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## Some byzantine papyri from the British Library

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Pieter J. Sijpesteijn

SOME BYZANTINE PAPYRI  
FROM THE BRITISH LIBRARY\*

1. P. Lond. III 1017

The text is complete at the bottom, at the left side and partly so at the right side. Five vertical folds are still visible.

Hermopolis

13.8 x 10 cm.

Vith century A.D.

(→)

traces

]. χρυσου νομισματα τέσσαρα

ἡμισυ παρὰ κεράτιλα ἕξ [ζυγῶ]

4 Ἐρμοῦ πόλεως, γίνεταί χρυσοῦ νομισματα δ L παρὰ  
κεράτια) s,

ὄνπερ χρυσικὸν φόρον ἀπ[ο-]

δώσω σοι ἐν τῷ Τῦβι [μην]ῖ

κατ' ἔτος ἀνυπερθέτος. [ἦδε] ἡ

8 μίσθω[σι]ς κυρία καὶ βεβ[α]ία

καὶ ἐπερωτηθεὶς ὁμολόγησα.

Αὐρήλιος Θεοδοσίος Πατρικοῦ

ὁ προκ(είμενος) μ[ε] μίσθωμαι ὡς πρόκειται.

12 (2nd hd.) † Αὐρήλιος Ἐλισαῖος Καλλινίχου

ἀπὸ Ἐρμοῦ πόλεως ἀξι(ωθεὶς) ἔγραψα ὑπὲρ [α]ὐ(τοῦ)

γράμματα μὴ εἰδότες. (3rd hd.) † Α(ὐρήλιος) Φοιβά-

μῶν Καλλινίχου ἀπὸ Ἐρμ-

\* I wish to thank Mr. T.S. PATTIE for his kind permission to publish these texts here.

- 16 οὐ πόλ(εως) μαρτυρῶ τῇ μισθώ-  
σει(ς) ἀκούσας παρὰ τοῦ θε-  
μένου †. (4th hd.) † Αὐρήλιος Πέτρος  
Θεοδώρου ἀπὸ Ἑρ(μοῦ) π'(όλεως) μαρτυρῶ τῇ μισθώσει  
20 ἀκούσας παρὰ τοῦ θεμένου †.  
[δ]ι' ἔμμου

Verso:

[† μίσθωσις Θεοδοσίου Πατρικοῦ ] τοῦ Ἑρ(μοπολίτου)  
φόρου(ν) χρ(υσοῦ) νο(μισμάτια) δ' ἅ(παρὰ) κ(εράτια) s †.

3. ἥμισυ 7. ἀνυπερθέτως 9 ὁμολόγησα 12. Καλλινίκου 13. ἐμμου pap.

“— — — four and a half gold nomismatia minus six keratia on the standard of Hermupolis, total 4½ gold nomismatia minus 6 keratia which rent in gold I shall pay you yearly in the month of Tybi without delay. This lease is valid and secure and in answer to the formal question I gave my consent. I, Aurelios Theodosios son of Patrikos, the afore mentioned, have leased as written above. (2nd hd.) † I, Aurelius Elisaios son of Kallinikos from Hermupolis have at his request written for him, since he does not know letters. (3rd hd.) † I, Aurelius Phoibammon son of Kallinikos from Hermupolis have signed the lease having heard it from the one who took it †. (4th hd.) † I, Aurelius Petros son of Theodoros from Hermupolis have signed the lease having heard it from the one who took it †. Through me - - -”

Verso:

“† Lease of Theodosios son of Patrikos - - - - of the Hermupolite nome at a rent of 4½ gold nomismatia minus 6 keratia †.”

Only the lower part of a lease taken by Aurelius Theodosios son of Patrikos has been preserved. Numerous similar leases from the Hermopolite nome have come down to us (cf., e.g., *BGU XII*). As usual in this time (cf. J. HERRMANN, *Studien zur Bodenpacht im Recht der gräko-ägyptischen Papyri*, München 1958, 91 ff.) the lease was for more than 1 year only. The reason to publish this text is — abstraction made of the prosopographical data it provides — the fact that it has been incorrectly described on p. LIII of *P. Lond.* III.

## 2. P. Lond. III 1031

The text is only complete at the left (there is a small free margin of 0.5 cm.) and partly so at the right. The other side is blank.

Provenance unknown

17.5 x 6.2 cm.

VIth/VIIth century A.D.

(→)	[ὕπὲρ] λάχ(α)να	λαχάνων
	ὕπὲρ καρακάλια	νομισ<μά>τια ἱβ̄,
4	νομισ(μά)τια β̄ καὶ	καρακαλλίων
	γράμμα, ὑπὲρ ἀν-	ἀννωνῶν
	ωνῶν β̄ξ, ὑπὲρ	
8	ἡνάριν νομισ(μά)τια	οἶναρίου
	γ̄, ὑπὲρ ἀνδρ[ι]ά[ν-]	
	τος νομ[ισ(μά)τια ,]	
	ὕπὲρ ἐλέου [νομισ(μά)-]	ἐλαίου
	τια β̄, ὑπὲρ [ ]	
12	ρια νομισ(μά)τια β̄,	]ρίων
	ὕπὲρ τῆς ἕκτης	
	εἰνδικτίονος οἶν[ου]	ἰνδικτίονος
	νομισ(μά)τια δ̄, ὑπὲρ[ρ]	
16	τῆς ἕκτης εἰνδικ[τί-]	ἰνδικτίονος
	ονος ἐλέ[ου νο-]	ἐλαί[ου]
	μισμάτια [ ,]	
	ὕπὲρ τῆς [ἕκτης ]	
20	εἰνδικτί[ονος ]	ἰνδικτί[ονος
	κανών[ος νο-]	
	μισμάτι[α ,]	
	ὕπὲρ ἠβισ[ νομισ-]	[νομισ]μάτιον
24	μάτια ᾱ, [ὕπὲρ	
	].ικα..[	

6. ὑπὲρ: υ ex ν 14 εἰνδικτίονος: κ ex ο 15. νομισ<μά>τια: σ ex α  
20. εἰνδικτί[ονος: κ ex ο (?)

The purpose of this list of payments, described on p. LIII of P. Lond. III, escapes us. We might be dealing with (a draft of) a list of expenses of an estate. The heading, now lost together with the upper part of the papyrus, probably stated the reason for these payments.

Interesting is the way the scribe writes νομισ(μά)τια in the first part of this papyrus. Starting in lines 17-18 he writes this word correctly but not without difficulties: in lines 17-18 the second  $\mu$  is corrected from  $\tau$  and/or  $\iota$ ; in lines 21-22 from  $\tau\iota$ .

3. *καρακάλια*: = hoods. Cf. S. DARIS, *Il lessico latino nel Greco d'Egitto*, Barcelona 1971, 50.

5-6. *ἀνωνῶν*: cf. J. GASCOU, *Les grands domaines, la cité et l'état en Egypte byzantine*, "Travaux et Mémoires" 9, Paris 1985, passim. Ibidem, passim for *κανών* (or *κανωνικῶν* = *κανονικῶν*?). After *ἀνωνῶν νομισμάτια* may have fallen out.

14. Perhaps *ὑπὲρ* has fallen out in front of *οἴνου*. Cf. also lines 17 and 20.

### 3. P. Lond. II 446

The text is regularly cut off at all sides. The other side is blank. Four vertical folds are still visible. At 2.2 cm. of the left border there is a *κόλλησις*. Free margins: at the top 1 cm., left 1.5-2 cm.; at the bottom 14 cm.

Provenance unknown

25.5 x 10.5 cm.

Vth century A.D.

- (→) Ἀκουσίλ(αος)  
 Ἰσάκ  
 Καναῦ  
 4 Παμῖς  
 Ἀπολλῶς Σ.ιντόου  
 Ἡρων Ἡοῦτος  
 Μέλας Ἀγνίωνος  
 8 Σαρμάτης Λεωντίου  
 Πιτῖ Ἀιοῦς  
 Ἀνῖνος Ἀγάθου  
 Ἐρμίας Ἀλίτη  
 12 Μάρων Ἀμιάτος  
 [Σα]ρμάτης Ἐκύσεως  
 [Ἄ]γαθος Ἀννευούτος

A list of names, described on page XXXIX of *P. Lond. II*. Since the text has no heading, we cannot establish its object. The list might have been prepared in advance to note down afterwards the performance/payment of the persons listed. The first 4 persons are listed without their fathers name.

5. Σ. *ιντόου*: no name ending in *ίντοος* is known to me. The second letter may be an omikron.

9. Πιτῖ: perhaps the ending *-τις* was changed into *-τι* under influence of Coptic (cf. G. HEUSER, *Die Personennamen der Kopten*, Leipzig 1929, 89).

11. Ἀλῆτη: we may be dealing with a so-called short genitive of the known proper name Ἀλῆτις. Read: Ἀλῆτι.

#### 4. P. Lond. III 875a

The papyrus, marred by holes, is complete at all sides. The text has been cancelled by drawing lines through it. The other side is blank. At the right side the lines do not reach to the border.

Described on page XLII of *P. Lond. III*.

Oxyrhynchite nome

31 x 6 cm.

Vth century A.D.

(→) τῶν ἀπὸ Ἐξαρχήσεως [..]ομέ[ν]ων β ἔδεξάμην παρὰ Ἀγενίω  
 γεούχου εἰς τρ[ο]φήν χοίρων  
 πεντεκαιδεκάτης ἰνδ[ι]κτ[ί]ο[ς] κριθῶν ἀρ(τάβας) ἑκατὸν πεντή-  
 κοντα, κρι[(θῶν) (ἀρτάβαι)] ρν<sup>ρ</sup> μό(να).  
 Θῶθ σ ιε ἰν(δικτίονος) Ἀγενίω δι(ὰ) Μακαρίου προν(σητοῦ)  
 Μούχεως κρι(θῶν) (ἀρτάβας) ρν, ἑκατὸν πεντήκοντα μέτρῳ  
 4 .. σεσημείω[μαι]

4 σεσημείω[μαι]

“The 2 arrived from Exarchebis (?), we have received from the landowner Agenio to feed the pigs during the fifteenth indiction a hundred and fifty artabas of barley, 150 artabas of barley only. Thoth 6 of the 15th indiction. I, Agenio, through Makarios, supervisor of Muchis, have signed 150, a hundred and fifty artabas of barley with the --- measure.”

This text contains a receipt for 150 artabas of barley received by two persons from the landowner Agenio. The barley serves to feed pigs during a fifteenth indiction.

1. Probably the nominative is intended and the singular *ἔδεξάμην* to be explained by the fact that one person speaks for both of them (it seems less likely that *δέχομαι* presents here an active aorist: *ἔδεξάμην* = *ἔδέξαμεν*; cf. B. G. MANDILARAS, *The Verb in the Greek Non-Literary Papyri*, Athens 1973, §316). The alternative is to assume that the dative is

intended and that an unnamed person directs his declaration to these two persons which seems less likely.

It is to be regretted that the papyrus is damaged exactly at this point. It seems that the 2 persons have arrived from somewhere else in Muchis (?; cf. note to line 3). Neither a locality with the name Ἐξάρχησις (?) nor one name Ἄρχησις (?) (assuming that a double preposition was used) is known to me. The beginning of the participle is mutilated (the first letter may be ε or δ. ἐ[ρχ]ομ[έ]ν[ω]ν is a possibility but we expect an aorist). It does not help to assume that a proper name or a substantive lurks behind the letters ἐξάρχησεως. It seems most likely that we are dealing with a to date not yet attested locality (in the Oxyrhynchite nome?).

Ἄγενίω: also in line 3. The same name in *P. Oxy.* XVI 2058, 140.

For pigs in the papyri, see M. SCHNEBEL, *Die Landwirtschaft im hellenistischen Ägypten*, München 1925, 328 ff.

2. The δ of ἰνδ[ι]κ[τ]ρί[ο]νος is raised. At first the scribe wanted to abbreviate this word.

3. Θὼθ σ: September 3/4. We are dealing with an advance payment. In the Oxyrhynchite nome the indiction started on Thoth 1 (cf. R. S. BAGNALL – K. A. Worp, *The Chronological Systems of Byzantine Egypt*, "Studia Amstelodamensia" VIII, Zutphen 1978, 26 f.).

After Ἄγενίω 4.5 cm. have been left free. Probably the scribe intended to add a further qualification of Agenio but never did.

Μούχεως: several places called Muchis are known in different nomes (cf. A. CALDERINI – S. DARIS, *Dizionario dei nomi geografici e topografici dell'Egitto greco-romano* III.3, Milano 1982, 301 f.). It is most likely that here Muchis in the Oxyrhynchite nome is meant (cf. P. PRUNETI, *I centri abitati dell'Ossirinchi. Repertorio toponomastico*, "Papyrologica Florentina" IX, Firenze 1981, 110 f.).

4. ...: εἰ is a possible reading. A qualification of the measure used is intended. Ἐξ(αρχή-σεως) is unlikely (we expect: μου τοῦ γεούχου or something similar). Neither the measure ἐξαχόινικον nor ἐξωδιατικόν seems to be still in use in the Vth century A.D. and neither is listed for the Oxyrhynchite nome by D. HENNIG, *Untersuchungen zur Bodenpacht im ptolemäisch-römischen Ägypten*, München 1967, 19 f.

There are some ink-traces (a cross among them?) after σεσημ[ί]μαι].

### 5. *P. Lond.* III 1311

The papyrus is complete at all sides. The other side is blank. Approximately 3.5 cm. from the top there is a κόλλησις. At the left and at the bottom approximately 1.5 cm. have been left free.

Described on page LXXII of *P. Lond.* III.

Oxyrhynchite nome

30 x 8.7 cm.

Vith/VIIth century A.D.

(↓)

π(αρά) Εὐφημίου

πρωτοκωμήτης κώμης Ἰβιῶνος Χύσεως· θελήσατε

τὰς ταπάνας καὶ τοὺς μισθοὺς Ἀφούτι τῷ βωθηθῶ παρασ-

4 χεῖν [± 8]ρικιλαυμ καὶ φροντίσαται [ τα.ε.[± 6]του τῆ καὶ πέμπτῃ ἔστιν ὑ πρᾶξ[ις] καὶ] τὸν ἄρχοντα ἀπετήσαται καὶ τὸ χρύσιον τοῦ ἀδελφῶ Ταυρίνω μὴ πάλιν ὑπὸ μέψιν εὐρήθη. πολ(λά) ἔρρω(σθε).

2. πρωτοκομηῆται 3. δαπάνας; βοηθῶ 4. καί: κ ex cop. (ex η?); φροντίσατε 5. τῆ: this could have been deleted; πέμπτη; ἡ 6. ἀπαιτήσατε; τῶ; ἀδελφῶ: λ ex δ 7. μέψιν; πολ(λά): ο ex α

“From Euphemios to the *protokometai* of the village Ibion Chyseos. Please, pay the expenses and the wages to the assistant Aphas — — — and ask the *praeses* also the money for our(?) brother Taurinos so that he will not be blamed again. Many greetings.”

What remains of this papyrus (lines 4 and 5 are badly mutilated) concerns the request of a certain Euphemios (no position stated) to the *protokometai* of Ibion Chyseos to pay the assistant Aphas and to request the *praeses* to give money to the writer's(?) brother, Taurinos.

2. For *πρωτοκομηῆται*, see J. GASCOU, loc. cit., 49 f.

For the village Ἰβίων Χύσεως, see P. PRUNETI, op. cit., 66 f.

4. [± 8]ρικιλαυμ: may-be the reason for the payment is given here but it is also possible to connect it with the following καὶ φροντίσατε: “and now take also care with regard to Kilaum(?)”. Otherwise, the *protokometai* are asked to take care about something.

5. If τῆ was really deleted by the scribe (cf. adn. crit.) he may have forgotten to repeat it in front of πέμπτῃ = πέμπτη: on the 5th of a not mentioned month an execution may have taken place.

At the beginning of this line τὰ δὲ φ[ ] is a possible reading.

6. For the probable meaning of ἄρχων in the present text, cf. G. ROUILLARD, *L'administration civile de l'Égypte byzantine* 2, Paris 1928, s.v. *praeses*.

7. πολ(λά): cf. adn. crit. Did the scribe have πάλιν in mind? We may even be dealing with a repeated and not completed πάλιν!

[Amsterdam]

Pieter J. SIJPESTEIJN