

Place Date Language Material Number of texts Type Collections Find/Acquisition	Aelius Sarapammon	ArchID 532. Version I (2013) Patrick Sanger
	Herakleopolites, Ankyronon 195-225 AD Greek Papyrus 8 Private archive Alexandria, Graeco-Roman Museum; Heidelberg, Institut fur Papyrologie; Vienna, Nationalbibliothek Vienna texts: acquired in 1892/93; Heidelberg papyrus: found in Ankyropolis in or about 1914	

Bibliography

P. SANGER, *Romische Veteranen in gypten (1.–3. Jh, n. Chr.): Ihre Siedlungsrume und sozio-konomische Situation*, in: P. Herz, P. Schmid, O. Stoll (eds.), *Zwischen Region und Reich. Das Gebiet der oberen Donau im Imperium Romanum (Region im Umbruch 3)*, Berlin 2010, p. 121–133 .

ID., *Aus dem Leben zweier romischer Veteranen*, in: B. Palme (ed.), *Die Legionare des Kaisers. Soldatenleben im romischen gypten (Nilus 18)*, Wien 2011, p. 57–67.

ID., *Veteranen unter den Severern und fruhen Soldatenkaisern. Die Dokumentensammlungen der Veteranen Aelius Sarapammon und Aelius Syrion (Heidelberger Althistorische Beitrage und Epigraphische Studien 48)*, Stuttgart, 2011, p. 123-215 no. 1-8 [*P. Vet. Aelii*].

The numbers in **bold** refer to *P. Vet. Aelii*.

Description

The eight related texts, covering a timespan between the end of the 2nd century and the year 223/4 or 232/3, survive on seven papyri which are kept in the Graeco-Roman museum of Alexandria (**1** and **2**), in the Vienna papyrus collection (**3**, **4**, **5**, and **8**), and the Heidelberg papyrus collection (**6/7**). The provenance of the archive is most probably the Herakleopolite village Ankyronon, where the veteran Aelius Sarapammon cultivated land and where he probably resided (**1** and **7**; see *P. Vet. Aelii.*, p. 42). The Heidelberg papyrus (**6/7**) confirms this view: it has been found in the ruins of the houses of Ankyronon during the “Badische Grabungen” in or about 1914. The origin of the other papyri is unknown; the Vienna texts were acquired already in 1892/93.

The archive of Aelius Syrion has the same provenance as that of Aelius Sarapammon, namely the Herakleopolite village Anykronon. Chronologically, the archive of Aelius Syrion follows directly on that of Aelius Sarapammon. Both persons are veterans of the *Legio II Traiana* and the contents of the archives shows similarities. The archives are, however, to be considered as separate and self-standing groups of texts as long as a familial, legal or amicable relationship between Sarapammon and Syrion has not become visible.

The archive owner Aelius Sarapammon was a former standard-bearer (*signifer*) of the *Legio II Traiana* and, therefore, a lower-ranking officer. The legion was stationed in Nikopolis, near Alexandria, but after discharge, Sarapammon went to live in the Herakleopolite nome. No information is available on his family. After his honorable discharge (*honesta missio*), he was involved in several legal quarrels. **4** concerns the processing of a judicial reminder procedure, initiated by Sarapammon. **1**, a petition to the chief-judge (*archidikastes*), might belong to the context of a judicial reminder and enforcement procedure or an initiation of a lawsuit before the *archidikastes*. In **2**, a petition to the prefect, Sarapammon was accused by an unknown person: Sarapammon might have initiated a judicial reminder procedure in

which, according to the counterparty, unjustified claims had been put forward. Possibly the quarrel behind **3**, a sworn promise by Sarapammon to appear in the prefect's court, resulted from a judicial reminder and enforcement procedure as well.

Sarapammon is a wealthy person who owned and leased land (**2**, **6**, and **7**; cf. also *BGU XI 2073 Recto*, col. I, 8 and 14-15). In **2** (and possibly also in **1** and **4**) the judicial reminder and enforcement procedures initiated by him were directed against dilatory lessees. Sarapammon's business activities not only gave rise to disputes. Rather, his expertise in contractual matters might have made him a respected person and a contact for legal questions in his closer social surroundings. Certainly it is no coincidence that Sarapammon appears as guardian of two sisters who were residents of Ankyronon (**5**). They needed a copy of a census declaration kept in the record-office (*bibliotheke demosion logon*) and submitted two years earlier by their brother. As the copy of the declaration was obviously kept together with Sarapammon's documents, one may conclude that guardians filed the documents of their wards if necessary.

Archive texts

P. Vet. Aelii 1-8.

Text types

- *P. Vet. Aelii* 1: Petition to the *archidikastes* (Ankyronon, 195–212)
- *P. Vet. Aelii* 2: Petition to the prefect Subatianus Aquila (Ankyronon, 206–211)
- *P. Vet. Aelii* 3: Sworn promise concerning appearance in court (Ankyronon, between 219 and 220/1)
- *P. Vet. Aelii* 4: Appeal to the *strategos* concerning delivery of an order to pay (Ankyronon, end of 2nd/beginning of 3rd century)
- *P. Vet. Aelii* 5: Copy of a census declaration (Ankyronon, approx. between April 217 and May 218)
- *P. Vet. Aelii* 6: *Abrochia* (failure of the inundation)-declaration (Ankyronon, 223/4 or 232/3)
- *P. Vet. Aelii* 7: Contract of lease (Ankyronon, after 223/4 or 232/3)
- *P. Vet. Aelii* 8: Private letter to Aelius Sarapammon (Ankyronon, end of 2nd /beginning of 3rd century)