

**University of Dayton**

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**From the Selected Works of Fred W Jenkins**

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## A Fourth-Century Receipt from the Michigan Collection

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## A Fourth Century Receipt from the Michigan Collection (Plate 35)

P. Mich. inv. 3625

9.6 x 25.7 cm.

November 15, A.D. 314

This papyrus was acquired by the University of Michigan through M. Nahman in 1925.<sup>1</sup> A strip approximately 2.5 cm. wide is missing along much of the right side of the papyrus. The text is nearly complete; the last few letters of lines 6-12 have been lost. It is clearly written, in a hand typical of the early fourth century. Although its provenance is unknown, internal evidence suggests that the papyrus is from Oxyrhynchus. The notice in the original inventory, presumably by H. I. Bell, merely describes it as a receipt for grain of the fourth century.

The text, which is in the form of a letter, is a receipt for grain in payment of an obligation of which the nature is not entirely clear. It is from a Techosous, also called Eudaimonis, who acts through her son Herakleides. She is a wealthy landowner already known from other papyri (see note on line 1). The addressee is one Aurelia Theodora. The body of the receipt was apparently written by Herakleides, a fluent but not entirely accurate fellow who has rather muddled the address. A different hand has scribbled an additional note to the right of lines 10 to 11 of the main text. Most of this has been lost, but it is clearly another receipt. Both its position and its cramped style of writing are odd in view of the large amount of blank papyrus below. This suggests that it is an addendum or annotation to the main text.

Τεχωσοῦς ἡ καὶ Εὐδαιμονίς  
δι(ὰ) Ἡρακλείδου υἱοῦ [vacat]  
Αὐρηλίας Θεοδωράτι . . . . .  
4 Παριτ' vacat χα(ίρειν).  
ἔσχον παρὰ σοῦ ἀπὸ λόγου φό-  
ρων τοῦ προδιελθόντος ἔ[το]υ[ς]  
γενήμα(τος) ἐβδόμου κ[αὶ] ε (ἔτους)]  
8 μέτρῳ δεκάτῳ πυροῦ [ἀρτάβας]

<sup>1</sup>I am grateful to the Special Collections Library of the University of Michigan for permission to publish this text. I would also like to thank Traianos Gagos, Gregg Schwendner, and James Keenan for their helpful comments on earlier versions of this article. Bruce E. Nielsen kindly provided information from his article in this issue of *BASP* for the introduction and note to line 1.

- ἔνδεκα, (ἀρτάβας) ια.  
 ὁ αὐτὸς ἐση(μειωσάμεν). (3 H.) ἔσχον παρ[ᾶ  
 (2 H.) "Αθυρ ια μέτρον α.[  
 12 θ (ἔτους)" καὶ ζ (ἔτους)" "Αθυρ [ια]. δωνι

2 υἱον pap. 3 Αὐρηλίας, second α ex ω

Techosous, also called Eudaimonis, through Herakleides her son, to Aurelia Theodora, . . . Parit, greetings. I have received from you on the account of rents from the year before last, for the crop of [year] seven and [5], eleven artabas of wheat by the tenth measure, 11 artabas. I the same (Herakleides) have signed. (2 H.) Hathyr 11. 9th year and 7th year, Hathyr 11. (3 H.) I have received from . . . measure . . .

1 The lessor of the property is Aurelia Techosous alias Eudaimonis, the daughter of Didymos alias Eudaimon, from Oxyrhynchos. From *P.Col.* X 284 (forthcoming) and *P.Heid.* V 344 (311; the two are duplicates), she is known to have been part owner of a vineyard and some cropland located in the epoikion of Petrok near Dositheou in the eighth pagus of the Oxyrhynchite nome. She also appears as a plaintiff in two petitions, *P.Oxy.* XLV 3246 (297/8) and LIV 3741 "other side" (ca 313). Concerning the name and for an analysis of the Techosous dossier, see the article of Bruce Nielsen in this issue of *BASP*, pp. 129-36.

2 δι(ά) appears to be written as a delta with an oblique stroke through it.

3 It appears that the writer first thought the payer was Aurelius Theodoras, then realized that the nomen was Aurelia. Θεοδωρᾶς is apparently unattested; the actual name of the person is presumably Theodora; a similar confusion occurs with Aurelia Ptolema in the Isidoros archive; cf. R. S. Bagnall, *Pap. Lupiensia* 2 (1993) 99 n. 15.

The last part of the line is unclear as a result of damage to the papyrus. The patronymic appears to begin Σν-, but it is difficult in what follows to distinguish between traces attributable to this line and those belonging to the next.

4 For Parit, cf. Nielsen's article cited above in the note to line 1. A large blank space has been left between the name of the addressee and χαίρειν. Other instances of this include *P.Oxy.* L 3577.2 (A.D. 342); LI 3612.3 (A.D. 271-5), 3615.6 (III A.D.).

5-6 For ἀπὸ λόγου in such a context see, e.g., *P.Col.* VII 187.4 (Karanis, ca A.D. 375) and *P.Lond.* V 1701.r.3 (Aphrodito, VI A.D.).

6 τοῦ προδιελθόντος ἔτους: For this expression, cf. *P.Harr.* I 139.2 (? A.D. 254); *PSI* VII 807.r.10 (Oxyrhynchus, A.D. 280); *SB* VIII 9881.5 (Karanis, A.D. 315).

7 ἐβδόμου κ[αὶ ε (ἔτους)] refers to the 7th year of Constantinus I and the 5th year of Licinius (A.D. 312/13); cf. Bagnall and Worp, *Regnal Formulas in Byzantine Egypt* (Missoula 1979) 37. [For date numerals, written in full first and then in cipher second, see P. J. Sijpesteijn's article above (*BASP* 31 [1994] 122 n. 7)—ed.]

8 μέτρῳ δεκάτῳ: On this expression see most recently R. P. Duncan-Jones, *Chiron* 9 (1979) 369 n. 59.

9-10 The writer has inserted a stroke surmounted by a circle between these lines; possibly this is intended to separate the body of the receipt from the subscription.

10 ἐση(μειωσάμην): The perfect *σεσημείωμαι* is more common in this context. Other examples of the aorist include *P. Turner* 45.19 (Oxyrhynchus, A.D. 374) and *P. Mich. inv.* 3469.9 (in *BASP* 30 [1993] 57-59) (Arsinoite?, A.D. 271?).

10-11 The additional three line receipt written in the margin here is presumably related to the main text.

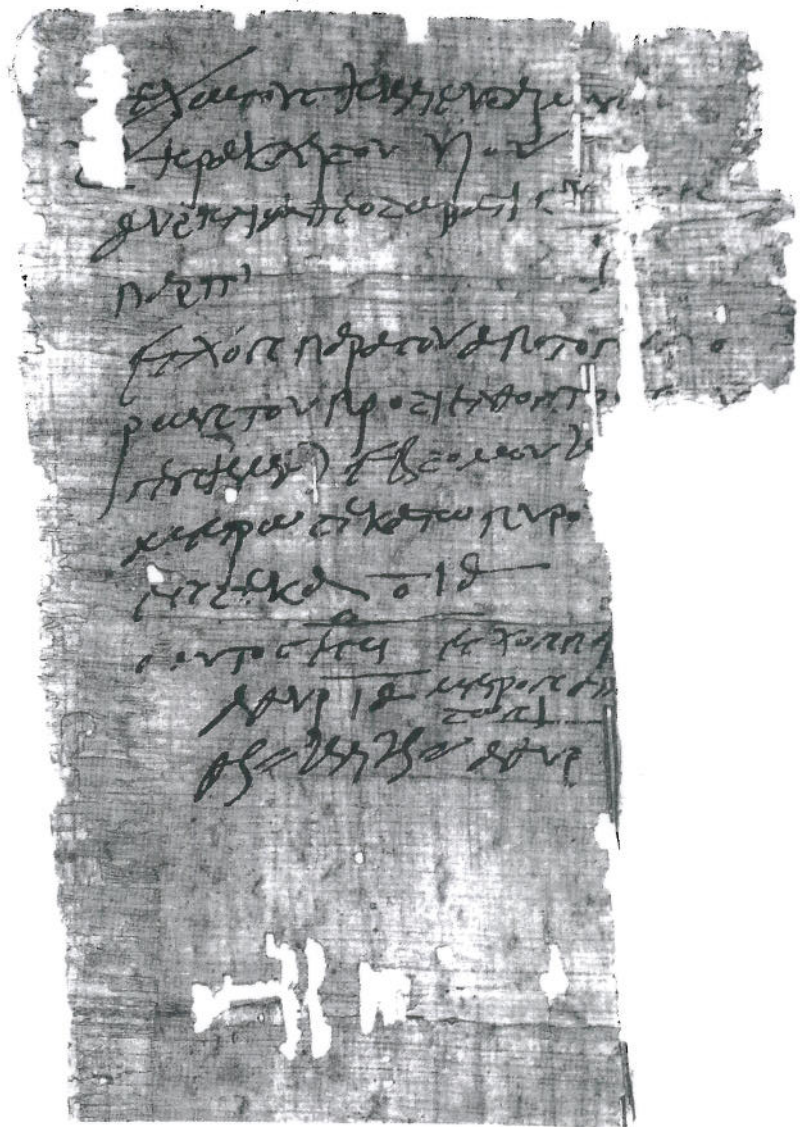
11-12 For the 9th year of Constantinus I and 7th year of Licinius (A.D. 314/5) cf. Bagnall and Worp, *Regnal Formulas*, 38. The omission of the regnal formula itself is quite normal. The date is November 15, A.D. 314. These two lines appear to be in a second hand.

The use of  $\theta$  here is also of interest. J.D. Thomas, *ZPE* 24 (1977) 241-43, noted the tendency (by no means universal) of scribes to write out *ἐνατος* rather use  $\theta$  in regnal formulas. He ascribed this to superstition (avoidance of theta nigrum). H. C. Youtie, *ZPE* 28 (1978) 269-70 [= *Scriptiunculae Posteriores* I 455-56], also discussed this phenomenon and attributed it to the desire to avoid confusion of the similarly formed  $\alpha$  and  $\theta$ . Thomas (writing with A. U. Stylow) responded to Youtie at length in *Chiron* 10 (1980) 537-51. Whatever the explanation of this convention, our writer does not follow it.

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P.Mich.inv. 3625 (inscribed portion only)  
(Courtesy University of Michigan Library)