

JESHO 2 1000 @ 1/2 Gile ok 11325

30 October 1965

COMMUNAL ACCOUNTS OF BUILDING OPERATIONS

(Late Eleventh Century)

TS Misc. 8, f. 76 Med. Soc. ch. VIII C 3 App. A, no. 15
The term imāra, "building operation", was used even for repairs worth only one dirham. Item 3 on column IV proves clearly that this is an account of repairs and not of a new building. The month of Elul, which is referred to here, precedes the High Holidays. It stands to reason that the repairs were undertaken in preparation for the latter. The account is written on one page divided into four columns.

The handwriting is the same as in the documents listed in Med. Soc., ch. VIII C 4, Appendix B, nos. 13 and 18, which are from the late eleventh century. For the date of our account see also below notes 7, 9 and 10. It is analyzed in Med. Soc. vol. I, p. .
Column I

Beginning of the building: Monday, 11th Elul		
Bought: 120 loads of <u>tān</u> (earth and clay)	¹	36 dirhams
Payment to the man who brought them into the synagogue	²	3 "
5000 Bricks		20 "
Payment to the man who brought them in		2 "
	Total	61
5 Baskets		3 1/8
Lunch for masons and "runners"	³	5
Wages of 5 masons		29
Column II		
5 Runners and one runner sifting earth on (Tues)day	⁴	19
8 Waterskins of water (for the slaking of the lime)	⁵	5
A wrecker ...	⁶	1
	Total	62
Received against this from		
Abu 'l-Faraj the Clothier	⁷	51

Collection made by Umm Abū ^c Imrān ⁸	15 dirhams
R(abbi) Ṣedāqā al-Mutarjim	3
Ya ^c qūb b. Nahum ¹⁰	2

Total	71
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Balance - Loan taken for the repairs	52
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Column III

Thursday, 14th

Wages of two masons	13
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Wages of two runners	7 $\frac{1}{4}$
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Two skins of water	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
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Bricks, their transport and their placement (in the court of the synagogue) ¹²	4
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Received against this from the elder Abu 'l-Faraj b. Ma(h)būb ¹³	5
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Balance - Loan taken for the repairs	21
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Column IV

Friday, 15 Elul

Two masons	14
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Their lunch	1
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A runner recovering bricks from the earth ^h strik	3
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A watercarrier	2
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3 runners and their lunch	11
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Total	31
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Against this received (from) the elder Abu 'l-Faraj the Clothier	10
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Balance-Loan	21
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Until Friday, 15th Elul, there remained a debt of ninety four dirhams on the repairs.

NOTES

1. See vol. II, ch. VA 3, n. 111.
2. The transport was included in the price, but the materials had to be unloaded and placed in the synagogue court.
3. Normally, runners received no lunch, see ch. II(3), p. . In column IV, a mason's lunch amounted to $\frac{3}{2}$ dirham only.
4. Could be also (Wednes)day. The word was omitted by the scribe.
5. There is a hole in the manuscript, filling a space of 2-3 letters, followed by nwr', the whole to be read perhaps lil-nura, "for the slaking of lime", although in the Geniza jir is normally used for lime.
6. The letters dr(...).s'm, perhaps to be read: daraj al-infisam, "of the staircase of the ruined building."
7. Known as a notable from a document dated July 1103, TS 13 J 2, f. 10.
8. A lady. Her name means "the mother of Moses".
9. His full name was Ṣedaqa ha-Kohen b. David al-Mutarjim, Bodl. ms. Heb. b3, f. 26 (Cat. 2806, no. 24) (N 158). He contributed 11 qirats and a habba to a public appeal, TS Misc. 8, f. 102, II, l. 6, and appears in the list NSJ 315.
10. An important merchant. TS 13 J 25, f. 8 (N 183) is a long letter of his sent from Tripoli, Libya, to Nahray b. Nissim. In TS 8 J 18, f. 27 (N 119), l. 13, he sends large sums of gold to the same. In TS 12.373, l. 9, he himself transports dinars from Alexandria to Fustat.
11. The balance was covered from revenue from pious foundations, since the special funds donated for the repairs proved to be insufficient. Had a loan been contracted, the creditor would have been mentioned, as was done in other public accounts.
12. An additional, small amount of bricks was needed. Here, the administrator arranged himself for the transport.
13. This Abu 'l-Faraj might well be identical with Abu 'l-Faraj the Clothier, mentioned in columns II and IV. For the excruciating habit of the Geniza scribes to refer to one and the same person in different ways see vol. II, p. . Here, too, we see that the epithet "the elder" is given to Abu 'l-Faraj in column IV, but not in II, where we would have expected it more.