

Pylon 4 (2023)
ISSN: 2751-4722

An Antinoite Document of 181–183

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Heidelberg: Propylaeum, 2023



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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.48631/pylon.2023.4.101706>

Text exemplar

Citation

N. Gonis, “An Antinoite Document of 181–183,” Pylon 4 (2023). DOI: <https://doi.org/10.48631/pylon.2023.4.101706>.

- §1 The papyrus published in this article was purchased by the British Museum from the Cairo dealer M. Nahman in July 1921. It first became known to the world outside the Museum ninety years ago. H.I. Bell's publication (☞ [Bell 1933](#)) of papyri from Antinoopolis, with references to unpublished papyri that related to this city, prompted a long letter from U. Wilcken on 22.11.33. While working on the future ☞ [P.Würzb. 8](#) and ☞ [9](#), Wilcken had developed a new hypothesis on the administrative status of the region of Antinoopolis, and asked Bell whether there was anything relevant among the London inedita. Bell obliged by supplying information that lent support to Wilcken's views. Bell's letter is not available, but Wilcken's response on 7.1.34 acknowledged it as 'extraordinarily valuable' (*außerordentlich wertvoll*) to his work.¹ Wilcken went on to mention this exchange in the volume that he sent to the press shortly thereafter (☞ [P.Würzb.](#), p. 55). He paid particular attention to P.Lond. inv. 2269, a second-century document that includes the phrase ἀπὸ Ἀλαβαστρίνης τῆς Ἀντινόου νομαρχίας, offering an additional reference to this nomarchy and a hint to the location of the village of Alabastrine within the older Hermopolite nome (☞ [P.Würzb.](#), pp. 55, 57). Since then, there have been several mentions of this text in scholarly literature, all of which rely on Wilcken's report, but the papyrus has remained unpublished.²
- §2 What remains is the top of the papyrus, with a small part missing on the left side. Two hands are visible. One wrote an address to a *procurator Caesaris* (name lost) by Stephanos son of Apollonios, who originated from Alabastrine in the nomarchy of Antinoopolis (lines 1–2). Another, more compact hand wrote a document that begins with the same Stephanos addressing a nomarch of Antinoopolis (name also lost). This is followed by a reference to the prefect Veturius Macrinus in the dative, which implies that a petition was mentioned and probably appended; cf. the contemporary ☞ [P.Fam.Tebt. 43](#) (182), a petition to a nomarch of Antinoopolis which includes a petition to an epistrategus. The papyrus breaks off at this point. The two addresses do not appear to be part of one and the same text; nothing seems to have been lost between lines 2 and 3, and the hands are different. Perhaps the first two lines were added to the top margin after the document addressed to the nomarch was written, for whatever reason.
- §3 The prefect D. Veturius Macrinus is attested in office between 4 July 181 and April/May 183 (☞ [Faoro 2015](#): 123f.), which provides the basis for the dating of the text. The *procurator Caesaris* may have been a *procurator usiacus*, making this a late instance of the use of this appellation for this official (see [1 n.](#), §5). The text also offers an early reference to the village as Alabastrine, not Alabastron polis (see [2 n.](#), §7), and is the sole evidence of its position in the Antinoite administrative district (νομαρχία) prior to the late fourth century.
- §4 The text is written along the fibres. The papyrus is mounted and the back is presumably blank. There is a sheet join running vertically close to the right edge. The ink traces before it look like offsets.

P.Lond. inv. 2269
TM 369456

23.7 cm (w) × 5 cm (h)

181–183
Antinoite

¹ On these two letters, see ☞ [Essler 2023](#) §§12–13.

² One other unpublished papyrus mentioned in [P.Würzb.](#), viz. P.Lond. inv. 2288, has been edited by Susan Fogarty and will appear in [Tyche 38](#) (2023).

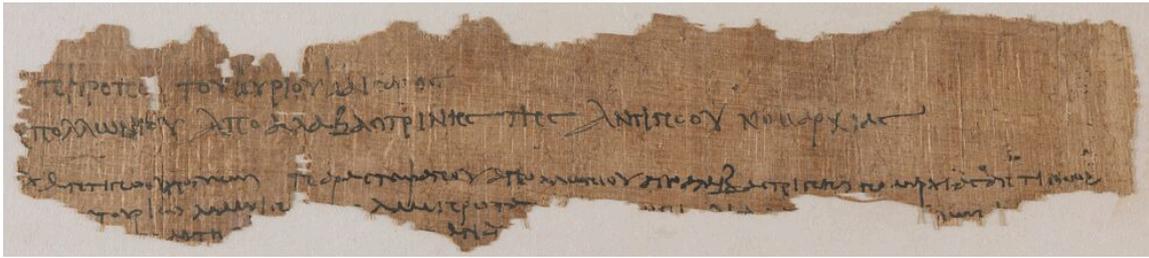


Fig. 1: P.Lond. inv. 2269. © The British Library Board

(m2) [-ca.12-] ἐπιτρόπῳ τοῦ κυρίου Καίσαρος

[παρὰ Στεφάνου] Ἀπολλωνίου ἀπὸ Ἀλαβαστρίνης τῆς Ἀντινοῦ νομαρχίας

(m1) [-ca.10- νομάρ]χ(η) Ἀντινοῦ πόλεως *vac.* παρὰ Στεφάνου Ἀπολλωνίου ἀπὸ Ἀλαβαστρίνης νομαρχίας Ἀντινοῦ

[-ca.12- Ο]ὔετουρίῳ Μακρίνῳ [τ]ῷ λαμπροτάτῳ [ἡγε]μόνι δια . . . [-ca.7-] . λων
 . . . [-ca.6-]

5 [-ca.17-] . αυτη [-ca.7-] . ανδ [-ca.?-]

(hand 2) To ..., procurator of lord Caesar, from Stephanos, son of Apollonios, from Alabastrine of the nomarchy of Antinoou. (hand 1) To ..., nomarch of the city of Antinoos, from Stephanos, son of Apollonios, from Alabastrine of the nomarchy of Antinoos. ... to Veturius Macrinus, the clarissimus prefect, through(?) ...

§5 1 ἐπιτρόπῳ τοῦ κυρίου Καίσαρος, P.Lond. inv. 2263, a lease of 99/100, from the same acquisition, is addressed to a procurator (ἐπιτρόπ(ω), l. 1) by farmers from Alabastron (Polis) (γεωργῶν ἀπὸ Ἀλαβάστρω(ν), l. 2). P.Lond. inv. 2277.4 refers to an *ousia* at Alabastrine in 153/154, suggesting that this may be a *procurator usiacus*; for the address, cf. e.g. ☞ P.Oxy. 43 3089.19 (146). If this holds, it represents a survival of the earlier way of referring to this official. ☞ Aelius Socraticus, attested between 151 and 155, was the last known *procurator usiacus* whose jurisdiction was unspecified, while ☞ P.Tebt. 2 317.17 (174/175), τοῦ κρατίστου οὔσιακοῦ ἐπιτ[ρό]που, marks a new starting point; see ☞ Beutler 2007.

§6 2 Στεφάνου] Ἀπολλωνίου. Cf. 3. Not known from elsewhere.

§7 Ἀλαβαστρίνης = ☞ TM Geo 2684. Cf. 3. This village was located in the northern part of the Hermopolite nome, on the east bank of the Nile; see most recently ☞ Eller 2022: 235–236. Third-century documents describe it as part of the Hermopolite nome (☞ SB 13 13030.1–2 [205]; ☞ P.Lond. 3 1157va.14 [246]; ☞ P.Stras. 1 5.8 [262]; ☞ P.Oslo 3 134.7 (3rd c.) — see §8), but it belonged to the Antinoite nome in the late fourth and early fifth centuries, and probably later as well: Alabastrine is mentioned in ☞ SB 26 16491.19, a tax register of the early eighth century, alongside Antinoite villages. Additionally, there are references to the village in three other fragmentary papyri from the same acquisition in the British Library: P.Lond. inv. 2263.2 (see 1 n., §5), 2276.3 (see Appendix), and 2277.1 (153/154) ἀπὸ Ἀλαβ(αστρίνης), 3 περὶ κωμογρ(αμματεῖαν) Ἀλαβ(αστρίνης).

§8 ☞ Drew-Bear 1979: 57 suggested that three copies of a census declaration of 161, namely P.Oslo 3 99 = ☞ SB 20 14668 and P.Mich. inv. 158 = ☞ SB 20 14666–☞ SB 20 14667, came from Alabastrine and not from Alabanthis, as previously thought. ☞ Bagnall 1990: 9–10 (= BL 9.176) later (re)confirmed the Antinoite origin of this declaration, but without referring to Drew-Bear’s discussion. The declarant recurs in P.Lond. inv. 2277 (153/154); although the name of the village is abbreviated, its

association with a group of papyri from Alabastrine is significant. Furthermore, it seems possible to me, on the basis of the online [☞ image](#), to read Ἀλα[βαστρί]νης instead of Ἀλα[βανθί]δος in [☞ SB 20 14666.ii.2](#). Another disputed occurrence is [☞ P.Oslo 3 134.7](#) (3rd c.) Ἀλαβαντί[δος], later read as Ἀλαβαστρε[ίνης] (BL 8.229–230), probably correctly (see the online [☞ image](#); [☞ Gagos and van Minnen 1992](#): 192 n. 11 = BL 10.134 defended the original reading based on the presumed occurrence of Alabanthis in [☞ SB 20 14666–☞ SB 20 14668](#)).

- §9 τῆς Ἀντινόου νομαρχίας: νομαρχίας Ἀντινόου in l. 3. Wilcken’s discussion in [☞ P.Würzb.](#), pp. 53–58, remains useful, but some parts require revision. For example, he posited that the nomarchy was part of the Hermopolite nome, which would explain the shifting administrative affiliation of Alabastrine, but evidence published later suggests otherwise; cf. [☞ Thomas 1974](#): 401. (Wilcken’s assumption that [☞ P.Iand. 7 140](#) provided additional support for his ideas relied on readings that were subsequently corrected; see BL 6.57.) For a list of references to the nomarchy, see [☞ Eller 2022](#): 240.
- §10 3 [ca.10 νομάρ]χ(η) Ἀντινόου πόλεως. Cf. [☞ P.Fam.Tebt. 43.19](#) (182) Ἀρτεμιδώρ νομάρχη Ἀντινόου πόλεως. On this office, see [☞ Thomas 1982](#): 106, 110; cf. [☞ Eller 2022](#): 238 n. 99.
- §11 4 [ca.12 Ο]ὑετουρίω Μακρίνω [τ]ῶ λαμπροτάτω [ῆγε]μόνι δια . . . [. A common way of introducing embedded petitions is οὐ ἐπ(ιδ)έδωκα + reference to *prefect* + βιβλιδίου, but this would leave δια . . . unexplained. It is possible that the papyrus had ἐνέτυχον Ο]ὑετουρίω Μακρίνω [τ]ῶ λαμπροτάτω [ῆγε]μόνι δια ἀγ[αφορίου; for a partial parallel, see [☞ SB 22 15782.11](#) (Ars.; 150/151).

APPENDIX

- §12 I publish here a fragmentary papyrus acquired with the one edited above because it may offer the earliest attestation of the toponym ‘Alabastrine’. The document appears to be a petition or possibly a declaration addressed to an authority, but too little has survived to form a coherent narrative. Sarapion, whose name is flanked by blank spaces, would have held an official position; a Roman *nomen gentile* and Sarapion’s function would have been lost to the left and right, respectively. Line 2 contained the name(s) of the petitioner(s), and l. 3 mentions Alabastrine. The text then refers to a separation (l. 4, ἀπη]λλαχότι; cf. l. 7), a 14th year (l. 5), an edict (ll. 6, 10), and perhaps an amount of money (l. 9). The 14th year would be 150/151 if the ruler was Antoninus Pius, although Marcus Aurelius (173/174) or even Hadrian (129/130) may also be considered. [☞ P.Iand. 7 140](#) preserves a prefectural edict concerning Antinoites with a covering letter dated to year 14 of Antoninus; however, this may be a mere coincidence.
- §13 The text is written along the fibres. The back of the papyrus is not visible and presumably blank.

P.Lond. inv. 2276
TM 987704

150/151(?)
Antinoite/Hermopolite

- [-ca.?-] *vac.* Σαραπίωνι *vac.* [-ca.?-]
 [-ca.?-]λίων Μαξίμου τοῦ [-ca.?-]
 [-ca.?- ἐ]ν Ἀλαβαστρίνη ἔτι [-ca.?-]
 [-ca.?- ἀπη]λλαχότι εἰς τὸ συν[-ca.?-]
 5 [-ca.?-]τος εἰς τὸ ἰδ (ἔτος) εἰ[-ca.?-]
 [-ca.?-] διὰ προστάγματος [-ca.?-]
 [-ca.?- πρα]γμάτων ἀπηλλ[α -ca.?-]
 [-ca.?-]μης δυνάμεω[ς -ca.?-]
 [-ca.?-]ς χειλίας [-ca.?-]
 10 [-ca.?- πρ]οστάγματ[-ca.?-]
 [-ca.?-]λι . . . ας φπ [-ca.?-]

9 or [-ca.?- δραχμὰ(?)]ς 1. χιλίας

... to Sarapion ... –lion, son of Maximus ... at Alabastrine. Still ... left(?) for ... in/for the 14th year ... through an edict ... released(?) from troubles ... force ... one thousand (drachmas?) ... edict ... 580(?) ...

- §14 1 Σαραπίωνι. The name is not borne by any Hermopolite or Antinoite official attested in or around a 14th year in the second century.
- §15 2]λίων Μαξίμου τοῦ [. I have taken]λίων to be the ending of a name; τοῦ would introduce an alias (τοῦ [καὶ *name*]) rather than a grandfather. Alternatively, this could be the ending of a Roman *gentilicium* (e.g. παρὰ Αἰ]λίων) in the plural, followed by either an alias or a name (e.g. Τοῦ[ρβωνος).
- §16 3 ἐ]ν Ἀλαβαστρίνη ἔτι. It may be that we have to punctuate after ἐ]ν Ἀλαβαστρίνη, which would mark the end of the prescript.
- §17 4 εἰς τὸ συν[. An articular infinitive of a compound of συν[.
- §18 6 διὰ προστάγματος. Cf. 10 πρ]οστάγματ[.
- §19 7 πρα]γμάτων ἀπηλλ[α-. Cf. ☞ SB 22 15350.4 (3rd c.) ἀπαλλ[ά]σσω ἀ[τ]ὸν τοῦ πράγματος; ☞ P.Oxy. 36 2768.23 (3rd c.) πραγμάτων ἀπαλλάχθαι; ☞ PSI 7 741.10 (3rd/4th c.) τὰ πράγματα ἀπαλλάξαι.
- §20 8 τῆς ἐ]μης δυνάμεω[ς is an easy guess but would be unparalleled in the papyri.
- §21 11 [.?]]λι . . . ας φπ[. λι may also be read as γ. If phi is correctly read (the shape is not common in this period), φπ[will be the number 580.

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