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THREE PRIVATE LETTERS

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## THREE PRIVATE LETTERS

## 1) Eumelos to his Friend Ammonios

P. Mich. inv. 3256<sup>1</sup>  
Provenance unknown

11.2 x 9 cm.

III A.D.  
Tafel VI

Εὐμηλος Ἀμμωνίῳ τῷ τιμιωτάτῳ φίλῳ πολλὰ  
χαίρειν·  
πρὸ μὲν πάντων εὐχομαί [c]ε υἱαίνιν καὶ τὸ προσκύνημά σου  
4 ποιῶ παρὰ τῷ κυρίῳ Σαράπιδι. μετέλαβον π[αρά Κ]ατοίτου  
ὅτι λέγεις ὅτι παραχλί με ὁ χειριστὴς περὶ τ[οῦ τό]που Ἀπασα ἢ  
πάν(υ) λόγον οὐ χωρίσα[ν] ᾿ς παρού[ς]ης τῆς μητρὸς Διοσκόρου μετὰ αὐτοῦ.  
λόγον αὐτοῦ μὴ ἔχε. εἴ τι ἐπράξ[ ]αμεν νομίμως  
8 ἐπράξαμεν. ἔγραψα καὶ αὐτῷ κ[α]ὶ ἐπιμελοῦ τῆς οἰκίας.  
υἱαίνε τῷ [ ] μου c[ε]αυτῷ ἐπιμελῆ  
[ ] ἀπάζομαι τοὺς <ς>οὺς πάντας κα(τ' ὄνομα. ἀ[σπ]άζεται υἱὰς Διοσκόρου  
καὶ Σαραπιάς καὶ ἡ μήτηρ αὐτῶν. ἔρω(ό) μοι.  
12 ἀσπαζόμεθα Κᾶνιν καὶ τὴν σύμβιον αὐτοῦ καὶ τὰ τέκνα  
αὐτῶν.

Verso ἀπόδος Ἀμ vacat μων[ίῳ] φίλ[ῳ]

3 υἱαίνειν 5 παροχλεῖ; χειριστὴς 6 χωρίσα[ν] ᾿ς 9 υἱαίνε; μοι; c[ε]αυτοῦ 10 ἀ[σπ]άζονται 11 ἔρω(ό) μοι  
12 Σαραπιάς: first α ex corr. (ex ρ ?) and ια ex corr. (ex ας ?)

## Translation :

Eumelos to Ammonios, his most honoured friend, many greetings. Before everything else I pray that you are in good health and I make obeisance for you before the lord Sarapis. I have heard from Katoites that you say :“The administrator annoys me very much concerning the place Apasan, since he did not provide an account although the mother of Dioskoros was present together with him.” Do not heed him! If we have done anything we have done it conformably to usage. I have written to him too and take care of the house. Stay healthy - - - and take care of yourself. I salute by name all those of your family. Dioskoros and Sarapias and their mother salute you. Stay well. We salute Kanis and his wife and their children.

Verso : Deliver to my friend Ammonios [

This letter, strangely enough written against the fibers, is marred by holes, especially at the right. The not unskilled writer made many corrections and several interlinear additions. Since we have, as usual, only one side of the shield, it is not totally clear what this letter is about. The addressee is somehow troubled by an administrator whose name is not given probably because this person was

<sup>1</sup> This text belongs to Lot III of the Nahman Collection in Mr. Bell's Inventory dated May 2, 1925. These papyri were purchased from Maurice Nahman in 1925 and came to the University (of Michigan) in 1926 (October) as the gift of Mr. Oscar Webber and Mr. Richard H. Webber, of Detroit. I want to thank Ludwig Koenen for his kind permission to publish this text here.

Lines 1-13 run against the fibers, line 14 along the fibers. The papyrus is regularly cut off at the top and partially so at the bottom and the right. At the left at least 1.8 cm. have been left free and at the bottom 3.2 to 2.7 cm.

known to both the addressor and the addressee. The addressor tells Ammonios not to pay any attention to this person to whom Eumelos has also written but to take care of the house. Something has been done correctly but we are not told what it is. The usual greetings (lines 12-13 even added after the closing formula) can be found at the end of the letter.

*P. Princ.* II 70 (cf. *BL* IV 70) is a letter from the same Eumelos to the same Ammonios (I owe this reference to D. Hagedorn). The Princeton letter was written by the same hand, it shows the same flosculs and has similar spelling errors; it also has several corrections; and it may be dealing with the same matter;<sup>2</sup> cf. Tafel VI.

#### Notes:

- 3) ὑαίνιν : cf. ὑίαίνε in line 9. Cf. F.Th. Gignac, *A Grammar* I, Milano 1976, 71 (and 189ff. for εἰ ἵ).
  - 3-4) For obeisance before the lord Sarapis (also in text no. 3), cf. *ZPE* 103, 1994, 44, note to lines 4-5.
  - 5) παραχλί = παροχλεῖ. For the interchange of ο and α, cf. F.Th. Gignac, *op. cit.*, 287f. The relatively seldom attested verb παροχλεῖν occurs in *P. Cairo Masp.* I 67089 verso, 25 (+ dative) and *P. Petaus* 29, 7. Ἄπαα ν': no τόπος Ἄπααν is as yet attested nor is the proper name Ἄπααν listed in the usual papyrological onomastica. In view of the superposed letter at the end of this name it is unlikely that παν at the beginning of the next line still belongs to this name which could be abbreviated unless the ν was added after απααπαν had been written.
  - 6) It does not become clear why the administrator had to provide an account nor what kind of λόγος is meant. How the presence of Dioskoros' mother who also occurs in *P. Princ.* II 70, 5 influenced the matter remains also in the dark.
  - 7) ἐπράξι] αμεν : there is a space of two or even three letters in the lacuna between ἐπράξι and αμεν. Although reluctant to do so (cf. *ZPE* 38, 1980, 294) I see no other solution than to assume that 2 or 3 letters were deleted! No trace of deletion is, however, even faintly visible. Cf. the expression ὁ ποιεῖς ποίησον in *P. Kellis* 72, 40.
  - 9) In *P. Lond.* VII 1979 (a text which belongs to the Zenon archive) we read in lines 1-2 : - - - εἰ τῶι τε κόματι ὑγιαίνει καὶ - - -; in *P. Oxy.* LV 3806 (A.D. 15), 13-14 ὑγιαίνέ μοι ψυχῆι (cf. note *ad locum* for similar expressions. Cf. also *P. Oxy.* XLI 4127, 9-10 note). After the interlinear τῶ a reading τε is a possibility and the letter before μου could be an iota. However, a reading ὑίαίνε τῶ τε [κόματι κα]ῖ μου κτλ. is not possible unless κόματι was abbreviated (κόμ(ατι)), since the lacuna is not large enough. D. Hagedorn, referring to *SB* XIV 11646, 11, suggests a reading ὑιαίνε τῶ τὰ [τέκν]α μου. The following [ε]αυτῶ ἐπιμελῆ would then follow asyndetically. I thought of a reading and supplement ὑιαίνε τῶ ἀ[λλ]ᾶ κτλ. = "dismiss him from your mind but take care of yourself." However, I did not find any example of the verb ὑγιαίνω being used with this sense (the verb χαίρω is so used). ἐπιμελῆ instead of the usual imperative ἐπιμελοῦ. The subjunctive has in this case a jussive character (cf. B.G. Mandilaras, *The Verb in the Greek Non-Literary Papyri*, Athens 1973, §§ 554ff.). The form of the eta differs from the one used elsewhere in this papyrus.
  - 10) In front of this and the following two lines is an ink-blot due to the fact that the ink which the scribe applied to make a correction at the beginning of line 10 ran.  
κα(τ' ὄ)νομα : the same mistake in *P. Princ.* II 70, 13 where also κα(τ' ὄ)νομα instead of κατ' ὄνομα has to be read.  
ἀ[ε]ρίζεται : at first Eumelos had only Dioskoros on his mind, then he added Sarapias and the mother as senders of greetings but he forgot to change the verb to the plural (cf. *P. Princ.* II 70, 14).
  - 12) Also in line 15 of *P. Princ.* II 70 Κᾶνιν has to be read. The unique proper name Κᾶνις (cf. D. Foraboschi, *Onomasticon alterum papyrologicum* 161b) can be deleted. At the end of line 15 of the Princeton text we must resolve α(ὑτῶν) on the evidence of the present text.  
There is a blot of ink above the kappa of the first καὶ as if something was deleted.
- Verso: The address running along the fibers is written with rather large letters. It may be complete as it stands.  
Through the *vacat* between Ἄμ and μων[ίω] ran the bit of (papyrus) string binding the letter together (cf. *P. Oxy.* XLVIII 3396, 32 note).

<sup>2</sup> In line 9 the Princeton papyrus has ακαταπλοκον which the first editor changed by deleting the κ to ἀκατάπλο(κ)ον. The adjective ἀκατάπλοος was listed from only this text in F. Preisigke - E. Kiessling, *WB* IV 65 ("das Nichtnilabwärts-fahren"). The expression ἀλλὰ εἶνα ἀκατάπλο(κ)όν σε ποι(ή)ς is translated as "sondern damit er dir die Fahrt nilabwärts erspart") and in S. Daris, *Spoglio Lessicale Papirologico* I 39. This adjective has, however, to be deleted were it only, because in a papyrus of the IIrd - IIIrd century A.D. one expects the form ἀκατάπλοος not ἀκατάπλοος. ἀκατάπλοκος is an adjective which appears here for the first time and which has to be connected with the verb καταπλέω. Its meaning is "not involved".

Some smaller corrections may be added. Line 1: υιαίνιν pap.; προσκύνη(μά); line 6: ἀρουροδίων seems a better reading; line 10: the scribe may have intended to write ἐνοκίων but the κ looks more like η

P. Amsterdam inv. 118<sup>3</sup>  
Provenance unknown

## 2) To a Brother

7.1 x 8.9 cm.

II A.D.  
Tafel VI

[Χαίροις ] ε πολλά.  
[ ± 10 ] παρακα[λ]ῶ, ἀδελφέ, μὴ οὕτως  
[ἐνοχληθῆς τ]οῖς ῥήμασι τούτοις ὅτι κύνοι-  
4 [δα ὅτι καθ' ἐ]κάστην ὥραν βούλομαι σὺν  
[σοὶ εἶναι ἀ]λλὰ οὔτε θεοὶ ἡμᾶς ἠλέη-  
[σαν οὔθ' ἡ εἰμ]αρμένη. συνέτυχεν ἡμῶν  
[δὲ τούτων κα]τατυχ[εῖν] ἀμφοτέρων ὅτι  
8 [ ± 10 ]τα σοὶ [τὸ] ἐμὸν δηλοῦν ἃ  
[ ± 10 ]τῶν γράμμ[α]τα, ἀλλὰ ἕτερα  
[ ± 10 ] ἄχρι οὗ [κα]ὶ θεοὶ καὶ ἀστέρων  
[ ± 10 ]τῆν ἡμέ[ραν] καὶ κατατύχω  
12 [ ± 10 ]ροι τ[ . . . ] εἰς ἐγενόμεν πα-  
[ ± 10 ]ου ἀχ[ ± 15 ]  
[ ± 10 ]εἰς τὴν [ ± 15 ]  
[ ± 7 ] ἐλη]λυθα[ ± 15 ]

5 ἀ]λλὰ : first λ *ex corr.* 6 ἡμῶν

Unfortunately this letter is only partially preserved, since several expressions used and the handwriting<sup>4</sup> give the impression that we are dealing with a literary letter (*cf. P. Haun*, II 13; *Der griechische Briefroman*, ed. N. Holzberg, *Classica Monacensia* 8, Tübingen 1994). The in line 2 mentioned brother is not necessarily an own brother of the writer (*cf. R.W. Daniel*, *BASP* 16, 1979, 37ff.). It is to be noted that no addressee is named (*cf. text no. 3*).

## Translation :

Many greetings my lord (?). In the name of the gods (?), brother, I implore you not to be so much annoyed by these words, since I know that I want to be every hour with you but neither the gods nor the destiny had pity on us. It happened to us to be lucky in both these regards - - -

## Notes :

- 1) [Χαίροις ] ε πολλά : for letters starting with χαίροις (naturally, like all other supplements, only *exempli gratia* !) and followed by a vocative, *cf. F.X.J. Exler*, *A Study in Greek Epistolography*, Washington 1923, 35. Supplement, *e.g.*, κυρ]ίε (ἀδελ]φῆ seems a less likely possibility). The alpha of πολλά was prolonged. This line may have been somewhat indented.
- 2) One of the supplements one can think of is μὰ τοὺς θεοὺς.
- 3) It remains hidden for us which "these words" were.
- 3-4) Or κύνοι-|[δα.
- 6) ἡ εἰμ]αρμένη : this word, "the destiny", appears here for the first time in the papyri.

<sup>3</sup> The medium brown papyrus consists of two contiguous fragments. At the left one panel seems to be lost (two vertical folds are still visible). At the top where the papyrus is regularly cut off over 1.5 cm. have been left free (line 1 is written in this free margin). At the right, left, and partially so at the bottom the papyrus is regularly broken off. The text runs along the fibers. The back is blank. At the end of lines 3, 5, and 11 filling strokes are written.

<sup>4</sup> The handwriting resembles with the exception of the alpha very much the one which wrote *P. Vindob. G.* inv. no. 29787, a text which is dated to the II<sup>nd</sup> century A.D. and which contains parts of the Oracle of the Potter (*cf. L. Koenen*, *ZPE* 2, 1968, 178ff. with plate III).

- 10) ἀκτέρες : this word appears naturally very often in horoscopes. In other kinds of texts I found it only in *P. Rend. Harr.* I 79, 16 = *SB VIII* 9921, 16 where it seems to be a part of a bath and in the semi-literary *PSI X* 1162, 21 (I leave the defective ἀκτερ[ in *P. IFAO II* 31, 17 out of consideration).
- 10-11) A possible reading and supplement is : ]ἄχρι οὗ [κα]ὶ θεοὶ καὶ ἀκτέρες<sup>11</sup> [ἡμῖν δῶσιν τ]ὴν ἡμέ[ραν] καὶ κατατύχῳ = “till the moment the gods and the stars give us the day (when we shall meet?) and I reach my goal - - -.”

### 3) Ammonios to his Master

P. Lond. inv. 426<sup>5</sup>  
Provenance unknown

21.8 x 7.9 cm

III/IV A.D.  
Tafel VI

[τῷ κυρίῳ μου] πλῖ[ς]τα  
[χαίρειν·]  
[τ]ὸ π[ρο]κ[ύ]νημά σου  
4 [π]οιῶ [π]αρά τῷ κυρίῳ  
Cαραπ[ιά]δι. ἔδωκα  
Μαριανῶ λζ μνᾶς  
καὶ πέμψο(ν) μοι (δραχμάς) δ  
8 χαρταρίῳ καὶ ἔδω' κα'  
(δραχμάς) ρ Φιλουμένῳ [τ] ὅτι  
ἀγόρασον κιθώνιν  
12 Καλόπορτι καὶ τὸ βορ-  
λυβον ἀγόρασον  
πορφυρ[οῦν] εἰς τὸ κιθώ-  
νιον καὶ πέμψ[ο] μοι  
κιθῶ[νίων ὧ]ν ἔχ[ε]ις  
16 τριβακ[ὸν ὅ]πως ποίσο  
ἔματῷ κ[α]ὶ πέμφο σοι  
[λ] ἐν ἀντ' αὐτοῦ καὶ  
ἀπ[άλ]λαξον τὸ πρᾶμμα  
20 το[ῦ] ὄλου. ἀπάσετε ce  
'Ακκληπιάδης.  
  
κ[.]πτοπ( )

Verso: ἐπί[δ(ο)ς τῷ] κυρίῳ ἀπὸ Ἀμμ[ω]γί[ου].

1 πλῖ[ς]τα 4 [π]οιῶ 7 πέμψο(ν) : π *ex corr.* ; μ *ex corr.* (*ex v?*) 9 Φιλουμένῳ : ο *ex corr.*; ω *ex o* 10 χιτώνιον, also in lines 13-14 and 15 11-12 βορλυβον : ρ *ex corr.* (*ex o ?*) 16 ποιήσω 17 ἔματῷ = ἔμαυτῷ : ω *ex corr.* ; πέμψω 19 πρᾶγμα 20 ὄλου : first ο *ex corr.*; ἀπάσετε = ἀπάζεται; 1st ε *ex o*

#### Translation :

To my master, very many greetings. I make obeisance for you before the lord Sarapis. I have given to Marianos 37 minas and send me 4 dr(achmas) for paper and I have given 100 dr(achmas) to Philumenos <telling him> to buy a tunic for Kalopus and to buy the - - - for the tunic purple and send

<sup>5</sup> A slightly incorrect description of this letter can be found on p. xxxviii of *P. Lond. II*. On both sides the text runs along the fibers. The surface of the papyrus is strewn with ink-dots. At all sides the papyrus is (partly) regularly cut off. At the top and at the left 0.5 cm. has been left free; at the bottom 4 cm. Between lines 21 and 22, 2 cm. have been left free. I wish to thank Mr. T.S. Pattie for his kind permission to publish this text here.

me from the tunics you have a worn one in order that I alter it to fit me and I shall send you one in return and finish the matter once and for all. Asklepiades greets you. - - -.

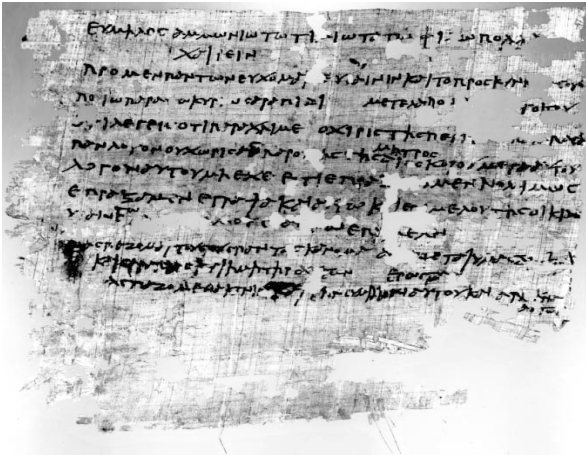
Verso : Deliver to the master from Ammonios.

This letter is mutilated by several holes. As usual its essence escapes us, since we have only one side of the coin. Ammonios writes to his not mentioned master concerning some money affairs and tunics. The interest of this letter lies in the unknown word τὸ βορλυβον appearing in lines 11-12.

Notes :

- 1-2) A piece of papyrus with approximately 10 letters is lost at the beginning of line 1. The space is certainly not large enough to have contained *and* the name of the addressee *and* the name of the addressor Ammonios (*cf.* verso). In, *e.g.*, *P. Oxy.* I 164 (published in *BASP XXXI*, 1994, 21ff. *Cf.*, however, *ZPE* 109, 1996, 193, fn.1), III 599, and in *P. Tebt.* II 423 the name of the writer is omitted in the prescript (*cf.* text no. 2). Omission of the prescript altogether is a phenomenon of Byzantine letters (*cf.* S.R. Llewelyn, *New Documents Illustrating Early Christianity* 7, Macquarie University 1994, 34ff.). It is very well possible that the κύριος is the father of the writer.
- 8) χαρταρίω : *cf.* N. Lewis, *Papyrus in Classical Antiquity*, Oxford 1974, 70ff., esp. 77f. (*eundem*, *Papyrus in Classical Antiquity. A Supplement*, Papyrologica Bruxellensia 23, Bruxelles 1989, 34).
- 9-10) ὅτι ἀγόρασον : I cannot explain the text as it stands. I, therefore, assume that something like λέγων has been left out (*cf.* *P. Oxy.* XLI 4127, 19-21 note). Originally the scribe wrote φιλουμενον, *i.e.* he started already with ὅτι before he had written the ending of the preceding proper name. The resulting correction may have influenced his leaving out the verb reigning the following sentences. The writer of this letter gave 100 drachmas to Philumenos in order that he bought a tunic for Kalopus. The question is whether all the following imperatives depend on this request or that the writer addresses the κύριος again from a certain point on.
- 11-12) τὸ βορλυβον : I am unable to explain this word which is connected with a tunic. Are we dealing with the material of which the tunic will be fabricated or with a certain part of it ? For purple ordered for a χίτων, *cf.*, *e.g.*, *P. Kellis* 74.
- 22) These letters, 2 cm. below line 22, which I cannot explain seem to have been written by a different hand (at least they were written with a different pen).
- 23) ἀπό is used instead of παρά as often in letters of uneducated persons (*cf.* S. R. Llewelyn, *op. cit.* , 35). The omikron is written inside the pi.

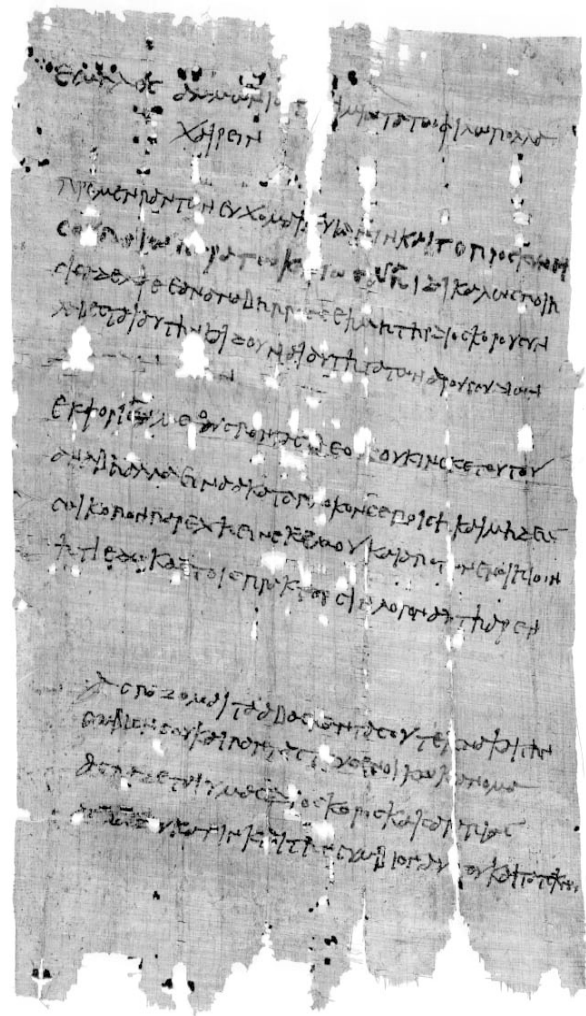
TAFEL VI



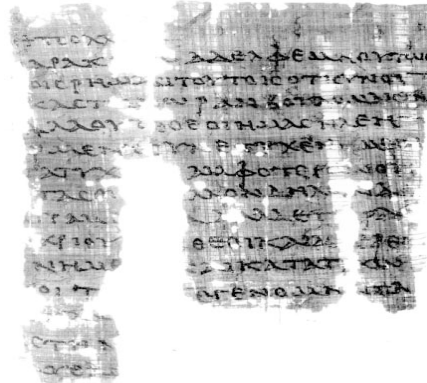
1)



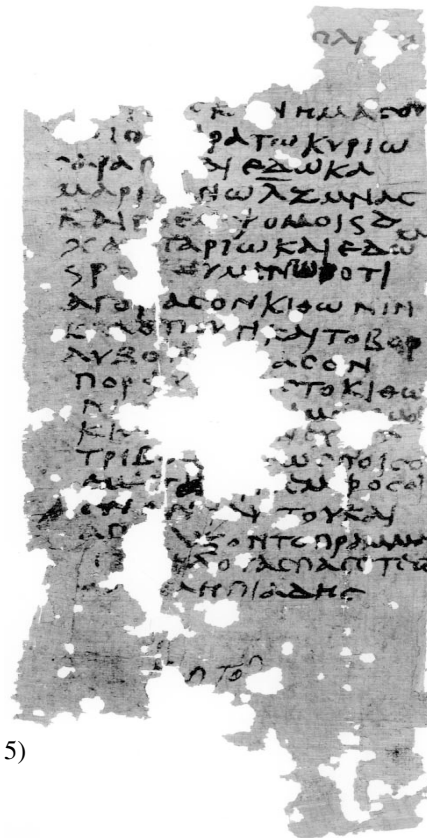
2)



3)



4)



5)

1) P. Mich. inv. 3256 recto; 2) P. Mich. inv. 3256 verso; 3) P. Princ. II.70; 4) P. Amsterdam inv. 118; 5) P. Lond. inv. 426