A receipt for gold bullion

P. Vindob. inv. G 27879   HERMOPOLIS
17.7 × 8.2 cm.   29 September 329

L IGHT-BROWN papyrus, writing on both sides parallel to the fibers.
Margins 1.5 cm. at top, 5 cm. at right, 1.5 cm. below, 2.5 cm.
at left. Join of *κολλήματα* at 5.5 cm. from right side (on front).
This papyrus appears to contain the receipts for a total of 55 grams
(i.e., 2 oz. 7 gr.) of gold bullion delivered by the well-known Demetria
also called Ammonia for the buying up of gold by the government in
329/330. The subject of these governmental purchases is discussed
in the article of Roger Bagnall, pp. 322-326. The syntax of our text
is very loose, consisting of a series of items of information given se-
quentially but with little syntactic connection. This sort of receipt
recalls categories of texts like transportation chits, for which cf. L.
Amundsen, *O.Osl.* p. 41. We have neither a verb referring to the col-
lector (*ἀπέσχον* for instance) nor one referring to the person delivering
(either in the second or the third person, e.g. *παρήνεγκεν* or *παρέδωκας*)
In this receipt we thus find a formula very different from its equivalent
in Karanis (*P. Mert.* I 31). Since this is the first receipt of its kind to
be published, coming from the Hermopolite Nome, we cannot say for
certain whether this formula is a local variant or a collector's peculiarity.
But the approximately contemporary *SPP* XX 87, of which a revised
text is given in the note to line 6, also Hermopolite and concerning the
same taxpayer, presents a rather similar formula in a receipt for *vestis*;
we conclude, therefore, that the formula is likely to have been common
in the Hermopolite at this period.
This may be a retrospective receipt, incorporating information from
an earlier one as well as the actual payment on Phaophi 2. Even so,
it is curious that no date is given for the first payment.

> Ἀποδέκ[τ]ης χρυσοῦ συνωνῆς ιζ
> ἤτοι γ″ ἰ[ν]δικτίονος. Δημητρία ἡ καὶ
> Ἀμον[ία] χ[ρυ]σοῦ κα(θαροῦ) τριάκο[ντα] πέντε.
> 4 ἡ α[ὐτὴ ..]. χρυσοῦ κα(θαροῦ) εἴκο[σ]ι. Φαῶφι β.
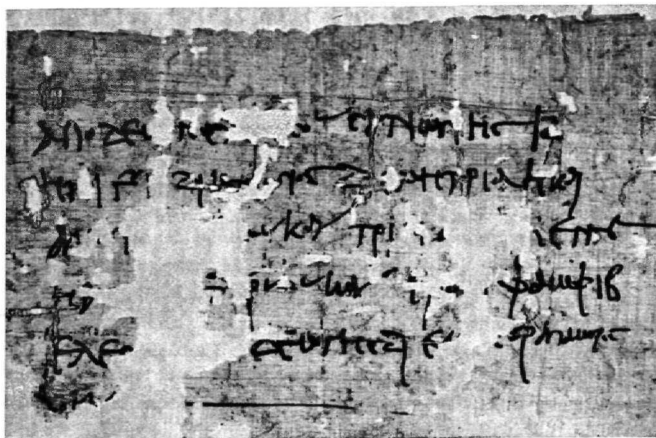> Ἕλεν[ος ἀπο]δέκτης δι᾽ ἐμ[οῦ] Σαραπάμονος
> ἐσημ(ειωσάμην).

Fig. 1. — A Receipt for gold bullion.
P. Vindob. gr. G.27879 ; Hermopolis, 29.ix.329.

Verso (m.2)

Μέλανος ὑποδέκτ[ης]

1 ἀποδέκτης : ϛ ex. corr. 3 Ἀμμωνία ; traces above π of πέντε
4 κα(θαροῦ) : first α corrected

« Receiver of gold for the buying up for the 17th-3rd indiction. Demetria also called Ammonia (delivered) thirty-five (grams) of pure gold. The same ... twenty (grams) of pure gold. Phaophi 2. I, Helenos, receiver, signed through me, Sarapammon.

Verso : Melanos, receiver. »

1. ἀποδέκτης χρυσοῦ : Not found in N. Lewis, *Inventory of Compulsory Services* (Am.Stud.Pap. 3, 1968), nor in J. Lallemand, *L'administration civile de l'Égypte* (Bruxelles 1964) ; in *P. Mert.* I 31 and the Columbia analogues (see, p. 323), one finds *epimeletai* and the *tesserarius* collecting bullion ; in *P. Cair. Isid.* 127 there is an *apaitetes*. But *apodektes* was a common title for officials in charge of government purchases, cf. *P. Panop. Beatty* 1. 245.

1-2. ιζ ἤτοι γ″ ἰ[ν]δικτίονος : See our forthcoming monograph on the institution of indictions, where we discuss equations of this kind and

argue that they can belong only to the years 327-342. The present date is to the indiction of 329/330.

2-3. Demetria also called Ammonia : This wealthy woman is found in several other papyri from fourth century Hermopolis ; cf. *P. Vindob. Bosw.* 9. 1n. for a list, to which can be added *SPP* XX 87, and K. A. Worp, *BASP* 14 (1977) 95-97.

3. κα(θαροῦ) : This word is generally written more fully, but the formula of the Karanis receipts demonstrates that this resolution is necessary. Given that gold is involved, only grams can be meant, although one would expect that γράμματα would have been written. More curious still is the apparent use of the figure of 35 gr. rather than 1 oz., 11 gr. But we see no alternative to our reading.

4. In the lacuna, possibly ὁμ(οίως) ; there projects from the right side of the lacuna a horizontal bar which could be the habitual abbreviation stroke written in that word.

6. One finds the perfect more commonly, but ἐσημιω(σάμην) is not unattested. It appears in *SPP* XX 87.6 (where Wessely read the perfect). In this papyrus a number of changes in the published text are necessary ; these show its formula to be nearer to that of the present papyrus than the first publication suggests. We therefore print a revised text based on Worp's examination of the original and our joint study of a photograph.

SPP XX 87

       Ὑποδέκτης ἐσθῆτος ζ ἰν[δ(ικτίονος).]
       Δημητρία ἡ καὶ Ἀμμων[ία]
       διὰ Ὀνωράτου βοηθ(οῦ)· παρέ[σχες]
4   ὑπὲρ τῆς (αὐτῆς) ζ ἰνδ(ικτίονος) τὰ αἱρο[ῦντα]
       κιλικ(ίου) ὑπὲρ χλαμ(ύδων) δ′ γ[ίν(ονται) δ′.]
       (m.2) Ὡρίων ὑποδέκ(της) ἐσημιω(σάμην) τὸ [αἱροῦν]
       τοῦ κιλικίου ὑπὲρ χλαμ(ύδων) δ′ [

7. We do not understand the relationship of the back to the front. It is just conceivable that *Μέλανος* is a genitive (from *Μέλας*) and that one should restore ὑποδέκτ[ου].

Columbia University, New York   Roger S. Bagnall
University of Amsterdam   K. A. Worp