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From the Archive of Flavius Eulogius and His Descendants

James G. Keenan
jkeenan@luc.edu

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FROM THE ARCHIVE OF FLAVIUS EULOGIUS AND HIS DESCENDANTS (see pl.IX)  

The trends in Byzantine papyrological documentation and the archival origin of much of the papyrus evidence for Byzantine Egypt were at the XIth International Congress of Papyrology subjects of an instructive discussion by Professor R. Rémondon. Evidence for late Byzantine Egypt to no small degree consists of extensive archives of private origin, chief among these being the archives of Dioscorus of Aphroditus and of the Apiones of Oxyrhynchus. Study of these archives, the identifying of individual pieces as belonging to archives, and the reconstructing of smaller archives from scattered pieces are necessary and profitable fields of scholarly endeavor in Byzantine papyrology as in documentary studies in general.

One of the lesser Byzantine private archives is the late 5th-6th century archive of Flavius Eulogius and his descendants, first and most fully reconstructed by E.R. Hardy in The Large Estates of Byzantine Egypt (New York 1931), 39-40. Documents identified as belonging to the archive are: P. Oxy. I 140; XVI 1876, 1891, 1958-60, 1962-63, 1994; PSI V 466; and P. Iand. 43 (Montevecchi, La papirologia, 259). A possible, but far from certain, addition is P. Lond. V 1876 desc. The large majority of the Eulogius papyri, therefore, were made for me some years ago by Revel Coles. More recently, John Rea has been so kind as to test my readings and questions against the original papyrus.

1) The publication of P. Oxy. XVI 1962 undertaken below and permission to reproduce its photograph are by courtesy of the Egypt Exploration Society through its secretary, Miss Mary Crawford. Photographs of this and other Eulogius papyri were made for me some years ago by Revel Coles. More recently, John Rea has been so kind as to test my readings and questions against the original papyrus.


3) For the Byzantine Egyptian papyrus archives, cf. the summary lists and bibliography in O. Montevecchi, La papirologia, Torino 1973, 257-61. For the Dioscorus archive, see now also P. Mich. XIII.

4) Cf. P. Oxy. XVI 1876 intro., and, recently, Keenan, ZPE 13, 1974, 297-98; I.F. Fikhman, Oxyrhynchus: City of the Papyri (in Russian), Moscow 1976, 80-82.

5) Hardy, Large Estates, 40 n. 2. With the aid of a photograph sent to me through kind arrangement by T.S. Pattie, I find it possible to read the first two lines of P. Lond. 1876 desc. as:
are to be found in P. Oxy. XVI; most of them appear as *descripta* at the back of that volume. Of these papyri, the one whose description is least full in proportion to its size and state of preservation, to such an extent that its full publication seems a worthwhile task, is P. Oxy. 1962.

Like the majority of the Eulogius papyri, P. Oxy. 1962 is a lease of house property.6) By its terms Eulogius's sons, Martyrius and Apphous, lease to Aurelius Apa Nakios a small house in the Pammenes' Garden district of Oxyrhynchus. The text, written with the fibers, is virtually complete; but the papyrus is abraded and worn in spots, notably toward its left-hand edge from top to bottom. Most minor deviations in the transcript offered below, with its more extensive use of dots and brackets, from the transcript given in the P. Oxy. description are related to this fact. These minor changes are not reported in the critical apparatus or in the commentary below, but may be controlled by the reader against the plate that accompanies the present edition. In both hands, final υ is raised, except for the correction in line 14.

P. Oxy. 1962 desc. 15.5 x 31.2 cm. A.D. 500

[προσπ.] γεν. θεῷ ήλιοντέονος] Θ, έν 'Οξυράγγ(ων) πόλει(ν).
Φλ[a]φρίους Μαρτυρίω καὶ 'Αποσοῦτι τοῖς λαμπ[ι]τά[tά]ρις

---

Φλ(αου)ω ό Απ[ο]ττάλατίνος γε[ό] γροβότι έν[ταθα

1 Φλ(αύως) 'Απ[ο]ττάλατίνος γε[ό] γροβότι έν[ταθα

If the fragment does belong to the Eulogius archive, then these lines might be restored on the basis of related texts as (e.g.):

Φλ(αου)ω ό Απ[ο]ττάλατίνος ταμαρτάταμ τριβοδών υψ τού τῆς ἀριστης μνήμης Εὐλο-

In the end, one can suggest, but far from prove, the piece's connection with the archive. In passing it is perhaps worth noting that the fragment is a land lease and that the lessee's name, as in the present document, is Apa Nakios, though the two individuals are not necessarily identical.

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4.....

4.8

12

16

20

24 (m2)

28

30 (m3)

4: Exceedingly abraded traces toward the beginning of this line. The restora-
tion τρομοδόνως, suggested in ZPE 13, 1974, 298 and n. 187, on analogy with P. Lond. V 1679.3-4 and P. Cairo Masp. III 67320.1, is possibly too short for the available space, and certainly palaeographically unsatisfactory (John Rea). The latter criticism also applies to the reading proposed in the P. Oxy. description: [?] ἄφθο τῶν κακὸς ἀσώμασμα [μέν] ὑμών (?)

5 παλατίνου: since he is referred to as a former and deceased μαγιστρανός in P. Oxy. 1960, it is clear that Eulogius in his career as a palatine official was in the service of the Master of Offices (cf. A.H.M. Jones, The Later Roman Empire, Oxford 1964, 578) and not in that of the Count of the Sacred Largesses. Hardy, Large Estates, 39 (followed in ZPE 11, 1973, 58), should be corrected accordingly.

6-7: For the epithets applied to Oxyrhynchus (cf. lines 8-9), current in combined use from the A.D. 270s till the early sixth century, see D. Hagedorn ZPE 12, 1973, 285ff.

7 Ἀπα Νάκλως: Νάκλως appears to be derived from the Coptic ΝΑΚ, a dialectical form of the adjective meaning great, large or old, but also sometimes used substantively as a title for elder or notable (Crum, Coptic Dictionary, 250, s.v. ΝΟΣ). It is one of a series of Coptic names that appears consistently with the title ΔΙΠΑ (Crum, 13; see Preisigke, Namenbuch, col. 224; Foraboschi, Onomasticon, 202). That title, however, once having been attached to certain names, need not have indicated that persons so named were ecclesiastics of any kind. That seems to be true in the present instance and it may therefore be preferable here to print Ἀπα νάκλως and to follow this practice in other cases where Ἀπα seems not to be used as a title but as part of a personal name.

10: House lease terms are commonly set to begin on Thoth 1 even in cases where the pertinent documents are, as in the present case (above, line 2), drafted after that date: Braunert, Festschrift Oertel, 43; O. Montevoci, La papirologia, 218; P. Soterichos (Papyr. Colon. 8, forthcoming) 26, 9ff. n.; P. Mich. 678 (forthcoming), 8n.

11: For the years of the Oxyrhyctite eras, see now Roger S. Bagnall and K.A. Worp, The Chronological Systems of Byzantine Egypt, Zutphen 1978, chapt. VI.

14: For the Pammenes' Garden district, see H. Rink, Straßennamen und Viertelnamen von Oxyrhynchos, diss. Giessen, 1924, 37-38.

16 [(?) ὁ[ωκοπέδ]ως: aut sim.]
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18 (όξτ)ὁ; omega is reasonably secure, thus making the restoration unavoidable. Eight karats here "probably represents the triens" or 1/3 solidus piece.—L.C. West and A.C. Johnson, Currency in Roman and Byzantine Egypt, Princeton Studies in Papyrology 5, 1944, 129.


23 [(?) ἁπλὰ; single copies seem to be the norm in the drafting of late Byzantine Oxyrhynchite leases of building property, e.g. P. Oxy. VIII 1038; XVI 1889, 1890.

30: The P. Oxy. description gives, after etelesthe, θ(ή) (?) xviii (ινοι)-χ(τ.) φ(οι). Though occasional details of this continuation may be correct (cf. also L. Koenen, ZPE 11, 1973, 215f.), it is exceedingly difficult to justify the total end result against the scribbles that stand on the papyrus; I print here therefore only what seems to me to be reasonably secure. The illegibility of these transliterated notarial subscriptions is well-known (e.g. P. Oxy. XXXIV 2718.22 n.). They were restricted in use to late Byzantine Oxyrhynchus (Irmischer, Actes du Xe Congrès International de Papyrologues, Wroclaw-Warsaw-Cracow 1964, 131 n. 88; P. Michael., p. 61), and apparently their very illegibility was an ingredient in their being "a form of code writing to prove the authenticity of the document."—H. van Oyen, P. Lugd.-Bat. XVII, p. 80 at bottom.

Verso: perhaps by a fourth hand if not by one of the three hands represented on the recto; the remains are too scanty to allow judgement on this point. The writing is with the fibers on the back of the upper left-hand corner of the recto; read "[w]ith the eye of faith," but nonetheless I think rightly, by John Rea.

TRANSLATION

In the consulship of the most brilliant Flavii Patricius and Hypatius, Thoth 18 of induction 9, in the city of Oxyrhynchus.
To the most brilliant Flavii Martyrius and Apphous, -- -- of notaries, sons of Eulogius of most excellent memory, former palatine official, landowners here in the brilliant and most brilliant city of Oxyrhynchites, from Aurelius Apa Nakios, son of Philoxenus, from the brilliant and most brilliant city of Oxyrhynchites, greetings.

I voluntarily undertake to lease from the first day of the month of Thoth of the current 177th = 146th year of the present ninth indiction from the property belonging to Your Brilliancy, situated in this city in the district of Pammenes' Garden, an entire [small] house, facing south, with its [building-site], with appurtenances and all rights, and [I shall pay] an annual rent of eight gold karats, which rent I shall pay each year, one half every [six] months; and whenever Your Brilliancy should wish, I shall hand over the aforesaid [small house], with [possession] of it unharmed, without delay. This lease, of which there is a [single (?) copy], is valid, and in answer to the formal question, I gave my consent.

(2nd hand) I, Aurelius Apa Nakios, son of Philoxenus, have taken in lease the aforesaid small house, with every right pertaining to it, and I shall pay the rent, and I agree to all the provisions as stated above. I, Aurelius John, [- - -], having been asked, wrote in his behalf in his presence because he is illiterate.

(3rd hand) Executed by me, Serenus -- --.

(Verso): Lease of Apa Nakios -- --.

Loyola University of Chicago

James G. Keenan
Miete eines Hauses (P. Oxy. 1962 descr.); zu J. G. Keenan S. 133 ff.