

Abbreviations in late documents resolved

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Abstract: A series of notes on the elucidation of passages obscured by the use of abbreviations and editorial misses. They occur in texts from late antiquity and especially the early Arab period, most of them fiscal.

Keywords: abbreviations, receipts, accounts, taxes

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1. BGU I 173

This rent receipt was assigned to the seventh/eighth century, but the rate of carat deduction (minus 7¹) and the hand point towards the middle of the sixth. After the sum of money mentioned in l. 5, the editor drew χ , an abbreviation not intelligible at that time. This stands for $\mu(\acute{o}\nu\alpha)$. The word is not present at this point in its sister piece, BGU I 47.5.

The cross at the beginning of l. 1 was not reported in the edition.

2. BGU III 872

The text was assigned broadly to the Byzantine period; the hand suggests a date in the late sixth or early seventh century. The first line in the edition begins with two drawings that imply that the writing was not understood.

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¹ Cf. K. Maresch, *Nomisma und Nomismatia* (1994) 65.

These are the symbols for the arura and the $\frac{1}{2}$ fraction (ζ). The text runs (ἀρούρης) (ἥμισυ) πλέον ἔλαττον).

3. CPR XXXIV 35

This is a Coptic list of expenses, doubtfully assigned to the eighth century. One entry refers to wine: οὐ β^δ/α, interpreted as οἶ(νου) β(ά)δ(ιον) α. According to the editor (17 n.), the reading κν^δ = κν(ί)δ(ιον) is less likely, ‘da das Kappa sonst völlig mißglückt wäre. Das vermeintliche β ist in einem Zug? geschrieben und mit dem Kürzungsstrich verbunden.’ The letter in question appears to be kappa; its first element is much taller than the second (see Taf. 29), which rules out beta. We are probably dealing with a κ(ί)δ(ιον), even though most abbreviations of this word begin with κν. A potential parallel comes from SB XVI 12998.1 (VII/VIII) μο(ύσ-) θ(ου) κ(ί)δ(ια) (sim. 2–3), but no photograph has been published.² Another possibility is κ(ά)δ(ος), a more sparsely attested container, also found with wine in this period, but the abbreviation would again be unusual.

4. P.Erl. 111

In l. 3 of this account, the editor read οἶ(νου) Σπά(νου). This putative ‘Spanish wine’ attracted suspicion and led to the tentative δ(μοίως) σπα(νοῦ) (BL IX 80), which would refer to oil. As the online image shows, the writing was correctly deciphered and the papyrus refers to wine, but σπα() should be resolved differently: οἶ(νου) σπα(θία).

5. P.Iand. IV 63

A sum of (ἀρτάβαι) λθ χο(ίνικες) η is followed by (ἀν)εμετρ(ήθησαν) (ἀρτάβαι) ιε λ λοι(παι) (ἀρτάβαι) κδ (l. 4). Instead of (ἀν)εμετρ(ήθησαν) read (ῶν) ἐμετρ(ήθησαν), with (ῶν) being the usual L-shaped sign; out of 39 artabas 8 choenices, $15\frac{1}{2}$ artabas were measured (paid) out, so that, with some rounding, 24 artabas remain.

6. P.Leid.Inst. 68

This account was assigned to the early fifth century on palaeographical grounds (BL X 116), but belongs to the sixth. The edition prints νο(μισμά-τια) β ἀ(ρτάβαι) ιβ in l. 13, but π = π(αρά) should be read instead of

² In P.Mon.Apoll. 46.4, read κν^δ in place of κ^δ; see Pl. XXXII.

ἀ(ρτάβαι): we have 2 solidi minus 12 (carats). This rate of deduction, 1 sol. minus 6 car., first appears in 498 and is common in the sixth century.³

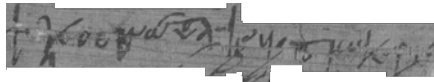
Misidentified artabas also occur in l. 10 where for λοι(πὰ) ἀ(ρτάβαι) πᾶμα νο(μισματίως) read λοι(πὰ) δ(ιὰ) Παμουν [.

7. P.Lond. II 392

This is a receipt for tax on land, associated with the Heracleopolite village of Leukogion, and possibly dating from 621 (cf. F. Morelli in P.Paramone, pp. 180–83). The nature of the payment may be guessed from the curious]ε δημωσιον τοῦ ἐμοῦ | κλήρο[υ (ll. 4–5), and is confirmed by the online image. What was taken as]ε is the sigle for ὑπέρ (ϣ), with its left part lost; we should read (ὑπέρ) δημωσίων (l. -οσίων). The text is similar to SPP III².1 68 (596/611), which also relates to Leukogion and attests the phrase ὑπὲρ δημοσίου τοῦ ἐμοῦ κλήρου (l. 3).

8. P.Lond. II 456

This is the conclusion of an Arsinoite *compromissum* of the second half of the seventh century.⁴ One of the witnesses signs his name in minuscule, printed as Κοσμα Ἰὺλι^ο υιοσ μακαρ [(l. 6). The writing of ου in what was understood as Ἰουλί(ο) is peculiar. The name in the genitive is also difficult to explain, with υἰός following (not used for grandfathers in this period), and μακαρ without the article suggests the name, not the adjective. The online image shows that the papyrus has κοσμα^τϣ^ου^οτμακαρ [,



i.e., Κοσμάς ὑπ(ο)δ(ιὰ)κο(νος) υἰὸ(ς) τ(οῦ) μακαρ(ίου) [. This abbreviation of ὑποδιάκονος appears to be unique to this text.

9. PSI VII 809

One of the entries in this account of payments, assigned to the fifth century, refers to Φοιβάμμονι ὀφφ(ικιαλίφ?) .οι . . . λαμ() εἰς Κυνῶ(ν) π(όλιν) τὸ χ(ει)ρ(όγραφον) Σεβαστιανοῦ (l. 8). This is the difficult part:

³ See Maresch, *Nomisma und Nomismatia* 54ff.

⁴ The text was assigned to the 6th/7th century in *Byz. Not.*, p. 44 (Ars. 12.4.2), but the hands are decidedly later. The revised dating is due to S. Kovarik.



I have not been able to read what follows immediately after ὄφφ(ικιαλίω?), but the text continues ἀπ[ε]ρχομ(ένω) εἰς Κυνῶ δι(ὰ) τὸ χρ(); cf. P.Oxy. LVI 3874.45 (345/6?) ἀπερχομένου μου εἰς Κυνῶ. The type of abbreviation used for διὰ is common in the Roman period, but unusual at this date. I am not sure what χρ() represents; χρ(έος) is one possibility.

10. P.Ross.Georg. III 20

This seventh-century text contains two lines of a list, edited as follows:

† χω(ρίον) Μητροδώρον πρό(σωπα) δ
 χω(ρίον) Ἀρσινόης πρό(σωπα) ε

The context is fiscal. Texts of this date refer to persons as ὀνόματα, not as πρόσωπα. πρ should probably be resolved as πρό(βατα).⁵ This is a list of the number of sheep requisitioned from two Arsinoite villages.

11. P.Ross.Georg. V 66 & 68; P.Wash.Univ. I 52

P.Ross.Georg. V 66 is a seventh-century list headed γνῶσις ὀνομάτων. A sinusoid at the beginning of i 11 and ii 1 was understood as ‘ditto, nämlich γνῶσις ὀνομάτων’, and was rendered (ὁμοίως) in DDbDP. The interpretation is not unreasonable, but the sigle has to be resolved into something more banal: (καί).

(ὁμοίως) is the rendering of the sinusoids before the entries in P.Ross. Georg. V 68 6 and 8–9, another seventh-century account. Here too we have to read (καί).

The same is the meaning of the sinusoids before the entries in P.Wash. Univ. I 52.6 and 9, an account of food and other items assigned to the fourth century (but perhaps of the fifth).


12. P.Ross.Georg. V 69

This is an Arsinoite list of rents paid in money some time in the later seventh century. The sums are introduced by ὅ = νο(μίσματα) in l. 3, and by oblique strokes in ll. 4–6, interpreted as ‘ditto, unsre Gänsefüßchen;

⁵ For discussion of this abbreviation, see my ‘Fiscal Documents from Early Islamic Egypt II’, *ZPE* 150 (2004) 187f.

hier = ὄψ'. This led to the sign in l. 4 being rendered as (ὁμοίως) in DDbDP, and those in 5–6 as (νομίσματα). This, however, is the sign for (κεράτια); after a payment of 2 solidi in l. 3, there follow others of 25 and (twice) 18½ carats.

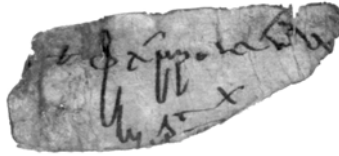
13. P.Vindob. Sijp. 14

A *sitometres* acknowledges receipt of (a part?) of the price of wheat; in case of delay, he promises to forfeit the price current at Alexandria: κατὰ τὴν {αὐτὴν} πολιτευομένην τιμὴν ἐν [τῇ ἀγορῇ] αἰ Ἀλ(εξανδρείας) (ll. 7–8). The reading ἐν [τῇ ἀγορῇ] αἰ Ἀλ(εξανδρείας) has been considered doubtful (BL V 62), but no alternative has been suggested. Line 8 begins , ἰβ̄ ἰνδ(ικτίωνος). What was printed as ἐν in the previous line may be read as ἐγ[ρ(άφην)], followed by a month date.

The text in the edition starts with #, on which the editor commented: ‘Das merkwürdige Symbol am Anfang dieser Urkunde wird wohl eine Abkürzung für παρά sein.’ The reading of π(αρά) is not in doubt, even though the two uprights are not joined to each other at the top.

14. SPP III 247

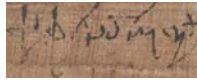
This text has the appearance of a requisition addressed to the villagers of Kieratou: Φλ(αυσία) Μαροῦς ἐνδ(οξοτάτη) δ[(ιὰ) τοῦ δεῖνος ὑμῖν τοῖς ἀπὸ χωρίου] | Κιερα(άτου) [ἔλα]χ(ε) [ὑμῖν δοῦναι] . ἔλαχε occurs in tax demands issued by fiscal authorities such as the pagarch, but this does not fit the profile of Marous, although she was a person of authority, at the head of an estate. The image shows that the scribe did not write this verb:



The top of π is fairly easy to make out on the lower edge of the parchment. We should restore π[αρ(άσ)]χ(ετε), assuming that the addressees were the villagers; cf. SPP VIII 1079.2 or 1085.2.

15. SPP VIII 813

This tax receipt of the seventh century (‘s. VI’ *ed. pr.*) contains a curious subscription: † δ(ιὰ) Φενου Διστιχ(ίας) (l. 5, after BL VIII 447). This is what the papyrus has:



In the context, στιχ(εῖ) at the end suggests itself. The name of the signatory must be Φενουβι, previously known from a contemporary document from the same area, SPP X 57.3 Φενουβι.

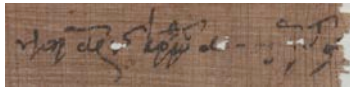
16. SPP VIII 1195

This tax demand of 723 concerns the supply of small quantities of wheat, barley, and pulse. I reproduce lines 3 and 6 as they appear in the edition, and image clippings of these passages (of l. 3, only the second part):

μίαν ἡμισυ τρι[σ(α)] και κρο[σ(α)] [μ] μίαν ὀσπ[ρ(ε)] μ[ε] ς' κ[



γι(νεται) δι(τα) ἄρ(τα) αγγ' κρο[σ(α)] μ[ε] α [ὀσ]π[ρ(ε)] μ[ε] ς' κ[



What was the measure used for the barley and pulse? Wessely reproduced what he could make out but without making any suggestion. The DDbDP version offers κρο(ι)θ(ης) [μ(ό)διος] μίαν ὀσπ[ρ(ε)] μ(οδίου?) ς' and κρο(ι)θ(ης) μ(ό)διος α [ὀσ]π[ρ(ε)] μ(οδίου?) ς', but not only would it be strange to find *modii* in this context, the abbreviation does not speak for it, and there is also the problem of the grammatical gender in l. 3 (μίαν). The image is revealing: the letter written over mu is tau, in the characteristic backward tilted form that it often has in this position (superscript tau has the same shape twice in l. 4). μ^τ suggests μ(ά)τ(ιον), a measure attested for barley in this period,⁶ but the problem of the grammatical gender of μίαν remains. Was it an influence from ἄρτάβη, the measure expected for barley? The same could be said of P.Lond. IV 1433.118 (707), οσπρ^ε μ⁻ α ς', with μ⁻ taken as μ(έ)τρον, but this is illusory. The reference to this measure was considered⁷ a mistake of the scribe, who recorded the same

⁶ In P.Brux. Bawit 12.2 and P.Louvre Bawit 1.1, ὀσπρ(ίον) μ(έ)τ(ρον) α, it seems preferable to resolve μ(ά)τ(ιον), since μέτρον is normally used for liquids.

⁷ See F. Morelli, *Olio e retribuzioni nell'Egitto tardo (V-VIII d. C.)* (1996) 109 n. 122.

quantity of pulse, but measured in artabas, in ll. 50 and 166 of the same account. Yet an image shows that the scribe wrote $\alpha\rho$, with α minute, open-topped, and attached to ρ ; the same abbreviation occurs in l. 166, where the edition has $\alpha\rho^{\tau}$.

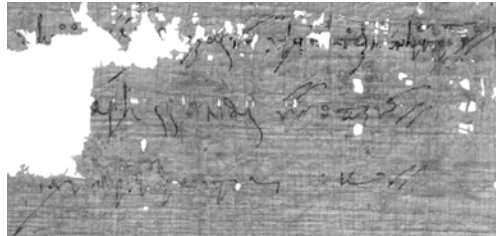
The amount of pulse was $\frac{1}{6}\frac{1}{8}$ of a $\mu\acute{\alpha}\tau\iota\omicron\nu$; in l. 3, ς' is followed by η' , not κ , and there is a speck of the fraction at the end of l. 6. In sum, I suggest reading $\kappa\rho(\iota)\theta(\acute{\eta}\varsigma)$ $\mu(\acute{\alpha})\tau(\iota\omicron\nu)$ $\mu\acute{\iota}\alpha\nu$ (l. $\acute{\epsilon}\nu$) $\acute{\omicron}\sigma\pi[\rho(\acute{\epsilon}\omega\nu)]$ $\mu(\alpha)\tau(\iota\omicron\nu)$ $\varsigma'\eta'$ in l. 3, and $\kappa\rho(\iota)\theta(\acute{\eta}\varsigma)$ $\mu(\acute{\alpha})\tau(\iota\omicron\nu)$ α [$\acute{\omicron}\sigma$] $\pi\rho(\acute{\epsilon}\omega\nu)$ $\mu(\alpha)\tau(\iota\omicron\nu)$ ς' η' in l. 6.

Finally, [$\sigma\acute{\iota}(\tau\omicron\nu)$ $\acute{\alpha}\rho(\acute{\alpha}\beta\eta\varsigma)$] should be supplied at the end of l. 2.

17. SPP VIII 1284

This is a short tax account assigned to the seventh century, but probably of the early eighth. I reproduce Wessely's transcription of ll. 2–4:

[] $\delta\eta\mu\acute{\omicron}\mu\acute{\iota}$ [] $\lambda\lambda$ [] $\rho\acute{\epsilon}\xi\alpha\gamma'$ $\chi\iota\lambda\iota'$ $\acute{\epsilon}\kappa\alpha\tau'$ $\acute{\epsilon}\xi\eta'$ $\acute{\epsilon}\nu$ $\eta\mu\acute{\iota}$
 $\tau\epsilon\iota\tau(\iota)$ $\mu\acute{\alpha}$ $\nu\alpha$
 [] $\acute{\alpha}\rho$ () $\gamma\varsigma\varsigma$ $\nu\delta\varsigma$ $\gamma\gamma$ ($\gamma\acute{\iota}\nu\omicron\nu\tau\alpha\iota$) $\nu\acute{\iota}$ ($\nu\acute{\iota}$) $\pi\gamma\gamma$
 $\delta\iota$ ($\acute{\alpha}$) $\Theta\epsilon\omicron\delta\omega\gamma\epsilon\omicron\nu$ $\nu\acute{\iota}$ $\phi\acute{\alpha}\upsilon\sigma\tau\omicron\nu$ $\nu\acute{\iota}$ κ



At the beginning of l. 2, the image shows that the two raised o are extant and there is a tiny trace of μ ; this would have been followed by $\lambda\lambda$. Read $\delta\eta\mu\omicron(\sigma\acute{\iota}\omega\nu)$ [($\kappa\alpha\acute{\iota}$) $\acute{\alpha}$] $\lambda\lambda(\omega\nu)$; cf. CPR XIX 25.1 or SB VIII 9758.3.

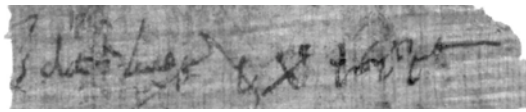
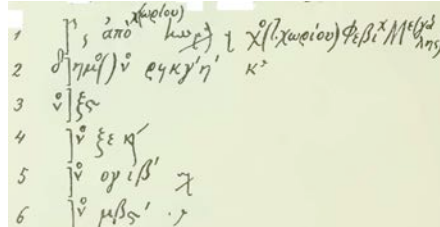
In l. 3, the purported abbreviation stroke after ρ is rather the upward extension of its descender; $\rho\acute{\alpha}\rho\eta$ does not take us far, unless it is a number: 1108. Then come two sinusoids; the first may represent $\frac{1}{2}$ and the second ($\kappa\acute{\alpha}\acute{\iota}$) (so already in the DDbDP version), but they stand too far from the preceding numbers. On the damaged area shown by oblique strokes in the transcript, we can make out the abbreviation for $\nu\omicron\mu\acute{\iota}\sigma\mu\alpha\tau\alpha$: we have $54\frac{1}{2}$ solidi. $\gamma\gamma$ is more difficult; it can hardly be an abbreviation of $\gamma\acute{\iota}\nu\omicron\nu\tau\alpha\iota$. Why did the scribe write what normally stands for the fraction $\frac{1}{2}$ twice? The same could be said about the two sinusoids earlier: $\frac{1}{2}$ written twice?

If these were half and one-third parts, they would have been indicated differently. I do not understand the purport of this line.

In l. 4, δ(ιά) is preceded by ς = (καί); cf. above, no. 11. After δ(ιά), the papyrus does not have Θεοδώρ(ου) but γεωργ^χ, i.e., Γεωργ(ίου). Last, the number of the solidi is not 20 (κ) but 2: read β.

18. SPP VIII 1326

This is a Heracleopolite fiscal register of the eighth century ('s. VII' *ed. pr.*), edited in this fashion:



On the basis of the image, I propose to read the heading as follows:

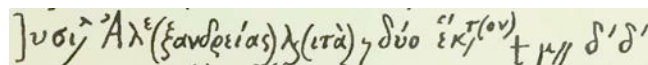
] (καί) δαπάγη(ς) κανό(νος) ἰ(ν)δικτίωνος ἰ χο(ρίου) Φεβίχ(εως)
Μ(ε)γ(άλ)ης

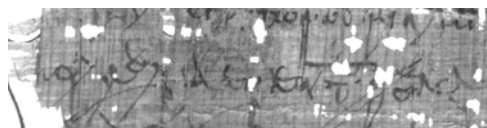
The remains of the high stroke on the edge belong to an abbreviation sign. An abbreviation of the name of another impost is one possibility.

A few other corrections are in place: in l. 2, read δ]ημο(σίων) νο(μ.) ρρη βη' κ[δ]' (198 $\frac{2}{3}\frac{1}{8}\frac{1}{24}$ sol.); the fraction at the end of l. 3 is η'; at the end of l. 5, read γί(ν.) υ[ο(μ.).

19. SPP VIII 1339

This fragmentary receipt of the seventh century ('s. VI' *ed. pr.*) presents an incongruous combination: Ἀλε(ξανδρείας) λιτά (κεράτια). Ἀλεξανδρείας and λιτά represent two distinct monetary standards; cf. e.g. SPP III².2 179. This however depends on the interpretation of two abbreviations. I reproduce l. 3 from the edition and a clipping of an image of the papyrus:





$\alpha\lambda^{\epsilon}$ is followed by the club-like carat-symbol, a well-formed ι , a tail such as of α or δ , and then δ rather than α , with the suspicion of a short oblique stroke such as that of fractions. The reading suggested is $\iota\alpha \delta'$, 11¼ carats. After the signs comes the ordinal number: an oddly shaped ϵ , the remains of a small ν , and an attempt at the $\delta\epsilon$ -ligature, with δ reduced to a mere stroke: $\epsilon\nu\delta\epsilon\kappa$. Then comes what Wessely saw as a cross, to be read as τ , with ϵ (damaged) written above: $\tau\acute{\epsilon}$ (ταρτον).⁸

At the end of the line, the papyrus has $\tau\delta\delta'$, to be rendered as $\sigma\upsilon(\nu)$ (τεταρτίων); cf. e.g. SPP III 675.4 (with BL IX 336), where $\mu\acute{o}(\nu\alpha)$ is written before $\sigma\upsilon\nu$. As for the beginning of the line, we have $\text{]}\eta\varsigma \dot{\iota}(\nu)\delta(\kappa\tau\acute{\iota}\omega\nu\varsigma)$; the number of the indiction could be $\acute{\epsilon}\nu\acute{\alpha}\tau\text{]}\eta\varsigma$; cf. $\tau\eta(\varsigma) \theta \dot{\iota}(\nu)\delta(\kappa\tau\acute{\iota}\omega\nu\varsigma)$ in l. 4. To conclude, I propose to read l. 3 as follows:

(?) $\acute{\epsilon}\nu\acute{\alpha}\tau\text{]}\eta\varsigma \dot{\iota}(\nu)\delta(\kappa\tau\acute{\iota}\omega\nu\varsigma)$ $\acute{\lambda}\lambda\epsilon(\xi\alpha\nu\delta\rho\epsilon\acute{\iota}\alpha\varsigma)$ (κεράτια) $\iota\alpha \delta'$ $\acute{\epsilon}\nu\delta\epsilon\kappa(\alpha)$
 $\tau\acute{\epsilon}$ (ταρτον) $\mu(\acute{o}\nu\alpha)$ $\sigma\upsilon(\nu)$ (τεταρτίων)

20. SPP X 73

This is a Heracleopolite fiscal register of the eighth century. One of the entries was read as $\chi(\omega\rho\acute{\iota}\omega\nu)$ Τουρ(ουβέστι) γ^{ov} (r.3). The enigmatic γ^{ov} invites scrutiny; the image reveals that the papyrus has $\pi\upsilon\rho\gamma^{\chi}$, to be read as Πυργου(του) or Πυργ(ωτ)ου, a Heracleopolite village (TM Geo 3040).

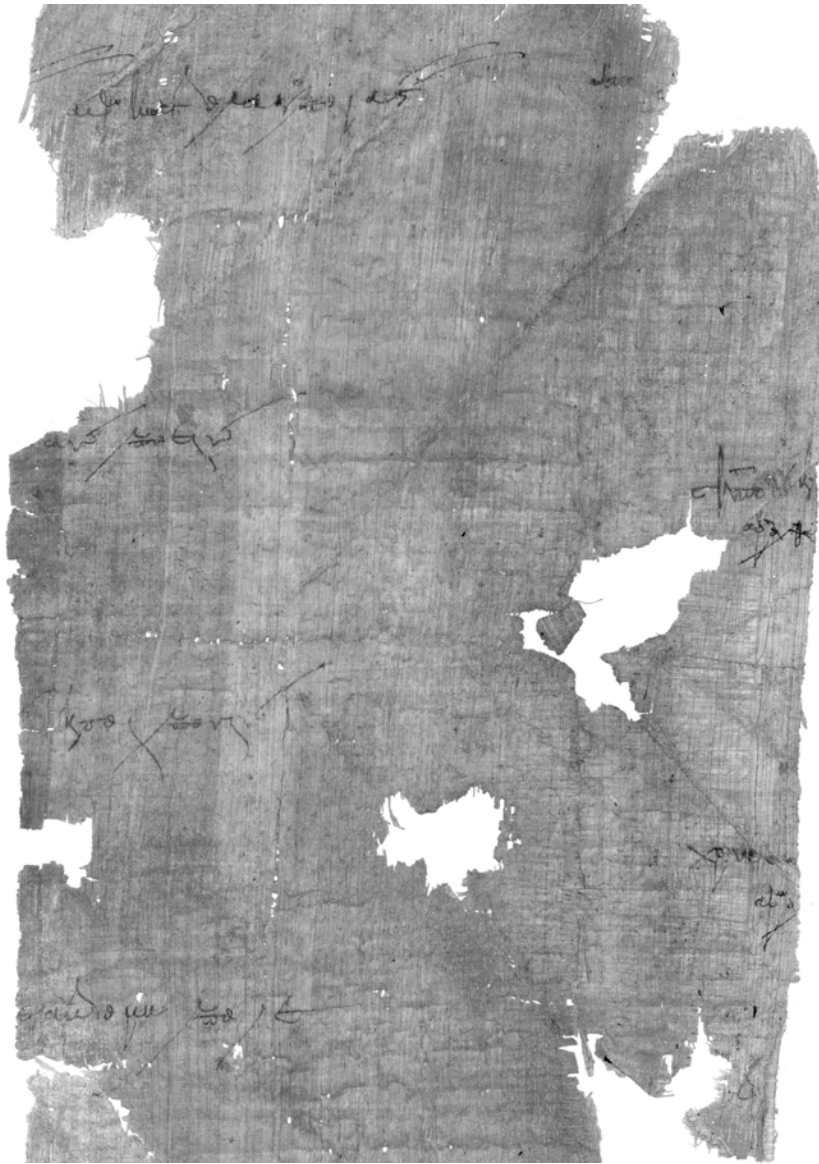
Not everything written on the papyrus is intelligible and not everything was transcribed. I will only record a correction and an omission. In r.2, for $\text{]}\pi\gamma\gamma^{\chi}\kappa\delta'$ read $\text{]}\theta \varsigma' \kappa\delta' \omicron\epsilon\gamma^{\chi}\kappa\delta'$. In v.4, Τασατ is followed by $\nu\omicron(\mu.) \text{]}$.

21. SPP X 127

This is a fiscal register from the Fayum of the eighth century. I reproduce the text of the 'verso' as it appears in the edition:

1	$\acute{\alpha}\varphi^{\omega(\nu)}$	κατ	$\acute{\eta}(\mu\acute{\iota}\sigma\mu\acute{\alpha}\tau\iota\alpha)$	λαυ	$\acute{\eta}\alpha(\lambda\lambda\omicron\iota\pi\acute{\alpha})$	ιας	$\acute{\lambda}\pi\alpha\acute{\alpha}$
2							σι' $\acute{\upsilon}\pi\omicron\delta\acute{\epsilon}\iota\varsigma(\tau\omicron\upsilon)$
3	$\alpha\gamma^{\chi}$		$\acute{\eta}\alpha(\lambda\lambda\omicron\iota\pi\acute{\alpha})$	εγ			$\acute{\alpha}\varphi^{\delta(\iota\acute{\alpha})}$ $\Theta\epsilon\acute{\iota}$
4	$\kappa\gamma^{\acute{\eta}(\mu\acute{\iota}\sigma\mu\alpha\tau\acute{\iota}\omega\nu)}$	η	$\acute{\eta}\alpha(\lambda\lambda\omicron\iota\pi\acute{\alpha})$	γγ			$\chi\rho\upsilon\sigma\omicron\upsilon$
5	κατ	$\alpha\beta^{\lambda(-\omicron\lambda\eta\varsigma)}$	$\acute{\eta}(\mu\acute{\iota}\sigma\mu\acute{\alpha}\tau\iota\alpha)$	μβ	$\acute{\eta}\alpha(\lambda\lambda\omicron\iota\pi\acute{\alpha})$	$\gamma(\lambda\kappa\epsilon\rho\acute{\alpha}\tau\iota\alpha)$	ϵ $\acute{\alpha}\varphi^{\omega(\nu)}$ $\delta(\iota\acute{\alpha})$

⁸ The reading of the figures are in part due to F. Morelli (email of 10.x.2019).



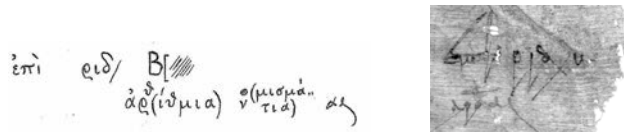
κατ^λ in l. 1 was recognized by H.I. Bell as a form of καταβάλλειν, who suggested reading κ(α)τ(αβ)λ(ηθέντα?) (BL I 419). This abbreviation of καταβληθέντα, with only the second consonant of the first part of the compound written, is not in harmony with the abbreviation system of this

period,⁹ but the expansion seems inescapable. Tax registers from Aphrodito attest the same arrangement as SPP 127v, e.g., P.Lond. IV 1416A. p+q.2a ἀφ' ὧν κ(α)τ(α)βλ(ηθέντα) νο(μίσματα) λκη . . . λ(οι)π(ά) νο(μίσματα) νδ γ'; cf. also SPP X 167b.6–7 ἀφ' ὧ(ν) καταβλ(η)θ(εῖσαι) ἀρτ(άβαι) ιδ | λοι(παί) [(sim. l. 4).

The pattern of the entries in SPP X 127v suggests that κατ^λ is equivalent to κ^τ and καταβ^λ in lines 4 and 5, where we may restore κατ]αβλ(ηθέντα) instead of κατ]αβ(ο)λ(ής). The fact that the same text attests three different ways of abbreviating the same word is remarkable.

Also unusual is the putative abbreviation of λοιπά in ll. 1, 4 and 5; alpha is unexpected, and in fact is not there: there may be a semblance to alpha, but this is the abbreviation for νο(μίσματα),¹⁰ a reference to which is required by the context (but no number is given in l. 5).

This is not the only passage where this abbreviation was not understood. Here is an extract from the edition and the corresponding clipping of the ends of ll. 2–3 of the text of the 'recto':



The abbreviation for νομίσματα, considerably damaged, is attached to the oblique extension of the first iota; read ἐπὶ νο(μίσματα) ρι δ(ιὰ) β. Nothing was written after β. The purport of the entry is obscure. Immediately below, the papyrus has δ(ιὰ) ἀρ(ί)θ(μ.) νο(μ.) αλ. Here too I cannot explain the use of δ(ιὰ).

To return to the text of the 'verso', the papyrus preserves the beginnings of another column. Though it is broken off at the ends of ll. 4–5, no brackets are added in the edition. χρυσοῦ in l. 4 is unexpected and curiously written out in full. *κτ(οῦ)ποδέκ(του)* (one word; also at r.4 and SPP VIII 1195.4) suggests reading χρυσοῦ[ποδέκ(του) here.

⁹ See F. Morelli, 'Tre registri fiscali del periodo arabo', *Eirene* 34 (1998) 165–6.

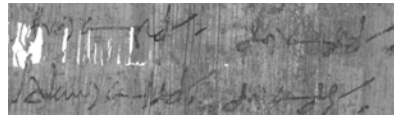
¹⁰ The form of the abbreviation is among those described in my 'Abbreviated Nomismata in Late Seventh- and Eighth-century Documents: Notes on Palaeography and Taxes', *ZPE* 136 (2001) 119–22.

22. SPP X 200

This is a fiscal register of the late seventh or more likely early eighth century, centred on Heracleopolite villages: $\chi\omega(\rho\acute{\iota}\omicron\nu) + name + numbers$. In l. 2, the edition has []ανουπ(). The image shows that a fragment has been attached to the point where a lacuna was indicated, so that it is now possible to read $\chi\omega(\rho\acute{\iota}\omicron\nu) \text{Καϣανούπ(εως)}$ (TM Geo 9489).

23. SPP X 221

This is a Heracleopolite land register of the early fourth century. Most land parcels belong to categories described as $\beta\alpha\sigma(\iota\lambda\iota\kappa\eta\varsigma)$ (ll. 1, 7 *et passim*) and $\acute{\iota}\delta\iota\omega\tau(\iota\kappa\eta\varsigma)$ (ll. 2, 6 *et passim*), but the readings are only partly correct. Wessely transcribed $\beta\alpha\varsigma$, but the papyrus generally has $\beta\epsilon\varsigma$, to be resolved as $\beta(\alpha\sigma\iota\lambda\iota\kappa\eta\varsigma) \acute{\epsilon}\sigma\pi(\alpha\rho\mu\acute{\epsilon}\nu\eta\varsigma)$; a comparable abbreviation occurs in SB XX 15074.2, where a short horizontal intersects a u-shaped beta (see *ZPE* 81 [1990], Taf. IXb). Similarly, the scribe did not write $\acute{\iota}\delta\iota\omega\tau$ but $\acute{\iota}\delta\iota\omega\epsilon\varsigma$, i.e., $\acute{\iota}\delta\iota\omega(\tau\iota\kappa\eta\varsigma) \acute{\epsilon}\sigma\pi(\alpha\rho\mu\acute{\epsilon}\nu\eta\varsigma)$ (fully preserved in l. 2, not lost in lacuna); there is no abbreviation sign after $\acute{\iota}\delta\iota\omega$, but this is fairly common. In general, the register distinguishes between sown and unsown land: there are entries such as $\beta(\alpha\sigma\iota\lambda\iota\kappa\eta\varsigma) \acute{\epsilon}\sigma\pi(\alpha\rho\mu\acute{\epsilon}\nu\eta\varsigma) (\acute{\alpha}\rho\omicron\upsilon\rho\alpha\iota) \epsilon \delta'$ [$\acute{\alpha}$]σπ(όρου) (ἄρουρα) $\alpha \delta'$ (l. 14), or $\acute{\iota}\delta\iota\omega(\tau\iota\kappa\eta\varsigma) \acute{\epsilon}\sigma\pi(\alpha\rho\mu\acute{\epsilon}\nu\eta\varsigma) (\acute{\alpha}\rho\omicron\upsilon\rho\alpha\iota) \iota\alpha \delta'$ ἄσπ(όρου) (ἄρουρα) $\alpha \iota$ (l. 15). I append a clipping:



Several other corrections are in place:

l. 7, the unread number before ψ is α ;

l. 9 end, read $(\gamma\acute{\iota}\nu\omicron\upsilon\tau\alpha\iota)$ [(ἄρουραι) κδ], since the total of the aruras recorded in this entry is 24;

l. 11, the superscript writing, reproduced as a drawing in the edition, should be read as $(\gamma\acute{\iota}\nu\omicron\upsilon\tau\alpha\iota) (\acute{\alpha}\rho\omicron\upsilon\rho\alpha\iota) \zeta$, the total of the aruras recorded in ll. 10 and 11 (this part of the line is not deleted);

l. 12, εἰς κλ' Σαραπίων Ἡρώδου $\beta\alpha\sigma(\iota\lambda\iota\kappa\eta\varsigma)$ *drawing* → εἰς κλ(ηρονόμου) Σαραπίωνος Ἡρώδου $\beta(\alpha\sigma\iota\lambda\iota\kappa\eta\varsigma) \acute{\epsilon}\sigma\pi(\alpha\rho\mu\acute{\epsilon}\nu\eta\varsigma) \zeta \varsigma \eta' \iota\varsigma'$;

l. 16, [$\beta\alpha\sigma(\iota\lambda\iota\kappa\eta\varsigma)$] $\zeta \beta\psi$ $\acute{\iota}\delta\iota\omega\tau(\iota\kappa\eta\varsigma) \zeta$ [] β' $(\gamma\acute{\iota}\nu\omicron\upsilon\tau\alpha\iota)$ [→ $\beta(\alpha\sigma\iota\lambda\iota\kappa\eta\varsigma) \acute{\epsilon}\sigma\pi(\alpha\rho\mu\acute{\epsilon}\nu\eta\varsigma) \zeta \beta\psi\iota\varsigma'$ $\acute{\iota}\delta\iota\omega(\tau\iota\kappa\eta\varsigma) \acute{\epsilon}\sigma\pi(\alpha\rho\mu\acute{\epsilon}\nu\eta\varsigma) \zeta \iota\eta' \iota\varsigma'$ (γίν.) [$\zeta \gamma'$] ;

l. 17, εἰς Σαλάμμωνα πλησίον κεραμε[] β [→ εἰς Σαλάμμωνα Πησίου κεραμευ (l. -έα?) $\beta(\alpha\sigma\iota\lambda\iota\kappa\eta\varsigma)$ [;

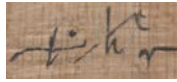
1. 18, ἰδ[ιω(τικῆς) ἑ] *drawing* ἀσ(πόρου) ἑ [], β' ἰς' → ἰδ[ιω(τικῆς) ἑσπ(αρμένης) ἑ γ' ἀσπ(όρου) ἑ [] β' ἰς'.

24. SPP XX 276

This short text was assigned to the sixth/seventh century and was read as follows:

1. † κ(εράτια) γ φάρμα(σουθι) κδ 2. ἡ(α) ἑ(αγίου) . ιβ' μ(όνα)

The reference to carats at the very beginning, immediately followed by a month date, is out of place. The image shows that what was transcribed as κ is an h-shaped eta whose upright is intersected by a rising oblique that dips when it reaches the top:



This abbreviation is known from several eighth-century texts.¹¹ One of them is CPR XXII 23, a fiscal register of 787/8, which contains entries such as ἡ(μέρα) β Ραγεπ ιε Τυβι δ (l. 2; cf. also 3–7, 11): a numbered week-day, followed by an Arab month date and its equivalent in the Egyptian calendar. We have to read ἡ(μέρα) γ here.

The text is late: the hand suggests a date not earlier than the second half of the eighth century, or perhaps even in the ninth. The other side contains an account in Arabic, curiously not reported when the text was first introduced to the modern world as PERF 510. This too could be placed in the same date range, as Naïm Vanthieghem tells me. Another late feature is the sign written after ιβ' in l. 3, which corresponds to the fraction for $\frac{1}{48}$ in Arabic accounts.¹² This is a payment of $\frac{1}{12}\frac{1}{48}$ sol.

¹¹ See F. Morelli, 'Sei ΚΑΤΑΒΟΛΑΙ in P. Bodl. I 107', *ZPE* 115 (1997) 200.

¹² Information supplied by L. Berkes, who drew my attention to the ninth-century P.Cair.Arab. IV 246.3, 13, 17, and N. Vanthieghem.