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PETITION TO THE CHIEF OF POLICE

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Petition to the Chief of Police*

P.Lond III 891
Euhemeria

Tafel Ib

A.D. 28-30

Σεραπίωνι ἐπ[ι]σ[τά]τη(τη) φυλ(ακιτῶν)]
παρὰ Χαϊρήμ[ονος τοῦ Ὡ-]
ρίωνος τῶν [ἀπ' Εὐημερίας]
4 προσοδικῶ γ[εωργῶ· τῆ]
κβ τοῦ Παχῶν τοῦ ι[.] (ἔτους)
Τιβερίου Καίσαρος Σεβαστ[οῦ]
τὴν ἐπίσκεψιν ποιού[μ(ενος)]
8 ὧν γεωργῶι προσοδικῶν
ἐδαφῶν εὐρον τὸν ἐν τού-
τῳ ὄρυβον . . . με . ὧν [. κα-]
τανενεμημ[έ]νον ὑπὸ
12 προβάτων ἀ γ[έ]μεται] ἐ[πὶ τοῦ]
γύου [π] ρ Ὀρσενούφιος
καὶ Ὀρσεῦτος καὶ Ἀρμιύσιο(ς)
καὶ Ὡσιος καὶ Πετεσοῦχ(ου)
16 Ἀρσύθμιος ὥστε βλάβος
γεγονέναι (ἀρταβῶν) κ καὶ κνήκ(ου)
(ἀρτάβης) α· ἀξιῶ γράψ(αι) τῷ τῆ(ς) κώμ(ης)
ἀρχε(φόδῳ) κερμ() δεξ(α) ().
20 εὐτ(ύχει).
(2nd h) ἀρχε(φόδῳ)· ἐκπ[ε]μ[ψον.] (ἔτους) [ι .]
Τιβερίου Καίσα[ρος Σεβαστοῦ Month, Day.]
7 ποιού[μ(ενος): π ex corr. (ex ζ?) 8 γεωργῶ 10 ὄρυβον 13 [π]: ex corr.

Translation:

To Serapion, chief of police, from Chairemon son of Horion, farmer of revenue-land, of the village of Euhemeria. On the 22nd of Pachon of the 10th(+) year of Tiberius Caesar Augustus, as I was making an inspection of the revenue-land which I farm, I found that the pulse on it had since x days (?) been grazed by sheep, which are tended in plot 100, of Orsenuphis and Orseus and Harmiysis and Hosios and Petesuchos son of Harsythmis with the result that damage was done to 20 artabas and to 1 artaba of cneus. I ask you to write to the archephodos of the village - - . Farewell.

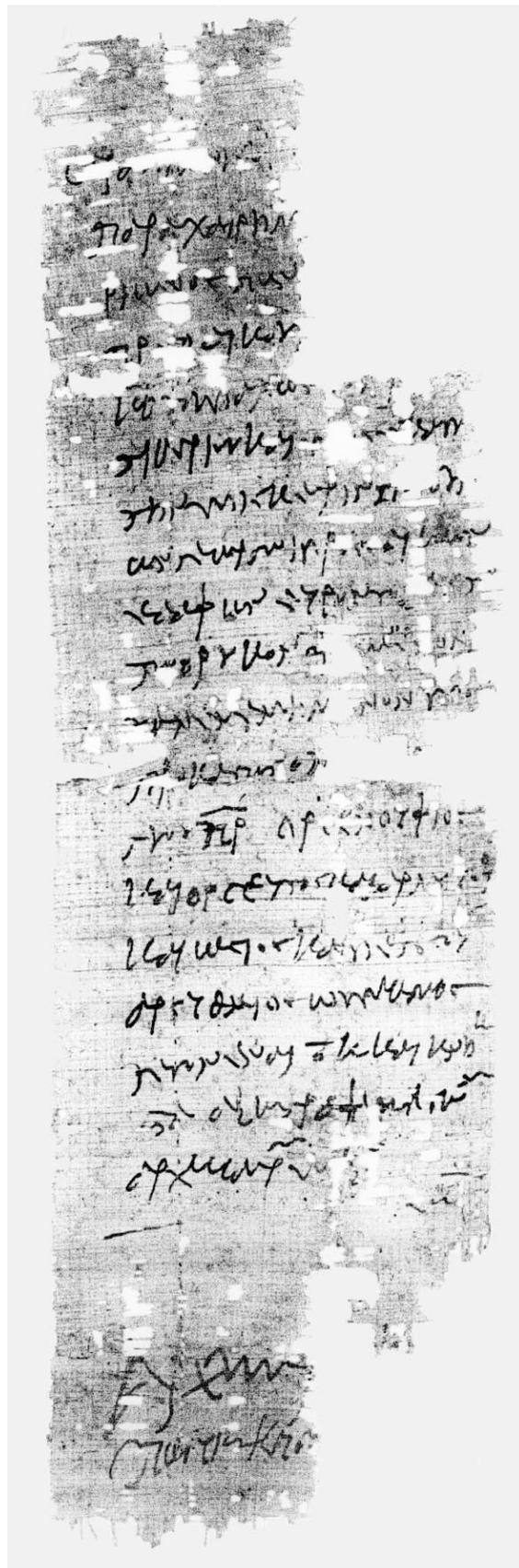
(2nd h) To the archephodos: send them up. Year 10(+) of Tiberius Caesar Augustus, Month, Day.

* I wish to thank Mr. T.S. Pattie for his kind permission to publish this text here. The papyrus is regularly cut off at the left (and partly so at the right). The other side is blank. Free margins: top: 2 cm.; left: 1 to 1.3 cm.; bottom: approx. 1 cm. 23.9 x 7 cm.

The papyrus published here was summarily (and not correctly) described on p. XLIII of P.Lond. III. It belongs to the large group of petitions which was perhaps actually found in the débris of the archepodos' office at Euhemeria. The greatest part of this find by *sebakhîn* found its way into the collection of the John Rylands Library (P.Ryl. II 124-152) but some texts ended up in the papyrus collection of the British Museum (P.Lond. III 894 [cf. ZPE 79, 1989, 194ff.]; 895 [pp. 129f.]; 1218 [pp. 130f.]). It contains a complaint of damage caused by trespass of sheep (cf. P.Ryl. II 126, 131, 132, 138, 143, 147, 149, 152. Cf. also 69 and 73) of which type of document many examples have come down to us (cf. P.Vindob.Worp 2 [+ P.Wash. II 77] introduction; P.Köln III 140 introduction). In the present text the number of artabas grazed (21; cf. ll. 17-18) is rather large. We do not know how many days the sheep grazed Chairemon's land (cf. note to l. 10) but in view of the fact that five persons are involved the number of animals will have been large.

Notes:

- 1 Serapion, chief of police, is attested in the 15th, 16th and 17th year of the reign of the emperor Tiberius (A.D. 28-30). Cf. P.Ryl. II p. 118 (P.Lond. III 895 [pp. 129f.] probably also falls in one of these years). The year-number in lines 5 and 21, therefore, is ιε, ις or ιζ.
- 4 On the meaning of προσοδικός (also in l. 8), see A.E. Hanson, BASP 21, 1984, 82, note to l. 10; R. Hübner, ZPE 84, 1990, 31ff.
- 4-5 τῆ] κβ τοῦ Παχῶν: May 17.
- 7 ποιού[μ(ενος)]: or ποιου[μ(ένου)]. Cf. P.Ryl. II 131, 11-12; 132, 8-9 (both + μου); 139, 8.
- 9-10 ἐν τούτῳ: the singular is noteworthy but understandable. The scribe thought of "the plot of land which I farm".
- 10 F.T. Gignac, A Grammar I, Milano 1976, 293 lists several examples of the spelling ὄρυβος = ὄροβος.
. . . με . ων: ἄφ' ἡμερῶν is a possible reading. The meaning would be "since x days" (the number of days being lost in the lacuna at the end of the line). However, a participle ending in -μενον and qualifying ὄρυβον cannot be excluded.
- 12-13 ἐ[πὶ τοῦ] | γύου [π] ῥ : Hagedorn's reading. Cf. P.Ryl. II 142, 14n. The names of the persons involved (ll. 13-16) depend directly on προβάτων in l. 12.
- 15-16 Only the name of the father of Petesuchos is given. Probably to distinguish him from another Petesuchos.
- 17 κνήκ(ου): cf. D. Brent Sandy, The Production and Use of Vegetable Oils in Ptolemaic Egypt, BASP Supplements 6, Atlanta 1989, 83ff.; M. Schnebel, Die Landwirtschaft im hellenistischen Ägypten, München 1925, 202.
- 19 κερμ() δεξα(): the present papyrus adds one more example to the mysterious formula also to be found in P.Ryl. II 132, 17-18; 151, 14-15 and 152, 17-18 (cf. the notes to the lines of these texts) which to date nobody seems to have been able to solve. Unwillingly I have to resign too!



Eingabe (P.Lond. III 891)