

TODD M. HICKEY

P.OXY. X 1323 DESCR.: A RECEIPT FOR THE RENT OF AN ORBIOPÔLEION

aus: *Zeitschrift für Papyrologie und Epigraphik* 113 (1996) 227–229

© Dr. Rudolf Habelt GmbH, Bonn

*P. OXY. X 1323 DESCR.: A RECEIPT FOR THE RENT OF AN ORBIOΠÓΛΕΙΟΝ**

Grenfell and Hunt published *P. Oxy. X 1323* in summary form, with the following description:

21.9 x 7.7 cm. Receipt (ἐντάγιον) issued by Martyrius, σύμ(μαχος ?) to Theophilus, vetch-seller (ὀρβοπώλης; cf. *P. Brit. Mus.* 1445.7, note; in 1037.4 Δερῶτος ὀρβοπώλη should be read), for 1 solidus as rent for his shop in the 14th indiction (ὑπὲρ ἐνοικίου τοῦ ὑπὸ σὲ ὀρβοπωλή<ου> (ι corr. from ο)). Sixth century. Nearly complete. 17 short lines.

In the course of recent research, I had an opportunity to examine a photograph of this text. During this examination, I made two observations - minor points, but, I believe, ones worthy of note. I also decided that a full publication of the text might be of some interest.

I begin with my observations. The first concerns Grenfell and Hunt's σύμ(μαχος ?), which, after the photograph, is at best misleading. If they are to stand, upsilon and mu should be dotted. I myself rather prefer reading kappa for upsilon; the remnants of ink best match the representations of the former letter in the better-preserved parts of the text. (Note the trace of ink that seems to be present above the downstroke. This is very probably the remnant of a "turndown" loop, cf. the other sigma-kappa combination that occurs in this text [in τεσσαρασκαι-, l. 8].) As for the "mu," only the very end of this letter's descender remains, and, given my reading of the preceding letter, I am more inclined to see another deeply descending letter, rho, here. (Admittedly, the descender of the letter in question appears to curl left at its end, a phenomenon that does not occur in a single rho in the well-preserved part of the text. I do not believe that this is significant; moreover, it is not impossible that a fiber or two is out of place in this damaged area.) The nearly horizontal stroke beneath my suggested kappa is very probably the left-hand remnant of an abbreviation marker. In short, I would suggest a reading of σκρ(τινάριος) instead of σύμ(μαχος ?).¹

My second observation concerns the "sixth century" date of *P. Oxy. X 1323*, which Grenfell and Hunt assigned using paleographic criteria. Only an ungracious soul would criticize the precision of a date so derived; but it does seem acceptable to suggest a shift in the span of chronological permutations. I find it unlikely that *P. Oxy. X 1323* has its origin in the late sixth century. I believe instead that the text was written sometime in the second half of the *fifth* century, perhaps in the early decades of the sixth. [Cf. especially *PSI VII 768* (Hermopolis, 465);² *PSI V 466* (Oxyrhynchos, 518) also compares fairly well.³]

The full text of *P. Oxy. X 1323* (cf. Tafel IX):

Μαρτύριος σκρ(τινάριος)
 Θεοφίλω
 ὀρβοπώλη·
 4 παρέσχες
 ὑπὲρ ἐνοικίου

* I would like to thank Dr. Luc J.H. Limme (Musées Royaux d'Art et d'Histoire, Brussels), who supplied me with a photograph of this text (= Inv. MRAH E 5992) and then kindly granted me permission to publish it in full. I am also grateful to Prof. J.G. Keenan (Loyola University Chicago), who commented on an earlier draft of this paper (but is in no way responsible for any deficiencies).

¹ Martyrios does *not* appear in the catalogue of *symmachoi* attached to A. Jördens' "Die ägyptischen Symmachoi," *ZPE* 66 (1986) 105-18 (catalogue begins on 112), nor is he mentioned in Jördens' addenda to this list [*ZPE* 92 (1992) 230f.].

² Plate 45 in *Pap.Flor.* XII.

³ Plate 49 in *Pap.Flor.* XII.

- τοῦ ὑπό σε ὀρβ[ο]ι-
 οπωλή<ου> τῆς
 8 [τεσσ]αρασκαί-
 [δεκάτ]ης ἰνδικ(τίονος)
 [χρυ]σοῦ νομισ-
 μάτιον ἕν, γί(νεται)
 12 χρ(υσοῦ) νο(μισμάτιον) α μό(νον), καὶ
 πρὸς σὴν ασφά-
 λιαν πεποίημαί
 σοι τὸ ἐντάγιον
 16 ὡς πρόκειται.
 Ἐπειφ θ ιδ ἰνδικ(τίονος).

1 σκρ/ pap. 5 ενοικιοῦ pap. 6 τοῦ, ι of ὀρβι- ex ο pap. 6-7 l. ὀρβι|οπωλείου 8-9 l. τεσσαρεσκαίδεκάτης 9 ινδι^κ pap.
 10 χρυσοῦ pap. 11 γι/ pap. 12 χρ/, μο// pap. 13-14 l. ἀσφάλεια 17 ινδι^κ pap.

Translation:

“Martyrios, *scriniarius* (?), to Theophilos, *orbipôlês*: You have paid for the rent of the *orbipôleion* leased by you, for the fourteenth indiction, one gold *solidus*, total 1 gld. *sol.* alone, and for your security I have made for you the receipt as above. Epeiph 9, 14th indiction.”

Commentary:

- 1 Μαρτύριος σκρ(ινιάριος). Given the provenance and proposed date of the text, as well as the fact that it concerns a lease of (presumably) urban property, there is great temptation to see the well-known Martyrios son of Eulogios here [See J.G. Keenan, “From the Archive of Flavius Eulogius and His Descendants,” *ZPE* 34 (1979) 133-38.], but such an identification cannot be proven. The meager evidence for Martyrios’ career certainly does not rule out service as a *scriniarius* at some point. [Lines 2-3 of *SB XVI* 12583, τοῖς λαμπ[ρο]τάτ[ο]ις |..... νοταρίων - the honorific is in the plural because it refers to both Martyrios and his brother Apphous - provide the only clue about Martyrios’ career.]
- 3 ὀρβοπόλη. A seller of ὄροβος, *ervum*, bitter vetch [*Vicia ervilia* (L.) Willd.], or, more precisely [according to F. Uebel, “MONOΠΩΛΙΑ ΦΑΚΗΣ: Ein bisher unbezeugtes Handelsmonopol frühptolemäischer Zeit in einem Jenaer Papyrus (P. Ien. inv. 900),” *Actes du X^e Congrès International de Papyrologues*, 179], *Erbsenbrei*. Whatever its form, it is not rich man’s fare. Write D. Zohary and M. Hopf: “...Its seeds are bitter and toxic to humans and to some animals. But the poisonous substance can be removed by soaking in water...At least since Roman times this vetch has been utilized primarily as an animal feed, for it is regarded as very inferior for human consumption and is only eaten by the very poor, or in times of famine.” [*The Domestication of Plants in the Old World: The Origin and Spread of Cultivated Plants in West Asia, Europe, and the Nile Valley*² (Oxford 1993) 110f.; cf. Jacques André, *L’alimentation et la cuisine à Rome* (Paris 1961) 38.]
- Attestations of *orbipôlai* are collected in L. Casarico, “Repertorio di nomi mestieri: I sostantivi in -πώλης e -πράτης,” *StudPap* 22 (1983) 33f. [s. ὀβαροπώλης, ὀρβαρ(όπωλις), ὀρβιοπώλης, ὀροβοπώλης], a list that is supplemented by H.-J. Drexhage, “Die Komposita mit -πώλης und -πράτης im hellenistischen Ägypten,” *MBAH* 10 (1991), 14f. (s. ὀβαροπώλης, ὀρβιοπώλης, ὀροβοπώλης); to these may be added *P.Brook*. 48.2.

Some notes on the lists in Casarico (hereafter C.) and Drexhage (hereafter D.):

- C. cites *PSI VIII* 936 s. ὀρβιοπώλης; this is an error for *PSI VIII* 963.

- *P.Mich.* XIII 665, cited by C. s. ὀρβιοπώλης, has been reedited, with the addition of a new fragment, as *SB XVIII* 13320.

- *P. bibl. univ. Giss.* inv. 232, fr. a, cited by C. s. ὀροβοπώλης, has been reedited as *SB XIV* 11883.

- *Stud.Pal.* III 687, cited by C. s. ὀροβοπώλης, should be deleted (*BL VIII* 444).

- *P.Mich.* inv. 3728 and 3702 (= *SB XVIII* 13917 and 13918, respectively), cited by D. s. ὀβαροπώλης, should be deleted (*BL IX* 307).

- Following R. Rémondon, *P.Apoll.*, p. 165, C. renders ὀβαροπώλης, -ις as “venditore di vecchia di colocasia (Arum)”; D., ὀβαροπώλης as “Wicken- und Colocasiahändler.” Note, however, the comments of R. Pintaudi, “*PSI V* 481: Conto di spese,” *Aegyptus* 61 (1981) 99.

In *Stud.Pal.* III 31.2, a stem identical to the one here (ὀρβοπωλ-) occurs.

6-7 ὀρβ[ο]ιοπωλή<ου>, vetch-seller's shop. The word only occurs in one other text, *PSI VIII 963*. This text, a lease of an *orbiopôleion*, also has its origin in Byzantine (21.x.579 < *BL VIII 404*) Oxyrhynchos, but the rent is lower: 8 *keratia* (or 1000 *lita*). [After a photograph kindly supplied by Prof. J.G. Keenan, I would read ὀρβιοπωλείου instead of ὀρβιοπωλίου on l. 26 of *PSI VIII 963*. (There is also a photograph of *PSI VIII 963* in *Pap.Flor. XII*, pl. 53.)]

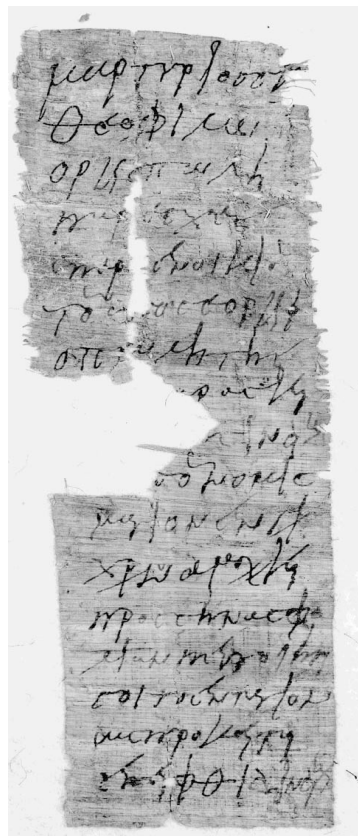
I believe that the missing -ου in ὀρβ[ο]ιοπωλή<ου> is a scribal lapse, and do not think it is possible to determine if the εἰ > η interchange is phonological in nature. Perhaps the eta (not to mention the corrected omicron and missing -ου) has its origin in ὀρβοπόλη (l. 3)?

14 πεποίημαί. The scribe was running out of space and had to write -μοι in a very compressed form.

17 Ἐπειφ θ = 3 July.

The University of Chicago

Todd M. Hickey



P. Oxy. X 1323 descr.