



Sale of Confiscated Property (P. Köln inv. 7715+7710a)

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Abstract: Publication of a fragmentary papyrus of the second century B.C. and presumably from Arsinoites containing part of a bank receipt regarding the purchase of confiscated property sold in a public auction. The property may have been confiscated after an uprising at the beginning of the reign of Ptolemy VIII Euergetes II.

Keywords: Auction, confiscation, revolt, royal bank, sale, taxation.

Verkauf konfiszierten Besitzes (P. Köln inv. 7715+7710a)

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Abstract: Edition eines fragmentarischen Papyrus aus dem 2. Jh. v.Chr. Das Dokument stammt wahrscheinlich aus dem Arsinoites und enthält Teile einer Bankquittung mit Bezug auf Beträge, die beim Auktionskauf konfiszierten Besitzes bezahlt wurden. Die Konfiskation fand vielleicht nach einem ägyptischen Aufstand statt, der sich am Anfang der Herrschaft des Ptolemaios VIII. Euergetes II. ereignete.

Keywords: Auktion, Konfiskation, Aufstand, Königliche Bank, Verkauf, Steuern.

The papyrus sheet (12,5 × 21,3 cm), which consists of two fragments extracted from cartonnage, was purchased in 1974 by the Cologne Papyrus Collection from Anton Fackelmann. Parts of the same purchase are papyri belonging to the recently published dossier of Demetrios, a *triacontarouros* from Aphroditis Polis in the Arsinoites,¹ as well as P.Köln inv. 7750+7710, a receipt issued by an Arsinoitic *logeuterion*, which, like the present document, concerns the payment of the purchase price of auctioned property.² It is very likely that P.Köln inv. 7715+7710a originates also from Arsinoites and dates back to the same years as these documents which probably belong to the early reign of Ptolemy VIII Euergetes II (cf. Armoni, “Demetrios”, 181). It cannot even be excluded that all of these texts belong to the archive of the same person or institution.

The fragments preserve part of a so-called *diagraphē*, a document that confirmed the purchase of confiscated property sold in a public auction.³ *Diagraphai* were issued by the royal bank (or, as in case of P.Köln inv. 7750 + 7710, by a *logeuterion*) and often had a quite elaborate structure as they included copies of various official documents, contained a receipt of the payment of the purchase price, and also a detailed report on the course of the auction.⁴ The wording in ll. 1–4 of our text obviously does not correspond to the initial part of receipts of this type, which usually follows the pattern *πέπτωκεν ἐπὶ τὴν ἐν place τράπεζαν τῷ δεῖνι τραπεζίτη ὅστε βασιλεῖ* or contains similar expressions (e.g. P.Tebt. III 1,700,1–2; 814,60–63; P.Heid. VI 373,1–2⁵). Thus, it is reasonable to assume that our text comprised several columns, one of which contained the beginning of the receipt.

Neither the object(s) auctioned nor the reason for the confiscation can be established. The document is perhaps to be placed in the context of confiscations of property carried out after inner turmoil⁶ in the beginning of the era of Ptolemy VIII. According to P.Köln inv. 7750+7710,14 which, as already mentioned, is a close parallel to the present document, the former owner of the auctioned property was killed during an insurgency (*ταραχή*) that probably erupted in the years following Ptolemy’s VIII return to Egypt

¹ Ch. Armoni, “Das Dossier des Demetrios: Ein ptolemäisches Zeugnis zur διαίρεσις staatlichen Bodens?,” ZPE 218 (2021): 181–199.

² Edited in Armoni, “Versteigerung”. For a discussion of the Greek sources concerning auctions, see Ch. Armoni, *Studien zur Verwaltung des ptolemäischen Ägypten: das Amt des basilikos grammateus* (Pap.Col. XXXVI) (Paderborn, 2012), 106–171; E. Jakob, “Versteigerung und Bodeneigentum im ptolemäischen Ägypten”, *RIDA* 3e s., 60, (2013); cf. W. Clarysse – Ch. Fischer-Bovet, Greek Papyri of the Classics Department at Stanford (P. Stan. Class.), *JJP* 42, (2012): nos. 5–10; P.Poethke 1; P.Köln XIV 564 und 565. Cf. J. Manning, “The Auction of Pharaoh”, in: E. Teeter – J. A. Larson (Hg.), *Gold of Praise. Studies on Ancient Egypt in Honor of Edward F. Wente* (SAOC 58) (Chicago: 1999); A. Hogan, “The Auction of Pharaoh revisited”, in: F. Naether (Hg.), *New Approaches in Demotic Studies. Acts of the 13th International Conference of Demotic Studies (Zeitschrift für ägyptische Sprache und Altertumskunde. Beiheft 10)* (Berlin – Boston: 2019), on the Demotic sources.

³ On the term *diagraphē*, see UPZ 114, 10–32n.

⁴ Cf. Armoni, *Studien*, 120–162.

⁵ Cf. Dieter Hagedorn, “Kassen (λογευτήρια) der ptolemäischen Staatsbanken mit Zuständigkeit für Merides des Arsinoites,” ZPE 160 (2007): 179.

⁶ Cf. Armoni – Jördens, “Der König und die Rebellen. Vom Umgang der Ptolemäer mit strittigen Eigentumsfragen im Gefolge von Bürgerkriegen,” *Chiron* 48 (2018): 77–106.

from exile.¹ This uprising could be the *ταραχή* mentioned in P.Oxyrhyncha 15,7 (150–141 B.C.).²

→ [] . ἔνεκα τοῦ []
 . [] []
 . [] . υ . . να . . []
 . [] . νοῦς . α . . []

5 π[ροτεθέντ- εἰ]ς πρᾶσιγ ἐν τῆ[ι]
 δ[ιασαφουμένη?] διὰ Σεραπίωνος
 τοῦ παρὰ Φιλοκ]λέους τοῦ αὐτ[ο]ῦ
 . . . [] Δημητρίου
 [τοῦ ἐπιστάτου] τῆς κώμης . καδι-

10 [] παρὰ Μαρρέως τοῦ
 [βασιλικοῦ γρα]μματέως καὶ τῶν
 ἄλλων τῶν εἰθισμένων διὰ
 κήρυκος Πτολεμαίου κυρω-
 [θέντ- δὲ] Δημητρίωι τῶι προγ[ε-]

15 γρα[μμένωι]
 πα[] . . . χαλκοῦ πρὸς
 ἀργύριον [φ] τέλος κε (ἑξηκοστὴ) η (διώβολον)
 χι(λιοστὴ) (ἥμισυ) *vacat*

(ἔτους) . . Μεσορῆ ἑ . πέπτωκεν

20 συμπάρωντ(ος) Ἀπολλωνίου τοῦ
 παρὰ τοῦ βασιλικοῦ γραμματέως
 χα(λκοῦ) πρ(ὸς) ἀργύ(ριον) φ τέ(λος) κε (ἑξηκοστὴ) η (διώβολον)
 χι(λιοστὴ) (ἥμισυ)
 (ἔτους) . . Μεσορῆ ἑ . πέπτωκεν
 συμπάρωντος . [] τοῦ

- - - it/they was/were put up for auction in the [aforementioned village?] by the herald Ptolemaios at the instigation of Serapion, subordinate of Philokles the *epimeletes*, in the same [- - -, in the presence] of Demetrios, *epistates* of the village, Ikadion (?),

¹ Cf. Armoni, “Versteigerung”, 217.

² Cf. P.Oxyrhyncha, 130–131.

subordinate of the royal scribe, and of the other customary officials. It/they has/have been knocked down to the already mentioned Demetrios [who paid the whole price?], [500] (*sc.* drachmas) of copper at a discount, (*enkyklion*)-tax 25 (*sc.* drachmas), *hexekoste*-tax 8 (*sc.* drachmas) 2 obols, *chilioste*-tax 1/2 (*sc.* drachma).

Year ... Mesore 5. Paid in the presence of Apollonios, agent of the royal scribe, 500 (*sc.* drachmas) of copper at a discount, (*enkyklion*)-tax 25 (*sc.* drachmas), *hexekoste*-tax 8 (*sc.* drachmas) 2 obols, *chilioste*-tax 1/2 (*sc.* drachma).

Year ... Mesore 5. Paid in the presence of - - -

6–7: Cf. BGU III 992 = P.Erbstreit 1 col. I 7 προτεθέντων εἰς πρᾶσιν; P.Tebt. III 2,871,2–4 ἐ[ξετέθη] | εἰς πρᾶσιν καὶ ἐπραθη (l. ἐπράθη) ἐν τῷ ἐν Κροκοδίλων πόλει κωμαστηρ[ίω] | διὰ τοῦ Ζωπύρου. The *epimeletes* Philokles has so far been attested in the aforementioned receipt P.Köln inv. 7750+7710 and in P.Poethke 1 frg. c 4, which also concerns an auction.

8–12: Hellenistic auctions had various stages and were normally carried out over several days. For each of these stages a high level of publicity was required. The lines refer to the final stage of the auction which began with a new bidding of the objects by the κήρυξ in a public place in the presence of several royal officials. Cf. BGU VI 1218 col. II 1–6; 1219 col. II 22.32.50–52; 1222 col. I 59–65. col. II 74–78; P.Köln inv. 7750+7710, 21–23 etc.

The traces in the beginning of l. 8 suit the reading ἔτο[υς], after which one expects month and day. But this would not leave enough space for [παρόντων], which usually introduces the series of the officials who attended the auction.

9–11: Ἰκαδί[ωνος τοῦ] παρὰ Μαρρέως τοῦ | [βασιλικοῦ γρ]αμματέως seems to be a probable reconstruction. Nevertheless, Ἰκαδίων is a rare name – I could find a single attestation in the papyri: P.Tebt. III 1,701,319 (III–II cent. B.C.). Furthermore, in the lacuna at the beginning of l. 10 there is apparently room for more letters (*ca.* 11).

The royal scribe Marres is also attested in the aforementioned P.Köln inv. 7750+7710, 10–11.

15–16: τὴν | πᾶ[σαν τιμ]ήν is a possible reconstruction, cf. P.Poethke 1,8n.

17–18 and 22: For the combination of the taxes mentioned in these lines, which were levied on the sale of confiscated property, see P.Tebt. III 1,700,4.83 (124 B.C.).

For the identification of the unspecified τέλος with the tax levied on the sale of private and state goods (ἐγκύκλιον), see P.Tebt. III 1,700,4n.; cf. BGU VI 1219,6.23.33 and 1220,10, in both of which the same tax is called εἰκοστή, which is a common rate of the *enkyklion*. The nature of the ἐξηκοστή is uncertain; perhaps it should be identified with the γραφείον, cf. Westermann, *Slavery*, 19. The χιλιοστή was a fee levied for the remuneration of the herald, the κηρύκειον, cf. P.Eleph. 14,12 and P.Tebt. III 2,876,7 – in both texts, as in the present document, also coupled with the ἐξηκοστή. In our text the *enkyklion* is 5% of the purchase price. As far as we know, the so-called εἰκοστή was increased to 10% of the price (δεκάτη) in 131 B.C. at the latest.¹

¹ Cf. P. W., Pestman, "L'impôt-ἐγκύκλιον à Pathyris et à Krokodilopolis" (2ème - 1er siècle av. J.-C.) (P.Lugd. Bat. XIX Appendix C), (Leiden: 1978); "Agoranomoi et actes agoranomiques: Krokodilopolis et Pathyris", 145–88 av. J.-C. (P.Lugd. Bat. XXIII) (Leiden: 1985); *The Archive of the Theban*

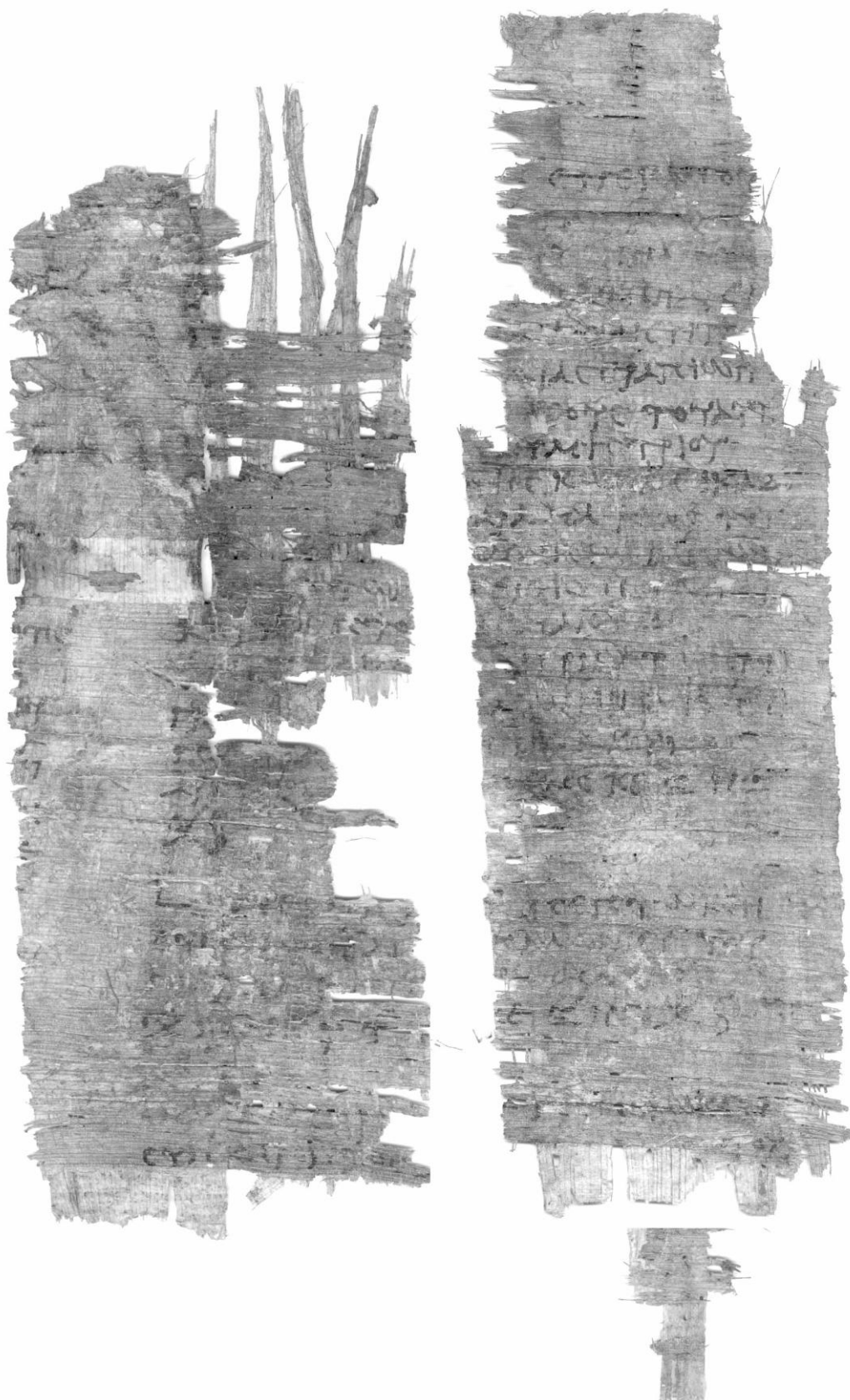
19 and 23: The ink traces after the symbol for ἔτος could belong to a *lambda*, perhaps followed by an *alpha*. Thus, if the assumption that the document belongs to the reign of Ptolemy VIII is right, the date of the receipt would be 27 August 139 B.C. But there can be no certainty about the reading of the regnal year.

19–24: Until about the middle of the 2nd century BC subordinates of two fiscal offices (in most cases the royal scribe and the *oikonomos*) had to supervise transactions with public funds in royal banks and granaries. As in the present passage, they certified with their ὑπογραφαί that the transaction had taken place properly, cf. Armoni, *Studien*, 26–31. A similar wording have the ὑπογραφαί in the tax-receipts P.Tebt. III 2, 840 (162 B.C.?) and 985 (161 B.C.?).

Choachytes (Second Century BC), A Survey of the Demotic and Greek Papyri Contained in the Archive, (Leuven: Peeters, 1993), §8c. §9a; P.Köln V 219, 142–143; Ch., Armoni "Drei ptolemäische Papyri der Heidelberger Sammlung", *ZPE* 132, (2000): 225–226.

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