

THE
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5515. DEED OF SURETY

26 3B.48/H(8-11)a

13.6 × 16.2 cm

28 October–27 November 142

Sinthonis borrowed one hundred and thirty-nine artabas of wheat from the secretary of a *πράκτωρ* *σιτικῶν* to pay her taxes. Her son Apion alias Theon and Tiberius Claudius Serenus guarantee that she will repay the wheat by the end 'of the following month Hathyr', which implies that the surety was given in Phaophi. The day of the month will have been specified in the missing lower part of the document. A comparable surety for a debt is P. Batav. 9 (Ars.; 128?); cf. also P. Thomas 5 (46) and O. Claud. III 625 (2nd c.).

There is no other surviving example of someone involved in tax collection lending the sum due to a taxpayer. Probably this only amounted to a deferred payment of taxes, with the tax-collector paying the outstanding amount from his own funds, and recovering it later from the taxpayer. For tax-collectors advancing payments from their own funds, cf. e.g. XXXVIII 2861 11–12 (2nd c.) or XLVIII 3393 (365).

The text is written along the fibres. The edge of a sheet-join is visible about 5.4 cm to the right of the left edge.

Ἀπίων ὁ καὶ Θέων Θέωνος τοῦ Σερίωνος μητρὸς
 Σινθώνιος καὶ Τιβέριος Κλαύδιος Σερήνος
 Ἀθηναίῳ Διονυσίου γραμματεῖ Παποντώτος
 πράκτορος σιτικῶν Ὡφείως τόπων χαίρειν.
 5 ὁμολογοῦμεν ἐκουσίως ἐγγυᾶσθαι εἰς
 ἔκτισιν τὰς ὀφειλομένας καὶ προχρηθείας
 ὑπὸ σοῦ ὑπὲρ δημοσίων, ὧν ὀφείλει ἡ τοῦ
 ἐνὸς ἡμῶν Ἀπίωνος τοῦ καὶ Θέωνος μήτηρ
 Σινθωνίς Ἀπίωνος ὑπὲρ κώμης Ὡφείως,
 10 πυροῦ γενήματος τοῦ διελθόντος τετάρτου
 ἔτους Ἀντωνεῖνου Καίσαρος τοῦ κυρίου
 ἀρτάβας ἑκατὸν τριάκονταν ἐννέα, ἃς
 καὶ ἐπάναγκον παρεξόμεθα αὐτὴν ἀπο-
 διδοῦσάν σοι ἕως τριακάδος τοῦ ἐξῆς
 15 μηνὸς Ἄθυρ χωρὶς ὑπερθέσεως, γεινο-
 μένης σοι τῆς πράξεως καὶ ἐξ οὗ ἐὰν

1 l. *Σιρίωνος* 2 *σερήνος*: ε corr. from α 4 l. *σιτικῶν* 5 l. *ἐγγυᾶσθαι* 6 l. *ἔκτισιν*
 9 See comm. 11 l. *Ἀντωνίου* 12 l. *τριάκοντα* 15 l. *γεινο-*

ἡμῶν αἰρή [κ]αὶ ἐκ τῶν ὑπαρχόντων ἡμεῖν
 πάντων. κ[υ]ρία ἡ ἰδιόγραφος τοῦ ἐνόσ
 ἡμῶν Ἀπίωνος τοῦ καὶ Θεώνος χεῖρ. ἔτους
 20 πέμπτου Ἀυτοκράτορος Καίσαρος Τίτου
 Αἰλίου Ἀδριανοῦ Ἀντωνεῖ[νου Σεβαστοῦ]

Back, downwards, across the fibres:

ἐγγ(ύη) . ι() Ζηθώ[νι]ος

17 l. ἡμῶν 21 l. Ἀντωνίνου 22 ἐγγ̄ . ι

Apion alias Theon, son of Theon, grandson of Sirion, mother Sinthonis, and Tiberius Claudius Serenus, to Athenaeus son of Dionysius, secretary of Papontos the collector of grain-taxes in the area of Ophis, greetings. We agree of our own will to give surety for payment of the one hundred and thirty-nine artabas of wheat of the crop of the past fourth year of Antoninus Caesar the lord which are owed and were advanced by you for the taxes that the mother of one of us, Apion alias Theon, (namely) Sinthonis daughter of Apion, owes for the village of Ophis, and we shall produce her by compulsion paying them to you by the thirtieth of the following month Hathyr without delay; you have the right of execution upon whichever of us you choose and upon all our possessions. The cheirograph, the autograph of one of us, Apion alias Theon, is binding. Year fifth of Emperor Caesar Titus Aelius Hadrianus Antoninus Augustus . . .

Back: 'Surety of . . . Sinthonis.'

2 *Τιβέριος Κλαύδιος Σερήνος*. Not to be identified with the archidicastes of this name in P. Mil. Vogl. IV 229 (140).

5 *ἐγγυάσθαι*. XVII **2134** 35 (170) attests another man who stands surety for his mother for the repayment of a loan. On other sureties for relatives, see P. J. Sijpesteijn, *ZPE* 106 (1995) 233.

5–6 *εἰς ἔκτεισιν*. See H. J. Wolff, *ZRG* 73 (1956) 23.

6 *προχρηθεΐσας. προχρηθέντων* and *προχρηθέντα* in XLVIII **3393** 19 and 24 (365) refer to the money advanced by Dorotheus and Papnuthis to the *ἀπαιτεῖται* before they collected it from the taxpayers.

9 *ᾠφεως*. Between φ and ε, there is a vertical stroke that descends well below the line, probably a slip of the pen rather than an intended iota; the name of the village is spelt correctly in l. 4.

12 *ἀρτάβας ἑκατὸν τριάκονταν ἐννέα*. Since the tax rate is unknown, it is impossible to establish how much land was being cultivated, but in any case it would have been a substantial area. It is also possible that these 139 artabas included arrears and (hidden?) interest.

τριάκονταν. For the addition of -ν, see Gignac, *Grammar* i 113.

19 *χεῖρ*. See H. J. Wolff, *Das Recht der griechischen Papyri Ägyptens* ii (1978) 108.

22 Apparently not *νί(οῦ)* Ζηθώ[νι]ος; the transcription of what follows Ζηθ is largely guesswork.

H. ESSLER