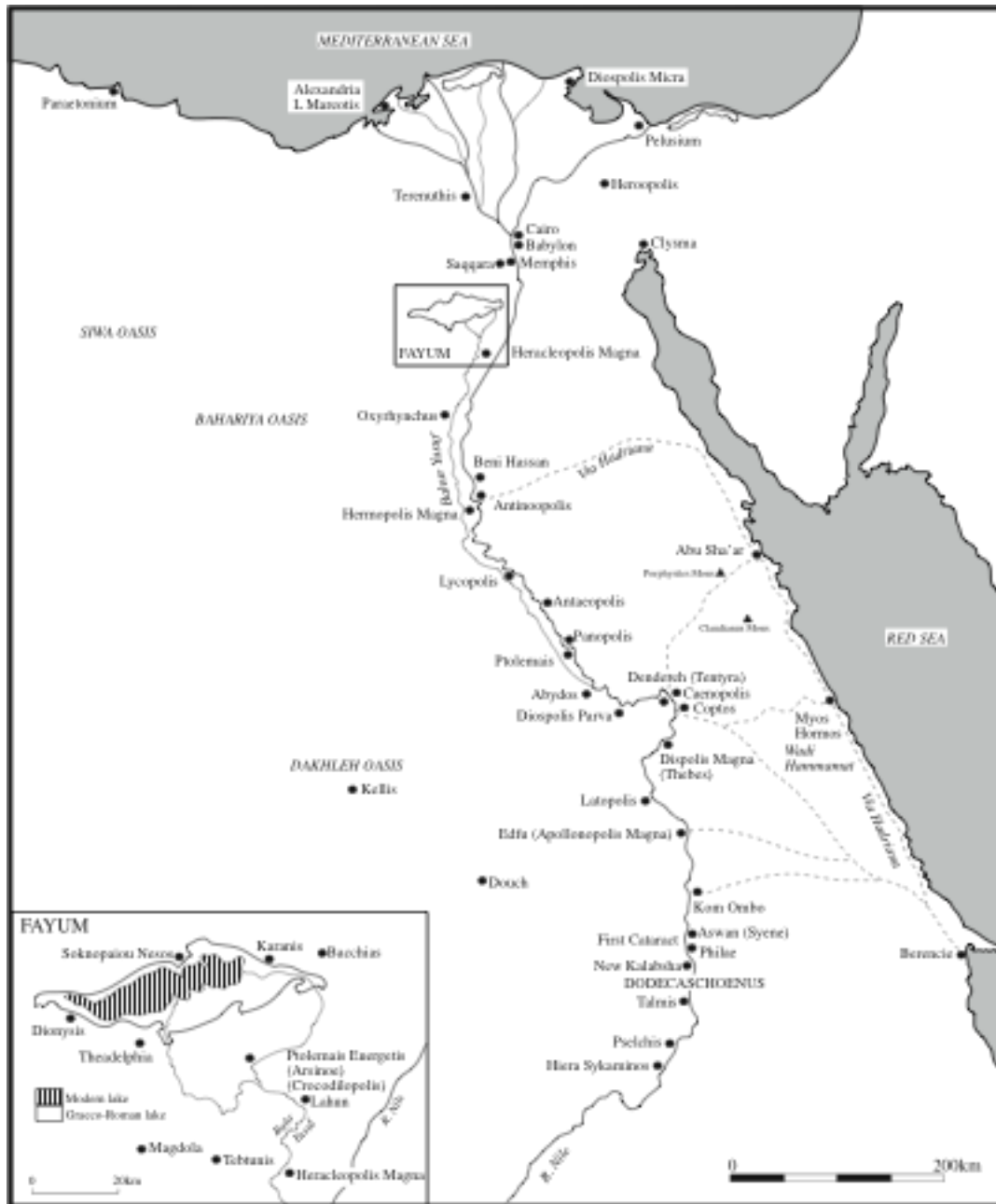


The Administration and Transport of Natural Resources in Roman Egypt: Three Case Studies

Colin Adams, Brussels 26th May 2011



1. *P. Oxy.* XXXI 2567 (AD 253)

To Aurelius ArruntiusHeraclianus, and Aurelius Hierax also called Demetrius, and Aurelius Theon, lessees of the monopoly of the alum industry (μισθωτᾶς μονοπωλίου ἄσχολήματος τυπτηρίας): from Aurelius Neoptolemus son of Dioscorus, of the city of Oxyrhynchus, druggist. In accordance with the orders of AeliusSabinus the most excellent *procurator ad Mercuriam*, I make a punctual record of the items which I received from the previous lessess of the industry, as listed below:

‘Alum from Psobthis, 2 ½ tal. weight; and split alum, 30 minae weight. *Malenteria*, 12 tal. *Miltos*, 7 tal. *Misy*, 450 loaves ..., 5 ta. Ochre from the Oasis, 3 ta. Salt, 5 tal. ..., 5 tal. ..., 5 tal. ..., 2 measures. I have remitted the price of all these, in full, as customarily in accordance with the receipts which I hold. Year 3 of ImperatoresCaesares Gaius VibiusTrebonianusGallues and Gaius VibiusAfinus Gallus VeldumianusPiiFelicesAugusti, Pachon 23.

‘(2nd hd.) I, Aurelius Ammonius, manager (πραγματευτής) for the Oxyrhynchitenome, have received a duplicate of this.’

2. *BGU* III 697 = *W. Chr.* 321 = *Sel. Pap.* II 370 (AD 145)

The ninth year of Emperor Caesar Titus AeliusHadrianusAntoninus Augustus Pius, Tybi 3, through the bank of Sabinus in the Treasuries quarter. Ischyriion son of Aphrodisius and his fellow supervisors of the alum monopoly in the Arsinoitenome to Panouphis son of Tesenouphis and of Stotoetis, of the village of SoknopaïouNesos in the division of Heakleides, camel driver, stating that he has received for the toll (paid by him) on the 30 light talents of alum which he transported from the Little Oasis to the Arsinoitenome through the toll gate of Nunpou, at the rate of 1 dr. 3 ob. per talent, 45 dr., and, as the said quantity equals 12 metal talents, for their transport, at the rate of 7 dr. 3 ob., 90 dr., making together 135 dr. And Ischyriion has received from the supervisors in the Little Oasis through the above mentioned camel driver the 12 talents of alum ... the customary 6 ½ percentage. (Signed) I, Ischyriion, supervisor, and my associates have received the 12 metal talents of alum, equal to 30 light talents, for which we have paid the toll and the cost of transport.

3. *P. Merton* II 70 (AD 159)

From Dionysius also called Apollonius some of Apollonius and from Diogenes son of Diogenes, Hermas son of Sarapas, Theon son of Hermas, and their associate inspectors of the boat-hire contract for the fullers, in the present 23rd year of our lord Antoninus Caesar. The monthly account of the receipts from the 1st to the 30th Phaophi, as follows:

‘Pibecius, for the hire of one boat of 60 artabas burden, 30 dr. and on account of 100 slabs of natron, 14 dr. 2 ob; total 44 dr. 2 ob.

‘Centyriion, for the hire of one boat of 50 art. burden, 25 dr., and on account of 100 slabs of natron, 14 dr. 2. ob.; total, 39 dr. 2 ob.

‘Parthes, for the hire of one boat of 80 art. burden, 40 dr., and on account of 100 slabs of natron, 14 dr. 2 ob.; total, 54 dr. 2 ob.

Horion, for the hire of one boat of 60 art. burden, 30 dr., and on account of 100 slabs of natron, 14 dr. 2 ob.; total, 44 dr. 2 ob.

‘Pallis, for the hire of one boat of 60 art. burden, 30 dr, and on account of 100 slabs of natron, 14 dr. 2 ob., total, 44 dr. 2 ob.

‘Total for the month, 226 dr. 4 ob. Also to be added for the month of Thoth of the current year, 239 dr. 4 ob., if still owing (?).

‘Grand total of the account, 466 dr., paid to the banker.

‘Year 23 of Emperor Caesar Titus Aelius Hadrianus Antoninus Augustus Pius, Hathyr 1st. Entered by Dionysius, etc.’

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