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Nikolaos Gonis

SIX DOCUMENTARY FRAGMENTS FROM OXFORD COLLECTIONS

The fragments published below come from groups of papyri bought in Egypt in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and now kept in Oxford collections. 1–2, 4 and 6 belong to the Egypt Exploration Society, and are housed in the Papyrology Rooms, Sackler Library; 2, 4 and 6 come from the collection from which the miscellany published in P. Herm. also came, while 1 is part of a much smaller collection, consisting of very fragmentary papyri of miscellaneous character and date. 3 and 5 belong to the collection of the Bodleian Library.1

1. RECEIPT FOR GOLD (FIG. 1)

The left-hand part of a receipt for three and two-third grams of 'pure gold' (bullion); no provenance is stated, but there are indications that the papyrus comes from Oxyrhynchus, see below 1 n. and 7 n. Comparable docu-

1 I am grateful to the Egypt Exploration Society and the Keeper of Western Manuscripts of the Bodleian Library for permission to publish these papyri and reproduce their images.

Abbreviations used:

CLRE = R. S. BAGNALL, A. CAMERON, S. R. SCHWARTZ, K. A. WOP, Consuls of the Later Roman Empire, Atlanta 1987;

ments are relatively few: *P. Mert. I* 31 (307), *P. Col. VII* 138 (307–8), 139–140 (308), all four from Karanis; *P. Mich. XV* 725 (Arsinoite?2 IV); *P. Oxy. XLIII* 3120 (Oxyrhynchus; 310); SB XIV 11885 (Hermopolis; 329); cf. also *P. Sakaon* 27 (Theadelphia; 312–29).


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(EES) P. Misc.inv. III 8a

5.5 x 7.5 cm Early fourth century

(Dionúçios χρυσοτειχων [eç
gynê 'Artemidôrôn [papêõçëc eïc tò eùn oñpêhênaı (?)

4 τòu kyriou mou diaçetô[μοτάç\nu
χρυσον καθαρον γράµµατα τρία δìµoîron,
γύνονται γρ(άµµατα) γà δìµερος. (έτονç) i .

Δ âutòs eçêµiâøìe meat.

2.1. ynanaii 6.1. dìµoîron || 7.1. eçêµiâøìe ai

Translation

Dionysios, goldsmith, to ... wife of Artemidoros ... You supplied for the compulsory purchase of (? gold) ... my lord the perfectissimus ... three and two-third grams of pure gold, total 3 (and) two-third grams. Year 10+ ... I, the same (Dionysios), have signed ...
Commentary

1. χιυος (or χιυος, though this form has not been found in any text from Oxyrhynchus). Cf. P. Oxy. XLIII 3120.1. Other such documents attest liturgical officials involved in tax collection: τετεσφόρωι feature in the Karanis texts, an ἀποδέκτης in P. Mich. XV 725, and an ἀποδέκτης in SB XIV 11885.


3-5. Cf. P. Oxy. XLIII 3120.5-9 παρέξεξαίται εἰς τὸ δημόσιον ὑπὲρ εὐνωνής λι(τρών) κη χρυσ(οῦ) κατὰ κέλευσιν τοῦ διασημ(οτάτου) ἱεροκλέως.


4. τοῦ κυρίου μου διασημ(οτάτου). The reference could be to a prefect, cf. P. Oxy. 3120.7, or perhaps only by χρυσοῦ. After that, there might have stood κατὰ κέλευσιν, governing the genitives in l. 4, cf. P. Oxy. 3120.8. But it is doubtful that all this could fit into the break (and there is no evidence that abbreviations were used): seventeen letters appear to be lost in l. 5, which seems complete as restored.

4. τοῦ κυρίου μου διασημ(οτάτου). The reference could be to a prefect, cf. P. Oxy. XLIII 3120.8-9 (cited above, 3-5 n.), or P. Heid. IV 333.A.2-3, B.7-8, C.7-8 (310), but this is not the only possibility: P. Panop. Beatty 2.216 (300) refers to a coemptio of gold following the directives of a rationalis, who is styled διασημ(οτάτος καθωλικός). The fragmentary P. Mich. XV 725 may cite the orders of a procurator (ἐπίτροπος), but the use of the epithet διασημότατος, not attested for procuratores in this period, makes it less likely that such an official was mentioned here.

6. δίμερος, l. δίμοιρον. A unique spelling; only the later P. Flor. III 307.13, 26 δίμερον, and P. Grenf. II 105.4 δίμερον(υ), may be seen as parallels. (ἔτους) l. [. This is likely to be a regnal year of Galerius, which would have been followed by a regnal year of Maximinus. The earliest receipt of this kind is P. Merr. I 41 of 307 (Year 16 Galerius = 4 Maximinus).
7. ὅ αὐτὸς κεκημίωμε (l. -μείωμα). The expression seems peculiar to Oxyrhynchite texts of the third and fourth centuries; cf. P. Oxy. XLIII 3107.11 (238), XLIV 3181.8 (251/2), XII 1509.7 (IV), PSI III 201.6 (327), VII 784.4 (362), P. Laur. IV 70.8, 12, 16, 20, etc.

At the end of the line perhaps restore χ[ρ(υσώ) γρ(άμματα) γ β], cf. P. Oxy. 3120.15.

2. FOOT OF A DOCUMENT (FIG. 2)

The nature of the original document cannot be determined; that it was a petition is one possibility (contracts most often have the date clause at the top, petitions at the foot). The papyrus could be of Hermopolite origin, given that most of the items of known provenance in the collection to which it belongs come from that area; but the collection includes texts from other places too.

The back is blank.

Translation

In the consulship of our masters Constantinus Augustus for the sixth time and Constantinus, nobilissimus Caesar, for the first time, Epeiph 20.

Commentary

1–2. On the consulship, see CLRE 174–175, and CSBE III 179.

3. WRITING PRACTICE

This is a curious piece: a scribe wrote a part of a consular dating clause, and nothing else; then a piece was cut from the original sheet, and someone else
wrote, upside down in relation to the *textus prior*, a formula of address, apparently a writing practice. On the back there are abraded traces of two lines.

The interest of this piece is prosopographical: it attests a new Arsinoite προπολιτευόμενος, Fl. Posidonius.

(Bodl.) MS. Gr. class. d 36b (P)\(^3\) 6.6 x 4.8 cm 353\(^2\)

\[\text{υπατιας των δεποτ[ων ημων Κωνσταντιου} \]
\[\text{'Αγγοιστου το \(\varepsilon\)' και Κωνσταντιου του} \]

At 180 degrees:

(m.2) Φλαουιω Ποσιδωνι[ψ]
4 προπολιτευομεινω
'Αρσινοτου

3. υπατιας 1. υπατειας 2. αυ γουστου 1. αυγοιστου 1. 6.1. προπολιτευομεινω

*Translation*

In the consulship of our masters Constantius Augustus for the 6th time and Constantius.

(2nd hand) "To Flavius Posidonius, *propoliteuomenos* of the Arsinoite ..."

*Commentary*

1–2. On the consulship, see CLRE 241, and CSBE\(^2\) 186. The clause will have continued ἐπιφανεστάτου Καίσαρος τὸ \(\beta\)' but this was probably not written on the papyrus. It is less likely that one has to restore the consular pair of 320, viz. τῶν δεποτ[ων ημών Κωνσταντιου] 'Αγ' γοιστου το \(\varepsilon\)' [και Κωνσταντιου του (ἐπιφανεστάτου Καίσαρος το \(\alpha\)'); in consular formulas of 320, Constantine is not styled Αὐγοιστος but Σεβαστος (in P. Fell. I 37.15 restore Σεβαστοι, not Αὐγοιστοι, cf. P. Fell. I 21.24 and 52.8).

3–5. See above, introd., and generally K. A. Worp, *'Αρεαντες and πολιτευόμενοι in Papyri from Graeco-Roman Egypt*, ZPE 115 (1997), pp. 201–220. On the assumption that the text dates to 353, this is the latest attestation of the term προπολιτευόμενος in an Arsinoite document.

\(^3\) The papyrus was presented to the Bodleian Library by A. C. Headlam in August 1895.
4. TOP OF A DOCUMENT (FIG. 3)

Nothing can be said about the nature of the original document. For its provenance, see above, 2 introd. The back is blank.

(EES) P. Misc.inv. II 179b

17.5 x 3.6 cm

380

μετὰ τὴν ὑπατείαν Αὐσονίου καὶ Ἐρμογενιανοῦ τῶν λαμπροτάτων ἐπάρχων

2.1. Ἐρμογενιανοῦ

Translation

After the consulship of Ausonius and Hermogenianus, vīri clarissimi, praefecti ...

Commentary

1. On the consulship of D. Magnus Ausonius and Q. Clodius Hermogenianus Olybrius, praefecti praetorio, see CLRE 648–9, and CSBE2 190. The version of the postconsular formula in our text recurs in the Hermopolite P. Strab. VIII 749.1, which continues τοῦ ἱεροῦ [πραιτ]ωρίου. Another instance of this postconsulate is furnished by CPR VII 19.1 (6.v.380), which is also Hermopolite but attests a different formulation: [μετὰ τὴν ὑπατείαν Αὐσονίου καὶ Ὁλβρίου τῶν λαμπροτάτων] ἐπάρχων.

5. SALE OF WINE ON DELIVERY (FIG. 4)

Only the lower part of the document has survived, and most of the details of the transaction are lost; we are only told that Aurelius Pekysis has agreed to deliver the wine to the buyer in the month of Mesore in an eighth indiction. Aurelius Chrestos son of Ioannes, who writes on behalf of Pekysis, and the notary Menas are known from SB VIII 9876, a Hermopolite μιθαποχή of 534.

The literature on this type of document is extensive; see in the latest instance É. Jakab, “Wo gärt der verkaufte Wein?” Zur Deutung der Wein-
lieferungskäufe in den graeco-ägyptischen Papyri”, in: Symposion 1997 (2001), pp. 295–318, with references. For discussion of the clauses found in Hieracleopolite documents of this kind, see N. Kruit, “Local Customs in the Formulas of Sales of Wine for Future Delivery”, ZPE 94 (1992), pp. 173–175. P. Coll. Youtie II 93 (V/VI) and SB XVI 12639 (541) offer close parallels to our text; compare also P. Select. 2 (VI, cf. BL V 64 and IX 152), and SB VI 9593 (VI/VII).

The back is blank.

Bodl. MS. Gr. class. f 34 (P)

13.9 x 15.3 cm 528/97

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... I shall repay you in the month of Mesore, from the vintage of the eighth indiction, without delay. If there were to be found any sour or (musty) smelling wine from the same wine, until the month of Tybi of the same year, (I agree) to change (it) and provide you with suitable (wine), (payable) from all my belongings; and in reply to the formal question I assented.

Translation

... I shall repay you in the month of Mesore, from the vintage of the eighth indiction, without delay. If there were to be found any sour or (musty) smelling wine from the same wine, until the month of Tybi of the same year, (I agree) to change (it) and provide you with suitable (wine), (payable) from all my belongings; and in reply to the formal question I assented.

---

4 The papyrus was purchased from B. P. GRENFELL in 1895.
I, Aurelius Pekysis, son of Aiekos, the aforementioned — the document satisfies me as aforesaid. I, Aurelius Chrestos, son of Ioannes, wrote on his behalf because he is illiterate.

Through me, Menas, the completion was made.

Commentary

2. ἀπόδοειν ... ποιήεισθαι. The collocation is common in the Roman period, but seems to have fallen out of favour with scribes in later times (W. Chr. 281.16, of 368/9, offers the latest instance before this).


3. ογδοήε ἱνδ(ικτίωνοε). The reference is to the fiscal indiction, which started on 1 May 529; see CSBE 148.

4. ιζζάριον. This is wine with a musty or mouldy odour. N. Kruit, ‘The Meaning of Various Words Related to Wine’, ZPE 90 (1992), p. 267, argues that the term ‘is best translated’ as ‘moldy tasting wine’; but we need a word that reflects the etymology of the term, referring to the smell of the wine (cf. H. Maehler, BGU XII 2176.1 n., on διζάμενος (scil. οίνος), rendered ‘muffig riechend’).

6. άξ υπαρχόντων μου πάντω. This collocation is otherwise attested only in Arsinoite documents. It is normally part of the kyria-clause, which sometimes is omitted; see G. Fantoni, CPR XIV 3.17 n. It indicates that the buyer of the wine has the right of execution upon the property of the seller, if the latter fails to deliver what he has promised.

7. Αιεκου. The name appears to be new (note that the first letter is not π).

8-9. Αὐρήλιος Χρήστος Ιωάννου. Cf. SB VIII 9876.20–21 (534) Αὐρήλιος Χρήστος Ιωάννου ἀφ’ Ἡρακλέους πόλεως ἔγραψε ὑπέρ αὐτῶν ἄγραματον ὄντων. A descendant of this person may occur in P. Köln III 158.30–32 (599) Αὐρήλιος Χρήστος ἀφ’ Ιωάννου ἀφ’ Ἡρ’ Ἀκλέους πόλεως ἔγραψε ὑπέρ αὐτῶν ἄγραμτον [αὐτῶν].

10. di em[us] Mena etelesth. The notary is the same as the one identified as Herakl. 12.2.1 by J. Diethart & K.A. Worp, Notarunterschriften im byzantinischen Ägypten (MPER XVI), Wien 1986, p. 56, on the basis of SB VIII 9876.23 of 534. In that text, the Latinate subscription is followed by δι’ εἰμοῦ Μηνᾶ and notarial flourishes; flourishes are used here too, though more sparingly.

etelesth. After the third ε, the notary apparently wrote te; the upper part of ι is a later addition, while the putative ε remained unaltered, though it could
be seen as performing the role of a linkstroke (otherwise, read *etelesth*). *etelesth* should be read in SB 9876.23 too. *Ed. pr.* read *έτελεψε θη*, changed to *esmieth* by P. J. Sijpesteijn, ‘Nachlese zu Wiener Texten’, ZPE 50 (1983), p. 134 with n. 9, and taken over to Byz. Not. (*esmieth*) is common in Arsinoite notarial signatures, but has occurred only once in a Heracleopolite document, viz. SB VI 9590.28 [Byz. Not. Herakl. 10.2.1], of the seventh [or early eighth?] century. In place of *smi* I read *tel* (cf. Byz. Not. Taf. 20; *e* may have an irregular shape, but *s* is impossible, and *l* clear enough); after that, *ei* rather than *io*, and then *θη* (or *ib*, if one reckons with an idiosyncratic *t*). Besides the texts signed by Menas, *etelesth* occurs only in two Oxyrhynchite signatures, both of them of the same notary (Byz. Not. Oxy. 18.2.1–2).

6. TOP OF A DOCUMENT (FIG. 5)

The nature of this document is not known, though it is conceivable that it was a contract. If it comes from Hermopolis, which is likely but not certain (cf. above, 2 introd., and below, 2–3 n.), this would be the first text from this area to attest a consular clause of Heraclius. Unfortunately, the damage makes it impossible to tell which regnal and consular years were meant.

The back is blank.

(EES) P. Misc.inv. II 211b

11.4 x 6.6 cm

611–19?

† ἐν ὄνοματι τῷ Ἁγίῳ καὶ ζωοποιῷ καὶ ὄμοουιν Τριάδος

Πατρὸς καὶ Υἱοῦ καὶ Αἴγου Πνεύματος,

βασιλείας τοῦ θεωρητοῦ καὶ γαληνοτάτου καὶ θεοτεφός ἡμῶν

[δεσπότου Φλαουίου] Ἡρακλείου τοῦ

αἰώνιον Ἀμυντοῦ Αὐτοκράτορος καὶ μεγίστου εὐεργής[έ]τοι έτοίμος

καὶ μετὰ τῆν ὑπατείαν τοῦ

4 αὐτού εὔεβεστάτου ἡμῶν δεσπότου ε.[

Translation

In the name of the holy and life giving and consubstantial Trinity, Father and Son and Holy Spirit. In the reign of our most godly and most serene and
god-crowned master, Flavius Heraclius, the eternal Augustus, Imperator, and greatest benefactor, year \(n\), after the consulship of our same most pious master...

**Commentary**

1-2. The *invocatio* belongs to the formula classified as of type 2E; see now *CSBE* 2 100, 103-104, 291-292.

2-3. For this regnal formula of Heraclius (no. 7), attested exclusively in the Thebaid, see now *CSBE* 2 269. Its earliest occurrence is in *CPR* IX 35 of 21.v.613. Its absence from documents dating to the period 629-41, if not an accident, may offer an indication that the text antedates the Persian conquest of Egypt.


4. ε ['. The traces would admit either τ, that is, ἐτὸς, which would imply that the text dates to the first postconsular (and second regnal) year of Heraclius (25.vi – 24.vii.612), or π, which would suggest ἔτη εἰσέφυ or ἔτη αγομένων.

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Fig. 1. Receipt for gold ([EES] P. Misc. inv. III 8a)

Fig. 2. Foot of a document ([EES] P. Misc. inv. II 99a)
Fig. 3. Top of a document ([EES] P. Misc. inv. II 179b)

Fig. 4. Sale of wine on delivery ([Bodl.] MS. Gr. class. f 34 [P])

Fig. 5. Top of a document ([EES] P. Misc. inv. II 211b)