Hermolaos, oikonomos, or his agent Apollonios

ArchID 382. Version 2 (2013) Willy Clarysse

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

Arsinoites (Fayum), meris of Herakleides, Philadelpheia, and Memphites 250-247 BC

Greek

Papyrus

1 apyru

Official correspondence

Oxford, Bodleian Library

Extracted from mummy cartonnage found by Grenfell & Hunt in the cemetery of Rubbayat (Philadelpheia) in 1901

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Bibliography

M.Th. LENGER, 'Quelques papyrus inédits de la Bibliothèque Bodléenne', *CdE* 23 (1948), p. 109-121 and *CdE* 24 (1949), p. 105-112.

R.S. BAGNALL, 'The Toparch Leon and his Archive', *Greek, Roman and Byzantine Studies* 15 (1974), p. 215-220.

W. CLARYSSE, 'The Archive of Leon once again', in P. VAN NUFFELEN (ed.), Faces of Hellenism (Studia Hellenistica 48), Leuven, 2009, p. 161-163.

The numbers in **bold** refer to SB VI.

Description

The archive of Hermolaos or Apollonios was edited by M.-Th. Lenger in 1948 and 1949. The papyri were donated to the Bodleian Library by the widow of A.S. Hunt in 1934. They derive from mummy cartonnage found by Grenfell and Hunt in the cemetery of Rubbayat (Philadelpheia) in 1901.

Two texts are addressed to Apollonios (9089, 9103), the two others to Hermolaos (9090, 9091). All four are official letters and though no titles are mentioned there can be no doubt that Hermolaos, who is the superior of Apollonios, is the financial officer (*oikonomos*) of the Memphites who is well attested in the Zenon archive. This is confirmed by a letter of Leon to Apollonios (9103): Leon is certainly the agent of Hermolaos attested in the Zenon papyri. He is not identical with the toparch Leon, who is in function half a century later and has an archive of his own (ArchID 131).

It is unclear whether the archive was kept by Apollonios or by his superior Hermolaos. We have a slight preference for the former, because in **9090** Hermolaos is asked by Euphranor to give orders to his subordinates. Perhaps he simply forwarded the letter to Apollonios, who then wrote on the back 'Euphranor to Hermolaos': this is not an address, but a docket. It should then be accepted that something similar happened to the list of delicacies sent by Isidoros to Hermolaos (**9091**).

¹ Pros. Ptol. I 1040; Pap. Lugd. Bat. XXI, 1981, p. 327.

² The new reading (year 37 instead of year 7) and dating of the text (248 BC) by Clarysse 2009, p. 161-163 brings this text in line with the other texts of the archive.

³ Pros. Ptol. I and VIII 1110; Pap. Lugd. Bat. XXI, 1981, p. 361.

⁴ Pace Bagnall 1974; see Clarysse 2009, p. 161-163.

Archive texts

SB VI 9089, 9090, 9091, 9103.

Text type

Official letters = incoming correspondence.