Pnephoros, village head (*komarches*) of Bousiris

Place	Arsinoites (Fayum), meris of Polemon, Bousiris
Date	230-229 BC
Language	Greek
Material	Papyrus
Number of texts	34 (unpublished or only described)
Type	Official correspondence
Collections	Marburg, Papyrussammlung der Universität
Find/Acquisition	Extracted from mummy cartonnage bought in the early 1980's

Bibliography

A. Jördens, 'Neue Texte aus der ptolemäischen Dorfverwaltung: Ein bilingues Archiv aus Busiris', in S.L. Lippert / M. Schentuleit (eds.), *Graeco-Roman Fayum. Texts and Archaeology*, Wiesbaden, 2008, p. 143-152.

J. F. Quack, 'Ein Setne-Fragment in Marburg (pMarburg Inv. 38)', *Enchoria* 30 (2006-2007), p. 71-74.

Description

In the early 1980's the University of Marburg bought 49 papyri derived from mummy cartonnage. The 34 Greek texts in the lot date from the years 17 and 18 and certainly form one archive linked with the village administration of Bousiris in the meris of Polemon. The 15 Demotic texts, however, are more diverse in contents (e.g. two literary texts, lists, a contract of lease, a contract of loan) and in date (the years 8, 13, 17, 18 occur), so it is at present uncertain whether all Demotic papyri actually belong to the same archive.

The Greek papyri probably belong to the reign of Ptolemy III (i.e. 230-229 BC) rather than Ptolemy V (i.e. 188-187 BC) and contain the correspondence between several officials, like the director of the granary (*sitologos*), the head of the police (*archiphylakites*) and the village scribe (*komogrammateus*). The protagonist of the archive is Pnephoros, the village head (*komarches*) of Bousiris, who is the sender or addressee of 13 papyri. Pnephoros had a conflict with Petermouthis, son of Horos, the λεμισας or *mr-mš*ʿ ('leader of the group', a military or cultic titel), about the collection of some taxes, while other letters discuss problems with the irrigation system.

Archive texts

34 texts described by Jördens 2008, p. 143-152.

Text type

Letters = incoming and outgoing documents.