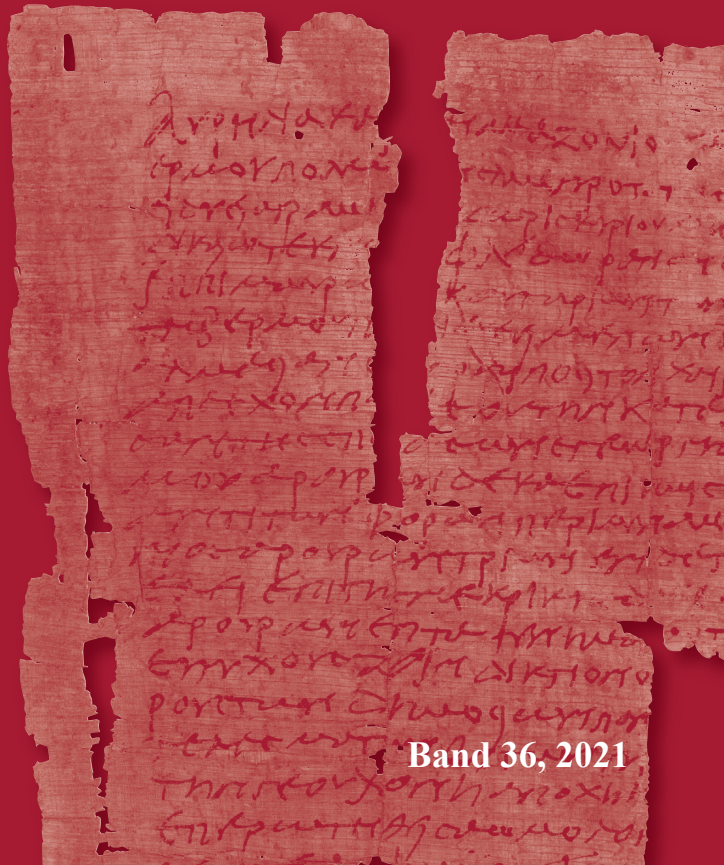


# TYCHE

Beiträge zur Alten Geschichte  
Papyrologie und Epigraphik



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AIKATERINI KOROLI

A Greek Receipt for the Payment of *diagraphon*  
from the Dossier of Ioulios\*

Plate 11

This small, rectangular-shaped and hitherto unpublished parchment piece belongs to the collection of the Austrian National Library. Its colour is light brown and all four edges are intact. The top and left margins both measure 0.7 cm; the right margin measures 1.3 cm, whereas the bottom margin measures only ca. 0.2 cm. There are a few small gaps and holes on the left side of the piece. The script runs on the flesh-side. The ink is faint. There are a few illegible traces visible at the top. The verso is blank.

The text is preserved almost in its entirety. Both content and purport of the document are very clear. It can easily be classified as a typical receipt for the payment of *diagraphon*, i.e. the poll-tax introduced by the Arab conquerors of Egypt<sup>1</sup>. Its structure goes as follows: date of issue (month and day, and indiction) — *canon*, i.e. number of the instalment — information about the taxpayer (name and title) — reason for payment (payment of *diagraphon*) — fiscal district — sum paid — signature of the issuer.

The receipt published here presents striking similarities in terms of both content and palaeography with two receipts also issued for the payment of *diagraphon* and also recorded on parchment, namely SPP VIII 751 (7<sup>th</sup> cent.), published by C. Wessely, and P.Gen. IV 200 (= SB XXVIII 17155) (7<sup>th</sup> cent.), first published by N. Poget Kern, *Encore un reçu pour l'impôt du διάγραφον*, *Tyche* 18 (2003) 129–134. The affinity between SPP VIII 751 and P.Gen. IV 200 has already been pointed out by Poget Kern, *op. cit.* Both receipts in question were issued by a certain Ioulios (see below, note to l. 5), who is also the signatory of the present document. The features of the cursive are identical in all three documents. It is also noteworthy that the name of the issuer was written and abbreviated in the same manner; in addition, it is followed by a cross.

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\* The present article was written within the framework of the Research Project “Business Letters from Byzantine Egypt. First Edition and Linguistic Analysis of Twenty-five Greek Papyri” (T 1068-G25), University of Vienna, financed by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF).

<sup>1</sup> On *diagraphon*, see, among many others, I. Poll, *Die διάγραφον-Steuer im spät-byzantinischen und früh-arabischen Ägypten*, *Tyche* 14 (1999) 237–274; J. Gasco, *Arabic Taxation in the Mid-7<sup>th</sup>-century Greek papyri*, *T & M* 17 (2013) 671–677, esp. 675ff. As pointed out by N. Gonis, *Five Tax Receipts from Early Islamic Egypt*, *ZPE* 143 (2003) 149–157, esp. 150 (comment on ll. 2–3 with note 3), contrary to H. I. Bell, *P.Lond.* IV 1419 introd., p. 169, the ending -ov should be preferred to the ending -ή when it comes to the expansion of abbreviations of the term contained in documents of the early Arab period; cf. *BL* XIII 244.

Furthermore, the key term *diagraphon* is abbreviated as  $\delta(\acute{\alpha})\gamma\rho(\acute{\alpha})\phi(\sigma\upsilon)$  in the collocation  $(\acute{\upsilon}\pi\epsilon\rho) \delta(\acute{\iota}\alpha)\gamma\rho(\acute{\alpha})\phi(\sigma\upsilon)$  in the receipt published here, as well as in SPP VIII 751.3, whereas in P.Gen. IV 200.2 the term is abbreviated as  $\delta(\acute{\iota}\alpha)\gamma\rho\acute{\alpha}\phi(\sigma\upsilon)$ ; however, a comparison of our text with the digital photos of both SPP VIII 751 and P.Gen. IV 200 shows that the reading  $\delta\iota(\acute{\alpha})\gamma\rho(\acute{\alpha})\phi(\sigma\upsilon)$  in P.Gen. IV 200.2 is also possible. A parallel for the abbreviation  $\delta(\acute{\iota}\alpha)\gamma\rho(\acute{\alpha})\phi(\sigma\upsilon)$  is furnished by another tax receipt SPP III<sup>2</sup> 658 verso.2–3 (Arsinoiton Polis; after 642; on this re-dating, see the re-edition of the SPP III nos 583–701 by A. Koroli, forthcoming 2023 [hereinafter: SPP III<sup>2</sup>]). Moreover, in SPP VIII 748.2 (7<sup>th</sup> cent.), the transcription suggested by C. Wessely was  $\delta\gamma\rho\alpha\phi$ ; however, the digital photo (available at <http://data.onb.ac.at/rec/RZ00006709>) shows that the reading  $\delta(\acute{\iota}\alpha)\gamma\rho(\acute{\alpha})\phi(\sigma\upsilon)$  is also possible.

The present receipt contains the name of the fiscal district, i.e. Parembole, which serves as a secure indication for the provenance of the documents from the Arsinoite city, which is also the case in SPP VIII 751 and P. Gen. IV 200; for Parembole, see below, note to l. 4.

The features of the rather inelegant yet practiced handwriting indicate that the document dates from around the mid or late seventh century. This dating is in alignment with its content and text type. P. Gen. IV 200 was also dated to the part of the seventh century that followed the Arab conquest by Poget Kern (*op. cit.* 131 note to l. 1; 134). The writing material used (parchment) also seems to be typical for the documents of this kind that originate from the Arsinoite nome; cf. N. Gonis' remarks in *Reconsidering some Fiscal Documents from Early Islamic Egypt III*, ZPE 169 (2009) 197–208, esp. 205 (no 19).

The above discussed similarities between P.Vindob. G 31268, SPP VIII 751, and P.Gen. IV 200 leave no doubt that the three documents form a small dossier.

P.Vindob. G 31268	4.2 × 8.3 cm	2 <sup>nd</sup> half of 7 <sup>th</sup> cent.
Arsinoiton Polis		Plate 11

- 1 † Ἀθὲρ κ ἰδ ἰνδ(ικτιῶνος),
- 2 α κανόνος· ἅπα [᾽Ο]λ,
- 3 (ὑπὲρ) δ(ι)αγρ(ά)φ(ου) Παρ(εμ)βολ(ῆ)ς κερ(ά)τια
- 4 εἴκοσι δῆο ἥμισυ,
- 5 γί(νονται) (κεράτια) κβ (ἥμισυ). Ἰούλ(ιος) †.

1. ινδς pap. 3. ς pap. δγγρφ pap. παρβολς pap. κερ pap. 5. γι pap. / pap. ιουλς pap.

“Hathyr 20 indiction 14, for the 1<sup>st</sup> *canon*; apa Hol, (for) the *diagraphon* of (the quarter of) Parembole twenty-two one-half *keratia*, total 22 ½. Ioulios”.

1. Ἀθὲρ κ ἰδ ἰνδ(ικτιῶνος): 16/17 Nov. 655, 670, 685, or 700; see *CSBE*<sup>2</sup> 157; 160.

2. α κανόνος: For the system of two instalments, which was in force during the early Arab period, see L. Casson, *Tax-Collection Problems in Early Arab Egypt*, TAPA 19 (1938) 274–291, esp. 280 with note 21; 22; see also Poll, *op. cit.* 242 with notes 22–25. On the possibility that

there may be more than two instalments, see F. Morelli, CPR XXII introd. pp. 87–88; 23.1 note (p. 119).

3. ἄπα [“Ο]λ: The proposed reading is not completely secure. π in ἄπα seems to have a third “leg”, which is followed by a raised α and a long low trace pointing to λ. It is plausible to assume that a small omicron was written at the top of λ and is now faded out. “Ολ or “Ωλ, a variation of “Ορ(ος) / “Ωρ(ος) attested mainly in the Arsinoite nome, is usually preceded by “apa”; cf. T. Derda, E. Wipszycka, *L’emploi des titres Abba, Apa et Papas dans l’Égypte byzantine*, JJP 24 (1994) 23–56, esp. 52; also J. M. Diethart, *Pros. Ars.* 37–42; on “Ολ / “Ωλ, see also NB 240; 496; *Onomasticon* 212; 350. The faint remains of ink at the end of this line, which cross the κ of κερ(άτια) in l. 4, seem to be ink prints and do not belong to a letter.

3–4. κερ(άτια) | εἴκοσι ὄβο ἡμισυ: The sum paid here falls into the expected range of sums paid for *diagraphon*; see Poll, *op. cit.* 239–240; 243–252; Poget Kern, *op. cit.* 134.

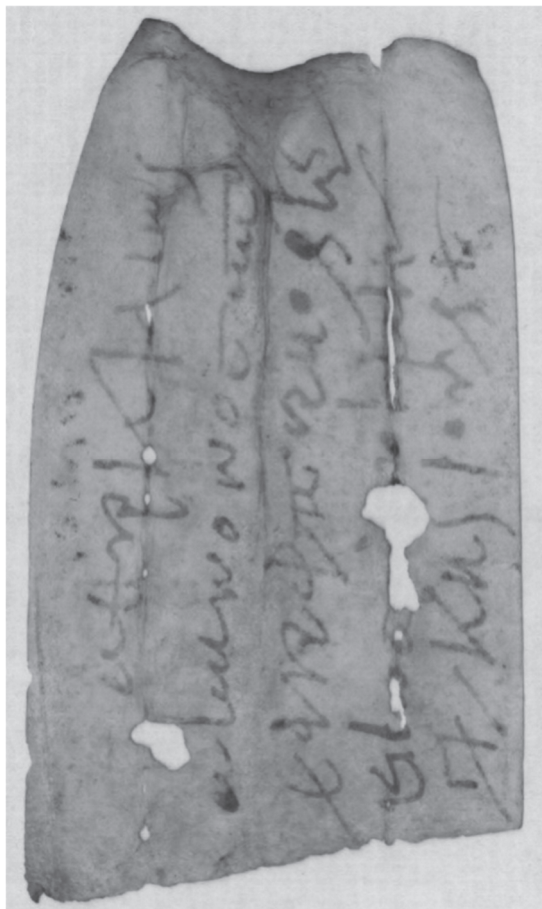
4. Παρ(εμ)βολ(η)ς: In all likelihood, the term denotes the well attested quarter of Arsinoiteon Polis λαύρα Ἀπολλωνίου Παρεμβολή, which was replaced by its shorter version, i.e. λαύρα Παρεμβολῆς, after the fourth century AD. Information on this quarter is offered by A. Calderini, *Diz. geogr.* I.2, 152–155 s.v.; IV 53; S. Daris, *Supplemento* I 48 s.v.; II 23 s.v.; III 19 s.v.; IV 18; 105 s.v.; see also S. Daris, *I quartieri di Arsinoe in età romana*, Aegyptus 61 (1981) 143–154, esp. 144; idem, *I quartieri di Arsinoe: materiali e note*, Papirologica Lupiensia 10 (2001) 171–196, esp. 181; 191–192; Poget Kern, *op. cit.* 132 (note to l. 2); S. Daris, *I quartieri di Arsinoe. Addenda*, ZPE 157 (2006) 143–146, esp. 144; 146. Parallels for the attestation of Parembolē not preceded by λαύρα in exactly the same context are offered by the following receipts for the payment of *diagraphon*: P.Prag. I 76.2–3 (7<sup>th</sup> cent.); SB XXVIII 17222.2–3 (7<sup>th</sup> cent.); SPP III<sup>2</sup> 658 verso.3 (after 642); 659 verso.3 (after 642); 669.2–3 (after 642); 683.1–2 (after 642); SPP VIII 705.2 (7<sup>th</sup> cent.); 721.1–2 (7<sup>th</sup> cent.); 748.2 (7<sup>th</sup> cent.); 752.2–3 (7<sup>th</sup> cent.); SPP III<sup>2</sup> 673.2–3 (7<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> cent.); 687.1–2 (7<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> cent.); 696.2–3 (7<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> cent.); 693.2 (end of 7<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> cent.). For the interpretation of the phrase διάγραφον Παρεμβολῆς as διάγραφον λαύρας Παρεμβολῆς, cf. also Daris, *I quartieri di Arsinoe: materiali e note* 191–192; Gonis, *Five Tax Receipts* 150, comment on ll. 2–3 (where several parallels are offered); Poget Kern, *op. cit.* 132, note to l. 3; Daris, *Addenda* 146<sup>2</sup>.

5. Ἰούλ(ιος): This abbreviation was expanded as Ἰούλ(ιος) by both C. Wessely in SPP VIII 751.5 (cf. J. M. Diethart, *Pros. Ars.* no 2349), and Poget Kern (*op. cit.* 130) in P. Gen. IV 200.3. Ἰούλιος is well attested in the Arsinoite nome; cf. indicatively J. M. Diethart, *Pros. Ars.* nos. 2340–2356; also *ibid.* nos. 467–533. Ἰουλιανός or Ἰούλις are also attested in the Arsinoite nome but much less common and hence less probable.

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<sup>2</sup> The possibility that the scribe refers to the *chorion* or *epoikion* of the Arsinoite nome that also bears the name “Parembolē” should be rather excluded. This *chorion* / *epoikion* is clearly attested in SPP III 257.1 (Arsinoite nome; 6<sup>th</sup> cent.); SPP III<sup>2</sup> 114 (= SB I 5825).3 (Arsinoiteon Polis; 6<sup>th</sup>–7<sup>th</sup> cent.) (with note of S. Tost); SPP III<sup>2</sup> 634.1 (sec. half of 7<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> cent.); see also Calderini, *Diz. geogr.* IV 53; Daris, *Supplemento* V 79. A discussion concerning the ambiguous occurrence of Parembolē with no further specification (either λαύρα or χωρίον/εποίκιον) in very fragmentary contexts is offered by F. Mitthof, SPP III<sup>2</sup> 181.2 note (p. 83); 189.2 note (p. 90).



P.Vindob. G 31268 (© Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Papyrussammlung)

zu A. Koroli, S. 83