the contracting parties.

J.Frösén

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Trainos Gagos
University of Michigan
USA

Jaakko Frösén
University of Helsinki
Finland