

mentioned by Evodius of Uzala, results from a description of wholesale of 44 hogs for 25 solidi<sup>37</sup>.

Similar information is given by the sources regarding asses. The papyri from the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> centuries quote 4, 3, 5 2/3 and 8 1/2 solidi whereas both John Moschos from the 5<sup>th</sup> century and the earlier documents from Egypt are close to solidi, i.e., about 14,5 g of gold for an ass<sup>38</sup>.

There are only several brief and uncertain reports on the subject of horses. When the papyri from Oxyrhynchos from the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> centuries quote 3 solidi, so Gregory the Great mentions 12 solidi, which is combined by a part of research workers with the price of a race horse. However, we cannot neglect the authoritative opinion of Augustine here. He believes that a horse sometimes cost more than a grown-up slave<sup>39</sup>. The data from *Diocletian's edict*, which quotes only the price of a curule horse amounting to 100 solidi and the price of the best military horse amounting to 36 solidi, are quite useless in our considerations here<sup>40</sup>.

The papyrus documents are merely concerned with the prices of horned cattle as the Italian narration by Procopius comprising the siege of Rome in the year 538 is deprived of any representative features. Two different reports come from Egypt and Palestine from the turn of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries. They deal with the sale of a cow for 2 and 8 solidi. From the beginning of the 5<sup>th</sup> century, there comes information about the purchase of a bull for 10 solidi. On the basis of these data about 22 g of gold can be hypothetically assumed for one head of cattle<sup>41</sup>.

The sources do not give us any distinct increasing trends referring to clothes<sup>42</sup>. As Pauline of Perigeux informs us, the cheapest plain woolen clothing usually worn in Gaul cost about 1/8 solidus. Furthermore, in

<sup>37</sup> 200 den.  $\approx$  0,1 sol. (P. Mich. 102); 21 1/2 ker  $\approx$  0,1 sol. (P. Cairo 67212); 3 ker.  $\approx$  0,1 sol. per sext. (SPP XX 218). They differ from the "normal" price level: 25/44 den. (Evod. *De mirac. s. Stephan.* I 14); PSI 810; 700 myriades den. (P. Rend. Harr. 149); 5000 and 6000 T. (SB 369); 1 sol. 3 siliquae (P.O. 1917). See also Sperber, *o.c.*, IX 1966, p. 194.

<sup>38</sup> Only the following prices appear in Diocletian's edict: *asinus admissarius optimus* 25000 den. (30 II), *asinus dorsuarius optimus* 7000 den. (30,12), *asina optima fetu- alis* 5000 den. (30, 13). See also PSI 810; P.O. 1905; 6T. 3500 drachms  $\approx$  2 sol. (Berl. Leihgabe 21); 10 T. 4000 drachms  $\approx$  3 sol. (P.O. 1708, 1905, 922); Joh. Mosch. *Prat. spirit.* 107. Was omitted: 40T. (PSI 882). Compare Sperber, *o.c.* p. 254–255; West, Johnson, *Byz. Egypt*, p. 212, 255–256.

<sup>39</sup> P.O. 153; P.O. 922; Greg. M. *Dial.* I 1. Was omitted: 130 T. (P. Thead. 4). See also Aug. *De civ. Dei* XI 16; *De serm. Domin.* I 19,59.

<sup>40</sup> *Ed. diocl.* 30,1a, 30,2.

<sup>41</sup> Y. Baba Mezia 4,I; P.O. 1965; SPP XX 236; Procop. *De bell. goth.* VII 17,12. Likely Baba Kama II A. *Ed. diocl.* gives a price of bull 5 sol. See Sperber, *o.c.* p. 247–248, 254; IX 1966, p. 184; West, Johnson, *Byz. Egypt*, p. 212, 255–256.

<sup>42</sup> Mickwitz, *Geld*, p. 110 f.; L.C. West, A.Ch. Johnson, *Currency in Roman and Byzantine Egypt*, Princeton 1944, p. 168; iid., *Byz. Egypt*, p. 186; Mazzarino, *o.c.* p. 153; Sperber, *o.c.* p. 252–253, 294.