

	Petesouchos and his sons Zoilos and Hareotes	ArchID 186. Version 2 (2013) Karolien Geens
Place	Arsinoites (Fayum), meris of Herakleides, Bakchias	
Date	AD 119-144	
Language	Greek	
Material	Papyrus	
Number of texts	58 certain, 7 uncertain	
Type	Family archive	
Collections	Strasbourg, Bibliothèque Nationale; Manchester, John Rylands Library	
Find/Acquisition	Acquired before 1912	

Bibliography

J. SCHWARTZ, 'P. Strasb. 401-437. Dossier de tisserands de Bacchias (124-140 p.C.)', in *P. Strasb. Gr.* V, 1973, p. 119-125.

O. MONTEVECCHI, *La papirologia*, Milano, 1988², p. 253 no. 35.

F. IPPOLITO, 'La produzione tessile a Bakchias nelle testimonianze papirologiche', in M. CAPASSO (ed.), *Da Ercolano all'Egitto: Ricerche varie di papirologia (Pap. Lup. 7)*, Lecce, 1999, p. 101-112.

The numbers in **bold** refer to *P. Strasb. Gr.*

Description

The archive of the weaver Petesouchos of Bakchias and his sons Zoilos and Hareotes (AD 119-144) consists of 58 documents, which are kept in Strasbourg with inventory numbers 137-148, 643-737, with one exception, which is in Manchester. According to Ippolito,¹ Petesouchos might be identical with the Petesouchos who pays for wool inspection in *P. Wisc.* II 80, 177, a customs account from Bakchias (AD 114). Zoilos appears from AD 125 onwards. Petesouchos' other son Hareotes is only attested in the years 9, 10 and 13 of Hadrianus (AD 124-129).

Most documents are receipts for payment of all kinds of taxes, issued to Petesouchos or one of his sons: **402-410** are receipts for weavers tax (*gerdiakon*) with usual installments of 8 dr. Dios, the secretary who appears in each receipt, might well be the scribe of the corporation of weavers of Bakchias. One sheet of papyrus sometimes contains several receipts. **416**, a receipt of *syntaximon*, is written on the same sheet as **406** with **404** at the back. **405** also is written after a receipt of *syntaximon*. The *syntaximon* receipts (**414-423**) are issued by the collectors of money taxes (*praktores argyrikon*). The *syntaximon* is a poll-tax of fixed amount collected from Egyptian males in the Arsinoite nome.² The installments were paid in multiples of 4 dr. The yearly sum of the installments per taxpayer is 40 dr. plus supplementary fees of 4 dr. and (in 4 cases) 6 chalkoi. The *syntaximon* contributions are accompanied by payments of smaller taxes, e.g. for tower guards, prison guards, river guards. **411-413** record payments of taxes made by Petesouchos to the *praktores argyrikon* for all the weavers of Bakchias. **424-432** are receipts for payment of *merismoï* and other taxes (e.g. taxes on beer and breeding animals). Seven fragmentary tax receipts with inventory numbers close to those in the archive, may belong to the archive. Five of them,

¹ Ippolito 1999, p. 110 n. 50.

² Cf. C.W. Keyes, 'Syntaximon and Laographia in the Arsinoite Nome', *AJP* 52 (1931), p. 264-269.

from the early reign of Antoninus Pius, concern a weaver Horion.

18 certificates for work on dikes (for 5 and 7 days) are issued to Petesouchos and his son Zoilos (**16-18**, **155-168**, *P. Ryl.* II 210, *SB XVIII* 13178; see App. 1).³ Works on the desert canal of Patsontis at Bakchias, which also flows through Karanis and Philadelpheia,⁴ took place in Thoth and Phaophi; those at the διώρυγες Αργαίτιδος and Ψεναρψενήσεως, running through Bakchias, were performed in Pauni and Epeiph.⁵ Sometimes an extra duty was imposed.⁶ *P. Strasb. Gr. inv.* 727+146 (= **417** l. 1-16 descr.) is a list of names for *penthemeros* (five days' labour) service, written on top of a papyrus which also contains a receipt for *syntaximon* (**417** l. 17-22).

In **437** (AD 122) Petesouchos acknowledges to the soldier Lucius Valerius Priscus the receipt of a loan of 88 dr. He is about 40 years old at this moment. One of his sons, probably Zoilos, submits a notification of death of Petesouchos in AD 139. Petesouchos was about 57 years old when he died (**312**).⁷

401 bis (AD 123) is a petition submitted by Petesouchos concerning money which is lost. The petition shows that Petesouchos was a *praktor*, although prefectorial edicts declared weavers exempt from liturgies. Petesouchos owned a house with court in Bakchias, as appears from **401** (AD 131), a declaration of property addressed to the keepers of the registry of real estate (*bibliophylakes enkteseon*).

The archive of Petesouchos mainly consists of tax receipts, completed with some private contracts. Petesouchos is among the leading figures of the weavers of Bakchias. The taxes on breeding animals, presumably goats and sheep for the production of textile (**424-432**), implies that the weavers of Bakchias possessed pasture land, besides immovable property in the village.⁸

Archive texts *P. Strasb. Gr.* I 16-18, III 155-160, 161+164, 162-163, 165-168; V 312, 401-437; *P. Ryl. Gr.* II 210; *SB XVIII* 13178 (= *P. Strasb. Gr. inv.* 137); *uncertain*: *P. Strasb. Gr. inv.* 654, 704 Vo, 712 b, 717, 719, 721, 731.

Text types Tax receipts, certificates for work on dikes, declaration of property, declaration of death, petition = incoming and outgoing documents.

³ Cf. P.J. Sijpesteijn, *Penthemeros-Certificates in Graeco-Roman Egypt* (*Pap. Lugd. Bat.* 12), Leiden, 1964, no. 71-90.

⁴ Cf. H. Geremek, *Karanis. Communauté rurale de l'Égypte romaine au IIe-IIIe siècle de notre ère* (*Archivum filologiczne* 17), Wrocław - Warsaw - Krakow, 1969, p. 42.

⁵ According to Sijpesteijn 1964, p. 55, 79 (*BL V*, p. 135), Ψε[.]() in **157** refers to the canal bordering Philadelpheia, Karanis and Bakchias and should be restored as Ψε[v]ν(ώφρεως διώρυγι). Geremek 1969, p. 44 (*BL VI*, p. 191), however, suggests to read Ψε(ναρψενήσιος), the plain between Philadelpheia, Karanis and Bakchias.

⁶ Sijpesteijn 1964, p. 8.

⁷ L. Casarico, *Il controllo della popolazione nell'Egitto romano. I. Le denunce di morte* (*CPR II*), Azzate, 1985, no. 36.

⁸ Ippolito 1999, p. 109.

Appendices App. 1. Certificates for work on dikes

	Date	Issued to	Works on	
16	Y 3 – Pauni 28 –Epeiph 2	Petesouchos	Canal of Argaitis	5
155	Y 4 - Phaophi 21-27	Petesouchos	?	7
165	Y 5 - Thoth 10-16	Petesouchos	Desert canal of Patsontis	7
156	Y 6 - Pauni 8-12	Petesouchos	Canal of Argaitis	5
157	Y 7 - Epeiph 18-22	Petesouchos	Canal of Psenharpsestis	5
17	Y 9 - Thoth 1-5	Petesouchos	Desert canal of Patsontis	5
158	Y 11 - Thoth 17-21	Petesouchos	Desert canal of Patsontis	5
159	Y 12 - Thoth	Petesouchos	Desert canal of Patsontis	5
163	Y 12 - Pauni 7-11	Zoilos	Canal of Argaitis	5
161+164	Y 14 - Pauni 20-24	Zoilos	Canal of Argaitis	5
160	Y 14 - Epeiph 1-5	Petesouchos	Canal of Argaitis	5
162	Y 15 – Thoth 29 – Phaophi 3	Zoilos	Desert canal of Patsontis	5
<i>P. Ryl.</i> II 210	Y 16 - Phaophi 4-8	Zoilos	Desert canal of Patsontis	5
<i>SB XVIII</i> 13178	Y 2 - Thoth 21-24	Zoilos	Desert canal of Patsontis	4
18	Y 4 - Pauni 3-9	Zoilos	Canal of Argaitis	7
166	Y 5 - Pauni 10-14	Zoilos	?	5
167	Y 6 - Pauni 13-17	Zoilos	Canal of Argaitis	5
68	Y 7 - Epeiph 5-9	Zoilos	Canal of Argaitis	5

App. 2. Stemma of the family

