

Letter from Pyrrandrus and other/s to Heracleides

CG 10298a+b

22 x 14.4 cm

June 4th, 243 BCE

Gurob (Fayoum)

The document CG 10298 consists of two pieces: A, which has been edited by an Egyptian colleague (Belal Abu El-Ela) in his Master's thesis and later published in the *Bulletin of the Center of Papyrological Studies and Inscriptions, Ain Shams University* (BACPSI) 23 (2006), 77-81,⁽¹⁾ and B, which is being edited here.

This dark brown papyrus measures ca. 22 cm in width by 14.4 cm in height. It is of good quality. Although the papyrus has suffered significant damage, lacunae, loss and discoloration, especially at the middle and on the left, the preserved part is in relatively good condition. The surface is rugged. Some parts still need to be unfolded and cleaned. The fibers are frayed in the middle, wrinkled at the bottom right and misaligned at the bottom left, which does not significantly affect the text. It seems that the papyrus was folded vertically at right side (ca. 5 cm from the right edge). The left side of the papyrus is broken off, while the top, right and bottom margins are preserved. The ink is partially rubbed from some parts of line 8, so that the writing is barely legible especially in the middle. There is a blot of ink almost in the middle of line 8, probably caused by the scribe. The papyrus has been glued to the verso by modern chemise paper for reinforcement, as with many papyri in the Catalogue of Grenfell and Hunt.⁽²⁾

The papyrus has preserved 9 incomplete lines, which run against the fibers (*transversa charta*). The text has been written in black ink with a fine nib. The letters are large semi-uncials with no ligatures. The hand is slow, clear and moderately skilled with no calligraphic features. It is characterized by the following features: The *mu* is produced by two curved vertical strokes with a more-or-less shallow curve which joins them. There are two kinds of alphas, where sometimes the scribe has written the *alpha* in two different shapes. The *tau* is a T-Shape, while *upsilon* is a Y-shape. The *sigma* is lunate, while the *epsilon* has a tongue attached to the middle. *Iota* is a simple short vertical stroke. The *rho* has a small head with a vertical stroke sometimes invading the interlinear space. The interlinear spaces are almost even. There is no punctuation or diacritical marks.

Besides the palaeographical indicators which place this document in the 3rd century BCE, line 9 refers to the fourth year of Ptolemy most likely Ptolemy III Euergetes, who ruled from 246 to -222 BCE. Another hint can be found in line 1.⁽³⁾ Accordingly, the date is most likely June 4th, 243 BCE.

As mentioned in the Catalogue General of Grenfell and Hunt "this document is probably from Gurob, Fayoum," modern Kom Madinet El-Gurab. I am actually inclined to believe that this is the place from which the papyrus came, since the only attestation

(1) There are some minor differences in this edition from Belal's readings (especially the restoration of the missing part), where the two pieces have been joined together and the general sense made relatively clearer.

(2) A large number of papyri in the catalogue of Grenfell and Hunt has been restored in this way and all of them are currently kept together and known as the "Chemise" papyri.

(3) See note on line 1

Letter from Pyrrandrus and other/s to Heracleides

of the name Pyrrandrus is in P.Petr. 29(a), reprinted in P.Petr. 3.117(b), "A Taxing Account on Vineyards," which dates to May 13, 245 BCE, and is from the Arsinoite. There are two persons who bear this name in the document: Pyrrandrus son of Demosthenes and Pyrrandrus son of Pyrrandrus.

The document is a letter from Pyrrandrus and others to Heracleides about the produce of a vineyard.

- ±10 NN καὶ Πύρρανδρος Ἡρακλείδει χαίρειν. εἰ ἔ[ρρωσαι κ]αὶ τᾶλλα
σοι
±14] ἔχοι ἂν ὥς ἡμεῖς βουλόμεθα. ἐρρώμ[εθα δὲ κα]ὶ αὐτοί.
±14]ριγένης ὅτι εἰ μὴ διὰ σὲ ἀπω[νησ]οῦν[ται τὸ]ν ἀμπελῶ[να
4 ±14]α ἡμᾶς οὐτ . . γων καὶ εἰς τὸ] λοιπὸν δὲ [φο]ντίζων
±14]. ηὶ περὶ τῆς ἀναφορᾶς τοῦ χρυσίου[ἀ]ξιούμην σε
±13 τ]ὰ νε[ό]φυτα ἀμπέλια καὶ τῆς [. . ἔλ]<α>ίας τὰ [πλ]εῖστα προσ-
±14] ὑπόσχεσιν καὶ μὴ κατασχεθῆναι τὰ γενήματα
8 ±14]αὐτ' ἀντευχαιρῆσθαι σοι ὧν διατελεῖς ἡμ[ῖ]ν πολυωρῶν
Vac. ἔρρωσο (ἔτους) δὲ Παῦνι ι
1 1. Ἡρακλείδη

NN and Pyrrandrus to Heracleides greetings. If your health is good and your other concerns [are agreeable,] it would be as we wish. We too are well . . . Perigenes/Chairegenes, that if they will not buy the vineyard through you . . . us . . . and you consider for the rest . . . we entreat you regarding the payment of the gold . . . for the young plants of vine and of the olive, the greatest (largest) . . . promise to pay and not withhold the produce . . . the same (produce, we are) thankful to you in return, that you continue giving extra care to us. Farewell. Year 4, Pauni 10th

Line 1: NN καὶ Πύρρανδρος Ἡρακλείδει: The name Πύρρανδρος is attested only twice, in P.Petr. 2 29(a) (from 245 - 244), once as a son of Demosthenes and again as a son of Pyrrandrus. Since this document has been dated around the same time as P.Petr. 2 29 (i.e. 243 BCE) and both of them are from the Arsinoite, the person mentioned in this document could be either Pyrrandrus son of Demosthenes or Pyrrandrus son of Pyrrandrus.

From the syntax of the text (cf. ἀξιούμεν in line 5, also the construction in line 2 ἡμεῖς βουλόμεθα. ἐρρώμ[εθα]) more than one sender is expected, consequently we expect at least one other name before Πύρρανδρος.

Line 2: There are few possibilities for the restoration of the beginning of this line. Either “κατὰ λόγον ἐστίν” as in P.Cair.Zen 3 59397, Draft of a Letter from Zenon to Themistocles (Arsinoite, 275 BCE - 226 BCE), SB 1 4304, Private Letter (Unknown, 300 BCE - 201 BCE).

Or κατὰ γνώμην ἐστίν as in bgu 6 1301, Private Letter (Unknown, 200 BCE - 1 BCE), P.Cair.Zen 1 59056, Letter from Apollodotos to Zenon (Karien, 257 BCE), P.Petr. 2 2, Correspondence of Diophanes. Letter from Moschion (Arsinoite, 224 BCE -

Letter from Pyrrandrus and other/s to Heracleides

218 BCE). Or κατὰ νοῦν ἐστὶν as in SB 22 15278, Letter from Zenon Archive (Philadelphia, 246 BCE - 245 BCE).

ἐρρώμεθα δὲ καὶ αὐτοί: for the restoration of this phrase see: P.Col.3.9 (257BC) and P.Mich.1.10 (257 BCE).

Depending on which restoration in the beginning of line 2 is correct, the number of missing letters could be from 13 to 15 letters. Thus an average of 14 letters, about one quarter of the papyrus, has been lost on the left hand side.

Line 3: ἰριγένης: There are two possibilities for the restoration of this line: either Περιγένης O.Bodl 1 285 (Thebes?, 300 BCE - 101 BCE), P.Grad 7, Receipt of Royal Farmer for Seed (Unknown, 221 BCE - 203 BCE); or Χαιριγένης P.Lond 7 1994, Philadelphia (Arsinoite), 251 BCE, P.Lond 7 1995 (Philadelphia, 251 BCE). Another possible restoration for name is Ὠριγένης, yet this name is attested only once in Ptolemaic era “during the 2nd BCE” in P.Amh 2 62, List of Soldiers, Soknopaiu Nesos (Arsinoites), while this document dates back to the middle of the third century CE.

ἀπω[νησ]ογ[ται: Although the letters are not certain, the reading still provides a reasonable meaning for the context.

Line 4: There are traces of an *alpha* at the beginning of the line.

Line 5]·ηι περί τε: After checking the original papyrus it seems clearly that *eta* and *iota* are legible and after the preposition περί there are traces of vertical stroke of the *tau* then *epsilon*.

Line 6: τῆς .. ἐλίας Before πλεῖστα at the end of line 6 τῆς is legible before the lacuna then the lacuna fits about two letters, then ἐλίας and τὰ πλεῖστα. Although the missing part at the middle of this line fits for about three letters (cf. line 7), including the sigma of the article τῆς, the construction does not allow additional words; the writer could have left a blank area between the article and ἐλίας.

The usual form is ἐλάϊας, but sometimes appears as ἐλάα or ἐλᾶ. For the exchange between αι > ι see, E Mayser, Grammatik der Griechischen Papyri aus der Ptolemäerzeit. Laut-Und Wortlehre, pp 103/106.

Line 7 ὑπόσχεσιν: The papyrus is mutilated at the beginning of this line, where ὑπόσ- can barely be read.

Line 8: ἀντευχαραριστεῖν this compound infinitive form has never been attested before in the documents. The verb gives the impression of a big favor or at least the expectation of continued support from the part of the addressee.

ὧν διατελεῖς ἡμ[ι]ν πολυωρῶν: this closing phrase is not attested in the correspondences before.

Magdy Aly

Letter from Pyrrandrus and other/s to Heracleides

Letter from Pyrrandrus and other/s to Heracleides

