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SKIPPER'S RECEIPT FOR GRAIN DELIVERED

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## SKIPPER'S RECEIPT FOR GRAIN DELIVERED

P. Mich. inv. 1740<sup>1</sup>  
Oxyrhynchite nome

13.5 x 12.5 cm.

A.D. 341  
Tafel VIII

- Αὐρήλιος Πολυδεύκης ναύκ(ληρος) ἀπὸ τοῦ Κυνοπολ(ίτου)  
 Ἄνω πλ(οίου) δημοσίου ἀγωγ(ῆς) (ἀρταβῶν) Ἴτ Ϝ̅ παρ(άσημον) Διόνυσος  
 Αὐρηλία .[. .]ρία Ἄμμωνος διὰ τοῦ ἀνδρὸς  
 4 η// πάγου (ὑπὲρ) Ταπ[ε]κ(λάμ) χαίρειν·  
 ἐνεβαλόμ[ην καὶ] παρε[ίληφα εἰς] τὸ προκ(είμενον) πλ(οῖον) ὑπὲρ γενή(ματος)  
 [τῆς ι]εS/ ἰνδικ(τίονος) πυροῦ κ[α]θ(αροῦ) ἀρτάβ(ας) ἕξ ἡμισυ, (ἀρτ.) ϛ̅ καὶ  
 [το]ύτων τὰ κού(μουλα) καὶ τ[ὸ] δηνάρι(ον) καὶ τὸ κακκοφορικ(όν).  
 8 ὑπατείας Φλ(αουίων) Ἀντωνίου Μαρκελλίνου καὶ Πετρωνίου Προβίνου  
 τῶν λαμπ(ροτάτων) [Month] ε. Πολυδεύκης σεση(μείωμαι) ὡς πρό[κ(εῖται)].

(2nd hd) Αὐρ(ήλιος) .[. .]μμωνος  
 [ἀπὸ τοῦ Ὁξυρυγίτου (?)] ἔγραψα  
 [ὑπὲρ αὐτοῦ μὴ εἰδότης γρ]άμ[ματα .]

7 τούτων

Translation :

Aurelios Polydeukes, skipper of a public ship with a capacity of 3.300 artabas with Dionysos as its ensign from the Kynopolites Ano to Aurelia N.N., daughter of Ammon, through her husband, greetings. 8th *pagus* on account of Tapeklam. I have received and put on board of the afore-mentioned ship from the crop of the 15th indiction six and a half artabas of pure wheat, 6 1/2 art., and the *cumula* on these and the *denarius* (per *modius*) and the portorage fee.

In the consulship of Flavius Antonius Marcellinus and Flavius Petronius Probinus, *clarissimi*, [Month] 5. I, Polydeukes, have signed it as above stated.

(2nd hd) I, Aurelius N.N., son of N.N., from the Oxyrhynchite nome (?) have written it for him, because he does not know letters.

A receipt for 6 1/2 artabas of wheat plus associated charges issued by the ναύκληρος Aurelios Polydeukes, not known from another text published to date, to a woman, named Aurelia N.N., daughter of Ammon, through her husband. On the other side, written against the fibers, a similar receipt issued by Αὐρ(ήλιος) Παρ[ (I.1) ἀπὸ τοῦ Ὁξυρυγίτου ναύκ(ληρος) πλοί(ου) | Λεοντίου (II.2-3) to a person whose father's name is also Ammon (Ἄμμωνος I.4) also through (δι(ὰ) I.4) someone (not a husband seemingly). In this receipt there is a question of barley (κριθῆς I.7). The total seems to have come from several places (? οὕτως I.8). Very faint and mutilated traces of at least 12 lines have been preserved. What remains does not warrant a full transcription.

<sup>1</sup> The text runs along the fibers. Only at the top (there is a free margin of about 2 cm.) and partially so at the right the papyrus is regularly broken off. At the left there was a free margin of at least 1 cm. Between lines 7 and 8, 1 cm. has been left free and between lines 9 and 10, 1,5 cm.

I wish to thank Ludwig Koenen for his kind permission to publish this text here.

Many similar receipts have come down to us (*cf.*, *e.g.*, *P. Cairo Isid.* 50; *P. Oxy.* XLVIII 3395. *Cf.* in general A.J.M. Meijer-Termeer, *Die Haftung der Schiffer im griechischen und römischen Recht*, Stud. Amstel. XIII, Zutphen 1978).

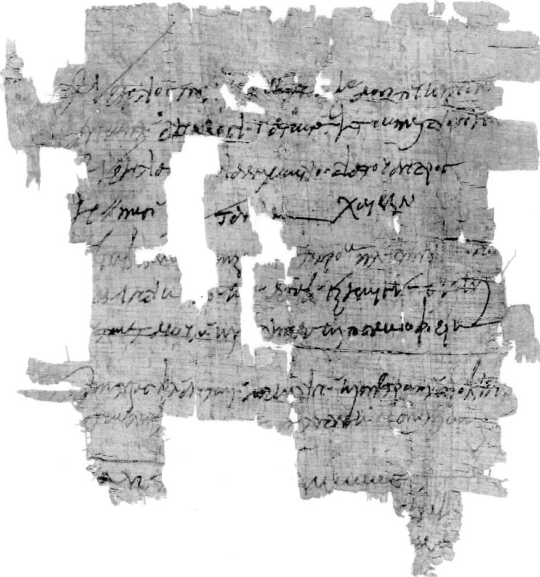
In the introduction to *P. Oxy.* XLVIII 3395 the fact that the Oxyrhynchite receipt is issued by a skipper and not by a tax-collector is used to make plausible that that receipt is issued to Papnuthius and Dorotheus “in an official capacity” and that the grain in question “was received from them as taxes which they had themselves collected and here pass on for shipment downstream.” Unless we assume that also Aurelia N.N., daughter of Ammon, of the present text acts in an official capacity (and the small number of artabas involved pleads against such an assumption) this text at least weakens the plausibility of the assumption of the editor of *P. Oxy.* XLVIII 3395.

In *P. Oxy.* XXIV 2415, dated to “late third century”, there is in lines 29-30 a question of a ship ὑπὸ . . . ἰνον ἀπὸ Ἄνω Κυνοπολίτου | [ἀγ(ωγῆς)] (ἀρτ.) Ἐτ ᾧ παρ(άσημον) Διόνυκος (ἀρτ.) Ἴχλ. There can be no doubt that we are dealing with the same boat, albeit under a different skipper. *P. Oxy.* XXIV 2415 may in the light of the present text perhaps be dated to the IVth century A.D. although we naturally cannot establish how long a boat remained in use.

#### Notes:

- 1-2) For the Κυνοπολίτες Άνω (both Ἄνω Κυνοπολίτης [*e.g.*, *P. Oxy.* XXIV 2415,29] and Κυνοπολίτης Ἄνω [*e.g.*, *P. Oxy.* XLVIII 3345, 50] occurs), see A. Calderini - S. Daris, *Dizionario dei nomi geografici e topografici dell'Egitto greco-romano* III.3, Milano 1982, 209; *Supplemento* I, Milano 1988, 188; *P. Oxy.* XLVIII 3345, 50n.
  - 4) ἠ// πάγου (ὑπερ) Ταπ[ε]κ(λάμ) : These words seem to have been added in the free space left in front of χαίρειν (also to be read in line 5 of the text on other side). They are written somewhat below the level of χαίρειν. Maybe we are dealing with a separate line.  
For the village Ταπεκλάμ, see P. Pruneti, *I Centri abitati dell'Ossirinchiite. Repertorio toponomastico*, Papyrologica Florentina IX, Firenze 1981, 198. The information that this village was situated in the 8th pagus seems to be new.  
(ὑπερ) : on both sides of a hole the top and the bottom of a large oblique are still visible. I have assumed that the especially from texts of a later date known symbol for (ὑπέρ) stood here.
  - 7) For κούμουλα, *cf.* *P. Neph.* 43, 7n. Add to the examples listed there *P. Strasb.* VII 654, 18 (A.D. 425-450).  
For δηνάριον, *cf.* A.J.M. Meijer-Termeer, *op. cit.*, 14; *P. Col.* VIII 236, 5 n.  
For σακκοφορικόν, *cf.* *P. Neph.* 43, 8n. Add to the examples listed there *P. Prag.* I 97, 3 (A.D. 350-370).
  - 8) For this consulate, see R.S. Bagnall *et alii*, *Consuls of the Later Roman Empire*, Atlanta 1987, *s.a.*
- 10ff.) These lines of which only scanty remains are preserved were written by a different hand and separated from the preceding text by a horizontal underneath line 9 (*cf.*, *e.g.*, *P. Mich.* XV 724). The remaining traces seem to warrant my readings and supplements although hand 1 and hand 2 do not seem to be identical.

TAFEL VIII



P. Mich. inv. 1740