

List of Food
By
Mohamed El-Ashiry

P. Cairo Mus. 3729/7 (recto)
10.4 x 8.3 cm

Provenance (?)
IIIrd c. AD (?)

The papyrus is cut off at the bottom and right-hand side. The upper margin is 1.7 cm. The left-hand margin is 1.4 cm. The text consists of 2 lines. The papyrus has a rift in the left side from line 5 to line 11 (5.3 x 0.8 cm.). In spite of the fact that the right-hand side is mutilated this side suffers an additional mutilation as from line 3 downwards (9.0 x 2.7 cm). The document unfortunately bears neither place nor date. According to the paleographical grounds, it may go back to the third century AD; close parallel is P. IFAO III, 41 (IIIrd c. AD, Pl. XVI, B). On the verso there are traces of 8 lines seem to be an upper part of an account amounted in *artabae* of wheat.

The document is a short list of various items of food. It includes, chicken, wine (?), bread, eggs (?), thin broad cake (?), (geese or geese-eggs or sausage), fish, summer fruits; in addition to papyrus. It is highly noticeable that this list is full of diminutives, which were the characteristic feature of the κοίνη (see Henry G. Meecham, *Light from Ancient Letters*, P.19).

Recto

μη ὀρνίθων	(δραχμαί) . √ ρπ]
κ. . διου οἴνου	(δραχμαί) τκ √ οξ.]
ψωμίων	(δραχμαί) κδ
χάρθου	(δραχμαί) η.]
5 λ. [±2]ανίου	(δραχμαί) ..]
[±2 ω]ν	(δραχμαί) κδ √ χ.]
[±2]αδίου	(δραχμαί) τκ √ .]
[±2]χανιχων	(δραχμαί) .]
θερίκων	(δραχμαί) κ.]

10	ὄψαρίδιου	(δραχμαί) λ [
	[.]ρ..ιον	(δραχμαί) δ [
	..[±2]..χ.[±2]	(δραχμαί) ν.[

TRANSLATION

For 48 chicken.. drachmae, for 180 [?] for (cepadian?) wine 320 drachmae, (for vinegar ..?) for bread 24 drachmae, or apyrus 8 drachmae, for (thin broad cake?). drachmae, for (eggs?) 24 drachmae, for (cepadian wine?) 320 drachmae, for (geese, or geese-eggs or sausage?) .. drachmae, for summer fruits 20 drachmae, for fish 30 drachmae, for .. 4 drachmae, for .. 40 drachmae"

NOTES

1- ὀρνίθιον is a diminutive of ὄρνις i.e. a small bird esp. chicken. It occurs many times in Papyri, e.g. *P. Oxy.* 3056 (284/285 AD), 6; *SB.* 10785 (IIIrd cent. AD), 6. The small dash (·) that appears in this line before the symbol of *drachmae* is common in such a list; see e.g. *P. Wisconsin* III, 47 (IVth cent. AD). While the long round dash (⌒) that also appears in this line and lines 2, 6, 7 after the *drachmae* is more perplexing; it could be a mark denoting an end of an entry and a beginning of new one. Consequently, the mathematical term of ρπ (180) that follows the round dash may stand for a number of the new entry. However, both signs could be considered as check marks.

2- κ... διου, should be restored as an epithet qualifying the δινου. Even though the word κηπῶδιου could not fit the traces it seems the unique plausible restoration. Or the *Cepadian* wine, see *P. Flor.* 148 (3rd cent. AD), 14.

οξ.[could be initial letters of a new entry (see line 1, note), or it might be a description for this kind of wine as it looked like vinegar or a sour wine (ὄξος).

3- ψωμίον is a diminutive of ψωμός. It expresses bread or cake, at any rate, in the Roman and Byzantine periods

ψωμίον was used to signify in general bread, see; Lydia Bandi, *I Conti Privati dell' Egitto Greco-Romano, egyptus* XVII, 1937, P. 388, 2 note. ψωμίον occurs much in papyri; see e.g. *P.Ryl.* 627, 320, 1, 2, 3; *P.Oxy.* 1489, 5 (IIIrd Cent. AD); *P. Oxy.* 1591, 4, 7 (IVth cent. AD); *P. Oxy.* 1656, 20 (Late IVth or Vth Cent. AD).

4- χάρθου, since θ could be interchanged with τ, (see Gignac, *A Grammar*, vol., I, 64, '87).

Χάρθης may therefore stand for χάρτης i.e. papyrus see e.g. *P.Oxy.* 2857, 22 (134 AD); *BGU* 2357, III, 14 (IIIrd Cent. AD); *P. IFAO* III, 20, 11 (IIIrd Cent. AD).

5- λ[±2]ανίου, could be restored λ[αγ]ανίου i.e. thin broad cake, of meat and oil, see e.g. *P. Oxy.* 1211, 5 (IInd cent. AD).

6- [±2 ω]ν, As far as I know, the only possible restoration is [φῶ]ν, eggs, e.g. *BGU* 2358 (Early IVth cent. AD), 4, note, 6; *P.Oxy.* 2423 (IInd to IIIrd cents AD), iv, 15.

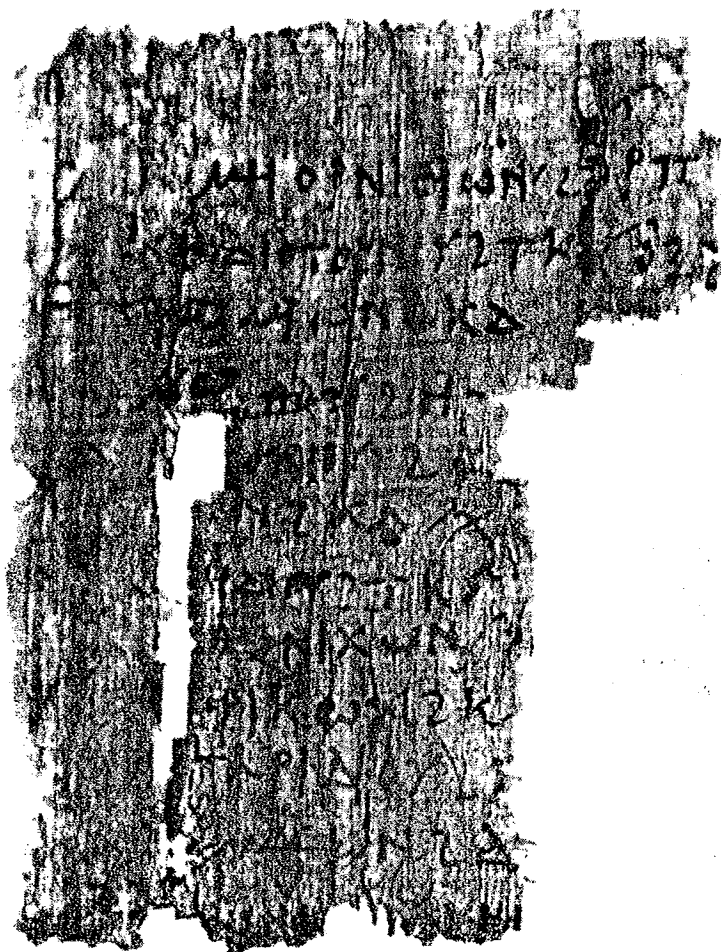
7-[+2], διου, could be [κηπ]αδίου, (cf. κηπαδίου οίνου of line 2). There are some other alternatives for storing this entry such as [λ]ηδίου the diminutive of λῆδος i.e. cheep common dress, specially a light summer dress. However, on the basis of the value mentioned, τκ (320 *drachmae*), [κηπ]αδίου becomes more plausible restoration (cf. τκ / of line 2).

8- [±2]χανιχων, In case of reading the second χ as κ, (χανίκων), i.e. geese, the preceded lacuna would be supplemented by either alternatives, that is to fill it with mathematical term to indicate the number of geese, f. μη ὀρνίθιων of line 1, or to fill it with [φῶν] to express geese-eggs. See e.g. *P. Wisconsin* II, 60, 10, 13 (IIIrd cent. AD); *P. IFAO* II, 17, 9 (IIIrd cent. AD); *P. Koln*, Band 7, 318 (Late VIth / VIIth cents. AD), 9 (note). But in case of reading both χs as κ the supplement could be as follows: [λου]κάνικων which is transliteration of the Latin *lucanicum* i.e. sausage see

P Lond. 1259, 30 (4th cent. AD); *P Ryl.* IV, 627, 208 (4th cent. AD).

9- θερίκου, since θέρος is used as summer fruits or crops see *P. Flor.* 150, 5 (3rd cent. AD). θερίκος could be thus used as a diminutive for θέρος and to be consequently translated as small summer fruits.

10- ὀψαριδίον is a diminutive of ὀψάριον, which is also a diminutive of ὄψις i.e. fish in other words ὀψαριδίον is a double diminutive of ὄψις see e.g. *P Oxy.* 736, iv, 52, 62 (ca. 1 AD); *P. Oxy.* 920, 9, and note ad loc. (Late IInd or early IIIrd cents. AD); *P. IFAO* III, 32, i, 41 (IIIrd cent. AD); *P Wisconsin* II, 60, 12 (IIIrd cent. AD).



AN ACCOUNT OF FOOD
LATE 2ND OR EARLT 3RD C. AD