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The Petra Papyri No. 80 Account of a Debt

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80. ACCOUNT OF A DEBT

Inv. 86b verso
Field No. XIIIk
Glass Plate 332
Plate CLII

ca. 11 x 18 cm

6th c.

The text was written *transversa charta* along the fibers, using the *verso* of the official letter 79. It was written in two columns, but, of the first column, only the line-ends are preserved. The second column is not much better, so the contents remain unclear. The lower part of the sheet, at least of the second column, is empty. The hand is an uneven, not very professional cursive. One gets the impression that the account was possibly written on several different occasions.

The document basically records sums of money (between one and five, possibly twenty, *solidi*). No names are preserved, but someone was indebted ($\chi\rho\xi\omega\tau\epsilon\hat{\iota}$, Col. II 14) to the writer, perhaps for something the writer had prepared, if the uncertain reading $\acute{\epsilon}\tau\acute{o}\imath\mu\alpha\alpha\ \alpha\upsilon\tau\hat{\omega}$ in the following line is correct. The debtor had paid back part of the debt ($\delta\acute{\epsilon}\delta\omega\kappa\epsilon\nu$, Col. II 23) and possibly even the remainder of it ($\acute{\alpha}\pi\acute{\epsilon}\delta\omega\kappa\epsilon\nu$ l. 26).

→

Col. I

1]εϰ . . [
] . θοι ε . . . ςια . [
] . φωϰ
8–9 missing lines
4 νο(μίματα) x παρὰ] κερ(άτια) ιξ (ήμις)
] . ε[. .] .
traces
traces
8 νό(μιμα) α παρὰ κερ(άτια) ε
3 missing or empty lines
traces
traces

Col. II

traces

- 12 [νο(μίματα) x] π[αρά] κερ(άτια) [
1–3 missing lines
[νο(μίματα) x παρά] κερ(άτια) ιε . . . [
/ χρεωστῆ ὁ πρ(ογεγραμμένος?) νειζῶ . . . [
? ἑτοιμάσα αὐτῷ γενήμασι . . . [
16 τοῦτ' ἔστι εἰς νο(μίματα) ι παρὰ κ[ε]ρ(άτια) [
traces
εἰς κ . . λ τὸ εμμ . [
τ . . [. .] . . . δῶναι χρεῖαν? δ [
20 εἰ[. .] . . λ . ο ἐν χρ(έει) ὁ προ [
ἐν κ() δ(ιὰ) [
vac νο(μίματα) β . . . [
δέ[δ]ωκεν εἰ . ο . κ . . [
24 νό(μιμα) α παρὰ κερ(άτια) α (ἥμισυ) ἡ' ἔποικ[
ἀπὸ τῶν δ(ιὰ) [
ἀπέδωκεν ὁ π[ρ](ογεγραμμένος?) [
]

4 κερ Pap. 5 Pap. 8^o Pap. 9 Pap. 12 κερ Pap. 13 κερ Pap. 14 πρ Pap. 16^o Pap. κ[ε]ρ Pap. 20 χρ Pap. 21 κ Pap.
δ Pap. 22^o Pap. 24^o Pap. 9 Pap. 5 Pap. 25 δ Pap. 26 π[ρ] Pap.

TRANSLATION

(Lines 14–26) The above-written . . . owes [for what] I prepared for him . . . the produce . . . that is up to 10(?) *solidi* minus x carats to give . . . in debt the above-written 2 *solidi* . . . he has given . . . 1 *solidus* minus 1 5/8 carats . . . of those through . . . The above-written . . . gave . . .

COMMENTARY

4 [παρά] κερ(άτια) ιε (ἥμισυ): the subtraction seems to be fifteen and a half carats. For the different ratios in the Petra archive, see 29 28–29 comm. and 55 24–25 comm. The present list is too fragmentary for further discussion of the ratios. It looks as if the carat deductions had been marked both in rather full writing (ll. 4, 14, 16) and with a siglum of *pi* with an oblique stroke drawn over (ll. 8 and 24).

8 νό(μιμα) α παρὰ κερ(άτια) ε: “one *solidus*, minus five carats.”

13 [νο(μίματα) x παρὰ] κερ(άτια) ιε . . . [: the reading is uncertain, as the amount of carats might be only ten, the *epsilon* belonging to the following word.

15 ? ἑτοιμάσα αὐτῷ γενήμασι . . . [: in this line, the first person of the verb and the following αὐτῷ seem certain, and the word γένημα probable, but its form as well as that of the verb itself are quite uncertain. As γενήματι cannot be read, αὐτῷ should refer to the debtor.

16 εἰς νο(μίματα) ι παρὰ κ[ε]ρ(άτια) [: for εἰς νο(μίματα), cf. P. Ness. III 56.9 (687). The amount of *solidi* could as well be two (β) or twenty (κ).

18 It looks as if the scribe had struck out this line.

19 τ...[...]. δῶναι χρεῖαν? δ...[: only the verb δῶναι is certain in this line.

22 νο(μίματα) β ...[: the traces after the numeral may give either some fractions or παρὰ [κερ(άτια).

23 δέ[δ]ωκεν ἐν[.]ο.κ...[: after the verb, the second letter is *nu* rather than *pi* but, with regard to the following line, we cannot rule out ἐποικεῖ[. The word ἐποίκιον (“hamlet”) only appears in the Petra archive when locating farms. It is difficult to see its function in an account of a debt.

J. ΚΑΙΜΙΟ



Col I Col II

