

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

Bibliography

O.Elkab, nrs.85-90

Description

South-east of the temple of Elkab (Eilithyas 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' canalisation¹. 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 sons² and of Niaraus and his son Sisonchis³, but they are a few years later than these. In the same house was found an ensemble of 30 pieces of pottery.

Appendices

Fig. 1: The village Elkab



¹ 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).

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

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

Fig. 2: Elkab, House B

