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Exit the Proper Name Χαιρημων


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EXIT THE PROPER NAME Χαιρήμμων

B.P. Grenfell and A.S. Hunt described the contents of *P. Oxy.* I 159 as follows: “Order from Aurelius Theon to Chaereammon to pay Pausanias 2,000 drachmae for pitch.” F. Preisigke, *Namenbuch* 470, registered on the evidence of only this papyrus the proper name Χαιρήμμων (“Wohl Vermischung von Χαιρήμμων und Χαιράμμων”). This proper name has not reappeared in any papyrus published after 1898.

*P. Oxy.* I 159 has now been published completely in *BASP XXXI*, 1994, 18ff. with plate 1.

In line 2 the editor read Χαιρεμμων and in his *adn. crit.* he notes: “2 l. Χαιρήμμων or Χαιρήμμων (?)”. In his note one lines 1 - 2 he writes: “One might expect χαὶρε Χαιρήμμων as in the other letters to Chairemon from Theon - - -.” Rightly, in my opinion, he connects the papyrus under review with *P. Oxy.* XLI 2985 - 2986 and *SB* XIV 12107 which concern the business activities of a certain Theon and a certain Chairemon, the latter of whom seems to have acted as Theon’s business manager.

On plate 1 in *BASP XXXI*, 1994, one can easily see that the papyrus has in line 2 *de facto* χαιρεμμων.

It is a characteristic of the letters written by Theon to Chairemon or vice versa that a specific form of the verb χαὶρειν is used in the address. When Chairemon writes to Theon he uses χαίροις (P. Oxy. XLI 2986 and *SB* XIV 12107. The greeting formula used is ἐρρόεθαι κε εὖχομαι); Theon uses χαὶρε in his letter to Chairemon (P. Oxy. XLI 2985. Theon’s greeting formula is only ἔρροσο.). Also in *P. Oxy.* I 159, 2 we have to read χαὶρε Ἄμμων. This time Theon wrote a letter (i.e. gave an order in the form of a letter) not to Chairemon but to a certain Ammon (a name relatively seldom attested in the Oxyrhynchite nome). Did Theon change business managers? It is to be noted that only in *P. Oxy.* I 159, 1 Theon bears the *nomen gentile* Aurelius and this text may, therefore, be of a later date than the other three texts mentioned above.

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1 This proper name does also not appear in the usual onomastica. Naturally, Χαιρήμμων is also listed by F. Dornseiff - B. Hansen, *Rückläufiges Wörterbuch der griechischen Eigennamen*, Berlin 1957, 116.

2 In *BASP XXXI*, 1994, 11 - 80 a first article with full publications of *P. Oxy. descripta* (this time from *P. Oxy.* I) has appeared. A welcome initiative of three young English papyrologists for which we have to be grateful to them and with which project we wish them good luck.

3 The whole form of the address is typical: π(αρὰ) *nomen proprium* χαὶρε/χαίροις (κύριτέ μου) *nomen proprium* (vel simile).