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FRAGMENT OF A PETITION TO HATERIUS NEPOS

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FRAGMENT OF A PETITION TO HATERIUS NEPOS*

P.Yale Inv. 277

5.2 x 5.5 cm.

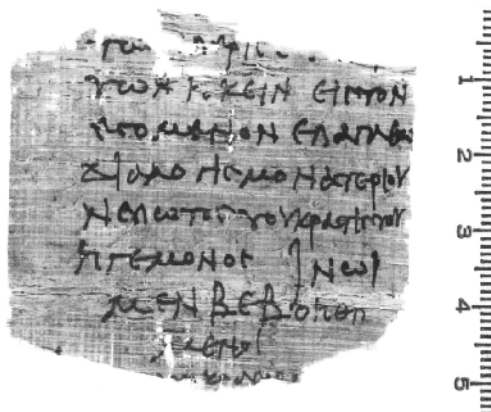
late 119 - early 121 CE

This small fragment constituting the final part of a petition contains 10 lines. It was purchased by H.I. Bell and W.L. Westermann from Maurice Nahman in Cairo in late 1926, with a Yale acquisition date of 1927. The writing is on the recto with both left and right margins intact. It mentions the διαλογισμός or *conventus* of Ti. Haterius Nepos, who was prefect in Egypt from 10.19.120 until 4.13.124 CE.¹ The verso is blank.

P.Yale 277 is written in a legible, documentary hand. Some letters are not joined by ligature, but other letters run into the next (epsilon, tau, mu, gamma). The omicron is small, iota and beta large, extending above and below the line. The imperial dating and titulature is partly preserved at the close.

P.Yale inv. 277 text:

-
- | | |
|----|----------------------------------|
| 1 |]. [|
| 2 | τῶν περὶ σὲ ὑπὴρ[ε-] |
| 3 | τῶν ἡκειν εἰς τὸν |
| 4 | ἐσόμενον ἐπ' ἀγαθῶ |
| 5 | διαλογισμὸν Ἀτερίου |
| 6 | Νέπωτος τοῦ κρατίστου |
| 7 | ἡγεμόνος, ἴν' ᾧ- |
| 8 | μεν βεβοηθη- |
| 9 | μένοι |
| 10 | (ἔτους) [ε or δ Α] ὑποκράτορ[ος] |
-



Translation:

... [one] of your officers to come to the beneficent approaching *conventus* of Haterius Nepos, the most noble prefect, in order that we may be helped. Year (5 or 4?) of the Emperor ...

Notes on the text:

7-8 ἴν' ᾧμεν: On the use of the otiose iota adscript see Willy Clarysse, "Notes on the Use of the iota adscript in the Third Century B.C." CE 51 (1976) pp.150-166.

10 Traces of the imperial dating and titulature can be seen. It probably read: (ἔτους) [ε or δ Α] ὑποκράτορ[ος] Καίσαρος Τραϊανοῦ Ἀδριανοῦ Σεβαστοῦ, month, day]. See Paul Bureth, *Les Titulatures impériales dans les papyrus, les ostraca et les inscriptions d'Égypte (30 a.C. — 284 p. C.)*, Bruxelles, 1964, pp. 61-63.

The fragment relates to the same matter as a fragment of a petition found in the University of Michigan papyrus collection: P. Mich. Inv. 6629 (= SB V 8001).² The Michigan fragment, which also contains 10 lines is addressed to Apollonios, Strategos of the Apollonopolite Heptakomias from 113 until at least

* I am grateful to Professor Ann Ellis Hanson for help with this paper, and to the Beineke Library at Yale University and to the University of Michigan library for kind assistance.

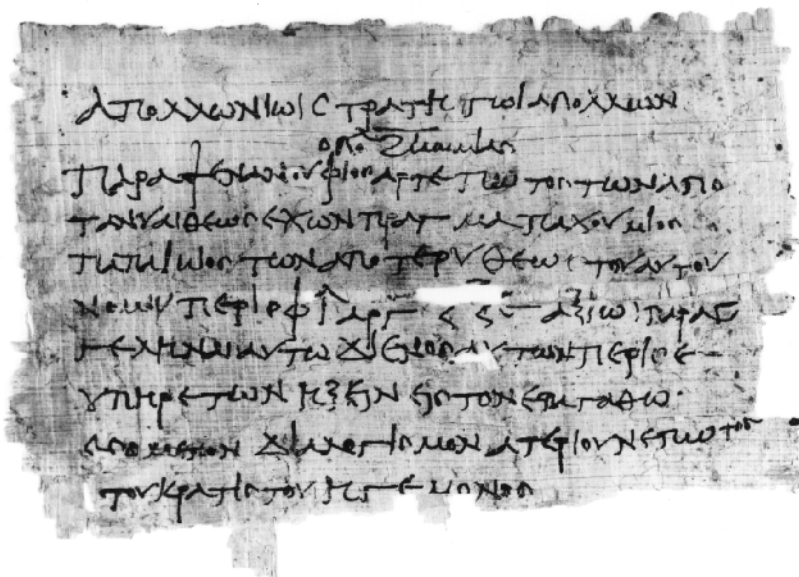
¹ Cf. A. Stein, *Die Präfekten von Ägypten in der römischen Kaiserzeit*, Bonn, 1950, pp. 63-65; G. Bastianini, *Lista dei prefetti d'Egitto*, ZPE 17 (1975) p. 284, ZPE 38 (1980) p. 508; idem, *Il prefetto d'Egitto (30 a.C. - 297 d.C.)*. *Addenda (1973 - 1985)*, ANRW II 10.1 (1988), p. 508.

² The papyrus was published by A.E.R. Boak, "A petition, addressed to Apollonios, Strategos of Heptakomia PMich Inv. 6629," *Aegyptus* 15 (1935) pp. 265-266.

120 CE.³ The Yale fragment, therefore, also belonged to the extensive archive of this well-known Apollonios.⁴ Because lines 1-7 of P.Yale inv. 277 overlap with lines 6-10 of SB V 8001, it may be possible to restore some of what is missing in each fragment.

SB V 8001:

- 1 Ἀπολλωνίωι στρατηγῶι Ἀπολλων-
- 2 οπολ(ίτου) (Ἑπτα)κομίας
- 3 παρὰ Ψενανούφιος Ἀртеπῶτος τῶν ἀπὸ
- 4 Τανυαίθεως. ἔχων πρᾶγμα Παχούμιος
- 5 Παπαίκιος τῶν ἀπὸ Τερύθεως τοῦ αὐτοῦ
- 6 νομοῦ περὶ ὀφιλ(ήματος) ἀργ(υρίου) (δραχμῶν) $\overline{\xi\zeta}$, ἀξιῶι παραγ-
- 7 γελῆναι αὐτῶ δι' ἐνὸς {αὐ}τῶν περὶ σὲ
- 8 ὑπηρετῶν ἤξειν εἰς τὸν ἐπ' ἀγαθῶ
- 9 ἐσόμενον διαλογισμὸν Ἀτερίου Νέπωτος
- 10 τοῦ κρατίστου ἡγεμόνος.



Translation:

To Apollonios strategos of Apollonopolites Heptakomias, from Psenanouphis, son of Artepos, from Tanuaitis.

Since I am having a difference with Pachoumis, son of Papaikis, from Teruthis in the same nome about a debt of sixty-six silver drachmas, I ask that he be summoned by one of your officers to come to the beneficent approaching assize of Haterius Nepos the most noble prefect.

The date of the fragments from Yale and Michigan can be narrowed to the time when Apollonios and Haterius Nepos overlapped in Egypt. For Apollonios, the latest datable document for his tenure as strategos is P.Giss. I 61, dated 7 June 119 (Bastianini-Whitehorne, p. 18). Boak claims that it is likely

³ Cf. G. Bastianini - J. Whitehorne, *Strategi and Royal Scribes of Roman Egypt. Chronological List and Index*. (Papyrologica Florentina XV), Firenze, 1987, pp. 117-119.

⁴ E.G. Turner, *Greek Papyri*, Oxford, 1980 p. 48; J. Rowlandson, *Women and Society in Greek and Roman Egypt*, Cambridge 1998, Chapter 3, Archive E, pp. 118-124.

that Apollonios continued in office for some time after that (Boak, 1935, p. 266), but he offers no evidence for the claim. The earliest datable evidence for Haterius Nepos as prefect of Egypt is 10.19.120 (P.Berl. Leihg. I 10). Since the *Conventus* of the prefect took place in spring, the date of the petition would be late 120 or early 121. However, it is possible that Ti. Haterius Nepos was already prefect in late 119, as U. Wilcken has pointed out (*Archiv* 12, 1936, p. 84), because the latest known date of his predecessor G. Rammius Martialis is 8.4.119. This would mean that the petition could be dated in late 119 or early 120. Such a dating has the advantage of placing the petition closer to the time when Apollonios is attested to have been strategos. The Yale and Michigan fragments together would then be the latest evidence for Apollonios and the earliest for Haterius Nepos, although no precise dating can be given.

The minor differences between the fragments need explanation. We note the following.:

SB V 8001, lines 8-9: ἤξειν εἰς τὸν ἐπ' ἀγαθῷ ἐσόμενον

P.Yale 277, line 3-5: ἤκειν εἰς τὸν ἐσόμενον ἐπ' ἀγαθῷ

Further, it is to be noted that the petitioner in SB V 8001 is singular (line 6 ἀξιῶι, "I ask") whereas the petitioner in P.Yale 277 asks in the plural (lines 8-9 ἵν' ὦμεν βεβηθημένοι, "that we may be helped").

Several explanations may be suggested for these differences. Is the same scribe improving the quality of a first draft? Do we have the work of two different scribes who work together in the metropolis of the Apollonopolite Heptakomias? Are these two scribes who studied under the same teacher? The second possibility seems the most likely. The handwriting of the two fragments is not the same. According to Paul André Heilporn when he was at the University of Michigan: "The hand of P.Mich. looks (to me, at least) a bit more clumsy, less cursive, less experienced."⁵ It may be that the Michigan fragment was the original version, and then after time and counsel, the petition was strengthened by adding a co-petitioner, and written up in the more polished form of P.Yale inv. 277. Both pieces then remained in the archive which Apollonios took home with him to Hermopolis.

New Haven

Peter R. Rodgers

⁵ In a letter to Prof Ann Ellis Hanson dated May 4, 1999.