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APONII IN EGYPT

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Several members of the family of the Aponii¹ have played a more or less important role in Roman history (cf. PIR² nos. 932-938). At least one of the persons listed in the PIR appears also in Egypt as the owner of an οὐσία. Marcus Aponius Saturnilus' usia is mentioned in P.Oslo II 33 (Karanis; A.D. 29); P.Ryl. II 131 (Euhemeria; A.D. 31); P.Ryl. II 135 (Euhemeria; A.D. 34) and P.Mich.V 312 (Theognis; A.D. 34).² The editor of P.Bon. I 23 (Tebtynis; A.D. 107)³ plays in her introduction with the idea that in the text from Bologna the estate of the same man occurs. This idea, unlikely in view of the date of the papyrus and the place where the usia is situated, has to be rejected. From the subsequent republication of the text it becomes clear that the usia of another member of the Aponii is involved.⁴

	[Ἔτο]υς ἑνδεκάτου Αὐτοκράτορος Καίσαρος Νέρουα	Tafel VIa
	[Τ]ραιανοῦ Σεβαστοῦ Γερμανικοῦ Δακικοῦ	
	[μη]νὸς Νέου Σεβαστοῦ δ' ἐν Τεπτῦνι τῆ[ς Πολέ-]	
4	[μων]ος μερίδος τοῦ Ἀρσινοεῖτου νομοῦ. ὁμ[ο-]	
	[λογ]εῖ Ἀρφαῆσις Μεσοήρεως ἐγλήμπτωρ	
	[τιν]ῶν ὑπαρχόντων {τῶν} περὶ Τεπτῦνιν -	
	[.(.)]τ του ... νίου Ἀπονίου [ο]ὐσίας ὡς ἐτῶ[ν]	
8	[τριάκ]ον[τ]α ἑπτὰ οὐλή μετόπ[ω] ἐκ δεξιῶν ὠ[
	[± 11]σιμου ε[± 12] . . [⁵	
	- - - - -	
	3 Τεπτύνει 4 Ἀρσινοίτου 7 Ἀπονίου 8 μετόπ[ω]; δεξιῶν	

¹ Cf. W. Schulze, *Zur Geschichte lateinischer Eigennamen*, Berlin 1904, 66. Cf. also H. Solin - O. Salomies, *Repertorium nominum gentilium et cognominum Latinorum*, Hildesheim - Zürich - New York 1988.

² Cf. G.M. Parássoglou, *Imperial Estates in Roman Egypt*, ASP 18, Amsterdam 1978, 65. Like so many rich Romans he invested his money in landed property and probably not only in Egypt (cf., e.g., D. Valerius Asiaticus, ZPE 79, 1989, 194ff.).

³ Cf. ZPE 45, 1982, 180 sub 3Cb.

⁴ The estate of an Aponia Berenike is mentioned in SB VI 9562 (Philadelphia; A.D. 214). For this text, see D. Hagedorn, ZPE 77, 1989, 202f.

⁵ I wish to thank G. Geraci who provided me with an excellent photograph of the Bologna text.

In line 6 τῶν seems to be either superfluous or a mistake for τῆς.

Line 7 poses a problem! A reading [(πρότερον)] Τίτου Οὐίνιου Ἀπονίου κτλ. does not seem to be excluded. If this reading is correct, the owner of the usia would have two nomina gentilicia (for Ovinus, cf. W. Schulze, *op.cit.*, 202, 234, 481). Although not unattested such a phenomenon is rather exceptional and strange. There is also the possibility that the scribe meant to write Ἀπονί(ν)ου (in that case we are not dealing with a member of the family of the Aponii). Non liquet!

[τριάκ]ον[τ]α seems the most likely supplement at the beginning of line 8, since [ἐξήκ]ον[τ]α would make Harphaësis rather old to be an ἐγλήμπτωρ. At the end of line 8 and at the beginning of line 9 perhaps ὠνεῖσθαι?

It is impossible to say whether the same Marcus Aponius (Satornilus) appears in P. Lond. III 1125d,⁶ since no certain date is preserved.

Tafel VIb

 traces
 κ]ότων [καὶ] τῶν τε[τε]λευτηκότων καὶ [
]ιανοῦ Κα[ίσαρος] τοῦ κυρίου ἐπακολουθουντ[
 4 κ]ώμης [Σοκνο]παίου Νήσου σπειτολόγου συγ[
]ἐκτίσεων βιβλιοφύλαξι συνχρηματίζο[υσι
]ς ἀρούραις ἕξ περὶ κώμην Ἑρακλείαν αἰ π[
 τέσ]σαρες· οὐχ ὑπάρχει δέ μοι ἕτερος πόρος ἐξ ὧ[ν
 (2nd h) 8 κ]εχρηματισμένων ἀπὸ τῆς ἐπιστα[λείσης
]αρίου ὡς δὲ πρὸ τῆς Ῥωμαϊκῆ(ς) πολει[τείας χρηματίσαντος
] ἐν δὺσι σφραγεῖσι περὶ κώμην Ἑρακ[λείαν
 κ]υρίου δραχμὰς δισχειλίας τετρα[κοσίας
 12]πάντα. Μάρκος Ἀπόνιος φρον[τιστής.
 4 σιτολόγου 5 ἐγκήσεων; συγχρηματίζο[υσι 9 πολι[τείας 11 δισχιλίας

Other Aponii are known to have served in the army. Aponius Didymianus appears as a decurion in O.Flor. 5 (and 4). The eques (?) Aponius Petronianus is mentioned in O.Flor. 3. Another eques, Aponius Germanos, can be found in P.Hamb. I 39, p. 169 (A.D. 179). In the IVth century A.D.⁷ the heirs of Aponius, a former primipilarius, appear in P.Landl. II 713 where it is stated that this Aponius possessed more than 180 aruras of land.

⁶ I wish to thank Mr T.S. Pattie for his kind permission to publish this text here.

Too much of the text which is only complete at the bottom (there is a free margin of 4 cm.) is missing to establish its nature with certainty. The text may contain a protest against a nomination to a liturgy (cf. line 7). At least two Romans are involved. In line 3 part of an imperial titulature (Hagedorn's reading) is preserved. If the person mentioned in line 9 became a Roman citizen in the wake of the Constitutio Antoniniana (cf. D. Hagedorn, *BASP* 16, 1979, 52, footnote 27a) the emperor mentioned in line 3 is probably Gordian (Μάρκου Ἀντωνίου Γορδ]ιανοῦ Κα[ίσαρος] τοῦ κυρίου. Cf. P. Bureth, *Les titulatures impériales*, *Papyrologica Bruxellensia* 2, Bruxelles 1964, 113). However, although some IIIrd century A.D. texts from Soknopaiou Nesos are known (cf. A. Calderini - S. Daris, *Dizionario geografico* IV.3, Milano 1986, 299; *Supplemento I*, Milano 1988, 236) they are neglectable in number compared with texts of earlier centuries (it is, therefore, even less likely that the emperor mentioned in line 3 was Οὐαλεριανός or Αὐρηλιανός). I would, however, assign this text on palaeographical grounds (a not absolutely reliable criterion, however) rather to the IInd than to the IIIrd century A.D. The emperor mentioned in line 3 was probably either Τραιανός or Ἀδριανός. If this is true Marcus Aponius must be another person than the above mentioned owner of an estate in Egypt (also in line 11 there may be a question of an imperial titulature).

If, as D. Hagedorn suggests, we read and supplement in line 12 Μάρκος Ἀπόνιος Φρόν]των (e.g.) we are certainly not dealing with Marcus Aponius Satornilus.

At the back faint traces of a red stamp are still visible (cf. P. Schubert, *P.Diog.*, pp. 37ff.).

⁷ For the date of P.Landl. II 713, cf. W. van Gucht, *Some Egyptian Bishops and the Date of P.Landl. II 713*, *Atti del XVII Congresso Internazionale di Papirologia* III, Napoli 1984, 1135ff.

In connection with land the following Aponii are mentioned: Aponis⁸ son of Papais possesses $\frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{3}$ arura of land (P.Lond. II 192,26 [p.223]; early 1st century A.D.); Gaius Aponius Rufus pays for $1 \frac{1}{3}$ arura⁹ of land (P.Berl. Leihg. II 37,31; A.D. 142/3); Aponius Rufus, who may be the same person as the preceding one, is the owner of a vine-yard of $\frac{1}{3} \frac{1}{12}$ arura (BGU IX 1893, 483; A.D. 149);¹⁰ Longinus Aponius appears three times in the Karanis tax-rolls (P.Mich. IV 223,2463; 224,2931.4964; A.D. 171-173);¹¹ Aponis son of Ptollion Monopodia and Aponis son of Ptollas possess together with an unknown number of other persons¹² 80 aruras of land (BGU IX 1900,66; around A.D. 196); Aponius Bernikianos¹³ owns a vine-yard (P.Berl.Leihg. II 41,53; early 2nd century A.D.); Aponius son of Heraklas grandson of Mysthes greatgrandson of Dion is a δημόσιος γεωργός at Theadelphia (P. Straßb. I 57,2; 2nd century A.D.).

The following Aponii appear in a non-committal context: SB VI 9017(31): a letter from Papius (a Latin name) to his sister Demetrus. Among other persons he greets Ἀπώνιν καὶ τὸν ἄλλον Ἀπώνιν (1st/2nd century A.D.). SB VI 9271: Aponius is the husband of Paulina who writes to her brother Titus (note the Latin names!) with complaints about her husband (1st/2nd century A.D.). P.Strasb. VIII 769,8: a list of names which may be connected with plots of land or quantities of wheat (2nd century A.D.). SB XII 11252,21: in a list of names an Aponius ποιμήν appears (2nd/3rd century A.D.). P.Hamb. III 224,29: a list of names (3rd century A.D.). On the Colossus of Memnon (cf. A. and E. Bernand, op.cit. [footnote 8], no. 98) an inscription of a certain Aponius who heard the voice of the statue can be found (the exact date of the inscription cannot be established).

The texts which mention an Aponius give us the impression that some members of this family were rather large landowners but others possessed only small plots of land. Quite a few Aponii served in the army. They mostly use more than one name and seem to have been cives Romani before the Constitutio Antoniniana.

⁸ Cf. A. and E. Bernand, Les inscriptions grecques et latines du Colosse de Memnon, Le Caire 1960, p. 195, footnote 3 for literature concerning names and substantives in -ις and -ιος, rendering Latin names and substantives in -ius.

⁹ Mistakenly the editor states in a note on lines 22/3 that Aponius possesses $2 \frac{1}{5} \frac{1}{10}$ aruras of land.

¹⁰ The papyrus has Ἀπώνιος Ῥοῦφκτος but, as the editor remarks correctly in his note, Ῥοῦφκτος is in all probability a mistake for Ῥοῦφος.

¹¹ In P.Cairo Isid. Heron son of Aponeus appears in 9,26.205; 10,16.106.159; 14,131 (and perhaps in 22,10; 28,18). Since the editors took Ἀπώνεως to be the genitive of the proper name Ἀπώνις, the proper name Ἀπώνις was listed in D. Foraboschi, Onomasticon Alterum Papyrologicum 45a. The same person appears in P.Mich. VI 376,44 but in this text Ἀπώνεως was correctly taken as the genitive of the proper name Ἀπώνεός (D. Foraboschi, op.cit., ibidem).

¹² Seven persons are named but an unknown number of μέτοχοι is involved.

¹³ The editor transcribes: - - - Ἀπώνιος Βερνικ(ίωνος) and assumes that Aponius is the son of a Bernikion.

