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NEW CUSTOMSHOUSE DOCUMENTS

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New Customhouse Documents

1. A Part of a Customhouse Register¹

P.Cairo inv. 10638

9.5 x 10.2 cm.

IInd/IIIrd century A.D.

Provenance unknown

Tafel Ia

] κζ⁻
]να ἐξ(άγων) κ(αμ)ήλ(ους) γ π(ῶλον) α ὄνο(υς) β (πυροῦ ἀρτάβαι) [(πυροῦ ἀρτάβαι) β[]
 4 [] ἐξ(άγων) ὄνο(υ) α .. [..] α (πυροῦ ἀρτάβαι) δ
] ἐξ(άγων) πῶλ(ον) ... () α (πυροῦ ἀρτάβαι) δ
 (δυόβολον)
 κ(αμ)ή]λ(ους) ε π(ῶλους) β (πυροῦ ἀρτάβαι) λη
 {(δραχμαὶ)} (δραχμαὶ) γ (ὀβολός)
 Ἑρα() [ἐ]ξ(άγων) κ(αμ)ήλ(ους) β π(ῶλον) α (πυροῦ ἀρτάβαι) ις
 (δραχμὴ) α (δυόβολον)
 Εὐτυχίδ(ης) ὄνο(υς) β (πυροῦ ἀρτάβαι) ς
 (τριώβολον)
 8 κζ⁻ Ἑρακλᾶ(ς) ἀπο() ἐξ(άγων) κ(αμ)ήλ(ους) γ π(ῶλους) β (πυροῦ ἀρτάβαι) κς
 (δραχμαὶ) δ (δυόβολον)
 Μάξιμ(ος) ἐξ(άγων) πῶλ(ους) γ̄ ξύλ(α) καύσιμ(α)
 καὶ ἐπὶ ἐτ(έρω) σκε(υοφόρω) κρέως μέ(τρου) d' []
 Πτολλαρίω[v]] (δραχμαὶ) μβ (τριώβολον)
 12 Δίος ἐξ(άγων)
] (- - - ὀβολον)
 Θε[
 - - - - -

The present papyrus (possibly complete at the top and partly so at the left side) was described as no. 10638 in Catalogue général des antiquités égyptiennes du Musée du Caire. Nos 10001 - 10869. Greek Papyri by B. P. Grenfell and A. S. Hunt.

¹ I wish to thank Dr C. Versteegh, director of the Nederlands Instituut voor Archaeologie en Arabische Studiën in Cairo, who procured the right of publication for me. I also thank the authorities of the Egyptian Museum at Cairo for the permission to publish this text here. My transcription was made from an excellent photograph provided by Mr. R. Zachmann (Heidelberg).

We are dealing with a fragment of a customshouse register (cf. P. J. Sijpesteijn, *Customs Duties in Greco-Roman Egypt*, Zutphen 1987, esp. pp. 85ff.). For the 26th and 27th of an unknown month the transporters who passed through a customshouse of an unknown village² are listed. No one of the persons listed was previously attested as a transporter passing through a customshouse. We do not know for which of the three customs duties the payments are made.

Meat (line 10) appears here for the first time as a product exported (?). Combustible wood (line 9) and especially wheat are attested (cf. P. J. Sijpesteijn, *op. cit.*, 65 and 67). The rate of $\mathbb{V}(1,2)$ obol paid as customs duty (λιμὴν Μέμφεως) per artaba of wheat is known (cf. P. J. Sijpesteijn, *op. cit.*, 78).

Notes:

- 2 ἐξ(άγων): a reading εἰ(σάγων), here and in lines 3, 4, 6, 8, 9 and 12, is not totally excluded. However, wheat is always exported and in P. J. Sijpesteijn, *op. cit.*, List I nos. 134 and 135 wood is exported as well.
- 3 [] α: perhaps we should read πῶ[λ(ον)] α, meaning that the donkey was a foal which should carry (only) two artabas of wheat.
- 4 ... (): the first letter is a π or ν (less likely an ε followed by two letters and a superposed one). I think that the scribe repeated the word for foal and wrote here a second, superfluous πῶλ(ον).
- 6 Or Ἡρῶς.
- 7 Εὐτυχίδ(ης): to the right of the δ a probably meaningless speck of ink.
- 8 Ἡρακλᾶ(ς): no abbreviation is indicated (as is also the case with ἐτ(έρω) in line 10). Ἡρακλᾶ is a female proper name and female transporters are unknown to me. A short genitive of the male proper name Ἡρακλᾶς is unexpected.
Behind ἀπο() (or ἀνο()) lurks a further qualification of the transporter. Perhaps the name of his father (cf. P.J. Sijpesteijn, *op. cit.*, 29).
(δραγμαὶ) δ (δυόβολον): in this case the customs duty was apparently 1 obol per artaba of wheat.
- 12 At the end of the line (τριῶβολον), (τετρώβολον) or (πεντώβολον).

2. A Customshouse Receipt³

P.Lond. II 302a
Soknopaiu Nesos

7 x 7 cm.

March 18, A.D. 142

↓ τε[τε]λ(ώνηται) δι(ὰ) πύλ(ης) Σοκνοπαίου Νή(σου) λιμμένος
Μέμφεως Στοτοήτις εισάγ(ων) τῆ
ἕκτη καὶ εἰκάδι ἐπὶ καμήλοις δυ-
4 σὶ οἴνου κεράμια ὀκτώ.

² Grenfell and Hunt write “probably from Ashmunen”. The adscription of texts to certain places by these scholars does not always prove to be right when the texts are more extensively studied. No customs document from Hermopolis is known to me and I guess that the present text originates from Soknopaiu Nesos.

³ I wish to thank Mr. T.S. Pattie for his kind permission to publish this papyrus here.

(ἔτους) ἑ Ἀντωνίνου Καίσαρος τοῦ κυρίου
 Φαμενώθ δευτέρῃ καὶ εἰκάδι,
 κβ̄.

3 ἔκτη: ex corr.

Translation

Stotoëtis who imports on the twenty-sixth on two camels eight keramia of wine has paid the customs duty of the harbour of Memphis through the gate of Soknopaiu Nesos. Year 5 of Antoninus Caesar the lord, Phamenoth the twenty-second, 22.

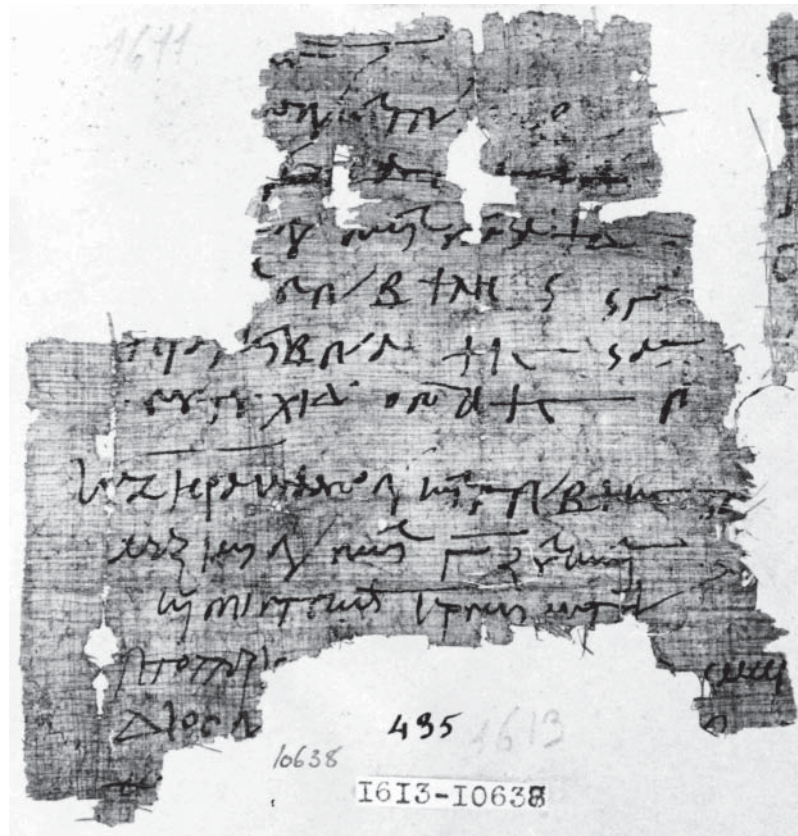
The description of this papyrus⁴ leads nobody to suspect that we are dealing with a customs-house receipt, but a hole (1 cm. from the lower and 1.2 cm. from the right border; diameter 0.5 cm.) where the seal was originally attached gives it away as such.

On Phamenoth 22 Stotoëtis pays his customs duties for 8 keramia of wine which he intends to import on the 26th of the same month (cf. P.J. Sijpesteijn, *op. cit.*, 9). As in the other customs-house documents in which there is a question of wine the wine is imported in the present document as well (cf. P.J. Sijpesteijn, *op. cit.*, 65). The transporter, Stotoëtis, is in all probability identical with no. 199 in P.J. Sijpesteijn, *op. cit.*, List I.

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⁴ "Receipt (?) relating to wine, dated in the fifth year of the emperor Antoninus Caesar ---." This description (P.Lond. II, p. XXIX) was made in 1898. The light-brown text is complete at all sides. The back side is blank. The ink is considerably faded, especially at the right side in the first three lines.



Abrechnung einer Zollstation (P.Cairo inv. 10638)
(Foto: R.Zachmann)