

R. BAGNALL - K. A. WÖRP

A receipt for gold bullion

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A receipt for gold bullion

P. Vindob. inv. G 27879
17.7 × 8.2 cm.

HERMOPOLIS
29 September 329

LIGHT-BROWN papyrus, writing on both sides parallel to the fibers. Margins 1.5 cm. at top, 5 cm. at right, 1.5 cm. below, 2.5 cm. at left. Join of *κολλήματα* at 5.5 cm. from right side (on front).

This papyrus appears to contain the receipts for a total of 55 grams (i.e., 2 oz. 7 gr.) of gold bullion delivered by the well-known Demetria also called Ammonia for the buying up of gold by the government in 329/330. The subject of these governmental purchases is discussed in the article of Roger Bagnall, pp. 322-326. The syntax of our text is very loose, consisting of a series of items of information given sequentially but with little syntactic connection. This sort of receipt recalls categories of texts like transportation chits, for which cf. L. Amundsen, *O.Osl.* p. 41. We have neither a verb referring to the collector (*ἀπέσχορον* for instance) nor one referring to the person delivering (either in the second or the third person, e.g. *παρήνεγκεν* or *παρέδωκας*). In this receipt we thus find a formula very different from its equivalent in Karanis (*P. Mert.* I 31). Since this is the first receipt of its kind to be published, coming from the Hermopolite Nome, we cannot say for certain whether this formula is a local variant or a collector's peculiarity. But the approximately contemporary *SPP* XX 87, of which a revised text is given in the note to line 6, also Hermopolite and concerning the same taxpayer, presents a rather similar formula in a receipt for *vestis*; we conclude, therefore, that the formula is likely to have been common in the Hermopolite at this period.

This may be a retrospective receipt, incorporating information from an earlier one as well as the actual payment on Phaophi 2. Even so, it is curious that no date is given for the first payment.

Ἀποδέκ[τ]ης χρυσοῦ συνωνῆς ιζ
ἦτοι γ' ἰ[ν]δικτίονος. Δημητρία ἡ καὶ
Ἀμον[ία] χρ[υ]σοῦ καθαροῦ τριάκο[ντα] πέντε.
4 ἡ ἀ[δ]τή . . . χρυσοῦ καθαροῦ εἴκο[σι]. Φαῶφι β.
Ἐλεν[ος ἀπο]δέκτης δι' ἐμ[οῦ] Σαραπάμονος
ἐσημ(ειωσάμην).

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