

Excerpt of P. Rylands Dem. 20 (TM_135)

As an example, we will consider a marriage contract written on papyrus by Espnoutis son of Teos, who worked as a scribe in the temple of Sobek in Krokodilopolis, on 29 Oct. 116 BCE. The document is believed to have formed part of the family archive of Pelaias son of Eunous alias Nechoutes in antiquity, and the acting parties are well known to us since they reappear in a number of surviving texts from Pathyris.¹

Translation/transliteration, after Griffith, F. L. (1909), pp. 149-150/277-278²

Only the parts of the contract of particular interest to us are presented below.

Lines

- 1-3 Formulaic introduction and dating
- 3 ... The man who receiveth rations amongst the men of Lokhos (?), who is written to Amûr, Eunous son of Patse'ô, hath declared unto the woman Tapremhit
- 4 daughter of Patê and her mother Nahmesêsi :
- I have made thee wife : I have given unto thee 100 (pieces of) silver, i.e. 500 staters, i.e. 100 (pieces) of silver again, 10 ertobs of wheat (?), their half 5 (measure of) what (?), i.e. 10 (measures of) wheat (?) again, as thy woman's gift.
- The children that thou shalt bear unto me are the co-dividers with my children, of all that belongeth unto me, together with those things that I shall gain. Behold
- 5-7 list of the women's gift and estimation of their values
- 8 Written by Espnûti son of Zeho, who writes in the name of the priests of Sobk lord of Amur of the 5 orders.
- verso 'On the back are the signatures of 16 witnesses.' ↴

Hr-ṢNp¹ sy P-a-ṭe-Ḥr-sm-tw
 Pa-Gb sy Pa-tw
 Pa-Gb sy P-a-ṭe-Ḥr-sm-tw
 Pa-Ḥrṭ sy Ḥr
 (5) Pa-Gb sy P-mr-ḥ
 . . . sy Ḥr-Ḡš
 Pa-t-s-t-ṓ-t sy P-hb
 Pa-t-s-t-ṓ-t sy P-šr-ṢNp

Pa-tw (?) sy P-a-ṭe- . . .
 (10) Pa-ṭe sy Qrr
 P-a-te-Ḥr-sm-tw sy P-a-ṭe-Ḥr-sm-tw
 P-a-ṭe-Ḥr-sm-tw (?) sy Sbk-ḥtp
 Ne-nḥt-f sy Sbk-ḥtp
 Ne-nḥt-f sy Pa-mwt (?)
 (15) Sy-Sbk sy P-mr-ḥ
 P-a-ṭe-Ḥr-sm-tw sy Pa-Mw-t (?)

¹ For the archive, people and site, see esp. Tambs, L. (2022). Socio-Economic Relations in Ptolemaic Pathyris: A Network Analytical Approach to a Bilingual Community. *Probleme der Ägyptologie* 40.1-40.2. Leiden: Brill.

² Griffith, F. L. (1909). *Catalogue of the Demotic Papyri in the John Rylands Library Manchester. With Facsimiles and Complete Translations*, Vol. III [repr.]. Hildesheim: Georg Olms Verlag.