
A Petition addressed to Apollonios, Strategos of Heptakomia

PMich. Inv. 6629

The papyrus discussed below was acquired by the University of Michigan as part of a miscellaneous collection purchased in London in 1934. It measures $10,7 \times 7$ cm. The top of the sheet is intact, but the two sides and the bottom have been broken off, the latter in such fashion as to remove the date of the document and whatever subscription may have been appended to it, although the text of the petition itself is complete. Traces of ink along the present right edge of the papyrus indicate that at one time there had been another column of writing on this side of the present text. This seems to imply that we have to do with a fragment of a roll which contained copies of several documents. The papyrus is light brown in color and of good quality; the writing is an upright cursive typical of the second century.

The content of the text offers nothing unusual. It is a petition addressed to Apollonios the well known strategos of Heptakomia (cf. PGiessen I, pp. 13-15; Wilcken, *Chrest.* intro. to Nos. 15, 16, 17; and the references in Preisigke, *Wörterbuch* III, 159). The petitioner is Psenanouphis, son of Aretopos, of Tanuathis. He requests that Pachoumis, son of Papios, of Teruthis, against whom he has a claim for sixty-six drachmas, be summoned by one of the officers of the strategos to appear before the approaching assize of the prefect Haterius Nepos.

The mention of Haterius Nepos is interesting because it gives a clue as to the date of the petition, which in turn is of importance for the length of the term of office of Apollonios. T. Haterius Nepos is known to have held the Egyptian prefecture from 18 February 121 to 13 April 124 A. D. (Cantarelli, *La Serie dei Prefetti di Egitto*, in *Atti della Real. Accad. dei Lincei* 12, 1906, 88; Milne, *History of Egypt under Roman Rule*³, 41). His predecessor was Q. Rammius Martialis, for whom the latest known

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date is 4 August 119 A. D. It is hardly likely that Nepos entered upon his prefecture before 120 A. D. In any case, since the assize for Upper Egypt was held as a rule at Memphis each spring about March (Wilcken, *Grundz.*, 33), the reference to the coming assize in l. 9, cannot be to the *conventus* of 119, but must refer to that of 120 or some subsequent year. So far as I am aware, there has been no previous evidence for the *strategia* of Apollonios later than 119 (cf. PGiessen I, p. 14). We now know that he was in office certainly as late as 120, and possibly later still.

Text

Ἀπολλωνίῳ στρατηγῶι Ἀπολλων-
 οπολ(ίτου) (Ἑπτα)κωμίας
 παρὰ Ψενανούφιος Ἀρτεπῶτος τῶν ἀπὸ
 Τανουαίθεως, ἔχων πρᾶγμα Παχούμιος
 5 Παπαίμιος τῶν ἀπὸ Τερύθεως τοῦ αὐτοῦ
 νομοῦ περὶ ὀφιλ(ήματος) ἀργ(υρίου)
 (δραχμῶν) ἕξ, ἀξιῶι παραγγ-
 γελῆσαι αὐτῷ δι' ἐνὸς ἱαχίτων περὶ σε
 ὑπηρετῶν ἡξῆσαι εἰς τὸν ἐπ' ἀγαθῷ
 ἐσόμενον διαλογισμὸν Ἀτερίου Νέπωτος
 10 τοῦ κρατίστου ἡγεμόνος.

3. Ἀρτεπῶτος: the reading is sure. The name Ἀρτεπῶς does not occur in Preisigke, *Namenbuch*.
4. Τανουαίθεως: = Τανουάθεως.
 Παχούμιος: read κατὰ Παχούμιος.
5. Παπαίμιος: cf. Παπάιχ in SB I, 5390.
 Τερύθεις: this village, like Tanuathis is mentioned frequently in the Apollonios' papyri, cf. Preisigke, *Wörterbuch* ss. vv.
7. ἱαχίτων: obviously a scribal error for τῶν.

Translation

To Apollonios strategos of Apollonopolites Heptakomia, from Psenanouphis, son of Artepos, from Tanuathis.

Since I am having a difference with Pachoumis, son of Papaios, from Teruthis in the same nome about a debt of sixty-six silver drachmas, I ask that he be summoned by one of your officers to come to the beneficent approaching assize of Haterios Nepos the most noble prefect.