THE HIPPIMAURI: A NOTE

In SPP XX 98 we find the well-known Aurelia Charite giving a receipt to a soldier Flavius Doratianus (see for his name J.G.Keenan, ZPE XIII, 1974, 287; the reading as proposed in BL II,2, 163 is certainly right as a clear photograph provided by Dr. H. Harrauer [Vienna] shows). Doratianus is styled Ίππιμαύρων σκουτάριων" and this has been interpreted by C.Wessel (Führer durch die Ausstellung Papyrus Erzherzog Rainer, Wien 1894², Nr.312) as "berittenen maurischen Schützen". F.Preisigke, WB III, Abschn. 10, duly lists this army-unit under Ίππιμαύρων σκουτάριων.

Now it is well known that a unit of the Mauri scutarii was stationed in Hermopolis (see BGU XII 2141, 6 n.; D.Hoffmann, Das spätrömische Bewegungsheer und die Notitia Dignitatum, Bd.II, 62) and except for the SPP text the Hippimauri are mentioned nowhere else in the papyri.

Furthermore, it strikes one as odd that there is no article τῶν before Ίππιμαύρων. Everything, however, will be in perfect order if Ίππι is separated from μαύρων. Ίππι is nothing more than a iotacistic spelling of ἱππί = cavalryman, and one has to print Μαύρων.

The name of their commander is given in SPP XX 98,7 as Almesianus. In P.Cairo Preisigke 39,5 however we find a commander Allesianus. Both papyri date from approximately the same time (22.X.347/27.V.348). A remarkably clear photo of P.Cairo Preisigke 39 provided by Dr Harrauer makes it certain, that both commanders are identical. Line 5 of this document has Ἄλμεσιανόν which is only a spelling variant of Ἄλμεσιανόν (SPP XX 98,7).

Amsterdam

K.A.Worp