One of the more interesting, and neglected, texts for the history of the beginning of the fifteen-year indication cycles is P.Erl.52, an account of various commodities disbursed for official purposes. The first edition presents numerous difficulties, and the preservation of parts of the text is poor. We have been led by our study of the indication system \(^1\) to examine P.Erl.52 more closely on the basis of photographs kindly obtained by Professor J. Herrmann. From these we present a revised text and translation of the best-preserved part of the papyrus, B Recto, and a list of some corrections to the text of other parts of the papyrus. \(^2\)

**Column 1**

23 κηρέως [ ]

24 οὖτως

25 μη(ν)ι Μαίων [Κ]ορνηλίῳ Μάρῳ εἰς Τίττα βάππον ἀπὸ κ ἴνδικ(τίνος) λί(τρα)ι σαί

26 λοιπ(α)ὶ εἰς τὴν πρὸ σ Ἐκλ(ανδῶν) Μαίων ὑπατείας Οἰδολογικοῦ καὶ Ἀννίπου

27 τῶν λαμπροτάτων λί(τρα)ι Αἴμη

28 οὖτως

29 κ ἴνδικ(τίνος) π(αρὰ) Κορνηλίῳ Μάρῳ λί(τρα)ι ημη

30 λογοθεσίου η ἴνδικ(τίνος) π(αρὰ) Πολύτει Πιοταπήτως καὶ κοὶ(νοῦς)

31 ποιμέας κάμης Πιτύτως λί(τρα)ι υπὸ δύ(σώς)

32 λογοθεσίου κὲ ἴνδικ(τίνος) λί(τρα)ι Αἴμη

33 οὖτως

34 π(αρὰ) Ἰσχυρίων Κασιλιανοῦ λί(τρα)ι ημη

35 π(αρὰ) Νεφώτη Διοκάρου καὶ κοὶ(νοῦς) λί(τρα)ι χπς γ(ιὸνται) αἱ προκείμεναι

\(^1\) The results of this study will be embodied in our forthcoming Chronological Systems of Byzantine Egypt, in Studia Amstelodamensia.

\(^2\) It should be pointed out that A and B join exactly.
κριθής 
οὕτως 
α΄ ἰνδικ(τέους)
διαδόταις ἐπὶ τόπων Ὀὐαλεντένης καὶ Μάρμη (ἀρτάβαι) ολ β ἦ
οὕτως
κ‟ ἰνδικ(τέους) (ἀρτ.) ρπζ ιζ‟ ἰνδικ(τέους) (ἀρτ.) μδ ζ ἴκο
ὑποδέχοντας τοὺς νομοὺς εἰς τὰς ἐπὶ τόπων χορηγίας (ἀρτ.) κζλ
οὕτως
κ‟ ἰνδικ(τέους) (ἀρτ.) θ ηζ‟ ἰνδικ(τέους) (ἀρτ.) η γ‟
eἰς δὲ ἑντύραν ἀπὸ εἰς ἰνδικ(τέους) (ἀρτ.) καὶ γ(ἐνονταί) αἱ π(ροκεῖμεναι)
γ(ἐνονταί) μεταβα...
(ἀρτ.) τῆς ἐδ ἴκο
λοιπ(αὶ)
(ἀρτ.) τριήθη

Column II

οὕτως]
κ‟ ἰνδικ(τέους) (ἀρτάβαι) ι δι ζ
θ ι‟ ἰνδικ(τέους) (ἀρτάβαι) ι γ‟
η ι‟ ἰνδικ(τέους) (ἀρτάβαι) μη λ δ‟
ιζ‟ ἰνδικ(τέους) (ἀρτάβαι) πΣ κζο
γ(ἐνονταί) αἱ π(ροκεῖμεναι)

ἀχρόου λι(τρῶν) (μυρίάδες) ία / Θσ...
οὕτως
εἰς Μαῖαμιανόπολ(ίν) λι(τρῶν) (μυρ.) η / Θσδ
οὕτως
Κτήστη Κοπρήνος γ(ἐνονταί) αἱ π(ροκεῖμεναι)
ἱκουράζω ἀπὸ λι(τρῶν) (μυρ.) θ μετά
tὰς οὕτας α‟ ἰνδικ(τέους) λι(τρῶν) (μυρ.) β / ΗΕ αἱ
λοιπ(αὶ) λι(τρῶν) (μυρ.) ζ / Ἐμ
οὕτως
κ‟ ἰνδικ(τέους) <λι(τραί)> Δφ ιζ‟ ἰνδικ(τέους)
λι(τρῶν) (μυρ.) ε / Ζωμ
Πασμητ( ) ἀπὸ Ἑλεφαντίνης
66 ἀπὸ τῆς ἱδρυμ(τίονος) ἀπὸ λιτ(τρῶν) (μυρ.) β´ μετὰ τάς
67 οὔδες α´ ἱδρυμ(τίονος) λιτ(τρῶν) (μυρ.) α´ οὐς α´
68 λοιπ(α)ι λιτ(τρῶν) / θρηδ
69 Ψευδηθεὶς ναυλὴπρη
70 ἀπὸ λιτ(τρῶν) (μυρ.) β´ Ε μετὰ τάς οὔδες
71 α´ ἱδρυμ(τίονος) λιτ(τρῶν) / φε σι λοιπ(α)ι λιτ(τρ.) (μυρ.) α´ Κερί(γόνται) α´
π(ροκεμεναι)
72 λοιπ(α)ι λογοθεσίου τῆς ἱδρυμ(τίονος) π(αρά) ύποδεικταις
73 τού νομοῦ λιτ(τρῶν) (μυρ.) γ´ σ

35 Uncertain if papyrus has κοιν, κοι or κοιν(ω) ()] 52 ρπθ: ῥ ex ν

23. Possibly, as in 36, nothing was written in this line between κρέως and the amount.
25. The editor did not understand μη = μη(ν), and he therefore rejected his own correct suggestion of Μαίω(ν).
31. There is a line under the end of ποιμέσι and the start of κύσι.
35. For γ(γόνται) α´ π(ροκεμεναι) see H.C. Youtie, Scriptuinsculae I (Amsterdam 1973) 54 with other references. The editor (35 n.) suggested this resolution but rejected it, evidently not understanding its use at the end of an account where the total is given at the top and then analyzed.
38. This line was apparently added between the lines as a supplement to διαδόταις in the next line.
46. The editor's μεταβολεῖ has no sense in this place. We expect a form, probably passive, of μεταβάλλω, cf. line 7 of A Recto.
47. The editor places λοιπ(α)ι in the preceding line, but this gives no sense, as the figure in 47 is in fact the balance, while 46 is the total of the figures above. The word is not really quite aligned with either line.
48. It is possible that the papyrus is virtually complete at top and that no text is lost (also in Column I). In this case it would be likely that lines 49ff. give a breakdown of line 47. But mutilation of the amounts makes it impossible to be certain.
54. The editor failed to recognize Λ as the sign for myriads, but transcribed it as πι throughout, leading to grave problems in understanding the arithmetic.
58. There is a marginal stroke next to this line.

72. λογοθέταν, absent from LSJ and WB, is cited by WB Supplement from this papyrus and from P.Oxy.XVIII 2187.9, where the editor translates it "audit of the accounts". Doris, Spoglio, adds PSI VII 767.49.

**Translation**

**Column I**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meat</td>
<td>2,651 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As follows:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the month of May, to Cornelius son of Moros, to Tentyra, from the 20th indiction</td>
<td>706 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance on Ante 1 Kal. May in the consulate of Volusianus and Annianus the most illustrious</td>
<td>1,945 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As follows:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th indiction, with Cornelius son of Moros</td>
<td>448 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From the audit of the 18th indiction, with Paos son of Photapes and associates, shepherds of the village of Phytis</td>
<td>411 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likewise, from the audit of the 17th indiction</td>
<td>1,086 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As follows:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With Ischyron son of Kastoros</td>
<td>400 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With Nephtoe son of Dioscorus and associates</td>
<td>686 lbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The preceding sums agree.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barley</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As follows:</td>
<td>707 1/3 1/12 art.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To the local diadotai of the 1st indiction, Valentinus and Marcus</td>
<td>230 2/3 1/8 art.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As follows:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th indiction</td>
<td>186 1/2 art.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th indiction</td>
<td>44 1/4 1/24 art.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To the hypodektai of the nome, for local provisions</td>
<td>27 1/2 art.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As follows:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20th indiction</td>
<td>9 1/6 art.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th indiction</td>
<td>18 1/3 art.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To Tentyra from the 17th indiction</td>
<td>50 art.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The preceding sums agree.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total transferred (?)</td>
<td>308 1/4 1/24 art.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance</td>
<td>399 1/8 art.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Column II**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indiction</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20th indiction</td>
<td>. . . 1/6 art.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19th indiction</td>
<td>10 1/3 art.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th indiction</td>
<td>48 1/2 1/4 art.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17th indiction</td>
<td>189 1/24 art.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The preceding sums agree.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaff</td>
<td>119, 2[..] lbs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To Maximianopolis 89,[.]4 lbs.

To Kitistes son of Kopres

To Januarius, from 90,000 lbs. after the sums from the 1st indiction, 28,060 lbs.,
the balance 65,940 lbs. [sic]

As follows:

20th indiction 4,500 lbs.

18th indiction 57,440 lbs.

To Pasmet( ) from Elephantine, from the 18th indiction, from 20,000 lbs., after the
amount from the 1st indiction, 10,856 lbs., balance 9,144 lbs.

To Psennechthis the naukleros, from 25,000 lbs., after the amount from the 1st in-
diction, 6,500 lbs., balance 18,500 lbs. The preceding sums agree.
Balance from the audit of the 18th indiction with the hypodektai of the nome, 30,200 lbs.

A brief explanation of the addition may be useful in the case of doubtful points.

Lines 23–35, meat: the basic sum is line 25 + line 27 = line 23 (706 + 1945 =
2,651). The figure of 1,945 is reckoned as follows: lines 34 + 35 = line 32 (400 +
686 = 1,086); lines 32 + 29 + 31 = line 27 (1,086 + 448 + 411 = 1,945).

Lines 36–47, barley: the basic sum is 47 + 46 = 36 (399 1/8 + 308 1/4 1/24 =
707 1/3 1/12). Line 46 is reached by adding lines 39, 42 and 45 (230 2/3 1/8 +
27 1/2 + 50 = 308 1/4 1/24). Line 39 is the addition of two sums in line 41, and
line 42 is the addition of two sums in line 44.

Lines 54–73, chaff: some figures are lost, making a complete reconciliation im-
possible. Lines 60 + 61 must = 59, but the scribe incorrectly wrote an epsilon instead
of alpha in the thousands' place in line 61; that alpha was right is shown by adding
63 to 64 (4,500 + 57,440). Perhaps alpha was misread as epsilon from an account on
which the figures originally stood. Line 66 less line 67 = line 68. Line 70 less line
71 = line 71 (18,500). Lines 61, 68 and 71 add up to 89,584, evidently what should
have stood in line 56 (we cannot say if it actually did). Line 54 minus line 56 =
line 73, but uncertainty in the last digits in lines 54 and 56 makes the exact sum
(and the accuracy of the reckoning) uncertain.

This account has numerous points of interest. Here we are concerned with only one,
the mentions of indictions. There are mentions of the 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, and 1st
indictions. The first four of these are certainly, since we have a clear date by consuls
in line 4 of 30 April 314, the indictions of 308/9 through 311/2. The usage of such
numbers was demonstrated by Kase,3) who remarked that these numbers equal the regnal

years of Galerius, the senior emperor at the time. We reserve a discussion of the problems concerning this style of reckoning to our forthcoming monograph.

The 1st induction is the most recent, evidently (lines 38, 39, 60, 70, 71), and its harvest has already taken place. The entire account mentions only one expenditure after this date, in May (line 25), and we think it is a fair deduction from the fact that the last balance cited is that of 30 April that the account itself was drawn up in or shortly after May, 314. It is evident that induction 1 in this context can be only the 1st induction of the cycle of 312, i.e. 312/3. It is natural enough that induction 2, 313/4, is not mentioned, for its harvest fell in 314 itself; the taxes would not begin to be paid, and the revenues thus be used for expenditures, until shortly after the time to which we assign this account, i.e. the harvest season of induction 2 in 314. No mention of an induction 2 is thus to be expected.4)

The broader significance of the evidence of P.Erl. 52 will be treated in our monograph on chronology. But it is important to point out that this is the only evidence known so far mentioning induction 1 of the first cycle in a document. From P.Erl. 52 we can therefore deduce that by spring, 314, the authorities in Egypt were using the cycle of consecutively numbered inductions based on 312/3 = year 1, and that this system was used with reference not only to the current year but with regard to the past one. At all events, by May or June, 314, the cycle was in use with respect to the time since 312.

The other columns of this papyrus might also benefit from a reedition; and indeed P. Erl. 105 - 110, which clearly come from the same source and are closely related, could also use work. The photographs are not sufficiently clear to permit this at present, and recourse to the originals, not throughout well preserved, will be needed. For the present, we give a list of corrections to the remainder of P.Erl. 52 which can be made from the photographs. (X → Y means "for X read Y").

P.Erl. 52 A Recto

Line 3: Ἰχνη γασί → ἸΗν \gamma (Ἰονταῖ) αἱ ποικίλευσαί

4: This line is heavily mutilated, but there seems space enough in the lacuna to restore the name at least of the second consul: καὶ Πρόβου

4) Cl. Préaux, Cd'E 18 (1943) 169 pointed out that this papyrus contained a clear mention of the 1st induction of 312/3, but her remarks have not been noticed by subsequent scholars, so far as we have seen.
5: λί(τράι) πη σι = λι(τράν) (μυρ.) γ σι, cf. lines 54ff.
6: γαλ = γ(ένοντα) αι π(ροκείμεναι)
7: Ἀ'πανένου = ἀνώνυμον
8: Ἐθαόου = λογοθεσίου
9: λιν.ρισσον Wal. } χορη - λιν.ρισσον [εις τάξε] ἐπὶ τόμων χορη[γας]
10: } λ.λογο τοιοου
19: ] λ.λογο(εσιου)

P. ErL. 52 A Verso

Above the middle, one reads, in the same hand as B Verso, three lines:

Βορήσεως (cf. B Verso)

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Παχύν

P. ErL. 52 B Verso

Line 78: Ψενετιμιν]ς = Ψενετύμινς

80: τοι θυ( plagiarism) = Τέχθ(ω)

2 ρζι = (τόλαντα) ιζς

82: (τόλαντα) αλ εκ = (τόλαντα) ο (δραχμαι) Δξ

91: (τόλαντα) βεβ = (τόλαντα) β (δραχμαι) Β

93: Ομητος = Ατρήτος

The numerals in lines 80 and 81 refer, in our opinion, to pagi.

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