ArchID 188. Version 2 (2013) Willy Clarysse

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

Arsinoites (Fayum), meris of Polemon, Tebtynis 233-223 BC

Demotic, 2 bilingual Demotic-Greek

**Papyrus** 

15 certain, 2 uncertain

Professional archive

Cairo, Egyptian Museum

Found during the excavations of Grenfell and Hunt in 1899/1900 in Umm el-Baragat (Tebtynis)

## **Bibliography**

E. SEIDL, *Ptolemäische Rechtsgeschichte*, Glückstadt, 1962<sup>2</sup>, p. 43-44 no. 23 (Die Korrespondenz des Ölhändlers Phanesis).

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B. Muhs / A. Grünewald / G. van den Berg-Onstwedder, 'The Papyri of Phanesis son of Nechturis, Oil-Merchant of Tebtunis, and the Ptolemaic Cloth Monopoly', *Enchoria* 28 (2002-2003), p. 62-81.

The numbers in **bold** refer to *P. Cairo* II.

## Description

The archive of the oil seller Phanesis, son of Nechthyris, was found by Grenfell and Hunt in Umm el-Baragat during their excavations in the winter of 1899-1900. It consists of 17 texts, of which 15 are certain because they mention title, name and/or patronymic, and covers a ten year period in the reign of Ptolemy III (233 to 223 BC). The two uncertain texts may be fragments from a single contract (30621 and 50021).

Most texts are incoming documents directed to Phanesis, son of Nechthyris, who was an oil seller in Tebtynis and in the unidentified village  $T_3$ -gsm ('Canal land') (*Enchoria* 28 (2002-2003), no. 3 and 5). He is addressed as 'oil seller' in five receipts for *inw*-cloth, published in *Enchoria* 28 (2002-2003), no. 1-5, but also in three receipts for oil; one is addressed to Phanesis himself (31225), in the two others he is mentioned as a third person (31219 and the fragmentary 31227). When he appears as a party in contracts, however, he is called 'man of the treasury ( $rmt \ pr-hd$ ) and servant of Souchos' (30604, 30694, 30621 and 50021, 50019). With Muhs e.a. we accept the identity of the oil seller and the 'man of the treasury' because of the find circumstances, the dates and the presence of the patronymic.

Outgoing letters are **31213** (dealing with oil) and perhaps **31215** (though this may in fact be directed to Phanesis). Phanesis is mentioned as a third person in **31212**, an oracle question that was probably put for him (alongside other persons) to Soknebtynis and informs us about the good health of his wife and his children (cf. *P. Carlsberg* III, 2000, p. 13), and in the receipts of his colleagues oil sellers mentioned above. In most cases the presence of his patronymic guarantees the identification.

Though it is in the first place a professional archive, listed among Seidl's 'Buchführungs-archive', it also contains title deeds, an oracle question and even a three-year nursing contract for Phanesis' son Petesouchos.

## Archive texts

P. Cairo II 30694, 31213, 31215, 31219, 31225, 31227 (Greek: SB I 4477), 31231, 50019;

*Enchoria* 28 (2002-2003), p. 71-77, no. 1-5 (= 31246, 31247, 31248, 31161, 31216); *EVO* 2 (1979), p. 57-60 (= 31212); *Fs. Lüddeckens* p. 235-239 (= 30604); *uncertain*: 30621, 50021.

Text types

Receipts (8), contracts-title deeds (5), oracle question (1), nursing contract (1), letters (2) = incoming documents and outgoing letters.

**Appendix** 

Stemma of the family

