

	<b>Archive of Ptolemaios policeman</b>
Place	Oxyrhynchite nome
Date	BC 250 - 244
Language	Greek
Material	Papyrus
Number of texts	16
Type	Official letters from superior officials
Collections	London, British Library; Oxford, Bodleian; Cambridge, University; Toronto, Victoria; New Haven, Yale; Cairo, Egyptian Museum; Cleveland, Case; Chicago, McCormick; Brussels, Musées Royaux d'Art et d'Histoire [find/acquisition]
Find/Acquisition	[find/acquisition]

### Bibliography

B.P. GRENFELL - A.S. HUNT (ed.), *The Hibeh Papyri I* (Egypt Exploration Society, Graeco-Roman Memoirs 7), London, 1906, nr. 51-62; 167-168.

### Description

The archive of Ptolemaios consists of 16 papyri dating from the last years of Ptolemaios Philadelphos and the first of Ptolemaios Euergetes: *P. Yale* I 34-35; **I 51-54, 57-62, 130, 167-168; II 240**<sup>1</sup>. All papyri were obtained in the spring of 1902 and come from the Ptolemaic necropolis of El-Hibeh, partly by purchase, partly from the first excavations. With a single exception (**I 57**) they probably all derive from the same mummy cartonnage A9 (cf. fig. 1). Due to the distribution policy of the EES, they are now spread over various collections.

The archive consists entirely of incoming documents addressed to Ptolemaios, except for **II 240**, a *memorandum* written by Ptolemaios himself to Zenodoros, the *oikonomos* of the lower and Thmoisepho toparchy of the Oxyrhynchite nome (cf. *P. Hamb.* II 183, ll. 4-5). All other papyri are letters from various superior officials (cf. fig. 1) addressed to Ptolemaios, the holder of some minor post in the Oxyrhynchite nome. Apparently, Ptolemaios did not use a docket system to organize his correspondence. Demophon, whose function is not known, is the sender of seven letters. In the well known letter **I 54**, he orders Ptolemaios to organise a private religious ceremony. *P. Yale* I 34 is a letter from Skythes. *P. Yale* I 35 is written by Patron, no doubt the *archiphylakites* of the Lower toparchy of *P. Hib.* I 34 and 73<sup>2</sup>. **I 57** and **58** are addressed by Dionysodoros; **I 59, 60** and probably **61** are addressed by Zenodoros. The sender of **I 62** is Philippos, who appears to be an *archiphylakites* of the Koite toparchy (cf. *P. Hib.* II 203). Maybe **I 169-170** are also part of the archive; they derive from mummy A9 and the date, tone and subject match with the other letters.

Ptolemaios' exact position is uncertain. According to the editors he might have been a *phylakites*<sup>3</sup>, since he receives orders to send people under guard and to produce them in court. But Ptolemaios is also concerned with royal revenues (cf. **I 51, 52, 53**) and finances (cf. **I 51, 58**). Since he receives orders from the *oikonomos* Zenodoros (cf. **I 59-60**), Welles<sup>4</sup> concludes that he held the office of *komogrammateus*, the village official who was most involved with the *oikonomos*. In general, the *komogrammateus* was concerned with the economy of the village: administration of land (land use, agricultural production), reclamations of land and survey operations<sup>5</sup>. The *phylakites* however also has a wide range

<sup>1</sup> The numbers in bold refer to *P. Hib.*

<sup>2</sup> Cf. *P. Yale* I 35, pp.95-97.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. **I 51** introduction.

<sup>4</sup> Cf. *P. Yale* I 35, introd.

<sup>5</sup> Cf. A.M.F.W. VERHOOGT, *Menches, komogrammateus of Kerkeosiris (P.L.Bat. XXIX)*, Leiden - NY - Köln, 1998, pp.107-148.

of duties. Besides police activities, he is also involved in assistance and escort of officials, tax collection and the supervision of harvest<sup>6</sup>. Furthermore, the *komogrammateus* has no police powers and his activities are usually restricted to a single village. Ptolemaios on the contrary, is involved in several villages in the Lower Toparchy of the Oxyrhynchite nome<sup>7</sup>: Tholthis, Mouchinaryo, Talao and Sinaru. He might be an *archiphylakites* operating in the toparchy, residing in Tholthis and working under the command of the chief *archiphylakites* (Patron?) in the *metropolis* Oxyrhynchos .

Appendices

Fig. 1: Outline of all letters

Text	Mummy	Date	Sender	Content
P.Yale I 34	A (A9 ?)	250 BC	Skythes	order to come to Talao with a shepherd to give evidence
P.Yale I 35	A9	249 BC	Patron	order not to exact money from one Nikostratos from Koba
I 57	A8	247 BC	Dionysodoros?	order to send a person
I 53	A9	246 BC	Demophon	letter with a list of persons of Tholthis and Mouchinaryo
I 61	A9	245 BC	Zenodoros?	order to produce a number of persons
I 62	A9	245 BC	Philippos	order to produce the accused in a case of robbery in Oxyrhynchos
I 58	A9	245-244 BC	Dionysodoros	request for advance of 8 dr.
I 51	A9	ca. 250-245 BC	Demophon	order to collect dues and to purchase cloths
I 52	A (A9?)	ca. 250-245 BC	Demophon	letter with a list of persons from Tholthis assessed at the rate of 1 dr. 4 ob.
I 54	A (A9?)	ca. 250-245 BC	Demophon	letter on private matters, but showing use of policemen
I 59	A9	ca. 250-245 BC	Zenodoros	order to send a woman, arrested for theft, under guard, with sharp warning to Ptolemaios
I 60	A9	ca. 250-245 BC	Zenodoros	order to send a person under guard if he fails to pay
I 130	A (A9?)	ca. 250-245 BC	Demophon	Letter with list of shepherds from Tholthis
I 167	A9	ca. 250-245 BC	Demophon	order to bring cattle with the phylakites of the Iseion and Talao
I 168	A9	ca. 250-245 BC	Demophon	order to send a shepherd under guard to Oxyrhynchos
II 240	A (A9?)	ca. 250-245 BC	Ptolemaios	memorandum from Ptolemaios to Zenodoros

<sup>6</sup> Cf. P. KOOL, *De phylakieten in Grieks-Romeins Egypte*, Ph.D. Leiden, Amsterdam, 1954, pp.29-42.

<sup>7</sup> Cf. maps in P. PRUNETI, *I centi abitati dell'Ossirinichite. Repertorio toponomastico* (Pap. Flor. 9), Firenze, 1981 and J. ROWLANDSON, *Landowners and Tenants in Roman Egypt. The Social Relations of Agriculture in the Oxyrhynchite Nome*, Oxford, 1996.