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

Arsinoites (Fayum), meris of Polemon, Mouchis 224-219 BC Greek Papyrus

Archive of an official (mixed private - official)

Paris, Sorbonne

Extracted from mummy cartonnage bought on the antiquities market in 1978 through Fackelmann

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**Bibliography** 

К. Robic, *P. Sorb*. III, 2011, р. 87-177.

The numbers in **bold** refer to *P. Sorb*. III.

Description

The papyri derive from a cartonnage head and breastplate, bought from M. Fackelmann in 1978. From their similarity to the Paris *enteuxeis* (Petitions from Magdola, ArchID 80) one may surmise that the cartonnage also came from Magdola. It is even possible that they belong to the same archive, though the *enteuxeis* come from Jouguet's excavations in 1902, whereas the new texts were apparently found in clandestine diggings. In the edition of *P. Sorb*. III 103-144 all texts from this cartonnage are published as part of the archive, but we have here excluded those where no link is visible (140, 141 and the fragments 142-144). Papyri in one piece of cartonnage do not necessarily have the same archival origin.

Half of the 24 petitions to the king (*enteuxeis*) are mere fragments. In most cases the king is asked to give order to the *strategos* Diophanes to write to the village head or *epistates* Demetrios; the subscriptions (in different hand) and the address on the back are indeed directed at Demetrios (103-113, 128). The letter 129, written by Demetrios to Diophanes, is clearly linked to the petition 128. Another letter to Diophanes is written by the policeman Glaukos (134, and its draft 135). The same Glaukos receives two letters from Demetrios of which two are linked with cases at the court of the *strategos* (130, 131, 136) and one petition is perhaps addressed to Glaukos himself (133). The receipt 140 in the form of a letter to a certain Kalliphon also mentions a petition to the king and therefore belongs to the archive. Two letters to Glaukos where the name of the sender is lost (137, 139) and the private letter by Glaukos to the woman Hediste (138), probably a draft which he never sent, are of a private nature.

The two persons who occupy a central role in the archive are the *epistates* Demetrios and the policeman Glaukos, both active in Mouchis. The *strategos* Diophanes (see ArchID 71 and also 80: 'Petitions from Magdola'), who acts as a judge, is here only mentioned as an intermediary. In contrast to the *enteuxeis* archive, which was kept by the *strategos*, the petitions here do not have a registration note on their back. Robic attributes the archive to the *epistates*, probably because his name appears as addressee in the subscript of the *strategos* and on the verso. In the petitions we always find Demetrios, except in *P. Vindob*. *Barb*. 34, where the *strategos* is asked to write 'to Glaukos the *phylakites* of Mouchis' and in **109**, where Glaukos is addressed as *epistates*, probably a mere inadvertence. Most letters,

however, are addressed to Glaukos. In **130** Demetrios passes on a message of the *strategos* to the policeman, in **133** the policeman [. . .]kos is addressed directly by a petitioner, three private letters (**137-139**) are also addressed to Glaukos and a letter by him to the *strategos* is preserved as a draft and in final form (**134-135**). In our opinion Glaukos is the more likely person to have collected these papers, though it cannot be excluded that in the end he returned them to his superior Demetrios or that the group was kept in the village archive. <sup>1</sup>

Archive texts

P. Sorb. III 103-139; P. Vindob. Barbara 34.

Text types

Petitions (*enteuxeis*) = incoming documents, and incoming and outgoing correspondence.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> L. CRISCUOLO, 'Copie, malacopie, copie d'ufficio e il problema della titolarità di un archivio nell'Egitto tolemaico', in M. Faraguna (ed.), *Archives and archival documents in ancient societies*, Trieste, 2013, p. 250 and n. 18