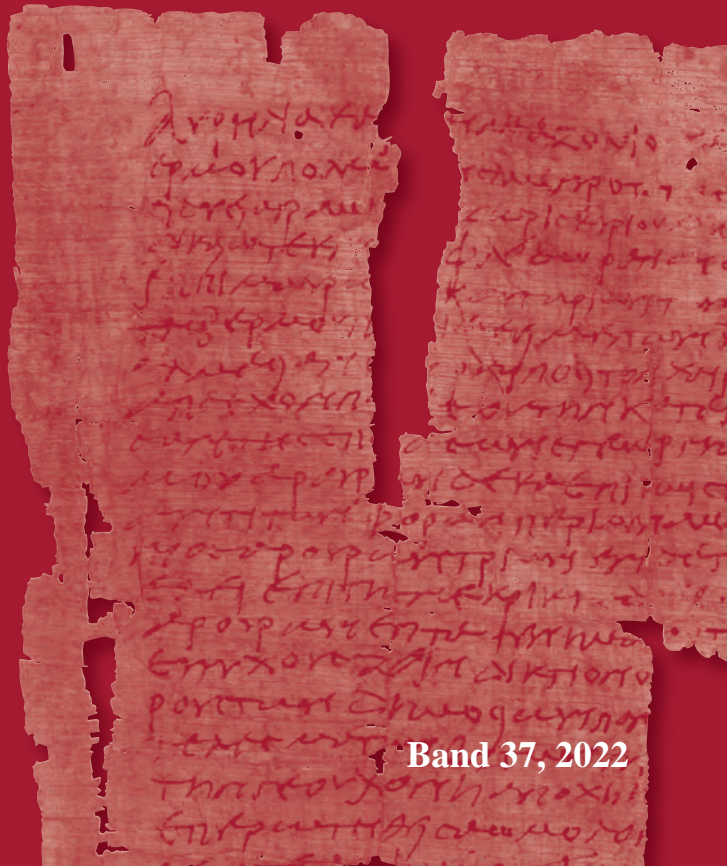


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Model *synchoreseis**

Plates 23–24

P.Vindob. G 40454 R
Provenance unknown

11 × 8 cm

I AD
Plates 23–24

Fragmentary papyrus of unknown provenance, broken off on all sides. The writing on the recto is a cursive, probably of the first century AD, and somewhat careless. The scribe uses two forms of *eta*, one more H-shaped and one more S-shaped, which is also the case in, e.g., W. Schubart, *Griechische Palaeographie*, München 1925, 54, Abb. 29 (BGU III 912, AD 33), and 57, Abb. 31 (AD 82).

There are two columns of text with an *intercolumnium* of at least 2 cm. Col. I has line ends of three texts, col. II the beginnings of the lines of two texts. There is a space of 1.5 cm between the first line in col. I and the next visible line (what I have numbered as line 4) and again a space of 3 cm between what I have numbered as lines 8 and 11 there. Similarly, in col. II, where the space between lines 3 and 4 is 2 cm. There is a *paragraphos* below col. II, line 3, which is the end of one text, and a title in line 4 there, which introduces another text. Titles and *paragraphoi* may well have appeared elsewhere above and below texts.

It seems that multiple texts were written on the papyrus, each set off from the others by a title (perhaps centered), a *paragraphos* below the last line, and an empty space in between. The space between the last line of the first text in col. II and the title of the second text there is 2 cm. This actually also works for the space between the second and third texts in col. I: the text does not end in line 8 there, but would have continued in a line 9, now in lacuna, followed by a *paragraphos*, and a title would have preceded the first visible line of the third text in a line 10, likewise now in lacuna. The remaining space would only be 2 cm, not 3 cm as now. But the space between the last line of the first text in col. I (in line 2, now in lacuna) and the title of the second text there (in line 3, now in lacuna) is only 1 cm. The scribe put some thought into the layout of the texts, but he did not achieve, or aim at, total uniformity.

The papyrus was reused for a text on the verso (turned 180°). The ends of eight lines are preserved. Line 6 reads:] . η (not μή) σὺν εἰδέναι. The hand is less accomplished

* I would like to thank Hermann Harrauer, who granted me permission to publish this papyrus when I visited the Vienna papyrus collection in the summer of 2002. I have inspected the original more than once.

than the one on the recto, and the lines are longer from line 4 onwards. The last three lines are not even strictly horizontal anymore. A bottom margin of 2.5 cm seems to follow, but whether there was a top margin also is even more difficult to say because of the uneven length of the lines.

The recto of the papyrus preserves parts of five¹ texts in two columns. The three texts in col. I and the two in col. II are separated by empty spaces. The second text in col. II is a model contract (note the indefinite τις in lines 5, 7, and 8 and the indefinite ποστός in line 9), and the second text in col. I may well be a model document also (note τιτι in line 8). We may assume that the other texts are model documents as well. The third text in col. I (note ὥστε in col I, line 11 with the line note) and the first text in col. II are in that case model contracts. The papyrus would be part of a “book” with model contracts.

Only a few such papyri with model documents have been published to date: *P.Oxy.* XXXIII 2677 of the second century AD (a model *cheirographon* in a careful hand on the verso of a papyrus), *SB* VI 9226 of the second-third century (a model surety addressed to a *strategos* and a model lease, with titles: ἐγγύη in line 1 and μίσθωσις ἐλαιῶνος in line 10), and *SB* XX 15004 of 146/147 (a model declaration addressed to the *bibliophylakes* of the Arsinoite nome on a reused papyrus in a cursive hand). To these we can add *P.Hamb.* IV 254 of the second century AD (a model letter of condolence on a reused papyrus in a somewhat careless hand).²

Only the second text in col. II can be securely identified: its title, παραχ(ώρησις), may at first suggest that it is what is known as a “cession of land”, but the text is in fact the “cession” of a financial claim to another person. Other “cessions” of claims are *P.Oxy.* II 271 (AD 56; a second “cession” of a claim in succession) and *P.Oxy.* II 272 (AD 66) and especially two texts from Alexandria, *BGU* IV 1171 (10 BC; a cancellation of a “cession” of a claim) and *BGU* IV 1170 (11/10 BC), lines 50–62.³ Other texts attesting the “cession” of claims include *P.Lond.* II 358 (150–154; reprinted in *M.Chr.* 52) and *SB* VI 9201 (AD 203).

The format of the second text in col. II is that of a *synchoreisis* (note συγχω-]ροῦμεν in lines 5–6). The other texts may have been in that format as well (note ὥστε in col. I, line 11 with the line note). *Synchoreseis* are technically addressed to the *archidikastes* by two parties (each introduced with παρά), who agree together on a kind of “settlement”, usually just another contract of sorts. The *synchoreisis* format was used in Alexandria only, and this raises the question what model *synchoreseis* would be doing in Middle Egypt, where the papyrus was no doubt found. I suppose that such documents could be mined by scribes accustomed to other formats (such as the *cheirographon* in *P.Oxy.* XXXIII 2766 or the *hypomnema* in *SB* VI 9226.10–28), when they were confronted

¹ Perhaps only four: the third text in col. I may be the beginning of the first text in col. II.

² On such model texts and similar products from the workshops of ancient scribes, see S. Fogarty, *Model Documents and the Scribe*, *BASP* 59 (2022) 259–274.

³ The text is also known as *BGU* IV 1170 IV, but it is not col. IV (TM 18626). English translations of *BGU* IV 1171 and *BGU* IV 1170.50–62 are available at https://classics.uc.edu/users/vanminnen/ancient_alexandria/texts.html.

with the need to compose contracts about a specific transaction type, such as the “cession” of a financial claim to another person as in the second text in col. II here. Such scribes could change the format where needed (affecting mostly the beginning and end of a text) but keep the substance. Note that the addressee is left out in the *παραχώρησις* here and also in the second and third texts in col. I.

We may assume that Alexandrian documents of any kind exercised a profound influence on the formulae used by scribes in Middle Egypt, not just through models such as the present one, but also through actual examples of *synchoreseis* that ended up in Middle Egypt, when one of the parties originated there. I would tentatively identify *P.Oxy. LXVII 4586* (third century AD) as a non-Alexandrian text composed in Middle Egypt by a scribe using formulae known from *synchoreseis*: as a *synchoresis* this text would be highly anomalous (no ἀξιούμεν followed by a date at the end but instead subscriptions by the two parties, both villagers from the Oxyrhynchite nome). The present papyrus of unknown provenance but no doubt also from somewhere in Middle Egypt seems to have provided an opportunity for non-Alexandrian scribes to take their cue from what was strictly speaking an Alexandrian document type.

The admittedly somewhat tentative supplements in col. II, lines 2 and 5–8 (see also the line note on col. II, line 8) suggest an average line width of at least 25 cm, which would fit the broad, “landscape” format sometimes used for more complicated *synchoreseis*.

Col. I

→

1

] . το

2

] *vacat**spatium*

3

] *vacat*

4

]ι ἐφο

5

]σιν

6

]αφου

7

]αι –

8

] τινί

9 [τινος τοῦ τινος

c. ?

] *vacat**spatium*

10

] *vacat*

11

] ὥστε

12

]αραυ

13

]η καὶ

14

ο]υ

15

]ας

16

] . α

Col. II

-
- 1 περὶ ὧν ἐκπεπληρω[
 2 μηδὲ περὶ ἄλλου μηδεγ[ὸς ἀπλῶς ὀφειλήματος ἢ ἀπαιτήματος ἢ διαγραφῶν ἢ
 λόγων ἢ ἐγγράπτου]
 3 ἢ ἀγράφου πράγματος κ[αθόλου
-
- spatium*
- 4 παραχώ(ρησις) [
 5 παρά τινος τοῦ τινος τ[οῦ τινός ποθεν καὶ παρά τινος τοῦ τινος τοῦ τινός ποθεν.
 συγχω-]
 6 ροῦμεν πρὸς ἀλλήλ[ους ἐπὶ τοῖσδε ὥστε τινά τινος τοῦ τινος ἀπεσχηκότα παρά
 τινος τοῦ τινος]
 7 τοῦ τινος διὰ χειρὸς [ἐξ οἴκου ποσὰ παρακεχωρηκέναί αὐτῷ τὴν πράξιν τῶν
 ὀφειλομένων αὐτῷ]
 8 ὑπό τινος τοῦ τινος [τοῦ τινός ποθεν κατὰ συγχώρησιν γεγонуῖαν διὰ τοῦ ἐν
 Ἀλεξανδρείᾳ]
 9 καταλογεῖου τῷ ποστ[ῷ ἔτει
 10 καὶ τούτων τόκους κ[α]ῖ [
 11 τούτων πράξιν τ[
 12 . αι τὸν ὑπόχρεον . [
 13 καὶ τῶν τόκων κ[
 14 . [] τὸ δάνειον [
 15 [] . τὸ δάνειον [
-

“(col. II) with respect to which (he agrees that) he has been paid ... nor about any other debt or claim or bank payments or accounts or any written or unwritten matter at all ...

Cession (of a debt?):

From A, son of B, grandson of C, from somewhere, and from X, son of Y, grandson of Z, from somewhere.

We agree with one another on the following: that X, son of Y, grandson of Z, having received from A, son of B, grandson of C, so much, has ceded to A the right to execute the claim on what P, son of Q, grandson of R, from somewhere, owes X in accordance with a *synchoresis* made through the *katalogeion* in Alexandria in year so-and-so ... and the interest on the claim ... the right to execute the claim ... the debtor ... the interest and ... the loan ... the loan ...”

Col. I

3. The title is missing in the lacuna.

4. ἐφο, if part of one word, suggests ἔφοδος, “claim”, which often occurs in *synchoreseis* from Alexandria, but never this early on in the text. If the vertical trace preceding it is indeed an *iota*, it could be the end of an infinitive. In that case we can restore α] ἔφο-[[δον (either καὶ μηδεμίαν αὐτῷ vel sim. μηδ’ ἄλλω ὑπὲρ αὐτοῦ vel sim. μηδενὶ καταλείπεσθαι ἔφοδον or the less common μηδεμίαν δ’ αὐτῷ vel sim. εἶναι ἔφοδον). An articulation ἐφ’ ὄ cannot be excluded.

6. The trace preceding φου can hardly be a *lambda*. If it is indeed an *alpha*,]αφου suggests ἀγρ]άφου, for which we may compare col. II, line 3, where ἀγράφου is part of a larger formula, on which see the line note there.

7. The horizontal line following]αι seems to be a line “filler”.

11.] ὥστε suggests συγχωροῦμεν πρὸς ἀλλήλους ἐπὶ τοῖσδε] ὥστε, for which we may compare col. II, lines 6–7 with the line note there. If part of the prescript would be included in the lacuna as well (see col. II, line 6), it would add up to a very long line indeed, even longer than in col. II: [παρά τινος τοῦ τινος τοῦ τινός ποθεν καὶ παρά τινος τοῦ τινος τοῦ τινός ποθεν. συγχωροῦμεν πρὸς ἀλλήλους ἐπὶ τοῖσδε] ὥστε, which may have taken up as much as 35 cm. There seems to be an *iota* written above the *omega* and the *sigma*, but that can hardly be a correction (of -ω into -ωι, leaving στε- as the beginning of the next word?). I take it as a spurious vertical stroke.

12.]αραν is probably to be articulated as π]αρ’ αὐ-[[τοῦ, “from (one of the two parties)”. π]άραν-[[τα, “immediately”, is unlikely, because this usage is late; in *synchoreseis* “immediately” is always παραχρήμα.

16.] . α can be]σα or]τα.

Col. II

1. Either ἐκπεπλήρω[ται or ἐκπεπληρῶ[σθαι, the infinitive still depending on συγχωροῦμεν, which would have occurred earlier on in the text. The verb means “to pay”, and either a loan or the interest on a loan was here acknowledged to have been paid to the creditor. See for the infinitive in *synchoreseis* from Alexandria *BGU IV 1053* (13 BC; re-edited by P. van Minnen, *An Antichretic Loan from Early Roman Alexandria Revisited (BGU IV 1053)*, ZPE 199 [2016] 144–154), col. II, lines 18–21: διὰ τὸ ἐκπεπλ[η-]]ρῶσθαι αὐτὸν (the creditor) ὑπ’ αὐτῶν (the debtors) ταῖς | ἐπὶ τὸ αὐτὸ τοῦ ἀργυρίου (δραγμαῖς) σμ | διὰ χιρός, and *BGU IV 1149* (13 BC), lines 14–15: ἐκπεπληρῶσθαι (the creditor) | δὲ καὶ τοῖς ἀμφοτέρων τῶν δανείων τόκοις μέχρι Φαμενώθ, and for the finite verb in such texts *BGU IV 1055* (13 BC), lines 45–47: ὦν καὶ ἐκπεπλήρωται (the creditor) | τὸν τόκον ἕως τοῦ προκείμενου | μηνὸς Φαρμουῦθι.

2–3. The supplement is uncertain, but the formula occurs in *BGU IV 1113* (14 BC), lines 14–16 without καθόλου at the end. See also *BGU IV 1168* (11/10 BC), lines 15–17, which leave out ἢ διαγραφῶν ἢ λόγων but include καθόλου at the end, and *BGU IV 1169* (11/10 BC), lines 33–37, which leave out ἢ διαγραφῶν ἢ λόγων and καθόλου at the end as well as πράγματος: there is therefore no ἢ before ἐγγράπτου. The lacuna in line 3 here would have continued with a time indication (“from time immemorial up until the present day” vel sim.).

4. In the lacuna there must have been a further specification of the παραχόρησις (e.g. δανείου). Cf. *SB VI 9226.10*: μίσθωσις ἐλαιῶνος. From the length of the next four lines, if my supplements are correct, it follows that the title in this line may not have

been centered but only indented, unless the title was considerably longer than, e.g., παραχώρησις [δανείου].

5. If we follow *P.Oxy.* XXXIII 2677, we could add μητρός τινος twice here and once in line 8, but *SB VI* 9226 leaves out μητρός τινος.

6–8. X (the person following the second παρά in line 5) acknowledges in lines 6–7 that he has received from A (the person following the first παρά in line 5) a certain amount of money in cash and that he has transferred to A his claim on P (the third person mentioned in lines 7–8) who owes him money. The verb missing in the lacuna in line 6 is a perfect form of ἀπέχω, and whether it was a participle, as I have reconstructed it, or an infinitive or even a finite form following ἐπεὶ is unknowable.

8–9. The original debt was incurred by a transaction, a loan (δάνειον twice in lines 14–15), made through the *katalogeion*, the record office of the *archidikastes* in Alexandria. It was made in the xth year, τῷ ποστ[ῶ] ἔτει. It should probably be π[ροστοῦ] ἔτους in *SB VI* 9226.15, not π[ροιοῦ] ἔτους, although this does occur in *P.Amh.* II 68 (89–92), line 7 (read ποιοῦ there).

11. The πρᾶξις is the “execution” of the claim. See especially *BGU IV* 1170 (11/10 BC), line 52, where Psenanouphis (the person following the second παρά in line 51) acknowledges that he has “ceded” (παρακ(ε)χωρη(κέναι)⁴) to Ammonios (the person following the first παρά in line 51) the πρᾶξις of what Ammonios (the person mentioned in line 53) owes his father in accordance with an old loan (τῆ(ν) πρᾶξι(ν) τῶν ὀφειλομένων) τῷ πατρὶ αὐτοῦ etc.).

12. What precedes τὸν ὑπόχρεον is not clear. The first letter could be a somewhat larger than usual (initial) *epsilon* or a *beta* (no other *beta* occurs in the text). In *BGU IV* 1171 (10 BC), a cancellation of a “cession” of a claim, the corresponding expression in lines 19–21 is πρᾶ-|σειν (for πρᾶσσειν) τὸν ὑπόχρεον τὸ δάνειον καὶ τοὺς ὀφειλομένους τόκους. I wonder whether the first letter could be an awkward (initial) *xi* (the other *xi* in line 11 looks admittedly different). In that case ξαι could be the end of the aorist infinitive of the same verb, πρᾶ-|ξαι, “to charge”. In *BGU IV* 1171.55 we expect the same verb followed by τὴν ὑπόχρε(ον), where Schubart read ὑπόχρε(ον). The scan does suggest a *pi* as the first letter, and τήν is possible before ὑπόχρε(ον), but how πρᾶσσειν (or πρᾶξαι) was abbreviated before it we cannot tell.

14–15. Either line may have had something like καὶ οὕτως εἶναι τὸ δάνειον τοῦτο ἀκίνδονον παντὸς κινδύνου, but the context remains unclear.

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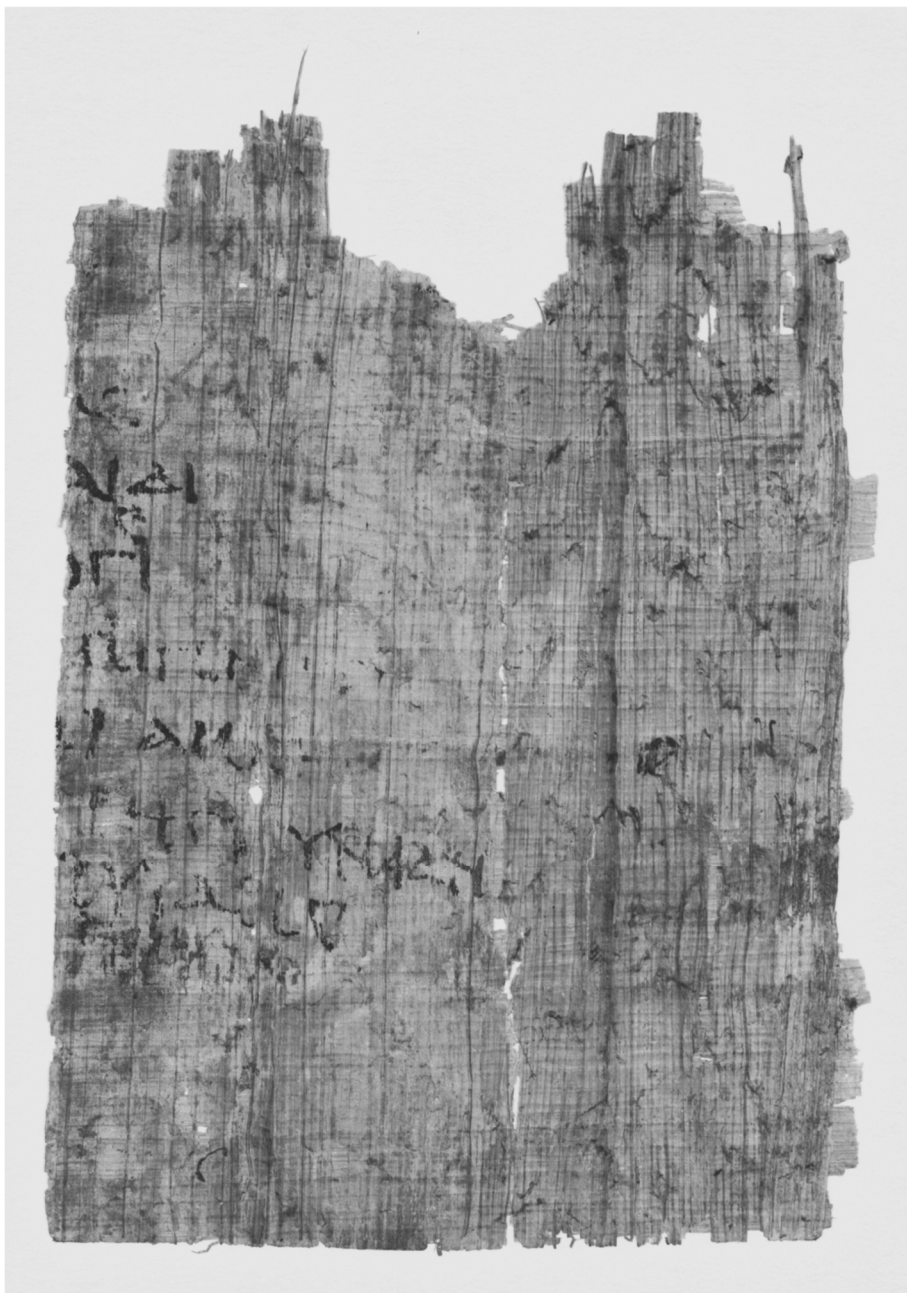
Peter van Minnen

⁴ See my correction of the editor’s παραχωρή(σειν) in *Korr.Tyche* 1087, *Tyche* 36 (2021) 208. The other draft has παρακεχωρη(κέναι), as expected (scan of P.Berl. inv. 13122 V kindly provided by Marius Gerhardt).



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