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## A Receipt for the *Didrachmia* of Souchos from the Mikkalos Archive

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*I thank Nikolaos Gonis for bringing this papyrus to my attention and the Egypt Exploration Society for permission to publish it. This edition is dedicated to the memory of Federica Micucci.*

EES 89A/151(c)<sup>1</sup>  
TM 971879

13 (h) x 12 (w) cm

Karanis  
26 April – 25 May, 62 CE

§1 Broken at the top and bottom, margins of ca. 2 cm at the left and ca. 1.75 at the right. *Kollesis* about 1.75 cm from left side. Writing with the fibers. Back blank.

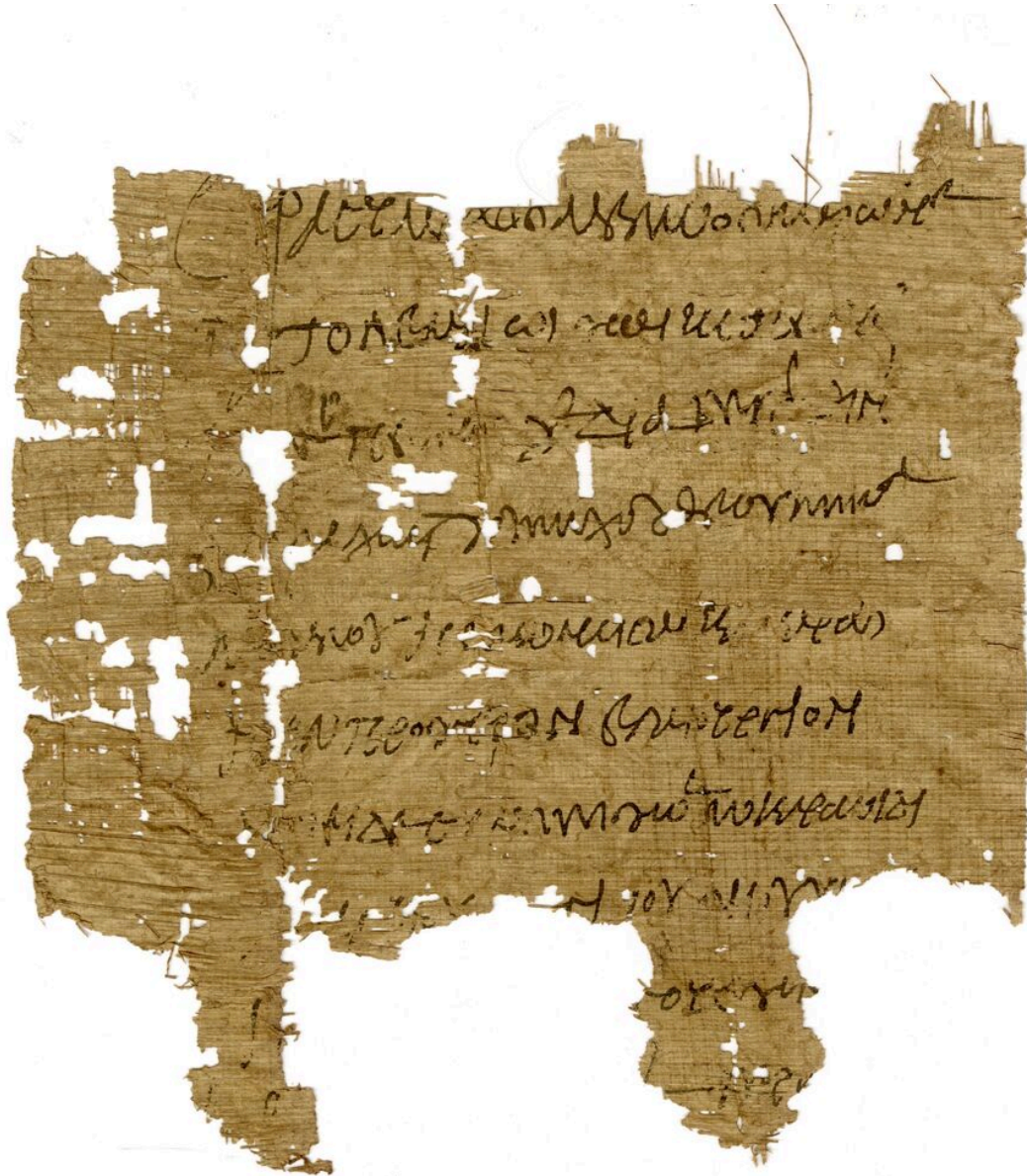


Fig. 1: EES 89A/151(c).

<sup>1</sup> The papyrus comes from a box of miscellaneous papyri purchased by B.P. Grenfell and A.S. Hunt, probably between 1897-1899: 4(a) = [Gonis 2021: 400](#); 45(a) = [Gonis 2006: 201-203](#); 45(b) = [Gonis 2006: 203-204](#); 45(d) recto = [Gonis 2006: 198-199](#), verso = [Gonis 2006: 199-200](#); 113(a) = [SB 28 17223](#); 127(a) = [Gonis 2021: 398-399](#); 138(a) = [SB 28 17039](#); 148(b) = [Gonis 2021: 395-398](#).

Θρασύμαχος Μέλανος Μαρωνε(ὺς)  
 Πτολεμαίωι τῶι καὶ Πεθεῖ  
 π[ρ]εσβ(υτέρῳ) Πεθεῶς χα(ίρειν). διαγέγρα(φας) τὴν  
 διδραχμί(αν) τοῦ Σούχου θεοῦ μεγάλ(ου)

- 5 μεγάλην ἢς ἐώνησαι καμάρας  
 ἢ ἢν πρότερον ἐλαιούργιον  
 ν[υ]νγεί δὲ συμπέπτωκ(εν) ἐν Καρανίδι  
 π[α]ρὰ Γαίου [Λο]γγίνου Γαίου υἱ[ο]ῦ  
 ἱπ[πέως ἄλης Αὐ]γούστης [τύρμης]  
 10. [ -ca.6- (ἔτους)] η Γερμ[ανικείου]  
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7 I. ν[υ]νγί

Thrasymachos, son of Melas, of the Maronian deme, to Ptolemaios alias Petheus the elder, son of Petheus, greetings. You have paid the *didrachmia* of Souchos, twice greatest god, for the vaulted room you purchased, which was previously an oil mill but has now collapsed, located in Karanis, from Gaius Longinus, son of Gaius, cavalryman of [the *ala*] *Augusta*, [*turma* of ... Year] 8, Germanikeios ...

- §2 1 It is uncertain if any text is missing above. The parallel [BGU 3 748 col. 3](#) (Arsinoe, 1 June, 62) has a notation in the top margin whose connection to the receipt is unclear. The Alexandrian citizen Thrasymachos responsible for collecting the *didrachmia* also appears in the Berlin papyrus: see further below. On his demotic, Μαρωνεύς, see [Delia 1991](#), 63 and 136-137.
- §3 2-3 This is the fullest form of identification of Mikkalos' father, who is sometimes referred to simply as Petheus the elder or Ptolemaios: [Clayton 2020](#), 24, ll. 3-5 n.
- §4 3-5 τὴν | διδραχμί(αν) τοῦ Σούχου θεοῦ μεγάλ(ου) | μεγάλην. See below for the *didrachmia*. On Sobek and his main temple in Arsinoe, see [Kockelmann 2017](#), vol. 2, 361-372, especially, 368-370.
- §5 5 καμάρας. A vaulted room generally used for storage or as a workshop ([Husson 1983](#), 122-128). It is associated with an ἐλαιούργιον in [P.Flor. I 1](#) (Hermopolis, 153).
- §6 8-9 Γαίου [Λο]γγίνου Γαίου υἱ[ο]ῦ | ἱπ[πέως ἄλης Αὐ]γούστης. The large, stylized pi could be taken as the first letter of line l. 9, e.g. the beginning of a cognomen, but this would leave little room for the restoration of the *ala*. There is room for iota before the pi, however, and the trace of a stroke below the line could be the deep descender of this letter. The *ala Augusta* was based in Egypt into the early second century: [Lesquier 1918](#), 73-76; [Daris 1988](#), 751. Cf. [P.Hamb. 1 1](#) (57 CE).
- §7 10 The beginning, it seems, of a short dating formula, rather than the full imperial formula as in [BGU 3 748 col. 3.10-13](#), since Γερμ[ανικείου] is preferable to Νέρω[νος]: for mu with an extra initial stroke, cf. μεγάλη(ου), l. 4. The month Germanikeios equates to Pachon. The year number eta has a horizontal final stroke, as in [BGU 3 748 col. 3.10](#).

## Discussion

- §8 This Oxford papyrus joins three other receipts for the property transfer tax known as the “*didrachmia* of Souchos,” which Wolfgang Wegner and I discuss by way of a new example from late Ptolemaic Theadelphia.<sup>2</sup> The Ptolemaic examples helpfully define the *didrachmia* as a 10% tax (the “*didrachmia* out of 20 drachmas, which is a tenth”), which fell on acquisitions of houses, building plots, and, as the Theadelphia receipt adds, temple liturgical days. The beneficiary of the tax, at least in the Ptolemaic period, was the main Sobek temple in the metropolis Arsinoe, which had economic interests throughout the Fayum. To the examples of the *didrachmia* collected on properties in Tebtynis, Theadelphia, and the metropolis, we can now add the village of Karanis.
- §9 The present receipt finds a close parallel in [BGU 3 748 col. 3](#) (Arsinoe, 1 June, 62 CE), which was issued the very next month by the same Thrasymachos, son of Melas, of the Maronian deme (of Alexandria),<sup>3</sup> and is written in a similar format and hand. In neither example does Thrasymachos carry a title.<sup>4</sup> His signature concludes the Berlin receipt, which was likely also the case here, but the papyrus is broken at the dating formula. The Berlin papyrus was joined in a *tomos synkollesimos* ([BerlPap](#)) to an *enkyklion* receipt for the same transaction, and at least one further, presumably related, document. The *kollesis* of the Oxford receipt may suggest that it was once pasted into a roll containing related documents, but this is uncertain.<sup>5</sup> In any case, the purchaser presumably paid the *enkyklion* as well and, given the document’s archival connection, one can hope for further documentation to be found.
- §10 The addressee of the receipt is Ptolemaios alias Petheus the elder, son of Petheus, who can be identified as the father of Mikkalos, the central figure of an archive in Berlin and London and including, it seems, two papyri excavated by the University of Michigan ([TM Arch 602](#)).<sup>6</sup> The seven London papyri were part of a lot of 49 papyri acquired from G.J. Chester in 1891, while one Berlin papyrus was acquired in 1896 and the other two probably around the same time.<sup>7</sup> Precise acquisition information is lacking for the present papyrus, but contextual clues place it in the 1890s as well (see n. 1), and as an incoming document it would be well at home among the family’s papers.<sup>8</sup>
- §11 The two papyri excavated by the University of Michigan, [P.Cair.Mich. 3 8.1](#) and [8.2](#), now split between Ann Arbor and Cairo,<sup>9</sup> were found in House B17, which is well known as the central locus of the second-century archive of Sokrates ([TM Arch 109](#)).<sup>10</sup> Given the different modes of acquisition, I suggested that the excavated texts should be considered part of the “dossier” of Mikkalos’ family rather than part of the archive *stricto sensu*.<sup>11</sup> Recently, however, Mike Sampson, has drawn my attention to the fact that [P.Cair.Mich. 2 10-11](#), found in the nearby house B12, joins [P.Lond. 2 155](#) from the same 1891 Chester purchase, which provides another link between this acquisition and the area excavated by

<sup>2</sup> [Claytor and Wegner 2022 \(forthcoming\)](#), containing an edition of [P.Mich. inv. 4188 \(TM 832123, 62 \[?\] BCE\)](#). The others are [P.Tebt. 2 281](#) (125 BCE) and [BGU 3 748 col. 3](#) (Arsinoe, 1 June, 62 CE), discussed below.

<sup>3</sup> It is tempting to seek an archival connection between such closely related pieces (both acquired in the 1890s), but there is no obvious family link between the two taxpayers.

<sup>4</sup> In the Ptolemaic receipts [P.Tebt. 2 281](#) and [P.Mich. inv. 4188 \(TM 832123\)](#) the collector is a priest of Sobek and tax farmer.

<sup>5</sup> Cf. [BGU 11 2017](#), a property declaration made by Mikkalos’s brother, which may have been attached to the sale [P.Lond. 2 141 \(p. 181\)](#) (although the Berlin editor’s explanation that they were written together then cut is unlikely). For another property-related dossier pasted into a tomos, see in this issue [Micucci 2022](#), with reference to further examples.

<sup>6</sup> For an overview, see [Claytor 2020](#), 31-35.

<sup>7</sup> A precise date is only known for [BGU 20 2868](#), acquired in 1896 as part of the Sammlung Reinhardt according to [BerlPap](#).

<sup>8</sup> On “incoming,” “outgoing,” and “internal” documents in archives, see [Vandorpe, Clarysse and Verreth 2015](#), 19.

<sup>9</sup> On the partage of papyri excavated by the University of Michigan, see [Haug 2021](#).

<sup>10</sup> I have no qualms calling this an archive, despite [P.Cair.Mich. III, p. ix, n. 2](#), which in fact points to my discussion of the Mikkalos archive, not the Sokrates archive. My view is rather that each papyrus from B17 and related contexts must be scrutinized for its inclusion in Sokrates’ archive, rather than the connection being assumed.

<sup>11</sup> [Claytor 2020](#), 31.

Michigan some 35 years later.<sup>12</sup> With this in mind, and given that the excavated papyri are copies of the will of Mikkalos' father, I would now consider them part of the archive. An updated list of texts can be found in the following table.

Table 1: The Archive of Mikkalos (TM Arch 602).

No.	Text	Date (CE)	Type	Family Member(s)
1	EES 89A/151(c)	62	<i>Didrachmia</i> receipt	Petheus the elder
2	<a href="#">P.Lond. 2 146 descr. (p. xiv)</a> (ed. Claytor)	74	Property declaration	Mikkalos
3	<a href="#">BGU 13 2344</a> (re-ed. Claytor and Elmaghrabi)	77/78, 90/91, or 106/107	Rent receipt	Mikkalos
4	<a href="#">P.Cair.Mich. 3 8.1</a>	ca. 82-96 <sup>13</sup>	Will (copy)	Petheus the elder and family
5	<a href="#">P.Cair.Mich. 3 8.2</a>	ca. 82-96	Will (copy)	Petheus the elder and family
6	<a href="#">P.Lond. 2 151 (p. 215)</a> (re-ed. Claytor and Elmaghrabi)	87/88 (?)	Rent receipt	Petheus the elder
7	<a href="#">P.Lond. 2 141 (p. 181)</a>	88	Land sale	Mikkalos and Petheus
8	<a href="#">BGU 11 2017</a>	ca. 88 (?)	Property declaration	Petheus
9	<a href="#">P.Lond. 2 142 (p. 203)</a>	95	Loan receipt	Mikkalos
10	<a href="#">P.Lond. 2 143 (p. 204)</a>	97	Loan receipt	Tapontos with Mikkalos
11	<a href="#">P.Lond. 2 162a descr. (p. xv)</a> (ed. Claytor)	98	Loan	Mikkalos
12	<a href="#">BGU 20 2868</a>	103	Copy of bank loan	Tapontos with Mikkalos
13	<a href="#">P.Lond. 2 172 (p. 205)</a>	105	Return of deposit	Mikkalos

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<sup>12</sup> I am grateful to Mike Sampson for sharing his ongoing research on Karanis acquisitions.

<sup>13</sup> This is the date range of the will itself; both examples are copies that may have been drawn up in the early second century: cf. already van Minnen 1994, 237, n. 41 on SB 18 13308 (now [P.Cair.Mich. 3 8.2](#)).



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