

TWO PAPYRI FROM THE MICHIGAN COLLECTION¹

I

Private Letter

Inv. 3235

7.6 × 26 cm.

Middle of 2nd cent. B.C.

A yellowish papyrus, broken at the top. The left margin is approximately 0.5 cm., and at the bottom there is a space of 6 cm. Above the closing formula in line 26, 1.5 cm. have been left blank. The writing is along the fibers, and the verso is blank: traces of ink are visible in several places, but they do not seem to be writing.

On paleographical grounds, the papyrus should be dated to about the middle of the second century B.C. Cf. W. Schubart, *Griechische Palaeographie*, Abb. 13 (148/7 B.C.); idem, *Papyri Graecae Berolinenses*, Tab. 6a (137/6 or 149/8 B.C.).

The beginning of the letter is lost, and with it the names of addressor and addressee. The latter is a woman, possibly the sender's wife. The sender is unavoidably detained from returning home, and he asks the recipient to prepare to change domiciles; as soon as he returns, he plans to take her with him to another village, where, he says, "the people received me in a friendly fashion" (lines 23–25).

Traces of one line

πρὸ τοῦ παιδοτρίβο[υ]

παρειληφότα ἄπαγ-

¹ I should like to thank Professor H. C. Youtie for permission to publish these papyri.