

P. Dionysia.
The Petition of Dionysia, Daughter of Chairemon
A Witness of Legal Plurality in Roman Egypt
P. Oxy. II 237 (after 27 June 186 CE)

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1. The Petition of Dionysia, published by Grenfell and Hunt over 120 years ago (*P. Oxy. II 237*), is a unique and primary witness of legal plurality in Roman Egypt. It reports a complex family dispute. Even if *prima facie* the family accusations and pretensions contained in it seem to be full of empty rhetoric and emotions (stubborn daughter, violence, inhumane law), we deal in fact with a skilful legal argument of both parties, aided by citation of numerous previous judgments, opinions of learned jurists and prefects' edicts: all these spanning for over a century of the Roman rule. They weave a textile of the law in Egypt giving a glimpse of how legal norms of heterogenous origins – the local 'law of the Egyptians', the laws of the Greek settlers and the Roman legal order – co-existed in Roman Egypt, indirectly informing about the legal awareness of her inhabitants.
2. The affair deals practically with all aspects of law of persons: marriage, family structure, paternal power, law of successions and regulations pertaining to the administration of the family estate as well as to securing the interests of the wives and children. Even more importantly, it shows how and to what extent Rome endorsed the legal norms and customs pre-existing in the newly acquired Land of the Nile, which singularly presented them with a particularly well-developed administrative and legal order, inherited over the centuries first from the pharaohs and then from the Graeco-Macedonian rulers of the country. The *Dionysia papyrus* allows us thus to reconstruct the relation between laws and the possible guidelines of the legal co-existence in Egypt.

I. CHRONOLOGY

1. **Ca 180 CE: Fanfare: Dionysia's given to Horion in Marriage**
2. **Prelude: the Loan(s) of Chairemon**
3. **1st Act: Dispute I: Validity of Contracts and *Katoche***
 - Loan from Asklepiades 8 talents – Dionysia and her husband Horion allowed partial mortgage of the property (probably on the mother's estate)
 - **year 22nd (181/182 CE)**: agreement between Dionysia and her father to arrest managements of the estate (col. IV, ll. 4–5)
 - Choregia mentioned for the year 23rd (instead of payment? Chairemon freed from it?)
 - Year 23rd (183/184 CE): the second homologia between Chairemon and Dionysia (Col. IV, ll. 12–18): One talent was to be paid in the year 23rd.
 - **Year 24th (183/184 CE)**: Asklepiades proceeds to execute from the mortgage Dionysia 'constrained' to allow further hypothecation of another part of the property, and to overtake the payments (col. IV, ll. 21–22).

¹ Full text, newly established text and commentary may be consulted at dionysia.wpia.uw.edu.pl. Prepared under the auspices of the research financed by National Science Centre of the Republic of Poland (Narodowe Centrum Nauki, Opus 14, nr. 2017/27/B/HS3/01350: *How to Apply Law in Egypt? A Practical Guide for the Roman Judge: A Case-study of P. Oxy. II 237 and Other Papyrological Evidence on Legal Pluralism in the Roman Times*).

- Year 24th Dionysia allows to borrow 4 talents so money is repaid, the other 4 would be paid by Dionysia from the proceeds of the estate? She should keep the estates until the repayment (col. IV, ll. 26–29).
 - Before the year 25th, Pachon 27 (22 May 185 CE): Chairemon’s 1st Petition to Longaeus Rufus claiming things given to Dionysia, possibly also referring to her katoche, for that reason’ perhaps claiming she has illegally got to possess his estate? or still undermining the *katoche*. (*lying about it all*):
 - Year 25th, Pachon 27 (22 May 185 CE): Longaeus Rufus orders the case to be examined by the strategos Isidoros.
 - Year 25th Dionysia’s Response to Longaeus Rufus (*katoche* involved the grandfather). Decisions of Prefects mentioned, *i. al.* of Similis, and of archidikastes: marrying daughters should be provided for, *syngraphe* of the mother as the source of *katoche* general laws on *syngraphai*. She appends as well the abstracts of the contracts with the father.
 - Praefect Rufus subscribes the petition ordering its examination by strategos
 - Year 26th, Thoth (late Augustus/September 185 CE): Dionysia files the subscribed petition with strategos
 - 7th Thoth Year 26th. Hearing before the strategos of Chairemon and Dionysia (col. v, ll. 8–19).
 - Strategos Isidoros orders an enquiry to the keepers
 - Confirmation of the *katoche*. *Apographe* of Chairemon of the 26th year evidencing the loans (col. v, ll. 23–24).. The keepers send back a report to the strategos
 - Late December/January 185 CE: Strategos writes a report back to the new prefect, appending the reports of the archive keepers (col. v, ll. 27–28).
 - Early year 26th: Dionysia thus asks the prefect to have her rights confirmed in accordance of the findings of the strategos
 - Pomponius Faustianus subscribes, petition filed to strategos to execute.
4. 2nd Act: Dispute II: apospasis and bia
- Year 26th Pachon 26 (April/May 186 CE): Chairemon’s 2nd Petition. (col. VI, ll. 12–19).
 - Year 26th Pachon 30 (25 May 186 CE): Faustianus orders Isidoros to examine the case. (col. VI, ll. 32–35).
 - 27 June 186 CE: Chairemon’s 2nd Petition subscribed brought to Harpokration, the royal scribe and acing strategos (col. VI, ll. 36–38).
 - Hearing before Harpokration
 - Harpokration orders payment of *choregiai*, upkeep of the katoche, yet finding no instruction on *apospasis* refers that matter back to the praefect
 - Dionysia’s petitions the praefect again.

II. TEXT

§1. Col. I, ll. 1–5. The upper part of the first column, ca. 28 lines, is lost, the papyrus being torn. Dionysia’s actual petition starts at the end of l. 5 of the preserved text with her address to the prefect. The ca. 33 preceding lines might have contained the prefect’s endorsement, Dionysia’s letter to the strategos devolving the endorsed petition to him (cf. *P. Oslo* II 18 = *SB XIV* 12087, 167 CE Theadelphia) and perhaps (cf. ἄνθρωπον in l. 3) the strategos’ summons against Chairemon. The whole might have counted much less than 33 lines if our text is not a copy and the prefect’s endorsement was written in the very elongated chancery style well known through *SB I* 4639, 209 CE Alexandria, albeit two decades later.

----- |¹ [± ?] traces δα [± 4] |² [± ?].. [± ?] . . . |³ [± ?] κ . κ α ς [ca. 20 lost lines] |¹ ... |² ... |³ ...
α . . . [± 9] ἄνθρωπον |⁴ θ α ι ε ρ χ [± 5] εἶναι δε |⁵ [± ?] ε σ τ [± 5] man |⁴ ... and be |⁵ ...

§2. Col. I, ll. 5–17 – Col. II, ll. 1–4. Dionysia’s petition, with her presentation of the case.

<p>¹ [± ?] traces]δα [± 4] ² [± ? .. [].... ³ [± ?] κ. κας α... [± 9] . ν... πον ⁴ [± ?]... θαι ερχ[± 5] εἶναι δε ⁵ [± ?]εστ[± 5] ⁶ [Φαυστιανῶ ἐπάρχῳ Αἰγύπτου ± ?] παρὰ Διο[νυσίας [Χ]αιρήμ[ο]νος τοῦ ⁷ [Φανίου μητρὸς ± ?] ἤγ[εμῶ]ν κύριε [.] [..] εἰν ἐν ⁸ [± ?] σ[± 2]. α. [± 2]. . . . ν. α. [τ[. .] ἐπὶ κελεύειν ⁹ [± ?] μ[. .] ησα ει] δον τῶν - ¹⁰ [± ?] φιλ[. . .] το μεν κα . . . ἀπάτωρ - ¹¹ [± ?] . αδ[± 7] ιανο [± 3 τ]ῶν ἡμε ¹² [τέρων δικαίων?] . ηγαν[± 4] τήν φο - ¹³ [± ?] . γενομ[± 2]. [± 7] . ι γὰρ ἀφορ ¹⁴ [μη- ± ?] . ἄζων ετ . . [.] [± 3] ἀζόμενος ¹⁵ [± ?] . κατέσχε μοι Νθ . [τῆς μ]ητρῶας ¹⁶ [± ?] . . κ[. . .] το ἀρξάμενος ἀπὸ [Λ]ογγαίου ¹⁷ [Ρούφου ± ?] ζῶντι ἐπιθόμην. [± 4] ω[± 3] . σαμεν ----- ¹ [± ?] εγ. σ[± ?] ² [± ? τῶ]ν ὑπαρχ[όντων ± ?] ³ [± ?] μου τῶ δι[± ?] ⁴ [± ?] . ηται καλ[± ?]</p>	<p>[ca. 20 lost lines] ¹ ... ² ... ³ ... ⁴ ... and be ⁵ ... To Pomponius ⁶ [Faustianus, prefect of Egypt ...] from Dionysia, daughter of Chairemon, son of ⁷ [Phanias, her mother being ...] My lord prefect, [...] ⁸ [...] contrive against ⁹ [...] if not [...] was [secure?] - ¹⁰ [...] affectionate and [father-loving?] - ¹¹ [...] (her?) suffering/ [...] of our ¹² [rights? ...] vexed [...] in the [...] ¹³ [...] turned [...] in fact a pre ¹⁴ [text ... fabricating?] yet [...] ¹⁵ [...] he placed under lien for me 59.000 [...] of the maternal ¹⁶ [estate (?) ...] originating from Longaeus ¹⁷ [Rufus ...] I learnt that [...] [ca. 8 missing lines] ¹ [...] ² [...] of the belongings [...] ³ [...] ⁴ [...]</p>
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§3. Col. II, ll. 5–13: Dionysia reproduces (part of) the first petition of her father, Chairemon, against her (dated before the 22nd of May, 185 CE: cf. §4). For the content of this petition, cf. Chairemon's own summary in Col. 6, ll. 13-15; for the references to Similis and the archidikastes, cf. Col. VI, ll. 27–29. Some of the final lines (n.b. the reference to 'the tricks' in l. 13) may be Dionysia's considerations on her father's petition.

<p> ⁵ [± ? Χαιρήμων Φανίου γυ]μνασιάρχ[ήσας τῆς Ὄξυρυγχειτῶν πόλεως ± ?] ⁶ [± ?] . . [± 5] ιν μη . [± ?] ⁷ [± ?] . ην μὲν Σ[ι]μίλιδος [± ?] ⁸ [± ?] . . . νόμων περὶ τοῦ ἐξε[τάσαι ± ?] ⁹ [± ?] δὲ τὴν δ[ι] ἀρχιδικαστοῦ τιν[± ?] ¹⁰ [± ?] . ε καλῶνται ταῖς θυγατρά[σι ± ?] ¹¹ [± ?] . . λαν στρα[τ]ηγῶ Λεοντοπο[λίτου ± ?] ¹² [± ?] σ . . [.] . . [± 6] εἰν ἐφ' ὄν [± ?] ¹³ [± ?] . . . ὡς οὔν τὰ τεχνάσ[ματα ± ?]</p>	<p> ⁵ [... Chairemon son of Phanias, former] gymnasiarch [of the city of the Oxyrhynchites ...] ⁶ ... ⁷ ... but the ... of Similis ... ⁸ ... of the laws concerning the examination ... ⁹ ... the ... through the archidikastes ... ¹⁰ they are summoned, to the daughters ... ¹¹ ... to the strategos of the Leontopolites ... ¹² ... so ... ¹³ the tricks in fact ...</p>
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§4. Col. II, ll. 13–17. 22nd of May 185 CE (Pachon 27th of the 25th year of Commodus, continuing the regnal years of the deceased Marcus Aurelius): Instructions of the prefect Longaeus Rufus to Isidoros, strategos of the Oxyrhynchites, upon Chairemon's petition (cf. col. VI, ll. 15–16, ll. 34–35).

<p> ¹³ ± ? ἔγραψεν] ¹⁴ [τῶ στρατηγῶ τάδε· Λογγαῖος [Ρο]ῦφος Ἰσιδ[ώρω στρατηγῶ Ὄξυρυγχείτου χαίρειν Περὶ τῶν γραφέντ]ων [μοι] ¹⁵ ὑ[πὸ Χαιρήμονος Φανίου γυμνασ]ιαρχήσαντος [τῆς Ὄξυρυγχειτῶν πόλεως ἀξιούντο]ς [τ]ο[τ]ε[ε] [περὶ κατοχῆς] ¹⁶ ὡς μὴ δεόντως γενομένης ἀντίγραφον ὑποτά[ξας ὑπ' αὐτοῦ γραφέν ὅπως ἐντυχῶν οἷς παρέθετ]ο [φο]ντ[ισ-] ¹⁷ θη[ν]α[ι] τὰ [ἀ]κόλουθα πρᾶξ[αι ἔρρ(ωσο)] 5] (ἔτους) κξ // Παχῶν [κζ]</p>	<p>] he (i.e. Longaeus Rufus) wrote ¹⁴ to the strategos thus: Longaeus Rufus to Isidoros, strategos of the Oxyrhynchites, greetings. [Regarding what was written to me] ¹⁵ [by Chairemon, son of Phanias, former] gymnasiarch [of the city of the Oxyrhynchites, presenting a claim about a lien] ¹⁶ being not properly established, appending copy [of what he has written, so that having taken cognisance of what he alleged] ¹⁷ it is seen to it that it is dealt with accordingly. [Greetings.] 25th year, Pachon [27th.]</p>
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§5. Col. II, ll. 17–21: Dionysia’s description of the inquiry made by order of the strategos Isidoros upon her father’s first petition.

<p>[± ?] μου [± ?] Ἰσι¹⁸δ[ώρ]ω τῷ στρατηγῷ τότε καὶ ὁ στρατηγὸς ἀπλῶς [± ?] δὲ τοῦ [± ?]¹⁹ α . . . υ ἀντιγράφου τῶν γραφ[έ]ντων ὑπὸ τοῦ [πατρὸς?]ων αὐτοῦ ὡς [± ?]²⁰ μ[ή] δέοντως γενομένη τῶν βιβλιοφύλαξιν [± ?] ωσι αὐτὸς οὐκ ἔλεγε [± ?]²¹ [± 5] δέοντως ἢ κατοχῇ γεγένηται ὃ μὴ ὁ π . [± ?] ατ. κ[.]ει [± ?]</p>	<p>... to Isi¹⁸doros the strategos, and the strategos simply ...¹⁹ ... of a copy of what had been written by [my father? ...]²⁰ ... [the lien] not properly established, to the keepers of the record office ... he himself did not say ...²¹ ... the lien (katoché) had been properly established, what not (?)...</p>
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§6. Col. II, ll. 22–37 – Col. III, ll. 1–9: Summary of Dionysia’s own (first) counter-petition to the prefect Longaeus Rufus, and probably (in the preserved part of col. 3) its effect. [in red, the parts of the petition preserved not at Oxford but in a small fragment from the Köln collection]

<p>²² δ[ι]ὸ εὐθὺς κατέφυγον ἐπ[ὶ] τ[ὸν] ἔ[π]αρχον Λογγαῖον Ρ[οῦ]φον [± ?] ἀπ[ο]λογο[υ]μένη [± ?]²³ . . . υ οὐ δέον[τ]ως ὁ πατήρ διὰ τῆς ἐπιστολῆς κ[± ?] οὐ τὸν . . . [± ?]²⁴ [± 4] . . ησαι τὰ σαι . ν . ε τὴν ἐπιστολὴν γεγραφ[± ?] . [± 4] . . ν διαταξάμ[εν] [± ?]²⁵ [.] [.] περὶ ἰδιωτικῶν ζητήσεων ἐπ[ι]στ[ο]λάς τι [± ?] . ξαι . . . [± ?]²⁶ [± 4] ισισ [± 4] . ασας τοῖς ἐμφορομένοις [± ?] ὧσιν [.] . π [± 5] . τ[ο]ῦτο κα[τα]βεβηκέναι εἰς [± ?]²⁷ [± 3] . γὰρ μὲν οὐδὲν ἕτερον θηρώμενον ἢ τὸ ἐξ[. . .] μου α [± 7] . . α . . . [± 3] νη . . σθαι τη [± ?]²⁸ ἡγεμονίαν παραγαγεῖν κα[. .] [.] τε τὰ ἀληθῆ τῷ Ρούφω γεγραφ[± 4] . α ἐψευσ[μένον] [± 5-6] . . [± ?]²⁹ γὰρ γράμματα αὐτοῦ πρὸς με καὶ τὸν ἄνδρα μου καὶ πάππον το[.] ε[.] . . [± 5] να ὁμολογ[ή]ματα δὲ τὰ ὑποτε[]³⁰ τα[γ]μ[ε]να ἐπιστάμενο[ν] ὅτι [. . .] ὀλίγην ἐπιστροφ[ή]ν [± 8] ἡγ[ε]μόνες προστ[ε]τάχασιν οὐδενί³¹ [± 4] . . . στας αὐτῶν γράμματα, ἔπειτα δὲ καὶ κε[± ?] Σιμίλιδος [± ?]³² κ[α]ί ἐτ[έ]ρου ἀρχιδικαστοῦ ὑπομνήμασι καὶ ἐπιστολ[αῖς] [± ?]³³ ἐφ[ὄν?] ἐπέδωκάν τινες ταῖς θυγατρᾶσι γαμουμ[έ]ν[α]ις [± ?]³⁴ τα[. . .] ἔδε[ι], μ[η]δὲν π[α]ρὰ τοῦ πατρὸς μήτε χάριτι μήτε ἐπι[± ?]³⁵ μα[. .] πρ[. .] εἰ ἔσχε[± 5] . μου μητρῶας σ[υ]νγραφῆς [± ?]³⁶ πα[. .] ς . . [.] ν σ[υ]νγραφῶν καθολικῶς νόμ[ο]υς καὶ ὑπο[± ?]³⁷ τετη[± 7] διὸ κα[ί] δι[α]βάλλειν ἐπιχειρῶν τὴν συγγραφὴν [± ?] ----- ¹ [± ?] πὸ φιλοσ[ο]φ[ί]ας [± ?] . εἶπεν [± ?] ἐμῆς ³ [± ?] . [± 3] ω [± ?] σε . . . ⁴ [± ?] μὴ ὄντ[ε] [± ?] σ . . . ⁵ [± ?] προχη [± ?]] τον . . ν ⁶ δημ[α] [± ?] . ε τῶν ἐν[] κτήσεων [βιβλιο- ± ?] ς μητ[ε] [± ?] ὅπως μένη ⁸ μοι καὶ τοῖς ε[± ?] παυ . . [± ?] λαις τη [± ?] . ντων ἐκα[]⁹ τέρου τ[ε] [± ?] τ . σ μὲν βιβλιοφυλ[α- ± 4 κα] θῶς π[± ?]</p>	<p>²² For this reason, I immediately resorted to the prefect Longaeus Rufus ... defending myself ...²³ ... [the lien] not properly, my father in his letter [...] himself [...] ²⁴ ... the letter ... ordering that ...²⁵ ... letters regarding private affairs [should not be written to the prefecture ...]²⁶ [...] to do [...] to the concerned [...] to register (katoche) in order... to go down to [...] ²⁷ ... For he sought nothing else than ...²⁸ to mislead the governorship he did [not] write the truth to Rufus, but most certainly lied [...] ²⁹ for his writings for me and my husband and grandfather [...] the agreements (?) [...] ³⁰ ... knowing that [...] it would] change (?) little [...] the governors [decree that no one is allowed] ³¹ to speak against his own writings, and afterwards also by the commands [...] of Similis [...] ³² and by the minutes and letters of another archidikastes [...] ³³ under which some have given to their daughters on the occasion of their marriage ... ³⁴ ... was required, (I received?) nothing from my father, neither out of kindness nor ... ³⁵ ... that he alleged (regarding?) the unlawfulness of my mother’s written (marriage) agreement (syngraphè)... ³⁶ ... the general laws of the written agreements (syngraphai), and ... ³⁷ ... and for this reason, attempting to disprove the written agreement (syngraphè) [ca. 12 lines missing] ¹ [...] due to (my) affec²tion [...] he said [...] of mine ³ ... ⁴ [...] not [...] ⁵ ... ⁶ of the property ⁷ record office ... so as it remains ⁸ for me and ... of each ⁹ of two ... the record keepers, according to ...</p>
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§7. Col. III, ll. 10 – Col. IV, ll. 1–5: Dionysia summarises the aspects of the financial history of the family that led to her father’s difficulties and eventually to the conflict with her.

¹⁰ τοῦ πά[ππο]υ .[± ?] .γμεν[ο]ν καὶ πα[ρ]οντ[± ?] .αι
 εἰδῶτα ¹¹ καὶ τὸν πάππ[ον ± ?] γραφὴν τὰ κόσμια [± 3] αἰ
 μ[.]τ[.] [± ?] ὡν νομί¹² μως γεγεννημέν[ην ± ?] ταῦτα
 χρόνῳ ὑστέρ[ω ± 4] ἀντος αὐτοῦ[± ?] .εγ τῶν ¹³
 ὑπαρχόντων τῶ[± ?] τῶ πάπ[π]ω μου διαφέροντ[α πε]ρὶ
 τὸν Ἑρμοπ[ολίτην ± ?] τιμῆς ¹⁴ αὐτῶν ἕτερα ὡ[± ?] μὴ
 ἀντιρηκ[.] [± 6] . τον ὑποτ[.] [± ?] . α[. . .] ¹⁵ μενον ἔτι
 τῶ δ[.] [± ?] χηματα ὠνη[± ?] . η[.] [.] . σάντα ¹⁶ τοσοῦτο
 ὄσου σ[. .] . ερα[± 3] ει[± 3] ὠνεῖσθαι μηδ' [αὐ]τῶν
 πεπληρωκέναι χ[± ?] . . εναί μέρος ¹⁷ τῆς τιμῆς
 ἀνα[π]όδοτ[ον?] δη[.] . (τάλαντα) γ καὶ (δραχμάς) Ε.
 ὁ μὲν κατεχρήσατο αὐτὴν ὡς[. .] . . τη νι σα
¹⁸ διαβάλλει δὲ ὄμ[.] . [± 7] . . ὡ[. .] ξέ μόνη εἶναι τῆ
 μητρ[ρ]ῶα μου συγγραφή κ[± ?] . . χρ . ντα . . α . αγει ¹⁹
 τῆ ἐμῆ τε [ὁ πατ]ήρ μου ἐν ὥρα γάμου ἐκδέδωκέν
 με τῶ . Ὡ[ρίων]ι νο[.] (ἔτους) Χ Αὐρηλίου
 Κομμόδου? Α]ντωνίν[ο]υ ²⁰ Καίσαρος τοῦ κυρί[ο]υ μηνὶ
 Θῶα . ιδίου . α . ημω οὐ μ[όν]ον τὸν [± ?] ντο . ε
 παν ²¹ τε καὶ μάλλον ν [± 2] . . ν . π[.] . ρ[. .] .
 . νό[μ]εναι τῆ [συγγρ]αφῆ . [± ?] . ενταμ[± 3] . να ²² τὸν δε
 . . τ[.] [± ?] τὸ προκατεχόμενον [± 5] ὄμ . τ[.] [± ?] αφα . ι[±
 4] ιε . . ²³ κ[.] [.] . ις δι[± ?] το ἀφελέ[σ]θαι . . [. .] . ον τ[±
 ?] μ . νε . [± 5] σαρ ²⁴ οσ . . νως[± ?] ὠδῶς ἄχρι νῦν [.] π[
 .] δε[± ?] σεν[. .] ι . . [± 2] χορ[?] ηγι²⁵ αν κ[α]τὰ το . [± ?] .
 . ερα (τάλαντα) γ . καὶ . . [. . .] ε . [± ?] [.] .
²⁶ καν εν . [± ?] ἐκ πλήρους ἄς . [± 4] . . να[± ?] . . [±
 5] δ . ²⁷ τον καὶ γαμ[± ?] μενον δεῖν ἐκ τῶ[ν .] . . [± ?
 συγγρα]φη[.] . . [± 4] . ια . ²⁸ νῶν μάλλ[ο]ν [± ?] τῶν
 παρακ[α]λείν γ[± 4] . . [.] . ωσι[± ?] . . θ[.] . . [± 3] ι . .
 . ται ²⁹ χρόν[ου] διελ[θόντος ± ?] ἐπιδοχῆς σ . νῦν . [
 ± 7] . . [± ?] . . . [± 6] ε[.] . . ³⁰ περιέσεσ[θαί ± ?
 γ]υ[μ]νασιαρχίαν . . [± ?] ς[.] χ[. .] ς ³¹ οὐδὲ [.
 .] . ρο[. .] . [± ?] ο [± ?] traces ³² τὸν δὲ ταύτης τῆ[ς]
 . . οχ[± ?] σο . . εγ[± ?] ³³ τῶν τινῶν πρ[ά]σεως? εἰσ . [± ?
] οια ἐστὶ[± ?] . . χεῖν || ---- | ¹ [± 16] . . [± ?] | ² [
 ± 16] . . ρε . [± ?] . [± ?] | ³ [± 14] νησεω[± 36] . το
 χρώ[μενος? ± ?] | ⁴ [ἀρχιδι]καστὴν πρότερον τ[± 26] . . .
 . [ῆ]μισυ ἦν μοι πρ[ό]τερον? ± ?] | ⁵ [.] . . . [.] ουσι
 ανθ[.] . ωκα . [± 14] . . τῶ καὶ λοιπὰ τῆς τιμῆς τῶ α
 . τη[.] αλι[.] τοι

¹⁰ ... of the grandfather ... and being
 present ... knowing ¹¹ also the
 grandfather ... the written agreement,
 the ornaments ... law ¹² fully executed ...
 these at a later time ... of him ... of the
¹³ belongings ... corresponding to my
 grandfather in the Hermopolite nome ...
 of the price ¹⁴ of these, other ...
 undisputed (?) ... ¹⁵ ... yet to the ...
 purchase (?) ... ¹⁶ ... so much (or: so
 many) ... buy, neither has he paid it in
 full ... a part ¹⁷ of the price not repaid ...
 3 talents and 5000 drachmas ... he spent
 (or: misused) it ... ¹⁸ he is disproving ...
 that it is to my mother's written
 agreement (syngraphê) alone ... ¹⁹ to
 mine ... my father had given me away in
 the moment of the marriage to H[orion
 in the ... year X of Aurelius Commodus
 A]ntoninus ²⁰ Caesar the Lord, on the
 1st of the month of Thoth ... not only ...
²¹ and rather ... give back, to the written
 agreement (syngraphê) ... ²² while ... the
 ... previously put under lien (katoché) ...
²³ ... to take away ... ²⁴ [...] the
 ornament (?) [...] until now [...] the
 allo²⁵wance (*choregia*) according to ..., 3
 talents ... and ... ²⁶ ... in full, which ... ²⁷
 ... and ... being fitting, from the ...
 written agreement (syngraphê) ... ²⁸
 more ... to summon ... ²⁹ when the time
 elapsed ... of the offer ... now ... ³⁰ left
 over ... of the gymnasiarchy ... ³¹ nor ...
³² the ... of this ... ³³ of the sale (?) or
 certain ... is ... || [ca. 6 lines missing] | ¹ ...
² ... ³ ... employing (?) ... ⁴ the
 achidikastês previously (or: the former
 archidikastês) ... I had a half (before?) ⁵
 ... and the remainder of the price to ...

§8. Col. IV, ll. 6–12. 181–182 CE (22nd year): Chairemon's financial difficulties, and the fact that Dionysia's *katoché* gave her control over at least part of his property, leads to a first 'reciprocal agreement' (*homologêma*) between both, which Dionysia summarises, only to then narrate its failure.

⁶ [± 10] . [.] . [± 5] . . . ὁμολόγημα διὰ δημοσίου
 γεγονέναι τῶ κβ (ἔτει) μεταξύ ἡμῶν μήτε τὸν
 πατέρα ⁷ [. .] . μ[± 17 μη] δὲν ἐπὶ καταχρηματισμῶ
 οἰκονομεῖν ἐμὲ δ[ὲ ἀπ]οδιδ[ό]ναι τὰ λοιπὰ τῆς
 τιμῆς ⁸ [ὀφ]ειλόμενα [.] ν[± 11] υς καὶ ἀπελε . [.
 . .] ς χορηγίαν, ἐκλεγομένην ἐ[πι] τοῦ κγ (ἔτους)
 τὰς προσόδους τούτων ⁹ τ[ῶ]ν ὑπαρχ[όντων -
 ca.11 -] ὡν ἄλλων ἀνεθέντων αὐτῶ ὑπαρχόν[τ]ων
 πράσεως ἀποδοθῆναι ὑπὸ τοῦ πατρὸς ¹⁰ ἃ
 ἐδανείσατο συγγραψ[α]μένου τ[οῦ] πάππου μου .
 . . , καὶ τούτου τοῦ ὁμολογήμ[α]τος αὐτῶ διὰ τοῦ

⁶ ... a reciprocal agreement (*homologema*)
 executed through the public office on the 22nd
 year between us, (by virtue of which) neither
 my father ⁷ [...] nor to administer through a
 dispositive deed, and I return the remainder of
 the price ⁸ owed ... the allowance, (me)
 collecting for the 23rd year the proceeds of
 these ⁹ belongings ... of the sale of other
 released belongings of his, (and) it be returned
 by my father ¹⁰ what he borrowed with my
 grandfather as signatory ... and this reciprocal

ἐπισκοπίου παρατε¹¹[θέντ]ος, αὐτὸν μηδ' ὡς ἔμμενηκ[έ]ναι τοῖς ἐνγεγραμμένοις ἀλλὰ μηδ' ἐπ[ι]τετροφέναι μοι ἐπὶ τὴν [π]ρόνοιαν ¹² [τῶ]ν ὑπαρχόντων[ν] κατὰ τὰ συνκείμενα ἵνα τῷ Ἀσκληπιάδῃ ἀποδιδόναι δυνηθείην. vac.

agreement was registered for him through the supervising office, ¹¹ yet) he did not abide at all to what had been written, but neither left it to me to manage ¹² the belongings ... according to what had been agreed, so that I would be able to return to Asklepiades. (vacat)

§9. Col. IV, ll. 12–25. 182–183 CE (23rd year): After the first's failure, summary of the second homologêma between Dionysia and Chairemon. This also failed, so badly that distraint was only narrowly avoided.

πάλιν δέ μοι ¹³[. . . .] .[. . .] .ινοὶ δ. . . αι .[. . .] . . . [. . .] ὄμ[ο]λόγημα πρὸς αὐτὸν ποιήσασθαι ἐπὶ τοῦ κγ (ἔτους) πάλιν διὰ δημοσίου ἐπὶ τῷ ¹⁴ τ[. . .] ἀναδεξάμεν[.] η[. . .] .ς ε. α.σ[± 10] ἀποδοῦναι (τάλαντον) α, ἕως ἂν ζ πληῖρες ἐκτείση ¹⁵ ἐ[άν] μὴ ἀποδίδωσιν . . . ε.χ . . . δε . . . [όμο]λογοῦντι οὕτως .[.] τῶν πρὸς τὰ δ. . . αι .ν δ. . . [α]ὐτῆς τη[. . .] .[. . .] .ς ¹⁶ .[. . .] .ν .μ.εν .[. . .] τούτων [τῶν] δανείων π[. . .] .[. . .] τῶν σ .ε τῶ[ι]ς τῶ[ν] ἐν[κ]τήσεων βιβλίου¹⁷ φ[ύ]λαξι .[± 11][. . . .] . ἀλλὰ μήτε .[. . .] δ[. . .] τῷ Ἀσκληπιάδῃ [ἀπ]οδεδοκέναι μήτε εἰακέν ¹⁸ [μ]ε κατα[± 11] σ[τ] .[. .] .[. . .] τὸ ἀργύριον τοῦ [ὄφλ]ήματος μὴ ἀποδόν[τ]ος αὐτοῦ κατὰ τὰ διὰ δημοσίου α . . ¹⁹ . . μ.εν.α .[. . .] .μ α τι . . ε.ιορων .[. .] .σ.εν ο . . [. . . .] . . ω . α . [. .] . η . . . ο.ι.τ.ο κατὰ τὴν προθ[ε]σμίαν ²⁰ τὰ ἀργύρια μὴ ἀπεσχηκέναι αν[. . . ν]όμιμα .[. .] .ε.ι.α .[. .] τῶν κατεχομέ[ν]ων μοι ὑπαρχόντων. ὁ δ[έ] καὶ παρ' ὀ[λ]ί²¹γον γεγενῆσθαι. τοῦ γὰρ Ἀσκλη[πιάδ]ου τῷ κδ (ἔτει) [ἀ]παιτοῦ[ν]τος καὶ μὴ ἀπολαμβάνοντος τὸ ὄφλημα ἀναγκάσθαι ²² με παρὰ τ[οῦ] πατρὸς τὸ προ . . ω .[. .] .[. .] τ.α που, κα[ί] ἐπισταμένου ὅτι οὐ περιόψομαι ἀποσπώμενα τὰ κατεχομέ²³νά μοι ὑ[πο]τίθεσθαι, ὑποτιθέμεν[ο]ς αὐτὰ ταῦτα τὰ ὑπολειπόμενα μόνα, ἐμοῦ μὲν τῷ δικαίῳ χ α, τῷ δέ ²⁴ πατρὶ δι . . ο[. .] . . αγ κα[. .] α θ π . . τα ὀφειλόμενα λοιπὰ τιμῆς αὐτῶν (τάλαντα) .ε. και (δραχμάς) Β και τόκους ἄλλα πρὸς ²⁵ ὅλα (τάλαντα) ὁ[κ]τῶ μετὰ τῶν τόκων .[. . .] .νων ὑπὲρ τῆς οὐσίας ἀπόδοσιν. Τὰ ἄλλα αὐτὸς ἔχη εἰς ὃ βούλεται.

And again to me [...] ¹³ [...] concluded [...] another] agreement with him, executed in the 23rd year, again through the public office, under which ¹⁴ [...] undertook to [...] return 1 talent, so that 7 would remain for the complete repayment; ¹⁵ and should he not pay [...] to the agreeing parties (?) [...] of this [...] ¹⁶ [...] of these loans [...] to the property record ¹⁷ keepers [...] but neither [...] has returned to Asklepiades, nor he has let ¹⁸ me [...] the money of the debt, he not paying back, according to the [...] executed through the public office ¹⁹ [...] Asklepiades on the due date ²⁰ had not received the money [...] the legal steps [...] of the belongings under lien for me. And this al²¹most happened. For, since Asklepiades in the 24th year had claimed and not received the amount owed, I was constrained ²² by my father to [...] and, knowing well that I will not allow the belongings under lien ²³ for me to be hypothecated, he hypothecated only the remaining ones, and while I used (?) my right [...] to the ²⁴ father [...] the remaining due part of the price of these, [...] talents and 2000 drachmas, and the interest, but for ²⁵ the entire eight talents with the interest [...] repayment for the sake of the estate; the rest he may have for whatever (purpose) he wishes

§10. Col. IV, ll. 25–34. 183–184 CE (24th year): After the second's failure, third homologêma between Dionysia and Chairemon, followed by its aftermath, leading to Chairemon's first petition against Dionysia.

καὶ πάλιν ²⁶ ετελε[. . .] [ὄ]μολογήματ.α γεγενῆσθαι μ[οι] πρὸς αὐτὸν τῷ κδ (ἔτει) διὰ δημοσίου συνχω[ρ]ούσης μου αὐτῷ δανείασσ²⁷θαι τὰ (τάλαντα)) δ/ε [ἐπὶ τῷ] ἔξ α[ὐ]τῶν ἀποδοῦναι ἔξ α[ὐ]τῶν ἀποδοῦναι μὲν τῷ Ἀσκληπιάδῃ τὰ ὀφειλόμενα καὶ τοὺς τόκους, ἔχειν δὲ τὰ λοιπὰ εἰς ²⁸ ὅ τι ἐὰν τ[.] . . ε . . αι .δη[μο?]σια . . [πα]ρ' ἐμοῦ τῇ προσόδῳ τῶν ὑπαρχόντων πα α . δημόσια καὶ δαπάνας ²⁹

And once more ²⁶ [...] reciprocal agreements were made by me with him in the 24th year through the public office, by which I consented that he borrows ²⁷ the 4 (?) talents, [under the condition that] from these he would pay back to Asklepiades the debt and the interest, and he would keep the remaining for ²⁸ whatever he [wants ...] from me with the proceeds of the belongings [...] the public

ἕως εκκε[...]. . . ουδεδω[...]. . . δανειστῆ οἱ τόκοι, ἀπὸ δὲ τῶν ἀπὸ τοῦ κε (ἔτους) ἐτήσια εἰ[...]. . . τὰ τῶν καὶ κεφάλαιον (τάλαντα) ζ[³⁰ τῆς δὲ λοιπῆς τιμῆς?] . . . σκ[...]. . . ης αὐτὸν διάγειν ἀποδιδόντα μοι μόνως τὰς χορηγίας[ς] κα[...]. . . παρ' ἑαυτῶν ³¹ ὅλως (τάλαντα) . . . γεν[ο]μέναις, αὐτὸν μὲν κ[υρ]ιεύειν πάλιν τῶν προσόδων πασῶν ἐφ' ὅσον ζῆ χρόνον μόνως ἀποδιδόντα μοι ³² ταῖς χορηγίας, ἐμοὶ δὲ ὑπείλ[η]φεν . . . τι[...]. . . τα περι τῆς κατοχῆς δίκαια. τὸν δὲ ἀγνωμονοῦ[ν]τα καὶ πρὸς ταύτην τὴν ὁμολογίαν ³³ ἐπιστάμενο[ν] ὅτι περι μᾶς [. . .] . . . προσόδων ἐκάστου ἔτους καθέξω ἕως ἂν ἡ ἀ[πό]δο[σ]ις ἐξ ἀνάγκης τῶν ὠρισμέ[³⁴νων γέν[η]ται χρημάτων δ[. . .] τῷ τετροληκέναι αὐτῷ γράψαι τὴν ἐπιστολὴν πάν[τα] τὰ ἐν τῷ πράγματι ἐψευσμένον

dues and the expenses ²⁹ until [...] to the lender the interests, from those, the annual ones from the 25th year [...] and the interest and capital 7 talents. ³⁰ Of the rest (of the price?) [...] he shall continue to pay me only my allowances [...] from the same ³¹ total of [...] talents [...] so that he would again hold of all the proceeds for his lifetime, giving me only ³² my allowances, while for me are kept [...] the rights of the lien. And he, acting inconsiderately and against this agreement, ³³ knowing that [...] of the proceeds of each year, I shall keep until the repayment of the established sums perforce ³⁴ takes place [...] he dared write the letter to him lying about everything in this matter.

§11. Col. IV, ll. 35–39 – Col. V, ll. 1–5: Summary of the evidence attached by Dionysia to her first (counter)petition and of the facts it brings to light.

³⁵ παρα[λ]αβεῖ[ν ± 9] τα[ῦ]τα διὰ τ[οῦ] βιβλειδίου ἀνενεγκούσης μου τῷ Ρούφῳ καὶ ὑποτάξασθαι τὸ τε τελευταῖον κοί³⁶νον ὁμολόγημα πρὸς τὸν πα[τέ]ρα, ὃ διὰ δημοσίου γενόμενον ἀναφορὰν ἔχω κα[ί] εἰς τὰ πρῶτα, καὶ Σιμίλιδος τοῦ ἡγεῖ³⁷μο[ν]εύσα[ν]τος καλλίστοι[ς] παρα[δεί]μασ[ι] ἐπιστολὴν κατακολουθήσαντος Μεττίου Ρούφου διατάγματι περὶ τοῦ τὰς τοιαύ³⁸τας συγγραφῆς μὴ μόνον δ[εῖ]ν εἶν[αι] κ[υρ]ι[α]σ[ί]ας ἀλλὰ καὶ παρατίθεσθαι διὰ τοῦ βιβλιοφυλακίου ἢ ὑπὸ τῶν γυναικῶν ταῖς τῶν ³⁹ ἀνδρῶν ὑποστάσεις ἢ ὑπὸ τῶν τ[έ]κ[νων] ταῖς τῶν γονέων οἷς ἢ μὲν χρήσεις διὰ δημοσίων τετήρηται χρη[μα]τισμῶν... ----- ¹ ± 70] . φα[± ?] ² οπ[± 32]ησα[.] τω[. . .] . [. . .] . [. . .] . [± 15] μη[.] κ[α] . [.] ρος . . ³ [.] α[± 24] η[.] γ (τάλαντα) ς [.] . [.] α[κκ[α] [.] ε[.] μεγ τὰ ἀποδοθῆ[σ]ο[μ]ε[ν]α ⁴ ἐτήσια τω[. . .] α[τ[. . .] η[.] ξ τόκω[ν] οὐκ ὀλίγων ὄντων[ν .] αζω [. . .] τ[. . .] . ω ἑαυτο[ῦ] τοῦ γένους, ἀποδ[ι]δο[ῦ]ς κάμοι ⁵ τὰς χορηγί[ας] . . . [. . .] κ[.] [. . .]

³⁵ he received ... these things through the libellus which I had submitted to Rufus and to which I had attached the final com³⁶mon agreement with my father, for which I have a report made through the public office, as well as regarding the previous ones, and of Similis, the former ³⁷ prefect, with the most excellent examples, an *epistula* where he follows the edict of Mettius Rufus about the fact that such ³⁸ written agreements not only must be (acknowledged) as valid, but must be recorded by the record office, either on behalf of the wives on the ³⁹ substance of their husbands or on behalf of the children on that of the parents, for whom the use was reserved though public documents, ... || (ca. 2 lines missing) ¹ ... ² ... ³ ... 6 talents ... to be given back ... ⁴ yearly ... the interest not being little ... of his own family, giving also to me ⁵ the allowances ...

§12. Col. V, ll. 5–8: Subscription of the prefect Longaeus Rufus to Dionysia's first (counter)petition, ordering the case to be submitted to the strategos of the Oxyrhynchites.

Ροῦφος ἐντυχῶ[ν] καὶ τάχα ἀπιστεύσας εἰ μετὰ τοσοῦτο [πλη]θος τῶν ἡμετέρων δικαίων καὶ τοῖ⁶σαῦτα διὰ δημοσίου γράμματα [γενόμε]να ἐθάρρησεν ἂν τις ἐπιστολὴν ἐπὶ παραλογισμῶ[ν] γράφειν τῇ ἡγεμονίᾳ, ὑπέγραψεν ⁷ τω . . . ω . . . αὐτῶν γεν . . . α[. . .] . . . γ τῷ βιβλειδίῳ «τῷ στρατηγῷ παραθοῦ, οὗ ἐξετάσα[], ἐάν τι τῆς ἐμῆς διαγνώσεως κατα⁸λάβῃ ἄξιον, ἐπ' ἐμὲ ἀναπ[έ]μψη», οὐδὲν ἕτερον οἶμαι ἢ δηλῶν ὅτι εἰ τὰ ἀληθῆ φανεῖη μηδὲ κρίσεως δεῖσθαι τὸ πρᾶγμα.

Rufus, being informed and immediately astonished that after so much evidence of our rights and so ⁶ many public deeds, someone would be so bold to write a deceiving letter to the prefectorship, he subscribed ⁷ ... to the libellus 'submit it to the strategos, who, upon examining whether something worthy of my attention (cognitio) is ⁸ to be found, shall refer it back to me', meaning, I believe, nothing else than, should the truth come to light, the case would require no judgement.

ἐπενηγμένων, σοὶ τῷ κυρίῳ ἔγραψεν ἐπιστολὴ[ν ἐπὶ
τ]οῦ κς (ἔτους) Τύβι²⁸ δ...[...]. σφε
. . . σμου . . . α σ πρ πε . . . α .
γραμμάτων ἑαυτοῦ [. . .]εχει μὲν²⁹ κ[α]τὰ . . . [± 20
τε]θικαν, οὐδὲν δὲ ἦττον συμπέμφας τῇ ἐπιστολῇ καὶ
ἀντίγραφα [τῶν π]ροσφωνῆ³⁰σεων [± 12]λα . . . τὰ

documentary evidence about the ... |²⁷
... brought by the keepers of the record
office, to you, my Lord, he wrote a letter
in Tybi of the 26th year |²⁸ ... of his
writings ... |²⁹ ... and not less he sent
together with the letter also copies of the
re|³⁰ports

§15. Col. v, ll. 30–35. Beginning of 186 CE (cf. §14): Second petition of Dionysia to the prefect Pomponius Faustianus.

πάλιν ἐπὶ σὲ τὸν κύριον κατέφυγον, καὶ
ἐνέτυχον διὰ βιβλιδίου[υ] [ἐπὶ τῷ] αὐτῷ κς
(ἔτει) |³¹ δ...[...].ς ψ . . . ν ἐξέτασιν ἤδη
τοῦ πράγμ[α]τος γεγενῆσθαι ὑπὸ τοῦ
στρατηγοῦ καθὼς σὺ [ἠ]θέλησ[α]ς τῇ
γεν[ο] |³² μένη ἐξετάσει γνοῦσά σε τῆς ἐπιστολῆς
τῆς γραφείσης σοὶ ὑπὸ τῆς στρατηγίας
ἀντίγραφον . . . [.] . . . γε |³³ [± 4] .η καὶ
γράψαι τῷ τ[ο]ῦ νομοῦ στρατηγῶ βέβαι[ι]ά μοι
μένειν τὰ ἐκ τῆς μητρῶας μο[υ] . . . [.] .
.α |³⁴ [± 9] τὰ διὰ χρηματισμῶν δηλούμενα
δικ[α]ια, καὶ μηδὲν νεωτερίζεσθαι κατὰ τῶν τὰ
. . . [. . .]μα τῷ βι |³⁵ [βλιδίω? ± 9] καθὰ καὶ
πάντες οἱ ἠγεμόνες ἐκέλε[υ]σαν.

again I resorted to you, my Lord, and I requested
through a libellus in the same 26th year |³¹ ... the
examination of the case has already been done
by the strategos as you wished, in the |³²
examination carried out, me knowing that you
... a copy of the letter written to you by the office
of the strategos ... |³³ ... and write to the strategos
of the nomos that the ... from the ... of my
mother remain secure for me ... |³⁴ ... the rights
evidenced through the documentation
(chrematismoι), and that nothing is overturned
regarding the ... to the |³⁵ libellus as also all the
governors have ordered.

§16. Col. v, ll. 35–43 – Col. vi, ll. 1–4: Subscription of the prefect Pomponius Faustianus and ensuing steps in order to secure Dionysia's rights, involving a strategos and the record office, with her hope that this closes the conflict with her father.

κα[ι] σὺ ὁ κύριος ἐντυχὼν καὶ ἀν . . . [. . .]δ . . . τὰ
ὑπο |³⁶ [. φ . [. . .] τῆς ἐπιστολῆς τοῦ
στρατηγοῦ καὶ [τ]ῆς τῶν βιβλιοφυλάκων
προσφωνήσεως καὶ [. . .] . . . οἱ γενομε |³⁷ [ν .] . . . [. .
. .] . . . ξενῶ τι δεόμενον, τῇ συνή[θ]ει σου
δικαι[ο]δοσία χρώμενος ὑπέγραψάς μοι τῷ
[βιβ]λιδίῳ |³⁸ [οὔτως· οἷς ἔχει(?)]ς(?) δικαίους
χρησθαι δύνασθαι, ὁ δὲ στρατηγὸς τῆς λοιπῆς
ἀξιώσεως σοῦ τὴν . . πο . [. . . πρ]όνοιαν |³⁹ [. .] .
. προμαντευσάμενος ὅτι καὶ τ[ῆ]ς
ἀ[π]ὸ τοῦ στρατηγοῦ βοήθειας δεόμεθα . . με [. .
.]αῖν |⁴⁰ [. .] ο τῶν δικαίων τυχεῖν καὶ
μὴ ἀγνωμονεῖσθαι ὑπὸ τοῦ πατρός. ἐξ ὧν γὰρ
ἐτόλμησεν [. . .] τα ταῦτα |⁴¹ [. .]αξ διὰ τῆς
αἰρέσεως τὸν ἄνδρα. ἐμοῦ γὰρ [ρ] τὸ βιβλιδίον ἐπὶ
τῇ σῆ ὑπογραφῇ παραθεμέ[ν]ης καὶ ἀνα |⁴² [δ]ούσης
διὰ τοῦ ἀνδρός μου τῷ στρατηγῶ, ἀξιώσεως τε
καθὼς ἠθέλησας τῆς λοιπῆς ἀξιώσεως μὴ
[ἀ]μεληθῆ |⁴³ [ναι καὶ] ἐπιστεῖλαι τοῖς τῶν
ἐγκτήσεων βιβλιοφύλ[αξ]ι βέβαιά μοι τὰ δίκαια τὰ
ὑπόντα μένειν καθὰ [προσε]φώνησαν || ----- |¹ [±20
]μως νο[±23]τω [. .]οκεκ [. . .]μ[±11]εται
ὑμεῖν λα |² [±12] . . . ερος ἵνα μὴ δέητα[ι] καὶ τῆς
λ[οι]πῆς ἀξιώσεως π[α]σης καθὰ ἠθέλησεν ὁ
λαμ[πρ]ότος ἡ[γε]μῶν πρόνοιαν |³
[. .] μηδὲν νεωτερίζεσ[θ]αι

And you, my Lord, being informed and ... by
|³⁶ ... of the letter of the strategos and of the
report of the keepers of the record office and
... |³⁷ ... requiring, by means of your ordinary
jurisdiction you subscribed the libellus for
me |³⁸ as follows: 'you may use the rights
that you have, while the strategos
concerning the rest of your petition ...'
foresight |³⁹ ... he (you?), foreseeing that we
also need aid from the strategos ... |⁴⁰ ... to
have succeeded in the rights, and not to be
treated unfairly by my father. For, from
those that he dared ... these |⁴¹ ... my husband
through his choice. For when I submitted the
libellus to your subscription and |⁴² handed it
through my husband to the strategos, I
requested as well that, in conformity with
your will, the rest of the petition not be
neglected |⁴³ and that he send a letter to the
keepers of the record office, so that my
existing rights remain secure as they were
reported. || (ca. 4 lines missing) |¹ ... to you ...
|² ... so that there is no need, and the whole
rest of the petition according to the wish and
foresight of the most illustrious governor |³
... not to overturn ... that my father, after so

τὸν πατέρα μετὰ τὰ το[σαῦ]τα γράμματα τὴν many writings, keeps the peace and does ⁴
 ἡσυχίαν ἄγειν καὶ μὴ⁴τε τῷ κυρίῳ ἐνοχλεῖν μήτε not bother the Lord nor attacks me any
 ἐμοὶ ἔτι ἐπιτ[ίθεσθαι] longer.

§17. Col. VI, ll. 4–12. Chairemon addresses a new petition to the prefect Pomponius Faustianus, moving his attack in another direction.

ὁ δὲ πάλιν ἐπιθέμενός μοι οὐκ ἔληξε[ν], ἀλλ' He, however, did not cease attacking me again,
 ἐπιστάμενος ὅτι περὶ ⁵ τῆς κατοχῆς οὐκέτι οἶόν but, knowing that ⁵ it is no longer possible for
 τέ ἐστὶν αὐτῷ ἐνκαλεῖν μετὰ τὰς τοσαύτας him to sue me regarding my lien (katoche) after
 ἐξετάσεις καὶ τοσαῦτα γράμματα, ἐτέρῳ so many inquiries and so much correspondence,
 ἐπέτρεψε τὴν ⁶ κατ' ἐμοῦ ἐπιβουλήν, καὶ σοῦ he turned in another direction ⁶ the plot against
 τοῦ κυρίου πάλιν καθ' ὁμοιότητα τῶν ἄλλων me, and although you, my Lord, similarly to the
 ἡγεμόνων ὑπογύως διαταξαμένου περὶ other prefects, had recently again proclaimed
 ἰδιωτι⁷κῶν ζητήσεων ἐπιστολάς σοι μὴ that ⁷ letters regarding private lawsuits are not
 γράφειν, ὁ δὲ οὐ μόνον ἔγραψε ἀλλὰ καὶ to be written to you, not only did he write one
 γράφων ἠκρωτηρίασεν τὸ πρᾶγμα ὡς καὶ σὲ ⁸ but when writing he cut off parts of the case, in
 τὸν κύριον πλανῆσαι δυνάμενος. σιωπήσας order ⁸ to be able to deceive you, my Lord. For,
 γὰρ καὶ τὴν τοῦ Ρούφου ἐπιστολήν ἐφ' ὅτῳ having hushed up the letter the letter of Rufus,
 ἐγράφη καὶ τὴν ἐντυχίαν τὴν ⁹ ἐμὴν καὶ τὴν τοῦ the reason for it was written, my petition, ⁹
 Ρούφου {την} ὑπογραφήν καὶ τοῦ στρατηγοῦ Rufus' subscription, the inquiry of the strategos,
 τὴν ἐξέτασιν καὶ τῶν βιβλιοφυλάκων τὴν the report of the keepers of the record office, ¹⁰
 προσφώνησιν ¹⁰ καὶ τὴν περὶ τούτων the letter written about these things by the
 γραφεῖσάν σοι ὑπὸ τοῦ στρατηγοῦ ἐπιστολήν strategos to you, my Lord, the subscription to it
 καὶ τὴν πρὸς ταύτην ἐμοῦ ἐντυχούσης δοθεῖσαν given to me upon my petition ¹¹ by you, my
¹¹ ὑπὸ σοῦ τοῦ κυρίου ὑπογραφήν καὶ τὰ ἐκ Lord, the mandate to the keepers of the record
 ταύτης τοῖς βιβλιοφύλαξι ἐπιστάλματα ψειλῶς office (arising) from it, he simply stated in his
 σοι διὰ τῆς ἐπιστολῆς δεδήλωκεν ¹² τάδε· letter to you ¹² the following:

§18. Col. VI, ll. 12–20. April/May 186 CE: Second petition of Chairemon to the prefect Pomponius Faustianus, in order to exercise his alleged paternal right to withdraw Dionysia from her husband.

Χαιρήμων Φανίου γυμνασιάρχης τῆς Chairemon son of Phantias, ex-gymnasiarch of
 Ὀξυρυχειτῶν πόλεως· τῆς θυγατρὸς μου the city of the Oxyrhynchites: Since my
 Διονυσίας, ἡγεμὼν κύριε, ¹³ πολλὰ εἰς ἐμὲ daughter Dionysia, (My) Lord Prefect, ¹³ has
 ἀσεβῶς καὶ παρανόμως πραξάσης κατὰ γνώμην impiously and unlawfully done many things
 Ὁρίωνος Ἀπίωνος ἀνδρὸς αὐτῆς, ἀνέδωκα against me at the instigation of her husband
 ἐπιστο¹⁴λὴν Λογγαίῳ Ρούφῳ τῷ λαμπροτάτῳ, Horion, son of Apion, I sent a letter ¹⁴ to the
 ἀξιῶν τότε ἃ προσήνεγκα αὐτῇ ἀνακομισασθαι most illustrious Longaeus Rufus, requesting to
 κατὰ τοὺς νόμους, οἰόμενος ¹⁵ ἐκ τοῦ <του> recover in accordance with the laws what I
 παύσασθαι αὐτὴν τῶν εἰς ἐμὲ ὕβρεων· καὶ had formerly given to her, expecting ¹⁵ that
 ἔγραψε τῷ τοῦ νομοῦ στρατηγῷ (ἔτους) κε //, this would stop her from her insults against
 Παχῶν κζ ᾗ, ὑπο¹⁶τάξας τῶν ὑπ' ἐμοῦ γραφέντων me; and he wrote to the strategos of the *nomos*
 τὰ ἀντίγραφα ὅπως ἐντυχῶν οἷς παρεθέμην on the 25th year, the 27th of Pachon,
 φροντίση τὰ ἀκόλουθα πρᾶξιαι. ἐπεὶ οὖν, ¹⁷ κύριε, ap¹⁶pending copies of my writings, so that
 ἐπιμένει τῇ αὐτῇ ἀπονοίᾳ ἐνυβρίζων μοι, ἀξιῶ τοῦ having examined of what I alleged he would
 νόμου διδόντος μοι ἐξουσίαν οὐ τὸ μέρος ὑπέταξα see to it that it is dealt with accordingly. Since
 ἴν' εἰδῆς ¹⁸ ἀπάγοντι αὐτὴν ἄκουσαν ἐκ τῆς τοῦ ¹⁷ he, my Lord, persists in the same madness
 ἀνδρὸς οἰκίας μηδεμίαν μοι βίαν γείνεσθαι ὑφ' insulting me, I request, since such power is
 οὔτινος τῶν τοῦ Ὁρίωνος ἢ αὐ¹⁹τοῦ τοῦ Ὁρίωνος given to me by the law, the (relevant) part of
 συνεχῶς ἐπαγγελλομένου. ἀπὸ δὲ πλειόνων τῶ[ν] which I have appended so that you are
 περὶ το[ύ]των πραχθέντων ὀλίγα σοι ὑπέταξα ἴν' informed, ¹⁸ to take her away against her will
 εἰ²⁰ δῆς. (ἔτους) κς, Παχῶν. from her husband's house with no violence
 being done to me by anyone of those of
 Horion or by ¹⁹ Horion himself, who is

constantly threatening (me). From the numerous tried instances regarding these things I have appended for you a few, so that you ^{|20} may know 26th year, Pachon.

§19. Col. VI, ll. 20–32. Dionysia denies her father’s pleas, and the relevance of his present and previous legal arguments

ὁ μὲν ταύτην τὴν ἐπιστολὴν ἔγραψεν, οὐδέμιαν μὲν οὔτε ὕβριν οὔτε ἄλλο ἀδίκημα εἰς αὐτὸν ^{|21} ἀπ’ ἐμοῦ ἐφ’ ᾧ μέμφεται δεῖξαι ἔχων, ἐπὶ φθόνῳ δὲ μόνον [λο]ιδροῦμενος ὡς δεινὰ πάσχων ἀπ’ ἐμοῦ, λέγων ὅτι δὴ ^{|22} ὧτα παρέχω ἄνοα αὐτῷ, καὶ τὴν ὑπολειπομένης ἐμοὶ κατοχῆς τῆς οὐσίας ἵνα μ’ αὐτὴν ἀποθῆναι, καὶ, τὸ καϊνότερον, βίαν ^{|23} πάσχειν ὑπὸ τοῦ ἀνδρός μου προφερόμενος τοῦ καὶ μετὰ {καὶ με[τά]} τὴν πρὸς αὐτόν μου συγγραφὴν ἐν ἧ εἶχεν τὸ δίκαιον ^{|24} καθαρὸν μου προσενηνεγμένον συνχωρήσαντός μοι καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς μ[η]τρῶας οὐσίας συνευδοκῆσαι βουλευθῆσαι αὐτῷ ὑποτι²⁵θεμένῳ τὴν οὐσίαν ταύτην πρὸς ὅλα (τάλαντα) ἠ, ἀφ’ οὗ με ἀπαλλ[αττ . . .] . . . εἰδητασινῆκε τοῦ ἀνδρός με στερεῖσαι ἐπιχειρῶν, ^{|26} ἐπὶ μὴ δύναται τῆς οὐσίας, ἵνα μηδ’ ἀπ’ αὐτοῦ χορηγηῖσθαι [.] . . . σενε[.] . . ὕ δύνωμαι γυνή, ἀπὸ τοῦ πατρὸς μήτε ^{|27} ἢν ὑπέσχετο προῖκα μήτε τι ἄλλο ὑπάρχον λαβοῦσα ἀλλὰ μηδὲ κατὰ κα[ι]ρὸν τὰς χορη[γ]ηθ[ε]ῖσας τροφὰς ἀπολαμβάνουσα. Ὑπέταξεν ^{|28} δὲ καὶ τὰς αὐτὰς κρίσεις Σ[ι]μίλιδος καὶ ὑπὸ τοῦ ἀρχιδικαστοῦ τῷ Λογγαίῳ Ρούφῳ γραφομένης ἐτέρας ὁμοίας, μηδὲ αἰδεσθεῖς ὅτι οὐδὲ ^{|29} ὁ Ρούφος προσέσχεν αὐτὰ[ι]ς ἀνομοίαις οὐσαις εἰς παράδειγμα . . . [. . .] . . . ἐτέρων . . . αἰων. ἀλλὰ σὺ ὁ κύριος τῆ θεογνώστῳ σου ^{|30} μνήμη καὶ τῆ ἀπλανήτῳ προαιρέσει ἀνενεγκῶν τῆ[ν] γραφεῖσ[αν] σοι ὑπὸ τοῦ στρατηγοῦ ἐπιστολῆν, καὶ ὅτι φθάνει τὸ πρᾶγμα ^{|31} ἀκριβῶς [ἐξ]ητασμένον, πρόφασις δὲ ἐστὶν ἐπιβουλής τὸ . . . πασθ[α]ι εἰ οὐκ ἐξὸν κατὰ συγγραφὴν, ἀντέγραψεν τῷ στρατηγῷ ^{|32} τάδε·

He wrote such a letter, without being able to prove either insolence or other injustice against himself ^{|21} by me, of which he complains, only out of malice reviling me as if suffering terrible things from me, saying indeed that ^{|22} I turn a uncomprehending ear to him, and that I do not lift the lien (katoché) of the remaining estate. What is even more bizarre (he claims) he suffers ^{|23} violence on the part of my husband, even after the my marriage contract with him, by which (the husband) received the unlimited right ^{|24} brought by me; and (even if Chairemon) conceded to me (interests) on the maternal estate as I wished to consent to him (i.e. Chairemon) ^{|25} hypothecating this same estate for a total of 8 talents, after that . . . me . . . endeavouring to rob me of my husband, ^{|26} as of the estate he could not, so that I, a woman, could not to be maintained by him (the husband) . . . while from the father I have neither ^{|27} received the dowry which he had offered nor any other property, indeed, I have not even received at the proper times the allowances bestowed on me. He appended ^{|28} also the same judgements of Similis and other similar ones cited in writing by the archidikastes (in his letter) to Longaeus Rufus, unembarrassed that not even ^{|29} Rufus himself had taken them into consideration as a precedent due to their dissimilarity . . . of others . . . But you, my Lord, with your god knowing ^{|30} memory and errorless character making reference to the letter written to you by the strategos and that the case had already ^{|31} been examined in sufficient detail, and that it is a pretext for plotting . . . if not allowed according to the written (marriage) agreement, you wrote back to the strategos ^{|32} the following:

§20. Col. VI, ll. 32–35. 25th May 186 CE: Instructions of the prefect Pomponius Faustianus to Isidoros, strategos of the Oxyrhynchites, upon Chairemon’s petition, so that the matter is settled in accordance with the instructions of the former prefect Longaeus Rufus.

Π[ο]μπώνιος Φαυστιανὸς Ἰσιδώρῳ στρατηγῷ [Ο]ξύρυγγε[ί]τ[ο]υ χαίρειν. τὰ γραφέντα μοι ὑπὸ Χαϊρήμονος γυμνα³³ σιαρχήσαντος τῆς

Pomponius Faustianus to Isidoros, strategos of the Oxyrhynchites, greetings. What was written to me by Chairemon, former ^{|33}

Ἰξυρυγγειτῶν πόλεως αἰτιομένου Ὁρειῶ[να ἄν]δρα θυγατρὸς αὐτοῦ ὡς βίαν ὑπ' αὐτοῦ πάσχ[ο]ντος ³⁴ ὑποταχθῆναι ἐκέλευσα, ὅπως φροντίσης ἀκόλουθα πρᾶξαι τοῖς περὶ το[ύ]του πρότερον γραφεῖσι ὑπὸ Λογγαίου Ρούφο[υ] τοῦ δια³⁵σημοτάτου πρὸς τὸ μὴ περὶ τῶν αὐτῶν πάλιν αὐτὸν ἐντυγχάνειν. ἐ[ρ]ῶσθ(αι) εὔχομ(αι). (ἔτους) κς //, Παχῶν λ.

gymnasiarch of the city of the Oxrhynchites accusing Horion, the husband of his daughter, of violence suffered from him, ³⁴ I have ordered to append, so that you see to it that it is dealt with in accordance with what was previously written by Longaeus Rufus, the most ³⁵ eminent, in order that he may not petition again regarding these things. Farewell. 26th year, on the 30th of Pachon.

§21. Col. VI, ll. 35–41 – Col. VII, ll. 1–2. 27th June 186 CE: Hearing before the deputy strategos of the Oxrhynchites, Harpokration, upon Chairemon presenting Faustianus' letter, with Dionysia's husband acting for her. She argues that a decision following Rufus' instructions had already been reached, in her favour.

Ταύτην ³⁶ σοῦ τὴν ἐπιστολὴν παρ[εν]εγκόντος τοῦ Χαϊρήμονος καὶ ἀναδόντος ἐπὶ τῆς γ τ[ο]ῦ Ἐπειφ Ἀρποκρατίωνι βασιλικῶ γρα[μ]ματεῖ ³⁷ [δι]αδεχομένῳ καὶ τὰ κατὰ τὴν στρατηγίαν), παροῦσα αὐτῇ διὰ τοῦ ἀνδρός μου προσεκύνησα μὲν σοῦ τὰ γράμματα καὶ τοῖς [γ]ραφεῖσι ³⁸ ἐμμέν[ε]ιν ἠξίωσα, ἀπέδειξά τε ὅτι τὰ ἀκόλουθα ἤδη τοῖς ὑπὸ Ρούφο[υ] πρότερον γραφεῖσι ἐπράχθη. ὁ μὲν γὰρ Χαϊρήμων ³⁹ περὶ κ[ατ]οχῆς ὡς οὐ δεόντως γενομένης αὐτῷ <ε>γεγράφει, ὁ δὲ Ρούφος [ἐξ] ὧν ἀντέγραψεν αὐτῷ καὶ ἐξ ὧν ἐμοῦ ἐντυχούσης ⁴⁰ ὑπέ[γρ]αψεν ἐξετασθῆναι ἠθέλησε[ν] εἰ δεόντως ἢ κατοχὴ γέγονέν μ[οι] καὶ τῷ στρατηγῷ περὶ τούτου ὑπέθετο. ὁ δὲ οὐκ ἠμέ⁴¹λη[σε]ν ἀλλ' ἐ[ζ]ήτησεν ἀκρειβ[ῶ]ς [τὸ πρ]ᾶγμα ἐκ τῶν βιβλιοφ[υ]λάκ[ω]ν καὶ τῇ ἡγεμονίᾳ περὶ παντὸς δι' ἐπιστολῆς ἀνήνεγκ|| --- ¹ [±30]α[. ±19] . . [±?] ² [±19]η[. . .] [±15]ου[. . .] [.]ητο[±11] α[.]λη[. . .]

As ³⁶ Chairemon brought this letter of yours and on the 3rd of Epeiph gave it to Harpokration, the royal scribe ³⁷ and acting strategos, appearing myself (in the court) through my husband, I not only worshipped your letter and ³⁸ deemed it proper to abide by what you had written, but showed that what was required by what had previously been written by Rufus had already been done. For Chairemon ³⁹ had written to him regarding the lien (katoché) not being properly established, and Rufus, from what he wrote back to him, and from what ⁴⁰ he subscribed to my petition, ordered to make an inquiry, whether the lien (katoché) had been properly established for me and instructed the strategos about this. And he did not ⁴¹ neglect it, but he examined the case in detail from the (evidence collected by) the keepers of the record office and he reported about everything by letter to the prefectship || (ca. 2 lines missing) ¹ ... ²

§22. Col. VII, ll. 3–8. Decision of the deputy strategos Harpokration: since Chairemon's claim for daughter-withdrawal (apospasis) is new and Rufus' instructions do not address it, Harpokration authorises a new petition to be submitted to the prefect, so that judgement may be given in accordance with his instructions

³ χ[±17] μηδὲν τῶν γενομ[ένω]ν κ[ο]μ[. . .] μ[. . .] οὐ[. . .] πρ[α] . . . ἐκ τῶν αντ[. . .] . . . ε[. . .] η εἰ ὄρω[. . .] δ . ρον ουβ[α] . . .] ⁴ σα[.] λας τούτου ἀλλὰ ἀκόλο[υ]θα πρᾶξαι τ[ὸν] ἐπι[στ]εῖλαντα τοῖς βιβ[λ]ιοφύλαξι καὶ περ[ε]ρ[ι] αὐτ[οῦ] γ[ρά]ψαντα τ[ὰ] εἰρημ[έ]να: ἐπεὶ δὲ ⁵ ὁ Χ[αιρ]ήμων δι' ἧς καὶ νῦν πεπο[ι]η[τ]αι παρὰ τῷ [λ]αμπροτάτῳ ἡγεμόνι ἐντυχίας ἠξίωσεν τὴν θυγατέραν ἄκ[ο]υσαν ἀποσπᾶν οὐ ⁶ δὲ περ[ε]ρ[ι] τούτου οὐτ[ε] διὰ τῆς τοῦ δια[σ]ημοτάτου Ρούφου οὐτε διὰ τῆς τοῦ λαμπ[ρο]τάτου ἡγεμόνος Πομπωνίου Φα[υ]στ[ι]ανοῦ ἐπιστολῆς ⁷ ὁράται ῥητῶς κεκ[ε]λ[ε]υσμένον,

³ ... not one of the existing ... from the ... ⁴ ... of this, but in conformity with (Rufus' orders?) by the instructions given to the keepers of the record office and by writing the aforesaid on this matter. But since ⁵ Chairemon through the petition which he has now sent to the most illustrious governor requested to withdraw his daughter against her will and since ⁶ regarding this question neither in the letter of the most eminent Rufus nor in that of the most illustrious governor Pomponius Faustianus ⁷ an explicit order seems to be given ... his most illustrious governor may be petitioned about this matter

Ὡς δὲ δύναιτο περὶ τούτου ἐντευχθῆναι ὁ λαμπρότατος ἡγεμῶν πάντων τῶν ἐν τῷ πράγματι παρατιθεμένων αὐτῷ, ἵν' οἷς ἐὰν προστάξῃ ἀκόλουθα γένηται[ι].” vac.

with all that been accomplished (in this case) ¹⁸ being evidenced to him, so that whatever instructions he may give, they are carried out.’

§23. Col. VII, ll. 8–19. Dionysia therefore raises this her (third) petition to the prefect Faustianus, so that he instructs the strategos that she must be paid her due allowances (choregia), and her father’s request of apospasis is rejected as unlawful. In her support, she appends evidence regarding the law: (a) that wives can freely choose themselves whether to remain with their husbands or not (§§ 24–27); (b) that money suits cannot be avoided by the subterfuge of counter-accusations (§§ 28–29); (c) that rights arising from registered syngraphai have been recognised by all prefects and emperors as valid and secure (§§ 30–34); (d) that no one is allowed to contradict his own writings (§ 35).

πανταχόθεν οὖν, ἡγεμῶν {οὖν} κ[ύ]ριε, τοῦ πράγματος ⁹ πρ[ο]δήλου γενομένου καὶ τῆς τοῦ πατρός μου πρὸς με ἐπηρείας, ἐντυγχάνω σοι καὶ νῦν πάντα παρατιθεμένη τὰ ἐν τῷ πράγματι, ¹⁰ καθὼς καὶ ὁ βασιλικὸς διαδεχόμενος καὶ τὴν στρατηγίαν ἠθέλησεν, καὶ δέομαι κελεῦσαι γραφῆναι τῇ στρατηγίᾳ τὰς τε χορηγίας ¹¹ ἀποδίδοσθαι μοι κατὰ καιρὸν, ἐπισχεῖν τε αὐτὸν ἤδη ποτὲ ἐπειόντα μοι, πρότερον μὲν ὡς ἀνόμου κατοχῆς χάριν, νῦν δὲ προφάσει νό¹²μου οὐδὲν αὐτῷ προσήκοντος· οὐδεὶς μὲν γὰρ νόμος ἀκούσας γυναῖκας ἀπ’ ἀνδρῶν ἀποσπᾶν ἐφείησιν, εἰ δὲ καὶ ἔστιν τις, ἀλλ’ οὐ πρὸς τὰς ¹³ ἐξ ἐγγράφων γάμων γεγενημένας καὶ ἐγγράφως γεγενημένας, ὅτι δὲ ταῦ(τα) οὕτως ἔχει, ἵνα καὶ ταύτης αὐτὸν τῆς προφάσεως ἀπαλλάξω¹⁴, ὑπέταξά σοι ἀπὸ πλειόνων[ν] περὶ τούτου κριθέντων ὀλίγας ἡγεμόνων καὶ ἐπιτρόπων καὶ ἀρχιδικαστῶν κρίσεις, ἔτι τε καὶ νο¹⁵μικῶν προσφωνήσεις, περὶ τοῦ τὰς ἡδὴ τελείας γυναῖκας γενομένας ἑαυτῶν εἶναι κυρίας, εἴτε βούλονται παρὰ τοῖς ἀνδράσιν μένειν ¹⁶ εἴτε μὴ, καὶ ὑπόκεισθαι πατράσιν, οὐ μόνον ἀλλ’ ὅτι οὐδ’ ἐφείται ἐπὶ προφάσει ἐτέρων ἐνκλημάτων φεύγειν τὰς χρηματικὰς δίκας, ἀλλὰ ¹⁷ δὴ καὶ ὅτι τὰς συγγραφὰς πα[ρα]τίθεσθαι τοῖς βιβλιοφυλακίοις νόμιμον καὶ τὰς ἐκ τούτων γεινομένας κατοχὰς πάντες ἡγεμόνες ¹⁸ καὶ αὐτοκράτορες κυρίας [εἶν]αι καὶ βεβαίως τεθελήκασιν, καὶ ὅτι οὐδενὶ ἐφείται λέγειν πρὸς τὰ ἑαυτοῦ γράμματα, ἵνα κα[ι] ἐκ τούτων ¹⁹ ἤδη ποτὲ παύσῃται περὶ τῶν αὐτῶν ἐνοχλῶν ταῖς ἡγεμονίαις καθὼς καὶ σὺ γράφων ἠθέλησας. vac. σ[ε]ση(μείωμαι) vac.

Since the case has been made clear from all the perspectives, oh lord prefect⁹ and also my father’s abuse towards me, I now petition you again, setting out all in this case, ¹⁰ as also the royal scribe and acting-strategus has wished, and request that you command that to be written to the office of the strategos, so that the allowances ¹¹ are timely given to me, and he finally stops his attacks upon me, formerly on account of an allegedly unlawful hold (katoché), and now under the pretence of a ¹² law which does not apply to him. For no law permits to drag wives away from their husbands against their will; and if there is any such one, then not against those ¹³ who come from written marriages and have become (wives) in written form. That this is so, and in order to spare him also this pretext, ¹⁴ I have appended for you, from a larger number of judgements on this issue, only several given by prefects, procurators, and chief justices, as well as opinions of ¹⁵ legal experts (nomikoi), regarding the fact that women who have already come of age are their own mistresses, whether they wish to remain with their husbands ¹⁶ or not, and be subjected to their fathers, and not only this, but also that it is has not been allowed to escape a pecuniary trial with the pretence of other claims, and ¹⁷ also that it is legitimate have written agreements registered with the record archives and that all prefects ¹⁸ and emperors have willed to be valid and secured, and that no one is allowed to depose against his own written documents. So that because of it all¹⁹ he will now once for ever stop troubling the prefecture, as you yourself have desired in your letter. (vacat) I have subscribed (vacat)

§24. Col. VII, ll. 19–29. Dionysia’s first court precedent. 2nd June 128 CE: in the case of Antonius against his father in law Sempronius, the prefect Flavius Titianus confirms the decision of the epistrategus Bassus, according to which, despite Sempronius’ wish to claim back his daughter, Antonius may remain with her if she so wishes.

ἐξ ὑπομνη^{|20}ματισμῶν Φλαυίου Τειτιανοῦ τοῦ ἡγεμονεύσαντος. (ἔτους) ιβ θεοῦ Ἀδριανοῦ, Παῦνι η, ἐπὶ τοῦ ἐν τῇ ἀγορᾷ βήματος. Ἀντωνίου ^{|21} τοῦ Ἀπολλωνίου προσελθόντος λέγοντός τε διὰ Ἰσιδώρου νεωτέρου ῥήτορος Σεμπρώνιον πενθερόν ἑαυτο[ῦ] ἐκ μη[τρ]ρός ἀφορ^{|22}μῆς εἰς διαμάχην ἐλθ[όν]τα ἄκουσαν τὴν θυγατέρα ἀπεσπακέναι, νοσησάσης δὲ ἐκείνης ὑπὸ λοίπης τὸν ἐπιστράτηγον Βάσσον ^{|23} μετριόπαθῶς ἀναστραφ[έν]τα ἀποφαίνεται ὅτι οὐ δεῖ αὐτὸν κωλύεσθαι εἰ συνοικεῖν ἀλλήλοις θέλοιν, ἀλλὰ μηδὲν ἡνυκέναι.^{|24} τὸν γὰρ Σεμπρώνιον ἀποσι[ω]πήσαντα τοῦτο καὶ τῷ ἡγεμόνι περὶ βίας ἐντυχόντα ἐπιστολὴν παρακεκομικέναι ἵνα οἱ ἀντίδι^{|25} κοι ἐκπεμφθῶσι· αἰτεῖσθαι οὖν ἔαν δοκῇ μὴ ἀποξευχθῆναι γυναικὸς οἰκειῶς πρὸς αὐτὸν ἐχούσης. Δίδυμος ῥήτωρ ἀπεκρεῖ^{|26}νατο μὴ χωρὶς λόγου τὸν Σεμπρώνιον κεκεινῆσθαι· τοῦ γὰρ Ἀντων[ίου] προσενεγκαμένου θυγατρομειξίας ἐγκαλεῖν, μὴ ἐνεγκαν^{|27}τος τὴν ὕβριν τῇ κατὰ τοὺς νόμους συνεχωρημένη ἐξουσία κεκρῆσθαι, ἡτιᾶσθαι δ’ αὐτὸν καὶ περὶ [.] πρὸς ἐ[ν]κ[λη]μάτων.^{|28} Προκλιανὸς ὑπὲρ Ἀντωνίου προσέθηκεν: ἔαν ἀπερίλυτος ᾖ ὁ γάμος, τὸν πατέρα μήτε τῆς προικὸς μηδὲ τῆς παιδὸς τῆς ἐκδεδο^{|29}μένης ἐξουσίαν ἔχειν. Τειτιανός· διαφέρει παρὰ τίνι βούλεται εἶναι ἢ γεγαμημένη. ἀνέγνω. σεσημ(είωμαι). vac.

From the ^{|20} minutes of Flavius Titianus, former prefect. In the 12th year of the divine Hadrian, on the 8th of Payni, at the court in the market. Antonios, ^{|21} son of Apollonios, appeared and deposed through Isidoros the Junior, an advocate, that Sempronius, his father-in-law, inclined at the mother’s instigation ^{|22} to quarrel with him and to take away the (Sempronius’) unwilling daughter. Since she got ill out of grief,^{ft21} the epistrategos Bassus, ^{|23} taking pity (on her), announced that he (Antonios) should not be prevented if they should like to live together (as a married couple). But it did not work ^{|24} since Sempronius left it unnoticed, petitioned the prefect about violence (of Antonios towards him). He received a letter (with an order) that the litigants ^{|25} should appear (in court). (Antonios) requested, should it please (the prefect), he should be not separated from the wife, who had homely affection towards him. The advocate Didymos, replied ^{|26} that Sempronios had set things in motion not without a reason, since Antonios had brought forward an charge of incest with the daughter, and did not submit ^{|27} to the insult, so he had used the power granted to him according to the laws, and himself brought charges (against Antonios) with claims (...). ^{|28} Probatianos for Antonios adduced ‘if the marriage was not cancelled, the father had power neither over the dowry nor over the daughter given ^{|29} away in marriage. Titianus: ‘It shall prevail, with whom the married woman wishes to stay. I have acknowledged. I have signed (the judgement).’ (vacat)

§25. Col. VII, ll. 29–38. Dionysia’s second court precedent. 14th October 133 CE: in the case of Phlauesis against his son in law Heron, the epistrategos Paconius Felix follows the previous decision of the prefect Flavius Titianus, allowing the daughter to remain with her husband if she so wishes.

ἐξ ὑπομ[νηματισ]μῶν ^{|30} Πακωνίου Φήλικος ἐπιστρατήγου. (ἔτους) ιη θεοῦ Ἀδριανοῦ, Φαῶφι ιζ, ἐν τῇ παρὰ ἄνω Σεβεννύτου, ἐπὶ τῶν κατὰ Φλαυήσιος ^{|31} Ἀμμούνιος ἐπὶ παρουσίᾳ Τατιχῆκει θυγατρὶ αὐτοῦ πρὸς Ἡρώνα Πετεήσιος. Ἰσιδωρος ῥήτωρ ὑπὲρ Φλαυήσιος εἶπεν, “τὸν οὖν ἀτιμώμενον ^{|32} ἀποσπάσαι βουλόμενον τ[ῆ]ν θυγατέρα αὐτοῦ συνοικοῦσαν τῷ ἀντιδίκῳ δεδικάσθαι ὑπογῶς πρὸς αὐτὸν ἐπὶ τοῦ ἐ[πι]στρατήγου ^{|33} καὶ ὑπερτεθεῖσθαι τὴν δίκην ὑμῖν ἵνα ἀναγνωσθῇ ὁ τῶν Αἰγυπτίω[ν] νόμος. Σεουήρου καὶ Ἡλιοδώρου ῥητόρων ἀποκρειαμένων ^{|34}

From the minutes ^{|30} of the epistrategos Paconius Felix. In the 18th year of the divine Hadrian, on the 17th of Phaophi, at (the court) for the upper Sebennytos; case of Phlauesis, son of ^{|31} Ammounis, in the presence of his daughter Tatichekis, against Heron, son of Petaësis. Isidoros, advocate for Phlauesis, said that the plaintiff wanted ^{|32} to take his daughter away, who was living with the defendant and recently brought in an action against him before the epistrategus^{|33} and that the case has been adjourned by you in order that the law of the

Τειτιανὸν τὸν ἡγεμονεύσαντα ὁμοίας ὑποθέσεως ἀκούσαντα [ἐξ] Αἰγυπτιακῶν προσώπων μὴ ἠκολουθηκέναι τῇ τοῦ νό³⁵μου ἀπανθρωπία ἀλλὰ τ[ῆ] ἐπι[νοί]α τῆς παιδός, εἰ βούλεται παρὰ τ[ῶ] ἀνδρὶ μένειν. Πακῶνιος Φῆλιξ· ἀναγνωσθητο ὁ νό³⁵μος. Ἄνα³⁶γνωσθέντος Πακῶνιος [Φῆ]λιξ· ἀνάγνωται καὶ τὸν Τειτιανοῦ ὑπομνηματισμόν. Σεουήρου ῥήτορος ἀναγν[όντος], ἐπὶ τοῦ [ιβ] (ἔτους) Ἀ[δρια]νοῦ ³⁷ Καίσαρος τοῦ κυρίου, Παῦν[ι] η, Πακῶνιος Φῆλιξ· καθὼς ὁ κράτιστος Τ[ειτ]ιανὸς[ς] ἔκρεινεν, πεύσονται τῆς γυναικός· καὶ ἐκέλευ[σε]ν δι' [ἐρ]μη³⁸νέως αὐτὴν ἐλεγχθῆν[α]ι, τί βούλεται· εἰπούσης, παρὰ τῶ ἀνδρὶ μένειν, Π[α]κῶνιος Φῆλιξ ἐκέλευσεν ὑπομνηματι[σ]θῆναι.

Egyptians should be read. Severus and Heliodorus, advocates, replied ³⁴ that the former prefect Titianus heard a similar case (arising) among Egyptian individuals and that he did not follow the inhumanity ³⁵ of the law but the choice of the girl, whether she wished to remain with the husband. Paconius Felix: 'Let the law be read.' ³⁶ its being read, Paconius Felix (said): 'Read also the minutes of Titianus.' Severus the advocate read: 'In the 12th year of Hadrian ³⁷ Caesar the Lord, on the 8th of Pauni ...' Paconius Felix: 'Just as his Highness Titianus has judged, they shall inquire from the woman.' And he ordered that she should be questioned through an ³⁸ interpreter as to what she wanted. On her replying 'To remain with my husband' Paconius Felix ordered it to be protocolled.

§26. Col. VII, ll. 39–43–Col. VIII, ll. 1–2. Dionysia's third court precedent. February–March 87 CE: case of Didyme against her father Sabinus, before the iuridicus Umbrius, on the paternal power over their daughters, their dowries and their belongings.

³⁹ ἐξ ὑπομνηματισμῶν Οὐμβρί[ου] δικαιοδότη. (ἔτους) ς Δομειτιανοῦ, Φαμεν[ῶ]θ Ν Διδύμη ἥς ἔκδικος ὁ ἀνὴρ Ἀπολλώνιος πρὸς Σαβεῖνον ⁴⁰ τὸν καὶ Κάσιον, ἐκ τῶν ῥεθέ[ντω]ν· **Σαραπίων μετ' ἄλλα**· τὰ πρόσωπα Αἰγ[ύ]πτια ὄντα παρ' οἷς ἄκρατός ἐστιν ἢ τῶν νό³⁹μων ἀποτομ[ί]α·⁴¹ διοριζόμενος γάρ σοι λέγω [ὅ]τι Αἰγ[ύ]πτιοι οὐ μόνον τοῦ ἀφελέσθαι τὰς [θυγατ]έρ[ας ὧ]ν ἔδωκαν ἐξουσίαν, ἔχουσιν δὲ καὶ ὧν ἐὰν καὶ ἴδια ⁴² κτήσωνται. μεθ' ἕτερα· Ο[ὔ]μβρι[ο]ς Σαβεῖνω· εἰ ἔφθακας ἄπαξ προῖκα δ[οῦς τῇ θυγατρί] σου, ἀποκατάστησον. Σαβεῖνο[ς]· τ[οῦ]τον μα αἰ⁴³ τοῦμαι. Οὐμβριος· τῇ θυγατρί[ι] δῆ. Σαβεῖνος· τούτω τῶ ἀνδρὶ οὐθὲν [προσ]ήκ[ει] συνίνα. Οὐμβριος· χειρόν ἐστι ἀνδρὸς ἀφαι[ρεῖσθαι] || ---- |¹ ἀντ[. . .]νε[. ±14]εμε[. . .]ησιζω[±12] εὔδαμ[.]ς[.] |² μην[.] . φ . . . δ[ε]δω[.]

³⁹ From the minutes of Umbrius, iuridicus. The 6th year of Domitian, Phamenoth ?th, Didyme, whose attorney is her husband Apollonios, against Sabinus ⁴⁰ alias Cassius, from the speeches. **Sarapiôn, after other things**: 'The parties being Egyptians, among whom the severity of the laws is immoderate. ⁴¹ For I declare to you that the Egyptians have power to deprive their daughters not only of what they have given them, but also of whatever they may ⁴² acquire as their own.' After other things (said): Umbrius to Sabinus: 'Once you have already granted a dowry to your daughter, give it back.' Sabinus: 'This ... I ⁴³ request ...'. Umbrius : 'To your daughter of course.' Sabinus: 'It is not proper that she lives with this man.' Umbrius: 'It is worse to take her away from her husband ...' || (ca. 2 lines missing) |¹ ... |² ...

§27. Col. VIII, ll. 2–7. Opinion of Ulpius Dioskourides, (nomikos), 14th February 138 CE. (another fragment, in Col. IX, ll. 18–24, infra §33), on the import of the (written or unwritten) type of marriage and the giving of the bride by her father (ekdosis) on the paternal power (exousia). For Dioskourides, cf. *BGU XX 2863* (133–137 CE Arsinoites), *SB XX 15147* (ca. 138 CE unknown provenance), *P. Fouad 25* (144–149 CE Tebtynis), *PSI V 450* (2nd CE Oxyrhynchos) Col. II.

ἀντίγραφον προσφων[ή]σεως νομ[ι]κοῦ. Οὐλπίος Δ[ι]οσκ[ο]υ[ρί]δης τῶν ἡγορανομηκό³ των νομικός Σαλουιστ[ί]ω Ἀφρικανῶ ἐπάρχῳ στόλου καὶ [ἐπὶ τῶ]ν κεκριμένων τῶ τειμω[τά]τω χαίρειν. Δ[ι]ον[υ]σία ⁴ ὑπὸ τοῦ πατρὸς ἐκδοθεῖσα

² Copy of the opinion of a legal expert. Ulpius Dioskourides, of the former agoranomoi, ³ legal expert, to his most esteemed Salvestius Africanus, commander of the fleet and (appointed) for judicial matters, greetings. Dionysia ⁴ who has been given away in marriage by her father, is no longer under

[πρ]ὸς γάμον ἐν τῇ τοῦ π[α]τρὸς ἐξουσίᾳ οὐκέτι γέινεται. καὶ γὰρ εἰ ἡ μήτηρ αὐτῆς τῷ πατρὶ ἀγράφως ^{|5} συνώκησε [κ]αὶ διὰ τοῦτο αὐτῇ δοκεῖ ἐξ ἀγράφων γάμων γεγενῆσθαι, τῷ ὑπὸ τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτῆν ἐκδόσθαι πρὸς γάμον οὐκέτι ^{|6} ἐξ ἀγράφων γάμων ἐστίν. πρὸς τοῦτο ἴσως γράφεις, τεμιώτα[τε]. καὶ δι' ὑπομνηματισμῶν ἡσφά[λι]σται περὶ τῆς πρ[οι]κὸς ἢ παῖς ^{|7} ὑπὸ τοῦ πατρὸς, καὶ τοῦτο αὐτῇ βοηθεῖν δύναται. vac. (ἔτους) κβ θεοῦ Ἀδριανοῦ, Μεχείρ κ. vac.

the father's power. Even if her mother lived with her father in an unwritten way, ^{|5} and she seems for this reason to be issue of an unwritten marriage, because of her being given away in marriage by her father, she is no longer ^{|6} from an unwritten marriage. It is probably about this issue that you write to me, your honour. On the basis of the minutes of trials regarding the dowry, the girl has been safeguarded ^{|7} against the father, and this too can help her. (vacat) in the year of the divine Hadrian, Mecheir 20th. (vacat)

§28. Col. VIII, ll. 7–18. Edict of the prefect Valerius Eudaemon, 142 CE, regarding debtors who refuse payment by claiming forgery (of the debt document), false pretence or fraud.

ἀντιγράφων διατάγμα[α]τος. Οὐαλέρι⁸ος Εὐδαίμων ἑπαρχὸς Αἰγύπτου λέγει· καὶ παραδείγματι τῷ καλλίστῳ χρώμενος γνώμη τοῦ κρατίστου Μαμερτεῖνου, ^{|9} καὶ αὐτὸς ἰδίᾳ πεφωρακῶς ὅτι πολλοὶ τῶν χρήματα ἀπαιτουμένων τὸ τὰ δίκαια ποιεῖν τοῖς ἀπαιτοῦσι ἀφέντες ^{|10} ἐπ' ἀνατάσει μειζόνων ἐγκλημάτων παντελῶς διακρούεσθαι ἢ παρατείνειν τὴν ἀπόδοσιν ἐπιχειροῦσι, οἱ μὲν κατα¹¹πλήξουσιν τοὺς τάχα ἂν φοβηθέντας τὸν κίνδυνον καὶ διὰ τοῦτο ἐπ' ἐλάττονι συμβήσεσθαι προσδοκῶντες, οἱ δὲ {τῆς} ἐπ' ἀνα¹²τάσει τῆς δίκης ἀπαυδήσειν τοὺς ἀντιδίκους οἰόμενοι, παραγγέλλω τῆς τοιαύτης πανουργίας ἀποσχέσθαι, ἀποδιδόντας ^{|13} ὅσα ὀφείλουσι ἢ πείθοντας τοὺς δικαίως ἀπαιτοῦντας· ὡς εἴ τις χρηματικῆς . . . συστάσης δίκης ἀπαιτηθεὶς καὶ μὴ ^{|14} παραυτίκα ἀρνησάμενος ὀφείλειν, τοῦτ' ἔστιν, μὴ παραυτίκα πλαστὰ εἶναι τὰ γράμματα εἰπὼν καὶ κα[τη]γορήσειν γράψας εἰ εἴτε πλασ¹⁵τῶν γραμμάτων ἢ ῥαδιουργίας ἢ περιγραφῆς ἐνκαλεῖν ἐπιχειρῆ, ἢ οὐδὲν αὐτῷ τῆς τ[οι]αύτης τέχνης ὀφελὲς ἔσται, ἀναγκασθήσεται [δὲ] ^{|16} ἀποδοῦναι εὐθέως ἂ ὀφείλει, ἢ παρακαταθέμενός τε τὸ ἀργύριον ἴν' ἐν βεβαίῳ τὸ ἀναλαβεῖν ὀφειλόμ[ενα] ἢ, πέρασ τῆς χρηματικῆς ^{|17} ἀμφισβητήσεως λαβούσης, τότε ἐὰν θαρρῆ τοῖς τῆς κατηγορίας ἐλέγχουσιν, τὸν μείζονα ἀγῶνα ε[ἰ]σελεύσεται, ο[ὐ]δ[ὲ] τότε ἀθῶς ^{|18} ἐσόμενος, ἀλλὰ τοῖς τεταγμένοις ἐπιτέμιοις ἐνεχόμενος. vac. (ἔτους) ε θεοῦ Αἰλίου Ἀντωνίνου, Ἐπεῖφ κδ. vac.

Copy of an edict. Valerius ^{|8} Eudaemon, praefect of Egypt, proclaims: Following a most excellent example, the opinion of his highness Mamertinus, ^{|9} and having also myself discovered that many (debtors) when requested the dues, neglect to do what is just with regard to their creditors, ^{|10} (and instead) threaten them (to bring) graver charges they attempt to escape or delay the payback, some of them ^{|11} expecting to scare those who might fear the danger and for this reason later will agree on a smaller amount, others because they ^{|12} they think that under the threat of a trial the opponents will renounce their claims, I proclaim (such persons) desist from such trickery, giving back ^{|13} what they owe or persuade their justly demanding creditors. For if anyone, who is being sued with pecuniary claim brought forward, does not ^{|14} deny immediately that he owes, that is, immediately saying that the documents are forged and does not write that he will bring accusations, if ^{|15} he (rather) attempts to bring charges either of forgery of the documents or maliciousness or fraud (later), either there will be nothing advantageous for him from such a device, and he will be compelled ^{|16} to give immediately back what he owes; or he shall deposit the money, so to secure the recovery of the debts; when the pecuniary dispute comes ^{|17} an end, and then if he has confidence in the scrutiny of (his) accusations, he shall enter upon a trial with graver charges. And even so he shall not be immune, ^{|18} but shall be subject to the prescribed penalties. 5th year of the deified Aelius Antoninus, Epeiph 24. (vacat)

§29. Col. VIII, ll. 18–21. Dionysia's fourth court precedent. 13th September 151 CE: before the prefect Munatius Felix, Flavia Helena against Flavia Marcia, regarding the independence of pecuniary claims from accusations of other nature.

(ἔτους) ιε Ἀντωνίνου |¹⁹ Καίσαρος τοῦ κυρίου, Θῶθ ις. κληθείσης Φλαβίας Μαρκίας πρὸς Φλαβίαν Ἑλένην καὶ ὑπακουσάσης, Λε . . . [. . .] . . . ρήτωρ εἶπεν· ἐν τῇ |²⁰ τάξει ἐκκείμεθα, περὶ τοῦ χρηματικοῦ ἀξιούμεν. Μουνάτιος εἶπεν· οὐκ ἀπέχεται τὰ χρηματικά διὰ τούτων τῶν ἐγκλημάτων· εἰ |²¹ δὲ μή, πάντες ἐροῦσιν ὅτι κατηγορῶ.

15th year of Antoninus |¹⁹ Caesar the lord, Thoth 16th. When Flavia Marcia was summoned to defend herself against Flavia Helena and yielded (to summons), her advocate Le . . . said: |²⁰ ‘We have been posted in the list (of accused persons), (yet) we have pecuniary claims.’ Munatius said: ‘The pecuniary claims are not hindered by these accusations,. Otherwise |²¹ everyone will say, “I accuse”.’

§30. Col. VIII, ll. 21–27. Edict of the prefect Sulpicius Similis, 109 CE, regarding the registration of marriage *syngraphai* and the ensuing holds (*katochai*) in the property record offices.

καὶ Σιμίλιδος διατάγματος. Σέρουιος Σουλπίκιος Σίμιλις ἔπαρχος Αἰγύπτου λέγει· διαζη|²²τοῦντί μοι μαθεῖν ἐκ τίνος ὑποθέσεως ἐτελείτο τὰς Αἰγυπτιακὰς γυναῖκας κατὰ ἐνχώριον νόμιμα κατέχειν τὰ ὑπάρχοντα τῶν |²³ ἀνδρῶν διὰ τῶν γαμικῶν συγγραφῶν ἑαυταῖς τε καὶ τοῖς τέκνοις, πλειστάκις δὲ ἐκ τούτου ἀμφισβητήσεων γενομένων, |²⁴ ἐπὶ ἐδύγαντο ἀγνοεῖν ο<i> τοῖς γεγαμηκόσι συναλλάσσοντες εἰ τούτῳ [τ]ῷ δικαίῳ κατέχεται τὰ ὑπάρχο[ν]τα αὐτῶν ταῖς γυναῖξι |²⁵ διὰ τὸ καὶ ἑτέροις βιβλιοφυλακίαις τὰς συγγραφὰς καταχωρίζεσθαι, [κ]εκελευκέναι Μέ[τ]τιον Ροῦφον τὸ[ν] γενόμενον ἐπι . . . γ |²⁶ ἔπαρχον τὰ ἀντίγραφα τῶν συγγραφῶν ταῖς τῶν ἀνδρῶν ὑποστάσεσι παρατίθεσθαι καὶ τοῦτο διατά[γ]ματι προστεταχέναι οὗ καὶ |²⁷ ἀντίγραφον ὑπέταξα, φανερόν ποιῶν κατακολουθεῖν τοῖς ὑπὸ Μεττίου Ροῦφου . . . θεῖσι[. . .] . vac. (ἔτους) κγ, Ἀθύρ ιβ. vac.

And (a copy) of an edict of Similis. Servius Sulpicius Similis, prefect of Egypt, proclaims: When I |²² wished to know on what grounds it was established that Egyptian wives according to the tradition of the land have a lien (*katoché*) upon their |²³ husbands’ property through their written marriage agreements (*syngraphai*) both for themselves and for their children, since disputes were often arising from this, |²⁴ because those who contract with married people could ignore if due to such right their property is under hold (*katoché*) for their wives, |²⁵ due to the written (marriage) agreements being registered at other record-offices, Mettius Rufus, the former . . . |²⁶ prefect, ordered copies of the written agreements (*syngraphai*) be attached to the property-statements of the husbands, and established this through an edict, a |²⁷ copy of which I have appended to make clear that I am following what Mettius Rufus had ordered. 23rd year, Hathyr 12th. (vacat)

§31. Col. VIII, ll. 27–43. Edict of the prefect Mettius Rufus, 89 CE, on the correct functioning of the property record offices

Μάρκος Μέττι|²⁸ος Ροῦφος ἔπαρχος Αἰγύπτου λέγει· Κλαύδιος Ἄρειος ὁ τοῦ Ὀξυρυγχείτου στρατηγὸς [ἐ]δήλωσέν μοι μήτε τὰ ἰ[δι]ωτικά μ[ή]τε τὰ δημ[ο]σία |²⁹ πράγματα τὴν καθήκουσαν λαμβάνειν διοίκησιν διὰ τὸ ἐκ πολλῶν χρόνων μὴ καθ’ ὃν ἔδει τρόπον ὠκονομῆσθαι τὰ ἐν τῇ τῶν ἐν|³⁰κτίσεων βιβλιοθήκη δια[σ]τρώματα, καίτοι πολλάκις κριθὲν ὑπὸ τῶν πρὸ ἐμοῦ ἐπάρχων τῆς δεούσης αὐτὰ τυχεῖν ἐπανορθώ|³¹σεως· ὅπερ οὐ καλῶς ἐνδέχεται εἰ μὴ ἄνωθεν γένοι<v>το ἀπογραφαί. κελεύω οὖν πάντας τοὺς κτήτορας ἐντὸς μηνῶν ἕξ ἀπογρά|³²ψασθαι τὴν ἰδίαν κτήσιν εἰς τὴν τῶν ἐνκτίσεων βιβλιοθήκην καὶ τοὺς δανειστάς ἄς ἂν ἔχωσι ὑποθήκας καὶ τοὺς ἄλλους |³³ ὅσα ἂν ἔχωσι δίκαια, τὴν δὲ ἀπογραφήν ποιείσθωσαν δηλοῦντες πόθεν ἕκαστος τῶν ὑπαρχόντων καταβέβηκεν εἰς αὐτοὺς |³⁴ ἢ κτήσεις. παρατιθέτωσαν δὲ καὶ αἰ

|²⁷ Marcus Mettius |²⁸ Rufus, praefect of Egypt, proclaims. Claudius Areios, strategos of the Oxrhynchite nome, has made me aware that both private and public |²⁹ affairs are not fittingly managed because for a long time the |³⁰ abstracts (*diastromata*) of the property record-office have not been properly kept, in spite of the fact that my predecessors have on many occasions ordered that these should receive the due |³¹ revisions. This cannot be done adequately unless new returns are produced afresh. Therefore, I command all owners to register within six months |³² their property at the property record-office, and all lenders whatever hypothecs they may hold, and all others |³³ whatever rights they may have. And they shall make the return declaring the sources from which each of the assets

γυναῖκες τὰς ὑποστάσεσι τῶν ἀνδρῶν αἷς κατὰ τινὰ ἐπιχώριον νόμον κρατεῖται τὰ ὑπάρ³⁵χοντα, ὁμοίως δὲ καὶ τὰ τέκνα ταῖς τῶν γονέων οἷς ἢ μὲν χρήσεις διὰ δημοσίων τετήρηται χρηματισμῶν, ἢ δὲ κτῆ³⁶σις μετὰ θάνατον τοῖς τέκνοις κεκράτηται, ἵνα οἱ συναλλάσσοντες μὴ κατ' ἄγνοιαν ἐνεδρεύονται. παραγγέλλω δὲ καὶ τοῖς συναλλα³⁷γματογράφοις καὶ τοῖς μνήμοσι μηδὲν δίχα ἐπιστάλατος τοῦ βιβλιοφυλακί[ου] τελειῶσαι, γνοῦσιν ὡς οὐκ ὄφελος τὸ] τοιοῦτο ἀλλὰ καὶ ³⁸ αὐτοὶ ὡς παρὰ τὰ προστεταγμένα ποιήσοντες δίκην ὑπομενοῦσι τὴν προσήκουσαν. ἐὰν δ' εἰσὶν ἐν τῇ βιβλιοθήκῃ τῶν ἐπά³⁹νων χρόνων ἀπογραφαί, μετὰ πάσης ἀκρειβείας φυλασσέσθωσαν, ὁμοίως δὲ καὶ τὰ διαστρώματα, ἵν' εἴ τις γένοιτο ζήτησις εἰς ⁴⁰ ὕστερον περὶ τῶν μὴ δεόντως ἀπογραψαμένων ἐξ ἐκείνων ἐλεγχθῶσι. [ἴ]να δ' [ο]ῦν β[εβ]αία τε καὶ εἰς ἅπαν διαμῆνη τῶν διασ⁴¹τρωμάτων ἢ χρήσεις πρὸς τὸ μὴ πάλιν ἀπογραφῆς δεθῆναι, παραγγέλλω τοῖς β[ι]βλιοφύλαξι διὰ πενταετίας ἐπανανεοῦσθαι ⁴² τὰ διαστρώματα μεταφερομένης εἰς τὰ καινοποιούμενα τῆς τελευταίας ἐκάστου ὀνόματος ὑποστάσεως κατὰ κώμην καὶ κα⁴³τ' εἶδος. (ἔτους) θ Δομειτιανοῦ[ῦ], ἢ ... ἢ μηνὸς Δομιτιανοῦ δ. vac.

devolved ³⁴ to them. Wives also shall add an annotation to the property records of their husbands, if by virtue of some law of the land they have a hold over the ³⁵ property; and children, likewise, to those of their parents, if, by virtue of public instruments, these retain the enjoyment, but the ownership ³⁶ after their death is reserved for the children – so that those who enter into agreements (with them) may not be defrauded by their (own) ignorance. I also command all ³⁷ notaries and registrars [not to execute] (any deeds) without an authorisation (epistalma) from the record office, [knowing that] this [would have no effect] and ³⁸ that they themselves will suffer the due penalty for acting against what has been decreed. If in the record office there are returns ³⁹ from an earlier date let them be preserved with the utmost care, and likewise the abstracts, in order that, if any inquiry is made ⁴⁰ hereafter concerning returns not properly presented, they can be checked against those. Therefore, in order that the use of the abstracts may become secure and permanent, ⁴¹ so that another return is not necessary, I command the keepers of the record offices to update every five years ⁴² the abstracts and to transfer to the new ones the last property record for each name, arranged under villages and ⁴³ types. 9th year of Domitian, month of Domitianus 4th.

§32. Col. VIII, l. 43 – Col. IX, ll. 1–18. Dionysia's fifth court precedent. 11th November 133 CE: A case adjudicated by Petronius Mamertinus, prefect of Egypt, probably regarding holds (katochai) arising from wife and children from registered marriage contracts (syngraphai).

⁴³ ἐξ ὑπομνηματισμῶν Πετρωνίου Μαμερτείνου. (ἔτους) η̅ Ἀδρι(ανοῦ), Ἁθὺρ ιε. || ----- |¹ [±19-20]γης ἐμ.αν. . [±?] |² [. .]δ[±19-20] παρ[ί]ο[ν] παρ' ἐαυτῶ [±?] |³ [ό] δὲ πάππος οὔτος. . ον[. .]εργειν τὸν . . . ονον . [±?] |⁴ πουμένη πυνθαν[όμεθ]α ἄλλως αὐτ[.]ν . ι. [±3] ἡμεῖς α . . [±?] |⁵ πάντων [ζ]ημίας κατ' α[ὐτ]ὸν δεόμεθα τῷ ἀφήλικι ἅ καὶ . σι . [±?] |⁶ ἐπάρχων ἐφ' ὁμοίων καὶ ἀπόκριμα βασιλικόν Πετρωνίω [±?] |⁷ νεώτατα τὸν δίκαιον ἅ προσήνεγκας τῷ υἱῷ σου γαμοῦν[τι ±?] |⁸ Κλαύδιος Διονύσιος δι' Αἰλίου Ἰούστου ἀπεκρ[ί]νατο [. . .] . ω[±?] |⁹ διάδοχον τοῦ πατρὸς γενέσθαι. Εἰς δὲ ἀνάγκην ἀνθρ[ώ]π[ιν]ην [±?] |¹⁰ [. . .] . εχωλιος προλαμβάνων ὅτι λεγομένης τῆ[ς] . [±?] |¹¹ οὐδὲν ὑπάρχον ὑπέστην συγγραφῆς [. .]ρον δύνατα[ι ±? εἶ]|¹²πεν . “ἐπεὶ πρὸς συμφ[έ]ρο[ν], κύριε, ἐὰν δόξη[ι σοι . .]μ . . ατω ὑ. [±?] Πετρώνιος Μα¹³μερτεῖνος σκεψάμενος ἐκέλευσεν ἀναγνῶ[σθ]ῆναι τὰ δι[±?]οῦ[?] |¹⁴ τως ἔχουσα Πετρώνιος Μαμερτεῖνος . [. .] δι' ἀνθρ[ώ]π[ι]ν[±?] |¹⁵ ἀναδοῦναι ἢ ὑπόθεσις κρίνεται ἀλλὰ [.] .

From the minutes of Petronius Mamertinus. 18th year of Hadrian, Hathyr 15th. || (ca. 4 missing lines) |¹ ... |² ... the child in his presence ... |³ and this grandfather ... |⁴ ... we learn that otherwise he (she?) ... we ... |⁵ the damages of all ... regarding him, we require for the minor ... |⁶ of the prefects in similar cases and a royal response to Petronius ... |⁷ the rightful ... most recently, which you requested to your son on the occasion of his marriage ... |⁸ Claudius Dionysios responded through Aelius Iustus ... |⁹ to become successor of the father. For a necessity ... |¹⁰ ... he anticipated that ... called ... |¹¹ nothing existing, I accepted written agreements ... may ... he |¹² said, ‘It shall be fitting, my Lord, if you please ...’ ... Petronius Ma¹³mertinus having examined (the case) ordered that the ... be

.ς καὶ κρι[±?] |¹⁶ ἐπ' Ἐρμογ[. . . .]ἐξ[±3-4]α
 συγγραφὴ γ[ά]μ[ο]υ καὶ [± 7]τα ὑπά[ρχοντα ±?] |¹⁷
 τὸν Κλαύδιον Διονύσιον μ.σ. .εγχ[.] β
 . ὑπ[αρ]χοντ.[±?] |¹⁸ τὸν Κλαύδιον Διονύσιον μ.σ.
 .εγχ[.] β. ὑπ[αρ]χοντ.[±?]

read ... |¹⁴ ... being so, Petronius
 Mamertinus ... |¹⁵ to have submitted, the
 case is being judged ... and ... |¹⁶ ... the
 written marriage agreement and ... the
 belongings ... |¹⁷ Claudius Dionysios ...
 belongings ... |¹⁸ ... in the writings ...

§33. Col. IX, ll. 18–24. Opinion of Ulpius Dioskourides, legal expert (nomikos), 14th February 138 CE. (extracted, despite the year discrepancy, from the same as Col. VIII, ll. 2–7, supra §27, and concerning the same case), on a hold (katoché) arising from a marriage agreement (syngraphe gamou) according to the traditions of the Egyptians (ta tōn Aigyptiōn nomima).

[ἀντίγραφον προσφωνήσεως νομικοῦ (?) Οὐλπίος
 Διοσκουρίδης τῶν ἡγο]¹⁹ ρανομηκότων
 Σαλουιστίω Ἀφρικανῶ ἐπάρχῳ στόλου καὶ ἐ[πι
 τῶν κεκριμένων τῶ τεμιωτάτῳ χαίρειν ±?] |²⁰
 τὰ τῶν Αἰγυπτίων νόμιμα . Διονυσίας Χ. ς
 . . στ.[±?] |²¹ συγγραφῆς γάμου . . . [. .]
 . οντα τοῦ[. .] .εχωγ ὑπὸ τοῦ υἱοῦ[±?] |²² γάμου
 . . . ἂν μη[. . . .] . ωσι τῆς ἐσο[μ]ένης σ[.
 .] [±?] |²³ [. .]ησα[. .]η[. . .]ν
 γαμοῦντός ἐστιν [. .] . . εσι τοῦ γ[±?] |²⁴ ἢ
 μᾶλλον καὶ [. . . .] κα[]τέχουσι vac. (ἔτει) β θε[ο]ῦ
 [Α]δριανοῦ Με[χεῖρ ±?]

[Copy of an opinion of a legal expert. (?)
 Ulpius Dioskourides, of the former]¹⁹
 agoranomoi, to the most esteemed Salvistius
 Africanus, commander of the fleet and
 [(appointed) for judicial matters, greetings ...]
 |²⁰ norms of the Egyptians. As Dionysia ... |²¹
 of the written marriage agreement ... by the
 son ... |²² of the marriage ... unless ... of the
 future ... |²³ ... it is of him who enters marriage
 ... |²⁴ or even ... they have a hold. (vacat) 2nd
 (corr: 22nd) year of the deified Hadrian,
 Mecheir ...

§34. Col. IX, ll. 24–30. Dionysia's sixth court precedent, probably regarding a family hold (katoché), dated after 162 CE (cf. the reference to Syriacus, prefect between Feb. 162 and Aug. 163)

[±?] |²⁵ η [. .] ἰων Ἀθὺρ γ μεταξὺ κληρονόμου ασ[. . .
 .]εῦ .αν ασο [±?] |²⁶ ἐν .ισμος .δημοσ . ἐπι τὰ
 ἀντίγραφα [α]ὔτᾳ ἀ[νεγ]νώσθη . . [±?] |²⁷ [Ἀν]νίω
 [Σ]υριακῶ τῶ κρατίστῳ ἡγεμόνι δι' η . . . [±?] |²⁸
 θῆναί σοι ω . εἰ ὑπάρχοντα προσέθηκας... δικαίως [±?]
 |²⁹ αὐτῆς εἶναι ἂν τη αὐτῆς ἐσομένης ἐξ ἄλλης γενεᾶς
 . [±?] |³⁰ τ. πρὸ η [. .]δεν[. .]τα ι τῆν μὲν . τῆσ
 α[ύτῆς] καὶ τῆν ε . . [±?]

... |²⁵ ... Hathyr 3rd. Between an heir
 of ... |²⁶ ... since these copies were
 read ... |²⁷ to Annius Syriacus the most
 illustrious governor ... |²⁸ ... you
 added the belongings ... lawfully ... |²⁹
 to be hers, if her being from another
 lineage ... |³⁰ ... of the same and ...

§35. Col. IX, ll. 30–41. Dionysia's seventh court precedent, before a prefect, assisted by his consilium and aided by a written legal expert opinion, from the time of Antoninus Pius, Marcus Aurelius or Commodus, probably illustrating the principle *nemo potest venire contra factum proprium*.

[±? ἔτους Χ Ἄν]³¹ τωνίνου Ἐπεῖφ κε ἂν τασ
 ξηγε[. .]η γενέσθαι π[±?] |³² η σιν μ[.]στα
 καὶ [. .] . ις ἀπορίας ἐκ [τοῦ] γάμου γ . . [±?] |³³
 ὑπάρχοντα τα . ναὶ ἀλλὰ μηδὲ πάντα δοθέντα
 μ[εταγ]ενέστερον [±? συμβό?-] |³⁴ λαιον εἴη, κύριόν
 ἐστιν. ἐρρῶσθ(αι) εὔχομ(αι) ἡγεμ[ῶ]ν κύριε vac.
 [±? σκεψάμενος μετὰ] |³⁵ τῶν ἐν τῶ συμβουλίῳ [. .]
 [. . .] κω [±?] |³⁶ traces |³⁷ καὶ νομικοῖς ἀκήκοας
 κα[±12] ν [. .] μνα . . . [±? θυγα-] |³⁸ τριδῆν
 περιγράψαι οὐδένα [±12] ιον[±?] |³⁹ να . τῆς
 γὰρ μητ[ρ]ὸς κατ[±12] ν [±?] |⁴⁰ τα καὶ
 αὐτὴν καθὰ καὶ μόν[±11 ἀ]ληθινῆ καὶ [±?] |⁴¹

X year of An³¹toninus, Epeiph 25th. if ...
 to have come into being ... |³² ... of the
 lack of means, from the marriage ... |³³ the
 belongings ... but not all given later ... if
 there is |³⁴ a deed, it is effective. I bid you
 farewell, my Lord governor [vacat] ... in
 consultation with |³⁵ those in the
 consilium ... |³⁶ ... |³⁷ and you have heard
 the legal experts ... that the |³⁸
 granddaughter deceives no one ... |³⁹ for
 the mother ... |⁴⁰ and her also and only ...
 true and ... |⁴¹