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SIX FRAGMENTS FROM THE YALE COLLECTION

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] ὑπάρχειν ἡμῖν δίκαια [

] . γὰρ ὅπως δυνηθῶμεν ἐ[

 16] υμένους ὑπὲρ τύχης καὶ δια[μονῆς

 M]άρκου Αὐρηλίου [.] . [

 [.] [.] [

 20]] [

] [

 4 ὑμας pap. 6 γραμματ/ pap. ερμουπολ/ pap. 7 ἴναρ pap. 8 ἴσιδος pap. 10 ἱερῶν

 pap. 14. ὑπαρχειν pap. 16 ὑπερ pap.

1 πρὸ βήματος: for occurrences of βῆμα (= tribunal, usually of the prefect, but occasionally lesser officials) see the evidence collected and analyzed by P.J. Sijpesteijn, *Studi in onore di Eduardo Volterra*, vol. II (Milan, 1969) 327-331. See also J. D. Thomas' comments in his *Epistategos* II 131-132.

2 ἡγεμόνων λεχθέντων: cf. *P. Oxy.* 899.25: κέκριται ὑπὸ τῶν κατὰ καιρὸν ἡγεμόνων, discussed by Thomas, *Epistategos* II 133, note 143.

3 καὶ εὐσεβεστάτου Σεβαστοῦ Ἀντωνίν[ου: not a dating formula (in which the only superlative employed is μέγιστος, translating *maximus*) but as the context suggests, a reference to an imperial pronouncement. The expression would originally have included more than one laudatory epithet, e.g., θειοτάτου] καὶ εὐσεβεστάτου. Ἀντωνίνου suggests Antoninus Pius which places the pronouncements between 138-161.

4 κατὰ τὴν ἔμφυ[τον: "in accordance with his [or your] innate [generosity]" or sim. Cf. *P. Oxy.* 2131.7 (a petition of AD 207): τῆς ἐμφύτου σου— —δικαιοδοσία or *BGU* 11.2065.19-20: κατὰ τὴν ἔμφυτον αὐτοῦ [εὐ]εργεσίαν.

7 Ἴσιδος . . . ριος: possibly Ἴσιδοθήριος.

9 Ἴσιδος καὶ Σούχου καὶ τῶν συννά[ων θεῶν: cf. *Lex. Theonym.* s.v. While both Isis and Souchos are regularly found co-templed with other gods, this combination is not otherwise attested. The center of Souchos worship was the Fayum, where he is frequently linked with Aphrodite (cf., e.g., *P. Col.* I 50.28 note). It is noteworthy that this petition is addressed to the royal scribe of the Hermoupolite nome, the location of which is some distance from the Fayum.

10]τεταγμένης ἐπὶ σε διατάξεως: ἐπι]τεταγμένης or sim. The language is curious; the meaning is probably "the imperial decree enjoined upon you (sc. the scribe to execute).

11]ηργάσαθαι: initially traces seem to suit η better than ει. Read]ηργάσαθε?

This could refer either to the performance of the dike convée or to the cultivation of γῆ βασιλικῆ (see *P. Bak.* introd., = *YCS* 10, 200-203). See J.A.S. Evans *YCS* 17 (1981) 263ff. for liturgies performed outside of the temple.

ἀργυρίων λογ[ι: the priests apparently paid an *adaeratio* (see Wallace, 140-143; *P. Lund* 4).

15-17: Cf. *P. Bak.* 19,21-22, a similar request against enforced labor, which concludes with the request that the priests not be required to work away from their village: εἰς τὸ δύνασθαι ἡμᾶς— —τὰς τῶν θεῶν θρησκείας ποιεῖσθαι γεινομένας ὑπὲρ τε διαμονῆς Κυρίου ἡμῶν— —Αὐρηλίου Ἀντωνεῖνου (AD 171). This suggests that our text might be, e.g., ὅπως δυνηθῶμεν ἐ[πιτελεῖν (or sim.) τοὺς— —ποιο]υμένους ὑπὲρ τύχης καὶ δια[μονῆς τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν M]άρκου Αὐρηλίου [.

2. Complaint?

P. Yale inv. no. 1609
Plate VI 1)

9.5 x 12.2. cm.

After AD 4/5

This is a dark brown papyrus with a blank upper margin of 2.5 cm. and a small right margin. Both left side and bottom have been torn away. Writing is along the fibers; the back is blank

6: An incorrect *iota adscriptum* appears on ἐχωρίσθη, but not on διαμικθῶ below, line 8.

9-10: ταῖς ἐν τῇ [ἄνω τοπαρχίαι ἀρούραϊς τέσσε]αρσι or sim. Cf. above, line 4.

10-11: ἀπη|λιώτου or sim.

3. Circular from the Prefect

P. Yale inv. 1599

18.5 x 9 cm.

AD 238-244 or later

This is a pale yellow papyrus, written along the fibers and complete only at the top. The back is blank. The first hand wrote a narrow, upright "chancery" script of the early third century (see G. Cavallo, *Aegyptus* 45 [1965] 216-49 for examples and an analysis of the type). The second hand is no less professional, but smaller, slanted and less elegant.

The original document, from which only a series of disjointed phrases survives, contained a circular from the prefect of Egypt regarding a tax hitherto unknown to us (see below line 7 and note). Appended to the circular (lines 12ff.) was the text of an official letter to the city of Alexandria, which appears to have been cited as authorization for collection of the tax.

]στρατηγοῖ[ε] καὶ βα[σιλ]ικοῖ[ε] γραμματεῦσι
 Ἄρσι]ο[ί]το]υ
 vac.
 κ]αὶ τὰ [τοῦ κρ]ατίτου Ἡρωδιανοῦ
 4]ντα [μά]λιτα ὑπὲρ τοῦ ἱερωτάτου ταμ[ε]ί[ου]
]ως καὶ τῶν ἐμῶν δεηθῆναι γραμματέ[ων]
]των εἰς τὰ πεντακιχίλια τάλαντα ὑπ[
 8 συντέ]λειαν τοῦ διαξυσίμου τέλους ποιῆσαι [
 ἀ]λλὰ παραυτίκα καὶ ἔργον ἐμ[
 ἐπ]ὶ τῷ πεμφθέντι ἐπι[
 εἰσε]νέγκετε λόγοις τι[
]γης ὑποτέτακται. vac. [
 12 (m₂) Καί]αρος Μάρκου Ἄντωνίου Γορ[διανοῦ]
], . [.] εωνι Αὐρήλιος Β[
 Ἄλεξαν]δρέων χαίρειν [
 ε]ὑσεβῆ συντέλειαν τ[οῦ διαξυσίμου τέλους
 16]λημα ἐπὶ τῷ κατοι[
]λούμενον διαξύσι[μον τέλος
] . μενον ὁμοίω[ε]
] . ωι [

10 γ' κ pap.

1-2: The plural στρατηγοῖ[ε] suggests that the text should read ὁ δεινα] στρατηγοῖ[ε] καὶ βα[σιλ]ικοῖ[ε] γραμματεῦσι | (Ἐπτὰ) νομῶν καὶ Ἄρσι]ο[ί]το]υ. Compare, e.g., *P. Oxy.* XII 1408.11.

3: Since the epithet κράτιτος (= *egregius*) was applied to a considerable number of officials in the provincial administration, Herodianus is not easily identifiable. If he was an epistrategos, he could have held office either just before or just after Kleogenes, who is attested in office on 23 AD 241 (Thomas *Epistrategos* II #71).

7 (and 17): The new word διαξύσιμος is presumably an adjective formed from the noun διάξυσμα, which denotes filings, scrapings, shavings, clippings, chips or shreds (so LSJ s.v. διάξυσμα); in a specialized sense it also denotes the fluting (i.e., the gouged out) part of a column. The nature of a tax linked to any of these

senses is not obvious. However, the underlying verb, διαξύω, can mean to tear up or cross out (so *Steph. Lex.*) which suggests the possibility that διαξύσιμον τέλος was a tax or fee paid for the cancellation of a contract on file in a public archive.

11: τὸ ἀντίγραφον τῆς τοῦ δεῖνα ἐπιτα]γῆς or sim.

13 Αὐρήλιος Β[: traces suit *beta* or *kappa*; Aurelius Basileus was prefect of Egypt in AD 242-245.

4. An Official Letter

P. Yale inv. 1592

8.3 x 6.0 cm.

About AD 267

This is a rectangular scrap written along the fibers in a hand assignable to the third century; it was folded twice vertically and the back is blank. No margins survive; the text breaks off at the closing: ἔρρωο remains, but no signatures.

It is a fragment of an official letter mentioning an *epistrategos* named Faustus (see Thomas, *Epistrategos* II 191, 206) and imperial decrees, but no context remains.

— — — — —

]δην[
] . . . ατηνδ[. . .] . α[
] τὸ ἀντίγραφον . . . [

4] ἡγεμόνος vac. ἐδοκιμασ . . . [

] κτικους τῶν ἄλλων ἀμείνους [

] λατε Φαύτωι τῶν ἐπιτρατήγῳι [

8] εἴτε τοῖς κριθεῖν ὑπὸ τοῦ θεοῦ [

] . . . περὶ τούτων.

ἔρρωο

— — — — —

6 Φαύτωι τῳ ἐπιτρατήγῳι: two *epistratego*i with this name are recorded for the Roman period: Vedius Faustus, who held office between 157/8 and 162 (Thomas #45), and Aelius Faustus, who is known to have been in office on 16 March 267 (Thomas #77). On palaeographic grounds this document is more likely to belong to the period of Aelius' tenure.

7 τοῖς κριθεῖν ὑπὸ τοῦ θεοῦ: these are decrees of the emperor, on which see N. Lewis *RIDA* 3^o s. 25 (1978) 261-78, and cf. W. Turpin *BASP* 3-4 (1981) 145-160.

5. Report of Proceedings

P. Yale inv. 1530

11.5 x 11.0 cm.

In or after AD 138

This is a dark brown papyrus, incomplete on all sides, written in a professional hand which is a forerunner or an early example of the "chancery" style. Writing is along the fibers, and the back is blank.

This is a fragment from the minutes of a hearing, presumably before the prefect, which offers two points of interest. Line 6 contains the first mention to date of an *epistrategos* κάτω χώρας, a term which was, according to Strabo (1.2.23 and 17.1.4), an alternative designation of the Delta region (cf. also *chorae inferioris* in *CIL* V 7870 = *ILS* 6762). Line 8 refers to a letter of the *nomikos* Ulpus Dioskourides, his third occurrence in papyri, where he is ap-

parently consulted as an expert in the realm of family law and inheritance that applied to the non-Roman population of the province. Thus, in a matter that arose in the prefecture of Servius Sulpicius Similis (AD 107-112), a letter from him to an ex-strategos who had consulted him on a woman's claim based on her mother's marriage was read out (*PSI* 450, 36-47). In the present document, there is reference to a letter of his dated in year 3 of Hadrian. Lines 11-13 appear to state that the property of a person who dies childless and intestate goes to his brothers (cf. Taubenschlag, *Law*² 187). The third document, a Berlin papyrus (P. Berol. inv. 9579) kindly communicated to us by Z. Borkowski, also relates to a disputed inheritance and shows him still active in the prefecture of M. Petronius Mamertinus (AD 133-137). On *nomikoi* in general, cf. R. Taubenschlag, *Law*² 518.37n and *P. Col.* VII 174, introd. p. 168; Taubenschlag's list of *nomikoi* in *Opera Minora* II 161-165 (= *Festschrift F. Schulz* II 189-192) is useful but out of date. For a detailed discussion of similar hearings, see R. Coles, *Reports of Proceedings in Papyri* (Pap. Brux. 4, 1966).

]δέχεσθαι. Ἀπολλ[ώνιος] ῥήτωρ προσέθη[κεν
] καθολικόν ἐστιν καὶ οὐκ ἄκριτον. ἐὰν γὰρ .[
] διατάγῳσι τινὰ καὶ μὴ φθάσαντες οὗτοι .[
 4]ωσι, οἱ τούτ[οι]ων υἱοὶ οὐκ εἰσέρχονται ἐπὶ τ[ὴν κληρονομίαν
]ιδώρου ῥήτορος ἀναγνόντος ἐφ' ὁμοίου[
]ωνος γενομένου ἐπιστρατήγου Κάτω Χώρ[α
]ιμὸν ἐπὶ τοῦ γ (ἔτους) θεοῦ Ἀδριανοῦ τὸτ' ἔχοι .[
 8 Οὐλίπιο]υ Διοσκουρίδου νομικοῦ ἐπιτολήν. θε[
] ῥήτωρ τῶν περὶ *Κενκότταρον* ἀπεκρίνατο· ἵνα [
] ἀλόγῳ. φημὶ ὅτι *Κενκότταρος* ἔγραψεν τ[
] ὅτι ἐπὶ ἀτεκνος ἀποθάνη Κότ[
 12 αὐ]τοῦ εἰς τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς ἐπανελεύ[εται
 ἀτέκνου καὶ ἀ]διθέτου ἀποθανόντος αὐτ[οῦ
]κατα .[

8 ἐπιτολήν θε[pap. 9 ἵνα pap.

1 ῥήτωρ προσέθη[κεν: cf. Coles, *Reports* 41-44, especially 43 (1). The earliest dated example that Coles cites of a hearing using the combination of προσέθηκεν and ἀπεκρίνατο (below line 9) is AD 128.

2 καθολικόν: cf. *MChr* 80 II 45, 85.5 and P. Mich. inv. 148v, col. iii 8 and note (*ZPE* 27 [1977] 128 = *SB* XIV 12139). The sense is surely that the matter is one of general interest for which a precedent—ἐὰν γὰρ—has already been established.

4 εἰσέρχονται: it is possible to read either εἰς or ἐπ here.

5 Ἰιδώρου ῥήτορος: a rhetor so named occurs in a proceeding of the 12th year of Hadrian (*P. Oxy.* II 237 vii 21).

6]ωνος γενομένου ἐπιστρατήγου Κάτω Χώρ[α: the name of the epistrategos is not known. For a discussion of the administrative region referred to as Κάτω Χώρα, see Thomas, *Epistrategos* II 33-34, 36-37, 41-42 and 91.

7]ιμὸν: while the phrase ἐξ ὑπομνηματικῶν is common in proceedings, the singular points to a reference to διαλογ]ιμὸν, the prefectural assizes of the 3rd year.

τότ' ἔχοι .[: the letters are clear and suggest τότ' ἔχοις .[ἄν or sim. For the second person form compare *MChr.* 80 II 35, 44.

9 ἀπεκρίνατο: see above, line 1 note.

Κενκότταρον: the name is unattested, though names formed in Cen- are common, and the form Κότταρος occurs, see *NB*.

10] αλόγω: a low horizontal trace suggests that the word is κα]ταλόγω.

11 Κοτ[: either τ[or π[will suit, e.g., Κότ[ταρος or Κοπ[ρής.

11-12: The apparent sense is "If Ko .[dies childless, his property will devolve upon his brothers.

6. Report of Proceedings

P. Yale inv. 1600a back

15.0 x 5.0 cm.

About AD 85?

This is a very narrow strip of papyrus with only the lower margin surviving; upper and both side margins are now missing. The hand is an informal upright, quickly written and often ligatured. Writing is across the fibers. The front contains traces of a few letters written in a large informal round hand.

Little remains of the document on the back except portions of three names: each name occurs several times, always in the nominative, always at the same location in the line, probably at the original left edge, followed by a slight gap. The name]τονικος is followed by the designation *rhetor* (lines 6?, 14, 17), which suggests that this is a report of proceedings, but the remains are too slight to reconstruct a context. A *rhetor* Aristonikos is known from P. Flor. 61, of AD 85 (= *MChr.* II 80). The handwriting of this fragment, which is a type assignable to the end of the first century AD, supports the identification. Note that the format of P. Flor. 61 is similar to this papyrus, but the handwriting is not the same. For formats of early proceedings, see Coles, *Reports of Proceedings* 29ff. and 38-9.

		]η τινα λοιπ[δόν
		]ου ἀπομ[
		]ωνιος δ[
4		]την αὐτήν [
		]θα διμο[
		Ἄρις]όνικος .[
		] .πται [κατ] `δισιτ'[
8		]μαχος αἰτ[
		]ρηι οὐ λει[
		Ἄρις]τόνικος ευ[
		] πεφυτεύθη[
12		]μαχος κατ[
		]εται γὰρ ἐν τη[
		Ἄρις]όνικος ῥ[ήτωρ
		]κα ἀνηλωκ[
16		] .ώνιος .[

Ἄριτ]όνικος ῥήτ[ωρ

9 λε or μ[14, 17. ῥ pap.

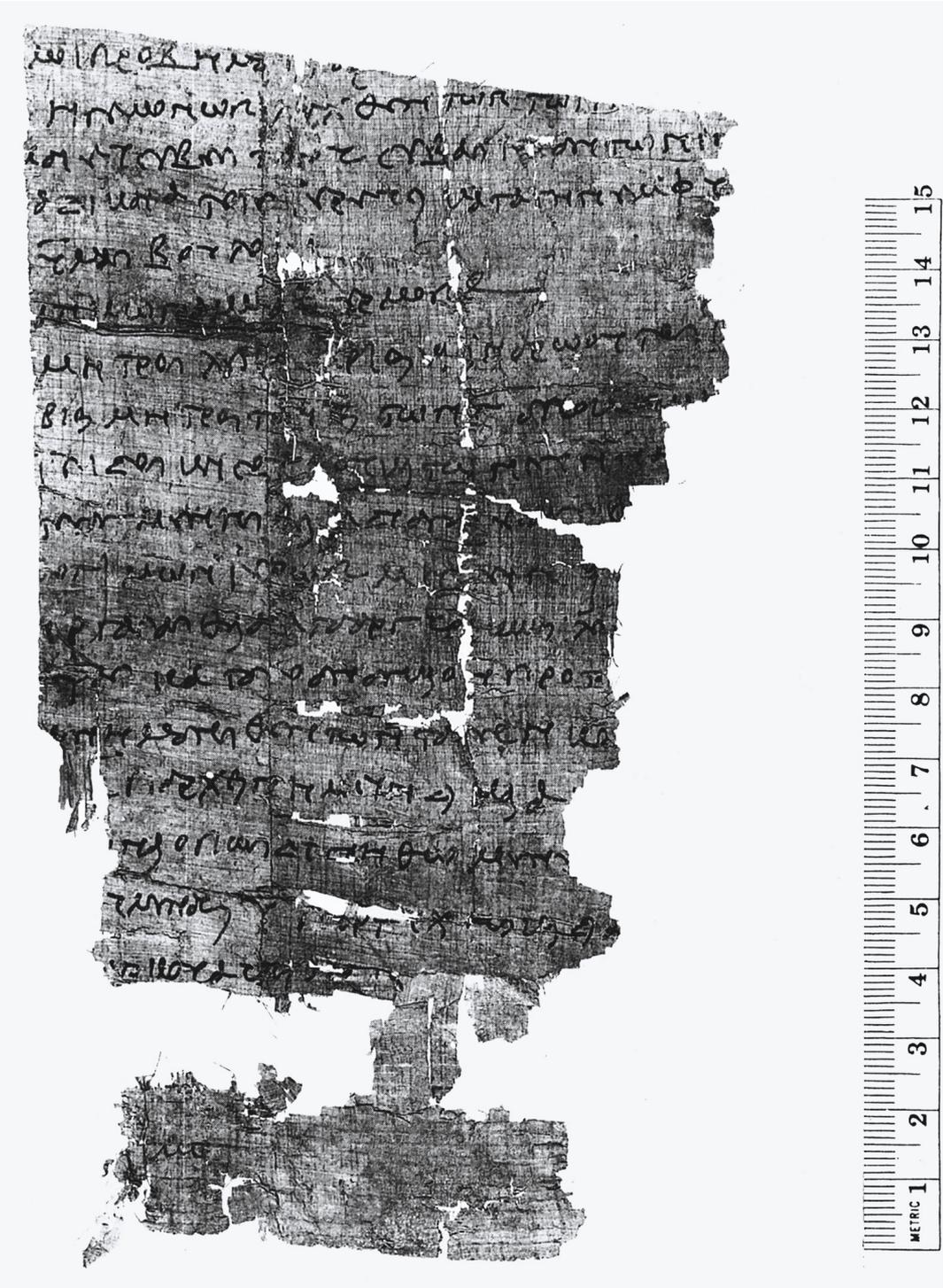
3]ωνιος: the same name occurs again in 16. There the traces suggest that either Ἄμ]μόνιος or Ἄπο]λ-
λόνιος would suit. A *rhetor* named Apollonios occurs in the previous document; if that is the same man, he
will have had an active career of some 30 years or more.

5 δίμο[ιρον or sim.?

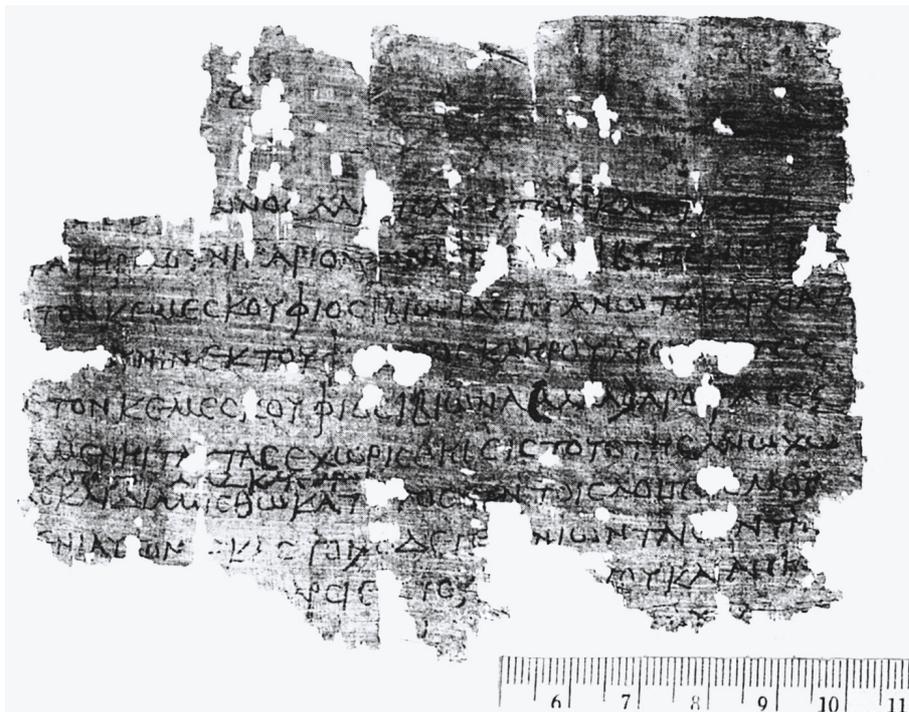
8]μαχος: presumably another name. Lysimachos or Antimachos would suit.

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P.Yale inv.no. 1531: petition to the royal scribe



1)

1) P.Yale inv.no. 1609: complaint?