

THE HIPPIMAURI: A NOTE

In SPP XX 98 we find the well-known Aurelia Charite giving a receipt to a soldier Flavius Doratianus (see for his name J.G. Keenan, ZPE XIII, 1974, 287¹⁵⁹; the reading as proposed in BL II, 2, 163 is certainly right as a clear photograph provided by Dr. H. Harrauer [Vienna] shows). Doratianus is styled "ἱππιμαύρων σκουταρίων" and this has been interpreted by C. Wessely (Führer durch die Ausstellung Papyrus Erzherzog Rainer, Wien 1894², Nr. 312) as "berittenen maurischen Schützen". F. Preisigke, WB III, Abschn. 10, duly lists this army-unit under "ἱππιμοῦροι σκουταῖοι".

Now it is well known that a unit of the Mauri scutarii was stationed in Hermopolis (see BGU XII 2141, 6 n.; D. Hoffmann, Das spätromische Bewegungsheer und die Notitia Dignitatum, Bd. II, 62⁴¹²) and except for the SPP text the Hippimauri are mentioned nowhere else in the papyri.

Furthermore, it strikes one as odd that there is no article τῶν before ἱππιμαύρων. Everything, however, will be in perfect order if ἱππι is separated from μαύρων. ἱππι is nothing more than a iotacistic spelling of ἱππεῖ = cavalryman, and one has to print Μαύρων.

The name of their commander is given in SPP XX 98, 7 as Almesianus. In P. Cairo Preisigke 39, 5 however we find a commander Alaesianus. Both papyri date from approximately the same time (22.X.347 / 27.V.348). A remarkably clear photo of P. Cairo Preisigke 39 provided by Dr. Harrauer makes it certain, that both commanders are identical. Line 5 of this document has Ἀλμεισιανόν which is only a spelling variant of Ἀλμεισιανόν (SPP XX 98, 7).

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