

Petitions to the Centurion: a Question of Locality?

ABSTRACT

A review of the geographical spread of petitions sent to centurions and other military personnel rather than to the strategus shows that the great majority of them come from the Fayum. Very few are found from other regions such as the Oxyrhynchite, which we might expect to be equally well represented. Several explanations may be suggested for this imbalance: the status of the Fayum as a "frontier area"; a greater military presence in the region than elsewhere; or the greater administrative workload placed on the strategi of the Arsinoite, which led petitioners to send their complaints to local military officers rather than to the civil authorities. A full table of petitions addressed to centurions, decurions and beneficiarii is appended.

In Roman Egypt those who found themselves the object of some type of offence, either criminal or civil—murder, assault, vandalism, theft, housebreaking, desertion, fraud, disputes over land, wills, or dowries—customarily petitioned the strategus as the chief civil official of the nome in which they resided.¹ Sometimes they would already have made a preliminary approach to local village officials such as the archephodos or the village elders. Sometimes they would have tried to go straight to the top immediately and approach the prefect directly, only to have him refer their case back to the strategus. At some stage or other, therefore, most of the complaints which got beyond village level ultimately ended up with the strategus. However, in a small but not insignificant number of cases we find that, instead of the strategus (or in some instances in addition to him²), petitioners preferred to address themselves to a

¹ For a recent bibliography on petitions see *P.Dubl.* 18, introd.

² Examples of petitions about the same matter addressed both to a civil official (strategus, acting strategus, or royal scribe by delegation from the prefect) and to a centurion are discussed briefly in *P.Gen.* I² 16, Introd., pp.70-1. They are: *SB* I 5235 (to prefect; line 10 refers to a petition to strategus) and 5238 (to centurion; line 13 refers to an earlier petition to acting strategus); *SB* I 5239 and 5954

military official, usually a centurion but sometimes a decurion or beneficiarius, rather than to the civil authorities.

It is now abundantly clear that these military officials had no independent judicial competence and that their involvement even on an investigatory level had no defined administrative basis.³ Scholars have accordingly sought to explain the approaches which were made to them in terms of who the petitioners were or the type of problems they were complaining about. In his book on the Roman army in Egypt, Alston accordingly offered a grouping of the types of cases with which they are concerned⁴—c. 50% of them involving assault, c. 25% military or administrative misdemeanors, c. 33% property crimes including theft (itself accounting for 15%)—and he and Peachin both remark upon the number of farmers and priests among those petitioning the centurion.⁵ Yet no clear pattern emerges either of the type of person or the type of crime involved. Indeed Alston concluded that the centurions "appear to have been administratively superfluous, having no clearly defined role,"⁶ a conclusion which was also endorsed by Peachin.

There is another factor, however, which has been noted⁷ but has not received full consideration to date. That is the geographical spread of these petitions. After the Augustan period the Roman

(centurion, strategus, and royal scribe all involved as delegate judges [lines 9-10 and 10]); *P.Gen.* I² 3 and *SB* VI 8979 (claim and counterclaim to centurion and acting strategus respectively); *P.Gen.* I² 16 (centurion) and *SB* I 4284 (to strategus); and *BGU* I 321 = *M.Chrest.* 114 (to centurion) and 322 = *M.Chrest.* 124 (to strategus) with their duplicates (see now J. Whitehorne, *BASP* 40 [2003] 201-11).

³ See Michael Peachin, "A petition to a centurion from the NYU Papyrus Collection and the question of informal adjudication performed by soldiers," in A.E. Hanson (ed.), *Miscellanea in Memory of P.J. Sijpesteijn*, *Am.Stud.Pap.* (forthcoming as *P.Sijp.* 15). I am most grateful to Professor Peachin for a pre-publication copy of his paper.

⁴ Richard Alston, *Soldier and Society in Roman Egypt. A Social History* (London and New York 1995) 91.

⁵ Alston, *op.cit.* (above, n. 4) 91; Peachin, *op.cit.* (above, n. 3) n.19.

⁶ Alston, *op.cit.* (above, n. 4) 93.

⁷ R.W. Davies, *Service in the Roman Army* (New York 1989) 175; Peachin, *op.cit.* (above, n. 3) n. 4.

forces in Egypt were never very numerous, as the Romans themselves found out to their cost on several occasions, such as the Jewish revolt or the revolt of the Boukoloi. Alston gives an estimate of the total number of soldiers in Egypt at different periods and a breakdown of military units across the province.⁸ These statistics make it clear that although Roman soldiers were stationed in a large number of cities and villages, they were spread very thinly across the country as a whole.⁹ It is therefore likely that most of the legionary centurions would have been concentrated in Alexandria, either with their troops at the camp at Nikopolis or attached to the office of the prefect or other Roman officials.¹⁰ As for the centurions of the auxiliary units, the majority of them would have been based with their units at Coptos, Thebes or elsewhere in Upper Egypt, or on duties in the Eastern Desert¹¹ or stationed on the southern borders of Egypt.¹² In short, there must have been many areas of the country where there would probably not have been a centurion to complain to, even if one had wanted to do so.

In the table which follows I give a revised and updated version of Alston's list of petitions to centurions (and other military officials).¹³ I have included several documents which were not known

⁸ Alston, *op.cit.* (above, n. 4) 31 (Table 2.3) 163-91 (Appendix 1).

⁹ Alston, *op.cit.* (above, n. 4) 35.

¹⁰ Cf., e.g., *P.Oxy.* XIV 1637.10n. (*centurio princeps* of the office of the prefect); X 1261 (centurion on staff of *catholicus*); *P.Vind.Sijp.* 1.16 (centurion of office of *procurator rei privatae*).

¹¹ See Valerie A. Maxfield, "The eastern desert forts and the army in Egypt during the principate," in Donald M. Bailey (ed.), *Archaeological Research in Roman Egypt. Proc. 17th Classical Colloquium of the Dept. of Greek and Roman Antiquities, British Museum.* *JRA Suppl.* 19 (Ann Arbor 1996) 9-19 and cf. *O.Claud.* 48 and *passim*.

¹² See Michael P. Speidel, "Nubia's Roman Garrison," *ANRW* II 10.1 (1988) 767-98, esp. 768-75.

¹³ Alston, *op.cit.* (above, n. 4) 88-90 (Table 5.1). My revision is based primarily on searches of the online version of DDBDP at www.perseus.tufts.edu/texts/papyri/html for the terms ἐκατονταρχ-, δεκαδαρχ-, δεκαταρχ-, βεναφικιαρχ- and an examination of all examples produced, plus addenda and corrigenda listed in *BL* I-X.

to Alston or published when he was writing,¹⁴ as well as several others which are not strictly speaking petitions but which show the centurion investigating, issuing summonses or acting as a delegate judge in a context which implies an initial petition at an earlier stage in the process.¹⁵ I have also given exact dates wherever possible and added the name of the officer where it is known. Finally, I have paid particular attention to the provenance of the documents. Addenda and corrigenda to Alston's original list are given in bold type.

None of the addenda suggest any need to modify the conclusions already reached by Alston and Peachin about the lack of a clearly defined role for the centurion in the local administration. But what does emerge very clearly from this revised list is the fact that so many of these documents come from the Fayum, to the virtual exclusion of anywhere else. This is remarkable. We know the names of just as many of the strategi of the Oxyrhynchite as those of the Arsinoite,¹⁶ and the proportion of petitions among documents addressed to the strategus would be roughly the same in both areas. By rights therefore we might also expect both regions to show the same proportion of petitions addressed to centurions. Yet during the first three centuries of Roman rule,¹⁷ there are only 10 examples of Oxyrhynchite petitions addressed to centurions compared to 64 whose provenance is definitely the Arsinoite. Just as striking is the fact that there are also only 2 from elsewhere together with a residue of another 5 whose provenance is unknown.

In only 3 out of these 81 texts can the involvement of the centurion be explained by the status of the parties involved or the nature of the problem. So in *P.Oxy.* XIX 2234 (*Oxy.*, 31) it was the centurion who was approached rather than the strategus because the

¹⁴ I have omitted from Alston's list *BGU* I 81 (189), a record of grain taxes addressed to the decurion, on the grounds that it is not a petition.

¹⁵ Although we cannot, of course, be sure that the initial petition would have been addressed to the centurion himself.

¹⁶ See G. Bastianini and J. Whitehorne, *Strategi and Royal Scribes of Roman Egypt. Chronological List and Index* (Florence 1987) 20-58 and 86-106.

¹⁷ The spread of texts from the fourth century shows a marked change. On this period see in general R.S. Bagnall, *Egypt in Late Antiquity* (Princeton 1993) 172-80.

crime had involved a soldier; the strategus, as a non-Roman civil official, would have had no jurisdiction over a serving Roman soldier. The same applies in *BGU* I 4/XV 2458 (*Ars.*, 177) where it would have been natural for the veteran to approach the centurion to get his property back from the soldier who had it. In *P.Thmouis* 1.116 (Mendesian, 167/8) the strategus and the centurion provide a joint report called for by the prefect into a massacre of villagers by the Boukoloï; the revolt of the Boukoloï was a serious civil insurrection and the military aspect of the problem provides an obvious explanation for the centurion's presence here.

Taken together, these few examples do nothing to account for the striking preponderance of Arsinoite texts in the list. It may well be that this can be explained as little more than a function of the different archaeological contexts in which the papyri were found in the Arsinoite compared to the Oxyrhynchite, with Arsinoite texts coming primarily from village and town sites rather than from the metropolis of the nome as in the case of Oxyrhynchus.¹⁸ But there may well also be other contributing factors at work. One explanation, which has been suggested, may be the nature of the northern Fayum itself as a relatively remote area, bordering upon the desert.¹⁹ But, as those who have visited the Fayum will know, nowhere is very far from the nome capital Arsinoe. It is also rather difficult to accept the idea of developed centres such as Karanis and Philadelphia as "frontier towns." There are also petitions in the list from Euhemeria, Theadelphia, and Hawara, and none of these sites lies in the northern sector of the Fayum.

Another obvious factor was the greater number of soldiers and ex-soldiers in the Fayum than elsewhere in Egypt, although they were concentrated primarily in Karanis and Philadelphia rather than spread over the northern Fayum as a whole.²⁰ When Octavian arrived in Egypt, he is said to have set his army to work on recon-

¹⁸ I owe this suggestion to Roger Bagnall.

¹⁹ See above, n. 7. A similar suggestion is made by D. W. Hobson, "The Impact of Law on Village Life in Roman Egypt," in B. Halpern and D. W. Hobson (eds.), *Law, Politics and Society in the Ancient Mediterranean World* (Sheffield 1993) 193-219.

²⁰ See Alston, *op.cit.* (above, n. 4) ch. 7.

structing the irrigation system in order to improve Egypt's economy.²¹ If that information can be taken as fact rather than propaganda, much of that work no doubt would have taken place in the Fayum,²² and this involvement may have been the point of origin for the strong connection later between the region and the military, which is seen most clearly in the inflow of veterans into Karanis in the Domitianic period. But whatever its origin, a greater concentration of soldiery also implies a greater number of centurions in the region who could be approached by complainants.

Finally there is another factor which has to be taken into account but whose impact is more difficult to assess. That is the greater administrative burden which may have been placed upon strategi of the Arsinoite compared to their colleagues elsewhere. In the period up to the early 60s the usual designation for Arsinoite strategi is στρατηγὸς Ἀρσινοΐτου and at that time there may have been only a single strategus for the whole region. From the mid 60s onwards we find separate strategi for the merides of Heracleides and Themistos, and they are joined from perhaps about the same time²³ by a third strategus for the meris of Polemon. Then from 136/7 that number is reduced back down to two: a strategus of the meris of Heracleides and a strategus of the merides of Themistos and Polemon combined.²⁴ Finally in the 260s the number is reduced again to a single official, who is once again known as the στρατηγὸς Ἀρσινοΐτου. These administrative changes presumably reflect an official response (after a certain time lag since such changes never happen instantaneously) to the increase in the region's population in the first century and then to the beginning of its decline in the second century.

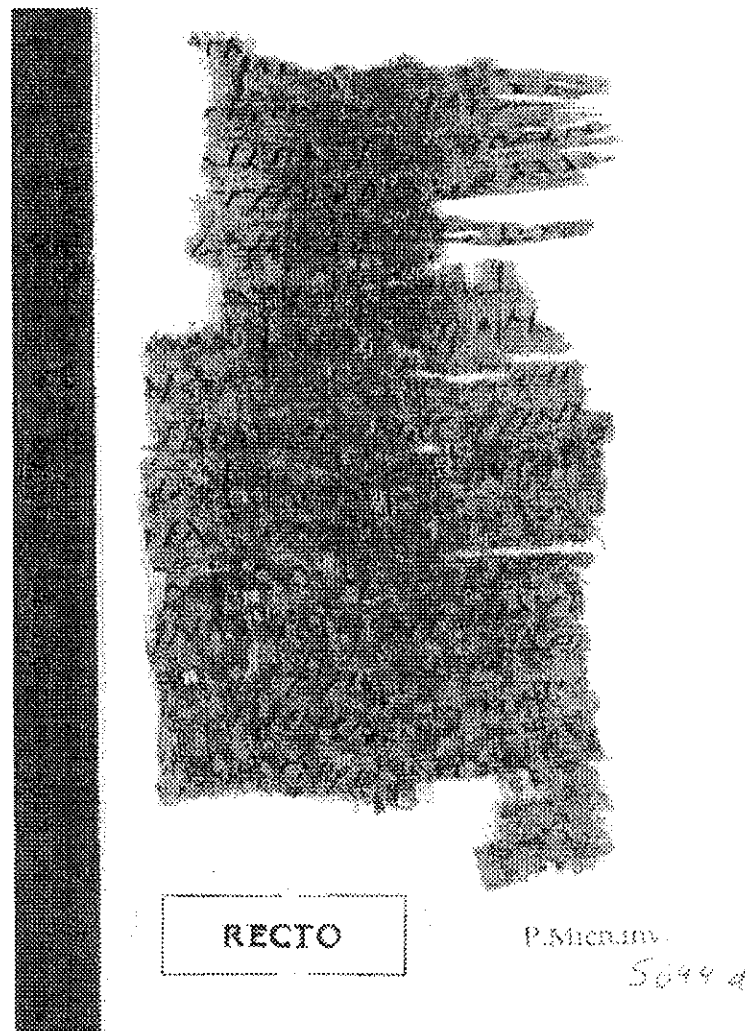
PLATES

²¹ Suet., *Aug.* 18; Dio 51.18.1.

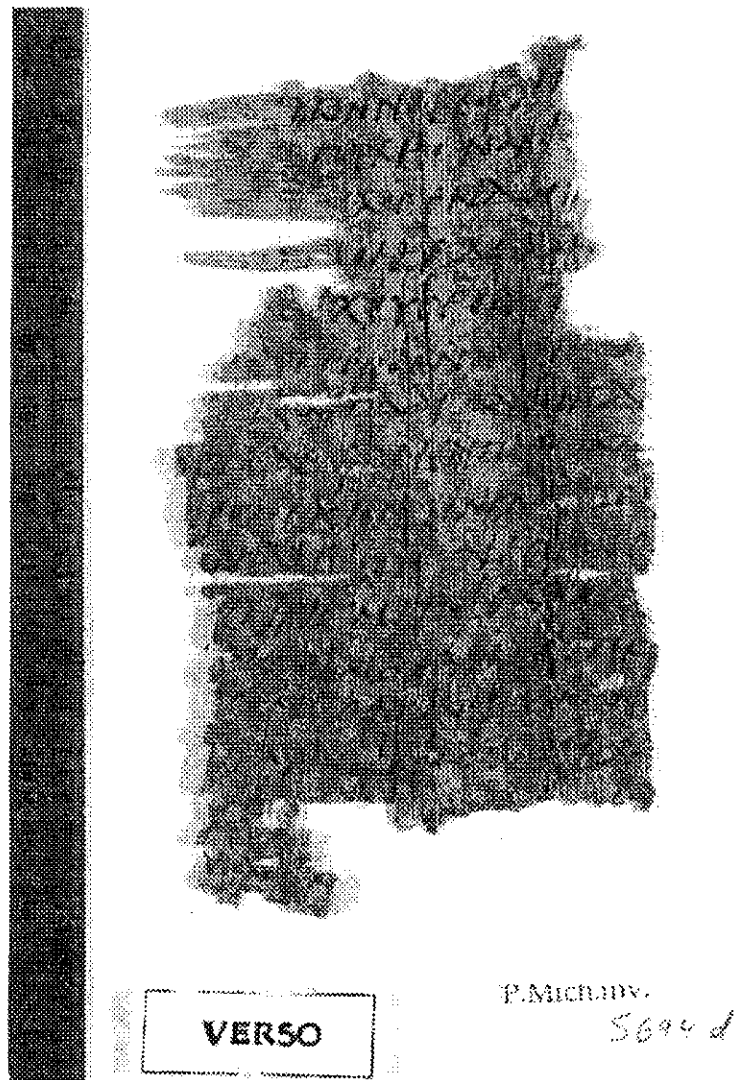
²² Although Alston, *op.cit.* (above, n. 4) 79, queries any personal involvement of army personnel in the work itself.

²³ The *terminus post quem* remains 50/1, when Ammonius is addressed as "strategus of the merides of Heracleides and Polemon" (*P.Gen.* II 91); the *terminus ante* is 94 (*SB V* 7599), when the regular title "strategus of the Arsinoite of the meris of Polemon" is first found.

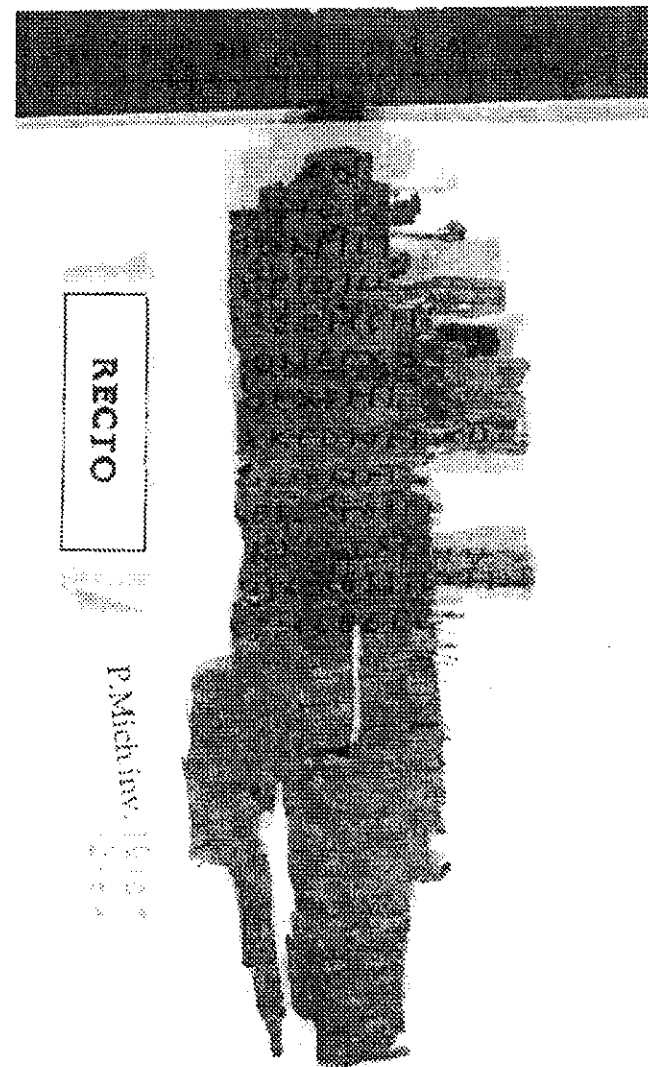
²⁴ See D. Hagedorn, *ZPE* 44 (1981) 137-40.



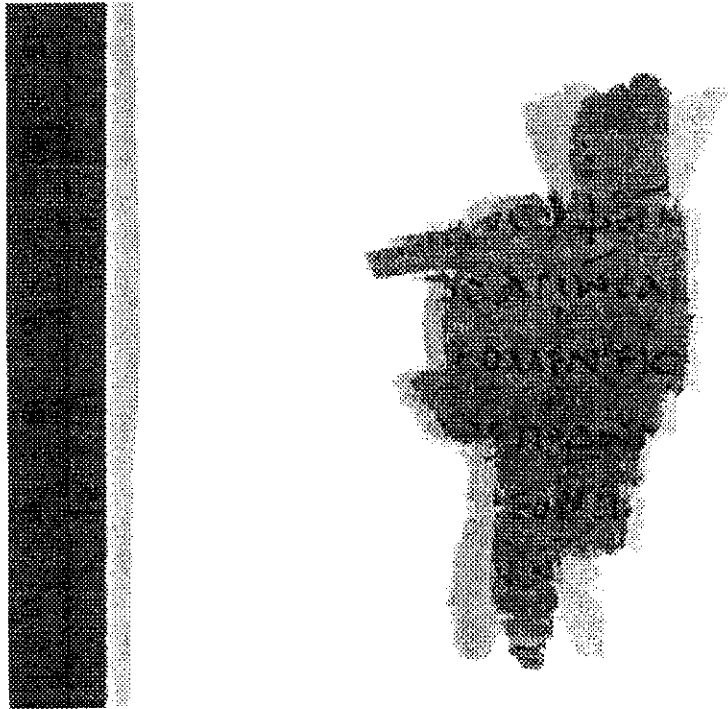
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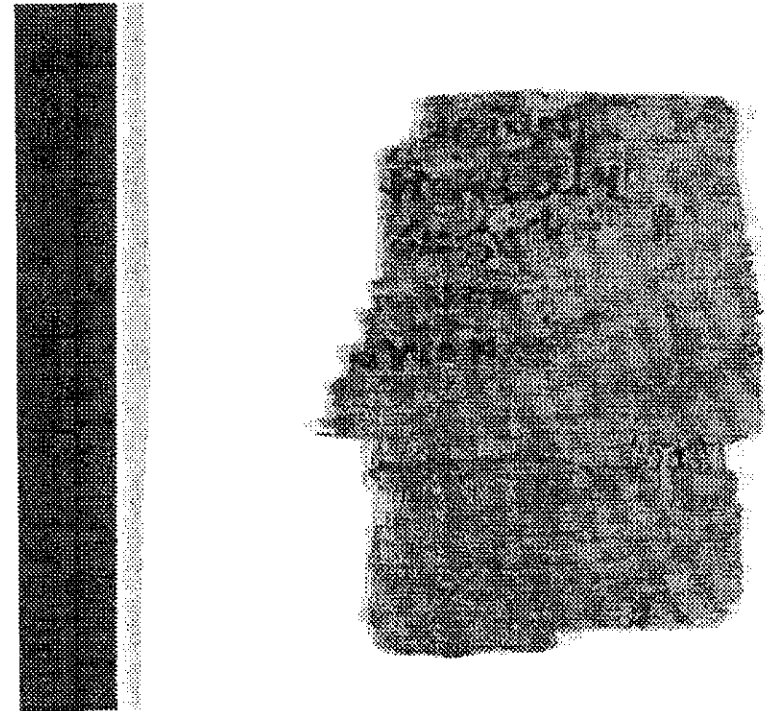
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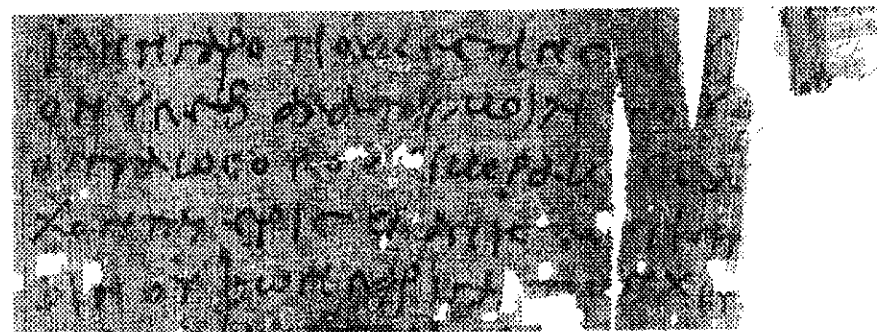
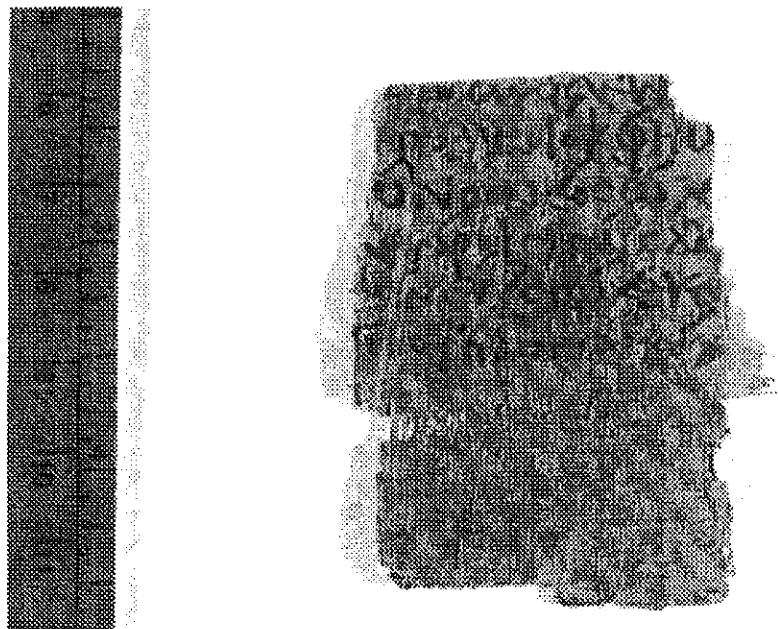
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P.Mich. inv. 4162b, verso
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P.Mich. inv. 6657 (detail)
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P.Mich. inv. 0.2 (detail)

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In such a situation, complainants who had military personnel living among them, or saw them regularly involved in a supervisory role in the land economy and the collection of taxes in kind (either for the state or for the direct provision of army supplies), may have preferred to petition them rather than the strategus, if they perceived the latter as increasingly overburdened with administrative matters and therefore less likely to respond quickly to any request, if at all. In itself this is certainly not an entirely adequate explanation for such an imbalance in the geographical spread of these texts. But perhaps it goes some way at least towards understanding one aspect of them—their local nature—which should be taken in account whenever these texts are considered as a group.²⁵

Petitions to centurions, decurions and beneficiarii

Document	Date	Provenance	Officer	Content
<i>P. Oslo II 30 = Doc. Exerc. Rom. 71</i>	19.7.20 B.C.	Sentrepaiei, ArsTh.	Centurion, Anchoriphis (<i>BL III 121</i>)	Oath of surety for woman's appear- ance before cent.
<i>SB X 10308</i> ²⁶	30.6.11	Soknopaiei Nesos, ArsH.	Centurion, Lucretius	Land dispute; cent. as <i>iudex datus</i> .
<i>SB I 5238</i>	26.5.14 (<i>BL VII 186</i>)	Sokn.Nesos, ArsH.	Centurion, Lucretius	Petition re violent assault.
<i>SB I 5239</i> ²⁷	14/15	Sokn.Nesos, ArsH.	Centurion, Lucretius	Land dispute; cent. as <i>iudex datus</i>
<i>SB I 5954</i>	14/15	Sokn. Nesos, ArsH.	Centurion, Lucretius	Petition re land dispute.

²⁵ I owe especial thanks to Professors G. Bastianini and R. Pintaudi for their hospitality in Florence and for the use of the resources of the Istituto Papirologico 'G. Vitelli' and the Accademia Fiorentina di Papirologia e di Studi sul Mondo Antico. This is an expanded version of a paper originally presented at the XXIV International Congress of Papyrology, Helsinki 2004, and I am greatly indebted to Roger Bagnall, Alan Bowman, and Paul Schubert for their comments and suggestions at that time.

²⁶ *SB X 10308*, *I 5238*, *5239* and *5954* all concern the same Satabous son of Erius (better Herieus).

²⁷ *SB I 5239* and *5954* both relate to the same matter. The strategus and royal scribe are also cited as delegate judges; see above, n. 2.

<i>P.Oxy.</i> XIX 2234	12.5.31	Teis, Oxy.	Centurion, Q. Caius Passer (<i>BL</i> X 147)	Petition re theft of fish involving soldier.
<i>P.Ryl.</i> II 141 = <i>Doc.Eserc.Rom.</i> 76	27.4.37	Euhemeria, ArsTh.	Centurion, C. Trebius Iustus	Petition re violent assault
<i>P.Thomas</i> 5 ²⁸	24.7.46	Philadelphia, ArsH.	Centurion, L. Cattius Catulus	Oath of surety
<i>P.Mich.</i> X 582	50 (<i>BL</i> VII 114)	Philadelphia, ArsH.	Centurion ἐπὶ τῶν τόπων, Cattius ²⁹	Petition from tax collector re colleague
<i>P.NYU inv.</i> 69 ³⁰	50/51	Philadelphia, ArsH.	Centurion, L. Cattius Catulus	Petition re theft with violence.
<i>P.Oslo</i> II 21	29.9.71	Karanis, ArsH.	Centurion, Lucius Annus (?)	Petition re theft of olives.
<i>PSI</i> XIII 1356	i	Oxyrhynchus (?) Oxy.	Centurion, Q. Fabius Fabullus	Petition - content lost
<i>SB XVI</i> 12951	12.2.100	Karanis, ArsH.	[name only] ³¹ Iulius Nominatus	Petition re break-in and theft.
<i>BGU</i> III 908	101/102 (<i>BL</i> 181)	Bacchias, ArsH.	Centurion, Messius Audax	Petition re vandalism of village officials.
<i>BGU</i> I 36/II 436 = <i>M.Chrest.</i> 125 = <i>Doc.Eserc.Rom.</i> 82	(c.101/2) ³²	Sokn. Nesos, ArsH.	Centurion, Messius Audax	Petition re assault.

²⁸ *P.Col.* inv. 90, cited by Alston, *op.cit.* (above, n. 4) 88, *per errorem* as "P.Corn. inv. 90." Discussed by A.E. Hanson, "Village officials at Philadelphia; a model of Romanization in the Julio-Claudian period," in L.Crisuolo and G. Geraci (eds.), *Egitto e Storia Antiqua dall'Ellenismo all'Età Araba* (Bologna 1989) 429-40, esp. 433-4 (also for date). An image may also be checked on the APIS website at www.columbia.edu/dlc/apis.

²⁹ The image of *P.Mich.* X 582 on the APIS website confirms the name Cattius in ii 15 rather than *ed.pr.*'s Clotius; see *P.Thomas* 5, p. 93, n.14.

³⁰ Forthcoming as *P.Sijp.* 15; see above, n. 3.

³¹ Not a strategus.

<i>P.Ryl.</i> II 81	11.7.107 (line 2)	ArsTh.	Strategus/Centurion, Julius S....	Report of shore guard w. ref. to prior report via centurion.
<i>P.Amh.</i> II 77 = <i>W.Chrest.</i> 277 = <i>Sel.Pap.</i> II 282	1.7.139	Sokn. Nesos, ArsH.	Epistrategus/Beneficiarius ἐπὶ τῶν τόπων	Petition to epistr. re tax fraud and violence w. ref. to prior report to beneficiarius.
<i>P.Gen.</i> I ² 74	139-145 ³³	Arsinoe ArsThP.	(Strategus/Centurion)	Letter re disputed will; ref to earlier petition and centurion as <i>iudex datus</i> .
<i>P.Grenf.</i> I 47	21.4.148	Sokn. Nesos, ArsH.	Decurion, Annicius Petronianus	Petition re theft of crops and disappearance.
<i>SPP</i> XXII 55	3.11.167	Sokn. Nesos, ArsH.	Beneficiarius ἐπὶ τῶν τόπων 'of the prefect' Heron	Petition re theft.
<i>P.Hamb.</i> I 10	24.11.(167-8?) ³⁴	Theadelphia, ArsTh.	Decurion, Antonius Longus	Petition re robbery with violence.
<i>P.Tebt.</i> II 304	24.7.168	Tebtunis, ArsPol.	Decurion of Ars., Longinus	Petition re assault.
<i>P.Thmouis</i> 1.116	167/8	Mendesian	(Strategus + Centurion), Kodratos (= Quadratus)	Joint report to prefect re attack on village by Boukoloï.
<i>BGU</i> I 4 / XV 2458	2.3.177	Arsinoite (?) (<i>ed.pr.</i>)	Centurion, Severus Iustus	Petition from veteran re return of property left w. soldier.

³² *BGU* III 908 gives an approximate date.

³³ For text as part of Drusilla lawsuit see P. Schubert, *ZPE* 130 (2000) 211-7, and *P.Gen.* I² 74, introd.

³⁴ Date depends upon identification of Longus with Longinus of *P.Tebt.* II 304, which is by no means certain.

<i>P.Gen.</i> I ² 3 = <i>M.Chrest.</i> 122	20.9.178 or 21.9.179 ³⁵	Sokn. Nesos, ArsH.	Centurion, Furius Pro- culus	Petition re theft w. violence.
<i>P.Petaus</i> 123	(before 184) ³⁶	Arsinoe, ArsThP.	Decurion, Aur. Anto- ninus	Petition - content lost.
<i>P.Amh.</i> II 78 = <i>M.Chrest.</i> 123	27.9.184	Sokn. Nesos, ArsH.	Centurion, Aur. Anto- ninus	Petition re fraud and violence.
<i>SB XIV</i> 11904	(c. 184)	Tebtunis, ArsPol.	Centurion, Aur. Anto- ninus	Petition re extor- tion and kidnap- ping.
<i>SB V 8940 =</i> <i>P.Strasb.</i> III 150	Before 182/3 or 214/5	Philadelphia, ArsH.	Centurion, [name lost]	Petition re dis- puted will.
<i>P.Lond.</i> II 342 p.173	21.6.185 (or 217) (ed.pr., introd.)	Sokn. Nesos, ArsH.	Beneficiarius ἐπι τῶν τόπων	Petition re violence by village elders.
<i>SB VIII</i> 9853	180-192	?	Centurion, ... mellus	Oath to present slave of murdered brother in Alexan- dria
<i>BGU II</i> 651 = <i>M.Chrest.</i> 111	9.5.192	Karanis, ArsH.	Centurion, Valerius Germanus	Petition re arson.
<i>SB IV</i> 7469	5.2.193	Theadelphia, ArsTh.	demosioi	Theft of piglet; ref. to approach to cen- turion ἐπι τῶν τόπων
<i>P.Mich.</i> III 175 = <i>Doc.Eserc.Rom.</i> 77	18.4.193	Sokn. Nesos, ArsH.	Centurion, Ammonius Paternus	Petition re theft with violence.
<i>BGU II</i> 515 = <i>W.Chrest.</i> 268 = <i>Doc.Eserc.Rom.</i> 78	2.6.193	Karanis (line 9), ArsH.	Centurion, Ammonius Paternus	Petition re rob- bery with violence.

³⁵ See new edition. A counterclaim, *SB VI 8979* re-ed. H.C. Youtie *ZPE* 3 (1968) 11-4, was lodged with the acting strategus; see above, n. 2, and D.H. Samuel, *ZPE* 37 (1980) 255-9.

³⁶ Aur. Antoninus still a decurion; see *P.Petaus* 123, introd.

<i>BGU II</i> 454 = <i>Doc.Eserc.Rom.</i> 79	17.6.193	Herakleia, ArsTh.	Centurion, Ammonius Paternus	Petition re theft of crops.
<i>P.Mich.</i> VI 425	11-26.8.198	Karanis, ArsH.	Epistrategus	Petition re assault; epistr. gives authority to peti- tion cent. ἐπι τῶν τόπων.
<i>BGU II</i> 522 = <i>Doc.Eserc.Rom.</i> 80	ii ³⁷	Sokn. Nesos, ArsH.	Centurion, Valerius Maximus	Petition - content lost.
<i>SB VI</i> 9290 = <i>Doc.Eserc.Rom.</i> 69	mid ii	?	From centu- rion, Domitius Iulianus	Summons to ap- pear before centu- rion.
<i>SB XIV</i> 12179	mid ii	Karanis, ArsH.	Centurion, Domitius Iulianus	Petition- content lost.
<i>P.Mil.Vogl.</i> II 73 ³⁸	ii	Tebtunis, ArsPol.	Decurion "of Ars."	Petition re dis- puted will.
<i>BGU VII</i> 1676	ii	Philadelphia, ArsH.	-	Cent. holds peti- tioner to await arbitration.
<i>SB XIV</i> 11390	ii	Fayum (ed.pr.)	-	Report of proceed- ings; ref. to cent. (?)
<i>P.Giss.</i> 111	ii	?	-	Report of proceed- ings; 'the cent. said.'
<i>P.Oxy.</i> IX 1185	c. 200	Oxy.	-	Ref to cent. in pre- fect's letter.
<i>P.Tebt.</i> II 334	200/201	Tebtunis, ArsPol.	Centurion, ...us Gallus	Petition re deser- tion and robbery.
<i>SPP XXII</i> 49	200/201	Sokn. Nesos, ArsH.	Centurion, Iulius Claudi- anus	Petition re land dispute.
<i>SB X</i> 10619	201	Sokn. Nesos, ArsH.	Decurion, Antonius A.t[6]us	Request for per- mission for enter- tainers.

³⁷ Text cannot be dated more closely.

³⁸ Re-ed. H. Melaerts, *CdE* 66 (1991) 266-78.

SPP XXII 87	15.8.202 (ed.pr.)	Sokn. Nesos, ArsH.	Centurion, Gaius ...ml...Ienius	Petition re cattle damage to crops.
<i>P.Gen.</i> I ² 17 = <i>Doc.Eserc.Rom.</i> 73	2-26.3. (c.207)	Philadelphia, ArsH.	Centurion/ decurion Iulius Iulianus and Iulius Konon	Petition re sus- pected foul play.
<i>P.Gen.</i> I ² 16 ³⁹	12.10.207	Sokn. Nesos, ArsH.	Centurion, Iulius Iulianus	Petition re land dispute.
SPP XXII 54	10.10.210 (BL VIII 482)	Sokn. Nesos, ArsH.	Decurion, Claudius Herennius	Petition re assault and robbery.
BGU I 98	24.1.211	Sokn. Nesos, ArsH.	Centurion, Crenoleius Quintilianus (BL I 19)	Petition re fraud.
<i>P.Grenf.</i> II 62	3/4.211	Bithynos, Ars. (meris un- known)	Centurion, Crenoleius Quintilianus	Oath of surety to produce person for trial.
BGU I 157	(after 212) ⁴⁰	Karanis, ArsH.	Centurion, Aur. Iulius Maximus	Petition re rob- bery; woman's brother in army.
<i>P.Oslo</i> II 23	12.8.212 (BL VIII 228)	Karanis, ArsH.	Centurion, Aur. Valeri- anus	Petition re arson of vines.
BGU I 275	21.12.215 (ed.pr.)	Karanis, ArsH.	Centurion, Aur. Sep- timius Iulianus	Petition re bur- glary and vandal- ism.
BGU I 322 = <i>M.Chrest.</i> 124 / <i>SB</i> I 6 ⁴¹ = <i>P.Louvre</i> I 3	7.4.216	Sokn. Nesos, ArsH.	Centurion, Aur. Calvisius Maximus	Petition re theft.

³⁹ A fuller version of the petition, *SB* I 4284, was also lodged with the strategus; see above, n. 3.

⁴⁰ Centurion is also an Aurelius.

⁴¹ The strategus was also petitioned about the same crime: *BGU* I 321 (= *M.Chrest.* 114). On *BGU* I 321 and 322 and their duplicates see further J. Whitehorne, *BASP* 40 (2003) 201-11.

<i>P.Tebt.</i> II 333 = <i>Sel.Pap.</i> II 336 = <i>Doc.Eserc.Rom.</i> 74 = <i>M.Chrest.</i> 115	22.12.216 (lines 19-21)	Tebtunis, ArsPol.	Centurion, Aur. Iulius Marcellinus	Petition re sus- pected foul play.
<i>SB XVIII</i> 13242	212-217	Hawara (Ars.)	Centurion, Aur. Kyros (?)	Surety on oath.
<i>SB VI</i> 9203	222-235	Tebtunis, ArsPol.	Centurion, Aur. Basilides	Petition re theft and killing of ass.
<i>P.Harr.</i> II 200	9? 5.236	Philadelphia (?), ArsH.	Centurion/ decurion	Petition re theft of sheep; str. also informed.
<i>SB IV</i> 7464 = <i>Sel.Pap.</i> II 291	22.11.248	Philadelphia, ArsH.	Centurion, Aur. Marcianus	Petition re vio- lence.
<i>P.Flor.</i> I 9 p.28	17.1.255	Theoxenis, ArsTh.	Decurion, Aur. Apollo- nius	Petition re theft of ass.
<i>P.Oxy.</i> XIV 1637	256-261	Oxy.	Centurion, Demetrius	Cent. as <i>iudex da- tus</i> in diaeresis.
<i>PSI VII</i> 807	30.1.280	Oxy.	Beneficiarius, Aur. Phi- lantino	Petition re wrong- ful assignment of liturgy.
<i>P.Oxy.</i> XIX 2228	8/9.283 (or 285 (BL VI 106)	Oxy.	-	Letter of epistr. (?) to strategus; cen- turions mentioned.
<i>PSI XXI Congr.</i> 13 ii	284/5	Oxy.	Beneficiarius "of the prefect of Eg." ... aion	Petition - content lost; citing earlier petition to strategus.
<i>PSI III</i> 222 = <i>Doc.Eserc.Rom.</i> 81	(c.292) ⁴²	Heracleopolis, Heracl.	Decurion ἐπὶ εἰρήνης, Aur. Didymus	Petition re violence and trespass
<i>P.Oxy.</i> VIII 1121	9.2.295	Oxy.	Beneficiarius "of the prefect of Eg."	Petition re theft of inheritance.

⁴² *PSI III* 184 (5.7.292), a report of a fire made to the same Aur. Didymus, gives an approximate date.

<i>P.Cair.Isid.</i> 139 descr.	24-28.8.296	Karanis, ArsH.	Beneficiarius "on duty" (ετατιζων) ⁴³ Aur. Gordi- anus	Petition re assault.
<i>P.Cair.Isid.</i> 63	after 11.296	Karanis, ArsH.	Beneficiarius "on duty," Aur. Gordi- anus	Petition re violence and misappropria- tion of inheritance.
<i>BGU II</i> 390	early iii	Fayum (ed.pr.)	(Centurion)	Report of proceed- ings; ref to decision by centurion.
<i>P.Heid.</i> III 237	mid iii (<i>BL</i> V 43)	Theadelphia (?), ArsTh.	Centurion, Claudius Alexander (<i>BL IX</i> 103).	Petition re deser- tion by wife.
<i>SB V</i> 8004	iii	?	From decu- rion	Order to arrest for theft.
<i>P.Mil.Vogl.</i> IV 233 = <i>SB VI</i> 9489	iii	Tebtunis, ArsPol.	Centurion ἐπι τῶν τόπων.	Petition re embez- zlement of public land.
<i>P.Mil.Vogl.</i> IV 234 = <i>SB VIII</i> 9657	iii	Tebtunis, ArsPol	Beneficiarius ἐπι τῶν τόπων	Petition re break- in and theft.
<i>P.Giss.Univ.</i> I 15 = <i>Doc.Eserc.Rom.</i> 71	iii	Syron Kome, ArsH.	From centu- rion	Order to arrest
<i>P.Oxford</i> 5 fr.B	iii	Oxy.	-	Report of proceed- ings; ref. to centu- rion.
<i>SB XVI</i> 12949	iii	?	-	Report of proceed- ings; prefect inter- rogates decurion Iulius.
<i>P.Laur.</i> III 60	iii	Oxy.	Beneficiarius "of the prefect of Eg." Aur. Ampelius	Petition re killing of sow by unknown persons

⁴³ For the title see *P.Cair.Isid.* 63, introd.

<i>P.Oxy.</i> XLVI 3304	6.6.301	Oxy.	Beneficiarius "on duty"	Affidavit sworn before benefici- arius.
<i>P.Oxy.</i> XVIII 2187	13.1.304 (<i>BL VI</i> 105)	Oxy.	(logistes)	Petition re inheri- tance; prefect ap- pointed benefici- arius "on duty" and 2 bouleutae as lo- gothetae.
<i>P.Cair.Isid.</i> 129	308/9	Karanis, ArsH.	From centu- rion	Order to arrest.
<i>SB XIV</i> 11975	c.325	Hermopolis, Herm.	From centu- rion, Valerius Dionysius	Order to exactor to send persons to <i>praeses Thebaidos</i> .
<i>P.Fay.</i> 38 = <i>Doc.Eserc.Rom.</i> 70	iii/iv	Euhemeria, ArsTh.	From centu- rion, Domitius Annianus	Order to appoint watchman.
<i>P.Oxy.</i> I 64 = <i>W.Chrest.</i> 475	iii/iv	Oxy.	From decu- rion	Order to arrest.
<i>P.Oxy.</i> I 65 = <i>Sel.Pap.</i> II 232	iii/iv	Oxy.	From benefi- ciarius "on duty"	Order to arrest.
<i>P.Lips.</i> I 64. 50ff	368	Thebaid	From centu- rion, Fl. Arius	Request to send 2 persons in re- sponse to petition.
<i>P.Oxy.</i> XLIX 3480	c.360-390	Oxy.	Beneficiarius of office of <i>praeses</i> <i>Augustamni- cae</i>	Petition re assault and refusal to pay debt.

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