Ananiah, son of Haggai

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

Elephantine 456-402 BC Aramaix Papyrus 13

Private; notarial documents

Berlin, Ägyptisches Museum; New York, Brooklyn Museum

Bought by Charles E. Wilbour 1893

Bibliography

- E. G. Kraeling, The Brooklyn Museum Aramaic Papyri. New Documents of the Fifth Century B.C. from the Jewish Colony at Elephantine, New Haven 1953, 131-222, 235-244, pls. 1-7, 9-12, Nos. 1-7, 9-12 [editio princeps].
- B. Porten, The Archives from Elephantine. The Life of an Ancient Jewish Colony, Berkeley 1968, p. 200-234 [description].
- P. Grelot, Documents araméens d'Égypte, Paris 1972, p. 209-262 nos. 42-53 [French translation].
- B. Porten / A. Yardeni, Textbook of Aramaic Documents from Ancient Egypt, Vol. 2, Contracts, Winona Lake 1989, 52-100 nos. B 3.1-13.
- B. Porten, The Elephantine Papyri in English (DMOA 22), Leiden New York Köln 1996, p. 202-254 nos. B 34-46 [English translation with commentary].

[numbers in bold in the description refer to the edition of Porten/Yardeni]

Description

The archive consists of thirteen Aramaic papyri. Although most of them were purchased in 1893 by Charles E. Wilbour in Aswan, they remained unknown for a long time because Wilbour died in 1896, soon after their acquisition. In 1947, the Brooklyn Museum, New York, received the documents from the estate of Wilbour's daughter and Emil G. Kraeling published them in 1953. The documents were certainly discovered at Elephantine.

The archive consists of notarial documents for different types of transactions dating from 456 until 402 BC. Many documents concern the sale (**B 3.4**, **3.12**) and bequest (**B 3.5**, **3.7**, **3.10**) of a house and parts of it. Others are loans of silver or grain (**B 3.1**, **3.13**), marriage documents (**B 3.3**, **3.8**), a dowry addendum (**B 3.11**), a testamentary manumission (**B 3.6**) and an adoption of slaves (**B 3.9**). A withdrawal document (**B 3.2**), a well-known demotic type of document, also belongs to the archive.

This private archive covers two generations of the family of Ananiah, son of Azariah. Ananiah was a servant of the temple of Yahu at Elephantine. He married Tamet, an Egyptian slave, who was also a temple servant (**B 3.3** [449 BC]). The owner of Tamet, Meshullam, son of Zakkur, who gave her to Ananiah as wife, is also mentioned in a document of the archive of Jedaniah and Mahseiah, sons of Eshor (**B 2.7**; arch_id 449). Ananiah and Tamet already had a boy named Pilti when they married. In 434 BC Tamet gave birth to a daughter named Jehoishma.

In 437 BC, Ananiah purchased an abandoned house at Elephantine (**B 3.4**) and assigned parts of it to Tamet (**B3.5**) and Jehoishma (**B 3.7, 3.10, 3.11**). In 420 BC, Meshullam gave Jehoishma in marriage to Ananiah, son of Haggai (**B3.8**). Obviously, Tamet and Jehoishma remained slaves of Meshullam although Tamet was married to Ananiah even before she gave birth to her daughter. Some years before, Meshullam arranged the manumission of his slaves Tamet and Jehoishma in the case of his death (**B 3.6** [427 BC]). Finally, Ananiah and Tamet

sold remaining parts of the house to their son-in-law, Ananiah, son of Haggai (**B 3.12** [402 BC]). Interestingly, this document mentions the temple of YHW, which was destroyed a few years before (**A 4.7-8** [407 BC]; arch_id 404). The temple was apparently rebuilt when the document was written.

Some documents are not directly related to Ananiah, son of Azariah, and his family, but to Meshullam (**B 3.1** [456 BC]) and his son of Zakkur (**B3.9** [416 BC]). The last document is a loan of Ananiah, son of Haggai (**B 3.13** [402 BC]). While the documents of Ananiah, son of Azariah, probably came into possession of his son-in-law Ananiah, son of Haggai, it remains obscure how the documents of Meshullam and his son entered the archive.