

24. Draft of a Contract for a Partnership in the Fabrication Manufacture
of Glass Vessels

(October 1217)

New York, Jew. Theol. Sem. ^{iv} Geniza Misc. 27

The Middle of Marḥeshwan 29^a)

We witnessed (the following agreement) between the elder Munajjā and the elder Hiba al-Zakī. Munajjā received one hundred and eight qintārs of red glass and hundred and five qintārs of local glass²) from Hiba. The two men form a partnership in this material for the duration of one year; they intend to work with it in common;³ but it is to be in Munajjā's control,⁴ who has invested a capital of one hundred, ninety nine dinars in it, while Hiba has invested six dinars, and to the latter also belong ten qintārs⁵) (here the ms. breaks off)

This fragment is provided as an example for the many cases in which only part of the essential conditions has been preserved. Since hundred pound of glass cost approximately ^(see m. 5) one dinar, the "glass" referred to cannot have been ~~the partnership material~~ ^{ready made} ~~concerned with the manufacture of vessels~~ vessels, but ~~was~~ ^{was} material for their manufacture.

Hiba obviously was the expert glass maker, who bought the material with the money provided by the investor. See also Med. Soc. I, p. 365, bottom.

Notes

1/ The draft does not mention the thousands and hundreds in the date, nor is the era stated. However, as the era normally used in Egypt was the era of the documents, and as paper, script, and the forms of the names point to the beginning of the thirteenth century, certainly the year 1529 of the era of the documents is intended here, which corresponds to 1217/8 of the Christian era.

2/ Local, Egyptian glass as opposed to the red glass mentioned before, which in another Geniza document is described as coming from Beirut
India Book
 (see St. 107, Documents on the Trade to India, No. 50, ²verso
 1. 28).

5/ The total quantity of glass used by the partners was 213 qinṭārs, the total capital 205 dinars; thus a qinṭār of glass cost approximately ^{an average of} one dinar.

Comments

3/ Text: wayad al-ithnain jā'ila fihī.

4/ Text: taht yad.