Village heads (epistatai) of Euhemeria

ArchID 12. Version 2 (2013) Bart Van Beek

Place Date Language Material Number of texts Type Collections Arsinoites (Fayum), meris of Themistos, Euhemeria

About 132-131 BC

Greek

Papyrus

18 certain, 8 uncertain

Official archive

Jena, Universität; Giessen, Universitätsbibliothek; Florence, Istituto Papirologico 'G. Vitelli'; uncertain: Leipzig, Universität

Bought by the Deutsches Papyruskartell in 1913

Bibliography

Find/Acquisition

F. UEBEL, 'Griechische Papyri der Zeit Euergetes' II. aus Euhemeria in Giessen und Jena', *AfP* 17 (1962), p. 115-146.

F. UEBEL, 'Leipziger Fragmente zu P.Ien.inv. 77-79', AfP 18 (1966), p. 39-43.

O. MONTEVECCHI, *La papirologia*, Milano, 1988², p. 251 no. 16 (archivio di Aniketos, epistates e archiphylakites di Euhemeria).

Description

The archive of the village *epistatai* of Euhemeria consists of 26 texts (18 certain and 8 uncertain), now preserved in Jena, Giessen and Florence. The Giessen papyri were bought from M. Nahman (Cairo) in 1913 by the Deutsches Papyruskartell ('Kauf 67'); Uebel realised several joins between fragments of the two collections. Three Jena fragments were joined to fragments in Leipzig, also bought in 1913 (*SB* X 10252-10254); though one of them also dates from Mecheir of year 39 (131 BC), their link with the archive is not certain (UEBEL 1966, p. 39-43).

Most of the texts are petitions and official letters. Eight texts are addressed to Aniketos, village *epistates* (and *archiphylakites*, *P. Giss. Univ.* I 7 and 8; *SB* VIII 9674; Comunicazioni dell' Istituto Papirologico G. Vitelli 11 (2013), p. 39-42 no. 4); when a date is preserved it refers to Mecheir of year 39 of Ptolemy VIII Euergetes II (March-April 131 BC). Two undated petitions are directed to Apollonios, village *epistates* of Euhemeria (*P. Giss. Univ.* I 2 and 3), whom Uebel identifies with the *logeutes* Apollonios, who receives a similar petition in year 39 (*P. Giss. Univ.* I 5). UEBEL (1962) thinks that the *logeutes* eventually succeeded Aniketos as *epistates* and was therefore the last keeper of the archive. Other texts addressed to Apollonios do not mention his title, but can be attributed to the same person with reasonable certainty (*P. Giss. Univ.* I 4; *SB* XVIII 13611, also from year 39; the unpublished fragments P. Giss. inv. 228 and 411 in UEBEL 1962, p. 117).

Several of the texts mentioned above were written by a man named Achilleus, who was probably a tax official (*praktor*, cf. *SB* XVIII 13611; the unpublished fragments P. Giss. inv. 228, 409 and 411 in UEBEL 1962, p. 117), hence Uebel included the royal oath written by the same Achilleus in the archive (*SB* XIV 11966), but the attribution is not certain.

Among the collections of Giessen and Jena are other texts in the same hand as some of the archive texts. In addition, some are similar in content to the texts addressed to Aniketos and Apollonios (e.g. *P. Giss. Univ.* I 1; *SB* X 10252 and 10254); it is not clear, however, whether

all those texts should be taken as archive texts. The mere similarity in handwriting is, in our view, not sufficient proof. Only *SB* X 10253, dated to the same year and month as Aniketos' correspondence, can safely be assumed to have been part of the archive; hence we have labeled *P. Giss. Univ.* I 1, *SB* X 10252 and 10254, *SB* XIV 11608 and 11610 as 'uncertain'. The polite phraseology of *P. Giss. Univ.* I 1 suggests that this petition was not sent to the village *epistates*, but to an official of higher rank; the text is moreover dated to the 26th year, i.e. 144 BC, 13 years prior to the archive proper, as was already stressed by U. WILCKEN, 'Papyrus-Urkunden', *AfP* 8 (1927), p. 79.

Archive texts

P. Giss. Univ. I 2-9; *SB* VI 8964; *SB* VIII 9674-9675, 9679-9680; *SB* X 10253; *SB* XIV 11883, 11967; *SB* XVIII 13611; Comunicazioni dell' Istituto Papirologico G. Vitelli 11 (2013), p. 39-42 no. 4; *uncertain*: *AfP* 17 (1962), p. 120 n. 4 (P. Giss. inv. 216); *P. Giss. Univ.* I 1, 10; *SB* X 10252, 10254; *SB* XIV 11608, 11610, 11966.

Text types

Petitions (13), official letters (5) = incoming documents.