P.J. Sijpesteijn

Two London Papyri


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TWO LONDON PAPYRI

In memoriam John C. Shelton

(1) P.Lond. II 378

↓

Σοκνοπαίου Νήσου 'γ (ἔτους) εἰς Κερκῆ' ἐπίπλοος Στοτοῆτις Ἄπτύχεως τοῦ
Στοτοῆτιος
[... ] γ (ἔτους) [εἰς] πλοῖον (πρότερον) Παπειρίου Ἐρμᾶ ἀπὸ τῆς (αύτῆς) (ἀρτάβας)
(μιρίας) Θψκβ.

Translation:

Supercargo for Soknopaiu Nesos for year 3 to Kerke Stotoētis son of Apynchis grandson of
Stotoētis for (?) year 3 into the ship formerly belonging to Papirios son of Hermas from the same
village 12.722 art.

The nature of this succinct text is not totally clear. We might be dealing with a notice to a
not mentioned person that
Stotoētis son of Apynchis grandson of Stotoētis will serve as
supercargo for Soknopaiu Nesos in Kerke where he will be responsible for the lading of 12.722
artabas (probably of wheat. Cf. P. Heid. IV 313) of the 3rd regnal year of an unknown emperor
into the ship formerly belonging to Papirios son of Hermas from the same village of Soknopaiu
Nesos (cf. P.Petaus 58. Cf. also P.Amh. II 123; P.Cairo Goodsp. 28). On the other hand, the
possibility that this text is (the draft of) an order to or a receipt for Stotoētis concerning the lading
of the artabas mentioned cannot be excluded.

Notes:

1 Κερκῆ: for Kerke, an important harbour in the north of the Arsinoite nome, see A.Calderini -
S. Daris, Dizionario dei nomi geografici III.2, Milano 1980, 111; W.Clarysse in Studies on
Ptolemaic Memphis (Studia Hellenistica 24, Lovani 1980) 96f. Our Stotoētis was super-
cargo for Soknopaiu Nesos. He started his liturgy in the harbor of Kerke. He was not neces-
sarily responsible for only the tax-grain from Soknopaiu Nesos.

ἐπίπλοος: like in πλοῖον (line 2) λο is written λω with a small omikron closely linked to
the lambda. Possibly because he thought this omikron not clear enough, the scribe changed
ως into ω and added a sigma (cf. F.Th. Gignac, A Grammar II, Milano 1981, 33f.) The ἐπί-
πλοος (cf. N. Lewis, The Compulsory Public Services of Roman Egypt, Papyrologica
griechischen und römischen Recht, Studia Amstelodamensis XIII, Zutphen 1978, 56; J.
accompanied cargos from harbors in the χώρα to Alexandria and was responsible for them.

1 The light-brown papyrus, regularly cut off at all sides, is complete, although the ink has disappeared
in places. The text runs against the fibers. The other side is blank. One horizontal and eight vertical folds
are still visible. At the top 1 cm. has been left free; at the left approximately 1.5 cm. At the end of line 2, 5
cm have been left free. 20.2 x 4.5 cm. Described on p. XXXV of P.Lond. II.

I wish to thank Mr. T.S. Pattie for his kind permission to publish this text and the following text here.
Originally the ἐπίπλοοι were soldiers (the latest document with a soldier as supercargo is from probably A.D. 94 or A.D. 110: P.Oxy.Hels. 14). Once again (cf. P.J. Sijpesteijn, Customs Duties in Graeco-Roman Egypt, Studia Amstelodamensia XVII, Zutphen 1987, 40) the reign of the emperor Trajan has been a turning-point, since during his reign (cf. J. Schwartz, BIFAO 47, 1948, 185. For that reason PSA Athen. 63 has to be dated to the beginning of the IIInd Century A.D.) a change over from soldiers to civilians to carry out this task took place. The text published here has on palaeographical grounds to be dated to the IIInd century A.D. However, since there is only a question of a 3rd year without the name of an emperor being mentioned, its exact date cannot be established. Neither the name of the supercargo nor the one of the former ship-owner are of any help in this respect. D. Hobson (letter dated March 14, 1992) informs me that she knows of only one (Gaius) Papirios (Maximus) from Soknopaiou Nesos (P.Fay. desc. 244) and that for Στοτόητιος Ἀπύγχεος τοῦ Στοτόητιος the possibilities are infinite, since she knows of countless people of both names. ἐπίπλοοι are already attested in the Ptolemaic period (cf. P.Ryl. IV 576,1n.). Nameless ἐπίπλοοι are attested in P.Grenf. II 46a,6 = WChrest. 431,6; P.Lond. II 301,10 = MChrest. 340,10; P.Oxy. XXXIII 2670 I 13; XLIX 3484,28; PSI XIV 1436,12 (?); P.Phil. 10,9; PSA Athen. 63,6; SB XII 11082,16: The following ἐπίπλοοι are known to us by name:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Λουκίους Οὐκλάτους στρατιώτης</td>
<td>2 B.C.</td>
<td>Oxy. SB VI 9223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Λουκίους Καστρίκινος στρατιώτης</td>
<td>2 B.C.</td>
<td>Oxy. SB VI 9223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Σέκτους Ἀντίνους (στρατιώτης)</td>
<td>15 A.D.</td>
<td>Ars. P.Lond. II 256 = WChr. 443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Κλαύδιος Κέλερ στρατιώτης</td>
<td>77 A.D.</td>
<td>Oxy. P.Oxy. II 276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Γέας Δοργήνος στρατιώτης</td>
<td>94/110 A.D.</td>
<td>Oxy. P.Oxy.Hels. 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ἰόθης s. of Σεντικάος</td>
<td>1 A.D.²</td>
<td>? SB V 7737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ἄμμώνιος s. of Ἄμμώνιος</td>
<td>127 A.D.</td>
<td>Oxy. P.Oxy. XXXIII 2670 I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Παποντάδος s. of Παποντάδος</td>
<td>127 A.D.</td>
<td>Oxy. P.Oxy. XXXIII 2670 I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Σιρᾶς ἀπελεύθερος Διψίλαος</td>
<td>139 A.D.</td>
<td>Oxy. P.Oxy.Hels. 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ἄρροδιδιός s. of Ποτάμμου (?)</td>
<td>138-161 A.D.</td>
<td>Ars. SB XII 11082,16³</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ἐκύσης (συγγενής Παχύτους Στοτόητιος)</td>
<td>185 A.D.</td>
<td>Ars. P.Lond. II 342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ἀτύχις (συγγενής Παχύτους Στοτόητιος)</td>
<td>185 A.D.</td>
<td>Ars. P.Lond. II 342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Πειαδός s. of Ὠνονάρις and Τεύρις ἐπικυκλούμενος</td>
<td>± 185 A.D.</td>
<td>Ars. P.Petaus 58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ὁμρος s. of Ὠνονάρις and Τευνελέους</td>
<td>± 185 A.D.</td>
<td>Ars. P.Petaus 58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Πτολεμαῖος s. of Πανομινᾶς</td>
<td>II A.D.</td>
<td>Ars. P.Cairo Goodsp.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Στοτόητις s. of Ἀπύγχεος gds. of Στοτόητις</td>
<td>II A.D.</td>
<td>Ars. P.Lond. II 378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ἀλεξᾶς s. of Ἀκύθης</td>
<td>II/III A.D.</td>
<td>Ars. P.Ahm. II 123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Κορηῆς s. of Ποῦβλε (?)</td>
<td>II/III A.D.</td>
<td>Ars. P.Ahm. II 123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ἀὐρήλιος Τύραννος s. of Βήκις and Τροῦς</td>
<td>325 A.D.</td>
<td>Herm. P.Charite 13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 There is a space for two letters at the beginning of this line. If anything has been written here one could think of ἵπ(ερ). ἀπὸ τῆς (αὐτῆς): the scribe may mistakenly have taken the symbol for ἀρτάβας (ῶ) as α(ὐτῆς). Cfr. CPR XVII A 17a,3 for ἄπο τῆς (αὐτῆς) without κώμης.

² Probably to be dated to the (beginning of the) IIInd century A.D.
³ Supplement in the lacuna at the beginning of line 17 τοῖς instead of τοῖς.
(μωρίας): the same form also in, e.g., PSI VII 792,16; P.Oxy. XVII 2125,4. Cf. W.M. Brashear, ZPE 60, 1985, 239ff.
L. Casson, Ships and Seamanship in the Ancient World, Princeton 1971, 164, footnote 40 lists 4 kerkouROI carrying 12,000 artabas, 1 carrying 16,000 artabas and 1 even carrying 18,000 artabas as burden (cf. also P.Erasmiacae II [Studia Amstelodamensia XXXII], Amsterdam 1991, pp. 77ff.; CPR XVII A 7, 2n.). It is, therefore, possible that the ship formerly belonging to Papirios was a large carrier of more than 12,000 artabas on the Nile and Stotoëtis’ duty restricted to only one trip from Kerke to Alexandria. On the other hand, the ship in question may have made several trips downstream (cf. P.Oxy. XXXIII 2670). If the latter is true it looks as if Stotoëtis was in some way responsible for a total of 12,722 artabas of wheat. In that case the wheat may have come from Soknopaiu Nesos.

(2) P.Lond. II 425
This text contains the right-hand side of a document which on palaeographical grounds has to be dated to the IVth century A.D. The nature of the text cannot be established any longer with certainty. One or more columns preceded the preserved one and at least one more column followed it. We may be dealing with a (semi-)literary text (e.g., Christian martyr acts). The interesting form ἱκουκῶς (line 3), the neologism καμχλισμῶ (line 5) and the hope that the missing parts may be discovered somewhere sometime warrant its publication.

3 ἱκουκῶς: 3 ex τ (?), 4 ἱκουρήσε: second α ex coe.: ἰκουρήσε: κέκαυτα 6 δηνάρια; χίλια 8 τῷ ἐπιτρόπῳ, also in lines 12-13 9 τῷ 10-11 ἐπίτροπος 11 αὐτῷ ὁ αὐτῷ (?), 13 ἐγὼ

4 The papyrus is described on page XXXVIII of P.Lond. II. Its provenance is unknown. The text, with the exception of the left side regularly cut off at all other sides, measures 10.7 x 10 cm. There is a κόλλησις exactly at the right border. The other side is blank. At the top there is a free margin of approximately 1 cm. and at the bottom one of approximately 2 cm. I am not sure (cf. the introduction) that we are dealing with “a letter on private matters”. The present text profited from a discussion per litteras with D. Hagedorn.
Notes:


2. Tantalizing words are preserved here! Only exempli gratia we could think of: τότε γὰρ ὁν εἰς τὸ μέσον τοῦ πυρὸς | σε εἰσεβάλομεν. Cf. also κεκαυται (or κεκάουσι;?) in line 4.


4. καμηλισμών: this word appears here for the first time. Particularly in the form -ισμός the suffix -μος was extremely productive in the Koine (cf. L.R. Palmer, A Grammar of the Post-Ptolemaic Papyri I, London, 1964, 99ff.). I would translate this word as ‘behaving like a camel’ (cf. ἀπτικισμός, Ἐλληνισμός) but I do not know which quality of character (stupidity, endurance = stubborness?) is indicated by this word. The verb καμηλιζω occurs in Heliodorus Eroticus 10.27.

6-7. Possibly 7 denaria were paid/exchanged for 1.500 (+?) objects. On the other hand, it is extremely likely that δηνάρια ἐπακισχύλα πεντακόσια was meant.

7. Perhaps we have to read: ὁ ἄνθον ὄν [ἄ]ποκουρώσει κτλ. However, the verb is not frequently attested and instead of ο the better reading may be η.


13. ἄλλα ὁλη exempli gratia ἡ πόλις. This would provide a good opposition to οὐκ ἔγω μόνος. But ἄλλα ὁ ἄν- is also possible.
a) Text mit Erwähnung eines Epiploos (P.Lond. II 378),
b) Christliche Märtyrerakten (?) (P.Lond. II 425)