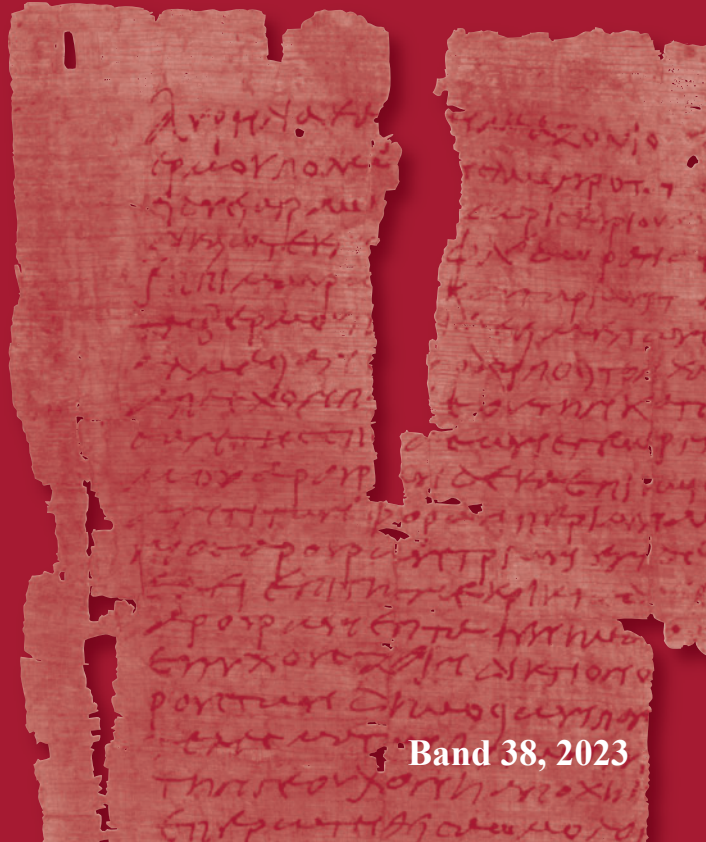




# Beiträge zur Alten Geschichte Papyrologie und Epigraphik

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## Der Verlag

**Band 38, 2023**

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Tafeln 1–25

THOMAS A. WAYMENT

## Two Lists of Personal Items from Oxyrhynchus

### Plate 22

This papyrus is housed in the University of Birmingham collection and was discovered at Oxyrhynchus during the winter excavations of 1922–23.<sup>1</sup> It was eventually acquired by the Selly Oak Colleges Library at the University of Birmingham and then moved to the Cadbury Research Library.<sup>2</sup>

#### List of Jewelry Items

P.Birm. 46D (r)	11.2 × 13.0 cm	Fourth Century
Oxyrhynchus		Plate 22

P.Birm. 46D represents a single fragment written parallel to the fibers and preserving a document torn on all four sides with the right-hand margin on the front (→) and the left-hand margin on the reverse (↓) left intact. Three letters are missing at the beginning of l. 5, giving an approximation of the width of the complete line of writing, which would have been about 10.5 cm. How much text was lost at the beginning and end is impossible to determine. Paleographic features indicate that the document is from the fourth century, with parallels in BGU 11, 2130 (third), P.Oxy. 31, 2579 (4 Aug. 309 CE), P.Corn. 38 (fourth century), and P.Wisc. 2, 47 (fourth century).

The document provides a list of jewelry items, likely a portion of an invoice for items that were made for a client. The first person singular *κατε]κεύαα* indicates the manufacture of the listed items, which conjecturally may have been commissioned from an Oxyrhynchite jeweler's shop. The weights of the various jewelry items were added secondarily but by the same scribe. The text mentions three people by name, the first person potentially the recipient of the jewelry items and the other individuals associated with him: Aurelius, Macrobius, an unnamed wife, and a brother-in-law.

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<sup>1</sup> I would like to thank Susan Worrall at the Cadbury Library for permission to publish and for granting access to the collection, the late Simona Russo for providing several helpful suggestions regarding the jewelry pendants, and Braxton Johannson.

<sup>2</sup> J. E. Powell (ed.), *The Rendel Harris Papyri of Woodbrooke College, Birmingham, Vol. 1*, Cambridge 1936, v–vi, who notes “that no more can be said than that the papyri were acquired partly from dealers in Cairo and partly at Behnesa.”

The jewelry items are interesting because there is a ring with a Persian gemstone, and a chain or necklace in the list is also noteworthy because it offers additional evidence for jewelry pendants, some of which have not been previously attested.<sup>3</sup>

(→)

— — — — —  
 Αὐ]ρήλιον Μη-  
 ] ὀλκῆς (τεταρτῶν) ιη (ἥμισυ)  
 ] . . . . Μακροβίου υἱοῦ  
 ] δακτ[υ]λίδιον ἔχων λιθά-  
 5 ριον]ν μηδίκιον ὀλκῆς (τεταρτῶν) η μόν(ον)  
 κατε]κεύασα τ[ῆ] γυνεκεί ἄλυσι[ν]  
 ]χ. . λιθικῶν καὶ ἀλογίδια  
 ] . . c ἀγάθιον καὶ κοράκεια  
 κα]ῖ ταρίχια δύο, ὀλκῆς (τεταρτῶν) κυ πα(ρὰ)  
 10 ]ραγριον  
 κατεc]κεύασα [τ]ῷ γαμρῷ Ἀμμο-  
 ]μανιάκ[η]ν ἔχo(ν) λιθαρίδια  
 ]ςτονλ[ . ]ειφλ . . . ε . [ .  
 ] . . . [ . . ] . . . . [ .  
 — — — — —

2 pap. διης 3 l. υἱοῦ, pap. υἱου 4 l. ἔχων 6 l. γυναικί, pap. αλλ[ . ]λι 7 pap. αλογισα 8 l. ἀκάτιον  
 9 pap. φγκπα 11 l. γαμβρῷ 12 pap. εχῶ

“... Aurelius ... a weight of 18½ quarters ... belonging to the son of Macrobius, a ring having a Persian gemstone with a weight of 8 quarters and no more. I have fashioned for the spouse a chain ... (with pendants) of stones: small animals, a small boat, small grey figs(?), and two barrels with a weight of 23 quarters minus ... I have furnished for the brother-in-law Ammo(?) a necklace having a gemstone(s) ...”

2 For valuations given to various items of jewelry see J. E. G. Whitehorne, *The Valuation of Gold Dowry Objects in Papyri of the Roman Period*, APF 32 (1986) 49–53; J. Ogden, *Weight Units of Roman-Egyptian Gold Jewellery*, in D. M. Bailey (ed.), *Archaeological Research in Roman Egypt*, Ann Arbor 1996, 191–196.

5 The stone is Persian (adj. μηδίκιον from μῆδιον), and is attested in Byzantine sources, see H. Frisk, *Griechisches Etymologisches Wörterbuch*, Heidelberg 1960, s.v. “μῆδιον”; G. Panayiotou, *Paralipomena Lexicographica Cyranidea*, ICS 15 (1990)

<sup>3</sup> S. Russo, M. Stroppa, *Gnorismata in Menandro e la cultura materiale nei papiri in Menandro, e l'evoluzione della commedia greca*, in *Atti del Convegno Internazionale di Studi in memoria di Adelmo Barigazzi nel centenario della nascita* (Firenze, 30 settembre – 1 ottobre 2013), Firenze 2014, 131–143.

323; F. Montanari, S. Perrone, *Words in Progress* via TLG s.v. “μηδικός, -ή, -όν,” who note, “in combinazione con il sostantivo λίθος, l’aggettivo indica un tipo di pietra proveniente dalla Persia e sacra ad Afrodite.” Cf. J. Ogden, *Weight Units of Roman-Egyptian Gold Jewellery*, 195.

6–7 The scribe appears to have written αλλ[λ]υσι and faint traces of σι seem to be present, and faint traces at the beginning of the line suggest the restoration πτυχία λιθικῶν cf. P.Oxy. 3, 528.20–21.

P.Meyer 22.4–5 (third/fourth century CE; ποιήση ἀλύσιδιον γυναικί) provides evidence that this jewelry item could belong to a man or woman, with this example fabricated for a woman, cf. S. Russo, *I Gioielli nei Papiri di Età Greco-Romana*, Firenze 1999, 62–73. Pendants on earrings are found in P.Princ. 2, 95,22 ἀλυσίδιν ἦτοι ἐνώτι[ον] πτυχία (cf. P.Lond. 5, 1719,15), but this item of jewelry had them on a necklace, if the restoration of πτυχία is accepted. The pendants on this necklace included: small animals, a small boat or pair of shoes, small figs, and two barrels. Some of these items remain rather difficult to describe because no comparanda exist.

ἀλόγια, which was corrected beneath the line to ἀλογίδια, is a diminutive of ἄλογον, referring to small animal pendants, see DGE s.v. ἄλογος. ἄλογα referring to animals is attested in P.Oxy. 1, 138,29 (seventh century).

The ἀκάτιον (pap. ἀγάθιον, cf. F. Gignac, *A Grammar of the Greek Papyri of the Roman and Byzantine Periods*, Milano 1975, 1:77–78, and 92), is more straightforward, and describes a pendant in the shape of a small boat or shoes.

The κοράκεια, from κορώνεος according to the LSJ, is mentioned in the Suda as a type of fig similar to a φιβάλεος, an early producing fig that was grey in color. No other examples of fig pendants have survived.

The most uncertain item in the list of pendants is the ταρίχια (a diminutive of τάριχος) likely refers to pickling jars or small barrels used for the pickling of fish, or perhaps even the fish themselves. There is an example of gold ribbons, τριχία, but not connected to personal jewelry, among a list of valuable items in P.Vindob.Barbara inv. 34 (16 Aug. 223)<sup>4</sup>, and whether the tear in the papyrus provides space for ταρίχια or τριχία remains uncertain.

10 This item in the list, the ]ραγριον, could be a πν]ράγριον attested also in O.Heid.434.55 (second century CE). This object was used by a smith to remove items from a fire, and here it could refer to an additional pendant in the shape of tongs. Although the initial ρ is relatively secure, in P.Lond. inv. 2199.6, there is a χηνάγριον “a wild goose” mentioned in a list of jewelry items where the item is also a decorative pendant, see S. Russo, *Un elenco di beni fra i papiri di Londra*, Comunicazioni Vitelli 13 (2015) 3–10. The interchange of a nasal and liquid is possible, and an already attested jewelry pendant would be preferable, but it must remain a conjecture, see Gignac, *Grammar*, 109.

11 γαμρῶ for γαμβρῶ; cf. P.Oxy. 36, 2783.24 and P.Köln 9, 374.4, 8.

<sup>4</sup> H. Harrauer, R. Pintaudi, “Mein Haus ist leer!”: Enteuxis gegen die eigene Frau P.Vindob. Barbara Inv. 34, Aegyptus 92 (2012) 3–12.

12 There appears to be a correction above the line, perhaps λιθαρίδια. The μανιάκ[η]ν was a necklace. See LBG, s.v. “μανιάκιν” for similar items of jewelry, see also P.Oxy. 10, 1273.7; SB 18, 13777,7, 12; P.München 1, 7,74; P.Wash. Univ. 1, 59,16. Cf. Russo, *I Gioielli nei Papiri*, 84. For λιθαρίδια as small stones, see LBG, s.v. “λιθαρίδιον”.

13 The traces would fit φλογγ . ε[, in which case this is potentially a jewelry item shaped like a reed, cf. P.Mil. 1.6,8. The other possible reading, φλαο . ε[, may be the beginning of a personal name, Φλαογε[, cf. P.Lond. 1 101.

#### Document Mentioning Herbs

P.Birm. 46D (v)  
Oxyrhynchus

11.2 × 13.0 cm

Fourth Century  
Plate 22

Fourteen fragmentary lines mentioning plants, a dyer (βάφικα), and several individuals. The right side of the document, where only a few letters can be restored, is mostly abraded, and the text is written perpendicular to the fibers, indicating that it was written some time after the front. The handwriting of the front and back appear to be from the same scribe as the P.Birm. 46D recto, and thus this document can also be dated to the fourth century.

Given the fragmentary information contained on the reverse, only a few things can be said with any confidence. Like the front, the items in the list were manufactured by an unknown individual, in this case for a daughter named Aurelia, and the plant items in the list where the weight is preserved were supplied in the amount of one ounce each. The document is not structured in the form of a recipe or list of items, but rather an invoice of supplies. The one item that can be restored with any confidence, τὸ γοργόνιο[v], had medicinal properties. A second item on the list that is restored with hesitation, ἀμαζονικά, was used to cure stomach ailments. A third item in the list, λαλιν, remains uncertain, but may perhaps be λάδιον, a late form of ἐλάδιον. The fragment is interesting because it records a plant (τὸ γοργόνιον) from the genus lithospermum that had medicinal value for certain ailments.

(↓)

\_\_\_\_\_

καὶ . [

αρια τεσσαρ . [

τῇ αὐτῇ τριχ . . [

ἔχων γοργόνιο[v] . . . . [

5 τῇ αὐτῇ λαλιν ἔχων . . θ . [

καὶ λαλιν (οὐγκία) α . . . [

καὶ τῇ θυγατρὶ Αὐρηλί[α ἀμα-

ζονικά ὀλκῆς (οὐγκία) α . . . . [

κατεσκευάσα τῇ θυγα[τ]ρὶ . . . [

10 τῆς βαφίκης Γουθικοῦ . . . . . [

τεταρτ . . . . .[  
 κα[τ]εξεύαα τη[ ] . . . .[  
 Οὐαλήτος Γου .[  
 ] . . . παρα[  
 — — — — —

4, 5 l. ἔχον 6 F 8 pap. Fa 10 l. βαφίσσης Γωθικοῦ 13 pap. οὐαλητο[υ]c l. Οὐαλλᾶτος

3 There is a faint trace of a letter following χ that could represent ο.

4 γοργονίον, from γοργός, is a plant that had visual similarities to the Gorgon's face. The plant belongs to the genus lithospermum, see P. Chantraine, *Dictionnaire étymologique de la langue grecque*, Klincksieck 2009, and R. Beekes, *Etymological Dictionary of Greek*, Leiden 2010, s.v. “γοργός”. Cf. R. Strömberg, *Griechische Pflanzennamen*, Göteborg 1940, 101; A. Bracciotti, *L'apporto della tradizione indiretta per la costituzione di un testo critico delle curae herbarum*, *Rivista di cultura classica e medioevale* (2000) 73–77. According to LBG s.v., “γοργονίον” the plant is of the genus eryngium and had medicinal qualities.

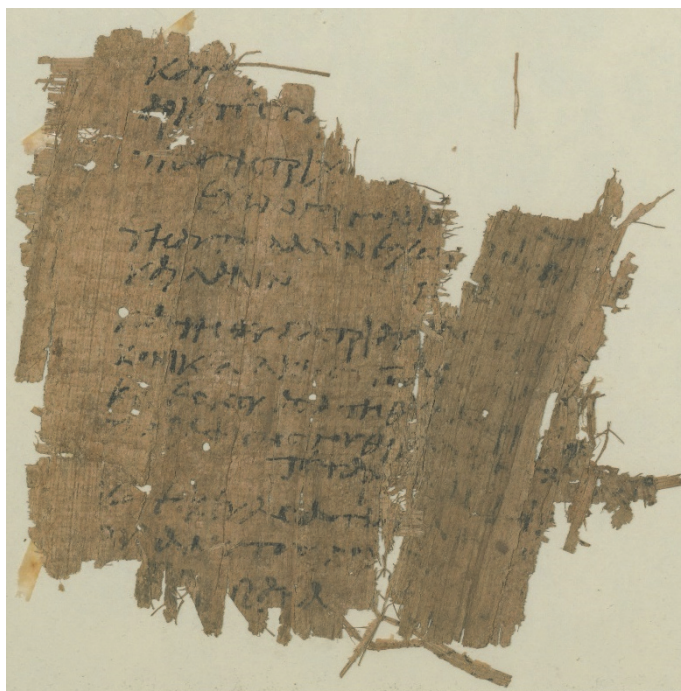
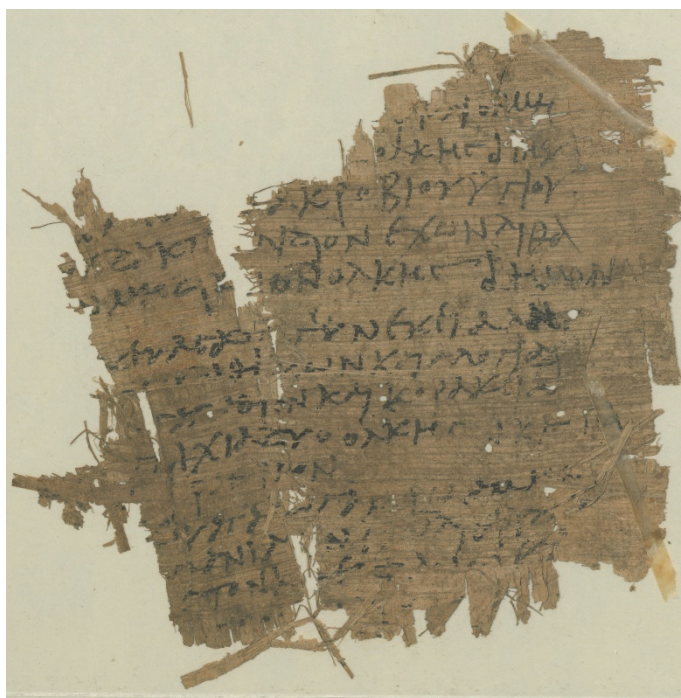
5–6 The meaning of the noun λαλιν is uncertain due to the fragmentary nature of the text, and by form it appears to derive from an unattested noun, λάλιν, with the neuter accusative participle ἔχον. The amount of one ounce further indicates that this is another item used for the manufacture of a remedy for an undisclosed ailment. This may be λάδι, a Byzantine form of τὸ ἐλάδιον, see LBG and DGE, s.v. “λάδι.” If this is the correct reading, and there was an interchange of λ for δ, then the oil would perhaps act as a binding agent for what appears to be the production of a pharmaceutical.

7–8 The ἀμαζονικά ὀγκῆς οὐγκία α, if the restoration is correct, is a plant product mentioned by Galen, *Comp.Med.Loc.* 12.152 used to cure stomach ailments, cf. LSJ, s.v. “Ἀμαζόν.” Here the scribe appears to have created the adjective ἀμαζονικός, -ά, -όν to describe the herb apart from its recognized use as a lozenge or pill as mentioned by Galen: ὁ τῶν Ἀμαζόνων τροχίσκος. Cf. P.Ryl 1, 29 for the manufacture of τροχίσκοι. Following Αὐρηλί[α in l. 6, there is room for τὰ ἀμα-] before ζονικά at the beginning of l. 7, indicating that approximately 5 letters are missing in the heavily abraded portion of the missing lines.

10 For βάφισσα, a “female dyer,” cf. P.Oxy. 24, 2421, 47 (fourth century) and O.Petr.Mus. 449 (fourth century).

13 For the name Οὐαλλᾶc, see F. Preisigke, *Namenbuch*, 246.





P.Birm. 46D, recto+verso