

ZEITSCHRIFT  
FÜR  
PAPYROLOGIE UND EPIGRAPHIK

*herausgegeben*

*von*

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BAND 59

1985

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## TWO NOMINATIONS OF GOLDSMITHS TO COLLECT TAXES

By a remarkable coincidence, the publication of Bagnall's edition of P. Yale inv.1648 as P.Rainer Cent.122 and that of Gerardo Casanova of P.Med.inv. 71.66 in *Aegyptus* 62 (1982) 65-68 fell within a month or so of one another, with neither of us knowing of the other's text. These two agreements, by the guild of goldsmiths of Oxyrhynchus with one of its members, concern the collection of the chrysargyron by that member. The Milanese text comes from 421, the Yale one from 429, but they are very close in wording. Neither text is fully preserved - both are damaged at left and below - but the Yale text is somewhat better preserved. The comparison of the two makes a far more complete reading and restoration of both possible. There are still, however, some points of difficulty in places where the texts are not quite parallel. We give a revised text of each (only the affected part, lines 1-8, of the Yale piece), then a text showing parallels and divergences, a new translation of the Yale piece as restored, and finally a few comments on what is learned from these improvements.

We are grateful to Dr.Casanova for a new and very clear photograph of the Milanese papyrus after some further restoration.

P.Med.inv.71.66

29 x 15 cm.

20.xii.421

[ὕπατειας Φλαουλίου Εὐ]σταθίου[υ] καὶ Ἀγρικώλα τῶν λαμπροτάτων Χοιδᾶκ κδ  
vacat

[ἡ λαμπροτάτη ἐργασία] τῶν χρυσοχόων τῆς λαμπρᾶς καὶ λαμπροτάτης Ὀξυρυγ-  
χιτῶν πόλεως

[δι' ἡμῶν τῶν ἐξῆς ὑπο]γραφόντων Αὐρηλίου Χαιρήμονι Σερήνου ἀπὸ τῆς αὐτῆς  
πόλεως τῆς αὐτῆς ἐργασίας

4 [χαίρειν· τῆς ὀνομασίας χά]ρ[ιν] τοῦ ἐκ τῆς ἡμῶν ἐργασίας ζητουμένου δι-  
οικητοῦ τοῦ χρυσαργύρου τῆς πέμπτης

[Ἰνδικτίονος ±5 ]σχεθε..εσ σέ τὸν Χαιρήμονα ἐπιλεξάμενοι μᾶλλον δέ  
προτρεψάμενοι

[σοὶ ἐνετείλαμεν] καὶ κα[τεπι]σ[τεύ]σαμεν ποιῆ[σα]ι τὴν διοίκησιν, ἡμῶν  
ἐπαγγειλαμένων

[πάντα τὰ ±9 ] προφάσ[ι] τα[ύτης] τῆς διοικη[σ]ε[ως] γιγνόμενα ἀναλώ-  
μ[α]τα εἴτε ἐπὶ τόπων

8 [εἴτε ἐν τῇ τάξει ἡμᾶς] ἐπιγν[ῶν]αι καὶ καταβαλεῖν διὸ καὶ τὴν ἐγγραφὸν

ταύτην ἀσφαλῖαν

9 [ἐθέμεθά σοι καὶ ὁμολογοῦμεν τοῖς] παντοίοις ἀναλώμασιν [ζητου]μένοις εἰς  
 τὴν ἡμῶν  
 [διοίκησιν ] traces  
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P.Yale inv.1648 = P.Rainer Cent.122 39.4 x 25 cm. 19.ix.429

[Μετὰ τὴν ὑπατείαν Φλαουλῶν Φή]λικος καὶ Ταύρου τῶν λαμπροτάτων θῶδ κβ/  
 vacat  
 [ἡ (e.g.) λαμπροτάτη ἐργασία τῶν χρυσοχόων τῆς λαμπρᾶς καὶ λαμπροτάτης  
 'Οξυρυχιτῶν πόλεως δι' ἡμῶν τῶν ἐξῆς ὑπογρ[αφόντων]  
 [Αύρηλιφ Χαιρήμονι Σερήνου] ἀπὸ τῆς αὐτῆς πόλεως τῆς αὐτῆς ἐργασίας χαί-  
 ρειν· τῆς ὀνομασίας χάριν τοῦ ἐκ τῆς ἡμῶν]  
 4 [ἐργασίας ζητουμένου διοικητοῦ τοῦ] χρυσαργύρου τῆς τρισκαιδεκάτης Ἰνδικ-  
 τίνος σὲ τὸν Χαιρήμονα ἐπιλεξάμενοι μάλλον δὲ  
 [προτρεψάμενοι σοὶ ἐνετείλ]αμεν καὶ κατεπιστεύσαμεν ποιῆσαι τὴν διοίκησιν,  
 ἡμῶν ἐπαγγειλαμένων πάν[τα?]  
 [τὰ προφάσει ταύτης τῆς δι]οικήσεως γιγνόμενα ἀναλώματα εἴτε ἐπὶ τόπων  
 εἴτε ἐν τῇ τάξει εἴτε σκάματος  
 [ ] ἐκδημίας προφάσει τῆς αὐτῆς διο[ι]κῆσεως  
 ἡμᾶς ἐπιγνῶναι καὶ καταβαλεῖν δι[ό]  
 8 [καὶ τὴν ἔγγραφον ταύτην ἀσφά]λιαν ἐθ[έ]μεθ[ά] [σο]ι καὶ ὁμολογο[ῦ]μεν τοῖς  
 παντούοις ζητουμένοις εἰς τὴν ἡμῶν  
 [διοίκησιν κτλ.

8 παντοίοις

#### Parallel Texts

M [ἡ λαμπροτάτη ἐργασία] τῶν χρυσοχόων τῆς λαμπρᾶς καὶ λαμπροτάτης 'Οξυρυ-  
 Y [ἡ λαμπροτάτη ἐργασία τῶν χρυσοχόων τῆς λαμπρᾶς καὶ λαμπροτάτης 'Οξυρυ-  
 M χιτῶν πόλεως [δι' ἡμῶν τῶν ἐξῆς ὑπο]γραφόντων Αύρηλιφ Χαιρήμονι Σερήνου  
 Y χιτῶν πόλεως δι' ἡμῶν τῶν ἐξῆς ὑπογρ[αφόντων Αύρηλιφ Χαιρήμονι Σερήνου]  
 M ἀπὸ τῆς αὐτῆς πόλεως τῆς αὐτῆς ἐργασίας [χαίρειν· τῆς ὀνομασίας χά]ρ[ιν]  
 Y ἀπὸ τῆς αὐτῆς πόλεως τῆς αὐτῆς ἐργασίας χαίρειν· τῆς ὀνομασίας χάριν  
 M τοῦ ἐκ τῆς ἡμῶν ἐργασίας ζητουμένου διοικητοῦ τοῦ χρυσαργύρου τῆς πέμπ-  
 Y τοῦ ἐκ τῆς ἡμῶν ἐργασίας ζητουμένου διοικητοῦ τοῦ] χρυσαργύρου τῆς τρισ-  
 M της [Ἰνδικτίνος .....]σχεθε..ες σὲ τὸν Χαιρήμονα ἐπιλεξάμενοι  
 Y καιδεκάτης Ἰνδικτίνος σὲ τὸν Χαιρήμονα ἐπιλεξάμενοι

M μάλλον δέ προτρεψάμενοι [σοὶ ἐνετείλαμεν] καὶ κα[τεπι]σ[τεύ]σαμεν ποιῆ-  
 Y μάλλον δέ [προτρεψάμενοι σοὶ ἐνετείλ]αμεν καὶ κατεπιστεύσαμεν ποιῆ-  
 M [σα]ι τὴν διοίκησιν, ἡμῶν ἐπαγγειλαμένων [πάντα τὰ ± 9 ] προφάσ[ι  
 Y σαι τὴν διοίκησιν, ἡμῶν ἐπαγγειλαμένων πάν[τα? τὰ προφάσει  
 M τα]ύτης τῆς διοικη[σ]ε[ω]ς γιγνόμενα ἀναλώμ[α]τα εἴτε ἐπὶ τόπων [εἴτε ἐν  
 Y ταύτης τῆς διοικήσεως γιγνόμενα ἀναλώματα εἴτε ἐπὶ τόπων εἴτε ἐν  
 M τῇ τάξει]  
 Y τῇ τάξει εἴτε σκάσματος [ ] ἐκδημίας προφάσει τῆς αὐτῆς διο[ι]-  
 M ἡμᾶς ἐπιγν[ῶν]αι καὶ καταβαλεῖν, διὸ καὶ τὴν ἔγγραφον ταύτην ἀσ-  
 Y κήσεως ἡμᾶς ἐπιγνῶναι καὶ καταβαλεῖν, δι[ὸ καὶ τὴν ἔγγραφον ταύτην ἀσ-  
 M φάλιαν [ἐθέμεθά σοι καὶ ὁμολογοῦμεν τοῖς] παντοίοις ἀναλώμασιν [ζη-  
 Y φά]λιαν ἐθ[έ]μεθά [σο]ι καὶ ὁμολογο[ῶ]μεν τοῖς παντύοις ζη-  
 M τουμένοις εἰς τὴν ἡμῶν [διοίκησιν  
 Y τουμένοις εἰς τὴν ἡμῶν [διοίκησιν

## Translation (P.Yale):

[After the consulate of the Flavii] Felix and Taurus the most illustrious, Thoth 22. [The most illustrious (?) guild of the] goldsmiths of the illustrious and most illustrious city of the Oxyrhynchites, through us who sign below, [to Aurelius Chairemon son of Serenus], from the same city (and) from the same guild, greeting. Having chosen and indeed [preferred] you, Chairemon, for the nomination for the [manager demanded] from our [guild] for the chrysargyron for the thirteenth indiction, we empowered you and entrusted you to carry out the management, with us promising that we would accept responsibility for and pay all the expenses which occur [on account of this] management, whether locally or in office or ... [or on account of?] travel on account of the same management, wherefore we have also made with you [this written] agreement, and we agree with all manner of things demanded for our [management].

From the setting out of the parallel texts, it can be seen that the formula is almost identical. The few remaining problems, of course, occur in those places where it is not. In line 5 of the P.Med., we cannot discover what followed the indiction; about five letters in the lacuna, followed by about another nine after it, have no parallel in P.Yale. The remains would allow the reading προ]σχεθέντες, for example, but we do not see its sense. The second problem occurs in line 7 of P.Med., where there is space in the lacuna for more than one can with any confidence make out in P.Yale. It is

conceivable that the latter, which is effaced at the end of line 5, had some further text there. Nothing else seems needed grammatically. The third divergence occurs in lines 6-7 of P.Yale, where there is an additional phrase not found in P.Med. (the result of some unhappy disagreement in the meantime?). P.Med. thus does not, alas, illuminate the mysterious σκάματος of P.Yale. We assume that the guild promised to reimburse all expenses pertinent to the tax-collection incurred by Chairemon either in town (i.e. in Oxyrhynchus) or elsewhere (cf. line 8, ἐκδημίας). Within this context one might wish to connect σκάματος with the verb σκάζω = to limp, in which case one might think of tax-revenues coming in quite irregularly; their collection would have caused extra costs (for this meaning of σκάζω cf. also Pr. WB, s.v.). On the other hand, it should be noted that the noun σκάσμα is not listed in LSJ. One could also regard σκάματος as a slight spelling error for σχάματος and connect it with the verb σχάζω = to relax effort, cease an action (cf. LSJ s.v., 4). Σχάσμα (listed in LSJ as meaning, i.a.,: release, letting off) might mean here, then, "interruption, intermission", and reference might have been made to extra costs arising from an interruption in normal tax-collection procedures because of some official journey (restore, e.g., σκάματός [τινος χάριν εἶτε ἐπὶ τινος] ἐκδημίας vel sim. at the start of line 7?). As we do not know precisely how the construction went, it is hard to arrive at a certain interpretation. \*)

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\*) P.Med.inv.71.66 will be republished as SB XVI 12260.