

EIRENE

STUDIA
GRAECA
ET
LATINA

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PAPYROLOGICA IV
VARIA CLASSICA

Centre for Classical Studies
Institute of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague

12.

Account of Phoibammon for Building Expenses¹

P.Prag. Gr. II 172
Provenance (?)

12,5 × 9 cm

5th/6th century AD

The papyrus is incomplete, the bottom is missing. Traces of a few faded letters of a previous text are recognizable e.g. in l. 2. The hand is a rather practiced semi-cursive, which can be compared to P.Prag. I 45 (522), P.Oxy. LXXII 4913 (462) and P.Oxy. LXVIII 4700 (504). These parallels support a date to the second half of the 5th or the beginning of the 6th century. The Coptic l. 11 appears to have been written with slightly larger and heavier letters, yet the extant text does not offer adequate basis for telling whether a different scribe was involved, or whether the same scribe is using a different graphic style. Double oblique strokes are employed to divide units in the account. The back is blank.

The papyrus preserves the account of Phoibammon for expenses paid to the carpenter(s) (l. 6–9), for a window (l. 11), and for unknown purposes in the months of Phamenoth and Pharmouthi. The scribe started with registering three keratia up to Phamenoth 28, followed by a fourth on an unknown day of Phamenoth (l. 9), which he indicated also by adding l. 5 to the title, and then he continued with three extra entries in Pharmouthi. The second line, which was also added subsequently, might sum up ll. 10–12, in which case the account is complete, or it might constitute an extra entry. The most remarkable feature of this account is the insertion of one item (ⲁⲓ ⲱⲱⲱⲧ l. 11) in Coptic, which also breaks the organization principle of the lines (date first). This unusual example of bilingualism within a text may result from the scribe not knowing the Greek word for window. A parallel case is P.Leid. Inst. XXV 79 (7th cent.).

→

- 1 χμγ † ϛθ
- 2 Φαρμούθι // ι // κερ(άτια) τρία // γ//
- 3 † λό(γος) Φοιβάμμωνος Φαμενῶθ // κη
- 4 (vac.) κεράτια τρία //γ//
- 5 οὔ(τως) τέταρτον κατὰ ἡμέρας

¹ The publication of the present text and the text No. 13 has been prepared with the financial support of the research project OTKA NN 104456.

- 6 Φαμενώθ // κδ̄ // τέκ(τονι/τοσι?) ἔν // α
 7 Φαμενώθ // κξ̄ // τέκ(τονι/τοσι?) ἔν // α
 8 Φαμενώθ // κζ̄ // τέκ(τονι/τοσι?) ἔν // α
 9 Φαμενώθ [. .] τέκ(τονι/τοσι?) ἔν // α
 10 Φαρμούθι [ca. 8]
 11 ϛι ωωω[τ ca. 8]
 12 [Φαρ]μούθι[ι ca. 9]
 — — — — —

2. κερ ραρ. 3. Δ ραρ. 6-9. τεκ ραρ.

“χμγ † amen.

Pharmouthi 10: three keratia, 3.

† Account of Phoibammon, Phamenoth 28,
 three keratia, 3,

thus: the fourth, according to the days:

Phamenoth 24, to the carpenter(s?), one, 1;

Phamenoth 25, to the carpenter(s?), one, 1;

Phamenoth 27, to the carpenter(s?), one, 1;

Phamenoth ? to the carpenter(s?), one, 1;

Pharmouthi...;

for window...;

Pharmouthi...”

Commentary

1. χμγ † ϛθ: Both Christian symbols appear on document headings and ends from the 4th century on. ϛθ is a well-known isopsephism for amen. The meaning of χμγ is uncertain, it has been interpreted as an isopsephism for θεὸς βοηθός, an abbreviation for Χριστὸν Μαρία γεννᾷ vel. sim., or Χριστὸς μάρτυς γένηται vel. sim. The exact significance might have been lost already in antiquity. For recent discussion and bibliography see M. CHOAT, *Belief and Cult in the Fourth-Century Papyri*, Turnhout 2006, pp. 114–115 and F. Mitthof, CPR XXIII, pp. 217–218.

3. Φαμενώθ κη: Although η is only imperfectly visible, and could be a faded letter of the previous script, the structure of the account suggests that the date should be greater than or equal to 27 (l. 8), which supports 28 here. The first version of the list was apparently written one day after the last payment of the first three keratia was made, and it was supplemented later. The actual beginning of the account is marked by a cross.

5. This line was added subsequently between l. 4 and 6, together with the division line that was formed as an extension to the abbreviation οὔ(τωσ) and the final c of ἡμέρας. While τέταρτον could mean a quarter as well, referring to payments of ¼ keratia each day rather than one, the fact that the account lists payments of one keration, and that l. 4 was added subsequently supports the hypothesis of a reference to a fourth keration, a continuation to the account.

6. τέκ(τονι/τοσι?): The reading is clear in all four lines, the interpretation is not. The abbreviation of the word is well-attested, e.g. in P.Cair.Masp. II 67145 (Aphrodito, 524 to 554), P.Cair.Masp. III 67288 4r.11 (Aphrodito, 6th cent.), P.Eirene I 33 (Hermopolites, first half of 7th cent.), or P.Jena II 33 (Hermopolites, late 5th-6th cent.). The dative is justified by the fact that the account is for expenses (cf. l. 11 ζι ωωωτ “for window”). Plural is equally conceivable. The lack of the definite article is unexpected, but cf. P.Kell. IV 96 1755-1756 (361/62 or 379/380, τέκτογι μ(άτια) β) or P.Mich. XV 740.23 (6th cent., κονδιταρ(ίω) ὁμοί(ωσ) μυ(ριάδα) ρ).

9. Φαμενῶθ [. .]: If the process of drawing up of the account is reconstructed correctly, the number should be greater than or equal to 28, thus 28, 29 and 30 are the likely candidates.

10. Φαρμουῶθι: The date of this and the last entry should fall between 1 and 10 Pharmouthi.

11. ζι ωωω[τ]: Although the beginning of the line is mutilated, there is not enough space for the definite article η or the indefinite ογ.

ÁGNES T. MIHÁLYKÓ

Universitetet i Oslo

agi.mihalyko@gmail.com

INHALTSVERZEICHNIS

Vorbemerkung		17
Autoren		19
Inventarnummern		21
	Datum	Seite
1. GIOVANNA MENCI, <i>Scholia minora</i> al libro V dell' <i>Iliade</i> nelle „Wörterklärungen“ di P.Berol. P 11647 <i>verso</i>	2. Jh. n.Chr.	23
2. FRANCESCA MALTOMINI, Hom., <i>Od.</i> XI 606–607; 632–633	6. Jh. n.Chr.	30
3. HERMANN HARRAUER – ROSARIO PINTAUDI, Frammento astrologico in un papiro di Vienna	6. Jh. n.Chr.	35
4. GUIDO BASTIANINI, Editto prefettizio	138–142 n.Chr.	39
5. HERMANN HARRAUER, Namensliste	2./1. Jh. v.Chr.	44
6. GABRIELLA MESSERI SAVORELLI, Addendum a P.Bingen 109	3. Jh. n.Chr.	47
7. HERMANN HARRAUER – CLAUDIA KREUZSALER, SPP III 566 vervollständigt	7. Jh. n.Chr.	50
8. CLAUDIA KREUZSALER, Eine neue Quittung für Gerste des Apphuas	7. Jh. n.Chr.	53
9A.-9B. CLAUDIA KREUZSALER, Zwei Sammelquittungen des Diakon Athanasios		56
9A. CLAUDIA KREUZSALER, Sammelquittung des Athanasios für δημόσια, διάγραφον und δαπάνη	7.–8. Jh. n.Chr.	57
9B. CLAUDIA KREUZSALER, Fragment einer Sammelquittung des Athanasios	7.–8. Jh. n.Chr.	62

10. EDINA TÓTH, List of Payments	3. Jh. n.Chr.	66
11. EDINA TÓTH, End of a Contract	257/58 n.Chr.	70
12. ÁGNES T. MIHÁLYKÓ, Account of Phoibammon for Building Expenses	5/6. Jh. n.Chr.	73
13. ÁGNES T. MIHÁLYKÓ, List of Dyke Workers	2. Jh. n.Chr.	77
14. LAJOS BERKES, Ein neuer Brief aus dem Umfeld des Heroninos-Archivs	3. Jh. n.Chr. (vor 23.8.257)	80
15. LAJOS BERKES, Quittung für einen Pronoeten	1.H. 4. Jh. n.Chr.	86
16. LAJOS BERKES, Papyrusblatt mit christlichen Symbolen (?)	4.-6. Jh. n.Chr. (?)	88
17. DÓRA PESZLEN - ZOLTÁN SZEGVÁRI, Brieffragment	4./5. Jh. n.Chr.	92
18. DÓRA PESZLEN - ZOLTÁN SZEGVÁRI, Entwurf einer Quittung	6.-7. Jh. n.Chr.	94
19. DÓRA PESZLEN - ZOLTÁN SZEGVÁRI, Datierung	2. 9. 194 n.Chr.	96
20. ANNA FARKAS, Liste von Ausgaben	2.H. 4. Jh. n.Chr.	98
21. SIMONA RUSSO, Contratto di prestito di denaro	17/16 v.Chr.	101
22. ELEONORA ANGELA CONTI, Lettera con saluti finali	5. Jh. n.Chr. (?)	106
23. MARCO STROPPA, Parte finale di un contratto d'affitto	4. Jh. n.Chr.	110
24. LUCIO DEL CORSO, Elenco di nomi	6. Jh. n.Chr.	114
25. LUCIA LABRIOLA, Frammento di contratto	2. Jh. n.Chr.	117
26. LUCIA LABRIOLA, Frammento di registro della proprietà immobiliare	2./3. Jh. n.Chr.	121
27. LUCIA LABRIOLA, Frammento di corrispondenza ufficiale contenente la copia di una petizione	3. Jh. n.Chr.	126
28. LUCIA LABRIOLA, Frammento di conto privato	2.H. 3. Jh. n.Chr.	132

29. BIANCA BORRELLI, Frammento di registro di <i>laographoumenoi</i>	1./2. Jh. n.Chr.	138
30. BIANCA BORRELLI, Bozza di petizione	1./2. Jh. n.Chr.	147
31. LUCIA LABRIOLA, Conto in grano	3. Jh. n.Chr.	155
32. LUCIA CONSUELO COLELLA, Ordine di pagamenti per γέρδιοι	nach 212 n.Chr.	161
33. LUCIA CONSUELO COLELLA, Lista di contribuenti	3. Jh. n.Chr.	168
34. ROSARIO PINTAUDI, Frammento di un <i>rescriptum</i> di Septimius Severus e Caracalla	3. Jh. n.Chr.	172
35. DILETTA MINUTOLI, Inizio di contratto	6.-7. Jh. n.Chr.	175
36.-37. FRITZ MITTHOF - AMPHILOCHIOS PAPATHOMAS, Siegelringe in zwei spätantiken Briefen aus Wien		183
36. FRITZ MITTHOF - AMPHILOCHIOS PAPATHOMAS, Siegelring mit Darstellung eines Elefanten	2. H.6./frühes 7. Jh. n.Chr.	189
37. FRITZ MITTHOF - AMPHILOCHIOS PAPATHOMAS, Siegelring mit Darstellung des Heiligen Theodor	7. Jh. n.Chr.	193
38. AMPHILOCHIOS PAPATHOMAS, Fragment eines byzantinischen Schuldscheins	ca. 580-620 Jh. n.Chr.	195
39. AMPHILOCHIOS PAPATHOMAS, Eine Liste mit Personen aus der Schicht Gebildeter	4. Jh. n.Chr. (nach 324 n.Chr.)?	199
40. BERNHARD PALME, Gestellungsbürgschaft an Flavius Strategius Paneuphemos	5.10.614-4.10.615 n.Chr.	203
41. DILETTA MINUTOLI, Frammento magico	?	212
42. HERMANN HARRAUER - ROSARIO PINTAUDI, Fragment eines Pachtangebotes	5./6. Jh. n.Chr.	215
43. LUCIO DEL CORSO, Ricevuta (?)	6. Jh. n.Chr.	219
44. ALAIN DELATTRE - ALAIN MARTIN, Lettre	1.H. oder Mitte 7. Jh. n.Chr.	223
45. PAUL HEILPORN - ALAIN MARTIN, Liste d'esclaves	2./3. Jh. n.Chr.	230

46. ALAIN MARTIN - NAÏM VANTHIEGHEM, Lettre privée	3. Jh. n.Chr.	236
47. AIKATERINI KOROLI, List of Textiles and Garments with Prices	7. Jh. n.Chr.	239
48. FEDERICA NICOLARDI, Les témoignages papyrologiques du rhéteur Aelius Théon		248
49. ROBERTO MASCELLARI, Note di lettura a papiri documentari		264
50. KLAAS A. WORP, Localisation d'un camp de l'armée romaine à Psinabla		271
HERMANN HARRAUER, Indices		277
HERMANN HARRAUER, Literarisches: Index zu Texte Nr. 1 und 3		290

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Editor-in-chief
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Managing Editor
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Centre for Classical Studies, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague

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