Place
Date
Language
Material
Number of texts
Type
Collections
Find/Acquisition

Arsinoites (Fayum), meris of Herakleides, Philadelpheia AD 298-307 Greek Papyrus

Private archive

Ann Arbor, Michigan University; Madison, Wisconsin State University; Paris, Sorbonne Found during clandestine diggins in 1920 in Gharabet el-Gerza (Philadelpheia)

Description

The small archive of Aurelia Tapais (AD 298-307) contains 6 papyri which were found during clandestine diggings in 1920 in Gharabet el-Gerza, ancient Philadelpheia. A lot of papyri (including the archive of Aurelius Diogenes) came on the antiquity market between 1920 and 1922 and arrived in various papyrus collections: British Museum, Michigan, Genève, Cornell, Princeton and Sorbonne. The papyri in the archive of Aurelia Tapais are in the collection of the Sorbonne (*P. Graux* II 17-19); they were purchased in the Fayum or in Alexandria by Graux in 1921 and 1922. Also *P. Mich.* XII 627 and *P. Wisc.* II 58-59 belong to the archive, for they were purchased in Egypt by B.P. Grenfell and F.W. Kelsey in March-April 1920 for the universities of Michigan and Wisconsin.

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Three papyri are incoming documents, viz. contracts of sale of a house addressed to Aurelia Tapais. The other three are copies of documents submitted by Aurelia Tapais, which explains their presence among her papers.

In AD 298, Aurelia Tapais bought a building of one storey containing a mill from Aurelius Titus Valerius Gaianus. *P. Wisc.* II 58-59 are two duplicates of the contract of sale. On that same day, Aurelia Tapais submitted to the archive keepers (*bibliophylakes*) of Ptolemais Euergetis a request for provisional registration (*parathesis*) of a building of one storey containing a mill, which she had purchased from Aurelius Titus Valerius Gaianus. Because Gaianus had not declared the property at the *bibliotheke*, the sale could not be booked immediately. Accordingly, Aurelia Tapais requested that a provisional registration be entered to ensure the priority of her claim. As evidence of the transaction, she includes a copy of the contract of sale, probably *P. Wisc.* II 58, since its docket is in the same hand as *P. Mich.* XII 627, 1 and 17 (cf. the introduction to this text).

In AD 307, Gounthios, Ataris, Atrea and two minors addressed a contract to Aurelia Tapais, by which they conveyed to her a house in the village of Philadelpheia. This contract, of which *P. Graux* II 17 is a copy, was submitted independently from the contract of sale submitted by the purchaser Aurelia Tapais. *P. Graux* II 18-19 are two copies of a request for *parathesis* of this purchase, submitted by Aurelia Tapais.

Archive texts

P. Graux II 17-19; P. Mich. XII 627; P. Wisc. II 58-59.

Text types

Contracts of sale = incoming documents; requests for *parathesis* = outgoing documents (copies).