STEALING LIVESTOCK AT OXYRHYNCHUS

We present here a papyros document housed in the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center at the University of Texas at Austin. The small fragmentary text contains a petition from Neopetrus to Apolloni, the police chief (archepheilotatet), of the village of Oxyrhynchus. A contemporary Apolloni, who was epistates of the same village, is known from s of hundreds of documents. It is possible, we suggest, that he was one of the same.

In the mid-second century a.c. Petrus son of Petronius, a royal farmer at Oxyrhynchus, submitted a petition to Apolloni, the epistates of the same village (P.Euryn. 1.4, and III 145 a.c.c.). His complaint was similar to that of Neopetrus: unidentified priests broke into his yard and drove away his livestock. The editor suggests that the Apolloni in P.Euryn. 1.4 may have been the same person to whom the Antiochene Demosthenes forwarded another petition (P.Euryn. 1.5, 166 a.c.c.), and was likely the same Apolloni who was instructed to deliver a summons in P.Euryn. 1.11 (150 a.c.c.). These identifications are plausible but not certain.2 We may perhaps be more confident that the Apolloni, epistates of Oxyrhynchus, who received a prosoulogeia concerning a beating and subsequent trial (SB XXII 15542; mid II a.c.c.), is, as the editor suggested, the same man to whom P.Euryn. 1.4 was addressed.3

All of these texts belong to the middle of the second century a.c. The Texas petition is dated to a 28th regnal year. Ptolemaic argues against the 28th years of Philadelphos (255/4) and Auletes (543), leaving 1543, under Philomostor, and 1432, under the restored Euergetes II, as the only possible dates. We may be certain, then, that the Apolloni who is chief of police in the Texas papyrus was at least a close contemporary of the epistates mentioned at P.Euryn. 1.4 and SB XXII 15542. At least five contemporary police chiefs were both epistates and archepheilotatetes of a village.3 This, thus, both chronological and administrative realities allow the possibility that Apolloni the archepheilotates in the Texas papyrus was elsewhere addressed as epistates, and that a single man named Apolloni held both posts at Oxyrhynchus. Any identification must remain at best a conjecture for now, but perhaps new texts will allow greater certainty.

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2 It is not uncommon for witnesses to be involved in legal proceedings, including the delivery of sentences and/or transport of litigants to and from the court, or to move between the s or the papyri to the accoepheilotetes, or the s, the s, however, forward the petition to the archepheilotetes, but to the epistates (10). At P.Euryn. 68.2-8 (221 a.c.c.) the epistates requested that the s write both to the epistates and the archepheilotetes, the s forwarded the petition to the epistates (13).
4 Aulus civicus was both epistates and archepheilotetes of Eucharis: P.Geo.Civ. 17.2 (a.c.c.) 83-2-131 (a.c.c.) 472 s. 862 (a.c.c.) 131 (a.c.c.) epistates recorded, P.Pol. 1.154 and ad litteram at VIII 643, on which see H. F. 1883 (170-110 a.c.c.), Demosthenes held both posts in Middle Rhodian (P.Meg. XX 688-2 (207 a.c.c.), another Demosthenes held both at Teubner: P.Pol. 5 45.8-10 (138-139 a.c.c.), mid II a.c.c.); also Hesiodos from an undetermined village in the Papyrae, G. 202 (209-210 a.c.c.).
The recto preserves 16 lines of text, written with the fibers. The verso, which is badly abraded, may preserve the name of the addressee written with the fibers. Margin survives on three sides; at top, left, and right. The document is broken at the bottom. Perhaps 4–6 lines of text have been lost.

TEXT AND TRANSLATION

γ' Ἀπολλονίου ἄρχοντος, κτιν. καὶ τοῖς φυλετικῖς
Οὔφρονοι παρὰ
ν. Περιπληκτείς τοῦ Πολεμίου(ου)
Μακεδόνοις διδάγμα
τοῦ πατρικοῦ (μου) κλήρου.
4 τὴν εἰς τὴν Ἰβίν ὁμοιομορφίαν
ἀριστον μου [καὶ]...

8 τοῦ ἀν. [καὶ]...
φιλοσοφεῖν νυν...
οντος μου εἰς...

12 εἰς τὴν αὐτήν μου, ὥστε τὸ ἔοικεν
κοινοτέριον...
τὰ κοινὴ 
γενόμενα...

16 καὶ θὰ...
καὶ...

'Ἀπολλονίου'

Recto: To Apolloinos, archipryxilakites, and the phylosxilos of Oxyrhychus, from Neopolemos, son of Polemicos, Macedonian, inheritor of his father's allotment. On the night before the twelfth of ... year 28, while I was ..., certain individuals broke into my yard, where my flock was penned, and departed in possession of them?).

Verso: To Apolloinos (7).

NOTES

1–3: Correspondence addressed to a police official and his phylosxilos: e.g. P.Guz. Doc. 1.8.1–4 (131 B.C.): 'Αείτινα ἀλέξανδρος ἐπίκουρον καὶ ἀποδείξεις [τινὰ ὧδε] μετὰ ἐπιστολάς [τινὰς] ἐπιστολὰς 
4: This Neopolemos is not otherwise known.
5: A month is required and given the available space, Thess. Hadley, and Yale are the most likely candidates.
6: Sense and partial phrasing (e.g. P.Casius 1.4.5–7) do not suggest a need for additional clarification at the end of the line. Word order and space do not always give the kind of redundant precision attended at P.Tobi. III. 796.5–4 (283 a.c.): τὰ ναῦα 
9–10: Parallel formulae suggest that these lines contained a statement of the perpetrator's automatism at the time of the incident. J. Kamaicos, 27.7 (222 B.C.): ἔγραψεν μου ἀποδείξεις τις εἰς τὸν Σπηλαίον, 35.4 (222 B.C.): δύο τινας ἀποδείξεις εἰς Ἀλεξανδρίαν τις καὶ τις. P.Tobi. III. 793.5–12 (283 B.C.): ἀποδείξεις ἡ ἡ ἀποδείξεις τις ἀποδείξεις τις εἰς τὸν Σπηλαίον. P.Tobi. III. 807.11–17 (283 B.C.): ἀποδείξεις τις εἰς τὸν Καποδίτιον καὶ τὸν Περιπλούν. 44.1–2 (213 B.C.): δύο ἀποδείξεις ἡ ἡ ἀποδείξεις τις ἡ ἡ ἀποδείξεις τις. Σεβ. 86685.6–10 (Schoeceuter. III B.C.): ἀποδείξεις τις εἰς τις, epist. [i.e. letters?].

14x8 cm. 154/3 or 143/2 B.C.

Oxyrhynchus
11–12: For parallels for this common turn of phrase see P.Held. VIII 421.2 (Heraclopolis?; ca 201 or 177 B.C.?) with commentaries at 325c-326.

13–14: ἔκστατος... ἔτει τῆς φόνης: We might supply the necessary sense by excising [μοι] ἔτει τῆς φόνης, but one would expect the more common word order τῆς φόνης μοι. This tottering would also leave a gap of 3–4 letters. Alternatively, something like ἐκστάτος[το πάντων] τῆς φόνης (cf. I Piz 110 173–4 [Memphis, 164 B.C.]) would satisfy both sense and shape. Perhaps the nearer plural τῆς φόνης took a plural verb: ἐκστάτο[το] ἐκστασίας, cf. Maspero, Grammaire 2.3 28–30. We have assumed that the form is ἔκστατος[το] rather than ἐκστασίας: where my flocks were penned,” but the active voice ἔκστατος[το] would not be impossible: cf. e.g. B.GU VI. 1225.12 (Hermopolis, III B.C.); P.Het.VIII. 395.107, 307.29, 32 (Tebtynis, II B.C.); P.Warg 11.18 (Aristion, c. 99). Traces after the zeta seem to be more consistent with ἐκστατος[το] than ἐκστασίας, but we hesitate to rule out either. The use of the imperfect may have been frequentative, suggesting that it was ἐκστατος[το] habit to pen his flock in the courtyard.


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