

A 'forgotten' Latin Account-Book from Oxyrhynchus.
New Perspectives on *P.Laur.* IV 134 + *P.Oxy.* III 454 + *PSI* II 119 ro

In 1903, in the third volume of *The Oxyrhynchus Papyri*, Artur S. Hunt published a fragment containing some sections from Platos' *Gorgia* (*P.Oxy.* III 454). In 1913 other fragments from the same roll were published by Teresa Lodi (*PSI* II 119) and only in 1983 three further fragments have been joined to the same group by Rosario Pintaudi (*P.Laur.* IV 134). The Platonic dialogue was written around the late II century AD on the *verso* of a *volumen* which features on the *recto* a documentary text in Latin, written in an almost contemporary cursive hand. The Latin *recto* is an account-book from an office of the central administration in Egypt, probably linked to the ἴδιος λόγος. Nevertheless the interest for the *Gorgia* has overshadowed the Latin text. Until now only the *recto* of *P.Oxy.* III 454, stored in the Bodleian Libray in Oxford, has been published in the fourth volume of *Chartae Latinae Antiquiores* in 1967 [*ChLA* IV 264; TM 69879]. *P.Laur.* IV 134 ro still lies unpublished and *PSI* II 119 ro has been described in the forty-seventh volume of *Chartae Latinae Antiquiores* in 1997 [*ChLA* XLVII 1461; TM 70149].

This paper aims to a new edition of *P.Laur.* IV 134 + *P.Oxy.* III 454 + *PSI* II 119 ro in order to enlighten the historical and economic data yielded by the fragment in its entirety. The payment record reveals that money came from the tax on the salt production, providing a good understanding of the volume of rates and methods of payment accepted by the government. Furthermore the document enlightens the administrative duties of the imperial army, directly involved in the tax collection, and shows a *centurio primi pili* supervised the whole process.