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## **A Karanis *Penthemeros* Certificate Completed**

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A Karanis Penthemeros Certificate Completed

P.Mich. inv. 2409 + 2377<sup>1</sup>  
☞ **TM 704976**

8 (h) × 6 (w)

Karanis, Arsinoites  
19 June, 140 CE

§1 P.Mich. inv. 2377 is the right side of a recently published *penthemeros* certificate (☞ **Claytor 2017**, 92–93, no. 5) and allows for a complete text to be presented, even if a panel or two are still missing at the left. The closest parallel remains ☞ **P.Got. 1** (4 June, 140 CE), written earlier in the same month by the same initial scribe and also signed by Marion. In the present example, one scribe wrote the date range, location of the work, and the worker's identification (hand 2), while in the Gothenburg certificate two other scribes added this information (on the composition of *penthemeros* certificates, see ☞ **Sijpesteijn 1964**: 16–17 and Heilporn and Martin, ☞ **P.Pintaudi** 25–26, pp. 125–128). The back contains a few traces of ink and a lighter patch of papyrus securing two of the panels together.

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<sup>1</sup> Both fragments are from Box IX.7 of the Anglo-American syndicate's 1924 purchase (H.I. Bell, "☞ **Report on Papyri, 1924**," p. 29, University of Michigan Papyrology Collection), which was inventoried as P.Mich. inv. 2355–2417.

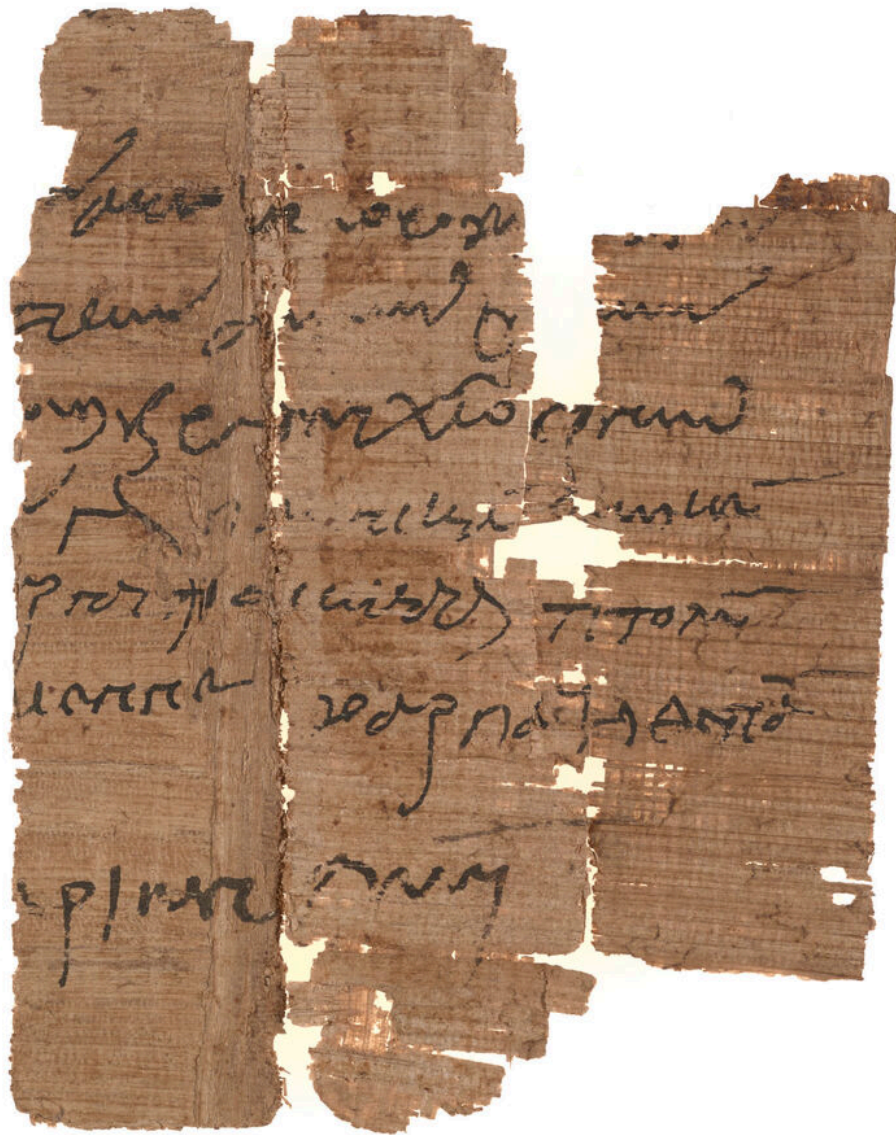


Fig. 1. P.Mich. inv. 2409 + 2377. Image courtesy of the University of Michigan Library Digital Collections.

[ἔτους τρί]του Ἀυτοκράτορος Κ[α]ί[σαρο]ς Τίτου

[Αἰλίου Ἀ]δριανοῦ Ἀντωνίνου Σε[βα]στοῦ

[Εὐσεβ]οῦς εἴργ(ασται) ὑπὲρ χωμ(ατικῶν) ἔργων

[τοῦ αὐτο]ῦ γ (ἔτους) (m2) Παῦνι κᾱ ἔως κε̄

<sup>5</sup> [ἐν τῇ] Ἀργαίτι(δος) διώ(ρυγι) Καρα(νίδος) Πτολεμ(αῖος)

[Θεα]βέννε(ως) το(ῦ) Ἀρπαή(σιος) μη(τρὸς) Θεναμ(ούνιος).

(m3) [Μ]αρίων σεσημ(είωμαι).

In the third year of Emperor Caesar Titus Aelius Hadrianus Antoninus Augustus Pius, he has performed the dike work for the same 3rd year (2nd hand) from Pauni 21 to 25 on the canal of Argaitis on behalf of Karanis: Ptolemaios son of Theabennis grandson of Harpaeisis, whose mother is Thenamounis. (3rd hand) I, Marion, have signed.

- §2 5 [ἐν τῇ] Ἀργαίτι(δος) διώ(ρυγι). This central canal (☞ [TM Geo 297](#)) was the extension of the Bahr Yussef that divided the Fayum in half (☞ [Vandorpe 2004](#): 70–72). Karanis residents are found working on this dike in four other certificates: ☞ [Claytor 2017](#): Appendix 1 (where the present certificate is listed as no. 26).
- §3 5–6 A match for the dike worker’s name and patronym is found a quarter century later in ☞ [P.Bour. 42](#), col. 13.296 and 14.319 (166/167 CE), among Karanis residents who farmed land in Ptolemais Nea. He is not found in the Tax Rolls (☞ [TM Arch 63](#)), but Θεάβενις Ἀρφαήσεως τοῦ Θεαβένεως μη(τρὸς) Θαήσεως (☞ [P.Mich. 4.2](#) index, p. 175; ☞ [P.Cair.Mich. 1.2](#) index, p. 69) is perhaps related.
- §4 7 [Μ]αρίων σεσημ(είωμαι). The signing official was the κατασπορεύς (on whom see ☞ [Bonneau 1993](#): 168–173), although his title is only occasionally added in subscriptions to second century *penthemeros* certificates. The same Marion also signs ☞ [P.Got. 1](#) (4 June, 140 CE) and likely the fragmentary certificate ☞ [SB 18 13976](#), whose date is missing; if so, the latter can be dated to June/July, ca. 140. A Marion κατασπορεύς is found 30 years earlier in ☞ [P.Kron. 25.13](#) (Tebtynis, 110 CE), conceivably the same man but certainly not in office continuously, since by this period the position was liturgical with one-year terms the norm (☞ [Bonneau 1993](#): 169–170).

## Bibliography

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