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PROCEEDINGS OF THE 27TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PAPYROLOGY

Warsaw | 29 July – 3 August 2013

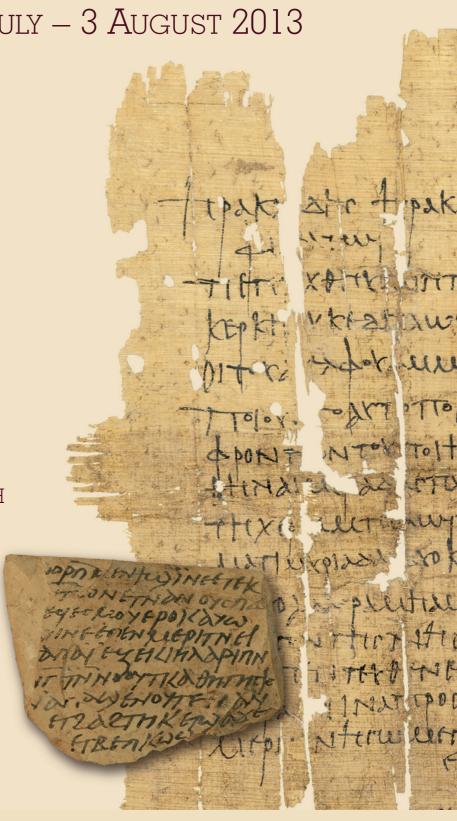


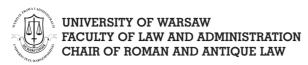
de papyrologie

EDITED BY **TOMASZ DERDA ADAM ŁAJTAR JAKUB URBANIK**

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Proceedings of the 27th International Congress of Papyrology Warsaw, 29 July – 3 August 2013

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Lincoln H. Blumell

A CHRISTIAN AMULET CONTAINING A DOXOLOGY WITH SKETCHES ON THE BACK*

CCORDING TO THE CATALOGUE RECORDS P. Mich. inv. 1567 was Lacquired by the University of Michigan in November of 1924 and is of unknown provenance. The papyrus measures 3.5 cm × 20 cm (H × W) and has writing on both sides. One side of the papyrus contains a threeline doxology that is written against the fibers and the other side contains three xis ($\xi\xi\xi$) written along the fibers in succession followed by two dots then sketches of two animals. The papyrus is broken off on the side so that only the back half of the second animal is preserved and the beginning of each line of the doxology on the reverse is lost. Nevertheless, because the doxology contains set phraseology the missing text at the beginning of each line can be reconstructed with confidence and consists of not more than a few letters. Assuming the lost text in the left margin of the doxology began at the left margin of the papyrus, just as the right textual margin extends to the very edge of the papyrus, not more than one (or possibly two) centimeters has been broken off and lost. The top of the papyrus has been deliberately cut to fit the doxology.

^{*}I would like to thank Brendan Haug, Archivist of the Papyrus Collection at the University of Michigan, for permission to publish this papyrus as well as Nikos Litinas for bringing it to my attention.

It is difficult to determine whether or not the texts on each side of the papyrus are related. While both sides are written with a dark brown ink and share some general similarities, it seems that they are different hands, which suggests that there is no direct relation between them. The three xis written on the recto are distinctly larger than the single xi (l. 1) on the verso and possess different letter forms that are more fluid and evolving than the single xi that appears in l. 1 of the doxology that is considerably smaller and written with a square uncial script. Nevertheless, because of the very limited text sample for comparison one has to be cautious with any paleographic comparison between the two sides.

Turning first to the doxology, the hand of the text is regular and clear with consistently spaced letters averaging 0.55 cm in width and line heights measuring 1.1 cm. Stylistically the letters are upright with rounded forms and loops and are indicative of 'Alexandrian majuscule' script with the closest paleographic parallels being found in texts dated to the sixth and seventh centuries: *P. Grenf.* II 112 (*ca.* AD 577?); *P. Oxy.* XV 1820 (sixth century AD); *P. Köln* V 215 (*ca.* AD 663?); cf. *P. Heid.* IV 295 (seventh/eighth century AD). Orthographically the spelling is fairly regular but the writer does have some phonetic shifts as final position omegas are written as omicron upsilon (ll. 1, 2) and an initial zeta is replaced with a sigma (l. 2).¹ On l. 2 the writer employs the *nomen sacrum* for $\pi \nu \epsilon \hat{\nu} \mu a$ and on two occasions marks the text with dots (:) to signal breaks in the text (ll. 2, 3).

While the doxology is made up of phrases that appear frequently in doxologies the overall form of the doxology is unattested; the closest parallel is to be found in a homily of Amphilochius of Iconium (ca. 340–395).² In literary texts similar forms to the expanded doxology found on this papyrus appear at the conclusion of prayers in eucharistic rites, e.g. the prayer of 'thanksgiving' in the Egyptian Liturgy of St. Mark,³ and by the

¹ On $\sigma > \zeta$ and $\omega > \sigma v$ interchange, see F. T. Gignac, A Grammar of the Greek Papyri of the Roman and Byzantine Periods, I: Phonology, Milan 1976, pp. 120–124, 209–211.

 $^{^2}$ In Lazarum (orat. 3) V 148–150: Αὐτῷ ἡ δόξα καὶ τὸ κράτος σὺν τῷ παναγίῳ καὶ ζωοποιῷ πνεύματι νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Άμήν. Greek text taken from Amphilochii Iconiensis *Opera*, ed. C. Datema, Turnhout 1978, p. 92.

³ F. E. Brightman (ed.), Liturgies Eastern and Western: Being the Texts Original or Translated

later fourth century are ubiquitous at the conclusion of patristic treatises or sermons;⁴ for example, John Chrysostom concludes a number of sermons with doxologies that parallel the doxology found on the present fragment and Cyril of Alexandria likewise concludes his *De sancta trinitate* with a similar doxology.

Turning to the papyri, no exact parallel for the doxology exists although a number of similar doxologies are found in amulets that include a version of the Lord's Prayer that is followed with a doxology.⁵ However, it is important to note that there is no indication that there is any text preceding the first line and the papyrus appears to have been deliberately cut along the top according to the present layout of the text. In terms of overall content the closest parallel to the present text is Van Haelst 0877, a fifth-century ostracon that only includes a doxology, but the text is different and it ends with an 'amen,' which is absent in the present text. In fact, the use of 'amen' appears to be fairly standard in doxologies, either spelled out in full $(a\mu\eta\nu)$ or signified by the isopsephy koppa theta $(\Omega\theta)$, and there are only a couple of doxologies that lack a concluding amen: O. Crum 520 (seventh century AD); PGM II 5d (= P. Lond. Lit. 231; seventh century AD). This might suggest that the basis of the present text was the liturgy since doxologies in the liturgy were not always followed by 'amen.' Though I have been unable to locate another amulet that only contains a doxology, doxologies are attested at the conclusions of various amulets: P. Bon. I 9 (fourth/fifth century AD); P. Lond. Lit. 231 (seventh century AD); P. Köln VI 257 (fourth/fifth century AD); P. Turner 49 (fifth/sixth century AD); Suppl. Mag. I 36 (fifth/sixth century AD); P. Ross. Georg. I 24 (sixth century AD); O. Crum 520 (seventh century AD).

of the Principal Liturgies of the Church, I: Eastern Liturgies, Oxford 1896. p. 142: ... σοὶ ἡ δόξα καὶ τὸ κράτος σὺν τῷ παναγίῳ καὶ ἀγαθῷ καὶ ζωοποιῷ σου πνεύματι νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰώνας τῶν αἰώνων.

⁴ A basic search on the TLG will confirm this.

⁵ С. А. La'da & A. Papathomas, 'A Greek papyrus amulet from the Duke Collection with biblical excerpts,' *The Bulletin of the American Society of Papyrologists* 41 (2004), pp. 93–114, ll. 22–23 (on p. 98). Line 23 contains also *koppa theta* for 'amen' (VI/VII).

⁶ O. Crum 520: doxology and alphabet; PGM II 5d: doxology that contains no 'amen' but it does continue after the doxology finishes.

The dimensions of the papyrus along with the vertical folds where the papyrus is damaged suggest that it was folded or rolled and functioned as a charm or amulet. In terms of its dimensions (3.5 cm × 20 cm [H × W]) it is similar to *Suppl. Mag.* I 31 (= *P. Turner* 49; *BKT* IX 134; fifth/sixth century AD), an amulet containing a prayer for healing, that measures 3 cm × 30 cm (H × W). Likewise, it also shares similar dimensions with *P. Oxy.* LXXVI 5073, an amulet containing Mark 1:1–2 (third/fourth century AD) that measures 4.5 cm by 25.2 cm (H × W). *P. Oxy.* LXXVI 5073 is also notable because as with the present document the text is written against the fibers of the papyrus with a competent hand whereas most amulets are written along the fibers in hands that are less skilled.

The writing on the back of the doxology is rather puzzling. It contains three xis, written in succession, followed by two dots and rough sketches of two animals. As noted earlier the xis are larger and are written with a different hand than the single xi on l. 1 on the verso, which probably suggests a different hand. Given that the formation of each xi evolves from one to the next it may be that the writer of these letters was simply practicing this rather uncommon and intricate letter as each successive letter form is more elaborate and pronounced.

Since the two drawings lack accuracy and detail it is difficult to determine what animals they are depicting and with the second picture where only the backside of the animal is extant it is even more difficult. Nevertheless, the first sketch seems to depict some sort of viverid (family *Viverridae*). In fact, the drawing resembles the ichneumon ($i\chi\nu\epsilon\dot{\nu}\mu\omega\nu$), or Egyptian mongoose (*Herpestes ichneumon*), that was depicted with some regularity in the Old Kingdom Saqqara tombs and in a few Ptolemaic period figurines of copper and bronze. In documentary papyri there is only one reference to ichneumons; it occurs in *P. Lond.* III 904, l. 4 (pp. 124–126; AD 104), where twenty-four ichneumons were sent from the Fayum to the Prefect in Alexandria. The other context in which references to ichneum

⁷ The text gives no apparent reason why the Prefect was in need of ichneumons and though one commentator has speculated that they may have been for 'amusement' (A. C. JOHNSON, *Roman Egypt to the Reign of Diocletian* [= *Economic Survey of Ancient Rome 2*], Baltimore 1936, p. 625), one might also wonder, given that ichneumons were known for killing

mons appear in the papyri is in a few magical texts; but the references are only passing (see n. 1 below). In literary texts the animal is mentioned as an indigenous animal to Egypt and is usually mentioned in *descripta* of various animals and was typically associated with the Heracleopolite Nome where it was purportedly venerated.⁸

The second image, of which only the back half of the animal is preserved, is similar enough to the first that it might also have been an ichneumon; however, it may be noted that the hind legs are more upright and muscular, the belly is more flat and does not seem to sag, the back more pronounced, and the tail thinner and tapers off at the end. It therefore seems that the second animal could be a horse given that the picture of the posterior shares vague similarities with certain sketches of horses that appear on papyri as well as in Greco-Roman graffiti from Syene. Though the tail of the animal is quite long, seemingly touching the ground, and is not anatomically correct for a horse, it may be noted that in the sketches of horses in graffiti the tails tend to be unusually long. 10

If the sketches on the recto are in some way related to the text on the verso the connection is not immediately clear. While some amulets that serve as apotropaic charms against animals will include pictures of the animals (e.g., scorpions, snakes, etc.), the pictures are usually on the text side and are typically referred to in the actual text. As for the three xis on the recto, their specific purpose is similarly enigmatic if it is anything other than a quick writing exercise; this letter combination is not otherwise attested in magical texts. In *P. Oxy.* XVI 2063 (sixth century AD), an amulet against scorpions, on l. 12 a series of six rhos are written in succession, but their specific purpose for the amulet is not immediately clear. In

snakes and smaller rodents, whether the Prefect was seeking them for some more utilitarian purpose like pest control. See Strabo XVII 39; cf. Plutarch, Is. Os. 380e.

⁸ Clement, *Protr.* II 39, 5; cf. Strabo XVII 39.

⁹ C. Illum. Pap. 14 (late fourth/early fifth century AD), 21v (fifth century AD), 32 (sixth-eighth century AD), 64 (twelfth century AD), 65 (twelfth century AD), 66 (twelfth century Inhirteenth century AD). See also J. H. F. DIJKSTRA, Syene I: The Figural and Textual Graffiti from the Temple of Isis at Aswan, Darmstadt – Mainz 2012, nos. 23, 28, 31–33.

¹⁰ DIJKSTRA, *Syene I* (cit. n. 9), who notes in all the descriptions of the graffiti with horses (nos. 23, 28, 31–33.) that the tails are 'very long.'

SB XVIII 13323 (sixth/seventh century AD), an amulet on a wooden tablet that contains a portion of Ps. 28:3 written out six times, on the back is a series of letters in Greek and Coptic; while it was supposed that the letters on the back somehow refer to the material on the front, others have suggested that the tablet may have been a repurposed school exercise. It therefore seems most likely that the material on the back of the doxology, both texts and images, are not related to the doxology and may probably be regarded as an informal practicing of a letter accompanied by some doodles.

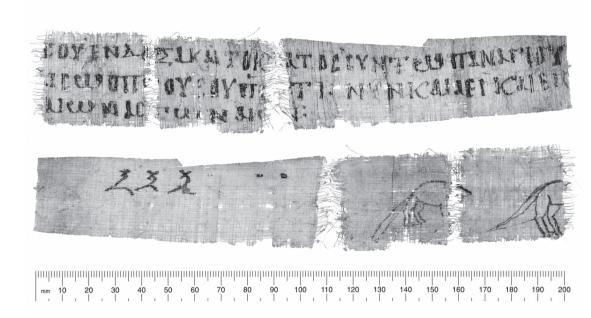
- ↓ [ὅτι] σοῦ ϵ'(στι)ν ⟨ἡ⟩ δόξα καὶ τὸ κράτος σὺν τῷ παναγίου [τε κ]αὶ σωοποιοῦ σου πν(εύμα)τι: νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ ϵἰς 3 [τοὺς] αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώ[νω]ν:
 - 1. l. παναγίω || 2. l. ζωοποι $\hat{ω}$ | pap. $\overline{πντι}$
- \rightarrow (m₂?) $\xi \xi \xi$

For yours is the glory and power with your all-holy and life-giving Spirit now and always and forever and ever.

(\downarrow) I. $[\Hat{o}\tau\iota]$ $\sigma o \hat{v}$ $\& e(\sigma \tau\iota)\nu$ $\& e(\sigma \tau\iota)$

The $\epsilon \nu$ should be taken as the contraction for $\epsilon'(\sigma \tau \iota)\nu$ based on phraseological parallels and it appears that there might even be a faint trace of a supralinear

¹¹ Claire Preaux, 'Une amulette chrétienne aux Musées Royaux d'Art et d'Historie de Bruxelles,' *Chronique d'Égypte* 20 (1935), pp. 361–370.



mark signaling the abbreviation. Admittedly this is an unusual abbreviation but similar kinds of abbreviations for $\dot{\epsilon}\sigma\tau\nu$ are attested: BGU II 622 (AD 182; Karanis), l. 8; BGU IX 1896 (AD 166; Theadelphia), l. 223; P.Erl. 85 (second/third cent. AD; Oxyrhynchite), l. 6; P.Lond. IV 1433 (19 Sept. AD 707; Aphrodito), ll. 42, 49, 56, 113; P.Mich. III 180 (2 Aug. AD 131; Bacchias), l. 10; P.Mich. VI 385 (AD 182–185; Karanis), l. 46.

The missing definite article $\hat{\eta}$ is probably intended even though it is absent since it almost always appears with the phrase $\delta \delta \xi \alpha \ \kappa \alpha \hat{\iota} \ \tau \hat{o} \ \kappa \rho \hat{\alpha} \tau o s$; when this phrase is used I have only located one occasion where the article is not employed: Cyril, Fest. Ep. VII 2: ... $\delta \iota'$ o \hat{v} $\kappa \alpha \hat{\iota} \ \mu \epsilon \theta'$ o \hat{v} $\tau \hat{\phi} \ \Pi \alpha \tau \rho \hat{\iota} \ \delta \delta \xi \alpha \ \kappa \alpha \hat{\iota} \ \tau \hat{o} \ \kappa \rho \hat{\alpha} \tau o s$, $\sigma \hat{v} v \ \tau \hat{\phi} \ \hat{\alpha} \gamma \hat{\omega} \ \Pi \nu \epsilon \hat{\nu} \mu \alpha \tau \iota$, $\kappa \alpha \hat{\iota} \ v \hat{v} v$, $\kappa \alpha \hat{\iota} \ \hat{d} \epsilon \hat{\iota}$, $\kappa \alpha \hat{\iota} \ \hat{\epsilon} \hat{\iota} s \ \tau \hat{o} \hat{v} s \ \hat{\alpha} \hat{\iota} \hat{\omega} v \alpha s \ \hat{\tau} \hat{\omega} v \ \hat{\alpha} \hat{\iota} \hat{\omega} v \omega v$. A $\mu \hat{\eta} v$. But it should be noted that elsewhere when Cyril uses the same formula in his paschal letters he includes the definite article $\hat{\eta}$: Fest. Ep. II 9, VI 12, VII 2, XIII 4.

 $τ\hat{\varphi}$ παναγίου. On the ω> ov interchange see Gignac, *Grammar*, pp. 120–124 (cit. n. 1). The adjective πανάγιος appears only twice in documentary papyri: *P. Lond.* VI 1916 (ca. AD 330–340; Heracleopolite), l. 1, where it is reconstructed as part of an epithet for some presbyters: $το\hat{\iota}_s$ παν $[αγίο(?)]\iota_s$ ἀγαπητο $\hat{\iota}_s$ [καὶ γλυ]|κυτάτοις [Παι]ηοῦτι πρεσβ[υτέρω ...); SB XX 14218 (sixth cent. AD; provenance unknown), l. 3: δέσπο(τα), παναγιώτατε πάτερ. The adjective is first attested in 4 Macc. 7:4 and 14:7 where it is used to refer to the Maccabean martyrs.

I-2. σὺν τῷ παναγίον | [τε κ]αὶ σωοποιοῦ σου πν(εύμα)τι. This phrase is first attested at the end of the Greek recension of the Acta Scillitanorum martyrum: cf. John Chrysostom, In Rachelem et infantes, PG 61, p. 700; Amphilochius, In Lazarum (orat. 3), 149. However, there are two slight variations of this phrase attested: σὺν τῷ παναγίῳ καὶ ζωοποιῷ αὐτοῦ πνεύματι (Epiphanius, Homilia in Christi resurrectionem, PG 43, 477; Asterius, Hom. VI 7, 4) and σὺν τῷ παναγίῳ καὶ ἀγαθῷ καὶ ζωοποιῷ πνεύματι (Acta graeca Andreae, 65; John Chrysostom, In Petrum et Paulum, PG 59, 496). In documentary papyri this phrase is currently unattested.

2–3. νῦν καὶ ἀεὶ καὶ εἰς [τοὺς] αἰῶνας τῶν αἰῷ[νω]ν. This phrase appears frequently in Christian literary texts after the third century and in almost every example it is followed by ἀμήν. Nevertheless, there are a few cases where the phrase is attested and it is not followed by ἀμήν: Const. ap. 8, 5 but in this case the text goes on to state that after this phrase is pronounced the rest of the priests are to add "ἀμήν"; John Chrysostom, De eleemosyna (PG 51, 272); In epistulam i ad Timotheum (PG 62, 580).

(→) I. The sketch of the ichneumon measures 2.4 cm × 3.8 cm (H × W) and the animal faces to the right. The ichneumon (ἐχνεύμων) had been considered in certain quarters of Egypt a sacred animal ever since the Middle Kingdom and was associated with various gods: Atum, Horus, Re, Osiris. See K. Sethe, 'Atum als Ichnemon,' Zeitschrift für ägyptische Sprache und Altertumskunde 63 (1928), pp. 50−53; J. F. Borghouts, The Magical Texts of Papyrus Leiden I 348 [= Oudheidkundige Mededelingen uit het Rijksmuseum van Oudheden te Leiden 51], Leiden 1971, p. 119. There are periodic references to ichneumons in magical texts: F. L. Griffith & H. Thompson, The Demotic Magical Papyrus of London and Leiden, London 1904, p. 201 (verso, col. XXX, ll. 9–10) where the dung of an incheumon is thought to possess some curative powers; PGM III, col. XVI, l. 506: spell to establish relationship with Helios (fourth cent. AD; Dios Polis); PGM LII, l. 9: love spell (third cent. AD; provenance unknown).

The extant portions of the second sketch measures 2.2 cm \times 3 cm (H \times W) and the animal faces to the right. While the posterior portion of the animal seems to be that of a horse (see discussion above), the sketch of the tail also shows affinities with sketches of a Hyena's tail: see R. Kinzelbach, *Tierbilder aus dem ersten Jahrhundert: Ein zoologischer Kommentar zum Artemidor-Papyrus*, Berlin – New York 2009, Tafel II Abb. 3.

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