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A List of Debtors (P. Teb. 639)

James G. Keenan
jkeenan@luc.edu

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A LIST OF DEBTORS (*P. TEB. 639*)

P. Teb. 639 descr.

7.6 x 22.8 cm.

ca. 198 A.D.

The papyrus is owned by the University of California at Berkeley and housed in the Rare Books Department of the Bancroft Library. It was summarily described on page 332 of *The Tebtunis Papyri*, Vol. II, and mentioned in the introduction to *P. Teb. 397* on page 258 of the same volume. Interest in the document and an approximate date are provided by its association with *P. Teb. 397* (= *MChr. 321*) of 198 A.D., a settlement of a long outstanding debt. In that text a certain Tyrannis acknowledges that she has received satisfactory compensation for a loan which had been made out by her father Sarapion in 150 A.D. to nine persons acting conjointly.

P. Teb. 639 is a list containing the names of Sarapion's debtors, with some variations (cf. commentary below, notes to lines 9 and 12), written on the recto with the fibers in a hand which is large, bold, and rather facile. The papyrus was folded once down the middle the long way, as shown by a vertical crack which runs from top to bottom of the papyrus. An assortment of horizontal cracks, wrinkles and creases suggests that the papyrus was then folded up the other way so as to form a small packet about 4.0 cm. long, i.e., slightly more than half the width of the papyrus when spread out flat. This together with *P. Teb. 397* was subsequently deposited in the pot where the excavators of Tebtunis some 1700 years later were to find it (cf. 397 introd.).

A top margin of 1.0 cm. survives in part. There is a substantial margin of 7.0 cm. at the bottom. The verso is uninscribed. A tiny fragment without trace of writing has broken off from the main piece.

- Σαραπᾶς Βάντεως
 Ὀρσενοῦφισ ἀπά-
 τωρ μητρὸς Ταορ-
 σενούφεως
 5 Σατορνῖλος Τυράννου
 Ἦρων Παώπεως
 Ἀτρῆς Σαραπᾶ
 Πουῆρις Παώπεως
 Σώτας Ἀμάειτος
 10 Ἀπύχχισ Ὀρσενού-
 φεως
 Ἀρποκρᾶς Ἠρᾶ
 13 ἀπὸ Ταμείων

10. read Ἀπύχχισ

2-3. ἀπάτωρ: see A. Calderini's discussion, "Ἀπάτορες," *Aegyptus* 33, 1953, pp. 358-69.

5. Σατορνῖλος Τυράννου: see, in addition to *P. Teb.* 397.7-8 and 10, *P. Teb.* 648 *descr.* (in *BASP* 6, 1969, pp. 122-23), a receipt issued to Saturnilus for work performed on the dikes in 171 A.D.

9. Σώτας Ἀμάειτος : Σώτας instead of Πρωτᾶς (*P. Teb.* 397.11). The patronymic was read by the editors of *P. Teb.* 397 as Ἀμῖτος. Having reviewed this reading against the original in light of 639, I would now propose to read Ἀμάειτος in 397.11. The ending in -ειτος is certain, despite the fact that the *epsilon* has been written over something else; and the *iota* has been rewritten, perhaps not to correct it (as 397 *app. crit. ad loc.*), but to emphasize its rightness. What immediately precedes is not readily intelligible because of the scribe's attempt to make corrections: the letters either overlap or the second *alpha* is the smudge of ink beneath the following *epsilon*.

The Πρωτᾶς Ἀμάεις (read Ἀμάειτος) of *P. Mil. Vogl.* IV 223.3 need not be identical with this man.

10. Ἀπύχχισ (= Ἀπύχχισ): for the assimilation see Mayser, *Grammatik der griechischen Papyri* I, Leipzig, 1906, pp. 182-3, (2nd ed. rev.: Berlin, 1970) p. 164.

12. Ἀρποκρᾶς Ἠρᾶ: the *alpha* of Ἠρᾶ, though very faint, is certain. There is not the slightest trace of ink after it, so that here we have hypocoristic forms for Ἀρποκρατίων Ἡρακλίδου (cf. 397.5). Such *Kurznamen* in -ᾶς were common in Greco-Roman Egypt (cf. Mayser, *Grammatik* I, pp. 252 ff; Schubart, *Einführung in die Papyruskunde*, p. 334; the present text, lines 1 and 7: Σαραπᾶς, Σαραπᾶ) and throughout the Hellenistic East (cf. Blass-Delbrunner-Funk, *A Greek Grammar of the New Testament*, parag. 125). They were sometimes used of the same persons interchangeably with their corresponding long forms, as in the present instance. Cf. *P. Mich.* V introd. p. 15.

13. Ταμείων: the well-known quarter of the metropolis, for references to which see Wessely, *Die Stadt Arsinoë*, *Sitzungsberichte der kaiserl. Akademie der Wissenschaften in Wien* 145 No. 4, pp. 34 ff; *WB III Abschnitt 22 s. v.* Here it is evidently meant to apply only to Harpocras/Harpocraton and to indicate the quarter in which he was registered: i.e., ἀπὸ Ταμείων is an abbreviated version of ἀπὸ τῆς μητροπόλεως ἀναγραφόμενος ἐπ' ἀμφοδου Ταμείων. Cf. Braunert, *Die Binnenwanderung*, *Bonner Historische Forschungen* 26, Bonn, 1964, p. 136 n. 132a.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
AT BERKELEY

JAMES G. KEENAN