

**A New Document of the Soterichos Archive from Cairo
Museum Receipt for grass- price**

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Abstract:

This papyrus text is a receipt for the price of green grass and has the usual formula that begins with the name of the receiver in nominative case and the payer in the dative case, followed by $\chi\alpha\iota\rho\epsilon\acute{\iota}\nu$. Posidonios the son of Aphrodite received thirty two silver drachmae from Soterichos, son of Lykos, as price for the grass which his oxen and lambs devoured.

Key Words: Soterichos Archive, Receipt for grass price, Soterichos son of Lykos, green grass.

P. Cairo Mus.

14 X 7, 8 cm Prov. Theadelphia.

SR. 3732

21st May 96 AD.

The papyrus is light brown, consists of 12 lines. It has been folded 3 times in vertical way; these folds caused that the separating of the left margin until the eleventh line.

The left margin is about 1,2cm. the upper margin is 2,5cm. and the lower margin is 3,3 cm. the right margin maybe lost because of folding but the text is complete. The beginning of lines is missing.

The papyrus has been cut in horizontal way from the fourth to the ninth line. The text is unclear that the ink is faded and there are many lacunae. The text is approximating complete. The verso is blank.

Recto

→

Ποσίδωνιος Ἀφροδισί(ου)
Σωτηρίωι Λύκωι
[χα]ίρειν ἀπέχωι παρά
4σ]οῦ τὴν τιμὴν τῶν
χλωρῶν ὧν κατὰ βέβρω-
κᾶν αἱ βόες σὺν ταῖς
[π]ροβάταις [ις] Φιλίππου Ἀραβ()
8ίδιο τυκοῦ ἀργ(υρίου) (δραχμὰς) τριά-
κ[ο]ντα δύο, (γίνονται) (δραχμαὶ) λβ—, κᾶί οὐδέν
[σο]ι ἐκ[α]λῶι. (ἔτους) πρώτου
[Αὐτο]κράτορος Νέρουα καίσαρ(ος)
12 Σεβαστοῦ παχῶν κ"—.

Corrections:

- L.2. Λύκου
- L.3. ἀπέχω
- L.8. ιδιωτικοῦ
- L.10. ἐγκαλῶ

Abbreviations:

- L. 7. Ἀραβ
- L. 8. ἀργ
- L. 11. καίσαρ

Symbols:

L.8, 9. R

L. 9. □

L. 10. □

From Posidonius, son of Aphrodisios, to Soterichos son of Lykos, Greetings. I have received from you the price of the green grass which the oxen with the lambs of Philippus, son of Arabe devoured, thirty two silver drachmae, total 32 drachmae, and I have no claim against you. First year of Imerator Neron Caesar Augustus, 26 of Pachon.

Commentary:

L.1 Ποσιδώνιος Ἀφροδισί(ου), we did not meet this person elsewhere, Ποσιδώνιος and Ἀφροδίστιος have appeared twice but not as a father and son.¹

L.2 Σωτηρίχῳ Λύκῳ Soterichos son of Lykos, was a privileged citizen of the metropolis Arsinoe and lived in the village of Theadelphia together with his wife and four sons: Lykos, Chares, Deios and Didymos, alias Didymion. The farmer Soterichos leased vineyards, grain fields and gardens. He was born in the year 45 AD and died before the year 103 AD, about 50-58 years old.²

-Λύκῳ the writer used the dative instead of the genitive.³

L.3 ἀπέχῳ corrected to ἀπέχω have or receive payment in full, a common verb in tax receipts in the aorist and perfect tenses.¹

¹ BGU. IX. 1906. 97 (Theadelphia; 196/198 AD); PSI. VII. 793. 3, 6(Theadelphia; 161/180 AD).

² Sayed Omar, "Des Archiv des Soterichis", Opladen, 1979, introduction, pp.17 ff); Sayed Omar, "A New Document of the Soterichos Archive from Cairo Museum, proceedings of the 24th International Congr. of Papyrology, Helsinki 2007, p. 839 ff).

³ Mayser Edwin, "Grammatik der Griechischen Papyri aus der Ptolemäerzeit", Band II 2 Satzlehre, Berlin und Leipzig, 1933. pp. 105-106.

L.5 $\chi\lambda\omega\rho\omega\tilde{\nu}$ green grass, for animal food.²

L.5,6 $\tilde{\omega}\tilde{\nu}$ καταβέβρω-καν α[ι] cf. BGU. XVI, 2654, 6 (Herakleopolites, 6 B.C) $\tilde{\omega}\tilde{\nu}$ καταβέβρωκαν <αἴγες> αὐτοῦ. The verb καταβιβρώσκω means eat up, devour.

L.6 βόες, βόας: oxen as beasts of burden³

L.7 προβάταις sheep and goats⁴

L.7 Φιλίππου the relation between Soterichos and Philippos is unknown. One can assume that Soterichos was responsible for the feeding of the animals of Philippos.

L.7 Ἀραβ() there are many possibilities to complete this name Αραβάρχη, Αραβᾶς, Αραβίων, Αραβ().⁵

L.8 ἰδι about six letters are unclear, one may read ἰδιοτικοῦ, which means private, but the reading is not sure.

L.9, 10 καὶ οὐδέν [σο]ι ἐνκ[α]λῶι the contest clause came at the end of the receipts after the payment of the full.⁶

The verb ἐνκαλῶ is in LSJ ἐγκαλῶ, to accuse and the interchange between “ν” and “γ” is attested in many texts in the papyri.⁷

L.11, 12 [Αὐτο]κράτορος Νέρουα καίσαρ(ος) Σεβαστοῦ παχῶν κ"– .⁸

¹Claire Préaux, aspects verbal et préverbe: l'usage de Ἀπέχω dans les Ostraca, in Chronique d'Egypt volume XXIX. January No. 57.

²Hartmann, Fernande. "L'agriculture dans l'ancienne Égypte", Paris. 1923.; Schnebel, Michael. "Die Landwirtschaft im hellenistischen Ägypten." München, 1925.

³Colin Adams, "Land transport in Roman Egypt", Oxford, 2007.p. 62-64

⁴Rostovtzeff. M. A Large Estate in Egypt in the Third Century B.C. ,Madison, 1922.; Schnebel Michael, " Die Landwirtschaft im hellenistischen Ägypten", München, 1925.; Wilcken, U. Griechische Ostraka aus Aegypten und Nubien. Ein Beitrag zur antiken Wirtschaftsgeschichte. 2 Bände, vol. I, Leipzig und Berlin, 1899.

⁵Preisigke, "Namenbuch"; s.v. Foraboschi, " Onomasticon". Rostowzeff, Michael. "A Large Estate in Egypt in the Third Century B.C, A Study in Economic History". Madison, 1922.

⁶Sayed Omar, " Des Archiv des Soterichis", Opladen, 1979, introduction, p45.

⁷Gignac. F. T, "A Grammar of the Greek Papyri of the Roman and Byzantine Periods", Vol. I. Phonology, Milano, 1975. p.168.

⁸Grainger, John D. Nerva and the Roman Succession Crisis of AD 96–99. (2003); Murison, Charles Leslie "M. Cocceius Nerva and the Flavians" (subscription required). Transactions of the American Philological Association (University of Western Ontario) 133 (1): (2003).PP.147–157).

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