

Two Documents From Tebtunis

These documents were uncovered by Grenfell and Hunt at Tebtunis during the excavations of 1899-1900.¹ They are currently housed in the Bancroft Library of the University of California at Berkeley. The first text is from those mounted and described by E. H. Kase, Jr., "Notes on the University of California Collection of Papyri," *TAPA* 70 (1940) xlv f.² It can be added to A.E. Hanson's list of documents dated to the reign of Augustus.³

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Conclusion Of A Letter

UC 2444

14.3 x 14.9 cm.

23 June A.D.6

This medium brown papyrus contains the conclusion of a letter with both side margins and that of the bottom preserved. The amount lost at the beginning cannot be determined; the top two lines are very badly preserved and little can be ascertained about their contents. Sense can be obtained from the middle of the third line onward. The letter contains a request for money and, because a visit is mentioned, perhaps personal assistance. The text is written in what could be called a spidery hand, with crudely formed letters, and is certainly not the work of a skilled writer. The spelling and grammar of what remains of the letter seem normal, although there is a least one case of asyndeton, and perhaps more. The writing is parallel to the fibers, and the back is blank.

¹I wish to thank Elbert Wall of the International Photographic Archive of Papyri for providing me with photographs and preliminary transcripts of these papyri, and the Bancroft Library of the University of California at Berkeley for permission to publish them. The first of these texts originally appeared in my doctoral dissertation presented to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1988 entitled *Select Papyri*. I wish to thank my committee members David Sansone, David F. Bright, and G. M. Browne for their helpful suggestions.

²Records are unclear but it may also bear the inventory number P.Tebt. frag. 21400-21401.

³In *BASP* 24 (1987) 100-02.