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Provisioning the Metropolis: A Reedition of SPP 22 94

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P.Vindob. inv. G 24952
 ↗ **TM 15143**

14.5 (h) × 17.5 (w)

Arsinoites
 after 25 April, 111 CE

- §1 This document is a report of pending transport expenses (φόρετρον) related to the food supply of the Arsinoite metropolis. It was submitted to two ex-gymnasiarchs with the title πρὸς τῆι εὐθ(ηνία) τῆς μητροπ(όλεως) by another ex-gymnasiarch who had served as *sitologos* of ↗ **Sebennytos**, a Fayum village in the Herakleides meris. There are no close parallels among published texts,¹ and the document is among the few that touch on metropolite finances in general before the establishment of *boulai*.²
- §2 The opening of the report is straightforward: ἀνηλώθη εἰς εὐθ(ηνίαν) τῆς μητροπ(όλεως), followed by a date range of ten days (ll. 5–8). Improvements can be made to the understanding of the rest of the text, which is re-edited here on the basis of the ↗ **images available through the Austrian National Library**.³ We find that the recipients of the transport dues are *ktenotrophoi* from at least three metropolite *amphoda*.
- §3 The papyrus is broken at the bottom and the right. The ends of lines in the first column are written over a *kollesis* about 10.5 cm from the left edge. The writing on the recto is with the fibers, while the verso contains two columns of an account written against the fibers in the same hand, which suggests that this example of the report was not sent.⁴

¹ P.Berol. inv. 25136 will offer several points of comparison (cf. below ll. 1–2 and 12 nn.). I thank Nahum Cohen for bringing this papyrus to my attention.

² See ↗ **Habermann 2000**, 100, n. 52. Among the texts discussed there, ↗ **P.Oxf. 2**, col. 2 (= Pap.Lugd.Bat. 3A 2, Arsinoe, after 4 Aug., 141) is of particular relevance, as it involves correspondence between the strategos and *archontes* about outstanding *phoretion* due to *kamelotrophoi*, which, on the order of the prefect, was to be paid out of the *politikos logos*. On metropolite finances in general, see ↗ **Jouguet 1911**, 415–456; E.P. Wegener, ↗ **P.Oxf.**, pp. 6–7; ↗ **Alston 2002**, 193–196; and, most extensively, ↗ **Schmidt 2014**.

³ Only substantive changes to the text are recorded in the line notes. Col. 1.15–16 and col. 2 were not transcribed in the ed. pr.

⁴ The first column contains a day-by-day account headed by Μάρω(ν) κ[.]. () (cf. col. 2.1), with numbers (of donkeys?), which begins on Pharmouthi 21 (col. 1.2) and goes through at least Pachon 6 (col. 1.17), that is, beyond the time frame of the report on the other side (Pharmouthi 20–30). The second column is more abraded but contains an entry for δαπάνη(ς) (l. 9) with fractional numbers following. Line 8 has the phrase ἐπ’ ὄνοις.

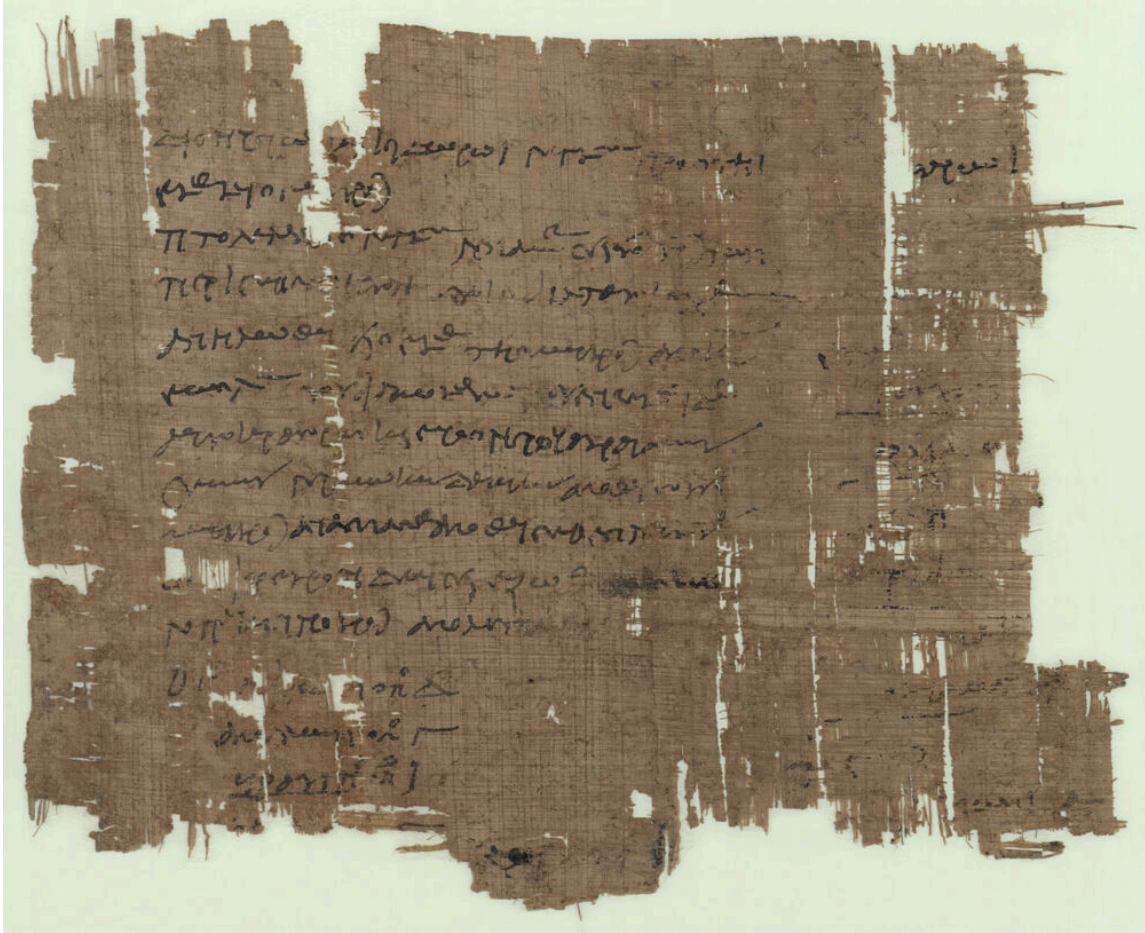


Fig. 1. P.Vindob. inv. G 24952. Image courtesy of the Austrian National Library.

i

Διονυσίω[ι] καὶ Ἰσιδώρῳ γεγυμ(νασιαρχηκόσι) πρὸς τῆι
εὐθ(ηνία) τῆς μητροπ(όλεως)

Πτολεμαῖος γεγυμ(νασιαρχηκῶς) γενάμε(νος) σειτολ(όγος) τοπ(αρχίας) τῶν
περὶ Σεβέννυτον τοῖς φιλτάτοις χαίρειν).

- 5 ἀνηλώθη εἰς εὐθ(ηνίαν) τῆς μητροπ(όλεως) ἀπὸ κ̄
ἕως λ̄ τοῦ Φαρμούθ(ι) μη(νὸς) τοῦ ἐνεστῶ(τος) ἰδ̄ (ἔτους)
Αὐτοκράτορος Καίσαρος Νέρουα Τραιανοῦ
Σεβαστοῦ Γερμανικοῦ Δακικοῦ {ἀπὸ θη(σαυροῦ)} τοῦ εἰ(ς)
μητρόπ(ολιν) ἀνασπασθ(έντος) ἀπὸ θη(σαυροῦ) Σεβεννύτου

- 10 ὦ[ν] φόρετρον δεήσει ἐξωδ(ιασθῆναι) τοῖς ὑπο-
γεγραμμένοις κτηνοτρόπ(οις) ἀπὸ μητροπ(όλεως)
Βιθ(υνῶν) Ἀφροδάτι ὄνο(ις) δ
Ἄπολλῶτι ὄνο(ις) γ
Ἑρᾶτι νε(ωτέρῳ) ὄνο(ις) ι

15 Κα[] ... [ὄνο(ις)] ς
 [-ca.?-] ... vac. [-ca.?-]

ii

Μάρωνι [-ca.?-]
 [ca. 3 lines missing]

5 Ἑλλη(νείου)
 Σουχᾶτι [-ca.?-]

--

Ἀρχίαι ... [-ca.?-]

--

... τι [-ca.?-]
 ρ φ ... [-ca.?-]

--

10 τ [-ca.?-]
 ολιαμον ... [-ca.?-]

--

..... π
 ίωνι α [-ca.?-]
 [] [] ... [-ca.?-]

3 l. σιτολ(όγος) 11 l. κτηνοτρόφ(οις)

i

To Dionysios and Isidoros, ex-gymnasiarchs in charge of the food supply of the metropolis, Ptolemaios, ex-gymnasiarch and former grain collector for the district around Sebennytyos, to his dearest friends, greetings. Expended for the food supply of the metropolis from the 20th to 30th of the month Pharmouthi in the present 14th year of Imperator Caesar Nerva Traianus Augustus Germanicus Dacicus for the (grain) hauled to the metropolis from the storehouse of Sebennytyos, for which transport charges will need to be paid to the following herdsmen from the metropolis: (Quarter) of the Bithynians: to Aphrodas for 4 donkeys to Apollos for 3 donkeys to Heras the younger for 10 donkeys to Ka... for 6 donkeys ... []

ii

to Maron [ca. 3 lines missing] (Quarter) of the Helleneion to Souchas [] to Archias [] *traces of four names* (Quarter) of ... to ...ion ... to ... []

Col. 1

- §4 **1** Διονυσίω[ι] καὶ: Διονυσίω [καί] ed. pr. A small fragment containing most of the καὶ appears in the image and was presumably correctly positioned subsequent to the ed. pr. There is room for iota adscript, which has been supplemented in view of its appearance in the next name, although scribes are not always consistent.
- §5 Διονυσίω[ι] καὶ Ἰσιδώρωι γεγυμ(νασιαρχηκόσι). A pair of former gymnasiarchs with the same names would later serve as βιβλιοφύλακες ἐγκτήσεων (☞ SPP 13, p. 1 = SB 1 5808, 124 CE), but the commonness of the names hinders identification.
- §6 **1–2** πρὸς τῆι | εὐθ(ηνια) τῆς μητροπ(όλεως). This text is the earliest reference to the municipal office that would later be known as the εὐθηνιαρχία (see ☞ Lewis 1997, s. v. εὐθηνία, εὐθηνιάρχης, εὐθηνιαρχία; on the development of metropolite offices, see ☞ Hagedorn 2007). This exact title is paralleled only in the unpublished P.Berol. inv. 25136 (cf. n. 1), but an equivalent, ἐπὶ τῆς εὐθηνίας, is found first in ☞ SB 14 12139, col. 4.3–4 (146): Αἴλιος Διονύσιος γενόμεν[ο]ς ἀγοραν[ό]μος καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς εὐθηνίας τῆς πόλεως (that is, Alexandria); as a metropolite office, it is found in ☞ P.Amh. 2 124 = W.Chr. 152.22 (Hermopolis, II CE). Cf. also ☞ P.Tebt. 2 397 = M.Chr. 321.13–15 and 28 (Arsinoe, 198 CE), where the office is called προστασία εὐθηνίας. On the food supply of the metropoleis, see ☞ Alston 2002, 192, and on the transporters involved, ☞ Adams 2007: 176
- §7 **3** τοπ(αρχίας) BL 12 279: τόπ(ων) ed. pr. See also ☞ Derda 2006, 128–129.
- §8 **3–4** The only other attestation of an ex-gymnasiarch serving as *sitologos* that I know of is found in the closely contemporary ☞ P.Ryl. 2 202a (Theadelphia, 108 CE).
- §9 **5** ἀνηλώθη: ἀνηλώθη(σαν) ed. pr. There is no obvious sign of abbreviation, and the plural does not seem necessary in what is essentially an impersonal construction.
- §10 **8** {ἀπὸ θε(σαυροῦ)}. This phrase seems unconnected syntactically and probably anticipates its deployment in the next line.
- §11 **8–9** τοῦ εἰ(ς) | μητρόπ(ολιν) ἀνασπασθ(έντος): τοῦ εἰ(ς) | μητροπ(ολ) ἀνασπασθ() ed. pr. The first two letters of μητρόπ(ολιν) are corrected, but not, it seems, to include the expected article τήν. The subject of the participle is not expressed but can be understood as πυροῦ or σίτου.
- §12 **10–11** τοῖς ὑπο|γεγρα(μμένοις) κτηνοτρόπ(οις) ἀπὸ μητροπ(όλεως): ὡς ὑπο|γέγρ(απται).. ινομοπ() ἀπολεγ[ῆ]ναι ...] ed. pr. The new reading provides the expected recipients of the payments, who are indeed listed below. On the involvement of *ktenotrophoi* in the transport of state grain, see ☞ Adams 2007: 172–180.
- §13 **12** Βιθ(υνῶν) Ἀφροδᾶτι ὄνο(ις) δ: οἰα() Ἀφροδ[ί]της πο(λ) δ ed. pr. The new reading of the first entry establishes the layout of the list. The transporters are organized by metropolite *amphodon* (cf. col. 2.5 and 12). The word abbreviated ovo() could also be read as οπο() (note the two-stroke form of the questionable letter in l. 13), but the latter does not lead to an obvious solution, unless considered an otherwise unattested spelling of ὄβο(λοῖ). Instead, I think the number of donkeys is noted, presumably carrying the standard load of three artabas (cf. e.g. ☞ P.Col. 2 1 recto 5), which must have been

converted to a transport payment (whether in cash or in kind) at a standard rate. P.Berol. inv. 25136 (cf. n. 1) has a rate of 3 ob. per artaba transported.

§14 13 Ἀπολλῶτι ὄνο(ις) γ: Ἀπολλωνοπο(λ) γ ed. pr.

§15 14 Ἡρᾶτι νε(ωτέρω) ὄνο(ις) ι: Ἡρα. λεοπο(λ) . ed. pr. There is a line drawn under the eta, then another continuing through the nu of νε(ωτέρω): similar lines separate entries in the more fragmentary column 2.

Col. 2

§16 5, 12 Both lines are in *ekthesis*, indicating that they are *amphodon* headings. In the latter heading, the first two visible strokes could be the base of delta with a descending iota in ligature, which, in combination with what seems to be a lunate pi at the end, suggests Διῶνυ(σίου) τῶπ(ων).

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