

***O.Ashm. 104: Requisitioned pillows and their prices*¹**

The first five lines of *O.Ashm. 104* were initially published as *O.Crum Ad. 31*, which was described as follows: ‘List of names with sums of money and other figures opposite them. There are more on the ostr. but none are remarkable.’ Tait was unaware of this publication, as the problematic readings in lines 1–2 and 4 imply. A revised edition is given below. The ‘Coptic’ character of the hand, as well as the spelling, suggests that this should be treated as a Coptic text, hence the resolution of the patronymics in the nominative.

Crum noted: ‘I cannot complete the abbreviation $\pi\lambda\omicron$ or $\pi\omicron\lambda$ ’, which is also found in another text he published, *O.Crum 447*: ‘Names of men and women, with their fathers, have opposite them the obscure abbreviation *pl* and the figure *a*.’ Women are mentioned in *O.Ashm. 104* too (1; ?11). The abbreviated word (π with λ suprascript) recurs in *O.Petr.Mus. 578*, also written in a ‘Coptic’ hand, where the abbreviation is invariably followed by the number ‘1’, and in *O.Petr.Mus. 583*, where the figures range from 1 to 8, and alternate with entries referring to *solidi* (see A. Delattre, J.-L. Fournet, *APF* 59 (2013) 170); see also in *BKU III 466r*, which lists names, money and $\square\square\square$. F. Morelli (*per litt.*) has made the attractive and no doubt correct suggestion that these are $\pi\lambda(\omicron\upsilon\acute{\alpha}\kappa\iota\alpha)$, ‘cushions’, which occur among requisitions by the state authorities in the late seventh and early eighth centuries. The amounts of money that precede them would be their prices, but no consistent pattern emerges.²

O.Ashm. 104

13.2 × 15.9 cm

Eighth century

$\square\square\square\square\square\square\square\square\square\square$ νό(μισμα) α πλ[ο(υμάκια) β(?)
 $\square\square\square\square\square\square\square\square\square\square\square$ νο(μίσματος) γ' πλο(υμάκια) β
 $\square\square\square\square\square\square\square\square\square$ νο(μίσματος) β/ πλο(υμάκιον) α
4 $\square\square\square\square\square\square\square\square$ νο(μίσματος) \square πλο(υμάκιον) α
 $\square\square\square\square\square\square\square\square(\square)$ νό(μισμα) α πλο(υμάκια) β
 $\square\square\square\square\square\square\square\square(\square\square)$ νο(μίσματος) \square πλο(υμάκιον) α
 $\square\square\square\text{'}\square\square\text{'}$ $\square\square\square\square\square\square\square\square$ νο(μίσματος) \square β/ ρου() β
8 $\square\square\square\square\square\square\square\square\square$ νο(μίσματος) β/ πλο(υμάκια) β
 $\square\square\square\square\square\square\square\square(\square\square\square\square)$ νο(μίσματος) ζ' πλο(υμάκι) .
(*m.*²) $\square\square\square\square\square\square\square$
 $\square\square\square$ πλο(υμάκιον) α
12 $\square\square\square\square\square\square$ πλο(υμάκια) γ
 $\square\square\square\square\square\square$ πλο(υμάκι) [
 $\square\square\square\square\square\square$ [

Back:

¹ I am grateful to Liam McNamara for making the papyrus available for study. The images are published with permission of the Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford.

² Morelli discusses the prices of these products in this and other documents in ‘Prodotti tessili e prezzi in un papiro viennese del VII secolo’, in C. FREU, S. JANNIARD, A. RIPOLL (eds.), *Libera curiositas. Mélanges d'histoire romaine et d'Antiquité tardive offerts à Jean-Michel Carrié* (2016) 300f.

(m.¹) □□□□□□ □□□ νο(μίσηματα) ζ πλο(υμάκια) ιβ

1–9 □ 1–10, 12–13 π ολ 1 † Τα. ασιεπα. . υ, π. . ed. pr. 2 Γεώργες Α. ωνα. ει, ἥ(μισυ) πλβ ed. pr.
3 . . πλα. ed. pr. 4 Χαῖλος Μού(σεως), πλα ed. pr. 5 Κολ(λού)θ(ου), πλβ ed. pr. 7 Κολ(λοῦ)θ(ος),
νο(μισματίου) □ β ed. pr. 8 Πε. . τ. νο(μισματίου) . . πλβ ed. pr. 9 . . π. ed. pr. 10 . . α. ed. pr.
11 . . . ed. pr. 12 π. γ ed. pr. 13 Θεω. ρε [ed. pr. 15 not reported in ed. pr.

Tanaste daughter of Paleu: sol. 1, cushions 2(?); George son of Sanagape: sol. $\frac{1}{3}$, cushions 2; Kosma son of Symeon, sol. $\frac{2}{3}$, cushion 1; Chael son of Psmou: sol. $\frac{1}{2}$, cushion 1; Kosma son of Kolthe: sol. 1, cushions 2; Symeon son of Viktor: sol. $\frac{1}{2}$, cushion 1; Kolthe son of Theodoros: sol. $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{2}{3}$, red(?) 2; Kosma son of Pes(y)nte: sol. $\frac{2}{3}$, cushions 2; Markos son of Anastasios: sol. $\frac{1}{6}$, cushion *n*; (2nd hand) Severos; Lia: cushion 1; Kamul: cushions 3; Theod(o)re: cushion *n*; David ... (back) (1st hand) Matthaïos son of Pses: sol. 6, cushions 12.

1 □□□□□. The same name is to be read in *O.Petr.Mus.* 597.4: Παλην, not Πα. η(ο)ϖ (Crum had read Πα. η^ν, but put ‘Pa(i)êu’ in the translation; see *O.CrumVC* p. 48, no. 121).

2 □□□□□□ □□□□□□□□. W. C. Till, *Datierung und Prosopographie der koptischen Rechtsurkunden aus Theben* (SBWien 240.1: 1962) 91, cites another instance from *O.Brit.Mus.Copt.* I pl. XIVa.3.

γ' =. Crum read □; Tait saw the same letter too, but this is hardly η'. The unusual shape is mostly due to the fact that the rising oblique that functions as a fraction marker starts from low in the lime, somewhat like that for ζ' in line 9.

β. The top of the letter is lost, but the lower part suggests beta rather than alpha.

3 νο(μ.) β/. The same figure occurs in lines 7 and 8. Crum read □, which is impossible.

4 □□□□ □□□□□. This is the name of a well-known official of Jeme; see Till, *Datierung und Prosopographie* 68.

5 □□□□(□) rather than □□□(□□□)□(□□); see next note.

7 □□□'□□'. The scribe's intention was apparently to abbreviate the name as in l. 5, but added another stroke after theta, which makes the sequence compatible with □□.

The sequence □ β/, $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{2}{3}$, is anomalous, but it looks as if the second fraction was a later addition. It is less likely that the fraction for $\frac{1}{3}$ should be read instead of $\frac{2}{3}$.

ρου: ρού(σια)? If so, this would be some red product, clearly textile; cf. *P.Prag.* I 86.3 (vii), where the word is used as a substantive.

8 □□□□□ □□□□□□. A person of this name is recorded in Till, *Datierung und Prosopographie* 125.

9 □□□□□□ □□□□□(□□□□□). See Till, *Datierung und Prosopographie* 137.

πλο(υμάκι) . . The surface is damaged and no reading can be confirmed.

10–11 It is unclear whether πλο() α is to be taken with the name in l. 10 or that in 11. The two names should probably not be taken together, not so much because □□□ is feminine, but because the lines that follow

only refer to single names. As A. Delattre points out to me, lines 10–14 are written by a second hand, which also accounts for the different structure of the text: no names of fathers and sums in solidi are mentioned.

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