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A REPAYMENT OF A LOAN

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A Repayment of a Loan¹

P.Mich.inv. 780

6.5 x 16.5 cm.

6 July A.D. 133

Pl. III.2

This medium brown papyrus has been folded vertically three times from right to left, with the resulting loss of approximately four letters per line along the entire length of the left-hand margin. There is also a tear along the center fold with some loss of text, but the document offers few difficulties in restoration due to its highly formulaic nature. The body of the text is written in a neat, cursive hand which contrasts with the crude letters employed in the subscription of the payee. The main hand tends to extend the last letter of a line into a long horizontal stroke or, where the shape of the letter does not permit to do so, fills the rest of the line with a similar, though separate horizontal stroke. With the exception of the losses noted above, the text appears to be complete (see n. to line 31). The writing is parallel to fibers and the back is blank.

The text is the acknowledgment of the return of a loan. The borrower, Hermas, son of Heron, grandson of Hermas, is known to us from two other documents:

P. Col. inv. 17, a loan contract drawn up in Arsinoe on 10 April A.D. 146 (J.A. Sheridan, *BASP* 23 [1986] 149-153). There he borrows 120 silver drachmas from Isidorus, the son of Marion.

P. Oslo II 39, a loan contract from Theadelphia dated to 19 July A.D. 146. Hermas again borrows 176 silver drachmas from the same Isidorus (see R. Wurga, *BASP* 24 [1987] 109f.).

In both these two previously published papyri and the present piece Hermas is styled in nearly identical fashion. He comes from the second goose-farm quarter of Arsinoe and he has a scar in the middle of his forehead. The only discrepancy is that of his age. According to the Columbia papyrus, in April of 146 his age is about 40. Three months later, in the Oslo document, he is said to be about 42. In the present piece he is said to be about 35, which would place him at age 48 in A.D. 146. Given the notorious indifference on the part of Egyptian villagers to precise statements of age in such contracts (cf. *P. Cairo Isid.* 125. 14n.), this inconsistency presents no serious obstacle to the identification of the borrower as the same man in all three documents. Hermas repaid all three loans. The other two contracts were cancelled when the loans were repaid. The same happened to the original loan contract which Hermas paid back by the present transaction. Dionysammon returned the original contract for invalidation (lines 18-20).

¹ This is a revised chapter of my doctoral dissertation presented to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1988 entitled *Select Papyri*. I wish to thank my committee members David Sansone, David F. Bright, and G.M. Browne for their helpful suggestions. Thanks are also due to T. Gagos and The Special Collections Library, The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

		[Ἔτου]ς ἑπτακαιδεκάτου Ἀυτοκράτορος
		[Καί]σαρος Τραιανοῦ Ἀδριανοῦ Σεβαστοῦ
		[μηνὸ]ς Γορπιαίου Ἐπιφ δωδεκάτη—
4		[ἐν Θε]αδελφείᾳ τῆς Θεμίστου μερίδος τ[ο]ῦ
		[Ἄρσι]νοεῖτου νομοῦ. ὁμολογεῖ Διονυσάμ(μων)
		[Ἰσίωνο]ς ὡς ἑτῶν τριάκοντα ἑννέα
		[οὐλῆ δακ]τύλῳ μικ(ρῶ) χειρὸς ἀριστερᾶς
8		[Ἐρμᾶ Ἡ]ρωνος τοῦ Ἐρμᾶ ἀναγραφομ(ένφ)
		[ἐπ' ἀμ]φόδου Ἐτέρων Χηνοβοσκίων
		[ὡς] ἑτῶν τριάκοντα πέντε οὐλῆ—
		[μετώ]πῳ μέσφ ἀπέχιν παρ' αὐτοῦ
12		[ἀργυρ]ίου δραχμὰς ἑκατὸν εἴκοσι—
		[ἄς] ὄφειλεν ὁ Ἐρμᾶς τῷ Διονυ-
		[σάμ]ωνι καθ' ὁμολογίαν τελειωθεῖ(σαν)
		[δι]ὰ τοῦ ἐν Μαγαίδι τῆς αὐτῆς μερίδο(ς)
16		[γρα]φείου τῷ τεσσαρεσκαιδεκά(τῳ) (ἔτει)
		[Ἀδριαν]οῦ Καίσαρος τοῦ κυρίου μηνι—
		[Μεχ]εῖρ τρίτη καὶ εἰκάδι, ἦν καὶ ἀνα-
		[δέδ]ωκεν αὐτῷ εἰς ἀθέτησιν καὶ
20		[ἀκύρ]ωσι[ν] καὶ μηδὲν τὸν Διονυσάμ(μωνα)
		[μηδὲ τοῦς] παρ' αὐτοῦ ἐνκαλῖν μηδ' ἐν-
		[καλέσιν] τῷ Ἐρμᾶ μηδὲ τοῖς παρὰ τοῦ
		[Ἐρμᾶ π]ερὶ ὧν ἀπέσχηκεν καθότι
24		[πρόκ]εῖται, μηδὲ ἑτέρου ἀπλῶς πράγμ(ατος)
		[ἐνγρ]άπτου ἀγρά[φο]υ μέχρι τῆς ἐνεστ(ώσης)
		[ἡμ]έρας τρόπῳ μηδενί. τὰ διομολ(ογημένα) κύρι(α).
(2nd hand)		[Διο]νυσάμμων Ἰσίωνος ἀπέχω
28		[παρ]ὰ τοῦ Ἐρμᾶ τὰς τοῦ ἀρ-
		[γυ]ρίου δρ[αχμὰς ἑκα-]
		[τὸ]ν ἴκοσι κ[αὶ μηδὲν]
		[ἐνκ]αλῶ καθ[ὼς πρόκειται.]

11 ἀπέχειν 21 ἐγκαλεῖν 22 ἐγκαλέσειν 26 διομολ(ογημένα) 30 εἴκοσι

"The seventeenth year of Imperator Caesar Traianus Hadrian Augustus in the month of Gorpaius, Epeiph twelfth, in Theadelphia in the Themistes division of the Arsinoite nome. Dionusammon, the son of Ision, about thirty-nine years old, with a scar on the little finger of the left hand, agrees with Hermas, the son of Heron, grandson of Hermas, registered in the second goose-farm quarter, about thirty-five years old, with a scar on the middle of his forehead, that he has received from him one hundred twenty silver drachmas which Hermas owed to him in accordance with a contract drawn up through the grapheion in the village of Magaís, of the same division, in the fourteenth year of Hadrian Caesar the Lord in the month of Mecheir (?) on the twenty-third, which contract he has also returned to him for invalidation

and annulment and that neither Dionusammon nor those acting on his behalf bring or shall bring charges against Hermas or those acting on his behalf concerning the money he has received, as above has been said, or about any other matter, written or unwritten, up to the present day in any way. The terms of the contract are valid.

(2nd. hand) I, Dionusammon, the son of Ision, have received from Hermas one hundred twenty silver drachmas, and I shall not proceed against him in any way as is stated above."

3: On the double month name see U. Hagedorn, *ZPE* 23 (1976) 143-167; O. Primavesi, *ZPE* 64 (1986) 104-105.

6: Cf. V.B. Schuman, "The Origin of the Expression ὡς ἐτῶν Used in the Papyri," *CW* 28 (1934-35) 95 f. On the lack of precision regarding his age see above, intro.

15 [δι]ὰ τοῦ ἐν Μαγαίῃδι: I wish to thank T. Gagos for his help with this line. He restored a fiber to its original position and was then able to correct my reading of the name.

18 Μεχ]εῖρ: T. Gagos. The date is Feb. 17, 130, and the loan was paid back after 3 years and 5 months.

19-20 εἰς ἀθέτησιν καὶ [ἀκύ[ρ]ωσι[v] καὶ: as read by L. Koenen and T. Gagos. This is the usual phrase which occurs for the invalidation of the original contract. For a full discussion with bibliography see H.-A. Rupprecht, *Studien zur Quittung im Recht der Graeco-Ägyptischen Papyri* (M.B. 57 [1971] 12 ff.).

21-24: For the supplement cf., for example, *P. Amh.* II 122.18-20, μηδὲ τοὺς παρ' αὐτοῦ ἐγκαλεῖν τῷ ἀδελφῷ Πανεφρίμῃ μηδὲ τοῖς παρ' αὐτοῦ περὶ ὧν ἀπέχῃ καθότι πρόκειται.

22 ἐν[καλέειν] τῷ: This phrase, which is the shortest of the possible supplements necessitated by μηδὲ, is found, e.g., in *P. Soterichos* 24.23-4. Cf. Rupprecht (above, to lines 18-19) 16.

24: Normally the περὶ is repeated. In shorter and uncomplicated phrases the repetition is avoided (*BGU* VII 1663.9-10; *PSI* VIII 961B.63-64).

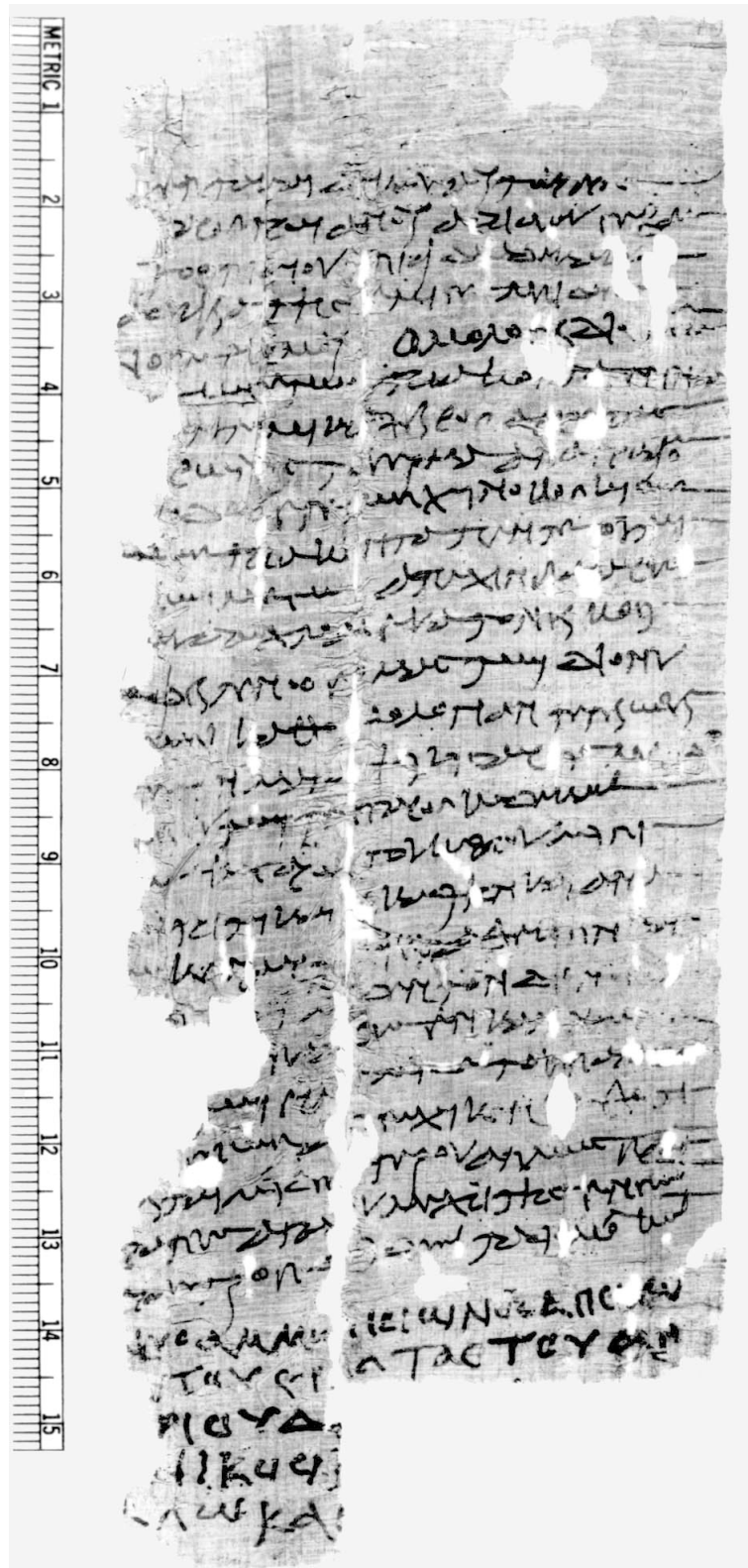
25: For the asyndeton cf. *P. Mil.Vogl.* IV 225.19, μηδὲ περὶ ἐτέρου ἀπλῶς πράγματος ἐγγράπτου ἀγράφου κτλ; also *P. Soterichos* 24.19-20; *P. Lond.* III 1164g.15; *P. Grenf.* II 69.28.

26: Cf. e.g. *P. Lond.* II 142.19 ἔστιν τὰ διωμολογημένα κύρια, *P. Fam.Tebt.* 27.20 τὰ διωμολογημένα (read διωμ-) κύρια.

27-31: The subscription is very close to, for example, that of *P. Amh.* II 111 of A.D. 132, ἀπέχω τὰ προγεμένα ἀργυρίου δραχμὰς τριακοσίας ἴκοσι τέσσαρος καὶ οὐδὲν ἐγκαλῶ καθὼς πρόκειται.

27 παρ]α: L. Koenen confirmed my original reading (see n. 1) and pointed out to me that (1) the space accommodates only [παρ]ὰ τοῦ Ἑρμῶ; and (2) in subscriptions it is normal to say παρά plus article and name: e.g. *BGU* VII 1657.24; XI 2118.23 (with D. Thomas' correction in *ZPE* 8 [1971] 282); *P. Athen.* 29.21; *P. Brem.* 68 i 15; *P. Fam.Tebt.* 10.33; *P. Hamb.* I 71.28; *P. Kron.* 21r. 8; *P. Mert.* I 25.27 and III 110.25f. etc. Moreover, παρ' αὐτοῦ (or αὐτῆς or αὐτῶν) followed by the name is (*pace* H.C. Youtie; see the following) exceptional in subscriptions: *P. Lugd. Bat.* VI 9.24 παρ' αὐ[τ]ῆς in H.C. Youtie's restoration (*The Textual Criticism of Documentary Papyri*, Bull. ICS 33 [London² 1974] 9 and 20.21; cf. pl. I) and with D. Thomas' correction of a typographical error (*Class. Rev.* 27 [1977] 147: the letter after the second alpha can be read as either τ or υ, but the spacing indicates αὐ[τ]ῆς).

31: Given the length of the lacuna, and the itacistic spelling of ἴκοσι, πρόκειται seems more likely than πρόκειται. In our text there seems to be enough blank space at the bottom margin to conclude that no more text followed and the document is complete, and no grapheion docket followed; cf. Mitteis, *Grundzüge*, 62.



P.Mich.Inv.Nr. 780: Rückzahlung eines Darlehens (130^P)