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ANOTHER ORDER TO ARREST?

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P.Tebt. II 535 is described as “Beginning of a letter - - - probably ordering an arrest”. Only the upper part (there is a free margin of 3.5 cm) of this rather mutilated papyrus has been preserved. The text has to be dated to the (early) first century A.D. (note the iota adscriptum in line 1).

Ἄρτεμίδ(ωρος) τοπάρχ(ης) Παεῖτι ἀρχεφόδωι
 Θελβωι χάριεν· ἐξαυτῆς [`traces´
 ξενο[] τῆ β τ[οῦ traces
 traces of 1 more line

Cf. Tafel XXIa

The editors of the Tebtunis Papyri may be right and we may be dealing with a letter from the toparches Artemidoros to the archephodos Paeis. Their suggestion that an arrest was ordered is probably based on the function of Paeis (cf. N.Lewis, *The Compulsory Public Services of Roman Egypt*, Papyrologica Florentina XI, Firenze 1982, 16). An absolutely hypothetical reading and supplement of lines 2 and 3 like ἐξαυτῆς [ἐλθὼν Φιλό]ξενο[ς] τῆ β τ[οῦ ἐνεστῶτος μηνὸς ἤτησεν - - - is quite possible.

On the other hand, many orders to arrest are directed to the archephodos (cf. A. Bülow-Jacobsen, ZPE 66, 1986, 95ff.). If we are dealing with an order to arrest (cf. in last instance K.A. Worp, ZPE 84, 1990, 207-210) this text deviates from the normal schedule of this kind of documents used in the Arsinoite nome (cf. U.Hagedorn, BASP 16, 1979, 63). These deviations could be partly explained by the early date of this order.

χάριεν is also used in another order to arrest from the Arsinoite nome which belongs to the collection of Milan: SB XIV 11264 of B.C. 6. It should be noted that also the Milanese order is given by an Artemidoros (unfortunately no title is mentioned). χάριεν is normally not used in orders to arrest.

Before the IIIrd century A.D. the sender(s) of the order is (are) hardly ever mentioned (cf. A. Bülow-Jacobsen, loc.cit., 95ff.).

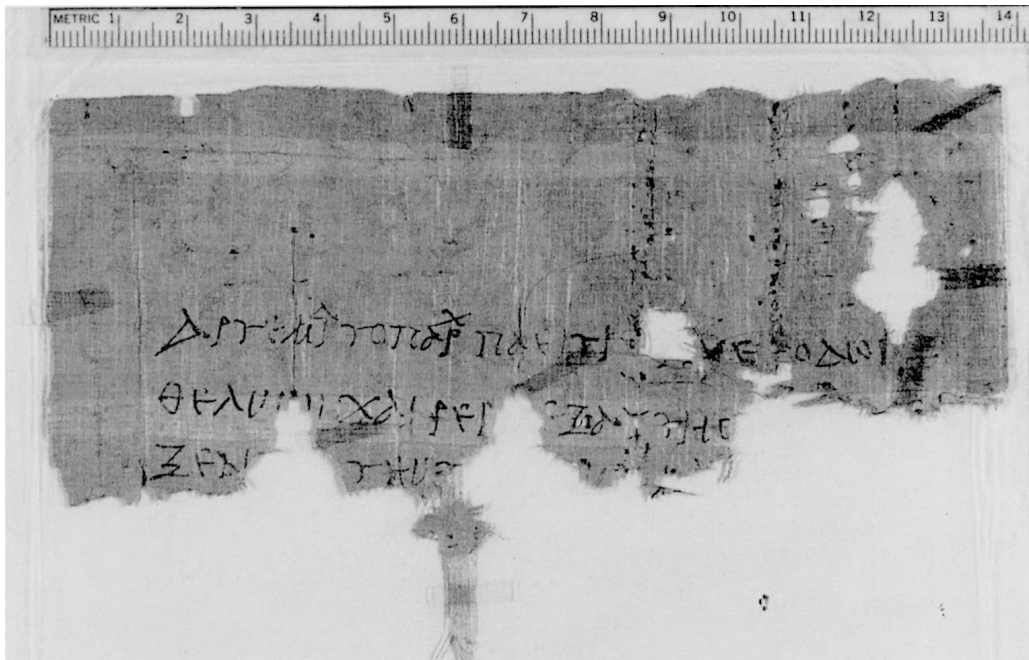
Of the Arsinoite orders to arrest only BGU II 374 has ἐξαυτῆς at the beginning (cf. U.Hagedorn, loc. cit., 64).

After ἐξαυτῆς one expects ἀνάπεμψον (ἔκπεμψον is in view of ἐξαυτῆς less likely, cf. U. Hagedorn, loc.cit., 63ff.). However, if one has to supplement in the lacuna at the end of line 2 a part of the name of which one reads at the beginning of line 3 the end -ξενο[v] the lacuna is too small to contain also ἀνάπεμψον. Our difficulties are complicated by the fact that something seems to have been written at the end between lines 1 and 2 (it should be noted that the lines slope slightly to the left). Unfortunately too little is preserved to read this interlinear addition.

All in all I have the impression that P.Tebt.II 535 is an order to arrest and I explain its deviations, which I cannot all pin down, of the usual Arsinoite schedule for orders to arrest by its early date.

EXCURSES

- (1) BGU XI 2084 is an order to arrest originating from the Oxyrhynchite nome. In the lacuna at the beginning of line 2 the editor supplements μεταπέμψατε for which supplement he appeals to P.Oxy. VI 969. However, U.Hagedorn, loc. cit., 66, footnote 16 has shown that the Oxyrhynchite text has the in that nome expected πέμψων instead of μετάπεμψων. In the Berlin text we, therefore, have to supplement πέμψατε instead of μεταπέμψατε. I doubt whether it is possible to establish the length of the lacunae at the left side. In line 1 one expects: (παρὰ) official(s) to officials + the name of a village. In lines 1-2 one could exempli gratia read: λαβόντες | [τὰ γράμματά μου (ἡμῶν) πέμψατε Αὐρήλιο]ν Σερήνον κτλ. Non liquet!
- (2) Θελβωι is the name of a village situated in the Oxyrhynchite nome and in the Arsinoite nome. P.Pruneti, I centri abitati dell'Ossirinichite, Repertorio toponomastico, Papyrologica Florentina IX, Firenze 1981, 55 cites two examples for this village in the Oxyrhynchite nome and hesitates between the spellings Θελβω and Θελβωι and consequently between the accentuation Θελβώ and Θελβῶι (the editors of P.Oxy. IV 814 descr. write and accentuate Θελβῶι. P.Ryl. II 351 descr. seems to have the spelling Θελβών [cf. A. Calderini - S. Daris, Dizionario II.4, Milano 1977, 252] but till this papyrus has been published in full we cannot be absolutely certain that the same village is meant). A. Calderini - S. Daris, op.cit., 252 cite for Θελβῶι (their spelling and accentuation) in the Arsinoite nome the present text and P.Mil. Vogl. IV 212 verso XI 7. The latter text (for which see BL VI 88) reads Θελβῶ(νις), a village not attested elsewhere. Calderini-Daris are right to correct this reading (not yet registered in the BL) to Θελβωι. The iota was probably taken by the editor of the Milanese text as the mark of abbreviation. The question which can be asked is whether the iota is a superfluous iota and whether we should accentuate Θελβώ or Θελβῶι. I cannot answer this question. I can only point out that the spelling with a iota occurs in two first century texts (P.Oxy. IV 814 and the present text) and in a text of A.D. 109 (P.Mil.Vogl. IV 212), periods in which one can expect a superfluous iota.



Vorführbefehl? (P.Tebt. II 535)