NOTES ON PAPYRI

P.CtYBR inv. 4352

P.CtYBR inv. 4352 (fourth/fifth century AD) features four lines from a *per libellum* judicial process.[1] In lines 2–3 of this bilingual papyrus the edition reads:

2 [*cum obtulisset libellum* N.N.: *ex officio*: ὁποῖον λίβελλον N.N. ἐπιδέ]δωκεν τῇ σῇ ἀρετῇ ἔχ[ων μετὰ χεῖρας ἀναγνώσομαι, εἰ προστάξειεν σοῦ τὸ μέγεθος.]

3 [-------ἀναγιγνωσ]κέσθω. *et reciṭaṿ*[*it*]/: πρὸς τὴ[ν σὴν ἀρετὴν παρὰ N.N. κτλ.]

In these lines, the typical process is recorded: the *officium* asks permission to read a petition (λίβελλον) to the presiding official and he grants it.[2] In line 3, the scribe adds *et reciṭaṿ*[*it*] in the interlinear space (see the editor's note *ad locum*). Looking at the available image,[3] however, it seems to me that *ex offic*(*io*) ṛec̣(*itatum*) ẹ[*st* is written. The *et* and *ex* ligatures are identical, but the ascending vertical of *x* curves into a diminutive *o* that then goes into the vertical stroke of *f*; the following -*ffi*- complex is very similar to that found in the same word in *P.Oxy.* 16.1878.2 (461) and *P.Oxy.* 63.4381.2–3 (375). *officio* is probably abbreviated to *offic*(*io*), as in *P.Oxy.* 63.4381.2–3, *ChLA* 45.1321.3 (436?),[4] *P.Thomas* 25.2 (437?), *P.Oxy.* 16.1878.2 and 1877.2 (*ca.* 488), and *ChLA* 43.1247.2, 11, 13 (fifth century). ṛec̣(*itatum*) ẹ[*st* is based on *P.Oxy.* 63.4381.3 and *ChLA* 43.1247.11, 13; the reading is uncertain, but some of the traces agree: after *c* follows an indecipherable trace at mid-height, then an

---

[1] Edited by A. Benaissa, "Six Papyri of the Fifth Century from the Beinecke Library," *APF* 56.2 (2010) 278–281.

[2] For a summary of the process, see B. Palme, "Libellprozess und Subskriptionsverfahren," in E. Cantarella, M. Gagarin, G. Thür, and J. Velissaropoulos (eds.), *Symposion 2017* (Wien 2018) 262–265.

[3] Image: https://findit.library.yale.edu/bookreader/BookReaderDemo/index.html?oid=15525452# page/1/mode/1up.

[4] For some relevant corrections on the text of this papyrus, see G. Iovine, "Korr. Tyche 909," *Tyche* 34 (2019) 245–246.

ascending oblique (upper curve of e?), next to it a circular trace (c?), then a curve at the base-line with an ascending vertical and traces of what seems to be a crossbar descending towards the base-line (probably e).

Patras   Georgios Papaioannou

P.Lond. 3.897.22–23

In a private letter dated to 84 CE, *P.Lond.* 3.897, lines 19–24 run as follows[1]:

<div align="right">καὶ περὶ ἄλλων</div>

20   ἀναγκαίω[ν] με[τε]ώρω[ν] ἤθελόν σοι γράψαι νὴ [τ]οὺς θεούς.
 οὐκ ἔγραψα δὲ διὰ τῆς ἐ[π]ιστολῆς εἰδὼς ἐμαυτῶι ὅτι ἤδη
 [π]ροέσχη[κας] ἐν τῶι πράγματι. παρακαλῶι δέ σε εἶνα (*l.* ἵνα) μὴ με-
 λανήσῃς δι[ὰ τ]ῆς ἐπιστολῆς, κ[α]ὶ π[α]ραγενάμενος ε[ὐ]θέως
 [.] . ινα εκτ[---]

Olsson, *Papyrusbriefe* (1925) 145, no. 50, translated: "Auch bezüglich anderer notwendiger laufender Angelegenheiten möchte ich bei den Göttern an Dich schreiben. Aber ich schreibe hierüber nicht in dem Brief, da ich mir bewusst bin, dass Du schon tüchtig in dieser Sache bist. Aber ich ermahne Dich, dass Du nicht anschwärzen(?) mögest …" He also commented on the strange phrase μὴ μελανήσῃς on p. 147, note to l. 22: "Der Vorschlag von Preisigke, με ἀμελήσῃς für μελανήσῃς zu lesen, scheint mir nicht annehmbar. Ich ziehe μελανήσῃς zu μελανέω, das gewöhnlich intransitiv ist, 'schwarz warden,' aber bisweilen transitive Bedeutung hatte. Corp. gloss. lat. II 83,2: Infuscant μελανοῦσιν, σπιλοῦσιν. Hier muss es in übertragenem Sinn stehen 'anschwärzen,' 'verleumden.'"

My proposal is to read in ll. 22–23 παρακαλῶι δέ σε εἶνα (*l.* ἵνα) μή με | πλανήσῃς δι[ὰ τ]ῆς ἐπιστολῆς, and to translate the entire text (ll. 19–24) as: "and I wanted to write to you about other important matters – really, I wanted, I swear in the name of the gods –, but I did not write these in this letter because I believe that you will have already seen to these matters. Therefore, do not cause me to wander in your letter, and after you come here, immediately do …" At the beginning of l. 23 we can see the left vertical and the left edge of the horizontal of π and then, just before α only the end of a horizontal stroke is preserved. This horizontal belongs to a λ, which is not ligatured with the following α as in ll. 1, 15 and 16. In addition, it seems that π and λ have been squashed together. For the phrase see LSJ *s.v.* πλανάω I 1 for the earlier examples; cf. also Matt. 24:4 βλέπετε μή τις ὑμᾶς πλανήσῃ; Apoc. 20:3 ἔκλεισεν καὶ ἐσφράγισεν ἐπάνω αὐτοῦ ἵνα μὴ πλανήσῃ ἔτι τὰ ἔθνη. In papyri we find the same

---

[1] See Plate 27 in the edition. A digital image is available at http://www.bl.uk/manuscripts/FullDisplay.aspx?ref=Papyrus_897.

meaning in two petitions of the second century CE: *P.Oxy.* 22.2342.16–17 (102) πλανῶσα [ἐμ]ὲ καθ᾽ ἑκάστην ἡμέραν; *P.Oxy.* 6.898.7–9 (123) πολλά μ[ε ἀ]δικοῦσα ἔτι καὶ πλανήσασά με ἐποίησεν εἰς Ὄασιν καταβῆναι.

University of Crete   Nikos Litinas

P.Princ. 3.142.15

    P.Princ. 3.142 is a contract for a loan of money probably drawn up at Tebtynis (see *BL* 7.168) and dated to the end of the first century and the beginning of the second century CE; cf. *P.Oxy*. 3.511 (103; Harrauer, *Paläographie*, Abb. 90); *P.Oxy*. 50.3557 (125/126; Harrauer, *Paläographie*, Abb. 99); see *BL* 6.119, 9.221, and 10.165. At the end of the contract there is the so-called "πρᾶξις-clause," which is followed by a strange sequence of letters (ll. 12–15):

12   τῆς πράξεως οὔ-
    σης τῇ Κολλαῦθι ἔκ \τε/ τοῦ Νείλου καὶ
    ἐκ τῶν ὑπαρχόντων αὐτῷ πάν-
15   των. (hand 2) π̣α̣χ̣α̣τ̣ω̣σ̣α̣ντο( ) καθαιυμαιηρακισιοθ( ).

    The note *ad loc*. states that "The cursive script has so far defied attempts at decipherment. Normally the formula of exaction should end καὶ ἐκ τῶν αὐτῷ ὑπαρχόντων πάντων καθάπερ ἐκ δίκης, but this is not the case here. There is no evidence that the signatures of either party were affixed, nor is the formula on behalf of illiterates used."
    I reproduce the strange handwriting[1]:

    I can see υπαρχ αυτˉ παντˉ καθα∫ εκ δικ∫ ηρα^κ ισιδˉ and propose the following text: ὑπαρχ(όντων) αὐτῷ πάντω(ν) καθάπ(ερ) ἐκ δίκ(ης). Ἡρακ(λ-) Ἰσιδώ(ρου). All the words are written very cursively: from ὑπαρχ(όντων), only the letter ρ is not clear: it is ligatured and squeezed between α and χ. One can also consider that part of ρ is the stroke which forms the first oblique of χ. Then the words αὐτῷ πάντω(ν) καθάπ(ερ) are also clear: αὐτῷ has its final letter superscript, although it is not necessary. Then, ἐκ δίκ(ης) is expected: after εκ, the letter κ flows cursively into δ, which leads to ι. The word is abbreviated after κ with a vertical ∫-shaped stroke. In Ἰσιδώ(ρου) the first two strokes of δ are squeezed together, then the final stroke ligatures into a raised ω. A certain Herakleides, son of Isidoros, appears to have signed in *BGU* 2.427 (Soknopaiou Nesos, 159 CE) and *BGU* 3.859 (Arsinoite nome, 161–163 CE), and possibly in *P.Prag*. 1.20 (Dikaiou Nesos, 159 CE), but the handwriting in all these cases is different from the one in *P.Princ*. 3.142.

---

[1] The image of the papyrus can be seen at http://pudl.princeton.edu/objects/kd17cw449.

   This proposal implies that this line is a supplementary note or an after-thought, because the legal clause in ll. 12–15, which is finished after ἐκ τῶν ὑπαρχόντων αὐτῷ πάντων, was not written in full and properly. A certain person did not just write καθάπ(ερ) ἐκ δίκ(ης) which would have completed the clause but repeated the last words of the clause, ὑπαρχ(όντων) αὐτῷ πάντω(ν). The same person might have also added τε in l. 13. At the end he also wrote the name of the amanuensis, that is, Herakleides, son of Isidoros, but for some reason he did not continue to complete the amanuensis formula.

University of Crete   Nikos Litinas

Some "Minus Carats" Figures

(1) A new Oxyrhynchite aberrant

P.Oxy. 47.3355 is an antichretic "loan of two solidi less an uncertain sum expressed in carats," dated to 535. The endorsement describes the amount borrowed as χρ(υσοῦ) νο(μισμάτων) β π(αρὰ) κερ(ατι-) . . . . . [(l. 16). On the online image, it is possible to read π(αρὰ) κερ(άτια) ι ⸖ ἰδ(ιωτικῷ) [(ἰδ/ pap.). We have 2 *solidi* minus 10 carats, which reflect a deduction of 5 carats per *solidus*. This is higher than the rate prevalent in private documents from Oxyrhynchus from 520 (*P.Oxy.* 85.5520) to 552 (*P.Oxy.* 1.145), viz. "minus 4," with a few exceptions showing lower figures. The rate rises later, but the picture is not uniform.

(2) Too many carats deduced?

BGU 17.2718 is a receipt for the repayment of a debt of 1 *solidus* minus 12 carats from Hermopolis, assigned to the sixth/seventh century. There are three references to this amount: νομί[σ]ματα (*l.* νόμισμα) ἓν εὔστα-θ(μον) π(αρὰ) κερ(άτια) δώδεκα, | γί(νεται) χρ(υσοῦ) νό(μισμα) α εὔσταθ(μον) π(αρὰ) κ(εράτια) ιβ μό(να) (ll. 3–4); νομίσματος ἑνὸς εὐστάθ(μου) π(αρὰ) κερ(άτια) δώδεκα (l. 5, written by a second hand). To quote J. Gascou, *Cd'É* 77 (2002) 331 (≈ *BL* 12.28), "On est surpris de noter un solidus sujet à une énorme retenue de 12 carats. Le π(αρά) des ll. 3, 4 et 5 est sûr? L'écriture est très pâlie et on ne peut vérifier aucune conjecture." The image that has since appeared online helps settle the question. There is no π(αρά) in l. 4 but a sinusoid, to be resolved as (καί). In l. 5, the same word is written out in full: καί. What precedes κερ(άτια) in l. 3 is too abraded to be verified, but there is enough room for κ̣α̣ί̣. Thus we have 1 solidus "of full weight" *and* 12 carats, as e.g. in *P.Giss.* 106.4 (Herm.; 6th/7th c.) χρυσοῦ νόμισμα ἓν εὔστ(α)θ(μον) καὶ κεράτια δώδεκα.

(3) Deducting and multiplying

P.Lond. 5.1781 is a Hermopolite[1] receipt "for 5 solidi less 6 (?) carats each, as rent for land," assigned to the sixth century. The amount paid is χρ[υ]σοῦ νομισμάτια πέντε παρὰ κ[ερ]ά̣τ̣ι̣α̣ ἐξ ἕκαστον χωρ[ὶς] π̣α̣ρ̣α̣μ[υθίας], | γί(νονται) χρ(υσοῦ) νο(μισμάτια) ε π(αρὰ) κ(εράτια) δ (ll. 2–3). The note to l. 2 conveys uncertainty: "κεράτια εξ: in 1. 3 κ/ δ seems clear, and εξ here might be ερ/; but the traces before it suggest

_____

[1] The papyrus was only tentatively considered Hermopolite on the basis of a place-name that recalls one from this area, but this is also suggested by the wording.

the reading given rather than κ[ερ/ τ]εσσερ/. δ in l. 3 may therefore be a slip of the pen." The editor appears to have thought that the number in l. 3 ought to be 6, but this would still be incorrect: with minus 6 carats per *solidus* (the implications of ἕκαϲτον seem to have been missed), there should be 5 *solidi* minus 30 carats, and the number after κ(εράτια) in l. 3 should be λ. An image shows the top of a triangular letter, which would suit either δ or λ; δ = 4, which the editor read, would be wrong, but λ = 30 is the expected reading. Other Hermopolite documents referring to "5 gold *solidi*, minus 6 carats each … total 5 gold *solidi* minus 30 carats" are *SB* 20.15043.4–5[2] (6th/7th c.) and *P.Grenf.* 2.87.15–17 (602).

University College London   Nikolaos Gonis