

Amenothès son of Harsiesis

TM Arch 445. Version I (2023)  
Lauren Dogaer

Place  
Date  
Language  
Material  
Number of texts  
Type  
Collections  
Find/Acquisition

Memnoneia (Djeme, Theban West bank)

182-170 BC

Demotic and Greek

Papyrus

9

Private archive

New Haven, Yale University, Beinecke Library; Copenhagen, Carlsberg Papyrus Collection; London, British Museum; Brussels, Musées Royaux

Potentially discovered in Deir el-Medina in 1929; bought from Nahman, Abemayor, Maspero and Uzam in respectively 1933, 1938, 1964 and 1993; the Copenhagen fragments were acquired by Schmidt in 1932 and 1935

Bibliography

R.K. RITNER, 'A Cession Document from the Theban Archives of Amenothès son of Harsiesis', *Enchoria* 22 (1995), p. 130-138.

M. DEPAUW, 'A Sale of a House in Thebes on a Complete Papyrus Roll (P. BM EA 10678 & Brux. E 8053 & Brux. E 8051 B-A & Brux. E 8054)', in CLAES, W. / DE MEULENAERE, H. / HENDRICKX, S. (eds.): *Elkab and Beyond. Studies in Honour of Luc Limme* (Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta 191), Leuven, 2009, p. 261-282.

K. RYHOLT, 'On the Theban Archive of Amenothès son of Harsiesis and Chibois, and the Acquisition of Ruined Houses after the Great Theban Rebellion', in ALMÁSY-MARTIN, A./ CHAUVEAU M. / DONKER VAN HEEL K. / RYHOLT K. (eds.): *Ripple in Still Water When There is No Pebble Tossed. Festschrift in Honour of Cary J. Martin* (GHP Egyptology 34), London, 2022, p. 3-25.

The numbers in **bold** refer to the TM number of the text, see also *Archive Texts*.

Description

The possible find spot and the acquisition history of Amenothès' papers, the contents of the archive and the properties bought by the protagonist are discussed in detail by Ryholt 2022.

The archive was potentially discovered during the excavations of Bernard Bruyère in Deir el-Medina in the reused tomb no. 357 (pit no. 1195) in March 1929. One of the amphorae found in this tomb was inscribed with the text "the second one of Amenothès", although the identification of the find spot of the archive remains unsure.<sup>1</sup>

Parts of the archive surfaced in several collections a few years later; besides these 'first generation' acquisitions a series of 'second generation' sales are attested in the 1960s and 1990s.<sup>2</sup> The papyri from the British Museum were bought from Nahman in 1933 (**56424**, **56425**) and Abemayor in 1938 (**8513**, **8514**, **2756**, **2755**). **2754** consists of four fragments, of which three belong to the Musées Royaux and one to the British Museum. This last fragment was also acquired from Nahman in 1933, while the three fragments in the Musées Royaux were bought

<sup>1</sup> Ryholt 2022, p. 17-18.

<sup>2</sup> For these 'first generation' and 'second generation' acquisitions, see Ryholt 2022, p. 10-11.

in the Parisian Galerie Mme Maspero in 1964, a shop operated by Marianne Maspero from the 1950s through the 2000s. **8541**, kept in the Beinecke Library, was acquired from Uzam and presented to the library by William Kelly Simpson in 1993. **6218** was bought in two parts by Carl Schmidt: the first part in Thebes in 1932 and the second in Cairo in 1935. This papyrus originally belonged to the Papyrus Hauniensis collection, which in 2013 was merged with the Papyrus Carlsberg collection.<sup>3</sup> Almost all papyri are written in Demotic, except for **2754** (a Demotic text with a Greek tax receipt) and **6218** (a Greek papyrus).

The archive of Amenothès concerns a block of adjacent houses (see App. 2) in the ‘House of the Cow’, a Theban district on the East bank, located north of the precinct of Amun and west of the precinct of Montu. The district was called Χρυσόπολις in Greek (**6218**). Houses from the same district also appear in other Theban archives (Psenminis and Tamounis, TM Arch 203; Pechytes son of Pchorchonsis, TM Arch 177; Teos and Thabis, TM Arch 228; Panouphis and Senatymis, TM Arch 383). Amenothès son of Harsiesis was an entrepreneur who purchased several properties, located in this district, between 182 and 170 BC, making his archive a private ‘monothematic’ archive, an archive in which documents have been deliberately singled out.<sup>4</sup> Many of the houses in the district were ruined as a result of the Great Theban revolt (205-186 BC). A few years after this revolt Amenothès started to acquire a block of ruined houses. He had a particular interest in buying houses next to the ones he already owned.<sup>5</sup> Besides entrepreneur, Amenothès was also a *pastophoros* or “doorkeeper” or “dooropener” (*iry- ʒ* or *wn-pr*, a priest who controlled the areas of a sanctuary open to the public).<sup>6</sup> He was moreover working as a mortuary priest (choachyte) in the Theban necropolis, taking care of the libations and funerary cult of the deceased.

On 12 November 182 BC Amenothès son of Harsiesis bought a ruined house in northern Thebes from the Greek Damon son of Apollonios (sale: **56424**, cession: **8513**, abstract: **8514**). Damon’s Greek title deed to the house (**6218**) was kept amongst the papers of Amenothès as well, as earlier title deeds were passed on to the new owners. Damon had acquired the property at a public auction on 18 June 182 BC, hence the document was drawn up in Greek and the payment had been made to the *idos logos* account. Damon sold the house five months later, making 300 drachmas profit in the process.

One year later, on 27 August 181 BC, Amenothès bought another house in northern Thebes from Tatriphis daughter of Slumnes (sale: **2755**, cession: **2756**, abstract: **56425**). On 16 October 181 BC, 13 February or 13 June 180 BC Amenothès bought a third ruined house of the scribe Psenchonsis son of Amenothès; only the cession is preserved (**8541**).<sup>7</sup> On 19 September 170 BC Amenothès bought his last house in northern Thebes (**2754**). The four fragments of **2754** contain a sale (Brussels, Musées Royaux E 8053 + BM EA 10678) and cession (E 8051). The fourth

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<sup>3</sup> Ryholt 2022, p. 11.

<sup>4</sup> Ryholt 2002, p. 10.

<sup>5</sup> Depauw 2009, p. 261-262; Ryholt 2022, p. 4

<sup>6</sup> For the reading *iry- ʒ*, see F. Hoffmann and J.F. Quack, ‘Pastophoros’, in A.M. Dodson, J.J. Johnston, W. Monkhouse (eds.), *A Good Scribe and an Exceedingly Wise Man: Studies in Honour of W.J. Tait* (GHP Egyptology 21), London, 2014, p. 127-154; for the reading *wn-pr* see M. Chauveau ‘Démotique’, *Annuaire de l’École pratique des hautes études* (EPHE) (Section des sciences historiques et philologiques, 151), 2020, p. 4-10: <https://doi.org/10.4000/ashp.3436>.

<sup>7</sup> Ryholt 2022, p. 5-6.

fragment was a Greek tax receipt written on 26 September 170 BC (E 8054).<sup>8</sup> Amenothēs bought this ruined house from Petenephtes son of Paminis, Psenosiris son of Paos, and Chestothes son of Harsiesis, all three temple staff members (two butchers and one weaver of the Estate of Amun).<sup>9</sup>

The archive of Amenothēs son of Harsiesis can be linked to other archives of Theban mortuary priests. His sister Tsenamounis, who appeared as second party in **2723**, was married to Pechytes son of Pchorchonsis, the owner of TM Arch 177 (**46163**). In fact, Amenothēs might even have been the legal guardian of the children of Pechytes and his sister. In 175 BC Amenothēs sold some burials to Panas son of Espmetis (**2746**), the owner of TM Arch 446. Kim Ryholt points out that an Amenothēs son of Harsiesis also appears in **47520** (TM Arch 444) and **47521**, although a formal identification remains uncertain. Moreover, the identification of Harsiesis son of Amenothēs as the father of Amenothēs, as was pointed out by Andrews, should be considered tentative (**47615**).<sup>10</sup>

Archive texts

*P. BM Andrews* 9 [10679 a] (**56424**); *P. BM Andrews* 9 [10721] (**8513**); *P. BM Andrews* 9 [10727] (**8514**); *P. BM Andrews* 10 [10723] (**2755**); *P. BM Andrews* 10 [10722] (**2756**); *P. BM Andrews* 10 [10679 b] (**56425**); *P. Haun.* 1 11 (**6218**); *Enchoria* 22 (1995), p. 131-132 (**8541**); *Studies Luc Limme* (OLA 191) p. 261-282 (**2754**)

Text types

Demotic sale: **56424, 2755, 2754**; cession: **8513, 2756, 8541**; abstract: **8514, 56425**.  
Greek sale: **6218**.

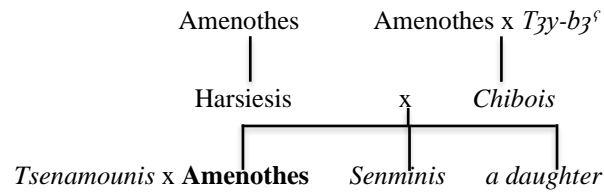
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<sup>8</sup> The four fragments originally formed one papyrus, **2754**, see Depauw 2009, p. 263.

<sup>9</sup> See Depauw 2009, p. 262.

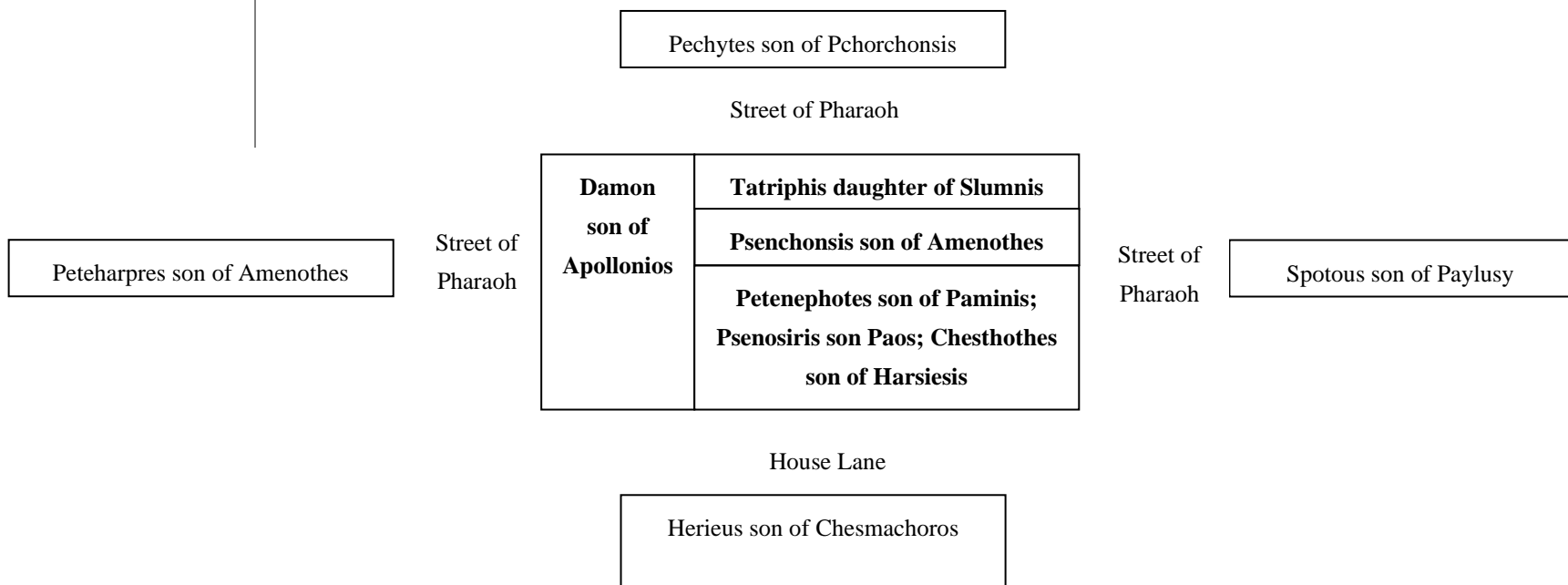
<sup>10</sup> Ryholt 2022, p. 16 and 19.

Appendices App. 1: Stemma of Amenothēs' family



For a fuller genealogy, see *P. BM. Andrews*, p. 37.

App. 2: Overview of the adjacent block of houses (in bold),<sup>11</sup> showing the owners from whom Amenothēs bought the properties



<sup>11</sup> Copied from Ritner, 1995, p. 138.