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**THE EDITION OF UNPUBLISHED  
GREEK PAPYRUS DOCUMENTS  
( With Commentary )**

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2030

A.H.

TO MY BELOVED FAMILY,  
MY HUSBAND MOHSEN, MY CHILDREN  
DAHLIA, MOHAMMED AND YASSER  
FOR THEIR PATIENCE, COOPERATION  
AND UNDERSTANDING



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Pap. I

DEED OF SURETY  
ON LOAN OF MONEY

P.CAIR. Inv. S.R. 3722

Provenance: Oxyrhynchus

25 X 22 cm.

VI C.A.D.

The papyrus is extensively mutilated and has many lacunae in various parts. It has no margins except on the right hand side. In the middle and the lower parts, there are some lines which are considerably damaged and difficult to read. The average line includes approximately 57 letters (cf. L.17). The document is folded four times perpendicularly.

The handwriting is cursive, written by a hand similar to Schubart P. GRAEC. BEROL, P.45 (525 A.D); P. Wisconsin I, No. II, plate IV. There are two shapes for the nu:  $\nu$ ; and the regular nu (see J.P.Grumbert, Structure and forms of the letter  $\nu$  in Greek Documentary papyri, A palaeographical study, P.1-12 Studia papyrologia Varia, especially, the table P.3); the shape of pi looks like tau  $\tau$ , and the tau has also two shapes:  $\tau$  and the regular T.

This document is a deed of surety on a loan of money of more than three solidi, repayable, apparently without

interest, in four instalments,  
in the course of one year. The first three  
instalments perhaps were to be paid every two months,  
this is clear from L.14 where the third instalment should  
have been paid in the present fifth indiction " ἐν  
ἐν τῷ Φαρμοῦθι τῆς παρούσης πέμπτης ἰνδι-  
(κίονος)". The first instalment was paid at the same time  
when the contract was written, Hathyr 30 (cf. L.1  
'Αῦρ λ' ; L. 13 ἐνταῦθεν ἤδη , and  
the third one was paid in Pharmouthi, the present indiction.  
So the second one should have been paid in the period  
between 'Αῦρ and Φαρμοῦθι , which means that it  
was either Χοίαν or Τόβι or Μεχέρ or Φαρμεῶθ  
The last one was to be paid whenever the creditor wished

This deed of surety is addressed by Phib, the  
priest of the holy church, to the heirs of Probatios, on  
behalf of Aurelios Pambechios, undertaking that the latter  
will remain on his holding.

The provenance is not recorded, but the mentioning  
of the village of Murmex (cf.L.6) suggests that it was  
from oxyrhynchus city (cf. note L.6).

Such kinds of deeds are represented by e.g. P.OXY. 135 (579 A.D.) = Wilck., Chrest. No 384; cf. Wenger, Papyrusstud., P.58; M. Gelzer, Byz. Verwaltung, P. 65 : "solche Bürgen mussten wohl diejenigen Hörigen stellen, die ein eigenes κτήμα vom Herrn überwiesen bekamen" : N.N. guarantees that a labourer would remain with his family on an estate belonging to the family of the Apiones, L. 15 " ἐφ' ᾧ τε αὐτὸν ἀδίαλεπτος παραμεῖναι καὶ διαγείναι ἐν τῷ αὐτοῦ κτήματι,..... etc.; P.S.I. 932 (A.D. 578:27); surety μονῆς καὶ ἀμφανείας of a herdsman; P.OXY. 2478 (596 A.D.), 2238 (551 A.D.); P.PSI. 61 (609 A.D.); 62 (612 A.D.); P. lond. 778 (Vol. III, P.279); P. CAIR. Masp. 67297 (535 A.D.) most of which came from Oxyrhynchus. For the subject of this loan cf. P.Oxy. 1892. On deeds of surety in general see P. Vindob Sijpestejn 3 introd., pp. 17, 21, Montevecchi La Papirologia, P. 193; Westermann, W.L., The paramone as general service contract, JJP., 2 (1948) pp. 9-50; Wilcken, Chrest. P.III; Winter, life and letters in Papyri p.34.

Recto

- [±21] ]·[·.]·[±10 'A]θὺρ λ'
- [ ] ]·(?) [±10 ] Voc.
- [±21] ]..... [.... τοῦ τῆς] μακα-  
ρίας μνήμης Προβατίου
- [±26] ]... εὑ [·.] .. ἀνδρ[ε]ίας  
διὰ σοῦ τοῦ [·]. δέ ἔρμου ην.
- 5 [±29] ]ϕῖβπρεσβύτερος τῆς  
ἀγίας ἐκκλησίας
- [±15] ἐναπόγραφος] αὐτ[ῆ]ς γ[εω]ργός ἀπὸ  
ἐποικ[ι]οῦ Μύρμηκος τοῦ  
[Ὁξυρυγχίτου νομοῦ χαίρ]ειν ὁμολογῶ ἐκουσίᾳ γνώμῃ  
ἐγγυᾶσθαι καὶ ἀναδέχεσθαι παρὰ τῇ  
[ ὑμῶν ὑπερφυεῖα διὰ Αὐρή]λιον λαμβήχ(ι)ον υἱὸν Φοιβάμ-  
μωνος ἐναπόγραφον ὄντα
- [±16] ]. τὴν ἀν[α]γ'κ(ατα) μου χρεῖαν  
τῆς γεωργίας τοῦ τρίτου μέρους ἡμῶν....
- 10 [±16] ]·[·.] εἰ..... [.... ..]σαι  
αὐτὸν πληρῶσαι τὰ χρεωστούμενα
- [±21] ]·[.....] π[α]ρ' αὐτ[οῦ] [οὔ ..]  
ρω η...ε.[·.]· ας [·.]ς γ'...πε.[·.]
- [±16] τ]ῶν [χ]ρεωστουμένων π[α]ρ'  
αὐτοῦ ἐκφορίων ὁμολογῶ παρασχεῖν

[±16] ἔν μὲν νόμισμα ἐντεῦθεν ἤδη καὶ  
 ἄλλο ἐν νόμισμα ἐν τῷ  
 [±16] καὶ ἄλλο] ἐν ἐν τῷ φαρμο[ῦ] θι τῆς παρούσης  
 πέμπτης Ἰνδικ(τίνος) τὰ δέ  
 15 [±15] ] ἄρα ὁπόταν βου[λη]θ[εῖς] μετὰ  
 τοῦ μὲ παρασκευάσαι αὐτόν παραμεῖναι  
 [ἐν τῷ αὐτῷ κτήματι ἀπ]οκρί[ν]ομενον [εἰς] ἅπαντα τὰ  
 ὁ[ρ]ῶντα τὸ αὐτοῦ [π]ρόσωπον  
 [ἦτοι τὴν τοῦ ἐναπογ]ράφ[ου] τύχην καὶ μηδ[αμῶς αὐ]τ[ὸ]ν  
 ἀπολει[μ]πανομένο[ν]  
 [τὸ αὐτὸ κτήμα .....] ὀφειλ[.....] ..... [..ύ]πὲρ  
 αὐτοῦ [....] μ.σ.αι  
 [±25] τῶν ἄλλ[ω]ν γε[ωρ]γῶν κατὰ  
 τὸ ἔθος τοῦ κτήματος  
 20 [±18] καὶ ὁπότα]ν ζητ[ου]μέν[ο]ν <εἶη>  
 πρὸς ἐμὲ πάrouτα τὰ} αὐτόν  
 [παραφέρω καὶ παραδώσω ἐν δημο]σίῳ τ[ό]πω ἐκτ[ὸς] ἐγίων  
 περιβόλων καὶ θείων  
 [χαρακτῆρων -----

Traces of 2 more lines

Translation:

..... the thirtieth of Hathyr, 5th indiction .....  
of Probatio of blessed memory ..... manlinss through  
you ..... Phib the priest of the holy church.....  
entered as a cultivator, coming from the farm stead of  
Murmex of the Oxyrhynchite nome, greeting. I agree of  
my free will to be surety and pledge to your magnificence  
for Aurelius Pambechus son of Phoebammon, entering as a  
cultivator..... the pressing need of the agriculture  
of the third half (?) portion..... That he will pay  
his obligations..... of the dues of the rents from him.  
I agree to pay..... On one hand, one nomisma now and  
another one nomisma in ..... and another one in  
Pharmouth of the present 5th indiction . On the other  
hand,..... Whenever you wish after having charged me  
that he should stay on his holding and be responsible  
for all that regards his person or the fortunes of him  
who has been entered as a cultivator; and that he shall in  
no wise leave his holding..... of the other cultivators,  
as usual, of holding..... And if he is required of me,  
immediatly, I will bring him forward and produce him in a  
public place without recourse to holy precincts, divine  
images.....

1- The head of this document would have run on the same system as P.OXY. 135, beginning with the date by the years of the Emperors and consuls, month, day, (cf. L.1 'Α' θύρ λ' = 26 Nov.; or as PSI 59 which begins with the formula " ἐν ὀνόματι τοῦ κυρίου καὶ δεσπότου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ θεοῦ καὶ σωτῆρος ἡμῶν, βασιλέως τοῦ [θειο]τάτου " before the date.

2- ζ νδ(ικτίονος) ε ; may be restored here cf. P. Lond. 77,4 (Vol. III, P.279) more than the indication and the locality cf. P.OXY. 2236, 3; P. Lond. 778,3 (Vol. III P. 279), or it may not be restored as the doubtful ζ may be a leg of another letter from the upper line.

3- The heirs of Probatio may be expected here, meaning " τοῖς ὑπερφυστάτοις κ]ληρονο[μοῖς τοῦ τῆς] μακαρίας μνήμης Προβατίου " the letters are very doubtful and cannot be read, cf, P. lond. 774, 5 (vol. III, P.280); P.OXY. 2238,4. προβατίου this name is not recorded in

Preisigke's Namenbuch or Foraboschi, Onomasticon Alterum Papyrologicum, But it is recorded in Dornseiff/ Hensen, Ruchaufiges Wörterbuch Der Griechischen Papyriennamen, P. 245.

4- The line is too scratched at the beginning .  
ἀνδρ[ε]ας : The honorific ἀνδρεῖα appears to be confined to a narrow range of officials (cf. P. Lond. V 1790, 1 V/VI unknown, SB V 7656 , 3310 (Byzantine, unknown in private letter) A list of the references, mostly extracted from WB and suppl. Abschn. 9, and S. Daris, Spoglio lessicale, Milano, 1968 was arranged in chronological order by Sijpestein P.J. and Rea J.R. in C.P.R.7 note 9.

The letters after this part are quite clear. But the division of the words is uncertain. According to the similar document of P.OXY. 134, 11 " διὰ μηνᾶ οἰκέτου τοῦ ἐπερωτῶντος...etc." : P.Oxy 1900, 6 "δ [ ] ἀ σοῦ τοῦ εὐλαβεστάτου Φίβ " , the name of the agent may be expected here . διὰ σοῦ τοῦ is clear, after that perhaps there are two letters, one in the lacuna and the other is outside of it.  
It may be δ ι . Δ ιδέρμου would be possible if the word

forms a proper name, and it will be new or one could read it [ ] δὲ ἔργου ἢ if this construction makes any sense.

5- Φίβ : The traces of the name are meagre. But seem enough to confirm Φίβ . πρεσβύτερος : This title has passed through many stages. The meaning began as 'village elder' and 'Pagun priest' in the Ptolemaic period; See, Ghedini Lettere Christiane dei papiri Greci del III, IV secolo, P. 117, in the Roman period, the term "village elder " ( πρεσώτερος ) was still used as an official epithet till the fourth century, see, Johnson, Byzantine Egypt, Economic studies, P. 325; Naldini, Il Cristianesimo in Egitto, P. 21. Rouillard, l'administration civile de l'Égypt Byzantine p. 97; P. 190; Tomsin, Etude sur les πρεσβύτερος de village de χώρα égyptienne, in Bull. Acad. Roy. Belg., t. 38 (1952), Extrait 1953, pp. 70-75. At last, in the sixth century, the **title** of πρεσβύτερος is reserved for church officials, see Johnson, Byzantine Egypt Economic studies, P. 326; Sijpesteijn, P. Vindob. 4 note 3;4. For the Christianity in Egypt through the Greek Papyri, in general, see Winter, life and letters in the papyri lennan, H.M., Oxyrhynchus, an Economic and social study;

W. Otto, Priester und Tempel in Hellenist. Agypten 2 (1908); (cf also Pap. II note 13-14); on P. CAIR Masp. 67283, II 1 ff. (Ca A.D. 548)" Βίτωρ ἔλει(νός) πρεσβ(ύτης) τῆς ἁγίας καθολικῆς ἐκκλησίας κώμης Ἀφροδίτης "

Jean Maspero remarked "Ces. καθ. ἐκκλ. sont les eglises paroissiales, apposees aux eglises de couvents", and in those later times καθ. may have signified this (latent) opposition. But originally it probably meant the organised church ruled by bishops, opposed to sectarians and independent communities whosoever they were. Finally see Roger Remondon, L'eglise dans la societe Egyptienne a l'epoque Byzantine Chronique D'Egypte, XLVII 1972 pp. 254-277, and J. O'callaghan, La Eglisia en el siglo V segium las cartas cristianos in Rev. Espan. de Teol. 20 (1960), p.p. 391 - 402.

6. ἐναπόγραφος (L.colonus adscripticius): A small landowner who has a small plot of land cultivated by him and who was located beside the wealthier owner (potentiores) in the large estates in Byzantine Egypt. Before the end of the fourth Century the wealthier owner had secured from the government the right of autopragia. Then, the small owner who was threatened with ruin, sought