

Place Date Language Material Number of texts Type Collections Find/Acquisition	<p>Village administration of Oxyryncha</p> <p style="text-align: right;">ArchID 252. Version I (2013) Willy Clarysse</p>
	<p>Arsinoites (Fayum), meris of Polemon, Oxyryncha 163-113 BC Greek and I bilingual Greek-Demotic Papyrus 32, I uncertain Official archive Berkeley, Bancroft Library Discovered in cartonnage of human mummies found by Grenfell & Hunt at Umm el-Baragat (Tebtynis) in 1899/1900</p>
<p>Bibliography</p>	<p>W. CLARYSSE, ‘Graeco-Roman Oxyrhyncha, a village in the Arsinoïte nome’, in S.L. LIPPERT / M. SCHENTULEIT (eds.), <i>Graeco-Roman Fayum - Texts and Archaeology</i>, Wiesbaden, 2008, p. 55-73, esp. p. 68-72.</p> <p>The numbers in bold refer to <i>P. Tebt. III</i>.</p>
<p>Description</p>	<p>The texts all derive from human mummies found in Tebtynis by Grenfell and Hunt in 1899-1900. They were published in the double volume <i>P. Tebt. III</i>, and arranged according to the type of document (petitions, letters, receipts, lists). We here follow the attempt made by Clarysse in 2008 to group them into a single archive, which was probably kept by the local village administration. The attribution is based on the find circumstances (a limited number of mummies in the cemetery of Tebtynis), the date (mid to late second century BC), the types of documents and prosopographical considerations.</p> <p>Mummies 39, 49, 56-60 and 64 consist largely or even exclusively of texts from Oxyryncha; in other mummies the village occurs only sporadically and here the links with the archive are too uncertain for inclusion. Fourteen texts, ranging between 163 (935) and 113 BC (805), are addressed to various village officials, including the organisation of the royal farmers (711-713, 715, 798, 803, 805, 842, 904, 907, 922, 965-967). No less than twenty texts are written to higher officials by villagers (776, 790), village officials (718, 766, 921, 923, 925, 926, 935, 1002) and again by the royal farmers of Oxyryncha (771, 785-789, 791, 792, 959, 964). These may be considered copies of outgoing documents kept by the local administration or the farmers organisation. Eleven texts are linked to the archive because they mention villagers known from the first two groups and, at the same time, belong to the cartonnages mentioned above (830, 832, 833, 1014, 1015, 1017, 1018, 1021, 1050, 1055, 1076).</p> <p>More than any other archive the limits of what should be included and excluded are uncertain here: Oxyryncha was an important village not far from Tebtynis and it is also mentioned in texts outside the archive. We have only included texts which both the mummy numbers and the contents link with the group. This results in an official archive, kept probably by the <i>komarches</i> or village head, who may have functioned as the head of the</p>

farmers association. Perhaps all papers of the village were kept in a single archive, as argued by Criscuolo.¹ It consists mainly of incoming and outgoing letters and petitions, but also some lists of farmers (**1014, 1015, 1018, 1021, 1057**), land surveys (**830, 832, 833**) and accounts of payments in kind (**1050, 1055**).

It is possible that the unpublished Demotic contracts presented by S. LIPPERT in LIPPERT / SCHENTULEIT 2008, p. 165-171, also belong to this archive and were kept by the village administration rather than in the notary's office. If so, the archive would become bilingual, which does not surprise in the milieu of royal farmers and village administrators in the second century BC. The chronological range seems to be the same (though the contracts start earlier) and at least one mummy case (no. 57) contained texts of both groups.

Archive texts *P. Tebt.* III 711, 713, 715, 718, 766, 771, 786, 788, 789, 792, 798, 805, 830, 832, 835, 842, 887, 904, 907, 923, 959, 964, 965, 1002, 1011, 1014, 1015, 1017, 1018, 1021, 1055, 1057 (bilingual); *uncertain*: *P. Tebt.* III 1005 descr.

Text types Petitions, letters, lists, land surveys, accounts = incoming, outgoing and internal documents.

¹ L. Criscuolo, 'Copie, malacopie, copie d'ufficio e il problema della titolarità di un archivio nell'Egitto tolemaico', in M. Faraguna (ed.), *Archives and archival documents in ancient societies*, Trieste, 2013, p. 250 and n. 18.