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## P.Petra 69 : Documnet of Vineyard Taxes

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American center of oriental research  
2018

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## 69. DOCUMENT ON VINEYARD TAXES

Inv. 39	6.5 x ca. 135 cm	Petra?
Field No. XXIj	bottom margin 29 cm	6th c.
Glass Plate 142		
Plates CXXIV–CXXV		

The document was written *transversa charta* against the fibers. The end of the roll was left blank, forming a very large bottom margin. In the beginning, the number of missing layers is unknown. Fragments labeled Ja and Jb can be joined, giving together 6.5 cm of text with no margins. As the Petra papyri were usually 26–29 cm wide (see P. Petra III, p. 2), the preserved part represents around a quarter of a line (perhaps the third quarter, see l. 32 comm.). The rest of the fragments are too meager to be located. In the transcript, only the fragments offering recognizable words are assigned line numbers, but the probable amount of missing lines is given. There may be different hands, but, as the fragments are so small, the changes are hard to identify.

The exact nature of the document is not clear. It deals with a vineyard plot (l. 4), mentioning “the most honorable Sabinos” and, possibly in connection with him, “the ownership” (ll. 10–11). There are also references to full payments (ll. 8, 22), apparently over several years (ll. 15, 23), to indictions (ll. 31, 32), and to the fiscal unit of Petra (l. 16). Hence, this document might be another example of tax receipts like **7–10, 20, 32–35, 37, and 45–47**, where a change of property ownership has not yet been registered and the taxes have been paid by the new owner to the former one, who in his turn has paid them to the city. Sabinos may have been the new owner and the document drawn as a unilateral agreement by the individual behind the first person singular appearing in l. 13. The date appears in the end (see l. 32 comm.), with the year of the Arabian era ending with six, but, as the following indiction year is missing, the document cannot be dated with any accuracy. Judging from the overall range of the Petra papyri, it no doubt derives from the sixth century.

↑

	traces of 1 line		a1V
	3 lines missing		
	traces of 1 line		a2V
	2 lines missing		
	traces of 1 line		a3V
1	τ]οῦ Ζαδδακαθου κ[άτρου?	. . . the [garrison] of Sadaqa? . . .	b1+a3V
	1 line missing		
2	]ζε προτερ[	. . . earlier? . . .	a <sub>1</sub> up15

	traces of 1 line		
3	] τὸν εἰρημένον ἐ. . . [	. . . the said . . .	b3+a4V
	1 line missing		
	traces of 2 lines		a <sub>1</sub> up14
4	]c. . . ἀμπελικὸν χωρίον	. . . [plot] of vine-bearing land . . .	b2+a5V
	1 line missing		
5	]θαι καὶ θε. . . . [		a <sub>1</sub> up13
6	]λι. [.] μετὰ παντ[ὸς αὐτοῦ δικαίου?	. . . with [its] every [right]? . . .	b4+a6V
	traces of 1 line		
7	]ο ὄγδοο. . . . [	. . . eighth . . .	a <sub>1</sub> up12
	traces of 8 lines		
8	ε]ἰς ὀλόκληρον [	. . . totally . . .	b7+a9V
	traces of 1 line		
9	] . [χ]ρόνον η. . . [	. . . time . . .	a <sub>1</sub> up9
10	εὐδο]κιμ(ώ)τ(ατον) Καβῖν[ο]γ [	. . . the most honorable Sabinos . . .	a10V
11	δε]σποτίαγ ἔσχε[	. . . attained the ownership . . .	b8+a10V
	traces of 1 line		
12	] . . . ανου [		a <sub>1</sub> lo8
13	] . . διεδεξάμην [		a <sub>1</sub> up8
14	] . λίου . . . . [		b9+a11V
15	ύ]πὲρ ἑνιαυτῶν ὀκ[τώ	. . . for eight years . . .	b9+a11V
	traces of 2 lines		
16	] ἐξ ὀμάδος Πε[τρῶν	. . . from the fiscal unit of Petra . . .	a <sub>1</sub> up7
17	ὀ]φείλοντος . [	. . . owing . . .	b10+a12V
18	]κατου καθ' ἕκ[α]στα	. . . in each case . . .	b10+a12V
	traces of 1 line		
19	] . . αὐτῶν τῶν [		a <sub>1</sub> up6
20	κληρονόμου]c ` καὶ ` διαδόχουc . . [	. . . [heirs] and successors . . .	a <sub>1</sub> 1
21	]ατου αὐτοῦ [		a <sub>1</sub> 1
	traces of 1 line		
22	] καὶ πληρο[ῖν	. . . and fulfill . . .	a <sub>1</sub> up5
23	]ν ὀκτὸ μένειν [	. . . eight, to stay . . .	a <sub>1</sub> 2
24	] . γε δευτέραν π[	. . . second . . .	a <sub>1</sub> 2
25	μετ]αξὸ [	. . . between . . .	a <sub>1</sub> lo4
26	]διαδ[οχ	. . . successors . . .	a <sub>1</sub> lo4
27	] . . εὐδοκιμ(ω)τ( ) [	. . . most honorable . . .	a <sub>1</sub> up4
28	]μήτε πρὸς το[ῦc	. . . nor against the . . .	a <sub>1</sub> 3
	traces of 2 lines		
29	] λόγουc . . . . [		a <sub>1</sub> up3
	traces of 1 line		
	1 line missing		

30	].γοραϝ . . [	a <sub>1</sub> lo2
	traces of 1 line	
31	ἐπ]ινεμέσεος κ[ . . . indiction . . .	a <sub>1</sub> 5
	traces of 1 line	
	blank for 1 line	
32	] ἕκτου, ἰνδ(ικτίωνος) [ . . . -sixth [year], [ x ] indiction . . .	a <sub>1</sub> 6
	rest blank	a <sub>1</sub> 7–18

1 Ζαδακαθων 10 εὐδοκιμ<sup>τ</sup> Pap. 11 δεσποτείαν 23 ὀκτώ 27 εὐδοκιμ<sup>τ</sup> Pap. 31 ἐπινεμήσεως 32 ἰνδ)

## COMMENTARY

1 τ]οῦ Ζαδακαθοῦ κ[άτρου?: a possible reading, but the dotted letters are very uncertain, and καθ allows for many other interpretations.

6 ]λι[ . . ] μετὰ παντ[ὸς αὐτοῦ δικαίου: possibly ἀμπε]λικ[ὸν]; cf. l. 4.

7 ]ο ὀγδοο . . . [: as this cannot refer to a feminine noun, it cannot denote the eighth indiction. If the ordinal number gives a fraction, as is often the case in tax receipts, the neuter article τ]ὸ would be surprising, because 1/8 could hardly be the first fraction. We may have here the genitive -τ]ου ὀγδόου with the *upsilons* written above the *omikrons*, as is often the case in this document (possibly τετάρτ]ου as in 7 3). The fragment's right side is damaged and probably contains several layers.

8 ε]ἰς ὀλόκληρον [: this expression is found in a fragmentary context in 2 214, 488, while, in 22 93, ὀλόκληρον πεπληρ[ῶσθαι might be supplemented with εἰς at the end of the preceding line (as also in the restored phrase in 22 56). The phrase is often found in the longer form εἰς πλήρες καὶ εἰς ὀλόκληρον, e.g., P. Grenf. I 65.2–3 (6/7th c.).

9 ]. [χ]ρόνον η . . [: we could have here the phrase ἀπὸ τῆς (ordinal number) ἰνδικτίωνος εἰς τὴν ἕξτην ἅπαντα χρόνον, which is common in Petra, especially in the tax receipts.

10 εὐδοκιμ(ώ)τ(ατον) Καβίν[ο]γ: the same title in l. 27 probably refers to the same person. Several men named Sabinos are attested in Petra (see Index V), but no other has the honorific εὐδοκιμώτατος. In 42 (582–93) and 61 (570–600), there appears a clergyman Sabinos. In view of the words preserved in lines 8–11, it is likely that Sabinos was the vineyard's new owner.

12 ]. . . ανου [: this may be a name; Ῥωμανοῦ is possible, Ὀβοδιανοῦ certainly not.

13 ]. . . διεδεξάμην [: διαδέχομαι is used in the sense “receive from another,” and esp. of an office, “succeed.” Cf. P. Ness. III 31.24, ἐν ᾧ διεδέξατο ὁ αὐτὸς Βίκτωρ Αβυειμῆν Αβδαλγου, where Victor acquires a part of a dry garden from the previous owner. The verb is not attested elsewhere in the Petra papyri. Instead, we find the verbs ὑπεδεξάμην (32 6, signature of an official, for money), and κατεδεξάμην (42 70, signature of the bride, for dowry).

15 ὑ]πὲρ ἐνιαυτῶν ὀκ[τώ: the phrase ὑπὲρ ἐνιαυτῶν is not attested in papyri, but ὑπὲρ ἔτων appears in connection with tax payments in BGU III 820.5–6 (192/93) and P. Stras. I 8.15 (272–76). The number eight recurs in l. 23 (and cf. the ordinal in l. 7).

16 ] ἕξ ὀμάδος Πε[τρῶν: for the term ὀμάς, attested in the papyri only in Nessana and Petra, see P. Petra I, p. 74, 3 5 comm., 36 48–49 comm. Here, it apparently means the ensemble of the community as a fiscal unit.

17 ὀ]φείλοντος . . . [: cf. 35 20–24 ὁμολο[γῶ πεπληρῶσθαι]. . . . τὸ ὀφειλό[μενον].

18 ]κατος καθ' ἕκαστα: καθ' ἕκαστα appears in 9 14 in connection with the transfer of taxation for a certain amount of *iugera* expressed in fractions (cf. also 31 78, 189). We might well restore here, too, a fraction ending with δε]κάτου, in which case it could refer to the same series of fractions as l. 7.

21 ]αετου αὐτοῦ [: could be read, e.g., as ἐκ]άετου αὐτοῦ [ or ]αε τοῦ αὐτοῦ [.

22 ] καὶ πληροῦν: cf. **18** 29, 35, 52, 64, 74, ποιεῖν καὶ πληροῖν, after verbs of agreeing or swearing.

23 ]ν ὀκτὸ μένειν [: perhaps a reference to the dues of eight years, cf. l. 15.

28 ] μήτε πρὸς τοῦς: this may be a promise to avoid causing any trouble, as, e.g., in P. Lond. V 1731.24, ἐξ ἧς ὁμολογῶ μηκέτι μηδένα λόγον ἔχειν πρὸς σὲ μήτε πρὸς τοὺς μετὰ σὲ κληρονόμους.

29 ] λόγουε . . . .[: could be read also as ] λόγου ἐ . . . .[.

30 ] ,γοραε . . . .[: maybe ἀγοράσαι or ἀγοραετ[-. However, according to the conservator, the traces visible at the fragment's left end occur on a separate piece that was on top of this layer.

32 ] ἕκτου, ἰνδ(ικτίωνος) [: the date was written at the end of the document after a vacant line; the rest of the roll (ca. 29 cm) is blank. The date was apparently of the type ἐγράφη μηνὶ (Macedonian month) τοῦ (ἔτους) (year of the Arabian era), ἰνδ(ικτίωνος) (ordinal number), found in the tax receipts **7** 5, **8** 10, **9** 5–6, **20** 7–8, **32** 4 (with Roman month), **34** 3–4, **35** 16–17, **37** 46–47, **45** 11–13, **46** 11–12, **47** 12. If this was the case and the date began the line after the vacant lines above, it would have required space for at least sixteen letters before ἕκτου, assuming the abbreviation μην(ὶ) with the *eta* above the *mu*, a short Macedonian month like Δίφ or Λόφ, and the hundreds and tens written with letter symbols, as is often the case in these receipts. If μηνὶ had not been abbreviated and the Macedonian month had been longer, the required space would have been bigger. This means that, before the preserved 6.5 cm of text, generally with 8–10 letters, there would most probably have been twice as much text missing from the beginning of the lines and another 6.5 cm from the end of the lines. The year of the Arabian era ending with “sixth” corresponds to Julian years ending with “first/second” (i.e., A.D. 5?1/5?2), but, as the year of the indiction is not preserved, we cannot determine the decade.

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Fragmentary Greek text on the left side of the plate, consisting of seven numbered lines of papyrus fragments.

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16

Fragmentary Greek text on the right side of the plate, consisting of nine numbered lines of papyrus fragments.





17

ἄλλοις  
καὶ ἑαυτοῖς

18

καὶ ἑαυτοῖς

19

καὶ ἑαυτοῖς  
καὶ ἑαυτοῖς

20

21

22

καὶ ἑαυτοῖς

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καὶ ἑαυτοῖς

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καὶ ἑαυτοῖς

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καὶ ἑαυτοῖς

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καὶ ἑαυτοῖς

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καὶ ἑαυτοῖς

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καὶ ἑαυτοῖς

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καὶ ἑαυτοῖς

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καὶ ἑαυτοῖς