#articleTitle

**Textual Remarks on Two Receipts concerning Replacement Parts for Irrigators**

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#acknowledgement

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The receipts for replacement parts for irrigators are notarial documents that originate from the Oxyrhynchite and date to the 5th–7th centuries.[[1]](#footnote-1) Most of them belong to the dossier of the Apiones.[[2]](#footnote-2) As a by-product of recent studies on the topic,[[3]](#footnote-3) I present in this article a few textual remarks on two receipts, including the transcription of lines which have not yet been published in full.

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[P.Oxy. 16 1982](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/p.oxy;16;1982)

This receipt, dated to 497, is addressed by a *colonus adscripticius* named Aurelios Ioseph, son of Abraamios and Anna (ll. 6–7) and coming from the hamlet Papsaou (ll. 7–8), to Fl. Strategios II. It was issued in the office of the notary Sarapammon who released a digraphic *completio* which includes a date(ll. 27–28)[[4]](#footnote-4). As the editors report, the *subscriptio* was written by a certain Aurelios Menas, son of Ioulios, but neither the *hypographe* nor the end of the main text (l. 22 after γραφεῖσα), which was written by the scribe who issued the rest of the document,[[5]](#footnote-5) have been transcribed in full[[6]](#footnote-6). In what follows, a transcription of lnes 21 (end) – 26 will be proposed, based on the digital image available online.

#editionDDB

#metadata

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| --- | --- |
| TargetFile | <https://github.com/papyri/idp.data/blob/master/HGV_meta_EpiDoc/HGV23/22077.xml> |
| TM number | 22077 |

#text

updates p.oxy;16;1982

<S=.grc

<=

21. κυρία ἡ <:χειρο22.- γραφία|reg|χειρο

22.-  γραφεία:> ἁπλῆ γραφεῖσα καὶ (ἐπερ(ωτηθεὶς)) (ὡμολ(όγησα)). $m2 Αὐρήλιος Ἰωσὴφ υ̣ἱ̣ὸ̣ς Ἀβρααμίου̣

23. ὁ προγεγραμμένο̣ς ἐναπόγρα̣φ̣ος πεπο̣ίη̣μαι τὴ̣ν <:(χειρογ̣ραφ(ίαν?))|alt|χειρογ̣ραφε̣ί̣α̣ν̣:>

24. ὑ(¨)πο̣δεξάμενος τὸν καινὸν ἄξ̣ον̣α̣ κα̣ὶ <:συμφωνεῖ|reg|συ̣μ̣φωνῖ:> μοι πάντα τὰ προγεγραμ

25.- μένα ὡς πρόκειται̣ καὶ (ἐπερ(ωτηθεὶς)) (ὡ̣μ̣ο̣λ(ώγησα)). Α̣ὐ̣ρ̣ήλι[ο]ς Μηνᾶς̣ Ἰουλίου ἀξιωθεὶ̣ς̣ ἔγρ̣αψα̣

26. ὑ(¨)πὲρ αὐτοῦ γρά̣μ̣ματα μὴ ε̣ἰ̣δότ̣ος.

=>

#commentary

22–23 On the left of l. 22 there is a mark consisting of a kind of S written to the left of -γραφεία (l. 22), ending at the bottom with a horizontal stroke going rightwards until it reaches the top of ὁ (l. 23):



ll. 22–23 (beginning)

On the hypothesis that this sign marks the end of the main part of the document and not the beginning of the *hypographe*, see S. Kovarik, P.Köln 14 583.20 n.

22 It is noteworthy that the last word of the clause, ὡμολ(όγησα), written by the first hand, is in darker ink than the preceding words, showing that the scribe had to dip the pen into the ink in order to accomplish his task. The next signature, written by Menas, is written in even darker ink.

Ἀβρααμίου̣: υ̣ is written on the right over the preceding ο: though abraded, some traces of it are still recognizable under the ρ of χειρο- in l. 21, which is written in darker ink.

23–26 The lines are written in *eisthesis*.

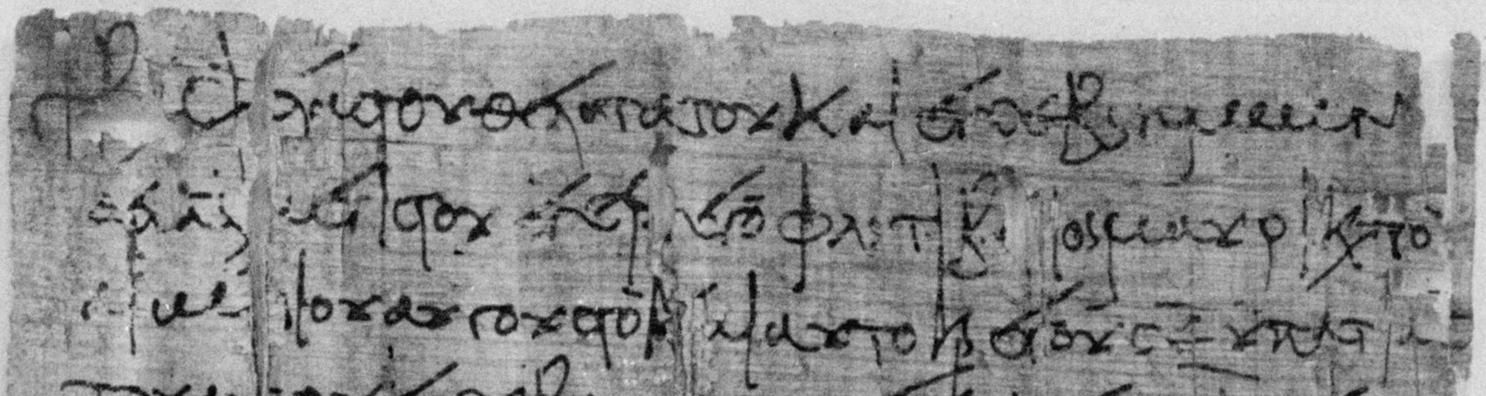
26 This expression, which indicates the illiteracy of the contracting party, normally occurs in the fifth century; see Kovarik, P.Köln 14 583.24 n.

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[P.Oxy. XVI 1987](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/p.oxy;16;1987)**[[7]](#footnote-7)**

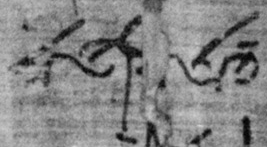
The date clause at the beginning of this receipt of 587 corresponds to a characteristic Oxyrhynchite formula of the emperor Mauricius; cf. [Bagnall and Worp, CSBE](https://papyri.info/biblio/9049)*2*, pp. 260–261, no.(3). A revision of the papyrus based on the digital image leads to the discovery of a graphical feature within the regnal formula, which has escaped the attention of the scholars so far. Such a feature might be significant to determine the way in which scribes employed by notaries used to work.

The regnal formula in ll. 1–3 reads as follows: † βασιλείας τοῦ θειοτάτου καὶ εὐσεβ(εστάτου) ἡμῶν | δεσπό̣(του) μεγίστου εὐεργέτου Φλ(αουί̈ου) Τιβε̣ρ̣ίου Μαυρικ(ίου) τοῦ | αἰωνίου Αὐγούστου καὶ Αὐτοκρ(άτορος) ἔτους ε̄:



P.Oxy. 16 1987.1–3: † βασιλείας τοῦ θειοτάτου καὶ εὐσεβ(εστάτου) ἡμῶν | δεσπό̣(του) μεγίστου εὐεργέτου Φλ(αουί̈ου) Τιβε̣ρ̣ίου Μαυρικ(ίου) τοῦ | αἰωνίου Αὐγούστου καὶ Αὐτοκρ(άτορος) ἔτους ε̄

However, the second ε of εὐεργέτου in l. 2 is clearly corrected out of σ, cf. the following scan:



P.Oxy. 16 1987.2: εὐεργέτου (*alt.* ε *ex* σ)

Such a feature, though apparently insignificant, gives interesting insights into the working methods of notarial clerks, since it is possible that our scribe at this point had the adjective εὐσεβεστάτου in mind and therefore wrote σ instead of ε. Such a confusion might have been due to a *saut du même au même* occurring during the scribe’s copying the formula, since the first part of the date contains such an epithet; cf.l. 1: † βασιλείας τοῦ θειοτάτου καὶ εὐσεβ(εστάτου). If this is correct, we should imagine that in the model the beginnings of the two epithets were written one under the other. Admitting that the model featured the same abbreviations as our document, we could therefore reconstruct the model’s layout: the first two lines contained 24 letters (by talling each of the abbreviation marks in l. 2 as equal in length to one letter); see the following reconstruction (the epitheta under discussion are given in bold):

#blockQuote

† βασιλείας τοῦ θειοτάτου καὶ

**ε**ὐ**σεβ(εστ**ά**του)** ἡμῶν δεσπό̣(του) μεγίστου

**ε**ὐ**εργ**έ**του** κλπ.

#endBlockQuote

Such a reconstruction would not only imply that the scribe made use of a model to write the dating formula, but also demonstrate that such a model was not much larger than a modern post-it. This might even suggest that it was a strip of papyrus or even an ostracon, not a wooden tablet.[[8]](#footnote-8) The scribe, whose papyrus sheet was larger than the model, could therefore not follow its exact layout.

#bibliography

[Azzarello, G. and Reiter, F. (2020)](http://papyri.info/biblio/95935) “A Further Testimony of Flavius Apion I, ἔκδικος and magnificentissimus: P.Rain. Unterricht 79 Revisited,” in R. Oetjen (cur.), New Perspectives in Seleucid History, Archaeology and Numismatics [BzA 355]. Berlin: 669-677.

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[Hickey, T.M. (2012)](https://papyri.info/biblio/84465) Wine, Wealth, and the State. Ann Arbor.

[Mazza, R. (2001)](https://papyri.info/biblio/16557) L’archivio degli Apioni. Bari.

[Tacoma, L.E. (1998)](https://papyri.info/biblio/67851) “Replacement Parts for an Irrigation Machine of the Divine House at Oxyrhynchus,” ZPE 120: 123-130.

1. Cf. [Tacoma 1998](https://papyri.info/biblio/67851) with a list of documents on pp. 128–129; updates can be found in N. Gonis, P.Oxy. 70 4780, intro. (4615 is a slip of the pen for 4616); 4783. 8 n.; P.Oxy. 83 5365, intro. (add P.Oxy. 83 5376). Cf. also the writing exercise **P.Capasso 6** (second half of the 6th c., Oxy.?). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. On this family see [Mazza 2001](https://papyri.info/biblio/16557), and [Hickey 2012](https://papyri.info/biblio/84465); in the last years, new texts have been published by N. Gonis, P.Oxy. 83 5365–5400, and A. Benaissa, P.Oxy. 84 5453–5474, maybe 5475; see also [Azzarello and Reiter 2020](http://papyri.info/biblio/95935). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Cf. [Azzarello 2021](http://papyri.info/biblio/95936); *Le note riepilogative nelle ricevute di pezzi di ricambio per le macchine di irrigazione* (in preparation); Ἄξων *e* αὔξων*: ipotesi su* *una strana variante grafica* (in preparation); *Oxyrhynchite Byzantine Receipts for Replacement Parts for Irrigators*, Tyche 2021 (accepted for publication). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Cf. the thorough discussion of dates in notarial signatures by N. Gonis, P.Oxy. 83 5367, comm. to l. 8, esp. p. 114. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. The scribe is the same as in the other Sarapammon’s contract, [P.Oxy. 19 2237](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/p.oxy;19;2237). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. The same applies to the *verso*, which features two lines, the second one of which is almost fully abraded; of the first line, the editors transcribe the beginning (χειρογραφία) and the end (ἐναπογράφου): the shape of the letters suggest that the docket was written by the main scribe of the document (hand 1), cf. in particular the sequence απο (on the recto, l. 5). Based on the traces and on the parallels, a possible transcription of the whole l. 1 is: [†] χ̣ειρογρα̣φ̣[(ία)] Ἰ̣ω̣σ̣ὴ̣φ̣ υ̣ἱ̣ο̣ῦ̣ Ἀ̣β̣ρ̣α̣α̣μ̣ί̣ο̣υ̣ ἀ̣[πὸ] ἐ̣π̣ο̣ι̣κ̣ί̣ο̣υ̣ Π̣α̣ψ̣α̣υ̣ ἐναπογράφου̣; as for l. 2, it should have contained at least ὑποδοχῆς ἄξονος ἑνός, cf. e.g. [P.Oxy. 16 1983](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/p.oxy;16;1983) (535) † χειρογραφ(ία) Βίκτορος υἱοῦ Ἀνουθίου ἀπὸ ἐποικ(ίου) Μικρ(ᾶς) Τερύθεως Ἀετίου ὑποδοχ(ῆς) | ⟦σ̣τ̣ρ̣ο̣β̣ί̣λλο̣υ̣ καὶ⟧ καλάθου ἑνός (the ed. marks a line change after Τερύθεως, but the image available online shows that this happens after ὑποδοχ(ῆς). [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Edited in full by N. Gonis and T. M. Hickey in P.Oxy. 70, pp. 135–136. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. On possible model contracts written on papyrus see Cl. Gallazzi, P.Bastianini 6, p. 59, n. 41. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)