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A Rent Receipt for a Weaver from the 7th-century Arsinoite

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Images are courtesy of the University of Michigan. P.Mich. inv. 3437 was purchased from Nahman in 1925 and donated to the University of Michigan in October 1926 by Oscar and Richard H. Webber (Detroit).

A receipt for the payment of $4\frac{1}{4}\frac{1}{16}$ gold carats for the rent of Theodoros, the weaver. There are numerous similar receipts preserved, which attest to rent payments of comparable amounts from the 7th-century Arsinoite. This date is also confirmed by the versatile minuscule hand typical of the period. The object, for which the rent was paid, is not specified, but this is common (cf. e.g. \Box SPP 8 796), because it must have been obvious to the parties involved. The complete, middle-brown papyrus is written in black ink, *transversa charta*. The back is blank.

 $9(w) \times 7(h)$

7th century Arsinoite

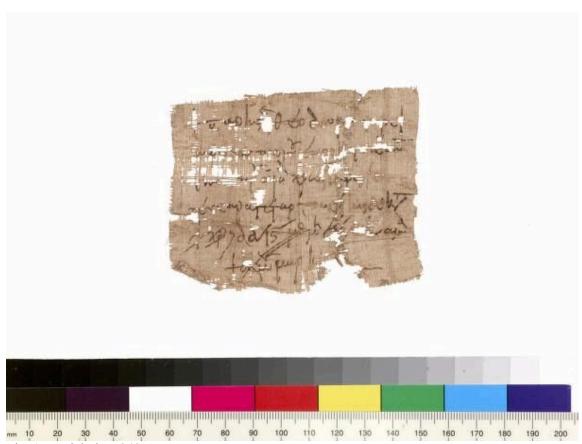


Fig. 1. P.Mich. inv. 3437

† παρῆσχε Θεοδώρου ταρσικαρίου ἀπὸ λόγου ἐνοικίου αὐτ(οῦ)
τῆς παρού(σης) α ἰνδ(ικτίωνος) χρυσοῦ κεράτ[ια]
τέσσαρα τέταρτον ἑξκαιδέκ(α)τ(ον)

5 γί(νεται) χρ(υσοῦ) (κεράτια) δ δ ις ΄ μό(να). μη(νὸς) Ἐπειφ κ α ἰνδ(ικτίωνος). † δ(ι') ἐμοῦ Μάρκου paraphe

- 1 *Ι.* παρέσχε *Ι.* Θεόδωρος 1-2 *Ι.* ταρσι|κάριος 3 ϊνδ papyrus 4 *Ι.* ἑκκαιδέκ(α)τ(ον)
- † Theodoros, the weaver has paid from the account of his house-rent of the current 1st indiction four one-fourth one-sixteenth gold carats, total $4\frac{1}{4}\frac{1}{16}$ gold carats only. On the 20th of the month Epeiph of the 1st indiction. † Through me, Marcus *paraphe*
- §2 1–2 Θεοδώρου ταρσι|καρίου: Another weaver called Theodoros from the city quarter of (the church) of St. Damianos pays 11 carats on the Alexandrean standard for his poll-tax of the 4th indiction in the ☑ BGU 3 738 (Arsinoite, 7th century [Byz. *ed.pr.*]). He might have been the same person as the Theodoros of this receipt.
- §3 2 ἀπὸ λόγου: This expression is relatively rare and has only been attested once in a similar receipt:

 SPP 8 864.2 (prov. unknown, 6th–7th c.)²: ἀπὸ λώγ(ου) (*I*. λόγου) ἐ[νοικ(ίου)].³
- 4 ἑξ[κ]αιδέκ(α)τ(ον): This fraction is rarely attested for carats. The only parallels I have been able to find are □ SPP 3 641.4 (Ars., 7th c. [6th c. ed. pr.]), □ CPR 19 40.4 (Hermopolite, 2nd part 7th c.), □ SPP 3 627.7 (Arsinoite, 7–8th c.), and □ P.Lond. 4 1419.349 *et passim* (Aphrodito, 716–717; □ SB 20 15099 belongs to the same register and contains the fraction at lines 5, 46, and 49).
- §5 5 Έπειφ κ: 14 July.
- §6 6 † δ(ι') ἐμοῦ Μάρκου: A similar signature of a Markos, albeit without paraphe, can be found in

 SPP 8 703.6 (Ars., 7th c.), but, judging from the handwriting, it seems to have been written by a different person.

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¹ The correction (BL I 440) of Θεοδόρο(υ) ταρσικαρίο(υ) of the ed. pr. to Θεόδορο(ς) ταρσικάριο(ς) in line 3 is incorrect. The diagonal strokes above the two final omicra represent ypsila as common in this period. Since the receipt does not contain a verb, we may simply retain the genitive: Θεοδόρου (*I*. Θεοδόρου) ταρσικαρίου 'for Theodoros, the weaver'.

The ed.pr. dated the papyrus to the 6th century, but the handwriting is compatible with a date in the early 7th century.

^{3 &#}x27;Aπὸ or ὑπέρ can be supplied at the end of line 1 in 🗗 SPP 8 789 (Ars., 7th–8th c. [6th c. ed.pr.]), since line 2 starts with λόγου ἐνομκ[ίου (ἐνυ[κίου ed.pr).