#articleTitle

Provisioning the Metropolis: A Reedition of [SPP 22 94](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/stud.pal;22;94)

#author

Claytor, W. Graham

#affiliation

Faculty of Archaeology Department of Papyrology, University of Warsaw

#email

gclaytor@gmail.com

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| P.Vindob. inv. G 24952 | 14.5 (H) x 17.5 (W) cm | Arsinoite |
| [TM 15143](https://www.trismegistos.org/text/15143) |  | after 25 April, 111 CE |

This document is a report of pending transport expenses (φόρετρον) related to the food supply of the Arsinoite metropolis. It was submitted to two ex-gymnasiarchs with the title πρὸς τῆι εὐθ(ηνίαι) τῆς μητροπ(όλεως) by another ex-gymnasiarch who had served as the sitologos of [Sebennytos](http://www.trismegistos.org/place/2103), a Fayum village in the Herakleides meris. There are no close parallels among published texts,[[1]](#footnote-1) and the document is among the few that touch on metropolite finances in general before the establishment of boulai.[[2]](#footnote-2)

The opening of the report is straightforward: ἀνηλώθη εἰς εὐθ(ηνίαν) τῆς μητροπ(όλεως), followed by a date range of ten days (ll. 5-8). Improvements can be made to the understanding of the rest of the text, which is re-edited here on the basis of the [images available through the Austrian National Library](http://data.onb.ac.at/rec/RZ00007933).[[3]](#footnote-3) We find that the recipients of the transport dues are ktenotrophoi from at least three metropolite amphoda.

The papyrus is broken at the bottom and at the right. The ends of lines in the first column are written over a kollesis about 10.5 cm from the left edge. The writing on the recto is with the fibers, while the verso contains two-columns of an account written against the fibers in the same hand, which suggests that this example of the report was not sent.[[4]](#footnote-4)

#editionDDB

#metadata

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Material | Papyrus |
| Dimensions: height | 14.5 |
| Dimensions: width | 17.5 |
| TM number | 15143 |
| Descriptive title | Provisioning the Metropolis: A Reedition of ***SPP*** 22 94 |
| Date of text | 25 April, 111 CE |
| Provenance | Arsinoites |
| Inventory no. | P.Vindob. inv. G 24952 |
| Images | http://data.onb.ac.at/rec/RZ00007933 |
| Keywords | Bericht, Versorgung der Metropole |

#text

<S=.grc

<D=.i.column<=

1. Διονυσίω[ι] καὶ Ἰσιδώρωι (γεγυμ(νασιαρχηκόσι)) πρὸς τῆι

2. (εὐθ(ηνίαι)) τῆς (μητροπ(όλεως))

3. Πτολεμαῖος (γεγυμ(νασιαρχηκὼς)) (γενάμε(νος)) <:(σιτολ(όγος))|reg|(σειτολ(όγος)):> (τoπ(αρχίας)) τῶν

4. περὶ Σεβέννυτον τοῖς φιλτάτοις (χα(ίρειν)).

5. ἀνηλώθη εἰς (εὐθ(ηνίαν)) τῆς (μητροπ(όλεως)) ἀπὸ <#κ̄=20#>

6. ἕως λ̄ τοῦ (Φαρμοῦθ(ι)) (μη(νὸς)) τοῦ (ἐνεστῶ(τος)) <#ιδ=14#> ((ἔτους))

7. Αὐτοκράτορος Καίσαρος Νέρουα Τραιανοῦ

8. Σεβαστοῦ Γερμανικοῦ Δακικοῦ {ἀπὸ (θη(σαυροῦ))} τοῦ (εἰ(ς))

9. (μ̣η̣τρόπ(ολιν)) (ἀνασπασθ(έντος)) ἀπὸ (θη(σαυροῦ)) Σεβεννύτου

10. ὧ[ν] φόρετρον δεήσει (ἐξωδ(ιασθῆναι)) τ̣οῖς (ὑπο

11.- γεγρα(μμένοις)) <:(κτηνοτρόφ(οις))|reg|(κτηνοτρόπ(οις)):> ἀπὸ (μη̣τ̣ρ̣ο̣π̣(όλεως))

12. (Βιθ(υνῶν)) Ἀφροδᾶ̣τ̣ι (ὄνο(ις)) <#δ=4#>

13. Ἀπολλῶτι (ὄνο(ις)) <#γ=3#>

14. Ἡρᾶτι (νε̣(ωτέρωι)) (ὄνο(ις)) <#ι=10#>

15. Κ̣α̣[.1].3 [(ὄνο(ις))] <#ϛ=6#>

16. [.?].3 vac.? .1[.?]

16. lost.?lin

=>=D>

<D=.ii.column<=

1. Μάρωνι [.?]

1. lost.ca.3lin

5. (Ἑλ̣λ̣η̣(νείου))

6. Σουχᾶ̣τ̣ι̣ [.?]

7. Ἀρχίαι̣ .3[.?]

8. .3τ̣ι .1[.?]

9. .1ρ.1φ̣.2[.?]

10. (|.6τ|) [.?]

11. .1ο̣λ̣ι̣αμ̣ο̣ν̣.3[.?]

12. (|.7π̣|)

13. .4ί̣ωνι α̣[.?]

14. [.1].1[.4].3[.?]

14. lost.?lin

=>=D>

#translation

<T=.en

<D=.i.column

<=

((1)) To Dionysios and Isidoros, ex-gymnasiarchs in charge of the food supply of the metropolis, Ptolemaios, ex-gymnasiarch and former grain collector for the district around Sebennytos, to his friends, greetings. (((5))) Expended for provision of the metropolis from the 20th to 30th of the month Pharmouthi in the present 14th year of Imperator Caesar Nerva Traianus Augustus Germanicus for the (grain) hauled to the metropolis from the storehouse of Sebennytos, for which transport charges will need to be paid to the following herdsmen from the metropolis: (((12))) (Quarter) of the Bithynians:

to Aphrodas for 4 donkeys

(((13)) to Apollos for 3 donkeys

(((14))) to Heras the younger for 10 donkeys

(((15))) to Ka… for 6 donkeys

(((16)))… [ ]

- - - - - - - - - - - - -

=>

=D>

<D=.ii.column

<=

((1)) to Maron

[ ca. 3 lines missing ]

(((5))) (Quarter) of the Helleneion

to Souchas [ ]

to Archias [ ]

traces of four names

(Quarter) of …

to …ion …

to … [ ]

- - - - - - - - - - - - -

=>

=D>

=T>

#commentary

Col. 1

1 Διονυσίω[ι] καὶ: Διονυσίῳ [καί] ed. pr. A small fragment containing most of the καί appears in the image and was presumably correctly positioned subsequent to the ed. pr. There is room for iota adscript, which has been supplemented in view of its appearance in the next name, although scribes are not always consistent.

- Διονυσίω[ι] καὶ Ἰσιδώρωι γεγυμ(νασιαρχηκόσι). A pair of former gymnasiarchs with the same names would later serve as βιβλιοφύλακες ἐγκτήσεων ([SPP 13, p. 1 = SB 1 5808](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/sb;1;5808), 124 CE), but the commonness of the names hinders identification.

1-2 πρὸς τῆι | εὐθ(ηνίᾳ) τῆς μητροπ(όλεως). This text is the earliest reference to the municipal office that would later be known as the εὐθηνιαρχία (see [Lewis 1997](https://papyri.info/biblio/14864), s.v. εὐθηνία, εὐθηνιάρχης, εὐθηνιαρχία; on the development of metropolite offices, see [Hagedorn 2007](https://papyri.info/biblio/76534)). This exact title is paralleled only in the unpublished P.Berol. inv. 25136 (cf. n. 1), but an equivalent, ἐπὶ τῆς εὐθηνίας, is found first in [SB 14 12139](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/sb;14;12139), col. 4.3-4 (146): Αἴλιος Διονύσιος γενόμεν[ο]ς ἀγοραν[ό]μος καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς εὐθηνίας τῆς πόλεως (that is, Alexandria); as a metropolite office, it is found in [P.Amh. 2 124 = W.Chr. 152](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/p.amh;2;124).22 (Hermopolis, II CE). Cf. also [P.Tebt. 2 397 = M.Chr. 321](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/p.tebt;2;397).13-15 and 28 (Arsinoe, 198 CE), where the office is called προστασία εὐθηνίας. On the food supply of the metropoleis, see [Alston 2002](https://papyri.info/biblio/16854), 192, and on the transporters involved, [Adams 2007](https://papyri.info/biblio/19484): 176

3 τoπ(αρχίας) BL 12 279: τόπ(ων) ed. pr. See also [Derda 2006](https://papyri.info/biblio/19085), 128-129.

3-4 The only other attestation of an ex-gymnasiarch serving as sitologos that I know of is found in the closely contemporary [P.Ryl. 2 202a](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/p.ryl;2;202A) (Theadelphia, 108 CE).

5 ἀνηλώθη: ἀνηλώθη(σαν) ed. pr. There is no obvious sign of abbreviation, and the plural does not seem necessary in what is essentially an impersonal construction.

8 {ἀπὸ θη(σαυροῦ)}. This phrase seems unconnected syntactically and probably anticipates its deployment in the next line.

8-9 τοῦ εἰ(ς) | μ̣η̣τρόπ(ολιν) ἀνασπασθ(έντος): τοῦ εἰ(ς) | μητροπ(ολ ) ἀνασπασθ( ) ed. pr. The first two letters of μ̣η̣τρόπ(ολιν) are corrected, but not, it seems, to include the expected article τήν. The subject of the participle is not expressed but can be understood as πυροῦ or σίτου.

10-11 τ̣οῖς ὑπο|γεγρα(μμένοις) κτηνοτρόπ(οις) ἀπὸ μη̣τ̣ρ̣ο̣π̣(όλεως): ὡς ὑπο|γέγρ(απται) ̣ ̣ινομοπ( ) ἀπολεγ[ῆναι …] ed. pr. The new reading provides the expected recipients of the payments, who are indeed listed below. On the involvement of ktenotrophoi in the transport of state grain, see [Adams 2007](https://papyri.info/biblio/19484): 172-180.

12 Βιθ(υνῶν) Ἀφροδᾶ̣τ̣ι ὄνο(ις) δ: ο̣ια( ) Ἀφροδ[ί]της πο(λ ) δ ed. pr. The new reading of the first entry establishes the layout of the list. The transporters are organized by metropolite amphodon (cf. col. 2.5 and 12). The word abbreviated ονο( ) could also be read as οπο( ) (note the two-stroke form of the questionable letter in l. 13), but the latter does not lead to an obvious solution, unless considered an otherwise unattested spelling of ὀβο(λοί). Instead, I think the number of donkeys is noted, presumably carrying the standard load of three artabas (cf. e.g. [P.Col. 2 1 recto 5](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/p.col;2;1,r,5)), which must have been converted to a transport payment (whether in cash or in kind) at a standard rate. P.Berol. inv. 25136 (cf. n. 1) has a rate of 3 ob. per artaba transported.

13 Ἀπολλῶτι ὄνο(ις) γ: Ἀπολλωνοπο(λ ) γ ed. pr.

14 Ἡρᾶτι νε̣(ωτέρῳ) ὄνο(ις) ι: Ἡρα ̣ ̣λεοπο(λ ) ̣ ed. pr. There is a line drawn under the the eta, then another continuing through the nu of νε̣(ωτέρῳ): similar lines separate entries in the more fragmentary column 2.

Col. 2

5, 12 Both lines are in ekthesis, indicating that they are amphodon headings. In the latter heading, the first two visible strokes could be the base of delta with a descending iota in ligature, which, in combination with what seems to be a lunate pi at the end, suggests Δ̣ι̣ο̣ν̣υ̣(σίου) τ̣ό̣π(ων).

#bibliography

[Adams, C. (2007)](https://papyri.info/biblio/19484) Land Transport in Roman Egypt. A Study of Economics and Administration in a Roman Province. Oxford.

[Alston, R. (2002)](https://papyri.info/biblio/16854) The City in Roman and Byzantine Egypt. London/New York.

[Derda, T. (2006)](https://papyri.info/biblio/19085) Ἀρσινοΐτης νομός. Administration of the Fayum under Roman Rule. Warsaw.

[Habermann, W. (2000)](https://papyri.info/biblio/16013) Zur Wasserversorgung einer Metropole im kaiserzeitlichen Ägypten. Neuedition von P. Lond. III 1177. Munich.

[Jouguet, P. (1911)](https://papyri.info/biblio/96283) La vie municipale dans l’Égypte romaine. Paris.

[Schmidt, S. (2014)](https://papyri.info/biblio/84641) Stadt und Wirtschaft im Römischen Ägypten: die Finanzen der Gaumetropolen. Wiesbaden.

1. P.Berol. inv. 25136 will offer several points of comparison (cf. below ll. 1-2 and 12 nn.). I thank Nahum Cohen for bringing this papyrus to my attention. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. See [Habermann 2000](https://papyri.info/biblio/16013), 100, n. 52. Among the texts discussed there, [P.Oxf. 2](https://papyri.info/ddbdp/p.oxf;;2), col. 2 (= Pap.Lugd.Bat. 3A 2, Arsinoe, after 4 Aug., 141) is of particular relevance, as it involves correspondence between the strategos and archontes about outstanding phoretron due to kamelotrophoi, which, on the order of the prefect, was to be paid out of the politikos logos. On metropolite finances in general, see Jouguet 1911, 415-456; E.P. Wegener, [P.Oxf.](https://papyri.info/biblio/4095), pp. 6-7; [Alston 2002](https://papyri.info/biblio/16854), 193-196; and, most extensively, [Schmidt 2014](https://papyri.info/biblio/84641). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Only substantive changes to the text are recorded in the line notes. Col. 1.15-16 and col. 2 were not transcribed in the ed. pr. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The first column contains a day-by-day account headed by Μάρω(ν) κ ̣[ ̣] ̣ ̣( ) (cf. col. 2.1), with numbers (of donkeys?), which begins on Pharmouthi 21 (col. 1.2) and goes through at least Pachon 6 (col. 1.17), that is, beyond the time frame of the report on the other side (Pharmouthi 20-30). The second column is more abraded but contains an entry for δαπάνη(ς) (l. 9) with fractional numbers following. Line 8 has the phrase ἐπ’ ὄνοις. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)