

A BUSINESS LETTER FROM THE EGYPTIAN MUSEUM

By

Ibrahim Mohamed El Said Mohamed ^cAbdou

A Lecturer in the Department of Ancient European Civilization, Faculty of Arts, ^cAin Shams University

ABSTRACT

The current paper tackles an edition of unpublished Greek documentary papyrus from the Cairo Egyptian Museum under glass 86 of the S (pecial) R (egister) Nr. 3049 with inv. 161. This papyrus is from Tampemou (Oxyrhynchite nome) and dates back to the Third Century AD. This papyrus text is a business letter. The letter preserved some details about the transport of sheep made by the official who travelled south to Tampemou in the eastern toparchy of the Oxyrhynchite Nome. The verso contains two lists of the landowners and the amounts of wheat recorded after their names. The purpose of amounts of wheat on the verso did not serve for taxation, because there is nothing to indicate the taxation. The names of the people appearing in the two lists were probably tenants, and the amounts of wheat recorded after their names may be the rentals which they paid for their leaseholds, though the rates of rent in private tenancy were usually higher. Thus it is possible that they were sharecroppers. Sharecropping is a type of farming in which the sharecropper rents small plots of land from a landowner in return for a portion of his crop, to be given to the landowner at the harvest. The sharecropper agreed to hand over a proportion between one-third and two-thirds of the crop to the landowner, instead of paying a rent. The landowner provided the sharecropper with land, seeds, and tools; these supplies were deducted from the portion of the sharecropper. The papyrus has been presented as follows: a general description of the contents of the papyrus, dimensions of the papyrus in centimeters, number of lines of text, arrows indicate the direction of writing relative to that of papyrus surface, a transcription of the Greek text, English translation and extensive commentary.

KEYWORDS: Greek, *Papyri*, Roman, Egypt, Land, Transport, Sheep, Sharecropper.

I. INTRODUCTION

This papyrus is an edition of unpublished Greek documentary papyrus from the Cairo Egyptian Museum under glass 86 of the S (pecial) R (egister) Nr. 3049 with inv. 161. The papyrus is from *Tampemou (Oxyrhynchite)*.

SR 3049/161

Tampemou (Oxyrhynchite)

12.5 x 18.5 cm.

3 Century AD.

Description

The papyrus is of medium brown color and it has been irregularly cut off on all sides, measuring 18.5 cm in height and 12.5 cm in width. The text is in some places badly rubbed and the ink has faded. The recto and verso are written by different hands. The text on the *recto* is written by a legible hand, along the fibers, in 18 lines. There are remains of two margins on the *recto*; at the left one cm, and at the lower three cm. The *verso* turned 180° opposite of the *recto*. The text on the *verso* is written by a semi-cursive hand, across the fibers, in 26 lines. There are remains of three margins on the *verso*; at the right 3.5 cm, at the top is one cm, and at the left one cm. Three vertical folds, across to the fibers, beginning from the right hand side are visible, while the widths of the successive folds are 4.5 cm 3.5 cm 5.5 cm, and 3.5 cm

Date

On palaeographical grounds, it can be dated back to the third century AD., for palaeographical parallels, see: *P.Oxy.* X 1267 (209 AD, registration of a child); *BGU I* 7 (Arsinoites, 247 AD., order to retain tenants on land); *P.Oxy.* XIX 2241 (283-284 AD, list of rents from land).

The text of this papyrus is a business letter on the *recto* and agricultural account on the *verso*. The sender of the letter is missing, while the addressee is Onnophris son of Colophonius and his sister Sepsis. This business letter mentions Valerius Titanianus. The family of Valerius Titanianus maintained its equestrian status and its connections with the imperial administration. He was described as “warden of the great Sarapis, formerly *praefectus vigilum*”¹, in Philadelphia again but in 248 Valerius Titanianus with an impressive title διασημότατος (the most eminent) was represented by Nepotianus the ex-prefect’s steward². Finally, in 262, Valerius Titanianus (κράτιστος) appears as *epistrategus Heptanomiaie*; he is certainly a close relative of *praefectus vigilum*, presumably his son³. There are links between the estates of Valerius Titanianus and Aurelius

¹ *P. Mich.* XI 620 (Arsinoite, 239/240 AD, Account of an Estate), ll. 1-2:

Οὐαλερίῳ [Τ][τ]ανιανῶ νεωκόρῳ τοῦ μεγάλ[ου] Σαράπιδος
ἀπὸ ἐπάρ[χ]ων οὐιγούλων

² *SB IV* 7464 (Arsinoite, 248 AD, Complaint from a Arabotoxotes), ll. 11-12:

Νεπιτιανοῦ ἐπιτρόπου τοῦ διασημοτάτου Οὐαλερίου
Τιτανιανοῦ καὶ Μαύρου καὶ Ἀμμωνίου ἀραβοτοξοτῶν,

³ VAN RENGEN & WAGNER 1984: 348–353; *P. Oxy.* XVII 2107 (262 AD, order to Irenarchs), ll. 1-2:

Οὐαλέριος Τιτανιανὸς ὁ κράτιστος
εἰρηνάρχαις Ὀξυρυγχίτου χαίρειν.

Appianus, for which accounts preserved that the estate animals were used for the transport of any commodity, and that these operations would be carried out in conjunction with other forms of transport available, in which usually wagons and teams of oxen have been used for long-distance transport⁴. The letter has preserved details about the transport of sheep made by the official who has travelled south to *Tampemou* in the eastern *toparchy* of the *Oxyrhynchite Nome*, and who needed to camp and purchase fodder for sheep on the journey. It is probable that sheep was used to sacrifice.

The *verso* contains two lists of the landowners, and the amounts of wheat recorded after their names. The purpose of amounts of wheat on the *verso* did not serve for taxation, because there is nothing to indicate the taxation, and the tax rate varied considerably for the various categories of land. Most private lands were taxed at 1, 1¼, 1½ or 2 *artabae* per *aroura* ⁵. The names of the people appeared in two lists, who were probably tenants, and the amounts of wheat recorded after their names may be the rentals which they paid for their leaseholds, but the rates of rent in private tenancy were usually higher. Thus it is possible that they were sharecroppers. Sharecropping is a type of farming in which the sharecropper rents small plots of land from a landowner in return for a portion of his crop, to be given to the landowner at the harvest. The sharecropper agreed to hand over a proportion between one-third and two-thirds of the crop to the landowner, instead of paying rent. The landowner provided the sharecropper with land, seeds, and tools, these supplies were deducted from the portion of the sharecropper ⁶.

Text

Recto

- [.....] α[
 [κυρίω μου Ὀννώ]φρ(ει) Κολοφωνίου [
 [καὶ τῆ ἀδελφ]ῆ Σεψεῖ, ὧ κυρία μου [
 [.....] κωμαρχῶν οὐδὲ ταυρελάτη[ς
 5 [.....παρ]αδεδώκασι ἀλλὰ καὶ ἕνα [
 [.....] ἰσι ὅτι παραδόναι αὐ[τούς
 [..... Αἰλο]υρίων(ος) καὶ Οὐαλ<ε>ρί(ου) Τιτανια[νοῦ
 [παραδεδωκ]ότι τοῦδρομέως ἐπὶ νότ[ρον
 [..... ἀν]ύπαρκτον, μήπως ...[
 10 α[ὐ]τὸν παραδῶμεν καὶ μὴ λάβη[ς] αὐτὸν [ἐν Τα-
 μπέμου ἐπίτροπος ἐργάσ<εσ>θ(αι) τὸ ... [
 καὶ τὴν δούλην τῆς ἀδελφῆς μου γαμι[κὸν
 ἐσφράγισα μὲν προπομ[π(ὸν)] τ[οῦ] Λυ[κα]ρί[ω]νος [
 καὶ τήμερον τὰ πρόβατ[α] ἰε]ροποιοῦ ... [

⁴ADAMS 2007: 266ff.

⁵ROWLANDSON 1996: 47-54; SHARP 1998: 28.

⁶ROWLANDSON 1999: 139-158; BANAJI 2001: 11-12.

15 μή π<λ>ημμελε<ι>ν τῆ πόλει [. . . μ]έχρι ἐκ-
 θέσθαι, τιμ(ῆς) μνᾶν λοτίνο[υ χόρτ]ον λιμῶ [
 μένην καὶ μὴ ἀναβῆν[αι. ἐ]ρρώμεθ<ά> τε [καὶ αὐτοὶ
 ἔ]ρρωσο [

Verso

	[. Νο]υμερίου	(ἀρούρας) (πυροῦ ἀρτάβας) γ.
	[. Ἀμμω]ναρίου	(ἀρούρας) (πυροῦ ἀρτάβας) γ.
	Γ[έ]λλιο[ς].	(ἀρούρας) (πυροῦ ἀρτάβας) ε
	Πετεῆσι[ς Τ]εβᾶτος	(ἀρούρας) (πυροῦ ἀρτάβας) ε
5	Ἀπ[ε]ι[ς Ἀφροδ]εισίου	(ἀρούρας) (πυροῦ ἀρτάβας) ε
	Σύρο[ς] Ναρμούθεως	(ἀρούρας) (πυροῦ ἀρτάβας) ζ
	Παμῶν Σόλωνος	(ἀρούρας) (πυροῦ ἀρτάβας) β
	Πανεῦς Εὔ[ύ]πόλεως	(ἀρούρας) (πυροῦ ἀρτάβας) η
	Ἀμάεις Σιλίβου	(ἀρούρας) (πυροῦ ἀρτάβας) ε
10	Ἀμμώνι<ο>ς Ἀκίων<ος>	(ἀρούρας) (πυροῦ ἀρτάβας) θ
	Ἀμάεις Ἀπολλωνίου	(ἀρούρας) (πυροῦ ἀρτάβας) γ
	Ἄτις κλ(ηρονόμος) Πανετβηοῦτος	(ἀρούρας) (πυροῦ ἀρτάβας) ζ
	Ἀπολινάρι<ο>ς Πεννιούτος	(ἀρούρας) (πυροῦ ἀρτάβας) ζ
	Ἀρψῆμις Σεννούφιος	(ἀρούρας) (πυροῦ ἀρτάβας) γ
15	γί(νονται)	(πυροῦ ἀρτάβας) οἰβ

vac.

	[.]αριου χέρσου	(πυροῦ ἀρτάβας) ε
	[.]αριου	(πυροῦ ἀρτάβας) α
	[.]ος	(πυροῦ ἀρτάβας) ε
	[. Ὀρσε]νούφειως	(πυροῦ ἀρτάβας) γ
20	[. Α]ύρηλιου	(πυροῦ ἀρτάβας) β
	[. Κ]λόνικος	(πυροῦ ἀρτάβας) ε
	[.] Καεὶς Μαξί(μου)	(πυροῦ ἀρτάβας) γ
	[.]η	(πυροῦ ἀρτάβας) ε
	[.]ς	(πυροῦ ἀρτάβας) ε
25	[.]	(πυροῦ ἀρτάβας) δ
	[γί(νονται)]	[(πυροῦ ἀρτάβας)] λη

Corrections

Recto l. 4 ταυρελάτου l. 6 παραδιδόναι l. 11 ἐργάζ<εσ>θ(αι) l. 13 ἐσφράγισα
l. 14 σήμερον l. 16 λωτίνου l. 17 μένειν

Verso ll. 1-14 ⲃ— ll.1-26 ⲃⲣ l. 12 ⲙⲓ pap. ll. 15, 26 Ⲓ l. 21 Κλεονίκου

Translation

.....
To my lord Onnophris son of Colophonius
and to his sister Sepsis, oh my lady
..... of the headmen of village nor of the bull driver
5 but also they have delivered up one
..... until to deliver them up
..... of Ailourion and Valerius Titanianus
which I have handed (the letter) from the courier at the south
..... non-existent (person), lest
10 we deliver him up and you didn't receive him in
Tampemou to work as agent (general manager)
and the slave of my sister I have sealed
marriage (contract), the escort of Lykarion
and today the sheep of sacrificial magistrate
15 don't go wrong to the city even to
pay the price mina for the green crop of lotus (because of) hunger
to stay and do not go on board, we ourselves are also well
farewell

Verso

.....	son of Noumerius	3 artabas of wheat for aroura
.....	son of Ammonarius	3 artabas of wheat for aroura
	Gellius son of	5 artabas of wheat for aroura
	Peteesis son of Tebas	5 artabas of wheat for aroura
5	Apeis son of Aphrodisius	5 artabas of wheat for aroura
	Syrus son of Narmouthis	7 artabas of wheat for aroura
	Pamon son of Solon	2 artabas of wheat for aroura
	Paneus son of Eupolis	8 artabas of wheat for aroura
	Amaeis son of Silibus	5 artabas of wheat for aroura
10	Ammonius son of Akion	9 artabas of wheat for aroura
	Amaeis son of Apollonius	3 artabas of wheat for aroura

A BUSINESS LETTER FROM THE EGYPTIAN MUSEUM

	Atis heir of Panetbeus	7 artabas of wheat for aroura
	Apollinarios son of Pennious	7 artabas of wheat for aroura
	Harpsemis son of Sennouphris	3 artabas of wheat for aroura
15	Total	72 artabas
	..... son of of dry	5 artabas of wheat
	land	1 artabas of wheat
	..... son of	5 artabas of wheat
	..... son of	3 artabas of wheat
	..... son of Orsenouphis	2 artabas of wheat
20	..... son of Aurelius	5 artabas of wheat
	..... son of Kleonikus	3 artabas of wheat
	..... son of Kaeis Maximus	5 artabas of wheat
	..... son of	5 artabas of wheat
	..... son of	4 artabas of wheat
25	..... son of	38 artabas of wheat
	Total	

Commentary

l. 2: Κολοφώνιου: There is no mention in papyri of Κολοφώνιος as a personal name only in *O.Claud.* II 248 (Mons Claudianus, 126-175 AD, Letter from Petenephotos to Valerius), l. 15.

l. 3: Σεψεί: The name Σέψις is common in the papyri, for example, *SB* I 3875 (Panopolis, 2099 AD, mummy label), ll. 1-2:

Ἄρεμηφίς Ἄρου-
 ώτου μητ(ρὸς) Σέψιος
Haremphis son Haryotes his mother (being) Sepsis.

The expression ὦ κυρία μου has a parallel in *P.Oxy* VI 937(201-300 AD, letter of Demarchus), ll. 9-10:

ὦ κυρία μου ἀδελ-
 φή
Oh my sister lady

κυρία μου: The sender called the addressee as κυρία μου (a polite form): κύριος often was mentioned in business letters, as a man having power or authority. The polite closing formula might indicate that the addressee of the letter held a higher position than the sender⁷.

l. 4: κωμαρχῶν: The office of the κωμάρχαι was re-introduced into Egypt between 245 and 247. The κωμάρχαι replaced the κωμογραμματεὺς toward the middle of the

⁷DICKEY 2010: 327-335.

third century⁸, the κωμάρχαι of the village were four in number ⁹. The earliest order to arrest was addressed to the κωμάρχαι as chief of the village police, see: *SB XVIII* 13896 (Arsinoites, 242-254 AD, order to arrest). The first occurrence of the κωμάρχαι of Tampemou in *P.Oxy.* XLVIII 3409 (IV AD), ll. 1-3:

περὶ τοῦ τούς κωμάρχας

τῆς Ταμπεμοῦ ἐπὶ τὴν

πόλιν ἀποστ[εῖ]λαι

About sending the headmen of village Tampemou to the city.

ταυρελάτου: There are details recorded about the monthly ὀψώνιον paid to a bull-driver, and the editor suggests that their salary was taken as an expense ¹⁰. The bulls were used for agricultural tasks such as traction, ploughing, turning waterwheels, and transport animals¹¹.

l. 8: δρομέως: The messages were hand-delivered using a variety of methods, including couriers (foot messenger), homing pigeons and riders on horseback¹². The δρομέως is distinguished from ordinary mail services by features such as speed and security, see *P.Ryl.* IV 627 (Hermoupolis Magna, 301-325 AD, Memoranda and Accounts) l. 99:

κ[αὶ ἀπὸ] Ἑρμοῦ δρομέως κνί[δ(ια)] δ

and from Hermes the courier, 4 knidia

l. 9: [ἀν]ύπαρκτον: The exact meaning is not clear, it could mean that land once cultivated has been swept away by floods or covered by desert sand, see; *P.Giss.* 7 (Apollonopolites Heptakomias, 117 AD, petition), Col. 2, ll. 15-18:

δεομένου

τοῦ μὲν ἀν(ἀ) εἰς β' (ἀρούρης) ἡ' καὶ τοῦ ἀν(ἀ) β' (ἀρούρης) δ'

περὶ Πῶιν ἀνυπάρκτων ὄντων ἀπο-

λυθῆναι,

I request to be exempted from the eight of an aroura at the rate of 5 1/12 and from the quarter of an aroura at the rate of 2 near Pois, which are non-existent

It might refer to an incorrect name, under which the petitioner had been appointed unlawfully to a public service, see: *P. Mich* VI 426 (Karanis, 199-200 AD, petition), ll. 11-12;

⁸THOMAS 1975: 111-119; YOUTIE 1976: 99-109.

⁹BENAISSA 2008: 53-61 = *P. Gen.* II 1 66 = *Chr. Wilck.* 381 (Philadelphia, 374 AD, lease land), ll. 1-4:

Αὐρ[ή]λιοι Ἀμωνιανὸς Ἐκύ[σι]ς

[καὶ Ἀλλωνίου Τ ἡ . θί[ου] καὶ Τιμ[αγ]έ[ν]ο(υ)ς

[Ἀσίω]νος (?) καὶ Ἀμοῦν. Ἀτρῆ, ἀμφοτέρ(οι) κωμάρ(χ)αι

[τῆς] κώμης Φ[ι]λαδελφίας

¹⁰*P. Oxy.* LXII 4343 (301-400 AD, Estate Account) ll. 11-12:

Λέοντι ταυρελάτη ὑπὲρ ὀψω-

νίου (ἀρτάβαι) κ

¹¹ADAMS 2007: 62ff.

¹²REMIJSEN 2007: 127-140.

ὡς Ὡρον Ἀπολιναρίου ἀνύπαρ-
κτον ὄνομα ὃ καὶ ἀγνοῶ

as Horos, son of Apolinarius, a fictitious name which I do not know

It could refer fraudulent in a business letter from Severus to Apollonianus, see: *PSI XII 1260* (Oxyrhynchus, 200-300 AD, business letter), ll. 13-14;

οὐ παραδ[έ]δοται τε ἡ γῆ ἀνυπάρκτοις
ὄνόμ[ασι]

the land hasn't been delivered to non-existent names

It might refer to faulty recording, see: *P.Oxy. XVII 2131* (207 AD, attestation of a copy of a petition with reply), l. 12:

Σβίχης Ἀρμίσιος μητρὸς Τασεῦτος, σωματίσαντός μοι ἀνύπαρκτον πόρον

Sbichis son of Harmiusis his mother is Taseus, and he has been registered to me (as having) a non-existent property qualification

ll. 10-11: Τα-μπέμου: *Tampemou* was located in the eastern toparchy (ἀπηλιώτης τοπαρχίας)¹³.

¹³*P. Oxy. X 1285* (III AD, list of village payments), l. 85; PRUNETI 1981: 187-188; BENAÏSSA 2012: 363-366.

STATUS	NAME	SOURCE	
Tampemou	Ταμπέμου	http://www.trismegistos.org/geo/detail.Php?tm=2903 ; <i>Dizionario</i> IV, 334-335;	
Occupations and Officials	σιτολόγος	<i>P. Lips.</i> II 141 (133 AD) l. 2.	
	ἀρχέφοδος	<i>PSI</i> XV 1538 (II cent. AD), l. 1.	
	ὄνηλάτης	<i>P. Köln</i> IX 381 (260 AD), l. 6.	
	σιππουργός,	<i>P. Gen.</i> IV 175 (335 AD), l. 1.	
	άλιεύς	<i>P. Oxy.</i> XLVIII 3423 (IV cent. AD), l. 8.	
	εἰρηναρχος	<i>P. Oxy.</i> XII 1505 (IV cent. AD), l. 2.	
	ἐπισφραγιστής	<i>P. Oxy.</i> XII 1491 (IV cent. AD), l. 12.	
	κωμάρχαι	<i>P. Oxy.</i> XLVIII 3409 (IV cent. AD), l. 7.	
	φύλαξ	<i>P. Oxy.</i> IX 1193 (IV cent. AD), l. 3.	
	γεωργός	<i>P. Oxy.</i> XIX 2243(a) (590 AD), l. 47.	
μειζότερος	<i>P. Oxy.</i> XIX 2243(a) (590 AD), l. 39.		
Noteworthy landowners	Ἀπίων ἐποίκιον	<i>P. Oxy</i> XVI 2032 (540/541 AD). <i>P. Oxy.</i> XIX 2244 (558 AD). <i>P. Oxy.</i> XIX 2243(a) (590 AD).	
	Taxes	στεφανικά ἀννώνη ἀναβολικόν	<i>P. Oxy.</i> XIV 1659 (218-221 AD), l. 1. <i>P. Oxy.</i> L 3584 (III cent. AD), l. 1. <i>P. Oxy.</i> XLVIII 3408 (IV cent. AD), l. 12
	Animals	μόσχειος χοῖρος βοῦς ὄνος	<i>P. Oxy.</i> XXIV 2422 (290 AD), l. 1. <i>P. Oxy.</i> VI 901 (336 AD), l. 5. <i>P. Oxy.</i> LIV 3771 (336 AD), l. 16. <i>P. Oxy.</i> IX 1193 (IV cent. AD), l. 3.
Buildings	δημόσιον ψιλοὶ τόποι αὐλή ἐργαστήριον	<i>P. Dubl.</i> 5 (87-88 AD), l. 1. <i>P. Oxy.</i> III 501 (187 AD), l. 14. <i>P. Oslo.</i> III 108 (III cent. AD), l. 5. <i>P. Oxy.</i> VI 989 (III/IV cent. AD), l. 2.	
	Irrigation	Μηχανή ὕδραγωγός λάκκος	<i>P. Oxy.</i> VI 901 (336 AD), l. 7. <i>P. Oxy.</i> VI 901 (336 AD), l. 7. <i>P. Oxy.</i> XIX 2244 (558 AD), l. 34.
	Categories of land	κλήρος παράδεισος ἐποίκιον	<i>P. Oxy.</i> III 501 (187 AD), l. 11. <i>P. Oslo.</i> III 108 (III cent. AD), l. 5. <i>P. Oxy.</i> VI 989 (III/IV cent. AD), l. 2.
		Agricultural Products	χλωρά πυρός οἶνος	P. Oxy. III 501 (187 AD), l. 16. P. Oxy. III 501 (187 AD), l. 15. P. Oxy. XIX 2244 (558 AD), l. 88.

[TABLE 1]: Attestations of Tampemou in the papyri

l. 13: προπομ[π(όν)]: the best parallel seems at first sight to be *P.Lips.* I 35 = *ChLA* 12 524 (Hermopolis, 375-378 AD, duplicate), l. 5; προπομπὸν τιρώνων (escort of recruits), but *P.Osl.* III 88 (Oxyrhynchos, 370 AD, letter concerning the collection of taxes) suggests that the escort is the escort of taxes (χρυσὸς τιρώνων) rather than of the recruits, which may be correct. Another case of the word relates to escort of wheat in *P.Michael* 114 (panopolis, 201-250 AD, order for payment), l. 1-3:

δὸς εἰς τὴν προπομπήν

πυροῦ ἀρτάβας

η·

give to the escort 8 artabae of wheat

Another occurrence of the word relates to escorts of goods in kind, see: *SPP XX* 84 (Hermopolite, 286-305 AD, account), *Verso*, Col. I, ll. 1-5:

οἴνου

εἰς Λάτων

διὰ Ἀσκλητος Ἰέρακος ἐπιμελητοῦ (ξεστῶν)

ῶν. [π]ρ[ο]πομποί·

ἸΑχιλλεὺς Ὠρίωνος

of wine to Laton through Asklus son of Hierax the overseer of cups which escorts Achilleus son of Horion

And προπομποί κρέως in *SPP XX* 84 (Hermopolite, 286-305 AD, account), *Verso*, Col. II, ll. 1-4:

κρέως ὁμοίως

εἰς Συήνην διὰ Ἑρμοῦ Πινουτίωνος λι(τρῶν) μ(υριάδες) β

ῶν προπομποί·

Κοπρεὺς Μέλανος

alike of meat to Syene through Hermes son of Pinoution 20.000 pound, which escorts Kopreus son of Melas

ἐσφράγισα: The seal was used to secure the contents of the document against alteration¹⁴.

l. 14: τὰ πρόβατ[α]: The registration or declaration of animals was required in the Ptolemaic and Roman period¹⁵, probably the registrations of sheep were linked to the pasture tax¹⁶. There is a declaration of sheep, which registers a number of 3200 sheep, 53 goats¹⁷.

¹⁴VANDORPE 1997: 231-291; KEENAN & MANNING & YIFTACH 2014: 234-236.

¹⁵KEENAN 1989: 175-200.

¹⁶The registrations of sheep for the pasture tax, see; *BGU XVI* 2578–2587 (Herakleopolites, 14-5 BC., declaration of sheep and goats) *P. Oxy.* LV 3778–3779 (20-21 AD, registration of sheep and goats).

¹⁷*BGU XVI* 2586 (Herakleopolites, 5 BC., declaration of sheep and goats), l. 17:

(γίνονται) τὰ προκ(εἰμένα) πρόβα(τα) Γσ αἶγ(ες) νγ

[ἱε]ροποιῶ: The ἱεροποιός has had the duty of offering sacrifices in the religious ceremonies or/and sacred rites¹⁸.

l. 16: λωτίνο[υ χόρτ]ον: For the meaning of λωτίνου is most clearly understood through *P.Mich.* II 121 (Tebtynis, 42 AD, abstracts of contracts), 2, v: in which λώτινον is to be sown as a fodder crop for sheep (εἰς λωτίνο(υ) σπορ(ὰν) καταβ(ρώματα) προβάτων).

l. 18: ἔ]ρρωσο [:this formula appeared at the end of the first century AD ¹⁹.

Verso: ll. 1-14: ⲗ— ⲗⲉ: (ἀρούρας) (πυροῦ ἀρτάβας): The symbols at the end of the line are very faint and abraded. For the closest parallel wording see: *BGU* II 217 (Arsinoites, 201-300 AD, list of landowners with payments of grain), l. 10: *BGU* II 575 (Arsinoites, 201-300 AD, Accounts), l. 9: *BGU* VII 1623 (Philadelphia, 201-300 AD, a list of landowners with details of property for tax), ll. 9-10

l. 10: Ἀμμώνι<ο>ς Ἀκίων<ος> (ἀρούρας) (πυροῦ ἀρτάβας) θ: This line reveals the higher productive of the land in the list.

l. 12: ⲗⲗ: The same abbreviation is found in *BGU* XIX 2776 (Hermopolis, 351-400 AD, Shipping List), Col. II, l. 17: κλ(ηρονόμοι) Διονυσίου Ὀλυμπιοδώρου (ἀρτάβαι) ρε. And see also *P.Lond.Herm.* 1 (Hermopolis, 546-547 AD, Tax Register from the Hermopolite Nome), Col. 5, Verso, l., 23: Ἰωσήφ(ις) κλ(ηρονόμος) Παύλ(ου) κ(εράτια) ς(τάλαντα) Εχ.

ll. 15, 26: Γⲓ: γί(νονται): It can be a substantive meaning “reckoning”, from the total measurements of the land.

l. 16: χέρσου: It is an adjective meaning land liable to taxation²⁰. Land so described was “dry” only in the sense that it could not be irrigated in that particular year by digging canals from the flooded section of any nearby basin.

¹⁸EKROTH 2002: 324; MIKALSON 2016: 205-214.

¹⁹KOSKENNIEMI 1956: 151-154.

²⁰CHRISTENSEN 2017: 8.

II. CONCLUSION

- The conclusion does refer to introducing new information about:

Valerius Titanianus (κράτιστος) *epistrategus Heptanomiae*.

Onnophris son of Colophonius.

Tampemou in the eastern *toparchy* of the *Oxyrhynchite Nome*.

- The letter has preserved details about the transport of sheep.
- Sharecropping is a type of farming in which the sharecropper rents small plots of land from a landowner in return for a portion of his crop, to be given to the landowner at the harvest. The sharecropper agreed to hand over a proportion between one-third and two-thirds of the crop to the landowner, instead of paying a rent.

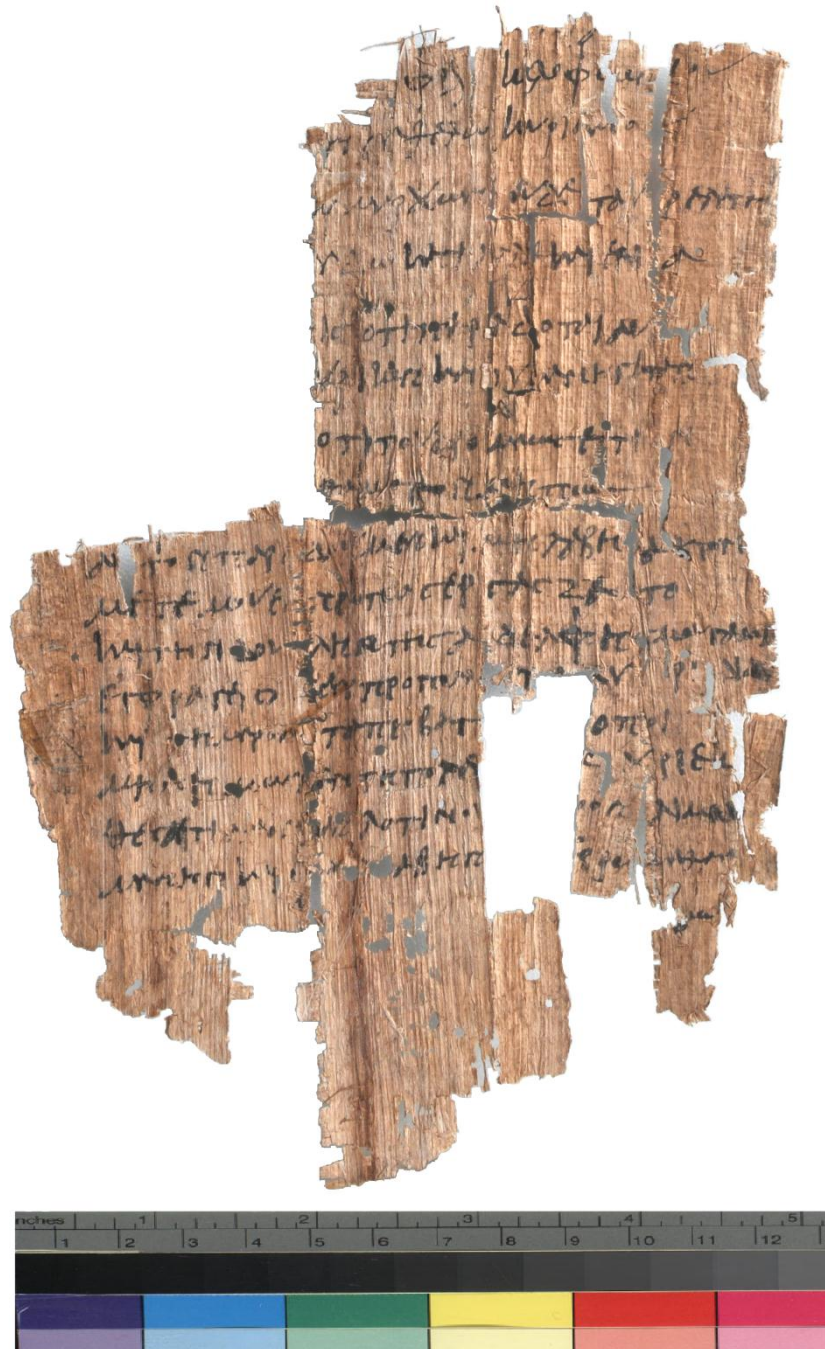
HOW TO CITE

El Said, I., «A Business Letter from the Egyptian Museum», *Journal of the General Union of Arab Archaeologists*, vol. 6/2, 2021. Doi: 10.21608/JGUA2.2021.55173.1046.

ibrahim.alsaid@art.asu.edu.eg

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- ADAMS, C.: *Land Transport in Roman Egypt; A Study of Economics and Administration in a Roman Province*, Oxford (Oxford University Press) 2007.
- BANAJI, J.: *Agrarian Change in Late Antiquity: Gold, Labour, and Aristocratic Dominance*, Oxford (Oxford University Press) 2001.
- BENAISSA, A.: «A Heracleopolite Land Lease of the Fifth Century», *JJP* 38, 2008, 53-61.
- _____ : *Rural Settlements of the Oxyrhynchite Nome, A Papyrological Survey*, Oxford (Trismegistos) 2012.
- CHRISTENSEN, T. & THOMPSON, D.J.: and VANDORPE, K.: *Land and Taxes in Ptolemaic Egypt: An Edition, Translation and Commentary for the Edfu Land Survey (P. Haun. IV 70)*, Cambridge (Cambridge University Press) 2017.
- DICKEY, E.: *κύριε, δέσποτα, domine: Greek Politeness in the Roman Empire*, *JHS* 121, 2001, 1-11.
- _____ : *The Greek Address System of the Roman Period and its Relationship to Latin*, *Classical Quarterly* 54, 2004, 494-527.
- _____ : *Forms of Address and Markers of Status: ed. Bakker, E.J., A Companion to the Ancient Greek Language*, (Wiley-Blackwell) 2010.
- EKROTH, G.: *The Sacrificial Rituals of Greek Hero-Cults in the Archaic to the Early Hellenistic Periods*, *Kernos. Supplément 12*, Liège (Centre International d'Étude de la Religion Grecque Antique), 2002.
- KEENAN, J.G. MANNING, J. G., YIFTACH, F.U.: *Law and Legal Practice in Egypt from Alexander to the Arab Conquest, A Selection of Papyrological Sources in Translation, with Introductions and Commentary*, Cambridge (Cambridge University Press), 2014.
- _____ : *Pastoralism in Roman Egypt*, *BASP* 26, 1989, 175-200.
- KOSKENNIEMI, H.: *Studien zur Idee und Phraseologie des Griechischen Briefes bis 400 n.Chr.*, Helsinki, 1956.
- MIKALSON, J.D.: *New Aspects of Religion in Ancient Athens: Honors, Authorities, Esthetics, and Society*, Leiden (Brill) 2016.
- PRUNETI, P.: *I Centri Abitati dell' Ossirinichite: Repertorio Toponomastico, Pap.Flor. 9*, Firenze (Gonnelli) 1981.
- REMIJSEN, F.: «The Postal Service and the Hour as a Unit of Time in Antiquity», *Historia* 56, 2007, 127-140.
- ROWLANDSON, J.: «P. Oxyrhynchus. XLII 3047, VII 1044 and the Land Tax in Kind», *ZPE* 67, 1987, 283-291;
- _____ : *Landowners and Tenants in Roman Egypt. The Social Relations of Agriculture in the Oxyrhynchite Nome*, Oxford (Clarendon Press) 1996.
- _____ : «Agricultural Tenancy and Village Society in Roman Egypt», in A.K. Bowman and E. Rogan (eds.), *Agriculture in Egypt from Pharaonic to Modern Times*, Oxford, 1999, 139-158.
- SHARP, M.: *The Food Supply in Roman Egypt, Ph.D Thesis*, Oxford (University of Oxford) 1998.
- THOMAS J.D.: «The Introduction of Dekaprotai and Comarchs into Egypt in the Third Century AD», *ZPE* 19, 1975, 111-119.
- VAN RENGEM, W. and WAGNER, G.: «Une Dédicace à Valerius Titianianus, Fils du Préfet des Vigiles Valerius Titianianus», *CDE* 59, 1984, 348-353.
- VANDORPE, K.: *Seals in and on the Papyri of Greco-Roman and Byzantine Egypt*, in: M.-Fr. Boussac & A. Invernizzi (ed.), *Archives et Sceaux du Monde Hellénistique (Bulletin de Correspondance Hellénique, Suppl. 29)*, Paris, 1997, 231-291.
- YOUTIE, H.C.: «Ten Short Texts on Papyrus», *ZPE* 23, 1976, 99-109.



[FIGURE 1]: Egyptian Museum in Cairo under glass 86 of the S (pecial) R (egister)
Nr. 3049 with inv. 161 recto.



[FIGURE 2]: Egyptian museum in Cairo under glass 86 of the S (pecial) R (egister)
Nr. 3049 with inv. 161 verso.

رسالة عمل من المتحف المصري بالقاهرة

ابراهيم محمد السعيد

مدرس - كلية الآداب / جامعة عين شمس

ملخص

الورقة البحثية الحالية هي عبارة عن نشر بردية وثائقية يونانية غير منشورة من متحف المصري بالقاهرة، رقم الزجاج ٨٦ للسجل الخاص ٣٠٤٩ تحت رقم الجرد ١٦١. هذه البردية تأتي من طامبيمو (إقليم أوكسيرينخوس) وتعود إلى القرن الثالث الميلادي. نص هذه البردية هو خطاب عمل. احتفظ الخطاب ببعض التفاصيل حول نقل الأغنام، التي قام بها المسؤول الذي سافر جنوباً إلى طامبيمو في القسم العلوي الشرقي لإقليم أوكسيرينخوس. يحتوى ظهر البردية على قائمتين لملاك الأراضي وكميات من القمح مسجلة بعد أسمائهم. الغرض من كميات القمح على ظهر البردية لم تخدم الضرائب، لأنه لا يوجد ما يشير إلى الضرائب. ظهرت أسماء الأشخاص في قائمتين يحتمل أنهم كانوا مستأجرين، وقد تكون مقادير القمح المسجلة بعد أسمائهم هي الإيجارات التي دفعوها مقابل إيجاراتهم، لكن معدلات الإيجار في الإيجارات الخاصة كانت أعلى عادة. ومن ثم فمن الممكن أنهم كانوا مزارعين. المزارعة هي نوع من الزراعة حيث يقوم المزارع باستئجار قطع صغيرة من الأرض من مالك الأرض مقابل جزء من محصوله، يتم إعطاؤه لمالك الأرض عند الحصاد. وافق المزارع على تسليم نسبة تتراوح بين ثلث وثلثي المحصول إلى مالك الأرض، بدلاً من دفع إيجار. قدم صاحب الأرض للمزارع الأرض والبذور والأدوات، وقد تم خصم هذه الإمدادات من جزء المزارعة. قدمت البردية على النحو التالي: وصف عام لمحتويات البردية، أبعاد البردي بالسنتيمتر، عدد أسطر النص، الأسهم تشير إلى اتجاه الكتابة بالنسبة إلى سطح البردية، ثم نسخ النص اليوناني، وترجمة النص اليوناني إلى الإنجليزية والتعليق على أسطر البردية.

الكلمات الدالة: البردي، اليوناني، مصر، الرومانية، النقل، البري، الأغنام، المزارعة.