This papyrus was originally conserved as two separate inventory numbers, Invs. 61 and 62. The latter contained the signatures of a request for the transfer of taxation (ἐπίσταλμα τοῦ σωματικοῦ), while the former covered the middle part of a similar document with the beginning of the signatures. Both were written in a column format, and, since their fragments are of similar size, they seem to be parts of the same roll. This conclusion is supported by the drawing made during conservation. The document’s beginning has been lost.

The CB-fragments (Inv. 61) measure between 1 and 1.5 cm in width. Their maximum height is 8 cm, but most of the better preserved fragments measure only 6 cm. The CC-fragments (Inv. 62) are also ca. 1.5 cm wide and ca. 6 cm high. Judging from the approximate length of the first signature, probably not more than one line is missing between the fragments (i.e., between the traces of ll. 6 and 7).

The scribe’s handwriting is a professional cursive sloping to the right, typically used in the Petra epistalmata. The hand looks very similar to that of 19 (written in 539/40), but the distinct delta of our scribe is not present in 19, so the writer is probably not the same. The end of the text proper shows that the person whose account in the tax registers was to be burdened was called Dusarios. His signature (m3) can be identified as the hand of Dusarios, son of Valens, former prefect of Kastron Ammatha, as it appears in 18 and 23. The first signature (m2) must have belonged to Patrikios, son of Ailianos. It is quite poorly preserved, but the hand appears to be the same rather large uncial as in his signatures in 22, 47, and 50. Moreover, the traces of his name and title support the identification.

What makes 65 significant is the preserved signature of the registration official (χαρτοφύλαξ). Signatures in the Petra epistalmata are extant in 5 and 23–25, but none of them preserves the subscription of the official receiving the request. Here the chartophylax simply confirms in one line that he will make the requested changes. The official was most probably called Leontios, and he carried the honorific title εὐλαβέστατος. The same Leontios obviously reappears sixteen years later in a division of property, 28 (559), as the last subscriber.

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1. Inv. 62 was originally studied by Ludwig Koenen and Inv. 61 by Marjo Lehtinen and Robert Daniel.
2. Requests for the transfer of taxation were a common type of document among the Petra papyri (3–5, 19, 23–25, and 65–67).
3. Dusarios was involved also in 2, written in Gaza in 538, but his role there is unclear. He was the maternal grandfather of Theodoros’ wife (18) and might also have been the father of Euthenios, who was a tax collector and politeuomenos in 3–4 and 22.
4. For Patrikios, see P. Petra IV, p. xix, Introduction to 45–47, and esp. Introduction to 50.
5. In 19 12 comm. and 23 3–4 comm., it was assumed that the χαρτοφύλαξ in the present document was called Alpheios, son of Valens, i.e., he was the same man who appeared in 23. After the fragments’ new arrangement, it is clear that this was an error.
i.e., in the position of the notary. There, the title εὐλαβέςτατος was misread as his patronymic (see 28 79 with comm.). This honorific was in legal and ecclesiastical literature and in Egyptian papyri carried only by members of the clergy, and we have assumed a similar usage in Petra. The ecclesiastical status may certainly have been combined with a number of other roles, perhaps even that of a private notary, but it is difficult to understand how an ecclesiastic could have served in a public function connected with civic administration. It must be significant that Leontios carried the honorific in two chronologically dispersed documents (see further l. 10 comm.), but we have to leave the problem unresolved.

The date and main details of the transaction leading to this request have not been preserved. The change in the tax registers was intended to take effect starting from a seventh indiction. As it happens, the same people figure in another epistolma, 23 (August 17, 544), in which Dusarios requested the keeper of public records (δημόσιος χαρτοφύλαξ) to relieve his account in the tax registers and to burden the account of Theodoros, son of Obodianos, with three-fourths of a free iugerum from the forthcoming eighth indiction. He had earlier acquired its ownership from Patrikios, son of Ailianos. In 65, Patrikios titled himself as comes, which tallies well with the honorific μεγαλοπρεπέςτατος, which he carried in 23. Similarly, in 45, a tax receipt from 544/45, Patrikios signed his name with the title of comes. The amount of free iugera is not wholly preserved in 65, but it begins with “half,” so it may well have been the same as in 23: a half and a fourth. Both documents contain the word τοποθεσία (“plot”). It seems obvious that 65 presents the previous change in the registration of the plot, which reappears in 23: it was passed first by Patrikios to Dusarios and then by Dusarios to Theodoros.

Since 23 was written in the seventh indiction and 65 most likely in the sixth, 65 was probably drawn up only about one year earlier, in 543. The preceding sixth indiction, in 527/28, is unlikely, because in 528/29 (50) Patrikios carried only the less elevated title λαμπρότατος πρωτεύων. It might appear odd that Dusarios sold the plot after owning it for only one year. Interestingly, the second transaction seems to have been registered quite soon after the event, not after a delay of several years, as was common in Petra. Since we do not understand why the registration was, in Palestine, sometimes delayed, sometimes not, it is difficult to speculate what reasons are here at play. Moreover, it is not certain that the transaction behind 65, from Patrikios to Dusarios, had taken place in the same year as the document was written. It might have been much older, and perhaps the very reason why it was eventually registered was the impending new transaction.

Unlike these two requests (65 and 23), all the other extant Petra epistolmata were addressed to the tax collectors (ὑποδέκται), either jointly or to an individually named official. We do not know if this variation was based on some difference between the responsibilities of the chartophylax and hypodektes, because the former is an almost unknown office. All the epistolmata in which the place of writing is preserved were written in Petra, even though the property was often located outside Petra. In fact, only one preserved Petra epistolma (5) concerns property situated in the district of the city itself. Most requests addressed to hypodektai relate to property located in the neighboring town of Augustopolis, while 23 and evidently also 65, both addressed to a chartophylax, concern property in the garrison town of Sadaqa. It is difficult to say whether it is merely a coincidence that Theodoros’ family seems to have owned land mostly outside Petra or at least that their preserved epistolmata related to such land.

6. Note that Alpheios, son of Valens, appears as a demosios chartophylax in 23 (544) and as a notary in 22 (541). As it were, both Alpheios and Valens were common names in Petra.
7. For a few uncertain cases, see SB IV 7435.4 (6th c.) τῶν εὐλαβεῖσταν καὶ συνοικίστων σχολαστικῶν; XXII 15273 (5/6th c.) ἐνοικιαστός (“rent-collector”); XXVI 16344 (5th c.) οἰκονόμος.
9. Despite the use of the word iugeron in the text, it is not certain if the fractions refer to iuga (taxation units) or iugera (land measurement units), see l. 2 with comm. In P. Petra III, they were interpreted as iuga, see 23 8 and 12–13 with comm., and Introductions to 19 and 35.
10. The office of χαρτοφύλαξ is attested only once in Egypt, P. Oxy. XVI 2059 (7th c.), rarely elsewhere; see 23 3–4 comm. For the archival and financial administrator chartoularios, see 2 178 with comm.
In any case, both Sadaqa and Augustopolis belonged somehow to the administrative district of Petra, though the registers were kept separate for different areas. The tax collectors of Petra were said to be responsible for the area of Augustopolis as well, though the property in question was registered in the δημόϲιϲ κῶδιϲ of Augustopolis. Moreover, was also written in Petra, so it is unlikely that the office of χαρτοφύλαξ was located anywhere else, nor does the type of land explain the different officials involved. The request sent here to a χαρτοφύλαξ concerned a plot classed as “free” (ἐλευθερικόν), while the epistάλματα addressed to the tax collectors concerned both “free” (3–5, 19) and “imperial” (4–5, 25, 66) land.

→

1 κα[...].ἐτ[...].ο[...].[ c. 7 ]ε[...].η[...].υ[...].[ c. 6 ]γ[...].[ c. 16 ]ν[...].[ c. 7 ]α[...].η[...].π[...].[ c. 8 ]τ[...].[ c. 8 ]
3 το[...].ἔτι [Ιω]ν[...] ἐλευθ[...] καὶ ὁμάδα τοῦ εἰρη[...] στάτ[...] χο[...] τοῦ δήμ[...][ c. 8 ]
4 καὶ ἐλευθερικὸν ἐλεύθερον καὶ ὁμάδα τοῦ εἰρημένου εὐδοκ[...] τοῦτ’ ἐστι ἀπὸ τῆς θεού
5 καὶ ἡμῶν δὲ αὐτῶν τὸ ἐπί[...] τοῦ δήμο[...][ c. 70 ][ c. 45 ]
6 τοποθετεῖας [τὸ προγεγραμμένον ἐλευθερικὸν ἰουγέρου τὸ ἡμίσυ]

3 ἰνδίκτιονος 5 Φλ. Pap. 8 πρός[...].η[...].Παπ. 8 ἰνδίκτιονος 10 Φλ. Pap. ἰνδίκτιονος 10 Φλ. Pap. σύλλυβας Pap. ἰνδίκτιονος 10 Φλ. Pap. ἰνδίκτιονος

TRANSLATION

(Lines 1–5) . . . [by which I request you to relieve] my person, estate, and total assessment from the tax for the above-written plot, that is, for a half [and?] of a free iugerum and to burden with this the person, estate, and total assessment of the said most honorable Dusarios, from the seventh indiction, which is coming with the will of God, and for all following time, in accordance with what the most honorable Dusarios himself, also present, agreed to and signed. For [your security and the security of the public treasury and also of ourselves, this notification has been made], on which I, too, have signed below.

(Lines 5–6) (2. H.) † (I), the above-mentioned Flavius Patrikios, son of [Ailianos], comes . . . [have requested that I should be relieved . . .] plot, (that is,) [for the] above-written . . . free [iugerum . . .]
REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OF TAXATION

(Lines 7–9) (3. H.) † (I), the above-mentioned Flavius Dusarios, son of Valens, have requested that I should be burdened with the tax [for] the above-written plot, (that is,) for the above-written half [and? . . .] of a free iugerum [and that this] should be relieved from the account, [estate], and person of [the said] most magnificent Patrikios, son of Ailianos, [from the seventh] induction, which is coming [with (the will of) God], and for all following time, as has been written above accordingly, signing with my own hand. †

(Line 10) (4. H.) † (I), Flavius Leontios, most reverend keeper of records, have accepted and will relieve and burden [from the] seventh induction, and for all following (time), for the half . . . of a free iugerum . . .

COMMENTARY

1–5 The phrasing is very similar in 23 11–15.

2 το[ξ]ο[θε][c]ι[υς]: perhaps something like “agricultural plot, allotment of arable land.” The word τοποθεϲία appears (mostly restored) in 23 10, 12, 15; and once in Ν 253. It is attested ca. thirty times in Egypt, where the usual sense is roughly “area under cultivation,” see, e.g., Π. Κair. Μαsp. ΠΙ 61762.9 (568); ΠΙ 67169bis.44 (569). We cannot say if the words τος και τοποθεϲία had any semantic difference in Petra; they were at least used in a similar context.

[ἰο]υγέρ[ου] ἔλευ[θ]η[ρ][ι]οι τὸν ἑλευ[θ]ιον c. 8: if the plot in question was the same as in 23, the line must have continued with τῆρατον, producing the expected fraction of three-fourths. Although the text clearly contained the word iugeron, it is not quite certain that the fraction meant three-fourths of a iugerum: it might have denoted the amount of iuga consisting of land classified as eleutherika iugera, see above footnote 9. The fragments at the end of the line have some traces of letters belonging in lines 1–3, but their exact position is not known.

3 ἀπὸ τῆς εὐ[θείας μ]ε[λλο[ν]ος: εἰς εἰς τὸν ἑβδομήϲ μ]ιϲυ: if the plot is divided so as to remove a half, it would make sense for the fraction to be three-fourths; cf. l. 2, but it is not possible to read it here; it may have been omitted by mistake.

4–5 προ[ι]ο[γε][γ]ραμμέ[νοϲ: the phrase is restored according to 23 14–15 (and 24 4–5). See, however, the obviously different but poorly preserved form in 25 12–13. The supplement at the end of l. 4 is somewhat longer than in l. 3: perhaps demosios logos was abbreviated or the formula was otherwise different.

5 † m2 † Φ[λι[άου]ο[υ] Πα]ρ[ε][γ]ρ[αμ]μέ[νοϲ: the cross finishing the main text has a loop on top, but it is not exactly a chi-rho symbol. For the signature of Patrikios, cf. 45 13, where his name is also directly followed by the title of comes. The signatures in the epistalmata seem to follow the formula “N, son of N, title, ὁ προγεγραμμένοϲ ἐπέστειλα καυφεθῆναι/βαρθῆναι κτλ.” Apparently, the title of comes is here complemented by a further specification. It might be possible to read the fragmentary word as με[λλο[υ]ε[ν]κ[τε]τατοῦ, if the dotted characters were capital letters, though it would be unusual for someone to refer to himself with an honorific title (cf. l. 10 with comm.). In any case, the honorific alone does not fill the space after comes, so some additional element must still have been written in between.

7 A cross on fr. CC6 most likely separates the first and second signatures. The hand of Dusarios (m3) is a small cursive, very different from that of Patrikios.

8 ὁ[ν]υ[γ]έρ[ου] τῆς [προγεγραμμέ[νης το[ξο]θε[ϲ]ι[ς] τῷ προγεγραμμέ[νῳ ἔλευθηρω[ϲ]ῳ ἑλευθερικ[τέ]ρ[ῳ] τῷ ἔλευθερῳ τῆς μιϲυ: the word κυνάκινων ("tax") would be expected after τοξοθεϲίας, as in l. 2, but it is not possible to read it here; it may have been omitted by mistake.

10 † Φ[λι[άου]ο[υ] Πα]ρ[ε][γ]ρ[αμ]μέ[νοϲ: the name of the chartophylax is difficult to read, especially since the location of several fragments is uncertain. The fragment “loose CC20,” which cannot belong anywhere else, contains the abbreviation mark for eulab(estatos), indicating that the official did not write his patronymic here. The name Eulaios, appearing in Π. Νess. III 67.13, is hardly possible (cf. also Eulais in Π. Νess. III 31.4). Moreover, it is hardly a coincidence that a Leontios, eulabestatos, appears also sixteen years later in 28 (559). In 28 he signs with capital letters, he is evidently the same man. Both signatures are unusual: instead of the patronymic, Leontios uses an honorific title for himself. Such a usage, which sometimes occurred in Egypt, is exceptional in Petra but was probably connected with the writer’s official position, being also found in a governor’s letter, see 60 1 comm. The omission of the article is sporadically attested in Egypt as well.

ἐκ τοῦ ἔξο[ν] εἰς τὸ προγεγραμ[μένον] ἔλευ[θ]ηρ[ι]ον ἑλευθερικ[τέ]ρ[ῳ] τῷ ἔλευθερῳ: it is impossible to read here εἰς τὸν ἔξον ἔπαντα χρόνον; the chartophylax has probably left the rest of the phrase incomplete.

M. VIERROS
### CB (lines 1–6)

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<th>8</th>
<th>7</th>
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<th>5 (1)</th>
<th>5 (2)</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>2?</th>
<th>1?</th>
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<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>2a+2b</td>
<td>+3+4</td>
<td>vac.</td>
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