

P.J. SIJPESTEIJN

EXIT THE PROPER NAME Χαίρηάμμων

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## EXIT THE PROPER NAME Χαίρηάμμων

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 Χαίρηάμμων (“Wohl Vermischung von Χαίρήμων und Χαίράμμων”). This proper name has not reappeared in any papyrus published after 1898<sup>1</sup>.

*P.Oxy.* I 159 has now been published completely in *BASP XXXI*, 1994, 18ff. with plate 1<sup>2</sup>.

In line 2 the editor read Χαίρεμμων and in his *adn. crit.* he notes : “2 l. Χαίρήμων or Χαίρήμωνι (?)” In his note on lines 1 - 2 he writes : “One might expect χαίρε Χαίρήμων 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* χαίρεαμμων.

It is a characteristic of the letters written by Theon to Chairemon or *vice versa* that a specific form of the verb χαίρειν 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 ἐρρωθήαι σε εὐχομαι.); Theon uses χαίρε in his letter to Chairemon (*P.Oxy.* XLI 2985. Theon’s greeting formula is only ἐρρωκο.)<sup>3</sup>. Also in *P.Oxy.* I 159, 2 we have to read χαίρε 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.

University of Amsterdam

P.J. Sijpesteijn

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

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> The whole form of the address is typical: π(αρά) *nomen proprium* χαίρε/χαίροις (κύριέ μου) *nomen proprium* (*vel simile*).