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Für das Ägyptische Museum und Papyrussammlung –
Staatliche Museen zu Berlin
herausgegeben von Fabian Reiter

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Zur Wiedereröffnung des Neuen Museums

Herausgegeben von
Fabian Reiter

DE GRUYTER



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Papyrussammlung**
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2859. RECEIPT FOR RENT ON A PALM GROVE

P. 13882

27,3 × 7,2 cm
Plate XXIII

28 Nov – 27 Dec A.D. 239
Philadelphia

This receipt is written along the fibers of a single rectangular sheet of papyrus. The papyrus is in good condition, as the text is mostly preserved except in a few places where it has been partially effaced. The receipt is written with a single cursive hand, which for the most part is clear and regular. The left margin of the text is uniformly indented 1 cm from the left edge of the papyrus, whereas the right margin runs up to the edge of the right side of the papyrus. There is no writing on the back.

The receipt is for the payment of the φόρος φοινικῶνο(ς) on a palm grove totaling three arourae near the village of Philadelphia in the Arsinoite. The receipt is issued by an individual bearing the name Aurelius Asas son of Psamis and his colleagues (μέτοχοι) who are collectively identified as the *praktores argurikôn* of Philadelphia. Similar receipts include: O.Mich. I 126 (AD 219/220 or 223/24); SB VI 9431 (28 Feb AD 193); P.Fay. 60 (17 Nov AD 149). In the receipt the *praktores argurikôn* acknowledge that they have received payment from a certain Diogenes son of Tourbon, an individual who also appears in other documents from third century Philadelphia (see note 3–4), in the amount of 80 drachmae.

- 1 Αύρηλιοι Ἀσᾶς Ψάμεως καὶ μέτ[ο]χο(ι)
- 2 πράκτορες ἀργυρικῶν κώμης
- 3 Φιλαδελφείας Αύρηλίω Δ[ιο]γέ-
- 4 νει Τούρβωνος ἀπὸ τῆς αὐτῆς
- 5 κώμης χαίρειν. διέγρα(ψας)
- 6 ἡμεῖν τὸν φόρον ὧν ἕκαρ-
- 7 πώσω φοινικῶνο(ς) (ἀρουρῶν) γ, ἐν
- 8 τόπῳ Καλικά (ἀρουρῶν) β καὶ ἐν ἑτέρῳ
- 9 τόπῳ (ἀρούρης) λεγομ(ένῳ) περὶ τὴν
- 10 κώμην ὑπὲρ τοῦ ἐνεστῶ-
- 11 τος γ (ἔτους) καρπῶν τοῦ διελη-
- 12 λυθότος β (ἔτους) ἀργ(υρίου) δρα-
- 13 χμᾶς ὀγδοήκοντα
- 14 (γίνονται) (δραχμαὶ) π.

- 15 Αύρή(λιος) Ἀσᾶς ὡς (ἐτῶν) λ
- 16 οὐλ(ῆ) ἀντικ(νημίῳ) δεξι(ῶ).

- 17 (ἔτους) γ/ Αὐτοκράτορος Καίσαρ[ος]

- 18 Μάρκου Ἀντωνίου Γορδι[ανοῦ]
 19 Εὐσεβοῦς Εὐτυχοῦς
 20 Σεβαστοῦ Χοιακ . .

6 l. ἡμῶν

1 Ἀσᾶς Ψάμεως. The name Ἀσᾶς is not very common as it only occurs in a handful of later documents: BGU II 608.2.6 (AD 342 or 1st half V cent.); BGU I 29.1 (= SPP III² 117) (AD VI–VII). On the other hand the name Ψάμις (or Ψάμμις) is more common as it is attested more than a dozen times, primarily in the earlier part of the first century AD and primarily in documents from Philadelphia.

2 πράκτορες ἀργυρικῶν. Liturgical officers who oversaw the collection of a wide variety of cash revenues. See Oertel, *Liturgie*, 195–204; Wallace, *Taxation*, 304–305; Capponi, *Augustan Egypt*, 124–129.

3–4 Αύρηλίω Δ[ιο]γέ|νει Τούρβωνος. This individual is attested in nine other documents from Philadelphia from the third century. He first appears in BGU VII 1658 (28 Sept – 27 Oct AD 234) in a receipt concerning the repayment of 160 drachmae. He then reappears in the present document (AD 239) followed by BGU VII 1665 (18 June AD 248), a receipt over a land agreement where he and another individual, both of whom are designated as “farmers” (ll. 3–4, γεωργοί), paid 24 artabae for rent. He then appears in BGU VII 1587 (3 Oct AD 258), a receipt for money taxes, and then in BGU 1610 (4 Oct AD 259), a receipt issued by the *dekaprotoi* of Philadelphia. In BGU VII 1611 (15 Sept AD 283) his wife, who is identified by his name and who may well be a widow at this point, is issued a receipt from the granary at Philadelphia. He also appears in four other documents from Philadelphia that lack specific dates: BGU VII 1646 (III): Offer to lease a Granary; BGU VII 1659 (III): Receipt for Loan; BGU VII 1697 (III) (ostrakon) and BGU VII 1699 (III) (ostrakon) that both concern grain transport.

7 φοινικῶνο(ς) (ἀρουρῶν) γ. The termination of φοινικῶνο(ς) is not completely certain as the text is partially effaced near the end of the word. Nevertheless, in my opinion this reading is to be preferred to φοινίκων since it seems that there is a superscript omicron with a downward stroke indicating an abbreviation similar to what is written in l. 1 with μέτ[ο]χο(ι). In the two similar receipts that mention the φόρος φοινίκων, SB VI 9431.2 (φόρου φοι(νίκων)) and O.Mich. I 126.3 (φόρου φοι(νίκων)), the editors have assumed that the abbreviation must be φοι(νίκων); however, in light of the present reading it may be wondered whether the abbreviation could also be φοι(νικῶνος)? In P.Tebt. III.1 815 Fr. 5 recto, 42 (223–221 BC), which shares a similar grammatical construction with SB VI 9431.2 and O.Mich. I 126.3, φόρου φοινικῶνος without an abbreviation is attested. Nevertheless, there are numerous examples where φόρος φοινίκων is written out in full without abbreviation. The 3 arouras referred to here represent the combined area of the grove mentioned in the papyrus at ll. 8–9.

7–8 ἐν | τόπω Καλικά. The topos Καλικά is otherwise unattested. However, in P.Ross.Georg. V 58.78 (early AD III) from Philadelphia a τόπος Καλι . . . is mentioned and could well be the same topos. P.Cair. Isid. 99.9 (= SB VI 9171; 29 Aug AD 297) a land lease from Karanis mentions a topos named Κάλειξ but it is unlikely that this is an alternative form of Καλικᾶ.

9–10 λεγομ(ένω) περι τήν | κώμην. While the name of the topos “around the village” is somewhat unusual there are many examples in papyri of the Roman period where the name of a topos is mentioned right after the participle λεγομεν-, e.g. P.Fam. Tebt. 44.4–5 (10 Nov AD189); M.Chr. 316.19 (21 Feb AD 194); P.Oxy. XII 1502 verso, 5 (c. AD 260); P.Col. VII 181.7 (18 Oct AD 342).

12–13 ἀργ(υρίου) δρα|χμὰς ὀγδοήκοντα. A φόρος of eighty drachmae per annum on land totaling 3 arourae assumes a rate of approximately 27 drachmae an aroura. Unfortunately, there are relatively few contemporaneous receipts for palm groves to compare this rate. In SB VI 9431, a receipt for the (l. 2) φόρος φοι(νίκων) in Karanis, it is reported that the φόρος was 12 drachmae but does not mention the size of the palm grove. Similarly, in O.Mich. I 126 (AD 219/220 or 223/24), a receipt issued by the *praktor argurikôn* of Tebtynis for the (l. 3) φόρος φο[ι(νίκων)], it states that the charge was 32 drachmae but does not specify the size of the grove.

17–20 (ἔτους) γ/ Αὐτοκράτορος Καίσαρ[ος] | Μάρκου Ἀντωνίου Γορδ[ιανοῦ] | Εὐσεβοῦς Εὐτυχοῦς | Σεβαστοῦ. This regnal formula is common for the third year of Gordian’s reign: O.Wilck. 1592.2–3; P.Fay. 63.1–4; P.Flor. I 21.19–20; P.Mich. XI 620.201–02; 257–58; P.Oxy. XII 1549.1.18–22; P.Oxy. XLI 2977.51–54; P.Oxy. LXI 4117.22–24.

Translation

Aurelius Asas son of Psamis and his colleagues, *praktorees argurikôn* of the village of Philadelphia, to Aurelius Diogenes son of Tourbon from the same village, greeting. You have paid to us the rent on the palm grove for 3 arouras that you harvested, in the place Kalika 2 arouras and in another place called “around the village” 1 aroura, for the present third year from the produce of the past second year, eighty drachmae of silver, total 80 drachmae. Aurelius Asas about thirty years old with a mark on the front of his right leg. Year three of Emperor Caesar Marcus Antonius Gordianus Pius Felix Augustus, Choiak –.

Lincoln Blumell

Brigham Young University, Provo

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