

An Official Document with a Consular Date*

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Abstract

This research focuses on studying a reddish-brown papyrus fragment dating to the fifth century CE. The papyrus, discovered in the city of Oxyrhynchus, preserves five incomplete lines written in a formal cursive hand typical of the period. The text, inscribed along the recto's fibers, while the verso left blank, appears to be part of an official letter, possibly administrative or legal in subject. It starts with a protocol formula and proceeds to address two individuals bearing the Roman name Aurelius, one of whom is identified as Dorotheus. Despite the papyrus's deterioration and the correspondence's unclear main topic, the word ὑπόχρεος, suggests that the message is about finance or debt. In addition to the linguistic and textual significance of the text, it provides important information about the social and administrative structure of late Roman Egypt. In addition to demonstrating the continuity of administrative processes and the extension of imperial authority to provincial contexts, it shows the interactions between local authorities and civilians under the Roman system and details of daily life and government in Oxyrhynchus in the fifth century CE.

Keywords

Oxyrhynchus, Aurelios, Indiction, Consular Date.