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A Rent Receipt for a Weaver from the 7th-century Arsinoite

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Images are courtesy of the University of Michigan. P.Mich. inv. 3437 was purchased from Nahman in 1925 and donated to the University of Michigan in October 1926 by Oscar and Richard H. Webber (Detroit).

- §1 A receipt for the payment of $4 \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{16}$ gold carats for the rent of Theodoros, the weaver. There are numerous similar receipts preserved, which attest to rent payments of comparable amounts from the 7th-century Arsinoite. This date is also confirmed by the skilled minuscule hand typical of the period. The object, for which the rent was paid, is not specified, but this is common (cf. e.g. [SPP 8 796](#)), because it must have been obvious to the parties involved. The complete, middle-brown papyrus is written in black ink, *transversa charta*. The back is blank.

P.Mich. inv. 3437

9 (w) × 7 (h)

7th century
Arsinoite

quod.lib.umich.edu/a/apis



Fig. 1. P.Mich. inv. 3437

- † παρήσχε Θεοδώρου ταρσι-
καρίου ἀπὸ λόγου ἐνοικίου αὐτ(οῦ)
τῆς παρού(σης) α ἰνδ(ικτίωνος) χρυσοῦ κεράτ[ια]
τέσσαρα τέταρτον ἑξκαιδέκ(α)τ(ον)
5 γί(νεται) χρ(υσοῦ) (κεράτια) δ δ ις' μό(να). μη(νὸς) Ἐπειφ κ α ἰνδ(ικτίωνος).
† δ(ι') ἔμοῦ Μάρκου *paraphe*

1 *Ι. παρέσχε* *Ι. Θεόδωρος* 1-2 *Ι. ταρσι|κάριος* 3 *ἰνδ papyrus* 4 *Ι. ἑκκαιδέκ(α)τ(ον)*

† Theodoros, the weaver has paid from the account of his house-rent of the current 1st indiction four one-fourth one-sixteenth gold carats, total $4 \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{16}$ gold carats only. On the 20th of the month Epeiph of the 1st indiction. † Through me, Marcus *paraphe*

§2 1–2 Θεοδώρου ταρσι|καρίου: Another weaver called Theodoros from the city quarter of (the church) of St. Damianos pays 11 carats on the Alexandrian standard for his poll-tax of the 4th indiction in [BGU 3 738](#) (Arsinoite, 7th century [Byz. *ed.pr.*]).¹ He might have been the same person as the Theodoros of this receipt.

§3 2 ἀπὸ λόγου: This expression is relatively rare and has only been attested once in a similar receipt: [SPP 8 864.2](#) (prov. unknown, 6th–7th c.).² ἀπὸ λόγ(ου) (*Ι. λόγου*) ἐ[νοικ(ίου)].³

§4 4 ἑξ[κ]αιδέκ(α)τ(ον): This fraction is rarely attested for carats. The only parallels I have been able to find are [SPP 3 641.4](#) (Ars., 7th c. [6th c. *ed. pr.*]), [CPR 19 40.4](#) (Hermopolite, 2nd part 7th c.), [SPP 3 627.7](#) (Arsinoite, 7–8th c.), and [P.Lond. 4 1419.349](#) *et passim* (Aphrodito, 716–717; [SB 20 15099](#) belongs to the same register and contains the fraction at lines 5, 46, and 49).

§5 5 Ἐπειφ κ: 14 July.

§6 6 † δ(τ') ἐμοῦ Μάρκου: A similar signature of a Markos, albeit without *paraphe*, can be found in [SPP 8 703.6](#) (Ars., 7th c.), but, judging from the handwriting, it seems to have been written by a different person.

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¹ The correction (BL I 440) of Θεοδόρο(υ) ταρσικαρίο(υ) of the *ed. pr.* to Θεόδωρο(ς) ταρσικάριο(ς) in line 3 is incorrect. The diagonal strokes above the two final omicra represent ypsila as common in this period. Since the receipt does not contain a verb, we may simply retain the genitive: Θεοδώρου (*Ι. Θεοδώρου*) ταρσικαρίου 'for Theodoros, the weaver'.

² The *ed.pr.* dated the papyrus to the 6th century, but the handwriting is compatible with a date in the early 7th century.

³ Ἄπο or ὑπέρ can be supplied at the end of line 1 in [SPP 8 789](#) (Ars., 7th–8th c. [6th c. *ed.pr.*]), since line 2 starts with λόγου ἐνοικ[ί]ου (ἐνοικ[ίου] *ed.pr.*)