

Place Date Language Material Number of texts Type Collections Find/Acquisition	<p>Nemesion son of Zoilos</p> <p style="text-align: right;">ArchID I49. Version I (2012) Willy Clarysse</p>
	<p>Arsinoites (Fayum), meris of Herakleides, Philadelphiea AD 30-61 Greek Papyrus 64 certain, 2 uncertain Archive of an official (mixed private - official) Ann Arbor, Michigan University; Birmingham, Orchard Learning Research Centre; Cairo, IFAO; Geneva, Bibliothèque; London, British Library; Manchester, John Rylands Library; Milan, Università Cattolica; New York, Columbia University; Paris, Sorbonne; Princeton, University Library Bought on the Cairo antiquities market about 1920</p>
<p>Bibliography</p>	<p>A.E. HANSON, 'Documents from Philadelphia drawn from the Census Register', in <i>Pap. Congr. XV (Bruxelles 1977)</i>, Brussels, 1979, p. 60-62.</p> <p>A.E. HANSON, 'Village Officials at Philadelphia: A Model of Romanization in the Julio-Claudian Period', in <i>Egitto e storia antica. Atti del Colloquio internazionale, Bologna 1987</i>, Bologna, 1989, p. 440.</p> <p>A.E. HANSON, 'The Keeping of Records at Philadelphia in the Julio-Claudian Period and the "Economic Crisis under Nero"', in <i>Pap. Congr. XVIII (Athens 1986)</i>, Athens, 1988, p. 261-277.</p> <p>A.E. HANSON, 'Topographical Arrangement of Tax Documents in the Philadelphia Tax Archive', in <i>Pap. Congr. XX (Copenhagen 1992)</i>, Copenhagen, 1994, p. 210-218.</p> <p>H. CUVIGNY, <i>P. Graux II</i>, Paris, 1995, p. 11-29 ('9-11. Papiers des collecteurs de la laographia à Philadelphie').</p> <p>Description</p> <p>The archive was kept by Nemesion, son of Zoilos, who lived and worked in Philadelphiea during the reigns of Claudius and Nero. Dated texts range between AD 30 and 61 (cf. App.). Nemesion was collector of capitation taxes in the village for most of the time between AD 44 and 57. Since many texts dealing with tax collection are dated between 30 and 44, Nemesion may have been in function earlier or may have inherited these texts from an unknown predecessor.</p> <p>The texts of the archive were bought on the Cairo antiquities market about 1920 by a consortium consisting of the British Museum and the universities of Cornell, Princeton and Michigan. Stray texts arrived in Geneva, Paris (Graux collection) and Manchester. Fragments of the same text are often split up over different collections and many papyrus were used more than once. Different texts written on the same papyrus in different years have therefore been counted separately. The texts were painstakingly reconstructed by Hanson, but several are still unpublished. The final edition of this archive will certainly alter our view.</p> <p>Half of the texts in the archive are lists of taxpayers, year lists of payments due, day books and lists of arrears, in different classifications (by area and village, alphabetically by name of the tax payers, by type of taxes). Though they are far more fragmentary than the famous Karanis tax lists, they show that tax officials made their rounds of the village, which</p>

contained about 1000 taxpaying inhabitants, collecting house by house (HANSON 1994, p. 210-218). Nemesion also employed soldiers and bodyguards when necessary. Notes and critical marks in the margins show that the texts were used as internal documents.

The texts document grave economic problems from AD 45 to 56, no doubt due to insufficient Nile floods in 45 and 47 and resulting into a substantial decrease in the population and loss in tax money, because taxpayers take to flight (*anachoresis*). Four declarations of persons who died are dated in 47-50 (*SB XIV 11586, 11587; SB XII 11112; P. Gen. III 137*). In 46 Psonsneus has to swear that he will either present his parents to Nemesion or will pay in their stead (*P. Thomas 5*) and the next year a shepherd swears that he does not hide a runaway colleague (*SB IV 7463*). For nearly ten years the collectors were unable to recover part of the tax money; they even wrote a petition to the prefect about their problems in AD 57 (*SB IV 7462 = P. Graux I 2*). A large part of the tax lists, and especially the lists of arrears, are no doubt due to this difficult situation (HANSON 1988, p. 261-277).

Most texts were written by and for Nemesion, who was clearly a man of substance in the village. He is literate (the copy of Claudius' letter to the Alexandrians, *P. Lond. VI 1912*, is in his hand) and is on good terms with local officials and with several people with Roman names, including the local centurion L. Cattius Catulus, who became his business partner under the name Lucius (cf. *P. Thomas 5*, introd.).

About ten letters illustrate Nemesion's private business (he lent money on interest, farmed and raised sheep) and his family, but also his links with the local administration. He is no doubt married to Thermouthis; Diogenes, Ammonous and Nemesous are probably his children (*P. Graux II 10-11*). Hanson describes him as 'a respectable man of business who understands how to manipulate to his own advantage the political and social systems currently existing in his village, his district, and his country – now a satellite of Rome' (HANSON 1989, p. 440).

Archive texts

Egitto e storia antica dall'ellenismo all'età araba p. 435 descr.; *Literacy in the Roman world (JRA Suppl. 3)* p. 187-193 no. A; *P. Coll. Youtie I 20*; *P. Cornell 21 + P. Princ. I 2*; *P. Cornell 23-24*; *P. Gen. II 91*; *P. Gen. III 137*; *P. Gen. 220* ined.; *P. Graux II 10-11*; *P. Harris I 72 + P. Princ. III 123*; *P. Harris I 164-165* descr.; *P. Lond. VI 1912 Ro & Vo*; *P. Mich. X 582 col. 1 & col. 2, 594*; *P. Mich. XII 638-642, 656*; *P. Princ. I 1, 3, 8-10, 12, 14*; *P. Princ. II 53 col. 1, col. 2*; *P. Ryl. Gr. IV 595*; *P. Sijpesteijn 26*; *P. Thomas 5 Ro*; *P. XV. Congr. 14*; *Pap. Congr. XVIII (Athens 1986) 2 p. 266 & n. 27* descr.; p. 267 & n. 29 descr.; *Pap. Congr. XX (Copenhagen 1992)* p. 215 descr.; *Pap. Congr. XXV (Ann Arbor 2007)* p. 308; *SB IV 7461-7463, 7465*; *SB XII 11112*; *SB XIV 11414, 11481, 11585-11587, 11930, 12143*; *SB XVI 12737-12740*; *SB XX 14525-14526, 14576*; *ZPE 10 (1973)*, p. 186-188 descr.; *uncertain: P. Graux II 9*; *P. Princ. II 65*.

Text types

Lists; accounts; declarations of death; house to house survey; petitions; letters = incoming, outgoing and internal documents.

Appendix Chronological distribution of the texts in the archive

