

A Cession of Catoecic Land (κατοικικὴ γῆ)

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Abstract

The current paper is an edition of unpublished Greek documentary papyrus from Cairo Museum. This papyrus is attributed to Arsinoite nome and dates to AD 263-264. This text is a cession of *catoecic* land; the holders of *catoecic* land were essentially allowed a usufruct, they could assign the land to others and to bequeath it to their sons. The conveyance of *catoecic* land was subject to various procedures

Keywords

Catoecic land- Legal registration of the cession- Economic life- Roman Egypt.

SR 3049/114
3.8 x 16 cm.

Arsinoite nome
AD 263-264

The papyrus is of medium brown color, and it regularly cut off all sides. The right and left parts of the papyrus are lost. It is difficult to know the original size of the papyrus. The text is difficult to read in certain places where the papyrus is worm-eaten and the ink has faded; while several small and bigger holes deformed the surface of the papyrus, in particular at the folds. The writing is on the *recto* by two semi-cursive hands, along the fibers, in 31 lines. Three vertical folds are visible, across to the fibers, beginning from the right side. The widths of the successive folds are 1.5 cm, 1.3 cm and 1 cm. The *verso* is blank.

The parallels may be useful to restore the missing parts of the papyrus; For the parallel expressions are well attested formulas, see: *P.Oxy.* LII 3690 (AD 139, cession of catoecic land); *P.Oxy.* XII 1475 (AD 246, application concerning a sale of land); *P.Oxy.* LI 3638 (AD 220, cession of a share of a vineyard); *P.Oxy.* LXXV 5058 (AD 247-258, sale and cession of a vineyard and other property).

The present papyrus is a cession of *catoecic* land. In the Ptolemaic period, a κλήρος κατοικικός or κατοικικὴ γῆ was a plot of *catoecic* land was granted by the

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king, and handed out to κάτοικος, the cavalrymen and other ranks of soldiers¹, a term conceived in the late third century BC to designate military settlers. The *catoecic* land to these settlers was meant to secure their livelihood². The military land remained at all times the king's property; a limited set of alienable rights was gradually obtained. The holders of *catoecic* land were essentially allowed a usufruct, they could assign the land to others by lease, and to bequeath it to their sons, whose title to the plot was already registered in their father's lifetime³. The conveyance of *catoecic* land was subject to various procedures that do not seem to have been required in the case of other types of land⁴. Initially, *catoecic* land could be conveyed only if the holder was unable to discharge his duties; the land had to be conveyed to a person who was himself a κάτοικος. In the Roman period the conveyance of *catoecic* land could be set in motion by the composition of a preliminary document through a γραφεῖον or a ἀγορανομεῖον. Two legal instruments are adopted for cessions: παραχώρησις and ἐκχώρησις, the παραχώρησις was the legal instrument used for transfers of κατοικική land⁵. The price paid for this

¹ Scheuble-reiter, S., *Die Katökenreiter im Ptolemäischen Ägypten (Vestigia. Beiträge zur alten Geschichte 64)*, München, 2012, 142-194; Broux, Y., 'Egypt', In A. Dalla Rosa and M. Maiuro (eds.), *The Emperor and his Properties in the Roman World (44 BC–A D 284). Geography, Economy, History*, Bordeaux, 2022, 109-120.

² Alonso, J.L., "The Constitutio Antoniniana and Private Legal Practice in the Eastern Empire" in: Kimberley Czajkowski, Benedikt Eckhardt, Meret Strothmann, *Law in the Roman Provinces*, Oxford University Press, 2020, 44-64.

³ Manning, J.G., *Land and Power in Ptolemaic Egypt: the Structure of Land Tenure*, Cambridge, 2003, 178-181; Wackenier, S., "L'identification des cléroques et de leurs ayants droit dans les contrats ptolémaïques de parachôresis" in: Guicharrouse, R., Ismard, P., Vallet, M. & Anne-Emmanuelle Veisse (eds) *L'identification des personnes dans les mondes grecs*, Paris, 2019, 183-200.

⁴ Rupprecht, H.A., "Rechteübertragung in den Papyri. Zur Entwicklung von Parachoresis und Ekchoresis," in *Gedächtnisschrift für Wolfgang Kunkel*, ed. D. Noerr and D. Simon. Frankfurt, 1984, 365–390; Vandorpe, K., *Selling private real estate in a new monarchical setting. Sale and community in Hellenistic Egypt: In Sale and Community Documents from the Ancient World. Individuals' Autonomy and State Interference in the Ancient World*, Legal Documents in Ancient Societies V, 2015, 99 – 115.

⁵ Wolff, H.J., *Das Recht der griechischen Papyri Ägyptens in der Zeit der Ptolemaeer und des Prinzipats II. Organisation und Kontrolle des privaten Rechtsverkehrs* München, 1978; Messeri, G. & Pintaudi, R., "Spigolature VI", ZPE 129 (2000), 265–273; Benaissa, A., "Sixteen letters to agoranomi from late first century Oxyrhynchus", ZPE 170 (2009), 157–185; Monson, A., *From the Ptolemies to the Romans: political and economic change in Egypt*, Cambridge, 2012, 120-122.

transaction was called παραχωρητικόν. A παραχώρησις was followed by a legal registration of the conveyance (μετεπιγραφή) in the record-office (καταλοχισμός) for the registration of κατοικική land⁶.

The administrative procedure for the cession of *catoecic* land⁷:

1- The original holder submits a request to the administrator of the record-office (καταλοχισμός), announcing his intention to cede his plot. After the status of the plot has been checked in the register, the administrator of the record-office (καταλοχισμός) issues an order (ἐπίσταλμα) to the συντακτικός (the recorder of the arrangement) to execute the μετεπιγραφή.

2- The administrator of the record-office (καταλοχισμός) then provides an order (ἐπίσταλμα) that allows the ἀγορανομεῖον to prepare a contract in the form of a ὁμολογία.

3- The new holder applies for the change of registration (μετεπιγραφή) and pays taxes, such as; the τέλος καταλοχισμῶν (tax for enrollments), the τέλος μετεπιγραφῆς (tax for the change registration) and the τέλος γνωστείας (tax on recognition). The administrator of the record-office (καταλοχισμός), informs the συντακτικός that the change has been made; he also informs the ἀγορανομεῖον of the cession. Once all three aspects of the procedure have been cleared, the contract become valid, for more see: Ferretti, L., Fogarty, S., Nury, E. & Schubert, P., *Cession of cleruchic land: from procedure to format*, ZPE 215 (2020), 201-210; Kreinecker, C.M., Kloppenborg, J.S., and Harrison, J.R., *Everyday Life in Graeco-Roman Times: Documentary Papyri and the New Testament*, Brill, 2024, 61-63.

The *Arsinoite nome* possessed a text of the tariff (γνώμων) provided for the taxes, fees and surcharges to be paid by the purchasers or successors on the registration of *catoecic* land (κατοικική) for transfers by sale, inheritance or cession at the record-office (καταλοχισμός) dealing with this property⁸, see:

⁶ Oates, J.F., “*Cessions of katoikic land in the late Ptolemaic period*”, JJP 25 (1995), 153–161; Vantorpe, K., “*Persian soldiers and Persians of the epigone. Social mobility of soldiers-herdsmen in Upper Egypt*”, APF 54 (2008) 87–108; Lerouxel, F., “*Le marché du crédit privé, la bibliothèque des acquêts et les tâches publiques en Égypte romaine*”, Annales. Histoire, Sciences Sociales 67 (2012), 943–976.

⁷ Yiftach, U., “*Comments on Andrea Jördens Nochmals zur Bibliothek Enkteseon*”, in Thür, G. (ed.) *Symposium 2009. Vorträge zur griechischen und hellenistischen Rechtsgeschichte*, Wien, 2010, 291–299; Maresch, K., “*Die Bibliothek Enkteseon im römischen Ägypten. Überlegungen zur Funktion zentraler Besitzarchive*”, APF 48 (2002) 233–246.

⁸ *P.land.* VII 137 (Theadelphia, AD 150, tariff of *catoecic* land), ll. 1-5:
[ἀντίγραφον] γνώμονος κα[τ]αλοχ[ι]σμῶν Ἀρσι(νοίτου)
[κατοικική]ς καὶ τῆς ὄνουμένης ἐκ δημοσίου

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Yiftach, U., “*Metepigraphê: Ptolemaic and Roman policies on the alienation of allotment land*” in: *Jakab, Éva (ed) Sale and community documents from the ancient world. Individuals' autonomy and state interference in the ancient world (Proceedings of a Colloquium supported by the University of Szeged. Budapest 5-8.10.2012)*, Trieste, 2016, 133-151.

Text

1st hand

Ἡράκ]ληος ὁ καὶ ἀμ.[
γεγενῆ]σθαι ἐπε[ρωτηθέντες ὁμολόγησαν

vac.

2nd hand

[ἔτους ια τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶ]ν Γαλλι[ην]οῦ [Σεβαστοῦ
] . . ωμ[
5] . φ οὐοετ[ρανῶ
θυγ]ατρὸς Π[
τῆς Ἡ]ρακλείδο[υ μερίδος τοῦ Ἀρσινοῖτου νομοῦ
κληρ]ονοῦμου Διο[
]αι [
10 τῶ]ν κα[τ]αοίκ[ων ἰπέων
]χων[
]χυμπ. . . [
[ὁμολογῶ πεπρακέναι καὶ παρακεχω]ρηκέ(ναι) σοι ἀπ[ὸ τοῦ νῦν
] πεντήεικο[ντα
15 κλήρου] ἀπὸ κατο[ικικῆ]ς
πρὶν ἀνὰ μίαν ἡμισυ] ἀρούρης μιᾶ[ς
κ]ληρονόμ(ον) ἐπ. . . [
τὸν ἅπαντα χρό]νον τὸ ὑπάρχ(όν) ἡ[μῶν
τοῦ πωλουμένου καὶ πα]ραχωρουμένο[υ σοι ὑπ' ἐμοῦ ὡς πρόκειται
20 σὺν τοῖς ἄλλοις τιμίαις καὶ φιλανθ]ρώποις κυρίως [τὸν πάντα χρόνον
τὰς δὲ συ]μψωνημέν[ας πρὸς ἀλλήλους ὑπὲρ τιμῆς καὶ παραχωρητικοῦ

[ἄρρενος κα]τοίκου ὑπὲρ ἐκάστης ἀρούρης) σιτικ(ῆς) (δραχμαὶ) δ,

[δενδρικῆς] (δραχμαὶ) η, θηλείας κατοίκου ὑπὲρ

[ἐκάστης ἀρ]ούρης) σιτικ(ῆς) (δραχμαὶ) η, δενδρικῆς (δραχμαὶ) ις.

A copy of the tariff of the register of grants of catoecic land relating to the Arsinoite nome,

regarding catoecic land and that purchased from the state. In the case of

a male holder of catoecic land, for each aroura of grain land 4 drachmae

and for orchard land 8 drachmae; in the case of a female holder of catoecic land,

for each aroura of grain land 8 drachmae, and for orchard land 16 drachmae.

] ἀργυρίο(υ) Σεβα[στοῦ νομίσματος δραχμὰς
ὄπερ καὶ ἐπάναγκον] παρέξωμ[αί σοί τε καὶ τοῖς παρὰ σοῦ μεταλημνομένοις
ὡσαύτως διὰ παντὸς] βέβαιο[[υ]]ν ἀπὸ π[άντων πάση βεβαιώσει
25 καὶ καθαρὸν ἀπὸ τε γ]εωργίας βασιλικῆ[ς καὶ οὐσιακῆς γῆς καὶ παντὸς
εἶδους καὶ ἀπὸ ἀπεργασίας κ]αὶ ὑδροφυλακία[ς χωμάτων καὶ ἀπὸ παντὸς
οὐτινοσοῦν ἄλλου, ὁμοί]ως διὰ παντὸς [ἀπὸ τε δημοσίων καὶ τελεσμάτων
πάντων τῶν ἔμπροσθεν χρόνων μέχρι το]ῦ ἐνεστῶτος ἐνδ[εκάτου ἔτους
ἀπ]ὸ τοῦ ἰσιόντος δ[ωδεκάτου
30 κυρία ἢ πρᾶσις κ]αὶ παραχώρησι[ς
] ἔτους ἐνδ[ε]κά[του

Corrections:

1. 1 Ἡρακλοῦς 1. 5 οὐετρανῶ 1. 8 κληρονόμου 1. 10 κατοίκων
1. 14 πεντήκοντα 1. 21 συμπεφωνημένας 1. 23 παρέξομαι 1. 29 εἰσιόντος

Translation:

1st hand

. . . . son of Herakles also called
. . . . I have been asked the formal question and have so declared.

2nd hand

[year 11 of our lord], Gallienus Augustus,

.

5 the veteran

daughter of

. . . . of the Herakleides division of the Arsinoite nome

the heir of

.

10 of the military cavalry

.

.

[I acknowledge that I have sold and] ceded to you from [now]
fifty

15 [of allotment] from the catoecic (land)

[formerly taxed at one and a half (artabae)] every one aroura

. . . . the heir

that belongs to us [for all] time

[I have sold and] ceded to you by me as stated above

20 [with the other rights and] privileges lawfully for all time

the sum agreed upon between us for the price and cession fee

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- drachmae of Imperial silver coin
I shall deliver it to you and your successors [likewise perpetually]
I have guaranteed forever against all risks by every guarantee, [and free from]
25 obligation to cultivate of royal and domain land and from every taxation and
from maintenance work and water guarding on the state-dikes and
from every other obligation whatever from all taxes and from the public dues
that are paid on them, [from time past up] to the present eleventh year
from the coming twelfth year of
30 the sale and cession is valid
the eleventh year of

Commentary:

The following schema gives the regular formula of the cessions:

A. Date

- 1- The year.
- 2- The imperial titles.

B. Body

- 1- The contracting parties (the purchaser in nominative)
- 2- The acknowledgment clause.

C- The object of the cession:

- 1- Details regarding previous ownership,
- 2- Boundaries of the land, its location and size
- 3- The full price agreed

D- General and special provisions:

- 1- Execution clause (πρᾶξις).
- 2- Provisions concerning public taxes.
- 3- The βεβαίωσις clause.
- 4- The κυρία clause.

E- Signature:

- 1- The signature of the parties
- 2- Followed by ὡς πρόκειται.
- 3- *The name of the ὑπογραφεύς followed by the illiteracy clause.*

F- Registration:

- 1- The signature of the official of the record office⁹.

⁹ Yiftach, U., *Family Cooperation in Contracts: Patterns and Trends, Dike: Rivista Di Storia Del Diritto Greco Ed Ellenistico*, Milano: Edizioni Universitaria De Lettere, Economia, Diritto, Vol.18, 2015, 97-141; Langellotti, M., *Sales in early Roman Tebtunis: the Case of the grapheion Archive of Kronion, in Έva Jakab (edited by), Sale and Community Documents from the Ancient*

II. 1-2: This document is written in two different hands. The presence of the second hand proves the contract to be original and not a copy. In these lines is expected the registration, for parallel see: *CPR I 36* (Arsinoite, AD 3rd cent., cession of land), 1. 2. The formula ἐπερωτηθεῖς ὁμολόγησα gives testimony of the performance of the *stipulatio*¹⁰. The conclusion of a contract through a formal act of question and answer, originally reserved to Roman, by the first century AD, the use of other languages besides Latin has been well established¹¹. In Egypt, the stipulation clause was already inserted into documents after 170 AD after the *Constitutio Antoniniana*, new Romans inserted the formula ἐπερωτηθεῖς ὁμολόγησα (-σεν), "having been asked I declared / took pledge", to virtually all types of contracts, see: Yiftach, U., *Olim tradita fuerunt? On the obsolescence of the sollemnia verba in Inst. 3.15pr.*, JJP 51 (2021), 169-187.

II. 4-6: In these lines is expected the opening of the cession document in the form of the epistolary opening: the purchaser in nominative the vender in dative, both normally referred to by name, patronymic, title, origins, see: Vandorpe, K., *Greek and Demotic Loan Agreements in Epistolary Style. Formalisation and Registration in the Later Ptolemaic Period. In The Letter. Law, State, Society and the Epistolary Format in the Ancient World. Proceedings of a Colloquium held at the American Academy in Rome 28-30.9.2008*, edited by U. Yiftach-Firanko, Wiesbaden, 2013, 171–186.

I. 5: οὐετ[ρανῶ]: One of the contracting parties has a title οὐετρανῶ; the οὐετρανός a Latin military word effective throughout the centuries of Roman dominance in Egypt, such as recruitment and settlement, legal and economic status¹². The first veterans arrived in the Domitian period (AD 81-96). Veterans were integrated into civilian life. The veterans of the army were not evenly dispersed

World. Individuals' Autonomy and State Interference in the Ancient World. Proceedings of a Colloquium supported by the University of Szeged. Budapest 5-8.10.2012, Trieste, EUT Edizioni Università di Trieste, 2015, pp. 117-132.

¹⁰ Simon, D., *Studien zur Praxis der Stipulationsklausel*, Munich, 1964, 44; Wieacker, F., *Römische Rechtsgeschichte I*, Munich, 1988, 441.

¹¹ Wieacker, F., *Römische Rechtsgeschichte II*, Munich, 2006, 287-291; Pringsheim, F., *Stipulations-Klausel. Gesammelte Abhandlungen II*, Heidelberg, 1961, 233–235.

¹² Haensch, R., *Der exercitus Aegyptiacus – ein provinzieller Heeresverband wie andere auch? In: Tradition and Transformation: Egypt under Roman Rule. Proceedings of the International Conference, Hildesheim, Roemer- and Pelizaeus-Museum, 3–6 July 2008* (ed. K. Lembke, M. Minas-Nerpel and S. Pfeiffer), 111–132, Leiden – Boston: Brill, 2010; Vandorpe, K., "Identity", in: Riggs, Ch. (ed.) *The Oxford Handbook of Roman Egypt*, Oxford, 2012, 260–276.

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across Egypt¹³. The *Arsinoite nome* attracted a large number of veterans of the Roman army, that *nome* was not only rich in veterans; it was also a favourite place for recruiters¹⁴; Elmaghrabi, M.G. & Römer, C., *More texts from the Archive of Socrates: papyri from house 17, level B, and other locations in Karanis (P. Cair. Mich. III)*. *Archiv für Papyrusforschung und verwandte Gebiete. Beiheft, 45*, Berlin; De Gruyter, 2021, 164-170.

The privileges of the veteran are entitled to different privileges,

- 1- The diplomas confer citizenship upon the veterans, their children and offspring.
- 2- They were Roman citizens, at the pinnacle of the pyramid in Roman Egypt society.
- 3- They enjoyed right of exemption from the poll tax.
- 4- They also enjoyed right of exemption with regard to the *potestas* (legal power) of Roman magistrates
- 5- Veterans were exempted from taxation and customs duties by Octavian's and Domitian's edicts.
- 6- They were granted lands by the emperors
- 7- The veteran and his family were exempted from liturgies (as guard duties or clearing and repairing canals)¹⁵.

1. 7: [τῆς Ἡ]ρακλείδο[υ μερίδος τοῦ Ἀρσινοΐτου νομοῦ]: The traces are sufficient to confirm this reading; It was one of three districts of the *Arsinoites nome*¹⁶: 1- Ἡρακλείδου μερίς 2- Θεμίστου μερίς 3- Πολέμωνος μερίς. The papyrological evidence attests to a particularly large number of veterans settling at Karanis and Philadelphia, see: Alston, R., *Soldier and Society in Roman Egypt. A Social History*, London – New York, 2003, 39, 50, 60–68, 117

¹³ Fuhrmann, C.J., *Policing the Roman Empire: Soldiers, Administration, and Public Order*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012; Stoll, O., *Ehrenwerte Männer. Veteranen im Nahen Osten der Kaiserzeit (Altunterswissenschaften/Archäologie 5)*, Berlin, 2015;

¹⁴ Malouta, M., “*Antinoite Citizenship under Hadrian and Antoninus Pius*”, *BASP* 46 (2009), 81–96; Waebens, S., “*When Two Fragments Meet. A Funerary Stela for Two People from Roman Egypt (Nikopolis)*”, *Tyche*, 28 (2013), 183-189.

¹⁵ Waebens, S., “*Reflecting the "Change in A.D. 140": The Veteran Categories of the epikrisis Documents Revisited*”, *ZPE*, 180 (2012), 267-277; Benaissa, A., “*Two petitions concerning civic magistracies by a gymnasiarch and son of a veteran*”, *Chiron*, 48 (2018), 53-76.

¹⁶ Derda, T., *Ἀρσινοΐτης νομός: Administration of the Fayum under Roman Rule*, Warsaw, 2006, 61-115.

l. 8: [κληρ]ονόμου Διο[: the ceded land which had come to them by law of inheritance from their late father, see: Babic, D., *Inherit: Professional Development in Heritage Interpretation Manual*, Vlaanderen, Alden Biesen, Bilzen, 2016, 22-23.

l. 13: [ὁμολογῶ πεπρακέναι καὶ παρακεχω]ρηκέ(ναι) σοι ἀπ[ὸ τοῦ νῦν]: For close parallel, see: *P.Oxy.* LXXV 5058 (AD 247-258, sale and cession of a vineyard and other property), l. 4, *P.Oxy.* IX 1208 (AD 291, sale and cession contract), l. 8. The contracts of cession of κατοικικὴ γῆ, the vendors use πεπράκαμεν ‘we have sold’ instead of παρακεχωρήκαμεν ‘we have ceded’, Claytor, W.G., *Mechanics of Empire: the Karanis Register and the Writing Offices of Roman Egypt*, University of Michigan, 2014, 101,105.

l. 14: πεντήκο[ντα]: it is not certain that this is the exact size of the land; more fractions may have continued in the following line, see: *P.Oxy.* LXXV 5058 (AD 247-258, sale and cession of a vineyard and other property), l. 9.

l. 15: [κλήρου] ἀπὸ κατο[ι]κικῆ[ς]: For close parallel, see: *P.Strass.* III 144 (Hermopolites, AD 245, a cession of land), l. 4.

l. 16: [πρὶν ἀνὰ μίαν ἥμισυ] ἀρούρης μιᾶ[ς] The category is given by means of tax rate in kind, perhaps in the document the status of land changed, therefore, the vendor wished to emphasize that. According to this assumption, the current tax rate was mentioned, namely 1 *artabae* per *aroura*; the latter would be a strong indication for the identification of the land taxed at this rate¹⁷, see: *P.Oxy.* LXXV 5058 (AD 247-258, sale and cession of a vineyard and other property), l. 12:

πρὶν ἀνὰ μίαν ἥμισυ ἀρούρης μιᾶς
formerly taxed at one and a half (artabae) every one aroura,

l. 17: [κ]ληρονόμ(ον): The Emperor Hadrian addressed a letter to the prefect of Egypt Q. Rammius Martialis to grant to the children of Roman soldiers conceived during the military service of their fathers the right to inherit¹⁸.

⁽¹⁷⁾ Rowlandson, J., *P. Oxy. XLII 3047, VII 1044, and the Land Tax in Kind*, ZPE 67 (1987), 283-292.

¹⁸ Chr.Mitt. 373= BGU 1 14 (Alexandria, 119 A.D., Imperial constitution about rights of soldiers children), ll. 20-27:

ὄνπερ τοιγαροῦν
τ[ρόπ]ον οὐκ εἰσιν νόμιμοι κληρο-
[νόμ]οι τῶν ἑαυτῶν πατέρων οἱ τῶ
[τ]ῆς στρατε[ί]ας χρόνῳ ἀναλ[η]μφθέν-
τες, ὅμως κατ[ο]χῆ[ν] ὑ[πα]ρχόντων
ἐξ ἐκείνου τοῦ μέ[ρ]ους τοῦ διατάγμα-

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l. 18: A standard phrase in cessions contracts (ἐπὶ τὸν ἅπαντα χρόνον) and did not imply everlasting ownership of the grant, see: *P.Oxy.* XLIX 3498 (AD 274, sale and cession of land), ll. 5-6; Bovet, C.F., *Army and Society in Ptolemaic Egypt: Armies of the Ancient World*, Cambridge University Press, 2014, 227.

l. 19: I would supplement the line as follows: *P.Oxy.* XLIX 3498 (AD 274, sale and cession of land), l. 23.

l. 20: [σὺν τοῖς ἄλλοις τιμίσι καὶ φιλανθ]ρώποις κυρίως [τὸν πάντα χρόνον]: For the best parallel, see: *P.Oxy.* LII 3690 (AD 139, cession of catoecic land), l. 13.

l. 21: [τὰς δὲ συ]μψωνημέν[ας πρὸς ἀλλήλους ὑπὲρ τιμῆς καὶ παραχωρητικοῦ]: This formula is attested in *P.Oxy.* XLIX 3498 (AD 274, sale and cession of land), l. 18, see: Schubert, P., *Transmission of Cleruchic Land : A Model to describe the Procedure*. AFP 65 (2019), 280-316.

l. 22: ἀργυρίο(υ) Σεβα[στοῦ νομίσματος δραχμὰς]: For parallel see: *P.Oxy.* LI 3638 (AD 220, cession of a share of a vineyard), l15. As the price of land sold has not survived, it is difficult to say whether the price mentioned here is reasonable or not. However, taking into account the prices of land listed by Drexhage, H.J., *Preise, Mieten Pachten, Kosten und Löhne im römischen Ägyptens bis zum Regierungsantritt Diokletians*, St. Katharinen, 1991, 127-140.

l. 23: [ὅπερ καὶ ἐπάναγκον] παρέξομ[αί σοί τε καὶ τοῖς παρὰ σοῦ μεταλημψομένοις]: For the restoration of this line see: *P.Oxy.* LI 3638 (AD 220, cession of a share of a vineyard), l. 22.

ll. 24-29: For the restoration this formula is well attested in the parallel cession, see: *P.Oxy.* LII 3690 (AD 139, cession of catoecic land), ll. 16-17.

l. 24: [διὰ παντὸ]ς βέβαιο[υ]ν ἀπὸ π[άντων πάση βεβαιώσει]: According to the parallels the phrase lost in the gap could be: *P.Oxy.* LII 3690 (AD 139, cession of catoecic land), l. 16; *P.Oxy.* LXXV 5058 (AD 247-258, sale and cession of a vineyard and other property), l. 28; *P.Oxy.* XLIX 3498 (AD 274, sale and cession of land), l. 27.

τος, οἳ καὶ τοῖς πρὸς [γ]ένους συγγενέσι
δίδονται,

Those who were begotten during the period of (their fathers') military service are not legitimate heirs of their fathers; I order that they be allowed to claim possession of the property in accordance with that portion of the edict that grants this possession to the kinsmen by blood.

l. 25: [καθαρόν ἀπό τε γεωργίας βασιλικῆς καὶ οὐσιακῆς γῆς]: The guarantee in this document that the land is free from γεωργία βασιλικῆς καὶ οὐσιακῆς γῆς, confirms once more that this was an unwelcome burden, the purchaser is reassured that the land he is buying is free from the obligation to cultivate public land, cf. Rowlandson, J., *Landowners and Tenants in Roman Egypt*, Clarendon Press, 1996., 1996, 88-93.

l. 26: For the restoration of this line: it should be freedom of debt and lien or exception from maintenance work and water guarding on the dikes¹⁹, both of which are well attested in the parallels, see: *P.Wisc.* I 9 (Oxyrhynchus, AD 183, cession of land), ll. 25-29

καὶ παντὸς εἶδους καὶ ἀπερ-
γασίας καὶ ὑδροφυλακίας δημ[οσί]ων χωμάτων καὶ ἀπὸ παντὸς {οὔτινος}
οὔτινοσῶν ἄλλου καὶ ἀπὸ τῶν [ύ]πὲρ αὐτῶν τελουμένων δημοσίων καὶ
τελεσμάτων πάντων τῶν ἕως τοῦ παρε]λθόντος καὶ αὐτοῦ τοῦ διελθόντος
τρίτου καὶ εἰκοστοῦ ἔτους
*from working on and guarding state-dikes and from every other obligation,
whatever, and from all taxes that are paid for this and payments up to and
including the past twenty-third year inclusive,*

l. 30: [κυρία ἢ πρᾶσις κ]αὶ παραχώρησι[ς]: This formula of the guarantee being incumbent on them against every plaintiff, see: *P.Oxy.* XLIX 3498, l. 36. The meaning of clause κυρία that the contracting parties have agreed to be legally bound by the terms of the covenants contained therein. For the meaning and significance of the κυρία -formula in the documents, see: Hassler, M., *Die Bedeutung der Kyria Klausel in den Papyrusurkunden*, Berlin, 1960, 1-39; Kiessling, E., "Eine Byzantinische Pachturkunde", *JJP* 19 (1983) 87-90.

¹⁹ Sijpesteijn, P.J., *Penthemeros-certificates in Graeco-Roman Egypt*, *Papyrologica Lugduno-Batava XII*, Brill, 1964, 11; Lewis, N., *The Compulsory Public Services of Roman Egypt*, Florence, 1997, 48.

Conclusion:

Finally, it may be concluded:

- The papyrus is a cession of *catoecic* land.
- The cession offers new insight on the economic life of the community.
- The procedure for the cession of catoecic land remained effective in Roman period.
- The cession is attributed to one of the villages of the Herakleides division of the *Arsinoite nome*
- The papyrus provides additional insight on the procedure for the cession of allotted land.
- One of the contracting parties has a title οὐετρανός.
- The guarantee clause (βεβαίωσις) against all risks, free from obligation to cultivate of royal, from maintenance work and water guarding on the state-dikes.
- The person receiving the *catoecic* land was responsible for the price, the cession fee, and all taxes due on the property.
- The cession records details regarding previous ownership.

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