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A NEW TRANSLATION

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ST. CYRIL OF ALEXANDRIA

LETTERS 51-110

Letter 96

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have been putting on a play with him, so that, having come to the holy council, they may defend themselves for their own boldness. For we hold ourselves ready to prove him to be unholy and unlawful in causing the attempt of insolence against us.⁶

⁶As a result of this, three bishops were sent to summon John of Antioch to come before the council. One of them, Paul, Bishop of Lampe in Crete, reported afterward to the council that John's house was encircled by soldiers and armed men. The bishops were surrounded, not allowed to approach the door and, although they explained that they had come in peace from the council, they were reviled and had to leave because of a riot that began. See *ACO* 1.1.3 p. 17. The date is during the council in 431. In the sequence of the correspondence this document should come after Letter 24.

LETTER 96

A catalogue of things dispatched from here to the following who are there, by my lord, your most holy brother Cyril.¹

TO PAUL THE PREFECT: four larger wool rugs, two moderate wool rugs, four place covers, four table cloths, six larger *bila* (rugs or curtains), six medium sized *bila*, six stool covers, twelve for doors, two larger caldrons, four ivory chairs, two ivory stools, four *persoina* (= pews?), two larger tables, two ostriches (= pieces of furniture?); and in order that he would help us in the cause about those matters which were written to him: fifty pounds of gold.²

(2) And to his domestic, one wool rug, two rugs, four *bila*, two stool covers, and one hundred gold coins.

(3) To Marcella, the chambermaid, the same as was dispatched to him, and that she would persuade Augusta³ by asking her: fifty pounds of gold.

(4) To Droseria, the chambermaid, the same as was dispatched to Marcella, and that she would help her as was written to her: fifty pounds of gold.

(5) To the prefect Chryseros, that he would cease to oppose us, we were forced to dispatch double amounts: six larger wool rugs, four moderate rugs, four larger rugs, eight place covers, six table cloths, six large *bila* rugs, six medium sized *bila*, six stool covers, twelve for chairs, four larger caldrons, four ivory chairs, four ivory stools, six *persoina*, four larger tables, six ostriches; and if he shall have acted in accordance

¹For the critical text of this letter see Schwartz, *ACO* 1.4 pp. 224-225. Geerard numbers this letter 5396 in *CPG*.

²The *libra* was the Roman pound of 12 ounces.

³Pulcheria, elder sister of Theodosius II. She received the title Augusta when she became regent in 414.

with what were written to him by the most magnificent Aristolaus with the lord Claudianus intervening as mediator: two hundred pounds of gold.

(6) And to Solomon, his domestic, two larger wool rugs, four place covers, four table cloths, four *bila*, four stool covers, six covers for chairs, six caldrons, two ivory chairs, two ostriches; and just as was written to lord Claudianus, so he may use persuasion to forward the proposal: fifty pounds of gold.

(7) To lady Heleniana, who is [the wife] of the prefect of the praetorian guard, the same in all things which were dispatched to Chryseros, so also to her; and in order that the prefect, persuaded by her, would help us: one hundred pounds of gold. As to her assessor, Florentinus, just as the things sent to Solomon, equally the same also to him and fifty pounds of gold.

(8) And to the other chamberlains customary suppliant gifts⁴ have been dispatched.

To Romanus the chamberlain: four larger wool rugs, four place covers, four *bila*, four stool covers, six covers for chairs, two caldrons, two ivory chairs; and so that he would aid in our cause: thirty pounds of gold.

(9) To Dominus the chamberlain: four larger wool rugs, four larger rugs, four medium sized *bila*, four table covers, four medium sized *bila*, six stool covers, six covers for chairs, two larger caldrons, two ivory chairs, two ivory stools, four ostriches; and so that he may help us according to those things which were written to lord Claudianus: fifty pounds of gold.

(10) To Scholasticus, the chamberlain, the same in all things as those which were dispatched to Chryseros: and one hundred pounds of gold. And to Theodore, his domestic according to the promises of lord Claudianus, if he should persuade Scholasticus that he desist from friendships with our adversaries: fifty pounds of gold. We have directed also gifts⁴ to him

⁴The word *eulogiae*, here translated "gifts," appears to be a diplomatic phrase actually meaning "bribes." It is difficult to pass judgment on this matter. The court at Constantinople evidently was corrupt. One very revealing item is found on p. 224, line 28: *eulogiae consuetudinariae supplices*, "customary suppliant gifts." If this was customary, the action of Cyril was not so unusual. How this treasure was transported to the capital is an unanswered problem. The date of this catalogue was during the time of the council or

which ought to persuade him that he should think in our favor: two wool rugs, two place covers, four table cloths, four rugs, four stools, six stool covers for chairs, two caldrons, two ostriches.

(11) To the most magnificent Artaba the same in all things as those which were dispatched to Scholasticus both in kinds: and that he would help us as was written to him: one hundred pounds of gold.

(12) To Magister, the same in all things as were dispatched to Artaba, in the same kinds: and one hundred pounds of gold. And to his domestic equally in all things as those dispatched to Rufinus.

(13) And to the quaestor, the same as those things which were destined for Magister: and one hundred pounds of gold. And to his domestic Ablalius equally in all things as Eustathius.

(14) A letter was written by your brother to the most reverend clerics so that all these things be dispatched, if anything was done out of devotion to my holy lord and should happen to be accomplished, and that is what is necessary, with the good will and advice of the lord Philip and the lord Claudianus.

soon after it. Wickham, *Select Letters*, 66, note 8, translates *persoina* as possibly "pews" or "benches," and suggests that the ostriches must be pieces of furniture or of upholstery. See P. Batiffol, "Les présents de Saint Cyrille à la cour de Constantinople," *Bulletin d'ancienne littérature et d'archéologie chrétienne*, 1 (1911), 247-264 (= *Etudes de Liturgie et d'Archéologie Chrétienne*, Paris, 1919).