

Place Date Language Material Number of texts Type Collections Find/Acquisition	<p>Soterichos and Didymos</p> <p style="text-align: right;">ArchID 226. Version 2 (2013) Ruben Smolders</p>
	<p>Arsinoites (Fayum), meris of Themistos, Theadelphia AD 65-135 Greek Papyrus 42 certain (+ several texts still unpublished), 1 uncertain Family archive (2 generations) Cairo, Egyptian Museum; Leiden, Papyrological Institute; Strasbourg, Bibliothèque Nationale Found in Theadelphia by Egyptian farmers</p>
<p>Bibliography</p> <p>Description</p>	<p>S. OMAR, <i>Das Archiv des Soterichos (Pap. Col. 8)</i>, Opladen, 1979 [<i>P. Soter.</i>].</p> <p>O. MONTEVECCHI, <i>La papirologia</i>, Milano, 1988², p. 577 no. 14.</p> <p>S. OMAR, 'Neue Kopfsteuerquittungen aus dem Archiv des Soterichos', <i>ZPE</i> 86 (1991), p. 215-229.</p> <p>The numbers in bold refer to <i>P. Soter.</i></p> <p>This two-generation family archive (AD 65-135) consists of 42 texts. Forty texts, found in Theadelphia by Egyptian farmers, arrived in Cairo on 26 June 1927, and were catalogued under the inventory numbers SR 3049 and 3732, alongside papyri with a different provenance. <i>SB</i> XVI 12686 (receipt for poll-tax) and 25 (repayment of Soterichos' debts) ended up in the collections of Strasbourg and Leiden. Their attribution to the archive is certain, since texts of the same type are well attested in the Cairo documents and the addressees are Soterichos and his wife respectively.</p> <p>Twenty-two texts are addressed to Soterichos and 11 to Didymos, undoubtedly Soterichos' youngest son. He is a late arrival, since he was born about AD 95 (see <i>P. Turner</i> 21 and 27) when his mother was already about 42 and his father about 50. The other addressees are Soterichos' wife Thaisas and Soterichos' sons or a combination of family members (see App. 3). The texts addressed to Soterichos antedate those received by Didymos (see App. 3), who is the last archive keeper. Between Soterichos' death (about AD 97-103) and the time that Didymos became the only archive keeper (about AD 117),¹ the documents will have been kept by another family member. The texts addressed to Didymos (receipts for poll tax and for rent of fields) are of the same type as those addressed to Soterichos. Only <i>P. Turner</i> 21, a cession of land to Didymos, and 27, in which a donkey is sold to Didymos, do not have a counterpart in the texts addressed to Soterichos. Some unpublished texts in Cairo probably belong to the archive and additional poll tax receipts may show up in the future (see comm. to App. 1).²</p> <p>App. 2 shows the typological distribution of the texts. 1-21 constitute a subgroup of contracts of leases and receipts for rent, in which Soterichos and Didymos are always lessees. The 21 documents can be grouped by lessor. 3 is a lease contracted by Soterichos with Tamystha, 8 and</p>

¹ From AD 117 onwards, only Didymos is attested as addressee in the archive, see App. 1 and 3.

² Cf. S. Omar, in *P. Turner* 21, 1981, p. 103-104 n. 3-5: only part of the inventory numbers mentioned there are now published as *SB* XX 14629-14630 and *SB* XX 15103-15112.

12-16 are receipts issued by the same landlady (or her representative). At least four different fields of Tamystha appear in these texts. The receipts for rent **6** and **7**, issued by Sambas, probably go together with the field leased by Soterichos in **5**.³ **9-11** are receipts for one field leased by Antipatros to Soterichos, **18-21** for another field by the landlady Sentia alias Asklatarion to Didymos. Aphrodisios (**1**), Thermoutharion (**2**), Harmiysis (**5**) and Tomios (**17**) appear only once as lessors.

SB XX 14629-14630 and 15103-15112 are poll tax receipts. *SB* XX 14629-14630, 15103-15104, 15106-15107 and 15110-15112 contain only one receipt; the other texts are rolls with several receipts. **22-25** are receipts for payments by Thaisas and her sons for Soterichos' debts. In **26** Soterichos rents a house, **27** is a sale of a donkey to Didymos and *P. Turner* 21 is a cession of land to Didymos.

The attribution of a letter addressed to Soterichos, Kas and Maron (**28**) to the archive remains uncertain: although it arrived on the same day in the Egyptian Museum as the other archive documents and a business associate in **23** also has the name Maron, Soterichos is a common name and no other text of this type is preserved in the archive.

Soterichos' family gained its livelihood primarily by leasing land to cultivate in the neighbourhood of Theadelpheia. Since the receipts for rent do not record the number of arouras, one can only calculate a minimum value for the land which the family cultivated in a given year: e.g. in 92/93, the family leased at least 11 arouras in four plots (see **3**, **4** and **17**). The variety of cultivated products (vineyards, arable land, fruit trees, fodder crops) enabled Soterichos to diversify his agricultural income.⁴ Though – as far as we know – the family did not own any land, it did not belong to the lowest social classes since the family members are registered in the Tharapeia quarter of the nome capital, pay the tax rate reserved for metropolitans and were able to engage some personnel (**1**, **2**, **4**, **5**). Their financial situation is less clear. As Soterichos regularly pays his rent in arrears (e.g. **9**), he does not seem to have built up reserves. Soterichos was indebted to several persons when he died and it took his family several years to pay off the debts (**22**, **23**, **25**).

Archive texts

P. Soter. 1-27; *P. Turner* 21; *Pap. Congr. XXIV (Helsinki 2004)*, p. 839-843; *SB* XVI 12686; *SB* XX 14629-14630, 15103-15112; *uncertain*: *P. Soter.* 28.

Text types

Contracts of leases, receipts for rent, poll tax receipts = incoming documents.

³ See *P. Soter.*, 1979, p. 40-41.

⁴ D.P. Kehoe, *Management and Investment on Estates in Roman Egypt during the Early Empire*, Bonn, 1992, p. 142-143. On p. 143-148, Kehoe gives an overview of the various lease arrangements that Soterichos entered into and examines how Soterichos made a living from agriculture and how he contributed to the economic interests of the landlord from whom he leased.

Appendices

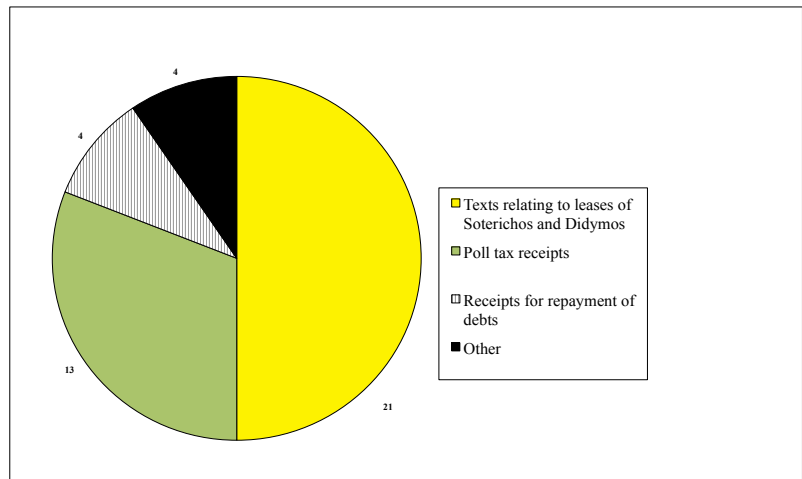
App. 1. Chronological distribution of the payments for the poll tax

A numeral indicates the amount paid, an x means that the amount is lost. The + sign means that the tax is paid in two instalments in separate receipts. In AD 130, Didymos apparently still kept a receipt for tax payment by Soterichos of AD 66/67. It is not excluded that the family kept a complete set of tax receipts and more receipts may show up, allowing to fill up (some of) the grey gaps.

	Nero		Vespasianus/Titus					Domitianus					Nerva/Trai.		
	13	14	1	2-6	7	8	9V-2T	3	1	2	3-4	5	6-15	1	2N-4T
Soterichos	20	20	20		20	x		x	x	20		20		x	
Deios															
Didymos															
Others									x			20 (2x)		x+8	

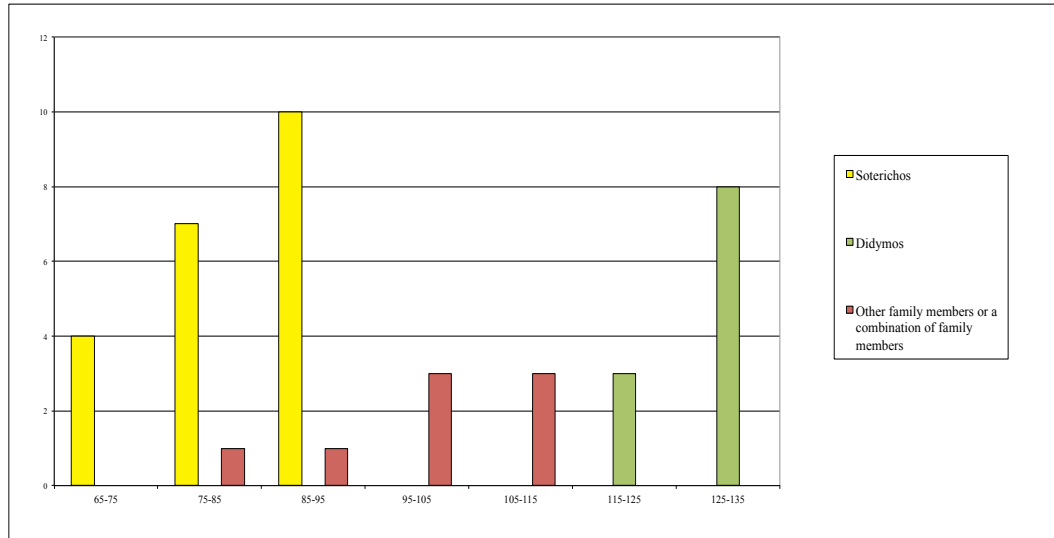
	Traianus							Hadrianus								
	5	6	7	8	9-16	17	18	19	1	2	3-6	7	8	9	10-11	12
Soterichos																
Deios	20	20	x	x		20	20									
Didymos						20	20		x+ 8	12		20		20		20
Others						2x	20									

App. 2. Typological distribution of texts



App. 3. Chronological distribution of the texts

8 (AD 65-66 or 92-93) and *SB* XX 15109 (AD 113-117) are not included. **26** (AD 91-96) is included in the category 85-95.



App. 4. Stemma of the family of Soterichos

