#articleTitle

Edition of the Homeric Fragment P.Oxy. 4 758 descr. (Ε 583‒596)

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| Yale University, P.CtYBR inv. 69 | 11.5 (w) x 9.5 (h) cm | ca. 200 |
| TM 60740 |  | Oxyrhynchus |

#introduction

This fragment of a papyrus roll preserves an upper margin of 1.5 cm, and is broken off on the other three sides; a blank space of ca. 0.8 cm can be seen to the left of ll. 1‒4, which belongs to the intercolumnar space. The papyrus is of medium brown colour. The text is written with the fibres, and the verso is blank. It consists of fourteen lines in a fair state of preservation; its condition deteriorates towards the bottom of the fragment, where fewer letters per line survive. The papyrus was found during the excavations carried out between 1897 and 1903 in Oxyrhynchus[[1]](#footnote-1). It was described as P.Oxy. 4 758 and P.Yale 1 7; it has been assigned no. 72 in West’s catalogue[[2]](#footnote-2).

The script belongs to the so‒called ‘severe’ (or ‘formal mixed’) style, which is characterised on the whole by angular letterforms and by a contrast between narrow and wide letters. This style is used in many papyri beginning with the second century[[3]](#footnote-3). Grenfell and Hunt assigned a date to the “[l]ate second or third century” in the editio princeps, while “[c]a. A.D. 200” was preferred in the Yale volume[[4]](#footnote-4). The closest parallel is [P.Oxy. 7 1012](https://papyri.info/dclp/64229) , which is dated to the beginning of the third century: similarities emerge in the narrow ε and σ, in the υ that exceeds the notional baseline, and in the square ω[[5]](#footnote-5). Therefore, a date around the year 200 can be confirmed as the most probable for P.Oxy. 4 758 descr.

The text was augmented by lectional aids, which are likely to have been drawn by the same scribe, as suggested by the uniformity of ink and thickness. Acute accents are used with α in ll. 2 and 5, and with ο in l. 3. Apostrophes consistently mark elision after γ (l. 3) and ρ (ll. 2, 5 and 6), but are absent when other letters are involved. Rough breathings occur above ὅ, ι of ἵμασ’, the first α of ἅμα (ll. 3, 7 and 9), and possibly above the υ of [το]ύ̣ς (l. 7). Punctuation is rendered through ano stigmai that mark strong stops in ll. 5, 8 and 9 (after εἱστήκει̣, στίχας and [κε]κληγώς), while milder stops are marked in ll. 4 and 13 (after κονίηισιν and Ἕκ̣τορος). Iota adscript can be seen in ll. 4 and 12.

The papyrus contains part of the fifth book of the Iliad, where Antilochos and Hector are engaged in the battle. Other papyri partially overlap with this text, namely: [P.Bodmer 1](https://papyri.info/dclp/60943) col. XX, 1‒13 (= West no. 400; 3rd‒4th c.), [P.Oxy. 4 757](https://papyri.info/dclp/60297) descr. (= West no. 184; 1st c. BC‒1st c. AD) and four papyri preserved in the Sackler Library (= West nos. 1016; 1025, 3rd c.; 1028, 3rd c.; 1029, Byz.)[[6]](#footnote-6). The text differs occasionally from the transmitted one[[7]](#footnote-7). The mistake ἐλέφ̣[αν]τα instead of ἐλέφαντι in l. 1 (Ε 583) seems to have a parallel in another Iliadic passage (see comm.). In ἵππων for ἵππω (l. 6; Ε 588), the ν was wrongly added to the case ending of the dual. Another mistake is πέσον instead of βάλον in l. 6, where the scribe is likely to have reflexively reported the same formula as in l. 1, χαμαὶ πέσον ἐν κον[ίηισιν]. There are also the phonological variants δε for τε in l. 4 (Ε 586) and εἱστήκει̣ for ἑστήκει in l. 5 (Ε 587).

#editionDCLP

#text

<S=.grc

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1. ἡν[ί]α λεύκ’ <:<:ἐλέφ̣[αν]τα|ed|ἐλέφ̣[αν]τι=mss:>|alt|ἐλεφ̣[αν]τά:> χαμαὶ πέσον ἐν κον[ίηισιν.]

2. Ἀν̣τίλοχος δ’ ἄ(´)ρ’\*apostrophe\* ἐπα̣ΐ̣ξας ξί̣φει ἤλασε κόρση[ν·]

3. αὐτ̣ὰρ ὅ( ῾´) γ’\*apostrophe\* ἀσθμαίνων εὐεργέος ἔκπεσε δ̣ίφρου

4. κύμ̣βαχος ἐν κονίηισιν \*high-punctus\* ἐπὶ βρεχ̣μόν <:τε|reg|δε:> καὶ ὤμ[ους.]

5. [δη]θὰ μάλ’ εἱστήκει̣, \*high-punctus\* τύχε γ ά(´)ρ ῥ’\*apostrophe\* ἀμάθοιο βαθε̣ί̣η̣[ς,]

6. [ὄφ]ρ̣’\*apostrophe\* ἵππω{ν} πλήξαν̣τε χαμαὶ <:πέσον|ed|βάλον=mss:> ἐ̣ν̣ κον̣ί̣[ηισιν.]

7. [το] ὺ( ῾)ς ἵ( ῾)μασ’ Ἀν̣τίλοχο̣ς, \*high-punctus\* μετὰ δὲ στρατὸ̣ν ἤλ[ασ’ Ἀχαιῶν.]

8. [το]ὺ̣ς δ’ Ἕκτωρ ἐνόησε̣ κατὰ στίχας, \*high-punctus\* ὦρτο δ’ ἐπ’ α[ὐτούς]

9. [κε]κληγώς· \*high-punctus\* ἅ( ῾)μα δὲ Τρώων εἵποντο φάλαγ[γες]

10. [καρ]τερα[ί·] ἦρχε δ’ ἄρά σφιν Ἄρης καὶ π̣ότνι’ Ἐνυ[ώ,]

11. [ἣ μὲ]ν ἔχ[ουσα] κ̣υδοιμὸν ἀν̣αι̣δ̣έα δηϊο[τῆτος,]

12. [Ἄρης δ’ ἐν παλ]ά̣μηισι πελώριον ἔγχος̣ ἐν̣[ώμα,]

13. [φοίτα δ’ ἄλλοτε] μ̣ὲν πρόσθ’ Ἕκ̣τορος, \*high-punctus\* ἄλλο[τ’ ὄπισθεν.]

14. [τὸν δὲ ἰδὼν ῥίγη]σ̣ε βοὴν ἀ̣γ̣α̣θ̣ὸς Διομ[ήδης·]

14. lost.?lin

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#commentary

1 ἐλέφ̣[αν]τα: in the apparatus of the critical edition, West ([1998](https://papyri.info/biblio/95464): 164) tentatively compares Δ 141, where the reading ἐλέφαντα was sometimes interpreted as ἐλεφαντά standing for ἔρια λευκά (ibid.: 119). This interpretation is rejected in Ariston. Il. ad loc., while Eust. 1, 720, 22-23 writes that some consider ἐλεφαντά as a synonym of ἐλεφάντινα. A similar case could be assumed for this passage.

3 ὅ γ’: both the rough breathing on ο and the apostrophe of γ extended to the right: as a consequence, the acute accent on ο was written above the apostrophe (though it cannot belong to α, as it might appear).

5 εἱστήκει̣: the augment εἱ- instead of ἑ- in the pluperfect of ἵστημι is more frequently attested in the manuscript tradition; the second one was considered more genuine already by Aristarchus, see [West 1998](https://papyri.info/biblio/95464): XXVII.

7 [το]ύ̣ς: above υ two traces recalling a rough breathing can be seen, which has an unclear meaning in this position. Therefore, one may assume the scribe to have initially written the rough breathing above υ instead of the ι of the following word.

ἵμασ’: above ι, only two traces remain, which point to a trema. Since the previous letter is a σ, its presence is unexpected (unless it is due to an ‘inorganic’ use; see [Turner 1987](https://papyri.info/biblio/11371), 10‒11). It is thus preferable to assume that the lectional aid is a rough breathing, the ink of which has partially disappeared (see also P.Yale 1 27).

#bibliography

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1. So P.Oxy. 4: V. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [West 2001](https://papyri.info/biblio/16711): 91. See also [West 1998](https://papyri.info/biblio/95464): XL. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [Cavallo 2009](https://papyri.info/biblio/78171): 131‒133. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. See P.Oxy. 4 249 and P.Yale 1 27, respectively. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. For the date of [P.Oxy. 7 1012](https://papyri.info/dclp/64229), see [Del Corso 2006](https://papyri.info/biblio/75516): 95‒97. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. [West 2001](https://papyri.info/biblio/16711): 95, 102 and 120. [P.Bodmer 1](https://papyri.info/dclp/60943) col. XX, 4 and no. 1028 in West’s catalogue contain the form εἱστήκει in Ε 587 (see [West 1998](https://papyri.info/biblio/95464): 164). [P.Bodmer 1](https://papyri.info/dclp/60943) col. XX omits Ε 584 and features the correct ἵππω in l. 5 (Ε 588). [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. [West 1998](https://papyri.info/biblio/95464) is the reference edition. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)