

A Fourth Century Receipt from the Michigan Collection (Plate 35)

P. Mich. inv. 3625

9.6 x 25.7 cm.

November 15, A.D. 314

This papyrus was acquired by the University of Michigan through M. Nahman in 1925.¹ A strip approximately 2.5 cm. wide is missing along much of the right side of the papyrus. The text is nearly complete; the last few letters of lines 6-12 have been lost. It is clearly written, in a hand typical of the early fourth century. Although its provenance is unknown, internal evidence suggests that the papyrus is from Oxyrhynchus. The notice in the original inventory, presumably by H. I. Bell, merely describes it as a receipt for grain of the fourth century.

The text, which is in the form of a letter, is a receipt for grain in payment of an obligation of which the nature is not entirely clear. It is from a Techosous, also called Eudaimonis, who acts through her son Herakleides. She is a wealthy landowner already known from other papyri (see note on line 1). The addressee is one Aurelia Theodora. The body of the receipt was apparently written by Herakleides, a fluent but not entirely accurate fellow who has rather muddled the address. A different hand has scribbled an additional note to the right of lines 10 to 11 of the main text. Most of this has been lost, but it is clearly another receipt. Both its position and its cramped style of writing are odd in view of the large amount of blank papyrus below. This suggests that it is an addendum or annotation to the main text.

Τεχωσοῦς ἡ καὶ Εὐδαιμονίς
δι(ὰ) Ἡρακλείδου υἱοῦ [*vacat*]
Αὐρηλίᾳ Θεοδωρᾶτι
4 Παριτ' *vacat* χα(ίρειν).
ἔσχον παρὰ σοῦ ἀπὸ λόγου φό-
ρων τοῦ προδιελθόντος ἔ[το]υ[ς]
γενήμα(τος) ἐβδόμου κ[αὶ ε (ἔτους)]
8 μέτρῳ δεκάτῳ πυροῦ [ἀρτάβας]

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