

Horoscope P. Ryl. 524

This fragment was tentatively described by the editors of the *Catalogue of the Greek and Latin Papyri in the John Rylands Library*, vol. 3 (1938) p. 151 as an astronomical work, giving the positions of the planets. In preparing our edition of Greek horoscopes we recognized P. Ryl. 524 as a horoscope and we submit the following discussion in advance of our publication.

Beginning and end of both columns destroyed

<p>I, 1. [.....].λε</p> <p>2. [τριγωνω α]φροδει</p> <p>3. [της]</p> <hr style="width: 80%; margin: 5px auto;"/> <p>4. [.....]</p> <p>5. [.... την π]ρωτην</p> <p>6. [ταξιν ετυγ']χανεν</p> <p>7. [κινουμεν]ος εν</p> <p>8. [ιχθυσι μ]οιρων</p> <p>9. [.. οικ]ω διος</p> <p>10. [τιγω]νω α</p> <p>11. [ρεωσ]ν</p> <hr style="width: 80%; margin: 5px auto;"/> <p>12. [.....]</p> <p>13. [.....]</p> <p>14. [την δευ]τεραν</p> <p>15. [ταξιν ετυγ'χανεν]</p>	<p>II, 1. αφ[ροδειτη]</p> <p>2. φωσφ[ορος την]</p> <p>3. πεμπτ[ην ταξιν ε]</p> <p>4. τυγ'χαν[εν κινου]</p> <p>5. μενος ε[.....]</p> <p>6. αιγοκερ[.....]</p> <p>7. τερων λ[..... τρι]</p> <p>8. γυνω ι[διω αφαιρει]</p> <p>9. τοις αρι[θμοις]</p> <hr style="width: 80%; margin: 5px auto;"/> <p>10. εωαν δυ[σιν]</p> <p>11. [ερμησ]</p> <p>12. στ[ιλβων εν τω]</p> <p>13. ζω[διω.....]</p> <p>14. κζ[.....]</p> <p>15. [.....]</p>
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I, 1 λε: or perhaps λ only.

I, 6 ταξιν: chosen among other possibilities because this seems to have the right number of letters for the length of line; similarly for κινουμενος in I, 7.

I, 11 perhaps δυνω]ν.

II, 3/4 ετυγ'χανεν: possibly one should read ν instead of γ' since γ and ν are interchangeable before γ, κ, and χ and ν appears in a form similar to this, with horizontal transverse, at least in the Ptolemaic period (cf. P. Graec. Ber. 4c.).

II, 5-7: A possible restoration would be

κινου]μενος ε[πι των εν]
 αιγοκερ[ου ρινι ας]
 τερων λ[αμπερων τρι]γωνω

Translation

I, 1. [.....]...	II, 1. Ve[nus]
2. [triangle of] Ven-	2. Phosph[oros, had the]
3. [us]	3. fifth [place,]
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4. [.....]	4. [mo-]
5. [.... had] the first	5. ving [.....[
6. [place,]	6. Capricorn [....]
7. [moving] in	7.[.... tri-]
8. [pisces ...] degrees	8. angle of its[elf, subtracting]
9. [house] of Jupiter	9. from its num[bers (of lon- gitude)]
10. [triangle] of M-	10. evening set[ting]
11. [ars] ..	11. [Mercury,]
<hr/>	
12. [.....]	12. St[ilbon in the ...]
13. [.....]	13. zo[diacal sign]
14. had the se]cond	14. ..[.....
15. [place,]	

The reverse contains in a second hand :

....] 1st [hour of the] day
] ιτη

Commentary

The text is divided into sections, one for each planet. These sections are partly designated by ordinal numbers. The word « first » appears in the second section (col. I, 4–11); the word « second » occurs in the next section (col. I, 12 ff.). In the second column the section of Venus is associated with « fifth ».

From column II, 10 we know that Venus was morning star in ♁ and near its last visibility. Consequently the sun must have about 15° more longitude than Venus, that is to say it must be in ♁ or ♁ . From the note on the reverse we know that we are dealing with the first hour of the day. Thus the Horoscope must be about ♁ or ♁ . Mercury is always near the sun and in our case must be between Venus and the Sun.

We can furthermore determine the longitude of the object No. 1. From I, 9 « house of Jupiter » we have only \hat{f} or ♁ at our disposal. Line 10/11 can only be restored « Triangle of Mars » or « of Venus ». Neither Mars nor Venus rules a triangle which contains \hat{f} , but Mars and Venus in daytime govern the triangle $\text{♁} \text{ } \text{♁}$. Thus ♁ is the only possible restoration in I, 8. We furthermore restore Mars in line 11 and not Aphrodite because of the length of the line. The blank space above the section of Venus in column II suggests that we are dealing with the beginning of a column. Thus column I must concern Nos. 1 to 4, column II No. 5 (♁), No. 6 (♁), and No. 7. It is furthermore clear that at least one more column must have preceded column I.

These facts suggest the following restoration of the structure of the text. It began with an introduction, now completely lost, and with the description of the Horoscope, the last two lines of which are partly preserved in I, 1 to 3. We restore « [triangle] of Venus » which includes for daytime the sign of ♁ . Then begins the enumeration of the celestial bodies following the order of the zodiac: beginning with No. 1 in ♁ and ending with N. 5 = Venus in ♁ , No. 6 = Mercury in ♁ and finally the Sun as No. 7 in ♁ or ♁ . Unfortunately these elements do not suffice for an astronomical dating. Palaeographically the early third century seems likely.

O. NEUGEBAUER and H. B. VAN HOUSEN