P. J. SIJPESTEIJN

NEW CUSTOMSHOUSE DOCUMENTS


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New Customshouse Documents

1. A Part of a Customshouse Register

P.Cairo inv. 10638 9.5 x 10.2 cm. IIInd/IIIrd century A.D.
Provenance unknown Tafel Ia

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 village\(^2\) 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 \(\text{F}(1.2)\) obol paid as customs duty (λιμήν Μέμφεως) per artaba of wheat is known (cf. P. J. Sijpesteijn, op. cit., 78).

Notes:

2 \(\epsilon\zeta(\acute{\alpha}γον)\): a reading \(\epsilon(\acute{\alpha}γον)\), 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 \(\ldots\) \(\alpha\): perhaps we should read π\(\delta[\lambda(\alpha\nu)]\) \(\alpha\), meaning that the donkey was a foal which should carry (only) two artabas of wheat.

4 \(\ldots\) : the first letter is a \(\pi\) or \(\nu\) (less likely an \(\epsilon\) followed by two letters and a superposed one). I think that the scribe repeated the word for foal and wrote here a second, superfluous π\(\delta(\alpha\nu)\).

6 Or Ῥαξ.

7 Εὔτυχῳ(\(\eta\)): to the right of the \(\delta\) a probably meaningless speck of ink.

8 Ῥαξλάξ(\(\zeta\)): no abbreviation is indicated (as is also the case with \(\varepsilon(\epsilonρ\varphi)\) in line 10).

9 Ῥαξλάξ is a female proper name and female transporters are unknown to me. A short genitive of the male proper name Ῥαξλάξ is unexpected.

Behind ὀπο( ) (or ἀνο( )) lurks a further qualification of the transporter. Perhaps the name of his father (cf. P.J. Sijpesteijn, op. cit., 29).

(δραχμαί) δ(δυόβολον): in this case the customs duty was apparently 1 obol per artaba of wheat.

12 At the end of the line (τριώβολον), (τετρόβολον) or (πεντόβολον).

2. A Customshouse Receipt\(^3\)

P.Lond. II 302a 7 x 7 cm. March 18, A.D. 142

Soknopaiu Nesos

\[\begin{array}{l}
\text{τε[τε][\lambda(\omegaνηται) δι[ι(α) π\(\sigma\lambda(\eta)\) Σοκνοπαιου Νη(σου) Λιμ\(\epsilon\nuς\) Μεμφεως Στοτο\(\epsilon\)της εισ\(\alpha\gamma(\omegaν)\) ῦη}
\end{array}\]

\[
\text{εκτη και εικαδι επι καμ\(\epsilon\)λλοις δυ-}
\]

\[
\text{σι ο\(\iota\)νου κερ\(\acute{\alpha}\)μαν ὑκτω.}
\]

\(^2\) 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.
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 papyrus 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)