Place
Date
Language
Material
Number of texts
Type
Collections

Find/Acquisition

Arsinoites (Fayum), meris of Polemon, Tebtynis 86-63 BC

Demotic with some Greek subscriptions

**Papyrus** 

Published: 3 (on 2 papyri); described: 1; unpublished: 49

Official archive

Berkeley, Bancroft Library; Leiden, National Museum of Antiquities

Discovered in mummified crocodiles found by Grenfell & Hunt at Umm el-Baragat (Tebtynis) in 1899/1900

1

## **Bibliography**

B. Muhs / J. Dieleman, 'A Bilingual Account from Late Ptolemaic Tebtunis (P. Leiden RMO inv. no. F1974/7.52)', ZÄS 133 (2006) p. 56-65

B. Muhs, 'The Berkeley Tebtynis Grapheion Archive', in Actes du IXe congrès des études démotiques, Paris 2005 (BdE, 147), Paris, 2009, p. 243-251.

## Description

Two crocodile mummies found by Grenfell and Hunt in the winter of 1899/1900 in a single tomb in Tebtynis yielded 46 papyri which are now preserved in Berkeley. Six other papyri, bought in 1974 from the collection of Barns and now in the Rijksmuseum voor Oudheden at Leiden, come from the find, though it is unclear how. With two exceptions the texts are still unpublished and our presentation is therefore largely based upon the presentation by Muhs.

The texts can be dated to the early first century BC. The items in Berkeley range from year 13 tot 18 of Ptolemy XII (69-63 BC), one of the Leiden papyri mentions a year 32 and a year 4, which must be of Ptolemy IX (86 BC) and XII (78 BC). They deal with villages in the area of Tebtynis, including Kerkeosiris and Theogonis.

Though many papyri are fragmentary and difficult to read, they apparently fall into three categories: contracts and abstracts of contracts, registers of contracts in daybook format, and accounts of money payments in daybook format. The Demotic contracts, at least 19, are sales and leases of houses and land. One contract of sale of a house was published by PARKER in *RdE* 24 (1972), p. 129-136. Eight fragments are preserved of short-entry registers of contracts (*anagraphai*), including annuity contracts and loans, most of them in daybook format. On the verso of these are sometimes Greek notes, mentioning the amounts involved. There are also eleven bilingual accounts in daybook format, with prices for food, scribal fees (*grammatikon*) and other expenses. Some of these are mere fragments, but the only one published contains several columns (MUHS / DIELEMAN 2006). Demotic, written with a reed pen, is the main language; Greek is used for headings, summaries and on the back.

Muhs suggests these papyri all come from the archive of the Tebtynis *grapheion* (notary's office), which can be compared to the far better preserved *grapheion* archive of Kronion, son of Apion, of the same village in the Roman period (ArchID 93).

## Archive texts

P. Tebt. I 228 Ro descr.; RdE 24 (1972), p. 130-133; ZÄS 133 (2006), p. 58-65 doc. A & B.

## Text types

Contracts, abstracts and registers of contracts, accounts = internal documents.