

*Papyrus Petra Zbigniew T. Fiema and Deborah Kooring  
(donated by Pierre M. Bikai and Patricia M. Bikai)*

### 3. REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF TAXATION

Inv. 13  
Field No. XXIXa  
Glass Plates 61–62  
Plates XII–XIII

ca. 53 x 15 cm  
top margin 0.5–1.5 cm  
right margin ca. 3 cm

Petra, August 24, 538

The document consists of one wide column, which was broken horizontally into three sections (conservation codes AI, AII and AIII). The upper part, AI, contains the two first lines and upper traces of l. 3. The middle part, AII, contains the lower traces of l. 3 and ll. 4–11. Only some fragments have survived from AIII; one of them has traces by a second hand, probably the signature of Patrikios. The left margin and the end of the document have been lost. It is difficult to say exactly how many letters are missing from the beginning of the lines because the size of the letters and their spacing varies considerably. It seems that the first two lines, where the date is, were written in a more compressed script than the following lines. In 4, where the scribe is the same and whole lines have been preserved, the lines consist of 140–60 letters (160 letters in the first line [restored], and 154 letters in one wholly preserved line). Thus, here the initial lacuna of the first two lines might contain about 25 letters (current restorations) and in ll. 5–10 some 5–7 letters less because there is one more fragment preserved. L. 4 has a larger gap at the beginning than the two first lines and the following six lines: the proposed restoration may be slightly too short. Actually, there may be even fewer missing letters towards the end of the document because the handwriting in general becomes larger. The total width of the papyrus could be the same as 4, i.e., ca. 66 cm. There are a few unplaced fragments belonging to this document, but they contain only ink traces and some single letters.

For general information, see the Introduction to 3–5, pp. 73–81.

→

- 1 [† βασιλείας τοῦ δεσπότου ἡμῶν] Φλ(αουίου) Ἰου[τ]ινιανοῦ τοῦ αἰων[ίου] καὶ αὐτοκράτορος  
Αὐγούστου ἔτους δωδεκάτου ὑπατίᾳ Φλ(αουίου) Ἰωάννου τοῦ ἐνδοξ(οτάτου) πρὸ ἐννέα Καλανδῶν  
Σεπτεμβρίων ἔτους τῆς ἐπαρχείας
- 2 [τετρακοσιοστοῦ τριακοστοῦ τ]ρίτ[ο]υ μηνὸς Γορπιαίου ἔκτη χρόνων πρώτης ἰνδικτίονος ἐν  
μητροπόλει Πέτρας τῆς Καλουτάριας Τρίτης Παλαιστίνης. Φλ(αουίος) Πατρίκιος Διφ[ί]λου
- 3 [ c. 23 ἐκ τῆ[ς] δ[ε] τῆ[ς] μ[η]ροπ[ό]λ[ε]ως τῷ α[ἰ]δε[ς] [ιμω]τ[ῶ]ν Εὐθ[η]ν[ί]ω  
Δ[ου]σα[ρ]ίου α[ἰ]δε[ς] [ιμω]τ[ῶ]ν) πολ[ι]τε[υ]ομέν[ω] καὶ ὑποδέκτη τῆς αὐτῆς ἐπιτελέω τὰ  
ὑποτεταγμένα·
- 4 [ἐπεὶ περ ἐν τοῖς προελθοῦσιν μ]εταξὺ μο[υ] καὶ τοῦ λαμπρο(τάτου) Πα[ν]ολ[β]ίου ὑπομνη[ς] [ι]κ[ο]ν[ο]μ[ί]ας  
ἔδοξε[ν] ἐμὲ παρέχειν τῷ αὐτῷ λαμπρο(τάτῳ) Πα[ν]ολβίῳ λόγῳ ἀναλωμάτων αὐτοῦ καθ' ἔτος τὸν  
τῆς

- 5 [ c. 17 ]. χρυσ[οῦ νομίσ]ματα δεκαδύο, ἀντὶ τούτων δὲ συνείδ[ομ]εν ἐγὼ τε καὶ αὐτὸς ὁ  
λαμπρό(τατος) Πανόλβιος κουφίσαι με τὴν οὐσίαν καὶ ὁμάδα τοῦ αὐτοῦ λαμπρο(τάτου)  
Πανολβίου
- 6 [ἐκ τοῦ λαχόντος α]ὐτῷ τρίτου μέρους ἐξ ὁμ[ά]δος μὲν Πετρῶν ἐλευθερικὰς κοριαίας τέ[ς]α[ρες] ἐξ  
ὁμάδος δὲ Αὐγουστοπόλεως ἐλευθερικὴν κοριαίαν μίαν ἔκτον. ἐπιτέλ[λ]ω
- 7 [τῇ ἑῇ αἰδεσιμό]τ(ητι) καὶ τ[οῖς] κ[ατὰ] καιρὸν αἰδεσιμωτ(άτοις) ὑποδέκ[τα]ις κουφί[ς]αι μὲν τὸν λόγον  
[κ]αὶ τὸ πρός[ω]πον το[ῦ] αὐτοῦ λαμπρο(τάτου) Πανολβίου ἐκ τοῦ λαχόντος αὐτῷ τρίτου
- 8 [μέρους ἐξ ὁμά]δος Αὐγ[ουστ]οπ[ό]λεως ἐλ[ευ]θερ[ι]κὴν κ[ορι]αίαν μίαν ἔκ[τον], βαρῆσαι δ[ὲ] τὸ  
ἐμὸν πρός[ω]πον καὶ τὸν λόγον ἀπὸ τῆς [ς]ὴν Θεῷ εἰσιέναι μελλούσης δευτέρ[ας]
- 9 [ἐπινεμήσεως κα]ὶ αὐτῆς [καὶ] εἰς [τ]ὸν ἐξῆς [ἅπαν]τα τὸν τῆς [ς]ὴς τοῦ αὐτοῦ λαμ[πρ]ο(τάτου)  
Πανολ[βί]ου χρόνον τὴν αὐτὴν ἐλευθερικὴν κοριαίαν μίαν ἔκτον ἀδίας ἐνούσης
- 10 [τῇ ἑῇ αἰδεσιμό]τ(ητι) κα[ὶ] τοῖς κ[ατὰ] καιρ[ο]ν [ ] αἰδεσιμωτ(άτοις) ὑποδέκ[τα]ις βαρῆσαι τ[οὺς]  
κ[λ]ηρονόμ[ους] τοῦ εἰρημ[ένου] λαμπρο(τάτου) [Πανολ]βίου ἅν[ευ] δ[ε]υτέρου ἐπ[ι]τάλμα[τος]
- 11 [ἐξ ὁμάδος Αὐγουστοπόλεως ἐλευθερικ]ὴν κ[ορι]αίαν μίαν ἔκ[τον] καθ[ὸ] α κα[ ] . . ε . . [

1 Αὐγούστου ὑπατεία ἰωαννου Pap. ἐπαρχία 2 ἰνδικτιονος Pap. ἰνδικτίωνος 4 ὑπομνη[ς]τικ[ο]ς Pap. κατ' ἔτος 6  
τέσσαρας 8 εἰσιέναι Pap. 9 ἀδείας

#### TRANSLATION

(Lines 1–2) [†] In the twelfth year [of the reign of our Lord] Flavius Justinianus, Eternal and Emperor Augustus, in the consulship of the most glorious Flavius Ioannes, on the ninth before the Kalends of September, in the [four hundred thirty]-third year of the province, on the sixth of the month Gorpiais, in the first indiction year, in Petra, Metropolis of the Salutaris Third Palestine.

(Lines 2–11) I, Flavius Patrikios, son of Diphilos, [ . . . from] this Metropolis to the most respectable Euthenios, son of Dusarios, the most respectable *politeuomenos* and tax collector of the same (city), notify (you) of the following: [As] it was agreed [in the previous] memoranda between me and the most illustrious Panolbios that I give to the same most illustrious Panolbios on account of his expenses yearly . . . twelve golden *solidi*, but instead of this we, I and the most illustrious Panolbios himself, agreed that I relieve the whole property of the same most illustrious Panolbios of the one third [that had been allotted] to him, of the property in Petra four free *koraiiai*, and of the property in Augustopolis one and one-sixth free *koraiiai*, therefore I request [your Respectability] and the present and future most respectable tax collectors to relieve the account and person of the same most illustrious Panolbios of the one third that had been allotted to him, one and one-sixth free *koraiiai* of the property in Augustopolis, and to burden my person and account beginning with and including the coming, God willing, second [indiction year] and onwards for the whole lifetime of the same most illustrious Panolbios with the same one and one-sixth free *koraiiai*. The power remains for [your Respectability] and for the present and future most respectable tax collectors, without a second notification, to burden the heirs of the said most illustrious Panolbios with one and one-sixth free *koraiia* [of the property in Augustopolis] . . .

#### COMMENTARY

1 For the beginning of the regnal formula, see 4 1 comm. For the phrase τοῦ αἰων[ίου] καὶ αὐτοκράτορος Αὐγούστου, see 2 1–9 comm. and for the consulate, see 2 4–5 comm. There is a full date in the beginning, with the emperor's regnal year, almost exactly one year after Justinian's Novella 47 (see Introduction, pp. 17–18).

2 In the beginning of the line there does not seem to be enough space for Ἀραβία defining the word ἐπαρχία, as there may be in 4. It was indeed more common to omit the word in the Petra papyri.

Φλ(άουσιος) Πατρίκιος Διφ[ί]λου: the final *upsilon* is only a stroke above the *omikron*, a common feature of this handwriting at the ends of words.

3 The beginning of the line could be restored [πολιτευόμενος τεταγμένος...]. In Inv. 18 (no secure dating), Patrikios, son of Diphilos, carries the title πολιτευόμενος. However, the meager traces in 4 2–3 do not support the reading of the title there, hence the restoration remains tentative. For a discussion on the identity of Patrikios, see Introduction to 3–5, pp. 73–74. The participle τεταγμένος is attested in 4 3, ὁρμώμενος would also be possible here.

τῷ ἀ[ἰ]δε[ι]μο[ι]τ[ι] (ἀτῷ) Εὐθ[η]ν[ί]ω Δ[ου]σα[ρ]ίου ἀ[ἰ]δε[ι]μ[ω]τ[ι] (ἀτῷ) πολι[τε]υ[ο]μέ[ν]ω καὶ ὑποδέκτη: cf. 4 3. The titles πολιτευόμενος and ὑποδέκτης also appear together in *Siud. Pal. XX 143.9* (435): Φλ[α]ούσιος Δω[ρ]ί[θ]ιος πολι[τε]υ[ο]μένος καὶ ὑποδέκτης λαργιτιοναλικῶν καὶ δεσπο[τι]κῶν προσόδων. The word βουλευτής is connected with ὑποδέκτης in P. Lips. 62.3 (384/5): Αὐρηλίω Φιλάμμωνι Ἐρμοῦ βουλ(ευτῇ) Ἐρμοῦ πόλεως τῆς λαμπροτάτης ὑποδέκτη χρυσοῦ τιρώνων. In ll. 7 and 10 and 4 8, 11 future *hypodektai* are included as addressees.

The appearance of the honorific title αἰδεσιμώτατος both before and after the name of Euthenios is pleonastic, probably a lapse of mind by the scribe thinking of the honorific title first as an entity with the personal name and then as an entity with the titles πολιτευόμενος and ὑποδέκτης. It cannot be interpreted as a genitive referring to the patronymic Δουσαρίου, since in Petra honorific titles never refer to a patronymic. Of course, the letters ιδεσ are not certain.

τῆς αὐτῆς: sc. (πόλεως): “from the same city.”

ἐπιστέλλω τὰ ὑποτεταγμένα: the same phrase is used, e.g., in Inv. 60.1, Inv. 64+66 and P. Ness. III 51 (a letter, where the meaning of the phrase is probably “I am sending you the attached...”). The verb ἐπιστέλλω, from which the name of the document type has been derived, normally means “instruct” or “order,” but by this time the meaning was reduced to the milder “inform.” In the translation, we have preferred “notify” and “request,” depending on the context.

4 [ἐπεὶπερ ἐν τοῖς προελθοῦσιν] μεταξὺ μο[υ] καὶ τοῦ λαμπρο(τάτου) Πα[ν]ολ[β]ίου ὑπομνη[σ]τικο[ῖ]ς: on ἐπεὶπερ cf., e.g., 4 4. Or restore perhaps ἀκολουθῶν τοῖς προελθοῦσιν] μεταξὺ. Cf. 4 5: ἀκολουθῶν[ς] ὑπομνηστικοῖς πρ[ο]ελθοῦσιν μεταξὺ μο[υ] καὶ τῆς αὐτοῦ] λ[α]μπρό(τητος) ἔδοξε[ν] ἐμὲ ἐν τοῖς ἀ[ν]τι[σ]τοιχοῖς ὑπομνηστικοῖς. These ὑπομνηστικά in 4 could be the same ὑπομνηστικά as in 3.

The word ὑπομνηστικόν, i.e., “memorandum,” is not very common in the papyri, and appears quite late (cf. the 14 entries [11 documents] in the *DDBDP* from 4th to 8th c.). In the Petra papyri, though, it also appears at least in 4 5, 5 2, and Invs. 20, 44a, 52, 63+65, 83. In Inv. 83: τοῖς γενομένοις μεταξὺ ἡμῶν ὑπομνηστικοῖς. In Egypt the word seems to always refer to lists or memoranda, never to agreements. Here ὑπομνηστικόν clearly refers to something more than just a memorandum, some kind of agreement on property and payments. P. Genova I 29.1 comm. equates the term with the older ὑπόμνημα. On ὑπομνηστικόν = *commonitorium*, see Feissel–Kaygusuz, *Mandement*, 407.

καθ’ ἑτοῦ: false aspiration, see many examples in Gignac, *Phonology*, 135.

5 A rent or a lease (μισθώσις) from an annual payment comes naturally to mind, but mostly the ἐπιστάματα τοῦ σωματισμοῦ result from sales or cessions (cf. Inv. 64+66, Inv. 67 respectively). P. Warr. 3 is an application for transfer of taxation resulting from a mortgage. There taxes are paid by the debtor as long as the mortgage is valid. The transactions are not always very clearly defined in these documents. The gap in the beginning of the line may have included some word referring to the taxes paid by Panolbios, e.g., κανὼν or φόρος (meaning any kind of payment). A full understanding is impossible because we cannot reconstruct the financial entanglement of the parties.

ἀντὶ τούτων: “in return for that” or “instead of that.” See discussion in the Introduction 3–5, p. 75.

κουφίσαι με τὴν οὐσίαν καὶ ὁμάδα: the meaning “cancel (an entry in a register of tax-payers)” for κουφίζω is given in *LSJ Suppl.* In P. Berol. 21753r.8 = Syrcou, *Six Documents*, 80–86, P. Oxy. XVI 1887.10, P. Oxy. L 3583.6 and P. Würzb. 19.6 ἀποκουφίζω is used.

Two pairs of words are used in connection with the verb κουφίζω in this document: 1) οὐσία καὶ ὁμάς and 2) λόγος καὶ πρόσωπον. In l. 5, when Patrikios is talking about the whole transaction concerning both Petra and Augustopolis, he uses the first pair. In l. 7, when he wants Panolbios to be relieved of the taxes concerning Augustopolis alone, he uses the words λόγος καὶ πρόσωπον (see further 7 comm.).

The word ὁμάς is found in papyri only in Petra and Nessana (P. Ness. III 24.4, 8, where it is translated “total holdings”). M. Kaplan deals with the term, but his sources are later, 10th century A.D. According to him, the term can mean (in the fiscal treatise *Cod. Marc. gr. 173*) an ensemble of the village, or the sum of all the taxes of the village, or (in the rescript of Theodore of Dekapolis) a fiscal ensemble of the village, see Kaplan, *Hommes*, 186–87.

Both words οὐσία καὶ ὁμάς occur together when Panolbios’ whole property in both Petra and Augustopolis is in question, but when the place is defined in only one of them, the word is ὁμάς: ἐξ ὁμάδος μὲν Πετρῶν, ἐξ ὁμάδος δὲ Αὐγουστοπόλεως. Apparently the ὁμάς of Petra was separate from the ὁμάς of Augustopolis and the notification in 3 concerns only the ὁμάς of Augustopolis (see Introduction to 3–5, p. 74). In Inv. 67 (and its identical copy among the documents of Inv. 40) the words are connected again in a different way: κουφίσαι/βαρῆσαι τὸ πρόσωπον καὶ οὐσίαν καὶ ὁμάδα. P. Ness. III 24.4: κουφίσαι ἐκ τῆς ἡμῶν ὁμάδος ἡγουν τὸ πατρῶν [ἡμῶν] πρόσωπον and 8: βαρῆσαι ἡγουν [προσ]γράψαι τῇ ἐμῇ [ὁμά]δει.

6 [ἐκ τοῦ λαχόντος] ἀντὶ τρίτου μέρους: restored on the basis of l. 7. The verb λαγχάνω is used in other Petra documents (Inv. 10, 72+79) always in connection with divisions of property. The word may also sometimes allude to one’s share of the taxes (see *WB*, s.v.), possibly even to other public obligations.

ἐξ ὁμ[α]δος μὲν Πετρῶν ἐλευθερικὰς κοριαίας τέ[σ]σε[ρ]ες, ἐξ ὁμάδος [δὲ] Αὐγουστοπόλεως ἐλευθερικὴν κοριαίαν μίαν ἔκτον: on measures, see Introduction to 3–5, pp. 77–78. The accentuation of ἡ κοριαία, ἡ κατιαία and ἡ καβιαία is adopted from Schilbach, *Metrolologische Quellen*, e.g., 47–48.

7 [τῇ] αἰδεσιμότητι: in 4 the abstract noun is always written (ll. 8 and 11) with an *omega*: τῇ αἰδεσιμωτ[ι]. It may well have been the case here, too.

τ[οῖς] κ[ατὰ] καιρὸν αἰδεσιμωτ(άτοις) ὑποδέκταις: the present and future *hypodektai*, i.e., the *hypodektai* who are in charge whenever the matter is dealt with. The expression κατὰ καιρὸν would best be translated as comprising present and future (officials). In P. Cair. Masp. I 67118.25–26 κατὰ καιρὸν refers clearly, with the attribute attached, to a future official.

κου[φί]σαι μὲν τὸν λόγον [κ]αὶ τὸ πρόσωπον: the words λόγος καὶ πρόσωπον are used when Patrikios requests Panolbios to be relieved of the taxes. In parallel documents from Egypt, usually only someone's *name* is said to be relieved. Cf. P. Oxy. I 126.8–9: κουφίσαι τὸ ὄνομα ... τοῦ πατρός and βαρέσαι (*sic*, r. βαρῆσαι) τὸ ἑμὸν ὄνομα; P. Leid. Inst. 62.6 comm.

8 βαρῆσαι: the verb also appears in 4 9, 12. This verb is commonly used in the Petra and Nessana papyri. In Egypt the documents have mostly *ωματίζω* (*προστίθῃμι* in CPR IX 79.8).

9 [ἐπινεμήσεως]: the scribe uses both terms for indiction (ἐπινέμεσις and ἰνδικτίων) interchangeably, cf. 4 2, 6, 7, 9.

10 Empty space between κατὰ καιρὸν and αἰδεσιμωτ(άτοις); probably nothing was written there.

11 καθ' α: cf. Inv. 67 ll. 13–14: εἰς τ[ὸν] ἐξῆς ἅπαντα χρόνον καθ' ἃ καὶ παρὼν αὐτὸς ὁ εὐδοκ[ι]μώτ(ατος) Θεόδ[ω]ρος συνέθη[το] καθυπογρ[ά]ψ[ας].

M. VIERROS