

Place Date Language Material Number of texts Type Collections Find/Acquisition	Leon, district head (<i>toparches</i>) of Philadelpheia	ArchID 131. Version 2 (2013) Willy Clarysse
	Arsinoites (Fayum), meris of Herakleides, Philadelpheia 190-187 BC Greek Papyrus 4 certain, 2 uncertain Archive of an official (mixed private - official) New Haven, Yale University, Beinecke Library Extracted from mummy cartonnage bought on the antiquities market in 1935	

Bibliography

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- O. MONTEVECCHI, *La papirologia*, Milano, 1988, p. 249 no. 7 (Archivi del *toparco* Leon).
- C.B. WELLES / J.A. EVANS, 'The Archives of Leon', *JJP* 7-8 (1953-1954), p. 29-70.
- C. B. WELLES, 'Leon the Toparch', *JARCE* 5 (1966), p. 65-68.
- R.S. BAGNALL, 'The Toparch Leon and his Archive', *Greek, Roman and Byzantine Studies* 15 (1974), p. 215-220.
- W. CLARYSSE, 'The Archive of the Toparch Leon once again', in P. VAN NUFFELEN (ed.), *Faces of Hellenism. Studies in the History of the Eastern Mediterranean (4th Century B.C. - 5th Century A.D.) (Studia Hellenistica 48)*, Leuven - Paris - Walpole, Mass., 2009, p. 161-168.
- The numbers in **bold** refer to *P. Yale I*.

Description

The archive of the district head or *toparches* Leon was first edited by Welles and Evans in 1953-1954. When the six texts were republished in *P. Yale I* in 1967 (**36-40, 42**), three fragmentary letters were added (**41, 43-44**). All papyri derive from mummy cartonnage and were bought by the Beinecke Library from Maurice Nahman in 1935. The correspondence is of some historical interest because it contains the earliest reference to the 'sowing scheme' (διαγραφὴ τοῦ σπόρου).¹

The appearance of the minister of finances (*dioiketes*) Athenodoros in **36** firmly dates the archive to the early second century BC instead of the reign of Ptolemy III,² as the first editors thought. As a result the *toparches* Leon has no link with the homonymous agent of the financial officer (*oikonomos*) Hermolaos, who was in function at the time of Zenon twenty years before. The archive of Hermolaos (ArchID 382) has nothing to do with that of Leon.³

The nucleus of the archive consists of three letters to Leon (**36, 38, 42**) and a receipt of wine

¹ See the discussion by P. Vidal-Naquet, *Le bordereau d'ensemencement dans l'Égypte ptolémaïque (Pap. Brux. 5)*, Bruxelles, 1967, p. 19-24 (with the earlier date in 232 BC).

² See *P. Köln V* 221, introduction.

³ *Pace* Bagnall 1974.

for Macedonian soldiers by Leon, clearly a draft and therefore kept in the archive (37). Twice Leon is called *toparches* (37 and 42) and in 37 he is linked to Philadelpheia. This village is also mentioned in other texts from the same piece of cartonnage (40). In 190 BC Leon's superior Apollonios forwards him an order of the *dioiketes* Athenodoros to make ready the showing schedule for year 16 (36). The letter by Nechtosiris (42), dated to year 18 (January 187) has a private character, but is nevertheless addressed to Leon as a *toparches*.

The other texts are highly doubtful: 39 is addressed to Dikaios, 40 to Hermias (mentioning Philadelpheia), 41 is a fragmentary safe-conduct, 43 and 44 are fragments of letters, in which the name of the addressee is not preserved. The editors link the letters through Apollonios, the writer of 36, whose name occurs also in 40, 7, 41, 9-10 and 42, 3 (where he is called brother of Leon). But this identification remains uncertain because of the banality of the name. In 40, for instance, two different persons with the name Apollonios are mentioned, one a brother of Leon, the other an 'enemy of the gods', with whom the writer of the letter has a quarrel.

In fact the writing of 40 looks a good deal younger than that of 36-38. A date in the middle of the second century seems more likely.⁴ The personal name Apollonios and the mention of Philadelpheia are insufficient arguments for attributing the text to the Leon archive: a batch of Ptolemaic cartonnage papyri from Philadelpheia does not necessarily belong to a single archival unit and Apollonios is the most common Greek name in Ptolemaic Egypt. 43 and 44 are uncertain, but the professional hand of the former is very close to that of 36 and the end greeting in 44, 28-29 is modelled after 42, 37-39 (τὰ δ' ἄλλα ἐπ[ι]μελοῦ τοῦ σώ[μ]ματος ὄπως [ὕ]γιαίνης]). For this reason 43 and 44 may have been part of the archive.

Archive texts *P. Yale I 36-38, 42; uncertain: P. Yale I 43-44.*

Text types Letters (official 4, private 1), receipt (1) = incoming and outgoing documents.

⁴ In *BL VIII*, p. 513, a date in the early second century BC is accepted as part of the new dating of the Leon archive; Clarysse's proposal to update the text to before 211 BC because of the wine prices (*P. Thomas*, p. 81), is no longer valid because the readings of l. 22 ought to be corrected (Clarysse 2009).