

Census Edict for Roman Egypt



DESCRIPTION	
<i>Language:</i>	Greek
<i>Medium:</i>	papyrus
<i>Size:</i>	21.3cm high 15.2cm wide
<i>Length:</i>	21 lines of writing
<i>Genre:</i>	Official Census Edict
<i>Date:</i>	104 CE
<i>Place of Discovery:</i>	Egypt
<i>Date of Discovery:</i>	c. 1905
<i>Current Location:</i>	British Museum, London
<i>Inventory Number:</i>	P.London 904



TEXT

GREEK TEXT

(from [Hunt & Edgar](#) 1934:108)

*(This is readable as Greek
if "Symbol" font is installed)*

ιαν απογραφης ενεστωσης αναγκαιον εστιν πασιν τοις καθ ηντινα δηποτε αιτιθη οικονομιαν της απογραφης πληρωσωσιν και τη προσηκουση αυτοις γεωργ

αντας τους ευλογον δοκουντας εχειν του ενθαδε επιμενιν αιτιαν απογραφεσθε
γκαιαν αυτων την παρουσιαν λημψονται κατα τουτο το παραγγελμα εντος τη

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was the role and status of the "Prefectus of Egypt" within the Roman Empire? How does this compare to the "Prefectus Alae"? Where does each of these fit on the Roman *cursus honorum*?
2. What does this edict indicate about the relationship between the city and the countryside and the state's right to control who stays in the city?
3. What functions did a census serve in the ancient world? How do these functions relate to the primary tasks/concerns of aristocratic empires? (Read 2 Samuel 24:1-25; Luke 2:1-7; Acts 5:37)
4. What role does the Roman census play in the narrative about Jesus' birth in Luke's gospel? What historical problems have been raised about the dating of that census?

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