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## On the meaning of ΠΑΡΟΡΙΑ ΤΗΣ ΠΟΛΕΩΣ

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While reading POxy. XII 1475 in connection with a study of the « dry land » in Egypt (1) I noted with suspicion that in this context *παρόρια τῆς πόλεως* was translated by the editors as follows: « the adjacent areas of these buildings, open spaces, and orchard, when they are surveyed in one piece, being on the south the parts of the metropolis along the desert, on the north, etc. » (2). In connection with the study then under way I had drawn a sketch of the farm-plot which is the subject of that document. This farm included two parts, an eleven *aroura* plot of grain land with other land, and smaller section of 13/16 of an *aroura*, consisting of an orchard which had gone dry and some open spaces. The translation of the editors would necessitate the placing of a desert stretch south of this 13/16 *aroura* plot. This « desert stretch » would necessarily be bounded on the west by the 11 *aroura* grain plot, on the north by the orchard, on the east by the village Paimis, on the south by the city of Oxyrhynchus. An irrigation ditch would run through it (3). These surroundings of the smaller plot make clear the impossibility of locating any desert land there. *Παρόρια τῆς πόλεως* must therefore be taken in its natural meaning of « the space along the boundaries », and connected with *παρορίζειν* in BGU. II 616, 4 and 1094, 8 where the meaning of that verb is « to encroach upon the boundaries » of a farm. Compare also *διὰ τῆς τοῦ ὀρισμοῦ πορείας*

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(1) Published in *Classical Philology* XVII, 21–36 (January 1922).

(2) POxy. XII p. 227, translation of no. 1475, 21–22. Cfr. note to line 22.

(3) Ibid. l. 17.



in PAmh. II 97, 10 which is to be translated « as made clear by the course of the boundary delimitation » (1).

Παρόρια itself is used in the sense of « bordering upon » in O. G. I. 168, 56, *καὶ ἀυστήροις τόποις παρορίοις τῇ Αἰθιοπία* (2). The same meaning should be ascribed to *παρορίου* in PFlor. 50, lines 9 and 86, where a piece of vine land near Psobthos Chenarsiensis is described as being *ἐπὶ τῆς παρορίου*, i. e. in the space along the edge of the city boundaries. The editors have here adopted Crönert's suggestions, « terra quae sita est prope ἄρος (desertum) » (3). Crönert's idea of *παρόριος* as meaning « the desert » may have been erroneously derived from Wilcken's explanation, in *Archiv* I 165, of the phrase *ἄρους κώμης* in PLond. II 383, 7 (p. 325) meaning the part of the desert belonging to the village territory of the village Tapaithis. Wilcken's interpretation of *ἄρος* in that place as a derived meaning of « desert » instead of « mountain » (compare modern « Gebel ») is undoubtedly correct. But it must not be applied to *παρόρια*.

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(1) See PStrass. 31, 12, 17 and introduction.

(2) Cfr. line 18, *ἐπὶ τῆς συνορίας τῶν Αἰθιοπῶν*.

(3) PFlor. 50, 9 note.