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

Arsinoites (Fayum), meris of Polemon

199-197 BC Greek

Papyrus

6 certain, I uncertain

Official correspondence

Berkeley, Bancroft Library

Discovered in cartonnage of human mummies found by Grenfell & Hunt at Umm el-Baragat (Tebtynis) in 1899/1900

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Bibliography

P. Tebt. III 750, introduction.

Numbers in **bold** refer to *P.Tebt*. III.

Description

The papyri were reused as mummy cartonnage in Tebtynis. They were found in at least three different mummies: 11 (752), 48 (751, 753, 754), 53 (750, 753, 756, 776). 753 was even split up over two mummies.

All six papyri contain official correspondence, part of it addressed to Adamas (incoming correspondence: 752, 753, 754), part of it written by him (outgoing correspondence: 750, 751, 756, apparently drafts).

The letters deal with official matters, mainly the collection and transport of grain. Grenfell and Hunt are certainly right to identify Adamas with the granary director (*sitologos*) of that name, to whom is addressed a badly preserved letter **941** (on the back of **776**). Since this papyrus also comes from mummy 53, it may have been part of the archive.

The archive can be dated to the early second century, when Hippalos was a leading figure in Alexandria (750.19). Years 7, 8 and 9 (756.6, 750.34 and 753.30) can therefore be attributed to Ptolemy V (199 -197 BC). Adamas' area of activity was the meris of Polemon, perhaps with Oxyryncha at its center.

Most letters to and from Adamas deal with taxes and transport of wheat. Though some of the addressees are called 'brother' or 'father', the correspondence is administrative rather than private. The letters **751** and **752**, written by Adamas to a nameless 'father' and by a nameless 'father' to Adamas respectively, may illustrate how Adamas kept letters written by himself together with those addressed to him. A typical feature of the letters is the writing on the back, perhaps a draft of some answer or a postscript (**750**, **756**, two letters by Adamas, without address, and therefore maybe drafts) and some accounts (**750**, **754**).

Archive texts

P. Tebt. III 750-754; 756; uncertain: 941 descr.

Text type

Letters = incoming and outgoing correspondence.