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RECEIPT FOR PAY ADVANCED BY AN ACTUARIUS

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RECEIPT FOR PAY ADVANCED BY AN ACTUARIUS

P.Herm. no inv.no.

29.5 x 11 cm

Fifth/sixth century

This document belongs to a small collection stored in the Ashmolean Library, Oxford, but belonging to the Egypt Exploration Society, a collection from which the papyri published in P.Herm. also came. It is interesting for the occurrence of the rare word ἀννωνοκάπιτον (2), which, like other words of similar formation, e.g. οἰνόκρεον, κινόκριθον, denotes a combination of categories inside some overriding general group, in this case the combination of the *annonae* and *capita*, the personal ration and the fodder ration, which made up the elements of the stipend of the late Roman army and civil service. Both are here commuted to money. Still more interesting is the illustration of the activity of the *actuarius*, the official responsible for the issue of stipends, in making an advance on the guarantee of the stipend still to come. This behaviour of the *actuarii* was known, chiefly from the law of Anastasius which regulated it, see A.H.M. Jones, *The Later Roman Empire* i 674, ii 1278 n. 156, referring to *CJ* XII 37.16. The *actuarius* addressed is the same as one who appears in P.Herm. 70, unfortunately undated. The other party is an otherwise unknown person, Flavius Menas son of Phoebammon, who was evidently either a soldier, possibly one of the *equites Mauri scutarii* stationed at Hermopolis, cf. P.Oxy. LXIII 4381. 3-4 n., or a member of the *militia officialis*.

The writing, a sloping broadly-spaced Byzantine official cursive, suits a date in the late fifth or sixth century. The use of the minus carats system for the amount of the payment suggests a date after AD 444, see K. Maresch, *Nomisma und Nomismatia* 159. The low rate of the deduction may favour one before AD 498, see op. cit. 78.

The document is written across the fibres of the recto of a roll, in other words *transversa charta*, see E.G. Turner, *The Terms Recto and Verso* (Pap. Brux. 16) 26-53. This is proved by the presence of a sheet-join running through line 2, overlapping upwards, indicating that the present left edge was the top of the roll as viewed in the classical position. The surface was damaged before the piece cut from the roll was used for this document, which has led in places to second attempts at writing letters, e.g. the second omega of ἀννωνῶν (5), to strokes made on the lower layer of papyrus, e.g. the iota of Φ[ο]ιβάμμ(ωνος) (7), and to unexpected spaces, e.g. between ὡς and πρόκ(ειται) in 8.

The subscription appears to be in the same hand as the document. At the lower right, looking very different, there is a short scrawl which has not been read. It might be shorthand or contain elements of shorthand. On the back there are more traces of ink, very much abraded, some of which look like a single-line endorsement and others which seem not to be writing.

Tafel I

- † κυρίῳ μου ἀδελφ(ῶ) Ἑρμείῳ ἀκτουαρ(ίῳ) Φλ(άουτιος) Μηνᾶς Φοιβά[μμω](νος).
 ἐδεξάμην π[α]ρὰ σοῦ ἀπὸ τῶν ἀννωνοκαπίτου μου, διὰ Μαθίας ζυγ
 . []... Φιλαδέλφου, καὶ ἄλλα φανερῶν κερατίων χρυσοῦ [ν]ομιμ[άτια
 πέντε παρὰ κεράτια ἑπτὰ, γί(νεται) χρ(υσοῦ) νο(μιμ[άτια) ε(παρὰ) κερ(άτια) ζ, καὶ ταῦτα
 εἰσίομιος
- 5 ἔχ[ω] λογί[α] [θ]α[ί] σοι ἀπὸ τῶν ἐμῶν ἀννωνῶν καὶ καπίτων λόγῳ
 γιγνομένου καὶ πρὸς σὴν ἀσφάλειαν πε[ποι]ημέ σοι τοῦτ[ο] τὸ ἐντάγιον
 ἐφ' [ὑπογ]ραφῆς [μου] ὡς πρόκ(ειται). Φλ(άουτιος) Μηνᾶς Φ[ο]ιβάμμ(ωνος) συμφωνεῖ μοι
 τὸ ἐντάγι(ον)

τῶν νομισματίων πέντε παρὰ κερ(άτια) ἑπτὰ ὡς πρόκ(εῖται). ἐγρ(ά)φῃ Μεχεῖρ ιδ, θ
 ἰνδ(ικτίωνος).

(line 9 is blank at the beginning and has at the end a brief and very rapid annotation, possibly shorthand)

Back: traces of one line along the fibres of the verso, with some strokes, probably accidental, below to the left.

1 ἀδελφ(ός); 1. Ἐρμίνω; ακτουαρ/, φλ(ύ), φοιβ(α)[μ(μ)]?, cf. 7 2 1. Μαθίου 4 γι/χρ(ό), π/κερ/ 6 1. πεποίημα
 7 προκ//, φλ[?], cf. 1, φοιβαμμ(ύ), ενταγι/ 8 κερ/, προκ//, ινδ//

‘To my lord brother Herminus, *actuarius*, Flavius Menas son of Phoebammon.’

‘I received from you out of my items of *annonocapitum*, through Mathias, weighmaster(?), son (?) of Philadelphus, in certain sums in carats, yet another five *solidi* less seven carats of gold, total gold *sol.* 5, less car. 7, and these I am ready to credit to you from my *annonae* and *capita* as the account is made up, and for your security I have made you this voucher above my subscription, as aforesaid. Flavius Menas son of Phoebammon: the voucher for the five *solidi* less seven carats satisfies me as aforesaid. Written on Mecheir 14th of the 9th indiction.’

(Undeciphered annotation and endorsement).

- 1 ἀκτουαρ(ίω). See introd., and A. Syrcou, *Archiv* 42(1996)87-8.
 2 ἀπὸ τῶν ἀννωνοκαπίτου μου. Presumably τῶν is not a mistake for τοῦ and so τὰ ἀννωνοκαπίτου means the items or elements of his combined stipend, made up of the personal ration and the animal fodder ration or their equivalent in money.

For the rare word ἀννωνοκάπιτον see I.-M. Cervenka-Ehrenstrasser, J. Diethart, *Lexikon der lateinischen Lehnwörter* etc. i (Alpha) 83-4, citing especially J. Gascou, in *Hommes et richesses dans l'empire byzantine*, Tome i (IV-VII siècle) 293 and n. 66. Gascou refers first to the Latin form *annonocapitum* found in the accounting of the papal estates of Italy in the seventh century as recorded in the *Liber Pontificalis*² (ed. L. Duchesne) i 366, 369, going on to suggest tentatively that what was given in the form]ονο (sc. ὄνω(ν)) κάπιτα ἡμῶν (sc. ἡμῶν) in P.Lond. V 1889 v. 3 should be interpreted as ἀνν]ονοκάπιτα ἡμῶν (i. ἀννωνοκάπιτα ἡμῶν). The papyrus is assigned to the sixth century and has frequent confusions of omicron and omega. Subsequently F. Mitthof contributed to the *Lexikon d. lat. Lehnwörter* loc. cit. the suggestion that in Stud. Pap. XX 231.23 (VI-VII) πι(ττάκιον) α ἀνν(ώνη)ς κ(ά)π(ι)τα should be reinterpreted as πι(ττάκιον) α (= ἐνός) ἀνν(ωνο)κ(α)π(ί)του, ‘voucher for 1 *annonocapitum*’.

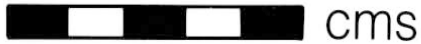
The present text appears to be the first to corroborate these interpretations by presenting the Greek word in an incontrovertible full form.

διὰ Μαθί(α)ς (1. Μαθίου). The same intermediary may appear in P.Herm. 79.5] Φλαουίω Ἐρμίνω Ἀσκληπι[άδου] . . . μαθίου, since the note there suggests διὰ Μαθίου. That Herminus may also possibly be the same as our *actuarius*. Since P.Herm. 79 is dated to AD 500, see BL V 46, that would offer a possibility of assigning a date to our receipt. Mecheir 14 of the nearest ninth indiction, see line 8, would be the equivalent of 8 February 501, while 8 February 486 or 9 February 516 might also be possibilities. The low rate of the παρὰ κερ(ά)τια, car. 1.4 per *sol.*, see 4, 8, may favour a date before 498, see K. Maresch, *Nomisma und Nomismatia* 78.

- 2-3 It seems clear that Mathias was here described as a ζυγοστάτης, cf. P.Oxy. LXIII 4395.26-7 n., but it is not clear whether the trace at the end of line 2 is the omicron of this word or a mark of abbreviation. The traces at the beginning of line 3 are very scanty, but they do not seem compatible simply with -στάτου νιοῦ, or with the nominatives which are perhaps allowed by the incorrect case of Μαθί(α)ς. Nevertheless it seems more likely that Φιλαδέλφου is a personal name, e.g. a patronymic, in this context than that it is an unknown place name.
 3 φανερω(ν) κερ(ά)τιων. This combination is traceable only in P.Iand. II 20.8-9 ἐπει]δὴ χρεωστοῦμαι φανερὰ κερ(ά)τια Ἀλ(εξανδρεία)ς χρ(υσοῦ) τ ἰνδ(ικτίωνος). The meaning is not clear and the photograph (Tab. VI) is not really clear enough to give certainty about the text after κερ(ά)τια. We may compare φανερὰ χρέα (M.Chr. 71.3), φανερόν κέρμα (P.Col. VIII 242.4), and φανερὰ χρυαίου ποσότης (P.Oxy. XVI 1876.4, PSI VIII 872.6), cf. WB s.v. φανερός (3) and LSJ s.v. III, where it is glossed with indefinite τις. It is not really obvious what it means to say that five *solidi* minus seven carats have been received ‘in certain sums in carats’, and probably this phrase does not truly reflect the meaning, but the minus carat system itself implies payment in the subsidiary coinage rather than gold, in spite of the fact that a carat is a measure of gold weight and not a coin, and payment in base metal may be all that is involved here.

- 4 Cf. introd. para. 2 and 2n. para. 4 on the low rate of the carat deduction and its implication for the date.
- 4-6 Cf. BGU XII 2184.4 καὶ ἐτοίμως ἔχω ταῦτά σοι λογίσασθαι λόγου γιγνομέν[ου]. That document is a sixth century receipt for rent from Hermopolis; it identifies itself as an ἐντάκτιον, i.e. ἐντάγιον (3), see next note.
- 6 ἐντάγιον, cf. 7. In *C.Just.* XII 37.16.2 documents drawn up between *actuarii* and their customers are called *pittacia*. The two words were often used as synonyms in the papyri, see P.Oxy. LVIII 3958.25-6 n.
- 8 On the date see above 2n. para. 4.
- 9 It is impossible to say what this scrawl was. We might look for the subscription of an *amanuensis*, because the recipient's subscription is in the same hand as the body of the document, but the standard formulas for that should be recognizable. If it is not the subscription of an *amanuensis*, then apart from this line all the writing is presumably in the hand of Flavius Menas himself.

Fragment of a papyrus scroll with several lines of ancient Greek handwriting. The text is partially obscured by a dark, textured background, likely representing the original document's surface or a scanning artifact. The script is cursive and appears to be from a classical or Hellenistic period.



P. Herm. no inv. no.