

Ptolemaios son of Diodoros		ArchID 325. Version 2 (2013) Ruben Smolders
Place	Arsinoites (Fayum), meris of Themistos, Theadelphia	
Date	AD 138-162	
Language	Greek	
Material	Papyrus	
Number of texts	19 certain, 1 uncertain	
Type	Private archive	
Collections	Madison, Wisconsin State University; Florence, Bibliotheca Medicea Laurenziana; Florence, Istituto Papirologico 'G. Vitelli'; Ann Arbor, Michigan University; Oslo, University Library; Geneva, Bibliothèque; New York, Columbia University	
Find/Acquisition	Acquired in 1920-1925, partly via the Anglo-American cartel	
Bibliography	P.J. SIJPESTEIJN, <i>The Wisconsin Papyri I</i> (<i>Pap. Lugd. Bat.</i> 16), Leiden, 1967, p. 119-122.	
Description	<p>The archive consists of at least nineteen texts (AD 138-162), which are kept in several collections. The Wisconsin collection was bought through Grenfell and Kelsey in March-April 1920, together with one Michigan papyrus (<i>SB</i> XX 14401). <i>SB</i> XIV 12087 is composed of <i>P. Mich.</i> inv. 160 and <i>P. Oslo</i> II 18: the Michigan part was purchased in the spring of 1920 by Grenfell and Kelsey, the Oslo piece at approximately the same time by S. Eitrem. The Geneva collection purchased 40 papyri in 1921 in collaboration with the British Museum (which participated in the Anglo-American cartel, over which Bell presided). The Columbia piece was bought from Nahman through Bell in 1925. There is no purchase information for the texts in Florence.¹</p> <p>The main part of the archive (11 documents) consists of Ptolemaios' petitions to various officials and related documents. Seven other texts were part of Ptolemaios' correspondence during his office of superintendent of pastures and marshes. The archive also contains 'strictly private' texts: a census declaration and probably also an application of lease.</p> <p>App. 1 gives a chronological overview of all petitions and related documents. For each text, it is indicated whether it is the original petition (with a reply or not), a draft or a copy. The texts can be grouped by subject. <i>P. Wisc.</i> I 31, 34-35 and <i>P. Mich.</i> XI 617 relate to complaints about the shoreguard (<i>aigialophylax</i>) Apollonios, who fails to supply the due amount of water to the imperial estates. In <i>PSI</i> XIII 1323 and <i>SB</i> XIV 12087, Ptolemaios accuses Ptolemaios, son of the former gymnasiarch Pappos, of usury. The five remaining petitions relate to different topics.</p> <p><i>P. Wisc.</i> I 34 is an original petition, to which the assistant of the imperial <i>procurator</i> has appended his letter to the <i>aigialophylax</i>. <i>P. Wisc.</i> I 35 is a copy of the whole, clearly intended for Ptolemaios. <i>P. Wisc.</i> I 31 contains a copy of a petition by Pamphilos, a leaseholder of the marsh belonging to an imperial domain near Theadelphia. Although the papyrus does not mention Ptolemaios, it clearly belongs to the archive, because the subject of the complaint is the same as</p>	

¹ *PSI* III 160 was already in Florence before 1914 (the publication date of *PSI* III).

in *P. Wisc.* I 34-35 and *P. Mich.* XI 617 and because the small Wisconsin collection originates from a single purchase.²

Seven *penthemeros* reports (accounts of income submitted every five days to nome-officials) document Ptolemaios' office of superintendent (*epiteretes*) of pastures and marshes of Theadelphia and Polydeukeia.³ The *penthemeros* reports were submitted by several *epiteretai*, but Ptolemaios is always listed first (except for *P. Oslo.* III 89-90)⁴ and he alone signs the reports (except for the unsigned *PSI* VII 735 and *P. Leit.* 14, signed by all *epiteretai* including Ptolemaios). Some reports are evidently copies (kept by Ptolemaios?): *P. Oslo* III 91 (AD 149) preserves two identical reports to the *strategos* in two columns, *P. Leit.* 14 bears the signatures of five *epiteretai* in the same hand. The other reports are originals (returned to Ptolemaios?); on three of them the archive keeper (*bibliophylax*) confirms that he has received a copy (*P. Oslo* III 89-90 and *PSI* VII 735). The reports are clearly related: *P. Oslo* III 89-90 concern AD 138, October 18-22 and 23-27 and *PSI* VII 735 deals with November 17-21 of the same year; *P. Wisc.* I 37 and *P. Leit.* 14 are reports for AD 148, November 3-7 and 17-21. *PSI* III 160 (AD 149), addressed to the royal scribe, is a duplicate of *P. Oslo* III 91, addressed to the *strategos*.

The category 'private texts' consists of *P. Wisc.* I 36 and *SB* XX 14311. *P. Wisc.* I 36 is a census declaration, which returned to Ptolemaios after the village scribe confirmed that he received a copy (see l. 19). *SB* XX 14311 is an application for lease by Ptolemaios and it could have returned to him after the expiration of the lease. Since it was purchased only in 1925 by Columbia University (from Nahman through Bell), it is not certain whether it was part of the archive.

Sijpesteijn noticed that the filiations Ptolemaios, son of Diodoros, and Dioskoros, son of Ptolemaios,⁵ return in several tax lists.⁶ Only *BGU* IX 1896, 271-274 certainly records family members: Ptolemaios pays taxes on a vineyard formerly owned by his wife Achillis and makes an additional payment for his sister Sambathion. Ptolemaios, son of Diodoros also named Dioskoros, is always found with his full patronymicon in the corpus of the texts. He signs, however, invariably as Ptolemaios, son of Diodoros, as can be seen in App. 3.

² Below the petition of Pamphilos are copies of the correspondence between the *strategos* and the *aigialophylax* Apollonios (l. 10-17) and between the *strategos* and the assistant of the imperial *procurator* (l. 19-23). The lines on the verso were probably meant to be added at a later moment in the main text. See H.C. Youtie in D. Hagedorn, 'Bemerkungen zu einigen Wisconsin Papyri', *ZPE* 1 (1967), p. 155. The document probably comes from the *hypomnematismoi* (official records) of the office of the *strategos* and Ptolemaios may have used it to strengthen his claims against the negligent *aigialophylax* Apollonios. *P. Wisc.* I 31 is about two years later than *P. Wisc.* I 34-35 and *P. Mich.* XI 617 but the quarrel between Ptolemaios and Apollonios went on for several years (see *P. Mich.* XI 617, 3-4) and in l. 15 Ptolemaios says that the marshes will lack water for three years if Apollonios does not act quickly. From *P. Wisc.* I 31, 1-5, it seems that the *aigialophylax* did not take the necessary measures.

³ Their full title is 'superintendents of pastures and marsh of Theadelphia and Polydeukeia and of priestly contracts accounted under imperial leases, and of the other aquatic revenue devolving thereto, and of fishery' (cf. *P. Leit.* 14, 6-11). They had to submit reports of their income every five days.

⁴ Though he is the only person to sign documents, he does not appear in the list of *epiteretai* in the corpus.

⁵ For Ptolemaios' son, see the stemma in App. 2 and *P. Wisc.* I 36, 17-18.

⁶ Ptolemaios, son of Diodoros, in *BGU* IX 1892, 60; 1896, 271 and *P. Col.* V verso, col. III, 39 and Diodoros, son of Ptolemaios, in *BGU* II 429, 6; IX 1893, 232; 1896, 232; *P. Col.* II, recto 6, col. IV, 13.

Ptolemaios, born in AD 112, lives together with his wife Achillis alias Anoubiaine and his son Dioskoros in the house of his sister Sambathion in Theadelphia (see App. 2).⁷ Ptolemaios was a leaseholder on imperial estates, owned landed property in Theadelphia⁸ and leased seven arouras of katoikic land in the nearby Fayum villages Argeas and Apias.⁹ He held the liturgical office ‘superintendent of pastures and marshes’ at least twice in eleven years.¹⁰ His wife Achillis might have died before AD 166, since BGU IX 1896, 271 (see above) records Ptolemaios in possession of a vineyard formerly belonging to Achillis. Beside her house in Theadelphia, Ptolemaios’ sister Sambathion owned additional property in Apias.

Ptolemaios was an avid writer of petitions, approaching various high officials (*praefectus*, *iuridicus*, imperial *procurator*, *epistrategos*, *strategos*) in his efforts to gain satisfaction. He adopts a ponderous quasi-literary tone and applies frequently unusual vocabulary. If Whitehorne is right that the draft *P. Mich.* XI 617 and the copy *SB XX* 14401 were written in the same hand as Ptolemaios’ signature in *P. Mich.* III 174, Ptolemaios would have written his own drafts and copies of petitions.¹¹

Archive texts *P. Leit.* 14; *P. Mich.* III 174; *P. Mich.* XI 617; *P. Oslo* III 89-91; *P. Wisc.* I 31, 33-37; *PSI* 160, 735, 737, 806, 1323; *SB XIV* 12087; *SB XX* 14401; *uncertain*: *SB XX* 14311.

Text types Petitions, *penthemeros* reports, census declaration, application of lease = incoming and outgoing documents.

Appendices App. 1. List of petitions and related documents

Text	Year	Addressee	Type	Subject
<i>P. Mich.</i> III 174	144-147	<i>Praefectus</i>	Original, with a reply	Isidoros has driven Ptolemaios from his leasehold, excluded him from his house, and forcibly extorted money from him.
<i>P. Wisc.</i> I 34	144	Assistant of the imperial <i>procurator</i>	Uncertain	The <i>aigialophylax</i> Apollonios failed to supply an adequate amount of water to the marsh which Ptolemaios is leasing. A letter from the assistant to the <i>aigialophylax</i> in another hand is attached on the same papyrus.
<i>P. Wisc.</i> I 35	144		Copy	Copy of <i>P. Wisc.</i> I 34.
<i>P. Mich.</i> XI 617	145-146	<i>Strategos</i>	Draft ¹²	Owing to the negligence of the <i>aigialophylax</i> Apollonios and the district <i>kataspoireus</i> Tyrannos the marsh which Ptolemaios is leasing near Theadelphia is drying up.
<i>P. Wisc.</i> I 31	147	Assistant of the imperial <i>procurator</i>	Copy	The <i>aigialophylax</i> Apollonios does not supply the due amount of water to the imperial estates. Below the petition are copies of correspondence between various officials.

⁷ Youtie’s reading of the name (*BL VII*, 1986, p. 100) is confirmed by *BGU IX* 1896, 271-275, where Sambathion, daughter of Diodoros, appears in the payment of Ptolemaios for the taxes on vineyard and garden land.

⁸ *BGU IX* 1896, 271 (AD 166).

⁹ *SB XX* 14311 (AD 149/150?).

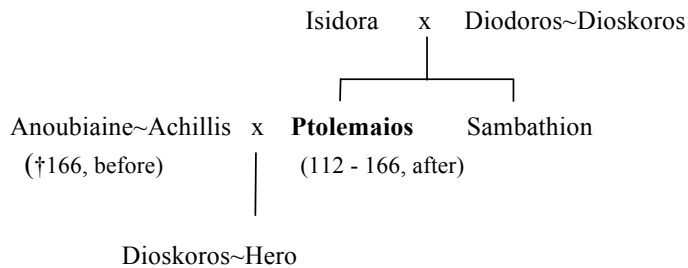
¹⁰ See the dates of the abovementioned *penthemeros*-reports. The normal term for an *epiteretes* was three years. Cf. *P. Leit.* 14, introd.

¹¹ J.E.G. Whitehorne, ‘P.Mich. inv. 255: A Petition to the Epistrategus P.Marcus Crispus’, *CdE* 66 (1991), p. 251.

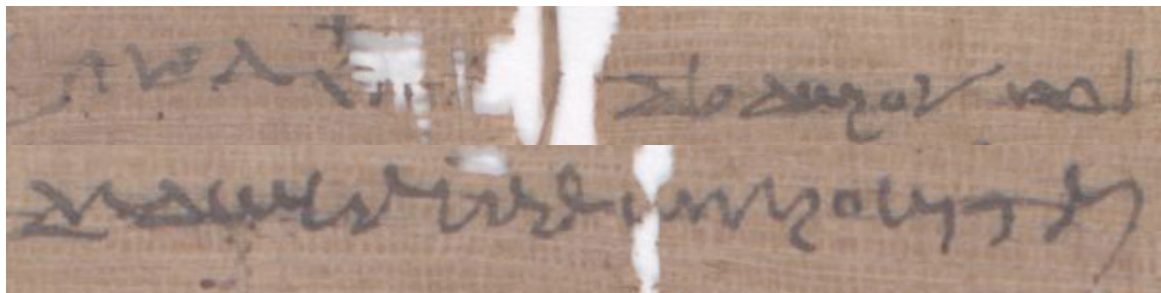
¹² The papyrus contains numerous corrected and uncorrected errors.

<i>P. Wisc.</i> I 33	147	<i>Praefectus</i>	Original ¹³	Sarapammon acted presumptuously towards the <i>strategos</i> and other people. Ptolemaios wants to summon him before the prefects' court.
<i>SB</i> XX 14401	147	<i>Epistrategos</i>	Original, with a reply	Ptolemaios wants to summon Ptolemaios, son of the former <i>gymnasiarches</i> Pappos, before the court of the <i>strategos</i> for usury.
<i>PSI</i> XIII 1323	147-148	<i>Praefectus</i>	Draft?	Ptolemaios, son of the former <i>gymnasiarches</i> Pappos, is accused of usury.
<i>PSI</i> VII 806	158	<i>Strategos</i>	Original? ¹⁴	Agathinos is summoned through the <i>strategos</i> to appear before the prefect's court in connection with a quarrel with the former <i>gymnasiarches</i> Dorion.
<i>SB</i> XIV 12087	162	<i>Strategos</i>	Copy ¹⁵	Ptolemaios is forced by the collectors of money taxes to pay the poll tax owed by his disappeared son. Copies of two other petitions are included.
<i>PSI</i> VII 737	AD 144-162 about	Unknown	Draft? ¹⁶	Unclear (fishermen of Dionysias and Berenikis Thesmophorou are mentioned)

App. 2. Stemma of the family



App. 3. Signature of Ptolemaios in *P. Mich.* III 174, l. 23¹⁷



Πτολεμαῖ[ο]ς Διοδώρου ἐπιδέδωκα καθὼς πρόκειται

¹³ The papyrus contains a dating clause, closing formula and Ptolemaios' signature in another hand than the corpus. The answer of the praefectus may be lost in the lacuna at the bottom.

¹⁴ No corrections are present and there is a dating clause. The fragmentary papyrus (especially the bottom) may be the original petition, a draft or a copy.

¹⁵ See S.R. Llewelyn, *New documents illustrating early christianity*, VIII, North Ryde, 1998, p. 73.

¹⁶ The papyrus contains a correction in l. 6, Ptolemaios' signature in the same hand as the corpus and no dating clause.

¹⁷ Image digitally reproduced with the permission of the Papyrology Collection, University of Michigan Library.