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TWO NOMINATIONS OF GOLDSMITHS TO COLLECT TAXES

By a remarkable coincidence, the publication of Bagnall's edition of P. Yale inv. 1648 as P. Rainer Cent. 122 and that of Gerardo Casanova of P. Med.inv. 71.66 in Aegyptus 62 (1982) 65-68 fell within a month or so of one another, with neither of us knowing of the other's text. These two agreements, by the guild of goldsmiths of Oxyrhynchus with one of its members, concern the collection of the chrysargyron by that member. The Milanese text comes from 421, the Yale one from 429, but they are very close in wording. Neither text is fully preserved - both are damaged at left and below - but the Yale text is somewhat better preserved. The comparison of the two makes a far more complete reading and restoration of both possible. There are still, however, some points of difficulty in places where the texts are not quite parallel. We give a revised text of each (only the affected part, lines 1-8, of the Yale piece), then a text showing parallels and divergences, a new translation of the Yale piece as restored, and finally a few comments on what is learned from these improvements.

We are grateful to Dr Casanova for a new and very clear photograph of the Milanese papyrus after some further restoration.

P. Med.inv. 71.66

29 x 15 cm.

20. xii. 421

[ἐπατεῖς Ἀθανασίου Ἐφίππου] καὶ Ἀγρικόλα τῶν λαμπροτάτων Χολάκ κό
vacat
[ἡ λαμπρότατη ἐργασία] τῶν χρυσοχθονίων τῆς λαμπρᾶς καὶ λαμπροτάτης Ὀξυρυγ-
χιτῶν πόλεως
[δὲ] ἡμῶν τῶν ἔξης ὑπὸ γραφοῦν τιμήτωρ Χαιρόμονον σεβήμου ἀπὸ τῆς αὐτῆς
πόλεως τῆς αὐτῆς ἐργασίας
4 [χαῖρειν] τῆς ὀνομασίας χάριν) τοῦ ἐκ τῆς ἡμῶν ἐργασίας ξηστουμένου δι-
ομητοῦ τοῦ χρυσαπόθροο τῆς πέμπτης
[ἰνδικτιόνος] 5 ἱσχεῖσθε, ἐς σὲ τῶν Χαιρόμονα ἐπίλεξάμενοι μᾶλλον δὲ
προτρεπόμενοι
[σοι ἐνετείλαμεν] καὶ κα[τεπίστευσα]μεν ποιήσατο τὴν διοίκησιν, ἡμῶν
ἐπαγγελμένων
[πάντα τὰ] 9 προσόφημα τοῦ τῆς διοίκησι[σ]ε[ω]ς γεγονόμενα ἀναλώ-
μα[τα] εἶτε ἐπὶ τῶν
8 [εἴτε ἐν τῷ τὰς ἡμῶν] ἐπίλυθον καὶ καταβάλετον διό καὶ τὴν ἐγγραφὴν.
ταύτην ἀσφάλιαν

9 [ἐθέμεθα σοι καὶ ἰμιλογοῦμεν τοῖς] παντοῖοις ἀναλώμασιν [Ξηπτούμενοι εἰς τὴν ἡμῶν]
[διοίκησιν] 
 traces

P. Yale inv. 1648 = P. Rainer Cent. 122 39.4 x 25 cm. 19. ix. 429

[Μετά τὴν ὑπατείαν Φλαουλον Φήλικος καὶ Ταῦρου τῶν λαμπρότατον θεοὶ καὶ vacat
[ἡ (e.g.) λαμπρότατο ἐργασία τῶν χρυσογόνων τῆς λαμπρᾶς καὶ λαμπρότατης ὁμορυχτῶν πόλεως δι᾽ ἡμῶν τῶν ἔχουσιν ἐποχθώντων]
[Λύρηλλῳ Χαιρήμωνοι Σερῆνοι] ἀπὸ τῆς αὐτῆς πόλεως τῆς αὐτῆς ἐργασίας καὶ ἱκανοὶ τῆς δομοςας κάριν τοῦ ἐκ τῆς ἡμῶν]

4 [ἐργασίας Ξηπτούμενοι διοικητοῖς τοῖς] χρυσογόνων τῆς τρισκαίδεκάτης ἐνδικτύονος σὲ τὸν Χαιρήμωνα ἐπιλεξάμενοι μάλλον δὲ [protrepsameno soi entelel]mēn καὶ κατεπιστεύσαμεν ποιήσας τὴν διοίκησιν, ἡμῶν ἐπαγγειλαμένων πάντας]

[τὰ προσέπει ταύτης τῆς διοίκησις γιγνωμένα ἀναλώματα εἰς ἐπὶ τόπων εἶτε ἐν τῇ τάξει εἶτε σκάπσμας]
[γιὰ τὸ ἐκδομαὶς προφῆτως τῆς αὐτῆς διοικητῆς κήσεως ἡμῶν ἐπιγνωμάναι καὶ καταβαλεῖν διὸ]

8 [καὶ τὴν ἐγγραφήν ταύτην ἀσφάλιαν  ἐδιεμέθα [σοὶ] καὶ ἰμιλογῆσ[θ] μεν τοῖς παντοῖοις Ξηπτούμενοι εἰς τὴν ἡμῶν]
[διοίκησιν κτλ.]

8 παντοίοις

Parallel Texts

M [ἡ λαμπρότατη ἐργασία τῶν χρυσογόνων τῆς λαμπρᾶς καὶ λαμπρότατῆς ὁμορυχτῶν]
Y [ἡ λαμπρότατη ἐργασία τῶν χρυσογόνων τῆς λαμπρᾶς καὶ λαμπρότατῆς ὁμορυχτῶν]

M χιτῶν πόλεως [δι᾽ ἡμῶν τῶν ἔχουσιν ἐποχθών] τοῖς Λύρηλλῳ Χαιρήμωνοι Σερῆνοι
Y χιτῶν πόλεως [δι᾽ ἡμῶν τῶν ἔχουσιν ἐποχθών] τοῖς Λύρηλλῳ Χαιρήμωνοι Σερῆνοι

M ἀπὸ τῆς αὐτῆς πόλεως τῆς αὐτῆς ἐργασίας [χαίρειν· τῆς δομοςας κάριν]
Y ἀπὸ τῆς αὐτῆς πόλεως τῆς αὐτῆς ἐργασίας [χαίρειν· τῆς δομοςας κάριν]

M τοῦ ἐκ τῆς ἡμῶν ἐργασίας Ξηπτούμενοι διοικητοῖς τοῦ χρυσογόνος τῆς πέμπτης
Y τοῦ ἐκ τῆς ἡμῶν ἐργασίας Ξηπτούμενοι διοικητοῖς τοῦ χρυσογόνου τῆς τρισκαίδεκατῆς

M τῆς ἐνδικτύονος ............]σακεδα[ες σὲ τὸν Χαιρήμωνα ἐπιλεξάμενοι
Y καὶ δεκάτης ἐνδικτύονος σὲ τὸν Χαιρήμωνα ἐπιλεξάμενοι
Two Nominations of Goldsmiths to Collect Taxes

M μᾶλλον δὲ προτερώμαινοι [σοι ἐνετειλαμένου καὶ κα]τεπιστεύχαμεν ποιή-
Y μᾶλλον δὲ [προτερώμαινοι σοι ἐνετειλαμένου καὶ κατεπιστεύχαμεν ποιή-
Y σαι τὴν διοίκησιν, ἡμῶν ἐπαγγειλαμένων πάντα] τὰ προφάσοι[ι
M τα]τότες τῆς διοική[σ]ης γιγνόμενα ἀναλώματα εἰστε ἐπὶ τῶν [εἴτε ἐν
Y ταύτῃς τῆς διοικήσεως γιγνόμενα ἀναλώματα εἰστε ἐπὶ τῶν ἐν
M τῇ τάξει]
Y τῇ τάξει εἰστε σωφρόματος [ ] ἐκθέμας προφάσας τῆς αὐτῆς διοί-
M ἡμῶς ἐπιγιγνώσκομαι καὶ καταβαλεῖν, διὸ καὶ τὴν ἐγγραφον ταύτην ἄσ-
Y κῆσες ἡμῶς ἐπιγιγνώσκομαι καὶ καταβαλεῖν, δι[ὸ καὶ τὴν ἐγγραφον ταύτην ἄσ-
M φάλλαιν [ἐπὶ]μεθά [σοι καὶ] ὑμολογούμενοι τοῖς παντοῖοις ἀναλώμασιν [ἔτη-
Y φάλλαιν ἐπὶ]μεθά [σοι καὶ] ὑμολογοῦμεν τοῖς παντοῖοις ἔτη-
M το[υ]μένοις εἰς τὴν ἡμῶν [διοίκησιν
Y το]μένοις εἰς τὴν ἡμῶν [διοίκησιν

Translation (P.Yale):

[After the consulate of the Flavii] Felix and Taurus the most illustrious, Thoth 22. [The most illustrious (?) guild of the] goldsmiths of the illustrious and most illustrious city of the Oxyrhynchites, through us who sign below, [to Aurelius Chairemon son of Serenus], from the same city (and) from the same guild, greeting. Having chosen and indeed [preferred] you, Chairemon, for the nomination for the [manager demanded] from our [guild] for the chrysargyron for the thirteenth indiction, we empowered you and entrusted you to carry out the management, with us promising that we would accept responsibility for and pay all the expenses which occur [on account of this] management, whether locally or in office or ... [or on account of?] travel on account of the same management, wherefore we have also made with you [this written] agreement, and we agree with all manner of things demanded for our [management].

From the setting out of the parallel texts, it can be seen that the formula is almost identical. The few remaining problems, of course, occur in those places where it is not. In line 5 of the P.Med., we cannot discover what followed the indiction; about five letters in the lacuna, followed by about another nine after it, have no parallel in P.Yale. The remains would allow the reading παρολογοῦσι, for example, but we do not see its sense. The second problem occurs in line 7 of P.Med., where there is space in the lacuna for more than one can with any confidence make out in P.Yale. It is
conceivable that the latter, which is effaced at the end of line 5, had some further text there. Nothing else seems needed grammatically. The third divergence occurs in lines 6-7 of P.Yale, where there is an additional phrase not found in P.Med. (the result of some unhappy disagreement in the meantime?). P.Med. thus does not, alas, illuminate the mysterious σωκάματος of P.Yale. We assume that the guild promised to reimburse all expenses pertinent to the tax-collection incurred by Chairemon either in town (i.e. in Oxyrhynchus) or elsewhere (cf. line 8, ἐκδημίας). Within this context one might wish to connect σωκάματος with the verb σωκάμω = to limp, in which case one might think of tax-revenues coming in quite irregularly; their collection would have caused extra costs (for this meaning of σωκάμω cf. also Pr. WB, s.v.). On the other hand, it should be noted that the noun σωκάμα is not listed in LSJ. One could also regard σωκάματος as a slight spelling error for σωκάματος and connect it with the verb σωκάμω = to relax effort, cease an action (cf. LSJ s.v., 4). Σωκάμα (listed in LSJ as meaning, i.a.; release, letting off) might mean here, then, "interruption, intermission", and reference might have been made to extra costs arising from an interruption in normal tax-collection procedures because of some official journey (restore, e.g., σωκάματος [τινος χάουεις ἐπι τινος] ἐκδημίας vel sim. at the start of line 7?). As we do not know precisely how the construction went, it is hard to arrive at a certain interpretation.*

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*) P.Med.inv.71.66 will be republished as SB XVI 12260.