

Select Papyri LCL

157. From Melas To Sarapion And Silvanus (P. Grenf. ii. 77). 3rd–4th cent. a.d.

Melas. . . to Sarapion and Silvanus . . . greeting. I have sent you by the grave-digger the body of your brother Phibion and have paid him the fee for transporting the body, being 340 drachmae of the old coinage.^b And I am much surprised that you departed for no good reason without taking the body of your brother, but collected all that he possessed and so departed. And from this I see that you did not come up for the sake of the dead, but for the sake of his effects. Now take care to have ready the sum spent. The expenses are: cost of preservatives 60 old drachmae; cost of wine on the first day, 2 choes 32 old dr.; for expenditure on loaves and relishes 16 dr.; to the grave-digger for the desert journey, besides the above-mentioned fee, 1 chous of wine 20 dr., 2 choes of oil 12 dr., 1 artaba of barley 20 dr.; cost of linen 20 dr.; and fee as aforesaid of 340 dr.; total on reckoning the whole expenditure five hundred and twenty drachmae of the old coinage, total 520 dr. You will therefore make every effort to serve the person who will bring the body by providing loaves and wine and oil and whatever you can, in order that he may testify to me. Do nothing. . . I pray for your health.

^bThe Imperial coinage of Egypt prior to the reform of Diocletian.

[Μέλας] Σαραπίωνι καὶ Σιλβανῶ	μίοις καὶ προσφαγίοις (δραχμαὶ) ις,	
[. χ]αίρειν. ἀπέστειλα ὑμῖν	[τ]ῷ νεκροτάφῳ εἰς τὸ ὄρος	
[διὰ τοῦ ν]εκροτάφου τὸ σῶμα τοῦ	με[τ]ὰ τὸν γεγραμμένον	
[ἀδελφοῦ] Φιβίωνος καὶ ἐπλήρωσα	μισθὸν χο(ῦν) ἓνα (δραχμαὶ) κ,	
[αὐ]τὸν [το]ῦς μισθοὺς τῆς παρακομι-	ἐλαίου χό(εσ) β (δραχμαὶ) ιβ,	25
δῆς τοῦ σώματος ὄντας ἐν δραχμαῖς	κρ[ι]θῆς (ἀρτάβη) α (δραχμαὶ) κ,	
τριακοσίαις τεσσαράκοντα παλαιοῦ	τιμ(ῆ) σινδόνοσ (δραχμαὶ) κ,	
νομίσματος. καὶ θαυμάζω πάνυ	καὶ μισθοῦ ὡς πρόκ(εῖται) (δραχμαὶ) τιμ,	
[ὅ]τι ἀλόγως ἀπέστητε μὴ ἄραντες	(γίνονται) ἐπὶ τοῦ λ[όγο]υ τῆς	
[τὸ σ]ῶμα τοῦ ἀδελφοῦ ὑμῶν, ἀλλὰ	ὄλης δα[πά]νης παλαιοῦ	30
σ[υ]νλέξαντες ὅσα εἶχεν καὶ οὕτως	νομίσματος δραχμαὶ	
ἀπέστητε. καὶ ἐκ τούτου ἔμαθον	πεντακόσiai εἴκοσι,	
ὅτι οὐ χάριν τοῦ νεκροῦ ἀνήλθατε,	γί(ν)ονται) (δραχμαὶ) φκ.	
ἀλλὰ χάριν τῶν σκευῶν αὐτοῦ.	[π]ᾶν οὖν ποιήσετε ὑπηρετῆσαι τὸν	
φροντίσατε οὖν τὰ ἀναλωθέντα ἐτοι-	μέλλοντα ἐνεγκ[εῖ]ν τὸ σῶμα	35
μάσαι. ἔστι δὲ τὰ ἀναλώματα	ἐν ψωμίοις καὶ [οἶ]ναρίῳ καὶ ἐλαίῳ	
τιμ(ῆ) φαρμάκου παλ(αιαὶ) (δραχμαὶ) ξ,	καὶ ὅσα δυνατὸν ὑ[μῖ]ν ἐστίν, ἵνα μαρ-	
τιμ(ῆ) οἴνου τῆ πρώτῃ	τυρήσῃ μοι. μη[δ]ὲν δὲ δράσητε (along left	
ἡμέρα χό(εσ) β παλ(αιαὶ) (δραχμαὶ) λβ,	margin)	
[ὑπ(ἐρ)] δαπάνης ἐν ψω-]ων . . [.]	20

