

The following Descriptions have been received from Professor Sayce:—

GREEK OSTRAKA FROM ERMENT AND KARNAK.

I will follow up the communications of Dr. Birch and Dr. Wiedemann on Greek Ostraka from Egypt, by giving the readings of some which I collected at Thebes in the winters of 1881 and 1883. In 1881 the natives were employed in excavating the ruins of an old Koptic village on the north side of the temple of Karnak, for the sake of the manure contained in the dust of its buildings. These, like all other human habitations in Egypt, were constructed of bricks dried in the sun. The bricks, it turned out, had been hardened with the help of inscribed potsherds, which came to light as soon as the bricks themselves crumbled into dust. The potsherds are partly in Greek, partly in Demotic, while there are a few in a handwriting which I cannot read, and they must have all come from some record chamber where they had been deposited in regular order. At all events, the ostraka found in particular houses or particular parts of the old village always belonged to a particular group or series. Dr. Wiedemann and myself secured a considerable number of the ostraka from the boys of the place; Mr. Greville Chester subsequently procured a good many more, which are now in the British Museum. Between my two visits to Thebes I found that the greater part of the village had been dug up by the *fellahin*, and that consequently there was a large amount of ostraka in the hands of the dealers at Karnak, who had discovered that European visitors set a value upon them.

The Karnak ostraka, which are written in Greek, are exceedingly difficult to read, and no attempt to do so has hitherto been made. The difficulties presented by the execrable handwriting of most of them are increased by a fact which Dr. Wiedemann and I believed we had ascertained, that some of the texts, though written in Greek characters, are in a foreign language, presumably that of the Blemmyes, while in others foreign words are mixed with Greek words. It must be confessed, however, that I came across none of these non-Greek texts last winter, while I bought one or two ostraka which were written so legibly as to furnish a key to the reading of the rest.

But before I proceed to give the texts of those of my Karnak potsherds which I have succeeded in deciphering, I must notice some ostraka from Erment, several of which were procured last winter by Mr. Strachan-Davidson, and two or three by myself. These are all written in large capitals, and are therefore unusually easy to read. I give the texts without accents, like Dr. Birch and Dr. Wiedemann :—

1. Ερμοδωρος οξιληφ
 ως το δελος των κα
 σοποιων Ι λε
 κομου χαιριν απε
 χω παρα σου το γι
 νομενον τελος
 απο θωθ ηως
 μεσορη του
 αυτου ητους.

“ Hermodôros, who has received the tax of the saddle-makers for the 35th year, sends greeting to Komos. I receive from you the tax due from the month Thoth to the month Mesori of the same year.”

“The 35th year” seems to indicate the reign of Augustus. *Κασσοπίων* must be a compound of *κάσας*, “a skin” or “saddle” for sitting upon (Xen., Kyrop. viii, 3, 6). The spellings *δέλος*, *χαιριν*, *ἦως*, and *ἦτους*, also found in other Egypto-Greek texts, must be noticed, as well as the contraction *οξιληφως* for *ὁ ἐξειληφώς*.

2. Ερμοδωρος ο εξειληφως
 το τελος των κασσοποιων ν)
 και γναφαλλογων ωρωι
 χαιρειν εχω παρα σου το
 γινομενον τελος του
 επειφ ι) και μεσορη του λε Ι.
 [β ?)λε μεορη κᾶ

“ Hermodôros, who has received the tax of the saddle-makers and wool-pickers, sends greeting to Hôros. I receive from you the tax due for Epeiphî and Mesori of the 35th year . . . (dated) the 21st of Me(s)ori.”

Γναφαλλόγων is a compound of *κνάφαλλον*, “wool” or “flock,” used for stuffing cushions, the plant from which the wool was obtained being called *γναφάλιον* by Dioskoridês (iii, 132).

3. Ερμοδωρος ο εξειληφως
 το τέλος των κασσοποιων και
 γναφαλλογων εις το α L
 πετεαργηρει χαιρειν
 εχω παρα σου το τέλος
 μεχειρ και φιμενωθ και
 φαρμουθι μᾶ Γ
 L α

“Hermodôros, who has received the tax of the saddle-makers and wool-pickers for the first year, sends greeting to Peteargêris. I receive from you the tax for the months of Mekheir, Phamenoth, and Pharmuthi, 41 drachmas the first year.”

Γ is intended for ⚭, not for γίγνεται, which it usually denotes.

4. Ερμοδωρος ο εξειληφως
 το τέλος των κασσοποιων
 και γναφολλολογων
 εις το α L πετεαργηρει
 χαιρειν εχω παρα σου
 το γεινομενον σοι
 τέλος του χοιμχ.

“Hermodôros, who has received the tax of the saddle-makers and wool-pickers for the first year, sends greeting to Peteargêris. I receive from you the tax due from you for Khoiak.”

The spelling γναφολλολόγων should be noticed.

5. Ερμοδωρος ο εξ(ειληφως το τε)
 λος των κασσοπ(οιων του)
 κοπτιτου εις L α σ(ορου χαιρειν)
 εχω παρα σου εις (τον λογον)
 χαλκου 2 σ.

“Hermodôros, who has received the tax of the saddle-makers of the nome of Koptos for one year, sends greeting to Soros. I receive from you on account of 200 quarter-obols of bronze.”

We learn from this text that Koptos or Koft was the head-quarters of the saddle-makers. The ostrakon is unfortunately broken.

6. Ερμοδώρος
βίτειαι χαιριν
εχω παρα σου
εις τον Ορου
του Υουσου
λογον χαλκου
l. 2 ερρωσο
l. λ α
παχων κ̄.

“Hermodôros sends greeting to Bíteas. I receive from you on account of Horos, the son of Vousos, a quarter-obol of bronze. Farewell. The 31st year, the 20th of Pakhons.”

7. Ερμοδώρος οξιληφως
το δελος των κασοποιων
του κοπτιτου εις l. α σ
ορου χαιριν απεχω πα
ρα σου το γινομενον
τελος απο
παυνη ηως
μεσορη τρια και (? δεκα).

“Hermodôros, who has received the tax of the saddle-makers of the Koptite nome for one year, sends greeting to Soros. I receive from you the tax due from Panyi to Mesori (1)3 (quarter-obols).”

8. Ερμοδώρος Αρκωι
χαιρειν απεχω παρα
σου το εν(νευ)δικον
της γης (τελος?) κου
δεν σοι ενκυλω
l α (?) παχω.
α

“Hermodôros sends greeting to Arkos. I receive from you the tax on the ninth part of the produce of the land, and hold you indebted for nothing more. The first (?) year, the first day of Pakhons.”

There is space for three letters in εν . . . δικον, and the traces that remain of the first look like ν. The word is evidently ἐννεαδικόν.

9. Ραδανος
Ερμυτι
χαιρειν
ο φινις
εις το τελος
εως μεσορη
ã

“ Rhadanos sends greeting to Erautis. The end of the tax until the first of Messori . . . ” Φίνις must be the Latin *finis*. Between this word and εἰς is a line which has been erased.

10. Ραδανος ο εξιλη
 φως την των κασσυ
 πωων ονην εις
 το Ι λ δ Εραυτει
 καιρει' εχω το δε
 λος απο θωωτ
 εως μεσωρη
 α του προιστα(μ)ε
 νου Ι λ δ
 εαω και το του
 βοιουου τελος
 κατα το με
 ωσσοου.

“ Rhadanos, who has received the contract for farming the taxes of the saddle-makers for the 34th year, sends greeting to Erautis. I have the tax from Thoth to the first of Messori of the current 34th year. I also allow a diminution of the tax upon cattle according to the rate of reduction.”

’Ονήν is for ὠνήν, “ a contract for the farming of taxes ” (*see* Liddell and Scott’s *Lexicon*, s.v.), and μεώσσοου for μειώσοου. Similarly βοιουου stands for βοέου or βοιέου. In προισταμένου, τ has been written by mistake for μ and the τ is misformed.

This completes the collection from Erment, and I now pass on to the Karnak ostraka. I shall begin with a potsherd purchased at Karnak by Sir William Gregory, and given by him to me. It is written in a very legible hand, but the lower part of it is unfortunately destroyed.

11. Ηρακλιανω κολ λξ̄ απο του νεφυτιου
 ομ̄ απο του χωριου πικεραίου κολ -
 οινου γ̄ οξους β̄ εις πληρωσιω ποτ̄ ε̄
 ομ̄ πεπρικα διπλομ̄ ζ̄ η
 ομ̄ εδωκα ωριωνι γραμματ̄ διπλοκεραμ̄
 Τροφωνιου ᾱ.

“ For Hêraklianos, 37 coins (?) from the newly-planted ground, and 5 coins (?) from the estate of Pi-Keraî, 3 (measures) of wine (and) 2 of vinegar, 5 in all for filling the cup. I have also bought a double jar for 8 triobola, and have given a double jar to Oriôn, the scribe of Trophonios ι”

This ostrakon is a very interesting one. It gives us the origin of the modern name of Karnak, which has evidently been formed from Pi-Keraï, *i.e.*, Keraï with the article prefixed. It indicates, moreover, that whole jars were bought and purposely broken in order to provide writing materials for the officials. What is meant by "a double jar" I do not know; the word διπλοκεράμιον is a new one. I am equally ignorant as to what is meant by κο^λ, and can only conjecture that it is intended for κολλύβους. Νεφντιων is of course for νεοφντεῖον, ο^μ for ὁμοίως, πο^τ for ποτηρίου, διπλο^μ for διπλοκεράμιον, and γραμμα^τ for γραμματεῖ, "the scribe." Revillout (*Revue Egyptologique*, ii, p. 87) has shown that ζ or ξ denoted the half-drachma of silver, or piece of 3 obols equivalent to 60 obols of bronze.

I shall now take a series signed by a certain Ptolemy, "collector of the corn-tax," who lived in the reign of Tiberius. The handwriting is difficult to read.

12. Πτολεμαῖος Αστ
 κλα^ς πρα^κ κα^λ
 Ψανολῶς Πνεηο^ς δ
 χ̄ απεχω το προλυ,
 του κα^λ του δ L
 Πτολεμαῖος.

"Ptolemy the son of Asklas, the collector of the corn-tax, sends greeting to Psanolós, the son of Pnécés. I receive from you the remainder of the corn-tax for the 4th year. (Signed) Ptolemy."

The full form of the genitive of the name of Ptolemy's father appears on the next ostrakon. Πρα^κ κα^λ stands for πράκτωρ καλαμικοῦ or καλάμων. Κάλαμος was equivalent to the Latin *tessera*, "the token by which corn was obtained," and Liddell and Scott are wrong in saying that this meaning did not belong to it until the fourth century; and καλαμηφορέω signified "to bring a corn-token in order to get corn upon it." A fragmentary ostrakon dated in the 10th year of Domitian, and belonging to Dr. Wiedemann, contains the word καλάμη written in full. Προλυ is written in full προλυπόν, *i.e.*, προλοιπόν, on the next ostrakon. The year will be the 4th of Tiberius.

13. Πτολεμαῖος Ασκατος
 Πουουπατο Κασοτις χαιρειν
 απεχω παρα σου το προλυπον
 του κα^λ του L κα Τιβεριου
 σεβαστου καισαρος κα
 Πτολεμαῖος.

“Ptolemy the son of Asklas sends greeting to Psuspato son of Kasotis. I receive from you the remainder of the corn-tax for the 21st year of Tiberius Augustus Cæsar. (Signed) Ptolemy.”

14. Πτολεμαῖος Ἀσκλάς
 Παμμῶν Παμῆ χ̄
 ἀπεχω παρα σου το
 προλυπον του καλ̄
 του γ L Τιβερίου Κλαυ
 καισαρος σεβαστου γ
 Πτολεμαῖος.

“Ptolemy the son of Asklas sends greeting to Pammônios the son of Pammônios. I receive from you the remainder of the corn-tax for the 3rd year of Tiberius Claudius Cæsar Augustus. (Signed) Ptolemy.”

This is the earliest dated ostrakon I have yet met with.

With this my series of the Ptolemy ostraka ends. I now go on to another, written in a very bad hand, which presents us with a word written with a contraction which has not been met with before, I believe, in this class of documents.

15. Παπῶμι' πρακα⁻αρ̄γ̄ χL Πικοῦ λιῶ δρχ┐
 εσχο διπλους ὅ ρυ' ὅ δυο ─ ρυ' ὅ β-
 L ε Αντωνιου καισαρος του κυριου
 τυβι ιδ παρ η/ι απ(?) . . .

“Papômis, collector of money, sends greeting to Pikôs the linen-draper. The drachmas I received doubly, two half-drachmas as a pledge for two drachmas. The 5th year of Antoninus Cæsar the lord, the 14th day of Tybi. I received in all 8”

Πράκτωρ ἀργυρικῆς is a title already well-known from the ostraka of Elephantinê. Pikôs is a name met with elsewhere on the Karnak potsherds; there was a tax-collector of the same name in the reign of Antonine. λιῶ, stands for λινουργῶ; Dr. Birch has already made us acquainted with the linen-draper's tax. εσχο is of course ἔσχο, and ρυ. must represent ῥύσιον or ῥύσια “a pledge.”

16. Φαιφίς X(?)εσονι. Πεσεχω
 Ψενενω χL απεχω τ οβολ
 του θ L Νερωνος του
 κυριου

επ/ ιζ

“Phæphis son of Khesos (?) to Pesekh son of Psenenôn sends greeting. I receive the obols for the 9th year of Nero the lord. (Dated) the 17th day of Epeiphi.”

Another ostrakon, of which the beginning is lost, is dated in "the 3rd year of Nero Claudius Cæsar Augustus Germanicus Imperator (Ἀυτοκράτορος), the 15th day of Athyr."

17. διαγ¹. Πεσεχ^ω Πεκ(?)ω(?)^υ
 ὕ χ^ω δραμα ἑ εικοσι
 1. α αυ(τοκρατο)ρος * Ουεσπυσιανου
 του κυριου του καισαρῆ
 Δαμων (?)

"Pesekh the son of Pekons (?) acquits for the workmen's tax twenty drachmas: the 1st year of the Emperor Vespasian the lord, the Cæsar. (Signed) Damôn (?)."

Pesekh is perhaps the same as the Pesekh mentioned in the last text. An ostrakon translated by Dr. Birch, which belongs to the 14th year of Nero, states that the workmen's tax amounted to 20 drachmas of silver.

The following ostrakon is written in a large but peculiar hand:—

18. Δαμων Βακχιου Διδυμου Αφροδισ . .
 χειρειν απεχω παρα σου οινου
 κεραμια δεκα εξ ων σοι εδωκα
 συν τω επισικτω του ιθ του
 και α 1. κουθεν σοι ενκαλω
 περι των προγεγραμμενων
 οινου κεριμιων δεκα εξαγραψεν
 υπερ αυτου αρκια σαρκιου αξ)
 ωα εα δια το οραδ . . . ερο(?)υ α . . . εγραψεν
 Δαμων ευ κη . . . ε
 προτερα.

"Damôn son of Bakkhios Didymos to Aphrodisios sends greeting. I receive from you ten jars of wine of which I gave you along with the seal of the 19th and 1st years (?), and I hold you indebted no further for the ten jars of wine already written about. He registered on his own behalf a sufficient quantity of flesh-meat fittingly. Leave alone the eggs on account of the (Signed) Damôn: he has attended to (?) the former orders."

The two last lines are in a different handwriting to the rest. Ἐπισίκτηϕ must be the plug with which the jars were closed and sealed, and I imagine that ιθτου stands for ἐννεακαιδεκάτου. Δέκα ἕξ

* Written αυκαρος, or perhaps αυκτορος. The handwriting of this ostrakon is exceedingly bad.

may possibly mean 16, and I suppose αξ) to be ἀξίως. I cannot read part of the last line but two, nor the word which follows εῦ.

Towards the end of the reign of Tiberius a certain Pikôs appears as attaching his name to receipts. I have three ostraka with his signature, which are as follows :—

19. διεγρ^L Πετεμ^ν Παμ(?)αρ(?)θ υ' φ
 ιερ^ν ι θ L ζ- τρις γεγρ οβ^λ ζ-γ,
 κπ γεγραφ^α τ(ου) κ L κ Τιβεριου
 καισαρος σεβαστου χοιαχ
 ις γεγρ Π^κ.

“Petemenôn the son of Pamarth, (?) on behalf of Phieras, has acquitted (the tax) for the 19th year. I have registered 3 obols. I have registered the retailers' tax (?) for the 20th year of Tiberius Cæsar Augustus. The 16th day of Khoiak. I, Pikôs, have signed.”

I have no idea what κπ can represent, unless it be a tax upon retailers (κάπηλοι) or “gardens” (κηποι). The handwriting both of this and the following ostrakon is bad. See No. 21, from which it would appear that the name of the father ought to be read Pamênth.

20. διεγρ^L Πετεμεν^ω Παμ(?)αρ(?)θ υ' Φιεραν
 αL γεγρ οβ^ολ η ι.β Γαιου
 Καισαρος Γερμανικου χοιαχ ιε
 Πι^κ.

“Petemenôn the son of Pamarth, (?) on behalf of Phieras, has acquitted (the tax) for the 1st year. I have registered 8 obols. The second year of Caius Cæsar Germanicus, the 15th day of Khoiak. (Signed) Pikôs.”

It is interesting to find the title of Germanicus here given to Caligula.

A third ostrakon, signed Pikôs, is little more than a repetition of the first (No. 19).

21. διεγρ^L Πετεμ^ω Παμη^ν υ'
 φιεL ιθL γεγρ οβ^λ ις
 L κ Τιβεριου καισαρος
 σεβαστου χοιαχ σεβαστ ιε
 γεγρ Πι^κ

“Petemenôn the son of Pamênth, on behalf of Phieras, has acquitted (the tax) for the 19th year. I have registered so many obols. The 20th year of Tiberius Cæsar Augustus; the 15th day of Khoiak Augustus. I Pikôs have signed.”

I know of no other instance in which the title of August is attached to the name of the month Khoiak. In the time of Julius Cæsar Khoiak did not begin until the 27th of November.

I may add here an ostrakon belonging to the 5th year of Tiberius, and written on behalf of the Phieras mentioned above (Nos. 19, 20, 21), which is unfortunately broken and otherwise injured so that only a portion of it can be read.

22. . . . ταπειης Καμη¹. ὕ Φιλ. δL
 γ γ . . β . . . ὦ^δ εἰτ L. ε Τιβεριου
 . . . Κλαυδιου καισαρος σεβαστου

. “ταπεις son of Kamêtis, on behalf of Phieras, has acquitted the 5th year of Tiberius (Nero) Claudius Cæsar Augustus”

The following is written in large clear capitals, many of the letters being formed like those of the Coptic alphabet.

23. Ουλουζιος Πεταργηρι
 Φτωμνιος χ απεχω πα^ρ
 σου αχουρου γωμος
 ενως του ιε L Δμιτιανου
 του κυριου

“Uluzios to Petargêris the son of Phtôminis, sends greeting. I receive from you the loads of bran of last year. The 15th year of Domitian the lord.”

Αχουρου γωμος ενως evidently stands for ἀχύρου γόμους ἔτους. After the name of D(o)mitian a τοῦ has been written and subsequently erased.

Another ostrakon in my possession, dated in the 15th year of Domitian, is written by a certain Patomraunos.

24. διεγρ¹ Πατομραννος
 Τεχ^ω Λιεχθαλιουφιος ν²
 λα L. χ¹. εϛ δεκα κσαργυριου
 κ ? , α L. ι ε Δμου καισαρος του κυριου
 φαρμουθι λγ̄ εγρα^α.

“Patomraunos son of Techôs of Liekthaliouph (or Nekthanouph), has acquitted for the poll-tax and the workmen’s tax 10 drachmas (?) of silver . . . The 15th year of Domitian Cæsar the lord, the 33rd day of Pharmuthi I registered (it).”

I do not understand the numerals in this text, which are however quite plain.

I now come to an ostrakon which introduces us to a new title.

25. Μετρ⁻ θη̄ς κμ' γενν(̄?) ιβλ. Τραιανου
του κυριου εφει κ̄η ον^ο Πετεχ^ω χαταβου
πυρου δυο / ιβ

"Metrês the treasurer, the state-collector (?) of the 12th year of Trajan the lord, the 28th day of E(pe)i phi, in the name of Petekhons, the son of Khatabos, two measures of wheat"

Traces of the symbol denoting a quarter-obol remain at the end. Θη̄ς is of course *θησαυροφύλαξ*, or perhaps *θησαυριστής*, and κμ. is probably to be explained by the *καλαμος* mentioned above (No. 12). At any rate its place is taken on other ostraka by *μισ.*, i.e., *μισθωτής* or "collector." The last letter of γενν. may not be intended for ν, but for a mark of contraction. In Byzantine times *ὁ γενικός* was "the treasurer," and possibly it is *γενικός* which we have to read here.

I have another ostrakon belonging to Metrês or Metris which does not contain an emperor's name. It runs thus:—

25a. Λ η̄ επειφι ιδ̄ Μετρ' θ'
διοκ̄ καστο(?)τοπος Ψενωις
. . . Αμητις Ψ(?)εμινιος ι δ

"The 8th year, the 14th day of Epeiphi, Metrês the treasurer, the Procurator being Psenônis; the being Amêtis Ps (?)eminios; 4 tetrobols."

διοκ̄ is of course *διοικητής*, and the next word may be either a proper name or be compounded with *τόπος*. It is unfortunate that the writing is partly obliterated.

26. Μεθ̄ης κ̄α γεν⁻ ιδ / του
καισαρος του κυριου επειφι . . .
υ' χλ ον^ο Ταμεπρωνος Ψεμεν^ω
πυρους ημισυ ι ε f

"Methês the state-collector (?), of the 14th year of the Cæsar the lord; the . . day of Epeiphi, for the workmen's tax; in the name of Tameprôn the son of Psemenôn, half a measure of wheat"

I cannot explain the symbols which come at the end of the text, but the last denotes a quarter obol. Methês can hardly be the same as Metrês, since the two names are very distinctly spelt, but "the Cæsar" of this ostrakon is no doubt Trajan.

27. Ασκαυς κρ̄ επτ θης] και
 Πεκυσι' ονν^ω Φθουμι /
 εσ^χ το κ̄ του θς
 νου Καιου Εναριους
 σεβασ επα ιδ.

“Askaus . . . the treasurer and Pekysis in the name of Phthumis, have received (ἔσχομεν) the corn-tax of the 9th year of . . . nos Caius Enariês Augustus. The 14th day of Epeiphi.”

I have no conception as to what the first title of Askaus may mean, though επτ must be ἐπτὰ or some compound of the latter. Neither can I find any emperor whose name was Enariês. Unfortunately the first name of the Augustus is hopelessly gone. Of course ονν^ω is for ὀνόματι.

28. ετους λε παννι ῑα ζ⁻
 εις Γενδιωδουη ῑε Ερμου
 λε Ι. Ηρακλειδης Ερμου δε(ι)
 κροτων' δυ^ο / κρ^ο β
 Ασκα^υ.

“The 35th year, the 11th day of Payni, 4 obols to Gendiôdyês 15 Hermos (pays). The 35th year Hêracleidês, son of Hermês owes for the castor-oil tax 2 obols. (Signed) Askaus.”

The “castor-oil” tax is new to us, and must have been levied on the natives of Nubia, where the castor-oil plant grows. The “35th” year is a difficulty; if it refers to the reign of a Roman emperor it can only be Augustus. Augustus, however, did not bear the names of Caius Enariês, as did the emperor under whom Askaus lived according to the preceding ostrakon. We may, therefore, perhaps, see in the latter one of the usurpers who governed the Thebaid while it was independent of Roman rule in the 3rd century A.D. Dr. Wiedemann has several ostraka dated in years exceeding 30.

29. ετους α| επειφι γ̄
 ζ- εις την επι ψ κ ς ῑη
 του α Ι. Ασυχιου
 βουτυρου = εικοσι (και δυο)
 ημισυ ι κ β₁-

Πετ^ε Σιτολ.

“The first year, the 3rd day of Epeiphi, 4 obols for the . . . of the 1st year of Asykhios . . . for butter 22½ obols. (Signed) Petemôn, the son of Sitol. ”

Here, again, we have a new name after which the year is dated. I have no idea what ψ stands for.

30. ετους δ μεσορη ε̄ Καμ' θη̄ς
 Αμιτο^υ ε τη κ̄ δ L Πεπεκ . . .
 Ψευδοδριος κ ς / ζ - ι φ(?)μ(?)ιλι . .
 ι ς

“The 4th year, the 5th day of Mesori, Kamêtis, the treasurer, the son of Amitos, for the corn-tax in the 4th year of Pepek . . . Pseudoris 20 obols”

Here we have another new name, after which the year is dated. E τη κ̄ must mean ἐπὶ τῇ καλαμογραφίᾳ.

31. ετους ι μεσορης ιε
 παρ^α Πετεχωσι^L
 Ευτυχης δυω
 δεκα /-δρ̄.

“The 10th year, the 15th day of Mesori, from Petekhôsis Eutukhês (has received) twelve drachmas.

I will now give the texts of two of my ostraka which are interesting as bearing the names of Severus Pertinax and Pescennius Niger.

32. Λυκῆ κμ̄ γενῆ β1-
 Λουκιου Σεπτιμιου
 Σεουηρου Περτινακος
 σεβαστου φαιο {β} η̄τοῡ
 γ ρυ' ονο Οπ

“Lykias, the state corn-tax collector (?), the 3rd year of Lucius Septimius Severus Pertinax Augustus 3 as a pledge in the name of Op.”

The last line and a half is destroyed. In the first line β is written like κ, but Severus did not reign 20 years.

33. Μεθης μισ) γενῆ αL Γαιου Πεσκεννιου
 Νιγερος καισαρος του κυριου επειφ ι υ' χ^ρ ον^ο
 βηγγμωρου δι εννεα πυρου μ, . . .

“Methês, the collector for the state (?), in the 1st year of Caius Pescennius Niger Cæsar the lord, the 10th day of Epeiphi, for the workmen's tax, in the name of Bêgmôros, on account of 9 measures of wheat”

There is a 4th line which consists wholly of numerals and symbols the signification of which is unknown to me.

34. Παμ^ω Αμμ^ω μι' κ̄ε α
 φαμεν^ο λ̄ ā γ̄ λ
 ιθ(?)α ιā ā φαρμά λ
 | η ι. ι5̄ ι κ ι. κη δ
 ιθ ι.

“Pammônios the son of Ammônios, collector of the workmen's tax (?), from the 30th day of Phamenôth, receives 3 *argentei* ... 11 *argentei* on the 1st of Pharmouthi he receives, the 8th year, the 16th year, the 20th year, the 28th year. There are due 19 drachmas.”

λ and δ stand for λαμβάνει and δεῖ, while α clearly represents ἀπό and ā ἀργύρια. κε. may be intended for χειρωναξία. The first word of the third line has been miswritten and a correction made over it, so that it is impossible now to make out what it exactly is.

I will leave the rest of my ostraka of this class, which are mostly dated in the reigns of Nero, Domitian, Trajan, Hadrian, and Antoninus, for another communication, and pass to a wholly different set of texts. These are lists of payments received from, or paid to, various persons, whose names frequently recur in them. Unfortunately the potsherds which furnish us with the lists are usually in a very mutilated condition.

I will begin with one in Dr. Wiedemann's possession, the accuracy of my transcription of which, however, I will not guarantee.

35. Μεσορις ιζ
 λογος σεππετυμεπωφιο αλαματιοι η̄
 | λ ε Γ Πατουωμτις Αριμ. β | ζ
 | Νυσπχω . . . υιοσ | β
 | Περμαμις | ε ≡
 | Ψενφθουσ π̄ρ | β γ
 | Φανπ | | η . κ6
 | Ψενπ | υι' Πω . . | β
 | Περμαμις | ε ≡
 | Ψενπζ. υι' Αβ^ω | κ(?) Λ
 | Κριθουσ (?) | η γ
 | Οζο,3σποσ (?) * | α γ
 | Ψευωσ (?) † | τ σ' κ6
 | Περμαμις | ε

* ? Ωροσ Πατ.

† ? Ψευωωσ.

The following are in my own collection :—

36. $\bar{\kappa}\theta$ μερσι^οs λογον τ^ο . . .
 Ωρος Ουπυματος . . .
 Ηρακλης Τογοης . . .
 Ηρακλης Πατηρεμο(υ) . . .
 Ηρακλης Ειπυμετος . . .
 Σεκη Περμαμι^ο Ψεν . . .
 Θησπευς Ισιος κο^ς . . .
 Παμωνθης Ατειο κο^ς . . .
 Φαμινις Αωγος κο^ς . . .
 Φθουμης Αποσναυσι^α κο^ς
 Σεκης Περμαμι^ο κο^ς . . .

The first line—"the 29th assesment of the poll-tax"—shows what was the object of the list. It is in a different handwriting from the rest of the text. The mention of the *θησπευς Ισιος*, or "prophet of Isis," is curious. What is meant by κο^ς I do not know. It may be βο^ς, *i.e.*, βοηθός, "assisting," but the first letter is formed exactly like the κ in the proper names. The right side of the ostrakon is broken. Can κο^ς represent κολλυβιστής, "a money-changer?" In the next ostrakon it interchanges with σι(τοκάπηλος), "a corn-dealer."

37. $\epsilon\pi\iota$ ιζι^θ . . .
 // Ψεντφους πρεσβ τ a √, $\bar{\kappa}$ Ψεναω' τ η̄
 / Ψεντφους νεο τ̄ η̄ $\bar{\kappa}\alpha$ Ψεντφους πρ' τ̄ η̄ 11
 / Περμαμις τ̄ η̄. 11 Ψεντφ νεο τ̄ ο̄ 11 η̄ 11 Περμαμι τ̄ η̄ 11
 / Σεκης Πικωτο' τ̄ η̄ 11 Σεκης τ̄ η̄
 Ωρος Παταπη' τ̄ α, 11 Ωρ' Παταπη' τ̄ ο̄ 6)
 Ποτυμενω νεο τ̄ η̄ 6)
 Ψεναω κο, τ̄ η̄ 11 Ψενᾱ σι. τ̄ η̄.
 $\bar{\kappa}$ 11 Ψεντφους πρεσ τ̄ α
 / Ψεντφους νεο τ̄ η̄
 / Περμαμις τ̄ α ιδ
 / Σεκης τ̄ η̄.
 / Ωρος Παταπη' τ̄ α)-

This list is intended to be in two columns, the names being repeated thrice, with the exception of "Potymenôn the younger," who appears only in the first series. Before the second mention of *Ψενάων* $\bar{\kappa}$ is prefixed, in order to show that the "20th" assessment-list is being continued. Hôros paid first 1½ drachmas, then 1 drachma 4 obols, and lastly 1 drachma and half an obol, 6 being the symbol for the half-obol (one-twelfth of a silver drachma).

38. The beginning and end of this ostrakon are broken off.

Σεκης Πικωτο' υ'	τ ο δ .
/ Ωρος Παταπητος	τ ο ζ
[Ψεναμουνης]	τ τ [α
/ τγ Ψενφθους πρ	τ ο α β
/ Ψενφθους ν̄	τ τ
Περμαμς	τ τ [ο
Σεκης Πικωτο' υ'	τ δ τ ..
Ωρος Παταπητος	τ ο ζ
Ψεναμουνης υιος	τ γ [ο
ιδ Ωρος Παταπητος	τ ο α □
Σεκης Πικωτιο'	τ ο α δ
Περμαμς	τ . . . δ̄
/ Ψενφθους ν̄	. . .

I do not know what is meant by the small ο after the symbol of a drachma: τ is γίγνεται. Of course ν̄ means νεώτερος.

39. A small fragment:—

Περ'μαμς)
 Ψενφ'θους πρ.) . . .
 Ψενφθους (νεο') . . .
 Πετεμενωφς
 κζ Ωρος Παταπητος . . .
 Ψευτοζους πρεσβ . . .
 Σεκης Ψεαζ
 Περμαμς Ψ

40. Another fragment:—

.....	ι	Ωρος)	
.....	ιι	κθ Ψενφθους πρ	...	
.....	ι	Περμαμς	τ δ-	
.....	τ ο α τ	Σεκης Πικωτ υ'	τ δ / ο	
.....	τ δ -	Ωρος Παταπητ'	τ θ	
.....	τ δ -	Ψενα υιος	τ γ τ . Γ	
.....	τ δ -	λ Ψεντ' νε'	τ α υ'	
.....	τ υ'	τ δ τ ζ	Ψεντ' πρ(?)	τ δ ι
.....	ανης	τ ο)		
.....	υος υιος	τ ι + ο	Περμαμς	τ η ιι
(Ψεν τ' πρ'	τ κ δ	Σεκης	τ / -	
(Ψεν τ' νεω	τ ζ	Ωρος Παταπ(ητος)	...	
(Περμαμς	τ α, ε	Ψεν	

41. $\bar{\iota}\eta$ Παμων^θ Παχυ
 Απολλως Πατ
 Φθουμνις και Πα
 Φθουμωνθης
 Αβως Πειλ(?)υσ(?)ιος και . . .
 Αβασκαν^τ
 Ησοι Ψευχωνσιος

It is unfortunate that the payments are lost.

42. $\xi \bar{\delta}$
 Παχυ. Ουω' Φα(μ)
 Πετεχω' υιος
 Ψεννυ^ς Φαχιο
 Πικως Πετεχο' Πε
 Πετ' Νιλωνος
 Αχιλειυς Τεμω(?)ρος
 Πετυμ
 Π υιος
 Ερμι Φανρ' Π
 Ψενεν^υ Αμυντου υιος
43. $\bar{\nu}\gamma$
 Παμ^ο Αβωτ' Παναμεως
 Πεν(?)ε Παναμεως Φθουμωνθ^ο
 Φ Ψεναμ^ο Θεοδωρ. Φμονθ^ο
 Ωρ. υιο^ς μ⁴ συν Ηρακλυνους (*sic*)
 Πεν(?)ε Καμητιος νεωτε- μ⁴ συν Αριο^τ
 Ψενθαω' πρ' Χεσ Φμονθ^ο
 Ψενενουφισ Θεοδωρ^ο Φμονθ^ο
 Πανισ(?)κος Σεραπιωνος Θανπ
 Ηρακλι^δ Αλεξανδ. Ποριευς
 Ηρωντις Ψεναμ^ο Αβωτ
 $\bar{\iota}\delta$)

The interest of this list consists in the names of the localities to which the persons named in it belonged. No payments are recorded in it. Μ⁴ συν is "assistant collector" (μισθωτής συνεργός). Χεσ stands for Χεστενευς; see next ostrakon.

44. Επεσσωτηρ Εριοφωιτο
 $\bar{\iota} \bar{\kappa}\eta$
 λι^ο Σενφικι^ο οκρ Τρεμτωτωνος
 Ποστομος $\bar{\iota} \bar{\kappa}$ κα^λ
 χ^τ Αβως Ισιδωρ^ο $\bar{\iota} \bar{\iota} \delta$
 χ^τ Παμμωνας Σενφι^ο $\bar{\iota} 2 \bar{\iota} \delta$
 Χεστενευς Αβωτ^ο $\bar{\iota} \delta$

Here λι^ο represents λινοπωλιας, "the linen-draper's tax," and χ^τ χειροναξίου "the poll-tax," while οκρ may perhaps be δ κριτής.

45. The following ostrakon is in the possession of Mr. Strachan-Davidson. The end and right side are broken off:—

Οινυκ	
â	κ̄ā	...
θεωη	â	κ̄ ...
νᾶ	ρο	...
Τιδ ^L	ἦ	...
Παω	ρβ	Πε ...
Θρ̄	ρ̄ζ	Περε . . .
Πε̄	ρ̄ζ	Περδι ^L L ...
Περμ ^L	ερ(?)	τοκ ^L ρο ...
Ερ	ρζρ ζουθ ...
Ομ	επ κη(?) δ ...
Περμ ^L	2 ψ ρ ...
Τοτ	ρη(?)
Σπυκης	υ
Ερ	γ(?)κ

It is evident that we have here abbreviations of proper names Permamis, Perdikkas, Petemôn, &c. In the second line we must read "from (ἀπὸ) the 21st (day)."