

List of fugitives

BL Egerton Pap. 37¹
15 (w) × 12.4 (h) cm

Second half of seventh century
Oxyrhynchite Nome

A list of five persons who had fled from Tanais to three other villages: a pair of brothers had gone to Thouskou Sarapammonos, two other brothers to Psempekle, and one man to Tampeti. Tampeti was located close to Tanais, and perhaps the same applies to Psempekle; the fugitives had not gone far from their place of residence. What prompted their migration is not stated, but financial concerns would have been the likeliest reason. There is no date, but the term *χωρίον* points to the time after the Islamic conquest; the hand, an early version of the minuscule, also suggests a date in the second half of the seventh century.

The origin and purpose of our text are not obvious. Like most of the few post-Conquest Oxyrhynchite texts published to date, it was acquired on the antiquities market, which is a non-starter. The fairly formal character of the script and the type of the abbreviations indicate a professional scribe operating within an institution, and the technical terms used (*χωρία*, *δνόματα*) point to a state office. Fugitives were the concern of the fiscal agents of the state, and the small compass of the list suggests a level below that of the pagarchy: the administrators of the village of Tanais or, more likely, the Oxyrhynchite *skelos* that included Tanais.

We might also consider whether our list comes from a large estate's administration, but there is virtually no evidence for Oxyrhynchite estates in this period. At any rate, there are parallels from earlier times. P. Oxy. XVI 2055, headed *γνώσ(ις) γεωργ(ῶν) φυγ(όντων) ἐκ τοῦ κτήμα(τος) Θαήσιος | εἰς τὸ κτήμα Μαχάσωνος, διαφέροντος | τῷ θεῖῳ οἴκῳ* (ll. 1-3), tells us that twenty-three agricultural workers had fled from an Apionic holding to one under the *domus divina* some time in the sixth-century. Their relative location is unknown, but the high number of the fugitives suggests that the two holdings did not lie far from each other. The list was drawn up in an office of the Apion estate, perhaps the central headquarters at Oxyrhynchus, on the basis of information supplied by local administrators; the fluid boundaries between the *domus gloriosa* of the Apions and the *domus divina* would have facilitated the flow of information.

The text is written along the fibres. Back blank.

1		ⲡ
2	+ γν(ῶσις) ἀνθρώπ(ων) φυγ(όν)τ(ων) ἀπὸ χωρ(ι)οῦ Τανάεως ὄντ(ων)	
3	εἰ(ς) τ(ᾶ) ἔξ(ῆς) χω(ρία)	
4	οὐ(τως)·	
5	εἰ(ς) τ(ὸ) χω(ρίον) Θουσκού Σαρ(α)π(ά)μμωνος ὄν(ό)ματα β' Ἰσαάκ (καί) ἀδελφ(οῦ) αὐτ(οῦ)	
6	εἰ(ς) τ(ὸ) χω(ρίον) Ψεμπεκλή	ὄν(ό)ματα β' Πλουτίωνος (καί) ἀδελφ(οῦ) αὐτ(οῦ)
7	εἰ(ς) τ(ὸ) χω(ρίον) Ταμπετι	ὄν(ο)μα α' Πεκυσίου Σίλας
8	γι(νοντα) ὄνόμα(τα) ε.	

2 γν̅ ανθρω̅ω̅ φ̅υγ̅, χω̅ρ̅, ο̅ν̅ 3 ε̅ξ̅ ε̅ξ̅ χ̅χ̅ 4 ⲡ 5-7 ε̅ξ̅ λ̅, ο̅ν̅ 5 θου̅ς̅ ⲥ̅α̅ρ̅, ἰ̅σα̅α̅κ 5-6 ⲥ̅ α̅δελ̅φ̅·α̅υ̅ 8 γ̅ν̅ο̅ν̅ο̅μ̅μ̅

List of people who fled from the village of Tanais and are in the villages below, as follows:

In the village of Thouskou Sarapammonos, persons 2, Isaak and his bother.

In the village of Psempekle, persons 2, Ploution and his bother.

In the village of Tampeti, person 1, Pekysios son of Silas.

Total: persons 5.

2 γν(ῶσις) ἀνθρώπ(ων) φυγ(όν)τ(ων). P. Apoll. 13.8 (661/676?), τὴν γνῶ]σιν τῶν φυγόντων ἀνθρώπ[ων

¹ The papyrus was purchased by the British Library from Folio Fine Art on 19 September 1970. The image is reproduced by permission of the British Library Board.

ἀπο]λύσατε αὐτήν πρὸς μέ, which refers to the fugitives of the entire pagarchy, offers a close verbal parallel. Cf. also P. Oxy. XVI 2055.1-3 (6th c.), cited above.

Τανάεως. A village of the old Middle toparchy, and then probably part of the 7th pagus; see J.R. Rea, P. Oxy. LV 3795.12 n., and A. BENAÏSSA, *Rural Settlements of the Oxyrhynchite Nome* (2nd ed., Trismegistos Online Publications 4, Köln / Leuven, 2012) [= *RSON*²], pp. 379-81. It is only sparsely attested after the third century; this is its latest instance in a papyrus.

5 Θουσκου Σαρ(α)π(άμμωνος). Cf. T. Varie 10.2 (7th c.) ἀπὸ κώμης Θουσβου Σεραπάμωνος τοῦ Ὁξυρυγγίτου, as read by BENAÏSSA, 'Miscellanea Toponomastica', *ZPE* 183 (2012), p. 193. The reading Θουσβου in T. Varie 10.2 appears acceptable on the published photograph (Tav. XII), though traces above the left-hand element of the putative u-shaped beta could belong to the left-hand part of kappa.

ἀδελφ(οῦ). Cf. 6. The resolution relies on the use of the genitive for the persons in ll. 6 and 7, Πλουτίωνος and Πεκυσίου.

6 Ψεμπεκλι. Formerly in the Middle or the Western toparchy, it was part of the Apion estate in the sixth century. See BENAÏSSA, *RSON*², p. 435.

7 Ταμπετι. Modern Tambidi, this was another village of the Middle toparchy and the 7th pagus, and had also strong Apionic connections. P. Sijp. 37.17 (8th c.) offers another late attestation. See BENAÏSSA, *RSON*², pp. 367-8.

Σίλας: nominative instead of genitive, which takes the forms Σίλα (P. Oxy. LVI 3860.19), Σίλου (P. Oxy. XVI 2029.4), and Σιλᾶτος (SPP XX 213.3).

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