

**Csaba A. La'da (ed.), *Greek Documentary Papyri from Ptolemaic Egypt:*
Corpus Papyrorum Raineri XXVIII, Walter de Gruyter, Berlin, 2008.**

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This beautifully presented volume comprises fourteen previously unpublished Greek papyrus documents from Ptolemaic Egypt, which belong to the Papyrus Collection of the Austrian National Library in Vienna.

The study incorporates a relatively select number of texts; however, this is not the result of an attempt by La'da to focus on a specific theme, rather it is a reflection of the limited amount of unpublished Ptolemaic material available for study in the collection. The documents comprise a variety of types, both public and private in nature, but in general they relate to the sphere of administration, particularly tax collection. In addition to a tax receipt, there are three accounts of tax payments and a register of taxpayers. Other texts include letters, a petition to an official, the beginning of a land survey and a possible legal text.

The documents originate from Middle Egypt and were recovered from papyrus cartonnage; a fact which is reflected in their highly damaged and fragmentary nature. Indeed, only a single line is preserved in one case, while some of the other documents are more substantial. Despite this, the commentaries provided by La'da are extensive.

One of the goals of the editor is to place these documents firmly within an historical context. The texts have been compared with examples from other published collections and a determined attempt has been made to identify whether individuals mentioned in this collection are attested in any previously published texts. This is a testament to the depth of the editor's research, as the abundant prosopographical information preserved here is one of the primary benefits of the study.

It is clear that this publication is not simply aimed at Papyrological specialists. The focus on the historical importance of the texts will appeal to a wider audience, and should provide further insight into the social and economic history of Ptolemaic Egypt.