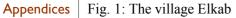
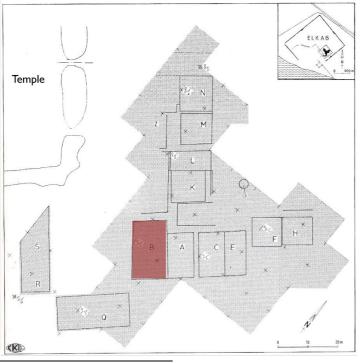
	Phatres the weaver
Place Date Language Material Number of texts Type Collections Find/Acquisition	Eilithyias Polis (Elkab) AD 132-133 Greek Ostraca 6 Private, tax receipts Cairo, Egyptian Museum
Bibliography	O.Elkab, nrs.85-90

## Description

South-east of the temple of Elkab (Eilithyias polis) a score of houses of a Greco-Roman village was excavated between 1968 and 1983. Though the houses were nearly completely taken down by sebbach diggers, in several of them groups of ostraca were found more or less in context. Apparently they had been kept by the inhabitants as proof for the payment of their taxes. As tax receipts have only exceptionally been found during scientific excavations, they are interesting examples of "taxpayers' archives".

The weaver Phatres lived in house B, the largest house in the area, with the typical potters' canalisation<sup>1</sup>. Five texts are preserved, all dated in year 17 of Hadrian (132/133) (O.Elkab 91-95). Phatres pays no less than 52 drachms for weavers' tax in this single year. The tax receipts were found in rooms a-c together with those Psemonches and his sons<sup>2</sup> and of Niaraus and his son Sisonchis<sup>3</sup>, but they are a few years later than these. In the same house was found an ensemble of 30 pieces of pottery.





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See for this S.Hendrickx, *Habitations de potiers à Elkab à l'époque romaine*, in : W.Clarysse - H.Willems, *Egyptian Religion. The Last Thousand Years. Studies dedicated to the memory of Jan Quaegebeur (OLA* 85), 1998, pp.1353-1376 (with plate of house B on p.1376).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See http://lhpc.arts.kuleuven.ac.be/archives/texts/225.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See http://lhpc.arts.kuleuven.ac.be/archives/texts/152.pdf

## Leuven Homepage of Papyrus Collections

Fig. 2: Elkab, House B

