A Byzantine business letter and account
from the collection of the Oslo University Library

Joanne Vera Stolk (University of Oslo)

Abstract: This Byzantine papyrus from Aphrodite preserves the middle part of a business letter on the recto and the address on the verso. The letter concerns an estate of the monastery of Apa Sourous. The verso contains an account of expenses which connects the papyrus to the well-known archive of Dioscorus.

Keywords: Byzantine papyrus, business letter, monastery of Apa Sourous, account, archive of Dioscorus

P.Oslo inv. 523 18.3 x 22.6 cm VI, Aphrodite

This Byzantine papyrus from Aphrodite was acquired to the collection of the Oslo University Library among a group of Roman papyri from the Arsinoites. The recto preserves the middle part of a business letter, complete with an address on the verso. The verso further contains an account of expenses. The papyrus probably originates from the well-known archive of Dioscorus. Below I present the editions of the letter and the account separately.

Business letter by Ammonios

It is a medium brown papyrus, broken off at the right and left hand side, but the upper (2.5 cm) and lower (2 cm) margins are fully preserved (except for a gap at the upper right hand side in lines 1–2). The text on the recto is written transversa charta. If the total width of the roll was ca. 30 cm, cf. the size of the Byzantine letters in CPR XXV and H. Harrauer, Handbuch der griechischen Paläographie. Textband (2010) 54, and the cross or saltire pattern on the verso was centred, about a quarter of the text is missing from the left hand side and a few letters from the right hand side (cf. l. 4). A kollesis, upper over lower, is visible above line 1 and between line 7 and 8. There is some damage to lines 2, 4, below 5, 7, below 8 and below 9 which corresponds to some of the lighter areas at the verso of the

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* I would like to thank A. Maravela, K.A. Worp and J.-L. Fournet for their comments on previous versions of this papyrus edition.

1 The inventory numbers 434–539 were purchased in 1923 through a joint purchase with the British Museum and the Michigan and Columbia universities.
sheet and is probably caused by the folding of the piece horizontally from the bottom upwards.

The recto is written in an experienced, cursive hand common in Byzantine papyri from the sixth century CE, cf. P.Oxy. XVI 1885 (509); P.Oxy. I 144 (580) and P.Heid. III 247 (1.–25.11.598 or 2.–26.11.599; BL X, 84). Parallels can also be found among the texts from the sixth century Dioscorus’ archive, e.g. P.Cair. Masp. I 67067, R°; 67076, R° and III 67282, R°. The verso contains the address of this letter in a chancellery hand along the fibres at the top of the papyrus, see P.Harrauer 56, p. 203–204, for comments on this style of writing.

The letter seems to concern one of the holdings of the Apa Sourous monastery. This monastery was located in the Antaiopolites, near the village of Aphrodite, cf. A. Calderini, Dizionario Geografico I.2 (1966) 333 and P. Barison, “Ricerche sui monasteri dell’Egitto bizantino ed arabo”, Aegyptus 18 (1938) 114–115, Nr. 36. The monastery is attested in several sixth century texts from Aphrodite: P.Cair. Masp. I 67087, 6 (27.12.543); I 67110, 27 (25.07.565); II 67133, 1 (ca. 541; BL XII, 46); II 67139, VI V° 2 (541–546; BL IX, 43); P.Freer 1 + 2 = SB XX 14669, 4ff. (524) and P.Mich. XIII 667, 6–7, 35 (mid VI), all belonging to the Dioscorus archive. During the seventh and eighth centuries the monastery is attested in CPR XXIV 31, 7 (mid–second half VII) and the tax register P.Lond. IV 1419 + SB XX 15099 (716–717; BL V, 56). This business letter mentions the προεστώς (l. 1), the manager of the estates belonging to the property of the monastery, a specific estate (τὸ κτῆµα, l. 3) of which the name is not preserved (it might have been at the end of l. 2) and a farmer (τὸν γεωργόν, l. 2ff.) who was probably held responsible for the cultivation of the estate. The monastery of Apa Sourous was an important landholder in the area and it leased out land to private landowners, who could sub-lease it to a γεωργός. Dioscorus is known to have been a middleman-lessee for the Apa Sourous monastery, see J. Keenan, “Absentee Landlordism at Aphrodite”, BASP 22 (1985) 157. The responsibility for the payment of the taxes on leased land was also transferable, see M. Mirković, “Count Ammonios and Paying Taxes in the Name of Somebody Else”, Pap. Congr. 25 (2010) 568–569.

The well-known count and landowner Ammonios might have been the sender of this letter (see n. to V°). He had received a message from the προεστώς of the monastery of Apa Sourous concerning the produce of the vineyard of the estate. The monastery of Apa Sourous owned land in as many as twenty topoi and the rents from these holdings added up to more than 137 artabai of grain and also payments in oil and wine, cf. L.S.B. MacCoull, “Notes on the Social Structure of Late Antique Aphrodite”, BSAC 26 (1984) 71–74 and J. Gascou, Fiscalité et société en Égypte byzantine (2008) 282, n. to l. 4. In the lease contract P.Mich. XIII 667, 14–19 (mid VI) the rent of an estate of the monastery included the payment of the taxes (συντελείαι) and in addition 20 artabai of corn and 50 vessels of sweet wine. In our letter the produce of the vineyard of the estate yielded a total of only 30 jars (τριάκοντα κνίδια l. 4–5), which might be due to negligence (τῆς ἀμελείας εκείνων, l. 5).
The exact content of the letter is obscured by the missing parts on the left and right hand side of the papyrus, but some phrases can be supplemented due to the effusive and repetitive style of this Byzantine letter. Recurring figures are the προεστός of the monastery (l. 1, 7 and perhaps 9) and the farmer (l. 2, 6 and 8), who might have been responsible for the cultivation. It seems that the προεστός and/or Ammonios wanted to allow the farmer to continue to cultivate the same estate (l. 6, 9) despite of the problem that has arisen.

R° ↓ [- - - μοι ὁ θεωρητάτατος προεστός τόν ἄπα Σουρούτο[ - - - ]
[- - -]. . . [τὸν γεωργόν ὃν ἐβαλε[ν] εἰς τ. [. . . . .]. [. . . .][ - - -]
[- - - τάξις γὰρ αὐτοὶ ἔγερσησαν τὸ κτήμα καὶ κατεφρόνησαν αὐτὸ[ν - - -]
[- - -] ἢ ἁμπελός τοῦ αὐτοῦ κτήματος οὐκ ἐποίησαν εἰ μὴ τριάκοντα κν[ίδια
5[ - - -] τής ἁμελείας ἐκείνων καὶ αὐτὰ τὰ τριάκοντα κνίδια ἔλαβαν [. - - -]
[- - -] ἐφημερισάσθη ἢ ἐάσατο τὸν γεωργόν ὃν ἐβαλεν εἰς τὸ αὐτὸ κτήμα[ν - - -]
[- - -] ἐ[ν δὲ] προεστ[ῶς] γεωργήσας τὸ αὐτὸ κτήμα ἡρείσας μοι οὐν[- - -]
[- - -] σετι παρέλθειν διὰ τῶν ἑκεί [ὑλ]λά τὸν γεωργόν ὃν ἐβαλε[ν - - -]
[- - -] ὁς οἱ καὶ δεσπότης τοῦ κτήματος ἐάσατο γεωργήσαι τὸ αὐτὸ κτῆμα]

V° → [- - -], Ἀφροτής Χ ὁ[ς] vac. ἡ(αρὰ) Ἀμμιων[ίου - - -]

2 [- - -] ὁς corr. ex ἡ(αρὰ), V° l. Ἀφροδίτης

P.Oslo inv. 523 R°: Business letter by Ammonius
1 [- - - μοι ὁ θεοφι]λέστατος προεστός: There are several possibilities to refer to the letter which the προεστός wrote, such as BGU II 605, 1 (VII–VIII) † καθὸς (l. -ώς) γεγραφηκέν μοι ἐν Αἰδελφῆσι (τῆς) ὁτι or P.Hamb. III 229, 2 (VI) † καθὸς έγραψέν μοι ἐν αὐλαβεία περί, for more references, e.g. to comparable Demotic and Coptic epistolary formulae, see CPR XXV 34, n. to l. 2. Considering the total width of this text, a shorter alternative, such as † έγραψέν μοι ὁ ἐμὸς δεσπότης ὁτι καὶ CPR XXV 34, 2 (mid (?) VII) † έγραψέν μοι ὁ ἐμὸς (l. -ός) ἀγαθὸς δεσπότης μετὰ Γεωργίου τοῦ σωμάχου (l. σωμιάχου) περί τῆς οὐσίας. Cf. also n. to l. 7.

θεοφι]λέστατος: Possible supplements for this honorific title include εὐλαβέστατος, εὐσεβέστατος, θεοσεβέστατος and θεοφιλέστατος, cf. H. Zilliacus, Untersuchungen zu den abstrakten Anredeformen und Höflichkeitstiteln (1949) 84–85. Although προεστός often occurs with εὐλαβέστατος, see also O. Horner, Ehren- und Rangprädikate in den Papyrusurkunden (1930) 16–17, the reading of λ fits the traces best. For θεοφιλέστατος with a προεστός see P.Mich. XIII 667, 7, 35–36 (mid VI), where it is also used for the προεστός of the Απα Σουρούσ monastery, and further P.Cair. MasP. II 67170, 6–7 (15.–24.04.562–564; ZPE 145, 2003, 243); II 67171, 7–8 (16.04.564–565; ZPE 145, 2003, 243) and P.Fouad 88, V° 1 (VI).

προεστός: The head of the monastery and the manager of the estates belonging to the property of the monastery. The προεστός is often a πρεσβύτερος or διάκονος, see E. Wipszycka, Moines et communautés monastiques en Égypte (2009) 327–328, but compare also the μονάζοντος καὶ προεστο[τος] of the Απα Σουρούσ monastery in P.Mich. XIII 667, 7, 35–36 (mid VI).

τοῦ Ἱερακίων: Cf. CPR XXIV 31, 7 (mid–second half VII) τὸ ἀββᾶ Σουρούστος, which is interpreted as “die (sc. Gebäude/Einrichtungen des Klosters) des Abba Surus”, but a full reference to the place or premises of the monastery might have followed as well.

2 [- - -]. . . [τὸν γεο]ργόν: The topic of this letter could have been introduced by περὶ + gen. or ὁτι in line 2, see n. to l. 1 for parallels to this formula. The traces before [τὸν γεο]ργόν might fit the preposition διά, which could belong to the phrase παρέρχομαι διά + gen. “mit Forderungen belästigen”, cf. n. to l. 8 and CPR XXV 33 (VII), n. to l. 5, where an example of the construction παρέρχομαι διά + acc. is mentioned (P.Vindob. G 16791, 7). Another possible reading is ἴχα, a first person verbal ending.

ἐβαλε[ν] εἰς 1. [., . . . . . . .] [., . . . . . . .] [– - -]: Cf. n. to l. 6. What follows after ἐβαλε[ν] εἰς might be part of the introduction of the estate by providing a name or referring to its location, e.g. P.Hamb. I 68, 26 (548 or 563; BL XII, 83) κτήματος λεγόμενον άπα Διοσκόριον or P.Mich. XIII 667, 5–6 (mid VI) κτήματος τῶν βαφέων, referring to the τόπος βαφέων. A τόπος Ἰερακίων is attested, e.g. the tax register P.Lond. IV 1419, VIII 139ff. (716–717; BL V, 56), and a κλήρος Ἰεράδος, e.g. P.Lond. V 1686, 13–14 (07.11.565), but other names are possible as well.

4 τρίκοντα κυ[όδια: Cf. l. 5. The κυόδιον is a jar used for dry (money, grapes), semi dry (garum, olives), but most frequently for liquid goods such as wine and olive oil, see N. Kruit & K. Worp, “Geographical Jar Names”, APF 46.1 (2000) 104–110. It could be that the rent on this estate was paid in κυόδια of wine, cf. the mention of a vineyard in l. 4 and P.Mich. XIII 667, 14–19 (mid VI), in which the rent consisted of the taxes, an additional 20 artabai of corn and 50 vessels of sweet wine (οἶνον γλεύκου | ἄγγια πεντήκοντα, l. 16–17) each year.


[ ]: The traces resemble κ or η.

6 ἐφησυχάσα: Possible supplements include ἐφησυχάω “sich beruhigen, sich ruhig verhalten, sich zur Ruhe setzen, bewenden lassen, auf etw. verzichten (τινό)” and the derived verbs ἐφησυχάζω “sich beruhigen”; ἐφησυχάζω “sich bei etw. beruhigen, zufriedengestellt sein”; καθησυχάζω “sich beruhigen, sich zufrieden geben”, see F. Preisigke, Wörterbuch I (1925) 662, 246, 632 and 715. The traces before the sigma could very well belong to the connection between η and σ. The verb ἐφησυχάσα in the meaning of “to acquiesce, to tolerate” seems the best fit in this construction, cf. SB XVIII 13320, 5ff. (613–641).

τὸν γεωργὸν δὲν ἔβαλεν εἰς: The farmer occurs several times in this letter (l. 2, 6, 8). He is said to have been “put into” the estate, see LSJ s.v. βάλλω A. II.6, and compare the expressions in P.Mich. VIII 492, 20 (II) ὁ κοιμογραμματεύς ἔβαλεν μὲ εἰς χρείαν “the village secretary has put me into a liturgy”; P.Oxy. XVII 2155, 14–15 (IV) ἔβαλε αὐτὸν εἰς τὰς δεκαψίας “he thrust him into the decaniae” and P.Kellis I 12, 18–20 (IV) ἔβαλε εἰς τὸ μονοστήριον[ποιον (l. μονοστήριον) ὄνομα δι]-δάσκαλον (l. διδάσκαλος) αὐτὸν ἔγραψεν “put him into the monastery, where it (one) teaches him the linen-weaving trade”. In practice this γεωργός was maybe “put in charge” of the cultivation of the land and he might also have been responsible for the contribution of the rent and dues, see M. Mirković, “Count Ammonios and Paying Taxes in the Name of Somebody Else”, Pap. Congr. 25 (2010) 568–569.

7 [ - - ] ἐν στόχος: Probably καθὼς ἐγραφή[ν ὁ] προστάτας. Two vertical strokes are preserved above the lacuna at the beginning of line 7. Because it is slightly leaning forward, the second one seems most compatible with the upper part of an ε. For the same reason the first stroke might fit a ψ better than the upper part of the κ in this hand. This makes a supplement ἐγραφή[ν more likely than for example γεγράφη]κε[ν, cf. n. to l. 1. 1.
ou [- - -]: The traces point to a τ or a ν, so ouτς [perhaps οὔτως, or οὖν are possible.

8 [- - -] σετι: Probably προσέτι or perhaps ], c éti.

παρέλθειν διὰ τῶν ἐκεί: For παρέρχομαι διά + gen. with the meaning of “jmdn. in Sachen der Besteuerung heranziehen (heimsuchen)” see H. Ljungvik, Beiträge zur Syntax (1932) 24–25, and CPR XXV 33 (VII), n. to l. 5.

ἐβαζόμενον [- - -]: Possibly supplement εἰς τῷ οὐτῳ κτήμα, cf. l. 6.

9 [- - -]ος ὁ καὶ δεσπότης: The phrase ὁ καὶ is generally found with personal names. The title δεσπότης was sometimes used to refer to a superior, such as the κόμης or προεστός, see PSI V 480, 2 (V–VI) ὁ δεσπότης μου ὁ κόμης or P.Fouad 88, V° 1 (VI) † δισπότ(η) ἐμῷ … προεστ(ώτη) Μετ(ανοιας). These examples support the possibility of a supplement προεστ(ώς) ὁ καὶ δεσπότης, but other options for the interpretation of ὁ ος, such as another function or title, cannot be excluded.

V° [- - -] Ἀφροτίς Χ δῆς: The reading of the address is slightly complicated by the cross or saltire pattern in the middle of the address. After the cross the letters δος or δης are visible. Frequent formulae for the address on the verso of these Byzantine letters are ἐπίδος or ἐπίδοσ ἀποδος addressee (dative) π(αρά) sender (genitive), e.g. P.Mert. I 46, V° (late V–early VI; BL VIII, 208); BGU II 605, V° (VII–VIII), or addressee (dative) and sender (nominative), e.g. P.Apoll. 32, V° (second half VII; BL VIII, 10). The usage of δος is rare and usually occurs at the beginning of the address followed by the addressee (dative), cf. P.Oxy. XVII 2156, V° (late IV–V) and P.Ant. II 94, V° (VI). Therefore it is unlikely that we have here a single δος in the middle of the address, but rather a continuation of the Addressee, cf. P.Berl. Zill. 12, V° (III–IV) τῇ κυρίᾳ μου μην τρὶ παρ’ Ἀθανασίου[ες] τῆς θυγατρῶς; SB XII 10841, 30 (IV) κυρίῳ μου ἀδελφός φίλος Γονάτας and CPR XXV 11, 8 (VI) † τῷ θεοσεβεστάτῳ (I. θεοσεβεστάτῳ) κυρίῳ πας ν. τρῆ (Ι. πατρὶ) ἄπα Κολλούθῳ, where the remains of a cross are visible before and after the vacat, see Tafel 10 and n. to I. 8. The genitive of the village of Aphrodithe then should have been spelled as Ἀφροτιτῆς here, cf. P.Cair. Masp. III 67284, 1 (VI) ἀκόμα κόμης Ἀφροτίτης (I. Ἀφροδίτης); I 67076, 5 (VI); II 67191, 2 (VI), and see for the possible inversion of consonants and the interchange of δ and τ intervocally.

F.T. Gignac, A Grammar of the Greek papyri I (1976) 82–83, 154. The full address could then include a verb form such as ἐπίδος, a name and/or function in the dative, followed by κόμης] Ἀφροτίς Χ δῆς, cf. P.Cair. SR 3733(2) = Pap. Congr. 22.1 (2001) 481–482 (VI) ἐπίδος(ες) Ἀθανασίου καὶ Ἐννυχριστοκούμητας Ἀφρο(ίτης) πα(ρά) Ἀμμονίου καὶ μοτας and ἐπίδος(ες) τῆς κυρίας Καράλας[ιας] κόμης Ἀφροδίτης(ες) πα(ρά) Ἀμμονίου[ν] κόμης[τας]. Just a tiny dot of ink might be visible under the lacuna before Ἀφροτίς Χ δῆς, but it is impossible to say whether κόμης or something else was written there, cf. also the addressee in P.Cair. Masp. I 67067, V° (VI) † τῷ [τά] παρελθεὶν ἀκάρ δόμητα Ἀδελφής Ἀδελφός(ος) Διοσκόρῳ πρωτοκ(ομιότητα) Ἀδελφής[οιδής].
Ἀμμωνίου: Up to 13 people with this name are attested in sixth century Aphrodite, cf. G.R. Ruffini, *A Prosopography of Byzantine Aphrodite* (2011) 17–20. A monk Ammonios (nr. 8) is attested in connection to the monastery of Apa Sourous in P.Cair. Masp. II 67133, 1 (ca. 541; BL XII, 46). The most interesting candidate is the famous count Ammonios (nr. 1), known from the texts of the Dioscorus archive. He is mentioned in connection with several monasteries in the mid sixth century AD, such as the monastery of Apa Apollo in PSI VIII 933, 3–4 (24.–28.08.538). Furthermore, the address of this letter finds a close parallel in the formulae used as headings in a dossier of administrative letters written by Dioscorus, see J.-L. Fournet, “Du nouveau dans les archives de Dioscure d’Aphrodité”, *Pap. Congr. 22.1* (2001) 481–482 and previous note. These formulae resemble the addresses of letters originating from count Ammonios.

The most highly favoured manager of the [...] of Apa Sourous [has written to me] [...] the farmer that he put into [...] for they might have cultivated the estate and neglected it [...] the vineyard of the same estate produced only thirty jars [...] of the negligence of them and they took these thirty jars [...] to tolerate or to allow the farmer that he put into the same estate [...] as the manager [wrote] to cultivate the same estate, do me a favour [...] to impose with taxes the men there but the farmer that he put [...] into the same estate [...] and lord of the estate to allow to cultivate the same estate. (Verso) [To [...] of Aphrodite, from Ammonios [...].

**Account of expenses**

In the middle of the verso, turned 90° anti-clockwise, across the fibres are the remains of an account of expenses. At the top of the sheet above the heading of the list are the traces of the last three lines of another account. The main list consists of 14 lines with both upper (2 cm) and lower (6.7 cm) margins. In l. 12 a note is added to the main account. The last 6 entries on the list are badly preserved, although some of the amounts γ (l. 15) and β (l. 16) are readable.

J.-L. Fournet identified the handwriting as that of the famous Dioscorus, cf. his handwriting in e.g. P.Cair. Masp. I 67097 V° A (16.12.558 or 573); P.Flor. III 289 (VI) and P.Lond. V 1686 (07.11.565), see L. Del Corso, “Le scritture di Dioscoro”, in J.-L. Fournet (ed.), *Les archives de Dioscure d’Aphrodité cent ans après leur découverte* (2008) 91–95. Most letters, such as the ρ, τ, η, λ and the ligatures of ας and αρ are very similar indeed. The κ is less typical, but he might have written this account in a less formal manner. The first and last attestations of Dioscorus are in P.Cair. Masp. I 67087 (28.12.543; ZPE 26, 1977, 272) and P.Cair. Masp. I 67096 (05.–11.573; BL VII, 34), see J.-L. Fournet, “Archive ou archives de Dioscoro? Les dernières années des «archives de Dioscoro»”, in J.-L. Fournet (ed.), *Les archives de Dioscure d’Aphrodité cent ans après leur décou-

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2 I would like to thank J.-L. Fournet for his generous help with the reading of the verso. Among others, I owe parts of the readings of l. 5, 7 and 12 to him.
verte (2008) 19–21. If the identification of the hand writing is correct, this papyrus should not be dated any later than 573 CE.

The main part of this account of expenses (l. 5–12) contains payments to men in various professions, which are possibly connected to the making of clothes (ῥάπτης, γναφεύς, l. 7–8). Payments for four products of clothing (καρακάλλιον, καμάσιον, μαφόριον and φακιάλλιον) are mentioned in l. 10–12. All garments seem to be Latin loanwords, but this is not uncommon for these types of products, cf. P.Heid. VII 406, p. 176. The items are common and often found in other lists of clothing, see e.g. P.Princ. II 82, 36–45 (481) which contains all four of them.
τῷ ῥάπτῃ σῷ(του) (ἀρτ. [.] γναφεῖ (ἀρτ.) α ὑδροφόρῳ (ἀρτ.) α 10 (ὑπὲρ) καρακαλλίου (ἀρτ.) α (ὑπὲρ) καμασίου (ἀρτ.) α [(ὑπὲρ)] μοφοφ(ίου) Σοφ(ίας) ψασὶ ὀλ(ου)´ Χρεωστοῦ [ impoverished]

traces of six more lines

2 et passim π || 3 et passim σα τα || 5 λογὸς || αναλο-μαγι´ || χρεωστο[μ] | διαφορ, δι corr. ex. συ `|| 6 συ `|| 8 et passim χ/ || 10 et passim χ; || 12 μοφοφ. ἡ μοφοφ(ίου) || σοφ || φακιλ´ γεωρ´ φασι´ολ´ || ἤφ(του)`


10 καρακαλλίου: This word for “hooded cloak” is probably taken from Latin caracalla, the originally Gallic cape with hood, cf. S. Daris, Il lessico latino nel Greco d’Egitto (19912) 49. J. Kramer, Von der Papyrologie zur Romanistik, APF Beiheft 30 (2010) 207–217 and CPR X 139, n. to l. 2. For the connection with Latin cucullus, the hooded cloak worn by monks, see references in P.Heid. IV 333, n. to l. 4, and for references to illustrations of these hooded garments, see D. Montserrat, BASP 29 (1992) 84, n. to l. 3–4.

11 καμασίου: Cf. Latin camisia with the same meaning “shirt”, S. Daris, Il lessico latino nel Greco d’Egitto (19912) 48–49. J. Kramer has proposed that both the Latin and the Greek word were separately borrowed from a Balkan language in “Zur Rolle von Papyrusbelegen für die Wortgeschichte am Beispiel von camisia und καµάσιον/καµίσιον”, APF 40 (1994) 133–142 and Von der Papyrologie zur Romanistik, APF Beiheft 30 (2010) 195–205; for references and attestations see also P.Heid. VII 406, n. to l. 1.4.

12 μοφοφ(ίου), ἡ μοφοφ(ίου), variant of μαφόρτης: “veil, headdress, cape”. For the interchange of vowels see στιχαρωμοφορῖν for στιχαρομαφόρῖν in SB III 6024, 2, 3, 7 (IV–VII). It might be a loanword from Latin maforte, see S. Daris, Il lessico latino nel Greco d’Egitto (19912) 71. The Greek word is used for a veil or a cape worn by women, cf. P.Oxy. LIX 4004, 15 (V); P.Princ. II 95, 19 (V; BL X, 165), but maybe also for the headdress of priests, cf. P.Coll. Youtie II 85 (VI). In P.Heid. VII 406, 5ff. (IV–V) the garment is included in a list of clothes belonging to a man (λόγος ῥαµῖν ἐν ἑῳ Δωρήθους, l. 2). If interpretation of the abbreviation Σοφ(ίας) is correct, the μαφόριον is a woman’s headdress here.

Σοφ(ίας): This abbreviation could refer to Dioscorus’ wife Sofia, see J.-L. Fournet, “Archive ou archives de Dioscore? Les dernières années des «archives de...

φακιάλ(ίου): Loanword from Latin faciale, S. Daris, Il lessico latino nel Greco d’Egitto (1991) 114, with the broad meaning “face-cloth, turban, towel”, cf. LSJ s.v. The φακιάλ(ίου) can be used by men, see P.Tebt. II 406, 18 (266) and women, see SB XIV 11575, 13 (second half III; BL XII, 210). In this list the φακιάλ(ίου) seems to have been a kerchief for a man.

Γεωρ(γίου): Cf. G.R. Ruffini, A Prosopography of Byzantine Aphrodite (2011) 194–198. Several of men with this name are connected to Dioscorus, see e.g. the payment of 1 artabe by Dioscorus to a Georgios in P.Cair. Masp. II 67141, I V° 32 (VI).

φασι(άλ)ος: This variant of φάσι(άλ)ος “a kind of bean” is not attested in the papyri, but see for attestations elsewhere LSJ s.v. φασιόλος.

ιφ(ιον): The Egyptian measure ίφιον is regularly used in accounts from the archive of Dioscorus, see P.Cair. Masp. II 67138–67139 (541–546; BL IX, 43); II 67141 (VI); III 67325 (559–560; BL XII, 47). One would expect to find a number after this measure, but there are no traces of that on the papyrus.

From […], from Xaiремон 80 […], 3 artabai grain, […] artabai grain, from I […], 1 artabe grain;
Account of expenses owed by me to various men. As follows: to the clothes-mender […] artabe grain, to the fuller 1 artabe, to the water carrier 1 artabe, on account of a hooded cloak 1 artabe, on account of a shirt […] artabe, on account of Sofia’s headdress 2 artabai, on account of Georgios’ kerchief (?) ifion of beans.