A Note on *P. Oxy.* XII 1430

In *P. Oxy.* XII 1430, after the address in l. 2, 'Επις Ει ς τρατηγός Ὀξυρχάντου, the three senders of the document (παρά ... καὶ ...) describe themselves as (ll. 6-7) τῶν πάντων κ.<ω>-μής Ὑρακλειδίου <τοῦ ύπός> cī πάγου. In the introduction to the text the editors remarked that "the waning power of the strategus is shown by his being addressed like the praepositus of a pagus" and in the note to l. 7 they noted that "if <τοῦ ύπός> cī πάγου is more than a phrase taken from the customary address to a praepositus (cf. e.g. 1425.6) the strategus has become one of the praepositi of the 10 pagi of the nome, but without corroborative evidence we are rather disposed to regard cī πάγου as due to a reminiscence, and really inconsistent with Ὀξυρχάντου."

This explanation is not convincing; there is no evidence that provincial strategi became a kind of praepositus pagi, and it is far more attractive to look for the normal construction after the village name, i.e. an indication of the (numbered) pagus to which the village of Herakleides belonged; i.e., one expects κ.<ω>-μής Ὑρακλειδίου to be followed by a pagus numeral. It is natural to suspect that cī conceals such a numeral. According to P. Pruneti (*I Centri abitati dell’ Ossirinchite*, 52) the Oxyrhynchite village of Herakleides belonged to the Ἀἴεικτοξία. In her article "Toparchie e pagi: precisazioni topografiche relative al nòmo Ossirinchite" (*Aegyptus* 69 [1989] 113-118) she notes further (p. 115) that the Λιβός τοπαρχία became partly the 3rd, partly the 4th pagus. There is, however, one attestation (*P. Oxy.* LV 3795.13) of a village Σερύκοις originally situated in the Λιβός τοπαρχία, which seems to have become part of the 6th pagus (for problems connected with this see *P. Oxy.* LV 3795.13n.). To date there seems to be no indication as to which pagus the village of Herakleides belonged; as regards the numeral expected to precede πάγου in *P. Oxy.* 1430.7 one could reckon, therefore, at least in principle with a gamma, a delta, or a stigma (the numerals possibly being followed by a numeral marking).
In order to find out what the possibility was of reading a numeral in the Oxyrhynchus papyrus I asked R. S. Bagnall to check in Oxford a photo of the papyrus (the original of which is kept in Ghent). He reports: “What stands after Ἡρακλείδου (quite unexceptionable) and before πάγου (clear) looks like a lunate sigma from which the curve continues down, then rising from lower left to upper right in a straight line, then descending in a curve into the pi. One might take it as an alpha without a loop. But that yields no sense. So one can choose between ce, like the editors, ca, or c/ς followed by a stroke, but written in a single cursive motion. Gamma or epsilon cannot be read.”

Under the circumstances I think that the last choice, i.e. ς followed by a stroke, is the best option to get rid of the editors' unconvincing insertion of <τοῦ ύπο> cē πάγου between Ἡρακλείδου and cē πάγου. On the basis of the parallel formed by the attribution of the village of Σερφύς (originally situated in the Λιβός τοπαρχία) to the 6th pagus in P.Oxy. 3795.13 I venture to think that the village of Ἡρακλείδου was also situated somewhere in the same (6th) pagus and that one should read in P.Oxy. XII 1430.7 ς/ instead of ce.

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