

GIULIO IOVINE

P.DURA 62 (P.CTYBR INV. DP 33)

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P.DURA 62 (P.CtYBR INV. DP 33)*

This paper offers the first full edition of *P.Dura* 62 descr.¹ Although regularly included among the Latin papyri from Dura Europos in all the three major *corpora*² and in the *CEL*³, the papyrus is still unpublished.

When P.CtYBR inv. DP 33 was first inspected by J. F. Gilliam, it consisted of only four fragments (now frs. **a–d**). Probably because so little could be gathered from them, Gilliam did not provide a transcription, but contented himself in dating the papyrus on palaeographical grounds⁴, commenting upon the script⁵ and on what seemed worth mentioning of the text⁶. When Fink included the item, now *P.Dura* 62, in his *Roman Military Records*, he referred to Gilliam’s description and confirmed there was ‘no formal transcription’. Marichal, who would probably have provided such a transcription, was allegedly unable to look at any photo of them: in his own words, the fragments were ‘non retrouvé en 1966’, probably because misplaced (‘les photographies donnent sous ce n° la photographie du n° 331 [*P.Dura* 76], frag. **c**’)⁷; this assessment is echoed by Cugusi *ap. CEL* I 193 and II 193. In 1995/96 Dr R. Duttenhöfer found further uninventoried fragments that she arranged as frs. **1–26** in a second frame also numbered *P.Dura* 62⁸, which I present here as well.

The first and most recognizable subgroup of fragments consists in the four original scraps, **a**, **b**, **c** and **d**. Very few letters are preserved: the left margin can be seen in fr. **a** and the right one in fr. **d**. All fragments appear to be written on the *recto* along the fibres; the *verso* is blank. Their belonging to the same document is suggested by a number of shared features: same ink, hand, height of the letters (0.6 cm for *a*, *s*, *t*; 0.8 cm for ‘high’ letters, such as *d* and *h*) and of the interlinear space (0.8 to 0.9 cm); moreover, a large hole in the middle of every scrap, which appears to be very similar in all its four instances, is evidence for aligning the fragments.

One must remark on the striking similarity between the hole(s) in fr. **b** and **d** (see images below). Particularly, the positioning of the holes on fr. **b** is a mirror image of all the other holes, instead of being oriented in the same direction. One would expect this mirror-like disposition if fr. **b** were the *verso*, but all four scraps come from the *recto*. Two possible explanations can be given:

- the original document was a folded sheet, and not a roll – this hypothesis, however, is way too problematic⁹;

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¹ TM 44788.

² C. B. Welles – R. O. Fink – J. F. Gilliam, *The Excavations at Dura Europos. Final Report V, 1. The Parchments and Papyri. With an Account of Three Iranian Fragments by W. B. Henning*, New Haven 1959, p. 227; R. O. Fink, *Roman Military Records on Papyrus*, Cleveland (Ohio) 1971, p. 413 (n° 108); *ChLA* VI 317. For the whole series of the *ChLA*, see A. Bruckner – R. Marichal *et al.*, *Chartae Latinae Antiquiores I–*, Dietikon–Zürich 1954–. Volume VI was published in 1975.

³ P. Cugusi, *Corpus Epistularum Latinarum Papyris Tabulis Ostracis servatarum (CEL). I. Textus; II. Commentarius*, Firenze 1992; *III. Addenda, Corrigenda, Indices rerum, Indices verborum omnium*, Firenze 2002.

⁴ AD 216–220.

⁵ ‘Coarse, irregular epistolary hand, resembling **61 a ii**’ (Welles–Fink–Gilliam 1959, 227).

⁶ ‘Only scattered letters and parts of words are preserved, such as *die* and *]. nost[*. The latter might be from the phrase *cos noster. Verso blank*’ (*ibidem*).

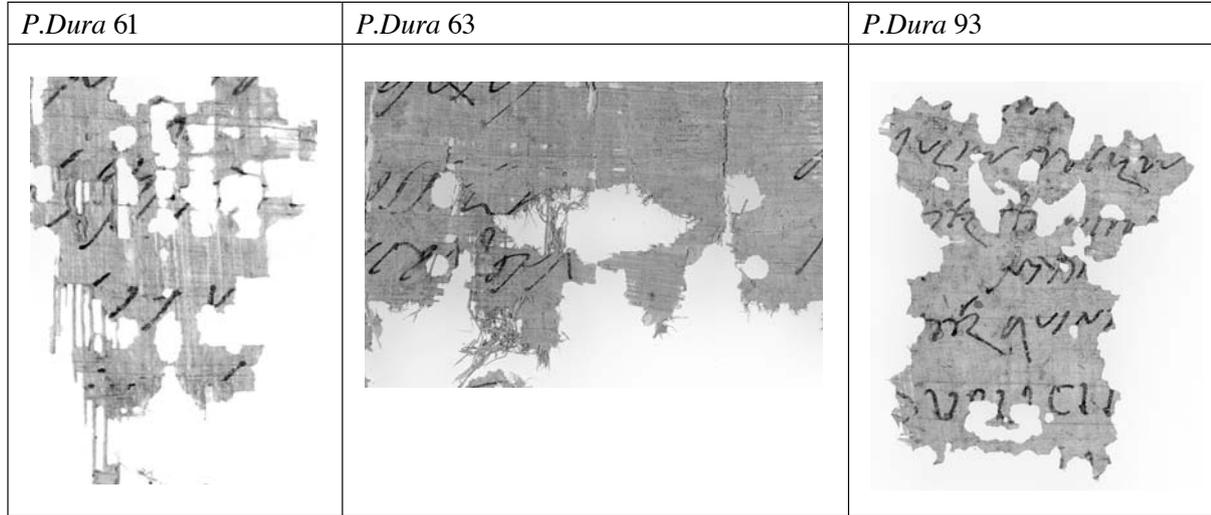
⁷ *Ap. ChLA* VI 317, p. 32.

⁸ I owe this information to Dr Duttenhöfer herself, to whom I wish to express my gratitude for the insight I have been given on the history of *P.Dura* 62.

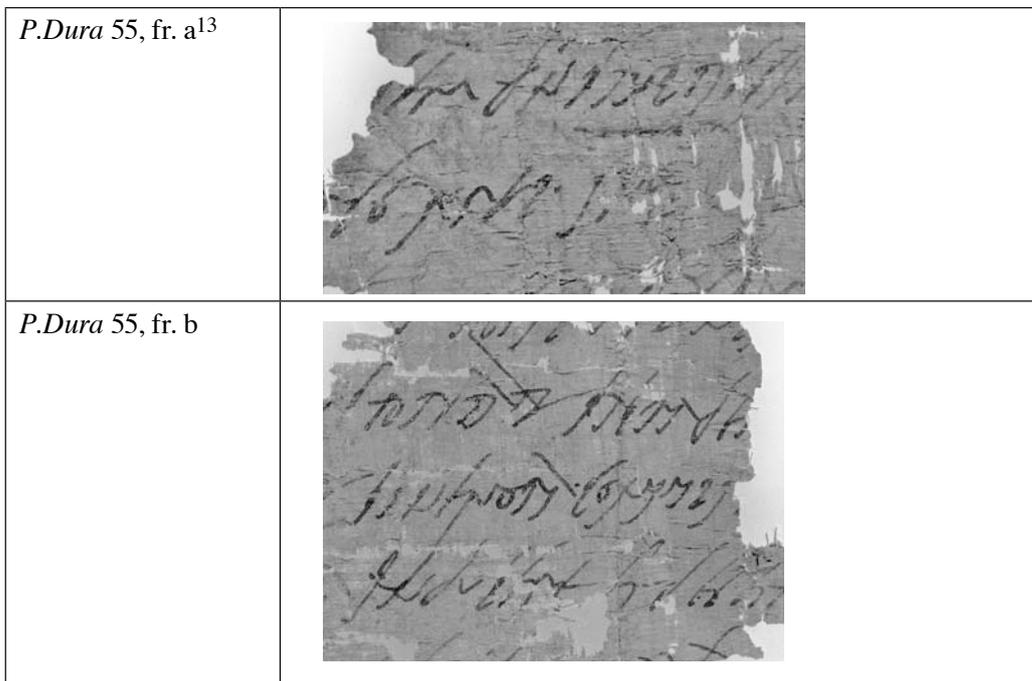
⁹ As will be argued in the last paragraph, the papyrus whence frs. **a–d** came was most probably a letter, and letters on papyrus have been known to be folded, rather than rolled: see, for instance, M. Krutzsch, *Falttechniken an altägyptischen Handschriften*, in J. Graf – M. Krutzsch (edd.), *Ägypten lesbar machen. Die klassische Konservierung / Restaurierung von Papyri*

– the damage was at least partially done when the original roll was already in pieces, and its fragments lay in different positions and orientations.

Mirror-like positioning of holes occurs elsewhere in Dura papyri: see for instance *P.Dura* 61, fr. *b*¹⁰ – notably, the hole in the small scrap located to the right of l. 8 in the main fragment, which perfectly matches a hole in the left portion of the main fragment itself – *P.Dura* 63¹¹, and *P.Dura* 93¹².



Palaeographical parallels can be found in a number of papyri displaying epistolary cursive writings, not just the aforementioned *P.Dura* 61 (notably, col. II), but also:¹³



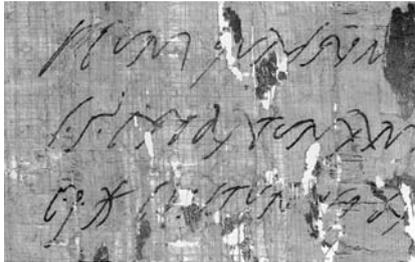
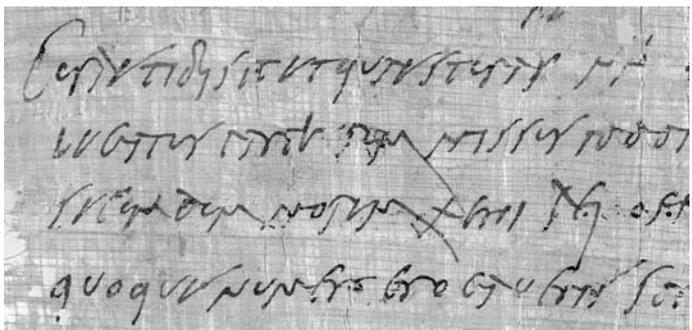
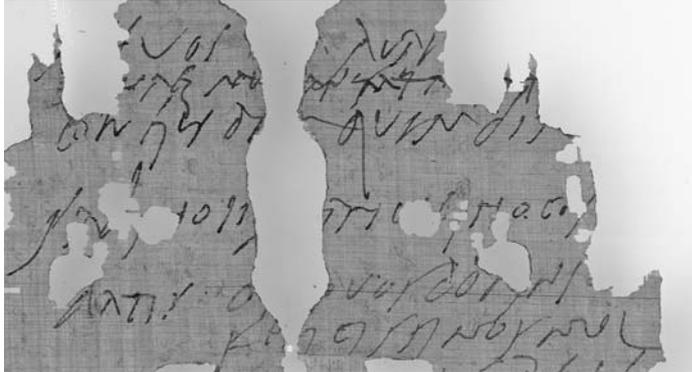
und neuere Verfahren (= *Archiv für Papyrusforschung*, Beiheft 24), Berlin–New York 2008, pp. 71–83; particularly some folding techniques such as the ‘Faltungen in zwei Richtungen’ (p. 76), which would explain the specularity of recurring damages in *P.Dura* 62. However, letters from the archive of the *cohors XX Palmyrenorum* are normally glued together in *libri epistularum acceptarum*, that is, τόμοι συγκολλημένοι, by the *librarius* of the *cohors*. No remnants are to be found of a folded letter.

¹⁰ Ca. 216, TM 44786.

¹¹ Ca. 211, TM 44791.

¹² 216–232, TM 44824.

¹³ 218–220, TM 44774.

<i>P.Dura</i> 56, fr. a ¹⁴	
<i>P.Dura</i> 60, fr. a ¹⁵	
<i>P.Dura</i> 66 col. I ¹⁶	

This may be the main reason why these fragments were put by Gilliam in the subgroup of Dura papyrus letters (*P.Dura* 55–80). A very strong similarity must be noted between fr. a–d and *P.Dura* 77¹⁷: particularly the *d* in *P.Dura* 77, fr. b; and *n, s, u* in fr. a and d:

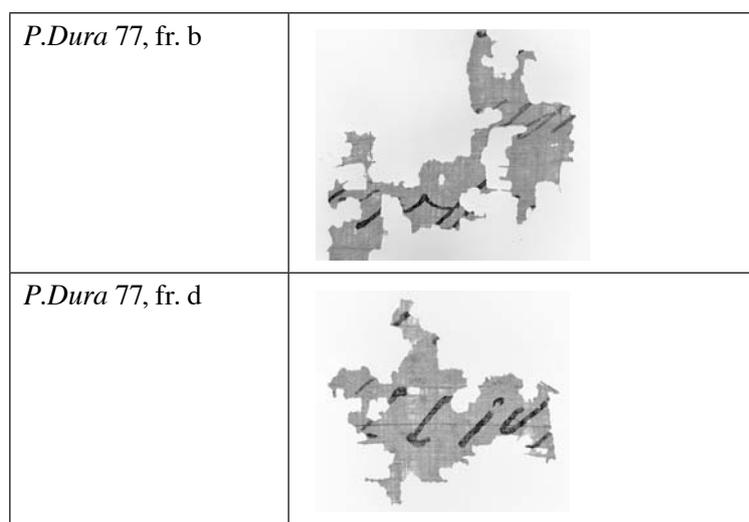
<i>P.Dura</i> 77, fr. a	
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¹⁴ 208, TM 44776.

¹⁵ Ca. 208, TM 44782.

¹⁶ 216, TM 44795.

¹⁷ 210–220, TM 44807.



The second frame is in a more confused state. No fragment, except perhaps fr. **1**, is to be linked with any certainty to fr. **a–d**¹⁸, and in some of them one is hardly able to distinguish a single letter. Some of the fragments are also written on the back side¹⁹; as a rule, these fragments are placed according to the amount of traces visible and not according to the direction of the fibres. Moreover, in some cases fragments must be turned upside down or 90° to be read. In what follows, the images are correctly positioned next to the transcription. Measures of the letters and of the interlinear space are recorded when possible and if relevant.

More than one hand has worked on the fragments, which may in fact come from different rolls and/or documents. Generally speaking, however, the hands are all to be compared to other informal hands in the Dura papyri, especially in the lists of men: *P.Dura 66*, letter²⁰ *d* (= col. V; see ligature *us*); letter *l* (= col. XV; see the way *Aurel* is written); letter *pp* (= col. XLV, same sequences *an* and *us*); and 77, fr. *e* (see the cognomen *Aurel*). Similarities with *P.Dura 77*, also occurring in fr. **a–d**, are remarkable; however, after direct inspection, no demonstrable joins could be made between the two groups of fragments. Whether the fragments of *P.Dura 62* and 77 belonged to the same document lies undetermined.

What follows is a critical text of all 30 fragments that are attributed to *P.Dura 62*. I have provided a papyrological apparatus for every fragment, and a critical one where some considerations could be taken on the text. Such considerations will be developed in the following paragraph of this paper.

fr. *a* → (6.3 × 3.4 cm)

```

---
d . . [
dd[
d . . [
su[
5 [ . . ] . . [
---

```

1 lower portion of two oblique strokes, pointing upwards: *dqr* ? ||

3 lower portions of two oblique strokes, the first perhaps an *i* || **4** bottom of an oblique stroke, pointing upwards || **5** *ta* or *tr* ||

2 *dd(-) id est d(ominos) vel d(ominorum) possis*



¹⁸ It shares with them the height of the letters and of the interlinear space. The letters themselves (or rather, the very few still readable) appear to be from the same hand. The difference in colour to be spotted in the ink is probably due to a different conservation status.

¹⁹ Fr. **2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 16, 17, 21, 22**.

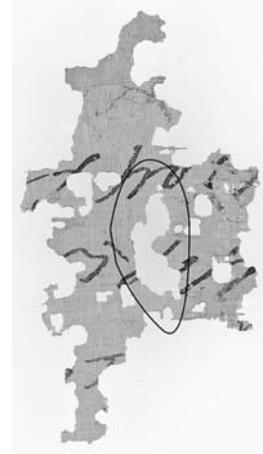
²⁰ With 'letter' *d*, *l* and *pp* I here refer to actual letters (i.e. correspondence) among those contained in *P.Dura 66*, which consists of the remnants of the largest *liber epistularum* so far preserved among Latin papyri.

fr. b → (6.1 × 3.4 cm)

] . [
] x hor . [
] ma dies [
] o . [.] . [

1] . [faded traces || 2 e, less likely u | horā[or horr[| over the last two letters, faded traces || 4 a, r, t ? | . [perhaps top of f

2 ex possis | horā, Hora[tianus, horr[eis, hor(reis) . [vel similia || 3 dies Gilliam



fr. c → (3.6 × 2.2 cm)

] ol . [
] miñ[
] . nost . [

1 dot-like trace || 3] . top of an upright | e or r

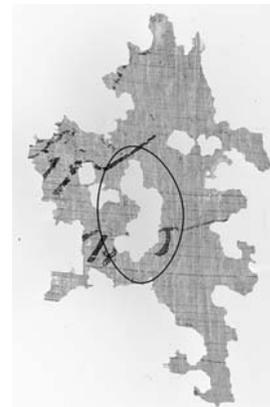
3 co]s nost[r dub. Gilliam



fr. d → (5.5 × 3.4 cm)

] s
] . in
]

between l. 1-2 faded ink and uncertain traces, just as one can see in fr. b, 1-2: these might be remnants of an interlinear addition, or come from other sections of the document || 2 remnants of a stroke in ligature with i, perhaps the right portion of m | perhaps not n, but u : iu ? || 3 traces of two strokes, one bent, the other an oblique one, pointing upwards: d or ci? | traces of an oblique stroke, pointing upwards | perhaps final a or s

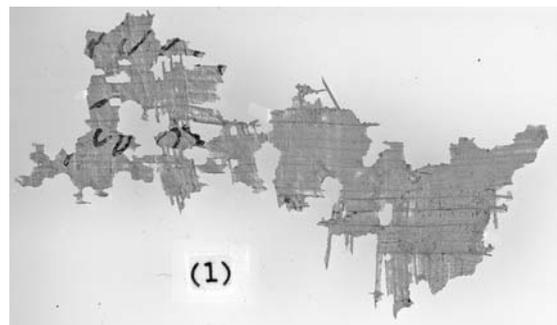


fr. l → (4.1 × 7 cm)

] sus . [
] sub . as[
] . [.] . [

1 c, p or t | hooked bottom of an upright || 2 oblique stroke, pointing upwards and in ligature with a | perhaps the line ends here || 3 uncertain traces

2] sub eas possis



fr. 2 → (5 × 4.2 cm)

]a . . [

a circular stroke, perhaps the top of a letter: *l* ? | perhaps *g* |

fr. 2 ↓

] . . [
]rusa . [
] [
 G]ordiani . . [
 5 Au]rel(ius) Mocimus [
] . [.] . [

1 bottoms of two uprights || 2 . | bottom of an oblique stroke, pointing upwards and in ligature with *a* || 4 *a, p, r* | . | *i, u* || 6 uncertain traces

4 P[i]i vel Au]g possis

fr. 3 → (3.8 × 3.3 cm)

Letters are 0.3–0.5 cm in height (1 cm for the longest upright); interlinear space measures 0.8 cm.

] . d [
 Ge]rmanus H [
] . [. .] . . as [

1]*od* or]*ad*,]*rd* | *enn, erin, inn* are possible || 2 perhaps *ha* | bottom of three uprights || 3] . | uncertain traces |]*e* or]*f* | . an upright with a circular stroke at the top, *p* or *r*?

2 Hān]i]as possis

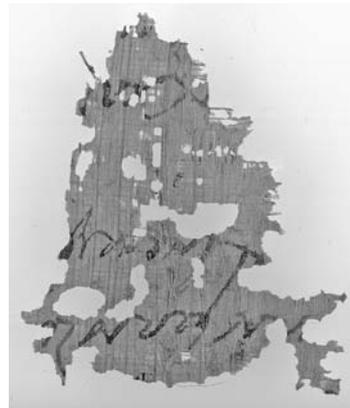
fr. 3 ↓

Letters are 0.45 to 0.55 cm in height (1 cm the longest upright); interlinear space is 0.5 to 0.6 cm.

] us [
]rius Nil [
]um [
]ap . [

1 a small circle at the bottom of the writing line | the second letter may be *s*. The right edge of an oblique stroke, pointing downwards, appears to cross its upper portion: perhaps an *l* from a preceding line | an oblique stroke, pointing upwards, slightly bent: *c, p, t* | *cus* or *tus* ? || 3 perhaps, instead of *um*,] . *as* | two oblique strokes, very faint, pointing upwards, the second hooked at the bottom || 4 . | left edge of a stroke at the top of the writing line

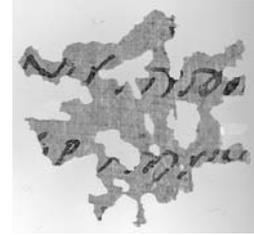
2 fortasse Vale]rius | Nil]us, Nil]i vel Nil]as possis



fr. 4 → (2.8 × 3 cm)

Letters are 0.45 to 0.55 cm in height (1 cm the longest upright); interlinear space is 0.5 to 0.6 cm.

] , [
] nis Anton [i -
] lep Marinu [s
] , [



1] , [dot-like trace, perhaps of an upright || 4] , [upper portion of an upright, with a hook at the top

2 Anton [ius *vel* Anton [inus: *et* Apron [ianus *possis* || 3 pra] ep (ositus) *possis*

fr. 4 ↓

a few uncertain traces

fr. 5 → (1.2 × 1 cm).

Letters are 0.3–0.45 cm in height.

] , us , [
] , [



1] , the right edge of a stroke in ligature with *u* | *h* or *i* || 2 top of *h*, or *i* and top of a curved stroke, facing down, in the middle of the writing line

fr. 5 ↓

very faded and uncertain traces of ink

fr. 6 → (1.2 × 0.9 cm)

] , sus , [



1] , small portion of a horizontal stroke, in the upper part of the writing space | *b* or *d*

fr. 6 ↓

] , [
] re [



1 oblique stroke pointing upwards, perhaps *s*

fr. 7 → (1.6 × 1.8 cm)

Letters are 0.45 to 0.7 cm in height.

]] [
] , h . . . [
] , [



the small scrap of papyrus standing obliquely above the main fragment is turned over, showing a portion of the (blank) *verso*. The letter visible on the other side is in fact part of the *recto*, and constitutes here l. 1 of the

fr. 12 ↓ (3.2 × 1.8 cm)

]uag .[
 A]urelius [
]...[



1 uncertain traces at the top of the writing line || 3 uncertain traces, the second letter may be *c* or *l*

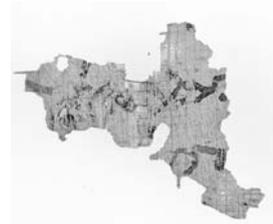
fr. 13 → (2.5 × 3.1 cm)

uncertain traces

fr. 13 ↓

Letters are 0.4/0.6 cm in height, the tallest upright being 0.9 cm long; the interlinear space amounts to 0.5 cm.

] .[
] as .[
][



1] . dot-like trace in the middle of the writing line || 2] . right edge of an oblique stroke, pointing downwards | *ep* is possible | . a circular letter ? | . as the right edge of an oblique stroke, pointing downwards | . [bottom of an oblique stroke, pointing upwards || 3] *ur*ϕ[,] *ar*ϕ[,] *ar*ϕ[and others are possible; the last letter may also be *d*, less likely *b*

fr. 14 ↓ (3.2 × 2.4 cm)

Letters are 0.4/0.6 cm in height, the tallest upright being 0.9 cm long; the interlinear space amounts to 0.5 cm.

] .[
] .[
 A]urel . .[
] . . .[



1 an oblique stroke || 2 an *a* is possible || 3 *a* or *t* and the bottom of an oblique stroke, pointing upwards; otherwise *m*, less likely *n* || 4 an oblique stroke, pointing upwards | *n*, less likely *m* | a dot at the top of the writing line

fr. 15 → (4 × 1.5 cm), 16 ↓ (3.3 × 1.4 cm), 17 ↓ (2 × 1.8 cm), 18 → (2.4 × 2.5 cm)

uncertain traces (in fr. 16–18 the back side too bears traces)



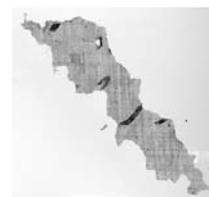
fr. 15 →



fr. 16 ↓



fr. 17 ↓



fr. 18 →

fr. 19 → (2.2 × 1.9 cm)

Letters are 0.6 cm high, the interlinear space being 0.7 cm.

] . [
] . . . dar[



1 uncertain traces || **2**] , the right edge of an oblique stroke, pointing downwards, touching the next letter | apparently *ui* in ligature, or the symbol for *centuria*

2] X̄VI vel] , 7 *possis* | dar[i vel dar[e vel Dar[*possis*

fr. 20 ↓ (1.6 × 2 cm)

0.3/0.4 cm the height of the letters, 0.5 the interlinear space

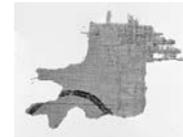
] . [] [
] Iuliu[s]



1] , [perhaps bottom of an upright

fr. 21 → (1.6 × 1.1 cm)

] . [



the long circular stroke may be the upper portion of perhaps a very wide *a*

fr. 21 ↓

] . [
] risci[

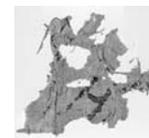


1] , [bottom of a long upright, trespassing from below the writing line

2 P]risci *possis*

fr. 22 → (1.5 × 1.6 cm)

]em[



fr. 22 ↓

]s[]iu . [



1] dot at the bottom of the writing line

fr. 23 → (1.6 × 0.7 cm)

]te[



fr. 24 (3 × 1.1 cm)

on both sides uncertain traces



fr. 25 → (0.3 × 1.6 cm)

]co[
]cl. [



the fragment bears the same form, only mirror-like, of the preceding fr. 24 || 2 a, r

2 Clā[udius quolibet casu vel Cl(audius) .[possis

fr. 26 (3.2 × 1.7 cm)

uncertain traces



The difference in writing between fr. **a–d** and **1–26** suggests that, if the two frames really belonged to the same papyrus, the original document must have been akin to *P.Dura* 66 letter *d*, letter *l*, *P.Dura* 67²¹, 68²² and 69²³: an official letter (or more than one) mentioning a detachment of soldiers employed for a particular chore or mission, and (in a following column) a list of those very soldiers. This can be further argued by the fact that fr. **1–26** bear traces of a small number of names, all attested in Dura papyri:

– in fr. **2** ↓, l. 5, *Au]rel(ius) Mocimus*²⁴; at l. 4 of the same fragment, if what I read is correct, a Gordian is perhaps mentioned; this may lead to date the *verso* to 238–242. Gordian III is mentioned in *P.Dura* 59²⁵, 89, 121²⁶.

– in fr. **3** →, l. 2, *Ge]rmanus*²⁷;

²¹ 222–225, TM 44796.

²² 232–238, TM 44797.

²³ 235–238, TM 44798.

²⁴ See *P.Dura* 89, col. I, l. 3, l. 9 (239, TM 44820); *P.Dura* 100, col. XIV, l. 5; col. XVIII, l. 13; col. XXVIII, l. 22; col. XXIX, l. 1; col. XXXIII, l. 6, l. 11; col. XXXV, l. 16, l. 19; col. XXXVII, l. 1; col. XXXIX, l. 2 (219, TM 44832); *P.Dura* 102, col. VII, l. 7 (222–228, TM 44834); *P.Dura* 107, l. 11 (240–241, TM 44839); *P.Dura* 114, l. 3 (208–220, TM 44846); *P.Dura* 116, col. I, l. 7 (236, TM 44848).

²⁵ 241, TM 44781.

²⁶ 239–241, TM 44853.

²⁷ See *P.Dura* 107, col. II, l. 22; *P.Dura* 114, l. 12.

- in fr. **3** ↓, l. 2, the name *Nilas*²⁸ or *Nilus*²⁹ (*rius Nil*) might be visible;
- in fr. **4** →, l. 2, perhaps an *Antonius* or *Antoninus*³⁰, and a *Marinus*³¹ in the following line; what precedes the two names might be abbreviations for ranks or annotations (*legio*]nis? *pra*]ep(ositus)?);
- fr. **11** clearly preserves a fragment from a list of names in two columns; col. II, l. 4 offers the name *Cassianus*³²;
- *Aurelius* can be spotted in fr. **12**, l. 2; **14** ↓, l. 3;
- *Iulius* is clearly legible in fr. **20**, l. 2;
- *Priscus* (or *Priscianus*?)³³ can be seen in fr. **21** ↓, l. 2;
- traces of *Claudius*³⁴ could be seen in fr. **25**, l. 2.

In fr. **a**, l. 2 one might see the remnants of the abbreviation *dd*, for *dominos* or *dominorum*; the same abbreviation, indeed quite rare in Latin papyri before the 4th century AD³⁵, can nevertheless be found in *P.Dura* 60, fr. *a*, col. II, ll. 5–6 *Goces | legatus Parthorum missus ad dd(-) nn(-) fortissimos Imp(eratores)*. Fr. **b**, l. 2 might be construed as *ex hora*³⁶, or *ex horr[eis]*, or even *ex hor(reis)* [37]; *hor* [could also conceal the name *Horatius* or *Horatianus*³⁸. The use of *dies* (fr. **b**, l. 3), fully written out (and not abbreviated), appears to be already attested in Latin military papyri³⁹. A formula such as *co(n)s(ularis) noster* (whatever the inflection), attested in Dura papyri⁴⁰, was suspected by Gilliam to be in fr. **c**, l. 3 (*co*]s *noste*]r ?).

Giulio Iovine, Università di Napoli ‘Federico II’, Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici, Via Porta di Massa 1, 80133 Napoli (NA)
giulio.iovine@unina.it

²⁸ See *P.Lond.* inv. 482 (= *ChLA* III 203), l. 20 (130, TM 78865).

²⁹ See *P.Mich.* VII 447 *recto*, fr. 1, 2, l. 5 (2nd half of 2nd AD, TM 70017).

³⁰ See *P.Dura* 64 *recto*, fr. *a*, l. 6 (AD 221, TM 44792); *P.Dura* 95, fr. *a*, col. II, l. 11 (250–251, TM 44827).

³¹ See *P.Dura* 102, col. III, l. 12; col. V, l. 7; *P.Dura* 107, col. I, l. 18; col. II, l. 13.

³² The name is known from Dura papyri (*P.Dura* 67, col. IX, l. 9; *P.Dura* 88, l. 3 [238–244, TM 44819]; *P.Dura* 100, col. XXVII, l. 25; col. XXXII, l. 36; col. XLII, l. 32) as well as from other Latin texts on papyrus: see e.g. *P.Lond.* inv. 1774 (= *ChLA* III 212), fr. 2, l. 1 (3rd AD, TM 69874); *P.Michael.* 61, fr. B, l. 5 (2nd AD, TM 28826); *P.Mich.* III 162 *recto*, l. 22 (193–197, TM 21330).

³³ One can find a *Priscus* in *P.Dura* 89, col. I, l. 1; l. 9; *P.Dura* 100, col. VII, l. 13 and *passim*; *P.Dura* 101, col. XII, l. 26; col. XIII, l. 11 and *passim*. *Priscianus* is attested only in *P.Dura* 100, col. X, l. 15.

³⁴ The *nomen Claudius* is well attested in the *cohors XX Palmyrenorum*: *P.Dura* 26, *scriptura exterior, verso*, l. 5 (227, TM 17223); *P.Dura* 98, col. I, fr. A, l. 14; *P.Dura* 100, col. VIII, l. 12; *P.Dura* 101, col. XIII, l. 24; col. XIX, l. 19.

³⁵ See *P.Strasb.* inv. Gr. 790 + 792 + 802 + 812 + 821 a (= *ChLA* IX 684), l. 17 *dd(omin-) nn(ost-) Augg(ust-)* (303–304, TM 13415); *P.Oxy.* L 3577 *recto*, l. 9 *dd(ominis) nn(ostris) Const[ant]io Aug(usto) ter et Constante Aug(usto) iterum coss* (342, TM 15398); *P.Vindob.* inv. L 22 (= *ChLA* XLIII 1259), l. 9 *dd(omin-) Athanasius e*[t (5th AD, TM 70047).

³⁶ See *P.Mich.* VII 450 + 455 *verso*, fr. B, ll. 18, 21 (225–250, TM 42957); *O. Bu Njem* 67, l. 8 (253–259, TM 73217). *Hora* appears to be an attested way of measuring time within the Roman army.

³⁷ *Horreum* ‘storehouse for grain’ can be found in late Latin papyri, such as *P.Gen.* inv. 1156 *recto*, l. 2 (4th AD, TM 70008); or *P.Vindob.* inv. L 108, l. 2 (399, TM 70106). Its presence in a 3rd AD Dura papyrus might be explained as concerning the food supply for legions and auxiliary units. See for instance *P.Dura* 64 *recto*, fr. *a*, l. 11 and the *praedia fiscalia*, imperial *praedia* along the Euphrates, from which grain was regularly taken for the necessities of the soldiers.

³⁸ See *BGU* II 696, col. II, l. 20; *O. Bu Njem* 72, l. 5 (253–259, TM 73222).

³⁹ See e.g. *P.Wisc.* II 70, ll. 4–5 *tibi · com meatum · darem | [dierum] XXX* (103, TM 26685); *T.Vindol.* II 205 *[VII K(alendas) · Ianuarias · in singulos dies | [...] (sextarii) IIII · fiunt dies XLII m(odii) X s(emis)]* (104–120); *P.Mich.* VII 438 *diei · i(nfra) · s(cripti)* (140, TM 69901).

⁴⁰ See *P.Dura* 64 *recto*, fr. A1, l. 6.