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SPP 22 60 Revisited

This beginning of a request for anakrisis[[1]](#footnote-1) came to my attention in the course of looking critically at the reported ages at the time of sale for male slaves in Roman Egypt. The data from the census declarations shows that no male slaves over the age of 32 are reported, and one over the age of 30. It therefore seems likely that all men were manumitted by around 30, unlike women, who often remained in servitude until the end of their childbearing years.[[2]](#footnote-2) The table of ages of slaves at the time of sale in [Straus (2004: 264)](http://papyri.info/biblio/18348), however, lists four supposed male slaves at higher ages, namely 40, 50, and 51 (?). The first two are suspiciously round numbers, but the reading of the age 40 in [P.Oxy. 1 94.9 = M.Chr. 344](http://papyri.info/ddbdp/p.oxy;1;94), in the “fine semi-uncial hand” mentioned by Grenfell and Hunt, is not doubtful.[[3]](#footnote-3) On the other hand, the other slave included in that papyrus is said to be 30, which only increases one’s suspicions about accuracy. The same is true of [P.Thmouis 1 113.18](http://papyri.info/ddbdp/p.thmouis;1;1), the 50-year-old slave, another round number but unimpeachable reading.[[4]](#footnote-4) The reading in the case of the last of these, however, is far from secure.

This was published by Carl Wessely in SPP 22, and dated to the second-third century. Apart from one minor note rejecting Wessely’s correction of [ὠ]νουμένη in l. 7 (BL 3.238, Lewald), no critical attention was paid to it until P.J. Sijpesteijn devoted a few lines of a brief note on “Nachlese zu Wiener Texten” to it ([Sijpesteijn 1983: 134](http://papyri.info/biblio/56075): 134; BL 8.483), providing a corrected text of ll. 8-10, with small corrections to ll. 1 and 13-14. He did not, however, call into question the supposed age 51 in l. 13. Both digits are dotted in Wessely’s text, however, and it seemed worth checking the correctness of this reading. In the process, a few other points proved to need correcting.

#editionDDB

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#text

updates stud.pal;22;60

<S=.grc

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1. Παμμενει (στρ(ατηγῷ)) (Ἀθριβ(ίτου))

2. π̣αρὰ Ἡφ[α]ι̣[σ]τ̣α̣ρίου Ἀχιλλέως το[ῦ]

3. [Λε]ω̣[νί]δου ἀστῆς μετὰ κυ̣ρ̣ί̣[ου]

4. [τ]ο̣ῦ ἀδε̣λ̣φοῦ καὶ ἀνδρὸς αὐτῆς

5. [.2].3ου Ἀχιλλέως Φυλαξιθα

6.- [λα]σ̣σίου τοῦ καὶ Ἀλθαιέως

7. [ὠ]νουμένη παρὰ Βουβα

8.- [σ]τ̣αρίου ἐγ μητρὸς Διοσκορο̣ῦ̣

9.- τος Διοσκόρου̣ τοῦ Ποτάμ

10.- μωνος ἀπὸ Ἀθρίβεως

11. δ̣ο̣ῦ̣λον ὀν[όμ]α̣τ̣ι̣ Κρεισ̣πῖ

12.- ν̣[ο̣ν̣] ἐπικε̣κ[λη]μένον Ἡ̣ρ̣α̣

13.- [κ]λ̣είδην ὡς ἐτῶν λ̣.2

14. [.2].2γ.3 οὐλὴν̣ ἔχοντα

14. lost.?lin

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#commentary

1 [Π̣]αμμένει ed.pr., Παμένει Sijpesteijn, BL 8.483. It is true that the first mu is lacking one hump, but there is too much for Sijpesteijn’s reading to be correct; στρS Ἀθριβ/.

7 [ὠ]νουμένη l. [ὠ]νουμένης ed.pr.; [ὠ]νουμένη Lewald.

9-10 Διοσοροῦ[τ]ος Ποταμ|μωτος ed. pr.; Διοσκόρου τοῦ Ποτάμ|μωνος Sijpesteijn

11-12 Χρηστ[ὸν] | [τὸν καὶ] ed. pr. This is implausible; it requires too much lost to be at left in l. 12, and τὸν καὶ ἐπικεκλημένον is an idiom never found in the papyri (the one apparent example, in [P.Fam.Tebt. 25.5-6](http://papyri.info/ddbdp/p.fam.tebt;;25), is restored). The name that stands, or most likely only begins, at the end of l. 11 has undergone correction. The initial kappa is corrected, but not from Wessely’s chi; the traces look more like gamma or pi. Wessely’s eta is rather the diphthong ει. After that, it seems that a descending letter was written, then written over with a sigma.

12-13 ̣]ο|[. ]ι̣ειδην ed. pr.; Ἠ̣ρ̣α̣|[κ]λείδην Sijpesteijn.

13 λ̣ ̣ ̣: ν̣α̣ ed. pr. The alpha is most implausible, and the first letter has a diagonal stroke coming up from the lower left. Lambda seems far more likely than nu, although it does not seem impossible to me that an eta was written.

14 [ὃς ὑπ]ουργεῖ μύλῃ ο (l. ὃν) [ἔ]σχο̣ν̣[ ̣ ̣] ed. pr. The form μύλη is absent from the papyri, and we do not want an expression of this kind in the description of a slave. I owe οὐλὴν̣ ἔχοντα to Rodney Ast. Usually we find the simple οὐλή, but [P.Oxy. 69 4750.10-11](http://papyri.info/ddbdp/p.oxy;69;4750) offers a rare parallel: οὐλὴν ἔχο̣ν̣<τα> ἐπ<ὶ> τ̣ο̣ῦ δεξιοῦ ποτός (l. ποδός); there is another (for a woman) in [M.Chr. 171.12](http://papyri.info/ddbdp/chr.mitt;;171). What precedes this phrase should be an adjective describing the slave. It has certainly undergone correction.

#bibliography

[Bagnall, R.S. and Frier, B.W. (1994)](https://papyri.info/biblio/13437) The Demography of Roman Egypt. Cambridge.

[Lewald, H. (1952)](https://papyri.info/biblio/40562) “Eine Synchoresis aus der Zeit des Commodus: Papyrus Rainer G. 25817,” in Studi in onore di Vincenzo Arangio-Ruiz nel XLV anno del suo insegnamento, vol. 3: 429-438. Naples.

[Sijpesteijn, P.J. (1983)](https://papyri.info/biblio/56075) “Nachlese zu Wiener Texten,” ZPE 50: 133-134.

[Straus, J. (2004)](http://papyri.info/biblio/18348) L’achat et la vente des esclaves dans l’Égypte romaine. Contribution payrologique à l’étude de l’esclavage dans une province orientale de l’empire romain. Leipzig.

1. So [Lewald (1952: 436-437)](http://papyri.info/biblio/40562), cited approvingly by [Straus (2004: 10)](http://papyri.info/biblio/18348), although with some hesitation on the basis of l. 14. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [Bagnall and Frier 1994](http://papyri.info/biblio/13437): 71, 158. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. See [www.bl.uk/manuscripts/](http://www.bl.uk/manuscripts/Viewer.aspx?ref=papyrus_763_f001r) for an image. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. See [www.psi-online.it/images/](http://www.psi-online.it/images/orig/PSI%20I%20107.jpg?1184955346) for an image. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)