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Title:

Authority and Concession: Social Mobility from a Ptolemaic Land Survey (*P. Haun. IV 70*)

Abstract [297 words]:

[Context]

Ptolemaic Egypt is one of the most socially and economically dynamic periods in the ancient world. Upper Egypt, under the ruling of Macedonian kings, went through the process of “Ptolemaicizing” during the late second century BC. Nevertheless, both this region and this period receive relatively fewer discussions from academia. Thus, by focusing specifically on a text called the Edfu Land Survey, my paper aims to enrich the details of the social mobility in two aspects – an individual family and the social class of priests at Temple of Edfu – under the general picture of interplay between the Ptolemaic State and traditional powers in the South.

[Subject]

The Edfu Land Survey (*P. Haun. IV 70*, 119/118 BC) is a collection of Greek papyri from Apollonopolite (Edfu) nome, Upper Egypt, where most surviving land surveys are written in Egyptian (mostly Demotic) rather than Greek and crucial to understand Ptolemaic administration on land tenure in Thebaid area.

[Argument]

Part One analyses two members from a key Egyptian family (Family of Pasas) recorded in the Survey, along with pointing out problems from previous scholarships (Fischer-Bovet 2014: 100-2, etc). I thus provide a new interpretation on Pasas II’s land allotment and his later life, along with an onomastic investigation on his son Ptolemaios, to further our understanding how an individual elite family benefit and thrive from the state’s interference with local issues. Part Two starts a comparative reading between the Survey with the Edfu Donation Text, another important document often depicted as evidence showing a different economic landscape from the one of the former. I thus argue for the internal consistency behind two texts and excavated more details of the other spectrum of mobility – the ripple effects on priestly classes and the temple of Edfu caused by the increasing presence of Ptolemaic government in the South.

Essay words amount:

c. 7,000-8,000 without Bibliography (can be shortened)

Travel bursary:

Prefer to apply

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