

CAPInv. 813: hoi apo Mempheos naukleroi Hippodromitai

I. LOCATION

i. Geographical area	Egypt
ii. Nome	Herakleopolites (U20)

II. NAME

i. Full name (original language)	οἱ ἀπὸ Μέμφεως ναύκληροι Ἴπποδρομίται (BGU VIII 1741, ll. 5-6 and 11-12)
ii. Full name (transliterated)	<i>hoi apo Mempheos naukleroi Hippodromitai</i>

III. DATE

i. Date(s)	63 BC
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IV. NAME AND TERMINOLOGY

i. Name in other forms	οἱ ἀπὸ Μέμφεως Ἴπποδρομίται, <i>hoi apo Mempheos Hippodromitai</i> (BGU VIII 1742, l. 8; BGU VIII 1743, l. 6)		
ii. Name elements	Geographical:	<i>apo Mempheos</i>	
	Professional:	<i>naukleroi</i>	
	Topographical:	<i>Hippodromitai</i> referring to the hippodrome (of Memphis), where (or in the quarter of which) the group was possibly based, or whence their cargoes departed. However, we so far do not have further evidence for a hippodrome in Memphis: cf. Vélissaropoulos 1980: 113-114, and n. 131.	

V. SOURCES

i. Source(s)	BGU VIII 1741 (Epeiph = 3 Jul. – 3 Aug. 63 BC) BGU VIII 1742 (14 Epeiph = 18 Jul. 63 BC) BGU VIII 1743 (20 Mesore = 23 Aug. 63 BC) BGU XIV 2368 (20 Mesore = 23 Aug. 63 BC)
Note	BGU XIV 2368 is the edition of the third column of text of BGU VIII 1743.
Online Resources	BGU VIII 1741 ; TM 4823 BGU VIII 1742 ; TM 4824 BGU VIII 1743 + BGU XIV 2368 ; TM 4825
i.a. Source type(s)	Papyrological source(s)
i.b. Document(s) typology & language/script	Greek orders and documents for the shipping of tax-grain to Alexandria on ships of the <i>naukleroi Hippodromitai</i> .
i.c. Physical format(s)	Papyrus.
ii. Source(s) provenance	The papyri come from mummy cartonnage from the Herakleopolite nome.

VI. BUILT AND VISUAL SPACE

ii. References to buildings/objects	σκάφη, <i>skaphe</i> : BGU VIII 1741, l. 9; BGU VIII 1742, l. 8; BGU VIII 1743, l. 6.
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VII. ORGANIZATION

ii. Leadership	The <i>naukleroi Hippodromitai</i> had a <i>προστάτης</i> , <i>prostates</i> . Within the period of a month (between 18 July and 23 August 63 BC), the office of <i>prostates</i> was undertaken by two different men: the first one was called Apollophanes (BGU VIII 1741, ll. 5, 11), the second one Malichos (BGU VIII 1743, l. 5). The term of office (however long it may have been) may have naturally ended at some point in between those dates, or the first <i>prostates</i> may have been unable to carry out his duties until the end of his term and had to be replaced by Malichos. We do not have positive evidence to prove that this office was necessarily shorter than the <i>grammateus</i> 's (see VII.iv. 'Officials'), <i>pace</i> Hauben 1971: 269, Vélissaropoulos 1980: 114, and Hauben 1992: 325.
iv. Officials	The <i>naukleroi Hippodromitai</i> had a <i>γραμματεὺς</i> , <i>grammateus</i> (BGU VIII 1741, ll. 5, 11; BGU VIII 1742, l. 7; BGU VIII 1743, ll. 5-6). Unlike the <i>prostates</i> , the <i>grammateus</i> was the same for the whole period in which the <i>Hippodromitai</i> are attested (July-August 63 BC) and was called Eudemos.

VIII. PROPERTY AND POSSESSIONS

ii. Realty	Some members of the <i>naukleroi Hippodromitai</i> may have owned the ships which were used for the transport of tax-crops, besides being possibly captains of the vessels too. Zabdion, son of Artemidoros was captain and probably owner of a ship with a cargo of 1200 artabae (ca 46,600 litres = over 36 ton; BGU VIII 1741, l. 9; BGU VIII 1742, l. 8); Apollonios was captain and possibly owner of a boat with a cargo of 1800 artabae (ca 69,900 litres = over 54 ton; BGU VIII 1743, l. 6). Cf. Hauben 1971: 269-270 and n. 55.
iii. Income	The group was involved in the grain transport on the Nile on behalf of the state and obtained their income from it. We do not know whether members were to pay a membership fee.

IX. MEMBERSHIP

i. Number	We do not know the total number of members. There are at least three members of the <i>naukleroí</i> at any one time. The total amount of all attested members is five.
ii. Gender	Men
Note	All the attested members bear men's names.
iii. Age	Adults
Note	Given the commercial character of the group, it seems likely that the <i>naukleroí Hippodromitai</i> were all adults.
iv. Status	The groups gathered together <i>naukleroí</i> or shipping contractors involved in the transport of grain to Alexandria on behalf of the state. On the office of <i>naukleros</i> in Ptolemaic Egypt, cf. P.Erasm. II pp. 133-153. The <i>prostates</i> Malichos bears an Arabic or Nabataean name; the shipper Zabdion has a Semitic name. The group may have gathered people with Phoenician origin: cf. Hauben 1992: 326-327. Foreigners were very much involved in Nile shipping: cf. Thompson 2012: 82.
vi. Proper names and physical features	Ἀπολλοφάνης προστάτης Εὐδήμος γραμματεὺς Ζαβδίων Ἀρτεμίδωρος Ἀπολλώνιος

XI. INTERACTION

i. Local interaction	The <i>apo Mempheos naukleroí Hippodromitai</i> were probably based in the city of Memphis (as their name suggests). However, given their activities of shipping contractors, they interacted with other areas of Egypt too. In the present case we have evidence for their presence and activities in the Herakleopolite nome (south of Memphis) and at Alexandria: BGU VIII 1742, for instance, mentions that the grain to be shipped to Alexandria on board of Zabdion's ship is to be collected from the <i>thesauros</i> of the village of Tilothis, in the Herakleopolites. It is possible that the <i>apo Mempheos naukleroí Hippodromitai</i> had obtained the right to be in charge of the transport of the grain-tax for the whole Herakleopolite nome: cf. Hauben 1992: 322-323.
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XII. NOTES

i. Comments	The internal indication of the <i>naukleroí Hippodromitai</i> as being <i>apo Mempheos</i> seems to point to the fact that the group was based in or originated from that city. However, their business activities made them present and active in other areas of the country, such as the Herakleopolite nome, like in the present case, as deduced by internal evidence (mention of the <i>thesauros</i> of the village of Tilothis in BGU VIII 1742, l. 3) and the provenance of the papyri (from mummy cartonnage). Cf. also Hauben 1971: 269-270 and n. 60. As suggested by Hauben 1971: 270-272, SB V 8754 may deal with members of the <i>naukleroí Hippodromitai</i> ; however, there is no evidence for this, apart from the simple fact that the people in question were active in the grain transport to Memphis.
iii. Bibliography	Hauben, H. (1971), 'An annotated list of Ptolemaic naukleroí with a discussion of BGU X 1933', <i>ZPE</i> 8: 259-75. Hauben, H. (1992), 'Les naclères «phéniciens» de Memphis (63 av. J.-C.)', in <i>Numismatique et histoire économique phéniciennes et puniques</i> , Louvain-la-Neuve: 321-331. Thompson, D. J. (2012), <i>Memphis under the Ptolemies</i> , 2nd. edn. Princeton-Oxford. Vélissaropoulos, J. (1980), <i>Les naclères grecs</i> . Genève.

XIII. EVALUATION

i. Private association

Probable

Note

On the basis of their organisation, durability, name, and property, it is probable that the *naukleroí Hippodromitai* formed a private association. However, on the basis of our evidence (especially the lack of the use of a 'descriptive term'), we cannot exclude that the group was just a simple business enterprise either. Cf. also Vélissaropoulos 1980: 113-115.