A New Document of the Soterichos Archive from Cairo Museum Receipt for grass-price

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Abstract:
This papyrus text is a receipt for the price of green grass and has the usual formula that begins with the name of the receiver in nominative case and the payer in the dative case, followed by ταιρεῖν. Posidonios the son of Aphrodite received thirty two silver drachmae from Soterichos, son of Lykos, as price for the grass which his oxen and lambs devoured.

Key Words: Soterichos Archive, Receipt for grass price, Soterichos son of Lykos, green grass.

P. Cairo Mus. 14 X 7, 8 cm Prov. Theadelphia.
SR. 3732
21st May 96 AD.

The papyrus is light brown, consists of 12 lines. It has been folded 3 times in vertical way; these folds caused that the separating of the left margin until the eleventh line.
The left margin is about 1,2cm. the upper margin is 2,5cm. and the lower margin is 3,3 cm. the right margin maybe lost because of folding but the text is complete. The beginning of lines is missing.
The papyrus has been cut in horizontal way from the fourth to the ninth line. The text is unclear that the ink is faded and there are many lacunae. The text is approximating complete. The verso is blank.

Recto

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Ποσιδώνιος Αφροδισί(ος)
Σωτηρίκω Λύκω
[χα] βερίν ἀπέχω παρά
4σ]ο[ν τὴν τιμὴν τῶν
χλωρῶν ὅν κατ' α]β]εβρω-
8ίδιο[τικό] ἀγρ(υίου) (δραχμάς) τριά-
κο[ν]τα[δ]ο, (γίνονται) (δραχμαί) λβ̅, καίι] οὐδέν
[σο]ι] ἐνκ[α]λ. ὁδ. (ἔτους) πρώτου
[Αὐτο]κράτορος Νέρουα καίσαρ(ος)
12 Σ[ε]βα]στοῦ παύ[ων κ"—].

Corrections:
L.2. Λύκου
L.3. ἀπέχω
L.8. ἰδιωτικοῦ
L.10. ἐγκαλῶ

Abbreviations:
L. 7. Αραβ
L. 8. ἀργ
L. 11. καίσαρ
Symbols:
L.8, 9. R
L. 9. □
L. 10. □

From Posidonius, son of Aphrodisios, to Soterichos son of Lykos, Greetings. I have received from you the price of the green grass which the oxen with the lambs of Philippus, son of Arabe devoured, thirty two silver drachmae, total 32 drachmae, and I have no claim against you. First year of Imerator Neron Caesar Augustus, 26 of Pachon.

Commentary:
L.1 Ποσιδώνιος Ἀθροδίζι(ο), we did not meet this person elsewhere, Ποσιδώνιος and Ἀθροδίζιος have appeared twice but not as a father and son. ¹

L.2 Σωηηρίωτι Λύκωι Soterichos son of Lykos, was a privileged citizen of the metropolis Arsinoe and lived in the village of Theadelphia together with his wife and four sons: Lykos, Chares, Deios and Didymos, alias Didymion. The farmer Soterichos leased vineyards, grain fields and gardens. He was born in the year 45 AD and died before the year 103 AD, about 50-58 years old. ²

-Λύκωι the writer used the dative instead of the genitive. ³

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¹ BGU. IX. 1906. 97 (Theadelphia; 196/198 AD); PSI. VII. 793. 3, 6(Theadelphia; 161/180 AD).
L.3 ἀπέχων corrected to ἀπέχω have or receive payment in full, a common verb in tax receipts in the aorist and perfect tenses.1
L.5 χλωρῶν green grass, for animal food.2
L.5, 6 ὃν καταβέβρω-καν α[i] cf. BGU. XVI, 2654, 6 (Herakleopolites , 6 B.C) ὃν καταβέβρωκαν <αἵγες> αὐτοῦ. The verb καταβεβρῶσκω means eat up, devour.
L.6 βόες, βόας: oxen as beasts of burden 3
L.7 προβάταις sheep and goats 4
L.7 Φιλίππου the relation between Soterichos and Philippas is unknown. One can assume that Soterichos was responsible for the feeding of the animals of Philippas.
L.7 Αραβ( ) there are many possibilities to complete this name Αραβάρχης, Αραβάς, Αραβίων, Αραβω( ).5
L.8 idt . . . . . about six letters are unclear, one may read ἰδιοτυκοῖ, which means private, but the reading is not sure.
L.9, 10 καὶ οὐδὲν [σο]τ ἐνκαλῶ the contest clause came at the end of the receipts after the payment of the full.6
The verb ἐνκαλῶ is in LSJ ἐγκαλῶ, to accuse and the interchange between “ν” and “γ” is attested in many texts in the papyri.7
L.11, 12 [Ἀυτο] κράτορος Νέρου καισάρ(ος) Σεβαστοῦ παχών κ—.8

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1 Claire Préaux, aspects verbal et préverbe: l'usage de ἀπέχω dans les Ostraca, in Chronique d'Egypte volume XXIX. January No. 57.
Bibliography:
