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P. VRAT. INV. 2
A LIST OF CONTRIBUTIONS IN MONEY

THE DOCUMENT IS PART OF a largely unpublished set of 49 documents from Wrocław, now kept as a deposit at the Department of Papyrology at Warsaw University.¹ The collection belonged to the Seminar of Classical Philology of the Universität Breslau. After Breslau became Polish Wrocław in 1945 the set of documents was transferred to the Institute of Papyrology of the Warsaw University by Professor Jerzy Manteuffel, one of the founders of the Warsaw papyrology. Only five texts from this group have been published so far:

- 1) P. Vrat. inv. 1, a contract of sale, Oxyrhynchites, dating from the end of the 3rd century AD;²
- 2) P. Vrat. inv. 3, a *prosfonesis* determining the borders of *ager publicus* in the village of Saraphis, Oxyrhynchos, AD 296;³

¹ On this collection see: Ewa WIPSYCKA, T. DERDA, T. MARKIEWICZ & J. URBANIK, 'Papyri and Ostraca Kept in the Department of Papyrology of Warsaw University. A Web Project', *JfurP* 30 (2000), pp. 265–270.

² Anna ŚWIDEREK, 'Deux contracts de bail de la collection de l'Université de Wrocław', *RechPap* 3 (1964), pp. 100–101 (SB VIII 9919).

³ Anna ŚWIDEREK, '*Professionis q. d. profonesis fragmentum*', *JfurP* 2 (1948), pp. III–III4, R. BÖHM, 'Contribution à l'étude d'administration romain en Égypte II', *Aegyptus* 36 (1956), pp. 254–274 (SB VI 9502).

- 3) P. Vrat. inv. 4, a contract of sale, Oxyrhynchites, AD 180;⁴
- 4) P. Vrat. inv. 6, municipal accounts, Oxyrhynchos, AD 169-173;⁵
- 5) P. Vrat. inv. 22, a sale of a donkey, Oxyrhynchos, AD 311.⁶

Recently a team of scholars and students⁷ at the Department of Papyrology of the Warsaw University has begun reading the other Wrocław documents and the effect of their work are due to appear in book form. Below are the first results of these efforts.

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The text is written on a narrow strip of papyrus, along the fibres. The left and right edges are preserved, whereas the top and bottom are torn. It is therefore not possible to determine whether line 5 was the last line of the original document. Not enough empty space is preserved at the bottom to exclude the existence of more writing underneath the fifth line. Line 1 was definitely the first line of the original text. The papyrus is rather well preserved, except for some small holes affecting in particular lines 3 and 5. The hand is a practiced Late-Roman cursive, neat at first and gradually becoming more sloppy in the following lines.

The document is a list of contributions in money. The register consists of five entries, in each line the name of a person, his profession (ll. 1-4) or patronymic (l. 5) and the amount of money contributed. The purpose of these contributions, as in the case of similar lists (cf. e.g. *CPR* v 26, Skar, second half of 5th century; *P. Oxy.* x 1330, 4th-5th century), is obscure. It may have been associated with the levying of taxes.

⁴ Anna ŚWIDEREK, 'Deux contrats de bail de la collection de l'Université de Wrocław', *RechPap* 3 (1964) pp. 98-99 (*SB* VII 9918).

⁵ Z. BORKOWSKI, *P. Coll. Youtie* 1 28.

⁶ Irena SZYMAŃSKA, 'Venditionis asini syngrapha', *JJurP* 2 (1948), pp. 115-119, R. BÖHM, 'Nochmals die Warschauer *venditionis asini syngrapha*', *CdÉ* 29 (1954), pp. 306-311, H. C. YOUTIE, 'The Warsaw *venditionis asini syngrapha*', *CdÉ* 33 (1958), pp. 268-272 (*SB* VI 9214).

⁷ The members of the team are: Tomasz DERDA, Dorota DZIERZBICKA, Adam ŁAJTAR, Grzegorz OCHAŁA, and Tomasz PŁÓCIENNIK.

⁸ The date after *BL* VIII, p. 102, *BL* IX, p. 65. In the original publication a 4th century dating was tentatively suggested.

The values listed in the document refer to sums of money paid in coins of two kinds. Nomismatia, gold solidi, are written either ν (line 4) or ϑ (lines 1 and 3). Gold solidi were issued in coins with values $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{2}{3}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, 1 solidus,⁹ which corresponds to the amounts listed in our document and suggests what coins were actually supplied by the contributors. Myriads of denarii are abbreviated with the conventional sign $\text{X}\Lambda$. Base metal myriads enter the market after the reform of AD 352¹⁰ and remain in use throughout the 5th and 6th century as can be judged from contemporary documents.¹¹ The relationship of myriads to solidi varied throughout their parallel existence due to inflation affecting the base metal coins. In the second half of the fourth century the solidus amounted to ca. 2000 myriads (*P. Oxy.* IX 1223: 1 solidus = 2020 myriads; *P. Oxy.* XLVIII 3426: 1 solidus = 2250 myriads;¹² *P. Oslo* III 162: 1 solidus = 2000 myriads; *P. Oxy.* XLVIII 3401: 1 solidus = 1350 myriads; all these documents do not have exact dates; they may be dated generally to the second half of the 4th century), and in the sixth century it is attested to be worth as much as 4800 myriads (*P. Oxy.* LV 3804.271; the document is dated to AD 566).

At the turn of the 4th and 5th cent. the value of 3600 myriads of denarii is comparable to the other values in the list, paid in solidi. Phoibammon, therefore, issued the payment in base metal coins instead of gold, but the sum was comparable to that supplied by the other persons on the list.

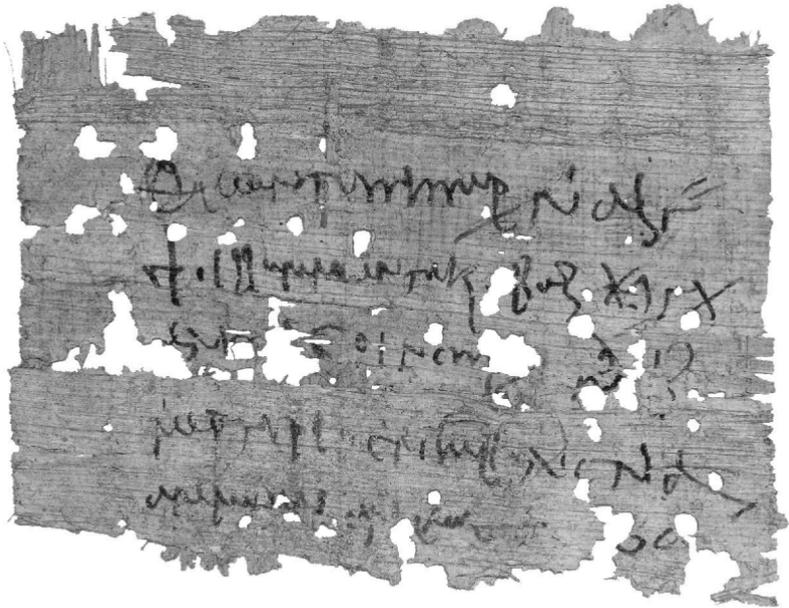
The text itself does not provide a date, but there is a number of factors in favour of a dating to the turn of the 4th and 5th century. The use of both myriads of denarii and nomismatia is attested in documents from the 4th to the 6th cent. A Theon tapetarios present in this document may be identical with a homonym attested at the turn of the 4th and 5th cent. This date is well in agreement with the palaeography, which is not yet Byzantine in character, but appears to be no earlier than the 4th century.

⁹ See e.g. *P. Oxy.* LV 3804, commentary to line 272 (p. 143).

¹⁰ R. S. BAGNALL, *Currency and Inflation in Fourth Century Egypt* (= *BASP Supplement* 5), Atlanta? 1985, p. 12 and 45.

¹¹ BAGNALL, *Currency and Inflation* (cit. n. 10), p. 25.

¹² See BAGNALL, *Currency and Inflation* (cit. n. 10), p. 43, n. 3.



Text

Oxyrhynchos

10 cm x 8 cm

4th/5th cent.

Θείων ταπητάρ(ιος) νο(μισμάτια) αβγ̄
 Φοιβάμμων τακτ(ικὸς) ἄβαξ (δηναρίων) (μυριάδες) γχ
 Ἐλισαί[ο]ς οἶνοπρ(άτης) νο(μισμάτια) β
 4 Μαρτύριος ἀγκωβόλος νο(μισμάτιον) α
 Ἄμμων Ἀλκείως νο(μισμάτιον) α

1. Θεών, ταπηταρ ὀ 2. τακ 3. οἶνοπρ ὀ

Translation

Theon, rug seller, 1 ½ ⅓ solidi;
Phoibammon, soldier, 3600 myriads of denarii, all at once;
Elisaios, wine seller, 2 solidi;
Martyrios, fisherman, 1 solidus;
Ammon, son of Alkeus, 1 solidus.

Commentary

1. ταπητάριος was a producer (and seller) of τάρπης – ‘rugs’; for the profession, see Ewa Wipszycka, *L'industrie textile dans l'Égypte romaine* (= *Archivum Filologiczne* 9), Wrocław – Warszawa – Kraków 1965, pp. 118–119. The term is quite common in Greek papyri from Late Antique Egypt (3rd–7th century AD) and, as far as we can see, is non-existent elsewhere. The attestations of the word ταπητάριος in Egyptian papyri include: *BGU* IV 1082: Δίδυμος ταπιτάριος (probably Hermopolites, 4th cent. AD), *P. Bad.* IV 53 r^o 26: Ὡρος Παύλου ταπη(τάριος) (Hipponon in the Herakleopolites, 4th cent. AD); *P. Bad.* IV 53 r^o 31: Ἀτρῆς Παύλου ταπη(τάριος) (a brother of the latter); *P. Gen.* I 24.1 and 3 (provenance unknown, 4th cent. AD); *P. Got.* 9.14 (Oxyrhynchos, date unknown); *P. Leid. Inst.* 62.4 (Oxyrhynchos, AD 370); *P. Matr.* 7.1 and 3 (probably Oxyrhynchos, AD 483); *P. Mert.* I 33.2 (Oxyrhynchos, AD 344): Κάστωρ Παθερμουθίου ταπητάριος; *P. Mert.* I 41.8 and 10: Θέων ταπητάρ(ιος) (Oxyrhynchos, AD 408); *P. Oslo* III 144.6: Αὐρήλιος Νεῖλ[ο]ς ταπητάριος (Oxyrhynchos, AD 270–275); *P. Oxy.* VI 999: Σεναμοῦν ταπητάρ(ιος) (AD 616–617); *P. Oxy.* XII 1431.2: Γεννάδιος ταπητάρ(ιος) (Oxyrhynchos, AD 352); *P. Oxy.* XIX 2244, fr. 1 (6th–7th century AD); *P. Oxy.* XX 2275.18: Νέπος ταπητάρ(ιος) (4th cent. AD); *PSI* VIII 973.5, 7 and 10: Θεόδωρος ταπητάρ(ιος) (provenance unknown, 6th cent. AD); *SB* XIV 11844.4 (Apollonopolis Magna, 7th cent. AD); *SB* XVI 13036.6: Σεμτὸς ταπητάρ(ιος) (provenance unknown, AD 320–350); *T. Mom. Louvre* 454, A.2 (written [τα]π[ε]τ[α]ρίος, 2nd–3rd cent. AD). A hypocoristic of ταπητάριος – ταπητᾶς is attested in *P. Iand.* VIII 153 r^o 14: Σαραπίων ταπητᾶς (eitehr Hermopolites or Oxyrynchites, 4th cent. AD); *P. Oxy.* XLII 3044.5 and 3045.3: Παῦλος (or Παῦλις) Ἡρακλέου ταπητᾶς (AD 312–315); *P. Oxy.* LVI 3862 r^o 22: Θέων ταπητᾶς (4th–5th century AD); *P. Ross. Georg.* V 59 v^o 2, 16 (provenance unknown, 4th cent. AD).

Of the persons listed above of special interest to us is Θέων ταπητάρ(ιος) attested in *P. Mert.* I 41.8 and 10 (Oxyrhynchos, AD 408). It is probable that he is identical

with the *Θέων ταπητάριος* listed in l. 1 of our papyrus. Further on, this person might be identical with *Θέων ταπητᾶς* attested in *P. Oxy.* LVI 3862 r^o 22 (4th–5th cent. AD). Provided this identification is correct, it would suggest an Oxyrhynchite provenance of our text. Some other Wrocław papyri are also of Oxyrhynchite origin, which could be an additional argument pointing to Oxyrhynchos as the place of origin of the discussed text. One can imagine that Oxyrhynchite texts in the Wrocław collection were purchased as a set on the antiquities market in Egypt.

2. The word *τακτικός* is attested in several papyri (*P. Oslo* III 128.5; *SB* v 8028.3; *BGU* IV 1190.13; *P. Cair. Masp.* III 67321.2; *P. Lond.* v 1663.3), but never in a context suggesting that an occupation is meant. The only possible meaning in this case is the one provided by Du Cange, *Glossarium*, s.v. *τακτικός* = ‘miles’, based on late Greek literary texts.

αβαξ most probably is a variant spelling of *ἄπαξ*. Similarly in *P. Abinn.* 32.8 and 12. For the change of ‘π’ for ‘β’, see generally, F. Th. Gignac, *A Grammar of the Greek Papyri of the Roman and Byzantine Periods* 1. *Phonology*, Milano 1976, pp. 83–86. The word *ἄπαξ* appears in the same context as in our papyrus also in *P. Amst.* 1 84 (Hermopolites, 6th cent.): *α ἄπαξ νο(μίσματα) σξβ | β ἄπαξ νο(μίσματα) λ κε(ράτια) ιβ*. Both in this and in our document the meaning of this word is uncertain. The editors of *P. Amst.* 1 84 interpret it with some hesitation as ‘auf einmal’. This interpretation should probably be adopted in our document as well. It is all the more probable that the issuer of the payment, Phoibammon, was paying in myriads of denarii, unlike the other men, who were paying in nomismata. We can imagine that he paid his contribution all at once with a large amount of base metal coins.

3. The reading of the word designating the occupation of Martyrios is uncertain. It is not without hesitation that we propose *ἀγκυβόλος*. The word has not been attested yet in Egyptian documents. It is known from a single lemma in the Lexicon of Hesychios Illustrios, who supplies it with a comment that it equals *ἀλιεύς*. After Hesychios it was listed by H.-J. Drexhage, ‘Vorläufige Liste der bislang ausschliesslich literarisch belegten Berufs- bzw. Tätigkeitsbezeichnungen’, *MBaH* xxiii.1 (2004), pp. 41–65. The only other possible reading is *μετράβολος*, a term much more popular and well attested in papyri, but much more problematic as far as the shape of letters and the dynamic of script is concerned.
5. The reading *Ἀλκείως* is certain. *Ἀλκεύς* is a by-form of *Ἀλκαῖος*; cf. Eustathius, *Commentarii ad Homeri Iliadem* (ed. M. van der Valk), vol. 1, p. 197: *πολλὰ δὲ καὶ ἄλλα ὅμοια· ἐν οἷς καὶ ἡγεμονεύς καὶ ἡνιοχεύς καὶ ὁ ἐκ τοῦ Ἀλκαῖος Ἀλκεύς, ὅθεν Ἀλκείδης Ἡρακλῆς*. According to Eustathius, *loc.cit.* and Suda, A 1276 and

A 1777, Ἀλκεύς was the name of the father of Amphitryon and grandfather of Herakles, hence the designation Ἀλκείδης given to the latter. As far as we can ascertain, the personal name Ἀλκεύς has not been attested so far in documentary sources. ΑΙΚ[Ε]ΥΣ found in the inscription IG XII 3, *Suppl.* 1467 (Thera, archaic period) should be interpreted as a common word rather than a personal name. Ἀλκαῖος is common both in Egypt and elsewhere, also in the Late Antique period.

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