

P.Col. 7.171

Karanis

6 June 324

Columbia University Library, P.Col. inv. 187. Ed.pr. N. Lewis, P.Coll.Youtie 2.77, Judge, 73; * R.S. Bagnall (1979) pl. Microfiche 1; *New Docs* 1 (1981) 124-26.

Single sheet, 12 (B) x 26 (H) cm. Recto(→): complete on all sides (although rubbed in places), with margins of c.1 cm at top and c. 2 at left; below the body of the petition, a gap of c.3 cm to the date, then free space of c. 6 cm to the foot of the sheet. Several vertical folds. Upright, rapid documentary cursive, considerable ligaturing: 'almost a scrawl'. Verso: blank.

Διοσκόρω Καίσωνι πραιπ(οσίτω) ε πάγου
παρά Ίσιδώρου Πτολεμαίου από κώ(μης) Καρ[α]νίδος
τοῦ ὑμετέρου πάγου· τῶν θρεμμ[άτ]ων Παμού-
νεως καὶ Ἄρπαλου καταλυμηνα[μέ]νων ἦν
5 ἔχω σποράν καὶ μὴν καὶ τῆς β[ρο]σ[σ] α[ὐτῶν] πάλιν
ἐν τῷ αὐτῷ τόπῳ καταβοσκηθείσης ὥστε ἀχρή-
σιμόν μοι τὴν γεωργίαν γενέσθαι, καὶ καταλαβο-
μένου μου τὴν βοῦν καὶ ἀνάγοντος αὐτὴν
ἐπὶ τῆς κώμης ἀπαντήσαντές μοι κατὰ τοὺς
10 ἀγρούς μεγά<λω> ῥοπάλω καὶ χαμαιριφῆ ἐμὲ ποι-
ησάμενοι πληγαῖς κατέκοψαν καὶ τὴν βοῦν
ἀφείλων ὥσπερ καὶ αἱ περὶ ἐμὲ πληγαὶ
δηλοῦσιν, καὶ εἰ μὴ βοηθείας ἔτυχον ὑπὸ
τῶν παραγενομένων Ἀντωνίνου διάκο-
15 νος καὶ Ἰσάκ μοναχοῦ τάχα ἂν τέλεόν
με ἀπώλεσαν. ὅθεν ἐπιδίδωμι τάδε
τὰ ἐνγραφα ἀξιῶν αὐτοὺς ἀχθῆναι ἐπὶ σοῦ
καὶ περὶ τῆς σπορᾶς καὶ περὶ τῆς ὕβρεως
τηρεῖσθαι ἐμοὶ καὶ τὸν λόγον ἐπὶ τοῦ
20 ἡγεμονικοῦ δικαστηρίου.....

vac.

τοῖς ἐσομένοις ὑπάτοις τὸ δ
Παῦνι ιβ

12 l. ἀφείλαντο Bagnall l. ἀφεῖλον ed.pr. 15 ταχέως ed.pr.

To Dioscorus Caeso, *praepositus* of the 5th *pagus*, from Isidorus son of Ptolemaeus from the village of Karanis in your *pagus*. The livestock of Pamounis and Harpalus trampled down ^l5 a crop I have and moreover [their cow] grazed again in the same place so that my work was spoilt. I caught the cow and was taking it up to the village when they confronted me in the ^l10 fields with a big stick, knocked me down, beat me up and took away the cow – as the bruises all over me show – and if I had not happened to get help from Antoninus, *diakon*, ^l15 and Isaac, *monachos*, who came along they would probably have done me in. I therefore lodge this document, asking for them to be brought before you and, both in respect of the crop and of the assault, for my claim to be kept for the ^l20 prefectural court.

Under the incoming consuls for the fourth time, Payni 12.

Antoninus is the earliest precisely dated *diakon*. Although, unlike Apphous (11), his church link is not specified, it can be taken for granted since his companion Isaac is a *monachos*. Setting aside the loosely dated and nameless pair of 13, Isaac is the earliest securely documented monk, well ahead of the first recognition of this station in life from the literary sources (Eus., *Comm. in Psalmos*: PG 23.689B). What the episode implies for the monastic arrangements at Karanis, and their bearing on the history of the movement remains open to debate (Wipszycka, Choat).

A prosperous farming community in the north of the Fayum, Karanis has been a rich source of papyri, yet its church has remained hidden. Isidorus was a prominent figure, his archive reaching back

to 276 (34). This is his latest and seventeenth extant petition (with fourteen in P.Cair.Isid., and P.Merton 2.91-92). He has already complained of the offence twice in this year (P.Cair.Isid. 78, P.Merton 92), and has the law on his side. He was entitled to impound the cow, and have it sold in compensation. Antoninus and Isaac will no doubt be cited as witnesses (cf. P.Cair.Isid. 66, 74). He is not going to prejudice his case by giving them novel or dubious identities. One may safely conclude that such church titles are already familiar and acceptable to the authorities, even at the highest level (since Isidorus had taken his complaints all the way to the governor in earlier cases also).

M. **Choat**, 'The development and usage of terms for monk in late antique Egypt', *JbAC* 45 (2002) 000-000; E.A. **Judge**, 'The earliest use of monachos for "monk" (P.Coll.Youtie 77) and the origins of Monasticism', *JbAC* 20 (1977) 72-89; F. **Morard**, 'Encore quelques réflexions sur monachos', *VChr* 34 (1980) 395-401; E. **Wipszycka**, 'P. Coll. Youtie 77 = P. Col. VII 171 Revisited', in T. Gagos et al. (eds), *Essays and Texts in Honor of J. David Thomas* (Am.Stud.Pap. 42, 2001) 45-50.