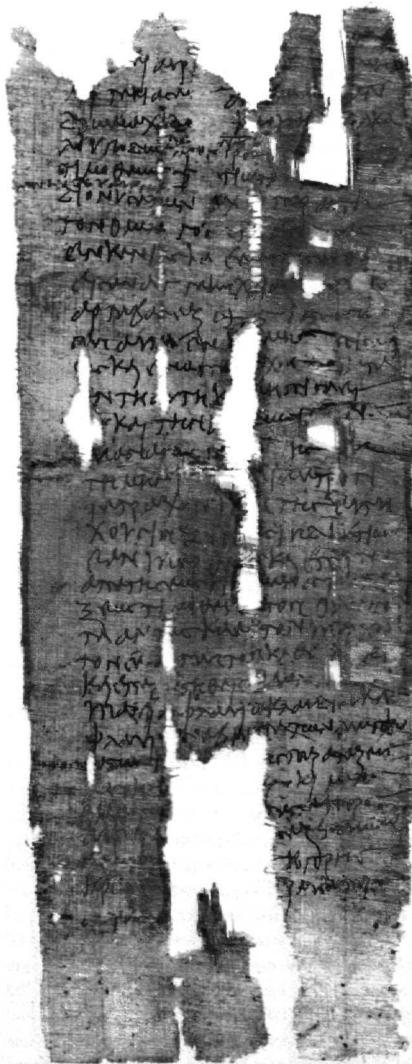


SB 22. 15286

The *editio princeps* of this papyrus by Girolamo Vitelli appeared in 1906 in the first volume of papyri belonging to, i. a., the Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana in Florence. The text contains a loan contract of six artabs of wheat lent by Fl. Timotheos, a soldier belonging to the military unit garrisoned in the camp at Dionysias, to Aurelius Antas, a carpenter from Andromachis, who, however, was not able to write for himself. His representative was a certain Aurelius Kopres, son of Heron, who was a rather clumsy writer making all kinds of mistakes in the Greek text; moreover, he often disjoins elements belonging together and he does not hesitate to change from the 'objective' to the 'subjective' style and vice versa. The contract is dated after the consuls of A.D. 362, but the writer forgot to indicate a precise month and day; if the contract was written on January 1st of that year (in itself a rather unlikely hypothesis, as on that very day one probably used in Egypt a dating after the post-consulate of the preceding year), the corresponding date in the Egyptian calendar would be Tybi 5. On the other hand, the repayment of the loan is stated to be scheduled for the month of Pauni (= May/June); the loan, therefore, was running for a period of 6 months at the maximum.

Unfortunately, Vitelli's edition of the text is not quite satisfactory (cf. *BL* VII 49 for a correction to line 18) and a study of a photograph of the papyrus kindly provided by our colleague R. Pintaudi persuaded us that a re-edition would be useful, the more so as there are several unusual phrasings in it (cf. lines 8, 10-13, 19-20, 25-27).

- 1 [Ὁμολο]γεῖ Αὐρῆ[λιος Ἀν]τᾶς [Θ]έωνος
- 2 μη(τρὸς) Τεκιάσεως ἀπ[ὸ] κώμης Ἀν-
- 3 δρωμαχίδο[ς] (ἐτῶν) καὶ οὐλῇ [ἀστ]ρακά-



6 Διονυσιάδος 7 Ἀντᾶν 8 γένα,
 ἐμετρήσαθε 9 ἀναγκαίαν χρεῖαν
 10 καθὼς 11 κόμῃ 12 πα-
 ρασχίσσομαι 14 ὄν, ἀπόδοσιν
 15 ποιήσομαι 16 μέτρον 17 τε-
 τραχονικῶ 17-18 εἰλυ-/χοὺς 18
 ἰνδικτιῶν Par. 20 ἀπαιτήσεως, γι-
 νομένης 21-22 τοῦ ὁμολογοῦντος
 22 Ἀντᾶ, τῶν 22-23 ὑπαρχόν-/
 τῶν μοι πάντων 25 Φλασίου
 (φλασίου Par.) 26 φλασίου Par.
 28 προκείμενος 34 Χει(ρογρα-
 φία), Ἀντᾶ

"Aurelius Antas, son of Theon, his mother being Tekiasis, from the village of Andromachis, 21 years of age, with a scar on the ball of the ankle joint of his left foot, carpenter, acknowledges to Flavius Timotheos, soldier of the camp at Dionysias, that he, Antas, the acknowledging party, has received from him six artabs of wheat, total 6 art., which you have also measured out for my pressing need - just as they were in the village of Pisai, so I shall give them back in the same village of Pisai - which I shall be bound to give back to you in the month of Pauni of the 7th auspicious new indiction with the four-choinix measure without delay and that upon a request for payment [after default] Timotheos is to have the right of execution upon the acknowledging party Antas and upon all of my possessions as in accordance with a legal decision, and upon formal interrogation I have acknowledged. In the consulate of Flavius Claudius and Flavius Nevitta, *virī clarissimi* (Nevitta being) *magister equitum*. I Aurelius Antas, the above mentioned,

acknowledge that I have received the six artabas of choice wheat and I shall give them back as stated above. I, Aurelius Kopres, son of Heron, have written this for him as he does not know letters.

(Verso) Note of hand of Antas, son of Theon, from the village of Andromachis, for six artabas of wheat, 6".

1. The well-attested personal name 'Αντᾶς is in the present text treated as undeclined, cf. ll. 7 and 22.

2-3. For the village of Andromachis (also on the verso) see A. CALDERINI-S. DARIS, *Dizionario dei nomi geografici e topografici dell'Egitto greco-romano*, I.2 (Madrid 1966) 35f.; Supplemento I (Milano 1988) 33f.

3. A reading κῆ instead of a reading κᾱ cannot be excluded.

4. τέ[κτ]ωνος has been added above the normal line level as an afterthought (one would expect it in line 2 after Τεκνύσεως). There is a horizontal dash above the last three letters, $\overline{\nu\omicron\varsigma}$.

4-5. The first editor supplemented at the end of line 4 [Αυρηλιω], but we see at the end of this line a trace of the Phi of Φ[λαουίω]. Moreover, we expect a soldier to have the *nomen gentile* Flavius (cf. J.G. KEENAN in *ZPE* 11 [1973] 33ff.; 13 [1974] 283ff. (Unfortunately, R. CAVENAILE'S *Prosopographie de l'armée romaine d'Égypte d'Auguste à Dioclétien*, *Aegyptus* 50, [1970] 213 ff.; addenda by N. Cri-



niri in *Aegyptus* 53 [1973] 93 ff. and 59 [1979] 190 ff.) does not list soldiers serving in the Roman army in Egypt in the fourth and later centuries.

5-6. The *castra* (for papyrological attestations of the word in Greek papyri, cf. S. DARIS, *Il lessico latino nel greco d'Egitto*², Barcelona 1991, 50f.) at Dionysias (cf. A. CALDERINI-S. DARIS, *op. cit.* [supra 2-3 n.], II.2 [Milano 1975] 107-110) is well known.

Between these lines another hand wrote]. δι' αὐτοῦ Αὐρηλίου, but empty we cannot connect these words with the rest of the text. They may belong to a text originally written to the left of the present text whose virtually right margin was cut off in order to receive the present text. In the left margin of our papyrus, opposite lines 15-16, there are also other traces of this preceding text.

8. The expression χρήσις ἐν γένει λαχανοσπέρμου/κριθῆς/πυροῦ κτλ. is well known (cf. F. PREISIGKE, *WB I*, s.v. γένος, 6). Here the scribe maladroitly placed ἄς --- [μο]ν in between ἐν γένει and the produce borrowed.

Although in line 15 the 2nd pers. singular is used for addressing Flavius Timotheos (in contradistinction to the 'objective' phrasing of the text; cf. αὐτοῦ in line 6), here the 2nd pers. plural is used.

10. γι(νεται): the form of the gamma is unusual, as it looks rather like a sigma. Did the scribe have σί(του) in mind?

10-13. κατὼς—Πισαί: here a unique expression is inserted into a formulaic construction. We think that the scribe wanted to express that Antas had received the 6 artabs of wheat in the village of Pissai (cf. A. CALDERINI-S. DARIS, *op. cit.* [supra 2-3 n.], IV. 2 [Milano 1984] 144 s.n. Πισαί) and he had to hand them back in the same village. An idea about the quality of the wheat may join in.

14. [...] may be a false start of ἐπαναγκές (appearing in the next line).

19. ἐ) may be a false start of ἐπὶ (appearing further on in this line), or the (not very competent) scribe may have confused the initial element ἀν- in ἀνυπερθέτως with the particle ἐάν.

19-20. The phrasing ἐπὶ τῆς ἀπετήσεως --- seems to appear only in loans from the Arsi-noite nome.

25-27. This text is dated after the consuls of the year A.D. 362, Claudius Mamertinus and Flavius Nevitta (cf. R.S. BAGNALL e.a., *Consuls of the Later Roman Empire* [Atlanta 1987] s.a.), but the scribe has added 'Flavius' to and dropped 'Mamertinus' from the first consul's name (on the use of 'Flavius' with names of consuls see CLRE 36-37). It is never expressed in consular datings from A.D. 362 published to date that Flavius Nevitta, a barbarian general, was a *magister equitum* (in Greek: a μάγιστρος τῆς ἱππικῆς δυνάμεως; cf. the office of *magister peditum* = μάγιστρος τῆς πεδικῆς δυνάμεως) from A.D. 361 until A.D. 363 (cf., e.g., the similar case of the *magister peditum* Fl. Merobaudes, consul in A.D. 377 and 383, and that of the *magister equitum* Fl. Promotus, consul in A.D. 389). Now, two still unpublished Michigan papyri from A.D. 372, P. Mich. inv. 4027a and 4027b (copies of a bill of loading), prove that in these Greek phrasings the words δύναις and παρατάξις are interchangeable. In P. Mich. inv. 4027 a. 1 the *magister peditum* Fl. Arintheus is styled τοῦ λαμπροτάτου κόμητος καὶ μαγίστρου τῆς πεδικῆς δυνάμεως, in P. Mich. inv. 4027, b. 1 τοῦ λαμπροτάτου κόμητος καὶ μαγίστρου τῆς πεδικῆς παρατάξεως. Using these parallels we are

in the case of the passage τ[... ..]ης παρατάξεως in 1. 27 reminded of the phrasing μάγιστρος τῆς πεδικῆς παρατάξεως/δυνάμεως which appears as part of the consular formula for A.D. 372 and we feel certain that we should fill the lacuna in our papyrus appropriately with τῆς ἱπικῆς. If the scribe of the present papyrus would have wished to apply normal rules concerning nomenclature and to give both consuls their full title, he should have written: "Υπατείας Φλαουίου Μαιμερτίνου τοῦ λαμπροτάτου ἐπάρχου τοῦ ἱεροῦ πραιτωρίου καὶ Φλαουίου Νειουίττας τοῦ λαμπροτάτου μαγίστρου τῆς ἱπικῆς παρατάξεως, Month and day". Now he used for the consul occidentis 'Φλαουίου + nomen gentile' instead of 'Φλαουίου + cognomen' and he added the words τῆς ἱπικῆς παρατάξεως (with the omission of the word μαγίστρου expected to precede) as an afterthought after τῶν λαμπροτάτων without any direct connection with the (usual) consular formula.

For generals being indicated as such in 4th century consular formulas in the papyri, cf. CLRE s.aa. 344 (mag. ped.), 347 (mag. utr. mil.), 348 (mag. eq.), 366/367 (mag. ped.), 372 (mag. ped.), 374 (mag. mil., per Illyr.).

30. The word εὐάρεστος is mostly used in connection with wine, but also in connection with other produces. Cf. A. JÖRDENS, *Vertragliche Regelungen von Arbeiten im späten griechischsprachigen Ägypten* (Heidelberg 1990; = P. Heid. V) 322ff.; N. KRUTT in ZPE 94 (1992) 167ff.

31. For the geographical distribution of the name of Kopres (normal in the Fayum), cf. SARAH B. POMEROY, *Copronyms and the Exposure of Infants in Egypt*, "Studies A. Arthur Schiller" (Leiden 1986) 147-162, esp. 158.

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