#articleTitle

O.Berenike 4. Ostraka from the Port of Berenike.

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The volume of Greek and Latin texts published in 2016 as *O.Berenike* 3 comprised all ostraka (but not jar inscriptions) discovered at the Egyptian Red Sea port of Berenike during the 2009 to 2013 excavation seasons. Subsequent campaigns, in 2014–2015 and 2018–2020, turned up several dozen additional Greek ostraka and jar inscriptions, as well as one Latin and one Coptic text.[[1]](#footnote-1)

This article publishes most of these ostraka and a few jar inscriptions. It omits very poorly preserved fragments and those that contain only scattered letters. The editions, which continue the numbering of *O.Berenike* 3, are arranged by text types and within these categories by trenches (see the plan of the trenches in Fig. \*\*). The best represented text types are private letters and customs documents known as “orders to let pass,” examples of which have been published in all three volumes of Berenike ostraka (*O.Berenike* 1 1–92; 2 145–188; 3 481–491). The five new ones edited here come from the Sarapion son of Kasios dossier and were found in 2018 in a single trench (Trench 48).[[2]](#footnote-2) Four are addressed to Andouros, identified as a *quintanensis* in previously published ostraka ([O.Berenike 1](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;1) 50, 51, 53, 55–58, 61, 64, 66, 67, 86), and one to Pakoibis, perhaps also a *quintanensis*. The *quintanensis* was apparently a farmer of a tax levied on transporters.[[3]](#footnote-3) These orders concern the transport of wine *keramia* and of *marsippoi* (commodity unknown).

The letters, also five in number, are all fragmentary. Two of them preserve references to a couple of Eastern imports: resins (bdellium and myrrh) and peppercorns. The fact that the writer explicitly requests bdellium in one letter (**512**) shows that some goods were traded at the harbor. This is in line with other evidence from the port suggesting that imported wares were assessed and stored there. Notable in this regard are two inscriptional bases found in 2015 in the courtyard of the Isis temple, which relate to the office of a tax receiver called the παραλήμπτης. One of them was set up by the secretary of the aromatics storehouse (γραμματεὺς ἀποθήκης ἀρωματικῆς).[[4]](#footnote-4) Taken together, this evidence indicates that there was infrastructure in place for storing and assessing goods, and for distributing some of them.

In addition to the “orders to let pass” and the letters, the texts here include one certain water receipt (possibly two) (**522**, **523**?), a genre well represented in *O.Berenike* 3 (see p. 71 and **274**–**455**); one fragmentary Latin ostrakon (**527**); a Coptic ostrakon (**528**), the only documentary text in this language found to date;[[5]](#footnote-5) a late ostrakon bearing a rho-cross (**525**); a possible writing exercise (**526**); and a few miscellaneous texts (**529**–**538**), mainly jar inscriptions.

The archeological context of the ostraka is varied. Most come from the early Roman dump, especially trenches 48 and 96, which has been explored in recent years because of the animal cemetery that was uncovered in and around it.[[6]](#footnote-6) The dump was the source of the “orders to let pass” (**517**–**521**), the water receipts (**522**, **523**?), most of the letters (**512**–**515**),[[7]](#footnote-7) an account (**524**), a Latin ostrakon (**527**) and a couple of jar inscriptions (**529**–**530**). All of these were found in trenches 48 and 96 except for the account (**524**), which came from trench 134, a context datable to the second half of the first or the second century.

The ostraka **534**–**537** originated in trench 122, just in front of the entrance leading into the courtyard of the Isis temple on the north side of the courtyard wall. This trench contained a mix of both early and late objects, such as a piece of a Middle Kingdom stela that has been known about since the 19th century, a fragment of the only known Ptolemaic Greek inscription from the port (*I.Pan* 70) and amphora sherds with dipinti dating to the fifth or sixth century (**536**, **537**).[[8]](#footnote-8) The remaining ostraca are from areas throughout the site. Worth highlighting are **526**, a possible writing exercise of the late third or fourth century from the so-called Northern Complex, which was home to several late-period shrines, a couple of them built by the Blemmyes;[[9]](#footnote-9) **533**, a jar inscription of the fourth or fifth century bearing the name Kalliopios, which was found near one of the large column bases that formed part of a late antique tetrakionion marking the intersection of two major north-south and east-west roads.[[10]](#footnote-10)

Although no single document preserves a precise date, **524** likely originated during or around the reign of Nero, as suggested by some of the personal names in it. Pieces from the Sarapion dossier (**517**–**521**) most likely date to the third quarter of the first century.[[11]](#footnote-11) Given the shared archeological context within the Roman dump, the letters **512**–**515**, water receipts **522**–**523**(?) and texts **524**, **527**, **529**–**530** all probably date to the second half of the first century. Texts not found in the dump are dated on the basis of paleography, ceramic fabric and overall archeological context in which they were found. All dates given are AD unless otherwise indicated.

#articleHeader

**Letters**

#editionDDB

#metadata

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Located: Place | Berenike |
| Material | Ostrakon |
| TM number | 971734 |
| HGV number | 971734 |
| Dimensions: height | 5.8 |
| Dimensions: width | 5.5 |
| Dimensions: thickness | 0.7 |
| ddb-filename | o.berenike.4.512 |
| ddb-hybrid | o.berenike;4;512 |
| Descriptive title | Request to buy bdellium |
| Date of text | 2. Hälfte I |
| Keywords | Bitte, Kauf, Bdellium |

**512.** Request to buy bdellium

|  |
| --- |
| BE-18 48.102.104 (Inv. 48134) |
| 5.5 (w) x 5.8 (h) x 0.7 (th) |
| 2nd half of 1st c. |

#introduction

The ostrakon is broken on top, preserving remains of what appear to be the last five lines. In them, the writer requests the purchase of two mnas (approximately two Roman pounds) of bdellium. Bdellium was a resin used in aromatics and medicines.[[12]](#footnote-12) The *Periplus Maris Erythraei*, a mid-first-century treatise on sailing around the Red Sea and beyond, reports that it shipped out of two places in Northwest India, Barbarikon and Barygaza, and grew along the Makran coast.[[13]](#footnote-13) But it was also associated with Bactria, which Pliny says produced the most ‘praiseworthy’ (*laudatissimum*) kind, and with Arabia, Media and Babylon.[[14]](#footnote-14) Mention of it is found in a medical treatise from the end of the first or beginning of the second century that deals with eye disease, and in price declarations from fourth-century Oxyrhynchus.[[15]](#footnote-15)

#text

<S=.grc

<=

1. lost.?lin

1. [.?].1[.?]

2. [.?].2σματω.1[.?]

3. [.?] ἀγόρασον καὶ̣

4. <#δύο=2#> μνᾶ̣ς̣ βδέ

5.- λλης.

6. ἔρρωσο.

=>

#translation

<T=.en

<=

... also buy two mnas of bdellium. Farewell.

=>

=T>

#commentary

2 If correctly deciphered, this should be a word in -σμα. A vertical stroke before σ suggests -ισμα and directly before that is another vertical line, which is in keeping with the right side of pi (gamma and tau seem less likely given the close proximity of the two strokes, and the tail is too short for rho). Thus, a word such as διάπισμα (l. διάπεισμα), a voluntary extra payment found in various contexts, might be a possibility; for this term, see [SB 28 16838r](http://www.papyri.info/ddbdp/sb;28;16838r).23, with comm. in Reiter (2002–2003) 169–179.

3 It may be that nothing is missing to the left of ἀγόρασον.

#editionDDB

#metadata

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Located: Place | Berenike |
| Material | Ostrakon |
| TM number | 971735 |
| HGV number | 971735 |
| ddb-filename | o.berenike.4.513 |
| ddb-hybrid | o.berenike;4;513 |
| Descriptive title | Letter mentioning myrrh and pepper |
| Date of text | 2. Hälfte I |
| Keywords | Brief, Myrrhe, Pfeffer |

**513.** Letter mentioning myrrh and pepper

|  |
| --- |
| BE-14 96.013.009 (Inv. 96007) |
| Measurements not recorded |
| 2nd half of 1st c. |

#introduction

This fragmentary letter is broken off on top, at left and possibly on bottom. It preserves the endings of 13 lines, but the writing is poorly visible in the central part of the text.

The first line contains references to myrrh and pepper. The peppercorns surely came from India, but the myrrh could have originated in a number of places, e.g., southern Arabia, East Africa, or the land of the Trogodytes.[[16]](#footnote-16) The Trogodytic variety, which was associated with tribes of the Eastern Desert and Red Sea littoral, was of quite high value and considered better than Minaean, a place in the northeastern part of Yemen. See [W.Chr. 273](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/chr.wilck;;273).7–10 (2nd–early 3rd c.; Oxyrhynchus), a list of tariffs in which the Minaean variety is valued lower than the Trogodytic.[[17]](#footnote-17) Casson points out (p. 155) that this papyrus confirms a statement of Pliny about the superiority of Trogodytic myrrh over Minaean (Plin. *Nat.* 12.69–70).[[18]](#footnote-18)

Ostraca from other places in the Eastern Desert show that there was a market for goods coming into the port of Berenike. Pepper, in particular, was in demand, as evidenced by letters from Didymoi that include requests for the spice. For example, a soldier named Albucius stationed at Phoinikon asks for pepper on a couple of occasions ([O.Did. 327](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.did;;327), [328](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.did;;328); last quarter of 1st c.), as does a man called Mokotralis who was possibly stationed in Krokodilo ([O.Did. 399](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.did;;399); before 120–125).

#text

<S=.grc

<=

1. lost.?lin

1. [.?] <:σμύρνην|reg|σ̣μύρνιν:> καὶ πέπερ[ι]

2. [.?]ε̣α ἐστίν. ἀσπάζονται

3. [.?]α καὶ Σεραποῦς καὶ

4. [.?] [ἀσ]πάζου <:Σατορνεῖλον|reg|Σατορνῖλον:>

5. [.?]α ἐὰν.4τ̣ου ἀν

6.- [.?].1σατο .5 α̣ὐτὸν

7. [.?]ν αλ.6ι̣κον

8. [.?]ουκ .1[.2].3σθ̣η̣

9. [.?].2χε <:ἀσφάλειαν|reg|ἀσφάλιαν:>

10. [.?].1χεται μετὰ τῶν

11. [.?] κ̣αὶ ἐγὼ αὐτὴν ου

12. [.?].1σ.1νω̣με̣ν̣η αὐ-

13. [.?] Παῦνι <#κ¯.1¯=#>

14. [.?].2[.?]

14. lost.?lin(?)

=>

#translation

<T=.en

<=

… myrrh and pepper … Greetings from … and Serapous and … . Greet Satorneilos … . (Greetings) to the whole house … security … . Pauni 20+ … .

=>

=T>

#commentary

1 The first letter of the first word might easily have been ζ rather than σ.

2 ἐπεὶ χρ]έα (l. χρεία) vel sim.?

3–4 There is a Serapous in [O.Berenike 2 199](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;2;199) and a Satorneilos in [O.Berenike 2 193](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;2;193), [195](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;2;195), and possibly [196](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;2;196).

5–6 The traces in this line would fit ἐὰν κ̣α̣τ̣ὰ̣ τοῦ. After that, one might supplement ἀν|[τιδίκου] and take ]εσατο in l. 6 as a compound of καλέω, which would be consistent with language related to legal proceedings.

7 It is tempting to read ]ν ὅ̣λ̣ο̣ν̣ τ̣ὸ̣ν̣ ο̣ἶ̣κον in this line, but the second letter looks more like alpha than omicron, which casts doubt on ὅ̣λ̣ο̣ν̣.

9 The beginning of the line preserves the end of a word in -χε. The ink is smeared, so it is hard to tell if the letter before chi is rho or iota. Before that, there seems to be an eta. The reading ]η̣ρ̣χε (for ὑπ]ῆρχε?) is a possibility, but it is hard to connect this with the following accusative. It is not impossible to read ει instead of ηρ, but the epsilon must have been small, having been squeezed between two vertical strokes. While εἶχε gives better syntax than ὑπ]ῆρχε, it is inferior in terms of paleography.

10 ]σ̣χεται, ]ρ̣χεται and ]ε̣χεται are all possibilities, suggesting the verbs ἄρχω, ἔρχομαι, or ἔχω.

12 We presume that the string νω̣με̣ν̣η is a participial ending and not the particle μέν followed by the article ἡ . Which verb the participle belongs to is unclear.

#editionDDB

#metadata

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Located: Place | Berenike |
| Material | Ostrakon |
| TM number | 971736 |
| HGV number | 971736 |
| Dimensions: height | 6.1 |
| Dimensions: width | 12 |
| Dimensions: thickness | 1 |
| ddb-filename | o.berenike.4.514 |
| ddb-hybrid | o.berenike;4;514 |
| Descriptive title | End of a letter |
| Date of text | 2. Hälfte I |
| Keywords | Brief, Myrrhe, Pfeffer |

**514.** End of a letter

|  |
| --- |
| BE-14 96.016.025 (Inv. 96002) |
| 12 (w) x 6.1 (h) x 1 (th) |
| 2nd half of 1st c. |

#introduction

The ostrakon is broken on top. It preserves the lower part of a letter in which the sender requests a receipt and, in a postscript, refers to a man named Petosiris and to four keramia of an unknown commodity.

#text

<S=.grc

<=

1. lost.?lin

1. πέμψον μ̣οι̣ ἀποχὴ[ν]

2. [.?] <#δ̄=4#> ἔρρωσο

3. vac.?(?) Π̣ε̣τοσῖρις

4. .9 [.2] κ̣ομίσαι

5. κερά̣μια <#δ=4#>

=>

#translation

<T=.en

<=

… Send me the receipt … the 4th. Greetings. Petosiris … to take four keramia.

=>

=T>

#commentary

2 The number four in this line refers to a day, which might have been the day on which something was to happen (e.g., the receipt was to be sent) or the date of the letter.

3 The left side of the ostrakon is so worn that it is extremely difficult to tell if the name Petosiris has been indented or the beginning of the line has been effaced. We indent the name, because traces of ink to the left of it seem to go with the subsequent line, but indentation of this sort, even in a postscript, seems unusual.

#editionDDB

#metadata

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Located: Place | Berenike |
| Material | Ostrakon |
| TM number | 971737 |
| HGV number | 971737 |
| Dimensions: height |  |
| Dimensions: width |  |
| Dimensions: thickness |  |
| ddb-filename | o.berenike.4.515 |
| ddb-hybrid | o.berenike;4;515 |
| Descriptive title | Letter referring to camel transport and a *lekythos* |
| Date of text | 2. Hälfte I |
| Keywords | Brief, Lekythos, Kamel |

**515.** Letter referring to camel transport and a *lekythos*

|  |
| --- |
| BE-14 96.013.020 (Inv. 96005) |
| Measurements not recorded |
| 2nd half of 1st c. |

#introduction

The ostrakon is broken on top and at left. It is poorly preserved, with only the very ends of 9 lines surviving. Little can be said about what kind of text it is, except that its overall appearance suggests a letter. In line 6 there is the abbreviated word καμηλ/, which can refer either to camels or to cameldrivers; in line 7, the word ὀβολός is also abbreviated. The reference to obols is interesting because of the large number recorded, 25. The phenomenon of numbers of obols larger than the equivalent of a drachma is best attested in the poll-tax receipts, where the prosdiagraphomena on 20 drachmas was 10 obols. But a much better parallel to our text is [O.Claud. 2 294](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.claud;2;294) (ca. 142–143), where the writer tells the addressee to collect 3 (7-obol) drachmas from a soldier for a lamp support, but if he haggles, to give him a two-obol discount and collect nineteen obols from him. Thus (7 × 3) − 2 = 19.

The last line mentions an oil flask (λήκυθος), although the kind of oil it contained is not specified in what remains of the text. In other ostraka from the Eastern Desert *lekythoi* are associated with rose oil ([O.Claud. 1 171](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.claud;1;171)), olive oil ([O.Did. 441](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.did;;441).2–3, before 120–125; [O.Krok. 2 292](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.krok;2;292).8–10, Trajan) and myrrh ([O.Krok. 2 288](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.krok;2;288).12–13, Trajan).

The hand resembles that of **518** from the Sarapion dossier, especially the squarish, oversized epsilon.

#text

<S=.grc

<=

1. lost.?lin

1. [.?].1[.?]

2. [.?].1δ.1[.?]

3. [.?].1να ἐξο

4. [.?] σ̣οι̣ ἀ̣δ̣ ̣ ̣ ̣ ̣

5. [.?] .1α̣ι̣ καὶ̣ ὀ̣β̣ο̣λ(οὺς) <#κ̣δ=24#>

6. [.?].1 τοῦ (|καμηλ|)

7. [.?] καὶ ὀβολ(οὺς) <#κε̣=25#>

8. [.?](|.1ιλ|) τὴν (λήκυθ(ον))

=>

#commentary

3 The letters να might represent the number 51, while εξο could be the beginning of a single word or the participle ἐκ followed by omicron.

4 The last letter of the line looks like epsilon; two letters before that, there is perhaps a lambda. There is nothing in the traces after delta and before the putative epsilon to prohibit reading epsilon and phi, respectively. Thus, ἄδελφε seems very possible.

5 The reading of οβολ is tentative, though made more plausible by the clear occurrence of the word in line 7. What is indisputable is the raised lambda. Traces of the two omicrons are minimal, but the two vertical tips under lambda would fit beta. An alternative such as καμηλ is possible, but seems less likely.

Twenty-four obols is four short of a tetradrachm based on a 7-obol drachma, such as that observed in [O.Claud. 2 294](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.claud;2;294), discussed above in the introduction to this text.

7 The epsilon in κε is quite round, similar to that in line 3. For the high number of obols, see previous note and intro above.

#editionDDB

#metadata

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Located: Place | Berenike |
| Material | Ostrakon |
| TM number | 971738 |
| HGV number | 971738 |
| Dimensions: height | 5.6 |
| Dimensions: width | 5.3 |
| Dimensions: thickness | 1.1 |
| ddb-filename | o.berenike.4.516 |
| ddb-hybrid | o.berenike;4;516 |
| Descriptive title | Letter of Sigillios |
| Date of text | II-III |
| Keywords | Brief, Kleider |

**516.** Letter of Sigillios

|  |
| --- |
| BE-20 999 (Inv. 99030) |
| 5.6 (w) x 5.3 (h) x 1.1 (th) |
| 2nd/3rd c. |

#introduction

This ostrakon was a surface find made by Laure Pantalacci in late January 2020. It is broken at right and on the bottom. The fabric is a red clay covered with a white slip.

The sherd contains part of a letter sent by a man named Sigillios to a certain Firmus. It apparently concerns some items of clothing. The sender’s name is not otherwise recorded in Egypt, but is attested in Syria, [P.Euphr. 14](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/p.euphrates;;14) (241), and Dacia, [CIL 3 1063](http://lupa.at/11522) (215), both from the third century. While the Berenike ostrakon might also date to the third century, there is nothing in the generic hand to exclude a second century date.

#text

<S=.grc

<=

1. Σιγίλλιος Φίρμ[ω̣] [.?] [πλεῖ]

2.- στα χ(αίρειν). θέλω σε [γινώσκειν] [.?]

3.- λαγ̣με ἀλλὰ [.?]

4. τὴν ἄλλην [.?]

5.- λινουδ̣ι̣.2ι[.?]

6.- ἐρίου κατ.1[.?]

7. τὸ̣ν χαλ̣.1[.?]

7. lost.?lin

=>

#translation

<T=.en

<=

Sigillios to Firmus, many greetings. I want you to know ... of linen ... of wool ....

=>

=T>

#commentary

1 A soldier named Firmus is attested in [O.Berenike 3 379](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;3;379) and [419](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;3;419/), but those ostraka are likely significantly earlier than this one.

3 A possible restoration is ἤλ|λαγμε (l. ἤλλαγμαι) or ἀπήλ|λαγμε (l. ἀπήλλαγμαι). For the former, see *[P.Mich.](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/p.mich;3;203)* [3 203](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/p.mich;3;203).8–9 (114–116, Nubia), γεινώσκιν σε θέλω ὅτι ε̣ἰ̣δοὺ τρεῖς μῆνες ἀφʼ ὅτε ἤλα̣γμαι εἰ[ς] Ψέλκιν, “I want you to know that it’s been three months since I went to Pselkis”; for the latter, *[P.Mich.](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/p.mich;8;512)* [8 512](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/p.mich;8;512).5 (early 3rd c., Alexandria?), πάλαι ἂν ἀπηλλαγμένοι ἦσμεν, “we would have been free to depart long ago.”

5 λίνου might be the genitive of λίνον. We have considered the possibility of a form of χιθών  for χιτών after it, but the stroke after theta seems to be an iota. An alternative is to see a form of λινούδιον, “linen shirt,” but the traces are not entirely consistent with that, either.

6 The ink in the first part of the line is smeared, and if εριου is correct, then -ιο- could well conceal a correction. Either κατα or κατω is possible in the second half of the line.

7 χαλκόν readily suggests itself, although the vertical stroke after lambda might be too far to the right to be the left side of kappa.

#articleHeader

**Orders to let pass**

#editionDDB

#metadata

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Located: Place | Berenike |
| Material | Ostrakon |
| TM number | 971739 |
| HGV number | 971739 |
| Dimensions: height | 9 |
| Dimensions: width | 11 |
| Dimensions: thickness | 0.7 |
| ddb-filename | o.berenike.4.517 |
| ddb-hybrid | o.berenike;4;517 |
| Descriptive title | Sarapion to Andouros |
| Date of text | 50–75 |
| Keywords | Anweisung, Wein |

**517.** Sarapion to Andouros

|  |
| --- |
| BE-18 48.104.106 (Inv. 48133) |
| 11 (w) x 9 (h) x 0.7 (th) |
| 50–75 |

#introduction

The ostrakon is complete, but the fabric is dark and the writing is very faint. It and the following four ostraka (**518**–**521**) are all from the Sarapion dossier (see introduction above). Line 2 mentions a Kronios son of Harpochration, which is the name of a cameldriver attested in two receipts from the water archive published in *O.Berenike* 3 ([3 342](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;3;342).2 and [438](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;3;438).4).

Here and in two other ostraka published below (**518** and **520**), the word κεράμια is modified by an adjective that appears to be abbreviated πολ/, although not a single instance of the word is clearly visible. This abbreviation is observed in other ostraka from the Sarapion dossier. It might have been intended for πτολ(εμαικά), a designation found in ostraka published in volume 3, but the consistency with which the word is written without tau makes us hesitate to assume πτολ(εμαικά) was intended. See *O.Berenike* 2 pp. 8–9 and *O.Berenike* 3 p. 30 fn. 38.

The hand of this text is the same as that observed in nearly all of the Sarapion ostraka. In only a few cases, the script is too poorly preserved to say for sure if it is the same. Where we do see two clearly different hands are in [O.Berenike 1 86](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;1;86) and [87](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;1;87), neither of which contains the patronymic Kasios.[[19]](#footnote-19) These might, therefore, not even belong to the Sarapion son of Kasios dossier.

In many of the Sarapion ostraka, a date is recorded at or near the end of the text (as here in line 4). In the editions of some of these, the hand that wrote the date is distinguished from the main hand (e.g., [Berenike 2 173](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;2;173).4, [177](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;2;177).4, [182](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;2;182).4, [3 488](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;3;488).4). This “hand 2” is visibly the same in all instances. We are thus now inclined to think that the hand labeled "hand 2" is actually the main hand writing in a more cursive style.

#text

<S=.grc

<=

1. (Σαραπ(ίων)) Κασίου Ἀνδουρῳ (χ[(αίρειν))][·]

2. (δι(απόστειλον)) <:Κρονίῳ|reg|Κρονίου:> (Ἁρπ̣[ο]χ(ρατίωνος))

3. (οἴν(ου)) (|πολ|) (κεράμ(ια)) <#ι̣ε̣=15#>

4. μ̣η̣ν̣ὸς .5 [.?]

5. vestig(?)

=>

#translation

<T=.en

<=

Sarapion son of Kasios to Andouros, greetings. Dispatch for Kronios son of Harpochration 15 pol( ) jars of wine … in the month of … .

=>

=T>

#commentary

3 The number of keramia could also be λ̣ε̣.

4 Traces after μηνός are inconclusive; they would fit either Epeiph or Sebastos.

5 There may be faint traces of letters here, perhaps of the signature.

#editionDDB

#metadata

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Located: Place | Berenike |
| Material | Ostrakon |
| TM number | 971740 |
| HGV number | 971740 |
| Dimensions: height | 6 |
| Dimensions: width | 7 |
| Dimensions: thickness | 0.8 |
| ddb-filename | o.berenike.4.518 |
| ddb-hybrid | o.berenike;4;518 |
| Descriptive title | Sarapion to Andouros |
| Date of text | 50–75 |
| Keywords | Anweisung, Wein |

**518.** Sarapion to Andouros

|  |
| --- |
| BE-18 48.107.112 (Inv. 48144) |
| 7 (w) x 6 (h) x 0.8 (th) |
| 50–75 |

#introduction

The fabric of the ostrakon is dark and the writing faint, but the text is complete. Amphiomis son of Harmiusis is not otherwise attested.

On the hand, see **517**.

#text

<S=.grc

<=

1. Σαραπίων Κασίου

2. Ἀνδουρωι (χ(αίρειν))· (δι(απόστειλον)) <:Ἀμ

3.- φιώμει|reg|Ἀμ

3.- φιῶμις:> <:Ἁρμιύσεως|reg|\Ἁρμιῦσις/:> (οἴν(ου)) |(π̣ο̣λ̣)|

4. (κερ(άμια)) <#ἕνδεκα=11#> ((γίνεται)) (κερ(άμια)) <#ια=11#>

(σεση(μείωμαι))

=>

#translation

<T=.en

<=

Sarapion son of Kasios to Andouros, greetings. Dispatch for Amphiomis son of Harmiusis eleven *pol*( ) jars of wine, 11 jars. I have signed.

=>

=T>

#commentary

3 For discussion of π̣ο̣λ̣( ), see 517 intro.

#editionDDB

#metadata

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Located: Place | Berenike |
| Material | Ostrakon |
| TM number | 971741 |
| HGV number | 971741 |
| Dimensions: height | 8.2 |
| Dimensions: width | 10.4 |
| Dimensions: thickness | 0.5 |
| ddb-filename | o.berenike.4.519 |
| ddb-hybrid | o.berenike;4;519 |
| Descriptive title | Sarapion to Andouros |
| Date of text | 50–75 |
| Keywords | Anweisung, Wein |

**519.** Sarapion to Andouros

|  |
| --- |
| BE-18 48.999.005 (Inv. 48139) |
| 10.4 (w) x 8.2 (h) x .5 (th) |
| 50–75 |

#introduction

The ceramic fabric is dark and the writing faint. However, the text is complete even if not fully legible. Psenosiris son of Paeris is otherwise unknown.

On the hand, see **517**.

#text

<S=.grc

<=

1. Σαραπίων Κασί[ο]υ Ἀνδουρωι (χ̣(αίρειν))·

2. (δι(απόστειλον)) Ψενοσίρ̣ι Παήρεως

3. (οἴν(ου)) (ἰτ̣α̣λικ̣(ὰ)) (κερ(άμια)) <#δύο=2#> κα̣ὶ̣ [.?]

4. Πακοίβι (λαδικ(ηνὰ)) (κερ(άμια)) .2 [.?]

5. ((γίνεται)) (λαδ(ικηνὰ)) .4 [.?]

=>

#translation

<T=.en

<=

Sarapion son of Kasios to Andouros, greetings. Dispatch for Psenosiris son of Paeris two jars of Italian wine and for Pakoibis … jars of Laodicean wine, totals … Laodican wine.

=>

=T>

#commentary

3 In this and the following line it is unclear if any letters are lost at line end.

#editionDDB

#metadata

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Located: Place | Berenike |
| Material | Ostrakon |
| TM number | 971742 |
| HGV number | 971742 |
| Dimensions: height | 5.8 |
| Dimensions: width | 9.5 |
| Dimensions: thickness | 0.6 |
| ddb-filename | o.berenike.4.520 |
| ddb-hybrid | o.berenike;4;520 |
| Descriptive title | Sarapion to Andouros |
| Date of text | 50–75, 20. oder 21. September |
| Keywords | Anweisung, Wein |

**520.** Sarapion to Andouros

|  |
| --- |
| BE-18 48.999.006 (Inv. 48146) |
| 9.5 (w) x 5.8 (h) x 0.6 (th) |
| 50–75, Sept. 20 or 21 |

#introduction

The fabric of the ostrakon is dark and the writing faint; nevertheless, the text is complete,

The patronymic recorded in line 2, Chambekis, is noteworthy. There is a Chambekis in the water archive in *O.Berenike* 3, also in the spelling Chenbekis and Kembekis/Kembechis ([363](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;3;363), [366](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;3;366), [371](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;3;371), [396](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;3;396)). We proposed there that these were variant spellings of the same Egyptian phoneme, Pȝ-šr-n “the son of.” The name written before Chambekis is problematic. Πετα̣μ̣ῖνις (or Πετε̣μῖνις) seems to make best sense of most of the traces, but it leaves us with additional ink before Χάμβηκ(ιος). On the basis of the paleography, we could perhaps accept Πεχαμβήκιος, but this would be difficult to explain in terms of onomastics.

The ostrakon is dated to the 23rd of the month of Sebastos (= Thoth). Five other passes from the Sarapion dossier were thought to have been written one day later, on Sebastos 24 (see [O.Berenike 2 161](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;2;161).4n.), but only three actually preserve the day number. Of these, two clearly indicate the 24th ([173](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;2;173) and [182](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;2;182)), while the third was written on the 23rd ([177](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;2;177)), the same day on which this one was written. The five texts dated to the month of Sebastos in *O.Berenike* 2 are all passes for marsippoi. This one, however, is for wine.

On the hand, see **517**.

#text

<S=.grc

<=

1. (Σαραπ(ίων)) Κασίου Ἀνδουρωι

2. (χ(αίρειν))· (δι(απόστειλον)) Πετ.1μ̣ινι .3 (Χαμβήκ(ιος))

3. (οἴν(ου)) (|πο̣λ|) (κ̣ε̣[ρ(άμια)]) <#εἴκοσι τ̣έ̣σ̣σ̣ερα=24#>

4. ((γίνεται)) (κερ(άμια)) <#κ̄δ̄=24#> (σεση(μείωμαι))

5. μηνὸς (Σεβαστ(οῦ)) <#κ̄γ̄=23#>

=>

#translation

<T=.en

<=

Sarapion son of Kasios to Andouros, greetings. Dispatch for Pet- son of Chambekis twenty-four pol( ) jars of wine, totals 24 jars. I have signed in the month of Sebastos, 23.

=>

=T>

#commentary

2 Πετε̣α̣σ̣μ̣ῆ̣φ̣ι̣ς  Χαμβήκ(ιος) cannot be entirely discounted as a possibility.

3 For discussion of π̣ο̣λ̣( ), see 517 intro.

5 See 517 also for discussion of the hand responsible for writing the date.

#editionDDB

#metadata

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Located: Place | Berenike |
| Material | Ostrakon |
| TM number | 971743 |
| HGV number | 971743 |
| Dimensions: height | 5.8 |
| Dimensions: width | 9.2 |
| Dimensions: thickness | 1.0 |
| ddb-filename | o.berenike.4.521 |
| ddb-hybrid | o.berenike;4;521 |
| Descriptive title | Sarapion to Pakoibis |
| Date of text | 50–75 |
| Keywords | Anweisung, Marsippoi |

**521.** Sarapion to Pakoibis

|  |
| --- |
| BE-18 48.104.107 (Inv. 48136) |
| 9.2 (w) x 5.8 (h) x 1 (th) |
| 50–75 |

#introduction

The ostrakon is complete and the text is very legible. It records the dispatch of 23 marsippoi for Kronios son of Pisais (l. 2). This is probably the same person as in *[O.Berenike](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;2;165)* [2 165](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;2;165), where Κρονίο̣υ̣ should be read instead of Ἁρονν̣[ (l. 1), and in [O.Berenike 1 35](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;1;35), where Kronios’ patronymic is spelled Pisois instead of Pisais.

We follow H. Cuvigny in resolving μαρσι- to μάρσιπποι (“bags”) rather than μαρσίππια (“purses”).[[20]](#footnote-20)

On the hand, see **517**.

#text

<S=.grc

<=

1. Σαραπίων Κασίου Πακοίβι (χ(αίρειν))·

2. (δι(απόστειλον)) <:Κρονίῳ|reg|Κρονίου:> Πισάιτος (μαρσί(ππους))

3. <#εἴκοσι τρῖς=23#> (σεση(μείωμαι)

=>

#translation

<T=.en

<=

Sarapion son of Kasios to Andouros, greetings. Dispatch for Kronios son of Pisais twenty-three marsippoi. I have signed.

=>

=T>

#articleHeader

**Water receipts**

#editionDDB

#metadata

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Located: Place | Berenike |
| Material | Ostrakon |
| TM number | 971744 |
| HGV number | 971744 |
| Dimensions: height | 7.5 |
| Dimensions: width | 6.5 |
| Dimensions: thickness |  |
| ddb-filename | o.berenike.4.522 |
| ddb-hybrid | o.berenike;4;522 |
| Descriptive title | Receipt mentioning the century of Bassus |
| Date of text | 2. Hälfte I |
| Keywords | Quittung, Wasser |

**522.** Receipt mentioning the century of Bassus

|  |
| --- |
| BE-20 134.005.034 (Inv. 134001) |
| 6.5 (w) x 7.5 (h) |
| 2nd half of 1st c.? |

#introduction

The ostrakon is broken on the right, preserving the beginnings of all of its six lines. It looks very much like the water receipts published in *O.Berenike* 3. Because of this similarity, we assign it to the second half of the first century, the date of that archive.

The cameldriver is named Pisais (cf. [O.Berenike 3 452](https://papyri.info/o.berenike;3;452)), and the name Nemonius in line 3 is reminiscent of the homonymous cavalryman in [O.Berenike 3.381](https://papyri.info/o.berenike;3;381).4 and [415](https://papyri.info/o.berenike;3;415).7. Moreover, the century of Bassus (l. 4), which is associated with the 2nd Ituraean cohort in [O.Berenike 3 264](https://papyri.info/o.berenike;3;264), is well known from receipts in *O.Berenike* 3 (see there pp. 21–22). The ostrakon distinguishes itself from most other water receipts in a couple of ways. First, if Nemonius is the known cavalryman, then the text refers to deliveries to both a turma and a century. We find the same type of double delivery in [3 415](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;3;415). Secondly, the ostrakon is unique among these receipts in referring to a legion, quite possibly Legio III Cyrenaica, which was stationed in the Thebaid in the first century.[[21]](#footnote-21) The reference to it occurs in the part of the receipt where we normally get the name of the soldier responsible for accepting the delivery. Thus, it is unclear whom the word relates to, whether to the century of Bassus or to a soldier whose name is now lost in the lacuna.

#text

<S=.grc

<=

1. δεκανί̣[ας] [.?]

2. Πίσαις Ψ[.?]

3. Νεμων̣[ι-] [.?]

4. ((ἑκατονταρχίας)) Β̣άσ̣σ̣[ου] [.?]

5. λεγιῶ̣[νος] [.?]

6. πτο̣[λεμαικὰ(?)] [.?]

=>

#translation

<T=.en

<=

Of the dekania of … Pisais son of Ps- … Nemoni- … in the century of Bassus … of the legion of … ptolemaica … .

=>

=T>

#commentary

1–2 Pisais, the cameldriver in [O.Berenike 3 452](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;3;452), belongs to the dekania of Paeris. Only the first letter of his patronymic, which we represented in the edition with a dot, survives there; it could easily be a psi. Thus, we are inclined to see the same person in both texts. This invites the restoration of Παήριος in the lacuna of line 1 here.

4 The reading of the name Βάσ̣σ̣[ου is tentative, although the beta and alpha seem secure, and the double sigma plausible. An alternative could be Βαιβ̣̣[. Cf. Baibios in [O.Berenike 3 466](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;3;466).

#editionDDB

#metadata

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Located: Place | Berenike |
| Material | Ostrakon |
| TM number | 971745 |
| HGV number | 971745 |
| Dimensions: height |  |
| Dimensions: width |  |
| Dimensions: thickness |  |
| ddb-filename | o.berenike.4.523 |
| ddb-hybrid | o.berenike;4;523 |
| Descriptive title | List of names or water receipt? |
| Date of text | 2. Hälfte I |
| Keywords | Quittung?, Liste?, Namen |

**523.** List of names or water receipt?

|  |
| --- |
| BE-14 96.006.14 (Inv. 96004) |
| Measurements not recorded |
| 2nd half of 1st c.? |

#introduction

The ceramic’s fabric is orange in color and the surface is quite damaged. There are parts of 5 lines of text visible. In line 5, letters were canceled, with others inserted above the deletion. The first line may attest a known dekanos (see comm.).

The mention of a dekanos in line 1 suggests this could be a water receipt. However, the text lacks some of the telltale signs of such receipts (e.g., references to a military unit and to a number of jars). And the large number of Egyptian names could point to a list of names instead (cf. the dekania lists [O.Berenike 3 436](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;3;436), [438](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;3;438)).

#text

<S=.grc

<=

1. .1([.4]ρ̣π[ο]χ( )) (|[.1].2τ|) τοῦ (δεκ(ανοῦ)) .1[.?]

2. [.?].2 Π̣ε̣τεασ[μήφιος] .2μ̣[.?]

3. [.?] Πακοιβι̣[.?]

4. [.?].1εχω.1[.?]

5. 〚δ̣ι̣α̣ ̣ ̣ ̣〛\π̣αχ/

=>

#commentary

1 The sequence ]ρ̣π[ο]χ( ) [ ̣ ̣] ̣ ̣τ( )  is suggestive of Petarphochrates (Πεταρποχ) son of Psentphous (Ψεντ), who is known from *[O.Berenike](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;2;146)* [2 146](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;2;146).2–3, [167](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;2;167).2–3 and [3.276](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;3;276).2, where his patronymic is rendered Ψενφωστ̣ο̣ς.

4 It is tempting to read Πε]τ̣εχῶν [ here, which seems better than, e.g., ἀπέχω.

#articleHeader

**Miscellaneous Ostraka and Jar Inscriptions**

#editionDDB

#metadata

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Located: Place | Berenike |
| Material | Ostrakon |
| TM number | 971746 |
| HGV number | 971746 |
| Dimensions: height | 6.5 |
| Dimensions: width | 10.0 |
| Dimensions: thickness | 1.0 |
| ddb-filename | o.berenike.4.524 |
| ddb-hybrid | o.berenike;4;524 |
| Descriptive title | Account |
| Date of text | Ca. 60? |
| Keywords | Abrechnung |

**524.** Account

|  |
| --- |
| BE-18 48.103.103 (29.01.18) (Inv. 48138) |
| 10 (w) x 6.5 (h) x 1 (th) |
| Ca. 60? |

#introduction

This is a complete account written with a fine-tipped pen. It was found alongside the ostraka from the Sarapion dossier (**517**–**521**). The text consists of four lines, the first of which wraps around the right side of the sherd. The writing in the first two lines is fairly legible while in the last two, especially line 4, it is much effaced.

The account is arranged as continuous text, not in columns, and it is difficult to say what is being accounted for. The totals range from as many as 500 units in line 1 to as few as 74 in line 3. These may be for payments in drachmas, but payments in kind (keramia of wine? marsippoi?) cannot be excluded. The latter might even be preferable, if we are right in reading εἰς πλ(οῖον), “for the boat,” (l. 1), since it seems more likely that a commodity rather than money would be assigned to a boat.

The language of the account is also ambiguous. In most entries, the payment is prefaced by the preposition ἀπό + personal name. However, one expects personal names to be preceded by παρά, “from NN;” ἀπό is typically used with places and inanimate things. We are thus inclined to think that the personal name in the genitive depends on an omitted prepositional object, e.g., from the storehouse or account of NN (the latter perhaps ἀπὸ τοῦ λόγου NN).

Names of a couple of the “account holders” are of interest. Someone called Ision features prominently in the text, being mentioned on three occasions (ll. 1–3). In a receipt from the Nikanor archive dated between 18 BC and AD 69, an Ision son of Machatas acknowledges a delivery to Berenike ([O.Petr. Mus. 189](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.petr.mus;;189/)). That Ision is likely an agent, perhaps a slave, working at the port. It is impossible, however, to say if the Ision here is the same person.

We might have a better chance of identifying the Ζῆθος recorded at the end of line 1. Both [O.Petr. Mus. 186](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.petr.mus;;186) and [O.Berenike 1 106](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;1;106) (with BL 13.269) attest a man named Zethos, slave of Gratus, slave of Caesar. Those ostraka are receipts for deliveries of goods to Berenike dated to the reign of Nero, [O.Berenike 1 106](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;1;106) probably to 20 Sept. 61. Given that the name Zethos is unusual (TM People cites 9 instances of it between the 3rd century BC and the fourth century AD), we might be dealing with a single person in these three ostraka. This Zethos could have been a slave representing the interests of traders operating out of Berenike.

The two other names attested in the ostrakon, Claudius and Kronios, give us little to go on. Kronios is very common (see *O.Berenike* 3 passim), and Claudius also generic. Several men with the latter name are recorded in texts from Berenike (cf., e.g., customs passes issued by Claudius Philetos: *O.Berenike* 2 89–91; the person of Tib. Claudius Dorion: 2 50–66; the person of Claudius Theodoros: 2 145).

#text

<S=.grc

<=

1. ἀπὸ (Ἰσίω(νος)) <:εἰς|reg|ἰς:> <:(|θεραπ|)|reg|(|θα̣ρα̣π̣|):> <#τπδ=384#> καὶ <:εἰς|reg|ἰς̣:> (π̣λ(οῖ-)) <#ριϛ=116#> ((γίνεται)) <#φ=500#> καὶ ἀπὸ (Κρονίο(υ)) <#ρ=100#> καὶ ἀπὸ (Ζή̣θ̣(ου)) <#ρ=100#>

2. ἀπὸ (Κλαυδ̣(ίου)) <#νζ=57#> καὶ διὰ (Ἰσίω(νος)) <#λ̣=30#> <#πζ=87#>

3. (Ἰσίω(ν-)) .4 κ̣α̣ὶ̣ [.2].2ιζ ((γίνεται)) <#οδ̣=74#> κ̣α̣ὶ̣ (ὁμ(οίως)) <#κζ=27#> καὶ ἀπὸ (|Ἰταλ̣|)

4. καὶ ε.2ο.3 ((γίνεται)) <#ριδ=114#> κ̣α̣ὶ̣ (ὁμ(οίως)) <#κ̣γ̣=23#> ((γίνεται)) <#ρ̣λζ=137#>

=>

#translation

<T=.en

<=

From that of Ision for assistance, 384, and for the boat 116, totals 500. And from Kronios 100 and from Zethos 100, from Claudius 57 and through Ision 30 (totals) 87 … Ision … [57?] and … 17, totals 74 and similarly 27 and from … totals 114 and similarly 23 totals 137.

=>

=T>

#commentary

1 The abbreviation can be expanded either as θα̣ρ̣α̣π(ευτήν), “assistant,” or θα̣ρ̣α̣π(είαν), “assistance.” The reference in the same line to a boat (πλοῖον) suggests “assistance” in a nautical context, rather than, for example, in a temple one; cf. the possible (the reading is uncertain) assistant shipbuilder, θερα]π̣ευτὴς ναυπηγός, in *[I.Portes](https://epigraphy.packhum.org/text/219091)* [67](https://epigraphy.packhum.org/text/219091).14. The interchange of α and ε in θεραπεία is unsurprising; see [Gignac, Gram. I](https://papyri.info/biblio/8813): 283.

There is a short tick after 116 for (γίνεται). No total is recorded at the end of the line after Ζή̣θ̣(ου) ρ, and the payments of Kronios and Zethos do not seem to be factored in the total at the end of line 2 (there is no sign of σ between λ and πζ). They therefore might have been added later, which would explain their appearance in the margin.

2 The raised delta in Κλαυδ- resembles lambda as well, but there is a faint trace of part of a horizontal stroke at the bottom of the right diagonal which favors delta. The rest of that stroke must have been worn away.

3 The preposition ἀπό was not written at the beginning of the line, only Ισιω, with raised omega. Thus, it is perhaps best to understand the dative Ἰσίω(νι). What follows this name is uncertain. To reach the total of 74 (οδ) recorded in the middle of the line, 57 (νζ) units need to have been accounted for.

At the end of the line, ιτα is clear and there seem to be traces of a letter above the alpha, thus Ἰταλ(ι-). Whether this is the personal name Ἰταλ(οῦ), the place name Ἰταλ(ίας) or the adjective ἰταλ(ικοῦ) is impossible to say.

4 The first couple of letters in the line appear at first glance to be κρ, but the word καί is written this way elsewhere (see especially line 1, before ἰς πλ(οῖ-)). Before the first (γίνεται), the arithmetic requires πζ and the traces do not prohibit it. After ὁμ(οίως) the kappa is quite clear on the infrared photo and gamma is not inconsistent with the traces.

#editionDDB

#metadata

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Located: Place | Berenike |
| Material | Ostrakon |
| TM number | 971747 |
| HGV number | 971747 |
| Dimensions: height | 8.2 |
| Dimensions: width | 6.5 |
| Dimensions: thickness | 0.9 |
| ddb-filename | o.berenike.4.525 |
| ddb-hybrid | o.berenike;4;525 |
| Descriptive title | Late text with cross |
| Date of text | V? |
| Keywords | Rho-Kreuz |

**525.** Late text with cross

|  |
| --- |
| BE-19 116.032.005 (Inv. 116001) |
| 6.5 (w) x 8.2 (h) x 0.9 (th) |
| 5th c.? |

#introduction

The ostrakon is broken at right and on the bottom. It came from an amphora that contained a dipinto in red ink, part of which is still visible in the left margin. The sherd was found in a section of the so-called Northern Complex, which comprised multiple shrines dating to the late period of the port, that is, the late fourth and fifth century. The trench (116) in which the ostrakon was discovered produced a large amount of statuary, at least one piece from the Ptolemaic period.[[22]](#footnote-22) It is possible that many of the small finds originated in other places of the site, such as the Isis temple, and were moved to the Northern Complex later. This would explain their chronological and typological diversity. The trench has been dated to the 5th c. on the basis of the pottery, but we cannot exclude a later date for this piece.

Little of the Greek text is preserved. The first line begins with a rho-cross followed by a couple of letters; the following two lines, each of which is in eisthesis in relation to the preceding line, are equally ambiguous. It is impossible to say what the text is about, but the cross suggests a Christian context. It is worth noting that part of an oil lamp with the chi-rho symbol was found in the same room.[[23]](#footnote-23)

Red ink from a dipinto on the original vessel is still visible in the left margin. The long vertical line with a loop at the bottom is the b-shaped symbol for 1/4, which was part of the entry recording the container weight, or tare.[[24]](#footnote-24)

#text

<S=.grc

<=

1. \*rho-cross\* ἀρ[.?]

2. εσ̣.1[.?]

3. ρ[.?]

3. lost.?lin

(4,ms, perpendicular) [.?].1<#δ=1/4#>

=>

#commentary

1 At first glance the second letter looks like beta, but the long vertical stroke on the left side suggests that it is rather rho. If this is correct, then we have to assume that this letter was written slightly lower than the preceding alpha.

2 Or ετ̣ ̣[

#editionDDB

#metadata

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Located: Place | Berenike |
| Material | Ostrakon |
| TM number | 971748 |
| HGV number | 971748 |
| Dimensions: height | 9.1 |
| Dimensions: width | 11.9 |
| Dimensions: thickness | 0.8 |
| ddb-filename | o.berenike.4.526 |
| ddb-hybrid | o.berenike;4;526 |
| Descriptive title | Writing exercise? |
| Date of text | 2. Hälfte III – IV |
| Keywords | Übung? |

**526.** Writing exercise?

|  |
| --- |
| BE-15 110.003.057 (Inv. 110001) |
| 11.9 (w) x 9.1 (h) x 0.8 (th) |
| late 3rd–4th c.? |

#introduction

The ostrakon was found in a room of the Northern Complex in the vicinity of a shrine dating to the reign of the Blemmye king Isemne in the late fourth or early fifth century.[[25]](#footnote-25) The locus was mixed with much early Roman pottery, including first-century material plus mid-second-century and later costrels. It seems to have been deposited in the second half of the fourth century.[[26]](#footnote-26) The ostrakon is complete but the dark fabric blends in with the ink making it very difficult to read the text with the bare eyes or on a color image. Fortunately, the image taken with an infrared camera shows substantially more contrast, which allows for a nearly complete transcription. Only part of line 4 and 5 have not been deciphered.

The precise import of the text is unclear, though some of the language resembles a writing exercise. The text begins with a date in a third year (with ἔτους represented by the L-symbol) followed by two month names, Thoth and Phaophi. The word Θώθ is written to the right and slightly above the year entry, but the consistency of the ink looks similar to that of the year and to the rest of the main text, suggesting that it was not a later addition despite its placement somewhat above the line. Φαῶφι, which is written directly below Θώθ, might have beenthe later addition. A day is recorded after Thoth (the 1st), while no day is given after Phaophi. It therefore seems most likely that the writer first had Θώθ α, but then changed the month to Phaophi, having initially forgotten that the month had changed.

Line 2 begins with the second person singular imperative form of the verb δίδωμι: δός (“give”) followed by imperative forms of related compound verbs, ἀνάδος  (“send up,” “deliver”) and κατάδος (“bestow”). The first of the compounds, ἀνάδος , was corrected from δος with the letter α squeezed in before δ, and να written above the line. While the sequence of imperative forms is suggestive of an exercise, the next part, πληγὰς δέ (“and blows”), does not obviously belong to an exercise. What it could refer to is unclear, although it is not totally out of place with words for giving (δίδωμι). Τhe text becomes impossible to interpret towards the end because the script is reduced to little more than scribbles.

#text

<S=.grc

<=

1. ((ἔτους)) <#γ=3#> \*slanting-stroke\* \*slanting-stroke\* Θὼθ /Φαῶφι\ <#α=1#>

2. δὸς ἀ\νά/δος κατά

3.- δος πληγὰς δὲ

4. κ̣ατα̣.4

5. .2ς̣

=>

#translation

<T=.en

<=

Year 3. Thoth /Phaophi\ 1. Give, deliver, bestow; and blows … .

=>

=T>

#commentary

1 The L-symbol for ἔτους has a handle on top of the vertical.

4 κ̣ατα̣λ̣α̣β̣ε̣ι̣ ̣ ̣ would fit the scribbled traces in this line, but ν, for καταλαβεῖν, is hard to reconcile with the ink following the apparent ι.

5 The third letter has a long horizontal extension that fits the top of sigma.

#editionDDB

#metadata

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Located: Place | Berenike |
| Material | Ostrakon |
| TM number | 971749 |
| HGV number | 971749 |
| Dimensions: height | 6.3 |
| Dimensions: width | 4.5 |
| Dimensions: thickness | 0.8 |
| ddb-filename | o.berenike.4.527 |
| ddb-hybrid | o.berenike;4;527 |
| Descriptive title | Latin ostrakon |
| Date of text | 2. Hälfte I |
| Keywords | Latein |

**527.** Latin ostrakon

|  |
| --- |
| BE-18 48.103.102 (29.01.18) (Inv. 48135) |
| 4.5 (w) x 6.3 (h) x .8 (th) |
| 2nd half of 1st c. |

#introduction

This is the only Latin ostrakon in the batch of texts published here. It is broken at left and on the bottom, and preserves traces of approximately seven lines of writing. The archeological context suggests a date in the second half of the first century, which is consistent with the Old Roman Cursive script in which it was written. Very little text is discernible.

#text

<S=.la

<=

1. [.?]t.1aḅ <#xḷ=40#> po.1[.1 (?)]

2. [.?]stas ̣af̣rị.1[.1 (?)]

3. [.?]cosụṭuṇ

4. [.?].1ṣ.1ụ

5. [.?].1<#ccx=210#>

6. [.?].1[.?]

6. lost.?lin

=>

#commentary

2 Augu]staṣ is a possible supplement for the beginning of this line.

3 Cf. *imboluclum* (l. *involucrum*) *concosu[tu]m*, “a bag sewn together,” in [P.Mich. 8 468](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/p.mich;8;468).9.

#editionDDB

#metadata

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Located: Place | Berenike |
| Material | Ostrakon |
| TM number | 971750 |
| HGV number | 971750 |
| Dimensions: height | 5.0 |
| Dimensions: width | 8.4 |
| Dimensions: thickness | 0.6 |
| ddb-filename | o.berenike.4.528 |
| ddb-hybrid | o.berenike;4;528 |
| Descriptive title | Coptic ostrakon |
| Date of text | V-VII? |
| Keywords | Latein |

**528.** Coptic ostrakon

|  |
| --- |
| BE-20 140.007.003 (Inv. 140001) |
| 8.4 (w) x 5 (h) x 0.6 (th) |
| 5th–7th c.? |

#introduction

The convex side of the sherd is ribbed and it is broken on all sides. It was found in disturbed layers of the Isis temple.

The ostrakon is important because it represents the sole Coptic document discovered at the site so far. The general phrasing is reminiscent of guarantees, contracts or a recognition of debt, but the text is very fragmentary (line 3 is particularly abraded) and its content is thus very elusive. This all makes it difficult to date the document. The paleography is not very helpful, as it could fall anywhere within a period of several centuries. The apparent legal language might suggest a later date, e.g., in the sixth or seventh century, when Coptic began to be used for non-epistolary purposes.[[27]](#footnote-27) However, the content is too uncertain to establish a date, and we assign the wide time span of the fifth to seventh century.

#text

<S=.cop

<=

1. lost.?lin

1. [.?] [ⲛⲧⲁⲥⲙ(?)]ⲛⲧⲥ ⲛⲁⲕ ⲟⲥ.1[.?]

2. [.?] [(?) ⲡⲉ]ⲕⲟϣ ϩⲓⲧⲟⲟⲧ ⲟⲩⲁ[.?]

3. [.?]ⲉϯⲣ ⲛⲁⲓ .3 ⲧⲉ[.?]

4. [.?] ⲟⲩⲁ ⲧⲱⲃⲉ [ⲛ /\*number?\*/ (ⲓⲛⲇ(ⲓⲕⲧⲓⲟⲛⲟⲥ)) (?)]

5. [ϣⲁ /\*number?\*/] ⲛⲧⲱⲃⲉ [ⲛ /\*number?\*/ (ⲓⲛⲇ(ⲓⲕⲧⲓⲟⲛⲟⲥ)) (?)]

6. [.?]ⲥⲟⲩϫⲛ[.?]

6. lost.?lin

=>

#translation

<T=.en

<=

[… that I have establi]shed (?) for you? … [Pe]kosh (?) represented by me … for me […] first? Tybi [of the x indiction | to the x] of Tybi [of the x indiction] [… if] I am ask[ed… .

=>

=T>

#commentary

1 There are traces of ink next to the right edge of the ostrakon, which could be the long stroke of a lambda or an abbreviation mark.

2 Ink traces on the left edge of the ostrakon could be the remains of the bottom part of a kappa or a lambda. Perhaps one could read the well-attested name ⲡⲉϭⲱϣ in an unconventional spelling.

4–5 The repetition of ⲧⲱⲃⲉ in these two lines suggests that we are dealing with the month of Tybi (and not the various options related to ⲧⲱⲱⲃⲉ “brick,” ⲧⲱⲱⲃⲉ “seal” or even ⲧⲱⲱⲃⲉ “repay;” see Crum, *Dict*. 398–399a). It could indicate a certain period, perhaps from the first of Tybi (note the absence of ⲛ̄̄ before ⲧⲱⲃⲉ) or another day later in the same month, or even to a twelve-month period beginning and ending in Tybi; see, e.g.,[CPR 4 132](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/cpr;4;132) (house rent receipt; 7th c.).

6 It would be hazardous to restore the legal formula ⲛⲥⲟⲩϫⲛⲟⲩⲓ ⲧⲁϩⲟⲙⲟⲗⲟⲅⲉⲓ “if I am asked, I shall agree,” which is attested only in extensive contracts on papyrus (see, e.g., *[P.KRU](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/p.kru;;27)* [27](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/p.kru;;27), [62](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/p.kru;;62) or [95](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/p.kru;;95), [33](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/p.kru;;33)), even though the surviving traces suggest such a reading. Alternatively, me might read ⲟⲩϫⲁⲓ in this line, for the epistolary formula ⲟⲩϫⲁⲓ ⲙⲡⲛⲟⲩⲧⲉ. However, no other epistolary formula is readily recognizable (and the reading of ⲁⲓ or ⲉⲓ on the right edge of the ostrakon seems impossible), and so this suggestion seems unlikely. Rather than reconstruct a formula that is unusual in ostraca contracts, the last option would be to read an unrecognized name, providing the common subscription formula “Name + ϯⲟ ⲙⲙⲛⲧⲣⲉ †” (see, e. g., perhaps ⲡⲟⲩϫⲉⲓ as in BKU 1 66.9) or “Name + ϯⲥⲧⲟⲓⲭⲉⲓ †” (see, e.g., *[CPR](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/cpr;2;211)* [2 211.7-11](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/cpr;2;211)).

#editionDDB

#metadata

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Located: Place | Berenike |
| Material | Ostrakon |
| TM number | 971751 |
| HGV number | 971751 |
| Dimensions: height | 5.2 |
| Dimensions: width | 7.0 |
| Dimensions: thickness |  |
| ddb-filename | o.berenike.4.529 |
| ddb-hybrid | o.berenike;4;529 |
| Descriptive title | Jar inscription |
| Date of text | I-II? |

**529.** Jar inscription

|  |
| --- |
| BE-18 48.999.007 (Inv. 48147) |
| 7.0 (w) x 5.2 (h) |
| 1st–2nd c.? |

#introduction

This small fragment contains a jar inscription specifying where the vessel was to be sent. It is made of marl clay with a yellowish slip and was found in the early Roman dump. The inscription is interesting for the manner in which the word ἀπόδος is abbreviated. The pi is written around the omicron and delta is placed above it; for parallels, see ἀπόδος in [P.Gron. 15v,a](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/p.gron;;15) (2nd c.) and [O.Did. 243](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.did;;243) (ca. 250–270[[28]](#footnote-28)), although the latter omits the raised delta. The - ποδ- assemblage also resembles the symbol for πόδες in the first-century geometrical papyrus published as [MPER NS 1 1](https://papyri.info/dclp/63192) (see passim and p. 47).

#text

<S=.grc

<=

1. (ἀ̣πόδ(ος)) εἰς [.?]

=>

#translation

<T=.en

<=

Deliver to … .

=>

=T>

#editionDDB

#metadata

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Located: Place | Berenike |
| Material | Ostrakon |
| TM number | 971752 |
| HGV number | 971752 |
| Dimensions: height | 6.5 |
| Dimensions: width | 12.8 |
| Dimensions: thickness | 1.0 |
| ddb-filename | o.berenike.4.530 |
| ddb-hybrid | o.berenike;4;530 |
| Descriptive title | Jar inscription |
| Date of text | 2. Hälfte I-II? |
| Keywords | Name |

**530.** Jar inscription

|  |
| --- |
| BE-14 96.015.023 (Inv. 96001) |
| 12.8 (w) x 6.5 (h) x 1 (th) |
| Late 1st–2nd c.? |

This is part of a one-line jar inscription found in the early Roman dump. It preserves the hitherto unattested name Harsonoeris (Ἁρσονοῆρις). The sherd is broken on the right in the middle of a word or name written in a highly cursive script. The name Harsonoeris is difficult to interpret. Har- represents “Horos,” and -οηρις likely stands for *wr,* “great” (as in Har-oeris, Es-oeris or Mes-oeris), but what the element -σον- designates is unclear.[[29]](#footnote-29)

#text

<S=.grc

<=

1. Ἁρσ̣ο̣νοῆρις π.2[.?]

=>

#translation

<T=.en

<=

Harsonoeris … .

=>

=T>

#editionDDB

#metadata

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Located: Place | Berenike |
| Material | Ostrakon |
| TM number | 971753 |
| HGV number | 971753 |
| Dimensions: height | 5.4 |
| Dimensions: width | 7.7 |
| Dimensions: thickness | 1.6 |
| ddb-filename | o.berenike.4.531 |
| ddb-hybrid | o.berenike;4;531 |
| Descriptive title | Receipt for delivery |
| Date of text | I-1. Hälfte II? |
| Keywords | Quittung, Lieferung |

**531.** Receipt for delivery

|  |
| --- |
| BE 15 109.017.81(Inv. 109004) |
| 7.7 (w) x 5.4 (h) x 1.6 (th) |
| 1st–early 2nd c. |

#introduction

This ostrakon is broken at left and probably on top, as the text seems to begin *in medias res*. There may be no writing missing on the bottom. It was found in the early Roman harbor, the archeological context of which suggests a date in the first or early second century, and this is consistent with the paleography. The excavators associated the trench with activities surrounding ship repair.[[30]](#footnote-30)

The verb in the first line, ἐπηκ(ολούθηκα) “I have checked or verified,” is expected at the end of a document, as observed in ostraka from the Nikanor archive related to deliveries to Berenike; see, for example, [O.Petr. Mus. 150](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.petr.mus;;150/), [151](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.petr.mus;;151/),[161](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.petr.mus;;161/), [164](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.petr.mus;;164/), [191](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.petr.mus;;191/). It must have been preceded by the name of the person who certified the delivery, but what that individual’s name is here is unclear because of the state of the ostrakon. The best possibility seems to be Γάιο(ς), although the position of gamma below the line, which is entailed by this reading, is not entirely satisfactory. A man named Gaius Julius certifies two of the ostraka from the Nikanor archive noted above ([O.Petr. Mus. 150](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.petr.mus;;150/) and [151](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.petr.mus;;151/), both dated to 23.10.6 BC), but his writing style differs from this person’s, so it is unlikely to be the same individual. There is a further Gaius attested, in [O.Petr. Mus. 161](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.petr.mus;;161/) from year 19 of Tiberius (33), but the online image of the ostrakon is of poor quality and we can hardly see the name.

The rest of the document apparently dealt with the delivery of freight associated with a man named Publius Aelius Nikaios. What that freight consisted of is not revealed by the preserved fragment.

#text

<S=.grc

<=

1. lost.?lin

1. [.?] (Γ̣ά̣ι̣ο(ς)) (ἐπηκ(ολούθηκα)) ρα.2[.1-2]

2. [.?] (Πουπ̣λ̣(ίου)) (Αἰλ̣(ίου)) Νικαίου

3. [.?]<#ζ̄=7#> (γ όμ(ους)) γ̄ (φο̣ρτ̣(ί- ))

4. [.?].3 <:(ἀγγ(ει- )) (?)|reg|(α̣νγ(ει- )):>

4. lost.?lin

=>

#translation

<T=.en

<=

I, Gaius, checked … of Publius Aelius Nikaios … 7, loads 3 … freight … .

=>

=T>

#commentary

1 After the abbreviated verb one can perhaps read ραβ̣δ̣[, which is suggestive of a form of ραβδίον, “ stick” or “brush.” But other interpretations of the traces are possible, such as that ρα constitutes a number (101).

3 The number ζ̅ at the very beginning of the line should go with something lost in the lacuna to the left. The mu in γ όμ(-) is raised, sitting atop the omicron and impinging on the following γ̅. At the very end of the line is a vertical stroke consistent with the lower part of a raised tau, hence the reading φο̣ρτ̣(ί-), which seems superior to φορᾶ(ς). Both terms are attested for “deliveries” in the Berenike receipts in the Nikanor archive; for the former term, see [O.Petr. Mus. 161](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.petr.mus;;161/).5 and [164](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.petr.mus;;164).5, and for the latter, [164](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.petr.mus;;164).4, [171](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.petr.mus;;171).5, [181](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.petr.mus;;181).4, [182](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.petr.mus;;182).4.

4  At the tip of the gamma we see a faint diagonal stroke that we take as an abbreviation mark.

#editionDDB

#metadata

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Located: Place | Berenike |
| Material | Ostrakon |
| TM number | 971754 |
| HGV number | 971754 |
| Dimensions: height | 4.4 |
| Dimensions: width | 4.7 |
| Dimensions: thickness | 0.9 |
| ddb-filename | o.berenike.4.532 |
| ddb-hybrid | o.berenike;4;532 |
| Descriptive title | Label |
| Date of text | I-1. Hälfte II? |

**532.** Chit or label

|  |
| --- |
| BE-15 109.002.016. (Inv. 109001) |
| 4.7 (w) x 4.4 (h) x 0.9 (th) |
| 1st–early 2nd c. |

#introduction

This chit or label was also found in the early Roman harbor. It consists of one line and is broken on the right. Ink smudges are visible, but they do not seem to have anything to do with the main text. After the number ρπε (185) the phrase διὰ πύλης, “through the gate,” i.e. the entrance to the port, might have been noted. If correctly interpreted, this is the language of customs passes and ought to have referred to a delivery of 185 units of something through the customs station at Berenike.

#text

<S=.grc

<=

1. <#ρπε=185#> διὰ̣ π̣.1[.?]

=>

#translation

<T=.en

<=

185 through (the gate?)

=>

=T>

#editionDDB

#metadata

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Located: Place | Berenike |
| Material | Ostrakon |
| TM number | 971755 |
| HGV number | 971755 |
| Dimensions: height | 9.5 |
| Dimensions: width | 12.0 |
| Dimensions: thickness | 0.7 |
| ddb-filename | o.berenike.4.533 |
| ddb-hybrid | o.berenike;4;533 |
| Descriptive title | Dipinto |
| Date of text | IV-V? |
| Keywords | Name |

**533.** Dipinto

|  |
| --- |
| BE-19 117. 017.005 (Inv. 117001) |
| 12 (w) x 9.5 (h) x 0.7 (th) |
| 4th–5th c.? |

#introduction

This Late Roman (A1) dipinto is written in an ornate style in red ink. The sherd, which is broken at right, was found near the late antique tetrakionion (see introduction above) in the street leading from the sea to the Isis temple. It preserves the name Kalliop(e)ios, which is otherwise attested in [P.Laur. 3 85](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/p.laur;3;85).3 (4th c.; prov. unknown); [P.Monts. Roca 4 95](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/p.monts.roca;4;95).7 (4th–5th c.; Syria?); [P.Stras. 1 35](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/p.stras;1;35).14 (4th–5th c.; prov. unknown). [PLRE I](https://papyri.info/biblio/7669) 174–5 reports five people with the name: a governor of Bithynia 356/7; a *consularis Macedoniae* 362; a *magister epistularum* (East) 388; a rhetor; an editor of Terence. Apparently the first four are distinguished through Libanius’ correspondence. [PLRE II](https://papyri.info/biblio/9489) 251–252 cites a further seven, including a possible provincial governor of Egypt (no. 2). The remaining five (nos. 3–7) are thought by B. Croke to be the same person, who was, among other things, Comes Orientis at Antioch ([Oxford Dictionary of Late Antiquity 1](https://papyri.info/biblio/95995) 284). In light of all the attestations, one might guess that the name is Antiochene.

#text

<S=.grc

<=

1. Καλλιοπίου ξ̣[.?]

=>

#translation

<T=.en

<=

Of Kalliopios … .

=>

=T>

#commentary

1 The letter ξ could be the number 60 or the beginning of a word such as ξέστης.

#editionDDB

#metadata

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Located: Place | Berenike |
| Material | Ostrakon |
| TM number | 971756 |
| HGV number | 971756 |
| Dimensions: height | 3.6 |
| Dimensions: width | 5.1 |
| Dimensions: thickness | 0.5 |
| ddb-filename | o.berenike.4.534 |
| ddb-hybrid | o.berenike;4;534 |
| Descriptive title | Delivery order? |
| Date of text | III? |
| Keywords | Lieferung |

**534.** Delivery order?

|  |
| --- |
| BE-19 122.011.024 (Inv. 122001) |
| 5.1 (w) x 3.6 (h) x 0.5 (th) |
| 3rd c.? |

#introduction

This and the next three texts (**535**–**537**) were all found just north of the courtyard of the Isis temple in a rubbish dump of highly mixed content, from a piece of a Middle Kingdom stele to late antique dipinti (see introduction above). The ostrakon preserves two lines that refer to a delivery destined for the Nile valley. It is hard to say if any text is lost on the right.

#text

<S=.grc

<=

1. εἰς Α̣ἴγ̣υπτο\ν̣/ [.?(?)]

2. τοξο̣τῶ\ν̣/ [.?(?)]

=>

#translation

<T=.en

<=

To Egypt (...) of the archers.

=>

=T>

#commentary

2 There is ink directly above omega at the end of this line, which we interpret as the bottom of a nu.

It is very tempting to see here a reference to Palmyrene archers. This idea finds some support in the fact that a dedication for Emperor Caracalla (AD 215) found in Berenike in 1996 was set up by a Palmyrene archer named Marcus Aurelius Mokimos (*SEG* 48 1977 = [TM 142358](https://www.trismegistos.org/text/142358)); cf. the bilingual Greek-Palmyrene inscription (*SEG* 49 2117 = [TM 143263](https://www.trismegistos.org/text/143263)) also found at the port and dating to 180–212. Thus, Palmyrenes, and archers in particular, are well documented at the site.

#editionDDB

#metadata

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Located: Place | Berenike |
| Material | Ostrakon |
| TM number | 971757 |
| HGV number | 971757 |
| Dimensions: height | 20 |
| Dimensions: width | 15 |
| Dimensions: thickness |  |
| ddb-filename | o.berenike.4.535 |
| ddb-hybrid | o.berenike;4;535 |
| Descriptive title | Costrel withdipinto |
| Date of text | Mitte II-III? |
| Keywords | Name |

**535.** Costrel withdipinto

|  |
| --- |
| BE-19 122.018.042 (Inv. 122003) |
| 15 (w) x 20 (h) |
| mid-2nd–3rd c.? |

#introduction

This is a well-preserved costrel with part of its original stopper intact. Roberta Tomber informs us (per. litt., 1 Nov. 2021) that it is likely of marl fabric (as opposed to Aswan) and possibly from Qena, and that the rim suggests a date from the mid-second through the third century. Such vessels, which were good transport containers because of their small size, are useful for dating because they are unattested before the Antonine period.[[31]](#footnote-31)

For information about the trench in which the costrel was found (trench 122), see the introduction above.

#text

<S=.grc

<=

1. .1 Ἥρων

=>

#translation

<T=.en

<=

Heron

=>

=T>

#commentary

1 There is a smudge of ink before the eta, of unclear significance.

#editionDDB

#metadata

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Located: Place | Berenike |
| Material | Ostrakon |
| TM number | 971758 |
| HGV number | 971758 |
| Dimensions: height | 4.8 |
| Dimensions: width | 5 |
| Dimensions: thickness | 0.5 |
| ddb-filename | o.berenike.4.536 |
| ddb-hybrid | o.berenike;4;536 |
| Descriptive title | Jar inscription |
| Date of text | V-VI? |
| Keywords | Name, Wein |

**536**. Jar inscription

|  |
| --- |
| ΒE-19 122.008.014 (Inv. 122001) |
| 5 (w) x 4.8 (h) x 0.5 (th) |
| 5th–6th c.? |

#introduction

The fragment preserves dipinti in red ink. The swooshing stroke in the upper right corner probably was part of the tare designation. The three lines were written in the center of the sherd below the vessel’s handle, which is no longer intact here, upside-down in relation to the other elements of the dipinto. These three lines contained the name of the wine producer (Klematios), the amount of wine produced (31 units) and indecipherable scribbling that might be another number or is just a decorative element (l. 3), as suggested to us by J.-L. Fournet. The producer’s name looks similar to one in a dipinto from Ballana reported by L.P. Kirwan.[[32]](#footnote-32) Sometimes a toponym followed the name of the producer, but none is recorded in this example.[[33]](#footnote-33)

For information about the trench in which the piece was found (trench 122), see the introduction above.

#text

<S=.grc

<=

1. Κλημ̣α̣τίου̣

2. <#λα̣=31#>

3. .3

=>

#commentary

2 The α is very tentative and requires one to assume that it ended with an extended tail. Other possibilities are β and η.

#editionDDB

#metadata

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Located: Place | Berenike |
| Material | Ostrakon |
| TM number | 971759 |
| HGV number | 971759 |
| Dimensions: height | 8.2 |
| Dimensions: width | 11.6 |
| Dimensions: thickness |  |
| ddb-filename | o.berenike.4.537 |
| ddb-hybrid | o.berenike;4;537 |
| Descriptive title | Jar inscription with isopsephism |
| Date of text | V-VI? |
| Keywords | Isopsephism |

**537**. Jar inscription with isopsephism

|  |
| --- |
| BE-19 122.008.031 (Inv. 122004) |
| 11.6 (w) x 8.2 (h) |
| 5th–6th c. |

#introduction

This vessel preserves two lines of a dipinto drawn just below the rim. The first line appears to contain υπδ, an isopsephism for θεοῦ (= 484), which is found in dipinti from other places, e.g., Oxyrhynchus, and considered by Fournet to be one of the most commonly attested isopsephic formulas on late Roman amphorae.[[34]](#footnote-34) The second line has the even more common Christian symbol: ΧΜΓ, which can be taken as an acrostic or as an isopsephistic unit valuing 643.[[35]](#footnote-35) Christian formulas of this sort are a frequent feature in late jar dipinti, appearing alongside more mundane information such as vessel capacity and vineyard name and location.[[36]](#footnote-36)

For information about the trench in which the piece was found (trench 122), see the introduction above.

#text

<S=.grc

<=

1. <#υ̣πδ̣=484#>

2. <#χμγ=643#>

=>

#translation

<T=.en

<=

484, *chi mu gamma*

=>

=T>

#editionDDB

#metadata

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Located: Place | Berenike |
| Material | Ostrakon |
| TM number | 971760 |
| HGV number | 971760 |
| Dimensions: height | 8.6 |
| Dimensions: width | 12.5 |
| Dimensions: thickness | 0.9 |
| ddb-filename | o.berenike.4.538 |
| ddb-hybrid | o.berenike;4;538 |
| Descriptive title | Jar inscription |
| Date of text | II-III? |
| Keywords | Name |

**538.** Jar inscription

|  |
| --- |
| BE-15 (Inv. 99031) |
| 12.5 (w) x 8.6 (h) x 0.9 (th) |
| 2nd–3rd c.? |

There is no record of where this sherd was found. It contains a jar inscription that is broken at right. The hand could date to the second or third century.

#text

<S=.grc

<=

1. [Γα]ί̣ου Ἰ̣ουλ̣ίου Ἱλα[.?]

=>

#commentary

1 Lambda seems to have been corrected from alpha or else redrawn.  There seems to be superfluous space on either side of -λι-. Ἵλαρος, a name found in papyri from the Augustan period until the fourth century, naturally suggests itself at line end.

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1. Rodney Ast’s work at Berenike has been conducted in the context of the Isis Temple Project, supported by the Thyssen Foundation, under the umbrella of the larger Berenike Project, which is co-directed by Steve Sidebotham (University of Delaware) and, since 2020, Mariusz Gwiazda (Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology). Loreleï Vanderheyden, who is responsible for **528**, expresses gratitude to Jennifer Cromwell for her advice and the University of Heidelberg's SFB 933 Materiale Textkulturen, which is funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, for support of her research. The authors thank Willy Clarysse, Jean-Luc Fournet and Roberta Tomber for valuable advice on specific issues in the article. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. For description of the dossier, see *O.Berenike* 2, pp. 62–64; cf. *O.Berenike* 1, pp. 6–7. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. For this official, see *O.Berenike* 2, pp. 5–7; Cuvigny (2021) 375–377. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. [Ast and Bagnall 2015](https://papyri.info/biblio/89162): 171–185. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. *O.Berenike* 2 260, a lamp with a Coptic inscription, is the only other example of Coptic known from the port. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. For recent treatment of the cemetery, see [Osypinska, Skibniewski and Osypinski 2020](https://papyri.info/biblio/95993): 1–15. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. The letter **516** was a surface find. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. [Hense, Kaper and Geerts 2015](https://papyri.info/biblio/95972): 585–602; [Ast 2020](https://papyri.info/biblio/95932): 108–110. For general discussion of trench 122, see [Sidebotham et al. 2020](https://papyri.info/biblio/95968): 18 and [Popławski, Kraśniewska, Mi and Oleksiak 2022](https://papyri.info/biblio/95994). [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. [Ast and Rądkowska 2020](https://papyri.info/biblio/95924):147–158; for the second shrine, still unpublished, see preliminary remarks in [Sidebotham et al. 2022](https://papyri.info/biblio/95969): 15–16. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. See [Sidebotham et al. 2020](https://papyri.info/biblio/95968): 15–16. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. For the dating of this dossier, see *O.Berenike* 2, p. 4. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Dioscurides (1.67) describes its medicinal properties and uses. He uses the diminutive from which the Latin (and English) term derives, βδέλλιον, but the feminine form found here is used in most of the documentary and quasi-documentary texts. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. For the date of the *Periplus Maris Erythraei* (Peripl.M.Rubr.), see [Casson 1989](https://papyri.info/biblio/11720): 6–7. Bdellium is mentioned in several chapters of the Peripl.M.Rubr.: 37, 39, 48, 49. See [Casson 1989](https://papyri.info/biblio/11720): 185 for general remarks. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Plin. *Nat.* 12.35–36. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. *[BKT](https://papyri.info/dclp/154377)* [10 21](https://papyri.info/dclp/154377).15 (75–125) contains the medical treatise, while the price declarations are in *[P.Oxy.](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/p.oxy;54;3731/)* [54 3731](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/p.oxy;54;3731/).17 (310–311); [3733](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/p.oxy;54;3733).16 (312); [3765](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/p.oxy;54;3765col1_6/).36 (c. 327); [3766](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/p.oxy;54;3766col5).92 (329). [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. [Casson 1989](https://papyri.info/biblio/11720): 154–156; Pliny lists some of the many kinds (*genera complura*) at Plin. *Nat.* 12.69. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Trogodytic myrrh is referred to also in a fourth-century ostrakon from Thebes, *[O.Bodl.](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.bodl;2;2153)* [2 2153](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.bodl;2;2153). [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Minaean myrrh might not have been from Minaea itself, but from areas with which Minaeans traded; see, with further references, [Casson 1989](https://papyri.info/biblio/11720): 156. [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. The fragmentary *[O.Berenike](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;1;88)* [1 88](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;1;88) appears to be in the same hand as [86](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/o.berenike;1;86). [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
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23. [Sidebotham et al. 2019](https://papyri.info/biblio/95967): 11. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. For discussion of the paleography of this kind of symbol for 1/4, see [Fournet 2012](https://papyri.info/biblio/81502): 257. [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. For more about the shrine, see [Ast and Rądkowska 2020](https://papyri.info/biblio/95924): 8. [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. We are indebted to Roberta Tomber for information about the archeological context. [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. The earliest known Coptic tax receipt is *CPR* 4 9 from the Hermopolite nome, which Till dated on the basis of the script to the seventh century. See [Fournet 2020](https://papyri.info/biblio/95783): 19–25. [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. For the date, see [Brun 2018](https://papyri.info/biblio/96000) §§ 27–31. [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. We thank Willy Clarysse for advising us on the name (per litt., 12 Nov. 2021). [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. [Sidebotham and Zych 2016](https://papyri.info/biblio/95960): 4–5. [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. [Tomber 2006](https://papyri.info/biblio/19274): 67–69; [Tomber 2018](https://papyri.info/biblio/95997) §§10–12. [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
32. [Kirwan 1938](https://papyri.info/biblio/95959): 405 no. 38, Pl. 118. [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
33. See [Fournet 2012](https://papyri.info/biblio/81502): 249–258. Fournet’s Type C (p. 254–255; Fig. 9) is similar to the dipinto published here. Cf. too [Fournet and Pieri 2008](https://papyri.info/biblio/77075): 195–199 (again, Type C). [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
34. [Grenfell and Hunt 1907](https://papyri.info/biblio/95975): 10–11; [Fournet and Pieri 2008](https://papyri.info/biblio/77075): 252. [↑](#footnote-ref-34)
35. The bibliography on this subject is very large; see, e.g., [Llewelyn 1998](https://papyri.info/biblio/15305): 156–168; and, more recently, [Nongbri 2010](https://papyri.info/biblio/79817); [Ast and Lougovaya 2015](https://papyri.info/biblio/95931): 90. [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
36. For discussion of the Christian formulas, see [Fournet and Pieri 2008](https://papyri.info/biblio/77075): 180–182, 184–187 and [Fournet 2012](https://papyri.info/biblio/81502): 252–253. In both articles, Fournet classifies the formulas under Type A. [↑](#footnote-ref-36)