Order to a Wine Merchant

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SR 3049/137
12.5 x 5 cm.

Oxyrhynchus
2nd half of V Cent. A.D.

The papyrus is of light brown color, and it is regularly cut off on all sides. The text on the recto is written by a legible hand, along the fibres, in 3 lines. The writing is large and untidy. There are remains of three margins; at the top one cm, at the bottom one cm, and at the right two cm. The top margin is intact, but the others are damaged. The papyrus has suffered; through the partial decay of the material and the ink is in places only faintly discernible. The papyrus is damaged at left because the fibres were removed from their original position. The verso is blank.

On palaeographical grounds, it can be dated back to the second half of the fifth century A.D., for palaeographical parallels, see: P.Oxy. LXIII 4390 (469 A.D., lease of land); P.Oxy. LXIII 4391 (471 A.D., order to supply wine); P.Oxy. LXXXII 5333 (482 A.D., order to supply wheat and money to churches). For images see: http://papyri.info/ddbdp/.

The transaction recorded on the recto was an order to an individual whose name is Paulus the wine merchant for transfer 8215 denarii the third part of the rent; The first traces of the first line may contain a reference to the title of Flavia Isis femina clarissima (λαμπροτάτης) the maker of the order which was issued. The chief interest point of the document was a woman from the senatorial rank (λαμπρότατος)\(^1\), during the first half of the fifth century A.D.; Strategius is initially attested as an administrator of the imperial estates domus divina (διοικητὴς τῆς θειοτάτης οἰκίας) in the


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Oxyrhynchite, and he was from the senatorial rank, see: *P.Oxy.* LXVII 4614 (475-500 A.D., petition addressed to Flavius Strategius I), l. 1:

Φλαουΐῳ Στρατηγίῳ τῷ λαμπρ(οτάτῳ) καὶ πολ(ιτευομένῳ) καὶ ῥιπταιρῷ τῆς Ὀξυρυγχιτῶν

to Flavius Strategius the most illustrious, city councilman, and chief of police of Oxyryynchites

Strategius’s only known child is a daughter named Isis, who inherited at least some of his property; Flavia Isis ran some part of the estate by the end of the 460 A.D. when Strategius himself was evidently deceased, see: *P.Oxy.* LXIII 4390 (469 A.D., lease of land), ll. 2-3:

Φλαουίᾳ Ἰσίᾳ τῇ λαμπροτάτῃ θυγατρὶ καὶ κληρονόμῳ τοῦ τῆς ἐνδόξου μνήμης

Στρατηγίου γεουρχοῦσῃ
to Flavia Isis, the most illustrious, the daughter the landowner and the heiress of Strategius of glorious memory

Flavia Isis has instructed to a vinedresser from the hamlet of Phatemet to issue to unnamed persons, see: *P.Oxy.* LXIII 4391 (471 A.D., order to supply wine), l. 1:

Ἱσίῳ λαμπροτάτῃ ἀμπελουργῷ ἐποικίῳ Φατητῆς.

*Flavia Isis, the most illustrious, to the vinedresser of the farmstead of Phatemet.*

And she has ordered Minas the administrator to supply wheat and money to churches, see: *P.Oxy.* LXXXII 5333 (482 A.D., order to supply wheat and money to churches), l. 1:

Ἱσίῳ λαμπροτάτῃ [ vac. Μ]ηνᾶ προνοητῇ

*Flavia Isis, the most illustrious, to Minas the administrator.*

Apion was married to Flavia Isis, the daughter of Strategius and that this alliance increased the fortunes. A hypothesis first proposed by Gonis.

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The document is an ordinary type of order for payment; these orders normally follow the structure of epistolary texts:

I Prescript: (sender – to recipient– χαίρειν in various forms).
II A form of the verb: (παράσχου, δός or μέτρησον).
III Body:
   The contain of the order
   The payments are in cash (money) or in kind (wine or wheat).
IV Date of the order 4.

The scribe of the papyrus has written the abbreviations in three different ways: The first way with an oblique stroke transects the last letter of the abbreviated word, such as λαμπρω(τάτη) line1, οινοπρ(άτη) line 1, cf: CPR XIX 35 (Arsinoites, 500 A.D., account of a textile trader). The second way is the common method of abbreviation by suspension, that is, to omit one or more of the final letters of a word, even all the letters after the first, like ινοικ(ολόγου), πλοι(ο), and ἄνεν(έγκαι) in the line 2, and τρί(τον) σίτ(ου) ἠνέχ(θη) α(ὑτοῦ) in the line 3, cf: P.Oxy. LXIII 4391 (471 A.D., order to supply wine), l. 3. The third way with a symbol, such as (δηνάρια) line 3, cf: CPR V 26 (Hermopolites, 451-500 A.D., list of names), l. 4.

Text:

`Σις λαμπρ(τάτη) vac Παύλῳ οινοπρ(άτη)
   ] Σκαροῦν Ἡλίος ἐνοικ(ολόγον) πλοί(ο) ἄνεν(έγκαι)
   ] μέρ<ο>ς τρί(τον) σίτ(ου) (δηνάρια) Ησιε, ἠνέχ(θη) διὰ α(ὑτοῦ)
Date?

Corrections:
1. 1 λαμπρο- οινοπρ- pap.
1. 2 Ἡλίος, ἐνοικ(ολόγον),
1. 3 ≠ pap.

Translation:

Isis, the most illustrious, to Paulus the wine merchant
…… Skaroos son of Elias the rent-collector, to deliver by the ship
…… the third part of the grain, 8215 denarii, this was delivered by him

Date?

(4) P.Oxy. XVI 1945-1953.
Commentary:

1. 1: The hand of the writer looks very similar to that of *P.Oxy.* LXIII 4391 (471 A.D., order to supply wine), and *P.Oxy.* LXXXII 5333 (482 A.D., order to supply wheat and money to churches), so the writer is probably the same.

The name Παύλῳ seems to be common name in middle Egypt, see: *P.Harr.* I 92 (Oxyrhynchites, 450-500 A.D., order for payment of corn) τῷ ἀδελφῷ Παύλῳ οἰνοπρ(άτη)

to the brother Paulus the wine merchant.

οἰνοπρ(άτη): The Greek terms for wine merchant are: οἰνέμπορος, οἰνοπώλης, οἰνοπράτης and οἰνοκάπηλος, the usage of terms used to designate wine merchants in Greek papyri there are differences in Greek papyri. The term οἰνοκάπηλος common during the Ptolemaic period, is practically obsolete in Roman times. The term οἰνέμπορος is attested in the second and third centuries, mostly in the Oxyrhynchite and Alexandria. The term οἰνοπώλης is in use in the first three centuries of Roman rule and is attested mostly in the Arsinoites, the term is maintained in the archive of Heroninos. The term οἰνοπράτης is the sole designation of wine merchants from fourth century onwards. It seems to denote both wholesale and retail dealers.

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l. 2: Σκαρῶν Ἡλίου: This is second papyrological example about the name of Σκαρῶν, see: SB XIV 11957 (Primis, 451-500 A.D., letter), l. 26. The name of Ἡλίας is Hebrew name; the meaning of Elias is "God’s promise" ⁸.

ἐνοικ(ολόγον): The rent-collector’s title is meaning rent from agricultural or urban property. These references to such employee have been found from the Roman period as in P.Oxy. XIX 2240 (211 A.D., Account of a Large Estate), l. 49: Σαρᾶς βουλ(ευτής) ἑνοικ(ολόγος). But most occur in the Byzantine era: see P.Oxy. LVI 3870 (501-700 A.D., letter), l. 7. The rent-collector was responsible for organizing payments; as attested in SB XX 14282 (Apollonopolis, 600-699 A.D., list of payments), l. 63, SB XX 15183 (Oxyrhynchites, 401-600 A.D., order for payments), l. 1 and SB XXII 15273 (Oxyrynchus, 501-599 A.D., receipt for rent received from a rent collector), l. 2, The rent-collector was responsible for leases (as attested in P.Oxy. VII 1038(568 A.D., lease of part of a house), l. 14 ⁹.

πλοί(ω): This is second papyrological evidence about the ship of heirs of Strategius, the most illustrious, see: P.Oxy. LXVIII 4685 (401-450 A.D., List of Ships and Freights), v., l. 6:

πλ(ο)ίον κληρ(ονόμων) Στρατηγίου λαμ(προτάτου) υπό Θέωνα  

ship of heirs of Strategius, the most illustrious, under Theon

The river Nile flows northwards through Egypt. There were no natural obstacles over a distance of thousand two hundred kilometers, the river Nile was vital for local movement of goods. But transport over any distance was by ships. For much of the year (from January to June) the low water in the Nile made sailing difficult not impossible ¹⁰. During the Nile flood the ships were the main means of transportation. These ships could be used to navigate in the river, transport of crops, transport of animals, transport of stones, transport of military supplies, and also for the transport of the annona ¹¹. Some fourth century lists of ships would emerge that a fair
number of the ship-owners were mostly members of the bouleucnic class, and played an active role in the running of the city’s affairs. There were variety evidences for loading the ships, in which a total of 8 ships have a capacity between them of 40000 artabas, see P.Oxy. X 1259 (211 A.D., declaration of a shipper), ll. 2-4:

παρὰ Ποσιδονίου τοῦ καὶ Τριαδέλφου ναυ-
κλήρου χειρισμοῦ Νέας πόλεως πλοίων ἡ
ἀγωγης (ἀρταβῶν) μ(υριάδων) δ.

from Posidonius also called Triadelphus, shipowner of 8 ships carrying 40,000 artabae in the administration of Neapolis.

For a similar case; three ships carry 15000 artabas, see: P.Oxy. XVII 2125, ll. 1-4 (225 A.D., receipt for corn for transport):

Αὐρήλιος Αμμώνι[ο]ς
Άμμωνίου ναύκληρος
χειρισμοῦ Νέας πόλεως πλο[ϊν]γ
:// ἀγωγής (ἀρταβῶν) μ(υριάδος) τ Ἐ

Aurelius Ammonius, son of Ammonius, shipmaster in the administration of Neapolis of 3 ships carrying 15,000 artabae

ήνεχθ(ηθ): Uncompounded forms of ἠνέχθ(η) are rare, see P.Oxy. I 158 (500 A.D., Letter from Victor to Cosmas).

1. 3: μέρ<ο>ς τρί(τον) σίτ(ου): For completing of the expression, there is possibility, see: P.Oxy. XIV 1636 (249 A.D., cession of land), 1.13:

tο λ[ο]μ[ό]ν τρίτον μέρος πρότερον

the remaining third part formerly

μέρ<ο>ς can mean a part of property, and the description of property was frequently divided into fractional shares in the same way as (ἡμιμέρος, τρίτον μέρος, τέταρτον μέρος) of the total property. In this line there is a reference to the third installment, the installments need not necessarily have been equal. In respect of the total rents are not clear. The


payment of rent in money is to be paid in three installments, where the rent is to be paid on the 10th or 15th of each month, is common in leases.\textsuperscript{14}

(δηνάρια) Ησιε: for palaeographical parallel, see: \textit{P.Oxy. XXIV} 2421 (400 A.D., account of wheat), l. 5:

\begin{verbatim}
メント στεφανοπλόκος σίτ(ου) (δηνάρια) σμγ
\end{verbatim}

\textit{Ones the crown-maker (the florist), 243 denarii of grain}

l. 4: There is probably a line was missing from the end of the papyrus at the left side, containing the date of the papyrus; the best parallel, see: \textit{P.Oxy. LXIII} 4391 (471 A.D., order to supply wine), l. 4:

\begin{verbatim}
(έτους) ρως \ ις, Τώβι κ, θ ινδ(ικτίωνος).
\end{verbatim}

\textit{year 147 which = 116, 20 of (the month) Tubi, 4th indiction}

As for example \textit{P.Oxy. LXXXII} 5333 (482 A.D., order to supply wheat and money to churches), l. 4:

\begin{verbatim}
(έτους) ρνθ ρκη, Θωθ, ινδ(ικτίωνος) ζ.
\end{verbatim}

\textit{year 159 which = 128, . . of (the month) Thoth, 6th indiction}

Conclusion

The conclusion does refer to give papyrological evidence for:

- Flavia Isis, the most illustrious, the daughter the landowner and the heiress of Strategius
- Paulus the wine merchant
- Skaroos son of Elias the rent-collector
- The payment of rent is to be paid in installments
Bibliography


Egyptian museum in Cairo under glass 81 of the S(pecial) R(egister) Nr. 3049 with inv. 137 recto.