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## A New Papyrus of Strabo's *Geographica* (12.3.1)

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*My thanks are due to Prof. N. Gonis for drawing my attention to this papyrus and for his advice. I also thank Pylon's anonymous reviewers for their comments.*

- §1 A small fragment preserving the initial letters of five lines from a papyrus roll, written with the fibres. The extant left margin measures 0.3 cm. Column width based on the restored text should approximate 6.7 cm. On the back some exiguous, scattered traces of ink are visible.
- §2 The text is written in an informal round hand of the Imperial period, which is almost strictly bilinear. Some letters extend to the point of touching, if not joining the letter following (e.g., α, ε, κ). Descenders and horizontals are often furnished with small hooks, blobs of ink or loops. Comparable hands include those of [P. Lond. Lit. 132](#) (= [Roberts, GLH 13b](#)) of the late 1st/early 2nd century,<sup>1</sup> [P. Oxy. 80 5230](#) assigned to the early 2nd century, and [P. Oxy. 50 3533](#) (= [Turner-Parsons, GMAW2 86](#)) of the later 2nd century. A date in the second century would appear plausible.
- §3 Elision is effected in the only instance that can be verified (line 1), but whether it was tacit or marked by an apostrophe cannot be confirmed because of the state of the papyrus. No other scribal marks are evident.
- §4 Fragments of Strabo's *Geographica* from five papyrus rolls have been published, all from Oxyrhynchus:
- [P. Oxy. 49 3447](#), of the early 2nd c., preserving sections of Book 9;
  - [P. Oxy. 65 4459 + PL/3 294A](#), of the late 2nd/3rd c., with Book 2.5.20–24;
  - [P. Köln 1 8](#), of the 2nd/3rd c., with sections of Book 7;
  - [P. Oxy. 73 4947](#), of the 2nd/3rd c., preserving Book 5.4.12–13;
  - [P. Oxy. 81 5258 + P. Messeri 8](#), of the 2nd/3rd c., with Book 1.2.31.
- §5 The Bodleian fragment is the only papyrus witness to Book 12. The vellum Vatican palimpsest P ([Vat. gr. 2306 + 2061A](#)), attributed to the fifth century, is another early witness of Strabo's text. The fact that no published papyrus of Strabo is assigned to a date before the second century may lend support to the case advanced by Diller, that Strabo's *Geographica* emerged from the shadows in the second century when its manuscript was brought to Alexandria. Indeed, the earliest references to passages of the *Geographica* are by Dionysius (Periegetes) of Alexandria, Harpocration of Alexandria (both of the 2nd c.), and Athenaeus of Naucratis (late 2nd/early 3rd c.).<sup>2</sup>
- §6 The text was first transcribed when the edges of the papyrus were more fully visible.<sup>3</sup> It has been collated with the edition of [Radt \(2004\)](#), from which all supplements but one (see §8 below, 2 n.) are taken. The papyrus probably attests two or three new but, in my opinion, inferior readings (see notes on lines 2–3, 3, and 4).
- §7 The papyrus belonged to the private collection of A.S. Hunt, and was donated to the Bodleian Library on 13 March 1935 by his widow, following his 1934 death.<sup>4</sup>

Bodl. MS. Gr. class. e. 134 (P)  
[digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk](https://digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk)

2.2 (w) × 1.9 (h)

Second century  
 Provenance unknown

<sup>1</sup> The dating is after [Pattie and Turner 1974](#): no. 33; [Roberts \(GLH 13b\)](#) had assigned it to the first half of the 2nd century. See also [Whitehead 2000](#): 3.

<sup>2</sup> See [Diller 1975](#): 7–10; also [Roller 2014](#): 27–28.

<sup>3</sup> Due to its small size, the papyrus was glazed along with a few others. Its position within the frame has since shifted somewhat.

<sup>4</sup> See [Sampson 2022](#): §20.

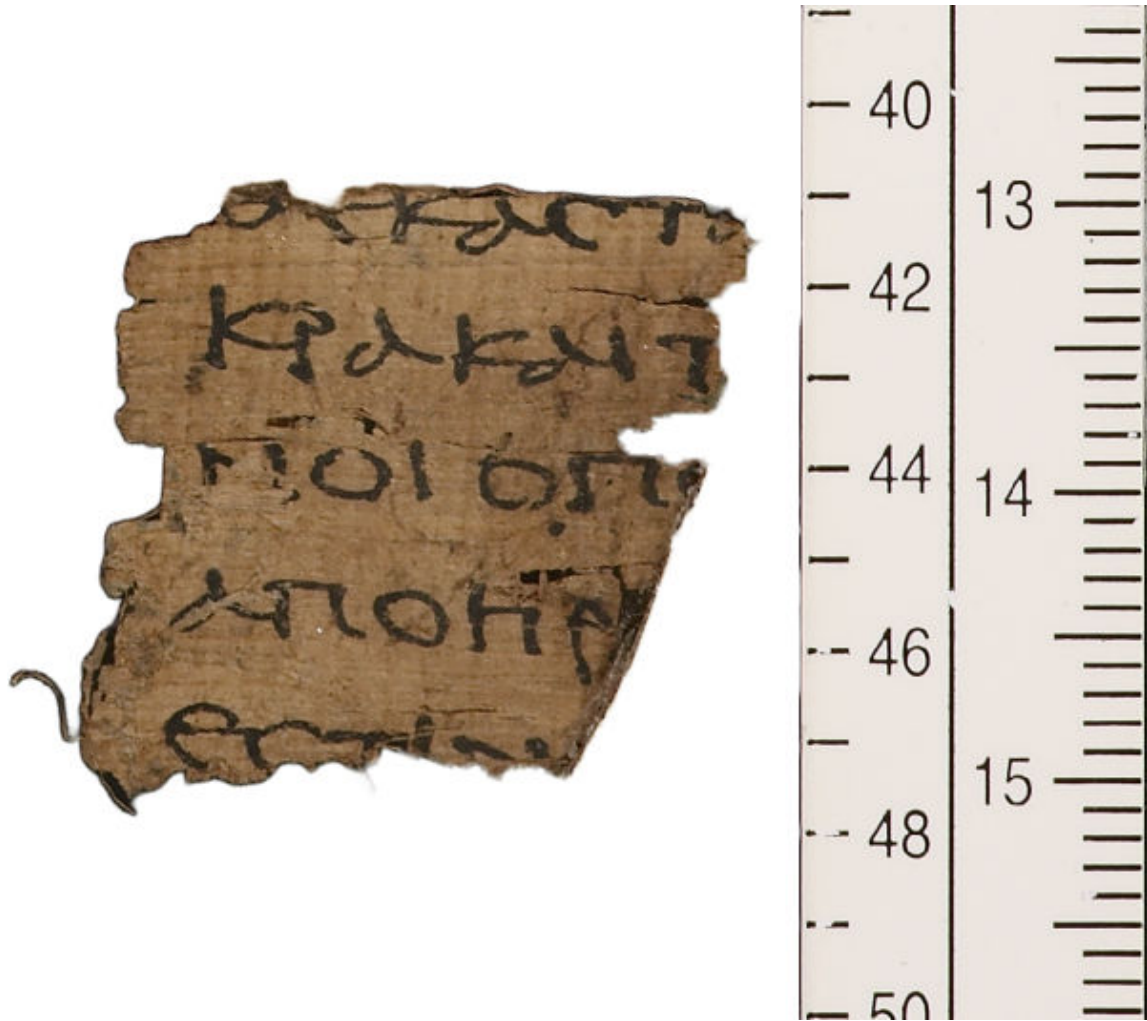


Fig. 1: The Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford, MS. Gr. class. e. 134 (P). Creative Commons License Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 (CC BY-NC 4.0).

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 ἄ·ε·κ·α·σ·τ·α [ως νυν εχει λεγεσθω μι]  
 κ·ρ·α·κ·α·ι τ[ων προτερων εφαπτομε]  
 ν·ο·ι·ο·π·ο·[υ· τουτο χρησιμον αρζομεθα δε]  
 α·π·ο· Ἡ·ρ·α[κλειας ηπερ δυσμικωτατη]  
 5 ε·σ·τι·ν τ[ουτων των τοπων -ca.?- ]  
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 ἄ·᾽·ἑ·κ·α·σ·τ·α [ὡς νὺν ἔχει λεγέσθω, μι]-  
 κ·ρ·ὰ·καὶ τ[ῶν προτέρων ἐφαπτόμε]-  
 ν·οὶ ὅ·π·ο·[υ· τοῦτο χρήσιμον. ἀρζόμεθα δὲ]  
 ἀ·π·ὸ· Ἡ·ρ·α[κλείας, ἥπερ δυσμικωτάτη]  
 5 ἔ·σ·τὶν τ[ούτων τῶν τόπων -ca.?- ]

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- §8 **2** προτερων has been restored with most manuscripts. Radt prints πρότερον, the *lectio difficilior*, attested by P<sup>A</sup>. The majority reading may be an influence from the preceding των.
- §9 **2–3** εφαπτομενοι ομο[υ : ἐφαπτομένοις ὅπου mss. It seems that, after copying οι, the scribe began to write sigma but then turned it into omicron. A dot seen below the space between ο and π is stray ink rather than a low point. The reading of the papyrus could be either a copying mistake or a new variant, which would be correct in terms of syntax if the first-person plural were employed in this sentence: ἡμεῖς δ' ἐπιόντες τὰ καθ' ἕκαστα ὡς νῦν ἔχει λέγωμεν, μικρὰ καὶ τῶν προτέρων ἐφαπτόμενοι. However, that would make for an inferior text, for the transmitted reading (ἡμῖν δ' ἐπιούσι τὰ καθ' ἕκαστα ὡς νῦν ἔχει λεγέσθω, μικρὰ καὶ τῶν προτέρων ἐφαπτομένοις) is clearly the *lectio difficilior*.
- §10 **3** This line, as restored with Radt, is longer than expected. It would have the right length if τουτο were not written. But that omission would in my opinion less likely have stemmed from Strabo; cf. 2.1.30 ὅπου τοῦτο δυνατόν.
- §11 **4** απο Ηρα[κλειας : τῆς ante Ἡρακλείας add. ed. pr.' (Radt), but this requires qualification. τῆς was added later in the right margin of ☞ Paris gr. 1395, the secondary manuscript q in Radt's list of manuscripts, which was the exemplar to the 1516 print *editio princeps*; see ☞ Radt (2002): xii. The omission of the article before names of places is justified after prepositions; see ☞ Radt (2008): 348.
- §12 This line, as restored with Radt, is also slightly longer than the others. If this is an indication of textual variation, I can only think of supplying ἦ instead of ἦπερ.
- §13 **5** εστιν τ[ουτων : The primary manuscripts do not have the movable nu here; see ☞ Radt (2002): xvi. The marking of the movable nu routinely oscillates in the manuscripts.

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↗ Whitehead, D. (2000) *Hyperides. The Forensic Speeches*. Oxford.

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