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THE CONSULS OF A.D. 358

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The consuls of A.D. 358 were Censorius Datianus and Naeratius Cerialis (*cf.* R.S. Bagnall *et alii*, *Consuls of the Later Roman Empire*, Atlanta 1987, *s.a.*). Already attested in the month January of that year in sources from the western part of the empire their consulate has to date not yet appeared in any papyrus. Their post-consulship has shown up in *P. Oxy.* LI 3624, 18-21 and 3625, 17-21 (January 25, A.D. 359).

P. Mich. inv. no. 4615c¹ is a heavily mutilated papyrus written by one and the same hand throughout whose nature cannot be established with certainty anymore (it probably was a receipt of a kind). Only the end of the document has been preserved. *Cf.* Tafel XII.

	traces	
	καὶ ἐπερ(ωτηθεῖς) ὁμολ(όγησα).	
	ὑπατεία[ε] Κηνωρίου	η ex ε
4	[Δ]ατιανο[ῦ] πατρικίου	
	[κ]αὶ Νηρατίου Ἐραλίου ²	read Κεραλίου
	τῶν λαμπροτάτων	
	[Χ]οιὰκ κβ. Αὐρήλιος	
8	[Ἰα]ιδωρος ³ ἔσχον τὸ	
	[± 5]μα τῶν δυ-	
	[± 6]ται πλήρης	
	[± 4] . . . Αὐρήλιος	
12	[± 5] . . . ἄξι[ω-]	
	[θεῖ]ς ἔγραψα ὑπ[ὲρ]	
	[αὐτο]ῦ ἀκραμάτου	read ἀγραμμάτου
	[ὄντος ?]	

Notes :

10) If we have to read and supplement ὡς πρόκ(ε)ι[ται] the last word in line 9 must have been abbreviated.

12) At the beginning of this line stood the now unreadable name of the scribe.

The above text attests for the first time the consulate of the consuls of A.D. 358 in a papyrus. Since the text is dated to December 18, A.D. 358, it is to date also the earliest evidence for Datianus as *patri-cius* (*cf.* *P. Oxy.* LI 3624, 20 note).

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¹The papyrus originates from the 1925 excavations of the University of Michigan at Karanis. Found in structure 4011, room J.

13.5 x 7 cm. The text runs along the fibers. The other side was probably blank. The papyrus is irregularly broken off at all sides. At the left there was a free margin of at least 0.5 cm. and at the bottom one of at least 2.5 cm.

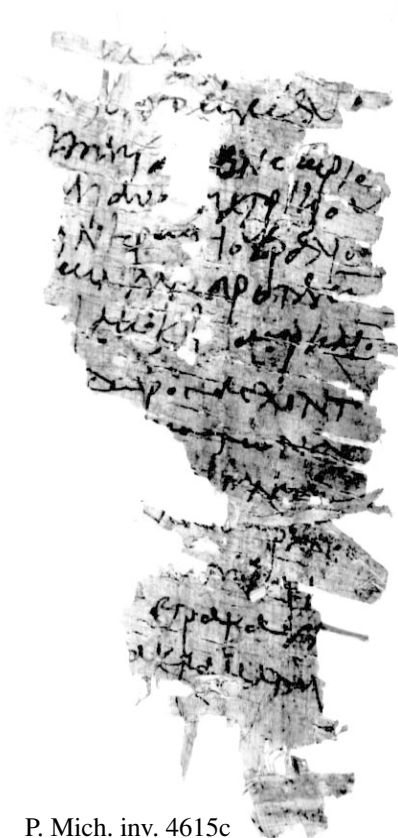
Since the original has been returned to Cairo, I had to work from a photograph.

I wish to thank Ludwig Koenen for his kind permission to publish this text here.

²I think that the scribe tried to superpose a kappa above the epsilon with which he started Κε(ε)αλίου. Does the way he writes this part of the name of the second consul point to unacquaintance with the consuls of A.D. 358, since these consuls became only known in Egypt towards the end of the year ?

³The supplement is naturally only *exempli gratia* but the available space makes it a very attractive one. Needless to look for this person among the homonyms in the papyri published to date. Even though excavated at Karanis this text does not need to have been written in that village (*cf.* *ZPE* 106, 1995, 204, footnote 4).

TAFEL XII



P. Mich. inv. 4615c