209-210

Plate X 210

AFFIDAVIT CONCERNING TRANSPORTATION?

Inv. 731 12 x 15 cm. Feb.-March(?), A.D. 307

The exact nature of this document is hard to define with certainty. Lines 12-13 make it clear that it is an official document in which an assis-

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tant to the office of a strategus plays a role. The main body of the text seems to deal with ships and cargo. Line 3 mentions chaff and barley, presumably goods to be transported. Instructions are to be given and some kind of action has to be taken (cf. 4, reodriaov). Apparently the ships have to be loaded within the span of one day (cf. 5, έπαυε χοιρόν). The loading of the ships must take place in such a way that no blame will be attached (cf. 5-6, είς or πρός). Το μηδεμίαν μέμνην ἐπαυκολούθησαι; cf. P. Oxy. X 1255.19 and XXII 2347.10).

The back is blank.

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(Ετους) ίες' καὶ γάς' καὶ ας' των κυρίων ημ[ίων Μαξιμιανοῦ καὶ Σεπου[ήρου 
καὶ Μαξιμίνου καὶ Κωνσταντίνου[υ] τῶν ἑπταευειστάτων Καισάρων, Month. 

day]

(2ης) Ἀθήνας Ἀθήνας ὑπηρέτης στρατιωτῶν ..

(Ετους) ίες' γάς' ας' Φάμμες νῦν

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7. ἐν ἐκάστῳ δρῳμ. One may think about some provision made concerning the harbouring of ships during their transport, cf. P. Oxy. Hels. 37.6-7; P. Oxy. XLI V 3250.23-24 and XLI II 3111.12 n. The wording in the Harris papyrus however cannot be exactly paralleled.

8. The words ἀναπλέοντα and καταπλέοντα can be related to nouns found in freight contracts (cf. e.g. P. Oxy. XLI V 3250.20-21 and n.), but their exact meaning in the present context is not clear.

12. Eulalius is a rare name; cf. P. Charite 16.3 n. For the role of a ὑπηρέτης of a strategus see H. Kupiszewski-J. Modrzejewski, JJP 11-12 (1957-8), 141-166. The traces at the end of the line may be read as parts of one of two
letters. In the first case one may think e.g. of ἐπὶ[ήνεγκα (P. Oxy. XLVI 3293) or ἐπὶ[υδόλοθεν (Kupiszewski-Modrzejewski, op. cit., 163-6); in the second case a reading like π[αρήνεγκα may be considered.

13. It is possible that the name of the month starting with « was abbreviated and that ]Ε[ represents the numeral 5. In that case Phaophi (= Sep.-Oct. 306) and Pharmouthi (= March-Apr. 307) could also be considered.

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Plate XXV

PETITION?

Inv. 572a 10.8 x 13.4 cm. 26 April, A.D. 318

The structure and purport of this document remain tantalisingly unclear. As far as line 15 the hand appears to be the same, although the writing in 12-15 becomes more compressed. 1-13 are in keeping with a petition (δέομαι, 10; χάρις σου τῇ τύχῃ διολογήσω and διευθύνει, 13) except for the intrusive ἔστι δέ formula at the end of 13; this petition refers briefly to a plea made in person at the court of an unidentifiable but high official (ἐνέτυχον, 6) and to his decision (ἀνεφύλατο, 7; ἀποφ[άσε]ῖ, 10). The issue concerned oil and oil-sellers (2, 4) in some way, and the illegality of hindrance applied to some action or other (7, 15), perhaps the sale of the oil (πι] πρασολότων, 8), but beyond that all is blurred. The date follows in 14, and the response of the petitioned official (someone junior to the person petitioned in 6 segg. but senior to the curator civitatis, 15) in 15; both these elements without hand-change, indicating that this answered petition is a copy. This copy was then used for further purposes because it continues with two further dockets, each with a hand-change; a reference to the ἐδήσεια of the city in 16, while the docket in 17 is followed - seemingly in the same hand - by a recapitulation of the consular date which here provides us with the month and day.

The back is blank. There is a three-layer kollesis (after θην, 16): at the lower left corner the condition of the papyrus allows the upper layer to be inspected from the back. We can thus examine the "cut-off" point for the vertical fibres of the upper layer, and vertical impressions on the exposed back of the horizontal fibres show that the vertical fibres were indeed stripped (cf. P. Harr. II 212, introd.), not omitted in manufacture.
REPAYMENT OF A DEBT

Inv. 61a
Oxyrhynchus

This papyrus from Oxyrhynchus is dated to A.D. 329 and contains the start of a document concerning the repayment of a debt. For a partial list of similar documents cf. O. Montevecchi, *La papirologia*, 231; particularly relevant is P. Oxy. XIV 1716 from A.D. 333, but cf. also P. Oxy. XXXI 2587. For loans of money in general cf. O. Montevecchi, *La papirologia*, 225-29.

The people mentioned in this text are not known to me from other sources. Written along the fibres. There are no kolleses. The back is blank.

"During the consulate of our Lords Constantinus Augustus VIII and Constantinus nobilissimus Caesar IV. Aurelia Tereus, daughter of Aphynchios, from the glorious and most glorious city of the Oxyrhynchites greets Aurelia Dioskorous, daughter of Anoubas(?), from the same city. I acknowledge to have received from you .. silver talents(?) which you owe to me by written documents, in full, and that the documents are invalid and cannot be produced either by me or by anyone producing (them) as my representative, because, as I declared
above, I have received everything in full, and I do not have a claim against you ..."

1-3. For the papyri attesting the consulate of A.D. 329 cf. R.S. Bagnall-K.A. Worp, The Chronological Systems of Byzantine Egypt (Zutphen 1979), 109. There is no doubt that the exact date of the document stood at the bottom of the document now broken off, ["νατειας τος TCpoxei.υfν.c. month, day].

Apparently, line 3 was indented slightly, as nothing is expected between ΤΟΥ, 1.2, and ΕΠΙΠΑΝΩΣΟΤΑΤΟΥ, 1.3.

4. Flamboyant initial alpha projects slightly into the margin.


6. The restoration of "Ανουβαθτος is only exempli gratia. "Ανουβ(πι)ος seems too short, "Ανουβ(πι)ος too long.

8. The reading of the letters γρει- seems secure enough, but it is a problem which word has to be restored. The text should run (7ff.): "I acknowledge to have received from you (the money) which to me is owed by you, etc.", but I cannot find a suitable Greek word denoting "to be in debt". One thinks of δαέεις / χραηατές, but these words cannot be used, unless one wants to work with the assumption that the scribe committed a scribal error while starting with ΥΠΕ- instead of ΧΡΕ- (for ΥΧ cf. F.Th. Gignac, Grammar, I 96, sub 3), and that he abbreviated immediately after the first omega, γρει-. Even so, one has to assume that the delta of the following δι (which seems indispensable as a restoration) was written right below the omega, as the lacuna was only large enough for containing 2 or 3 letters at the maximum, and as part of it is used by the left-hand part of the epsilon of ΕΥΓΡΑΦΟΥ.

9. Or read δραγυρια τοι. πιληος, i.e. 370+ pieces of "silver"?

10. The word δεντιφφορος is rare; cf. PSI VII 775.17 note for further attestations.

13-14. One expects at the end ΕΥΚΑΛΟΥ ζυζη 14 | ΕΥΚΑΛΕΣΘ, but the remains of the letters at the start of line 14 do not allow us to read anything with certainty.

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