Remains of an *agnitio bonorum possessionis*: P.Duk. inv. 466*

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This document is a Latin papyrus in two fragments kept at Duke University and formerly registered as P.Miss. 32. The upper margin is ca. 0.5 cm. The lower part of the document is lost, but traces of letters in the middle and right parts of line 7 are still visible. How much is missing on the left and/or the right of the text is unclear, although some parallels suggest that several words (the *triba nomina* and title of the addressee in line 1, a likely juristic formula in lines 3 and 5), namely between 15 and 18 letters altogether, have been lost on the left. The text is written across the fibers in an old Roman cursive. An independent fragment contains traces of ca. 5 letters.

The document dates to AD 212 or later, as is clear from the recurrence of the *nomen gentilicum* Aurelius/Aurelia, an obvious reference to Caracalla’s grant of Roman citizenship to nearly all peregrines within the empire. Such a dating would be consistent with the writing, an old Roman cursive comparable to *P.Diog.* 10 (= *P.Coll.Youtie* I 64 = *ChLA* XLVII 1403, from Philadelphia), dated to June 3, 211, or *P.Thomas* 20 (Oxyrhynchus, 269–270), or *ChLA* XLV 1324, dated to the late 3rd–early 4th c. Most, if not all, parallels belong to the same period (cf. below). If the proposed reading of the consul’s name in line 6 is correct, then we would want to date the papyrus to AD 239.

The papyrus likely comes from Oxyrhynchus. One or, possibly, two of the individuals are recorded as inhabitants of the city. One may be an Antinoite. Most, if not all, parallels come from Oxyrhynchus. It is possible that the traces in lines 6 and 7, and on the second fragment, are Greek. Parallels are often bilingual (cf. below).

→

Fr. a  

[ ca. 15? praef(ecto) · Aeg(ypti) · ab Aurelio Dionusio q(ui) · e(t) · Pausanio  

[ ca. 15? ]usani q(ui) · e(t) · Artemidori [ ] Didumi ab Oxurugch(itarum) · civit[a]t[e  

[rogo, domine, des mihi] bonorum possessionem Aurelia(e) As[c]tario(u) q(uae) · [et  

[ Athen[ ]  

4  

[ ca. 15? e q(ua/uae) · e(t) · Sinthoni de Antinoide matris · meae  

int(estatea) · defunctae ?]  


[ ca15 ? ]eta . . .col[ . . . [ - - - ] traces  

[ traces [  

Fr. b  

] traces [  

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No. 3

To NN, prefect of Egypt, from Aurelius Dionysius, also known as Pausanias, ward of [NN -]usanus, also known as Artemidorus Didymus [or: Artemidorus, son of Didymus], from the city of the Oxyrhynchites. [I ask, lord, that you grant me] possession of the property of Aurelia As[k]latarion, also known as Athen-[daughter of NN] also known as Sinthonis of Antinoe, my mother, who has died intestate [according to the part of the edict whereby] you promise to grant (it) to legitimate heirs. Given on [date].

1 The function of the prefect of Egypt was preceded by his name and, possibly, its title viro perfect-issimo (or in an abbreviated form), which would then imply a larger lacuna in the left part of the text. If the dating of the papyrus in AD 239 is correct (cf. below), then the missing name is L. Lucretius Annianus. Cf. A. Jördens, Statthalterliche Verwaltung in der römischen Kaiserzeit: Studien zum praefectus Aegypti (Historia Einzelschriften 175) (Stuttgart 2009) 530.

2 The sequence ]usani can only be part of the proper name Pausanias and relatives, or, a less likely possibility in this document, Lusianus or Lusianios, which name is applied to a neighborhood (amphodos) located in the Arsinoite nome (P.Fay. 30, Theadelphia, 171).

3 As[c]l[atario(u). The name Ασκλατάριον is very common in Roman Oxyrhynchite. However, as Rodney Ast pointed out to me, the available space might call for a shorter name; he suggests Al[atario(u) as a possibility.

4 Sinthonis is a common female name in Greek papyri dated from the first to the fourth century, but occurs here for the first time in Latin. The word de is clearly written above the line, as an addition, between Sinthoni and Antinoide. It could be the ending (ablative case?, perhaps connected with the final -e occurring as the first visible letter of line 4) or the preposition de (Gr. ἀπό). The case of either word and the relationship between Sinthonis and Aurelia Asklatarion are uncertain.
In *P.Thomas* 20 (Oxyrhynchus, 270), a very close parallel, a filiation is expressed with *ex + ablative* (line 4–5: *... ex code(m)/[patre qui supra, matre Hieraciain]e*, reconstructed in Latin from the better preserved Greek translation. Another solution is suggested by *CPL* 216 (= *SB* I 1010 = *ChLA* XI 486 = *FIRA* III² 61, Antinoopolis, Sept. 15, 249), lines 2–3, in the form of an absolute ablative: *t(utore) a(uctore) patre/*[suo] M. Aurelio Chaeremone q(ui) e(t) Zoilo hieronica/*[Antinoense]. Cf. below.

*int(estate)ae de functae* is certain, by comparison with *P.Thomas* 20.6: *[sororis nostrae consanguineae sine pu/l/eris et intestatae de functae*, again confirmed in the Greek translation that follows. It is possible that *defunctae* was written *defunctae*.

The incomplete text can be reconstructed on the basis of parallels in both Latin and Greek. Cf. below.

5–6 The consular date, expected after *polliceris* is difficult to reconstruct on the basis of extant traces. The only group of letters, *eta*, would point to (Publius Septimius) Geta, consul (named in second position) in 203, 205, and 208, which does not fit the likely *terminus post quem* in 212. Following Hélène Cuvigny’s clever and compelling suggestion, we can take *et* as the conjunction, and read *et Aṿ̣̣iọ̣̣̣̣lọ̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣̣

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