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P. Flor. II 233*: A Note

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This London text (inv.no. 1236) belongs to the well known Heroninos archive. It contains an order[1] of Sarapammon to Heroninos to provide an ox-team with fodder and to pay the accompanying ox-driver his expenses. After the greeting formula (line 9)[2] but before the date (July 22, A.D.264) an order to pay also a carpenter is added.

The text in P.Flor. II runs as follows:

Σαραπαμμων Ηρωνεινω
  τω φιλτατω χα[ι]ρειν
Τα (sic) αποσταλεντι ταυρικω
δια Νουφεως[3] υπο καρνον
5 εν . . . . χια . . . .
[παρασχω]ν τας συνηθεις
τροφας δος και τω ταυ-
ρελατη τη[ν] δαπανην
  ερωσ[θαι σε] ευχ~
10 και τω τεκτονι την δαπανην
(ἔτους) ια// επειφ κη¯

Regarding line 5 the editor writes: "Si può pensare a leggere nella l.5 εν διωρυχι α . . . ma non oserei dar per certa questa lettura benchè pel senso assai verisimile."

With the help of the microfilm of the London papyri I read in lines 5-6: ἕνεκεν χιασμάτων καὶ ὤ|μων τὰς κτλ. The word ὦμος with the meaning "Tragstange"[4] occurs in two other texts of the Heroninos archive: P.Flor.II 233,3 (also an order of Sarapammon to Heroninos; July 27, A.D. 264 [cf. BL I 154]) and P.Ryl. II 236,22 (an order of Syros to Heroninos; January 11, A.D. 256). The word χίασμα (plur.) with the meaning "cross-piece of wood" is listed by LSJ only from Bito Mechanicus (IIIrd or IInd century B.C.) 54,3 and appears here for the first time in the papyri.

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[1] D.W. Rathbone, ZPE 75, 1988, 157ff. speaks of "letters".

[2] The papyrus has ἐρῶσ(θαι) (read ἐρρῶσ(θαι)) σ[ε] εὔχο(μαι) rather than ἐρῶσ[θαί σε] εὔχ(ο-μαι).

[3] BL I 155 lists for line 4 the proposition δι' Ἀνούφεως of G. Vitelli and Wilcken's idea to read with the original editor διὰ Νούφεως.

[4] A meaning not listed in LSJ nor in its Appendix.