

*Get this from a library! Counting the people in Hellenistic Egypt. Vol. 1, Population registers (P. count). [Willy Clarysse; Dorothy J Thompson].*

Over the period of 70 days, the time span required to mummify the deceased, Sakhminofret is taught by means of storytelling what a virtuous woman is supposed to do and what she is supposed to refrain from doing. The stories thus give advice and set the rules for her future life without Petese. In a dream, pharaoh learns that he will regain eyesight when he washes his face with the tears of a virtuous woman. The wives of the noblemen and the women in the royal harem are asked to provide pharaoh with their tears, but none is capable of curing pharaoh and thus none is as chaste as their husbands and pharaoh always presumed. There can be no doubt that the story shares its plotline with the Pheros story recounted in Herodotus 2. Here we might then have an opportunity to study how Herodotus borrowed and adapted authentic Egyptian narratives into his Histories. To whet our appetite, the editor announces a study that deals with this issue in more detail. Of section D, fragment D2 is most important, because it preserves the transition between two stories. It is indispensable for understanding how the embedded stories are fitted into the frame story. On each successive day, Sakhminofret is told a story by one of the baboons. The baboon introduces the story by its number in the sequence and by identifying its character a story of praise or scorn of women. The edition is well organized in an introductory essay on the structure and content of the Petese Stories and their relevance for the study of Egyptian literature. The second chapter gives a pertinent description of the manuscript including a physical description, a survey of orthographic peculiarities, a discussion of grammatical forms, an explanation of the relationship between the manuscripts P. The following two chapters, dealing with sections C and D respectively, are concerned with the transcription, translation, and commentary on the Demotic texts and, accordingly, take up most of the pages of the book. The edition ends with a short yet important chapter on the proper column sequence and nature of Papyrus Petese Tebt. The chapter also contains improved readings for some passages in P. Petese A and transcriptions of additional fragments not yet included in the publication. The glossary at the back of the book is well laid out and easy to use; the tracings of Demotic words are easily readable. Many of these words are unattested in W. The various terms used to describe female roles and types are particularly interesting. However fragmentary the manuscripts may be, they add considerably to our knowledge of the types and development of Egyptian narrative literature in the Late, Ptolemaic, and Roman Periods. By Willy Clarysse and Dorothy J. Volume 1, Population Registers P. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, ISBN 0 Willy Clarysse and Dorothy Thompson have been studying the census data and tax-registers of Ptolemaic Egypt for many years and the preliminary results of their research have appeared in a series of articles and conference papers. As a result, the publication of these two volumes has been eagerly awaited. Expectations will not be disappointed. This work represents a major contribution to our understanding of the social and economic history of Ptolemaic Egypt. Volume 1 contains the transliterations and translations of 54 Greek and Demotic papyri, which are numbered sequentially as P. They consist of census lists and tax registers, which will originally have been compiled in administrative offices at village level and above, possibly even at the nome capital. When the information they contained was no longer needed, they were discarded, REviews JEA 95 probably sold on to the funerary-workers and then reused as cartonnage for human and animal mummies. Consequently, it is in the cemeteries of Ptolemaic Egypt that the papyri were found and, in particular, those of the Fayyum. Forty-eight documents are from the Arsinoite nome P. Count 14, 49, 52, one from the Herakleopolite 45, three from the Oxyrhynchite 46, 8 and two from Rifeh in the Lykopolite 53, 4. They date to the second half of the third century bc 14, 10 and 15 may be a little later and the first half of the second 49. The administrative offices were bilingual. Ten texts are in Demotic; 44 in Greek. Some contain Greek and Demotic sections within the same record, e. Count 3 Greek on the back of P. Count 2 Demotic ; P. Count 47 Greek on the back of P. The material is obviously fragmentary, but some of the documents are still of considerable length. Count 23, for example, which is made up of four pieces two of which join, has sixteen columns of Demotic on the front, with a further seven of Demotic and ten of Greek on the back.

Numbered sequentially, there are lines of Demotic and of Greek. The papyri today are housed in collections in the Sorbonne 1â€”7 and 49 , Trier 8 and part of 50 , the Ashmolean 9â€”10 , Trinity College Dublin 11â€”21 , Vienna 22â€”44 , Berlin 45 , Jena 46â€”7 , Budapest 48 , Athens part of 50 , Berkeley 51â€”2 , and the Petrie Museum London 53â€”4. Some had previously been published 4â€”6, 11, 13â€”14, 16, 18â€”19, 22â€”3, 25â€”45, 51â€”2 ; others only partially 1â€”3, 12, 20, 24, A number are edited here for the first time 7â€”10, 15, 17, 21, 46â€”9, 53â€”4. In certain cases where texts are republished, the fragments have been cleaned, additional joins made and many new readings obtained e. Count 50, previously published fragments in Athens were identified as belonging to the same original text as unpublished papyri in Trier. Volume 2 begins with an overview of the material and then, in Chapter 2, looks at the operation of the census, its structure, its frequency, the officials responsible, and the administrative language and vocabulary deployed. The pre-Ptolemaic precedents are discussed and comparisons drawn with the *modus operandi* in Rome and later Roman Egypt, as well as other countries further afield. In analysing the data, the editors repeatedly point out that they are dealing with material that is fragmentary, localised to certain rural areas of the Fayyum a newly reclaimed area with high immigrant settlement and part of the Nile valley, and that also covers roughly only a hundred year period. One must keep all of this in mind when extrapolating from the figures to draw conclusions about Ptolemaic Egypt as a whole. It is from the reign of Ptolemy II Philadelphos that the first evidence for the census in operation survives as do the first salt-tax receipts. While the existence of a census *per se* can be traced back to earlier periods, what was new was its use primarily for fiscal purposes. The census records information according to household and occupational group and it is clear that it involves a total classification, not just of those subject to taxes. It was levied in cash and both men and women were liable only men had paid the yoke tax , as were livestock, but not children. Men and women paid different rates, but men also had to pay an additional one obol tax although there were exemptions. This was closely linked with the salt tax and was later subsumed within it. The payment for the salt tax was lowered over time, three different rates being attested for the period â€” bc our data break off after bc. For the period between â€” bc two separate rates appear side by side and it would appear that certain categories benefitted from this lower amount, but precisely who is still unclear the military may well have been one of the privileged categories. From bc, however, there was only one rate, although in the receipts for this period composite tax payments appear, with a variety of different taxes collected and paid with the salt-tax. From an early period certain groups were exempt and later on these categories were extended these are all discussed in detail in Chapter 5. The first step in the collection of the salt-tax was the establishment of the tax-registers, an operation that was comparable to the preparation of the land-survey. The actual division of labour between the two is not clearly defined in our sources. The registers were also used for the collection of other taxes these include the obol tax, the guard tax, and trade taxes, *inter alia*. Records are kept in both Demotic and Greek and it is only at nome level and above that Greek becomes the rule. It is estimated that the population of the nome around the middle of the century was in the range of 85â€”95, of whom only 4,, i. From these figures, calculations are made for the total population of Egypt, which it is estimated was not more than 1. The villages and hamlets were the basic units in the administrative tax system; these were then grouped into tax districts, which regularly contained around 2, adults but only had an administrative existence, and these, in turn, were grouped into larger tax areas, which may be identified with toparchies. In the Arsinoite nome there were perhaps four to five tax districts in a tax area, two tax areas in a *meris* perhaps more in the Herakleides *meris* and three *merides* in total. The information on settlement sizes is analysed and calculations made on the size of the average village and the number and distribution of villages perhaps between and , but that may be an underestimation. Chapter 5 uses the evidence from the registers to look at the population make-up of the villages. Certain groups enjoyed a privileged tax status because they helped to spread Greek culture. These included schoolteachers, athletic coaches *paidotribae* , and actors *technitae* of Dionysus. These tax-Hellenes were civilians the military was registered separately and included not only the new Greek settlers but also a few people with an Egyptian background who were granted this advantageous designation perhaps because of their role within the administration , as well as other non-Greek immigrants e. Information on the military groups within the nome is limited because the surviving tax registers with one exception are primarily

concerned with the civilian population. In total, it is estimated that up to one third of the total adult population in the Arsinoite nome belonged to the Greek sector, i. In addition, there are also the tax-privileged groups of Persians and Arabs. They were numerically very small and the reasons why they were so favoured are unclear. As well as what might loosely be called ethnic groups, there were also a number of occupational groups whose holders came to enjoy a special tax position. The discussion of each of these groups is extended to include not just their tax status, but also the precise meaning of the different titles e. Membership of an occupational group played a social as well as an administrative role, and might also offer a focus of personal identity. As the editors note, the range of occupations recorded implies a high degree of social and economic complexity. In Chapter 6 the operation of counting the livestock is addressed. Livestock, like people, were taxed and information on animals could also be used for other purposes, e. In the tax registers, we find pigs, cattle, sheep, goats, donkeys, horses, camels, and poultry. Discussed in detail are the different types of pig although the precise meaning of all the Demotic terms is not easy to determine, as well as cattle, sheep, and goats. Issues not only of taxation but also of stock-rearing are addressed. Pig-breeding was not new, but the arrival of the Greeks brought with it some changes different dietary expectations and the demands of their religion. Chapter 7 is concerned with the information that can be gleaned from the salt tax registers on family size, and the various patterns of family and household composition. The analysis is primarily based on a population of households containing 1, adults from the Arsinoite and Oxyrhynchite nomes in the second half of the third century. First, the evidence is discussed and the difficulties in interpretation highlighted definition of a household, assumptions made where the language is ambiguous, and so forth. Of particular note is the fact that the separation of cavalry cleruchs and veterans from the villagers allows us to see clearly that the name is a real distinguisher between Greek and Egyptians in the third century. Over half the population lived in units of one to three adults, with two adult households the most common, and only seven per cent all Greek in units of over ten. The presence of non-family members is a particular feature of the larger Greek households and they are concentrated primarily in the families of cleruchs and the military. The average size of a Greek family was larger than that of an Egyptian. While slaves constitute the largest group of non-kin Greek household members, they are nonetheless only present in a minority of homes.

**Chapter 2 : United Nations Statistics Division - Demographic and Social Statistics**

*Read Counting the People in Hellenistic Egypt: Volume 1 Population Registers (P. Count) Ebook. Autoplay. On Off.*

Counting the People has been long in the making, but it was definitively worth the wait. What we have here is an enormous and well-written body of scholarship by two leading scholars in the field on many aspects of the population of early Ptolemaic Egypt. Discussion ranges from the tiniest detail in straightening fibers in a papyrus document to an overall comparison of the Ptolemaic situation with that in other pre-modern societies, and everything in between. These volumes are a must-read for anybody interested in Ptolemaic Egypt, or the Hellenistic world at large. The first volume, which will be known as P. Count, is a first rate papyrological text edition. It re-publishes fifty-four Greek and Demotic papyri with facing English translations and informative commentaries. Many of the texts were published before, but their historical significance was not understood at the time. As usual, texts have to be put back into their contexts, and be compared to each other, in order to allow the best historical reconstruction to be made. Most texts come from the Fayum, but there are also a number of texts from other locales in Egypt. Taken together, these texts provide detailed information about the population of Ptolemaic Egypt that is discussed and analyzed in the second volume. The editors provide each text with an extensive introduction detailing the physical condition of the papyrus, its scholarly history, and the importance of the text for and its contribution to the present argument. Then follows the Greek or Demotic text with facing English translation, and a detailed line-by-line commentary. There are very few plates of the papyri in the volume itself. There are references to plates published before, however, and many texts are included in digital format on the companion website to the book, <http://> The texts, both Greek and Demotic, are written in small cursive scripts and largely preserved in fragments only. They are therefore not the easiest to decipher and the editors have really done a marvelous job, both in deciphering the unpublished texts, and in graciously correcting mistaken readings from earlier editors. The extensive commentaries contain many points of interest. Most significant are the numerous discussions of personal names, ranging from the regional significance of a name and its link to local deities, to naming patterns in families brought together in Chapter 8 of the second volume. Study of these personal names, and the patterns and traditions found in several families, is facilitated by an online prosopography on the companion website. What is interesting, and would warrant some more research outside of the scope of the present work, is the frequent re-use of these various registers, both for similar documents and for unrelated documents. Text 27, for example, a Greek composite tax-register for three villages B. On the back of text 6, there are remains of a register of land and crops in Demotic and a draft of a letter in Greek, dated to 13 July B. It would seem that these registers stayed in archives long enough to allow this re-use. Comparison with the re-use of texts in other government archives could yield some interesting information about the workings of the bureaucracy in early Ptolemaic Egypt. The second volume contains nine chapters presenting the historical analysis of the documents re-published in the first volume and their historical significance in the larger picture of pre-modern societies. It aims to "illuminate the means by which some of [Ptolemaic] wealth was acquired": The first chapter, "Ptolemies, taxes and papyri," presents the geographical and historical setting of Ptolemaic Egypt in the third and second century B. What it clearly shows, is that the Ptolemaic administration of especially the third century B. This is made clear, among others, by the variant use of Demotic and Greek in the same administration, and the lack of consistent and standardized forms for the documents and registers concerned. Chapter 2, "The census," gives an overview of the Ptolemaic census, its workings, and its uses. Counting people per household and occupation and counting animals was not new in Egypt and there are numerous indications for such a practice in Pharaonic Egypt; what was new was the fiscal use made of the counting, the extensive use of written records, and the use of Greek as recording language originally side-by-side with Demotic. There is no indication that the Ptolemaic census was a periodic operation like the Roman census. What the documents published in this volume suggest rather is that existing records were regularly updated to take account of changes in the population. The fact that local officials like the village scribe, who would be quite up-to-date with such changes, were very much involved in the process of counting the people, allows for such a non-formalized system to work; as remarked by the

authors in a later chapter, tax payers were names on the local level, but they became numbers on the nome level. Also unlike the Roman census, which used written declarations from household heads, the Ptolemaic census was rather the work of traveling officials who would take oral declarations, and work them into written reports and registers per household and per occupation. Personal census declarations do survive listed on page 22, but in insufficient numbers to allow definite conclusions about their role required or not in the census process. The third chapter, "The salt-tax and other taxes", discusses the most important tax, the salt tax, its rates presented in a table on page 45, and compares the salt tax with other Ptolemaic taxes that feature in the documents published in the first volume. This tax, and especially granting exemption from it, allowed the Ptolemaic state to make clear what features of society it thought important: army, police, and anything "Greek". Ptolemaic tax exemptions were given to people "not for who they were, but for the role they played in developing the new system". The more important the state perceived this role to be, the more likely it was to grant tax-privileges to them. Chapter 4, "Settlement in the Fayum", introduces the demographic geography of the Ptolemaic Fayum. It provides a clear picture of the average size of settlements in the Fayum, and sets these data against possible numbers for the population of Egypt as a whole. The population of the Fayum in the third quarter of the third century B.C. On this basis, one would expect the population of Egypt as a whole in this time to have been not more than 10 million. The second half of this chapter gives an important overview of the administrative topography of the Fayum, detailing what the documents teach us about villages and village sizes, see and tax districts compared to the system of merides in the Fayum. This information will be required reading for anybody trying to work out village networks in the Fayum. Chapter 5 is entitled "The people counted" and forms the core of the study. It gives an overview of the different tax categories found in the documents published in the first volume. It provides, although based on documents that are the workings of very bureaucratic minds, a lively overview of the people that made up the society of Ptolemaic Egypt, providing a much needed framework for reading contemporary documents such as petitions, letters, and legal documents. Although undoubtedly there will have been overlap between various categories for numerous individuals: Hellene and doctor, for example, the registers only account for a person under one category. All these formed, in the third century B.C. In the Fayum, this part of society may have accounted for more than thirty per cent of the total population, but this high percentage is undoubtedly the result of the intensive settlement of soldiers that took place in the Fayum. The final section of chapter five approaches Ptolemaic society from the occupational point of view by showing what people did for a living as far as listed in these tax registers, and by analyzing the differences in occupational breakdowns between various villages and tax districts. Overall, it is not surprising, that the main occupation of the population was agriculture. Nonetheless, Ptolemaic Egypt, it appears, was a "diversified community with a wide range of specialized activities. Several little interesting facts of Ptolemaic life are to be found, often hidden in the main argument. Here, I should mention the discovery of "Greek as second language" instruction, seemingly offered by Egyptians to Egyptians, and the difference in available vocabulary between Greek and Demotic, with Greek providing more specialized vocabulary in some areas, and Egyptian in others notably for priestly and temple functions, etc. Chapter 6, "Counting the animals", provides a short summary about the information that is to be gained from the documents about animal husbandry. In Ptolemaic Egypt, all animals, like adults, were taxed in various ways, and therefore needed to be counted at regular intervals. Especially interesting are the various terms, in Greek and Demotic, found to denote different kinds of animals, with again the noted differences in specialized vocabulary between both languages. Chapter 7, "Family matters", discusses the demographic data that can be gleaned from the documents. Although the Ptolemaic documents are less useful for such research than the Roman documents that include ages, we should not forget that the data found in these registers from Ptolemaic Egypt offer the most detailed picture for family and household structure for the classical and Hellenistic periods. The Ptolemaic texts allow some interesting vistas in Ptolemaic family and household life, and, especially, the differences between Greeks and Egyptians. The "Greek side of things" was notable in the Ptolemaic countryside, not only by receiving tax breaks, but also, more visibly, by difference in household size and complexity, slaveholding, and possibly, the exposure of girls. In discussing the family and household structures found in these texts, the authors use the same model used by Bagnall and Frier for the Roman period

The Demography of Roman Egypt allowing for easy comparison between both sets of data see especially ff. Chapter 8, "Naming the people", studies the 4, names that are found in the documents. The richness of these data allows to point at naming patterns in families and in geographical regions. Again, the fact that we here have Greek and Demotic documents allows the onomastic research to be brought further. Chapter 9, "Conclusion", finally, summarizes the most important conclusions reached in the book, and puts them in a wider historical perspective of both the Hellenistic and the later Roman world. An appendix that classifies the documents in several types, an extensive and broad bibliography, and an index of subjects conclude the book. This is, indeed, a wonderful piece of scholarship, setting the framework of Ptolemaic society, and providing future studies with a strong foundation to keep adding new material.

*This is the central question informing the historical studies of Volume II based on early Hellenistic taxation registers surviving on papyrus, which are published in Volume I. New light is shed on the taxation system, the occupational and demographic breakdown of the population, and relations between Greeks and Egyptians.*

Coordination arrangements between the population register and the civil registration and vital statistics systems paras. Thus, the population register is the product of a continuous process, in which notifications of certain events, which may have been recorded originally in different administrative systems, are automatically linked to it on a current basis. The method and sources of updating should cover all changes so that the characteristics of individuals in the register remain current. Because of the nature of a population register, its organization, as well as its operation, should have a legal basis. Depending on the possibility of proper linking with other registers, much additional information may be added to the single record, such as language s , ethnicity, educational attainment, parity, activity status and occupation. In order to be useful, any additional information must be kept up to date. If complete, population registers can produce data on both internal and international migration through the recording of changes of residence as well as the recording of international arrivals and departures. Main uses of the population register paras. The registers are also useful in other administrative areas, such as establishing personal identification, voting, education and military service, social insurance and welfare, and for police and court reference. Register information is also utilized for issuing documents needed for the admission of children to nurseries, kindergartens and schools and the assignment of residents to health clinics United Nations, , para. The use of the population register for vital statistical purposes entails linking events to the pertinent population at risk. The timeliness of the updating of the population register and the accuracy of the information recorded therein are thus factors critical to the quality of the statistics to be computed. The continuous and intensive administrative use of registers is an important means of ensuring their quality, since the everyday use of those registers in the society can facilitate the detection of errors. If the statistical and administrative functions of the population register are separated, an efficient system must be put in place to ensure perfect synchronization. In cases, where concerns about intrusion into the private lives of persons and about confidentiality risks may be spreading among the public, action should be undertaken to demonstrate the advantages of the system. Only widespread acceptance by the population can transform the population register into a reliable statistical source. Requirements of population register paras. Although the national population register may very well be a virtual entity based on the linkage of population registers established at the local level decentralized system , the overall geographical coverage must be of the entire territory of the country. If this condition is not met, the national population register will not be an appropriate system for the production of statistical data for the country. Statistics on population and vital events should refer to the usually resident population. While for administrative purposes it is certainly legitimate to include in the population register persons who are not usual residents of the country e. However, the right of stay in the country determining the legal or de jure population or the simple registration of persons who then make up the registered population should not be considered sufficient criteria for identifying the usually resident population for international statistical purposes. Appropriate efforts should be undertaken to identify the usually resident population. What is necessary is the coordinated linkage of the population register with any other register containing that information. These other registers may also be structured differently, for instance, they may have in their single records units other than individuals, or they may refer only to registers of subset s of the population, such as the employed, students and retirees. The more registers are linked, the higher the possibility that the timing of their updates may be a risk factor for the quality of the information. Care should be taken to synchronize the operation of updating across all registers concerned. A great advantage of computing vital statistics from population registers is the possibility of calculating directly specific demographic rates with potentially no numerator-denominator bias. This requires full matching between civil registration and population register data as well as the same level of detail of information in the two sources, meaning that the certificate of the event birth, etc. In general, the use of the population register

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provides a broader opportunity to correctly identify the population at risk of an event.

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